



Slay Sarcoma Research Institute Hosts 5K Run



2021 5K Run/Walk

Courtesy of Slay Sarcoma

HELENA CHEN '24
NICHOLE JIN '24

Founded by Ava Noorchashm '23 and her family in 2012, the Slay Sarcoma Research Initiative is an organization that raises awareness and funds for research that can cure leiomyosarcoma. On October 15, the organization will be holding its ninth annual 5K Run/Walk to raise support for the initiative.

The 5K is open to individuals of all ages, with virtual and in-person options available for participation. The race was canceled in 2020 due to the Covid-19 pandemic. "It was unfortunate, but I'm really glad that my close family members and I were able to come out and do it together," Noorchashm said. As a result of the Covid-19 pandemic, Slay Sarcoma's races began offering a virtual option so that participants could complete the activity in their own time. Virtual racers can then record their times on the Slay Sarcoma website and "compete with each other online."

Each year, between 300 and 400 people participate in the 5K Run/Walk. While some more experienced participants

can finish the course within 30 minutes, others, who may bring their families and pets with them and/or choose to walk, have the possibility of taking "up to two and a half hours" to complete the race, Noorchashm explained. All the proceeds from the 5K race, as well as Slay Sarcoma's other fundraisers, are donated towards funding research at the University of Pennsylvania to find a cure for leiomyosarcoma, a rare type of sarcoma cancer that begins in smooth muscle tissue. The University and its hospital are conducting different experiments "all year round" to learn more about the cancer and endeavor to find a potential treatment.

The Noorchashm family started the Slay Sarcoma initiative following the diagnosis of Amy Reed P'23, Noorchashm's mother, with leiomyosarcoma. The organization hosts a variety of fundraising events throughout the year to raise awareness and funds for sarcoma research, with the 5K typically being the largest event that they host. "It's just a really great time, and all of

our family and good friends get together every October to do it," Noorchashm said.

This year was the first time Noorchashm announced the 5K to the Lawrenceville School community. "My mom passed away the year before I came to Lawrenceville, and I've gotten to the point where I feel more comfortable talking about it publicly," she said. Before, Noorchashm felt that it was harder to talk about the event while she was at school because "a lot of people didn't know" about the circumstances that lead to the creation of Slay Sarcoma. After taking time to process, Noorchashm decided to share the news of the 5K with the Lawrenceville community to foster more awareness for the disease and raise more support for the organization.

"Slay Sarcoma has become a big part of my life, because it is my mom's legacy to my five siblings and [me]," Noorchashm said. When she is in college, Noorchashm will continue to promote the organization now that she is "more comfortable speaking about it."

National Merit Scholar Semifinalists Honored

HELENA CHEN '24
NICHOLE JIN '24

Congratulations to V Formers Ben Cavanagh, Praachi Chakraborty, Julia Chiang, Satvik Dasariraju, David Gao, Alistair Lam, Andrew Noviello, Grant Shueh, Tristan Wan, Ashley Wang, and Jeb Williams on becoming Semifinalists in the 2022 National Merit Scholarship Program. These students now have the opportunity to compete with other semifinalists throughout the nation for 7,500 National Merit Scholarships worth \$30 million in total.

To become a National Merit Semifinalist, students must first achieve scores in the top one percent of their state on the PSAT. Out of 1.5 million entrants, roughly 50,000 are recognized with Letters of Commendation, and 16,000 of those commended are named Semifinalists for their state.

To be considered for a National Merit Scholarship, Semifinalists must now go through an application process. The application to become a Finalist consists of transcripts, a listing of extracurricular activities and awards, SAT or ACT scores, and an essay, as well as an endorsement from a school official. In February, roughly 15,000 of the 16,000 Semifinalists are announced to progress to the Finalist round.

Finally, around 8,000 of the Finalists are awarded \$2,500 scholarships. Then, from May onwards, the National Merit program also gives students college-sponsored awards based on their choice of college.

Lam viewed the PSAT as "good practice" for the SAT, which he was

studying for at the time. He also thought that writing the Finalist application was good preparation for college applications, as it is like a "simplified Common App."

Cavanagh agreed, saying, "I found [the Finalist application] to be a good excuse to get some more work done on my college applications. I wrote an essay on overcoming a challenge and fleshed out the theme for potential use in my [supplemental essays]."

Similarly, Wang said that "since the SAT has a lot of overlap with the PSAT, I just studied for the SAT and applied those same skills."

Lam emphasized the importance of "having confidence" in helping one succeed on the PSAT, as Lawrenceville courses prepare students "well beyond what the test requires." Doing a number of practice tests and using time management strategies also allowed Lam to improve on his test-taking and gain a better understanding of the content on the PSAT.

Wang agreed, saying that there is no need to "stress about" the test and "over prepare[ing]" is not immensely difficult because the Lawrenceville curriculum prepares students well.

"The scholarship, at the end of the day, is about more than just your score... You have to demonstrate how you contribute to the community," Lam said. His advice to those hoping to become National Merit Scholars is to get involved at Lawrenceville and pursue their passions by joining different groups on campus.



National Merit Scholarship Semifinalists

Courtesy of The Lawrenceville School

French Club Says "Bonjour"

Aki Li '25 explores the newly founded French Club, which hosts mealtime meetings for French students to practice speaking the language.



A Fall Musical Teaser

Come to the KAC on October 20 and 21! Sonia Lackey '25 gives us a sneak peek into the Fall musical.



Who is Five Star Graphics?

Riley McKibben '25 profiles Hale Brown '23 on his journey as a young entrepreneur and his business, Five Star Graphics.





THE LAWRENCE

Class of 1968 Fund in Honor of Edward A. Robbins '68 '69 '71 - Nicholas G. Ifft '44 Fund
- The Princeton Packet Fund (Denise L. and James B. Kilgore '66) - Michael S. Chae '86

Tiffany Wen
Jasmine Zhang
News Editors

Kelly Lu
Arts Editor

Claire Jiang
Copy Editor

Cindy Shum
Photo Editor

Autri B. Basu
Editor-in-Chief
Kyle Park
Managing Editor

Yewon Chang
Iris Wu
Opinions Editors

Kelly Lu
Arts Editor

Claire Jiang
Copy Editor

Cindy Shum
Photo Editor

Andrew P. Boanoh
Sports Editor

Adi Jung
Emma Kim
Features Editors

Luke Park
Copy Editor

Grant Shueh
Associate Editor

Faculty Advisors

Mrs. Elizabeth Buckles

Ms. Lisa Gillard

Ms. Margaret Ray

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 lvllawrence@gmail.com. The Lawrence may be accessed online at thelawrence.lawrenceville.org

CORRECTIONS

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

The 9/30 Lawrence issue's article on faculty children (page 7) was miscredited to Nichole Jin '24. The article was actually written by Clementine Sutter '25 and Ellie Turchetta '25.

Dog of the Week (Yuna) Etta Schar '23



Follow Yuna on Instagram @yunaballoona_!

LUKE PARK '24
COPY EDITOR

Early one morning, I was cramming for a geometry exam when I smelled something that could only be described as a mixture of grapefruit and battery acid. Turning toward the scent, I saw one of my friends sipping a can of Monster Energy. Perhaps sensing that I was tired, she offered me a sip, and although I was taken aback by the drink's unusual scent, the garish neon greens, and vantablacks that adorned its can, out of curiosity, I drank about half of it. Though I didn't feel anything at first, I soon got a sudden burst of uncontrollable energy, and I rode this wave of alertness through my next three classes that morning.

Later that day, I threw up in the toilet.

Given how horrible my first experience with caffeine was, I made a pact with myself to forever shun all coffee and energy drinks. Caffeine made me feel sick—and beyond that, I figured that if I would ever need to substitute a good night's rest with a cup of coffee or an energy drink, something must have gone deeply wrong. Yet today, I find myself almost reliant on caffeine—and I wonder if quitting is even possible.

I start off the vast majority of my mornings with a vanilla cream cold brew ordered straight from the Starbucks on Main Street. If I need an extra boost in the afternoon, I put a few drops of energy drink formula in my water bottle, take a swig, and continue my day. On particularly stressful or busy nights, I'll even order an extra cup of coffee to keep myself going for the next three or four hours as I study for tests or grind my way through projects due the follow-

ing morning. In short, caffeine rules my life.

But I can't help it. After all, caffeine is extremely useful. With caffeine, I can remain alert in spite of late-night study sessions, and get a much-needed boost of energy for my morning classes. If I really need sleep, I can simply fend off my drowsiness with some coffee and catch up on sleep later in the day during my free period or after extracurriculars. Caffeine has helped me prepare for more major assignments than I'd like to admit. Caffeine seems like the ultimate academic weapon; you get to reap the benefits of late-night studying and early-morning cramming. There's no way around it—considering Lawrenceville's academic rigor, without coffee, energy drinks, and caffeine supplements, I probably wouldn't be able to handle my current workload.

But while caffeine offers a great degree of convenience, it's also accompanied by a handful of side effects that hurt you both in the short and the long term. While stimulating the central nervous system to give you a boost of energy, caffeine can also increase anxiety, heighten blood pressure, and interfere with your body's ability to take in calcium—an issue of great personal risk considering my family's history with osteoporosis. Excessive caffeine consumption also causes digestive issues, muscle breakdown, and insomnia, especially when consumed later in the afternoon.

I. Surviving (Read: Thriving)

When I was younger, my parents always told me to "find a job that makes enough money that allows you to do what you love." As poor immigrants from foreign countries, my parents spent their childhoods looking forward to their annual trip to Disney World and picking up crumbs from the floor with their hands because they couldn't afford vacuums. My mom dreamed of a career in journalism, my dad a career in finance. Both ended up in medicine. "You will never be out of a job because people will never stop getting sick," their parents told them. My grandparents carried an underlying fear that their children would somehow slip into the poverty that had plagued their own lives in America. They wanted to ensure that my parents would never be financially insecure, so they frontloaded them with busy thoughts of success. A generation later, my parents, having experienced what it felt like to have their dreams dashed and to go to bed hungry, wanted my brother and me to avoid both. Their children could be artists, yes, but artists with stable degrees from reputable schools that would act as a failsafe. So much of my parents' lives were spent working to survive instead of working to live. I entered my academic life feeling like I had to prove to my parents that I'd grow up okay, that I'd find a vocation that left me stable and comfortable. I signed up for every club imaginable, played every sport, and tried my hand at countless instruments (albeit failing miserably). I kept up activities that would make me successful instead of happy. It was hard to balance doing what I wanted to do and what I needed to do. Somewhere along the way they started to blur. Perhaps every single good grade would bring me one step closer to a secure life. If I got good enough at surviving, maybe I would allow myself to start living. Maybe my children would get to do a little more thriving, spend a little more time looking forward

instead of over their shoulders. Each generation brings us closer and closer to achieving that perfect, delicate balance of following our dreams without having to worry about the effects of failure.

II. Ho, B.J. (2019). Parasite. Neon.

In Bong Joon Ho's Oscar winning film Parasite, the Kim family infiltrates the wealthy Park family under the guise of being highly skilled individuals. To the Parks, the Kims are a godsend: how lucky of them to find such competent, proficient workers! Unbeknownst to them, the Kims secretly leech off of them when they are away, making themselves at home in the Parks' lavish abode.

It is fascinating how many parasitic relationships have festered in the microcosm of The Lawrenceville School. What begins as an equal relationship, Ki-woo offering his tutoring services in exchange for money he desperately needs, starts to fester into something more sinister. The allure of an emotionally available friend, of a place to make oneself at home, is tantalizing. The Parks find it hard to say no. When your friend asks for a favor here or there, or just needs someone to talk with, of course you eagerly comply. A good friend is there to talk their friends through the stress you know gets everyone down now and then. A good prefect helps their prefectees when they have drama or friend issues or are overwhelmed with their feelings. They talk to their friends or their II Formers for hours on end until their anxieties float away into the back of their mind, leaving them feeling oddly unsettled when they go to bed, like something is lurking in their basement. It is so easy to get caught up in helping others, your friends, your housemates. "When you look at someone through rose-colored glasses, all the red flags just look like flags," says Wanda the Owl from Bojack Horseman, and it becomes increasingly diffi-

-EK

The Colossal Caffeine Crisis



Courtesy of DALL-E 2

and energy drinks altogether? It's harder than you might think. As mentioned previously, caffeine has helped me fight through some of my most demanding weeks at Lawrenceville—and this isn't an issue unique to me. Starbucks is constantly filled with Lawrentians craving that quick boost of energy to get them through the day, which ties into my second point: Caffeine is extremely easy to access on campus. Whether it's from the coffee dispensers in Tsai Commons, the drinks at the Bath House Café, the energy drinks from TJs, or the local Starbucks, caffeine is almost always available to students, to the point where it's almost harder to not end up drinking coffee at least once at Lawrenceville. Unsurprisingly, from either Lawrenceville's taxing schedule, the ease of access to caffeine, or some combination of both factors, a culture of caffeine consumption arises. There's a sense of community in caffeine. When you see someone drinking coffee in the morning, you not only find a reason to justify your own caffeine consumption but also find a sort of understanding in it—knowing that others are just as fatigued as you makes that morning coffee almost seem like a nod of solidarity.

Yet living without caffeine, in spite of how necessary it seems at times, is ultimately possible. In a lot of ways, caffeine is really just a crutch for a lack of sleep, poor time management, overly strenuous commitments, or some combination of all three, meaning that once we directly address these problems, it is entirely possible to work through Lawrenceville

cult to tear yourself away from someone you have come to love so much. A good balance is necessary so the floodwaters don't come pouring in, submerging everything until you can't discern your stresses from theirs. Help others, but make sure to take care of yourself concurrently. Remember: most parasites lead to bloodbaths.

III. The Perfect Wok

After you've drizzled in some sesame oil, sprinkled in the garlic and the chili flakes, and sautéed your mixture until it's slightly browned but not burned; after you've thrown in the protein (and broccoli if you have it) and added soy sauce and honey so the whole mixture is a delicious golden brown, right after you've added in the vegetables and cooked them for approximately thirty seconds, comes the trickiest part. It's the part I always mess up even though I'm meticulously following directions. You add your noodles and then you add your primary sauce, whether that be General Tso's or sesame-garlic. You dribble in a little bit at a time, careful not to drown the noodles. You mix it around with your spatula, then, eyeing the whole thing suspiciously, dribble in a little more. And then a little more. At this point your dish may be a little salty, but you think you can handle it. What's a little more flavor anyway? You move the chicken around the pan and think you spot a piece of noodle that hasn't been properly dunked in sauce. You add in a little more when someone suddenly bumps your elbow, and General Tso's careens into the pan, drowning your wok. Your food is literally lost in the sauce. The noodles are now too overwhelmed in sauce to serve their function, and, with a sigh, you dump your concoction in the trash. Next time, you'll be sure to get the balance right.

ille without caffeine consumption. Some Lawrentians adopt alternative sleep schedules or work schedules to adapt to the challenges that Lawrenceville poses. For example, one of my friends goes to bed around 9:00 PM and wakes up at 5:00 AM to finish his homework while also getting eight hours of sleep. I've also been experimenting with the Pomodoro Technique—a study method that balances focused, uninterrupted study with several brief breaks—in order to get my assignments done. Though I'm usually prone to procrastination, I find that this method helps me immensely; similar study techniques could help you deal with your tasks without relying heavily on caffeine. And if your extracurricular commitments are weighing on you, sometimes it's a good idea to take a step back and breathe. Your success in life isn't defined by how many leadership positions you can snag; if you feel like your commitments demand a heavy intake of caffeine, maybe dropping a club or two isn't a bad idea.

The bottom line is that caffeine is no replacement for a healthy work and sleep schedule. Though it might help us study overnight for our Honors class assessments or help us stay alert during our A Period classes, relying excessively on caffeine can end up doing more harm than good. Caffeine isn't a sustainable solution to burnout or stress; it's a short-term band aid solution that's bound to fail us eventually. Our health is more important than our GPAs, athletic commitments, and leadership positions; let's not drag our bodies through the mud for a vanilla cream cold brew

“Never Gonna Give You Up” (But Please Do)

America: Episode MMXXII — The Donald Strikes Back

WILL O'REILLY '25

This November's midterm elections are some of the most heated that we have seen in years. With all seats in the House of Representatives, 35 seats in the Senate, and 36 governorships up for grabs, these 2022 elections will shape the final two years of Joe Biden's term in office. Of course, the most pressing political issues are at stake: gun control, abortion rights, and voter suppression.

Yet even as the midterms hold our very future in their hands, the Republican Party seems to be influenced largely by a force from the past: Donald Trump. While he no longer holds the presidency, his influence over the Republican Party is undeniable. This year in the primaries, Trump announced his support for 200 Republican candidates for governor, senator, or representative—an insane increase from his 90 endorsements during the 2018 midterms. Of those 200 endorsed candidates, 92 percent won their primaries. While his predecessors have largely shied away from directly involving themselves in the political scene, Trump has done no such thing. But his near-indestructible sway over the party is a severe problem for both the party's and Americans' hopes to move on from 2020.

Barring the handful of political veterans whose beliefs align with Trump's, Trump's candidates of choice fall into two main categories—neither of which are ideal for the party. The first category is people just like Trump in his 2016 campaign. 53 percent of his endorsed candidates are people who have never held political office before. One such candidate is Mehmet Oz (also known as “Dr. Oz”) who is running for Pennsylvania's Senate seat. While

he has a successful career in television, Oz's only political job has been a seat on the President's Council on Sports, Fitness, and Nutrition. Another example is Herschel Walker, the Republican nominee in the Georgia Senate race. Walker was arguably the greatest college football player of all time in his career at the University of Georgia, as well as a long time friend of Trump, but—predictably—has held no prior political office.

The problem with this particular batch of candidates is that they discredit not only the Republican Party, but all of our nation's politicians. These candidates diminish the Republican Party into nothing but an inexperienced group of celebrities who are pals with Trump. Other than chipping away at the image of his party, Trump's system of nepotism only reaffirms and propagates the message that high positions in politics are not gained by merit, but by connections; it deters young, talented politicians from introducing some well-needed novelty and change to Washington. Of course, the other category of Trump's candidates are those whom he simply intimidated into aligning with him. While not up for re-election

this cycle, a notable example is longtime Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell, who abandoned his criticisms of Trump in 2016 to instead cozy up to the former president and maintain his own leadership status.

complete banishment from the party. We've seen this with the former House Republican Conference chair—the third-highest Republican position in the House—Liz Cheney, who lost her primary nomination to another Trump endorsed-opponent. By this point, Republicans must feel the pressure of a political ultimatum: either defend Trump and secure the votes, or speak out against him and face his wrath.

Unfortunately, Trump's bullying of candidates into supporting him only precipitates the ruin of the Republican Party. Aside from giving Trump far too much power over party selections, his intimidation tactics create a party of one ideology—Trump's ideology. The homogeneity within the Republican Party is far too dangerous. As Trumpism dominates, there

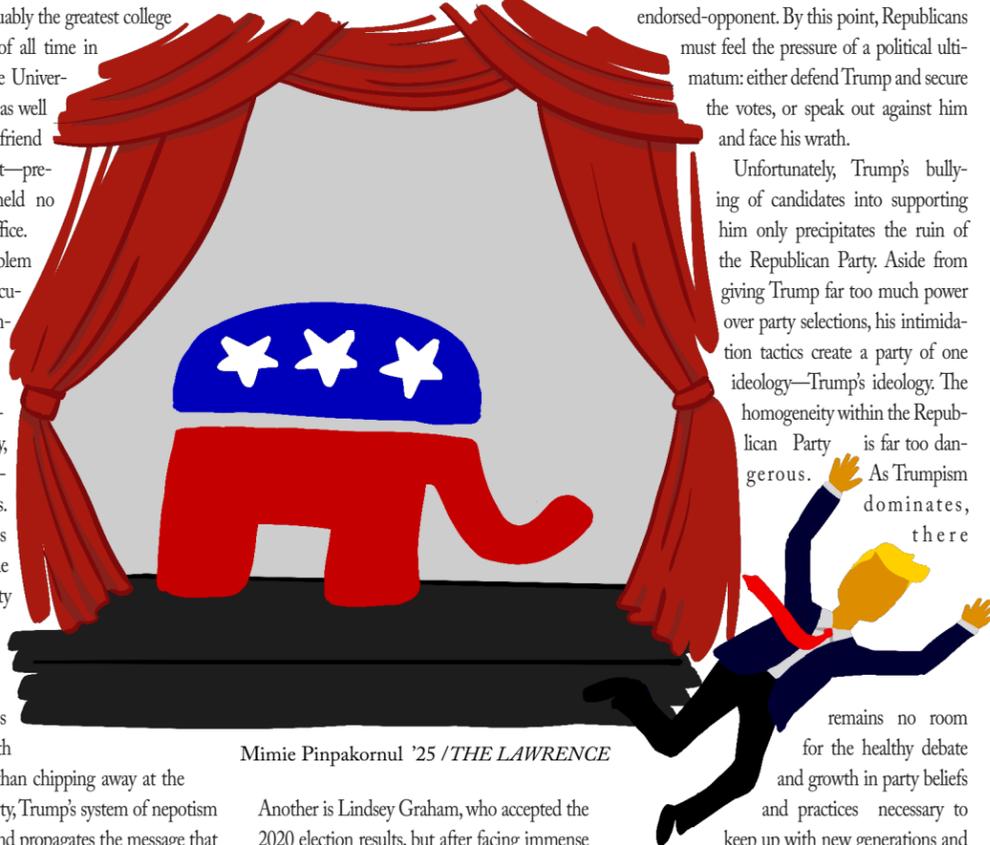
remains no room for the healthy debate and growth in party beliefs and practices necessary to keep up with new generations and modern political landscapes diminishes. Conversely, the Democratic Party currently has its fair share of internal debate, especially between centrists such as the moderate Krysten Sinema and the progressive Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez. While these conflicts may make a party seem weak and divided, a healthy amount of

such debate actually allows a party to rethink its values, reevaluate their standing in the nation, and continually grow stronger together. And they stand to grow only stronger as Republicans struggle to hold onto these opportunities to grow and adapt.

The solution to this Trump crisis starts at the top of the Republican Party. It is hard to keep an ex-president's influence out of a party when a good chunk of said party believes that he never lost his seat in the first place. GOP leaders must concede publicly and firmly that Trump lost in 2020, and thus discredit those claims to his voter base. While influential members of the Republican old guard, such as Dick Cheney and George Bush, have accepted the election results, other Republicans with louder voices and greater influence—the ones in office right now—have failed to do so. These concessions may seem impossible due to Trump's current chokehold on the party, but they really are the only way to move on from the Republican losses in 2020 and out of that chokehold. In short, they are the only way to save the party.

This year's midterms will be a true and grim test of the effects of Trump's influence. While it's clear that he holds the power to push his candidates past the primaries, it's not so clear that they can easily win their seats. If Trump-endorsed candidates fail to enter Congress, the Republican Party would be forced to rethink its Trump-centric political strategies.

But no matter what, it is not for the GOP to get themselves together and reform before the next election cycle. A wakeup call in the midterms may be exactly what the party needs to put together a fresh batch of candidates for 2024 and finally start looking towards the future.



Mimie Pinpakornul '25 / THE LAWRENCE

Another is Lindsey Graham, who accepted the 2020 election results, but after facing immense backlash, flip-flopped to announce his support of Trump's potential 2024 campaign.

But this half of his endorsements come across as less of an announcement of support and more of a not-so-thinly-veiled threat. These candidates know all too well the fate of Republicans who disagree publicly with Trump:

A Farewell to Blasphemous Blades

CLAIRE JIANG '24
COPY EDITOR

One of my favorite shows is *Downton Abbey*, a British television series that follows the trials and tribulations of an English aristocratic family. What catches my eye in every episode is a panorama of the beautifully-maintained Downton lawn present in every episode. Whether hosting a hound dog's run across the grass or the Crawleys' frolicking over tea and biscuits on a sunny day, the manor's perfectly manicured and clipped green grass is a signature of the series. Like many of the other lavish displays of *Downton Abbey*, lawns have always been an established symbol of wealth.

But where and when exactly did these ornamental landscapes become so associated with status in the first place? The answer lies in the continent that shaped American culture as we know it: Europe. According to author Virginia Scott Jenkins, lawns began to appear in Europe in the 18th century. In France, André Lenôtre designed a small lawn called a tapis vert alongside the gardens of Versailles, the grand palace of King Louis XIV, cementing the lawn's place in high society. In England, the word “lawn” simply just meant a piece of “ground covered with grass.”

Meanwhile, European colonization of the Americas introduced foreign livestock that decimated indigenous grass species. As a remedy, colonizers introduced non-native grasses—including poa pratensis, modern-day America's most favored lawn grass—to continue sustaining their animals.

Still, Americans did not popularize perennial lawns until the late 1700s, when

wealthy landowners started to emulate their British counterparts' new landscape fashion. Soon enough, landscape experts like Frank J. Scott declared that a “smooth, closely shaven surface of grass is by far the most essential element of beauty on the grounds of a suburban home.”

In the U.S., such patches of grass are irretrievably linked to the picturesque ideal of the all-American family and home. Walt Whitman's 1855 words, “I guess it must be the flag of my disposition, out of hopeful greenstuff woven,” are not too far off from the fictional Hank Hill's



Emily Pan '24 / THE LAWRENCE

declaration in 1990, “some people hoist a flag to show they love our country. Well, my lawn is my flag.”

However, these good lawns associated with good American homes actually devastate and ravage the environment. According to the Environmental Protection Agency, 30 to 40 million acres of American land is pure lawn, an area greater than that of Georgia. The list goes on. Each year, lawnmowers contribute to 5 percent of America's air pollution, 800 million gallons

of gas are used on lawns, and, in the process, 17 million gallons of gas are spilled—6 million gallons more than the devastating 1989 Exxon Valdez Oil Spill. Homeowners inundate their lawns with 60 percent of our freshwater reserves and nearly 10 times the amount of pesticide and fertilizers that farmers use on their crops. And what about the amount of money and resources we pour into lawn maintenance? One Harris Survey notes that Americans spend an annual \$29

the financial and environmental benefits of getting rid of lawns or cutting down on ostentatious displays of wealth, perhaps the crux of this issue is actually rooted in our primal human desire to belong—to be “American” enough.

Perhaps our conformity to these standards initiates our acceptance and belonging, but at what cost? What is the use of maintaining a wealthy lifestyle and belonging to a superficial, money-obsessed community if doing so entails frightening acts of environmental destruction? There's no way we can immediately dis-

the neighborhood, the greater and greener the lawns.

But this obsession is a symptom of a greater problem. From art to education to a person's health, almost everything in the U.S. has been commercialized. Almost everything comes with a price tag, and your ability to afford that tag determines others' acceptance of you. For many, maintaining wealth stems from the wish to preserve American conventionality; it's a method of assimilation and defense. Despite

the financial and environmental benefits of getting rid of lawns or cutting down on ostentatious displays of wealth, perhaps the crux of this issue is actually rooted in our primal human desire to belong—to be “American” enough.

Perhaps our conformity to these standards initiates our acceptance and belonging, but at what cost? What is the use of maintaining a wealthy lifestyle and belonging to a superficial, money-obsessed community if doing so entails frightening acts of environmental destruction? There's no way we can immediately dis-

mentality that assigns a numerical value to everything. But where we can start is thinking about what to do with the purely decorative patches of land in our backyards; look at your own plain and green backyard and think about all the things you could do with it. Instead of spending so much time and energy cultivating a piece of grass that you'll ultimately mow down over and over again, encourage your family and friends to start a garden and to plant species native to the small ecosystem around you; reintroduce a little bit of hope and variety to the damaged and destroyed environment.

In the process of rebuilding the ecosystem in front of your home, think about what lawns truly mean to you. Are they really that pleasing to the eye? Are they the result of generational toil and hard work? Or perhaps, do you and I have a lawn just because everybody else does?

After all, there are so many more uplifting and beneficial ways of connecting a neighborhood than through a status symbol. The community gardens already thriving in dozens of neighborhoods are an example of people building camaraderie and mutual respect through sharing free and fresh produce. When we move away from lawns to consider more communal, sustainable joys, we reconstruct what the idea of fitting into American society looks like. We build an American society that focuses on sharing and giving, rather than greed and the desire to conform.

Let's say goodbye to lawns and the outdated ideas of wealth and privilege. Only by doing so can we usher in a new era of environmentalism, consciousness, community, and build the America that we deserve.

Student Spotlight: Ely Hahami '23 Published in Journal

HELENA CHEN '24

Over the summer, Ely Hahami '23 published an economics research paper in the International Journal of High School Research (IJHSR). Hahami shared that being recognized on the international stage was very exciting for him.

The paper initially started off as a project for Hahami's Honors Calculus Based Probability and Statistics class's Spring Term final project. His math teacher, Doug Piper, gave the class the choice to analyze and visualize a data set of their choice. Hahami chose a data set from the stock market. "I used the R programming language to [analyze] the statistics, confidence intervals, and other tests to show which stock sector is the most profitable for investors," Hahami said.

As Hahami continued to work on the paper, his interest grew, and he dove deeper into the topic of his paper. Ultimately, Hahami refined his paper during the summer after he had finished classes to submit the paper to the IJHSR. Since the IJHSR is a competitive platform for students to publish their work, Hahami put in great amounts of effort to make sure every little detail of the paper was accurate and precise.

Before the paper was published, three professors peer reviewed it: a college professor who taught math and computer science, and two others who had PhDs in math and statistics. "I thought the peer review process was very useful," Hahami noted, "There would be similar research opportunities in college, so I believe that getting feedback from experts in the field would be beneficial to strengthen my research skills, especially on [how] to more effectively convey information in official research papers."

Based on his research, Hahami concluded that investing in the financial services sector would be the most profitable to investors. Hahami explained that his findings have important connections to the real world: As technology advances, "the concept of applying data science, technology, and artificial intelligence to analyze the most profitable sector in the financial markets has been appearing more frequently," he said.

Looking forward, Hahami hopes to continue exploring the different fields of economics. Finally, Hahami wants to shout out Piper for giving him the opportunity to pursue this project and aiding him throughout the process of writing the paper.



Ely Hahami '23

Helena Chen '24/THE LAWRENCE

French Club Says "Bonjour" at Mealtime Tables



French Club at lunch

Cindy Shum '24/THE LAWRENCE

AKI LI '25

On September 27, the first French lunch table was held in the Hyatt Room of the Abbott Dining Room. Hosted by the French Club, the meeting was an hour-long lunch to practice French in a low-stakes way. Claire Robbins '24 and Lindsay Lee '23, the co-presidents of the club, stated that they wanted to give the students the chance to "casually practice French outside the classroom" and "share a love of French among other francophones."

Attendee Grace Zhang '25 noted that she "really enjoyed [the language tables]." While she had been apprehensive about attending the meeting at first, fearing the conversations to be too "fast and fluent," she had decided to go in an effort to practice her speaking. Zhang also said that the meeting being held in the mysterious and exclusive Abbott Dining Room helped convince her to attend. The lunch was held with all four of Lawrenceville's French Teachers present: Sanjeeta Dhawan, Brian Jacobs H'22, Patrick Loughlin, and Melissa Verhey. The teachers sat in a checkered position at the long tables, with students sitting in between them. Their con-

versations covered a wide range, Zhang explained, with topics ranging from "French books and movies" to "Tsai Di: Yay or Nay," and they actively invited students to jump in with their own takes. "Honestly, it wasn't as intimidating as I thought it would be," Zhang recounted, describing everyone at the table as welcoming and kind. Overall, Zhang said that she was "really glad [she] went," as she was able to immerse herself in an "active French environment" for almost a full hour. Zhang plans on attending the French Language table again, and she hopes to be more vocal at the next meeting.

Not only will the French Language table be a week-

ly event, Robbins and Lee, in collaboration with the French department, are also currently planning a French movie night, study group, and even a crêpe-making workshop. Jacobs, the advisor of the French Club, stated that he was looking forward to "teaching the students how to make the perfect crêpe."

"I encourage both French-taking students and others who are interested to come," Robbins said, highlighting the fact that the French lunch was truly open to everyone interested in French. As the event is a "casual space for all levels," Robbins added that if speaking at the table feels intimidating, students could "just come to listen."



French Club Presidents Lindsay Lee '23 and Claire Robbins '24

Cindy Shum '24/THE LAWRENCE

A Fall Musical Teaser

SONIA LACKEY '25

As Fall Family Weekend quickly approaches, we quickly begin reaching October 20 and 21, the dates when the Kirby Arts Center (KAC) theater will open its doors for the first and only two nights of its fall musical production, *The Drowsy Chaperone*. The show will run for about an hour and 30 minutes. It has two acts, with a quick 15-minute intermission in between. On Thursday, October 20, student ushers will welcome the audience into the theater, and the seats will fill with people. On Friday, October 21, the musical will reach its closing night, and we will move into Fall Family Weekend! There are plenty of seats in the KAC, but be sure to come early for the great seats because no tickets are sold before the performance!

Doors open at 7:00 PM, but the real magic begins when the clock strikes 7:30. The lights go down on the audience, and recorded music begins to play in the speakers. One man, portrayed by Eric Frankel '23 sits on his armchair alone in his apartment, listening to the overture of a musical from an old record player. The music is quiet at first as he addresses you, the audience, sitting in each and every KAC theatre seat. But it begins building, louder and louder until...

Welcome to Prohibition! The



Courtesy of Carys Kong '25

year is 1928. Singer and actress Janet Van De Graaf, played by Naa Kwama Ankrah '23, famous for her lead role in the Feldzieg Follies' productions, has decided to leave behind her life as a celebrity to get hitched to Mr. Robert Martin (Eddie Newsom '23), never to return to the stage again. Although the couple's friends, the best

man, George (Sasha Mykhantso '23), and the maid of honor, the Drowsy Chaperone (Anoushka Sharma '23), are happy for them, there are quite a few people who want to stop the wedding, including the producer of Janet's old theater company, Feldzieg (Roan McDonald '23), and a couple of gangsters—sorry, bakers

(Emily Piggee '24 and Roderik Dugan '25). Will Janet and Robert get married? Will Janet leave him behind for her old life on stage?

For answers to those questions, come out to see *The Drowsy Chaperone*! This musical will be the realization of many students' efforts over the past few months, beginning when they arrived in

August for Periwig's intensive preseason. Performers and crew members were all hard at work to create this experience, so come out to support your peers. During the intermission, there might even be some show-related treats! The show will be a great way to relax, enjoy the night, and have fun with your friends!

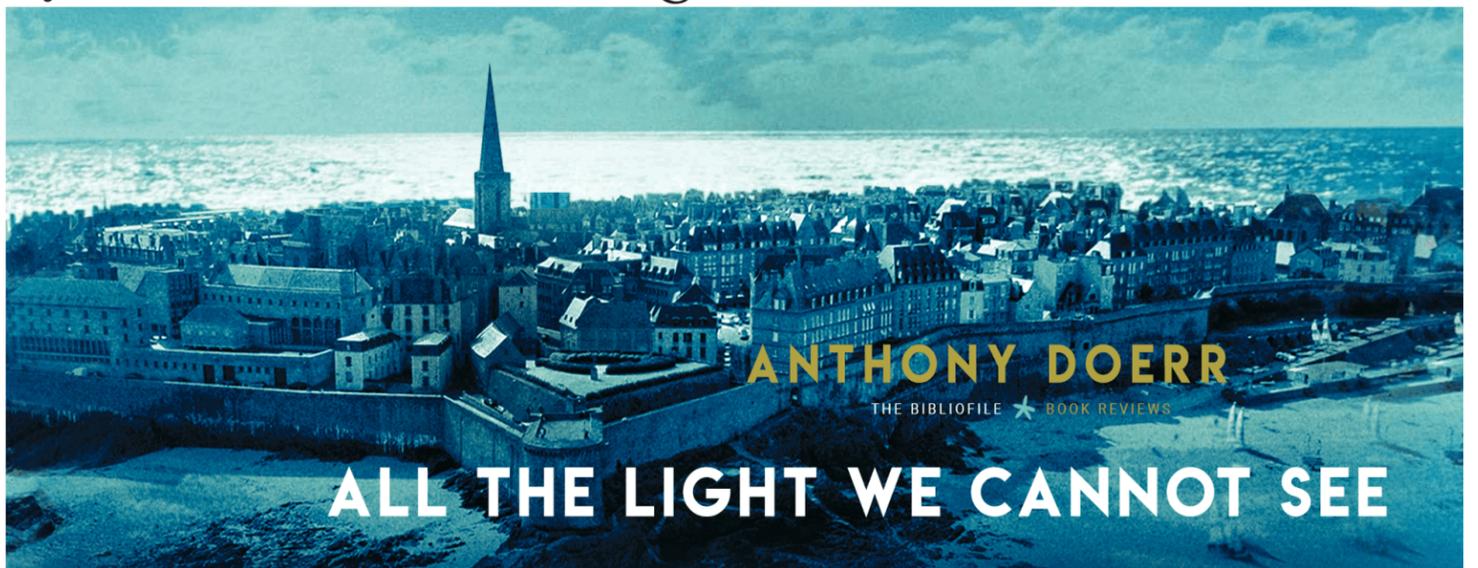
Friday Reviews: *All the Light We Cannot See*

SIMI RATH '26

*Spoiler Alert for *All the Light We Cannot See*

Set in Europe during the brutal wars of World War II, the novel, *All the Light We Cannot See*, written by Anthony Doerr, creates a plot where two seemingly separate lives converge. Doerr uses strategic prose and unique lenses rich with perception to capture emotion and imagery in every sentence, developing an immersive experience that teleports readers back in time. The story's visually impaired female protagonist, Marie-Laure, learns to navigate the world around her by heightening her other four senses with help from models of the French city Saint-Malo that her father constructed for her. The story's male protagonist, German soldier Werner Pfennig, is also trying to navigate his new routine during the war. Recruited by the Nazi Party due to his talents in engineering, Werner leaves his beloved sister and an unrewarding life as an orphan behind when he becomes a student at a prestigious Nazi Academy.

Personally, the reason why I enjoyed this novel so much is the power Doerr packs with his writing style, specifically through his



All the Light We Cannot See Poster

Courtesy of *The Bibliophile*

highlights of typically disregarded sensory details. For example, when German forces occupy Saint-Malo, Marie's life changes tragically, doused in loss and heartache. While many may view her disability as a setback, Marie-Laure forbids letting her disability and grim surroundings interfere with her fighting spirit and continues to partake in acts of resistance by delivering messages hidden in baked goods.

Marie-Laure and Werner come

together when Werner searches for an illegal radio broadcast. To further enrich this fateful connection between the two main characters, the source of the broadcasts happened to belong to Marie-Laure's late grandfather. This connection is just one of the many "full circle moments" that Doerr crafts within his story, enhancing the satisfaction of the plot.

I won't lie—I found the beginning of this book absolutely dry, and I often found myself skimming

through certain sections. Why does it matter that Marie-Laure is reading *Twenty Thousand Leagues Under the Sea*? Who cares about the sound of lilies rustling in the wind? Despite the put-down-able-ness of the book's beginning, I later realized during the book's conclusion how much I missed reading Doerr's remarkable sentences. The true beauty in this book lies within Doerr's understanding of the human experience, as well as his (impressive) grasp of World War II history.

His expressions inspire feelings of understanding and appreciation for the surrounding beauty.

If you are looking for a book that will let you reflect on the past with enhanced clarity and beauty, this is certainly the book for you. No one knows what magic Doerr uses to spin his words into hauntingly captivating stories and insightful perspectives, but thousands have experienced the power and impact neatly tucked within his voice.

DINING EXPERIENCE



Zachary Kalafer '24 / THE LAWRENCE

Best V Form Electives: From Baseball to Flies

Doing Philosophy with the Movies

Doing Philosophy with the Movies, taught by English Teacher Maggie Ray, is a highly requested V Form English elective which landed first on many scheduling sheets last winter and has been an exciting class for those lucky enough to receive a spot. The curriculum includes watching movies like *The Truman Show*, *Rear Window*, and *Parasite*. Malin Phelan '23 described how this class is definitely different "in the best way possible" from prior Lawrenceville English

classes she has taken. Students in the class discuss the philosophical components of the movies, read additional handouts to supplement the concepts introduced through the movie, and write essays analyzing specific scenes of each film. Kevin Chiang '23 recommended the class to any V formers looking to maintain a balance among their classes for a less stressful V Form Fall Term. Phelan added that anyone with an interest in film or philosophy should try to get into the class.

Ceramics

Ceramics, for many, is a great way to take a creative break amidst a stressful school day. Taught by Art Teacher Rod Martino, the class is fun and laid-back as students learn to use a pottery wheel each session. Grace Walker's '23 eye has been on this course since

her II Form year, and she was super excited to take it this term. Walker recommends this course to those who want to be artistic during the school day and have some time to enjoy learning how to create art.

Research in Molecular Genetics

Any V Former with an affinity toward genetics or an interest in how DNA works on a molecular scale should take Research in Molecular Genetics with Science Teachers Elizabeth Fox and Nicole Lantz. The class selectively breeds flies so that scientists at Stanford University can use students' research to study a variety of different diseases. Because the fruit fly reproduces quickly and shares 60 percent of its genome with humans, they are ideal subjects for medical testing, allowing each student to find a unique tissue to be manipulated and expressed in the form

of a project. Harry Lynch '23 decided to take this course due to his past prefects, who "sung its proverbial praises," and because of his interest in the "idea of fly dissection and using molecular genetics practically." Lynch claimed that this course "allows for the most outside world impact," as the work they do in the lab directly influences research on human disease. Lawrentians with a knack for biology or interest in breeding and dissecting flies should take this one-of-a-kind science course.

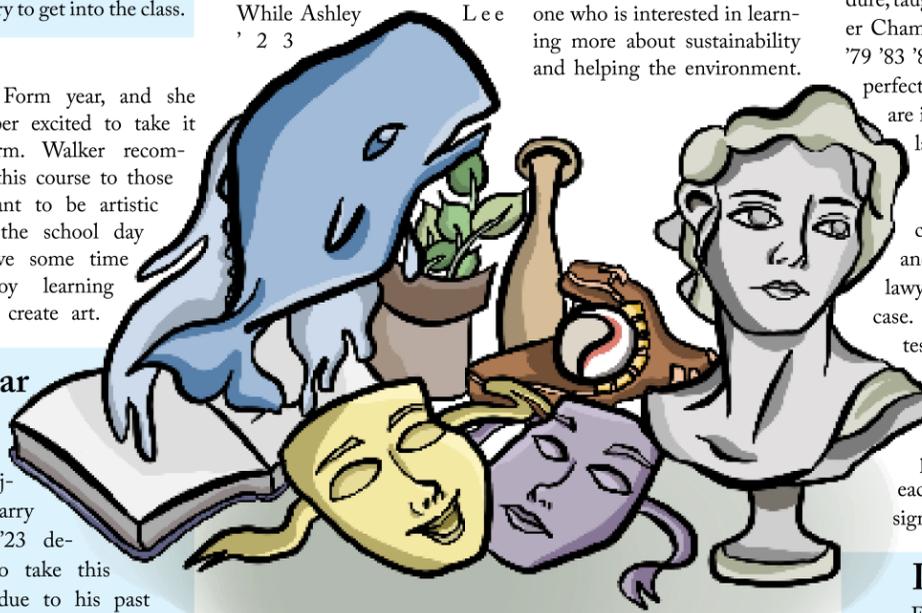
JACKIE WILLIAMS '24

FEATURES ASSOCIATE

Sustainability Seminar

Many V Formers chose to join Director of Sustainability Stephen Laubach P'23 in his Sustainability Seminar course in the hopes of learning how to implement sustainable practices in their lives, while also learning about what sustainability looks like around the world. By distilling readings and taking notes on practical applications of science into everyday life, students in the class have been able to create a website on the best sustainable practices that should be implemented at Lawrenceville. While Ashley Lee '23

notes that the course has a lot of homework, reading, and difficult projects, she also admires the importance of the material and thinks that it is a fun course. Students recently took a field trip to visit Arm in Arm, a soup kitchen located in Trenton, NJ, to learn about the efforts of regenerative agriculture, healthy food, and environmental justice in the local community. Lee's interest in this class peaked after attending the Leopold Scholars' Program over the summer. She recommends the class to anyone who is interested in learning more about sustainability and helping the environment.



Gloria Yu '26/THE LAWRENCE

Literature and Innovation

English Teacher Bernadette Teeley's P'24 Literature and Innovation course has struck a chord among those who love to read and write. In the course, students look at both current and past innovations that have impacted their lives and write about the material to spark fruitful class discussions. Sean

Scarpa '23 took this course because he wanted to see how his "life has been impacted by innovation and how to view the world in different ways," and he is "very happy with the [class] choice [he] got." While he does feel that it is a very challenging course, he finds it is extremely rewarding and interesting.

1619 Matters: The Emancipation Proclamation and American Literature

English Teacher Enithie Hunter's 1619 Matters elective gets into the details of what truly happened in history, and digs into the dark and untouched past of U.S. history. Students in the class look at American history through a stronger lens than in many other Lawrenceville history classes, often reading less mainstream historical

sources. The popularity of the class means that it is offered twice out of the three terms. Currently, people in the class are reading *The 1619 Project*, a book reframing the legacy of slavery. Kevin Chiang '23 likes the Harkness-style aspect of the class and has found the content interesting and recommends the class to future V Formers.

Legal Practice and Procedures

Legal Practices and Procedure, taught by English Teacher Champ Atlee '62 H'74 '75 '79 '83 '84 '87 '06 P'92, is a perfect class for those who are interested in pursuing law. In this elective, V Formers are given samples of civil and criminal law cases and then have to act as lawyers/witnesses in the case. They also read over testimonies, prepare opening and closing statements, and cross examine people. Additionally, each week, they are assigned LSAT questions

to which they have to apply a statute of law, followed by a write-up of their reasoning and a class debate. Mia Holub '23 discovered an interest in law over the summer through an internship at a law school in New York City, which gave her experience as a research assistant and allowed her to audit weekly contract law classes. Holub recommends that "anyone who enjoys having debates or is confident speaking up in class" should take this course. This class is a great way to learn about topics that are not covered in other classes, and it usually has some great discussions as well!

Literature of National Pastime

English Teacher Stephen LaRochelle's Literature of National Pastime, better known as "Baseball Lit," is popular among many V Formers, from baseball players who know everything about the sport to students who know nothing. Ashley Lee '23 falls under the "general understanding" category and "honestly thinks it's weird [she] chose this class because [her] understanding of baseball and its rules

are limited." However, her friend Lina Olazabal '22 told her it was an interesting course. As evident from the name, students explore baseball through poetry, documentaries such as *Pelotero* and *Koshien*, and books like *Moneyball*. Lee recommends the class as it is pretty relaxed (that is, as long as you keep up with the reading) and it is a great opportunity to strengthen, through literature, a love for baseball.

School Supplies: The Good, The Bad, and The Ugly

ELLIE TURCHETTA '25

School shopping—one of the most important reasons to go to Target—often gets forgotten until late in the summer; some students will even resort to last minute purchases at the Jigger Shop. Nowadays, with so many options for every single item you need, school shopping can get confusing and overwhelming. Choosing exactly what you want can be a handful: Do you want something on-brand or off-brand? Trendy or functional? What color should represent your items for language classes (red, obviously)? Well, worry no more. Here is your perfect guide to Lawrenceville student supplies.

Probably the most important (and definitely the most noticeable!) part of someone's school supplies each year is his or her backpack. With so many different brands and styles, choosing a backpack for the entire year can be daunting. However, it seems as though the popular picks at Lawrenceville have been narrowed down to two: Herschel and Jansport. Maddie McIntyre '25 recommended Herschel as her number one choice of backpack. She noted that they are generally "really cool...[and] big enough to hold snacks." Jansport, however, comes at a close second, with increasing demand for the brand's pretty designs and practicality.

While there are a wide variety of computers available, from Chromebooks to Dell to Apple, Apple MacBook Pros seem to be the fan fa-

vorite. Along with the computer's superb functionality, McIntyre noted her enjoyment of the touch bar, saying, "A lot of people don't like it, but I think it's really cool...all of the emojis

show up on it." Although the computer can sometimes overheat, it seems as though it's worth the investment for your studies.

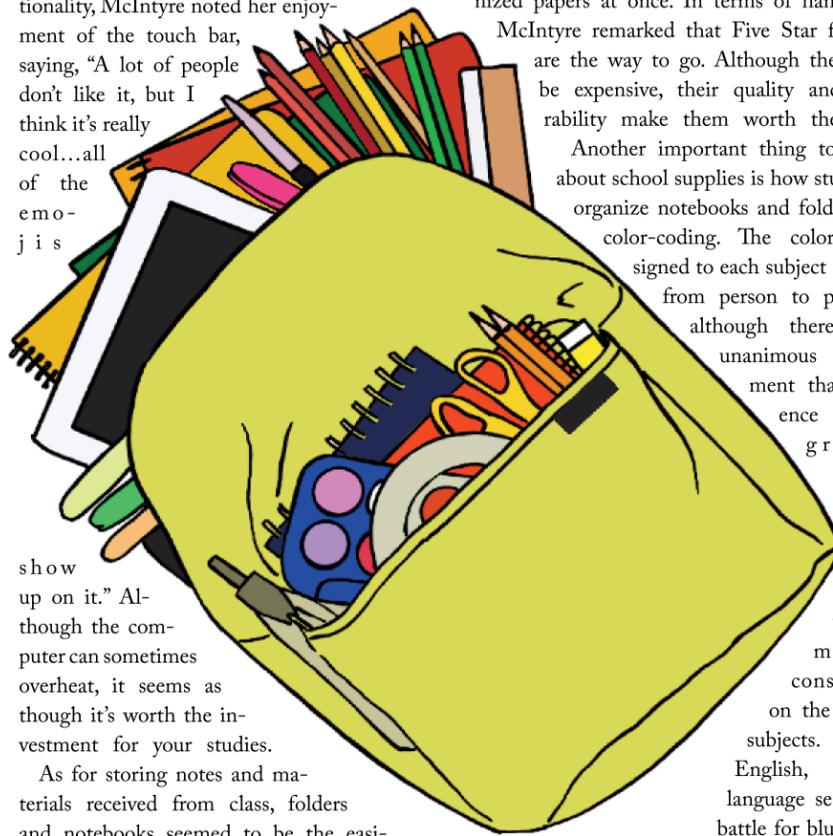
As for storing notes and materials received from class, folders and notebooks seemed to be the easiest solution for everyone. Notebooks are an

easy way to access both loose-leaf and organized papers at once. In terms of handouts,

McIntyre remarked that Five Star folders are the way to go. Although they can be expensive, their quality and durability make them worth the buy.

Another important thing to note about school supplies is how students organize notebooks and folders by color-coding. The colors assigned to each subject differs from person to person, although there was unanimous agreement that science was green, there

wasn't much consensus on the other subjects. Math, English, and language seem to battle for blue, red,



Aileen Ryu '25/THE LAWRENCE

Nothing Drowsy About This Year's *Drowsy Chaperone*

MIRA PONNAMBALAM '26

Long before the curtain rises, the cast and crew of the Periwig Club have been giving their all to put on a truly magical performance. On October 20 and 21, this year's Fall Musical, *The Drowsy Chaperone*, will premiere in the Kirby Arts Center (KAC).

The Drowsy Chaperone is a satirical jazz comedy and homage to the Golden-Age of musicals. The show follows the "Man in Chair," played by Eric Frankel '23, as he is transported into a musical in a 1928 Broadway theater. The musical is all about fun, full of eccentric, bold characters and witty jokes. "I love this show because it's a comedy with many funny and romantic moments, and I think the students will really find it enjoyable to watch," said Stephanie Xu '23, this year's production stage manager.

Anoushka Sharma '23 plays a goofy, optimistic alcoholic who embodies the spirit of the show. "I definitely would not want to mimic her drinking habits, of course, but there is something to be said about her grit and ability to push through all the noise and adversity she faces. I think that's an important skill for all of us here at Lawrenceville and just in life in general," Sharma noted.

Unlike Sharma's character, "Man in Chair" is separated from the main action, serving as a sort of narrator of the musical within the musical. However, this does not stop him from contributing wholeheartedly to the show. Upon reading the description of the role,

Frankel joked, "That's me. This is my role and if I don't get it, I'm going to burn down the KAC."

This enthusiasm is shared by many other members of the Periwig Club, including Sofia Carlisi '24, the student director for the show. Carlisi said she will never forget the first time she got to direct a scene. "I got to look at my ideas...then see them out there. It was just so fun!"

Frankel said that "A typical rehearsal always involves me running a minute or two late and [Xu] yelling at me." Depending on their

role, students can spend up to 12 hours a week rehearsing. Typical rehearsals fall into three main categories: staging, choreography, and singing. Staging rehearsals are led by Chair of the Performing Arts Department Matthew Campbell and center around blocking (figuring out how actors move during a scene). Choreography rehearsals led by Director of Dance Derrick

Wilder involve working with the ensemble through the dances for each song. In singing rehearsals led by Mr. Meck, the cast sits around a piano and practices their respective parts of each musical number. In addition to scheduled rehearsals, the cast must independently practice their songs, dances, and lines.

The cast and faculty aren't the only ones who have dedi-

This grueling tech week for the musical is the last week before opening night. During Hell Week, the cast spends time cleaning up their performances, while the crew spends hours working on props, lights, sound, and sets to make sure that everything will run smoothly on opening night. As opening night comes closer and closer, excitement runs high. As stage manager, Xu is responsible for making sure the show goes smoothly;

she is in charge of calling cues and managing and communicating

with the crew, directing team, and cast. Communication is especially

important during Hell Week. Xu says that although "Hell Week" definitely lives up to its name, it's also the most rewarding week...I usually get back to the House around 10:00 p.m. or 11:00 p.m.; however, it always feels like the show ends sooner than expected, and I know for sure I will miss all of the rehearsal moments!"

While it involves a lot of work, the process of putting the musical together is quite rewarding. Xu said she enjoys watching all the pieces come together and "the progress of the cast in learning the music and the dances." She also enjoys getting "to watch the set and costumes get designed and built from scratch. It's truly a magical opportunity."

Sharma loves the sense of community she gets from building something with other people. There's "just something so unique about telling a story live, not only because the cast and crew become a very close community, but also because you're actively building and bridging that community with the audience in real-time," she said.

Similarly, Carlisi enjoys being with others who love theater the way she does. Through the musical, she has learned a lot from Campbell, saying, "It's so fun to see the way that his mind works, he's like a genius. He has everything in his head. I want to be like him. He's so good at what he does." She has also developed meaningful relationships with other Periwig members, like Claire Jiang '24. Carlisi says, "I love her. We've done every show together, and it's so fun."

If you are looking to support your teammates and classmates, have a good laugh, or simply occupy your parents for a few hours, join the Periwig Club in the KAC for a show that looks for the joy in life "as we stumble along."



Michelle Zhang '25/THE LAWRENCE

cated their time and effort to the musical. Much work is put in behind the scenes by the tech crew, set designers, costume designers, student director, and stage manager. The time and effort required to piece together all the moving parts of the musical culminate in what is affectionately known as "Hell Week."

Unraveling The Expansive Career of Gus Hedberg

SABRINA OTTAWAY '25

The 2022-23 school year marks Gus Hedberg's H'03 P'96 '00 31st year at The Lawrenceville School. From his rendezvous as a faculty advisor for *The Lawrence* to his "humiliating" downfall as a New York City journalist in 1984, his endless stories have made him a fan favorite among Lawrentians. However, many students may not know that his long tenure at Lawrenceville was, according to him, "a work of fate."

Hedberg originally attended Columbia University, where he received a bachelor's degree in English and a master's degree in magazine journalism. After he graduated, he wrote for various publications under the Time Inc. umbrella, including *Money* magazine, where he was eventually appointed senior editor. At the same time, Hedberg taught at Columbia's Graduate School of Journalism and was later an adjunct professor of English at New York University, where he instructed seasoned and prolific writers.

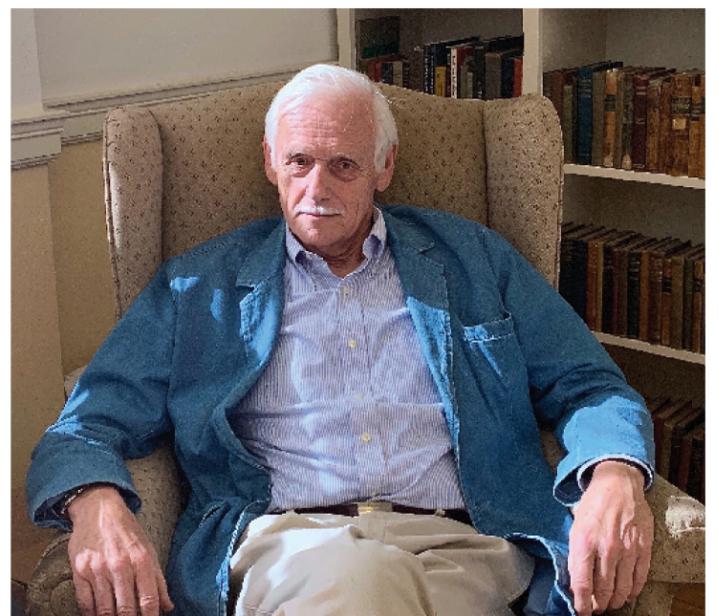
Hedberg's work was nominated for numerous journalistic awards, from The National Press Club Award for Service, to the Individual to the "biggie," or The National Magazine Award according to Hedberg. In reference to an article he wrote about a novel, yet flourishing personal computer industry, he said, "My article was prescient,

prophetic, and even world-shaping." He made sure he "shined [his] shoes for the Gala Awards Dinner at the Helmsley Palace," a luxurious hotel in Manhattan's Midtown. However, the night ended dismally when Hedberg felt that he suffered a humbling blow. "The prize went to *Outside Magazine* for an article on the niceties of fileting a fish," he recalls. Poking fun at his own loss, he said, "I and the three other shortlisted nominees enjoyed crow for dinner, bones-in."

Hedberg later found himself working as a freelance journalist; amidst the chaos of being a journalist-by-day and professor-by-night, he received a call from David Cantlay H'89 '91 '93 '94 '15 P'07 '09 '11, an English teacher and editor for the School's alumni magazine, *The Lawrentian*. "The Head Editor skipped town, and nobody knew where he went," Hedberg recalled. Cantlay needed to know immediately if Hedberg wanted to take his place. Initially, Hedberg was hesitant and uninterested in "constantly interviewing people on how much they loved Lawrenceville or hated it." However, he knew the position would provide a break from his draining job as a freelance journalist. Hoping the job would also be an entry point into a refreshing teaching opportunity at Lawrenceville, Hedberg called back and took the offer.

Luckily for him, his hopes were

realized. His journalistic expertise from *The Lawrentian* translated perfectly to his job as a faculty advisor to *The Lawrence* from 1997-2011. Beyond the operative routine of managing a weekly, campus-wide newspaper, Hedberg recalled an ebullient atmosphere inside the office, with lots of "joking, laughing, and eating." At Lawrenceville, Hedberg would explore a newfound passion for instructing English and interdisciplinary subjects, as well as helping shape the next generation of journalists. He also affectionately reflects on his time as a II Form English teacher, especially as an instructor to students with just-burgeoning world views and interests. Hedberg reminisces that "in instructing [II Form] students, I discovered that you had more of an effect, one more powerful and potent." One of his other favorite classes was a V Form elective, "Springtime with The Puritans." Hedberg admitted the course sometimes failed to woo many rising V Formers, but it would garner students' enthusiasm and fascination over the course of the year. He attributed the hype to how well the class revealed the fascinating extent to which "puritanism...profoundly impacted the American character...even for those who [didn't] observe Christianity." Like the many classes he taught throughout his tenure, Hedberg just can't



Gus Hedberg H'03 P'86 '00

Audrey Chen '25/THE LAWRENCE

choose a favorite book. He still looks forward to the pleasures of dissecting *The Great Gatsby* in III Form English every year. Notably, he also looks forward to exploring and confronting the tensions at the Harkness table. He asserted that the "racist and mildly antisemitic story couched in a pervasive ethos of upper crust snobbism should make our skins crawl." Oftentimes, he observes it doesn't. The question persists every year if it's "because the book comes with the safe imprimatur of a broad academic consensus, which, really, should mean nothing, or [because] the sheer beauty of the prose and

the tenderness...that Fitzgerald brings...overwhelm its repugnant elements." Hedberg admits he does not have an answer but "I always look forward to trying to figure that out with the class," he said.

Hedberg has seen thousands of young people evolve as thinkers, problem-solvers, and as Lawrentians. He succinctly phrases his advice for current Lawrentians as this: "read carefully and critically." Though influenced by his career as a journalist, the virtue of his advice is nonetheless essential to all of the journeys and paths that intersect at Lawrenceville.

Photography Fantasy! The Magic Behind Lawrenceville's Media Teams

Prism Visuals Profile: Etta Schar '23

SNEHA KUMAR '24

Athletics are a huge part of the Lawrenceville life. Whether you are a new II Former or a seasoned V Former, a majority of students participate in at least one interscholastic sport each year. Recently, sports media has taken hold of athletes, coaches, and schools alike; here at Lawrenceville, one example of sports media is Prism Visuals, a photography account currently run by Etta Schar '23.

Schar has always had a love for filmmaking and photography, but her interests flourished when she took Gil Domb's P'17 filmmaking class during her III Form year. Since then, she has added a variety of photos and videos to her portfolio, mainly through Prism Visuals, where she posts both action and fun photos of different teams. Schar explained that she got the name for the account from a prism camera lens, which "produces a different kind of image." Schar's vision is to create an account that, like prism lenses, produces high quality and unique images. As a result of working with the Girls' Varsity Lacrosse team this past Spring Term, Schar said that she wanted to "highlight a larger variety of sports." Over the summer, she reached out to Associate Director

of Athletics Nicole Stock for help setting up her Instagram, and since then, she has photographed various fall sports on campus. Schar looks at the home games for the week and tries to attend games where she hasn't photographed the team playing previously. While photographing, Schar aims to capture team moments such as huddles or celebrations, as well as candid and action shots of the players. After going to games, Schar sorts through nearly 500 pictures in order to find around 20 to edit and post. Though Schar describes this process as sometimes "difficult," she says it is worth it when she sees athletes "get excited when they see themselves in different pictures." Schar posts these photographs to Prism Visuals's Instagram account, usually using a photograph of the whole team as the cover picture. So far, the account has highlighted the Boys' Varsity Football team, the Girls' Varsity Soccer team, the Girls' Field Hockey team, and the Boys' Water Polo team. "Making sure that people get the photos they want," Schar said, has always been a really important part of Prism Visuals.

Currently, Prism Visuals mainly focuses on athletics, but Schar is looking to move into other aspects

of Lawrenceville life. She plans to start with taking V Form Pictures, which are special personal photos for this year's V Formers that will appear in this year's Olla Podrida. Looking ahead, Schar hopes to pursue filmmaking in college and expand beyond sports. Still, she loves photographing sports here at Lawrenceville, especially the Girls' Varsity Soccer Team. If anyone is looking for a photographer to flick



Courtesy of FiveStarGraphics



Courtesy of PrismVisuals

Five Star Graphics Profile: Hale Brown '23

RILEY MCKIBBEN '25

Hale Brown '23 was the first to break onto the sports media scene at Lawrenceville with his business, Five Star Graphics. Armed with just his camera, film equipment, and laptop, the V Former has taken his passion for photography and turned it into a successful pursuit, churning out commitment posts, hype videos, and high-quality photos.

Brown started Five Star Graphics just over a year ago. "I made my buddy Andrew's graphic when he committed to [University of] Notre Dame last September," he recalls. The post is the first on the Five Star Graphics Instagram page, complete with a dual image of the athlete on the backdrop of the Notre Dame campus and the University's classic blue and gold color scheme. After this initial favor, the requests started rolling in: "Everyone asked him where he got it from, and I made it into a business."

Even though he's only got a year under his belt, Brown's been busy with the work he's gotten himself into, with the Fall Term being a particularly packed time. "When we're in peak commitment season, I make up to seven or eight [graphics] per day," a substantial number for a high school student who is also one

involved in several extracurriculars on campus.

When asked about the other big name in graphics on campus, Prism Visuals, Brown kept it diplomatic, saying, "I think what they're doing is super cool, but I think the difference between them and me is I focus more so on the business aspect of the creative industry."

For him, photography isn't just a hobby anymore, it's a way of helping out his community. "I work with five or six club lacrosse teams that I consistently [make] graphics for, but I take any and all customers." These customers get Five Star service from Brown without having to pay the prices of professional organizations. It's a relationship that benefits both parties, demonstrated by the fact that Brown has managed to get in touch with some more big-time clients: "We do graphics from time to time for Princeton University's Mens' Lacrosse team," he said.

All in all, Five Star Graphics is a passion project for Brown, and it's that he seeks to keep going into the future. "The beauty of it all is that all I need is a laptop and my camera."

Time to Talk About Tua: The Problem with NFL Concussion Protocol

PITTMAN ALLEY '24

Tua Tagovailoa began his season in the NFL balling out with a renewed vigor after battling numerous injuries during both his collegiate and professional careers. New additions to the Miami Dolphins roster, including a new coach, Mike McDaniel, and star wide receiver, Tyreek Hill, had faithful fans hopeful about the future of the Dolphins. That is, at least, until two Sundays ago, when Tua suffered a concussion, originally mistaken for a back injury, in a game against the Buffalo Bills. The following Thursday, the unthinkable happened; after he was sacked by Bengals Nose Tackle Josh Tupou,

Tagovailoa suffered another concussion, and was immediately taken back to Miami, turning a promising career into a possible retirement for the young star. The problem is not just with the Dolphins, either. While the NFL has made great strides in protecting player safety, teams are still suffering from many concussions, illuminating the fact that the NFL still has work to do.

As of last Saturday, October 1, Tua has been placed in concussion protocol and will not play this week. The NFL has attempted to nullify the problem of head injuries by developing technology that scans your head and perfectly tailors a helmet to the player. The problem is that

"This is the only solution; the players' association must initiate a lockout."

this sport is football. Frankly, you have to be a little crazy to play a professional sport that might paralyze you for the rest of your life. While this problem stems from the NFL, it stems more from

the sport itself.

The NFL has tried to improve player safety by investing \$20 million in developing new helmets in 2015. In the grand scheme of things, that money is almost nothing to a multi-billion dollar corporation. The number one priority of the league as of right now should be to protect players'. Though this effort may result in what NFL fans might call "soft rules," by not letting players hit one another as hard, this is the only solution; the players' association must initiate a lockout. The fact that the league has to face this problem over and over again makes me sick to my stomach. Solutions could include different ways to

tackle or make soft-shell helmet covers mandatory for games. We can have a more interesting NFL that includes many concussions but would be more interesting to watch, primarily because of big hits, or one that prioritizes player safety. There is no in-between.

It will be in the best interest of the NFL to seek this change, even if it requires a lockout. This pressing issue will never stop because of how dangerous football is. While we all love football, the people who make the sport happen have to come first. Tua's injury puts this problem in the spotlight, and players and fans will care more about it going forward.

0.5x Board Picks

	Autri Basu Editor-in-Chief	Yewon Chang Co-Opinions Editor	Kelly Lu Arts Editor	Noah Trupin Co-Web Editor	Luke Park Co-Copy Editor	Jasmine Zhang Co-News Editor	Claire Jiang Co-Copy Editor
If you could only eat at one Main Street restaurant	the one with sour cream	feds!!	your mom's house	only been to starbs and gp	TJ's has sponsored me to say this	gp	big red farm!
Worst nightmare	pizza feeds only...	bikini-clad mark antony on a tarantula	swarm of butterflies	deer on hind legs	Dreaming a life and realizing it's not real	another year of high school	science, technology, engineering, and mathematics
Oddest thing in your backpack	tintin en americque	mr. worldwide print	limited edition demon slayer folder file	rubber duck	4 TB Hard Drive with Dreamworks movies	bottle opener	grandma candy