



New IV Form Vice Presidents Elected



Vice Presidents Sophie Guettel '22, Arthur Li '22, and Delaney Musgrave '22.

CALLUM SHARMA '23 & JASMINE ZHANG '23

Lawrentians elected their 2021-22 Student Council Vice Presidents on April 29, appointing Arthur Li '22 as Vice President of Academics, Sophie Guettel '22 as Vice President of Honor and Discipline, and Delaney Musgrave '22 as Vice President of Social Life. The newly elected vice presidents will join Student Body President Annie Katz '22 on the 2021-22 Student Council.

Even though Covid-19 has changed many aspects of campus life, Li believes that his plans won't need to be changed. "My platform was not [heavily] contingent on our restrictions loosening" he said. Li understands that his platform can be challenging to implement, noting that "there are some ideas that I don't foresee being implemented before I graduate—such as changing new upperclassmen's graduation requirements." But he hopes to spark these ideas and "get the ball rolling." Li also addressed the change in schedule back to normalcy in the fall, saying, "The other Student Council members and I are working on ways to make that transition as smooth as possible for everyone."

Li's special initiative on his platform is to start the college counseling process early in students' III Form year. Li said, "Even if it doesn't end up working out, then I hope to at

least hold drop-in sessions or an open forum before scheduling day." Another aspect of his plan of action is to "install darker window shades." Li describes his proposal as "pretty ambitious," but if it goes through, he believes "it will help a lot of students sleep better."

Guettel's platform for Vice President of Honor and Discipline is all about "making the entire discipline council process less punitive and more recovery-based." Guettel hopes to work closely with the new administration team, as well as the soon-to-be-elected Honor Council, in order to help students because of how "emotionally draining the whole disciplinary process is." In addition, if current Covid-19 conditions continue, Guettel plans to incorporate a clarification of Best for All Agreement rules and guidelines into her role as School Honor Representative, as "a lot of students are often confused by the grey areas and crossovers with major school rules."

"This year is going to be a really critical year in terms of implementing broader, more fundamental changes in the honor system itself. The whole administrative team is changing, and this is a really important time for the School in general," she said.

Musgrave, the incoming Vice President of Social Life, has high hopes for next year's school-wide events, although many of them are reliant upon Covid-19 restrictions, including social distancing and mask-

Quincy Leung '22/THE LAWRENCE

wearing, being loosened or removed. "For the most part, a lot of my ideas are with the hopes that we are not going to have the issue of Covid-19 next year, but going into the next school year, that is something I need to look into. It's all about being creative," she said.

Coming out of Covid-19, with restrictions around campus gradually loosening, the entire student body will be looking towards Student Council. "People are expecting a lot from us as Student Council, coming out and seeing if we are going to change things [or] how we are going to bring things back, so I am just hoping to meet those expectations," Musgrave said.

Musgrave is particularly excited about implementing low-stakes Spirit Days. "Last year, I was really excited, I went to Party City to buy all this stuff, and nobody really dressed up, and I was left kind of embarrassed," she said. She hopes to restructure these schoolwide events next year, and get more of the student body involved.

Alongside Katz, three Vice Presidents are conducting interviews and reviewing applications for the remaining StuCo positions. "It's going to be really hard to choose the remaining members of StuCo; there are so many incredible candidates, as there are so many amazing and qualified members of our student body," Guettel said. Overall, all three Vice Presidents are excited to tackle their new positions and embrace the challenges.

Capstone: Sullivan on the State of the News Industry

CLAIRE JIANG '24

This past Monday, May 17, *The Washington Post* (*The Post*) columnist Margaret Sullivan joined the Lawrenceville community over Zoom as a part of the annual Capstone series which this year explores journalism and the state of the news industry. Sullivan spoke about her recent book, *Ghosting the News: Local Journalism and the Crisis of American Democracy*, and the current state of local journalism.

Sullivan was the *New York Times*' (NYT) public editor and the chief editor of *The Buffalo News*, the paper of her hometown. She was a member of the Pulitzer Prize board from 2011-2012 and was twice elected as a director of the American Society of Newspaper Editors.

The webinar format was a question and answer session moderated by Capstone Course Leader Cara Hyson P'14 '16. Sullivan was first asked about the different working cultures between *The Post* and NYT. In her answer, she referenced the competitiveness between the two papers: while she was at *The Post*, the paper "certainly saw the NYT as the ones to beat on all kinds of things, from stories and signs [to] influence."

The conversation then moved to the current crisis of local journalism. Sullivan noted that the survival of local outlets is critical: "2,000 of them have gone out in the past decade... In an era where trust is low in journalism and the media, people trust local news more," she said. To effectively combat the demise of local news,

"The answer is a patchwork... It is local TV, non-profits, shoring up newspapers," she said.

Although there is no longer a "clear-cut career path" to become a journalist, ways to get into journalism have diversified. Many current journalists started in digital publications, online media, and TV stations. "One thing leads to another, and it's really important to just get your feet wet and start," she said.

Additionally, Sullivan emphasized open-mindedness when writing columns. "I must have an opinion, but I don't want to be biased... you want to [listen to those] with the opposite point of view... Reading widely across ideologies and the political spectrum is important," she said.

On being a woman in journalism, Sullivan noted the lack of women in top editorial positions when she entered the industry. Furthermore, much of the criticism from her past articles have focused on her being a woman rather than the article's argument. She said, "I know that [this treatment] is particularly bad for women. I've been in the business for a long time, [so] I have a tough hide about this, but some days are really tough."

Sullivan ended the webinar with a request to students. "If I leave you with [anything]... please be well informed. Don't let your news consumption be dictated by what flows into your phone... You've had a lot of advantages and are arguably the [country's] next leadership generation. You will benefit yourselves, everyone around you, and the world if you know what's going around you."



Sullivan During her Lecture.

Courtesy of The Lawrenceville School

To be Malaysian or American: That is the Question

Yee Xin Cher '22 explores her intersectional identity at Lawrenceville.

Page 2



The End-of-Year Events

Adi Jung '23 and Emma Kim '23 answer a burning question: What will the class of 2021's Commencement and prom events look like this year?

Page 5



Championship Week for Big Red Track

Andrew Boanoh '23 recaps Lawrenceville Track and Field's dominant performances at the MAPL and NJSIAA Championship.

Page 8





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CORRECTIONS

Readers who notice errors should contact the Managing Editor at cli22@lawrenceville.org.

Photo of the Week: Carina Li '22



Editorial

Remote Learning: Convenience over Academics

In Friday, May 7, members of the Lawrenceville community received an email from Dean of Students Blake Eldridge '96 H'12 detailing end-of-year procedures and move-out plans. In addition to outlining key dates and processes for our departure from campus upon the conclusion of the Spring Term, Eldridge asked that parents inform the School soon about whether or not their child plans on "taking exams remotely."

The initial model for the hybrid Spring Term was designed to maximize in-person experiences. However, students have increasingly opted for remote learning out of preference, not necessity, creating a campus culture that increasingly values convenience over meaningful experiences. It has become clear that virtual learning has transitioned from a necessary adaptation to the Covid-19 pandemic to a more convenient substitute for the Lawrenceville experience.

Initially, we needed virtual learning to follow Covid-19 safety protocols. However, now, Lawrenceville is closer than ever to returning back to normal. This past Spring Term, interscholastic

It has become clear that virtual learning has transitioned from a necessary adaptation to the Covid-19 pandemic to a more convenient substitute for the Lawrenceville experience.

sports have, for the most part, competed as normal. Just recently, almost all classrooms have been restored to full capacity. Everything we associated with the Lawrenceville experience—the academics, the athletics, the extracurriculars, and campus life—is slowly but surely returning to life pre-Covid. Yet, despite these changes, many students are withdrawing, moving away from normal, abusing the option to Zoom or go RLO in favor of ease.

Instead of going through the effort of waking up, preparing for class, and engaging with peers in a physical classroom environment, many opt to sleep in and log on to Zoom from the comfort of their beds. This choice, while seemingly inconsequential, affects that student's peers and their teachers; after all, a key reason for returning to Lawrenceville after the virtual Spring Term of 2020 were the deficiencies of virtual learning. Thus, shouldn't we as students take full advantage of the in-person opportunities available to us, rather than intentionally choose a virtual format?

Other problems have arisen as a result of our fixation on virtual options. Through virtual learning, our community as a whole has lost its sense of timeliness—students are now accustomed to Zooming in to classes, meetings, and other commitments minutes late with no repercussions. The campus-wide dress code, initially implemented to help foster a conducive learning environment, has not been reintroduced as a result of its disregard for online students. While the act of dressing for class itself may seem superficial, the lack of dress code compliance signifies a greater absence of care for academ-

ics within the student body. Initially, these changes were made to help ease students' transitions to the challenges of virtual life—now, however, they have become central to our mentality as students and indicative of our desire to take the easiest path through Lawrenceville.

Other changes, like the switch to three classes per week instead of four and absence of lab periods, can no longer be justified as a necessary Covid-19 alteration; yet, they remain in place. Such a dramatic decrease in class time sacrifices our academic preparation for ease. Additionally, before the pandemic, all students needed to complete their last final exam before they could leave campus for the summer. Now, many have opted to take exams from the comfort of their own homes, a comfort that is opposite of the regular Lawrenceville experience and one that implies academic dishonesty.

Even in the face of the pandemic, because we were offered the opportunity to come on campus for in-person schooling, a true privilege that many students across the world have not had for months, we shouldn't resort to virtual experiences just because they are easier.

The Lawrenceville experience is supposed to challenge us. Rather than hang on to the comforts of a virtual Lawrenceville, we should welcome the opportunity and privilege to engage with our peers in person—in the classroom, on the fields, and in the Houses in person.

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

A Utilitarian Argument for Our Community's Safety

Why Lawrenceville Must Mandate Vaccines for Students

YEWON CHANG '23

After the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) deemed children above the age of 12 eligible for the Covid-19 vaccine, Lawrenceville has made efforts to vaccinate its students at the Hamilton Walgreens vaccination clinic. The lack of new cases on campus since April 19 reflects both the success of vaccination efforts and the national decline in Covid-19 cases. The end of the pandemic finally seems in sight. In response to these positive trends, Lawrenceville announced its plans for the next Fall Term in an email sent out on May 11, which detailed the 2021-22 school year's nearly full academic, social, and athletic reopening—but only for students who obey the schoolwide mandate to be fully vaccinated. Although forceful, this mandate is necessary to ensure campus-wide herd immunity and the safety of the community.

Though those against vaccine mandates may have medical or freedom-related concerns, these considerations are invalid. Some people cite the two-day fever caused by the vaccine and the uncertainty of future side effects on health as reasons not to get vaccinated, but it is important to remember that the FDA, a regulatory body known for its strictness in authorization of medicines, has approved the Pfizer-BioNTech, Moderna, and Johnson and Johnson vaccines

for emergency use. The argument that one has the right to choose whether or not one wants to get a vaccine is fully valid—the School cannot force students to get a vaccine against their will. However, it is crucial that those who choose not to get vaccinated are not permitted to access campus in order to avoid posing a potential risk to other community members.

The greater risk to student safety lies not in getting the vaccines, but in an unvaccinated community. While the decrease in both community and worldwide cases does offer some emotional relief, dangerous developments such as the recent Covid-19 variant found in India confirm the disease's status as a serious health risk, emphasizing the necessity for citizens around the world to vaccinate quickly before further mutations occur. This risk therefore requires a school-wide commitment to the vaccination cause in order to achieve herd immunity at Lawrenceville. Especially because there are community members who cannot be vaccinated, such as the children of faculty or families of day students, it is imperative that ev-

eryone—students in particular—who is eligible for a vaccine gets one. The longer students don't get vaccinated, the more they undermine Lawrenceville's commitment to both its students' and outside community's safety by increas-

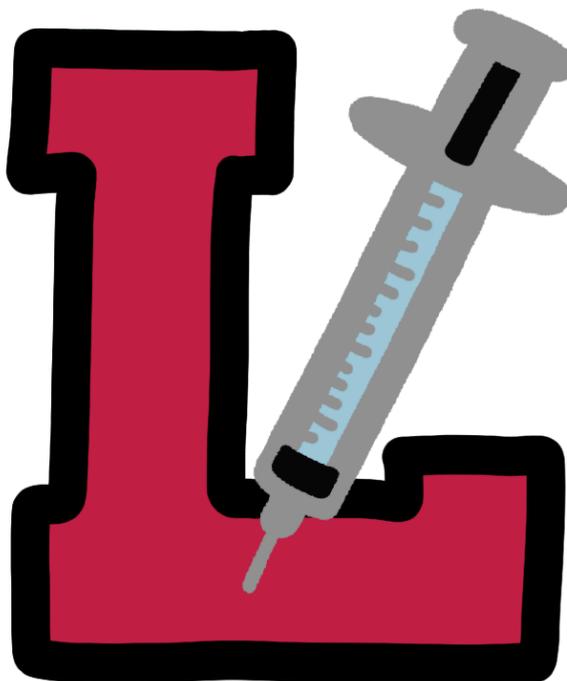
campus, the administration must facilitate greater access to vaccines and make accommodations for community members who may be ineligible. The School must expand its partnership with nearby vaccination centers to vaccinate all students before the start of the next Fall Term. This would

especially benefit international boarders, as most other nations do not have sufficient vaccines available to non-healthcare workers or non-seniors. The safety of the vaccine mandate also can help reassure international parents who want to physically send their children to Lawrenceville—if every student is vaccinated and thus a part of the Lawrenceville "bubble" of immunity, a substantive portion of the health risk is assuaged. To address possibly hesitant families, the School, as a trusted entity and regular source of guidance, should host regular information sessions or send emails that highlight the necessity of a vaccine mandate.

While maintaining its goal of creating a fully vaccinated community, however, Lawrenceville should remain prepared to accommodate those who cannot receive the vaccine, including those who have had a past allergic re-

action to the first dose or members of religious groups such as the Christian Scientists who may have ideological objections to the vaccine. To prevent any potential abuse of these possibilities, the School should require students to provide adequate evidence for medical or religious reasons not to receive the vaccine. Then, the School should establish separate safety protocols for those who cannot be vaccinated, including possible quarantines, more frequent PCR testing, and adequate, school-provided masks, as well as a protocol for all vaccinated students, such as regular testing, symptom tracking, and POM tracers, which, when used in tandem with each other, would help accommodate those who may be ineligible for the vaccine. And just as it has been over the past year, Lawrenceville must remain as specific and transparent as possible with its guidelines—all changes must be clarified and explained to the whole community.

A fully vaccinated Lawrenceville community will be the first step towards a return to normalcy. If we achieve herd immunity, we could enjoy a safer campus where all our community members can feel more comfortable to return to campus far sooner than if the student body were to remain largely unvaccinated. Let's all do our part to create a safe, normal Lawrenceville experience this September.



Sara Chiang '23 / THE LAWRENCE

ing the possibility of creating a new Covid-19 variant. While that chance is very low, we should seek to mitigate any potential harm to ourselves and others.

To achieve its goal of fully reopening

Fulfilling Our Moral Duties as Lawrentians

Examining Our Toxic Attitude Towards Club Leadership

ADELINE ZHOU '23

Summer break is quickly approaching—New Jersey's temperatures are rising, the strain of six-day school weeks is becoming significantly more unbearable, and, most tellingly, Lawrenceville's various campus clubs are announcing their new leaders in a flurry of all-school emails. Most of these titles are well-deserved: a confluence of heavy club involvement, display of leadership characteristics, and genuine interest in the club establish the legitimacy of a student truly invested in leading and improving a club. Yet, one of Lawrenceville's greatest open secrets remains: many students have applied for and secured a leadership position with ulterior motives—glamour on college applications—with a greater emphasis on the revered reputation a

With no true intention of enriching a club's prosperity, a disingenuous leader neglects their duties.

precise title of a position holds rather than the responsibility it entails.

The obsession with leadership titles in part derives from a general campus culture that places heavy importance on colleges. As an unofficial top 20



Stephanie Xu '23 / THE LAWRENCE

feeder school, Lawrenceville undoubtedly contains students who utilize this institution's plethora of diverse opportunities simply as a platform to boost their chances of entering the hallowed halls of an Ivy League college. Hence, American universities' heavy consideration of a student's leadership experience during the admissions process assuredly pushes some college-motivated Lawrentians to pursue leadership positions with the sole purpose of appearing more appealing in their college applications.

For these students, the application period marks a turning point; the act of

obtaining a leadership position is treated as the final destination at the end of a long journey. Regardless of previous ostensible effort invested into the club, after ensuring a presidential title, there is little incentive other than one's own will to maintain the momentum built up over previous terms.

The consequence of such insincere leadership is a deterioration in the quality of clubs. Club leaders are in charge of directing and shifting the club's overarching goal, whether it be increasing community awareness on issues or enacting concrete initiatives. However, with no true intention of

enriching a club's prosperity, a disingenuous leader neglects their duties. Apathy on the leader's part also trickles down to the general attitude held by club members. Soon, the club, like its leadership position, holds no meaning beyond its name and reputation. The validity of any leadership title is then called into question.

On a larger scale, such an attitude has created a worrying campus culture where insincere motives for leadership positions are normalized. When individuals who prioritize titles more than their influence lead campus clubs, a vicious cycle occurs. Students unwill-

ing to carry through with their presidential obligations set an example for other students interested in claiming a leadership position. Because others preceding them have done the same, complacency and lack of initiative are wrongfully justified. This norm propagates the idea that extracurriculars are nothing more than college credit points. The more cases of insincere leadership there are, the more this practice is normalized and embedded within Lawrenceville culture, condoning or even pressuring incoming students to involve themselves in clubs with the sole purpose of ultimately obtaining leadership positions.

Extracurriculars are meant to be an opportunity to pursue passions, not to make a college application superficially appealing. However, we should not assign blame to the victims of college pressure, but rather ameliorate the issue through efforts to change club culture. Written applications must include more extensive questions to deter insincere candidates from applying, and all clubs must be mandated to interview prospective leaders, as it is much harder to mask superficiality in a real-time interview. Few initiatives can completely eradicate such superficial sentiment, especially within a school so centered around colleges. However, more careful selection processes can help mitigate insincere leadership in clubs.

"That Malaysian Girl:" How Labels Limit Biculturalism

YEE XIN CHER '22

"Speak English!" were the two most common words yelled by teachers in the hallways of Prince of Wales Island International School. I lived in Penang, Malaysia, and despite attending a British school, English was often the second language for students, most of whom were Chinese-Malaysian. This sharp duality between my Western education and Eastern origins made me struggle to define my cultural identity over the years. While I continue to grapple with my identity to this day, I've realized that in my insistent attempt to fit in at Lawrenceville, I have inadvertently sacrificed aspects of my biculturalism.

Unlike my middle school peers, I had attended British international institutions my entire life. My consequent superiority in English extended far beyond language—I sincerely believed that my familiarity with a Western culture made me better than my peers. I didn't idolize K-pop groups or watch Chinese dramas as my friends did; instead, I followed English YouTubers and binge-watched American shows. Incessantly exposing myself to Western culture only built up my resentment towards my cultural identity as a Chinese-Malaysian. My life was simply not nearly as cool as it seemed to be for kids in the U.S. Every day, I wished I was in America: to go to a school

with student-led clubs and no uniforms, have malls filled with luxury brands—and have four seasons! So when the opportunity arose to apply to a U.S. boarding school, one can only imagine the immense excitement and determination I had throughout my application process. I spent weeks writing my essays and studying tirelessly for the SSAT. I could not mess up my chance of finally going to my dreamland.

In the months before I arrived at Lawrenceville, I fantasized about how my life would look in America: finally, I would not be the only girl with good English; finally, I would have friends I could talk to about shows like *Dance Moms* or *Saturday Night Live*; finally, I was living my American dream. My high expectations, however, were instantly crushed on the day I moved in. The overwhelming foreignness of everything rushed over me. America was not what I thought it would be, and I was not as American as I thought. My English, considered so fluent in Malaysia, was suddenly accented here. Feeling hopelessly out of place, I did not reach out for help, fearing that I could never fully articulate my thoughts cohesively and could only embarrass myself even more. Alone in my room, I began to wonder: was I truly meant to be at Lawrenceville, or was I accepted simply to boost the School's diversity statistics? The voices in my head convinced me that I was nothing more than the School's token Malaysian girl.

I confined my extracurricular involvements to affinity groups like the International Students' Association and the Pan-Asian Alliance—the only clubs that I felt I had a place in.

Despite my doubts, I soon realized that I could not continue living in my unfounded fears of being an impostor. The growing number of friends I was beginning to make all oohed and aahed when I first told them I was from Malaysia, so I overcame my social insecurities by self-imposed my role as Malaysia's representative. Through these conversations, I realized how little I knew about Malaysia. Doing something I would have never done at home, I began researching more Malaysian news and literature, hoping to better understand my heritage. While this investigation was initially done with the sole intent of creating a conversation starter, this 'representative' role helped me gain pride in my nationality and appreciation for my unique cultural upbringing. I no longer wished to be simply American. I was different from my peers, and I was proud. However, I also noticed that my worldview, accent, and values became Americanized throughout my time at Lawrenceville, a process that ran simultaneously as I tried to reconnect with my cultural roots. At both Harkness and lunch tables at the Irwin Dining Center, I was learning the "right"

way to speak and act.

Recently, the cultural conflict of mine came to a boiling point. Friends and family at home see me as an American when I am very much an unAmerican student. But how do I see myself? I know I'm Malaysian, but am I now also American? In many ways, being at Lawrenceville has forced me to assimilate culturally, which I knew was inevitable when making the conscious decision to come here. But do I even want to be American? If you asked me at the beginning of my II Form year, I would have eagerly said yes. I thought that being American would have helped me tremendously with acclimating to the Lawrenceville life because it seemed to take all the American students no time to establish friend groups and learn Lawrenceville lingo. Through my many interactions with people, there seemed to be an unspoken understanding that I could only have the true Lawrenceville experience by being fully Americanized, sacrificing

my Malaysian identity in order to fit in.

The concept of being American was so romanticized that I consciously tried to change my personality to fit that mold, which is different from allowing that cultural assimilation to happen naturally. It took me months to realize that nationality should not be the only factor that determines whether you will fit in at Lawrenceville.

There is no easy solution to mitigating the pressures students feel to change themselves, and I don't necessarily think one is needed. But it is important to offer support to students in a way that makes them feel visible, to assure them that they are not alone in their cultural insecurities. If Lawrenceville fosters an environment that encourages more cultural exchange, we can gradually shift towards a community setting that emphasizes cultural blending over assimilation. In order to truly foster an inclusive campus, we must actively seek to encourage multiculturalism. But there are also ways we can be more proactive rather than reactive. I believe students respond best to peer-led initiatives. Whether we have affinity groups host mixers during orientation week, or sometimes have Senior Stories at school meetings, making space for students to share their background and experiences will bring comfort to those currently struggling.



Sally Lee '23 / THE LAWRENCE

Eight V Formers Win Splash

MEGAN KUMAR '24

This past Sunday, the annual Splash Finals began on the Violich Turf Field after a two-year hiatus. During Splash, students are assigned a target, whom they have to splash with water to eliminate before they get a new target. The 417 initial participants slowly dwindled as people were eliminated from the game. Of the 15 finalists, eight became Splash winners: V Formers Alex Alshinbayev, Alex Chun, Jake Heimowitz, Oleg Kokarev, Charlie Macdonnell, Rishin Patel, Sunjay Riener, and John Weaver. Students have developed many strategies to eliminate their targets over the last week. Riener noted that the best thing one can do to eliminate people is to “learn as much as you can about their schedules, where they’re going to be and when, and wait in the location that you know they’re going to pass through.”

As the week progressed, Riener noted how “people became more and more upset [when they were eliminated].” He said, “They’ve been more active and invested, so I think it’s harder for them to get out.”

According to finalist Manoc Joa-Griffith '22, “having someone to scout [your target’s] position” is important. He noted that II Formers were at a disadvantage, having never experienced the intensity of Splash, while V Formers “take it very seriously because they feel it’s their last chance.” Joa-Griffith

reflected on his past mistakes, regretting “not really understanding the rules, not taking it seriously, and [not getting] as hype about it as [he] did this year” as a II Former. Since then, he has employed a variety of tactics such as only trusting a few people and learning the schedules of his targets. Underformers have also learned to follow the example of upperclassmen; Patel noted V Formers “had a 12-person alliance...[Underformers] saw that and made their own alliances.”

The one piece of advice that Joa-Griffith gave to students participating in Splash in the coming years is not letting your target find out you have them because “once they find out, it’s over. It’s really hard to catch a person after that because they’re always looking for you.” Patel also advised underformers not to “tell anyone who you have, [because] the second you tell them, word is going to get out and everyone’s going to know who you have.” Riener agreed, noting that “people are very eager to obtain and pass on information.”

The start of the annual Splash tournament spurred intense competition around campus. Riener reflected on the energy of campus over the past week. “Splash lifted a lot of spirits this spring because for a lot of people, school had been really mundane and boring...It gave kids a boost of energy and I think it will help us finish the term well,” he said.



8 V Formers Emerged Victorious.

Courtesy of The Lawrenceville School

Lawrenceville Hosts Second All Arts Night

LUKE PARK '24

This past Saturday, May 15, the Arts Council hosted its second All Arts Night, with dance, music, and theater performances in the Bowl. All Arts Night was an event designed by the Arts Council to help cultivate interest in the arts and provide the opportunity to share work with peers and faculty to artists across Lawrenceville. Music and dance groups such as the Apostles, the Disciples, FRObeats, Impulse, the Lawrenceville Dance Team, LKREW, Suave, and Tour De Force (TDF) all performed.

Various art workshops gave students the opportunity to explore topics such as painting, bracelet making, fashion design, and even TikTok video production. Visual arts projects and films were presented in the Gruss Center for Art and Design (GCAD), and students were even able to participate in a House music video competition. Due to social distancing regulations, the event mostly took place outside in the Bowl, but there were also art galleries in GCAD that displayed the work of many student painters and photographers.

All Arts Night originally began last year “in honor of GCAD opening up” according to Arts Council member Evelyn Dugan '21. “We wanted to have a big party in there to show everybody what GCAD was, [and] we had to continue since it was such a big hit.” Dugan was excited to have an event where all of the arts were showcased together. “We wanted people to get a taste

of some of the things that they’d never get to see if they only attended dance performances or Impulse shows... and although it’s outdoors this year, we’re really excited that it happened,” said Dugan.

Dugan also wanted to emphasize how hard the Arts Council had worked to prepare for All Arts night. “We started the Win-

hard,” Dugan said. “But overall, it actually might be better this way [as] it’s more spaced out, and we’re still using GCAD as our walk-through gallery” she said, “I’m really excited about this format and maybe future events will carry out this way as well.”

Many students were excited to display their talents and passion



Students looked at art in the GCAD.

Angel Zhang '22/THE LAWRENCE

ter Term planning it... We have an Arts Council of just under 20 members or so and we all came together and had different booth ideas such as necklace making or TikTok filming,” she said. Since many members of the Arts Council are affiliated with different clubs, they worked with those groups to bring them all together to All Arts Night.

Of course, given restrictions regarding social distancing as well as the short time frame provided, planning the event was not easy. “Having to change the location [of the event] was difficult, and making sure everyone was safe was also

for the arts. According to one such performer, Jalen Lespinasse '23, his main motivation to perform was his love for the arts. “I love making music. I am a huge fan of the arts and I love entertaining people” he said.

Overall, many students found the event a success and felt that it was an enjoyable experience. Leo de Giorgi '24 said, “It was really fun, colorful and energetic...I would definitely recommend this experience to others.”

Nathan Ku '24 agreed, saying, “It was a blast! Hearing kids from our own school performing was really amazing to hear.”

Students Host National High School Climate Forum

IAN LEE '24

This past Sunday, May 16, the National High School Climate Forum held its first virtual summit in the form of a webinar. The Forum seeks to bring together sustainability and climate action-focused high schools from around the country to establish an exchange of ideas for initiatives in their respective communities. The summit focused on the theme of “The Future of Fighting Climate Change” with three speakers, a question and answer session, and three student presentation groups. Lawrenceville students Andrew Noviello '23 and Alexander Noviello '23, along with students from Princeton Day School, worked to arrange the event.

The first speaker was Ms. Geraldine Barnuevo, who serves as the Senior Sustainability Manager of General Motors. Barnuevo emphasized the efforts made by General Motors to cut back on emissions, especially through the lens of electric vehicles. In particular, she stressed how General Motors seeks “to create a world with zero crashes, zero emissions, and zero congestions, which has led to important business growth and innovation in areas such as



Andrew Noviello '23 and Alexander Noviello '23 presented with Mike Koraleski.

autonomous and electric vehicles.”

Next, Senior Vice President of Conservation International Will Turner took the stage to answer questions about his journey and perspectives on sustainability and climate action. Turner encouraged high school students to pursue their varying interests without feeling obligated to follow traditionally environmental areas, saying, “to save the planet and to help people, you don’t have

to have one particular degree. What we really need is people in all kinds of careers and places. The important thing is that they’re working together towards the common goal of a sustainable planet.”

The last speaker was Mike Koraleski, the Chief Manufacturing Operations Officer of First Solar. Koraleski introduced his company, which is the largest solar panel producer in the Western Hemisphere. He detailed the production process

and design of the solar panels, which are optimized for cost-effectiveness, sustainability, and convenience. Koraleski summarized the goal of First Solar, saying, “We want to provide cost-efficient technology, focus on innovation, engage our customers, [and] be industry leaders” while maintaining a level of excellence.

After the first hour of speakers, a brief question-and-answer session was held, and the summit transitioned from the webi-

nar platform Webio to Zoom in order to facilitate group discussions among summit members as well as three student presentations.

Three breakout rooms were arranged so that the students could present in smaller discussion groups. The first presentation was under the theme “Environmental Books and Films,” which recommended several books, websites, and movies relating to environmentalism and sustainability. Next, two other students focused on “The History of Environmental Justice,” and “Sustainability Across the U.S.”

Reflecting after the summit, Andrew Noviello '23 highlighted the main goals of the event. “We wanted to give students opportunities to learn about the next generation of technology and different important aspects of the work done to combat climate change,” he said. Although there were difficulties in finding varying speakers on sustainability and environmentalism, Andrew Noviello noted that the persistence was the greatest lesson learned from the work leading up to the event. “Just keep trying other routes; people are very nice. They were willing to speak for us and liked our mission, but it did take a lot of reaching out.”

Ian Lee '24/THE LAWRENCE

Celebrating the Mighty Class of 2021 With End-of-Year Events

ADI JUNG '23
& EMMA KIM '23

The class of 2021 has had a V Form year like no other. However, as it comes to a close, the V Form class can finally look forward to two much deserved senior celebrations: prom and Commencement. As June 5 and 6—prom and Commencement, respectively—approach, V Form Level Director Jason Larson H'03 '19, Associate Dean of Students Emilie Kosoff H'88 '96 '00 '18 P'19, and members of the Prom Committee—a group composed of 21 volunteer V Formers, Director of Auxiliary Programs Ryan Williams '07, and Director of Student Activities Karen Reading—have been hard at work planning the events.

For the past 14 years, Senior Prom has taken place on a yacht trip around New York City, but with Covid-19 safety protocols still in place, Lawrenceville has had to alter the tradition while still making it just as unforgettable. The Prom Committee has been meeting and planning since Winter Term to figure out decorations, food, and logistics.

"How could we celebrate [the] class of 2021, recognize [its] accomplishments, and allow... friends to take part?" was the central question the Prom Committee asked during its meetings. For starters, the committee was adamant about having a maskless prom for students who are fully vaccinated. This dedication, coupled with a lack of availability in venues large enough for the V Form class, led to prom being hosted on campus this year. Due to Covid-19 restrictions, only V Formers will be allowed to attend prom, including Remote Learning Option and day student V Formers who will attend after a full 14-day quarantine. Lawrenceville's 'pre-prom,' normally held in the Kirby Arts Center

(KAC), will be live-streamed for parents from the Abbott Dining Room, and the event will be accompanied by a photo booth and hors d'oeuvres. Following this, the 'traditional' Lawrenceville prom will occur in the two tents behind the KAC. To conclude, food trucks will be parked outside V Form housing, and V Formers will receive blankets as their Senior Gifts.

Reflecting on the benefits of this year's unique situation,

President of Social Life Caroline Foster '21 pointed out that although there will be some traditions that the Class of 2021 will miss out on, like photos with underformers, her class will avoid the long bus rides that usually take up most of prom night. Most importantly, Foster says that she is looking forward to "the last time that [her] class is together and getting to see everyone dressed up."

Many V Formers are excited for the opportunity to come back together as a class one last time to bring this school year to an end. Grayson Miller '21, a member of the Prom Committee, said that he is excited "to spend a great night with all the people [he hasn't] been able to see in so long and savor the last night at Law-

renceville and make it the best one possible."

Commencement, another pivotal event for the V Form, will remain mostly unchanged from years past. The main difference this year will be the new location; Commencement will take place at the Keuffel Stadium as opposed to in the Bowl.

"I'm grateful that I'm getting to walk across the stage in-person at all, no matter how different it may be," Bernice Hightower '21 said. With access to the bleachers, track, and the large football field, graduates can invite a maximum of four guests while still limiting contact between the Lawrenceville population and those outside of the School's testing pool. Underclassmen

will not be allowed to attend unless they are the siblings of current graduates and will instead be encouraged to tune in to the livestream.

Saturday, May 29, is the beginning of all of these end-of-year celebrations. The Pinning Ceremony will occur that day, with V Formers officially being inducted into the Alumni Association. Spectators outside of the School's testing cohorts will not be allowed, which includes siblings and recent graduates, but "the tradition of the Pinning Ceremony will be pre-

served," Kosoff said. Pier Kooistra H'14 P'20, the elected faculty speaker, will give a speech at the ceremony, and the Honorary Member of the class of 2021 will be announced as well.

"The rosettes given at pinning are a real symbol of what [the V Form class has] accomplished over the last four years, but also what they are becoming a part of as they graduate from Lawrenceville. They will always find Lawrenceville wherever they land in this world," Kosoff said.

Thursday, June 3, the last day of classes for the V Form, will commence with the Underform Prize Ceremony at the football fields followed by House Banquets, with the V Form Prize Ceremony occurring the following day. Most traditions will remain the same, with current School President Soleil Saint-Cyr '21 passing the mantle to the 2021-22 School President Annie Katz '22, speeches being delivered by both Head of School Steve Murray H'54 '55 '65 '16 P'16 '21 and Valedictorian Chelsea Wang '21, words of advice from both School Rabbi Lauren Levy H'97 '01 P'01 '02 '09 and School Chaplain Sue Anne Steffey Morrow H'12, and the reading of the names announced by Dean of Students Blake Eldridge '96. John Weaver '21, the elected Aurelian Speaker, will speak solely to the V Form at a separate date.

Although Commencement and prom will certainly look different this year, Lawrenceville has managed to keep the spirit and essence of these traditions alive.

"They have shown great resilience, great fortitude, and great promise in navigating a year unlike any other that they may encounter in their lifetimes. No one wanted this and clearly we wouldn't want this for anyone, including our [V Formers], but they have pushed through, and we are so excited [for] what the next chapter will bring for this great class of 2021," Kosoff said.



Rania Shah '23/THE LAWRENCE

Eight Attendees Reflect on Their Freshman Invite-a-Friend Experience

NICHOLE JIN '24
& CONSTANCE SHARP '24

What was it like guessing who your partner was?

"I actually really enjoyed [guessing whom I got]—especially getting the clothes and stuff from my mystery partner." - Marina Keller '24

"It was fun because I got to pester my prefects about it" - Emily Piggee '24

"I jokingly told the prefects that I want a guy that's X, Y, and Z, and they actually went and found one. The day of Freshman Invite-a-Friend, I had my item of his, but his name was on it, so I knew who I had that day." - Sneha Kumar '24

What was the best and worst part of the night?

"Worst part of the night was [when] Carina [Beritela '22] and Chloe [Winograd '24] beat us in spikeball. The best part was our matching outfits...I think it was my partner's first time wearing a blazer to campus, which was such an integral part of my Lawrenceville experience." - Annie Katz '22

"The best thing was that I was with total strangers and the worst thing was that I was also with total strangers" - Campbell FitzHugh '22

"I was really hungry, but we only got one burger, which was pretty tough." - Arnab Aggarwal '22

How was the connection you made with your partner?

"In terms of connection, there was nothing really like deep or earth-shattering. We were just talking." - Sneha Kumar '24

"Well it wasn't awkward at all. It was easy to connect with her because I think she just has a really outgoing personality." - Juliette Vazquez '24

"We were able to get closer...now if it ever gets awkward at HSO [Hindu Students' Organization] at least we have something to talk about." - Arnab Aggarwal '22

What would you change about the night?

"I would change the way that the invitees are introduced to the girls. It's so hard to scope through clusters of [II Form] girls to find out who has you." - Kyle Huyghue '22

"I think the culture behind it...I know they let you invite girls this year, [but] there's [still] this heteronormativity behind the event, however much we try and change it." - Marina Keller '24

Do you have any lasting regrets from the night?

"Not going up for seconds during the Shake Shack feed" - Kyle Huyghue '22

"I don't think I have any regrets. It was overall a really fun night, and I don't think I would change anything." - Juliette Vazquez '24

"I would talk to more of the [II Formers]. I felt like I kind of just stuck to one group of people. I could have walked around a little more with my partner and met all of her friends." - Campbell FitzHugh '22

Would you hang out with your partner again?

"I want my quote in *The Lawrence* to be 'absolutely not' but definitely yes." - Annie Katz '22

"I'd shoot hoops with her, crack jokes, maybe have dinner with her." - Emily Piggee '24

"We say 'hi' when we see each other around campus now!" - Kyle Huyghue '22

"I'll probably see him this Sunday for Holi... Otherwise, I don't think I'll really see him or talk to him much." - Sneha Kumar '24



Just a casual conversation. Courtesy of Danica Bajaj '21



Juliette Vazquez '24 & Annie Katz '22. Courtesy of Juliette Vazquez '24



An intense game of spikeball. Courtesy of Danica Bajaj '21



Shake Shack Feed! Courtesy of Carina Beritela '22

Orchestra Concert: Performing “Under the Stars”

ALISTAIR LAM '23

This past Friday, May 14, the Lawrenceville Philharmonic Orchestra hosted an outdoor concert in the Bowl, with a theme of “Under the Stars.” The concert began with Johannes Brahms’s *Symphony No. 1*, “4th Movement” and Gustav Holst’s “Jupiter, the Bringer Of Jollity” from *The Planets*, followed by a performance of Nikolai Rimsky-Korsakov’s *Themes from “Scheherazade.”* Students then played *Tron: Anthem*, by Wendy Carlos, and concluded the night with *Suite of Dances I*, by Florence Price.

Chair of the Performing Arts Department and Conductor of the Orchestra, Keith Roeckle shared his inspirations for organizing the concert: “I knew we couldn’t do [the concert] inside and saw that the Bowl had a nice setting, [so the ‘Under the Stars’ concept] fell into place organically,” he said. Compared to indoor concerts, Roeckle expressed that outdoor ones are more visible and can attract audiences which may not have come if it were indoors.

According to Roeckle, the choices made for the program’s repertoire were motivated by several relevant themes. “I had actually wanted to do the *Tron* piece for a long time, as the movie is about a guy who gets sucked into a computer and has to fight his way out, [similar to the way] we are fighting our way out of Zoom,” Roeckle said.

Additionally, the night’s repertoire also reflected Lawrenceville’s ongoing goal towards diversity, equity, and inclusion. “The number one underrepresented population of composers is female,” Roeckle pointed out. Two of the

pieces chosen for the concert were composed by female artists. Wendy Carlos, the composer of *Tron Anthem*, is a trans woman, and Florence Price, the composer of *Suite of Dances*, is an African-American woman. Lawrenceville’s



The orchestra performed in the Bowl.

Philharmonic Orchestra is among the first high school orchestras to perform these two works. Roeckle also commented that the two pieces have many musical merits and should be more widely performed and celebrated.

The Violin II Section Leader, Jacqueline Chen '21, reflected on hybrid Spring Term rehearsals done in preparation for the concert, saying, “I especially liked the way Spring Term went because [the orchestra was] actually able to combine as a big group, which [it hadn’t] been able to do in the fall. [The meetings] reminded me of orchestra rehearsals [in] the

past.”

Chen really enjoyed the opportunity to rehearse outdoors this term. “I thought it was so fun to be able to share our music every week with the II Formers who were always playing in the Bowl

me to [the] community of musicians [who weren’t in] my grade, but [with whom] I was still able to form a connection...because we shared [a common passion]. I’m definitely going to miss it,” she recounted.

and also [with] the teachers that were walking past [us]. Sometimes they [would stop] for a few minutes to listen, so I thought that was a really cool way to rehearse,” she remarked.

As a V Former, this was Chen’s last concert at Lawrenceville. “[The concert] was a great way to end my orchestra career at Lawrenceville because my parents and some of my friends came to support me,” Chen said. Chen had been part of the School’s Orchestra since her II Form year. “Playing music with my classmates and friends [was] always such a fun time. [Orchestra] also introduced

Courtesy of The Lawrenceville School

Also playing the violin at the concert was David Gao '23, who expressed that he really enjoyed outdoor rehearsals during the Spring Term. “I feel like we’ve been able to adjust pretty well by utilizing different spaces like the tent. Everybody likes to go to [rehearsals] to hang out with others since there’s not as much social interaction during the pandemic. It feels better outdoors,” he commented. Gao also enjoyed playing in the concert. “It was unique; people were pulling up in lawn chairs. The evening [created a] certain mood and environment [and] everyone just had a good

time. It was fun,” he said.

“We played interesting music from a myriad of different backgrounds as well as different musical eras,” remarked Callum Sharma '23, who plays the clarinet in the Philharmonic. Sharma very much enjoyed performing in the Bowl. “After all the practice everyone’s put in [over] these few months, it’s nice to play in front of [other] people. [The concert] had a great atmosphere with everyone watching [in the Bowl and] from the side. The sound also picked up well because of the shape [of the Bowl], which is really cool,” he said.

Audience member Autri Basu '23 commented that “One nice thing about outdoor concerts is... the environment [because] we are fortunate to have such a beautiful campus. The experience in the Bowl was really pleasant, as you had the backdrop of [the Fathers Building] over it, which gave [the concert] even more grandeur. The sound carried really well and I could hear everything crisply. Also, the concert took place around evening time and you could see the sun going down, [creating a] really pretty nighttime aesthetic,” he said.

“It was nice to have an outdoor concert for a change in the Bowl with a really lovely setting. It ended up being a nice finishing touch to our season,” Roeckle concluded. He mentioned that many audience members approached him afterward to inquire if the orchestra will hold outdoor concerts again in the future. In the coming year, Roeckle hopes to do more outdoor events to complement the traditional indoor concerts held annually in the Edith Memorial Chapel.

A V Formers’ Musical: *Songs for a New World*



The cast performed near the football field.

Courtesy of The Lawrenceville School

KELLY LU '23
YEWON CHANG '23

This past Sunday, May 16, V Formers Zack Finacchio, Anjali Kumar, Arata Fujii, and Gabby Medina performed an adaptation of the musical *Songs for a New World* by Tony Award Winner Jason

Robert Brown. Directed by Eleni Lefakis '21, the hour-long musical was the first student-produced and directed musical at Lawrenceville in over a decade.

Songs for a New World is a song-cycle musical composed of a series of separate but related songs. Each song represents the story of a char-

acter who endures struggles and seeks a new world where they can be themselves.

The cast performed 12 songs, around half of the original soundtrack. Lefakis reflected upon the artistic freedom she was given to cut and reorder the songs. “I got to decide which of the duets stayed, and I was so happy every time we did ‘I’d Give it All For Free’ [because] I’d be so happy we did not choose ‘The World Was Dancing.’ [I’d feel like] I made the right decision,” she said. In contrast to how Brown presented the original, Lefakis ordered the songs in a way that would generate a cohesive plotline.

The cast of *Songs for a New World* faced many challenges throughout the preparation process. Unlike other theater performances on campus, the musical was not sponsored by the Periwig Club and thus did not have much funding or preparation time. The cast had to work with a minimal set and a tight schedule of three weeks. In addition, Covid-19 restrictions posed obstacles such as singing entire shows with masks on and having to socially distance on stage. However, reflecting on the performance, Medina said, “[Everything] can be challenging, but I

think when you really want something, and you care about it a lot, you make it work. I think we did that.”

Although the cast was unable to use many props and resources on stage to make their ideas come to life, they were resourceful in other ways. Instead of intricate costumes, they took advantage of different colored clothing to represent the emotions felt by their respective characters. Kumar wore yellow for fear, Medina wore green for greed, Finacchio wore red to represent frustration, and Fujii wore blue to show freedom. In addition, Amaris Hernandez '21 and Ariana Codjoe '21 helped to choreograph dance scenes such as the doo-wop-inspired background dance for “The Steam Train” song. Prior to the premiere, Finacchio commented on how he had been dreaming about a student-produced and -directed show since his II Form year. “It’s just really cool to see something [happen] that we thought would never happen in the fall. We actively made jokes about it not happening, and now, here it is,” he said.

The actors emphasized the effort required for production: “I cannot thank [Finacchio] and [Lefakis]

enough for making this happen. I know they went to so many meetings and [faced] a lot of setbacks... that they had to work around,” Kumar said.

Fujii also noted, “I am very honored to be a part of this production and that [Finacchio] reached out to me [last winter] about this opportunity. I’m very, very glad that I was picked.”

“I’m really, really proud of [Finacchio] because this was all his idea and we just jumped on board because he asked. We were excited about it...and [I’m proud of Lefakis] as well. I have a lot of gratitude towards the two of them... they...made this accomplishment because they are incredible,” Medina said.

Reflecting on directing the show, Lefakis commented, “I’m really happy that we got to do [*Songs for a New World*] because it’s one of those shows about being at a crossroad... I’ve done shows before, and I’ve directed shows before, but I’ve never had such a big emotional reaction [as I did for this one]. I think that has to do with the time [put in], and the kind of show it was, [and] I was really, really, happy with how the audience reacted to it.”

Bedard v. Michkov: Adding to a Historic Rivalry

NIC GINGAS '22

The 1972 Summit Series, during which the Canadian national hockey team managed to come back from a three-goal deficit late in the third period against the Russian national team, set the stage for what would turn into arguably the greatest rivalry the sport has ever seen: Canada vs Russia on ice.

Since then, the two countries have had other high-intensity encounters. In the 1991 World Junior Championship, Canada made history by becoming the first team to win the tournament at home when they defeated the Soviets to secure gold in Saskatoon, Canada. 2011's World Junior Championship added to the historic rivalry, as Russia scored five unanswered goals in the third period, taking gold in the tournament for the first time in eight years. Of the four international hockey tournaments in which the two countries have competed since 1920, Canada leads Russia two to one; the fourth tournament, the International Ice Hockey Federation (IIHF) U18 World Championship, is deadlocked at five wins apiece for each nation. This year's IIHF U18 World Championship served as a historic tiebreaker

for the two foes. On May 6, two young prodigies, Canada's Connor Bedard and Russia's Matvei Michkov, went head-to-head as they booked a new chapter in the historic Canada vs Russia rivalry.

Despite his young age, 15-years-old, Bedard has already built an impressive resume. The North Vancouver native first caught the hockey world's attention in 2018 after recording 88 points in just 30 games playing for West Van Academy Prep of the Canadian Sport School Hockey League (CSSHL). Bedard showed no signs of slowing down as he led the league in goals and points, earning him the league's Most Valuable Player award for two years in a row. After proving his consistency and effectiveness in the CSSHL, Bedard drew atten-

tion from scouts in the Western Hockey League (WHL). Though Bedard's age initially disabled his draft eligibility, Bedard received exceptional status by the NHL, allowing him to be drafted by the

Regina Pats at just 15 years old.

Russia's own hockey prodigy, 16-year-old Michkov, born in Perm, Russia, first caught the media's attention last

playing in Russia's premier hockey league, the Kontinental Hockey League (KHL), for SKA Saint Petersburg and is under a professional contract until the spring of 2026.

Bedard and Michkov first met on ice at the U17 World Championship, so the U18 World Championship served as their second outing. The final game was immediately physical, as Canadian defenseman Nolan Allen checked Russia's Nikita Chibrikov into Russia's bench less than one minute into the game. With physicality on their side, Canada seemed destined to strike first, yet their momentum was put to a sudden stop when Michkov scored the first goal only five minutes into the first period, marking the first time

mistake, sliding by two defensemen into the slot and scoring a backhanded shot mere minutes later. After several close calls, forward Dmitri Buchelnikov of Russia scored from the slot to give Russia the lead. The Canadians later tied the game with a power-play goal by captain Shane Wright, concluding the first period. Despite the action of the first period, the second period remained uneventful until Canada's Brenann Othmann scored nine minutes in, giving Canada their first lead of the game. The Canadians then scored a second goal before the end of the period, putting Canada up by two. In the third period of the game, despite Russia's efforts, Canada skated away with a 5-3 win, securing them the the IIHF U18 Championship.

As far as individual performances go, none stood out more than the two young prospects Michkov and Bedard, who recorded 16 points and 14 points in seven games, respectively. Michkov tied the tournament record, and Bedard tied the Canadian record for number of points in a single tournament. The two, distinct in nationality, but alike in their youth and talent, will hopefully treat us with more matchups to add to the historic



Stephanie Xu '23/THE LAWRENCE

year when he recorded 109 points in Russia's U16 league. Michkov continued to show his offensive dominance as he averaged a point per game as a 16-year-old in the U20 league. Michkov is currently

Canada had trailed throughout the entire tournament. With five minutes left in the first period, Bedard got fouled, as he was on a breakaway, but failed to capitalize. Bedard quickly made up for his

Should the NBA Play-In Tournament be Here to Stay?

RYAN VISICH '22

The National Basketball Association (NBA) has seen many changes to its season this year. Along with a 72-game regular season (as opposed to the usual 82) and a variety of new health and safety protocols, the most unusual change has been the Play-In Tournament. Whereas last year's Play-In competition offered only the ninth seed of each conference an opportunity to reach the playoffs, this year's rendition involves the seventh through tenth seeds, which compete for each conference's last two spots in the NBA Playoffs. The first round of the tournament consists of a seventh and eighth seed matchup and a ninth and tenth seed matchup, where the winner of the seventh and eighth seed game advances to the playoffs. Next, the loser of the seventh and eighth seed game matches up with the winner of the ninth and 10th seed game, and the winner clinches the final playoff spot. In other words, the seventh and eighth seed teams must win at least once to advance, whereas the ninth and tenth seed must win two consecutive games to clinch a playoff berth.

As confusing as it is, the reasoning behind this tournament structure is equally as puzzling, and since its implementation it has become a topic of controversy. Last month, Dallas Mavericks owner Mark Cuban and star player Luka Doncic both criticized the pointlessness of the tournament. In theory, the Play-In Tournament would act to heighten urgency towards the end of the regular season, providing more excitement for fans. However, Los Angeles Lakers Forward LeBron James, who many consider as the face of the NBA, was not as enthused: "Whoever came up with [the Play-In]...needs

to be fired," he said. Granted, James's complaints stem from his involuntary participation in the tournament, as the Lakers participated in the Play-In as the seventh seed. Nonetheless, while NBA executives' experimenting with the Play-

LeBron James (top) and Luka Doncic (bottom) both criticized the NBA Play-In Tournament

Courtesy of BroBible



Courtesy of CBS Sports

In tournament should not jeopardize the job, James is right—the NBA Play-In Tournament is not a good idea.

The original seven-game series format was never flawed. The main reason why each playoff series in the NBA is seven games—as opposed to

a win or go home format like in the NFL playoffs or March Madness—is because it ensures that the better team walks away victorious. Take James, for example, whose team lost the first game and then won 3-1 against the

off night—they happen to miss shots while their opponent catches fire. Basketball has an inherent edge of uncertainty, but the seven-game series allows the better team a deserved chance at the championship. Again,

Warriors during the 2016 finals. He led his team to a phenomenal three-game win streak to win the finals that year in one of the greatest comeback stories of all time. The truth is, while the better team should win the play-in game, there's a chance that despite being the better team, they have an

in reference to James, the Lakers fell to the Blazers and Rockets in the first game of last year's first and second round, respectively. Yet because it was the better team, the Lakers won both series in five games and only lost three more games in that postseason en route to the NBA Championship.

Rather than advancing or exiting the playoffs due to a single performance, the conventional postseason format allowed for the Lakers to prove themselves as the outright best team.

The Play-In Tournament adds four extra teams, the ninth and tenth seeds from both conferences, to the playoff picture, three of which, the Pacers, Hornets, and Spurs, are under a .500 winning percentage. These teams don't have nearly as much talent as the average playoff team, yet they will still be competing for a playoff spot due to the new Play-In Tournament. In the case that a ninth or tenth seed ends up stealing the last playoff spot, they'd have to go up against the best team in their respective conference. In the West, that's the 52-20 Utah Jazz, and in the East, it's the 49-23 76ers—a wildly unfavorable matchup for the underdog ninth or tenth seed. By implementing the playoff tournament to theoretically increase entertainment value towards the end of the regular season, the NBA is trading off and devaluing postseason excitement, as even nine or ten seed winners are due to get swept in four games by the first seed of each conference.

So far in the Play-In Tournament, the Hornets, the Spurs, and the Pacers have been eliminated, while the Lakers, Celtics, and Wizards have secured their playoff spot. Despite the buzz surrounding the NBA's latest addition, it's hard to ignore the fact that teams that would otherwise have been in the playoffs are needlessly jeopardizing their chances in the tournament. It was fine to see the Play-In happen, but ultimately, due to putting postseason participation up to chance and devaluing postseason entertainment, The Play-In Tournament should not return in the following years.

Big Red Boys' Tennis Takes on MAPLs

TIFFANY YEUNG '22

This past Saturday, May 15, the Lawrenceville Boys Tennis team traveled to Blair Academy to compete in the Mid-Atlantic Prep League (MAPL) Championships. Lawrenceville bested MAPL rivals Mercersburg Academy, The Hun School of Princeton, Peddie School, and The Hill School, finishing the tournament second behind Blair Academy.

At first singles, Marcos Maldacena '21 faced challenging competition, falling to Peddie's number one singles in the semifinals. At second singles, Brandon Cheng '22 first defeated Hill and followed with a victory over Hun to clinch the second singles flight. Captain Rishin Patel '21 finished in third place in his third singles flight, besting Peddie's third singles in the third-fourth playoffs. Captain Kylan Tatum '21, who was limited to only an underhand serve and backhand slice due to a left-wrist injury, impressively came back to win the fourth singles flight. Even though the winner of the tournament was determined before their final match, Bryce Langdon '24 and Martin Ma '21 persevered over Blair's first doubles team in a third-set tiebreaker to win the doubles flight.



From left to right: Marcos Maldacena '21, Brandon Cheng '22, & Rishin Patel '21

Although Lawrenceville finished first in three of the five flights—Cheng, Tatum, Ma and Langdon all won their respective flights—due to the scoring, Blair ultimately took home the win. Blair reached the finals in all five flights while Lawrenceville only reached the final in three flights. Ultimately, Lawrenceville ended with 19 points, while Blair finished with 21 points.

Despite the disappointing second-place finish to Blair, Maldacena took a

lot of positives away from Lawrenceville's performance, saying, "My favorite part of MAPLs was watching my teammates play some amazing tennis in the finals, especially Cheng, who won at number two singles, and number four Tatum, who came back from losing 5-0...It was amazing to watch how [Tatum] battled through the game. [Langdon] and [Ma] beat their opponents 11-9 in the third tiebreaker. They came back, and it was

Courtesy of The Lawrenceville School

really impressive."

Patel and Tatum added that the team's experience at the MAPL Championship exemplified its journey throughout the season. Though new members comprised a majority of this year's team, they nonetheless were able to build chemistry and a strong dynamic. "We really bonded this year and had a lot of great experiences together. During MAPLs, I think that we all played pretty well. It was a good

performance from us," Patel said.

"We also showed a lot of grit this year, especially [Ma and Langdon] at first doubles as they came back from a set down to win in a tiebreaker even after the tournament had been decided in Blair's favor," Tatum said. He added, "It's easy to get caught up in the competition, and of course we're going to play to win, but we also have to remember to have a good time in the process"

While the Lawrenceville boys tennis team fell short of the championship by only two points, Langdon remains hopeful for next year. "We'll be right back at it for next year," he said. Varsity Tennis Coach Kim McMenam summed up the season: "In my first year as Varsity Coach, I couldn't have asked for a better effort from our team at MAPLs. Even when the overall prize was already decided before the final round of matches, our guys put aside that disappointment and played with the kind of heart and skill they've shown all season. I'm very proud of them." With a culture of resilience and dedication already established, Lawrenceville boys tennis looks to rebound and add the MAPL Championship to the trophy case next year.

Championship Week for Big Red Track

ANDREW BOANO '23

The Lawrenceville Varsity Track and Field program has historically dominated at both the New Jersey State Interscholastic Athletic Association (NJSIAA) and Mid-Atlantic Prep League (MAPL) levels. For the past 20 years, the girls team has won every single MAPL championship; over the same time span, the boys team has lost just twice. With high expectations to live up to, the team traveled to the Peddie School for the NJSIAA Championships this past Saturday. As fate would have it, they tore through the competition.

On the girls team, Naa Kwama Ankrah '23 started the meet off with a bang, placing second in the 100 meter dash. In the 200m run, Ankrah ran a personal record of 27.61 seconds that put her in third place, while Captain Laila Ritter '22 placed first in both the 200m and the 400m race. Kiera Duffy '22 carried the torch during the middle distance races, placing second in the 800m race and first in the mile run with a personal record time of 5:00:00. Keira Lehmann '24 ran a 5:38:03 mile followed by a 12:29:42 in the two mile race, placing third and second, respectively.

In the field events, Ava Conyer '21 placed first in the high jump, and the team swept the pole vault, with IV



Big Red Boys' Varsity Track hoisted the MAPL Championship trophy.

Courtesy of The Lawrenceville School

Formers Ananya Malhotra, Sophia Springer, and Amelie Wickham each setting personal records. To end the competition, Isabela Ricardo '21 took second in the long jump, while Anna O'Keefe '24 placed second in the javelin throw with a personal record of 84'4". At the end of the day, the girls earned a complete victory with 182 total points, 69.5 points more than the second place Pingry School.

On the boys team, with sweeps in the javelin and high jump, near sweeps in the discus throw and long jump, and Pat Montgomery's '22 strong placement in the shotput, the field events proved to be a pivotal factor in the team's dominating

victory. On the track, Captain Bob Fish '21 and Jay Swindell '22 took second and third in the 100m respectively, while team spark plug Manoc Joa-Griffith '22 took first in both the 200m and 400m. With a time of 50.04 seconds, Joa-Griffith now holds the second fastest 400m time among prep schools in New Jersey. A 400m hurdle win courtesy of Stanley Hir '23 and strong placements from Sean Scarpa '23 and Connor King '22 helped bring the boys team total to 221 points that day—miles ahead of second-place The Hun School of Princeton's 91 points.

Carrying their momentum into this past Wednesday's MAPL

Championship, the Boys Varsity Track Team overpowered the competition from the outset. Captains Fish and Will Murray '21 took first and third in the long jump, respectively, and Greg Foster '22 took second to complete the sweep of the event. Cole Shannon's '23 6'02" high jump personal record placed him first in the event, and a remarkable 13 foot pole vault from Ben Polaski '21 closed out an overall gritty performance in the field events. On the track, Joa-Griffith won both the 200m and 400m dashes for the second week in a row, and the team of Joa-Griffith, Daniel Cummings '22, Thomas Atkinson '22, and Hir blazed through the 4x400m

relay. To top it off, Fish took home the award for Most Valuable Track Athlete on the day, and Joshua Iyonsi '21 won Most Valuable Field Athlete. With a final score of 245 points, 110 more than second place winner The Hill School, the boys won the MAPL Championship comfortably.

For the girls, the meet was hard-fought. Petra Langan '21 and Ije Achebe '21 placed in the 400m hurdles with Achebe achieving a personal record time of 1:12.30. With Lehmann's two second-place finishes in the 1600m and 3200m races, alongside two first-place finishes from Duffy in those events, the distance team had an amazing day. On the field, Wickham continued her dominance in the pole vault, while O'Keefe continued her success from the NJSIAA tournament with a throw of 85'06" in the javelin, topping her personal record from the previous week. At the end of the day, despite impressive performances from the girls, they fell just short of the Hill School in capturing the MAPL title.

Next week, both teams will compete in their final meet on Friday night against Blair Academy, Germantown Academy, and Union Catholic High School. With an impressive group of standout athletes, Lawrenceville's track and field teams look to dominate once again in the season finale.

141 Board Picks cont.

	Ben Cavanagh Copy Editor	Autri Basu Copy Editor	Emmy Apfel Associates Editor	Stephanie Xu Graphics Editor	Quincy Leung Photos Editor	Sally Lee Web Editor
Any advice to your younger self?	don't befriend day students	don't befriend boarders	binging The Bachelor does, in fact, kill brain cells	get a new roommate	apply last year so you can go to the feeds	bring more instant food!
Favorite thing about The Lawrence?	the lack of sleep	the weekly "how do we destroy L10" meetings	feeds!!	Sally Lee	the feeds	Stephanie Xu
Guilty pleasure?	integration by parts	sour cream	drying my hands with 3+ paper towels	Homage to Harkness	only going to the feeds	shipping couples on a TV show 10 years ago