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Making Magic with Midday Music



Alistair Lam '23 performing at Midday Music

CHRISTINE WU '25

This past Friday, Lawrenceville hosted its first Midday Music recital of the year. Midday Music is a monthly tradition where community members gather to hear a select number of students' musical performances; the recital typically occurs during lunch.

The first performer of Friday's Midday Music was Alistair Lam '23, who sang "Deh! fuggi un traditore" by George Frideric Handel, a piece he has been practicing since last spring. As a V Former, Lam expressed his deep gratitude for the return of in-person Midday Music instead of those held on Zoom during the pandemic. "With our class living with Covid-19 since [II Form] Winter, this particular Midday was the first time in a long while that resembled normalcy," Lam noted. Although last year's recitals were also in-person, Lam recalled "how other performers and [he] still had to wear masks and keep a certain distance from the audience due to pandemic restrictions." With the easing of Covid restrictions, Lam enjoyed "celebrating student musicians on campus" and seeing Midday Music "transform the Clark Music Center into a lively space" once again.

Violinist Arisa Okamura '25 and violist Arya Vishwakarma '25 performed Johan

Halvorsen's romantic arrangement of the Baroque duet, "Handel Passacaglia." Having only decided to play at Midday Music five days in advance, the pair had to use their rehearsal time effectively, "working on trouble spots and analyzing the piece as a whole," Vishwakarma recalled.

While learning the notes of the piece was not an easy task, what proved more difficult was defining the relationship between the two voices of the piece—Vishwakarma and Okamura strived to construct the interplay between "the bright, extroverted violin and moody viola." For violas, it is especially difficult to "be more prominent instead of subjugated to the background," Vishwakarma explained, "Determining when one person plays loud versus soft to create something engaging instead of [something] monotonous was the most time-consuming part."

The duet offered Vishwakarma an important takeaway: "Because playing chamber music is so intimate, you need to have a strong grasp on the part as well as a connection with your fellow musicians. A lack of either can lead to an unsuccessful performance."

The final performance at the recital was a unique piano and drum duet improvisation. Although they had prior experience improvising together

Courtesy of *The Lawrenceville School*

in Jazz Band, pianist Grant Shueh '23 and drummer Henry Metz '24 had never rehearsed this particular improvisation. The two simply met during Friday's consultation period and outlined the direction of their piece: "We decided we'd start off with a more hip hop sounding beat or maybe a ballad, and then go into swing," Shueh said.

When asked how he's able to just walk on stage and play on the spot, Shueh responded, "In some sense, I've been improvising my whole life. I've always liked composing music, and improvisation is just live composition." Shueh most formally learned improvisation in a class he took his III Form year. Describing Jazz Improvisation as "the best class at Lawrenceville," Shueh recommended the course as a phenomenal option for Lawrentians who want to get into improvisation in high school. Having learned how to improvise within a jazz framework, Shueh applied the same concepts to classical and other styles of improvisation.

Not only did the performers themselves enjoy Midday Music, the audience members also greatly praised their performances. Anabel Guerreiro '24 commented, "Midday Music is a wonderful reminder of how talented the people who surround me are."

Hispanic Heritage Month: Suave

In celebration of Hispanic Heritage Month, Sofía Bonilla '24 profiles Suave, the Latinx-style dance team on campus.



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National Coming Out Day

In honor of National Coming Out Day, observed every October 11, we are publishing several Lawrenceville students' coming out stories.



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Captain's Profile: Julia Chiang '23

Follow Ellie Turchetta '25 and Maddie McIntyre '25 as they sit down with the Girls' Varsity Soccer star.



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A Trip to New York with the Hutchins Social Justice Scholars

HELENA CHEN '24

NICHOLE JIN '24

On September 7, the Hutchins Social Justice Scholars, led by the Executive Director of the Hutchins Institute for Social Justice Zaheer Ali, visited New York to explore the Universal Hip Hop Museum and explore the importance of journalism.

"It was incredibly fun because I got to experience a different side of New York," said scholar Lauren Hennis '23. The trip started off at the Universal Hip Hop Museum, where students explored numerous exhibits and learned about the meanings of different artifacts, including the "first cartoon character that came out of hip hop culture," created by Keith Haring.

Scholar Awo Addo '23 noted how it was "really cool to see how hip hop has evolved" to become not just a style of music, but a form of culture. "We also learned about the influences of hip hop culture on society, like how it created a divide between the East and West coast rappers," Hennis said.

While Hennis enjoyed learning about the "positive impacts of hip hop on African-American society," she felt that the museum's exhibits could have been better presented to help her draw a greater connection between the different artifacts and their meanings. "I would say I left the museum confused [about] the time period and how it has affected the modern day," Hennis elaborated.

Addo echoed this message, noting that the exhibits were "missing a story element to them," as there was a wide selection of artifacts but little story behind them. Despite this, Addo still enjoyed exploring

the museum: "It was really nice to be able to see artifacts from people involved in hip hop that were really influential in the past," she said.

After the museum, the section attended dinner with video journalist Ayman Ismail. Ismail writes for Slate, an online magazine and podcast network. He talked to the students about his work with video journalism and storytelling. "It was really interesting to meet someone who is so experienced and really understands journalism and social activism," Addo said.

For Hennis, meeting Ismail helped her learn more about crafting and telling stories "through connecting them to [her] own life and experiences." Ismail also emphasized that small actions are key in social justice activism. He shared his view with the students on the importance of "using people [who] are accessible to you to tell a story," no matter how insignificant it may seem.

"He said that you don't have to fly out and go to different parts of the world to be able to make a difference," Addo elaborated. Addo felt that the dinner was the best part of the trip, as Ismail was "easy to talk to" and was very knowledgeable in his field. "He watched all of our final video projects before coming to see us, so it was really nice to see that he cared about each of our projects individually," she continued. Aside from discussing social activism and his work with storytelling through journalism, Ismail talked to the students about his time attending Rutgers University, "cracking jokes," and sharing personal experiences from his life that "made him really easy to connect to," Addo elaborated.



Hutchins Social Justice Scholars in New York

Akeil Smith '23/THES LAWRENCE



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CORRECTIONS

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

Dogs of the Week (Rocco, Vesta, Myla)
Holden Pettinelli '26, El Eastland '26, Jael Gaines '26



Editorial

Why We Need to Get Rid of the Discipline Announcement

In the very center of the Kirby Arts Center usually hangs a thin screen capable of projecting every hue, tone, and tint known to humankind. The bubble-gum pink slide announcing Thoughtful Thread Thursdays. The galactic kaleidoscope declaring a future Night Climb. Or, dull green as Lucas Garcia '23, the Vice President of Honor and Discipline, clammers onto the stage with a new Discipline Announcement. Patches of other colors may come into view as he rattles off the specifics of a recently committed violation of the Principal Expectations: red, white, gray.

According to a conversation between Student Council members and Associate Dean of Students Blake Eldridge '96 H'12 P'25, the administration's justification for this public announcement is two-fold. One, they seek to avoid providing students with written records to preserve and post online; they argue that if they were to make the announcement through email, they would enable students to cyberbully the student who committed the infraction. Two, they hope to provide students with the greater transparency that they requested at last year's town hall.

On the first justification: The execution of this verbal announcement both startled the student body and humiliated the student who received disciplinary action. The administration did not inform Student Council of the announcement until the school meeting dry run, which occurred only a day before the actual meeting itself. Meanwhile, the administration did not give advance notice to the student referenced in the announcement. Instead, the student was informed by a Student Council member the night before. Thus, the student directly affected by this announcement did not have any say whatsoever in the very public revelation of their mistake, and neither did their representatives on Student Council. Simply put, the administration simply steamrolled through violating a student's privacy.

Furthermore, the very nature of this announcement sets the stage for public humiliation. Mentioning the student's name rapidly narrowed down the identity of the announcement's subject. Given how quickly rumors disseminate throughout our small, tight-knit student body, the announcement's refocusing of student discourse only added fuel to the brushfire of rumors: it would not be particularly difficult for any student, in consultation with others, to speculate about and determine the person's identity. The lesson we are to learn from the announced infraction will fade into oblivion; only the identity of the person who committed it will remain. Our constant stigmatization of disciplinary infractions would only further ostracize and humiliate the person as well—far from the opportunity of redemption that a disciplinary committee's outcome is supposed to present.

Of course, in these scenarios, the ad-

ministration is not entirely at fault. Our unnecessarily harsh community reaction creates the negative image that envelops any person who received a major; Lawrenceville's hyper-competitive, gossip mill-like student culture produces that very reaction. Nothing is intrinsically wrong with a Major, and our student culture of shaming those who go through the disciplinary process needs to change. However, our culpability does not excuse the administration's limited efforts to prevent bullying. It is rather illogical for a group so well-versed in campus culture to concentrate their efforts on protecting students on the Internet while doing little to nothing to mitigate the risk of on-campus bullying itself. Besides, no guarantee exists that students' in-person taunts will not spill over into social me-

Ironically, true consistency and true personalization cannot truly co-exist. After all, a holistic, case-by-case evaluation of Principal Expectation violations requires inconsistency. If we maintain that no two disciplinary cases can be alike, then we cannot have a standardized system of evaluation for all cases. We cannot determine a set, step-by-step approach to multiple infractions grouped under some umbrella term (such as plagiarism or substance abuse) despite differing intent and severity. And if we do soldier on with our demands for a holistic disciplinary process, this newly-established holism cannot exist alongside a non-invasive form of transparency. We would need to know the details of every disciplinary infraction—including the intent, the way in which it was committed, and the severity—as well as the details of the resulting disciplinary action to enjoy a process that is both transparent and holistic. In short, we would need to receive a public announcement about every case—just as we did during last Thursday's school meeting.

The truth is that when advocating for reform, we must have a clear idea of not only what structures we want to overhaul, but what we exactly want to see in place of those overhauled structures. We wanted a greater say in shaping the School's policies and processes; we wanted our voices to be heard. Yet if we do not give the administration a blueprint for a disciplinary process that we believe will best cater to our needs, the administration will go ahead with what they believe is best for us. This announcement is simply the textbook example of such a case.

A hefty question remains: What exactly is our vision? That vision is something that we students must discuss, debate, and determine on our own. We cannot abandon the task of shaping a school in which we feel secure and well-supported.

Therefore, this Board believes that we must still entirely eliminate the public school meeting announcements of specific disciplinary cases. Those announcements are not something that we want or need. We must instead advocate for a less frequent publication of disciplinary data—whether through email or on Veracross—that analyzes the trends and patterns we notice in infractions across the School. A collective analysis of multiple infractions will not only divert focus from the identities of individual students, but allow the community to understand what our common struggles are, and how to address them. We still must push the administration for an overdue explanation of the severity of disciplinary actions—specifically, the differences between the newly developed minors and pre-existing majors.

That hefty question of what our vision is still remains. But equipped with greater clarity, collaborative discussions, and our ever-present desire for reform, we will be far more prepared to answer it.

This editorial represents the majority view of *The Lawrence*, Vol. CXLII.



Stephanie Xu '23 / THE LAWRENCE

dia, and thus dismantle the administration's campaign against cyberbullying.

On the second justification: We can be frustrated by the announcement and the promise of many more to come, but we cannot ignore our role in pushing the administration to promote transparency. Leading up to and during last year's town hall, what we most clamored for was transparency in the disciplinary process. The school meeting announcement allowed us to clearly see (or rather hear) the exact nature of the infraction, the Principal Expectation violated, and the specific disciplinary actions the administration took in reaction to the infraction.

In short, we received exactly what we asked for—even if that transparency was

to a degree that we feel is both unnecessary and somewhat demeaning.

But did we want what we asked for? Were we aware of the exact consequences of what we asked for in the first place? Or did we see transparency being thrown around in conversations criticizing the disciplinary process and pick that word up as a buzzword to wield against the administration, even when we had no cohesive definition for transparency itself?

For one, we did not request transparency alone—we requested a personalized and consistent disciplinary process.

We're All in This Together: Getting Out of the Pandemic, Once and For All

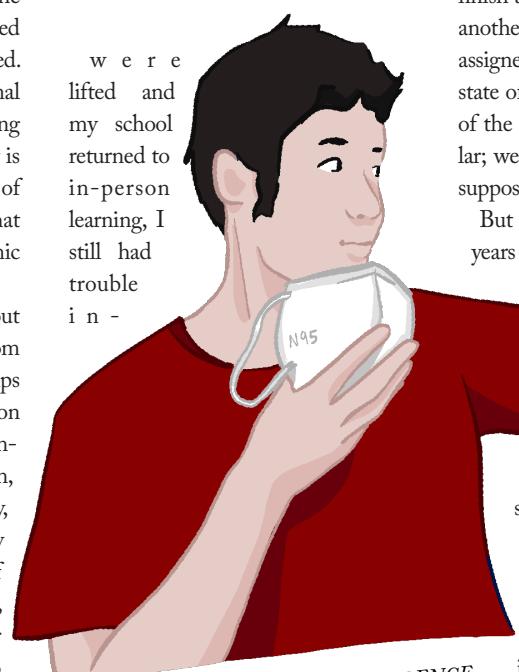
MICHAEL MENG '26

This new school year means the end of mask fishing, six-foot social distancing, and fully online classes. Nonetheless, the Covid-19 pandemic is still fresh in our minds. When the pandemic first hit the United States, I felt excited for an extended Spring Break; yet once that two-week break turned into a month, then into the rest of the school year, my excitement dissipated. I quit all the activities I used to love, and I lacked the motivation to get out of bed. However, I refused to seek external help from friends or family, believing that I could get through it myself. It is this habit of self-reliance that many of us developed over the pandemic that makes adjusting to the post-pandemic world so difficult.

The safety guidelines brought about by the pandemic prevented us from maintaining and building relationships with others. Turning your camera on is the only available form of social interaction in online classes. Even then, all we see of our peers are grainy, 360-pixel images—our community doesn't feel real. The rescinding of mask mandates, social distancing, and online learning has reunited our community. Simply being able to see and be near each other gives us a tangible community to hold onto—we are able to realize that there are people around us whom we can lean on.

Yet even after pandemic restrictions

Simply being able to see and be near each other gives us a tangible community to hold onto—we are able to realize that there are people around us whom we can lean on.



Mimie Pinpakkornkul '25 / THE LAWRENCE

ter - acting with others. Simple tasks like introducing myself became difficult—I just wasn't used to interacting with

people outside of Zoom. The immediate transition to in-person learning made me scramble to fill an impossibly wide gap. We were expected to jump back into a world that didn't wait for us to get ready, and grow within it while playing catch-up. It's unsurprising that our social abilities are stunted. As I tried to make up for lost time and restore my social skills, I only fell further behind. Think of it as missing a few days worth of school. Once you finish the assignments that you missed, another load of work has already been assigned—you're stuck in a constant state of playing catch up. The legacy of the Covid-19 pandemic is similar; we lost all the years that were supposed to prepare us for today.

But I didn't just miss out on years of socializa-

drove myself into a corner; although the pandemic had forcibly separated me from my peers, I continued those same habits after restrictions were lifted. Just because we know that there are people who support us doesn't mean that we will always turn to them. Hardships are inevitable, and we can't always just push through them on our own. The obstacles we face seem worse when we don't have people to discuss them with—



tion—I lost years of social development that I underwent before the pandemic too. The isolation that I faced as a result of stay-at-home orders made me feel as if I didn't have people to reach out to, and I was in a state of denial about how desperately I needed to talk—I managed to rely solely on myself during the pandemic, so why couldn't I simply continue to do so? I

without someone to ground our thoughts, there's nothing stopping us from catastrophizing. When you talk to someone about your problems, you can conclude that what was once something very overwhelming doesn't seem all that bad anymore.

But all wasn't lost—especially when

I realized that I could lean on my peers. Several of my social problems were resolved after I began forming relationships with friends whom I trusted. I started going on bike rides and trips to the local mall with the students I met online. Each new interaction I had with them made me happier to be around people. It's okay to not be okay; what isn't okay, however, is suffering alone in silence.

As a community, we Lawrentians should always strive to be as inclusive and empathetic as possible. We may all come from different backgrounds, but we've all been impacted by the Covid-19 pandemic. It's up for us to rebound from it together. We must reach out regularly to both our friends on campus and old friends we had, even if we don't regularly communicate with them anymore. I may have taken my relationships with my friends for granted—but after going through the pandemic, I don't know what I would have done without them. So the next

time you scroll through your contacts and find someone you used to hang out with, check in on them. Chances are, everyone is still struggling to adjust, but difficulties in transitioning are something that we all experience; it's important to know that we're all in this together!

Capitalism: The Cereal Killer of Breakfast

SABRINA OTTAWAY '25

A common trope of breakfast commercials is that of the tired boy brought to life by cereal. A young boy trudges down the stairs, thinking of the long school day ahead of him. His sullen and tired disposition, mirroring the pale overlay of the advertisement, transforms the second he eats a spoonful of the cereal waiting for him at the dining table. Suddenly, everything changes: Bright sunlight pours in through the windows, upbeat music plays, and the boy's eyes widen with vigor and excitement. As the flowers in the garden bloom, his suburban neighborhood is reinvigorated with color. Now, he struts out of the house, school bag in hand, ready to take on the day. Admittedly, not all breakfast commercials follow this formula; others are merely humorous cartoons of lovable cereal mascots or catchy rap songs. However, they almost always end with a shot of the cereal alongside milk and fruit, with the phrase, "part of a balanced breakfast."

Whether it be in school, at home, or on TV, a cultural reverence for breakfast is commonplace. A common adage alleges that breakfast is "the most important meal of the day." I used to worry that without eating breakfast, I'd lack the focus and energy I'd need to learn in school and engage in all of my life's endeavors. However would I get through middle school math without my bowl of Honey Nut Cheerios?

It's not like these beliefs are made up. Several studies show that cognitive performance, including memory, attention,

mood, and arithmetic skills, improve with habitual consumption of breakfast. One scientific review further concludes that habitual breakfast consumption is positively associated with academic performance. Though we rightfully praise breakfast, our current breakfast culture contradicts the goals that the ideal of the American breakfast claims to purport. Look no further than IHOP, a popular breakfast franchise and beacon of traditional American breakfast with more than 1,600 locations. Stacks of pancakes are served with chocolate chips, butter, whipped cream, chocolate and caramel sauces, maple syrup, Nutella, and frosting. In fact, the amount of sugar in each dish can range from 24 percent to 140 percent of the recommended amount of added sugars for a typical 2,000-calorie-per-day diet. Additionally, typical American breakfast staples tend to be heavily processed and rich with added sugars.

With such a strong emphasis on the nutritional value of breakfast, how did the American institution of breakfast become corrupted by nutritionally weak foods? Traditionally, flour, water, salt, and yeast were the main components of bread. However, in the midst of the 19th century, bread making was indus-

trialized. Chemicals like rising agents, dough conditioners, and bleachers were added to recipes to both produce bread at a larger scale, and also to make bread whiter, softer, longer-lasting and, as a result, more marketable.

An increasing demand for aesthetically pleasing and unusually long-lasting bread spurred food corporations to transform our traditional breakfast recipes by incorporating newly invented chemicals. In fact, potassium bromate, one chemical that helps bread rise, is associated with kidney and thyroid cancers in rodents. In spite of the potential dangers that such additives pose, because they appeal to our perception of breakfast, they have made their way into our daily breakfast staples.

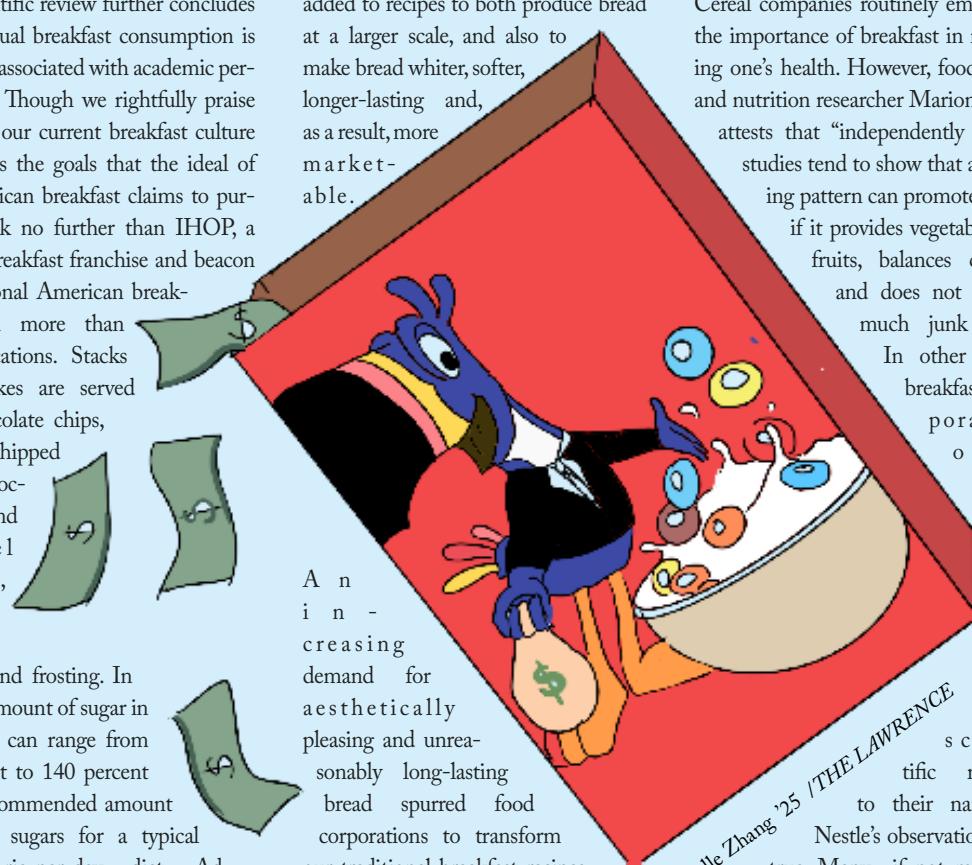
Furthermore, the ever-increasing addition of unnecessary sugar in

breakfast foods contradicts with the advertisements that promote them. Cereal companies routinely emphasize the importance of breakfast in managing one's health. However, food policy and nutrition researcher Marion Nestle attests that "independently funded studies tend to show that any eating pattern can promote health if it provides vegetables and fruits, balances calories, and does not include much junk food."

In other words, breakfast corporations often overlook nuances to fit current scientific research to their narratives. Nestle's observations ring true. Many—if not most—of the studies demonstrating the superior health of breakfast eaters were funded by none other than Kellogg, as well as other corporations who have a vested interest in asserting that the consumption of breakfast reigns supreme. Though cereal's true ingredients potentially challenge claims of nutritional quality, corporations like Kellogg continue to misleadingly leverage research emphasizing the importance of break-

fast to advertise their own products. The unhealthy breakfast norms that these corporations help perpetuate have ultimately undermined the potential benefits of habitual breakfast consumption. Corporations use the cultural significance of breakfast, as well as the scientific research surrounding it to market their own products.

Initially, breakfast aligned with our best interests. We used decades of robust scientific research to inform our reverence for the meal. Since then, however, the cultural significance of breakfast has been exploited by businesses who prioritize their sales and profits over the general population's well-being. Now, the most accessible breakfast items betray decades of scientific research on the importance of nutritionally-rich foods. The time has come for us to critically examine not just whether or not we eat breakfast, but how we eat breakfast. As corporations exploit our most basic values and instincts to coerce us to buy their products, it may seem as if we are destined to be coerced into consumeristic habits, and that the preservation of our own well-being is lost in the corporate pursuit for sales and profit. However, by learning of the common tactics leveraged by companies and scrutinizing our habits to ensure our words and actions reflect our values, we can thwart advertising schemes and deconstruct the power they hold over us. Without critically examining the dissonance between what we eat and what we say, we risk reinforcing the factually inaccurate rhetoric of cereal companies and, ultimately, deteriorating our health.



Michelle Zhang '25 / THE LAWRENCE

Friday Night Drip Art with MUSE

**HELENA CHEN '24
NICHOLE JIN '24**

On October 7, the Muse Council hosted an art event in GCAD where students could come and drip paint, a form of abstract art in which paint is poured or dripped onto a canvas.

"We want to get as much of the community involved in visual arts as possible, regardless of what skill level people may be at," Ria Patel '23 said. Muse then came up with the drip art idea, as drip art can be "as simple or complicated as [the artist] would like." Faculty members also played a major role in organizing the event alongside the Muse Council, with Director of Student Life Ian August and other teachers supplying food, beverages, materials, and setup. "They have been super helpful and supportive," Patel said.

The Friday night event was "chill and relaxed," with music, cupcakes, and canvases for drip painting. "It's supposed to be a place where you can just relax, pop in, and do some art, since we know Lawrenceville can be really busy sometimes," Rania Shah '23 said. Students came to support their friends and paint canvases, with every person using "the same outline but doing something completely different with their paintings." Many of the paintings

exceeded Shah's expectations and were very creative.

The Muse Council is planning on displaying the art pieces outside the foundation classroom in GCAD to create a mural with all the individual paintings. "It becomes this much larger thing, with each person's drip painting forming one big idea with smaller ideas in it," Shah elaborated. Muse might even host another event focused on assembling all the pieces to create the mural, reinforcing the idea of community art and involving more people on campus in art.

Since Muse is a relatively new council, their goal for this year is to organize more community art projects similar to this one. "We definitely want to do more large-group workshops and projects that get the school involved as a whole," Patel said.

One example of an event they are planning on hosting later in the year is the annual Winter Arts Auction, which will support a local organization for non-profit art. Another idea is for a community art event on All Arts Night: "People can write how art matters to them and we'll create a cute mural with those writings," Patel said. There will also be a sticker sale on Parents' Weekend, and proceeds will go towards "Big Red Cause or an art-based nonprofit."

SHLOKA CHODHARI '26

Starting on the week of September 14, representatives from colleges across the world have been visiting Lawrenceville to get to know prospective applicants from the School. During these meetings, V Formers have received the opportunity to understand colleges better and ask specific questions to admissions counselors.

Co-Director of College Counseling Holly Burks Becker P'06 '09 '12, noted that the colleges invited to campus are the ones that many Lawrentians apply to, as well as a few that the College Counseling Office (CCO) recommends that students consider. The CCO also works with colleges that have a particular interest in recruiting Lawrenceville students. "We invite about 200 different colleges," Burks-Becker added.

Scheduling the visits is a long, complex process. As Burks-Becker described, "Sometime in the summer, we wait to see what Lawrenceville's calendar looks like for the [Fall Term], and most colleges expect us to send out an invitation by email...which are then to be followed up for those colleges that have not responded." Typically, invitations are sent out in early July, but "Lawrenceville

Sonia Lackey '25 Wins MATHCOUNTS Community Scholarship

KADEN LU '26

Congratulations to Sonia Lackey '25 on winning the MATHCOUNTS Community Scholarship.

Lackey applied for the scholarship program in early June, after she first learned about its existence. She won the scholarship in recognition of her proposal to create a math tutoring program at Village Charter School (VCS) in Princeton, New Jersey. As the winner of this scholarship, she plans on using the money and resources to fund a math tutoring program beginning on October 10. This scholarship provides a year of free access to the MATHCOUNTS problem-solving library, which includes worksheets and problems, 2 years of access to their 3 programs, and covers the costs of up to 12 students.

Lackey wanted to create this tutoring program in hopes of helping educate students who live in poverty. She said that while growing up, she fostered a passion for math, and she wanted to give other students an opportunity to become through MATHCOUNTS as curious about STEM as she. She entered this competition to encourage students in underserved schools to become more interested in STEM. Lackey mentioned that the number of people of color in STEM positions is disproportionately smaller in the U.S., as they are disproportionately affected by poverty, and thus make up most of underprivileged com-

munities. By creating this program, she hopes to "give [those living in underserved communities] more opportunities and help break the cycle of systemic racism."

This math program aims to help underprivileged children in middle school by piquing students' interests in STEM. In particular, Lackey wants to support the math curriculum at

program, Lackey will frequently visit VCS to help teach the students as a coach. She will supply her students with codes to access the library of problems and guide them during their time learning. Everything that she received from the scholarship from MATHCOUNTS will contribute to her teaching of these students.

By participating and found-



Sonia Lackey '25

Courtesy of *The Lawrenceville School*

ing this program for the Village Charter School, Lackey hopes to help serve her community by providing free access to these after-school classes. When asked why she created this program, she said that she wasn't doing this for herself; instead, she did it so that more people, particularly those living in underprivileged communities around her, could realize the wonders of STEM.

Colleges Visit The Lawrenceville School



Flags Outside of the College Counseling Office

Tiffany Wen '23/*THE LAWRENCE*

way of gauging my interests in a school."

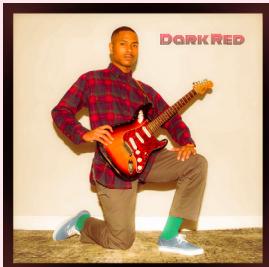
Egu is looking forward to meeting with college representatives and asking them questions that she typically would not be able to find answers to online. She expressed how it is a chance for her to obtain more information about these institutions that will help influence her decisions on colleges to which she wishes to apply.

Regarding the format of the visits, Burks-Becker said, "We have two different kinds of visits in the fall. Some colleges come during the day during consultation, and others come throughout 6 different evenings, also known as mini-fairs." A mini-fair of colleges occurs in Woods Memorial Hall, with each college setting up shop in a classroom. "There is always much [V Form] energy coming out of these mini fairs," Burks-Becker said. "This night allows the [college] admission team to see what it is like to be around a Harkness table; this is also great for having open conversations. Night fairs are great for students to expand their lists and be more open-minded about different colleges." Wishing the best of luck to the Class of 2023 as they embark on a journey to finish their college applications!

Chintamaneni '23 said, "With the help of my college counselor, I narrowed down a list of schools that I wanted to apply to based on the size, location, and programs offered. I then visited many of the schools on this list." By attending tours, Chintamaneni got a feel for the campus atmosphere and listened to current students' per-

The Ultimate Fall Playlist

SIMI RATH '26



"Dark Red" Album Cover
Courtesy of Genius Lyrics

"Dark Red"

As we welcome the striking hues of changing leaves around campus, Steve Lacy's alt/indie hit, "Dark Red," is the perfect complement to the fall season. Whether one has listened to this song one time or one hundred times, the lyrics' hummable quality never diminishes. Like a warm fall flannel, Lacy's instrumentals never clash despite the many layers present in his music.



"November" Album Cover
Courtesy of Genius Lyrics

"November"

The final month of fall is one of the most beautiful, and Tyler the Creator deeply expresses his unflinching appreciation of the month of November. His nostalgic lyrics reminisce about his past Novembers while honestly reflecting upon his present insecurities. For lovers of rap (and even haters of it), this song is sure to become a fall favorite.



"505" Album Cover
Courtesy of Genius Lyrics

"505"

In my opinion, this song is truly a multi-seasonal bop; however, I also feel that the gentle beats conjure images of fall evenings, hot apple cider, and cinnamon sticks. The ever-present theme of wanting to relive the magic of the past is enough to draw anyone to the Arctic Monkey's emotional songs this fall.



"Cardigan" Album Cover
Courtesy of Genius Lyrics

"Cardigan"

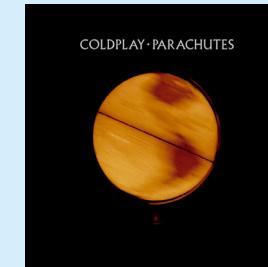
No song is cozier than "Cardigan," and that is simply a fact. In one of Taylor Swift's deeper songs, every lyric carries significance and meaning that flawlessly pair with the gentle piano and other instrumentals. The warmth in her lyrics allows for an immersive listening experience that tells a story, one of Swift's songwriting superpowers.



"1979" Album Cover
Courtesy of Genius Lyrics

"1979"

The Smashing Pumpkins's song "1979" terrifically matches the fall mood in every aspect, from its ten-out-of-ten instrumentals to the band name of its talented creators. An oldie but a goodie, the melody is even sweeter than any trick-or-treating haul. This song reminds us to acknowledge the beauty of the present moment instead of worrying too much about the future.



"Yellow" Album Cover
Courtesy of Genius Lyrics

"Yellow"

If you have never warranted this Coldplay hit a listen, you are (in the kindest way possible) a mildly flawed human being. Arguably Coldplay's most iconic song, "Yellow" blends strong electric and bass guitars with its powerful message.

Hispanic Heritage Month: Suave Profile

SOFIA BONILLA '24

The diversity in Lawrenceville's cultural life can be seen in various forms: the wide variety affinity groups on campus, unique feeds that incorporate cuisines from across the globe, and even within Lawrenceville's very own dance teams. For Hispanic Heritage Month, Allison Calderon '24, captain of the Latinx-style dance team Suave, reflected on how her culture has been intertwined with the arts throughout her time at Lawrenceville.

Though Calderon juggles many different roles and responsibilities in her day-to-day life at Lawrenceville, she shared that Suave is "an open space...and reallywhere [she] found her place in school." She commented on her desire to replicate the dance community that was fostered last year, cultivating an environment of being "one big Suave family."

Suave is an outlet for students in the Latinx community to find solace and explore their culture, but it is also open to anyone who is curious and willing to try something new. According to Calderon, the majority of last year's members

were not actually members of the Latinx community. These students'

would often hear peers remark on

students who want to learn more about Latinx culture

choreographies with traditional Latin dance styles, typically bachata, merengue, salsa, or cumbia. It then transitions into a more modern dance style, keeping elements of the more traditional Latinx dances. This fusion of tradition and modernity not only appeals to the eyes, but also makes the dances more fun, drawing in different students from various backgrounds.

When Calderon looked at her own life and her relationship to dance within her culture, the importance of dance was highlighted throughout the contrast between Latin American countries' traditions and traditions from other countries. In Latinx culture, dance is a pivotal skill, uniting and joining people all over Latin America, wherever they may be. Its centrality to Latin American culture serves to showcase and beautifully

display how important it is for Lawrenceville to promote this creative outlet, creating a space not only to participate in Latinx culture, but also to watch it and learn about another culture through performing arts.



openness led them to new experiences, as they listened to new music and danced in new styles. She remarked that the group's performances also served to solidify Latinx culture for the audience as well, and that she

Emily Pan '24 / THE LAWRENCE

how interesting and appealing the songs and dances were.

The importance of Suave at our school cannot be overstated because it creates a safe space for

regardless of whether or not they are ethnically Latinx. Dance's cultural significance in Latin American countries helps to enrich the ties between students and Latinx culture. Calderon emphasizes this by starting her

Catching Campus's Most Famous Critters



Essie Chafin '26 on her farm in North Carolina

Courtesy of Essie Chafin '26

SOPHIE BILANIN '26

The black squirrels commonly found around campus may not actually be as much of an enigma as they seem. These are actually eastern gray squirrels with a genetic condition that causes an unnatural distribution of melanin around their bodies. Legend has it that the squirrels were first imported by Princeton University alum, Moses Taylor Pyne, in the late 1800s. They were to be a part of the private zoo at his Princeton Mansion, Druimhacket, which is now the New Jersey governor's mansion. As they are more aggressive and territorial than other squirrel species, the black squirrels quickly scared off all competition and took over the area.

Essie Chafin '26 has taken a particular interest in catching these squirrels. Born and raised on a sheep farm in Tarboro, North Carolina, Chafin has considerable experience dealing with wild animals. She has been catching birds, skunks, and rabbits from a young age with the help of her two border collie poodle mixes, Stella and Luna. Chafin would also herd and show the sheep on her farm, demonstrating extreme patience and skill.

After a little over a week on campus, Chafin began not only noticing the strangely pigmented squirrels, but also expressing inter-

rest in catching one before the end of the school year. When asked why, she responded, "Everyone is saying that I can't, and I think it would be cool to take a selfie with it." Even with these peculiar motivations, Chafin set her mind on catching a campus squirrel and began to form a plan. Yuna Cho '26 explained to Chafin how she used to catch squirrels with her friends back home in Atlanta, Georgia. Cho would hold food out and stay perfectly still for up to half an hour, waiting for a squirrel to climb into her hand. Chafin took inspiration from this method and decided to spread peanut butter on a pair of gloves to lure in the squirrels.

Once students overheard the conversation with Cho, it was only a matter of time before both Dawes House and the rest of campus was bustling with excitement about the girl who wanted to catch a squirrel. It seemed that any non-Lawrentian, male student, upperformer, or teacher questioned about the topic was confident in Chafin's failure. When asked for their opinions, two angry IV Formers Avery Bilanin '24 and Noah George '24 heatedly exclaimed, "She will never succeed!" Similarly, Sari Ashinoff, a student at the Rumson Fair Haven High School who has never met Chafin, answered "prob not" to this controversial

question. One exception to this is English Teaching Fellow, Gabrielle Lescadre, who expressed belief in Chafin's success, stating, "[Chafin] looks very agile, and she gives off squirrel-catching energy."

Some students even worried for her safety, fearing rabies and scratches. Although squirrels typically aren't known to attack humans, they do scratch and bite when they feel threatened. They also have very sharp claws and could accidentally wound anyone who tries to touch them. Though rodents are almost never infected with rabies, squirrels do carry illnesses and parasites that are just as dangerous. Despite this danger, a poll of 36 Dawes girls revealed that 67 percent still believe in Chafin's abilities. Simi Rath '26 even described her confidence in Chafin's "perseverance," "speed," and "true Southern grit."

After learning of the general positive consensus, Chafin stated, "I am so grateful for all of the love and support. I will not disappoint." Although the past few busy weeks have not yet allowed for any attempts, a recent drop in temperature has started to close the squirrel catching window. Who knows what the coming weeks hold in store for our campus's mysterious black squirrels!

Ropes Course Instructors: What it Takes to Don the Yellow Shirt

WILLIAM WANG '24
FEATURES ASSOCIATE

With their yellow shirts and unrelenting positivity at dawn on a Sunday morning, the Ropes Course Instructors (RCIs) spearhead a number of important social activities throughout the School year. Leading events including II Form Orientation and the Night Climb at the Joshua L. Miner Ropes Course, affectionately known as the Josh, the RCIs play a critical role in fostering a sense of community. The Head RCIs, V Formers Reese Abromavage, Andrew Boanoh, Ford Collins, and Emma Kim are no strangers to the responsibilities and challenges of their position.

"The role of an RCI is to help build a community in the many senses of the word...This year we're really trying to cater a lot of our facilitation towards the [Student Council] theme of ONE (Our Next Era), so that's a focus on unity and innovation. A lot of the bonding activities we put together for groups that come up to the Josh work towards these goals," Boanoh remarked.

Although RCIs work on a multitude of events across the school year, II Form Orientation stands out as the most important to them. Boanoh believes that "on orientation day, an RCI's face is one of the first connections II Formers make with Lawrenceville, so it's vital that we are examples of what

it means to be a Lawrentian."

Collins spoke of his own II Form Orientation experiences as the driving influence behind his joining the RCI team. "They endured the exhausting heat and helped break down the barriers that exist in those first days of [II Form] year," recalled Collins. "My RCIs welcomed me into the community, saying 'hi' to me around campus weeks after orientation. The small gesture of greeting me made me feel more a part of Lawrenceville. By joining the RCIs, I could show my gratitude and pass along the tradition of helping to welcome all the new students into our community."

The Head RCIs play a critical role beyond their work on the Josh; they meet with Heads of Houses and faculty members to set goals for bonding, make schedules, inspect the equipment, and perfect optimal belay setups. But before the school year or even II Form Orientation begins, all RCIs convene for their preseason. RCI preseason is a week-long training program during which participants learn about the research, theory, and practical skills needed to belay someone 70 feet in the air, as well as how to create valuable lessons from these experiences. At the end of the week, students take a written and practical test to assess the skills that they have learned.

In addition to II Form Orientation, the RCIs plan and schedule a number of other ac-

tivities, including House sessions and Night Climbs. Night Climbs are a highlight of the Fall Term; Abromavage said that "it is an opportunity for all the students to climb, and we usually have music and s'mores." House events on the Josh, on the other hand, play an important role in building bonds and contributing to a sense of community.

According to Collins, "climbing requires you to have trust in the belayer. The Josh is all about bringing people together, and it's one of the things that I think helps to make Lawrenceville the community that it is."

Although the application process for RCIs may seem competitive and challenging, Boanoh believes the easiest way to stand out is simple: "I know it's cliché, but just be yourself!"

Abromavage prioritizes applicants who "will be good leaders. This means they present good ideas during the tryout and have belay and outdoor leadership skills."

Collins said that although "it helps if you have belaying skills...it is by no means necessary. I, myself, had no prior experience belaying before becoming a RCI." Collins believes that the



The Ropes Course Instructors

Courtesy of The Lawrenceville School

Lawrentians' Coming Out Stories

In honor of National Coming Out Day, observed every October 11, *The Lawrence* is publishing several Lawrenceville students' coming out stories, some named and others anonymous. While we typically do not publish from anonymous sources, we want students to feel comfortable sharing their stories with the greater Lawrenceville community.

National Coming Out Day was first observed in 1988. Inspired by the Second National March on Washington for Lesbian and Gay Rights in 1987, the day supports individuals of the LGBTQI+ community and their decisions to share their identity.

Have you ever tasted a word? Words? The first time I said the words "I'm gay" in succession my mouth tasted like rotten fish and moldy limes. I was already crying, and the words made my face twist and scrunch inwards. I've said that phrase an infinite amount since then, and I'm happy to report that with each utterance, the intense flavor lessened until it lost all flavor. There are four parts of any coming out/ letting in experience. I don't claim that my list is all encompassing or representative of everyone's experience—just my own.

Eric Frankel '23

Since I had made the connection between my feelings and the word 'gay' in May of sixth grade, I thought about telling someone every night before I went to bed. I'm not known to keep to myself in any circumstance, let alone when it's something as huge as realizing my sexuality. Laying on my side, staring at my pillow, I'd think about it until my heart rate rose into my ears. The anticipation. I knew I couldn't keep it to myself; I didn't want to. It just felt so disgusting and gross and frightening to actually say the words to another person. In very cliché nightmares I'd see my family's faces contort into sneers, frown, disgust, and every single shade of disdain after I said "I'm Gay." The word was capitalized. A diagnosis. Bobbing my knee up and down, knowing there was an ice cube lodged in my throat and I was, at any moment, seconds away from vomiting it up.

Eventually I made the choice to overcome that anticipation and say the words; thus started the skittishness. I've become familiar enough with the feeling that it feels null. But my body can easily remember how it felt. Tense, unusual, evolutionary. Using language to convey an idea about who I loved, my body felt like it was being stalked by a predator and at any sight of motion I needed to play dead or run. Maneuvering this way, or that way, rubbing my hands on my pants because my hands felt so wet, noticing the way my hair feels on my ears, keeping my head swiveling just a little bit. I would skirt around anything except the actual act of coming out. If there was a proverbial bush, I was beating around it. I felt this huge wave foaming, curling, and I was in that limbo where you keep on marching towards the shore disregarding the ocean behind, because no matter if there is a wave or not you have to keep walking.

I study their face. Incredibly closely. It's the observation. Do their eyebrows raise? Is their face relaxed? Does their mouth open? Do they move away? I could write an infinite list of all the things not to say to someone after they've come out to you. I'll attempt positivity: the best things to say make people feel most loved and least alien. Say, "awesome!" or better yet "okay". I enjoy being a whole person whose sexuality is just that, a sexuality—and not their personality, emblem, or whole self.

In my experience (knock on wood), after every time I've come out to someone I experience some sort of anti-climactic relief. The come down. When I came out to my parents I thought "Born This Way (Acoustic)" by Lady Gaga would start playing and the camera would pan into us hugging and my dog would, perfectly timed, hop into my bed. Instead they were kind and treated it as another piece of information. From the very big to the very small, every time I come out I re-enter my body and my heart stops beating out of my chest.

"I'm gay." Sure there are many times when 'coming out' is powerful, necessary

and helpful. Looking back on it, though, I think I would be fine if I never did. Forget "coming out" and therefore labeling myself as outside of the norm, why not just call a boy cute? Tell someone who my crush is? I'm very happy to repeat that there's no singular correct methodology to being queer, to coming out, or to authenticity. I take it day by day, hour by hour. In moments of clarity I try to speak my truth, no matter the taste of the words.

Eric Frankel '23

My coming out story, like so many others, is complicated, messy, and confusing. Every gay person wants to have a magical, fairy tale kind of story where they finally tell everybody their true identity and are celebrated, while this incredibly heavy weight liftsoff of their shoulders at last—however, this is rarely a reality. Much of my story consists of years of repressing and hiding my identity, not just from other people but from myself. Sometimes, I would wake up in the middle of the night so overwhelmed with the thought that I might actually be gay that I might really have to deal with a life so different than what I had imagined. People don't realize how much work it is to be closeted. You have to watch the way you dress: nothing too masculine, or there might be a rumor at school. You have to keep up the front that you like the opposite sex, telling your friends about whatever made-up crush you picked that month. You have to convince other people so much that you sometimes feel like you might just be able to convince yourself.

I wish that the moment I came to terms with myself and my sexuality was more eventful. I wish it was a first love, a conversation with a friend that made me feel comfortable enough to confide in them, or some other heartwarming story, but the truth is that I got sick and tired of lying to everyone in my life, especially myself. How does a straight person realize they are straight? The same way a gay person realizes they are gay: You just know. The difference is that gay people are expected to have some crazy story with plot twists and turns and intense moments. That's not my story. My story is as simple and embarrassing as my mom reading through texts on my phone and figuring out herself, then prompting me to tell the rest of my family, which I did. This led to a period of time where my sexuality was never acknowledged or spoken about, but was at the very least known. There was no weight lifted off of my shoulders, no beautiful moment, no magical pride parade that carried me off into the sunset.

When I came to Lawrenceville, I was done with my act. I had a plan of action to enter this school as myself, sexuality and all, and use this upfrontness and honesty to weed out the people I truly wanted to be friends with from the ones whom I did not. This was when the weight, or at least some of it, was lifted from my shoulders—when I was finally in a place where I could dress however I wanted, like whomever I wanted, and talk honestly about all parts of myself. I think that this is a better fit description of what "coming out" truly is. It's not a declaration to the world or one specific moment. The majority of coming out is really just self-acceptance, although that usually isn't the story people want to hear. Coming out is a process that often happens in painful and long phases, but more than anything, coming out is about finding a place where you feel sup-

ported and people who you feel loved by.

Camille Trench '23

I don't remember well the day I came out. My sister remembers the exact date better than I do, and she wishes me well on the anniversary, but it is a day that I would prefer to forget. It was the year before I came to Lawrenceville, while I was arguing with my mother. The topic is not important—it was something inane.

My mother brought up boys. Something about how they would never be attracted to my behavior, if I remember correctly. Then, I made a stupid decision in my anger.

"Well, what if I like girls?"

There was a lot of crying that night. I got the cliché response of how my parents would love me but would never be able to accept me. I remember one sentence very clearly:

"You are breaking our hearts."

Suddenly, my most vulnerable moment became a moment of sadness for them, like they were baring a part of themselves and were rejected, like they were told that they could never be happy without making everyone else in the family feel miserable.

I don't think my parents remember what they said to me. If they do, they don't regret it. Although I don't regret being out, I wish I hadn't come out like that. Ignorance is bliss, you know? I wish I was still ignorant of what my parents thought of me.

Anonymous

Senior Spring is a weird time. Around April, I started spending a lot of extra time with one of the girls in my friend group. For weeks, I could tell that she liked me in a way that was more than platonic, but I just couldn't wrap my head around this idea. One thing led to another, and suddenly my mind was telling me I was straight, but my heart was telling me that this girl and I were definitely more than friends. I'd never truly felt this way about a girl before, and suddenly there was one asking me to be more than just a friend, and a part of me didn't hate that idea.

For weeks, she was at the top of my mind. It was less about her and more about everyone else. My biggest worry was what everyone else would think. I think it's great to love whomever you want to love, but this was no longer a concept or idea I was supporting; it was about me. What would our friend group think? Would they be awkward when we all hung out together? What about my parents; I didn't even know how they felt about this. And my friends from home, how were they going to treat me when they found out? None of my concerns were unfounded. I'd heard those friends and their parents make some inappropriate jokes about the LGBTQI+ community, but would that change when it became more personal? I had one month of high school left, and the last thing I wanted to do was "come out" to my friends and family when I wasn't even really sure whether this relationship would last.

So I asked the girl who started as my friend—and was suddenly my girlfriend—if we could keep it between us. Our secret. In order to not complicate things further, I did everything in my power to keep this between us. It wasn't that I was embarrassed, I just wasn't ready. Going into it, we knew the distance between our colleges was going to end this relationship by August. So for me at least, it wasn't worth



Anika Ponnambalam '25/THE LAWRENCE

making a fuss over when we knew the end was so near.

This girl and I spent our last month of high school together. It was one of the best experiences of my life. I learned more about myself than I learned in the past four years and found out that I could actually open my heart to someone. We spent our days pretending to just be friends and our nights together without worrying about anyone questioning anything. I'm not going to lie, it was stressful—constantly making up cover stories for where we were and resisting the urge in group settings to tell everyone how we felt. Personally, I loved having something that was private and just ours. It was definitely hard sometimes not having anyone to confide in or talk to when she and I fought or needed help navigating a situation that wasn't easy. In every relationship, both people need an outside party to talk through milestones and situations. My fear kept us from having that.

Along the way, I made some huge steps in my journey identifying as bisexual. By the beginning of July, I made the decision to tell one of my best friends. While I was telling her, I felt like my heart was thumping out of my chest, and I could pass out at any moment; when it was finally over, I did feel a lot more free. Having someone to confide in made a huge difference. However, just because I told one person who I knew would support me still didn't mean I was ready to tell the rest. We only had a month and a half of our relationship left before we packed up for college, and I wanted to keep it personal.

I think one of the scariest days of my life was when her family found out. After they found out, I avoided her house for a while. There was no reason for me to do this; they were nothing but excited. I was just scared. The final days were hard. A huge hug from her father and a day out together holding hands in front of her sister was not easy for me. No matter how much I loved her, there was something about being together out in the open that still scared me. It still made me nervous, even when I subconsciously knew there was nothing to be nervous about.

At the end of August, we broke up. Was it hard? Yes. But day by day, I'm moving on. About two weeks into college, our mutual best friend called my ex-girlfriend to confront her about whether or not we were dating. In the back of my mind, I knew she would figure it out sooner or later. Although it was one of the hardest deci-

sions I've ever made, two weeks after the relationship ended, I told my ex she could tell our friend everything. I was scared out of my mind. To my surprise, our friend was thrilled for us. After months of fighting to tell her, I never expected how much I would love the fact that she knew. Every time I have a dilemma or want to talk about the relationship, she is there for me. She even makes jokes about my relationship with my ex like any other—not one between her two best friends—and that has actually made me feel more comfortable.

Although I felt a little more open to telling the rest of our friends about my sexuality, I was still scared. Then I had an academic setback. Recently, I've been having trouble with my short-term working memory. My doctor thinks it has to do with stressors and anxiety behind keeping such a large secret. Some of my grades started slipping, so I decided to talk to my ex-girlfriend about coming out to the rest of our friends to hopefully help my memory a little. One by one, we told our friends the secret we were keeping. A part of me was still scared every time one of them picked up the phone. I still don't have the exact science of coming out. I mean, it's kind of a big deal, and honestly I'm not 100 percent sure what I am yet. Do I like guys? Yes. Do I like girls? Yes. Am I bisexual? I guess?

So where am I now? Our best friends and her family know about the relationship. We're both moving on from it. It was probably four of the best months of my life. I never knew how much I could love a single person, and I feel stronger and more in touch with my emotions than ever. I owe so much to her for taking the first step and initiating the relationship, because I would have never done it myself. I'm not the same person I used to be, and that's more than okay. I can't say that I'm going to tell my family anytime soon. I also can't say that my friends at home will ever know about this relationship. But I'm more open to the possibility now. When people at college ask me about my sexuality, I tell them I'm bisexual. I'm not afraid to admit that I just got out of a relationship with a girl. Honestly, I'm proud of it and how far I've come. These have been the most eventful six months of my life, and I owe so much to that girl whom I met less than a year ago today and who has absolutely changed my life.

Anonymous

Captain's Profile: Girls' Varsity Soccer's Julia Chiang '23

ELLIE TURCHETTA '25 &
MADDIE MCINTYRE '25

While Lawrenceville has many fall sports teams to go and watch on a Saturday afternoon, the stands of the Girls' Varsity Soccer game this year have been as full as any. From their first scrimmage against the Steinert High School to their most recent game against Mercersburg Academy, the Girls' Varsity Soccer team has proved that they are a force to be reckoned with this year. After playing Mercersburg this past Saturday, Girls' Varsity Soccer was one of the many Lawrenceville teams who walked away with a win. The game marked the teams' first Mid-Atlantic Prep League (MAPL) competition this season, as the team will play Peddie, Blair, Hun, and Hill in the coming weeks.

With their current record of two wins, three losses, and two draws, the Girls' Varsity Soccer team seems to be really getting in their stride. Captain Julia Chiang '23, a member of the team since her II Form year, agrees. "I think our team is off to a really good first half of the season," she said. "Although our record might not portray how hard we've been working, I think we've had a really difficult lineup for our schedule for the first half, and our team has really been working hard in practice."

Upon receiving the role of



Chiang leads the line during warmups.

captain in the Spring of 2022, Chiang welcomed the change but struggled with adjusting in the position. "[II Form] year, I was a super quiet person, but of course being captain requires you to be a little more vocal, so I think I'm still learning things about being a captain," she says. While getting used to the position, she took inspiration from her II Form year captain, Ellie Vogel '20. "I looked up to [Vogel] so much, she was super supportive in all aspects of

my Lawrenceville life, not only soccer. I even got to play with her younger sister [Mandy Vogel '22], so both of the sisters have very much shaped my Lawrenceville experience both on the field and off."

The win against Mercersburg this past Saturday was an important win for the team as their first MAPL (Mid-Atlantic Prep League) game. With only one shot for each game, the pressure is on for each game to be won. "It

feels really good to get that first MAPL win under our belt. We really dominated that game and I think it gave us the confidence that we need to keep on winning in the MAPL," Chiang remarked. After a less-than-ideal season last year coming out of the Covid-19 pandemic, this year's team is proving that they can compete with other prep schools in the region.

Chiang's favorite moment this year was the recent victory against

Courtesy of PrismVisuals

the team's rival Princeton Day School. "It's always a good match against them," shesays, "so it was really nice to come through with our first win of the season. It was a really close game, and everyone worked really hard in the game and stayed super positive even if they didn't get minutes, which I really loved."

As for goals for the remaining half of the season, along with co-captain Rory Murphy '23, Chiang aims to create stronger bonds within the team, saying, "I think last year we were a little disconnected in terms of team chemistry. We're off to a really good start, especially because we have a lot of new girls on our team. It's been really good that the returners have been very welcoming to the new [II Formers], new [III Formers], and everybody else."

The Girls' Varsity Soccer Team is off to a solid start. After winning against both Mercersburg and PDS, the team has shown that they are a force to be reckoned with this season. "I think we have a really good shot at the MAPL title this year," Chiang said, "Our team is looking very strong and just looking at other team's records, we can compete with every single team out there."

Judge, Jury, & Executioner: Yankees Star Breaks AL Record

JAEL GAINES '26

Drafted in the 2013 Major League Baseball (MLB) season, Aaron Judge is an insane baseball player who is aiming for the top. Currently playing for the New York Yankees, his gift made him a unanimous choice for becoming the American League Rookie of the Year in his first season playing in 2017. The Yankees' general manager Brian Cashman said that "Aaron Judge struck gold with his record-setting season," raising the price for the New York Yankees to keep their star slugger."

Judge's turning down millions of dollars shows his worth.

During his time attending California State University at Fresno, scouts constantly came to see him at his college games. He was so incredible that some "teams would stop what they were doing to watch him take batting practice," said John Altobelli, the manager of the Brewster Whitecaps. Judge very well could have taken a separate path. Going into college, he had to make the tough call between playing college baseball or football. As he was quite good at both, Judge needed to decide between the two sports he loved. Evidently, Judge chose baseball, and the Yankees are all the better for it.

In his fifth MLB season,



Judge making AL history.

Courtesy of National Review

Judge has already hit 62 home runs, taking the record for the most home runs this year and in the American League. Judge sometimes feels as though the feeling of playing in the MLB is not real. Playing in the Yankees-Red Sox rivalry "never really crossed my mind. I thought it would be pretty cool to play here in an actual game one day, but I didn't know that day would actually come so soon," he said.

To some, this certainly isn't the limit for Judge. With a strong Yankees team behind him, and roaring New York fans singing his praises day in and day out, he has the perfect atmosphere to succeed.

0.5x Board Picks, pt. 2

	Kyle Park Managing Editor	Tiffany Wen News Editor	Iris Wu Co-Opinions Editor	Adi Jung Co-Features Editor	Emma Kim Co-Features Editor	Sally Lee Web Editor
<i>How the world will end</i>	<i>unaligned AI</i>	<i>humans</i>	<i>meteor</i>	<i>Mr. Murray shaves his mustache</i>	<i>dinosaurs</i>	<i>humans</i>
<i>What The Lawrence should spend its budget on</i>	<i>corn</i>	<i>food</i>	<i>food</i>	<i>places for hiding peanuts.</i>	<i>a heater</i>	<i>expensive art</i>
<i>What is getting you through this term</i>	<i>cyen</i>	<i>a sleep schedule</i>	<i>geese</i>	<i>socks...</i>	<i>Kelly</i>	<i>senior spring</i>