



A Thespian Check-in with the Periwig Club



Periwig Executive Council meeting

Tiffany Wen '23/THE LAWRENCE

HELENA CHEN '24
NICHOLE JIN '24

The Periwig Club aims to encourage Lawrenceville students to participate in theatre and foster a passion for drama. The group is run by Co-Presidents Jack Chou '23 and Stephanie Xu '23, who are also, respectively, the Co-Head of Tech and Head of the Fall Musical.

Chou has been interested in theatre productions even before joining Periwig. "When I was a kid, I liked to watch behind the scenes parts of movies [because] I wanted to see how they filmed the whole movie," he said. During his first year at Lawrenceville, Chou was the technical director for the 2020 II Form Shakespeare production of *King Lear*.

Because of his technical experience, Chou now manages the behind-the-scenes of the Periwig Scene Shop, "building scenery, working with lights and sounds, [and] backstage managing." Activities in Periwig cover a broad range of skills within the discipline of theatre, including acting, set-building, and directing, and Chou himself has learned many of them, including "woodworking...and setting up sounds and lights," he said.

Periwig's main focus right now is preparing for the upcoming Fall Musical, *The Drowsy Chaperone*. Chou is also excited for Winterfest, a student-led and student-produced play series put on during the Winter Term, as it

is one of his "favorite productions throughout the entire year. It's very relaxing, because student directors get to schedule their own time to rehearse," he noted.

In addition to finishing the sets and planning for the upcoming production, Chou has also been very focused on recruiting new people to join Periwig, as involvement in the club declined during the Covid-19 pandemic. "Covid-19 meant that new students came in and didn't really have the experience of watching a Lawrenceville musical production in the fall, which is a big part of why I initially joined," Chou explained.

Xu, the Stage Manager of the Fall Musical, explained that "stage management really works to ensure that the different moving parts of a production are all on the same page." Whether it be costumes, tech, scenery, acting, or directing, Xu is in charge of ensuring that the play as a whole runs smoothly. Specifically, some of her responsibilities include "calling the cues for the lights and sound" and deciding "where props and actors should go."

Xu joined Periwig as a II Former as the stage manager for *King Lear*. During both her III Form and IV Form years, Xu was part of the Periwig Council, and she is "excited to continue [Periwig] traditions" this year as the club's president. These traditions include the annual Fall Musical, Winterfest, Broadway Cabaret, II Form Shakespeare, and the newly

reintroduced Spring Play.

Xu is especially looking forward to the production of *The Drowsy Chaperone*, noting that "it's been really exciting getting to be in rehearsals and watching our talented cast work on music, choreography, and acting." In addition to the process of watching the production slowly come together, Xu also appreciates that the show itself is "fun [and] comedic."

Similar to Chou, Xu is hoping to recruit new members to join Periwig this year to expand the club and promote theatre throughout the student body. "We try to make sure that we're incorporating people who aren't necessarily artists but who can enjoy art," she said. Xu's view is that playing a time-consuming sport or having other extracurricular commitments should not discourage an individual from fostering an appreciation for the arts and trying out for something that they might enjoy. "Just because you've never done theatre before doesn't mean you can't try out for Winterfest or the play reading series... We want to make sure that we're getting as many people as possible," she explained.

Overall, Periwig is a great place for students to support the arts at Lawrenceville and nurture their passion for theatre. The club is always looking for new students to get involved, and with a plethora of new shows coming up this year, there's no better time to get started!

Summer Belongs to Stevestest!

CHRISTINE WU '25

This past Saturday, the Stephens House hosted this year's End of Summer Festival, led by House President Malia Zovich '24 and Social Representative Grace Chu '24. The festival consisted of an inflatable obstacle course, soccer pit, and Gaga Ball pit, as well as set-ups for spikeball, volleyball, and cornhole.

The idea of a school-wide social event first originated during this past Spring Term, when Zovich was elected as Stephens House President. Zovich noted that unlike the Stanley House or the McClellan House, which host Club Stan and the McLovin' Dance respectively, Stephens didn't have a signature social event. After many long nights thinking of an event that would boost the Stephens House's name in the school community, Zovich came up with the perfect idea—a festival hosted by the Stephens House with food and music to kick off the school year!

The planning process began in the summer, when Zovich and Chu got in contact with Director of Student Life Ian August to discuss and organize the initiative. Most of the details of the event were confirmed within the first week of school. Bearing in mind many of their friends' fondness of slushies, Zovich and Chu decided to set up a Rita's Ice booth at the festival. Zovich also highlighted the amount of effort that August put into the event, remarking that "without [August's] attention to details and handling of logistics, the event would not have been possible."

Chu thanked Head of

House Nicole Lantz and Assistant Head of House Veronica McMahon for their support, who helped make "the planning process smooth and enjoyable."

Fellow Stephens House member Frances Brooks '25 expressed admiration for Zovich and Chu, who "worked hard behind the scenes to put the event together."

Marlow Mellquist '25 added that she and others in the House were eager to sign up for shifts to help out and pull their weight for the festival's execution.

Whether it be Zovich, Chu, August, or any Stephens members, everyone involved in the festival had their hard work come to fruition. Attendees across campus had only positive reviews of the festival. Although she was not an "active participant in the Gaga pit," Clementine Sutter '25 had a great time "watching the action from afar."

Anthony Sapp Guadarrama '25 "had a blast at the outdoor volleyball court," where he was "graced with the opportunity to play volleyball for the first time since coming to Lawrenceville." Sapp Guadarrama loved seeing the community in a space together; he even went so far as to labeling the festival as "lit."

The Stephens House also received wonderful feedback for the festival. Nico Garza '26 commended Stephens for being the first House to organize a school-wide social event: "It really made Stephens stand out [amongst] other Houses."

After thanking organizers for a joyous evening, Sapp Guadarrama commented, "We need more Houses like Stephens."

Mid-Autumn Memories

Kelly Lu '23 reminisces about Hong Kong traditions and gives fellow international students tips on maintaining their dual identities.



Art, Learning, and "Father"

What's your favorite building at school? For Louis Park '26, it's the Father's Building, more commonly referred to as Pop Hall on campus. Read Park's explanation of his love for the building.



Perfect Pumpkin Pastries

Fall is right around the corner, and so are fall flavors! Follow Sofia Carlisi '24 on her quest to taste every pumpkin flavored item on the Starbucks menu.





THE LAWRENCE

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The Lawrence, the weekly newspaper of The Lawrenceville School, is published during the school year except for the periods of Thanksgiving, winter, and spring breaks, by the students of The Lawrenceville School, 2500 Main Street, Lawrenceville, New Jersey 08648, with offices in room 027 of Father's Building.

Typesetting and layout is by the students of The Lawrenceville School. Printing is by Epoch Press, Inc. Opinions expressed on the Opinions pages do not necessarily reflect the opinion of The Lawrenceville School or The Lawrence. The Lawrence reserves the right to edit letters to the editor and opinions.

Readers interested in subscribing to The Lawrence should contact the Editor-in-Chief at abasu23@lawrenceville.org. Letters to the editor should be mailed to the address above with C/O Elizabeth Buckles or emailed to lvill@lawrenceville.org. The Lawrence may be accessed online at thelawrence.lawrenceville.org

CORRECTIONS

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

Dog of the Week (Chopper!) Yan Tsender '23



Editorial Making Memories a Moon(cake) Away

Last week was the Mid-Autumn Festival.

Mid-Autumn Festival, or as I've called it my entire life, 中秋节, is a Chinese holiday that brings families together under the fullest moon of the year. Simply saying the name of the holiday conjures an image of a family seated under a brilliant sky, feasting at a circular table, with crab, duck, and other Chinese delicacies spinning around a Lazy Susan.

Prior to throwing myself into the boarding school lifestyle, I loved watching Mid-Autumn Festival celebrations unfold every year. I always pointed out the bright red lanterns floating across every ceiling in Hong Kong, or the mooncakes in the grocery aisles. I'd observe as parents squatted down next to curious children to explain the myths behind the lunar fascination—from the tragic romance of Chang'e separated from her lover to the happy tale of the Moon Rabbit. And as the day turned into the night, I always loved watching the entire city come to life from my balcony: families hurrying back home to begin preparing meals, windows down the street lighting up to frame laughing faces, and people clinking cups of wine as they downed mooncake after mooncake.

Since arriving in the U.S. five years ago, however, I've left behind almost every one of these festival traditions. Last week, instead of celebrating with loved ones, I had Saturday classes. Instead of waking up to my family already seated around the table, I woke up to an empty dorm room. Instead of digging into rows of home-cooked Chinese food, I had a sandwich at Abbott. Instead of cooking and eating with my family members, I sent a quick celebratory text before hunching over my computer to write an essay. Instead of cutting up a lotus mooncake and sharing it with my siblings, I stuffed a small custard cake into my mouth as I hurriedly finished my physics homework. In fact, while writing this editorial, I had to search "Mid-Autumn Festival" on Wikipedia to remember what life was like five years ago.

*Even when I know
I'm slowly losing
what matters to me, I
sometimes cannot get
myself to even care.*

I've become numb to missing out on what used to be one of the most important holidays to me. Lunar New Year? Just another Asian-themed Irwin dinner. Mid-Autumn Festival? Perhaps if I'm lucky, a day student friend will gift me some Chinese snacks. Less-celebrated holidays that I used to anticipate,

like Dragon Boat Festival or Qingming Day, no longer matter to me. Even when I know I'm slowly losing what matters to me, I sometimes cannot get myself to even care.

*After all, when all you've
ever known becomes
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shouldn't be, letting go
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best option.*

But I also know that for many new international students without my years of experience, relinquishing old traditions isn't as easy. Students from all over the world come to humble Lawrenceville, New Jersey, in hopes of a better education than the

tural restaurant in the name of convenience rather than admit you're distancing yourself from your identity, and you start to prefer watching *Gilmore Girls* or *Friends* and hate watching TV shows in your native language because you think foreign media is "cringe."

After all, when all you've ever known becomes everything you think you shouldn't be, letting go of things held dear your entire life feels like the best option.

Trust me, as a veteran international student, I know it's hard.

Despite how tempting assimilation feels, don't forget what you're losing. Don't forget your childish amazement when your parents first explained why cultural celebrations were the way they were—maybe you became entranced by the folk songs or the local dancing, maybe the decorations people would put up annually astounded you, maybe you were overly excited about the delicious foods you only ate during special holidays.

*Remember where you
came from, even though
it's easy to get lost in this
foreign world.*

Don't forget the way your parents used to cradle you and whisper cultural mythologies as you fell asleep; think about the amazement of walking into a classroom to see an explosion of bright red your teacher put up in preparation

for the Lunar New Year; remember the first time you joined your family's dumpling-making days and how your grandparents held your small hand in their calloused ones to guide your folding motions. Remember where you came from, even though it's easy to get lost in this foreign world.

To all the new international students and returning ones who still aren't used to being away from home, I hope it gets better for you soon. One day, you'll find Lawrenceville to be your "home away from home," a safe haven for you despite only knowing it for a little while. More importantly, however, I hope you don't throw away your past. Continue your family traditions with your friends, lean on other international students by going on monthly hotpot trips together, or form a familiar community by joining an affinity group on campus.

While I think I might've missed out on last week's Mid-Autumn Festival, I'll find a way to connect with other international students and celebrate it—perhaps in even grander ways than back in Hong Kong—next year.

-KL



Stephanie Xu '23 / THE LAWRENCE

Keep Your Friends Close and Your Housemates Closer

NATHAN LUO '25

To the boys of the Raymond House:

Navigating the vast campus, adapting to Harkness-based learning, and abiding by rules that you've never followed in your life before (including, but not limited to, lights out and cleaning your room ahead of room checks) are all aspects of Lawrenceville life that everyone must adjust to in their first few weeks. So, all seemed well as I, having mastered all of these skills, confidently strolled into my III Form year. While it seemed that I had a solid grasp on life at Lawrenceville, there still lay a pit of emptiness within me. At first, I couldn't pinpoint the missing piece of my III Form year. Soon enough, though, I realized that my new life in the Circle limited my interactions with many of the precious friends I had made last year.

This year, I did not return to a large House with 80 other II Formers, but instead entered the doors of the Griswold House alongside familiar and new faces among the other 40 Grisraelis. Not only did the adjective "new" entail new students, but a completely new duty team as well. Within a few days, the sting of separation from my former friends and faculty of the Raymond House began to prick me, and I longed for just one more day in the II Form. I missed walking into the common room after a long day and hearing the Super Smash Bros video game music on the TV. I missed how Mr. Daniell used to make us answer the most arbitrary trivia questions in order to check in. I missed skateboarding throughout the smoothly polished

parking lot behind the House with my friends. Overall, I missed the collectiveness of II Form housing that bonded us together during those 180 days of school.

One unfortunate feature of III Form year that I have noticed is how taxing socializing with my old friends is. In Raymond, if I had to ask a fellow classmate a question about homework or relax in their room after a strenuous week's worth of school, I could just amble my way to their room and knock on the door. Conversely, in Griswold, I have no option but to message my friends and set up a time and a rendezvous point. Come the first few weeks of school, I came to realize not only how tedious this socialization technique was, but how it could weaken my friendships.

When my Raymond friends knocked on my door, their tone of voice would let me know how they were feeling and thus help me figure out how we should spend our time together. Yet with their text responses, I struggled to identify their tone; I would meet with them in-person and find, rather awkwardly, that we had different expectations for our conversations. Being away from the Raymond House forced my relationships to become more "virtualized"—a familiar phenomenon

that we can all relate to from our socially distanced days. Just like during the height of the pandemic, I felt my ability to connect with my old friends falter.

But despite my yearning for the days of effortless interactions with friends in one, cohesive II Form House, I began to forge new relationships with my fellow Grisraelis. While the collection of II Form boys in

President, Reid Farrington '24, is a stellar phone-pong player (a champion in playing ping-pong with phones instead of paddles). I was also shocked to see our Houses cheering each other on during House Olympics as if they had all been friends for years, even though the reality was that most of them had met only days before. This mighty House spirit possessed by each Circle and Crescent House is both a discernible aspect of post-II Form life and a means to deepen your bonds with each and every Housemate. The House system gives a diverse set of Lawrentians the commonality of being in the same House; the pride that you and your Housemates invest in that House unites you. There's really no better way to instantly grow closer to a group of people you may never have talked to otherwise than the House. Besides, the system fosters a healthy dose of competition between the Houses—a great way to nourish our House pride and bring us even closer together.

So, to the Class of 2026: do take the time to truly appreciate being in a House with your fellow II Form and the extraordinarily unique duty team of the Lower Houses. Yes, as you rise to become Upperformers next year, your free time will unfortunately begin to

dwindle. But given that inevitability, one of the priorities of II Form year should be to spend as much time as possible with your current friends. From personal experience, I've discovered that having shared interests is one of the most effective ways to spend quality time with others. Whether you compete together in a sport or join one of the wide variety of clubs Lawrenceville has to offer, having a common interest while spending time together will bring you even closer. For example, my friend and I took part in II Form Shakespeare. Though I can't say that I was a natural actor, I thoroughly enjoyed rehearsals simply due to the presence of my friend and the fact that we were able to act together. But I didn't just bond more with my friend; I also even expanded my circle of acquaintances and friends by getting to know fellow actors. Branching out and finding friends through common interests is a great way to prepare for your two years in the House. After all, you'll be doing a lot of bonding over a shared membership the moment you set foot into the Circle or Crescent.

So here's my final piece of advice. While your II Form year gives you the great luxury of interacting with many people all at once, you will find that profound relationships fueled by Circle House spirit are irreplaceable in their own way. Do hold onto the friendships that you form II Form year—to the best of your ability—but don't be afraid to forge new ones in your new House.

Sincerely,
Nathan



Mimie Pinpakornkul '25 / THE LAWRENCE

Raymond ensured that I would interact briefly with practically everyone I came across, the smaller group within Griswold House enabled me to get to know everybody on a deeper level. Within the first two weeks of school, I've discovered some astonishing facts. For one, my advisor, Mr. Jordan, used to live in a Buddhist temple; on the other hand, our House

Beyond Extremist Politics: Why It's Time for a Valid Third Party

WILLIAM O'REILLY '25

Right now, we find ourselves in a political era like no other in our nation's history. Fueled by the influence of social media and the easy spread of misinformation, our nation is more politically polarized than ever. This new wave of media pushes eye-catching headlines with the sole aim of radicalization; politically-oriented media outlets portray the opposing party as a threat, fostering an "us vs them" mentality. These headlines only portray the far ends of the political spectrum when, in reality, the majority of America's voter base lies somewhere closer to the political middle. Yet this middle ground frequently gets lost in the crossfire.

Where there are only two parties, there can only be two options. Because these two parties are pitted against each other, their main objectives stray from representing their true political beliefs. Rather, in order to rally support and fill positions, parties design their campaigns solely around what the other party isn't, pushing their promises to the extremes. As the divide between the two parties grows, so does the divide between the government and the people. These extremist politics cleave the American voting populace in half, forcing middle-ground voters to compromise their ideals to vote for one of the two parties. Voting for a party that is "close enough" to one's values relative to the opposing party leads to an inaccurate representation of voters' desires. Parties assume that their voters agree with all of their policies and

attempt to enact them without compromise.

Once in office, officials are unable to fulfill their campaign promises because they refuse to compromise with their opposition. This unwillingness to compromise creates hollow promises that are simply used to counter one another. Politics then becomes not a battle of ideas trying to improve the status-quo, but



rather a competition of rhetoric. The government loses its original goal of serving the people, instead engrossing itself in countering and discrediting the opposing party.

In order to solve the problem of extreme partisanship we see today, America needs a valid third party to represent the political middle ground. The routine of hollow, extreme campaign promises goes unchecked in the two-party system, but would change dramatically if there were a valid third party. A third party would hold the Democrats and Republicans accountable for not achieving their promises and would give voters a better option to reach

down the aisle and pass more legislation. A third party would also dilute extremist politics, as the Democratic and Republican parties would no longer be directly competitive. Middle-leaning voters, or the majority of Americans, would finally be able to achieve proper representation in our policies.

So how can this three-party system be achieved? We've seen it work in countries such as

multiple parties, the showings from the Green and Libertarian parties in the last few years have been abysmal, with neither party putting an official into a major office in recent history. These parties lack talent because the pull of the two major parties is too strong. Young, free-thinking politicians succumb early on to the promise of large donors and a large platform that the Republican and Democratic parties offer. Slowly, these young mavericks conform to the groupthink

of their party and just become another Democrat or Republican. In order for a real third party to emerge, free thinking, middle-leaning politicians need to come together. Centrist politicians such as Liz Cheney, who was recently exiled from the Republican party for standing up to Donald Trump, or Michael Bloomberg, who after being a long time Republican ran a Democratic presidential campaign in 2020, have a real opportunity to form a third party and give some validity to a multi-party system. Talented politicians running a third party would attract young free thinkers who are uneasy about joining the Republicans or Demo-

crats, and form a strong third party that could get people into major offices.

The second thing that must happen to make way for a third party is political donor and lobbying reforms. Currently, the American political system is ruled by big donors who give hundreds of millions of dollars to campaigns each year. The two-party system's reliance on these big-ticket donors turns elections into competitions of fundraising, rather than a battle of ideologies. In turn, donors send lobbyists to Washington who influence the two parties to pass legislation in their favor. With this system in place, the two parties effectively sell out to donors and lose their own values and agendas. This system also makes it nearly impossible for a third party to emerge and run campaigns, as it would not have anywhere near the same funding as the two major parties. Donor and lobbying reforms would not only make the two main parties stay true to their beliefs, but also give a third party a level playing field to put people in office.

But the question remains: Will this ever happen? With Republicans and Democrats finding so much success from the current donor system, it is unlikely that they will pass any donor reform legislation. The formation of a strong third party starts with us as voters. We must push both the center-leaning voters and center-leaning politicians to express their frustrations with their party and take matters into their own hands.

Michelle Zhang '25 / THE LAWRENCE

France, which has elected its last five presidents from four different parties, the Netherlands, who have also had four different parties represented in the past four presidencies, and Norway, whose last four prime ministers have represented three different prominent parties.

In America, it starts with talent. While the US does technically have

Bath House Sushi Thursdays Return

MIA KINCADE '25

Last Thursday, September 15, students were ecstatic when the return of the Bath House Café's Sushi Thursdays was announced at school meeting. A staple of the Bath House's weekly offerings, Sushi Thursdays were on hold during the Covid-19 pandemic; however, upon their return this past Spring Term, they became so popular that Deb Miliareis, the Café Manager, just had to bring the sushi back.

Chef Mike, the man behind the preparation of the sushi, "prepares throughout the day with love and care," Miliareis explained. The Café offers many different types of sushi to satiate all kinds of palates, including spicy tuna, spicy crab, California rolls, shrimp tempura, and salmon avocado. Miliareis also added that on September 22, "[Chef Mike] will also offer a seaweed salad."

Students were so excited for the reintroduction of sushi at the Bath House that this Thursday "was the busiest we ever had," Miliareis remarked. Although the line was very long, she noticed that students were happily conversing with each other as they waited, demonstrating how Sushi Thursdays are "a great way to celebrate friends and to make new ones, too."

Another perk of Bath House sushi is how easy it is to access. Madeline Widener '24 commented on the difficulties she faced while trying to obtain sushi, and how the Bath House has provided her a way to enjoy sushi without having "to DoorDash and worry about all the expenses."

Along with sushi, Sophie Cheng '25

is looking forward to the "caprese sandwiches, strawberry lemonades, and warmed up cookies" at the Bath House this year. She also thanked Miliareis for all of the hard work and time she puts into making the students at Lawrenceville happy and fulfilled.

In addition to the delicious and social aspects of Sushi Thursdays, the Bath House is "encouraging students to stay and enjoy the sushi with [them] so that we can be more sustainable." The Café offers reusable plates to those who dine in, hoping to build a more sustainable and eco-friendly Lawrenceville.

Now that the renowned Sushi Thursdays are back, Lawrenceville students can enjoy their lunches and dinners munching on delicious, freshly made sushi. In offering this dish, the Bath House promotes social activity and gives boarders an opportunity to indulge in this hard-to-find delicacy. Everyone owes Miliareis and Chef Mike a huge shoutout for the hard work they put into Sushi Thursdays—they provide Lawrentians a truly amazing meal each week!



Anika Ponnambalam '25/THE LAWRENCE

Lawrenceville Becomes Certified River-Friendly School

MIRA PONNAMBALAM '26

The Watershed Institute has officially declared The Lawrenceville School a River-Friendly School as a part of its River-Friendly Certification Program, thanks to a process spearheaded by Alex Noviello '23, Sonia Ivancic '25, and Director of Sustainability Stephen Laubach P'23. With this certification, the School's local water sources are now on the path to becoming healthier and safer.

The Watershed Institute aims to keep water in New Jersey healthy and clean by being river-friendly, a process which involves minimizing water usage, reducing polluted runoff from stormwater, supporting local species, and educating others about water conservation.

Ivancic noted that "the certification is the first step in a long road to continuing these inter-school partnerships between the student body, academic faculty, and buildings and grounds to dramatically increase the health of the School's pond and creek." Through their partnership with the Watershed Institute, The Lawrenceville School is making adjustments to help preserve the health of ponds and creeks, with initiatives focusing on stormwater runoff and water health.

Laubach mentioned that the new construction on the parking lot near the Tsai Field House is implementing many environmentally-focused features, such as rain gardens, permeable pavement, bioswales, and tree islands. These plans helped the School qualify for some of the more significant parts of the River-Friendly Program, and their features will help improve the water quality at Lawrenceville.

"[These adjustments] make our stream [and] pond ecosystem a little bit more clean,

controlled, and healthy," Noviello said. The runoff control measures involve reducing the amount of potentially harmful stormwater runoff entering Lawrenceville's water.

In order to be certified as river-friendly, the Watershed Institute also requires schools to teach students about water conservation and related topics. The most significant changes for Lawrentians will be in class curriculums, such as the II Form Inquiries in Biological and Environmental Sciences (IBES) class and other science classes. "We need to continue

commented. These initiatives could involve outdoor conservation or even environmental justice work, depending on the group they choose to partner with. Other community service opportunities, like one time events, are also in consideration if they get enough student interest.

The River-Friendly certification will significantly affect student life and the School as a whole. The School's Sustainability Council is already planning other impactful initiatives. "Students may be more interested in joining



Leopold Scholars wading in the stream

Courtesy of The Lawrenceville School

and further educate all [II Formers] about stormwater runoff and watersheds in IBES classes and expand and/or continue all environmental science classes and programs," Ivancic noted.

"We're planning some initiatives like a [Lawrenceville Community Action Project (LCAP)]...with the Watershed Institute. We're hoping to bring some students over there at some point this year," Noviello

the Sustainability Council, as this certification shows them that they can work on a wide variety of projects, including ones very close to home, like our school creek, where we can see tangible results," Ivancic commented. The River-Friendly certification not only means environmentally friendly construction, adjusted curriculums, and possible LCAPs for Lawrenceville students, but safer and cleaner water as well.

Checking in with StuCo

HELENA CHEN '24

NICHOLE JIN '24

ANGEL XIN '26

With the opening of the new Tsai Field House, the third week of classes, and daily sports games, the 2022-23 school year is officially underway. This year, Lawrenceville's Student Council has been working hard to implement their plans for the year and come up with new initiatives for the student body.

Diversity Representative Jaelyn Bennett '23 has been focusing on two main goals: implicit bias training and more engagement with affinity groups. On continuing the process of educating the community about implicit bias, she said, "This is something we started on last year, and it's important that we follow up on that, especially when they're going to be so beneficial for everyone." Bennett also aims to "increase the presence and advertising" around affinity groups to involve more students to help keep the community connected and aware of each other's "unique identities." Another one of her goals is to improve previous cultural events on campus in order to bring the student body closer together. "There are a lot of events, like Afro Fest and International Night, that I've attended and just been blown away by the level of engagement, so I really want to put a lot of time into those," Bennett said.

Bennett was originally interested in becoming the Diversity Representative because she had many "role models to look up to." Having been close with previous Student Council Diversity Representatives, Bennett was inspired to create her own platform and run for the position. "This is something I'm really passionate about, trying to connect us in more ways than just how we identify," she said. "I know what I'm mostly focused on, and it's community-building."

Alistair Lam '23 is this year's Sustain-



Chiang, Garcia, Xu, Lam, and Bennett

ability Representative. Ever since he was in elementary school, Lam has been interested in the environment and environmental conservation, though he didn't have many opportunities to research and apply methods of sustainability there. After coming to Lawrenceville and joining Lifetime Farming at the Big Red Farm, however, he ran for Sustainability Representative in the Raymond House and joined the Sustainability Council.

Lam's main focus is to raise more awareness on practicing sustainability. "The main issue is that people know about the issue, but they either don't care or feel helpless [to change the situation], so I want to educate them more on environmental matters," he explained. Specifically, he wants to teach the community more about the lesser-known aspects of environmental conservation, such as "agriculture pollution." In addition, he wants to "publicize what's been done on campus for sustainability," as there has already been sig-

nificant progress in the past years in improving sustainability at Lawrenceville.

Another aspect of his platform is to collaborate with other organizations on campus to expand community service and Explorations opportunities, specifically the Hutchins Institute for Social Justice and the Wellness Council. "We really want to have a holistic approach to sustainability change, and we can reach more people by partnering with these groups," Lam elaborated.

Sara Chiang '23, this year's Community Service Representative, is looking forward to the year ahead. Now that Lawrenceville Community Action Projects (LCAP) have booted back up, community service is finally being integrated back into Lawrentian daily routine. From teaching children squash on Fridays, lending a hand on the "therapeutic riding program," to working with the ice-skating program at the new hockey rink, community service programs are off to a great

start. Chiang noted that "this year is going to be a lot better" for community service—not only does she have "a lot easier contact with [the] administration," but without Covid-19 restrictions, community service is now able to be fused with the social scene to promote service activities. There are still limitations, however, including a program concerning service at elderly homes that Chiang is planning. One thing that she is determined to increase this year would be Houses participation in community service projects, as only half of the Houses participated last year. Overall, Chiang is looking forward to bringing the Lawrenceville community together through the community service program.

Vice President of Honor and Discipline Lucas Garcia '23 also has a number of initiatives he is hoping to implement this year. So far, Garcia has already been able to reform certain aspects of Lawrenceville's disciplinary

system by renaming Major Rules to Principal Expectations and implementing a Minor system. As DCs continue taking place, Garcia will work to have short, anonymous summaries of each DC added to a Disciplinary Council Guidebook with student consent. In addition to helping students learn more about Lawrenceville's disciplinary process, the guidebook can "give students who are in the Disciplinary Committee a better understanding of what to expect," Garcia said.

Aside from the guidebook, Garcia's main goal for this year is also to successfully put into effect the Minor system. Overall, Garcia is working on changing the School's disciplinary process for the better, and he encourages others to speak up and come up with ideas as well if they "see an issue with [a system] on campus."

Stephanie Xu '23 is this year's Arts Representative. Having done "lots of art" before and after coming to Lawrenceville, Xu felt that the Arts Representative position was a good fit for her. "I really immersed myself in all the opportunities [at Lawrenceville], including theatre, visual arts, and dance," she explained.

One initiative Xu is working on alongside Vice President of Social Life Akeil Smith '23 is organizing consistent Friday night events in addition to Saturday events. Some of Xu's ideas include hosting more open mics and open studios for drawing and painting in the Bath House. "I want all domains of art to feel like they are getting their voices heard, [and] that means trying to get as much of the School to support those initiatives as possible," Xu said. Aside from that, Xu also plans to combine last year's Big Red Gala with a showing at the Hutchins Gallery—another way to integrate arts into Lawrenceville's social scene.

With all these exciting new initiatives from Student Council, this school year will be one filled with change and progression.

The First Hutchins Galleries Exhibit: *Inside/Outdoors*

SOFIA BONILLA '24

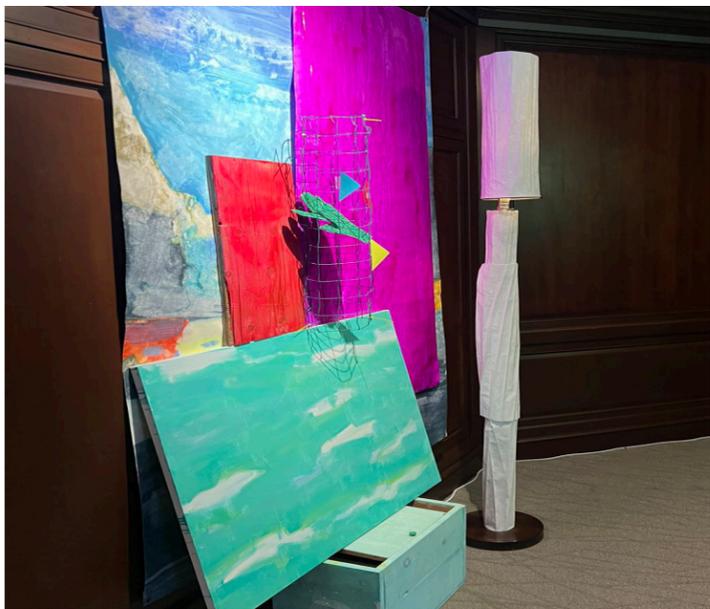
This past weekend, artists Eva Mantell and Joel Beck hosted a gallery reception for their new art installation in the Hutchins Galleries located in the Gruss Center for Art and Design (GCAD). They described their exhibit, *Inside/Outdoors*, as the result of their ruminations during the Covid-19 isolation period. Their focus on creating the project was to reflect on “the necessitated reordering of the rooms we inhabited when work, school, and studio all piled onto normal home-life. In rethinking spaces, artwork

and unconventional materials at hand were combined, leading [them] to realize how painting and sculpture can form zones of activity with panache. [Their] view of architectural spaces—and of inside and outdoors—grew less fixed. Space could be revisualized, spontaneously changed and re-experienced by connecting art, design and environment.”

The duo will also host a creative workshop on Sunday, November 25, in the GCAD Flex Rooms to further explore the concept of space; this event will be open for all current students, faculty, and staff.



Sofia Bonilla '24 / THE LAWRENCE



Art, Learning, and “Father”

LOUIS PARK '26

The Taj Mahal, a tomb built by Mughal Emperor Shah Jahan in memory of his wife Mumtaz Mahal, is listed as one of the Seven Wonders of the World and holds the title of “the most beautiful building in the world.” A main ingredient of the Taj Mahal is its symmetry. From the garden to the waterway, and the building to the dome, the perfect symmetry of the building amplifies its delicacy.

While the Taj Mahal might be located halfway across the world, we have a building on campus very similar in structure. Did you know that Father’s Memorial Building, more familiar to us as Pop Hall, exhibits the same artistic trait of the Taj Mahal while possibly being *more* beautiful?

As an artist, I can come to appreciate the beauty of the architecture on campus. Since I was a child, I lived my life accompanied by art. Beyond being just a school subject, art is the best way for me to express myself. Using my eye as an artist, I personally enjoy spotting the art that lies hidden within our life. As I walk around campus, one of my favorite hobbies is analyzing how Lawrenceville’s artistic beauty harmonizes ancient techniques with unique modern art. When I walk into Pop Hall, artistic beauty surrounds me. Just like the aforementioned Taj Mahal, Pop Hall is perfectly symmetrical when seen from the outside. All four sides of Pop, including its



Cindy Shum '24 / THE LAWRENCE

pillars, windows, and roofs, are identical. Even more surprising, however, is that this symmetry extends to the surroundings of Pop. For example, the Bowl in front of Pop Hall and the II Form Houses are spaced out in a perfect balance around the building. Also, if you look at the front of the building, the arch between the columns echoes the curves formed at the corners of The Bowl. In addition to the symmetry, I love seeing how the Gothic-style columns in front of the building intertwine with the Grecian columns that support

the architecture. I found it very interesting that so many different art styles could coexist in one space. Of course, the interior of the building is also beautiful, with its harmony between shades of white and the wooden floor, as well as the chandelier that hangs above the rotunda.

I am fascinated by the artistry of Pop’s construction and surroundings. However, beyond the artistic beauty of the building, I believe the value of learning and growth that this building provides transcends any of its visual elements. Pop

Hall is our school’s language and philosophy building, where classes discuss each other’s thoughts through the Harkness method. In a language learning space, creativity flows across the Harkness table. Furthermore, the various publication studios on the lower level of Pop Hall, where all the creation initiates with overflowing ideas. Harkness tables around Pop and media studios in the basement provide perfect locations for students to think freely without any constraints. Pop Hall is quite literally a space for creativity to

room wild. Pop Hall amazingly teaches the true value of learning by encouraging students to explore diverse thoughts and each other’s words, foreign language or not, in Pop Hall.

Pop Hall is placed in front of boys’ and girls’ II Form houses and as a II Former, I pass by Pop every morning on my way to classes. As I start each day walking past Pop Hall and try my best to study hard, Pop Hall feels less like a building and more like, as the name suggests, a “Father,” who will support me throughout my time at Lawrenceville.

Club Spotlight: What Does it Take to Run a Club?

NICHOLE JIN '24
FEATURES ASSOCIATE

With over 200 student-led clubs on campus, extracurricular life is a vital aspect of the Lawrenceville experience. Whether it be a publication, community service initiative, or an affinity group, a plethora of clubs focus on dozens of different hobbies, interests, and subjects. Read the rest of this article to see what a number of club leaders have to say about the process of starting, running, and expanding a club.

This year, Michelle Zhang '25 founded the Chinese Society, an

affinity group that aims to spread Chinese culture around campus and create a community for Chinese students. "I started this club because of the unique circumstances that Chinese students have faced under the shadow of Covid-19 regulations in China," Zhang said. With a large number of Chinese students unable to return home over the holidays, Zhang's goal was to foster a safe space for those students on campus so that they could "feel closer to home." Zhang first brought up this idea to a number of friends who were also Chinese. "I then decided to establish relationships

with other Chinese students across [[Forms] so that the club could spread further," she continued. Zhang is most looking forward to the events and holiday celebrations the group is planning on hosting, including the "lantern festival [and] Lunar New Year." Aside from holidays, she is also excited about bringing other aspects of Chinese culture to the Lawrenceville community, such as hosting calligraphy classes and having "the campus gather together and enjoy some Tangyuan," a glutinous rice dessert.

Claire Wu '25 is another founder of a new club this year. Wu's club, "Stand with New Immigrants," is focused on reaching out to local immigrants and fundraising for charities that aid them. "My parents and I are all immigrants, so I wanted to find a way to help others who are struggling and want to come and

live safely in the U.S.," she said. "I knew many of my peers also felt passionate about this topic." Before submitting her club proposal, Wu conducted research into organizations for which to fundraise and immigration-related topics to teach the group about. Explaining one of her goals for this year, she said, "It's my first time handling a club, so I hope to be able to have at least one successful fundraiser by the end of the year...I'm excited about the process of organizing a fundraiser."

Both Zhang and Wu believe that staying devoted to a club is the most significant factor in ensuring that it is successful and remains successful in future years. "I think it really is about keeping the club an active and alive presence on campus," said Zhang.

Wu emphasized the importance of dedication, giving the example of "meetings and time arrangements [that] require consistent commitment."

Claire Kim '23 is one of the Executive Directors of L10 News, Lawrenceville's video journalism club and one of its most prominent publications. She describes the club as being the "perfect platform to showcase student life" at Lawrenceville. "I initially joined L10 because I wanted to explore my passion for filmmaking beyond

the bounds of the curriculum," Kim said. Elaborating on her passion, she explained that editing gives her "a sense of empowerment" and the opportunity to be bold and adventurous with her work. "The life of the art is in my hands," she said.

"One thing we are trying to work on this year is to find the right balance between entertainment and information," Kim said. The club will continue releasing biweekly episodes capturing different aspects of Lawrenceville life and notable campus events. Before the release of each episode, L10 organizes board meetings to finalize production and ensure that the videos are ready to be made public. On the importance of dedication and organization in sustaining a club, Kim said, "Commitment from all members of the board is important, or things start to fall apart."

Having heard from these three students, clearly one of the most vital aspects of starting and managing a successful club is devotion. Whether it be consistently attending meetings, advertising and promoting the club on campus, or coming up with inventive new ideas, the level of commitment and dedication a club's members show towards their club is part of what truly distinguishes a successful club at Lawrenceville.



Stephanie Xu '23/THE LAWRENCE

Finding a Home in Your House

CLAIRE JIANG '24
COPY EDITOR

Two summers before a pandemic swept the world off its feet, two summers before we experienced the unprecedented, two summers before I came to Lawrenceville in the wild throes of change, and two summers before I even knew I wanted to go to a boarding school, I found myself two states away from home in Maryland. The summer after sixth grade, I enrolled in a boarding school summer program. At the end of those two weeks, I learned what living away from home could look like. Up to that point, I had been sheltered and spoiled—I'd never done my own laundry or planned out my meals. It was a jarring lesson on independence and self-reliance, but living with 12 other girls in a dormitory was also wonderfully memorable.

There, I learned how a shared experience could create close bonds; it was my first taste of a real community. My experience there was defined less by its academic challenge and more so by the people who became an integral part of those two weeks. I knew that somehow, in some way, I really wanted to replicate that feeling of home in a community once I got to high school.

When I arrived on campus as a II Former, I came in with an idea of what House life and bonding would look like: I'd feel the same way I felt two years ago and create the same kind of friendships—Lawrenceville, with its mottos

of House and Harkness would quickly become home. However, adjusting to a different school and creating a community became increasingly difficult, especially as a day student during the COVID pandemic. Instead of calling Girls' Lower home, I was confined to the basement of the Bunn Library along with other day students. Masks made forming connections even more difficult. There were days when I'd stand in 30 degree weather and shiver during a Saturday night feed. The same went for many other students.

My prefect Anoushka Sharma '23 explained that as "a day student, [school] during the Covid-19 pandemic was very difficult. Since we couldn't be inside the House, it was difficult managing how to physically carry everything, literally everything, including our books and bags, and also how to carry ourselves on campus. Beyond physically not being allowed in the House, we couldn't be in there to make connections with everyone. At times, it felt very isolating that we weren't part of the House. I'm not going to sugarcoat and say it was easy because it was tough."

In accordance, Sam Huh '23, a prefect in the Dickinson House, added that "the socialization between kids now is quite astounding: the bonding is much quicker now because we can see everybody's facial expressions. We can hear people properly. When I got here my [III Form]

Spring, I couldn't talk to anybody. Everything was awkward."

In no way did my II Form year go according to what I had envisioned. Still, I ultimately ended up finding the people with whom I most connected. Forming a community was frustrating and difficult at many times, but the longer I've been at this school, the more I've understood how important time and patience play a role in connection.

For new students like Michal Tuczapski '25, community can be "something completely new." A homeschooler last year and a student in a small class of 20 the year before, "knowing that I'd stay in one place for three years with the same students and the same teachers was really exciting. I know I will have new experiences that I didn't have before," Tuczapski said.

Living in a House, however, also has its drawbacks. As Huh explained, "You can't spend as much time with people in other Houses, and the House system inhibits you from getting to know these people who live in other Houses, who may possibly be best friend [material]. You never get to explore the possibility." But one of the biggest advantages of living in a House "is being able to find people [whom] you can closely bond with...once you're placed into the House, it's easy for you to find someone you have a common interest with. And if you have a person, a confidant, just a great person you can get close to overall, there's



The Hamill House

nothing better you can ask for."

For me, entering the Crescent as a part of the McClellan House added to the richness of my newfound discoveries on community and bonding. Spending all my time with the same people helped fortify my friendships through our shared experiences. Although every House has a special aura of its own, I realized that what makes a House a community and a group of people a home isn't the physical space that you're in, but rather the



The Hamill House

respect and tolerance given to one another, as well as the willingness to connect with different people.

For Sharma, House pride and fun comes from a bond that often takes a long time to form. This year, "everyone in the House is genuinely caring for each other, and that makes it a special place."

Similarly, Huh emphasized that

Courtesy of Raphael Tuck & Sons

"a House is definitely about the people...at the end of the day, it's really what the kids in the House make of it: the energy, the passion, it all depends on the kids. And what we do, if done in the right way, will shape the future of our House in a much more positive way."

Now, two summers since my first day on campus, I can confidently say that I've found my community at the School: on the stage with Periwig, in the office of The Lawrence, among my fellow ap-

Courtesy of Wikipedia Commons
precursors of poetry, in McClellan, at the Ropes Course. For me, Lawrenceville's key values of House and Harkness are less about my location or the space around me. Instead, community is within the people and the memories we make together, it's in the times when I can look back to and feel most at home.

The Principles of The Principal Expectations

WILLIAM WANG '24
FEATURES ASSOCIATE

The 2022-23 school year at Lawrenceville has marked significant new changes to school policy and the Disciplinary Committee (D.C.) process, as the School hopes to make trust, communication, and support pillars of its discipline system. Initiatives aimed to improve transparency and communication include the appointment of former Dean of Students Blake Eldridge '96 H'12 as the Chair of the Disciplinary Committee, a revised D.C. process that includes a new class of "minor infractions," and a new student handbook. The approach to the current academic year focuses on addressing concerns expressed by the student body and reviving policies and activities in the Lawrenceville community that were common prior to the Covid-19 pandemic.

Last Winter Term featured a student town hall, during which students discussed issues of trust and communication. "My regret for the town hall is the sentiment that we never did this [before]. We used to do this regularly, but we didn't for three years because of Covid-19," said Dean of Students Devondra McMillan. Vice President of Honor and Discipline Lucas Garcia '23 hopes to address the concerns discussed in the town hall, recognizing that "there was a lot of unrest. The faculty and administration recognized that. We needed to change the discipline system [so] that people would feel more comfortable with the outcomes."

While individual policies have mostly stayed the same from the previous academic year, the new system features disciplinary consequences that have become more

personalized to the individual student and the gravity of the violation. The introduction of Minors, as opposed to just handing out Majors, allows for more nuance in the disciplinary system. "We can look at each individual case and recognize when a rule was broken, but we believe different situations should lead to different responses," Garcia said. Similarly, the intentional change in language from Major School Rules to Principal Expectations clarifies circumstances where students violate a Major School Rule but receive a Minor due to the intent, gravity, and other extenuating circumstances that may have come to light while in the disciplinary committee.

As Eldridge explained, "You can reduce the Principal Expectations to three simple imperatives: be kind. Be safe. Be honest. Any community member motivated by those three [directives] will represent themselves and the community well." While the D.C. process will still result in the same recommendation being given to the Head of School, the differentiation between a Major and a Minor will now be determined on a case by case basis. Despite the more nuanced response, the School is "not lowering [its] collective standards, and there will still be moments where probation is the proportionate and appropriate response," Eldridge remarked.

In practice, the difference between Majors and Minors "surrounds the probation piece...saying if you were to do this a second time, [the Disciplinary Committee] would want to be discussing your dismissal and separation from the school," McMillan said. Although dismissals are a rare result, McMillan hopes to communicate to students the gravity and difficulty in

reaching such a decision, saying, "It's difficult to hold a hard line of looking at the consequence of an action and saying 'I'm going to need you to go to school someplace else.'"

The appointment of Eldridge as the overseer of the disciplinary process allows a seasoned faculty member to take charge of the process, while simultaneously allowing McMillan to focus on the wellness aspect of student life. This year, a disciplinary committee will include Garcia, Eldridge, Assistant Dean of Students Doug Davis, the student's Head of House, three Honor Council members, and another faculty member. After all members present unanimously come to a conclusion, they then write a recommendation and send it to the Head of School, who makes the final decision. "We have a lot of meetings to talk through scenarios. We start by thinking about the rules and the expectations in the framework of what it means to be a community before the council discusses the emotional piece," McMillan said. The Honor Council members are appointed by the Vice President of Honor and Dis-

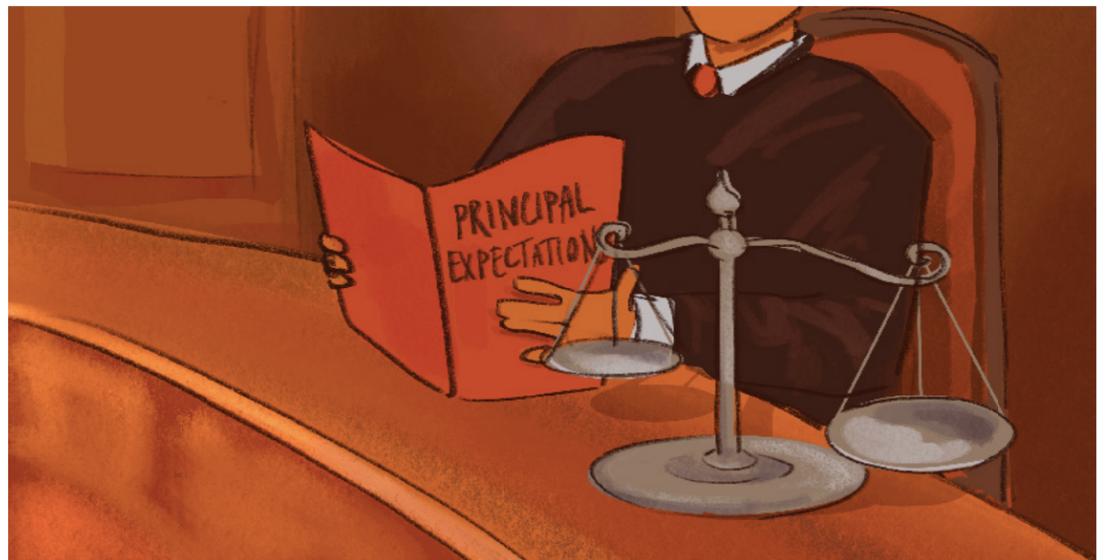
cipline; Garcia emphasized how during the selection process, he "really wanted people [who he believes] would hold up the discipline system of the school and also be sympathetic towards the student, but also realize that this is where we need to assess Majors and understand the gravity of violations."

Looking towards the upcoming year, Garcia hopes to implement a number of policies to continue student outreach. This includes introducing students to the current Honor Council and holding another mock D.C. during a school meeting. "I hope this allows students to feel more comfortable asking [the Honor Council] questions and reaching out," Garcia said. He also hopes to establish a disciplinary guidebook to give examples of previous rulings for students and provide guidance for future Honor Council members.

Guidelines surrounding class dress have also been altered; both Garcia and McMillan emphasize the recognition of current standards while also stressing the historical significance of class dress. "We're preparing you for the rest

of the world. If we didn't prepare you to at least think about how you present to the world in a different way...I think we'll be doing you a disservice," said McMillan. In addition to a more lenient dress code policy, McMillan also hopes that the dress code will be enforced more rigorously this year.

The new academic year represents a time for change, clarity, and communication. The appointment of Eldridge as the D.C. chair, the implementation of Minors, and McMillan's focus on student wellness are initiatives aimed at responding to the issues brought to light by the student body during the town hall. McMillan's message to students surrounding the changes in policy and the philosophy of the administration is clear: "The trust issue was really hard last year. It was really hard to trust what our reasoning was. I want students to understand that I am trying to set up this school to be a place where students feel supported and [that] they have the right and privilege to learn, including [making] necessary mistakes" along the way.



Emily Pan '24/THE LAWRENCE

Picture Perfect Pumpkin Pastries

SOPHIE BILANIN '26

As students begin to ease into the new school year, dropping temperatures and a change of seasons indicate one of the most important events at Lawrenceville: the release of fall-flavored treats. Arguably, no one on campus is more excited about this development than Sofia Carlisi '24, who has made it her goal for the Fall Term to taste every pumpkin-flavored snack at Starbucks.

An avid pumpkin fan, Carlisi has patiently waited for this opportunity all year. Her current goal "is to have a ranked list of all Starbucks pumpkin drinks and food items," but in the long run, she wants "pumpkin domination in the café world. I want pumpkin flavors served all year long," she said. Sadly, achieving this will not be easy for Carlisi, as she admit-

ted, "it's expensive to maintain my pumpkin love, and unfortunately, other people do not understand pumpkin's importance. They only think of [the pumpkin flavor] during the fall, but afterward, they forget and move on. It's a tragedy." Even with these obstacles, Carlisi explained that along with the flavor's short period of availability, her love of pumpkin keeps her motivated to eat "as much pumpkin as possible" in the time that she can.

So far, Carlisi has sampled all three seasonal food items on the Starbucks menu: the pumpkin scone, the pumpkin loaf, and the pumpkin cream cheese muffin. The pumpkin loaf scores the highest on her rankings, with Carlisi describing it as having the perfect flavor intensity: airy but moist, excellent at all temperatures, and a true "deli-

cacy." Judged as "pretty good," the pumpkin cream cheese muffin landed in the middle of Carlisi's rankings. But she expressed disappointment in the overwhelming amount of cream cheese at the center of the muffin. Ranking dead last was the pumpkin scone, which was described as having solid pumpkin flavoring but being extremely dry.

Carlisi has yet to try Starbucks' three fall drinks: the pumpkin cream cold brew, the pumpkin spice latte, and the pumpkin spice frappuccino, which she plans to sample within the next week. Despite her



Sofia Carlisi '24 with a pumpkin treat

Cindy Shum '24/THE LAWRENCE

dislike of coffee, she is most excited for the frappuccino, rumored to be the sweetest of the three; Carlisi believes that the pumpkin flavor will make up for the coffee

taste. As the Lawrenceville student body anxiously awaits her verdicts, Carlisi is certain that everyone on campus will be wishing her good luck in her final endeavor.

Captains' Profile: Girls' Varsity Water Polo

ASHLEY LEE '23
SENIOR COLUMNIST

Opening up their season with a thrilling 13-7 victory against Germantown Academy, the Girls' Varsity Water Polo team kicked off its campaign with a bang two weeks ago. This season is particularly exciting, since the team will compete in the new Tsai Field House's Pool. Moreover, they are led by the league's finest co-captains: V Formers Maddy Laws, Camille Trench, and James Van Meter.

Van Meter, who plays full defense, started her water polo career as a new III Former at Lawrenceville. She's been swimming since she was seven years old, but had no experience in water polo prior to playing for Lawrenceville, though she does recall playing water polo scrimmages for fun with her swim team back in Kentucky. Her III Form fall season coincided

with the hiatus of interscholastic activities in 2020. "I didn't have a fall sport and was interested in water polo, so I took a chance." Some would say it was fate. Van Meter fell in love with the sport at the first practice. Despite the disappointment of the canceled Covid-19 season, Van Meter's passion was not dampened the next year, and with the help of her captains and her Coach, Stefanie Harrison, Van Meter improved greatly. She also revealed that playing water polo in college is certainly on the table: "But we will see."

Trench, who plays whole set and utility, started playing when she was in sixth grade. Utility is a position in water polo when a player "can play anywhere." Much like the versatility of her position, Trench's water polo career proved her ability to embrace new things and integrate well into them. She, like Van Meter, was initially a swimmer, but when her swim team club expanded and formed

a water polo club, she fell in love with it. She chose to change her sport from swimming to water polo after just one practice, and she has not looked back since. When asked what advice she would give to new players, she encouraged them not to become very irritated. She described it as "very different from other sports" and said

"The three captains have a shared goal: Beat Hill."

it may be difficult at times because there are "a lot of moving parts," which she found overwhelming. Despite these difficulties, she recommended students to "stick with it" since she found it worthwhile, as she has done from sixth grade to her final year of high school.

Laws, a right wing offense and

flat defense, began water polo in eighth grade with the Orange Edge Club. She has played since she was a II Former at Lawrenceville, and she stated that she "would not have it any other way." When asked what she was most looking forward to this season, she said she did not want to have any regrets and wanted to "just go out there and leave it all on the table." She stated that her personal goal for this season was working towards being able to play with more confidence, and she expressed that she wanted to "know how to use her strengths to [her] advantage in a game." Overall though, she wants to learn to work together as a team and work towards each other's improvement so that the Underformers can carry forth the water polo legacy.

The three captains have a shared goal: to beat Hill. Trench discussed how during her tenure at Lawrenceville, the Girls' Varsity Water Polo team has yet to defeat the Hill School in a

match, and she feels that graduating in May without defeating Hill is simply not an option. She also stated that this might be her final season as a member of an interscholastic water polo team, and she intends to make the most of it.

On that note, as co-captains, Laws, Trench and Van Meter discussed their goal: to help new and returning players.

The positive thing about this season's team is that it is relatively smaller in size, which will allow quicker and easier team bonding. Van Meter mentioned that there are a lot of new water polo players this year, and she wants to make sure that she will help them build their skills to be successful. She concluded by saying, "The main goal is for everyone to play and have fun while doing it!"

God Save the Queen...and the Football! The Separation of Sport & State

STANLEY DUFOUR '25

September 8, 2022 marked the end of an era for the United Kingdom, as the 70-year reign of Queen Elizabeth II drew to a close. Queen Elizabeth's death sparked a period of national mourning, as thousands gathered across various English cities to pay their respects. Sporting events across the nation were postponed or cancelled out of respect, most notably the Premier League, a British soccer league with an annual audience of around 4.7 billion—one of the most popular sports leagues worldwide. Officials of the Premier League said in a statement, "To honour [Queen Elizabeth's] extraordinary life and contribution to the nation, and as a mark of respect, this weekend's Premier League match round will be postponed, including Monday evening's game." The news was received with mixed reactions, with many fans claiming that the league was choosing its public image over player welfare. As it is a World Cup year, the Premier League's schedule is already packed. Postponing these games, on top of delaying the Premier League's tight schedule, also meant wasted travel plans and lost pay time for countless workers in a country

already facing a cost-of-living crisis. Furthermore, some have argued that postponing a sporting event such as the Premier League might ironically diminish mourning for the Queen. As Sports Illustrated writer Jonathan Wilson noted, "a sports stadium is probably the best place to experience one of those rare moments of national unity."

This controversy is one of many surrounding the major and long-standing question: To what extent should matters of state, and politics at large, affect sports? From debates concerning the "bathroom bill," equal women's pay, and the 'Black Lives Matter' movement in the 2020 NBA season, to Colin Kaepernick's famous refusal to stand for the national anthem in 2016, politics have always been a part of sports, and it will continue to be in some shape or form. So how much overlap is too much?

On one hand, one could argue that politics should, in fact, be a big part of sports. If you ask most people about athletes like Cristiano Ronaldo, LeBron James, or Tom Brady, chances are they'll at least have heard of them. In today's world, sports stars are worshipped and given a status that most people can only dream of attaining. With this level



Emily Pan '24/THE LAWRENCE

of influence, many argue that athletes have a social responsibility to use their voice to advocate for global issues. Many incredible athletes such as Muhammad Ali are remembered not only for their athletic achievements, but also for their influence off the playing field. Another argument in favour of political involvement in sports is on a more international scale, when different countries compete against each other. In the Olympic Games, for example, people don't really look at individual athletes and

their backgrounds—they look at the country they represent. A sports team representing a country also represents its values, which makes it difficult not to involve politics. Many of Russia's athletes are currently banned from competing in the 2024 Olympics due to the nation's ongoing invasion of Ukraine, and to most, this type of consequence seems fair because the Olympic Games aren't just a sporting event. When Russian athletes raise the gold medal for their nation, millions watching the event

won't be thinking of the sport or the athlete's individual skill; rather, they see the praising and honouring of a country that needlessly killed tens of thousands of innocent civilians just a few years back.

On the flip side of the coin, many would say that the worlds of sports and politics shouldn't collide. Sports are supposed to be "pure"—they are supposed to bring people of all backgrounds together to appreciate the skill of an athlete and the excitement of a game. Sports are supposed to be an escape from reality, a period of time where the only thing in the world that matters is the ball and the score. It's supposed to be a time when people put their differences aside and unite to laugh or cry or cheer or rage over a team hundreds of miles away. Sports are about which athlete has more heart, more grit, or more skill, not which political stance they take.

At the end of the day, it's impossible for sports to completely detach themselves from their social roots, and some overlap can certainly do good for the world, so long as the overlap doesn't detract from the essence of the sport.

Abbott Dinner Picks

	Alistair Lam	Slava Iudenko	Harry Halper	Andrew Chen	Kate Mirkovic	Maple Kusolphatna
Movie/show rec	Kiss the ground	Fight club	Breaking bad	goodfellas	Gilmore girls!!! TEAM LOGAN	Keeping up with the Kardashians
If you could be any animal	Clownfish (a certain disney character)	Panda	Fox	Koala	Ladybug	Sloth
Meaning of life in one word	SUSustainability	Progress	(Fat) ergos	graduation	Mirkspics	Simulation