

# THE LAWRENCE

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## 2022 House Olympics: And the Winner is...

SOPHIE CHENG '25  
& MIA KINCADE '25

On September 4, Lawrentians participated in the 19th annual House Olympics. To gain points for their House, students competed in a variety of different events, ranging from the tricycle race to the human rock-paper-scissors tournament. After a hard fought competition between the 11 Circle and Crescent Houses, the Dickinson House earned first place, with the Griswold House and the McClellan House coming in second and third, respectively.

This is Dickinson's first House Olympics win since 2007. House President Eric Han '24 expressed how incredible it was to be part of such a historic moment. He named Troy Negus '24 and Tolu Olatunji '25 as Dickinson's "hidden gems," as they both displayed incredible performances during the hula hoop and tricycle relays. While fostering "the same level of unity and energy within the House" as last year, "the fresh group of guys brought exactly what [the House] needed," he noted, feeling "at home as [he] engrossed [himself] in [their] community," Jonathan Yang '25 noted.

House Olympics acts as both a fun event to promote community bonding and an opportunity to allow "new students to smoothly integrate into the Lawrenceville community," Jonathan Yang '25 noted. Han agreed, saying that "it's the best way to start the year." He believes that getting to learn chants and developing "a sense of [House] hard work.

From an outsider's perspective, pride" facilitate close friendships Hamill House President Rohin and bonds within a House. Dhaul '24 emphasized that "it



House Olympics

Courtesy of *The Lawrenceville School*

doesn't matter that [Hamill] took last place and eventually got disqualified. [The House] had the most fun, and that's all [he] can ask for." Dhaul strongly believes that Hamill is filled with underrated House Olympic pros. "With talk of anlays. While fostering "the same level of unity and energy within the House" as last year, "the fresh

Circle Houses weren't the only ones active during House Olympics. V Formers got the opportunity to cheer for their former Houses and participate in the jump roping race around the Bowl, while II Formers gathered to watch upperclassformers cheer for their Houses. Later that day, they also had an Olympics of their own, dubbed the Bowl Cup. Each of the four II Form Houses made up their own chants and competed in events like a scavenger hunt and Jenga.

Every year, House Olympics gives Lawrenceville students an opportunity to bond with their Houses, make new friends, and come together as a community. Whether you're going into your first year at Lawrenceville or your last, House Olympics brings the community together and offers a bonding experience like no other.

Students in the Crescent and



Dickinson House at House Olympics

Courtesy of *The Lawrenceville School*

### Fashion on Campus: Do's and Don'ts of our Dress Code

Campbell Abbott '25 writes about the do's and don'ts of Lawrenceville fashion.



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### The Return of the Pearl(s)

Although many may have read our "Farewell Pearl" article last year, Pearl is back—and twice as strong.

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## Tsai-Di Says Hi



Sabrina Ottaway '25/*THE LAWRENCE*

NICHOLE JIN '24

Ever since the construction team arrived on the Lawrenceville campus back in Spring 2020, students and faculty alike have been anticipating the opening of the new Tsai Field House. With construction of the first phase of the field house being completed this past summer, a number of student athletes and coaches have already been able to use the new facilities. Meanwhile,

meaning that water does not splash off the walls of the pool or slow down swimmers in the outer lanes.

Coach Stefanie Harrison of the Girls' Varsity Water Polo team added that "the pool is definitely better for competition...It is much wider in length, which is exciting for both water polo and swimming," she said.

Despite the improvements, however, some students expressed concerns with the new pool. Teeley lamented about the lack of natural light in the new space, "which [makes it] a little gloomy when you are swimming laps."

The water polo teams have been consistently been paying visits to the facility, namely to the newly constructed pool and locker rooms. "So far, it looks really nice...It is a lot brighter than the old pool, and the bleachers are nicer," said Vivian Teeley '24, a member of the Girls' Varsity Water Polo team. Specifically, she noted how the locker rooms are "more modern," with individual shower stalls and better-maintained lockers, where her team has "had some great pre-practice dance parties, pep talks, and whiteboard sessions...It's a great space."

Alexander Xia '23, a member of the Boys' Varsity Swimming Team, also commented on how the architecture of the facility "looks very modern."

The remodeled pool has been particularly exciting for athletes. "My favorite thing about [the field house] is the pool, and I'm really excited because it's a wakeless pool," said Teeley. A wakeless pool is one that has a gutter at water level,

Along with the locker rooms and the swimming pool, Tenzin Tsepel '26 highlighted the new and improved court area and gym, which features a variety of new workout machines. Her "favorite thing has to be the court and gym...There is a lot of space to work out and practice." When asked about one aspect of the field house she would improve, Tsepel mentioned improving the air conditioning in the new building: "Although there are a lot of fans, it gets really hot easily."

Reminiscing on all the "fast swims, big wins, and pool records" that occurred in the old field house, Harrison commented on the amount of "history there that will be missed...It holds a lot of memories for many decades of Lawrentians."

Even though bidding farewell to the old field house may be difficult, many are looking forward to being able to use and enjoy the new Tsai Field House. Harrison excitedly summarized, "I think the building is beautiful, inside and out."

### Water Polo Dives into the Season

Take a lap with Sneha Kumar '24 as she chronicles the Boys' Water Polo Team's home opener in the Tsai pool.



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## THE LAWRENCE

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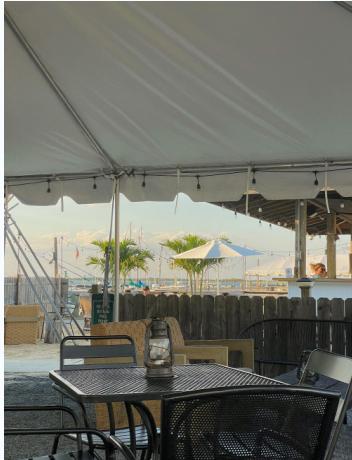
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## CORRECTIONS

Readers who notice errors should contact the Managing Editor at kpark23@lawrenceville.org.

## Photo of the Week: Summer Emma Sung '25



SONIA IVANCIC '25

Each of my grocery store visits this past summer seemed to always be accompanied by a now-familiar sight: an exasperated shopper standing by the check-out area looking at their groceries in dismay. The reason for their exasperation? New Jersey's plastic bag ban, the strictest in the country.

The ban, which went into effect on May 4 as one of the 11 bans across the nation, prohibits stores from providing or selling plastic, styrofoam, or paper bags—with the exception of plastic straws, which can be given to customers on a by-request basis. While the ban technically only applies to retailers who take up 2,500 square feet or larger, small businesses themselves cannot provide styrofoam containers either. Shoppers in New Jersey must now ensure that they bring reusable bags to the checkout line. If an unfortunate shopper forgets, they must decide whether or not to buy the cheery, reusable store bags that hang conveniently right by the counter. But more often than not, you'll just see shoppers walking back to their cars with carts full of un-bagged groceries.

Still, these inconveniences are more than worth it. After all, plastics are not, and never will be, the way of the future. For most of us, it's actually basic knowledge: since our elementary school days, we've been taught that plastic takes hundreds of years to decompose and that microplastics that end up in natural waterways, contaminate the water we drink and the fish we eat. We have all seen the images of plastic-covered

oceans and marine animals struggling to survive while entangled in plastic bags. And yet, even with all of this knowledge, we continued to use plastic unabashedly. New Jersey's plastic ban may have suddenly burst our bubble of willful ignorance, but we must admit that it was long coming—and well-deserved.

At one point or another, we have to stop relying so heavily on the things that destroy us. Of course, adjusting to this sudden loss of plastic will not be easy. It will be extremely annoying when we inevitably forget a reusable bag at home and must try to juggle all of our items in our arms.

However, habits build over time. This ban will do just that. As there is no way around this new law, people will eventually become accustomed to bringing reusable bags when they shop and become mindful of what containers they use. Humans are built to adapt, and once we do grow comfortable with this not-so-drastic shift in lifestyle, it will even be odd to

think back to when retailers pumped out hundreds of plastic bags a day, or when we still held plastics and the myriad of problems they caused—including leaking into water, blocking

all socioeconomic classes. One reform would be increasing access to reusable bags. As the rising demand for reusable bags couples with inflation, the price of reusable bags increases, resulting in

count for the extra energy needed to manufacture them.

The third step that the state should take is to ensure widespread communication about the ban both online and in physical stores. For example, while the majority of the state knew about the existence of the plastic bag ban, very few of us knew that the ban included paper bags as well, as they consume massive amounts of energy in production.

The fourth step is perhaps the most difficult one, but the one that we need the most: expand the plastic ban. The general omnipresence of plastic products have made it so that targeting only plastic bags is far from enough to bring about change. New Jersey should also put restrictions on plastic containers for fruits and vegetables, delivery packaging, plastic bottles and plastic cutlery. These bills will fortunately be easier for New Jersey residents to adjust to, thanks to the anti-plastic mindset adopted from the current ban of plastic bags.

But we must remember that New Jersey's efforts to control plastic waste benefits us the most. While the health of animals and nature is a cause for concern, a significant catalyst for this large plastic ban is the possibility that we humans may be ingesting five grams of microplastics per week. Perhaps I'm ending this article on a dire note, but our situation is pretty dire—and we really need to take dire action. So if not even the deaths of millions of animals and the pollution of hundreds of waterways can convince you to reuse and mindfully use your plastics, remind yourself that if we continue to live the way we do, you may be eating a credit card's worth of plastic each week.

## Plastic, Plastic, Everywhere: Why New Jersey's Plastic Bag Ban is One Step Forward



Aileen Ryu '25 /THE LAWRENCE

storm drains, and increasing river bank erosion.

But the ban is not an automatic solution to all of our plastic woes. It is only the first step in a journey along a windy road to sustainability. The next step must be to make the ban more inclusive of

all socioeconomic classes. One reform would be increasing access to reusable bags. As the rising demand for reusable bags couples with inflation, the price of reusable bags increases, resulting in

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pantries, and low-income residents struggling to purchase these alternatives to plastic bags. At the same time, wealthier residents who can afford grocery deliveries can also collect the reusable bags that stores use to package deliveries, letting them idly sit by in their homes. To offset this imbalance, New Jersey should set up a reuse system where residents who have

a surplus of  
bags can  
d r o p  
t h e m  
off at

designated locations around counties. These donated bags can then be given to food pantries and low-income residents. This system will also ensure that reusable bags are continuously reused. When those thick, reusable bags just pile up in people's homes, they lose their sustainability factor; reusable bags must be reused at least 10 times to ac-

## Editorial Sourdough (and Life)

Mother Earth and crystalline sea salt from the briniest boundaries of Poseidon's realm enter the fray. The different elements begin to conglomerate and form a shaggy mass; this formation is the beginning of something wonderful in the works.

1. The humble beginnings of a sourdough loaf: the sourdough starter. Initially, the starter is nothing but a glob of flour and water in a jar. Yet, as these ingredients familiarize themselves with each other, they begin to attract other crucial components. The flour and water draw naturally occurring yeast from the surrounding environment—and this yeast is what allows the starter to grow. Yes, the flour and water that we started with are the basic building blocks of sourdough, but the loaf draws heavy inspiration from its surroundings; no, more than inspiration, the loaf draws its life force from its surroundings. While the starter is exposed to a variety of elements, not all of these ingredients prove beneficial. In order to nurture a high-quality sourdough starter, we must sometimes discard the old starter. By leaving behind what is outdated, we can ensure that our starter will grow up to become healthy and well-developed.

2. A good starter does not form instantly. The ingredients take time to mature, and flavors take time to develop. While you may grow antsy, stand back. This waiting period, this patience, enables your starter to grow. Anything good is worth waiting for—and this loaf is more than worth the wait.

3. Then begins the big mix. The starter, which has yeastified and bubbled in the corner like some witches' brew, will now do the job for which it was made. With a heavy dose of hydrating water and a dash of fruity, herbaceous olive oil, it's whisked up into a visually unappealing dull-gray concoction. The oils haven't emulsified, the starter hasn't fully combined, and it looks as if our loaf will never come to be. The amalgamation is incomplete; that is, until a hearty bread flour from

6. Your loaf has weathered the storm and survived the trial by fire. Your nearly fifteen hours of toil, sweat, tears, blood, cramping-hands, and aching forearms has finally birthed a lovely brown mass of leavened perfection. Of

course, you'd love nothing more than to cut into the fruits of your labor, to slice into the sourdough's fortified crust and reveal the soft, supple crumb below. But after that long stint in the hot oven, your bread needs time to recuperate. Rest is essential after undergoing so much stress for long periods of time—leave the knife off to the side for just a few moments more.

7. Go ahead, slice into your finished product: it can now take a knife's cruel edge. Get a jar of tart strawberry jam, a jar of local honey, some freshly churned butter, a steaming hot coffee, and a hundred of your closest friends together for the spectacle. Gather around like pieces of the whole to enjoy pieces of the loaf; after all, what is success if it isn't shared by those who helped earn it? All of your experiences and influences, bread-making and not, led to this moment, and you certainly wouldn't be eating this loaf if it weren't for them. Sourdough isn't bread, it's the friends you made along the way.

8. Crafting a loaf of sourdough is a tedious process. You will go through your fair share of trials and tribulations: the starter may not rise correctly, the dough may not be supple enough, the crust may lack a sufficient crustiness. When something goes wrong, follow your gut feeling. Go off-script; use your intuition to fix what has gone wrong. Although this is a guide to making sourdough, this is not a guide to making the perfect sourdough. In fact, there is no such thing as a perfect sourdough. Each loaf is inherently valuable. Perhaps a loaf's crumb is too dense for one's taste—but there will always be somebody else out there who would love nothing more than to devour that loaf. Find the people who enjoy your baking and keep them close.

-APB & IW

## Dear God, It's Really Not Your Place

LAUREN LIU '24

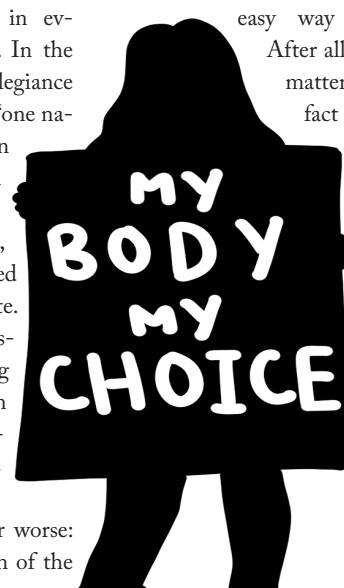
**G**od is not a fact. So I've always wondered: if we aren't able to verify the existence of God, why is God always right? Are what we believe to be God's claims truly objective? How and why do we so fervently trust something we've only imagined?

Religion manifests itself in every aspect of American life. In the classroom, the pledge of allegiance famously unifies America as "one nation, under God." In American literature, authors use Biblical allusions to enrich their stories. And for better or worse, religion is frequently utilized as a means for political debate. For better: Americans' dissatisfaction with the long-lasting power imbalance between white and black people intertwined with Christian ideals to empower the Civil Rights movement of the 1960s. For worse: religion paved a large portion of the road to Dobbs v. Jackson, the case in which the Supreme Court ruled the right to abortion to be unconstitutional. This recent overturning of Roe v. Wade triggered widespread anxiety and controversy over its anti-feminism implications, and for good reason. Following Dobbs, at least 12 states have made abortion illegal. In the future, approximately half of all

U.S. states are expected to enact bans.

One of the central tenets of the pro-life argument is God's belief that abortion is sinful. But whether or not you agree with that statement should not matter in the abortion debate. Using religious beliefs as an argument only strips moral responsibility away from individuals. To put it bluntly, citing God is just the easy way out.

After all, the matter of fact is



Sara Chiang '23 /THE LAWRENCE

no human being, even the Pope, will ever know what God truly wants.

By no means am I insinuating that religion is intrinsically harmful and corruptive, nor am I ridiculing those who believe in God. While I am not the most active participant in church,

I am still a Christian. Growing up, my parents would reiterate "everything is God's best plan," the lesson of a renowned Chinese fable, ad nauseam. But the validity of Christianity in our personal lives does not equate to the validity of Christianity in political arguments.

Still, the use of religion to justify political and social immorality is far

from a novel occurrence. The Transatlantic Slave Trade of the 16th century is a prime example. To justify their transport of approximately 12.4 million people to labor on plantations, European nations deliberately misinterpreted the Bible to wield Christianity as a pretext for enforcing absolute authority over Africans. Through missionary efforts, coupled with threats of starvation and torture, these same nations sought to refine African culture, or to force Africans to convert from their 'low-level' religions to the 'intrinsically superior' Christianity.

It's not all too surprising that religion has been a major participant in the abortion debate since it first arose. Though abortion was regularly practiced in ancient civilizations, its legality has continuously been disputed in the modern ages. In 1588, Pope Sixtus V declared all abortion murder,

holding the belief that ensoule-

ment—the moment at which the soul enters the body—begins at contraception, establishing one of the key points of contention in abortion rights over four centuries later. In the 21st century, we need only a quick statistical study to confirm the close relationship between religious affiliation and political stance on abortion.

American ideological fervor is only growing stronger, and at a consider-

ably alarming rate. What was once religious belief has now turned into political belief. The separation of church and state—one of the founding values of the United States—has dwindled down to almost nothing. Although both religion and politics govern our moral code, we cannot conflate the two.

This conflation only empties religion of its meaning; it not only enforces subjective religious standards upon non-practitioners, but sullies religion's purpose to promote love and respect for all individuals. Citing the abstract notion of God in a debate on concrete matters like abortion brings all productive discussion to a standstill. No one has the grounds to prove or disprove the existence of someone's God, and thus nothing about which to debate.

When will we accept that the separation of church and state is not an option to occasionally consider, but an American requirement? When will we accept that opinions formed from facts, not from mere conjectures, are integral to political progress?

Thus, forgive me, God, but I don't love you in politics. Interpretations of the Bible are ever-changing. Inconstant. Unstable. If religion, a fickle and multi-faceted system, is used for political purposes, what ensues is nothing but a vicious cycle of shallow political machines vying for power.

Let's try to avoid that.

## God Save the Queen... But Not Too Much

LUKE PARK '24  
COPY EDITOR

**O**n Thursday, September 8, Queen Elizabeth II passed away at the age of 96. During her reign, she appointed 15 prime ministers, saw the dissolution of the British Empire, and lived throughout Britain's fall from global prominence. She witnessed the rise of the Beatles and remained a stable figure in the face of an increasingly politically turbulent Britain, especially in the wake of Brexit in 2020 and the resignation of Prime Minister Boris Johnson. Her reign was one of remarkable longevity—with 70 years and 214 days marked by her rule, she currently stands as the second longest reigning monarch in world history. Simply put, the death of Queen Elizabeth II was the end of an era.

Perhaps due to the duration of her reign, her cementation into pop culture as a global icon, or a combination of both, when I heard that the Queen had died, I felt as if the impossible had happened. In retrospect, it was obvious—the Queen was not immortal—and yet it felt as if a god had died. The Queen was simply too big to fall and in the face of her passing, a sense of bewilderment followed me and countless others.

But aside from mourning the Queen's death, it is also important to recognize her position as a monarch, what that position entails, and how our modern-day perception of the Queen intersects with the past of the British monarchy. When we mourn the Queen, it is important that we mourn the person and not what she came to represent, as we otherwise risk glorifying the face of an empire that subjugated and oppressed people across the

globe.

The Queen, both as a person and a monarch, represented two entirely different things. Though the Queen may have ultimately held no political power, a far cry from the British monarchs of the

second Saturday of June, a trend that first began in 1748 with King George II. The Queen's social power was perhaps best exemplified in her public presence; her cordial personality, love of corgis, lack of strong opinions, and secretive private life



Courtesy of GettyImages

helped to establish both an air of royal mysticism and stolid grace. Through her social and ceremonial power, Queen Elizabeth II formed a public face for Britain as the world's most recognizable monarch.

Herein lies the problem. When Queen Elizabeth II was born on April 21, 1926, Britain still held control over 24 percent of the globe: the British empire held a colony on every continent save Antarctica, and nearly one-in-five people across the world were British subjects. Though she inherited a postwar country that was still recovering from the aftermath of the first world war, the Queen also inherited a British empire near its peak, alongside

countless colonies of the British Crown, including India, Hong Kong, Jamaica, and Kenya, to name a few. Many even heralded the Queen's reign to power as indicative of a second Elizabethan Era, a new golden age for Britain.

her visits to the Commonwealth nations are reminiscent of the 19th Century monarch Queen Victoria's visits to the colonies, a paternalistic display of Britain's global dominance and might. Even if the Queen does not hold the beliefs so heavily touted by the British empire, her visits and by extension, the functions of the Crown, conveniently conceal the crimes of the British empire under the guise of a devotion to tradition. By upholding and inheriting the position as head of the Commonwealth, Queen Elizabeth II both symbolized and sustained an imperial monarchy.

Though her position in the monarchy might maintain a colonial legacy, the events which transpired over the Queen's rule ended up having the opposite effect. Rapid decolonization efforts, the transition of Barbados from a Commonwealth nation to a republic, and calls for reparations have dramatically reduced the influence of the British empire and set the bar for future progress. And that's not to underestimate the efforts of Queen Elizabeth II either, who took a firmly anti-apartheid stance against the suggestions of Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher in the late 1980s.

The bottom line is recognizing the differences between the Queen as a person and a political entity. Queen Elizabeth II's legacy will remain an event of incredible significance in contemporary history and will likely persist in British history for years to come. Regardless of your stance on Queen Elizabeth II, it's important to uphold the fundamental respect all humans deserve, and also acknowledge the Queen's individual efforts, which stand in stark contrast to the atrocities of the Crown. One thing is certain: mourn Elizabeth, not the Empire.

# Introducing Lawrenceville's New Penn Teaching Fellows

**SOFIA BONILLA '24**  
**HELENA CHEN '24**  
**CLEMENTINE SUTTER '25**

This fall, Jason Leong and three other students at the University of Pennsylvania's Independent School Teaching Residency joined the Lawrenceville community. He is serving as a History Teaching Fellow and crew coach while earning his master's degree in education.

Before coming to Lawrenceville, Leong attended Colby College, double majoring in history and biology. His roommate, a Lawrenceville alumnus, knew Leong wanted to go into teaching, and recommended him a program where he could earn his master's degree, learn more about social justice, and engage in compelling conversations with students through Harkness. These discussions compelled Leong to ultimately choose Lawrenceville as his next destination, where he could pursue his passion for history.

When he first arrived at Lawrenceville, Leong was struck by the supportiveness of the School community, who put Leong's inexperience in the teaching world aside and welcomed him with open arms. One moment that particularly stood out to Leong occurred during faculty orientation, when another faculty member approached him and said, "Whenever someone from Lawrenceville is willing to share a piece of advice, know that they are 100 percent there to support you...they will go above and beyond."

While balancing life as a teacher and student is certainly no easy task, Leong finds the experience rewarding, as it helps him understand the experiences of the students he teaches. He manages to balance each part of his life by setting apart chunks of time and utilizing the time management skills he developed in college.

Though having just arrived on campus, Leong can already tell that Lawrenceville is a very special place to work. "I feel very privileged to be able to teach in a class-



**2022 Penn Independent Teaching Fellows**

room, have such great mentors, and really be able to make an impact on my students' experiences," he said.

Science teaching fellow Rebekah Crane graduated from Vanderbilt University in the spring of 2022. After graduating, Crane knew she wanted to be a teacher, and the fellowships program provided her the perfect opportunity to do so. Crane said that "the strong balance between collaboration and competitiveness among students is what I find wonderful." Speaking on her experience teaching science, Crane said, "I love the problem solving that goes into science, and the ways that it applies outside of the classroom, so I studied chemistry and secondary education in my undergraduate years."

When it comes to balancing the work between being a teacher and a student, Crane found living with the other fellows in the Penn program to be very helpful. "It's nice to have people dealing with the same difficulties and the same challenges, but also celebrate things together too," Crane said.

Crane's favorite part of Lawrenceville so far has been experiencing House Olympics. Outside of the classroom, Crane coaches

Girls' Junior Varsity Basketball in the Winter Term and Girls' Varsity Softball in the Spring Term. "I love sports. That's one of my favorite things outside of teaching. It'll be really fun to get to know a new group of students in a different way besides in the classrooms," Crane said. Both Crane and her family are college team loyalists: "My mom and my brother went to the University of Michigan, so we're big Michigan fans. And then my dad and I went to Vanderbilt, so we're also big Vanderbilt fans. I will watch any sport that those two schools are playing!" she said.

English fellow Gabrielle Lescadre is dipping her hand into uncharted waters by joining a new era for Lifetime Tech. For the first time in Lawrenceville history, Lifetime Tech is working on more than just set design. This year, under her supervision, the team is working on costume design. As an experienced costume designer, Lescadre's passion for the arts has bled into her pursuit of education and teaching style.

An English Teacher for the II Form, Lescadre's knowledge of the fellowship program came from her own high school, the Frederick Gunn

Courtesy of *The Lawrenceville School*

School. Voted most likely to come back and teach, Lescadre admitted that her peers were right, although she fulfilled her high school superlative at a different high school.

When asked why she chose to teach English, Lesacdre had a simple answer: the power of storytelling. One of Lescadre's favorite parts of teaching English is choosing stories she loves and sharing them with people. Lescadre explained that since she's always been interested in theatre, teaching topics like Shakespeare excites her. As she loves everything in "the arts sphere," English is an exciting class for her to teach.

Something she looks forward to this school year is II Form Shakespeare. When asked to give a few words of advice to the II Form, she said, "I would say to [II Formers]: go for it. Audition for [II Form] Shakespeare, get involved—if you've never done anything before in the theatre, it's the time to just do something crazy and try something you've never done before." She emphasized the importance of trying new things and exploring all that Lawrenceville has to offer, admitting that she plans to become as

much of a part of the community as she can.

Math fellow Scott Hallyburton, a recent graduate of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, has made his passion for working in the math department very clear. He enjoys the fact that the faculty care and think critically about the way they teach, use the feedback they receive from students, talk to each other about their ideas, and foster a constructive environment. He appreciates that there is space to grow, and he would like to "talk about things [one] would like to do better in certain classes but also shar[e] victories." He admires that this sentiment is present in not only the faculty and staff but also in the student body. Hallyburton admires the willingness of the student body to challenge themselves, even with the struggles that may come with them, and he respects that students "striv[e] for something more here."

When asked how he balanced his life as a student and as a teacher, Hallyburton replied that treating it like a job was the easiest way of staying on top of things. He explained that having an order of precedence made time management easier, as he dedicated certain hours of the day, or the week, to certain aspects of his teaching or student life. He also explained that his past experience as a cook helped him learn how to prioritize certain jobs and pace himself as he dealt with the many facets of his life as a fellow.

The Lawrenceville community itself has been a highlight for Hallyburton, as he recounts watching students cheer each other on at assorted sports games. He looks forward to teaching math not only because it is his passion, but also because he has the opportunity to learn more about his students and how he can help them become better thinkers. When asked if he had any words of advice for his students, he emphasized the need for self confidence. "Before you're able to convince anyone else, you have to be able to convince yourself. That's true in a lot of cases" he remarked.

## Head of School Bikes for Cancer Research

**HELENA CHEN '24**  
**ANGEL XIN '26**

Over the summer, Head of School Stephen Murray H'54 '55 '65 '16 P'16 '21 participated in the Pan-Mass Challenge, one of the largest athletic fundraisers in the country, for his third year. Participants partake in a bike-a-thon to raise nearly \$60 to \$70 million a year for pediatric cancer research at the Dana Farber hospital in Boston, Massachusetts. In order to participate, the riders had to commit to raising at least \$6,000.

A number of Murray's friends, including former colleagues from Deerfield Academy, had been completing the challenge for years. They encouraged Murray to join the event, which was how he began participation in

the Pan-Mass Challenge.

However, the bike race was not all smooth and fun. In fact, one of Murray's good friends and former colleague got into an accident while biking ahead of him. Murray recounted that he felt extremely grateful that his friend wasn't severely injured and that another fellow biker quickly stepped in to assess the situation.

Another challenge that Murray faced on his bike-a-thon was the heat. For Murray, the "challenge [was] to stay hydrated." Thankfully, the event was very well organized: There were rest stations, water, Gatorade, and lots of fresh food and fruits available for contestants. When asked about future participation, he replied that he would ride again, "as long as I can still do it."



**Head of School Murray biking in the Pan-Mass Challenge**

Courtesy of *The Lawrenceville School*

# Fashion on Campus: The Dos and Donts of the Dress Code

CAMPBELL ABBOTT '25

Back-to-school season is here, so I am writing to all you Lawrentians to tell you about the do's and don'ts of the Lawrenceville dress code. We

have implemented a new dress code this year, but that doesn't mean that all of our joyful, start-of-school-year personalities have to be stifled by these restrictions.

I am here to explain some great ways to show up to class in style. Trust me, as someone who has only been yelled at once for my attire, I have a lot of credibility.



Emily Pan '24 / THE LAWRENCE

## Converse Shoes

It is always important to have a good pair of shoes for running around campus in, and Converse is the brand of choice for many Lawrentians. Riley McKibben '25, for example, has an extensive

## Sweaters

Because sweatshirts are no longer permitted by the dress code, I recommend wearing sweaters to class, especially when the weather is gloomy or if you have a science lab in the icebox that is the Kirby

## Jewelry

It is always fun to show up to class with some funky and fresh jewelry. Lilly Gessner '23 always showcases her sense of style through her unique bracelets. She shows her sentimental side through different friendship bracelets that her campers made

## Floral

Florals are a great way to keep the summer times rollin' when classes are kickin' your butt. Eddie Newsom '23 loves to rock not just florals, but many other patterns as well in his daily dress. His clothes' creative designs brighten any room he walks into, and everyone can do the same with a few stripes or stamps across their shirt. Floral dresses and shirts are especially fun to wear to classes and are a great way to make any outfit a little more interesting!

# ART! An Examination of Art History

SOFIA CARLISI '24

Visual arts, for appreciation's sake, is incredibly valuable. It has the ability to convey emotions and relationships without using a single word. One does not need to know

anything about a piece of art to connect with it on a deeper level. As a reflection of the time period in which it was created, a piece of art also contains a hidden history of its

own. To look at art is one thing, but to know the work's story elevates the entire viewing experience.

Museums supply an ideal avenue for this elevated viewing experience,

as they provide specific history and background for each piece of art. The Scottish National Gallery, with its many beautiful paintings and sculptures, is the perfect place

to be entranced by visual art. Two paintings that I saw there, in particular, deserve a deep dive into their rich history and fascinating origins.



Lady Agnew of Lochnaw by John Singer Sargent Courtesy of Wikimedia Commons

This beautiful commissioned painting of Gertrude Agnew is a piece by John Singer Sargent. Sargent, the son of two Americans, was born in Florence, Italy, in 1856. Although he is considered one of the greatest American portrait painters, he

spent only two years of his life in America.

In 1892, the Baronet of Lochnaw, Andrew Noel Agnew, commissioned Sargent to paint his young wife. Sargent's painting of Lady Agnew secured his place in the elite

newfound status to open a private salon in London. Salons were institutes aimed at providing women with higher education. Unfortunately, Agnew could not maintain her life of luxury and sold her own painting to the Scottish National Gallery in 1925. Lady Agnew gained her social popularity from her painting, and yet, the only way she could maintain her status was to sell it.



Francesca da Rimini by William Dyce

Courtesy of Wikimedia Commons

Lovers on a balcony, what could be more romantic than that? "Francesca da Rimini" by William Dyce is a visual interpretation of Dante's *Inferno*. Rimini, married to the ugly Gianciotto, instead falls in love with her husband's beautiful younger brother, Paolo. Enraged at his wife's betrayal, Gianciotto murders both Francesca and his brother. Dyce's painting originally portrayed Gianciotto to the left of the lovers, preparing to make his killing blows. In 1882, however, Gianciotto was cut out of the painting due to damage, and if one looks at where he used to be, one can see that only his hand

remains in the picture.

Although Gianciotto's lone hand is suggestive of the deeper meaning of the piece, it is easy to miss if one does not know where to look for it. At first glance, the painting is simply a couple happily in love, but knowing the piece's history exposes its far more sinister meaning. What was once the image of two lovers before a tragic death is now a scenic painting of two people madly in love. It is so easy to forget the original purpose of a painting in the throes of time, but its ability to make people feel deeply is timeless!

# Looking Forward: The New Year's New Dreams

*As the new school year kicks into gear, there's plenty to look forward to. We finally get to wave goodbye to COVID-19 guidelines and move on to a more normal life at Lawrenceville, and this year is looking better than ever. With plenty of changes in all aspects of the School, including a new field house and dining hall, we will collectively get to experience new parts of Lawrenceville. Every student has their favorite time of year, social event, or subject that they have been waiting for from the moment they move in. Here are just a few of the activities and events that your fellow campus dwellers are looking forward to:*

MELANIE MINAYA '24

## Alice Kizilbash '25

Kirby House

"The sports games are always so fun to go to and cheer [at] with friends. I'm really excited to have games and go watch the other teams this year. I'm also just excited for spring in general because it's



## Sebastian Saint Laurent '24

Woodhull House

"I'm looking forward to being a part of the [Boys' Varsity] Crew team this spring and achieving new goals that I've been work-



## Jaelyn Bennett '23

McPherson House, Student Council Diversity Representative

"I can't wait for senior spring! Our grade has worked so hard, and we really deserve a term to have fun and see that the work has re-



## Bailey Georgieva '23

Carter House

"Being a prefect has been my favorite part of senior year so far, and I'm looking forward to getting closer to everyone in the house and

all of the fun events we have planned this year. I'm also looking forward to the crew season this spring!"

Photos from the most recent Courtesy of *The Lawrenceville School* school dance



Stephanie Xu '23/THE LAWRENCE

## Deb Miliaresis

Bath House Cafe

"I always love the Kirby performances at the end of each Music Festival and getting to see all of the talent on campus! I look forward to it each year, and it's always so much fun to go out and enjoy all of the music. I also love the big dance perfor-

## Avery Ottaway '24

Stephens House

"I'm so happy that we all the changes made for the won't have Saturday classes year will be implemented, in the spring! It will definitely ease the stress and give everyone more time to enjoy the campus and the last term of the year. I'm also just looking forward to seeing how

## Indigo Towers '24

Stephens House

"I'm looking forward to social events like dances with all my friends who I didn't get to see this summer. It felt like we had never left campus once everyone was back together, and I can't wait for all the events lined up this term! The student

DJs have been great, and the first dance got me excited for the rest of the year. I'm really looking forward to getting back into the routine as well. It hasn't been as overwhelming as I expected, so I'm actually excited to return to Lawrenceville!"

# The Oyster of Our Eye: Reintroducing Pearl

Hey there Lawrenceville,

Long time no see. You may be surprised to hear from me again considering my farewell letter last year, but you will be happy to know that the genius founder of Pearl, our dear Quinn Thierfelder '22, has left this column in good hands. And so we have been recruited to continue the legacy of Pearl, Lawrenceville's resident keepers of wisdom (otherwise known as the advice column writers). And guess what—there's two of us this year! You may be asking yourself, dear reader, what does this mean for me? We'll tell you: We promise you double the fun, double the mystery, and double the love. We solemnly swear to put our heads together and deliver the best advice we can; blood, sweat, tears, and all that jazz.

It's the beginning of the year, which means a variety of things for us all over campus. The II Formers are looking extra fresh, sophomores are

getting into the groove, juniors are hard at work, and seniors are looking toward the future.

Already browsing through your queries, we can tell this year is going to be full of excitement. One of you lovely people already asked a question that had our heads spinning in search of an answer: "Why are my hands a little bit wet all the time?" Others have inquired about friends, classes, love lives, and all sorts of drama. We are here for it all, and here's the best part: Your requests are completely anonymous.

For today, we'll keep it simple. To answer the aforementioned question concerning the dampness of your hands, we

think we might have an answer: You're probably awkward. Clammy hands usually afflict those stepping outside of their comfort zones (congrats!) or those with immaculate hygiene. Feeling nervous or awkward when meeting new people, starting new classes, or even just having an incredibly uncomfortable conversation with the duty affiliate every night is a perfectly normal thing. Embrace it, because that feeling and those experiences make for the funniest stories later on in your Lawrenceville career. As seniors ourselves, we can promise you that the most valuable memories

stem from moments that may seem uncomfortable at first.

If you remember one thing during the initial weeks of this brand new year, let it be that everything works out in the end. Some friends will come and go, others will be by your side until you walk across the stage at graduation. Some of your crushes will be lived out just in passing through the hallways, and some will blossom into relationships. You will have teachers whom you don't especially like, and others who will one day write your college recommendations. But rest assured, everything always works out in the end. There is a lot of advice still yet to come as you all venture out onto your different paths at Lawrenceville, but for now, keep on rockin' in the free world.

XOXO,  
your Pearls

# The Beginning of the End: The Last First Day

KELLY LU '23  
ARTS EDITOR  
ASHLEY WANG '23

As I awoke one morning from uneasy dreams, I found myself transformed in my bed into some indescribable, alien creature. I tried to put a name to my new exoskeleton—the unfamiliar gains developed from single-handedly carrying Lawrenceville's campus culture on my back; the murky, caffeinated buzz in my head; and the sudden instinct to carry a JBL speaker across campus.

Eureka. I had emerged from my summer cocoon of TV show binges and college essay procrastination as an entirely new species. A senior.

Just last night, I had been "normal"—at least in the eyes of the freshmen who parade the Bowl with unfounded confidence, the poor sophomores and juniors who line up in the Circle and Crescent, and even the teachers who had side-eyed me for wearing a graphic tee to class.

Just last night, I was like everyone else: I sped-read my summer reading books 24 hours before classes, tried on five different dresses in front of my mirror to find the perfect floral fit, and repeatedly looked over class directories in hopes that a friend's picture would suddenly

appear amongst a sea of unfamiliar post-graduates.

I had gotten ready for bed, turned off my lights, and closed my eyes just like a n y o t h e r Lawren-

tian. Yet this very morning, the morning of my first day of school, I felt something different. I felt something only a senior would feel. Or, at least, what I think a senior would feel. Despite the monotony of it all—the regular tiredness that pooled in my dull eyes, the familiar sense of wanting to lunge back under the covers, and even the known dread of a Monday schedule—a sudden, foreign urge to say "last first" began to rise up in my throat.

Last first day of school.

Last first brushing of my teeth

before I go to my last first day of school.

Last first slipping on my shoes before I head



off to the last first period of my last first day of school.

Finally, at my behest, I could attend all the classes I'd desperately begged to be switched into—lawyer roleplay, ukulele-

building, radically loving. There's nothing I'd rather do than discuss the impact of male gaze on baseball poetry. Virtue or virtue? To be or not to be? Can I

someday jam in the phrase "post-structuralist objective correlative dichotomy" into every essay I write? These were the questions I'd spent four years waiting to pursue.

As I exited my last first last period of the day, I strutted confidently towards V Form housing—a safe haven from the loud

chattering of Underformers, the only thing that could possibly excite me more than uncovering the aforementioned academic mysteries in Woods Memorial Hall or the Kirby Math and Science Center. As I walked past the Bowl, I felt the urge to smirk at

the throngs of freshmen developing friend groups that would inevitably disintegrate at the end of the week—that is, until I was stopped in my tracks by a shocking greeting.

"HI FRESHIE!" Five small heads, not yet weathered by the trials and tribulations of ICPS, swiveled towards me. My worst nightmare had occurred. I had been mistaken for the lowliest category of Lawrentian: a freshman.

I took a deep breath and steeled my resolve: this would be my last first time being mistaken for a freshman. Such a transgression could never occur again under my watch. From this day on, I would assert my top-dawg dominance everywhere I walked, Starbucks cold brew and Statistics textbook in hand. So I stared them right back in the eyes as I strutted my way towards the gilded halls of the Abbott Dining Room.

That concluded my last first day of senior year—a culmination of the triumphs and defeats, the epic highs and lows. As I happily eat my dinner in my straight-backed, hardy oak chair, surrounded by other strange senior creatures like myself, I can't help but hope. Hope that—oh, never mind. I'll save that for another Harkness.

## Your First Look at the Class of '23's New Prefects

JACKIE WILLIAMS '24

By the time this year's Underformers had arrived on campus, roughly 60 V Formers had already spent a weekend at the School preparing for their upcoming duties. Playing an imperative role in House life, Lawrenceville's prefects have already overcome their initial challenges with their extensive training and are excited for the new year.

Prefect training began on Friday, August 26, five days before the last wave of student arrivals. After meeting with Assistant Dean of Students Doug Davis, the prefects, along with members of the Student Council, were presented with common scenarios they might encounter in the House. Scenario training included what to do if someone felt excluded or homesick, as well as how to keep others safe by calling sanctuary. Additionally, prefects worked hard to develop an environment they would like to foster. For example, they were introduced to a motto of "T.L.C."—trust, love, and confidence—as one of their building blocks for the year.

The motto emphasizes the importance of setting boundaries early on and preventing cliques while also recognizing the damage that COVID-19 might have had on creating in-person connections. Girls' Lower Prefect Reese Abromavage '23 explained how it was a bit stressful preparing for the

gravity and importance of the job; however, thanks to her training and a "Prefect Training Manual" made by former Girls' Lower prefects of Class '22 Carina Beritela, Coco Sandoval, and Amelie Wickham, she feels ready for the year.

On top of their preparation, the prefects have already been diving right into their duties, planning for a fun year in their respective Houses. In the Dickinson House, prefect Kevin Chiang '23 is excited to play House activities on the turf. In particular, he remembers playing capture-the-flag a few years ago, which was "competitive and a great bonding experience for everyone, including the prefects." He looks forward to getting to know all of the students better and "forming a solid House culture where everyone is included and no one is left out."

Across campus in the Crescent, Prefect Liza Webster '23 in the Kirby House is excited "to create bonds with new girls and to continue to improve the mature and positive ways in which [she] responds to situations." The Kirby House traditions include its annual trip to the Ropes Course and to School Camp. Webster also plans to have food in her room so that "everyone can come in to chat and eat snacks."

Abromavage particularly enjoyed the newly created yet very successful "Bowl Cup,"

a House Olympics mimic which all of the II Formers were excited to participate in. Not only did it "instill camaraderie in the [II Form]," but it created a friendliness that Abromavage hopes will continue throughout the year.

Despite all of the fun and excitement, prefecting has also come with its challenges. While Abromavage and her fellow prefects have enjoyed spending time with each other getting to know the II Form, she described how it has been hard finding a balance between her life and role as a prefect. Abromavage "wants to spend time getting to know the [II Form] girls, but [she] also wants to make sure [she] is doing well in classes and extracurriculars, along with finding time to be with friends." Abromavage has been working towards balance by "making sure the [II Form] girls know the responsibilities of a prefect, in that [they] are there to help them but can't be attentive 24/7."

Webster has also struggled to balance college applications with prefect responsibilities but mentioned that being a prefect has been worth the struggle. She enjoys connecting with the Kirby House by being there for people and maintaining the same House spirit that she remembers from last year. Similarly, while Chiang has not been able to attend school for



Dawes House Prefects

Courtesy of Emma Kim '23

a few days due to sickness, he has still been connecting with his Housemates from home.

The prefects have been able to provide helpful advice to their Underformer Housemates thanks to their former

experience at Lawrenceville. All prefects are looking forward to the year ahead, and they hope to make it just as amazing for the II, III, and IV Formers.

# Athlete Profile: StuCo Athletic Rep Ani Kozak '23

**ADRIAN CARLISI '24**

While Lawrenceville offers its students amazing opportunities, any Lawrentian knows that school life can be both academically challenging and stressful. The only way to balance everything during a term is by finding things to help one destress. For some, that's playing music. For others, it's writing for a school publication. But for many students, participating in interscholastic sports is where they find much satisfaction. Each year, the Student Council's Athletic Representative ensures that students are able to participate, watch, and stay updated with school athletics. This year, Student Council has called upon Ani Kozak '23 to be its Athletic Representative.

To get some background on Kozak's love for competition and sport, one can look all the way back to when she began playing ice hockey at four years old. All these years later, Kozak has continued to play ice hockey and is committed to Princeton University

for the sport. In addition, Kozak joined the Girls' Softball Team her IV Form year and looks forward to playing this spring.

When looking into the role she must play on Student Council this year, Kozak recognizes how special her job is, saying, "There are no set rules for the Athletic Representative's job and I truly get to envision and determine what that role looks like." While she plans on consistently working with her fellow council members and hyping students up during School Meeting, Kozak's main initiative is simply to be present. Knowing the importance that support from fans can bring to a team, Kozak plans on leading crowds as a positive and energetic force at as many matches and games as possible.

As the first female Athletic Representative since 2018, Kozak feels a mix of emotions. While she is excited to get to work, she understands that her role has been primarily male dominated in the past and hopes to live up to her peers'

*"There are no set rules for the Athletic Representative's job and I truly get to envision and determine what that role looks like."*



Mimie Pimpakornkul '25/ THE LAWRENCE

expectations. Kozak reflected that "for a person to gain respect, they have to also give it," and she plans on being present and supportive of every team and player on campus.

When deciding on games of the week, Kozak looks into a lot of factors. The main thing she thinks about is the impact that a team has had on the School as a whole. She values

teams that are able to give fans that escape from stress and bases a lot of her decision on this fact. In addition, she knows that there are many teams that do not get enough credit and hopes to bring more supporters to these games.

Looking at the bigger picture, Kozak claims that "athletics are a part of every Lawrentian's life" and

knows the importance of being able to representing each team to the best of her ability. Lawrentians should expect to see Kozak on the field, at the rink, and in the stands with constant energy. All students on campus should be excited and thrilled for what Kozak has in store.

## Paradise in the Pool! Boys' Water Polo Starts the Season with a Splash

**SNEHA KUMAR '24**

Right from the swim-off at Thursday afternoon's Boys Varsity Water Polo match against Malvern Prep, it was apparent that Lawrenceville would dominate. Although starting goalkeeper and Co-Captain Bradley Barrett '23 described the team's "nerves" as they entered the first game of the season, these were hard to notice given Lawrenceville's exceptional performance. Co-Captain Max Blecher '23 recalled that his mentality going into the game was to simply "score the first goal," which Henrique Coelho '25 gladly accomplished. He scored the first of many shots early in the first quarter, playing hole set for the first time. Big Red stole the ball from Malvern's first three possessions, leading to several fast break opportunities as Lawrenceville extended its lead. Malvern attempted to counterattack, but Barrett extended all the way across the goal with his left hand to block the ball in an exceptional save. Co-Captain Akeil Smith '23 was



**Akeil Smith '23 swims for the ball**  
fouled towards the end of the first quarter, leading to a foul shot attempt from the six-meter mark. With a low skip shot, Smith delivered the ball swiftly in the bottom corner of the goal, closing out the first quarter with a 7-1 lead.

The team's great play continued into the second quarter, where Conan Chen '24 scored his third goal of the game on a pass from Blecher, who also significantly contributed to the team's zone defense; Chen later revealed the team learned the defense just one practice before the

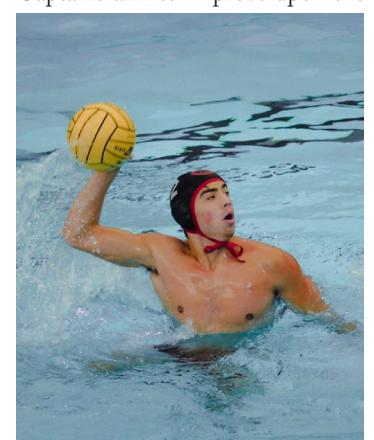
*Courtesy of prismvisuals*

game. He also connected on a shot attempt early in the second quarter, rising over his defender to skip the ball under the outstretched arms of Malvern's goalie. Coelho also shone, with two more goals right above the two-meter line. Barrett also kept up his stellar work with four outstanding blocks throughout the quarter, ending the half 13-2. The team kept up its powerful performance in the second half, as they won the swim-off at the beginning of the third quarter.

The team's offensive ball movement, in part facilitated by Toby Richmond

'24, made it difficult for Malvern's defense to stop Big Red's dominance. Even as more of Malvern's players began to score, exceptional defense allowed Big Red to maintain its lead. Several players and goalies were substituted into the game, allowing other stars to shine. Coming off the bench, Charlie Ambrecht '24 had two goals in the fourth quarter as the game ended in a blow-out win, 22-9. Coelho led the team with seven goals, followed by Chen with five, and Blecher with three. Barrett expressed that though the beginning of the first quarter felt "fast paced [and] hectic," he was proud that the team was able to execute after initial confusion. Additionally, Smith described reaching a "full circle moment" as the team lost a close game to Malvern just last year. He and Barrett credited the Coach's defense and game plan; the team worked tirelessly on egg beater and passing drills which paid off during the game. Barrett also commented on the importance of the team finding its "momentum" early in the game. He credited the growth of returning

players, as well as many of the new players, for the team's success. Smith observed the team had "more depth" than last year, noticing that some players had grown from "swimmers to water polo players." Still, the Captains aim to improve upon the



**Max Blecher '23** *Courtesy of prismvisuals*

team's passing abilities and early game performance. Their next big game is against Haverford School on September 13, and after a win in the Garden State Tournament last year, perhaps our boys can go undefeated.

## Board Picks

	Sally Lee Co-Web Editor	Stephanie Xu Graphics Editor	Grant Shueh Associate Editor	Cindy Shum Photo Editor	Claire Jiang Copy Editor	Luke Park Copy Editor	Noah Trupin Co-Web Editor
Why Lawrenceville?	L YEAH	why not	Wok bar	I got in	house! harkness!!! the best for all!!!! what more can i say?	You act like I had a choice	it beckoned
Most looking forward to this year	senior spring ;)	graduation?	Wok bar	Christmas	redecorating the office	getting more board picks :)	january 5th
A reason to be happy	Fall is nearby	Live love Lawrence	Wok bar	Christmas	birds	Pikmin 4	yewon's existence