

Lawrenceville Hosts First Ever Democracy Day



Students listening to Democracy Day speakers

LOUIS PARK '26

On Tuesday, November 8, Lawrenceville hosted its first-ever Democracy Day, organized by the Democracy Day Committee and its founder, Kyle Park '23. The event was designed to help students at Lawrenceville more closely interact with democracy and civic education while promoting and celebrating the values of civic engagement. The Democracy Day Committee created the event because they strongly believed that academic institutions like Lawrenceville have an important duty to provide time and space for students' civic engagement. Park explained, "Democracy Day is dedicated to community learning, reflection, and engagement in democratic activities. Whether it's serving as poll workers, participating in workshops, or [attending] seminars, recognizing the importance of engagement and the power of voting is important for us, as the concept often seems detached... We hope Democracy Day sends a powerful and impactful message that translates into long-term action."

Democracy Day was scheduled on the same day as this year's Midterm Elections for the United States Congress and Senate, further highlighting the day's importance within our nation's governing system. As Park said, "If we have classes on Election Day, we would usually study for tests or write essays [on] the day before... But with Democracy Day... students can engage in politics or start discussions, things they couldn't do" with a typical workload. By designating Election Day as a schoolwide day of civic engagement, Lawrenceville can encourage future voting and

participation among the school community.

This year's events kicked off with keynote addresses from two speakers: Democracy Policy Network Co-Founder Pete Davis, and U.S. Representative from New Jersey's Third District Andy Kim. Both Davis and Kim joined the program in the hopes of teaching Lawrentians how they can participate in democracy as students and promote youth activism. In his address, Davis dissected common misconceptions about democracy and noted that "Democracy is more than a form of government—it is a broader way of thinking about culture and society," adding that "[Democracy] requires hard work—it's never enough just to express yourself."

Kim began his address by telling the story of his parents, who were immigrants from South Korea, to contextualize his emphasis on service to the country. Kim highlighted how the United States provided his family various opportunities and urged the Lawrenceville community to think of service to the nation not as a job, but a fundamental part of everyone's life. Both speakers concluded their addresses with a message on collective participation and the idea of co-creating a world in times of division.

Following the keynote address, Lawrentians explored more than 30 available workshops on various topics such as activism, reforming the electoral college, high school leadership, and more. Among the workshops, the "Global Democracy: Revitalizing Civics Internationally" workshop provided a space for international students who couldn't vote

Courtesy of *The Lawrenceville School* in the United States to share their experiences with activism and encourage the Lawrenceville community to reflect on democracy at a global scale. Panelists included students with unique experiences from Poland, Hong Kong, Belarus, Morocco, China, and South Korea.

Alongside the events of Democracy Day, the Committee also introduced the Civics Award. While many see voting as the main form of participation in democracy, it is not the only way; thus, the Civics Award was introduced to help students express themselves through art and literature, especially as most Lawrentians cannot currently vote. This year's theme was "Using Your Voice," where applicants got to answer the prompts, "What does democracy mean to you, and what does democracy look like in other parts of the world?" as well as "What acts of participation, other than voting, can be used to empower one another and drive change?" Lawrentians got to submit their own answers to such questions through works of visual art, critical essays, creative writing pieces, and musical pieces.

The Committee took significant effort to organize the program. Despite the event being in only its first year, the Committee was not only able to invite guests to help enrich the idea of democracy and role of Lawrentians within it, but also learn about specific aspects of democracy through a variety of workshops. Looking into the future, Park hopes that Democracy Day will continue to happen every year, helping foster a new era of civic engagement among Lawrentians for decades to come.

StuCo Organizes Spirit Week 2022

AKI LI '25 NEWS ASSOCIATE

From October 31 to November 5, members of the Lawrenceville community took part in Spirit Week. Hosted by Student Council, Spirit Week is an annual event in which students are encouraged to dress according to predetermined themes while they attend classes. This year's Spirit Week featured themes such as Halloween Costume Monday, Twinning Tuesday, Anything but a Backpack Wednesday, Pajama Thursday, and House Spirit Friday, finally building up to Blackout Saturday. Saturday was also the School's annual Hill Day, where the Hill School—Lawrenceville's long-time rival—came to our campus to compete in multiple sporting events.

Vice President of Social Life Akeil Smith '23 described Spirit Week as "an opportunity for the Lawrenceville community to bond," allowing students to "display school spirit" while "[hyping] up Hill Weekend." "We don't have that many opportunities to come together as a school," Smith explained, continuing that there "[is not] a collective incentive [to come together]" due to the House system splitting up students. To counter this division within the student body, he and the other Student Council members planned Spirit Week to be a "fun way for people to bond" while promoting unity. He and the Council "completely restructured" the annual Pep Rally, as well as adding new themes to the roster of Spirit Week in their goal of improving school spirit. Smith also wants to "thank everyone [who] participated in [Spirit Week]," and offered a special thanks to Sports Representative Ani Kozak '23, who was "a big contributor to both the Pep Rally and Spirit Week".

Yushi Kamisaku '26, a first-time participant in Spirit Week, described the event as "a blast," saying that there was "nothing like

[Spirit Week]." Kamisaku explained that he was "really excited" for the event, especially since his middle school "didn't have any spirit." He took part in every event, recounting his favorite days to be Twinning Tuesday, where he twinned with his friend Christopher Hu '26, and Anything but a Backpack Wednesday, where he brought his drawer to class. "On Friday, I was wearing my Davidson shirt, just representing [my House]," Kamisaku continued, stating that he was "proud to be [in Davidson]." He described the hallways as being "a bit brighter" with everyone "smiling across campus" during the event, concluding that Spirit Week was overall a "great way to go into Hill Day." Kamisaku also observed that while the event served to "hype [students] up" for Hill Day, Spirit Week ultimately helped to "boost energy and morale" for the upcoming finals and major assignments as well.

Eric Frankel '23, who also participated in this event, described how Student Council members tried to "make the Spirit Week themes accessible," allowing for different levels of participation in this event. He himself had gone "full out," describing his outfit to be "camp," as he wore "hotdog finger gloves" as part of his costume of Evelyn Wong from the film "Everything Everywhere All at Once." Frankel mentioned that Wednesday was the only day where he didn't participate because "as a day student, [his] backpack is 40 pounds." Frankel himself believed that the event was a "great way to encourage student unity and shared participation" in a low-stakes environment. He described his "most iconic day" to be when he participated in Twinning Tuesday with Jasper Bligh '26. Frankel concluded the interview by stating that "VeraStalking always produces some good," as that was how he had managed to find Bligh's phone number to "force [their] twin coordination."



Students twinning for Twinning Tuesday

Claire Chow '24/THE LAWRENCE

Periwig Fight Shop

Annabella Saltarelli '25 writes about the exciting punches and slaps that students learned in an exciting fight workshop with fight director Jacqueline Holloway.



November Dance Series

The November Dance series is on Saturday! Sonia Ivancic '25 and Angela Yang '25 highlight this series of performances.



Rising & Falling Stars

While athletes in the tennis world rise meteorically through ranks, Kyrie Irving falls from grace in the NBA. Follow Stanley Dufour '25 and Kaden Lu '26 as they explore the dichotomy.





THE LAWRENCE

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CORRECTIONS

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

Dog of the Week (Hubert!) Bradley Barrett '23



Editorial On Bringing Civics to the Classroom

As the United States grapples with an ever-polarized political scene, one topic has been an underlying theme for many candidates on the campaign trail: the importance of youth voting and civic engagement. Maintaining America's democratic framework warrants engaged civic learning across institutions, particularly given that unlike most political issues, nearly all Americans, regardless of ideology, agree with its necessity. Bolstering civics education across the board, especially in official academic curricula, must become a priority. Lawrenceville is no exception: including civics education as a core educational obligation would better equip students with the necessary skills and knowledge to effectively participate in the democratic process.

According to the Center for Information & Research on Civic Learning and Engagement (CIRCLE), young people who received high-quality civics education in high school were more likely to vote and be knowledgeable about campaign issues and the U.S. political system. Though civics itself does not necessarily cause higher turnout, as students who experience better civics education could also have access to other advantages in their schools, the strong correlations showcase that active citizens often have received a solid civics education.

In multiple ways, Lawrenceville currently encourages students to engage with civics education on campus. This week, Lawrenceville hosted its inaugural Democracy Day where students participated in a day of civic engagement programming on Election Day instead of following a normal class schedule. Outside of Democracy Day, political clubs such as Left, Right, and Center and *The First Amendment* also provide avenues for

students to explore their political identities and experiment with civic literacy outside of the classroom. Moreover, following the 2020 Presidential election, the School implemented a Pace and Quality of Life (PQL) Day to ensure that community members had sufficient time to reflect and engage in discussions regarding the election results.

But what about civics in the classroom? It's true that there are course offerings such as Honors Government and A History of American Democracy in Cases, but there is no guarantee that all Lawrentians will take these classes or engage in the aforementioned activities outside of the academic curriculum before they graduate and engage in the electoral process. Naturally, students who are passionate about civics-related issues are more likely to enroll in such courses, while students who might actually need civics education fall further behind. After all, every event during the 2020 PQL Day was optional, and no mandate requires Lawrentians to join political clubs or write opinionated pieces for publications that help cultivate political values. In fact, Lawrentians have the choice to spend their four years without participating in any clubs. It's completely up to students to decide whether they want to engage in civic education, despite its importance to our society.

One way to directly integrate civics education into the academic curriculum would be to add civics as a core educational obligation alongside community service, the Humanities, and the Personal Development Seminar (PDS) series that students must fulfill during their time at Lawrenceville. As Lawrenceville is a residential community, II and III Formers are required to enroll in the PDS program and meet once a week

to discuss issues such as sexuality and substance abuse in hopes of guiding underformers to make healthy decisions. A similar program for civics that focuses on the process of voting (voter registration, filling out a ballot, etc.), participation in local governments, dissecting disinformation and fake news during election seasons, can be implemented for all students, especially for the V Form class that often consists of students eligible to vote. Alongside initiatives such as Democracy Day, creating this civics requirement could be an additional framework to ensure that students have the time, space, and motivation to prioritize civic participation and understand their role in continuing our democratic republic. Our democracy is too important for us not to prioritize it in the upcoming years, in our actions as well as our learning ethos.

As the only school among its peers in the Eight Schools Association that takes a day off on Election Day, Lawrenceville is certainly heading in the right direction. But as Democracy Day guest speaker Pete Davis emphasized, "Election Day is every day." Words like democracy and voting are frequently thrown around, but there is a deeper, action-oriented layer exists that we have the responsibility and privilege to use to make change. There is significant value in continuing the dialogue around Lawrenceville's civics culture and further developing support systems that could make civics more accessible to all Lawrentians. Lawrenceville is a leader among its peers, and it's time we take leadership in civics education, too.

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

An Ode to Election Season's Middle Child

Really, Please Start Caring About Your Local and State Elections.

MIRA PONNAMBALAM '26

School curriculums, taxes, minimum wage, and voting rights.

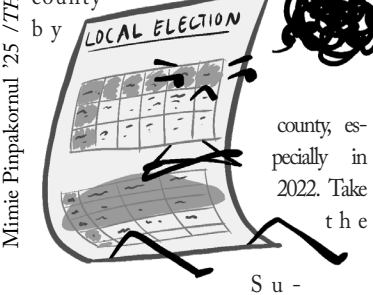
According to FairVote, 60 percent of eligible voters abandon their stake in these crucial issues to fixate on the grand congressional elections, ignoring the less-popular local and state elections. Rutgers University's Eagleton Institute of Politics finds that New Jersey gubernatorial elections produce "only about 75 percent of the turnout that presidential elections experience." Municipal elections are even worse off, with only 15 to 17 percent of eligible voters deciding to cast their votes in them in 2020.

So who is at fault here? The most prominent culprit in the American disregard for local and state elections is the unwillingness of large media outlets to cover them, which, in turn, enables a perception that these elections are insignificant.

After all, media coverage helps emphasize the importance of certain issues and makes information readily available. For one, congressional and presidential elections are widely covered in popular media, so people consistently remain aware of their existence and significance. Unfortunately, coverage of municipal and state elections is comparatively lacking—local news in general supposedly is not big or exciting enough for the attention of major media outlets. Predictably, this imbalance in coverage leads us to rank federal elections as far above municipal and state elections, and ignore the fact that local elections actually have a great effect on our everyday lives. Consider this: Municipal and state governments determine the leadership, and therefore conduct and policies, of fire departments, po-

lice departments, emergency medical services, housing services, public transportation, general maintenance, justice systems, schools, minimum wage, taxes, and so much more. Depending on the legislators that residents have elected, laws may vastly differ from state to state, or even city to city. While the minimum wage in a largely Democratic New Jersey is \$13 per hour, the more Republican Pennsylvania has a far lower minimum wage of \$7.25. It's undeniable that voting in state and municipal elections is crucial as they affect citizens just as much—or, if daily impact is considered, even more—as the federal government does.

Still, many Americans don't care about municipal or state elections because they just don't understand the importance of these politicians' jobs. But local politicians are crucial to shaping the nation state by state, county by county.



preme Court case *Dobbs v. Jackson*, which notoriously overturned *Roe v. Wade* this past June. *Dobbs* empowers each state to make its own laws regarding abortion—or, have total control over the extent to which abortion is legal. We again see states split along party lines: New Jersey and other blue states have no restrictions on abortion, while red states such as Texas have

declared abortion at all stages of pregnancy a felony. Thus, voters in state elections hold incredible power in deciding the fate of a woman's right to abortion. We've seen this power play out already on Tuesday, when Democrat Josh Shapiro defeated Republican Doug Mastriano in Pennsylvania's gubernatorial election.

Pro-choice Pennsylvanians have won a key victory: Shapiro will protect abortion access across the swing state. Mastriano, on the other hand, would have banned abortion completely.

But perhaps what best exemplifies the importance of state elections is the current state of our voting rights. 35 out of 50 states require some form of identification at the polls to vote; 15 do not. So who determines who can vote? While there are measures that the federal government can take, and have taken concerning

voting rights, the majority of decisions on how exactly to carry out an election are left to state governments. Voter suppression is one of the most heated topics in American politics, but voters often don't vote in the very elections that have the greatest effect on their voting rights.

Because of the effect state elections have on voting rights, Americans lit-

erally must vote in their state elections to ensure their ability to vote freely in future elections—including the federal ones that they so often pedestalize. Americans pride themselves on being participants in a great, well-established democracy, the people laud America's democratic values as what makes the nation great. Yet they fail to be actual, full-fledged participants in democracy by refusing to vote in "smaller" elections. Simply put, if America's democracy was truly as important to its citizens as they claim it is, they would bother to vote in some of the most crucial elections of the year, even if those elections aren't

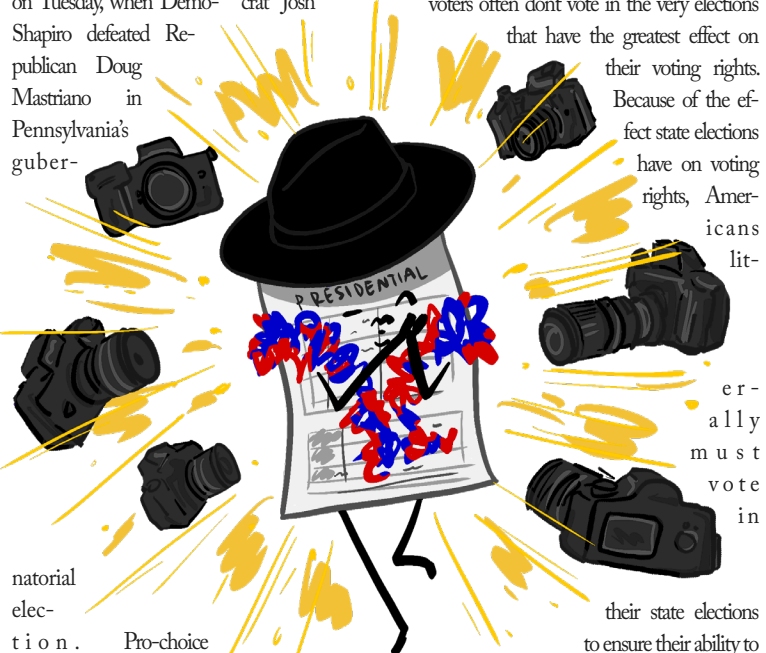
as glorified as the presidential election.

So, how do we get Americans to bother to vote in the first place? Rearranging the time slots of local and state elections might be a way to push residents to the polls. The National Civic League has already found that holding these "smaller" elections at different times reduces their competition with federal elections for voter attention and media coverage. Five states, including New Jersey, have already begun to hold local elections at different times than federal elections during midterm and presidential election seasons, with increasing voter turnout in mind. It's well past the time for the remaining forty-five states to do the same.

Then, of course, spreading awareness and ensuring voting access to underrepresented groups makes all the difference. This method found its greatest success in the 2021 Georgia runoff elections, in which Democratic senatorial candidates Jon Ossoff and Raphael Warnock joined forces with grassroots organizations to register more voters from marginalized communities. As a result, Georgia voters turned out in record numbers. For Jon Ossoff's race, a total of 4,484,902 Georgians voted, a number comparable to the 4,952,175 of the first-round elections, and rather impressive given that runoffs traditionally garner far less votes than first-round elections do. There's no reason to say that a greater system of Georgia-style civic education and encouragement wouldn't vastly increase voter turnout for non-federal elections as well.

It's quite simple: a citizen's vote is key to ensure the prosperity and effectiveness of American democracy. So, always go out and vote.

Especially in your state and local elections.



Sitting With Strangers: Taking Student Diversity into Our Own Hands

IMANI GASKIN '25

You stand in the middle of Tsai Commons, scanning the room for a place to sit. You can either sit at a table with people from your House, a table with a few casual acquaintances, or a table with complete strangers. Most of us would choose to sit at the table with the people with whom we are most familiar. Humans typically find comfort in the known; in a rigorous, fast-paced and let's be honest, sometimes downright intimidating environment like Lawrenceville, we find ourselves gravitating towards those people and situations that provide the most comfort for us. However, it is this exact tendency that leads to a pervasive lack of diverse interactions within our student body.

On paper, Lawrenceville is quite a diverse school. Our campus hosts students from all around the world who come from a myriad of different cultures, backgrounds, and ethnicities. However, a quick stroll around campus will reveal that reality does not quite mirror the admissions packets in the Mackenzie Admissions Building. Students tend to stick with the people who they are most familiar with, which means that despite Lawrenceville's objective to achieve diversity, we students do not always take advantage of the opportunity to tap into the rich reserves of knowledge surrounding us.

People often do not immediately realize why this phenomenon is an issue. What's wrong with sticking to the people and situations that provide solace? As

an international student from a country with limited racial and cultural diversity, arriving at Lawrenceville and encountering a multitude of different backgrounds changed the way that I view the world. This change in perspective was only made possible through the interpersonal interactions that I've had here. As I got to know my roommate, who is from New York, we began to realize the ways in which our hometowns have impacted our respective worldviews. The differences range from trivial tidbits like how my family goes to the beach on Christmas Day while her family has dinner in snowy Brooklyn, to deeper discussions on how the different demographics in our homes have informed our understanding of social issues. No matter how big or small the variation, sharing our backgrounds has supplemented our understanding of each other and, more importantly, deeply informed our

opinions.

As such an important aspect of student life, it's no wonder that Lawrenceville's administration dedicates so many resources to encouraging diversity on our campus. Through Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion initiatives like the implementation of the Hutchins Institute

for Social Justice and its various events, the School has created spaces in which students can engage with voices different from their own. Administration-led diversity work has the advantage of having

an extremely wide reach over the student body; its decisions affect every

utility. When the School takes charge of promoting diversity, it signals to students that diversity is a priority on our campus, bringing the issue to the forefront of our minds. A verbal commitment to diversity sets a precedent for the values that we as a community aim to uphold.

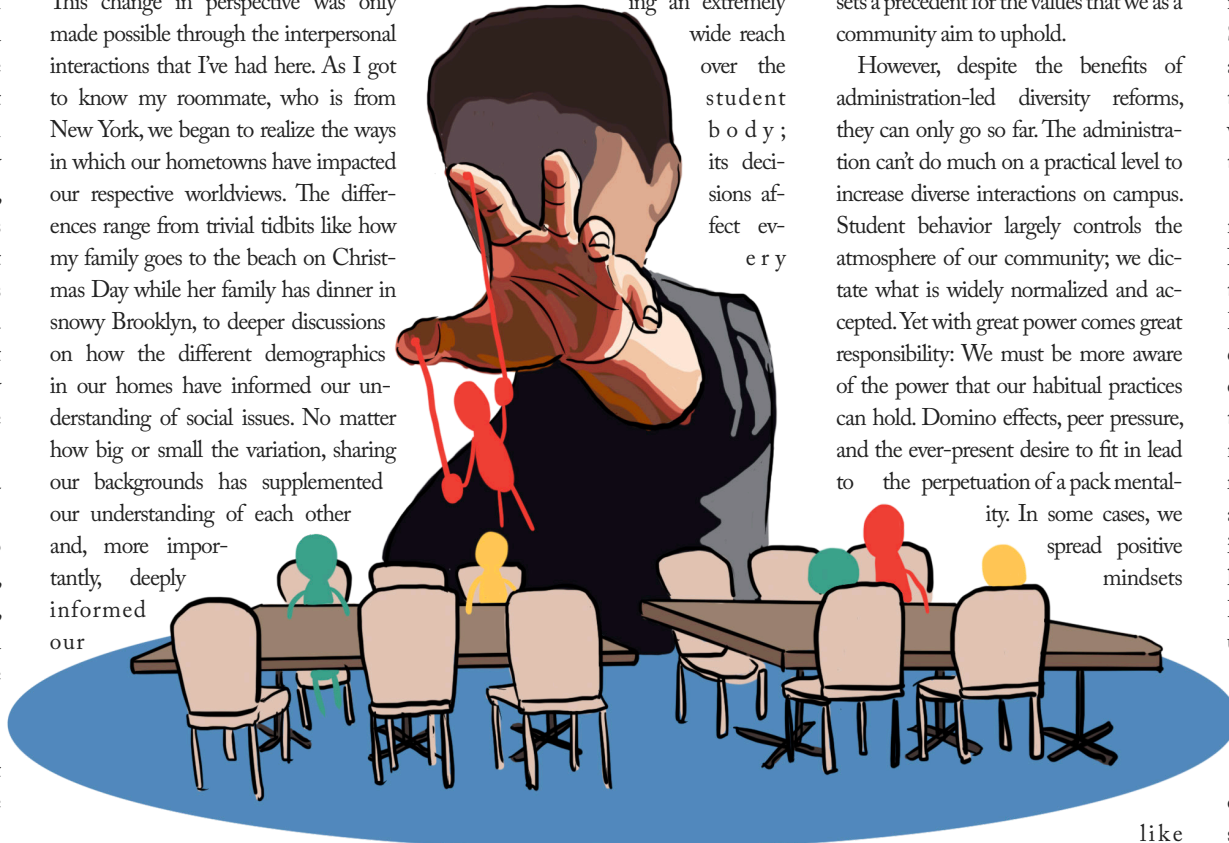
However, despite the benefits of administration-led diversity reforms, they can only go so far. The administration can't do much on a practical level to increase diverse interactions on campus. Student behavior largely controls the atmosphere of our community; we dictate what is widely normalized and accepted. Yet with great power comes great responsibility: We must be more aware of the power that our habitual practices can hold. Domino effects, peer pressure, and the ever-present desire to fit in lead to the perpetuation of a pack mentality. In some cases, we spread positive mindsets

and attitudes determine the school culture.

While the administration can implement as many diversity-related policies as they want, we the students are ultimately responsible for carrying them out. Students are not guaranteed to adhere to administrative goals. Unless we ourselves take charge to interact with a more diverse group of people, the administration's encouragement of diversity is futile.

So how should students go about promoting diversity in their everyday lives? Individuals must strive to avoid limiting themselves to a single group or circle. Lawrenceville presents its students with countless opportunities to interact with other perspectives and opinions. While these opportunities are available, they do not easily fall into our laps. We have the responsibility to forge new connections and to broaden our horizons. No administration can do the work for us—they have given us diverse classes, Forms, and Houses, but now we must make the best use of them.

In practice, engaging with diversity can range from joining an affinity club affiliated with a culture you are unfamiliar with to reading books about other identities. Or it can be as simple as sitting next to someone new. The next time you stand in Tsai Commons scanning the room, take the chance to sit with someone whom you don't know very well. The possibilities of what you may learn are endless.



Stephanie Xu '23 / THE LAWRENCE

single one of us. Therefore, administrative efforts towards promoting diversity have the potential to impact far more people than student-led efforts. Beyond their practical utility, however, administration-led diversity initiatives also have symbolic

like the prioritization of good grades or the aspiration to do well in sports. However, we wield a double edged sword; our behavior can just as easily give way to negative trends. It is imperative that we consider the way that our personal behaviors impact wider practices in our student body. At the end of the day, our actions

Lanterndie, Lanternflies: The Ethics of Insect Killing

LUKE PARK '24
COPY EDITOR

Like it or not, spotted lanternflies are iconic. Their black spots and red-tinted wings form an aesthetic recognizable from a mile away, and by god, their incredible, overwhelming abundance makes them a specimen absolutely impossible to miss...for better or worse. Yet, most Lawrentians don't care about lanternflies—no, the vast majority of Lawrentians probably don't even think about lanternflies. You know what they look like (if you don't, how?). You probably know that they're an invasive species you should kill on sight. You also, unfortunately, probably don't know much else aside from that. We give lanternflies about as much thought as the act of stomping them; that is, we give them no thought at all.

You see, the reason I bring lanternflies up is because I care a lot about them—I get a strange, indescribable feeling when I see these black-spotted planthoppers. On one hand, I feel a deep, visceral sense of disgust; on the other hand, I feel an unusual sense of pity, dare I say fondness for these invasive insects. Perhaps it's because of this dilemma that I think there's a lot worth examining about these little critters, as, though we may not initially realize it, lanternflies speak volumes about society, and how we collectively approach wildlife and insects as a whole.

Let's get one thing clear: Lanternflies are undeniably destructive to our environment. Indigenous to parts of China, lanternflies have invasively spread to Japan, Korea, and as we all know, the U.S.; they truly are everywhere. Since they feed

on over 70 different host plant species, including fruit trees, ornamental trees, woody trees, vegetables, herbs, grains, and vines, they have the potential to spread widespread destruction within local ecosystems. In addition, when lanternflies feed, they produce a sugary substance called honeydew, which encourages the growth of black mold. While harmless to humans, black mold poses an extreme threat to plants. So, the ecological damage lanternflies are capable of exerting on the environment has the potential to cost hundreds of millions of dollars in the agricultural industry, particularly pertaining to the harvesting of grapes, apples, and hardwood.

Killing lanternflies thus appears entirely justified; in light of the ecological damage they cause, stomping on these pests

health of our local ecosystems, and thus save more natural life than we would have otherwise.

But this analogy doesn't quite function with added context, since the killing of lanternflies is functionally a short-term solution; our

collective efforts to kill these pests on sight

pales in comparison to the hundreds of thousands of lanternflies that currently exist and our rapidly reproducing as we speak. Plus, I think people have a worrying obsession with the killing of these insects. A part of me even thinks that people are more committed to the idea of killing these bugs than they are saving the environment.

Don't get me wrong, lanternflies should be killed; they're undeniably harmful to

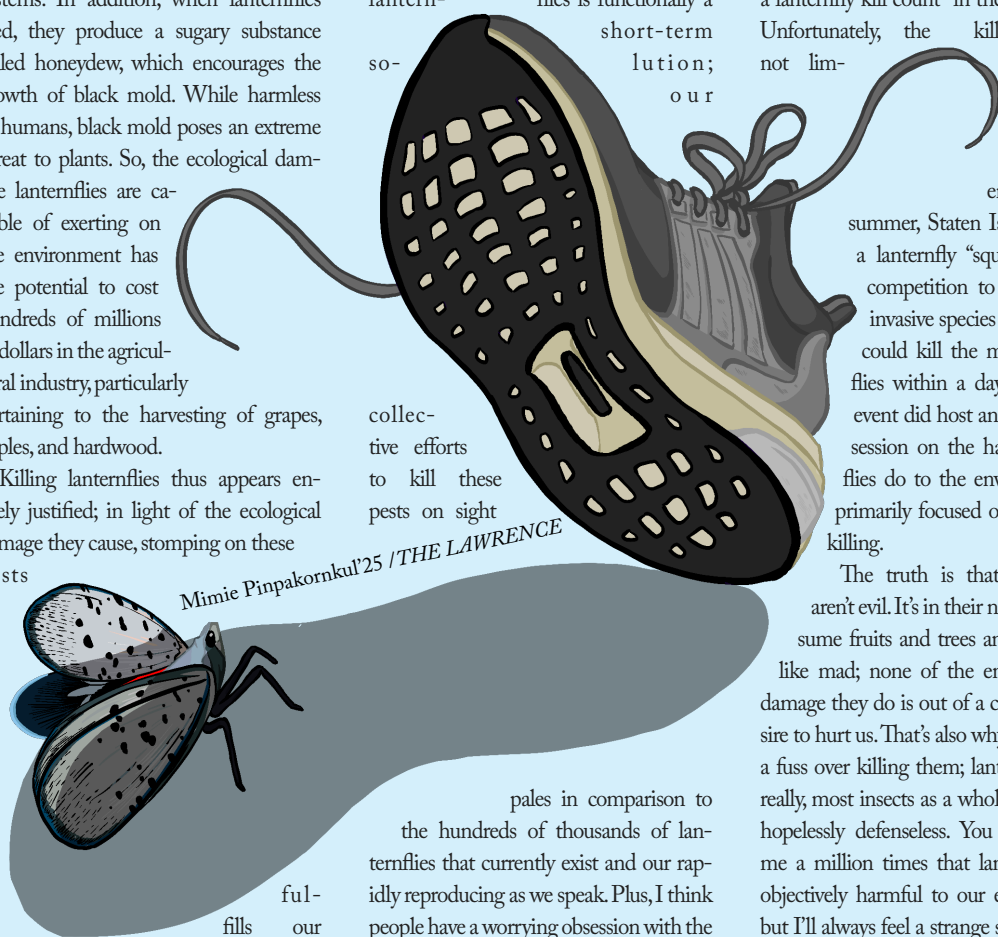
the environment. But is our enthusiasm over killing lanternflies just? I've seen an unsettling number of peers joyously stomp these insects into the ground. One friend (whom I will not name) even has a lanternfly kill count "in the thousands." Unfortunately, the killing-joy is not limited to this one friend; it is a mass phenomenon. Last summer, Staten Island hosted a lanternfly "squishathon," a competition to combat the invasive species and see who could kill the most lanternflies within a day. While the event did host an information session on the harm lanternflies do to the environment, it primarily focused on one thing: killing.

The truth is that lanternflies aren't evil. It's in their nature to consume fruits and trees and reproduce like mad; none of the environmental damage they do is out of a conscious desire to hurt us. That's also why I raise such a fuss over killing them; lanternflies, and really, most insects as a whole, are utterly, hopelessly defenseless. You can remind me a million times that lanternflies are objectively harmful to our environment, but I'll always feel a strange sense of guilt whenever I crush one. I'd even extend our power over these bugs to nature as a whole; the destruction lanternflies cause to the environment pale in comparison to the potentially world-ending consequences of our unquenchable thirst for

natural resources. We hold so much dominion over the lives of these bugs; is it right for us, the gods of nature, to derive so much joy from killing lanternflies that we make a sport out of murder?

I concede that many of us do venerate bugs—as we absolutely should. You have likely seen the slogan, "save the bees!" displayed proudly on T-shirts and other pieces of merchandise, a sign of support for the Save the Bees movement. In curbing the usage of pesticides and plant pollinator-friendly plants to restore the bee population, the movement both respects the role bees play in the environment and attempts to rally people to a good cause. I'll add that I haven't seen anyone take a sociopathic joy in killing flies, an equally defenseless insect. It is possible that there might be a genuine enthusiasm for the protection of the environment in our mass-stomping of lanternflies (but if you do see someone who actually enjoys killing bugs, give me a call.)

What's overwhelmingly clear is that we should change our approach to both lanternflies, insects, and nature as a whole. Our approach to controlling lanternfly populations is hilariously inefficient; stomping on lanternflies only goes so far, and there's a lot more we can do—including protecting trees with fly paper, and reporting lanternfly sightings outside of areas listed as quarantined. We should also approach bugs as a whole with more care. Countless insects play vital roles in preserving the environment, even eliminating potentially harmful pests—yet we tend to squash them all the same. Only once we respect the smallest members of our ecosystem can we truly begin to show



Mimie Pimpakornkul'25 / THE LAWRENCE

Mary Teresea Soltis and Brendan Hurson Talks with Race and Mass Incarceration Students

HELENA CHEN '24
NICHOLE JIN '24
NEWS ASSOCIATES

Two weeks ago, U.S. Assistant Attorney General Mary Teresa Soltis and former public defender—now judge—Brendan Hurson gave lectures to members of History Teacher Marisa Hedges's Race and Mass Incarceration class.

Soltis, one of Hedges's classmates from college, was invited to speak to students on her role as a federal prosecutor in the Eastern District of Pennsylvania. While it was "challenging" for Hedges to organize such an event, as both her students and Soltis are "very busy," she was able to figure out the logistics and have the speaker come and talk to the students at night. Hurson, on the other hand, gave his lecture over Zoom. Describing the experience, Hedges said, "I don't think the students found it any less engaging on Zoom...[Hurson] was especially honest and frank."

Hedges's goal in introducing both Soltis and Hurson to the class was to give the students the unique perspectives of a federal prosecutor versus an ex-public defender, as they have "very different goals." "Throughout the term, we've been talking about the multifaceted causes of mass incarceration," Hedges said. Soltis has extensive experience with prosecuting drug offenders, which was relevant for the class as they specifically investigated "the role of the war on drugs" on mass incarceration.

"Some say that the role of the prosecutor has become too powerful in the prosecution system and that they have too large of an impact on mass incarceration, so I wanted to bring a prosecutor in to talk about her perspective," Hedges explained. By giving students the opportunity to meet a prosecutor and hear about her experiences working in her field, Hedges hoped to help students understand the "nuance" involved in prosecution and how, ultimately, prosecutors are "trying to keep society safe."

V Formers Awo Addo, Michelle Egu, and Jourdan Wright all attended the speaker events. "We had the opportunity to ask a lot of questions about how [Soltis]

felt about her job as a prosecutor in the criminal justice system," Addo said. In addition to describing her job and "the responsibilities it entails," Soltis also explained the federal prosecution system and how she thinks the system is "working well," Addo added.

Egu noted how Soltis described the "difference between federal and state level cases" and went into detail on "plea bargains."

"I learned from her that being a prosecutor means being able to separate your own personal beliefs from the case that you're working on," Addo said. At the same time, Soltis emphasized the importance of applying moral judgment to decide on proper sentences based on "the humanity of the case." Listening to Soltis's lecture allowed Addo to gain a better understanding of the readings and content covered in the Race and Mass Incarceration class. "It brought a real world perspective into the class as you really understand that these people make very hard decisions that involve a variety of factors," she said.

Wright appreciated being able to ask Soltis in-depth questions that allowed the students to "see what prosecutors are actually thinking when they're in court."

"It definitely gave us a firsthand perspective on what federal prosecution is like after reading about it so much," Egu added. For Egu, the most interesting part of the lecture was learning about the unique and less well-known laws enforced at a federal level. "If you get a cheesesteak from Philadelphia, but the cheese is from Wisconsin, it could technically get you arrested for smuggling across state borders," she explained, referencing how most court cases can be tried on the federal level rather than on the state level.

Reflecting on the event and her overall experience in the class, Addo said, "I'm really glad that we have the resources to learn about things like this... Otherwise, I wouldn't know much about the judicial process and why mass incarceration is a thing in the first place."

Heely Scholars Visit the 9/11 Museum

SABRINA OTTAWAY '25
AILEEN RYU '25
GRAPHICS ASSOCIATE

On October 19, the Heely Scholars traveled to the 9/11 Memorial and Museum in New York City to explore depictions of historical memory. They toured the memorial, which aims to improve the American public's understanding of 9/11 and tells the stories of survivors, first responders, and those who lost loved ones during the attacks.

After catching a couple of early morning trains to get to Manhattan, the Heely Scholars spoke to Museum Curator Jan Ramirez about memorializing tragedies and how to best present them to the public when telling these narratives. According to Elizabeth Parnell '23, their discussion emphasized crafting narratives "through the process of curation." Parnell discussed how the process of curation must "do justice to the lives lost [and] hold some aspects of the political narrative and the historical narrative of the event in a global context." The Heely Scholars learned how to curate events in a sensitive manner, acknowledging that people may still have a hard time processing the tragedy. Ramirez also discussed how even from the outside perspective, paving the way to an important connection to others and history can play a vital role in making communities stronger.

"One particular piece of the museum that stood out

to me was the large wall of blue tiles in a hall called Memorial Hall," said Lilly Gessner '23. The piece is titled "Trying to Remember the Color of the Sky on That September Morning" and conveys an impactful message of forming collectives and ideas of memory through the 2,983 watercolor squares depicted with unique shades of blue, one for each of the 2001 and 1993 attack victims. "The quote, 'No Day Shall Erase You From the Memory of Time' [in the midst of all the watercolor

and how personal biases influence the record of history.

Tsenter also noted that the themes of the trip linked back to a book the scholars read over the summer, *Looking For the Good War* by Elizabeth Samet. Tsenter recalled that the book examines public and historical memory and how "people tend to remember things and how the way we remember things can really shape our actions in the present."

Gessner mentioned the significance of balancing "complex-



9/11 Museum

Autri Basu '23/THE LAWRENCE

really resonated with me," Gessner noted.

Although the Heely Scholars' research was concentrated on World War II, many found that their discussions in New York City touched upon an integral theme of historical narratives and common memory that appeared throughout their scholarship. Yan Tsenter '23 recalled, "Our trip to the memorial museum really did connect to a lot of what we poured into the program... because we got to see exactly how history is recorded"

ity and accuracy" in retellings of historical events. According to Gessner, Ramirez spoke "about the future of the museum once generations that were not directly impacted passed," thus the importance of embedding a culture of accuracy as well as a... tolerance for complexity."

For some Heely Scholars, the trip illuminated potential career paths. Parnell noted, "[Museum studies] bring history as a career path out of just being a historian" while still having "history at the center of" one's work.

Slaps, Punches, and Brawls: Periwig Fight Shop with Jacqueline Holloway

ANNABELLA SALTARELLI '25

On October 29, November 3, and November 8, the Periwig Club welcomed esteemed fight choreographer Jacqueline Holloway to teach a multi-session fight direction workshop. Holloway is a certified fight director who teaches at Columbia University and the Lee Strasberg Institute, and owns



Practicing punches

her own fighting company, Arte Violenta. Currently, she is working with Princeton University on one of the school's

productions.

During her fight direction workshop, students from the "Shakespeare's Tragedies: Everyone Dies in Performance" course, alongside a couple of V Form students who were involved with the Periwig Club, learned how to coordinate fights for the stage in a way that is both safe and realistic. Those in the class will apply their learning to their final exam for this Fall Term, a performance of a "staged, fight-choreographed scene from *Julius Caesar*," said Performing Arts Teacher Matthew Campbell, the arranger of this workshop.

The workshop covered "slaps, punches, pushing from front to front, ear pulls, hair pulls, shirt pulls, nose pulls, and variations on slaps," before diving into falling technique and weaponry. Eric Frankel '23, an attendee of the event, said that the key to ensuring that each of these things comes across as real is "in the act of reacting." Both he and Emily Hammond '23 referred



Practicing hits

back to when Campbell and Holloway acted out a stage slap while standing six feet apart. "There was obviously no way that they could have touched each other," Frankel said, but her reaction made "it [look] like she was really slapped and hurt." He noted that what added to this illusion of a slap was the knap, the noise one of the actors, typically the receiver of the action, creates to mimic the sound the hit would make.

Surprised by the degree that fight direction toys with "optical illusions," Hammond was also fascinated by how depth

made choreographed fights look real.

Holloway emphasized consent and intimacy in regard to these scenes, making them a focus of her workshop. Carefully coordinated sequences of actions, cues and signals through eye contact, and distance ensured what Campbell called a "safety net" that allowed the actors to effectively portray a fight onstage while staying out of harm's way. Discussion and rehearsal are crucial to a safe fight onstage. Campbell said that such a scene looks good because the

actors know that "they have each other's back."

Each attendee found this workshop an amazing opportunity to learn something new and adventurous, with a professional who helped them practice fight choreography safely. Hammond especially appreciated Holloway's ability to "[make] it look so easy" and her passion for her profession.

Campbell hopes to hold this workshop for "multiple years in a row" and welcome more students who are interested, so look out for the chance to learn these unique skills!



Periwig Fight Workshop

Tiffany Wen '23/THE LAWRENCE

A Preview of the November Dance Series

SONIA IVANCIC '25
ARTS ASSOCIATE
ANGELA YANG '25

On Saturday, November 12, the Performing Arts Department will host the November Dance Series. This event, which some may remember as the October Dance Series last year, will feature multiple original dances from the Lawrenceville School Dance Company (LSDC) as well as dances from all of the student-run troupes: Tour De Force (TDF), L-Krew, Suavé, Nachale, Lawrenceville Dance Team (LDT), and FRObeats. Here is a sneak-peak of the show!

TDF, the street jazz dance ensemble led by Bailley Georgieva '23, will be dancing to a Beyoncé song with choreography described by Georgieva as “all about confidence and power.” For TDF’s costumes, Georgieva was going for a “super sparkly red.” After seeing sequined outfits last year in the Kirby Arts Center’s Costume Shop, she knew that “this [was] exactly the vibe [she] was [going to] go for” with the dance. In TDF’s choreography, we will be able to see TDF’s signature move, which Georgieva describes as a “double cross of the hands, then up-down, and then the swivel.” Due to the restrictions placed on the number of dancers each team could have, the limit on rehearsals being only once a week, as well as this dance series being the first time performing with an all-new group, Georgieva stated that “it’s been interesting trying to pull together a number.” However, TDF is “still having a really good time,” and Georgieva “want[s] the audience and dancers to feel happy, empowered, and confident.”

L-Krew, led by Harini Venkatesh '25, is a hip-hop dance group that will dance to lively songs with all-black costumes that help add to the dance’s

power. When asked what the dance’s theme was, Venkatesh answered that the dancers wanted to generate an energetic performance that both the audience and dancers would enjoy. Venkatesh also added that the dance includes floorwork, which she is “excited for everyone to see.” As the performance approaches, Venkatesh is most looking forward to “that one moment after [we’ve all] finished the dance and [we’re] walking off stage. That is probably the best moment of the entire performance because you feel so happy and feel so accomplished, like, ‘Oh my God, I just did this, I didn’t think I could do that!’” All in all, Venkatesh is “really proud of the work L-Krew has put in over the past eight weeks” and is “excited to see what the product is.”

As a part of L-Krew, I, Angela Yang '25, am super excited to be participating in the November Dance Series. This is my first time being a part of a dance team at the School. Learning the choreography and preparing for the November Dance Series gave me a few obstacles along the way; as someone with barely any hip-hop dancing experience before L-Krew, it was difficult at first to memorize the dance. I also didn’t have any experience being on stage, as I usually would be backstage as part of the deck crew, so the idea of dancing in front of people was initially very nerve-wracking. But in the end, the practice and rehearsing all paid off. I’m excited to perform in front of a live audience and hear their reactions.

Suave, the Latin and Spanish dance team, led by Ally Calderon '24, is performing an upbeat dance with the dancers wearing boots and cowboy hats. Suave dancer Isabelle Gonzalez '25 is looking forward to further “connecting with people on [her] team” during the upcoming week of rehearsals.



Nachale at the 2021 October Dance Series

Courtesy of The Lawrenceville School

Nachale, Lawrenceville’s Indian dance ensemble, led by Kishori Shah '23, will perform a vibrant Bollywood number paired with brightly colored outfits. As a member of Nachale, I, Sonia Ivancic '25 and the team started working as a group at the end of September after tryouts. We met once a week after sports, learning sections of choreography, practicing at home, and meeting the next week to go over formations and continue learning our song. Each rehearsal, spent learning formations and new steps, was such a fun challenge, providing quick respite in the week so students across forms could connect and dance, and we have really bonded as a group during our weeknight meetups. These practices culminate in tech week—a week of dry runs, dress and stage rehearsals, and photos for two hours each night the week leading to the big day.

LDT, the jazz and contemporary dance team led by Corinne Johnson

'23, and FROBeats, the Afro-Fusion dance ensemble captained by Jessica Peters '24, are both performing student-choreographed dances that are sure to be spectacular as well. To top it off, the members of LSDC, Lawrenceville’s select, pre-professional collective led by Director of Dance Derrick Wilder, will showcase their talents on stage as well. Their intense practices will surely pay off in the multiple solo and group numbers they present onstage.

One difference for us dancers is having the Dance Series held in November rather than October. Although tech week, with its intense two hour practices each evening, falls during major assignments week, most of our athletic commitments have eased, so we get a breather before rehearsals. Gonzalez thought that November makes more sense to hold the dance series because students “have a lot more time to

perfect the dance,” which makes tech week run a lot smoother than that of last year’s rush to finish practicing choreography. Other dancers, such as Nachale dancer Sonia Singhal '24, disagree. “In October, the dance series did not fall during major assignments week, and we could take athletic exemptions,” she remarked. Nevertheless, Georgieva is thankful for the dance series being in November because “tech week is right after college [applications],” which she, as a V Former, is relieved by. She added that everybody “gets a nice show right before we leave for Thanksgiving break.”

Whether it be in October or November, the dance series is always a night to remember for those who attend, and this year will be no different. Don’t forget to pop out and watch the November Dance Series to support your peers and have a great time!

Separating the Art from the Artist

SOFIA CARLISI '24
ARTS ASSOCIATE

The song “Best Friend” can be found on any teenager’s beach playlist, and with its lyrics “you’re gonna wanna be my best friend baby,” musical artist Rex Orange County, real name Alex O’Connor, has made a name for himself in the indie pop industry. It was Rex’s fun-loving, “one of the good ones” persona that gained him quite a loyal following.

Fans were devastated when one month ago, Rex was charged with six different sexual assault allegations, all from the same woman. Can these fans still listen to his music with a clean conscience, or has his entire discography been stained by his evil deeds? The moral dilemma Rex’s fanbase is experiencing begs the question: Is it possible to separate the art from the artist?

In all honesty, this question has no right answer. People are free to listen, read, and experience the art of whomever they want to, regardless of the artist’s actions. That being said, oftentimes people feel obligated to pass judgments on those whose opinions on this

matter differ from theirs. It is important to look at all sides of this argument, and it is up to each individual person to draw their own moral lines and decide for themselves what to do.

Everyone has ethical and political standards that they refuse to cross. If an artist does not withhold these standards, it makes perfect sense that one would discontinue their support. Does it make someone hypocritical to preach about something but continue supporting artists that go against those values? Maybe. Where is this moral line, though? If it is different for everyone, then it’s up to each person to determine whether the line has been crossed.

Society also has a terribly short memory. Take Michael Jackson as an example. Even though in the documentary *Leaving Neverland*, four boys came forth about their sexual abuse at the hands of Jackson, the majority of listeners did not stop playing his music. A poll done by the Hollywood Reporter found that 61 percent of people did



Emily Pan '24 / THE LAWRENCE

not stop listening to Jackson after these allegations, and 54 percent did not think they should stop. It seems that some artists like Michael Jackson are somewhat immune to the pushback of allegations, as his music and fame suffered little in the wake of the documentary. Is Jackson’s music just too good? Maybe, but many people never hopped onto the bandwagon of “canceling” him.

Cancel culture, a trend of hating certain media stars, often only affects present-day celebrities. In the digital age, artists’ presences on social media make fans feel like they know them. Thus, supporters feel personally betrayed by their idols’ actions. Since Jackson dominated the pre-social media era and had already died before these allegations came into the limelight, does he get a pass?

Often, people do not want to support artists who have fallen from grace because they do not want to put more money in these artists’ pockets. Still, this decision affects other hard-working employees. For instance, although the *Harry Potter*

books are some of the most popular to this day and age, many were devastated by the transphobic tweets J.K. Rowling made in the spring of 2020. She commented on an article about “people who menstruate” demanding the article use the word “women” instead. After her insensitive comments, many decided to leave Rowling in the past and stopped buying her books. If someone was to buy a *Harry Potter* book from an independent bookstore, although they may be giving money to J.K. Rowling, they are also supporting a small business and its employees. Many do not want to support authors like Rowling, but they still want to read their books. Some buy these books secondhand, but this often leads to the pirating of books illegally online. Is that more moral than buying the book legally?

Should one be judged for calling *Harry Potter* their favorite book series or for continuing to listen to Rex Orange County even after what he has been accused of?

At the end of the day, it is up to each person to choose what they believe is correct and make the decision of support for themselves.

Healthy Eating Habits to Fuel Your Body at Lawrenceville

MIA MASSERIO '25

Amidst Lawrentians' busy routines of academics, athletics, and extracurriculars, it is so important to get enough food to nourish and energize ourselves for the school day. Coming back to boarding school after living at home all summer can be a big adjustment for many; this change can also have a large impact on eating habits, as many might struggle introducing dishes previously unfamiliar to them in their daily meals at Lawrenceville. Given that there are only so many hours in the day and limited meal options on campus, eating nourishing foods can often feel



unrealistic. But here are some things you can do to try to mix your meals up as much as possible.

First suggestion: try eating something before class. I personally find myself feeling more productive and sufficiently less tired on days when I eat before class, even if it's only a cup of cereal that I grabbed from the dining hall. Tsai Commons for breakfast is an everyday go to. Grab some cereal or fruit, make yourself an omelet, or try whatever else is offered for the day. The omelet bar is a personal favorite—there's an omelet for every occasion. Make an omelet with cheese, peppers, ham, tomatoes, and spinach for a full balanced breakfast or cook an egg sunny side up with some bacon and cheese and slap that on a bagel for your very own "Tsai Egg, Ham, and Cheese Bagel." Speaking of, bagels are such an easily transportable breakfast and perfect if you're on the run. If that's not for you, every once in a while, will spend my mornings at Starbucks, where students can study and finish assignments before class while also grabbing coffee and an egg sandwich. The Gingered Peach is also an option for breakfast, as they serve de-

licious pastries, muffins, and drinks that students can grab on special occasions with their friends.

As students at Lawrenceville, there are often days that feel jam-packed, so having easily accessible food is very helpful. Having snack options available in your dorm room is perfect for a quick breakfast or snacks to eat between classes, during consultation, or before athletics. Another perk of this option is the ability to choose some healthy snacks to ensure that you get food with enough nutrition. Tsai also has plenty of fruits and cereals available during meal times, so you're able to grab a few bananas and



store them for future consumption. Personally, I love stopping at Tsai between classes to make tea for a midday pick me up. Concessions are also available within Houses and are ideal for late-night snacks. Additionally, Houses provide delicious Saturday night feeds every week for a quick treat before bed. Past feeds include PJ's Pancakes, Acai bowls, homemade Puerto Rican food, or Chinese food. No matter your preference, there is a feed to satisfy your cravings.

UberEats and DoorDash are also options—though by far the priciest of all. Although ordering puts a strain on our wallets, these services allow us to purchase food of any cuisine and have it delivered to us at any time. Realistically, this option isn't attainable for everyday use, but it's a useful resource when arriving on campus at 8:00 PM after an away game at Blair or Mercersburg.

The Bath House Café is always packed with students during lunchtime, as it serves popular meals including pizza, mac and cheese, and sometimes even sushi. The Bath House has a great environment and atmosphere for both socializing and studying,

even if you don't buy anything to eat. While many of us think Main Street and the Bath House offer the best meal options, purchasing from these places without moderation can be very expensive.

So what is the trick to getting adequate food each day at Lawrenceville without going broke in the process? The best advice I can give is to take full advantage of Tsai. As someone who did not go to the Irwin Dining Center frequently, I am striving to follow my own advice this year when it comes to Tsai. Additionally, being a picky eater, I tend to prioritize getting the foods I



know and love. However, I feel that it is important to expand my horizons and try new foods; Tsai allows students to do just that. I'd recommend widening your Tsai palette before relying on external food sources. Learning to cook the perfect wok is both extremely useful and rewarding, especially for life beyond Lawrenceville. Additionally, along with offering three meals on any given day, Tsai also offers other choices for each meal. A healthy option to add some vegetables and greens to your meal is the salad bar. There are new toppings and dressings to experiment with all the time. Make kimchi fried rice using kimchi, the omelet bar, and rice. Mix Balsamic vinegar, red wine vinegar, and olive oil for a refreshing salad dressing. Take advantage of every option offered: try out the wok bar, make an omelet for breakfast, or have some fruit with your meals. With various options open for students on Main Street, the Bath House available to fulfill your cravings, and many offerings available at Tsai, I encourage you to mix up your meals this year.



Sonia Lackey '25/THE LAWRENCE



How to Succeed: Mind and Body

WILLIAM WANG '24

FEATURES ASSOCIATE

Succeeding at Lawrenceville takes a certain kind of mindset. After a year and a half at the School, I'm still spending an hour each Sunday trying to decide on which task management tool I should use for the rest of the term. Should I use Google Docs, todoist, or Notion? The trophy is still up for grabs. Whatever it is, the way each student embarks on the unrelenting journey of pursuing success at Lawrenceville is as varied as their own definitions of "success."

Most students believe that their performance in classes is the foundation for all types of success at Lawrenceville. For William Huang '24, the two quintessential traits of his academic endeavors are discipline and time management. Although these traits are applicable both in and out of school, Huang believes that they most clearly reveal themselves in an academic setting. Huang recalled his grueling work on a post lab

for the infamous "Honors Chemistry" course. "Burning the midnight oil and staying up late to ensure the quality of my work was difficult, but by ultimately staying disciplined and consuming half a honeydew melon, I was able to finish my lab report," Huang said. In his eyes, a healthy balance between school work, socializing, and rest requires an inhuman kind of discipline.

Garrett Heffern '24 echoed similar sentiments as Huang; in Heffern's eyes, success relies on the "unquestioning dedication to the grind." Heffern is a staple of the Woodhull House Library; he is found at all hours of the day starting at his computer on top of his gray laptop sleeve. Despite being a day student, Heffern often spends more time in the House than most boarders do in the evenings, working in the library



Emily Pan '24/THE LAWRENCE

well through most of study hall. Although Heffern stresses the significance of finding a balance between social, academic, and extracurricular activities, he also warns of the damaging consequences of self-doubt, emphasizing the importance of self-confidence. He added that "dedication extends to studying, sports, and clubs. Still, work often seems... rewarding before you question the value of putting so much time into specific areas. It's important to... stay motivated."

For Assistant Dean of Students Doug Davis, there is no singular trait that makes for a successful Lawrentian. Davis believes that a successful student "must be able to explore and make the most of what Lawrenceville has to offer by competing both in the classroom and beyond." However, he stresses that the road to success at Lawrenceville is not a solitary endeavor; it requires

vulnerability on the students' part and peers who uplift each other: "Success at Lawrenceville is never done so alone. It requires vulnerability. Students must be confident in their abilities and recognize their weaknesses; they must find peers [who] support and challenge each other." In Davis's eyes, the Lawrentians who make an impact beyond their immediate communities are strong-willed, unrelenting, and patient; they make ample use of all the opportunities that Lawrenceville can provide.

Success at Lawrenceville does not happen overnight, nor does it come naturally. It is not about grades or titles, but rather the process and balance needed to accomplish these achievements. Success at Lawrenceville takes time and patience; it requires initiative and changes in the little details of one's daily routine that create lasting effects on a Lawrentian's life.

Lawrenceville's Rumor Mill: Untangling the Grapevine

ARYA VISHWAKARMA '25

OPINIONS ASSOCIATE

HARINI VENKATESH '25

ARTS ASSOCIATE

In a school community as tightly-knit as Lawrenceville's, information spreads like wildfire. Rumors spread during nights at the House, in passing conversations, or in between classes, making their way across the student body like the shoots of a depraved plant craving sunlight. Do the benefits of this "grapevine" outweigh the harm it causes? Is gossip an integral part of the high school experience or a preventable occurrence? In this article, we dig deeper into the pros and cons of the Lawrenceville grapevine by reflecting on our own personal experiences.

The Big Red Grapevine: Rooted In Good Intentions (Arya Vishwakarma '25)

As a new III Former, finding where I fit into the School's complicated social network was as much of a challenge as adapting to my new classes and commitments. I found the girls in the Carter House to be a much-needed resource, providing unconditional support despite only having just met me. This instant

feeling of community is undoubtedly intentionally and thoughtfully crafted by the House's duty team, prefects, and House Council over the summer to start the year strong. It feels obvious that the rumor mill plays such a prominent role in students' social lives; it's a natural effect of a boarding school environment that emphasizes connection and fosters closeness.



Emily Pan '24/THE LAWRENCE

Students are encouraged to be

compassionate, help one another, and communicate with their peers. The grapevine provides a safety net, ensuring that if one is visibly struggling, people will not only take notice, but also reach out. Knowing that somebody isn't okay prompts others in their community to shower them with affirmations and let them know that they have the support of others. It's easier to tackle problems when you're not alone.

The rumor mill also affects one's control of their reputation. Boarding school allows individuals to redefine themselves: inside of our campus's wrought-iron gates, you can be anything you want, so long as the grapevine agrees with you. The ability to be known of instead of known can, at times, feel like a double-edged sword, but someone who knows how to wield their public per-

son can craft an image of themselves that glosses over their flaws, shines in every area, and protects them from vulnerability. "Fake it 'till you make it" is a philosophy the rumor mill allows as a very real possibility. Project confidence, and rumor will spread that you are confident. Maybe, after everyone else believes that, you will be, too.

The Rumor Mill: A Saboteur of Self Esteem (Harini Venkatesh '25)

I believe that rumors are a permanent fixture of school life. Neither my virtuous actions—nor my lack thereof—can protect me from being the subject of a harmful rumor. Over the years, I have listened to stories about people that have shaped my

opinions and driven my interactions with them. Was it right of me to do so? What if I stymied a potential friendship with someone due to a false rumor? Like the game "Telephone," rumors have a way of mutating as they spread, preventing relationships from forming due to lies germinated by whispers. It's important to acknowledge

the point where gossip becomes detrimental to mental health. I've spent countless hours overthinking a singular statement someone has said about me, and those few words have managed to change how others perceived me and how I treated myself. There have been multiple claims made about me pertaining to sensitive topics, all of which were no more than a figment of the spreader's imagination. From this perspective, it is clear that rumors are both unnecessary and harmful. There is no reason for us to feel the need to use other people's struggles, hopes, and fears as topics of socialization and entertainment.

At the end of the day, it seems that the rumor mill is unavoidable. As long as students stay connected through social media and interpersonal communication, gossip and rumors will circulate among the student body. What is most important is to be mindful of how your words affect other Lawrentians: rumors can wreck the relationships of the people that spread them. All one can do is be kind and hope that others are inspired to be the same. We owe it to each other to make sure the fruits of the grapevine are sweet.

Uncovering Traditions of Old and New Hill Day

WILLIAM WANG '24

FEATURES ASSOCIATE

Pepsi and Coca-Cola; the Los Angeles Lakers and the Boston Celtics; Ford and Ferrari. None of these rivalries have lasted as long as the one between Lawrenceville and Hill. Dating back to 1887, the Lawrenceville-Hill rivalry is the fifth-oldest high school rivalry in the United States. Although students and faculty hold the same passion for competition today as they did a century and a half ago, it is important to distinguish the current traditions of the rivalry from the competition's historical roots. While the customs of old have slowly disappeared, it is important to pay tribute and recognize the stories, people, and traditions that allow our rivalry to approach its 136th year.

"In answer to Hill's cries of 'Wash that shirt', let us in due appreciation of a tradition truly Laurentian [sic], drown out that cry in the stands, as well as on the field."
— Sports Editor David Mackintosh '44, *The Lawrence*, October 29, 1943.

Perhaps nothing defines our rivalry with The Hill School more than the phrase, "wash that shirt," chanted at football games by Hill, as well as Lawrentians' reply chant, "We won't wash that shirt." The "shirt," a bright-red football jersey, dates back to the early 1890s, but its origin is

disputed. One story claims that it was a token of luck first worn during the Hill Game by Football Captain Garry Cochran, Class of 1893, and had since been passed down through generations of football players, while another states that Walter L. "Turkey" Reiter, Class of 1896, wore the jersey into consultation, defying Lawrenceville's conservative dress code at the time. Legend has it that Reiter's confidence in Lawrenceville's victory led him to pledge not

"(In 1973) 95 percent of the School went to Hill with the teams. It's not like that anymore."
— David Donahue '73.

Former Head of School Mather Almon Abbott came to embody the true meaning of support and

lowing week. Many believe that he caught a cold as a result of his refusal to wear a jacket on the field. His voice became inaudible during a teachers' conference on the day of the game against Hill, and although the doctors insisted Abbott go to bed, Abbott opted to depart for our rival school at 10:00 AM instead. He never made it to Hill; he turned back at the Delaware River to preserve his declining health. Known for his endearing dedication to pro-

black ties to school each day—and if they were caught wearing black and red at the same time, Upper-form students would cut their ties off, forcing them to buy a new one. If Lawrenceville's football team won the Hill game, students would burn their ties; if the team lost, students would be forced wear these ties until the holidays. Other former traditions such as the Woodhull House bonfires and Haka dance were more recently discontinued, the former due to New Jersey fire code violations and the latter because of cultural appropriation of an indigenous Maori tradition. The fiery bonfire tradition, however, remains in practice at the Hill School, where after the fabled "Red Meat Dinner," students huddle around a bonfire in anticipation of game day. Still, many traditions have come and gone. During the early 2000s, faculty members would frequently speak to their rival school's student bodies. Both schools' heads have exchanged roles during school meetings, and the recent showing of the "Hill School is My Home" song during school meetings is a contemporary remnant of this tradition.

In a speech he delivered to Lawrentians 2011, the then-Head of the Hill School, David R. Dougherty, remarked, "great rivalries are more like great friendships, committed to the same ideals, and must be nurtured and protected... We must regard this tradition as central to the character, the mission of our schools." As we move further away from the start of this 136-year-old rivalry, it is important that we preserve the limited number of traditions we have left and to reignite traditions we have left behind. However, we still have time to make new and lasting traditions that embody the spirit of our rivalry.



Hill Day 2011

to wash said red shirt until Hill had won. This tradition went far beyond the tenure of the captain, lasting for until the 1960s. It took 10 years for the shirt to be washed, with Hill finally defeating Lawrenceville in a thrilling 8-0 victory in 1897. Lawrenceville would claim victory in 46 out of their next 65 meetings—and the shirt would rarely be washed.

dedication to Lawrenceville. Abbott who served from 1919-1934, fell ill from pneumonia during the Spring Term of his last year, passing away on May 17, 1934. In the week before his death, Abbott played a strenuous game of tennis, then immediately visited the baseball diamond to improve the spirits of the struggling baseball team that was scheduled to face the strong Hill team the fol-

lowing school spirit and support for his students, Abbott's tragic story not only reminds us of the impact of his tenure on school history, but of the legacy and importance of cheering on each other during Hill Day. Similarly to the red shirt, black rhine ties were also a fabled tradition back when jackets and ties were part of the dress code. All new students, or "rhinies," were expected to wear

Courtesy of The Lawrenceville School

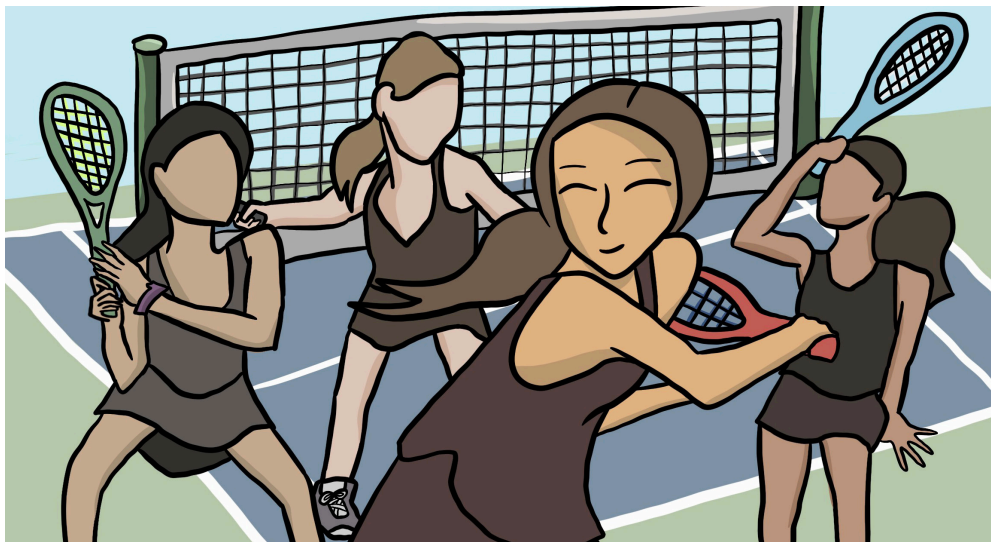
Stars on the Rise: Athletes on the Rise in the Tennis World

KADEN LU '26

As time progresses, older players begin to fade out of the big leagues and new players start to rise into the spotlight. Players all over the world, including experienced future all-stars, aspire to play in any of the four grand slam events! In this article, we will be looking through and reviewing a few players who are on their way to ascend into the hall of fame in all of tennis history.

The first player on this list has shown his skills to the world by winning the 2022 U.S. Open and has risen to fame as the youngest ever tennis player to win a grand slam. This player, Carlos Alcaraz has become a worldwide all star in the tennis world after his grand slam victory. At the age of only 19 years, he won the U.S. Open against Norwegian

Gloria Yu '26/THE LAWRENCE



ace Casper Ruud. Ever since he began his professional career in 2018, his success was rooted in the Association of Tennis Professionals (ATP) Challenger Tour and International Tennis Federation Men's Tours. Even in 2021, people foresaw his potential to become a world renowned tennis player. Now,

after four years of determination and hard work, he has become the world's youngest ever number one ranked player.

The second player on this list is an Italian player, Jannik Sinner. At only the age of 21, he is already ranked 15th globally on ATP. At the age of 17, he already began to reign

victorious on several ATP Challenger Tours. In 2020, he continued to push through the ranks as he reached the top 50 and the quarterfinals of the Roland Garros Tournament and made his first top 10 win. In 2021, his performance only seemed to improve; he made it into the semi-finals of an ATP

1000s tournament in the Miami Open and on November 1, 2022, became the world's first player born in the 21st century to reach the top 10.

Now, transitioning into women's tennis, the most anticipated rising star is Great Britain's Emma Raducanu. She made history for Britain when she became the first British woman since 1977 to win a grand slam, or more specifically, the U.S. Open. She also stunned the world when she became the first-ever British woman to qualify in a grand slam in the Open Era.

Players from around the world progressively climb the ranks, many of whom begin and are still at a very young age and have already achieved so much. These three players, along with many others may have the potential to replace the Big 3 in tennis in the future, and everyone should

A Fall from Grace: Kyrie Irving's Fallout with the NBA

STANLEY DUFOUR '25

Brooklyn Nets superstar Kyrie Irving is well known on the court for his incredible dribble moves and crafty layups, but off the court, he is also known all too well for the multitude of controversies he's been involved in. From his refusal to get vaccinated to believing the earth is flat, he's had no shortage of interesting antics and beliefs that have made his off-court persona just as interesting as his one on the court. Irving's most recent controversy was his promotion of a film on his Twitter account labeled by civil rights groups as anti-semitic. The film in question claimed that Jews oppressed the Black population, that they were responsible for the Trans-Atlantic slave trade, and also claimed that the Holocaust was fabricated. Seeing as New York City is home to the second

largest Jewish population in the world, the whole affair, unsurprisingly, didn't sit well with Irving's fans. The Brooklyn Nets organization suspended Irving for a period of five games with no pay after he "refused to unequivocally say he has no antisemitic beliefs, nor acknowledge specific hateful material in the film." The NBA has made it very clear that "hate speech of any kind is unacceptable and runs counter to the [League]'s values of equality, inclusion, and respect," and that any form of derogatory or offensive language can result in tens of thousands of dollars in fines.

Many believe that censorship in the NBA and mainstream sports leagues in general is at an all-time high (throwback to Mark

Cuban's \$600,000 fine for mentioning tanking) and believe that huge fines are being handed down far too often for simple self-expression. In certain regards, this is certainly fair, but when a player such as



Mimie Pinpakornkul '25/THE LAWRENCE

Kyrie Irving, who inspires and influences millions, promotes hate against any community, it's understandable that the League would take this seriously. There is admittedly a lot of censorship in the modern NBA and other such leagues that is seen in the eyes of most as unnecessary, but hate and discrimination in any form should be approached with a zero-tolerance policy, considering the image and influence that the people associated with these Leagues have. Although America is indeed a country of free speech, when someone's job is to entertain and inspire a young generation, they need to be careful with what they say because they hold influence over the easily convinced youth who look up to them. Many think that situations like these bring unnecessary politics

into sports, turning what is supposed to be a pure demonstration of extraordinary human athletic capabilities into a political game. This is entirely true; the NBA shouldn't be involved in matters of state, and vice versa. But, as previously mentioned, due to their status, athletes must still hold themselves to high moral standards and set a good example. This isn't a question of politics. This is a question of basic tolerance and respect, and although there is free speech in America, the NBA is a private association with its own rules condoning any form of hate speech. Since the NBA considers Irving's tweet to encompass hate speech, they thereby completely have the right to suspend him. Whether his suspension was too severe or not is up to the league to decide based on their values and how the incident affects them.

Varsity Football Picks

	Harry Lynch	Peyton Cosover	Louis Senyk	Trae'vion Meadows	Cole Shannon
why football? (in three words)	bang heads good.	faith, family, football	hit people fun	football is life	i do this
which teammate is most likely to be a secret superhero?	Scot Meadows	Trae Meadows	Scot	Raphael Dunn	Scot
most creative chirp?	ask Jalen Lespinasse he has plenty	complimenting opponent while scoring 50 on them	you are bad at football	just laugh	let them know we have a duke commit