



Boston Latin School

# Argo

# Class of 2021



## EDITORS' NOTE



As annual tradition dictates, each new pair of EiCs takes on the responsibility (burden?) of overseeing the production of the *Argo's* Graduation Issue. We vividly recall our perception of this role as admirable, and even alluring, to our ambitious sixie selves — three weeks of constant duress later, it seems that our attitude may have slightly changed.

Taking on the behemoth known as Grad Issue seems less like wading into the shallow end of the pool as it does being thrown into a bonfire head-first. It's a world of kill or be killed (by Layout, who will actually do so if we ignore their texts any longer than we already have).

Given all this, it would be an absolute travesty if we didn't credit our terrific staff of editors, writers and associates for helping us accomplish this Herculean task. To our News, Forum, A&E and Sports Editors, thank you for churning out article after article even in light of less-than-ideal circumstances. Thank you to Copy for deleting all of our Oxford commas (still not sure why that's an *Argo* convention) and dealing with the NINE late spotlights. Thank you Photo for miraculously editing more than 70 photos in about a week (we're still sorry!), and thanks again to Layout, because without their hours upon hours of toiling, the paper you are holding in your hands (or reading on your screen) would not exist.

Now, onto our demonstrations of gratitude for the soon-to-be gone alums, leaving us for the raucous, hectic, post-pubescent dimension known as college.

John, Emily and Esther, thanks for all of your continued efforts as our fantastic Newsies in spite of senioritis (which Aidan still holds a grudge over). Also, John, you owe Elizabeth half of a lava cake.

Next, onto Forum, which Jasmine and Alice headed so excellently. We'll miss you both, and we certainly expect frequent visits (not just for the sake of stealing our food).

To Anna, A&E will feel incomplete without your motherly presence. Please don't forget about us even though you'll be exactly 3,083.5 miles away (Elizabeth is feeling a little lost without you already).

Last, but certainly not least, in our Writing Sections, Sports! To the Ashleys and Eric, shoutout for the phenomenal job you've all done in manning the section during a not-too-sporty time within the world.

Production Alums! Even though we both came out of Writing Sections, we now know that y'all are the backbone of our oft fragile club. Farewell to our forever iconic Copy duo, Alice and Cindy. No words can do justice to how much we'll feel your absence. Farewell to Andre, whose photography talents and sass will certainly be missed. Farewell to our one-and-only Layout Father, Eric.

And finally, to our beloved, retired EiCs, Nadine and Julie, what will we do without you? Thank you for all of the time, effort and dedication that you've put into the *Argo*, especially during a year as unprecedented as last. Please never stop replying to our last-minute Production Week questions, even if they come up next year as you're both across the Charles. We'll miss you both so much.

Now, without further ado, we present to you 60 pages of blood, sweat and tears. We hope you enjoy it :).

Love,  
Aidan and Elizabeth

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**Special Thanks to**

Ms. Ellis	Mr. Hourigan
Ms. Harari	Ms. Skerritt

# Argo

Boston Latin School

**Ad Petundum Veritatem**

The *Argo* strives, in accordance with the highest standards of journalism, to inform and inspire its readers, to provide a forum for constructive debate, and to foster understanding among all members of the Boston Latin School community.



## THE BOSTON LATIN SCHOOL ASSOCIATION

*has proudly supported and funded Boston Latin School's sports, extracurriculars, music, academics and publications - including the Argo - for over 160 years*

# Michelle Wu Connects With Boston's Youth

By Joanna Lin (IV)  
& Elyssa Cabey (III)

News Editor and Staff Writer

Discussing topics ranging from racial identity to youth outreach, Boston mayoral candidate and City Councilor Michelle Wu held a press conference on May 10 to connect with the city's student journalists.

Over the course of the conversation, Wu mentioned her goals for addressing racism, emphasizing that the increase in racially charged violence has caused many people of color (POC) to worry about their safety. She hopes to not only address Boston's racial issues in the short-term, first by maximizing resources to reduce the hesitation of students of color returning in-school, but also to continue in the long-term.

Wu explains, "Communities are being marginalized and face violence on a daily basis that long predates COVID-19. [...] And so, this is a way to speak out, to build infrastructure, and organize across the communities to end racism."

The infrastructure and plans to which Wu refers to consists of increasing access to affordable housing and expanding citizen voice in city budgeting, as well as highlighting and investing in Boston's small businesses, especially those owned by POC and women.

Boston Latin School student Maisha Kazi (II) adds, "Small businesses really are the backbone of the city but can easily be neglected, so I really appreciate her attention to them."

Closing the racial wealth gap is also one of the goals of Wu's most well-known policy: the Boston Green New Deal. Her 49-page plan addresses the urgency of climate change, the reasons why cities need to start the race to save the climate in America and, most importantly, her vision and policies for a green Boston.

Aside from the Boston Green New Deal, another way Wu is tying in wealth equality with the environment is through her "Free the T" initiative, which would



Michelle Wu campaigns all over Boston in hopes to win votes.

remove the fares for public transportation. By making Boston's trains and buses more accessible, Wu hopes to alleviate traffic, increase transit equality and reduce the negative effects of motor vehicles on the environment.

The May 10 event is part of a series of virtual student press conferences, which are part of a broader goal of reaching the youth of Boston. Wu's campaign team realizes that to maximize support and passion for her plans, they must reach out to all demographics of the city, including the youth. Her team currently works with student-run organizations such as Youth for Wu and Boston's Student Advisory Council and plans on doing so in the future if elected.

Wu comments, "When it comes to the issues that our community is facing, young people have the greatest stake in

these policies, [and] have led every major movement for progress and equity and equality in this country. And so, we intend to model on the campaign how we will lead an office."

Born in Chicago, Illinois to Taiwanese parents, Wu's extensive history in politics includes working in Boston City Hall in the Office of Administration and Finance in 2010, as well as being political and constituency group organizer for Massachusetts Senator Elizabeth Warren's campaign in 2012. The year after, she was the second woman of color elected to the Boston City Council, and became the first Asian-American and the first female president of color of the Boston City Council in 2016.

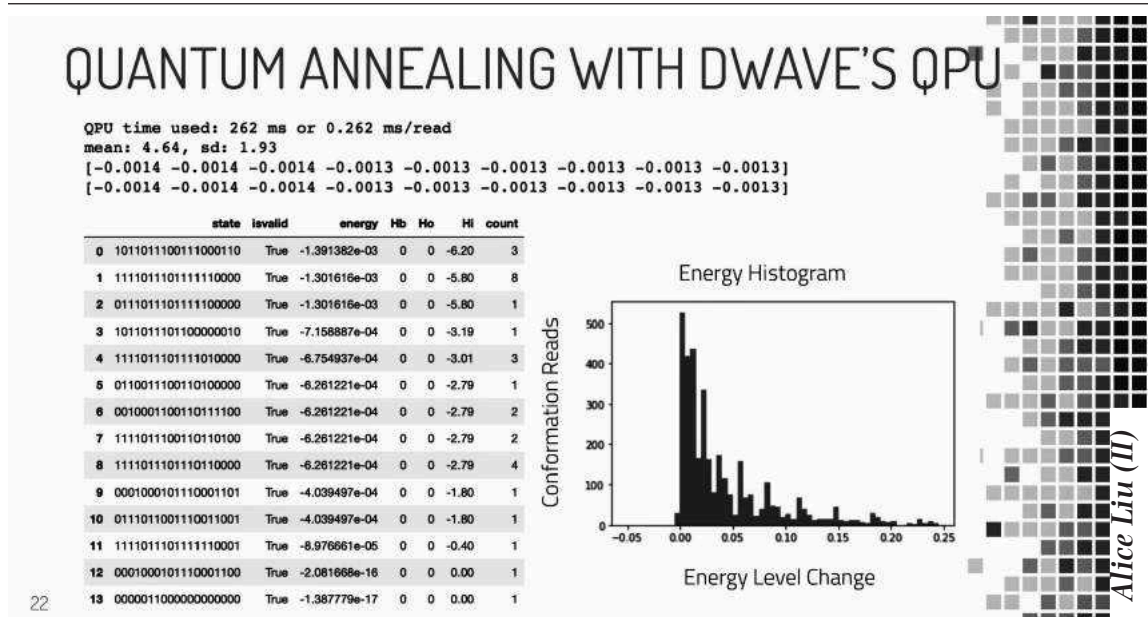
Communications Director for Wu's campaign, Sarah Anders, notes the impact Wu has made: "At this time, in Boston, the council is majority people of color and

women. [Wu] has been a huge part of the transformation of our leadership by shepherding through ideas that, a lot of times, people said were impossible."

Wu entered the 2021 Boston mayoral race in September 2020. With the election just five months away, a recent WBUR poll found that 47 percent of those surveyed had a positive view of Wu, ahead of Acting Mayor Kim Janey. If elected, she will make Boston history as the second woman and first Asian-American to do so.

Assistant Head of School Mr. Steven Chen concludes, "[People like Wu are currently] not represented in our politics and leadership. This is an opportunity for young people [...] to see that there is no place where you can't have a voice at the table. For Wu to have that voice and to be that role model, regardless of your politics, is pretty inspiring."

## BLS Succeeds at State Science Fair



View the graph for Alice Liu's (II) 2nd place MSEF 2021 science project.

By Darren Seto (III)

Contributing Writer

On May 5, Boston Latin School students showcased their independent research science projects and proposals at the 2021 Massachusetts Science and Engineering Fair (MSEF), winning 27 awards altogether.

This year, the City and State Science Fairs implemented a special division where students could submit project proposals. Research projects and proposals were based on various science

topics ranging from molecular biology to computational biology.

Alice Liu (II), earning the overall second-place prize in the high school division, presented her project entitled "Quantum Annealing and Turn Ancilla Encoding with 2D Lattice Protein Folding for Drug Discovery Implications". John Lin (I), earning the overall third-place prize, presented his project titled "Detecting Differential Transcription Factor Binding Using Single-Cell DNA Accessibility." Both Liu and Lin moved forward and competed in

the Regeneron International Science and Engineering Fair 2021, where Lin earned a second-place prize in the cellular and molecular biology division.

Inspired by previous scientific studies and the current news, Alex Xu (IV) researched the effects of COVID-19 on the air filtration systems in the subway. He monitored the air quality underground starting at the beginning of the pandemic.

"I wanted to see if Boston authorities had responded appropriately to the threat this past

year and how it affected the circulation of the air," says Xu.

The state competition, lasting two to three days, was held virtually through an online platform where students partook in 30-minute competition blocks. During these blocks, students were evaluated in multiple areas, including their scientific approach, analysis of project, creativity and project development. After giving their presentations, students participated in an interview with their judges.

Having competed in previous years, Liu notes that her experience due to the pandemic has been different, saying, "There have been a lot more independent aspects this year, whereas in the past, it felt more connected presenting to judges face-to-face."

Behind the scenes, students received guidance from Science Department Director Ms. Kathleen Bateman, eighth-grade science teacher Mr. Scott Balicki and seventh-grade science teacher Ms. Raquel Jacobson-Peregrino. Ms. Jacobson-Peregrino led the middle-schoolers through the Junior Division, while Mr. Balicki led the high-schoolers through the Senior Division.

Over the summer, mid-

dle-schoolers worked with their advisor as they started to brainstorm and design their research questions that were later tested. Similarly, the high schoolers received support throughout the research process by receiving feedback during Friday Flex Blocks.

The teachers reflect on the challenges and differences this year. Ms. Jacobson-Peregrino comments, "I know that during an in-person experience, you get to spend your day at the State Science Fair, and it's a bonding experience for kids to really develop their sense of community and shared interest."

Despite the barriers that came with the experience this year, Mr. Balicki and Ms. Jacobson-Peregrino were able to invite experts in biology and astrophysics to provide further insight on students' projects and proposals, contributing to their achievements.

Mr. Balicki reflects on the students' success this year, saying, "I am very impressed with the students' perseverance and persistence throughout the process this year of adapting to new rules, and I'm just happy that we can provide students a venue to follow their passions."



***"The LORD himself goes before you and will be with you; He will never leave you nor forsake you." Deuteronomy 31:8***

***"Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the LORD, not for human masters." Colossians 3:23***

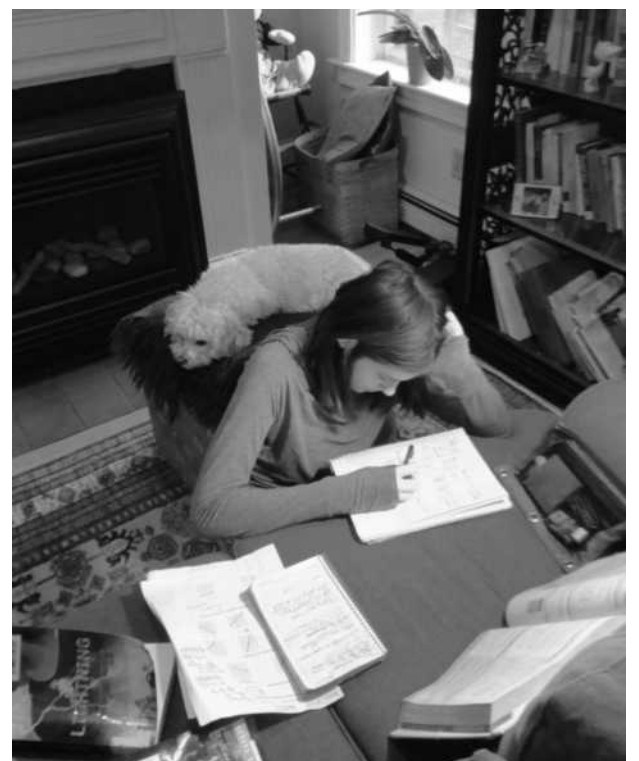
*Congratulations!*

*Best daughter ever!!*

*Mona we are all so proud of you!!!*

**From Mom, Dad, Tony and Extended Family**

# CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR ANNA AURELIA AND ALL OF THE LATIN SENIORS!



**Love,  
Mom, Dad, Roan, Pa, and Tanner**

**THIS IS JUST THE START OF YOUR MANY ACCOMPLISHMENTS.  
 WE ARE VERY PROUD OF YOU.  
 CONGRATULATIONS NOLAN AND TO THE WHOLE BLS CLASS OF 2021.**



**LOVE,  
 DAD, MOM,  
 TY, AND YOUR  
 GRANDPARENTS**



**From graduating kindergarten to graduating high school and everything in between we are so proud of you!  
 Love, Mumma, Dad, n Chad**



**Congratulations Dani! Well done! We are so proud of all you have accomplished and the wonderful young woman you have grown into. Your future is shining bright.**



**Love,  
 Mom and Grandma**



**Congrats to the Class of 2021!  
 Wishing you all the best  
 In your future endeavors.**

**Mrs. Gribaudo**



# Farewell to Faculty Members

By **Jenny Chen (IV)**  
Contributing Writer

## Mr. Gavin



Six years of teaching at Boston Latin School will come to an end this June for Mr. Daniel Gavin, as he moves to Burlington High School in Burlington, Vermont.

At BLS, Mr. Gavin has taught a diverse array of subjects, including German, Facing History and AP World History. He has advised many clubs, including the German Club, Academic World Quest and Let's Erase the Stigma.

The pandemic has influenced Mr. Gavin's decision to leave BLS. With COVID-19, it has been harder to visit family, and his wife wanted to be closer to them. Earlier this year, a job opened up at Burlington High. He applied and got the job.

Grace Sullivan (II), who has known Mr. Gavin for two years, says, "Mr. Gavin inspires me every day to always be more kind to the ones around me."

Mr. Gavin wants his students to remember that "once you're my student, you're always my student [...] I'm just a Zoom call away."

## Ms. Holm



After teaching at Boston Latin School for 20 years, Ms. Wendy Holm, AP Economics and AP United States History teacher, will be retiring at the conclusion of the 2020-2021 school year.

Ms. Holm says, "When I made my decision [to retire], I did not feel confident we would be back to a 'normal' school year in the fall, and I didn't want to do another year that was 'different.' I made my decision over spring break, and I'm very happy to end on a happy [note]."

For the past two decades, Ms. Holm has been an active member of the BLS community while teaching two AP classes. She was part of the National Honor Society Teachers Committee and has helped run after school detention and Public Declamation for countless years.

One of her students, Xiangnan He (I), comments, "Ms. Holm is one of the reasons why I'll be studying business [and] economics in college. She's the reason why I've come to treasure econ."

Ms. Holm concludes, "I am forever grateful I get to end my career here."

## Ms. George



Ms. Kristen George has been a music teacher at Boston Latin School since 2010, but this summer she will be moving South for a new adventure.

Ms. George states, "I have two little ones, who are four and six, who I have wanted to homeschool since they were born, and we were looking for an opportunity to do that [...] The pandemic gave [us] some time to sit back and look at what we want for our family life." Her destination will be the outdoors and nature of Western North Carolina.

In the past 11 years, Ms. George has taught Fundamentals of Music and Music Theory as well as directed the middle school choirs. She has also advised Gospel Choir, BLS Black Leaders Aspiring for Change and Knowledge and Cru.

Grace Sullivan (II), a member of Gospel Choir, states, "Ms. George has taught me confidence, [and] she is the most supportive teacher one will meet."

Ms. George says, "I'm really, really going to miss my students. Shout out to the Gospel Choir, in particular."

## Mr. Baugh



Mr. Michael Baugh will be retiring after five years of teaching Physical Education at Boston Latin School.

Mr. Baugh has spent 25 years teaching overall. Even though many teachers have decided to depart from this school due to the pandemic and remote learning, Mr. Baugh mentions the pandemic did not affect his decision.

One of his favorite memories at BLS is "watching the joy on student's faces when they do something they thought they could never do athletically."

Carolina Lugo Diaz (IV), who has known Mr. Baugh for over 10 years, states, "I think Mr. Baugh has always pushed me to be great — he's always pushed me to be the best version of me, and I'll always appreciate him for that." She also mentions that one of the biggest things she had learned from Mr. Baugh is that actions matter more than words.

## Ms. Wong



Ms. Ada Wong will be retiring after two decades of being a middle school guidance counselor at Boston Latin School.

Ms. Wong has also advised BLS Asian Students in Action, Wolfpack Volunteers, Dance Club and To Write Love on Her Arms.

Ms. Wong states, "After being in BPS for 30 plus years, I feel that it is time to retire." She says that her favorite memories here at BLS were the annual Asian Nights.

Karen Mai (I), who has known Ms. Wong for six years, states, "[Ms. Wong] is a great person; she was one of the first faculty that I met. She always checked in with us and how we are doing." She also appreciated knowing that Ms. Wong was always there for her.

## Mr. Rosado-Torres



After 11 years of teaching Algebra 1 in Room 024 at Boston Latin School, Mr. Manuel Rosado-Torres is retiring.

Besides teaching Algebra 1, Mr. Rosado also advised the Talented and Gifted Club during his first two years.

Mr. Rosado states, "It's been 33 years, and I said, 'I'm ready for my next adventure.' You know when it's time to leave." He also mentions that he will miss the "wonderful" kids at BLS, and working with Lambda Cluster teachers Ms. Catherine Arnold and Ms. Molly McDonald-Long.

Ms. Long, who has shared the classroom next to Mr. Rosado for over a decade, says, "I'm so grateful that Mr. Rosado spent the last leg of his teaching career at BLS, and I look forward to sharing in the joy that his retirement adventures will surely bring!"

# YouthCAN Calls for Climate Education

By Ross Wilson (VI)

Contributing Writer

Over the past year, Boston Latin School Youth Climate Action Network (YouthCAN) has been advocating for the Massachusetts State Legislature to create bills that combat climate change.

One of these bills, House Bill 614, has been formally introduced in the Massachusetts State House. The bill proposes that all schools teach students in grades one through twelve about climate change and its impacts. It still has to go through the full legislative process and therefore has been sent to the Massachusetts Joint Education Committee to be reviewed.

YouthCAN President Zoe Nagasawa (I) explains, “The hope is that if [students] get a sense of the human impacts of the climate crisis, they will understand how deeply it affects every single aspect of our lives, and they will be better equipped to help combat it.”

The bill would affect science, social studies, history, and technology classes at BLS. YouthCAN Officer Quyen Vo (IV) adds, “I hope that the curriculum they build will include independent units on climate education and connect to existing curriculum.”

One concern, however, that teach-

ers have about the bill is that it does not provide the curriculum needed to educate students about climate change. It only requires teachers to cover a set number of subjects.

AP Environmental Science teacher Mr. Timothy Gay says, “You need to provide [teachers] with quality lessons to teach [students].”

YouthCAN members have also worked with the Mass Climate Education Organization (MCEO). MCEO collaborated with State Senator Julian Cyr on the bill, sharing their ideas and hopes for what it will address. Both groups also talked with Senator Cyr’s Chief of Staff, Patrick Johnson, to run ideas by him and eventually convince the senator to write those ideas into the bill.

The legislative process that the bill has to go through has multiple steps. First, it has to gain a majority vote in the Massachusetts Joint Education Committee. Then, the bill has to travel to the full House for deliberation, where it would be changed and refined before going to the Senate. The Massachusetts State Senate would then make their own changes and revisions to the bill and send it back to the House for a final vote.

If passed, implementation of the



YouthCAN lobbies with the Sunrise Movement.

bill will still take time. The bill would take effect on January 1, 2022. School districts would then need to implement the curriculum by August 1, 2024.

Advocating for climate policy is not new to the club, which was founded in 2007. It has previously advocated for students to learn about climate change and how it impacts them and their neighborhoods. For example, Bill 614

would ensure that students are taught the full consequences of climate change on communities, especially those of color.

Ms. Catherine Arnold, the YouthCAN club advisor, reflects, “Everyone is being taught across disciplines because we need to be teaching students to think in terms of the big ideas of sustainability and climate as one of those issues.”

# Moroccan Exchange Joins Students Across Oceans

By Sarin Chaimattayompol (V)

Contributing Writer

From January to May, Boston Latin School’s Class IV students participated in a virtual exchange with students from Morocco to deepen their understanding of global awareness.

The Morocco Virtual Exchange was an opportunity for American students to engage with people outside of their country and examine their differences and similarities. In the process, the students developed strong connections with one another.

During a typical school year, BLS students would meet the international students in person. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, however, that option is no longer a possibility. Students were still able to engage with their peers from across the

world and expand their global knowledge through Zoom and Google Classroom.

Throughout the program, the directors assigned work and discussions for the students to converse with one another. In the beginning, asynchronous work was distributed on Google Classroom for the students. Some assignments included describing the courses they took at school, and their hobbies as well as doing self-reflections. Later, they would create videos on the Flipgrid platform introducing themselves and creating video tours of their neighborhoods.

Students also had the opportunity to chat with one another via live synchronous Zoom meetings during weekends. While most topics related to cultural differences and societal issues, students also discussed subjects ranging from music and holidays to world peace

and climate change. Despite possible language barriers, the conversations were easily facilitated.

Participant Joshua Rand (IV) says, “We also had a lot of discussions that were very insightful and fun. [...] Laughing along with other people is always a good way to connect.”

This program was coordinated by BLS History Program Director Mr. Thomas Kennelly and his colleague from Agadir High School in Morocco, Mr. Kamal El Chaoui. With the help of the Clough Center for Global Education and the Stevens Initiative, they made it possible for students to build relationships with teenagers from across the Atlantic Ocean.

The successful initiation of the program did not come without challenges. At first, the sessions were supposed to be one-on-one discussions among students,

but different time zones and Zoom issues made it difficult to connect with their peers.

Mr. Brian Smith, a ninth-grade World History teacher, elaborates, “I think [a] challenge was coordinating schedules and identifying the time to host live meetings with BLS students and Moroccan students given the time difference. I do think once we got up and running, everything was fine.”

Regardless of the challenges, multiple students and teachers expressed that the experience was authentic and genuine.

Mr. Kennelly concludes, “The big takeaway is to support the students in developing their empathy for individuals from different backgrounds and cultures and help to support their global understanding and awareness.”

# FemInSTEM Hosts Scientist Shaita Picard

By Ailin Sha (V)

Contributing Writer

On April 27, Boston Latin School FemInSTEM hosted a guest speaker event with Ms. Shaita Picard, a data scientist at Genospace and a BLS alumna.

The event was held via Google Meet, where dozens of students attended. Ms. Picard talked about her career as a data analyst and her experience as a woman in STEM.

Co-President of FemInSTEM Juliana Abramson (I) explains, “We wanted to host Ms. Picard as a guest speaker because she works in a science field that you normally wouldn’t learn about in BLS classes, and we want to give our members as much exposure as possible to a variety of STEM careers.”

Ms. Picard graduated from BLS in 2011 and Boston University in 2015 with a Bachelor’s Degree in Human Physiology. She explained that she had originally wanted to go to medical school, but changed her mind; instead she now works at Genospace, a biomedical company based in Boston that uses molecular data to customize medical treatments and accelerate the development of medical drugs.

Ruth Shiferaw (I), the other FemInSTEM co-President, reassures attendees by saying, “Not knowing what you want in life is completely okay. Ms. Picard changed her mind in her mid-20s, so it’s completely fine to not know what you want to do.”



Ms. Picard speaks about her career.

Although the event itself went smoothly, the officers initially ran into some unexpected technical difficulties. Though the event was scheduled over Zoom, minutes after the meeting began, Ms. Picard emailed and said that she could not access the Zoom link. After several minutes of frantic emailing back and forth, Shiferaw was able to set up a meeting on Google Meet, which Ms. Picard joined moments later.

By listening to and meeting with these speakers, Shiferaw hopes that students can realize the significance of making connections since students now have contacts with numerous women in STEM. She explains, “Another thing I want people to take away is how important networking is and that wherever they go in life, they should always try to connect with other people. I hope they utilize that skill for years to come.”

FemInSTEM itself was founded three years ago. Prior to the pandemic, its members would often conduct lab experiments at school. Since club meetings were held in person, it was a challenge to find scientists who were able to travel to the BLS campus and speak to the club members.

With the pandemic, however, the club hosts virtual events every month, alternating between guest speakers and officer-led introductions to various STEM fields. Previous speakers include an astrophysicist, two biologists and a current resident physician. As anticipated, the virtual format enabled students to listen to scientists from across the globe, from Germany and South Africa, speak about their experiences.

Mr. Nathaniel Tucker, the faculty advisor of FemInSTEM, hopes that the event with Ms. Picard allowed students to broaden their horizons. He states, “There are a lot of different ways that STEM can look [...] and hopefully people will be aware of the different opportunities that are offered to them.”

CLASS OF  
2021

虞荔安，我们爱你，为你自豪！

TIFFANY YU  
WE ARE SO PROUD OF YOU!  
FOLLOW YOUR HEART, BE HAPPY!  
DADDY, MOMMY & ALEX

## CONGRATULATIONS...YOU DID IT!!!!

Mia, we are so very proud of you and all of your accomplishments you achieved in the past 6 years. You have grown into a lovely young woman with the brightest of futures ahead of you. Thank you for being so amazing! Reach for the stars. WE LOVE YOU!

**Look out Salve Regina!**

*With love and pride today and always.*  
Mom, Dad, Fionna and Charlie

Congratulations, Cindy!

Graduation is a time for celebration, and a milestone in life. Wishing you an unforgettable college experience and a bright future. We are so proud of you. Love, Mom, Dad & Ray





**Olivia:**

**We are so proud of who you are and all that you have accomplished. Go change the world. Your next adventure awaits!**

**With love,**

**Mom and Dad**

**Schola Latina Bostoniensis**

**Veni,**

**Vidi,**

**Vici**

**Ensuite, pour étudier à McGill**



**Congratulations,  
Isabella!**

**Now, a life of your  
own begins.**

**Love,  
Your proud parents & Abby**

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### Congratulations/ Felicidades!

Kamilla Peralta-Virtue and Ashley Mungia-Ochoa

We are very proud of all your achievements. Estamos muy orgullosos de su triunfos.

We love you/ Las queremos mucho: sus familias Peralta-Virtue y Masse-Ochoa Families



La educación es el pasaporte para el futuro, porque el mañana pertenece a los que se preparan para el presente. Kamilla and Ashley, estamos muy orgullosos de las dos. Sus logros académicos y actividades extra

# Europe Day Event Engages Students

By **Azalea Thompson (II)**  
Staff Writer

On May 14, the French and Irish Consuls General met with Boston Latin School students to speak about the European Union (EU).

The event was organized in honor of Europe Day, which the EU observes on May 9 to celebrate peace and unity in Europe.

The featured speakers were Arnaud Mentré, the Consul General of France in Boston, and Laoise Moore, the Consul General of Ireland in Boston. Consul Generals are responsible for overseeing foreign commerce and trade. Together they discussed topics related to the EU, from its origins to its social and economic impacts. Over 135 people attended the meeting, including students taking French and AP European History.

French teacher Madame Carole Lapointe explains how the talk came to be, saying, “The French Consul’s assistant contacted me. We have a good relationship with the French Consulate.” Madame Lapointe put the French Consulate in contact with the BLS History Department so that

a meeting with students could be organized.

To begin the presentation, Consul General Mentré covered the origins of the EU and France’s role as a founding member. He talked about the early stages of the EU’s formation and also touched on its present challenges and achievements.

Next, Consul General Moore discussed the growth of the EU, its principles and impact on Ireland. She detailed the transformative effects the EU has had on the country since it joined in 1973, including economic and social changes. She said that the Union transformed Ireland to become a more outward-looking and diverse country, and mentioned how it impacted her own life.

The students who attended the presentation completed assignments about the event, such as answering questions and taking notes. The topics discussed relate back to the curriculum of classes such as AP European History since they study the foundation of the EU and its impact on Europe and the world, as well as economic and national sovereignty.



Arnaud Mentré, Boston’s French Consul General, met virtually with BLS students.

AP European History teacher Mr. David Fleming says, “We wanted to make sure [the speakers] talked about those things [...] [so they] could personalize the experiences of people in their nations, and they could personalize the history. [...] That’s the benefit of outside speakers.”

After the speakers present-

ed, students had the opportunity to ask them questions. Question topics included the national identity within the EU, its cultural impacts and Brexit — the withdrawal of the United Kingdom from the EU in 2020. During this portion of the event, the speakers discussed in greater detail how the EU connects different countries under

common values. They also talked about how citizens of EU Member States identify with their own country and the EU.

Attendee Sarah Connolly (II) reflects, “This really made me appreciate how connected we as Americans are to the rest of the world even though it feels like we are so separated at times.”

# Academic WorldQuest Crushes Competition



Academic WorldQuest wins first place in Massachusetts.

By **Halima Mohamed (III)**  
Staff Writer

On April 17, the Boston Latin School Academic WorldQuest (BLSAQ) team took 23rd place out of 105 teams competing at the national competition.

Coming off their first-place win at the regional championship in March,

team members Aidan Osowiecki (II), Carrie Wang (I), Ourania Parastatidis (II) and Sylvia Posever (I) were able to win a banner and prize money for BLS.

The Academic WorldQuest championship is a trivia-style team competition that tests students’ knowledge of current world affairs. Typically, regionals are held at a chosen institution in Massachusetts

and nationals are held in Washington, D.C. To safely hold tournaments amidst the pandemic, however, both the regional and national championships were held virtually this year.

The BLSAQ club prepared by studying topics given in advance from the association that hosts these competitions, the World Affairs Council of New Hampshire. The club split these topics among themselves for further research, and club members built presentations around their assigned topic to present to their teammates.

Although the team was successful in their competitions, members noted that technical difficulties, particularly during the regional competition, did create some added stress. Another online challenge that accompanied the club was virtual recruitment. In the end, however, they were able to put together a solid team.

Team captain Sylvia Posever says, “In person, you get to sit with your teammates, huddled around this little circular table, and you get to answer questions and it’s really fun. In the past, Mr. Gavin [would] bring us doughnuts, and it was an overall great experience. But online, there have definitely been some challenges.”

Despite the virtual format, members still enjoy the connections they have made

through the AWQ club. Because the competition is only open to high schoolers, Andrew Yu (VI) was unable to participate in the tournament this year. Yet, he still felt welcomed by the environment the club created.

Yu explains, “Since everyone else is in high school, I could really reach out to them. During meetings, we wouldn’t just be studying. We also have time to talk, and they assisted me in adjusting.”

Students also appreciated that the competition allowed them to look past the information from the news with which they are typically surrounded. Instead, they learned about relevant diplomatic relations or cultural events that they otherwise would not have known.

Students also took a step back from the competitive aspect of the competition and took time to better understand the topics in the real world by listening to a guest speaker talk about their nonprofit organization. AWQ puts emphasis on being a global citizen, not just a citizen of a single nation.

Club advisor Mr. Daniel Gavin adds, “This team enjoyed every minute of preparation and competition — not only because they loved the material they were studying, but also because they loved working with each other.”

# Gotta Escape Em’ All: Science Team Pokémon Event

By **Lena Thai (V)**  
Contributing Writer

On May 12, the Boston Latin School Science Team caught their Pikachus to host their annual escape room event with a Pokémon theme.

The escape room was made up of skill-based events that correlated to different Pokémon types. Attendees were put into teams and assigned to breakout rooms over Zoom. Each club officer rotated around the rooms with activities that reflected their own scientific expertise. The assigned teams had to complete activities based on these topics to receive badges.

One of the winners of the event, BLS

Science Team member Simon Hay Sutton (VI), comments, “The event overall was really fun and cool. Some things brought us out of our comfort zone. My favorite event was the bird’s event, [because] my team got a hundred percent on that.”

The avian activity had attendees match Pokémon that were inspired by real birds to what habitat they lived in. Other stations also directly correlated to Pokémon types, such as the water quality station with water type Pokémon, the circuit labs station with electric type and the astronomy station with dark type.

The event concluded with a tiebreaker inspired by the *Who’s That Pokémon?*, a segment of the actual *Pokémon* show.

Officers quickly sketched a Pokémon and attendees attempted to guess which one it was.

Planning for the annual event started in late April. As officers brainstormed and organized their plans and ideas, they realized that a Pokémon theme could apply to all topics of science being presented while adding a fun twist.

Admission to the event was originally five dollars, much like their previous escape rooms. This year, however, the club decided to make the event free, because not enough people registered to attend. Due to these circumstances, the event became more accessible and casual for students.

Lucy Yu (II), BLS Science Team Internal Liaison, says, “We [usually] do it as a fundraiser, [...] so that we can raise some funds to sponsor some of our competitions and events. [...] It was definitely a good idea to make it free, though, because it encouraged a lot more participation.”

Their aim was to increase attention and engagement from BLS students, specifically seventh and eighth graders. With the Pokémon event, they were able to achieve this goal.

Officer Megan Li (III) concludes, “Overall, the event went pretty well; we had a decent amount of people attending. It was slightly chaotic, but that’s how all Science Team stuff goes.”



“Nothing can dim the light that shines from within.”

-Maya Angelou

Congratulations Olivia!

Love Nana and Auntie Susan

**CONGRATULATIONS DREW!**

I AM SO PROUD OF YOU AND YOUR MANY ACCOMPLISHMENTS DURING YOUR SIX YEARS AT BLS. I KNOW YOU ARE OFF TO NEW BEGINNINGS AT UNION AND I CAN'T WAIT TO CELEBRATE YOUR GRADUATION WITH YOU AND HELP YOU PREPARE FOR THE NEXT PHASE IN YOUR LIFE. GO WOLFPACK!!!

I LOVE YOU,  
MOM



First Declamation, November 4, 2015

**Beatrix Knight:**

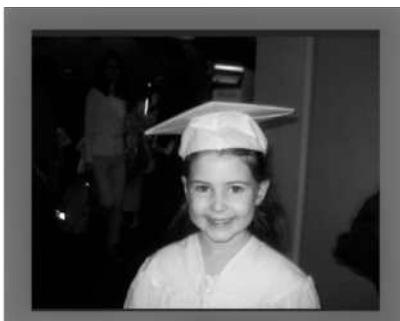
***Zig when they zag.  
Always research.  
Options, options, options.  
Go to Ohio, Megan.***

We are so proud of you, and love you, always!

Mom and Dad

**Maddie Heath**

We are so proud of you! Go UNH Wildcats! We love you.  
Mom, Dad, Gar, James, Baxter xo



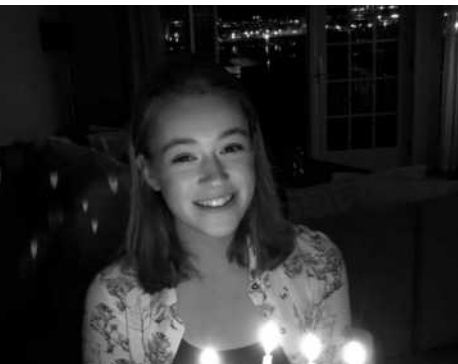
Congratulations Brielle!  
We are so proud of you!!!



We love you!  
Mom, Dad, Katelyn and Shannon



**Congratulations, Jessica!**  
**We love you.**



Congratulations Class of 2021!



Grattis Maia & Linnea!!

We're so excited see where your journeys take you next. Stay true to yourselves and don't forget to have fun! We love you always.

Mamma & Pappa



***Congratulations Ashley!***

*We are so proud of you.*

*With Love,*

*Dad, Mom, John '14, and Richard '19*

# Vaccine Mandates Won't Help Vaccination



A student receives their first COVID-19 vaccine.

By **Selina Tang (III)**

*Staff Writer*

All over social media, students have been flaunting their COVID-19 vaccination cards to show off their new freedom and safety from the virus. Not all have been vaccinated, however, due to a wide variety of reasons. Thus, as hundreds of universities and workplaces are implementing vaccine mandates, many are wondering if public schools should also be considering one to ensure the safety of their students and faculty when we return in the fall, lest a critical mass of unvaccinated students come to school and threaten the community's safety. Although it is certainly crucial to

maximize the number of vaccinated students, Boston Public Schools should not require students to get vaccinated in order to come to school as it will cause too much backlash; they should instead give students incentives as a more effective method of driving up vaccinations.

While the vaccine does not eliminate the virus, it prevents individuals from contracting and spreading COVID-19. In fact, according to Dr. Gypsyamber D'Souza of the John Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, as long as 70 percent of the population is vaccinated, the country can achieve herd immunity, which all but guarantees infections will stay low. Fortunately, USAFacts reports that 65 percent of

those living in Massachusetts have received at least one dose and 50 percent have received both shots — promising numbers indeed. As a growing number of individuals continue to get vaccinated, a vaccine mandate in Boston may not even be necessary.

On the other hand, the legality of a mandate for a public school system in the first place is still not a settled matter. While vaccine mandates themselves are legal, the COVID-19 vaccine has only been approved by the Food and Drug Administration for Emergency Use Authorization (i.e., it has not been through the complete, regular approval process due to the circumstances), and language within the policy allows people involved in public institutions, which might otherwise require vaccines, to refuse them as a result. This provides families with the grounds to reject a school mandate. Regardless of the legality, the more important discussion is on the morality and reality of a mandate.

Despite most researchers and government officials confirming that the vaccine is completely safe, many still have concerns about the vaccine's negative health effects, while other groups may have fears due to centuries of racism in healthcare.

Cameron Kelley (III) finds that there are “very polarized opinions, as almost anything remotely politically related is today,” and many like him believe that “if the government [and public schools are] [...] able to mandate vaccination for all people, that is just one step toward a more authoritarian government.”

Indeed, a Vox article corroborates that nearly a third of those who are unvaccinated cite distrust in the government and vaccine as reasons why they refuse vaccination. This combination of medical and government distrust will only cause families, who are already hesitant or neutral on receiving a vaccine, to react angrily against a mandate, as seen with mask and social distancing mandates.

Viviana Wallace (III) agrees that “people are still doing their research and are skeptical [of the vaccine] [...] I was skeptical before, but now [that] I'm fully vaccinated [...] [I] think the vaccine is worth it.” Therefore, the best way to increase our vaccination rates is by allowing families to see its success in reducing hospitalization rates and voluntarily sign up, rather than forcing them to get the jab against their wishes.

In the case that vaccination rates are not high enough, BPS should consider an incentive system instead of punishment. Mr. Michael Galego, a biology teacher, explains, “For instance, if you are six feet apart and you are a vaccinated student, you can take your masks off indoors [...] These incentives that we can offer to get people vaccinated seem to be a better way of encouraging people towards vaccination without the negative side effects of forcing a vaccine that they view as scary.”

Ultimately, BPS should allow families to make vaccination choices on their own as the majority already have or wish to get one. A mandate may only push the remaining families away from getting vaccinated instead of toward it.

# Working During the Summer: The Sacrifice Is Worth It

By **Gabriela Vasquez (II)**

*Contributing Writer*

As the year comes to an end, Boston Latin School students count down the days until they can finally begin their long awaited summer vacation. Most years, around this time, the halls become emptier, and students are able to socialize and relax more because finals are over. Even though many students miss out on this fun time of year as they remain in the virtual setting, there is one thing that is still a common thread among most BLS students: many are given the opportunity to work a summer job. One privilege that BLS students experience is the vast opportunity to explore different options for summer employment. One must ask, however, whether these summer jobs are actually benefiting students. Working a summer job, all in all, has many more benefits than drawbacks, as they allow students to gain many life skills.

It is normal for high school students to feel overwhelmed by the many career paths that lie ahead of them after graduation. How can a person commit to one without dipping their toes into the field first? Summer jobs allow for this exploration. Students can even explore paths that they never would have considered. One resource BLS provides for students is the Boston Private Industry Council office (PIC). Through PIC, students are presented with job opportunities in many different fields, such as law, business and more. Working in a field of interest can allow a student to either confirm that they are interested in pursuing that career, or show them that it's actually not for them, and that they should consider another. This gives students a great sense of security in regards to what they will pursue after graduation — for instance, what they will major in in college.

Additionally, summer jobs are a great way to network. Astrid Wilder (II) remarks, “If you're working with people with the same interests as you, that's a great way that you can make friends. It's also a good way to make connections in a career, like networking, because you can meet adults in the field and connect with them, which can be a great resource for the future.” Knowing adults in the field that one is interested in can be beneficial, as it can lead to that person obtaining even more experience beyond their BLS career.



Although homework is a vital part of our education system, sometimes it is assigned in excess.

In addition to gaining connections, a summer job allows students to meet others with similar passions. This gives students the ability to explore the world beyond our BLS community, build a network of people they can relate to during the summer and allows students to actually have fun while working. Some believe that students who work in the summer are confined to their role at work. Students, however, work less hours than adults, giving them plenty of time to have fun with their friends after a workday. Additionally, because many summer jobs are in the city, students are closer to many fun spots around Boston, allowing them more of an opportunity to socialize around the city.

Working during the summer, moreover, can allow students to gain many important life skills. For instance, the obvious benefit of earning an income during the summer also comes with the responsibility of being financially conscious. Learning to deal with money is a skill that students at BLS will need long after they graduate, so getting that practice now will benefit

students for years to come.

Nayeli Quiles (II) adds, “Summer is a great time to explore careers through jobs such as paid internships, because these options are very limited over the school year, as they can conflict with clubs or sports. So getting these kinds of opportunities in the summer helps me gain work experience, and learn to make good financial decisions as well.”

In addition to students gaining financial literacy skills, they also can learn many more competencies. It does not matter where a student works; it does not need to be a fancy job in order for that student to gain something from it. Whatever job a student decides to work at, Ms. Lucey Gorrill, the BLS PIC advisor, remarks that “[They will learn] communication skills, how to engage with adults, responsibility and just how to accomplish something outside of the school setting. These are all foundational skills that will help with any future job.” Working a summer job is a great way to prepare for the future, while still having fun as a teenager.

# Is BLS's "College Commit Culture" Toxic?

*Yes, Commit Culture Is Toxic*

**By Cinly Mo (III)**

*Assistant Forum Editor*

Graduation season is here, and one question looms over the majority of the senior class — where will they commit to college? Constant questioning and unsolicited advice overwhelms them every day, from “what colleges did you apply to?” to “what were your statistics?” and “what did you write your supplements on?” Even the most well-meaning people can fail to understand how intrusive it feels to be bombarded with questions about college decisions so frequently. The very act of publicizing college commitments breeds toxic grounds for a college-centric mindset that bases one's self-worth on a commitment and discourages alternative careers not involved in pursuing a secondary education at a university.

It is no secret that the effort and preparation of getting into college has slowly taken over teenagers' lives. Students joke about doing extracurriculars that look good on their résumé, taking as many APs as they can, getting little sleep and being overwhelmed and stressed all just to get into a good college. This spirals into a damaging competition of who will sacrifice the most for the chance to go to their dream college.

In fact, the whole concept of idolizing a single “dream school” is toxic in and of itself. It encourages students to put all their eggs into one basket, telling themselves that it is the only place where they will be happy, and that if they do not get in, it is just further proof of their failures. It convinces them that nothing matters except gaining admission into their dream school, no matter what the cost is, which is certainly not the case.

When students find out someone else is committing to their own dream school, they are quick to scrutinize and analyze them. Fellow peers become competitors, reduced to mere GPAs, test scores and achievements, only reinforcing a brutal zero-sum mindset. Gauging the achievements of those attending students' ideal schools places pressure on younger ones to reach the same numbers for this shot at “success.”

The college commitment process builds the kind of competitive atmosphere that places stress on students and leaves many feeling inadequate because they either were not admitted to the school of their dreams, or their college goals do not include attending the most prestigious of institutions. But that should not be the way the world works; the commercialization of the college process and pushing high schoolers to attend highly selective and well-known universities inevitably comes at the expense of others feeling self-satisfaction with their own college choices.

According to Arne Lim at *Inside Higher Education*, “[It is important to recognize that] the admission scandal is not a by-product, it is a direct product of believing you have to do whatever you can to get your kid into this school. [...] We hate those [U.S. News and World Report] rankings here, we absolutely abhor those rankings. You will always hear [...] college is a match, it is not a reward.”

Beyond this, the focus on what college students are attending can not only damage one's sense of self worth, but also lead to students with less traditional plans feeling judged. A college-centric environment sets the bar for achievement exceptionally high and punishes anyone who falls short. The reality is that many of these young adults who do not pursue four-year colleges go on to have wonderfully productive careers in their own fields of interests.

Although nobody can truly be blamed for romanticizing the glamour of attending college, there should be more to being human than one's achievements. The rapid drive society takes toward traditional but unhealthy measures of validation can force students to miss some of the most valuable lessons and experiences high school can offer. Overpublicizing college commitments reinforces the harmful notion that the validation of getting into a good college, particularly the ones being ranked highly, is the only path to being successful after high school.



*No, Commit Culture Is Not Toxic*

**By Jessie Wang (IV)**

*Staff Writer*

If you log onto any form of social media around mid-April, you might be swarmed with college decision reactions featuring ecstatic students celebrating acceptances to their dream schools. That is commit culture, which provides more benefits than drawbacks when it comes to the students' efforts and learning.

It is no secret that college is demanding. In fact, getting into college is quite impressive in itself, and admittees should be proud of that feat on its own. In four years, professors cover many difficult subjects. Commit culture allows a smoother transition, placing an emphasis on education during one's high school years.

All of the effort students put into their studies is ultimately rewarded. Commit culture encourages them to work harder during high school, which majorly pays off when the students head to college, an objectively tougher environment. The focus on academics significantly increases student engagement.

student engagement.

The payoffs of commit culture are not only limited to the absorption of educational material but also include the positive development of many essential skills. Since admission to more prestigious colleges requires a high GPA and various achievements, students are driven to challenge their own limits and exceed expectations, refine both their problem-solving skills and work ethic. It also gives them a taste of what college will be like mentally.

High school students often can begin to learn college material, either outside or within their schools. For instance, AP classes and accelerated courses can translate into college credit and help the student get ahead. Commit culture motivates students to exceed expectations when it comes to learning. Instead of having students learn the material taught in high school solely for their current class, commit culture gives the students incentive to pay attention to all the content during their high school years, relieving many from having to do more work in the future.

Furthermore, commit culture also encourages students to take extracurricular activities, which would allow students to engage in interests they may enjoy and possibly pursue later. Aside from that, there are numerous advantages to partaking in non-academic activities. Playing a sport, for instance, reduces stress and improves physical health.

High school is an explorative period to begin thinking about the next steps of life when one matures. Students can explore different subjects and extracurricular activities while pondering what path they want to take. They are encouraged to think about their future ahead of time, rather than coming up with last-minute decisions.

While some may argue that commit culture discourages other paths like trade school or community college, the manifestations of commit culture themselves are not innately college-centric. Just because commit culture currently places an emphasis on going to college, doesn't mean it can't be more diverse than that if society allows it to be. Commit culture does not restrict its application to only colleges but also can encompass every other career path.

Some may also claim that the idolization of dream schools makes people view their peers as their enemies. A competitive environment, however, is not as harmful as people think. The whole point of dream schools is to find the top students and provide outstanding education for those high-ranked scholars. There is no way to eliminate a competitive environment without also getting rid of those types of opportunities.

Commit culture is often misunderstood as being the mindset that causes high schoolers to stress over resumes and spend hours doing unpleasant tasks with no visible benefit. There are many clear benefits, however, that come as a result of the work students put in. In fact, commit culture ultimately inspires many to contemplate their next steps. Like every guidance counselor suggests, thinking about the future is absolutely imperative and such an initiative may impact your future for the better.

## Ask the Students: Is BLS's "College Commit Culture" Toxic?

“No; I see no problem in honoring those who wish to celebrate their achievements and their peers for their outstanding work.”



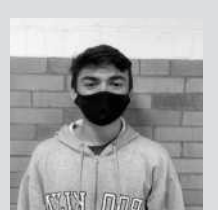
**Kyle Donovan (I)**

“Yes; it reinforces the lie that highly exclusionary colleges are better than other schools because of how few people are admitted.”



**Ben Zaborski (II)**

“It's motivating when they are being celebrated and toxic when it's forced upon and pressuring people too much.”



**David Rivkin (III)**



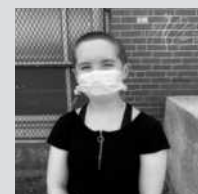
**Parker Hastings (IV)**

“You shouldn't have to announce where you're going to college. People can warp commit culture as toxic; it doesn't have to be.”



**Zoe Nazaarchu (VI)**

“Yes; it makes people feel that they aren't allowed to change their decisions.”



**Ena L. Nealon (V)**

“Yes; it puts pressure on people and may cause them to make a choice they're not happy with.”

*From the beginning you have always been ready for new adventures. We are so blessed to have you as a son and brother.*



Congratulations Girls' Varsity Basketball Dual County League Champions!



*Congratulations David and the BLS class of 2021!*



*Love,  
Mom, Dad,  
Alex and  
Nathan*

Congratulations Girls Varsity Soccer City League Champions!

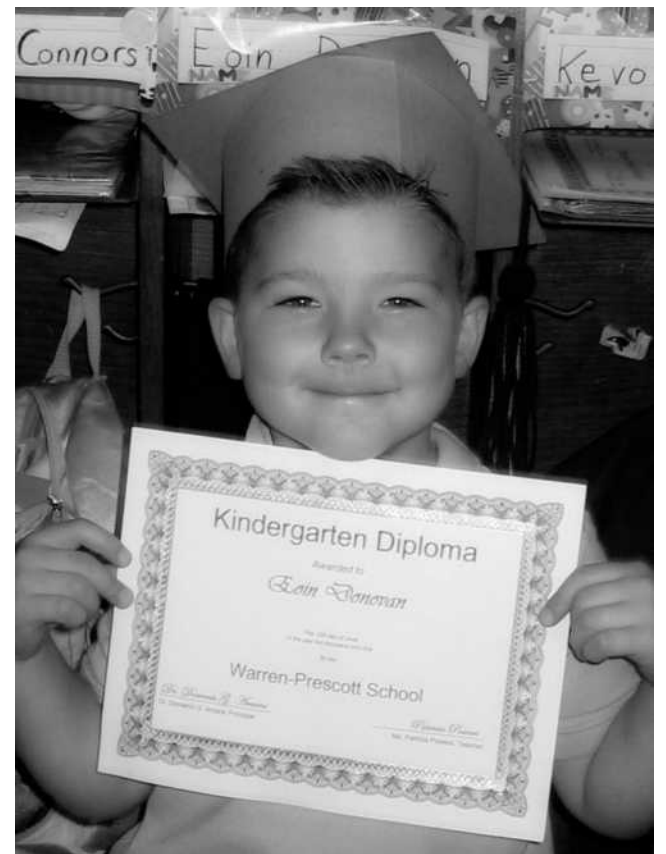


**EOIN,**

You have come so far from where you started, and we're very proud of who you are today!



*Keep your head where your feet are always... know you are loved, and may you forever "Tell Blue Skies From Pain..."*



**With Love,  
Mom, Dad,  
Bevin & Quin**

**XO**

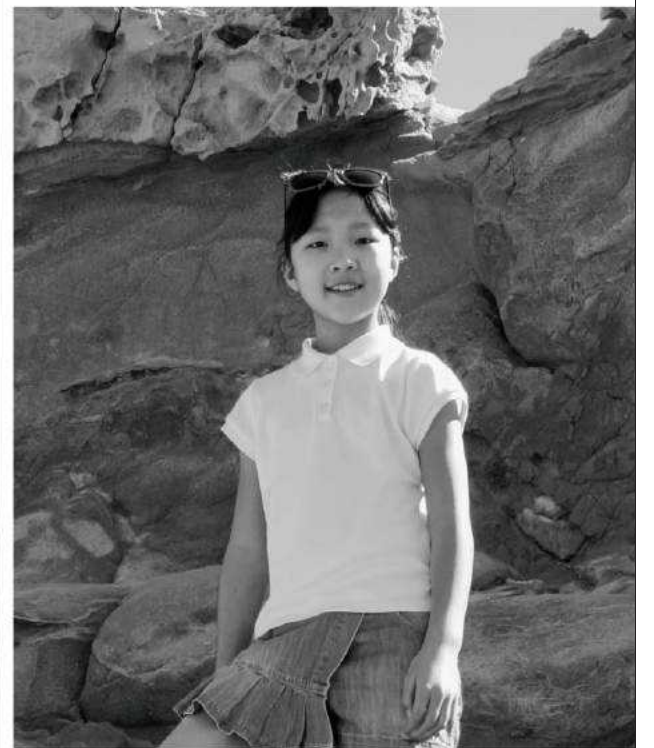




***Congrats,  
Julie!***

**WE ARE SO PROUD  
OF YOU AND EXCITED  
FOR THE NEXT STEP  
OF YOUR JOURNEY!**

With love,  
Mom, Dad, Kate,  
Eric, little Luke,  
Dash, Bitsy, and Holly



# **Congratulations Thomas!**

**You are Amazing!**

**We Are So Very Proud of  
All You Have Accomplished  
And Can't Wait To See  
What You Do Next!**

**Love**

**Mom, Dad, Elizabeth, Victoria & Juno**



# Giving POC Meaningful Representation in Media



James Dittiger/Netflix

Netflix's *Death Note* featured mainly white actors.

By **Michelle Wang (V)**

Assistant Forum Editor

Remember watching *Jessie* or *Bunk'd*? They were often considered “comfort shows,” as many Disney films are. Eyes that have been opened to normalized racism, stereotypes and bias, however, are beginning to re-analyze how often seemingly harmless films and shows like these inaccurately portray people of color.

The 2019 Hollywood Diversity Report reveals that people of color only made up a paltry 19.8 percent of lead film roles. When people of color do happen to obtain these roles, they are either extremely whitewashed and unrelatable, or at the other end of the

spectrum — extremely ethnically stereotypical.

In countless movies and TV shows, characters of color do not have their own identities without revolving around the white lead. *Clueless*, a 1990s classic for instance, stars Cher Horowitz, whose best friend is Dionne Marie Davenport — a person of color. Dionne's character serves one sole purpose only: diversifying the cast. Being one of the very few actors of color on set, viewers were unable to delve deeper into Dionne's own character. Across many films that are known to be classics, it is evident that characters of color are used as an “accessory of diversity.”

Other than diversifying the cast, characters of color are al-

most always used as comedic relief. Think Ravi and Zuri from *Jessie* or Tiffany and Jorge from *Bunk'd*; they embody racist and stereotypical caricatures of people of color, yet their scriptwriters are credited with making the audience crack up over insensitive jokes.

Ravi is seen as the “weird Indian kid who is strangely attached to his pet reptile” and Zuri has the “aggressive, sassy and loud persona” that Black women are too often associated with. Tiffany has an unrealistically strict mother, feeding into the idea that all Asian moms are “tiger moms.” Jorge, the only Hispanic character in the show, is depicted as a liar and a thief. These are just some named examples of how normalized these harmful stereotypes are.

Disney has a huge impact on the entertainment industry, with about 355,000 viewers in 2020 alone. Since their audience is composed of mainly younger children, they can potentially enforce harmful stereotypes to an entire generation. Paired with underdeveloped minds and lack of education on issues surrounding racism, stereotypes and bias, children are easily taught inaccurate portrayals of people of color on television.

Jiajia Zhang (III) explains, “It's hard for kids to interpret what is accurate versus what is inaccu-

rate. They may begin to associate everyone who looks like a certain character with the stereotype that [character] enforces.”

Current issues of racism, stereotypes and bias in the industry tie back to entertainment in history. When people of color were not offered jobs as actors or other entertainers, white people were paid to act in place of them. This process led to extremely offensive and racist portrayals of people of color, such as blackface and yellowface.

Lack of diversity behind the scenes is one root of these inaccurate and offensive portrayals. BLS AP World History teacher Ms. Cheralyn Pinchem states, “If you're writing a script, as you craft those words, you should have a diverse room of people who say, ‘Hey, I want the actor to say this,’ or ‘I want the actress to dress this way.’ If you don't have representation around the table, some things that are inappropriate or stereotypical or just flat out offensive could get written, and nobody would check it.”

BLS's own entertainment department team works proactively to avoid making the same mistakes as larger industries. Kasaan Kirby (III), member of BLS Theatre, says, “I believe that the BLS Theatre program does a great

job of accurately portraying and representing all minorities. One instance that I can support this with is the production of *Pipeline* by Dominique Morisseau. *Pipeline* is about a mother's hopes and dreams to give her son a better future, while being in a divorce with his father. Majority of the cast were Black actors, and I feel like each of us portrayed the life of our character as who we thought they would be.”

Ms. Pinchem adds how important it is to accurately represent people of color in media and entertainment, saying, “Everyone at some time in their high school career [or] in their lifetime should feel celebrated. On the everyday would be ideal, but at least one time while you're watching television, you should be like, ‘Oh, that made me feel good. I feel proud,’ versus, ‘Look at how we're represented again. Here we go, here's that stereotype, now I gotta go, amongst my group of friends and unpack that stereotype because now they're gonna think that's me.’”

The media and the entertainment industry should work to make people feel better about themselves. We need to celebrate the vast potential in each and every one of us, not ignore or slight it.

## Keep Trump's Facebook Ban Permanent

By **Neil Jin (IV)**

Contributing Writer

Following the January 6 insurrection at the United States Capitol, many social media platforms are banning individuals involved — one of the most prominent being former President Donald Trump. He has been permanently banned from Twitter and temporarily banned from Facebook, with 88 million followers and 35 million followers respectively. There has currently been talk about permanently banning Trump from Facebook as well. While doing so will not fix all the problems, it is at least a step in the right direction.

Trump has been known to spread misinformation on various social media platforms. During the COVID-19 pandemic, Trump has told others to consider using dangerous and faulty ways to treat the illness, such as injecting bleach or taking hydroxychloroquine. This has led to many accidents, one of the biggest being the state of Oklahoma purchasing two million dollars worth of hydroxychloroquine. Thus, not only was the virus downplayed by the Trump administration, but the response was also hampered due to misinformation. This, however, was not the only false information that he spread.

Another major misinformation campaign waged by

Trump was regarding the 2020 presidential elections. According to *The New York Times*, he has encouraged people to commit various forms of voter fraud, such as voting twice in the presidential elections. When election results came out, Trump and his allies declared the election fraudulent without any evidence and demanded recounts.

All this, and more, has culminated in the January 6 insurrection at the Capitol, where many pro-Trump protestors attacked the Capitol Building. This has been impactful, not just due to the disruption of Congress's certification of the election results, but also because it affected the core values of democracy in the US. Had the insurrection succeeded, it would have set a terrible precedent for violently overthrowing the opposing party every time an election does not go in their favor.

Critics may argue that banning Trump is censorship and censorship is always a negative thing. This, however, is not censorship. Social media is run by a private company and has its terms of service. People are banned on social media all the time for actions that violate terms of service such as hate speech. There is nothing different about banning Trump, since he is just another social media user.

Second and more importantly, the consequences of not banning Trump are far greater than those of unbanning him.

Allowing Trump to stay on the platform allows him to spread more faulty and polarizing messages which could lead to even more negative effects such as another Capitol insurrection.

As Nicolas L'Huilier (III) puts it, “[There is] no way that you can come back and try and act respectful after promoting hate speech and violence of the sort that we've seen, so I don't know if there's any way for a second chance after that.” This unban would most likely be seen as dismissive of his past actions, causing a resurgence of hate, regardless of whether Trump himself actively works towards it.

Social media is a powerful tool that can be used for the good or bad. Mr. Brian Smith, a history teacher at Boston Latin School, notes that social media is more impactful than other media platforms such as television and newspapers because of “independent creators [...] Anyone can post whatever they want and have that instant effect and audience.”

To publish something in *The New York Times* or even the *Argo*, writers need approval to do so. The fact that social media does not have this means that news, such as the misinformation spread by Trump, can be seen by many more people than on traditional media. This, however, comes at the cost of propaganda. People need to be wary of their choices and the content they consume online.

## Let's Make This Our Last Month of Virtual School

By **Hannah Stoll (V)**

Staff Writer

Boston Public Schools is currently exploring a possible full-time “virtual school” option for the 2021-2022 school year. This proposal would be very similar to what Boston Latin School employed prior to the hybrid and fully in-person model back in April. Virtual schooling would be a secondary option for students who do not want to return to the school building, as recent BPS surveys reveal that many families and students preferred virtual learning. The overall setbacks of remote learning, however, greatly outnumber the benefits. To procure long-term academic learning as well as social and emotional development, it is crucial that all students return to in-person school next year.

The return to school as it was pre-pandemic, serves as a monumental time for stu-

dents to kickstart learning and form social connections in a collaborative setting. A fully in-person model allows the opportunity for students to connect with peers once again.

Having in-person school would not only make it accessible for the study body to form meaningful relationships but also prompt opportunities to meet new people outside their social circles. Networking is a crucial part of the middle and high school experience, and social interaction is especially important for students in younger grades, who have interacted with students and teachers within the building for less time.

In-person school builds an inviting environment for students to discuss with their peers even the simplest things, such as asking about homework for a certain class. Mr. Robert Oakes, an English teacher at BLS, emphasizes how difficult social interaction is online.

“When you're on Zoom the only interaction is, if by chance, you end up in a breakout room [...] it's awkward to interact with people over Zoom, people are just a box on the screen and you miss the little interactions, like saying ‘hi’ to people in the halls [...] appreciating these little things is so important,” says Thomas Oakes (V).

Beyond the social aspects, virtual learning has negatively impacted the physical and mental health of many students. Some have felt isolated this year, due to not seeing their friends through school — others have felt stressed and overworked, having to independently submit assignments with significantly less guidance from teachers. Sitting at home all day has also been detrimental to many students' physical health, with hours upon hours of screen time causing headaches, eye strain and back pain.

In-person school provides for better learning circumstances overall. While at

home, students are less likely to pay attention in class because of increased distractions like phones and family members. This atmosphere also brews bad habits like cheating through searching up answers in their search engines. In-person school promotes a focused environment with far fewer distractions and more instruction, allowing students to learn better in a year where many will need to catch up.

As the majority of the school district will be transitioning to in-person learning models next fall, those in the virtual school program will inevitably miss out on a setting that is both socially engaging and also less-distracting for learning.

A fully in-person school model next year would provide a much more focused, positive and productive learning environment and school year for all. As Cole McKittrick (V) puts it, “Online learning just can't really compare to in-person [learning].”

# Equip Students with the Emotional Tools to Succeed

By Catherine Wang (III)  
Staff Writer

One of the pillars of the Boston Latin School mission statement is to provide its students with “preparation for successful college studies.” While our guidance counselors are very well-versed in giving us the resources we need to apply to colleges, they often are not as prepared when it comes to mental and emotional health. Their chief objective is to support students in their academic success, social and emotional wellbeing and postsecondary planning. Mental wellness, however, is often not factored into discussing a student’s academic success.

Mental wellness is directly linked to a student’s social and academic development, and expanding guidance support to further address these issues would allow students an outlet to address and destigmatize their mental health concerns. Overall, expanding education and awareness of mental health among faculty, parents and students will allow students to grow and succeed in all areas of life.

Mental health is a very misunderstood and taboo topic among many communities. The stigma surrounding mental health has long stood in the way of students’ school performance, in both personal relationships and social life. President of BLS Let’s Erase the Stigma (LETS), Carine Badawi (II) expresses her frustration, “I wish [mental health discussion] was more normalized. If you’ve heard me speak at any LETS event, I repeat time and time again, your physical health is equally as important as your mental health. I wish that people felt more comfortable telling a teacher that they aren’t doing good mentally.”

Taking the initiative to seek mental health help, however, is commonly the most

difficult step for many students. In many communities, seeking mental health is regarded as shameful or weak. To combat these stigmas, BLS should teach students that seeking mental help is okay, and that they are not alone in dealing with these issues.

Education on various disorders and how to help friends in need is critical toward raising awareness. Because students mostly turn to friends for support and advice, it is important to teach students what is helpful to say and what is not. Friends and even teachers can often invalidate a student’s feelings without meaning to do so. Constructing an environment open to communication about mental health will distribute thoughtful conversations surrounding the issues students face.

Guidance support should be expanded to accommodate students’ mental well-being because academic success is interconnected with mental health. Guidance Counselor Mr. Samson Luu shares, “I definitely believe school counselors are equipped. We are required to go through extensive schooling and must have a Master’s of Education in School Counseling.”

Their field of training also includes counseling programs such as Psychopathology and Diagnosis, Trauma and Crisis Counseling and Behavioral Counseling, all of which help them guide students in their academic success. For many students, school is their only opportunity to reach out for help — whether that be to their friends, a trusted teacher or guidance counselor. Furthermore, because students spend most of their developmental years in school, it is imperative they have a strong support system at school.

In a time where the need for support and connections are high, more people are lonelier than ever before. The balancing act of schoolwork, extracurriculars, a healthy



The courage to talk to trusted adults stems from mutual understanding.

social life and anxiety about the future take its toll, and student stress and anxiety levels show no signs of slowing down. Based on data from the National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH), an estimated 31.9 percent of adolescents have an anxiety disorder. Loneliness, fear of failure and social anxiety are just a few issues that can arise when mental health is constantly overlooked.

The NIMH also states that suicide is the second leading cause of death among people ages 10 to 34. The question then becomes, how can we prevent these numbers? Badawi states, “The simplest response that I can give to this question is education and educating people in our school community. Until the broader community has a better understanding of different mental health disorders, there will always be a stigma attached

to mental illness. I think that by developing a safe and supportive environment and having learning-based programs, we can begin to reduce the stigma that surrounds mental health.”

From loneliness and anxiety to severe depression, the pandemic’s impact on students’ mental health has surged into its own epidemic. Especially with a whole school year of self-quarantine, it is crucial to start the next school year by establishing a strong foundation of open communication and mental health education. Starting next year, BLS will have social workers in school to support students. It is most important, however, to teach students the importance of reaching out for help and for those around them to remain sympathetic and kind towards those who they know might be struggling.

## Building Solidarity Between Communities of Color



Many displayed their support in Boston for the Stop Asian Hate March.

By Fiona Yuan (IV)  
Staff Writer

In celebration of Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) Month this past May, it is crucial to highlight the importance of building solidarity among minority communities. Building solidarity is the most effective way to overcome divisions between minority groups and dissolve current racial tensions across the country, as all communities of color are hit by the unanimous effects of white supremacy and its culture.

According to Oxford Lan-

guages, solidarity is the “unity or agreement of feeling or action, especially among individuals with a common interest.” Putting this term into the context of minority communities, all minority groups are subjected to the face of white supremacy, and because of this, the collaboration of minority communities is necessary to dismantle this common problem. As Boston Latin School Asian Students in Action (A.S.I.A.) Officer Thomas Tran (I) puts it, “Solidarity is when people realize a lot of our issues are very interconnected, and that we should stand up for all oppressed communi-

ties, regardless of whether the issues affect you directly or not.”

Solidarity is necessary for social change. Let it be Black Lives Matter supporting Stop Asian Hate or vice versa, the issues of all minority groups face the common struggle of white supremacy. White supremacy deems white people as more supreme than their minority counterparts, and this problem is still prevalent today through ongoing stereotypes and the divisions of minority groups. Realizing this and taking the steps to build unity among minority groups is important to fighting this issue as

a collective.

BLS A.S.I.A. Officer Vivian Nguyen (III) adds, “In the wake of all the most recent events such as the George Floyd movement, violence against the Black community and extreme racism within the Asian community, it is so crucial for these minority groups to stand together to fight.”

Understanding the oppressions of certain groups through solidarity helps to understand how divisions are formed and how white supremacy plays into the issues. For example, the model minority myth, a false claim that deems Asian Americans to be more successful in America than other minority groups, was created to further divide Asians from other minorities by putting them on an imaginary pedestal. As Asian Americans are put into this special and higher group separate from other minorities, divisions among minorities will only increase due to the zero-sum game mentality — a belief that the wins of one group is the loss of another. This leads to the main problem, white supremacy, to not be addressed. Understanding where this myth originated from and how stereotypes pit minorities against one another helps to understand how white supremacy is the real problem.

Although having discussions about myths and stereotypes within and outside of one’s community takes a lot of courage, it is an important step toward building solidarity. BLS A.S.I.A.’s workshop has been one example of solidarity through

education and bridging their community’s divide from another.

On April 13, BLS A.S.I.A. hosted their “Anti-Blackness Workshop in AAPI Communities,” aiming to tackle the prevalent biases in the Asian community, especially among elders, toward the Black community by providing resources for students to have these discussions with their families. This workshop inspired many young Asian students to educate their families on an issue so ingrained in history.

Tran explains, “Our intention was to really call attention to a sensitive topic that is often ignored because it is so difficult to bring up. Our workshop was just a conversation starter — an acknowledgment to the issue and an invitation for people to reach out and speak with us.”

To start having discussions about racial biases and building solidarity, breaking the ice and taking the initiative to talk with the people around you is the first step. Conversation is a revolution spark that inspires people to join solidarity-based organizations, which greatens the impact of their activism on solidarity.

The divides among minorities need to be changed. As the problems of all groups are all related, standing together in solidarity is crucial to understanding one another and realizing that all minorities are in the fight together. Once communities of color trust each other and learn to communicate their struggles of xenophobia and racism, tackling white supremacy is going to be much easier going forward.

## Valedictorian

## Ruth Shiferaw



Dear Class of 2021,

It's been... quite a year, to say the least. From an impending World War to a global pandemic, I think it's safe to say that 2020 and 2021 are going down in the history books. But I know we're all sick of hearing about COVID-19 and quarantine (pun intended), so I'm going to take us back to a simpler time: sixie year. The year that BLS seemed like Hogwarts, not only because of the way the building loomed over me and my 50-pound backpack, but also because of how the rooms and staircases appeared to constantly change directions. Despite my lack of an inner compass, I managed to find my R1 class, where I was met

with eager-eyed, attentive students — each of whom was nervously excited to see where the next six years would take them.

Let's fast forward, *past* the dark cloud. It's senior year. We made it. Somehow we got past the crippling fear of presentations, the paranoia of forgetting an assignment and the countless number of sleepless nights. We persevered through the frantic four-minute locker runs, the embarrassment of falling down the stairs and the awkward breakout rooms. We're fighters. Each of us should be proud of where we are and how far we've come. Even though we may have lost some of the attentiveness in our sixie-selves due to the terrible affliction by the name of

senioritis, our eagerness to learn, to live and to experience the unknown is still there — and it's stronger than ever before. Being isolated for so long has given us the much-needed time to reflect on ourselves and on the world; on what improvements we want to see and how we can make them a reality. We are the generation of peacekeepers, of justice seekers and of truth speakers. I am beyond proud to be a part of a class that's wholeheartedly unafraid of making waves and fostering change.

I can't wait to see where our voices carry us. Thank you for making the past six years unforgettable.

Your friend,  
Ruth Shiferaw

## Valedictorian

## Julianna Zhao



It seems surreal to be saying goodbye to you all like this, sitting in the chair that I have been stuck to for more than 12 hours a day, before the laptop that has witnessed my gradually worsening posture over the last year. 442 days ago, most of us walked out of our last day of class together in that big brick building, unaware of the fact that the next time we would meet there again would be June of 2021. For every other class, graduation means farewell, but in some ways, for us, it is a reunion.

To the underclassmen reading this right now, please, cherish what you have at the moment. Believe me, I too have had my share of embarrassing declamation mess-ups and failed attempts at socialization, but with the passage of time, you come to realize that these mishaps simply aren't as all-important as they once seemed. Instead, focus on the people and memories that make these years at BLS as valuable as they are. Don't take them for granted! Go to those events you heard about but never attended because

you just might not have the opportunity again as graduation nears — and you don't want to wait for a global pandemic to take it all away before the realization hits.

Boston Latin School really is a special institution for bringing together such brilliant people to witness and shape each others' journeys. Here, I never fail to be amazed and invigorated by the creativity, humility and simple grit in each of you. Six years ago, we walked into the brick building on Avenue Louis Pasteur, but we sure aren't the same people leaving it for our next destination. In that short period of time, so much has changed. Each of us has undergone incredible transformations, and now, each of us can look back on our unique but equally impressive BLS experiences.

To our teachers who are there every day to start the next Zoom class with a smile, this year especially has made me realize just how much more appreciation you deserve. We are able to celebrate now in caps and gowns because

you truly believe in us and our future, oftentimes more than we believed in it ourselves, and because you are always reminding us of what makes life and learning worth our time and effort. Without you, we would not be who we are today, and on behalf of the Class of 2021, I would like to say — thank you.

My fellow seniors and soon-to-be alumni, it has been a pleasure to spend these last six years with you. We've been through a lot together. We missed out on a lot together. Yet, we have made it to this final step together, and I am beyond grateful for what we do have, like this graduation at Fenway! It may seem unbelievable that we are turning the last page of this chapter, but the time really has come for us to set out on new paths. So, let us remember these times we have spent with each other and look forward to our next reunion! Till we meet again...

Congratulations, Class of 2021!  
And farewell.

Julianna Zhao

## Best Memory

"Bathroom passes" (aka wandering in the hallways and visiting my favorite teachers)  
2019 Volleyball Season 2T  
8:30 <https://youtu.be/0fsRyNE7moY>  
8th Grade English with Mr. Gibbons  
8th grade winter with him  
After one year of Asian night, we stayed at the school till 1  
Afterschool talks on the floor with friends :))  
All four years of Chinese  
Any moment where I didn't want to go home yet  
AP Latin MFA field trip  
AP world with Mr. Gavin  
Arbs March 13, 2020  
Art class with Mr. Harris  
Asian Night  
Asian Night  
Asian Night  
Asian Night  
Asian Night 2017  
Asian Night 2018  
Asian Night 2019  
Asian Night 2019  
Asian Night 2019  
Asian Night w/ Diddy  
Bops  
Basking in the immaculate vibes of the back lobby during the spring time, specifically after  
Asian Night  
Beating BLA in football in 2019  
Before and after school in the library  
Beijing Exchange  
Beijing Exchange Program  
Being introduced to another student who

helped me get through 3 years of BLS  
BLS Hockey  
BLS track going to NY  
BLS vs. BLA football games  
Boys bball DCL champs x2  
Breaking the BLS Career Touchdown Record  
Bringing a waffle maker into school and making waffles in the library  
Burning my Latin papers  
Bus rides after a win  
Call time before shows  
Capstone presentations!  
Changing into declamation clothes while the person assigned to go before me was declaiming  
China trip 2019  
Chinese class field trips  
Colm consuming laxatives  
Colm Vraibel's Laxative Incident  
Coming back to school this spring and seeing my friends  
Concert nights  
Concert nights  
Concert nights  
Coronacation with no school work  
Days after school in the art wing hallway  
Desi Picnic  
Doing a backflip on the beat drop to God's Plan during the 2018 Asian Night  
DR trip  
Eating at the buffet after the Chinese field trip  
Eating Bertucci's rolls in the library after school  
Eating dinner before night shows with BLS  
Theater  
Eating donuts with Mr. Rendon  
Edinburgh 2019

Eighth grade assemblies  
El Internado Fridays  
End of school year of 9th grade  
End of year card games  
Every Asian Night <3  
Every basketball game  
Every single time hanging out with Kai Silva  
Everyone tripping over that string in Chem.  
Everything before the pandemic  
Everything that happened outside of school  
Fencing State Championships 2019  
Field trip to Fenway  
Field trip to John Hancock Tower  
Field trip to see In the Heights at Wheelock  
Five Guys party with YouthCAN  
Football games  
Football Senior Night 2020  
Geometry class  
German Exchange  
Getting boba every Friday  
Getting Dunkin's in the morning before school  
Getting held back  
Getting into my dream school  
Getting onto the freshman soccer team  
Getting poke bowls with friends when we didn't have practice  
Girls' Volleyball winning the D1 Central East Championships (2019)  
Going to Quebec with my French class - specifically the cruise  
Going to the Peabody Essex Museum  
Graduating  
Greek class  
Half days to see the BSO  
Hanging out in the art

wing before crew  
Hanging out w Mai at Tea-Do sophomore year almost everyday  
Hanging out with friends after school  
Hanging out with friends before concert  
Hanging out with friends before the orchestra concert  
Hanging out with friends during Wellness  
Hanging out with my friends at heartbreak and almost getting attacked by geese as we were eating fries  
Having a Chinese exchange student  
Having a good workout before throwing up in the bathroom outside the gym in that little hallway connecting the two doors  
Having a potluck feast at lunch in tenth grade  
Having fun with my friends every day in eighth grade  
I'm blanking, I'm sure there were some  
In eighth grade, the French 2 classes went on a trip to Canada and went on a disco cruise. That was so much fun, I was surrounded by awesome people and had an amazing time.  
Italian Class 9th Grade  
JCL State convention in 2019  
JCL States 2019  
Junior year spirit day  
Just enjoying time with the people around me and making them laugh  
Kenya Trip 2019  
Kenya Trip 2019  
KFTFs & 2020 Grenoble Trip  
Last 2 weeks of senior

year and being in person  
Last day of school sixie year  
Late nights with friends <3  
Latin with Magister  
Howard  
Laughing with friends  
Leaving BLS  
Library after school  
March 2020  
Mass JCL freshman year  
Meeting all my friends during 8th grade volleyball tryouts  
Meeting my best friends  
Meeting my friends  
Mini-golf with the crew guys  
Mr. Barry's life lessons  
Mr. Beyer's ELA 10  
Mr. Gavin's AP world  
Mr. O's class  
Mr. Rosado's Math class  
Mr. Sanford's class junior year  
Mr. Zou's APUSH class!!!  
Ms. Kwan stopping me in the halls  
Ms. Scott throwing a snail out the third floor window  
Ms. Yang's Chinese class  
My friend and I riding our bikes through the second floor  
My t4 english breakout room <3  
New Year's Eve at Rick's  
New York theater trip  
Ninth grade Adv Algebra II testing day :)  
Ninth grade bio  
Not failing Latin 4  
Orchestra concert nights  
Peabody Essex Museum  
Buffet  
PEM trips  
Pep Rally  
Pep rally  
Performing at Asian Night  
PL&BCS

Playing games with friends at the end of the year  
Powder puff  
Puffs  
Puffs!  
Quebec Trip  
R1 studies tots from MassArt  
R7 studies with Lauren, Eliza, & Mohammad  
Riding scooters to Millennium  
Sanford R5  
Silly-stringing a certain Mr. Jerry Han  
Sixie field day  
Sixie Field day  
Sixie year field day  
Skip day  
Skipping class for breakfast  
Skipping school to go to the Red Sox/Patriots parades  
Soccer 9th grade  
Sophomore Beijing Trip  
Spirit day  
Spirit Day  
Spirit day junior year  
St. Paddy's Weekend 2019  
Staying after school and feeling like a part of something  
Staying at BLS till 11pm after the basketball games  
Staying late at school because of clubs/hanging with clubmates  
Stealing a two-liter bottle of Pepsi from the Chinese Field Trip  
Sweeping JCL States  
Taking commuter rail every single day  
Taking the commuter rail every morning  
Talent Show  
Team dinners  
Tenth grade Chem with Mr. Andersen

That weird month break in the middle of school at the start of the pandemic  
The battery incident  
The Contompasis Assembly  
The hallway/locker gathering in the morning before class and after school with my friends  
The last week of school after final exams every year  
The Strasbourg trip  
Tommy Devito & Co. presenting Ohm's law in Physics 1 but writing "Aumi's Law" on the board  
Train Gang  
Trip to DC with YouthCAN  
Victory against Brighton High in final football game  
Visiting Mr. Gavin at the end of the day  
Volleyball games  
Watching dramas with my friends after finals week  
Water fight in the halls  
When Vincent Hock allowed me to be friends with him  
Winning both championships for BLS soccer and basketball senior year  
Winning JCL States freshman year  
Winning quarter finals states game in Girls' Hockey  
Winning the Mingus Festival with the Big Band boys  
Winter Concert  
Winter Concert 2018  
Winter concert nights  
XC in New York  
Zenger Trial in eighth grade history

Salutatorian  
**Rick Li**



I want to preface this by saying: BLS is a gift. Now, it may not seem like it during the 3 A.M. homework grinds or the furious scurry to turn in an assignment by 11:59 P.M., but we are lucky to be here today. I am forever grateful for the family, faculty and friends who have squeezed me here today (just imagine those little packets of ketchup at McDonald's, but that's a metaphor for another day).

Throughout our four or six years here, we have worked tirelessly, driven by the prestige which lies behind the letters "BLS". Finally, the hard work has paid off. Day in and day out, the academic, extracurricular and athletic endeavors have landed us in this next stage of our lives.

While I could spend countless pages writing about our achievements or the many obstacles we've overcome, I'd like to ask everyone a simple question: did you have fun?

Every minute, every second of our lives should be spent in the pursuit of fulfillment. Now, many of us have analyzed this endearing question in English class (extra big thanks to my ELA teachers) so I present to you one final thesis. *Through chasing one's passions, accomplishing life's goals and meeting new people, one can chase true happiness which ultimately will lead to a fulfilled life.*

To the class of 2021, I hope you continue to enjoy every single day even in its smallest moments: sweet autumn weather, coffee

with friends or even a nice evening stroll by yourself. Remember that we are young and have time to just be ourselves. Many of us, including myself, all too often worry about the next assessment, the next project or the next report card. Instead, let's look forward to the next football game, the next time we see our friends or the next season of "Stranger Things."

BLS wasn't always all fun and games, but it paid off. Now, let's celebrate our wins and live life to its fullest.

"Work Hard but Play Even Harder."

Cheers,  
Rick Li

Salutatorian  
**Aileen Luo**



Hey gamers!

Not sure how we managed to get here, but we're finally at the end! As I'm writing this letter from my bed, where I've taken the vast majority of my classes this year, I realize that though I've been waiting ever-so-impatiently for years, it feels very strange, not least because our last moments of high school are about to be spent logging out of Zoom and closing our laptops.

Class of 2021, we've been through a LOT, to say the least. And this year especially has been so incredibly hard. I literally cannot express how much of an accomplishment it is just to have made it through in one piece. Three heads of school, a few experimental projects and classes, and more than a few incidents (like, say, a global pandemic)! It's been an emotional ride.

If there's one thing BLS has taught me best, it's the beauty of growth. As I remember the past six years, I marvel at how much we've grown as a community. We've had a lot of very hard conversations as a class and as a school during our time here — many of them really awkward, even after lots of practice. But I'm so proud to see how

far BLS has come since sixie year in building our community, supporting and uplifting each other and celebrating our diversity. I know a lot of you in this class have had a huge part in that growth, and I hope you all know what a positive impact you've made.

BLS will always have a lot more room to grow, but so do we! While our late-night research paper grinds and early-morning homeroom homework scrambles are finally coming to an end, I hope you look back on your years at BLS with fulfillment at how much you've grown, into the most passionate, generous and supportive people. Take that spirit with you to keep learning and growing in your next adventures! That is to say, if you ever feel stuck (and I sure have, a lot), remember that you're always growing and constantly changing.

While we're saying goodbye for now, please don't stop spreading love and positivity everywhere you go. You've all taught me that no matter how knee-deep in assignments and anxiety we fall, we're still all in this together. I can't tell you how many times my day has been brightened not only by my best friends, but also just by the kind, funny and incredibly sweet people sitting

next to me in class. I wish I could've been best friends with every one of you, really, and it sucks that everyone's favorite virus robbed us of so much bonding. But as cheesy as it sounds, this isn't the end! I'll see you all soon, and until then, keep being good to each other. I know every BLS farewell will say this, but I really mean it: this class is filled with the brightest students and the most passionate leaders. You really are destined for great things.

Before I peace out, I can't forget about the faculty! I wouldn't have made it here at all without my wonderful teachers, from the compassion and genuine care you showed me in middle school to the empathy and understanding you offered me at the end of senior year and everything in between, along with my absolutely amazing guidance counselor (I love you Ms. Clougherty <3) and the endlessly supportive administration. I can't say "thank you" enough.

Class of 2021 (and the rest of BLS!), I'm so grateful to have crossed paths with all of you.

With infinite love,  
Aileen :)

Salutatorian  
**Alice Wu**



Dear Class of 2021:

I don't think this is how any of us anticipated that our high school careers would end — cooped up at home, attending classes through a computer screen and taking AP tests online, weeks after the last day of school.

Nevertheless, here we are. As I'm writing this, we're a week removed from the last day of high school, forever, and I'm still in shock at how quickly the last six years have passed. A third of my life has been spent attending Boston Latin School, and yet it feels like my first day here was just yesterday.

This year in particular has been difficult for all of us, something that cannot be overstated enough. With the clunkiness of online school compounded on top of an already stressful senior year, our last year at Boston Latin School has been difficult, to say the least. We all, never-

theless, made it out on the other side, scathed, perhaps, but otherwise, intact. For that, I want to thank everyone who I've met throughout these six years at Boston Latin School.

Without the teachers and students who have guided and supported me throughout my Boston Latin School career, my time here would not have been nearly as impactful as it has been. Yes, BLS is a school with a storied history — a history that carries the distinction of being the oldest public school in the country. It would be nothing, however, without the people that make up its character.

As I look back on the last six years, I feel lots of things — proud, weary, elated, bitter-sweet — but mostly I feel a sense of accomplishment. Do I wish I had done some things differently? Sure, I think we all do. But ultimately, despite it all, my time at this school has helped make me who I am today. Between the projects

I've started and finished a day before they're due, bombing history tests in freshman year, my time on the Math Team and the countless hours I've spent with my friends, as I walk towards my next chapter, I feel content knowing that the last six years have provided me with memories and lessons that I will carry with me throughout the rest of my life.

Finally, before I bid you all farewell, I will say one thing: I'm not really one for platitudes, but you guys are the most inspirational, resilient, kind and generous people that I know, and I truly believe that every single person in this class is destined for amazing things. What may seem impossible is within your reach — all you have to do is make it so.

I can't wait to see you all again at graduation, and I wish everyone good luck in their future endeavors! I'm grateful to have met all of you.

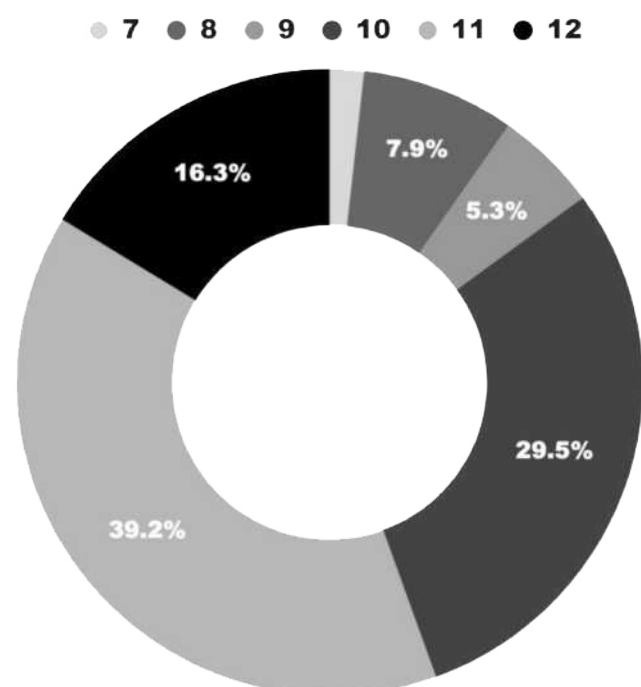
**SENIORS' FAVORITE TEACHERS**

1. Mr. Gavin
2. Mr. Zou
3. Ms. Levine-Adler
4. Mr. Sullivan
5. Mr. Gay & Mr. Howard (*tie*)

**HONORABLE MENTIONS**

- |              |            |
|--------------|------------|
| Ms. Cojohn   | Ms. Arnold |
| Ms. Foley    | Mr. Harris |
| Mr. Hamilton |            |

**SENIORS' FAVORITE YEAR**



## President Gian Martinez



Dear Class of 2021,

As I write this farewell to you all, I'm currently sitting, reminiscing on these last six years, which for some have flown, and for others have felt like an eternity. While I'm doing my best to conjure up all the firsts, events, growth and memories we've all experienced together, my mind keeps running into that same unavoidable roadblock that took us all by surprise on March 13, 2020: a time we thought was going to be a well-deserved "month off" from school, but ended up resulting in the dreadful loss of our senior year of high school, as well as the latter half of our junior year: the time most of us had spent our entire Boston Latin School careers waiting so eagerly to get to.

Whether it was to finally get to live out that "high school experience," or just waiting to get out of high school all together, one thing is certain: we have all spent the last four to six years in the same building and

classes, even toughing it out through the same teachers, together, as a class. And despite the hurdles we've had to face in the last year alone, here we are, finishing strong, together, as a class.

To say I'm wholeheartedly proud of each and every member of the Class of 2021, for just seeing it through until the end, would be an understatement. The tremendous amount of courage, strength, determination, supportiveness and resiliency that you all had to have or had gained through these last couple of years is a feat that will live on with you past BLS. This growth and maturity for many, however, also came at the expense of social isolation, mental health, loss and trauma. We, Class of 2021, love you and are just as proud. The unwavering mental toughness it takes to even wake up in the midst of a pandemic that has changed our perspectives on many things and made others seem meaningless is commendable in and of itself.

Sure, between our sixie year and now we have definitely grown into amazing individuals, but something about these last two years has resulted in many of us finding ourselves, our passions and even our purposes. Let us not forget the times throughout our journeys that were spent being intimidated by a building that we hadn't yet explored, but had only seen because of our siblings or shadow day, or in the cafeteria cramming our homework before the bells rang, or chatting in the library just quiet enough to not draw the attention of the librarians, or covering our noses on our way back to class from lunch because let's just say that eighth-grade hallway needed a hefty amount of candles, or even huddling around the Alma Mater to not only support our clubs but our stomachs with those bussin' baked goods.

Farewell, Class of 2021.

Gian Martinez

## Vice President Mia Merullo



Well, everyone, it's been quite a year. Whether you spent the whole year attending school virtually or if you decided to wake up extra early and commute to school for hybrid, our senior year has been extremely unique. This has been the most challenging and confusing year by far, but we managed to power through it. I'm so proud of all of you for finding the strength to keep going and for not giving up when things have been tough. Throughout my time at Boston Latin School, my favorite thing has been getting to know each and every one of you. Being a part of the many programs that BLS has to offer has allowed me to meet so many

amazing people. Whether it be my amazing, talented friends I met through my years in theater or my equally talented friends whom I've sung with in chorus, BLS has opened the door for me to meet some of the greatest people. Although academics and other stressful factors have made this journey difficult for everyone, the bond we have as a grade is irreplaceable. The moments we've shared together are ones I will never forget, and I couldn't have wished for a better class. We've watched each other grow up and mature, which makes the bond I've been talking about even more powerful. It was such an honor for me to be your Vice President this

year, even if we didn't get to do as much as we'd hoped because of COVID-19. I am so proud of every single one of you for pushing through some of the most challenging years of our lives. It is so sad to think that this is the end of our journey together, but rather than thinking of this as the end, let's think of it as the beginning. This is our chance to take everything we've learned in these past four or six years and show the rest of the world what the class of 2021 is made of. I love all of you, and I know you will all go far. Success is our nature. Go Wolfpack!

Mia Merullo

## Treasurer Xiangan He



It's that time, folks.

Some of us are more than eager to get out. Others, like me, may have the feeling that this all went by too quickly.

It feels like yesterday morning that I sat down in Ms. Gribaudo's room as a mere sixie; a day gone by getting to know you all over the years.

And now, as the hour falls on us, the time for us to all skedaddle on outta here is leaving a bittersweet feeling in my heart.

I'm so excited to see all of you embark on the next step of your journey! At the same time (as I typically say), BLS was pretty good without the school part.

One of my favorite moments of BL without the S was jamming in Mr. Brownell's room playing *Guitar Hero* and listening to "Shooting Stars" as junior year was coming to a close. The reason why it's my favorite memory wasn't particularly because the weight of schoolwork that had hung over my shoulders for a whole year was finally lifting or because

we were all welcoming summer opportunities into our lives — it was because that moment in time was when I could enjoy the part of what made the most arduous public school experience in Boston not so miserable: the people.

No matter if you were breaking it down with B-Boy in the cafeteria or if you were studying for Olympiads or Certamen, those that you jammed out with surely added a special spice to your BLS life. For me, the enjoyment of my journey with many intellectual transitions was fueled by those around me. Luc, Danny, Jin and Ethan would be the best and most hilarious teammates in Certamen. I would enjoy cheesecake and talk about "stonks" with Ludo, Rick, Vinny and Thomas. Whenever I had downtime, I would enjoy tilting over League of Legends with Brandon, Will, Tom and others. There are many more names to go, but the point is: you've all made my BLS journey very meaningful, and I look forward to enjoying many more good times to come.

When it comes to takeaways from BLS, those you develop meaningful relationships with are one of the things that matter most.

Now, I bid you all one final farewell. You were all like shooting stars, burning in your blaze of glory to wherever you're heading. I didn't get to see you all for very long (especially given the circumstances of this year), but I still feel thankful that such rare people were a part of my BLS experience.

Unlike shooting stars though, I will have the immense pleasure of staying in touch with most of you (shoot me a text at 617-710-4886)!

For all the laughs, good times and being the realest, thank you all for being a part of this journey.

The stars are your limit, and the open vastness of the universe is your canvas.

Ave atque vale,  
Xiangan

## Secretary Mandy Sun



Dear beautiful Class of 2021,

IT'S ALL OVER. As a sixie, I was always eager for my chance to inevitably scream at the top of my lungs those same words. But as we reach our destination, I'm scared to leave. I began to miss things that I never thought I would: the whiffs of AXE body spray intermingled with chicken fingers as we plunge ourselves through the stampede of sixies on our feet to the cafeteria, the odd cucumbers stuck on unreachable windows and the MSG filled saltiness of my 4 A.M. ramen as I cram the night before a test.

Perhaps I'm facing a huge case of Stockholm syndrome, or perhaps these quirky and seemingly insignificant traits of our school mean much more than we realize.

Just recently, I had my first driving lesson, and naturally, I bumped into one of you seniors by almost ramming into

you — almost causing a car crash. While I was anxious and a bit scared to talk since I didn't know you very well, a pleasant conversation littered full of BLS references, memories and our futures emerged, and I realized those whom you've never talked to in your six years at BLS will always be there for you, proud of you for following your path and accomplishing your goals. That dark cloud that had once loomed over our heads, that infamous economic inequality project and those equity assemblies with THE Steven Chen have forever knotted us together.

I'm so grateful to be among you inspiring, hilarious and passionate individuals. There's no denying it: we've faced dark times at BLS with impending deadlines and our constant questioning of our own self-worth and abilities, but you should all be proud of those challenges you've faced because they are an assurance that you will do amazing things in

the world. I think we can all agree that if we did BLS again, we would do it so much better. Remember that BLS is a microcosm of just the bigger world. Your next adventure will be somehow BLS-like. So rest assured that the next test you take or the next hike you make, you'll grow and do better than the previous time.

It doesn't matter who you were in high school and what, I know y'all will be the next trendsetters, changemakers and spiritual masters. But please follow your own path: a happy you makes a happy me.

And when you look back at your last year at BLS, I hope you don't cringe. Because who you are today will become the doppelgängers you will be in the future.

While we might still be scared to leave and feel riddled with regret, we should be comforted to know that we'll all only be one almost-accidental car crash away.

# Worst Memory

10th grade ELA class  
 10th grade English R 5  
 10th grade Latin  
 11th grade pre-COVID  
 12th grade english  
 2/6/19  
 2019  
 4 years of Gym class  
 7th Grade Humanities class  
 7th grade Latin class  
 8th + 9th grade... enough said  
 8th grade  
 8th grade assembly where everyone started coughing during the silent reflection  
 8th grade French  
 9th grade as a whole was a mess  
 9th grade in general  
 A certain Advanced Algebra 2 teacher's pentagonal stars  
 A certain APUSH teacher giving me a misdemeanor  
 A certain math teacher who yelled at me for answering his question  
 A certain guidance counselor screaming "what wrong with you" to me eighth grade and the school did nothing  
 A certain Latin 4 teacher  
 A certain Latin 4 teacher's class  
 A certain Latin 4 teacher's class  
 A certain Latin 4 teacher's pop quizzes  
 A certain Latin teacher hating me  
 A certain Latin teacher yelling at my eighth grade Latin class yikes  
 A certain teacher's freshman year Latin  
 A certain teacher's Latin class  
 A lot of my time here  
 Abrupt end to junior year due to COVID

Absolutely choking on a presentation and calling in the towel early  
 Advanced Algebra 2  
 Advanced Algebra 2  
 Advanced Geometry  
 Advanced Geometry  
 Advanced Geometry  
 Advanced Geometry class  
 Advanced Geometry class  
 Advanced Geometry with a certain teacher  
 Advanced math  
 All of 9th grade  
 All of AP World  
 Almost dying  
 Almost not turning in my term essay on time...oops  
 Any 10th grade Latin class  
 Any English Class ever  
 AP Bio  
 AP Biology  
 AP Chem permanganate incident  
 AP Lit  
 AP Stats class  
 AP World rap battle  
 AP/Finals weeks  
 Arriving at BLS  
 Assemblies in 8th grade (iykyk)  
 Being (falsely) accused of cheating on the CML  
 Being late to the first day of World History in 9th grade  
 Being told by a teacher I'd amount to nothing in life and that I was worthless  
 Being yelled at by a certain APUSH teacher :(   
 Bio II  
 Blacking out in Ms. Burn's class during Latin Declamation  
 Blanking on my Latin  
 Prose declamation  
 Breaking down crying in front of teachers  
 Breaking down on the way to homeroom and  
 Cheating on a test with

Quizlet and it played out loud  
 Chemistry  
 Corona lockdown  
 COVID Spring 2020  
 Crying 2x from Chinese class  
 Crying in a bathroom while a girl had massive diarrhea next to me  
 Crying in English class sixie year  
 Crying over a Latin test (#dramatic)  
 Crying over a math test  
 Dating my ex boyfriend  
 Declaiming for a certain Humanities teacher when Ms. Callum was out  
 Declamation  
 Declamation  
 Declamation  
 Declamation and ELA class  
 Declamations  
 Diagramming sentences sixie year  
 Doing 8 college apps during winter break... very dark times  
 Don't have one, all the bad has faded away  
 DR Trip  
 Economic inequality project  
 Economic inequality project  
 Eighth grade  
 ELA with a certain teacher  
 Emotionally dying in 9th grade  
 Entering BLS  
 Failing classes before I hired a tutor  
 Failing every summer math test  
 Failing math tests  
 Failing multiple tests in Geometry  
 Failing my first ever declamation  
 Failing the Latin final  
 Failing the precalculus


summer test  
 Fainting in Bio ninth grade  
 Falling down the main stairway while going to lunch and getting trampled  
 Falling down the stairs  
 Falling on my butt in gym class  
 Fell and broke my boba  
 Finals week  
 Finals week freshman year  
 First day of school sixie year  
 French 3  
 Freshman Declamation  
 Geometry test, Latin test, and Declamation before a funeral  
 Getting 24 hours of sleep per week for the second half of sophomore year  
 Getting an 82 on my sixie practice declamation  
 Getting an F on a test in a certian Humanties teacher's class in sixie year and absolutely bawling my eyes out on the train home  
 Getting caught cheating  
 Getting caught eating or drinking in the hallway and being forced to throw it out  
 Getting caught in the Seevak...if ykyk  
 Getting caught plagiarizing in 8th grade  
 Getting caught skipping  
 Getting concussed at crew practice  
 Getting ghosted IRL  
 Getting in a screaming match with a teacher  
 Getting my first F on a report card  
 Getting my flip phone taken away in front of the whole class in sixie year  
 Getting my period while wearing bright blue pants in 8th grade

Getting my subway foot-long thrown away by my teacher in homeroom  
 Getting the flu on the France trip  
 Getting yelled at by a teacher  
 Getting yelled at for napping  
 Gluten  
 Going to detention for a certain Advanced Algebra 2 teacher for being one minute late to class then getting told it was a joke  
 Going to school and forgetting my stuff at home  
 Grand theft  
 Haha getting yelled at because I tried to transfer out of a class  
 Having a mental breakdown over classes junior year  
 Having a panic attack and crying in the nurse's High school  
 I got so sick I had to throw up in the bathroom outside the gym in that little hallway connecting the two doors  
 I regret nothing  
 January 22, 2020  
 January-February 8th grade  
 Jason  
 Junior year  
 Junior Year - Winter Season  
 Kissing SF in Charlestown  
 Latin  
 Latin  
 Latin  
 Latin  
 Latin  
 Latin  
 Latin  
 Latin 3  
 Latin 4  
 Latin 4

Latin 4  
 Latin 4  
 Latin class  
 Latin class  
 Latin class freshman and sophomore year  
 Latin Prose final  
 Leaving my backpack in the dining hall  
 Literally all of ninth grade  
 Literally anything Latin related  
 Literally the entire second half of junior year  
 Losing our conference finals game  
 Losing the end of junior year  
 Many concussions  
 Missing junior/senior prom  
 Missing out on Five Guys  
 Missing out on senior year  
 Missing the Eastern Europe trip because of COVID  
 Mr. Contomopsis catching the "professor finessors"  
 Multiple projects and tests on one day  
 My entire sophomore year  
 My first D on a quiz  
 Oh man one time my friend who I will not name sent a valentine to me and signed it as my crush, I got so excited until he saw me in the hallway and started cracking up. That was the only valentine I got that year  
 Pandemic  
 Physics  
 Puking in the 8th grade bathroom  
 Pulling all nighters to get homework done  
 Rick Li regurgitating his sandwich at lunch  
 Seeing a spider while studying for my Bio exam  
 Seventh grade Declamation  
 Sitting in Ms. Skerritt's

office after DR trip  
 Sixie year  
 Someone puking on my coat and backpack on the bus  
 Sophomore year  
 Sophomore year  
 Sophomore year crew  
 Spanish  
 Starting BLS  
 Staying up to complete my assignments  
 Staying up until 5:45 A.M. to finish a project because my group members didn't do their parts  
 Stress of college deadlines and admissions  
 Stuttering during Declamation  
 Summer School for Algebra I  
 Taking a certain teacher's geometry test  
 Taking AP Lit  
 Taking finals in the library  
 Team Trip  
 That one question on a geometry test  
 That time we had an active shooter scare after school but it was actually just a balloon popping in the parking lot  
 The "two-week break" lasting over a year  
 The entirety of AP Stats and Mr. Simoneau  
 The night before any Latin test  
 There was the day my dad died  
 U.S. History  
 Virtual school  
 Walking up to theater in 8th grade and realizing there was a cockroach on my neck  
 When 'rona cancelled my Eastern Europe trip :(   
 When our Eastern Europe trip got cancelled  
 Winter Concert 2018

Congratulations DALL



We are so very proud of you and your accomplishments! We are amazed by the beautiful, smart, sweet and talented young woman you've become. We love you, and wish you success on every new adventure you dare to take. Always close to you! Bobe Elisa, Gusti, Anna, Eitan & Nao, Bettina, Mario, Leandro & Guadi, Marcelo, Graciela, Anabela & Ignacio, and the Boston Family





# Thing I Learned Most Useful for My Future...

"Fake it 'till you make it"  
 1st declension  
 30 years from now it won't matter what shoes you wore, how your hair looked, or the jeans you bought, what will matter is what you learned and how you used it  
 Advocating for yourself  
 Always do your absolute best because everyone is competing for your spot  
 Ask for help when you need it  
 Be civically engaged!  
 Be grateful for what you have  
 Be organize and come up with a schedule. Always ask for help when needed  
 Being a hard worker  
 Being pleasant and positive goes a long way :)  
 Being smart doesn't get you anywhere  
 Biology  
 Biology  
 BS or take the L  
 BS-ing is key  
 Bsing  
 Cheating  
 Cherish every moment. And take many photos  
 Chill, please... nothing's as serious as you think :)  
 Chinese  
 Crime and Punishment is must on your bookshelf  
 Deadline fighter  
 Dealing with a lot of work  
 Definitely not calculus  
 Do things you're scared to do because that's how you grow  
 Don't have high expectations from people and work smarter not harder  
 Don't let yourself be swayed by what other people think you should

be doing. If you have a goal and you really want it, go for it. Don't live your life the way everyone wants you to  
 Don't procrastinate  
 Don't be shy to ask for help  
 Don't Procrastinate  
 Efficient procrastination  
 Emotional intelligence  
 Español  
 Everything & Nothing  
 Existentialism  
 Fake it til you make it  
 Fake it til you make it  
 Fake it til you make it  
 Foreign language  
 Foster a lot of connections through professors, etc.  
 Gallia est omnis divisa in partes tres  
 GPA doesn't matter if you get the diploma  
 Grades, tests, quizzes etc don't reflect intelligence levels at all  
 Hard work, determination, and will power get you through anything  
 Hic Haec Hoc  
 How to avoid administration  
 How to be competent  
 How to be more social  
 How to be politically and civically engaged  
 How to bs  
 How to bs  
 How to BS  
 How to BS  
 How to BS  
 How to BS  
 How to BS  
 How to BS  
 How to BS  
 How to BS anything  
 How to bs multiple assignments  
 How to bs the work but

still make it look nice  
 How to cheat cautiously  
 How to cheat efficiently  
 How to communicate w/ a clear line of reasoning  
 How to completely bs an analysis  
 How to convince teachers you're a good student  
 How to cram  
 How to deal with a heavy workload  
 How to do as little work as possible but still get high grades  
 How to do things last minute  
 How to do work at the last possible minute  
 How to doodle  
 How to finesse  
 How to finesse  
 How to finish things right before it's due  
 How to get by on little sleep  
 How to get stuff done no matter what  
 How to grind  
 How to look on the bright side of things  
 How to make good friendships  
 How to make teachers like you  
 How to manage a large workload  
 How to manage lots of work  
 How to manage time  
 How to memorize quickly.  
 How to poop silently  
 How to procrastinate  
 How to procrastinate efficiently  
 How to pull an all-nighter  
 How to say a lot but say nothing at all  
 How to survive on low sleep  
 How to take public trans-

portation  
 How to talk to adults  
 How to talk to people  
 How to teach myself when my teachers don't  
 How to use public transportation  
 How to work and enjoy leisure activities at the same time  
 How to work efficiently (definitely not because I procrastinated)  
 How to work productively  
 How to write  
 How to write  
 How to write a book in 15 hours  
 How to write a good essay in an hour  
 How to write a professional email  
 How to write an essay  
 How to write an essay in a day  
 How to write papers  
 How to write research papers  
 How to Zoom  
 Humility  
 If I don't procrastinate I can actually get decent work done  
 If the food doesn't taste right, throw it away  
 Integrity pays off  
 It's okay not to have your whole future planned out  
 It's not as hard as it looks  
 Its better to flunk an assignment than finish it but get caught cheating  
 Its the people you know, not what you know. Also people are very gullible  
 Java and Python  
 Keep your circle small  
 Keep your Real friends close  
 Knowing what's important

Latin  
 Latin  
 Latin \*this is not a joke\*  
 Life is so much more fun if you just try to be kind to yourself  
 Literally anything Mr. Sullivan ever said  
 Lol dont go to human resources they arent there for you~ thank you Mr. Vallone  
 Lower people's expectations of you  
 Make a good first impression  
 Making connections with adults is important  
 Mastering procrastination  
 Math  
 Maths  
 Most of the goals you have aren't going to instantly make you happy; instead you need to make the active decision to be happy in the life you're in  
 N/a  
 Name brand colleges aren't worth copious amounts of debt  
 Networking  
 Networking  
 Networking  
 Never forget your closest friends  
 Never rely on anyone except yourself  
 Not all famed institutions have soap in their bathrooms  
 Not everyone's gonna like you  
 Not Geometry  
 Not Latin  
 Not to Compete with Anyone but Yourself  
 Not to procrastinate  
 Nothing  
 Pacing my own work  
 People who judge you are

jealous of you  
 Photomath  
 Photoshop (thanks Ms. Walshak!)  
 Presenting & Public Speaking  
 Prioritize what really matters  
 Prioritizing mental health  
 Procrastinating is not that bad  
 Procrastination  
 Public speaking  
 Public speaking  
 Public speaking  
 Public Speaking  
 Public speaking  
 Public Speaking  
 Public Speaking  
 Pulling all-nighters  
 Put in full effort when you can, but if you try to be a perfectionist all the time your grades will suffer. Also, improving my writing  
 Python  
 Python  
 Reach out to others  
 Self care, don't overwork yourself because it's all gonna be okay  
 Sentence Diagramming  
 Society bad  
 Spanish  
 Stats  
 Stress management  
 Study hard  
 Stuff happens. You just gotta deal with it  
 TBD  
 Texting without looking  
 The ability to finesse  
 The academics isn't important but rather the person you become during the time spent here  
 The mitochondria is the powerhouse of the cell

The only truism in life is that as long as you truly believe the decisions you made are the right decisions, you will be happy  
 There is a dark cloud hanging over my head  
 Things don't always go according to plan and that's okay  
 Time management  
 Time management  
 Time management  
 Time management  
 Time management  
 Time management  
 Time management  
 Time management  
 Time management  
 Time management  
 Time management skills  
 To always try new things and do things that are uncomfortable  
 To appreciate things  
 To do my best  
 To not care what people think  
 To pretend to know what's going on in class  
 Trust no one  
 Walking fast between my classes  
 We can only rely on ourselves  
 We gotta work  
 What a null hypothesis is  
 What I want to do with my life  
 Where you go to college doesn't really matter its about who you meet  
 Work Ethic  
 Work smart not hard  
 Work smarter, not harder  
 Yes, you can get by perfectly fine procrastinating  
 You are always growing :)  
 You need a good amount of sleep




**U.S. AIR FORCE**

Dear Grace,

The right time and place is coming for you; don't let it pass!

**Congratulations**

Love,  
 Mom, Dad, and Elizabeth

**FROM PRESCHOOL TO  
 ZOOM SCHOOL AND  
 BEYOND - WE COULDN'T BE  
 MORE PROUD OF YOU.  
 CONGRATULATIONS KERBY!**



**Love Mom, Dad, Holly and Warren**

# I Had A Secret Crush On...

Aaliyah	Charlie Griffin	Hailey Harold	Lily Nguyen	Mr. Chavero	Njoki	Owen Sullivan	this
Adonis	Charlie Griffin	It wasn't a secret	Literally no one	Mr. Finnigan	No one	Quinlan O'Brien	The statue in Mr.
Alex Young	Choma Ma	Jack Lincecum	Luc Azar Tanguay	Mr. G	No one	Quinn C	Sullivan's room
Alice Han	Christian Badawi	Jack Owens	Luc Azar-Tanguay	Mr. Gavin	No one	Rachel Kim	Thomas Garity
Alice Zhang	Clarice	Jess Norek	Lucas Rothman	Mr. Gay	No one	Rachel Kim	Thomas Garity
Alicia Yu	Claudino Veiga	Jesse Correll	Lucy Abdow	Mr. Gay	No one	Raymond Xu	Thomas Garity
All the JP girls	Cole	Jesse Correll	Ludo Rollo and Cole	Mr. Gay	No one because	Regine Pierre-Louis	Thomas Garity
Amanda Kearnan	Cole Strachan	Joe Prior	Strachan	Mr. Gay	none of them were a	Rick Li	Tina Phan
Amber Hynes	Colm Vraibel	Joe Smith	Mai Do	Mr. Gay	secret	Ross	Titus Huang
Anyone who showed me attention	Damon Nguyen	Joe Smith	Maia Slater	Mr. Gay	No one everyone	Ross Mikulskis	Too many to list
Ashley Ngo	Daniel Shpigel	Joe Young	Mali Banyen	Mr. O	here ugly (I'm just	Ross Mikulskis...and	Trisha
Bella Berg	Danny Vu Nguyen	John from Chestnut	Mario Hysa	Mr. Osowiecki	kiddinngggggg, I just	those blue, blue eyes	Tyler Justin steven
Benjamin Lam	David Xie	Hill Studios	Mark Platt	Mr. Veiga	don't know people)	Ruomu Wu	Uly Brenzel
Brady Sta	Deandre Harris	John from Class of 2019	Matt Erwin	Mr. Walker	Nobody	Ryan Reynolds	Uriah Weaver
Brando Palmarini	Diya	John Vu	Matt Foley	Mrs. Dupuis	Nobody	Sam Kenneally	Vincent Bayoneta
Brianna Vo	Dr. Forman	Joshua Cutler	Matt Foley	Ms. Attia	Nobody, I'm aro	Scott Savage	Vincent Bayoneta
Bryce Moy	Dr. Forman	Joshua Cutler	Matthew Erwin	Ms. Dupuis	Nobody!	Shauna Meehan	Vincent Hock
Btrt	Ellie Goodfield	Kai Silva	Max Tang	Ms. Gallivan	None of you people	Shauna Meehan	Vy Phan
Caesar Zou	Eric Yu	Kate McGrath	Mona Wang	Ms. Leung	Olamide Hassan	Sophia Baker	Who would I be to
Camille Shilland	Erin Harrington	Kate McGrath	Mona Wang	Ms. Moguel	Oliver Meisel	Stephanie Tranduc	reveal this
Candice	Erin Harrington	Kate McGrath	Most of my friends at one point	Ms. Moguel	Olivia Moy	Thang Pham	Yeison Hernandez
Candice	Evan Durrant	Katie Emery	Mr. Mulhern	Ms. Dupuis	Owen Anastas	That'll stay a secret	You know who you
Candice?	Every single one of my peng yous <3	Kenney Tran	Mr. Rinaldi	Myself	Owen Huang-Debow	:)	are :)
Carrie Wang	Evie Kittredge	LADS LADS LADS Latin	Mr. Andersen	Myself <3	Owen Layfield	The boys' volleyball team	Your mothers
Carsen Suh	Faye Papadopoulos	Leah Prodigalidad <3	Mr. Andersen	N/A	Owen Layfield,	The librarians:	Zada Stuart, Ellie
Cassidy Ngo	Food	Like, 4 people	Mr. Andersen	Natalia	Trong Vo, Pater-son Tran, Franklin	Susan Harari and Deeth Ellis	Goodfield, Celia
Celia Dunmore	Gian Martinez	Lila Moon	Mr. Bartoloma	Nico	Polonia	The person reading	Dunmore
Celia Dunmore	Grace Sanborn		Mr. Bartoloma	Nico Morreale	Owen Sullivan		Zoe Nagasawa

# Things I am Glad I Didn't Do

Advanced Math	APUSH	Drugs	Go to a Holy Name	Kiss Oliver	junior year	math	Take Spanish
Advanced Math	<i>Argo</i> & Debate	Drugs	dance	Latin 5	Read a single Shake-peare book	Take any AP Sci-ence	Take too many APs
Advanced Math	ASIA	Drugs	Go to a Holy Name	Latin Prose	Regular JCL, <i>Argo</i> , math team	Take any AP science courses	Take too many APs
Allow myself to take a bunch of APs and break myself down	Attend graduation	Drugs	dance	Latin Prose	Run cross country	Take AP Calculus	Taking a #2 in the bathroom
Almost choose to not take Facing	BLS softball	Drugs, alcohol, bad, bad stuff	Go to Holy Name	Latin Prose	Say "Imagine Drag-ons"	Take AP Calculus	Taking more than one AP
junior year	Calculus	Eat lunch in the girl's basement bathroom	Go to school just to sit on the same Zoom classes	Learn literally any Latin at all	Secret staircase anything	Take AP Calculus or AP Chem	Talk to certain people
Any AP stem class	Calculus in-person	Facing History	Go to school on March 13th, 2020	Lose sleep over latin	Secret stairwell "shenanigans"	Take AP Economics	Talk to certain people
Any club	Capstone	Fail	Go to the booze parties I was invited to	None	Skip a lot of home-work	Take AP Latin	Tell my friends,
Any Latin class	Cheat	Fail AP Calc	Go to the DR	Not take Chinese	Skip class	Take AP Lit	"One sec" and never come back
after my 4 years	Cheat	Fail outta BLS	Holy Name	Obsess over or share my grades with others	Smoke in the bath-rooms	Take AP Lit	Theatre
Any more Latin than I had to	Cheat	Fall into the wrong crowd	Holy Name	Over-involve myself in extracurriculars	Smoke/vape	Take AP Lit	TikTok dances in the school bath-rooms
Any sport	Chemistry	Fall victim to a pyramid scheme	Holy Name	Over-study	Sports	Take AP Physics, Physics 1 was bad enough	Tolerate unsupport-ive, toxic friends
Anything Latin related beyond what was required	Choose remote school for this spring	Force it with APs	Homework	Party	Sports	Take APUSH	Track
AP Bio	Contribute to 2021's Dark Cloud Crew	Get addicted to nicotine	Homework	Partying	Stay in orchestra	Take Calculus	Track
AP Bio	Cut school	Get an instagram	I am glad I did not do Public Declama-tion	Physics	Stay in Spanish 4	Take Calculus	Transfer
AP Calculus	Date anyone at BLS	Get caught cheating	I'm glad I did not stress about my grades	Physics	Stay in the gym longer than needed (that place stunk horrible at times)	Take E&M	Transfer out of Chinese
AP Chemistry	Date anyone except the love of my life	Get caught up on grades	Jang	Physics homework	Steal	Take Facing History	Use a Juul
AP Chemistry	Date people	Get with someone in the secret stair-case	JCL	Pick up McDonald's and get accused of theft	Steal the radiator in the second floor boys' bathroom	Take Latin 3	Use the secret stairwell
AP Chinese	Date someone at BLS	Get with someone in the secret stair-case	JCL	Public Declaration	Stupid things	Take more ad-vanced math	Vape
AP Latin	Date someone I didn't like	Give the wrong peo-ple 2nd (or more) chances	Join a million clubs	Public Declaration	Substances	Take more AP class-es in junior year	Vape
AP Latin	Deitch Fellowship	Go on that DR trip :)	Join Class V chorus	Public Declaration	Succumb to senior-itis	Take more than 1 AP junior year	Vape
AP Magnetism	Devote my life to grades	Go on the DR trip	Juul	Pull an all nighter	Take 4 APs	Take Physics	Vape
AP Physics	Die		Juul	Pyramid scheme	Take advanced	Take Physics	Vape
AP Spanish	Do a sport		Juul	Quit		Take Physics	Vape
AP Statistics	Drop out of high-school		Juul in the bath-room	Quit Certamen in		Take Physics E+M	Vape in the bath-room
AP US History							
APUSH							
APUSH							

# Class I Never Expected to Enjoy

10th Grade ELA	AP Lit	AP Writing	Calculus	English 12	Mr. Howard & Ms. Nabbefeld)	grade ELA class	Pre-Calculus
10th grade ELA	AP Lit	AP Writing with Ms. Barich	Calculus	English 12	Latin 2	My expectations were on point	Pre-Calculus
10th grade ELA	AP Literature	APES	Calculus	English 12	Latin 2 with Mr. Howard!	Myth	Pre-Calculus
10th grade Latin	AP Literature	APES	Calculus with Ms. Davis :)	English 12 (ty Ms. Campot)	Latin 3 with Ms. Burns	Myth tradition	Precalc
9th Grade English	AP Spanish Litera-ture	APUSH	Chemistry	Enviro	Latin 3 with Ms. Burns	N/A	Precalc/Calc
9th Grade English	AP Stats	APUSH	Chemistry	Enviro	Latin 4	None of them because	Precalc/calc
Advanced Calc	AP Stats	APUSH	Chemistry	Environmental	Latin 4 with Mr. Chavero	0000000000000000-hhhhhh boi did I struggle	Precalculus
Advanced Geometry	AP Stats	APUSH	Chemistry	Science	Latin 4 with Mr. Chavero	Online Enviro Class	Senior Math Seminar
Advanced Geometry	AP US Gov	APUSH	Chemistry 1	Facing History	Latin 4 with Mr. Chavero	Physics	Senior Math Seminar
Advanced Precalc AB	AP US History	APUSH	Chemistry 1 with Mr. Andersen	French 4	Latin class Junior year	Physics	Spanish
AP Biology	AP World	APUSH	Chemistry with Mr Andersen	Geometry	Latin Prose	Physics	Spanish 4
AP Calc	AP World	APUSH	Chinese 1	Geometry	Latin Prose	Physics	Spanish 4
Ap Calc :)	AP World History	APUSH	Chinese 3 (and AP)	Graphic Arts	Latin Prose	Physics	Spanish 4 w/ Ms. Hernandez
AP Calculus	AP World History	APUSH	Chinese class	History	Latin Prose	Physics	Spanish 4
AP Chemistry	AP World History	APUSH	clatamation	Humanities	Latin Prose	Physics	Spanish 4
AP Chemistry	AP World History	APUSH	Definitely English every year, never thought it would be any fun.	Humanities	Latin Prose (Nabbe-feld is the best!)	Physics	Spanish 4
AP Chemistry	AP World History	APUSH	E&M	Humanities	Latin with Chavero	Physics	Spanish 4
AP Computer Science	AP World History	APUSH	Econ	I never expected to hate Chem if you'll take that	Latin with Ms. Ledang	Physics	Spanish 4 w/ Ms. Hernandez
Ap Econ	AP World History	APUSH	Economics	Italian	Mr. Barry's 11th Grade English class	Physics	Theater
Ap Economics	AP World History	APUSH	ELA 11 with Sully!!!	Latin	Mr. Barry's junior year English class	Physics 1	US 2...thank you Mr. Kearns :)
Ap Economics	AP World History	APUSH	English	Latin	Mr. Kearns' AP Gov class	Physics 1	US 2 with Kirkpatrick
AP English Language and Composition	AP World History	APUSH	English 10	Latin	Mr. Oakes' 9th grade English	Physics 1	US History
AP Enviro	AP World History	APUSH	English 10	Latin	Mr. Sullivan's English class	Physics 1	US History 12th grade
AP Enviro :)	AP World History	APUSH	English 11	Latin	Mr. Sullivan's English class	Physics 1	US History 2 (thanks Mr. Kearns!)
AP Environmental	AP World History, but every class had its enjoyable mo-ments	APUSH	English 11 & 12	Latin	Mr. Sullivan's English class	Pre Calculus with Ms.Scott	US History 2, love Mr. Kearns
AP Euro	AP Writing	APUSH	English 11 with Sullivan	Latin (thank you Mr. Howard :D)	Mx. Amico's 10th	Pre-Calc	US2 - thank you Mr. Kearns
AP French	AP Writing	APUSH		Latin (thank you		Pre-Calculus	Vallone English 11
AP Gov (at least not as much as i did!)	AP Writing	APUSH				Pre-Calculus	
Ap Language	AP Writing	APUSH				Pre-Calculus	
AP Language and Composition	AP Writing	APUSH				Pre-Calculus	
AP Lit	AP writing	APUSH				Pre-Calculus	

# Things I am Glad I Did Do

All my homework because it pays off	be late for school	Asian Night	JJ	Not stress too hard about school	ment Club	ro Class
AP Writing	Branch out of friend groups	Find some great friends	Join Big Band	Not worry about others' opinions	Start riding BMX	Take Myth Tradition!
APUSH with Mr. Zou	Broom Time	Football	Join cheer	Perform too many times at Asian Night	Stay positive and motivated	Take Physics Mech
Argo & Chinese yo-yo	Capstone	Get an exchange student	Join clubs	Play a Sport	Stayed on top of my work during COVID	Taking 20-minute bathroom breaks during R5
Art / Graphic Arts	Challenge myself	Getting close with faculty	Join crew	Play Among Us with friends every Saturday night of quarantine	Staying after school as long as possible until Ms. Kwan kicked us out	Taking Chinese
Art in junior year	Change my friends	Girls' swimming	Join crew	Put myself out there	Stick with Latin for 6 years	Talk to as many people as possible
ASIA	Cheat	Go in person for the last few weeks of school	Join Dance Club, do Debate	Quebec trip	Stop taking advanced math	Tell the sixies that there's a pool on the roof
Asian Night	Cheer	Go on the China trip	Join the crew team	Quit League Of Legends	Stop talking to toxic friends	Theatre
Ask a girl out and immediately have the weight of responsibility break my shoulders when she said yes	Cheer	Go to concerts on school nights	Join the fencing team	Run track	Study abroad in Japan	Theatre AND sports Theatre!
Ask my now best friend what lunch she had in freshie year	Chorus class	Go to in-person school the last week	Join the recycling club	Secret Stairway	Take AP Chinese	Theatre!
Attending Asian Night	Clubs	Go to therapy lol	Join the step squad	Send it	Take AP Enviro	Therapy
Audition for Asian Night	Come into school as much as possible this spring	Google everything this year	Join YouthCAN	Senior Skip Day	Take AP Gov	Took AP Latin
Band	Cool physik trick	Graduate	Join YouthCAN and stick with it!	Senior Skip Day	Take AP Lang	Took Facing History
Band	Crawl through the hole under the stairs in the basement	Half of my college applications Early Action	Joined band sophomore year	Sign Language Club	Take AP Latin	Track
Band	Cree	Hang out after school really late	Joined lots of extracurriculars/clubs	Sixie table in the Anime Club	Take AP Writing	Track
Band	Crew	Have 195 absences from kindergarten to 12th grade	Joining YouthCAN	Skating club	Take AP Writing	Track
Be a part of different clubs	Crew	Have fun	Latin Poetry	Skip class at the end of the year	Take AP Writing	Track
Be in the pep rally	Crew	Hockey	Latin Prose	Skip class during Zoom	Take Art instead of Capstone	Try out crew for a season
Became a Praefect (ily Ms. Harari)	Crew	Hockey and softball	Learned to drive	Sleep	Take challenging classes senior year	Trying out many clubs
Became close with teachers	Crew	Homework (mostly)	Left toxic people	Sleep in studies	Take Chinese	Volleyball
Become friends with my teachers, MUN	Crew	Hybrid/in-person school	Lower my expectations	Soccer	Take Creative Writing and finish writing a short story	Volleyball
Believe in myself	Cut the lunch line	I am glad I played a sport	Make friends at the start of my BLS Career	Spent way too many hours at Papa Gino's	Take Facing History	Volleyball
Big Band	Deitch Leadership Institute	I literally regret everything end of 10th grade	Make friends with the right people	Sports	Take German	Volunteer in the main office, give tours
BLS Bands	Doing Harvard Med Drop my toxic friend group	I'm glad I ended up joining a school club	Make most of my last 2 years	Sports + party	Take Graphic Arts	Volunteering at the nurses' office
BLS soccer	Drop out of a class because my crush did	I'm glad i was able to go on the french trip twice	Make new friends	Sports, take Chinese	Take Greek	Ward Fellowship
BLS Swim	Dropping cello class after 9th grade	JCL (States only), study, befriend teachers	Ms. Gribaudo's Algebra 1	Start a club	Take Humanities, join clubs, make friends with my teachers	Watch anime during all of US2
BLS swimming	Eat sun chips from the vending machine every day for lunch		My homework	Start a club with a friend. Played a instrument. Attend school events. Applied for internship	Take Italian	Watched One Piece during Term 2
BLS Theatre	Enviro		Not letting assignments stop me from hanging out with friends	Start Game Develop-	Take more APs this year	Went out of my comfort zone
BLS Theatre's New York Trip	Exchange programs		Not stealing the radiator from the second floor boys bathroom		Take Mr. Gay's Envi-	Went to the DR service trip
Bought myself breakfast when I knew I was going to	Extracurriculars, Chorus					Went to the Zone, explored the secret staircase
	Facing History					Work
	Facing History and Ourselves					
	Filipino Club					
	Final Clean Out,					

## CONGRATULATIONS SEAN MCCARTHY & BLS CLASS OF 2021!



Sean,

Wow! We can't believe this day is finally here. It's been quite a journey – from your days as a Sixie with an overloaded backpack to all those early morning rides to the Commuter Rail (often racing up La Grange Street!), lots of homework (and your mother nagging you to do it!), the amazing band concerts, JV Hockey games and Coach "Gio," checking SIS, Varsity golf matches, getting your driver's license, COVID-19, applying to colleges and getting accepted to college.

We are so proud of you and all of your accomplishments and know you will continue to shine. We look forward to all that you will achieve at UMass Amherst and beyond!

With all our love & best wishes today & always,

Mom, Dad & Casey

## Cole Strachan

**Cole,** My dad, your grandpa, always told me your college years are among the best in your life. Independent, relatively few responsibilities and the wide world is open to you. May you have many adventures, meet lifelong friends and have conversations with others from all walks of life deep into the night. *All our love, Aunt Jane and Uncle Paul*

**Cole,** With Love and Pride Today and Always. Enjoy the adventures. *Love you, Aunt Lynne and Uncle Francis*

**Cole,** you can achieve anything you want in life. We are so proud of you, your heart, your talent and your success.

Stay sweet, stay fierce and most importantly, stay you!

*Love you so much! Mom*

**Cole,** I am so proud of everything you have accomplished. Watching you develop as an athlete on the field and become successful pursuing your non-profit idea has given me so much pride and love. Your success is limitless. *Love you, Dad*

**Cole,** to my loving grandson. You are a pandemic wizard and starter of a new business. I am so proud of you. *Love, Grandma Lou Lou*

# In 10 Years, You'll Find Me...

10 years older	in Senior Seminar	In a cat cafe	BLS back lobby after	On a beach some-	Somewhere far away	world
And my sister commit-	Finishing medical	In a cottage in Scot-	school like I never	where tropical	from this school	Traveling somewhere
ting tax fraud	school	land	moved on	On a chimpanzee farm	Somewhere fun	Traveling the world
Anywhere but BLS	Finishing my PhD	In a foreign country	Just living life	On a profession-	Somewhere in Boston	Traveling the world
As a full-on cat lady	Flexing on all of you,	with a lot of money	Launching or selling a	al sports field as a	Somewhere living my	Traveling the world
As an Air Force pilot	rich and happy	In a mansion in Texas	startup	trainer	best life	Traveling the world
At 835	Flying an F-35 in the	In a national park	Leading an established	On Forbes Youngest	Somewhere on a	Traveling the world
At a nice job	AF	In a penthouse	cult for my cat	Millionaires	beach	Traveling the world
At my dream job	Giving back to Boston	In Adam Sandler's	Leading my own start-	On LiveLeak	Somewhere on a	Traveling the world
At the 10 year re-	Happier than ever	house	up in Silicon Valley	On Mars :)	beach, sipping some-	Traveling the world
union	Happier than when I	In Boston still	Living alone in a cave	On Mass Ave	thing strong	Traveling the world
Becoming a librarian	was here	In California working	away from capitalist	On Mount Rushmore	Starting a family	Twitch streaming
assistant at BLS	Happy	on a startup	society	On my bike	Starting my family	Minecraft
Being a BOSS at what-	Happy	In Congress	Living in an Amazon	On television	Stealing the radiator	Unemployed with a
ever I'm doing	Happy	In DC, having a break-	warehouse	On the battle field of	from the second floor	PHD
Being a rich basketball	Happy	down about public	Living in Boston and	the water wars :)	boys' bathroom	Very tired
milf	Happy & successful	policy	working at a hospital	On the cover of Vogue	Still living at home	Who knows
Being a tank	Happy and healthy	In Germany living the	Living in Hawaii with	On TV, in the audience	Still making deez nuts	With 2 cats and a dog
Betting spreads with	Happy and solving	life	a sailboat and a dog	of award shows	jokes	With many dogs
Matt McCarthy	cancer	In labs or in school	Living in your head	On Wall Street	Still recovering from	With my own business
Building rockets or	Having the time of my	In law school, living	rent free	Or maybe you won't...	the BLS trauma	and traveling
something	life	In my best life	Living my best life	Owning and manag-	Still running late toe	With my own startup
Buying more cufflinks	Helping others	In my own apartment	Living my best life	ing an NGO	vents	Working
to make myself feel	Hopefully a residency	with lots of pets	Living on an artist's	Performing surgery	Struggling to buy	Working a 9-5
good	program to become a	In New York	commune, probably	Probably asleep	housing because this	Working as a dentist
Covering spreads with	doctor	In quarantine again	Living with my mom	Probably living in	market is atrocious	and having a husky
Cully Bear	Hopefully acting on	In rural China with	Making art on the	Boston and traveling	(one of you got my	Working as a physi-
Creating environmen-	stage or screen	my livestock	streets literally	somewhere tropical	back though right?)	cian
tal policy	Hopefully alive	In some doctor's office	Making bank	Probably still in school	Successful, married,	Working as an engi-
Doing research at	Hopefully as a doctor	In ten years, you'll	Making more than six	Probably still in school	and probably sur-	neer
some fancy lab	Hopefully at zoo,	find me in woods	figures	Probably still in school	rounded by babies	Working as an op-
Doing the things I love	Hopefully as a doctor	curled up in a broken	Making music and/or	lol	Surrounded by cats	tometrists with a side
Down the neck	Hopefully at zoo,	down shed	working at a post-pro-	Renovating my office	listening to Taylor's	sticker business
Drowning in debt	Hopefully happy and	In the bathroom	duction company	space in downtown	30th album	Working at an ele-
Drunk on a beach	employed	In the broadcasting	Married	Researching nuclear	Teaching	mentary school!
Eating a bagel	Hopefully happy and	booth calling a foot-	Married rich	fusion	Teaching at BLS	Working at the ACLU
Eating a chicken	rich	ball game	Married to a cute	Rich	Teaching elementary	Working for the Amer-
nugget	Hopefully in a stable	In the courtroom	actor with a cute	Rich	school students and	ican Embassy in China
Eating a whole ro-	job that I enjoy	In the hospital	hamster	Rich! (Manifesting it	traveling the world	Working for the gov-
tisserie chicken at a	Hopefully living the	In the league	Married to an NHL	now)	Ten years older than I	ernment
Burger King parking	dream	In the Olympics	player	Richer than everyone	am now	Working in a front
lot	Hopefully living with	In the suburbs mar-	Marrying Chris Evans	:P	The mom of three	office of a sports team
Engaged	a job	ried with three kids	More confident	Riding BMX with	dogs and the happiest	Working in a hospital
Fermenting spinach	Hopefully still sane	working at the hos-	More happy (hope-	my friends, filming	person ever	as a RN
during my mid-life	Hopefully with a cat	pital as my aerospace	fully)	them and myself, and	Throwing money	Working in local gov-
crisis	and somewhere to live	engineer husband	No you will not	getting better at it all	Training dogs to obey	ernment
Finally getting my	Hopefully working a	cooks for me :)	Not in Boston	every day	Traveling	Working multiple jobs
back fixed	job I love and seeing	In the woods some-	Not in the US	Simping	Traveling	to pay student loans
Finally out of Boston	more of the world	where	Not living Boston	Sleeping in my own	Traveling	Working, traveling,
Finally understanding	In a cardboard box	In your house	Not missing BLS	house	Traveling	and in debt
whatever we learned	outside	Jamming out in the	On a beach in Greece	Somewhere	Traveling around the	Would you even find



*Amber Hynes and Class of 2021*

*Congratulations to you and your classmates!!*

*You made it through all of the challenges and adversity that this year has brought. Now it's time to celebrate the efforts that led you to this joyous occasion. The journey to this day has been a long one, so we hope you will take a moment to be as proud of yourself as we are of you.*

*With love and pride, your family*

**Congratulations, David Estes!**  
**We are so proud of you.**  
**Love, Mom, Dad, Chris and Mia**



# One Piece of Advice I Have For... Is...

11th graders...start their college search early  
7th & 8th graders...find extracurriculars you like and stick with them  
7th Graders...do your homework  
9Bsies...take your time and seize all opportunities given but don't rush yourselves  
A certain chorus teacher...chill out it's just chorus  
A certain english 11 teacher...don't say art is not a valid major  
A certain student...stop projecting onto other people  
Alanna...to keep killing it <3  
Alice Zhang...sleep!  
All BLS students...enjoy all your time in high school and not to stress out about a bad test grade  
All students... don't procrastinate! You can have fun and do work at the same time :)  
Amos Pierce...tap down more at the finish  
Anya B...take your space  
Anyone applying to college...don't worry about your 1st choice. Apply to a wide variety of schools that have good programs in things that you are interested in. Don't worry about what everyone else is doing, focus on you  
Anyone at BLS...learn how to not care but still get stuff done  
Anyone choosing senior courses...don't take a lot of classes with juniors  
Anyone reading this...buy anime shirts if you wanna be swag  
Anyone who feels underconfident...walk like a f boy  
Anyone who feels unsure about their life...experiment.  
Do new things, go out of your comfort zone. Find what makes you happy and excited to wake up every day. Don't let anyone mold you into a person you don't agree with. As cliché as it sounds, be yourself and don't care what anyone thinks. If you're happy, that's all that matters. Be childish while you're a child. Have fun, disobey your parents sometimes. Wouldn't you rather make memories than regret not doing something?  
Anyone...you'll be fine no matter what path you take  
Anyone...don't compare yourself to others  
Athletes...you have way less opportunities than you really think  
Bennett...relax,

turn your homework, and stay confident! You have all the tools to succeed and BLS is lucky to have you  
BLS students...stop stressing  
Bsies & sixies...don't be that one kid going up the stairs with a rolly backpack  
Bsies...everything will be ok as long as you give it your best  
Bsies...it gets better  
Bsies...it gets better, trust me  
Bsies...study and ask for help cause you will regret it if you don't, trust me  
Caitlin Donovan...have some common sense sometimes  
Chaos Corner...try to enjoy your Junior/Senior year as best you can. Love you guys  
Charlotte Taieb...don't ruin the family name  
Cindy Tran...keep on being you and pursue your writing dreams! You are amazing  
Class of 2022...appreciate the time you have left together  
Class of 2022...enjoy senior year more than we could  
Class of 2022...enjoy your senior year  
Class of 2022...senior year flies, live it up  
Class of 2027...don't mess up the school's legacy  
Current students...turning the Zoom camera off then back on moves you to the very back on gallery view  
Don't screw around, actually apply yourself because if you do it WILL pay off  
Drink lots of water  
Everybody...stop caring about other people's opinions  
Everyone is different. Be yourself  
Everyone younger than us...don't stress because everything will actually work out just do your very best  
Everyone... love yourself, this is all really hard <3  
you're doing great  
Everyone...absolutely nothing  
Everyone...buy notebooks instead of binders when given the option  
Everyone...don't become the next patient zero. Please  
Everyone...don't get caught up in worrying too much about grades  
Everyone...don't take life for granted  
Everyone...don't worry about what others think too much  
Everyone...find a few REAL friends and stick with them  
Everyone...if they drink Monster energy drinks, run  
Everyone...if you

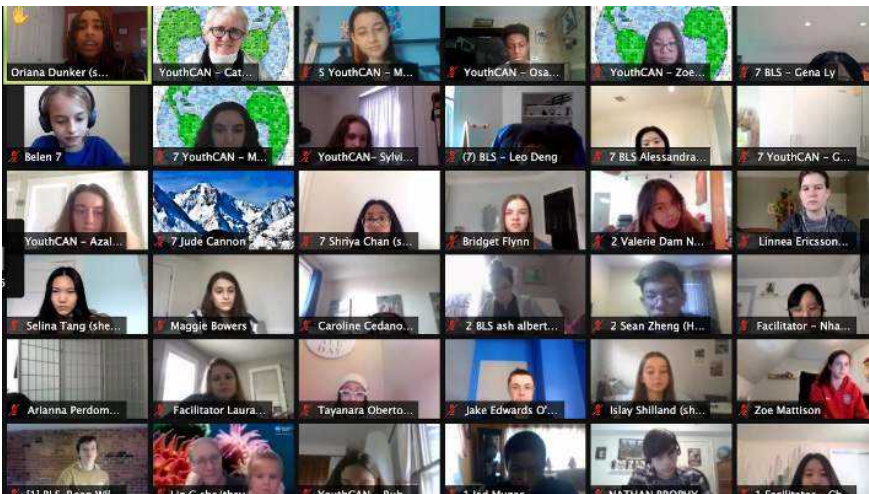
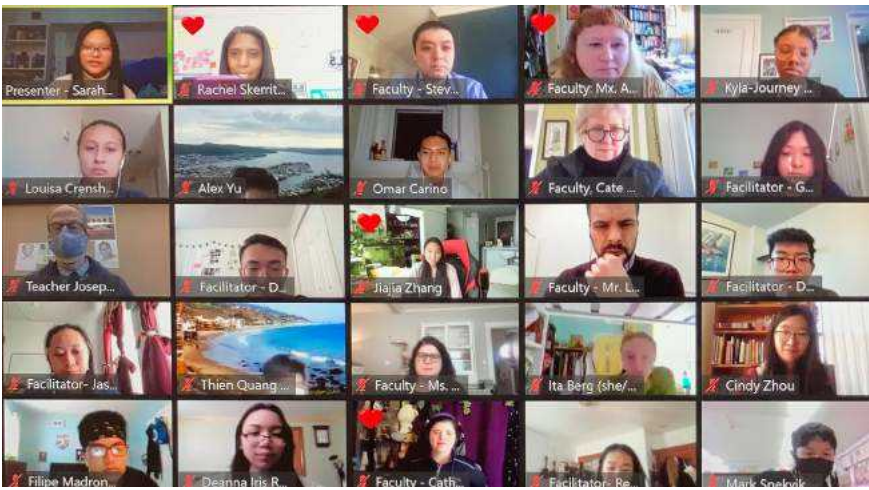
feel like you're gonna hate a class  
DROP OUT AT THE BEGINNING OF THE YEAR or you'll regret it!!  
Everyone...life's too short to bet the under  
Everyone...make the most of your time at BLS, because you never know when it will be over  
Everyone...stop caring so much about everyone you'll probably never see anyone again  
Everyone...take care of each other  
Everyone...take classes you genuinely think you'll enjoy  
Everyone...to give yourself more credit  
Everyone...try new things and make time to have fun  
Fergus  
Freshman...don't try make a huge group friends make sure have people to rely on  
Freshman...PLAN AHEAD  
Freshman...start off strong and try as many new things as you can till you find what you're passionate about  
Freshman...this year goes TOO fast. Enjoy it and get your GPA to a nice place  
Freshman...try in freshman year, you'll thank yourself in junior year  
Freshman...your grades matter  
Freshmen...cheat  
Freshmen...don't consent to the College Board giving your information away during PSATs  
Freshmen...try  
Freshmen...try to read the ELA books - it can actually help  
Freshmen...your grades matter now!  
Future AP Lit students...to do your term essays early  
Greg and Mak...get better at tennis  
Hardos...enjoy life more  
High school students...get wild for an hour every day  
Homie idk i'm still trying to process the last two years  
Incoming seniors...don't over stress college. Take things slow but make sure to give yourself enough time, it definitely gets easier  
Incoming seniors...don't be mean to your family. Appreciate them, it's the last bit of time you have with them in this part of your life  
Incoming sixies...you belong here  
Isla Hanlon...get back together with Joe Smith  
Islay Shilland...keep being the greatest  
Julia...please come out of your room more than once a day  
Junior...always use

the resources BLS provides you with when you have questions regarding college  
Juniors... apply ED to college  
Juniors...chill. Picking a college shouldn't be stressful or pressuring. Just be yourself  
Juniors...do college essays early  
Juniors...do your college applications EA as much as possible!  
Juniors...don't let your college apps consume you  
Juniors...don't procrastinate  
Juniors...don't stress too much  
Juniors...don't take AP Physics  
Juniors...don't stop working hard until the end  
Juniors...have as much fun with the people in your class because that time is temporary and precious  
Juniors...if you didn't finish your junior research paper, do it during summer  
Juniors...relax and also write your essay over the summer  
Juniors...start your college apps early!  
Juniors...start your personal statements and apps EARLY. Like when summer begins early. But enjoy the summer too  
Juniors...stop stressing  
Juniors...stop stressing, everything will work out  
Juniors...take senior Capstone!  
Juniors...take senior year to turn acquaintances into friends  
Juniors...try not to fall for someone the summer before senior year...your grades and college apps will suffer  
Juniors...visit colleges  
Juniors...your SAT scores don't matter as much as you think they do  
Kaden Shepard...never change  
Kenney Tran...always have a cool summer!  
Leonardo DiCaprio...I'm coming for you  
Lowerclassmen...be grateful for the people around you and the opportunities. It can be taken away or it will go by super fast  
Ms. Murray...stop enforcing the sexist dress code  
My classmates...be more considerate and empathetic  
My fellow classmates...to see the positive throughout all of life  
My friends...PLEASE FIND A THERAPIST  
My sixies...remember to enjoy your time at BLS

Ninth graders...find out how you work best now, so you don't go changing your entire modus operandi later  
Odrhan Mullan...make sure you relax every now and then in the end everything works out  
Past me...be yourself  
Penny Meisel...shoot your shot with the Brookline rower  
People who are stressed out...to make sure you homeostasis: sleep, eat, hydrate, and rest  
Ricky...make sure to have some fun  
Rising freshman...you should actually try in ninth grade  
Rising seniors...don't procrastinate on applications  
Rising seniors...ED to a school if you can  
Rosaylin...take time for yourself!  
Sixes...visit the pool on the roof  
Sixies and eight graders...stop yelling and blasting music on the bus at 6 in the freaking morning  
Sixies... don't change your life just to be like others  
Sixies... join some clubs, they help you out a lot  
Sixies...ask questions  
Sixies...be open-minded about the people you meet  
Sixies...be patient with yourselves  
Sixies...do not engage in politics until you're 16  
Sixies...do things on your own time, because there are many ways to get to the same goal  
Sixies...don't be afraid to ask for help  
Sixies...don't have a moral code  
Sixies...don't stress so much about grades  
Sixies...don't take Latin Prose  
Sixies...don't stress the small stuff  
Sixies...drop out if you have a ginger ELA teacher  
Sixies...enjoy it, it goes by fast  
Sixies...enjoy your time because it goes by fast  
Sixies...get involved in as many things as you feel passionate about and dedicated to!  
Sixies...go to ur lockers  
Sixies...grind it out  
Sixies...hang out and take as many pictures and videos as you can  
Sixies...have you met Candice?  
Sixies...I know it seems like the longest 6 years of your life but high school really does fly by so make the most of it  
Sixies...it does get better...but not be-

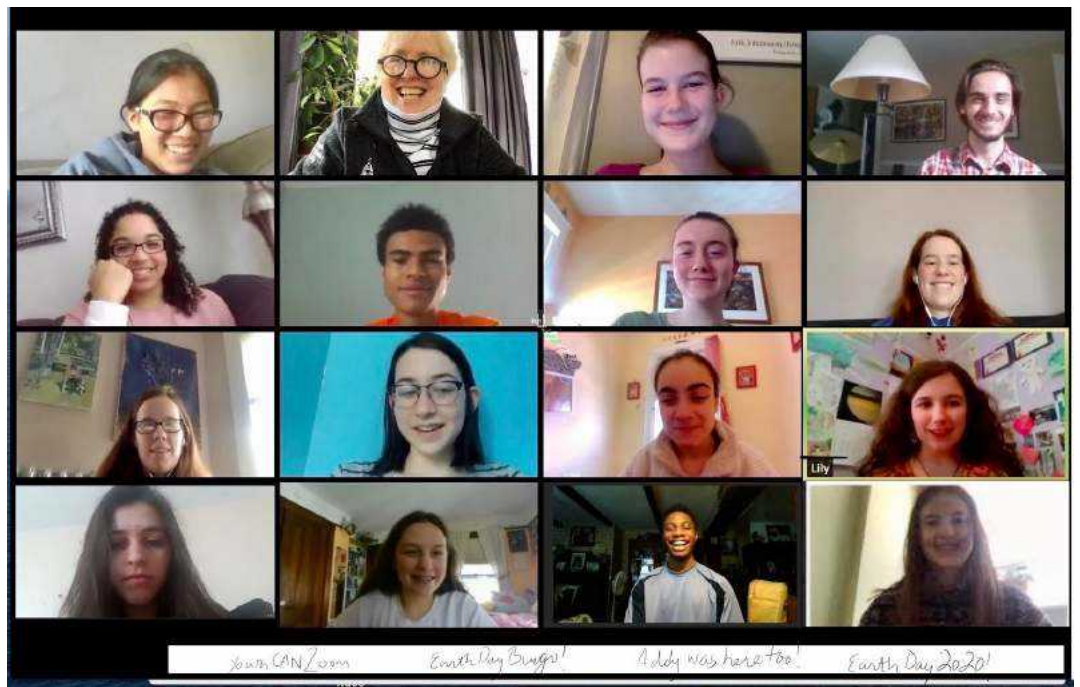
fore eighth grade  
Sixies...it's okay to miss an assignment  
Sixies...JOIN MORE CLUBS! I definitely regretted not joining more clubs after Covid hit  
Sixies...learn time management  
Sixies...leave while you can  
Sixies...make the most of your time here, it passes quickly  
Sixies...never take chemistry  
Sixies...pay attention in Latin class or you'll be failing by 10th grade  
Sixies...run  
Sixies...school isn't everything  
Sixies...six years goes by fast  
Sixies...stop freaking out  
Sixies...suffering at BLS becomes almost comical  
Sixies...time flies by way faster than you think so have some fun  
Sixies...try out new things and don't be afraid to reach out  
Sixies...try to enjoy every second you can of BLS because it goes by so fast  
Sixies...use your locker, It'll save your back  
Sixies...wear something interesting to Holy Name  
Sixties...leave  
Sleep is important and if its already 2am, its time to call it a night. All-nighters will be the death of you  
Sophomores...don't take Advanced Geometry  
Sophomores...relax, it gets better  
Struggling students...seek out a 504 Plan/IEP and advocate for yourself  
Students...grades might seem unimportant, but learn how to balance it work life and leisure  
Teachers...don't give seniors work during Term 4  
The class of 2020...stop complaining about missing your "entire senior year"  
The freshmen...high school is only 4 years, you'll make it through!  
The sixies...appreciate the little things  
The track boys...keep it up, I'm proud of you  
Tiffany Dang...keep making art  
Trinity Ngo...bring honor to the family name  
Underclassman...APPLY TO AS MANY COLLEGES EARLY AS POSSIBLE  
Underclassman...take a chill pill...don't follow others' path, follow your own  
Underclassmen...appreciate your senior year  
Underclassmen...ask for help

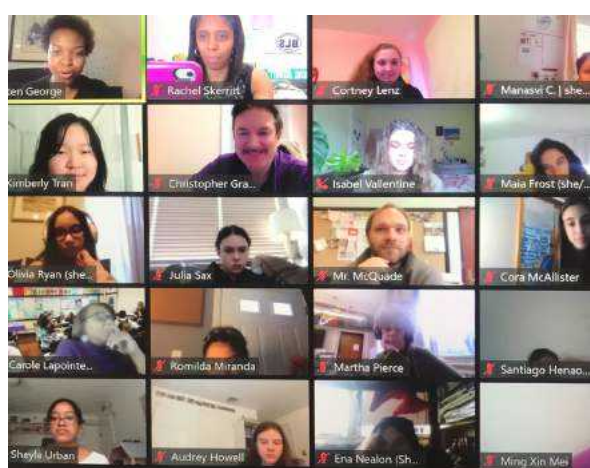
Underclassmen...cherish every moment because it goes by a lot faster than you think  
Underclassmen...do what you like and ignore what others say  
Underclassmen...do your work  
Underclassmen...don't be a total party animal, but always remember to have fun every once in a while - tomorrow is never promised, so make it count!  
Underclassmen...don't prioritize schoolwork over mental health, and try not to stress too much. You're exactly where you need to be, I promise—make the most of it  
Underclassmen...don't stress and prioritize your health  
Underclassmen...enjoy this while it lasts  
Underclassmen...enjoy your time here because you will genuinely miss it once its over  
Underclassmen...get rid of that addiction  
Underclassmen...get your community service hours by volunteering in guidance!  
Underclassmen...have fun  
Underclassmen...make sure you have fun  
Underclassmen...please stop standing in the middle of the hallways when you're at your locker  
Underclassmen...remember that 9th grade counts  
Underclassmen...stop clapping in the dining hall  
Underclassmen...take part in as many activities and events as you can because you'll regret it if you don't  
Underclassmen...use your resources (guidance, tutoring, friends) and try not to procrastinate but if it's inevitable make sure you know how long it'll take so you  
Upcoming seniors...don't succumb to senioritis  
Upcoming teenagers...don't vape until studies come out  
Upperclassman...cherish the small moments with your friends  
Use your time wisely  
Vincent Bayoneta...do pullups  
William Hu, my protégée...don't fail me and remember what you were taught  
Younger students...form relationships with your teachers  
Yung Bufe...to stop rapping  
Yuta Kaneko...keep your head up



*A Ye*

**ZO**





# I'd Like to Thank...For...

A certain Latin 4 teacher...ruining my GPA  
 Aaron Valenzuela...securing our lunch table in 10th grade  
 Alan Kuang...convincing me to join BBoy  
 Alena and Jahkyra...everything <3  
 Alicia...always making me laugh and listening to my rants  
 All my teachers...putting up with my loud shenanigans  
 All the administration...supporting us through each advocacy endeavor  
 Any good teachers...actually trying  
 Ashley Tran...sitting next to me and letting me copy you on every single Veiga test  
 Bailey Wright...everything :)  
 Bella Berg...being an icon  
 Ben Ehrman...breaking my finger in 9th grade  
 BLS Theater...always being the best part of my day  
 Chemistry and Latin...ruining my GPA  
 Chris Tran, Lily Nguyen, Tramanh Nguyen, and Jessica Bui...motivating me to get into BLS  
 Cindy Tran...being my best friend  
 Coach Butler...teaching me not to make excuses  
 Dalilah Mostoslavsky...keeping me sane throughout the past year  
 Devin...being my day one BFF  
 Douglas Griffiths...strongly supporting the LGBTQ+ community  
 Dr. Forman...an unforgettable history class  
 Dr. Nguyen...making APCSA so much fun  
 Emily Huang...making me more confident  
 Erin Harrington...keeping me alive  
 Everyone else...humbling me  
 Everyone...making this year as wonderful as it could have been :)  
 Frau Kuchta...helping me reevaluate my priorities  
 Freeman...being so supportive  
 G...everything  
 Gibbons and Bartoloma...keeping it real  
 Herr Gavin...pulling me through AP German  
 Isla...bringing me out of my shell  
 Jasmine and Alicia...

being my besties  
 "Kai...being my happiness "  
 Khakis...getting me through quarantine  
 KOB...always being there for me <3  
 Kyle...always taking care of me  
 Madame Blacker...being one of the kindest and most inspiring people I've ever met  
 Madame Blackler...teaching me French  
 Madame Lapointe...being the best teacher in this entire school  
 Mai...our friendship  
 Maia...being a dawg  
 Matthew D....inspiring me  
 Michelle...giving me my college essay topic  
 Mr. Andersen...being so fun  
 Mr. Bartoloma...for telling me to get it together in 8th grade  
 Mr. Bartoloma...whipping me into shape, because oh boy was I a bad student back then  
 Mr. Beyer...being a teacher I could talk to about sports  
 Mr. Beyer...treating me like a human being and acting with kindness  
 Mr. Bilodeau... being the GOAT  
 Mr. Bilodeau...teaching us super cool stuff but also being chill about assignments  
 Mr. G...being a G  
 Mr. G...being the reason I came to school everyday  
 Mr. G...for giving me a safe haven at school  
 Mr. Gavin and Mr. Zou...making history classes interesting and fun  
 Mr. Gavin...always supporting me  
 Mr. Gavin...always supporting me (and teaching me how to rap in German)  
 Mr. Gavin...being my rock  
 Mr. Gavin...being the most welcoming and kind teacher I've ever had  
 Mr. Gavin...being the very best teacher  
 Mr. Gay...checking in with me during homeroom  
 Mr. Gay...my first A in a science class  
 Mr. Hamilton...being a great teacher  
 Mr. Hamilton...getting me through AP Physics  
 Mr. Hamilton...making me enjoy calculus  
 Mr. Hamilton...

teaching me two years in a row  
 Mr. Harris...being a G  
 Mr. Harris...dealing with our breakout group's chaos  
 Mr. Harris...letting me do spin art in class  
 Mr. Harris...letting us decorate his walls  
 Mr. Howard...allowing us to make so many fun memories in his class  
 Mr. Howard...getting me involved with JCL  
 Mr. Howard...making class fun  
 Mr. Howard...showing me that Latin doesn't have to be that bad  
 Mr. Luu...always listening and helping me through this year  
 Mr. Njoku...sparkling my interest in physics  
 Mr. Oakes...the power of good writing  
 Mr. P...being the GOAT  
 Mr. Pietrangelo...helping me figure what I want to do with my life  
 Mr. Rinaldi...for his hilarious APUSH class  
 Mr. Rinaldi...always leaving the door open to current events all year long  
 Mr. Rinaldi...growing me as human and becoming a man  
 Mr. Rinaldi...keeping me sane last year with his Google Classroom blog during quarantine  
 Mr. Sanford...putting me to sleep without fail  
 Mr. Southwick...inspring me and being a great teacher  
 Mr. Southwick...making me realize what I want to do  
 Mr. Spezzano...saying I cheated because I used a word from the textbook  
 Mr. Sullivan...always keeping things in class interesting  
 Mr. Sullivan...being the GOAT and teaching me to enjoy reading  
 Mr. Sullivan...making English 10 enjoyable  
 Mr. Sullivan...making literature a lot more interesting to me  
 Mr. Sullivan...teaching me that you don't know what you don't know  
 Mr. Trevour Smith...listening to me rant for hours on end

after school  
 Mr. Wagner and Dr. Prosper...helping me come out on the other side in one piece  
 Mr. Zou and Mr. Gavin...being my dads  
 Mr. Zou... Spending hours after school to help me understand APUSH  
 Mr. Zou...being the best person ever  
 Mr. Zou...being the best teacher I've ever had  
 Mr. Zou...being the GOAT  
 Mr. Zou...giving me hot fantasy football takes  
 Mr. Zou...making everyone smile and  
 Mr. Smith, Hamilton, and Ms. Sarkis...making math enjoyable  
 Mrs. Clougherty...not getting upset with me when she probably should've, and being one of my favorite people at BLS ;)  
 Mrs. Kirkpatrick...being the most clutch teacher  
 Mrs. Messemer...carrying my mental health freshman year  
 Mrs. Pierce...being the nicest person at BLS  
 Mrs. Sylvester...being the GOAT  
 Mrs. Sylvester...helping out with the college process  
 Ms Segal...being so understanding and helpful  
 Ms. Arnold and Mr. Kearns...being the only teachers to pronounce my name right on the first try  
 Ms. Arnold, Ms. Long, Ms. Scott, and Mr. Giacobozzi (even tho he is at another school)...not giving up on me  
 Ms. Arnold...being kind  
 Ms. Bateman...challenging me in 9th grade  
 Ms. Bateman...sparking my interest in biology  
 Ms. Cojohn...being a great teacher  
 Ms. Cojohn...making math understandable  
 Ms. Cousens...absolutely nothing  
 Ms. Dunn...caring about her students  
 Ms. E...being supportive and kind  
 Ms. E...guiding me for 4 years and always looking out for me  
 Ms. Elliott...adapting to online school so incredibly well

Ms. Encarnacao...not giving up on me  
 Ms. Ferdandez...helping me enjoy Spanish  
 Ms. Fernandez...all of her encouragements  
 Ms. Fernandez...being the best teacher  
 Ms. Foley...being a lifeboat  
 Ms. Foley...being an amazing person and teacher  
 Ms. Guzman...freshman year homeroom  
 Ms. Guzman...giving me and my friends a space to hang out and talk openly  
 Ms. Guzman...letting me come to her class and talk to her everyday in tenth grade  
 Ms. Holm...being there when no one else was  
 Ms. Kirkpatrick...teaching in a way I finally understood history and making class enjoyable  
 Ms. Kwan...allowing us to stay after school till 6 pm or later everyday  
 Ms. LA and Mr. Sullivan...making junior and senior year bearable  
 Ms. LA...actually teaching math  
 Ms. LA...always making me feel happier  
 Ms. LA...helping me find my passion in math  
 Ms. LA...making math class enjoyable  
 Ms. Leung...the C-ravr XD >.<  
 Ms. McKenna...not killing me this year (I'm so sorry)  
 Ms. Murray...making the best cookies ever (yum)  
 Ms. Myette...being the most genuine and caring teacher  
 Ms. Scott...helping me get to college  
 Ms. Scott...never giving up on me and my math skills :)  
 Ms. Shipley...being the best conductor out there  
 Ms. Shipley...being the best person in the universe  
 Ms. Stuppard...telling me about Preservation Hall!  
 Ms. Sweeney...being such a helpful, patient, and sweet guidance counselor  
 Ms. Sweeney...being very flexible when it came to meetings  
 Ms. Sylvester...always helping out  
 Ms. Sylvester...being the best  
 Ms. Sylvester...helping me out all

the time, even when I messed up pretty bad  
 Ms. Webb...being so passionate about AP world  
 Ms. Yang...letting us have a feast during class  
 Ms.Sweeney...always being there to support me through difficult times  
 Mx. Amico...always being there for me  
 Mx. Amico...being my bestie this year!!  
 My family and friends...giving me everything  
 My friends...always being there for me  
 My friends...always being there for me  
 My friends...being friends with me <3  
 My friends...being my rocks  
 My friends...being there  
 My friends...being there  
 My friends...being there for me when I needed to vent  
 My friends...dealing with my mental breakdowns and listening to me when I needed help, I wouldn't have made it these 6 years without you  
 My friends...everything  
 My friends...for always being there for me <3  
 My friends...getting me this far  
 My friends...keeping me mentally stable  
 My friends...making this place bearable  
 My friends...putting up with my antics  
 My friends...watching out for me  
 My mom...always supporting me and being proud of me no matter what  
 My mom...being by bestie  
 My mom...supporting me throughout the years  
 My parents, always...all the sacrifices they have made to allow me to be here in the US and graduate from BLS  
 My parents...not giving me mental health issues (not sarcastic love you mom and dad)  
 My parents...supporting what I want to do, and my close friends in and out of school...being there for me all the time, helping me grow and making high school bearable.  
 Couldn't have done it without all you guys.  
 My very deadly

trio...being the best support group out there  
 Myself...never giving up  
 Myself...not dropping or failing out  
 Olivia Sullivan...helping me see the good in all things  
 Olivia...the galleria staircase jang  
 Photomath...helping me pass Calculus  
 Profe...letting me eat in class  
 Rachel Kim...being the best  
 Raymond Xu...you need to give us a chance  
 Rene Gauthier...helping to get me across the finish line  
 Rick Li...helping me make friends  
 Rosaylin...making each day at BLS a happy one, and for always putting a smile on my face.  
 ily <3  
 Sarah...being the nicest person ever  
 Sissy...bringing me chocolate chip muffins  
 Spoorthi...being crazy with me  
 Stephen Yoshida...being based when everyone was cringe  
 Sullivan...helping me improve my writing!  
 Sylvia Posever...walking to school with me  
 Thang...being my biggest fan  
 The *Argo*...this section every year  
 The band teachers...making band amazing this year  
 The bison  
 The class of 2021...making the last six years so enjoyable  
 The College Counseling Team...all their help and support  
 The English department...absolutely nothing  
 The lunch ladies...giving me two peanut butter and jelly sandwiches every day  
 The music department...inspiring me  
 The nurses...always being there  
 The Purest Puritans...getting me through the year  
 The school lunch...filling me up with three cheese bites  
 The teachers who always took an interest in me and talked to me  
 Tt...dn  
 William Wu...creating a community for disabled people  
 Yoshihiro Togashi...Hunter X Hunter

## Congratulations Eric Phesay!

We would like to raise a toast . . . wait no toast . . . You are a true thoroughbred . . . wait no bread . . . Seriously, we are super proud of you and all you have accomplished during your journey through BLS. Now let's celebrate with some cake. . . hold up.

Love, Mom, Dad, & Brothers



# I Admit To...

“Forgetting” ... let’s say about 60 assignments over my entire career (it happens)  
 “Forgetting” my homework at home  
 3rd floor zone side, 2T, 1st floor 130, 1st floor 120  
 Absolutely nothing  
 Absolutely nothing  
 Absolutely nothing because Twitter is crazy nowadays  
 Abusing the elevator key card to skip using the stairs  
 Abusing the nurses office to skip tests I didnt study for  
 Accidentally playing music on my phone on full volume during class  
 Accidentally falling asleep in APUSH  
 Actually having a reasonable sleep schedule  
 Actually reading every book that was assigned  
 Attending Zoom class from restaurants and such  
 Being a cringey eighth grader  
 Being a hot genius  
 Being a pathological liar  
 Being a terrible person in ninth grade  
 Being an absolute Goat  
 Being in a healthy relationship for 3 of the 4 years of high school  
 Being out of dress code every single day  
 Being the main character  
 BSing all of Zoom school  
 Caring  
 Cheating  
 Cheating  
 Cheating  
 Cheating  
 Cheating  
 Cheating  
 Cheating  
 Cheating  
 Cheating  
 Cheating  
 Cheating

Cheating  
 Cheating  
 Cheating  
 Cheating  
 Cheating  
 Cheating  
 Cheating  
 Cheating  
 Cheating a LOT  
 Cheating my way through online school  
 Cheating on Chinese quizzes  
 Cheating on every AP Enviro quiz  
 Cheating on every Latin test I ever took  
 Cheating on every online test/quiz  
 Cheating on every single Latin quiz or test ever  
 Cheating on every virtual test I took  
 Cheating on my Chinese quizzes XD  
 Cheating on online school  
 Cheating on online tests  
 Cheating way too much in Chinese  
 Cheating... A LOT!!!  
 Cheating... oops  
 Cheating...so much cheating  
 Clogging a toilet  
 Committing Academic Dishonesty  
 Confessing to my crush after they graduated from BLS  
 Copying every single physics assignment  
 Copying WebWork answers from people I’ve never met (thanks Mira)  
 Crying in math class  
 Crying in the bathroom everyday  
 Cutting the lunch line every single day without fail  
 Definitely not cheating on anything  
 Despising almost everyone in my grade  
 Doing a lot of gossiping  
 Doing literally nothing

exciting.  
 Drinking coffee every day  
 Drinking in class  
 Eating in class  
 Eating in class  
 Eating in the hallways  
 Erasing some of the kou fens on the whiteboard  
 Everything  
 Everything in Chinese class (If you know, you know)  
 Failing math multiple times  
 Faking an absurd amount of assignments  
 Faking parent signatures  
 Falling asleep during AP Chemistry Zoom class.  
 Falling asleep during several exams  
 Finding the mice amusing  
 Forcefully chugging a bottle of water every class o I could use the bathroom  
 Getting 4 lunches in 1 day  
 Getting away with not doing a freshman research paper and the junior paper, too  
 Getting caught cheating in Mr. Mordine’s class in 9th grade  
 Getting locked in the mail room multiple times  
 Getting on the roof  
 Getting rejected from NHS but being inducted anyways  
 Getting suspended on the DR trip  
 Getting with 5 guys in the same friend group  
 Gluing green army men inside one of the empty lockers in the basement  
 Freshman year  
 Going on the roof  
 Going to Starbucks during my studies :/  
 Going to the bathroom every Latin class  
 Going to the cave  
 Googling every single APES quiz question  
 Googling my teachers’

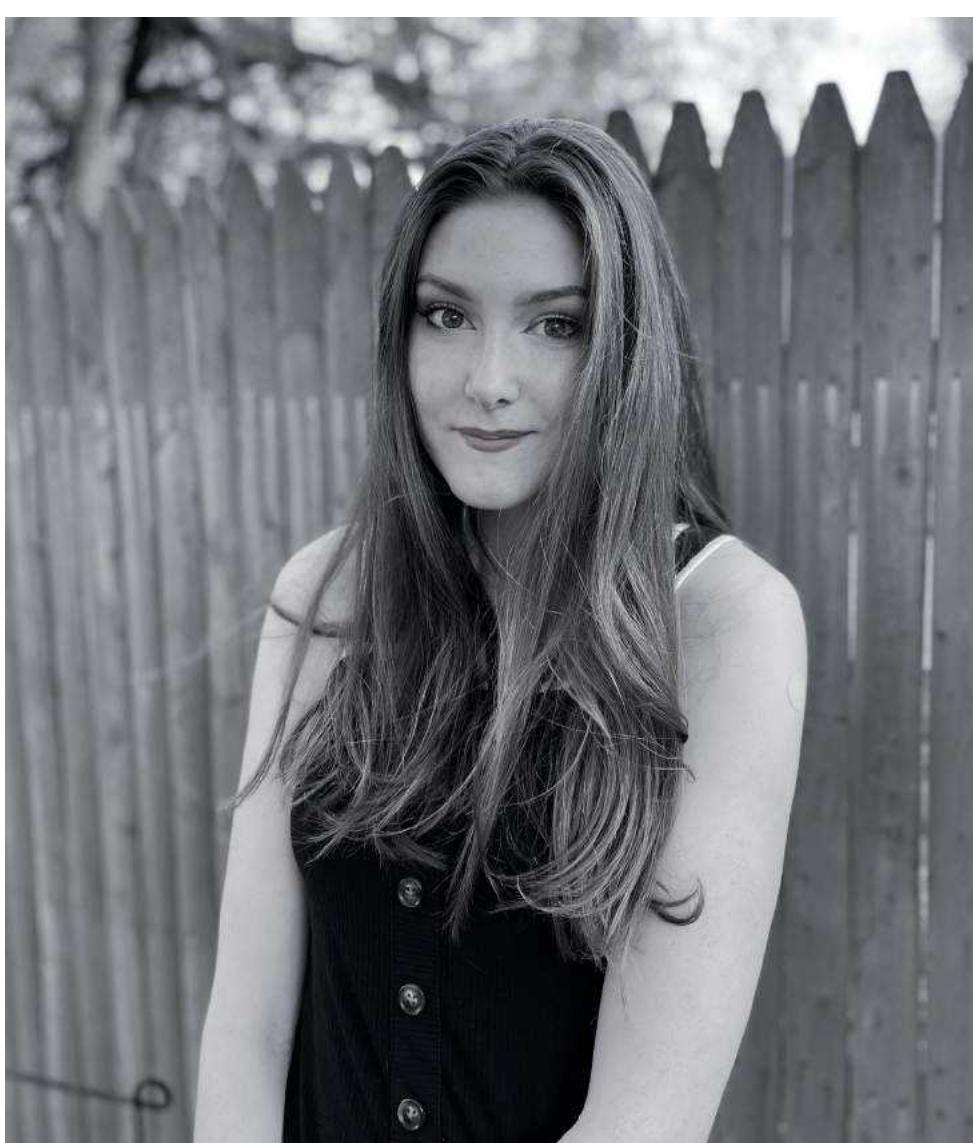
salaries  
 Grabbing breakfast at Massart no matter how late I was to school  
 Hating half the people in our class  
 Having a huge big fat crush on Vincent  
 Having never read a book in English since 9th grade  
 Hiding in BLS corners to stay late after school  
 Hot gluing army men around BLS  
 I don’t want to answer this  
 Juuling in the bathroom  
 Kissing Oliver  
 Leaving class when teachers put us in breakout rooms  
 Leaving classes to go to the blackbox for the air-conditioning  
 Leaving school early because I said I didn’t feel good even though I felt fine  
 Liking Bsie Latin  
 Listening to music during class  
 Loving AP Lit  
 Missing the old days  
 Naming myself section leader of band  
 Nearly failing Latin in 8th  
 Never doing any work on time  
 Never doing the summer reading  
 Never finishing a single book assigned in ELA class  
 Never having done summer reading  
 Never learning a single Latin word in all my four years  
 Never reading a book  
 Never studying...I probably would have if I was ever taught how to  
 Not ever learning any Latin and still passing with a B  
 Not having wifi issues  
 Not having wifi issues  
 Not reading a single book

and plagiarizing every essay I wrote  
 Not stealing the radiator in the second floor boys bathroom  
 Nothing  
 Nothing  
 Nothing  
 Nothing  
 Nothing  
 Nothing  
 Nothing  
 Nothing  
 Nothing  
 Nothing ; ) this is a trackable google form...  
 Nothing. You won’t get me that easily :)  
 Nothing. You’ll never catch me alive  
 Nothing...  
 On multiple occasions, throwing up in the bathroom outside the gym in that little hallway connecting the two doors  
 Playing video games during Zoom classes  
 Pooping on the toilet seat and leaving it there  
 Pretending i took the commuter rail to get excused tardies  
 Pretending to be nice to people  
 Procrastinating and pulling all-nighters to finish  
 Repeatedly falling asleep in Latin Prose  
 Running the @sigmaupdates Instagram page in 8th grade :)  
 Saying I had technical difficulties on Zoom when I really just wanted to skip class  
 Secretly erasing negative points to save tables with leaking faucets in Ms. Yang’s class  
 Senioritis  
 Showering in the girl’s locker room

Signing my own passes to print things in the library  
 Simping  
 Simping over a student teacher  
 Singing at the top of my lungs in the hallways when I thought no one could hear  
 Sitting down to pee  
 Sitting in the back lobby until 6pm every day  
 Skipping 11th grade English class every other day  
 Skipping almost every history class this year  
 Skipping class  
 Skipping class  
 Skipping class for funsies  
 Skipping every assembly  
 Skipping Ms. Chouinard’s class to get a fresh cut  
 Skipping the AMC  
 Sleeping a lot in AP Bio  
 Sleeping in classes throughout the entire school day  
 Sleeping in Zoom class  
 Sleeping through a lot of online school  
 Sleeping through so many classes this year  
 Sneaking food in class  
 Sneaking into classrooms after school  
 Sneaking into the auditorium at night  
 Sneaking my coffee up everyday  
 Sneaking out of school to get Starbucks  
 Snowball fight in the halls  
 Sparknoting every book since freshman year  
 Spilling an entire bottle of water inside the chorus room piano  
 Standing up on my chair whenever Ms. Stuppard wasn’t looking in 8th grade US History  
 Starting the religion of Chenism  
 Stealing hand sanitizer from school when Covid

hit  
 Stressing over meaningless assignments  
 Taking a lady bug I found in the library during R2 with me to classes  
 Taking a number 2 every time I ate after fajita chicken served during school lunch  
 Taking lost Muji pens from the floor  
 Talking behind all your backs  
 Telling a secret someone said not to tell  
 Throwing the cucumbers on the glass above the doors in the dinning halls.  
 Turning in the same math homework 10 times  
 Using bathroom passes or running during 5min transitions to print an assignment  
 Using ctrl c ctrl v for every single college board practice test  
 Using google translate for everything in AP Spanish  
 Using my laptop to watch YouTube during class  
 Using my phone  
 Using Photomath all year in AP Calc  
 Using the back and side doors to sneak into BLS  
 Using the faculty restroom sixie year  
 Walking around the building in fuzzy socks  
 Wandering  
 Wandering around the hallways during my bathroom breaks  
 Winging Latin for 4 years  
 Writing important formulae and equations on the inside of my calculator for use during tests  
 Writing the Latin declensions on an eraser wrapper sixie year because I just could NOT remember them

“Strong convictions precede great actions.”  
 - Louisa May Alcott



Izzy, you have continually amazed us as you have grown into a young adult full of integrity, creativity, and drive. You are passionate, kind, and committed to justice for all people and the earth. We could not be more proud of you and all you have accomplished in high school. We know you will continue to shine in college and beyond. We can’t wait to see what you do next.  
 Congratulations!

Love,  
 Mom and Dad

*Congratulations, Claire!  
We are so proud of you, Claire Bear!*



*You have made it through the six years at BLS, and we wish you every success on your next chapter of life, which we are sure will lead to wonderful things!*

*□ It is not in doing what you like, but in liking what you do that is the secret of happiness. □ □ J.M. Barrie*

*Reach for the stars at Sacred Heart University! Go Pioneers!*



*Love, Mom, Dad, Cíara, Caroline, Auntie Kate, and your Godmother Noreen*

*Congratulations Olivia, Madelyn, Kate, Emma, Claire, and Corinne!  
So proud of this great group of girls who kept smiling through the tough year and helped each other get through it. Wishing each and every one of you all the best in the next chapter of your lives!*

*Fondly,  
The O'Shea Family*



*Carissimo Ludovico  
tanti affettuosi auguri  
e complimenti per  
questo traguardo!*

*Vai col vento!!*

*Audentes Fortuna Iuvat*

*Mamma, Papà, Allegra,  
Federico e Riccardo*



*From the first day of  
Kindergarten to Senior year  
- you have always made us  
proud! Congratulations on your  
graduation Grace!*



**LOVE, MOM AND DAD**



*Congratulations to Liza and  
Gen for graduating BLS, the  
last school you'll ever have to  
share! We love you, twinnies  
and are crazy proud of the  
strong women you've  
become.*

*Love, All of us*

## Spotlight on... Liv Oster



By John Lin (I)  
News Editor

What do you get when you cross the musical talent of oboe god John Ferrillo with the classical ingenuity of Catullus and then mix it in with a few Birkenstocks and a Kanken backpack? The answer is Liv “54” Oster (Get it? Because LIV, aka the 2019 Super Bowl, is the Roman Numeral version of 54). And make no mistake, as much as your brain

would love to pronounce her name as “Live Oster” (or “Live Oyster” or “Live Oh-ster” among other variations), she will tell you for the umpteenth time that it is Liv with a macron, like the Latin scholar that she is. Aside from her name, her talented oboe-playing and her incredible translation skills, at her very core, Liv is the most kind, supportive and funniest person whom I have had the amazing privilege of sharing at least two classes with since eighth grade.

Liv and I were destined to be friends when we sat next to each other as eighth graders in our first year of Symphonic Band, and from there, our friendship blossomed. Whether it was “playing basketball” (i.e. pretending we were shooting hoops so Ms. Holmes didn’t call us out) in ninth grade gym or ranting about the stupidity of the characters in English (cough, cough Macbeth), Liv makes every class — no matter how scary, dry or confusing it is — a million times better. Who else would laugh at the time I invented a word when I fell asleep taking notes in APUSH? Or the time I made up a formula during the AP

Chem test? While BLS was six years of blood, sweat and tears, Liv has kept me sane with our rant sessions filled with laughter and, as Catullus would call it, *otium*.

If you can’t tell at this point, Liv is the definition of a Renaissance woman; she is so insanely talented at everything she touches. While you will one day see her playing solos at Symphony Hall or read about her in glowing reviews within *The New Yorker*, just know this: when she puts the double-reed of her Lorée oboe to her lips, her tone and expression will take your breath away as she transforms the hardest pieces in classical music into seamless streams of warmth. Aside from oboe, she has immaculate Latin pronunciation and has saved my AP Lit grade more than once with our editing sessions.

On top of all her talent, Liv is the most down-to-earth, selfless and wholesome person I know. When we were both stressed over audition results, she sent me the most hilarious memes to calm us down. At our lunch table she always shares her amazing Oreo cookies (I am SO excited to come over for baking

parties!). This year, I am so grateful to have Liv to run our iconic @latinvgang account, share our admiration for Catullus’s spiciness and laugh sardonically about our AP tests — all while having adorable Loki in the background. As she has done through these five years, in a particularly isolating time, Liv radiates so much positivity and kindness.

As much as our time at BLS has come to an end, I am über excited and lucky to have the unique opportunity to start the next chapter in college together! Liv, thank you for being you, the most wholesome, kind and every positive superlative out there. I can’t wait to spend four more years going to Flour bakery, laughing over Catullus and hearing stories about Mr. Ferrillo and Fed. I can’t wait for the world to see your incredible talent — whether it’s in oboe, classics or art history, or in something else that I know you’re undoubtedly going to excel in. Most of all, I can’t wait for people to look back to this spotlight and say, “This was Liv Oster before she was Liv Oster!” Because frankly, Liv, you’re going to change the world.

## Spotlight on... John Lin



By Liv Oster (I)  
Contributing Writer

Although the last time I was actually in the building on 78 Avenue Louis Pasteur was before Romulus founded Rome, I can remember that among the many sleep-deprived faces, I always had one friend who had a ra-

diant smile even after the chem exam that he “failed” or that timed writing that was a “disaster.”

If you already had the privilege of meeting John, you will know that he really is the jack of all trades and somehow still the master of all. He writes for the *Argo*, plays clarinet, carefully curates the impeccable Latin V Instagram captions, wins science competitions with research that is way beyond my understanding, and even with all that, he manages to find time to document the thrilling and absolutely adorable life of his cat, Cupid. Seriously, go follow his cat on Instagram (@lechatcupid) right now. I can wait...

If somehow you haven’t met John, I’m virtually 100 percent sure you will soon when he inevitably makes headlines for his scientific breakthroughs or brilliant journalism.

In sixie year, we were separated by the entire Franklin cluster hallway and a year in

math, but we more than made up for that in eighth grade when we shared the Beta (aka best) cluster. Together, we welcomed “the world of gray” with Ms. Stuppard, “answered the call to be great” with Mr. Gibbons and somehow found humor in Mr. Pitts screaming at Wind Ensemble to count correctly.

It is a rare occurrence that someone is not only willing, but actually interested in hearing about oboe reeds, master classes, *Lingua Latina Per Se Illustrata*, that new English pastoral symphony that I just found on YouTube Music and cannot shut up about... you get the idea. Believe it or not, John really has endured all that and is still willing to talk to me — a truly amazing feat!

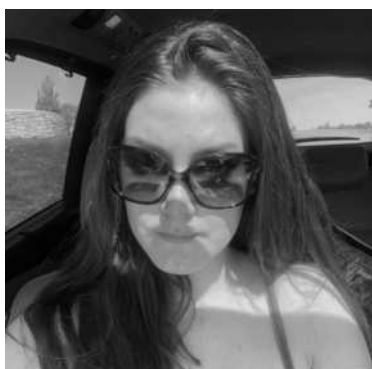
Jokes aside, John is one of the most understanding, caring and delightful people you could meet. With interests that span as wide as Caesar’s conquest, he always has something new to discuss or something exciting happening. Whether it’s stories from RSI

(which I only recently found out was short for Research Summer Institute, insert facepalm here), proclamations that Catullus is our self-care king (*otium* is indisputably important!) or that video he sent of Ben Zander’s Yelp while coaching Mahler 5, I am perpetually entertained.

Thank you for five years of friendship, rant sessions, essay editing and unconditional emotional support. Luckily, we still have four more years to spend at school together, which really is a good thing because you are going to have to help me get through math gen eds. Even after that, I can’t wait to see everything you will accomplish.

“The world isn’t ready for you” seems to be such a cliché statement these days, but in this case, I believe it is completely and totally applicable. So with that, watch out world, there’s no way you can prepare yourself for the greatness John Lin is about to bestow on us.

## Spotlight on... Isabelle Goodrich



By Ann Flynn (I)  
Contributing Writer

I would be lying if I said I wasn’t

slightly intimidated when I sat down to write this. Izzy Goodrich is, after all, an award-winning poet, president of BLS Writes and a contributor to this very paper. But more than that, she is an incredible friend, and I can’t help but worry that this short spotlight will not do her justice.

I cannot say enough about her achievements in and out of school. She always strives for excellence, going above and beyond what is required. In her senior year alone, Izzy balanced her Writing Club presidency, a fellowship and Capstone, along with college apps and the weight of quarantine. Even in the context of a worldwide pandemic, she still managed to organize socially distanced get-togethers that brought some much-needed fun in an otherwise disappointing year.

Thanks to the Boston Latin School algorithm and the alphabetical proximity

of our last names, Izzy and I shared almost every class in the eighth grade. While her outspoken and self-assured attitude was startling to begin with, I came to admire her ability to unapologetically be herself. At 13 years old, Izzy made sure that her voice was heard. Today, I know her as one of the most talented, funny, non-judgmental, original and decent people I have ever had the pleasure of meeting. I feel so lucky to call her a close friend.

In high school, where academics moved to the forefront of our minds, Izzy was invaluable. She was consistently focused on her studies, but that never stopped her from connecting with friends. As anybody in our group would tell you, Izzy is the coordinator. Without her, I doubt we would have stayed in touch as long as we have. From burritos in Boston on concert nights and football

games at White Stadium to snowy backyard screenings of ‘80s vampire movies and the Cape Cod camping trip, I am so glad I got to share so many of my most cherished memories with someone as amazing as her.

It is hard to believe that we will never again walk to class together on a lazy Monday morning or commandeer a circle table in the cafeteria. Though our time at BLS has come to an end, our friendship lives on. I know that I will see her next year, despite the distance, and I look forward to witnessing the impact she will inevitably have on the world.

Izzy, I can honestly say that I have never met anyone quite like you. I am so excited for all the amazing things you’ll get to experience next year at college — you’re gonna go absolutely BUNGO in Philadelphia. Love you lots :).

## Spotlight on... Alice Zhang



By Cindy Zhou (I)  
Copy Editor

Alice Zhang: You’ve probably seen her studying hard in the library, doing yo-yo tricks in the back lobby or chilling in the cafeteria after school. It’s likely you got the chance to work alongside her in a group project or her many extracurriculars. No matter what, you’ve definitely run into her

impact on the Boston Latin School community. She’s a talented dancer, yo-yoer, flutist, fencer, publication editor, chem whiz and more. I’m lucky to be one of the people who gets to call her a close and dear friend.

I first met Alice (surprisingly) outside of BLS, in a competition math class. Currently making the transition from contacts to glasses, I had no idea what my blurry classmates looked like, but I knew this one girl kept on getting these baffling questions right. Imagine my surprise finding myself sitting next to that brilliant person in sixie humanities, and behind her in math class. While the both of us still can’t quite remember exactly how our friendship went from borrowing pencils to calling on Discord almost every night, I can’t imagine my life without her.

Alice is the GOAT, and not just because she was born in 2003 (lamb year rep!). When she works hard, she *works hard*. She puts 120 percent into everything she does,

knows how to lead and gets it done a week early. You can see it in her amazing yo-yo performances (“haha I choreographed this five-minute performance last night”), her math and science competition scores (AP Chem kids, this is *that* Alice) and this newspaper you’re reading right now. I’ve been a part of many of her clubs — she’s the best teammate ever — but still, I’m always blown away by how much passion and dedication she exudes. She’s also one of the most lovely people to be around, keeping up the energy in the room with her hilarious tangents, pulling turtles like me out of their shells and truly being the life of the party.

But most importantly, Alice has been and continues to be the greatest friend. On every special occasion, she always sends people homemade cards and baked goods. She’s constantly thinking of others and looking out for them, evident in sweet check-in messages or specialized gifts. And she’s always willing to lend an ear or a shoulder to

cry on. I don’t know how I would have gotten any of my nervous breakdowns or anxieties this year without confiding in her. My fondest memories of these six years are formed with her: trying various foods, car rides singing along to our playlists, Asian Night performances and so many more. She lights up even the littlest things with her presence.

Alice, I’m so grateful to have gone on this crazy ride through our BLS years with you! All of the hardships you have endured, obstacles you have overcome, goals you accomplished — I am so glad I got to grow and change with you and I am so proud of being your friend. Thank you for being one of the most supportive, caring and fun people I know. Though part of me is sad that I will no longer get my seat assigned next to you in last-name alphabetical classrooms, I can’t wait to see you take Wellesley by storm. I love ya, and I’ll definitely be making that 30-minute drive all the time. See you soon!

## Spotlight on... Christian Badawi



By Natalia Tam (I)  
Contributing Writer

I first met Christian in tenth grade. He sat behind me in AP World History with Ms. Pinchem, but I didn't talk to him until I learned about him from another friend. For the rest of the year, he was the guy I asked to gauge how hard the chemistry quiz I had next period would be. The answer I got was always the same: "I didn't study, and I thought it was easy." Thanks, buddy.

By junior year, he had found his way into our little circle of friends, and we hung out in the library frequently. He even gave me a brownie from his club's bake sale! It wasn't until after quarantine started that we really began to talk, though. Talking

exclusively over Discord, I got to learn a lot about him. We played video games together (thanks for the carry), watched *Jeopardy!* and I even convinced him to do homework with me.

We've spent so much time together this past year, and I've learned that there's a lot more to him than I ever realized. As much as I say his puns are cringe-worthy, Christian's a funny guy. He's also incredibly caring for the people around him. Even though we talk for hours a day, he still surprises me with thoughtful little words and gestures. Sometimes (a lot of times), he has the most random and ridiculous ideas, but

I can't help but smile while rolling my eyes. Once I listened to him recall his favorite book series. He talked for over twenty minutes straight, and it was the first time I had seen him so excited by something he liked. Now I've heard him discuss many other topics, including the potential of algae, our progress toward a future in space and electric cars. Christian's brain can fly miles a minute — coincidentally, how it feels when we're walking together.

Thank you for all the fun times and for sticking with me in both the ups and downs. I can't wait to make more memories together! <3

## Spotlight on... Alice Zhang



By Julianna Zhao (I)  
Editor-in-Chief

For those of you who don't know Alice Zhang well (that is to say, beyond the fact that she is one-half of the renowned Zhang twins), here is a summary of everything I've learned

about her over the past six years: 1) She's terribly afraid of heights, 2) She loves boba and 3) She likes to get her work done quickly. So, if you want to be her friend, just don't take her to Six Flags, don't try to buy her coffee and don't keep her waiting. But if you do step on one of these fatal mistakes, don't worry! After all, I must admit to having made all three, but I still have the luck of being friends with the single, most amazing person that has graced Boston Latin School with her presence over its 386 years of history.

Sometimes I wonder how exactly Alice and I became friends so quickly. In some ways, we are quite the opposite of each other: she is a master of efficiency, while I am quite a master of procrastination. (After all, here I am, writing this spotlight an hour after it was due...) Yet somehow, it worked out. After the

first week or two of sixie shyness, we became inseparable, and I can't imagine how my six years at this school would have been without the ray of sunshine that Alisi embodies, not just for me but for every single one of her many, many friends. Wherever she goes, daring adventure and carefree laughter follow.

Aside from being bubbly and hilarious and the best giver-of-hugs, Alice is undoubtedly the most hardworking individual I have ever encountered. She can achieve anything as long as she puts her mind to it, which is why you can find her a member of Fencing, the *Argo*, Math Team, Science Team, Dance Club and Diabolo Club — what a mouthful! And not only is she a part of these extracurriculars, she is loved in all of them. That is what makes her unbelievable.

Alice, Diabolo Club may have started

because of me, but it has become what it is today because of you. Thank you for persistently urging me to sign up for Asian Night tryouts in eighth grade, the place where it all really started. Thank you for always being the first to start working on the next performance choreo and for your indefinite enthusiasm and ambition for the team. In my mind, Chinese yo-yo and Alice Zhang are two things that cannot exist without each other. You truly are the heart of our little yo-yo family.

Thank you, Alisi, my adorable potato, for being my best *pengyou* over the last six years. The truth is, I left this spotlight to the very last minute because I didn't know how to show what an incredible person you are within such a small space, and now I know for sure that it is impossible. I guess it all just comes down to this: thank you for being you.

## Spotlight on... Julianna Zhao



By Alice Zhang (I)  
Copy Editor

By means of the school's groundbreaking seating system known as "alphabetically

by last name", I was seated in front of Juliana Nerrissa Zhao in sixie year math, art and even Middle School Math Team. Absolutely insane. We talk a lot about how we met because, well, who knows what the first impression was. I really think that I met the three sides of Julie.

Math class Julie: quiet and studious. She's a math whiz that's going places, meaning she works hard in class, but doesn't pay attention to the worksheets being passed down our table row. For my impatient self, I had no idea who sat behind me, but I just wanted them to take the papers faster. Art class Julie: helpful and talented. Those who've been in my art class will know my skills are passable at best. I don't know if anyone's

failed sixie art before, but without Julie, I might have been the first. She helped me with every assignment, explaining and showing me what to do. I very much liked art teacher Julie. Math Team Julie: loud and talkative. It was supposed to be a silent test. Math Team Julie was great.

At some point, I realized that these three people were all the same person, and that's when I attached to her completely, especially after forming the Diabolo Club. If you've ever seen giant plastic yo-yos flying on stage, it's something the two of us scrambled to pull together the week (or day) before. Not because we didn't plan, but because I had decided to switch the song and choreography right before the show. We are a great duo.

I'm the planner, and Julie puts all of my ideas, thoughts, and Google Doc notes into action (I'm simply helping her hone her mind-reading powers). Clearly, the world fears our connection because we haven't shared another class since sixie year.

Julie's an amazing friend and has accomplished way too much in these past six years to describe, but I'll list a few: *Argo* Editor-in-Chief, Class Valedictorian, Public Dec (and Prize Dec) speaker, most importantly, my best friend.

Finally, I would like to apologize for 1. Spelling your name as Juliana when you annoyed me and 2. For exposing your middle name. But also, sorry not sorry, I'll annoy you in an hour!

## Spotlight on... Ai-Kee Cheung



By Julianna Zhao (I)  
& Alice Zhang (I)  
Editor-in-Chief and Copy Editor

Ai-Kee isn't the problematic main character — she's the wise (iconic) mentor loved by the whole audience. Whenever you feel down about absolutely anything, she is al-

ways there to listen to your rant and pull you back into reality. If dictionaries had pictures, the word supportive would have Ai-Kee's face next to it. If you ever have the luck of becoming her friend, prepare to be blessed by the compliments she is so generous with — they make your day! The power of words truly shines when Ai-Kee is talking because she's one of the kindest humans who have ever walked the earth.

We've known Ai-Kee since sixie Algebra, but it seems like so much longer than that. Who knows how many walks we've had from the Boston Latin School lobby to Ruggles, and it is thanks to her habits of timeliness that we've only missed the train a few times. She carried us from the Biorhythms project in eighth grade — trust us, learning how to use sine and cosine graphs when we had no

idea what trigonometry was was not easy — to all the dreaded analysis assignments in AP Literature. She put up with our never-ending nagging and tangents about the next Chinese yo-yo performance that always ended with a "Yeah, of course I'll come!" from her end. It proves that even as an old sage, Ai-Kee still puts in 110 percent for everything, and that is another trait we adore. Even through almost all of quarantine, she managed to not only stay upbeat but also record yo-yo videos from home, making sure each one was perfect. A friend like Ai-Kee is a *pengyou* you know you can always count on.

We aren't exaggerating when we tell you Ai-Kee is one of the best people you'll meet. She may have been dubbed "wise old sage" because she is the most ancient of our bunch, but she truly has lived up to her es-

teemed title. Who else will randomly drop words of wisdom while radiating positive energy in the form of quirky pineapple jokes? If anything, her one flaw is her excessive humility. Despite all the compliments she gives, she'll deflect the ones for her (you popped off during that math problem set, accept it), but it's just another characteristic we love that makes Ai-Kee, Ai-Kee.

Ai-Kee's caring personality has guided us throughout our years of BLS, and it couldn't have been the same without her. Ai-Kee, we know you'll continue to make a difference in so many other people's lives as you go to college and beyond. We love you, Ai-Kee — thank you for high school, and we hope you'll continue to spoil us, great sage, when we seek your guidance again in our future college misfortunes!

## Spotlight on... Cindy Zhou



By Emily Sun (I)  
& Alice Zhang (I)  
News Editor and Copy Editor

Cindy is like a cup of hot chocolate (with marshmallows, obviously). She's sweet, warm and can always cheer you up.

If you're in any clubs at Boston Latin

School, then you've probably seen her around a few times. Her interests range from biology to astronomy all the way to business and debate, and she's always running around making the most of every second.

Despite juggling so many interests in BLS's stressful environment, she still finds time to care for her friends. We can't count how many nights when she has tons of homework to finish, but would still help us with a math problem or translate Latin passage. Additionally, she seems to have a sixth sense for when people are upset, always reaching out to make sure we're okay.

Cinderella's perseverance and hard work make her a great friend, partner and leader. She makes sure to meet you in the middle, but most of the time, she goes above and beyond. Even though she has too many, she never shirks her responsibilities. From

math projects to hosting club events, Kindiano has a calming presence even in the most stressful of situations.

As a musical genius, her singing has earned her many A-pluses during song appreciation assignments in Chinese. She also plays instruments (yes, plural!). Kindo on bassoon and piano is no joke, and her mash-ups are straight bops. She spends weeks just learning how harmonization works for a song, or chords for two separate songs to make a mashup. She always gives her all in everything. Once she's committed, she'll see it through until the end.

Cindiano is the best at everything she does, especially when it comes to puns (despite our complaints that they make the room feel colder). Some of her most memorable ones are BU-ddies (when she was talking to her next four peers) and how her chemistry

jokes should get "more of a reaction."

Her personality is also captured by the nicknames we have given her (that she definitely approved of) such as Kindo, Cindiano, Kindiano, Cindy Mindy Bobindy Kerwindy and Cinderella. Basically, everything but her actual name.

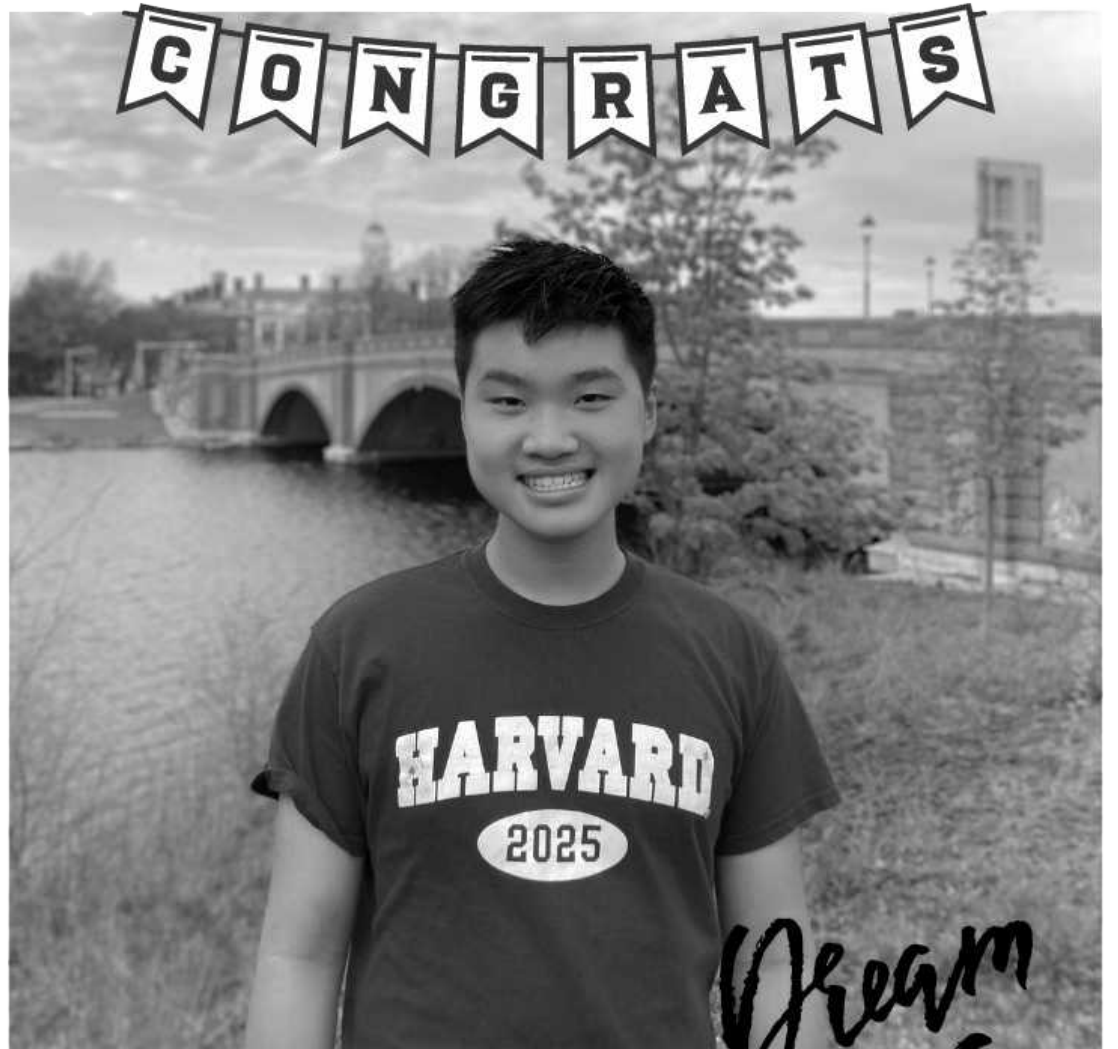
We know Cindy will thrive in college and wherever the future may take her. In ten years, she'll probably have a galaxy named after her, an award-winning collection of mythology novels that she wrote in her spare time and a freezer full of every flavor of ice cream imaginable.

They say that you find your lifelong friends in high school, and Cindy is definitely a keeper. For everyone lucky enough to have met Cindy and everyone who will meet her in the future, make sure to cherish your friendship because she truly is one-of-a-cind(y).



**John,** we are so proud of the person you've become and the impact you are making. We can't wait to see what great things you're going to do in the future! Work hard, be kind, and follow your heart. Love you!

*from Mom, Dad, Joanna, and Cupid <3*



*Dream  
Big  
Work  
HARD*



## Congratulations, Rick!!!

*We are truly proud of all you have accomplished! It has been amazing to see you grow up from a naughty baby to a strong, intelligent, caring, and handsome man! You have worked so hard and we are excited for your next chapter! It will be a fun and adventurous times ahead. Best luck in college! We will be here for you always!*



*We love you so much forever!*

*Dad, Mom, Yuanjian '05, and Ross*

## Congratulations to the Class of 2021



*Shannon  
Mary-Bridget  
Greene*

**We are so proud of all that you have accomplished And the person you have grown to be. We love you very much!**

*Love Dad, Mom, Neave (and Stanford)*







Thomas, we are so proud of you!!!



We love you very much and we can't wait to see what you accomplish at Bucknell & beyond!



Love: Mom and Dad



Congratulations to my Top Banana... you really did... get er done...



Love always ... uncle TD

Congratulations to **CASEY PAHRE**

We are so proud of you, we love you, and we are endlessly fascinated by you.

**Mom & Dad**

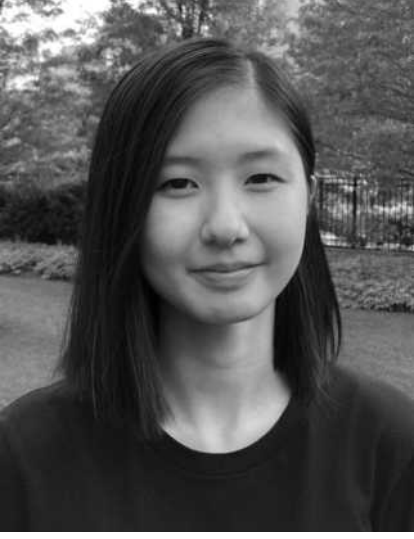
Quiet people have the loudest minds.  
~ Stephen Hawking

**Addy -**

We are so proud of your hard work and amazing accomplishments! We can't wait to see what the next exciting chapter of your life brings. We love you like crazy!

**Love, Mom, Dad, Katie & Bailey.**

## Editor-in-Chief Nadine Han



Hello! Before you read this, please take a look at the *Argo* website if you haven't already — all of our issues since this October are on [blsargo.org](http://blsargo.org). :) Okay, now onto the message!

You may have heard of me through other senior farewells in past years, first as a News Editor and later as the Editor-in-Chief hounding editors to submit their farewells before I unceremoniously cut them from the paper. I have simmered down since then, fortunately, from a fiery enforcer to something akin to a tired but proud parent of many clubs.

It's been a long ride, from trying to adapt to online learning to trying not to sleep through entire classes, I applaud all the members of the Boston Latin School community for their efforts. Class of 2021, we went from having a "dark cloud" looming over us to being an icon of change for the school. Be proud! Sixie Earth Science taught me that cumulonimbi only rain for like 20 minutes anyway, unless they turn into supercells... but hey, at least we'd be pretty *super*! Haha, I hope the Copy editors don't cut this part.

I know this is an *Argo* farewell, so I will try to keep it as such, but I would still like to thank the Speech and Debate Team,

Science Team, Dance Club and Origami Club members for making my BLS experience so wonderful. I'd also like to honor Keith West, the former Speech and Debate coach, for all of the work that he's done and the people that he's helped in his lifetime. The team is in good hands next year. I hope you rest in peace.

And now, here are the farewells:

To Julie, my fellow Editor-in-Chief: Thank you for having my back, for laughing at my jokes and for keeping me sane. You're so brilliant that I can't help but admire you. Hopefully, you're not too eager to escape me, because I look forward to keeping in touch!

To the rest of the graduating *Argo* seniors: y'all were wonderful! The *Argo* wouldn't have been possible without John, Emily, Esther, Jasmine, Anna, Aileen, Cindy, Andre, both Ashleys, both Alices and both Erics. It is because of y'all that I can confidently say that my greatest strength as Editor-in-Chief was already knowing everyone because I could fill out the editor profiles on the website without getting horribly confused.

To Aidan and Elizabeth: It's going to be hard to leave, but I can say with confidence that I fully trust you both to lead

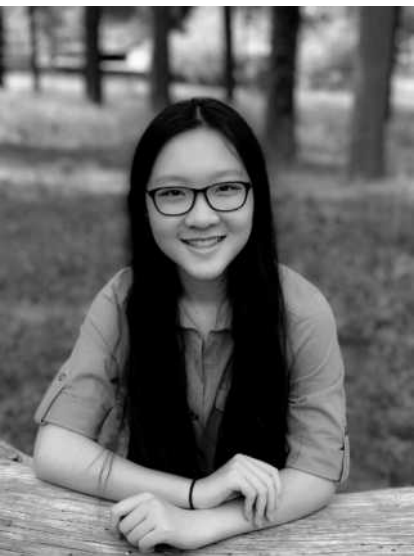
the *Argo*. Your dedication and abilities impress me, and I sincerely hope that all of your dreams for the vision of our (and now your) paper will come true.

To Joanna: I hope you enjoy your new, hard-earned life as a News editor! To Jack and the other other Alice: Thank you for your hard work this year in keeping Forum such a strong section. To Irene and Ellis: You were stellar assistant A&E editors, and will be amazing head editors. To Shane and Fiona: Being promoted mid-year isn't easy — I'm proud of you for taking on the challenge and know that you can be trusted to lead your sections next year. To Regina and Karen: Photo will forever be iconic! You had a rough year but pulled through regardless, and I'm proud. To Selina, Emma and Theresa: Thank you for your endless patience with us. I'll look forward to your work on the in-print issues!

Goodbye, *Argo*. Goodbye, BLS. It's true that we'll go our separate ways, but I know that we all still have much more to accomplish in our lifetimes. :) Until we meet again!

Love,  
Nadine

## Editor-in-Chief Julianna Zhao



My dear Argonauts,

It has been a crazy six years that I spent with you all. How should I even begin to say goodbye?

We missed out on a lot this year (RIP my Insomnia cookies). From hurrying to finish the PDF before 10:00 P.M. on Final Fridays, getting everything ready for distribution at six in the morning, sorting dozens of buckets of wet carnations and finally to guarding stacks of 60-page newspapers against eager parents at Graduation — these were experiences that I thought I would never want to relive but that I now want to demand back from the two nasty years of 2020 and 2021. Don't get me wrong — I am not a fan of work, but it saddens me immensely that I went through my last round of each of these without knowing that it would be my last.

Despite these lost memories, however, I must say I have had quite a blast with the 2020-2021 *Argo* Board in our time together, and that is because it was made up with the best of people.

John, Emily, Aidan and Esther, the News section has done such a spectacular job of keeping up with the most recent events and manning the face of the paper. Don't worry! We haven't forgotten the boba we owe you for your hard work. Forum will always have a special spot in my heart as the place where it all started, my forever home in the *Argo*. Jasmine, Jack and the two Forum Alices are always either getting excited over a new spicy article idea or feverishly editing away and perfecting the turned-in pieces (while giggling over their legendary

group chat). Then there's our favorite A&E! Anna, Elizabeth, Ellis and Irene, the four of you have continued to make Arts & Entertainment a warm place of passion and appreciation, both in its writing and in the interaction of its editors and writers. To the Ashleys, Eric and Shane, I can't help but applaud you for your never-faltering dedication and positivity in a year during which writing about sports has been understandably difficult. Y'all are nothing less than amazing.

Onto our lovely production editors! Copy wouldn't be the same without the cheeriness and quirky sense of humor that Alice, Cindy, Joanna and Fiona have brought to every corner of the section, so thank you for making Copy the absolute "funnest" (hehe) team to be on. Next, Layout! Special thanks goes to Eric for answering my calls of "Layout!" for two years and dealing with the bizarre new ideas I would come up for him to execute. Selina, Emma and Theresa, I have no doubt you will bring the *Argo* aesthetics to new heights next year once you are back in the zone in Lab 016. Last but definitely not least, there is our Photo trio, made up of Regina, Karen and Andre. It's a pity you weren't able to go around the school to capture images yourself for the paper this year, but I absolutely can't wait to see the photographs you'll bring us once you get your hands back on those locked-up cameras.

And finally, to Nadine, my unbelievably brilliant, funny and tall co-Editor-in-Chief, I don't know how I could have possibly managed to make it to this point without you. We survived a lot together over this last year — a few all-nighters during the college

app days, AP Chem and AP Lit, your reckless testing of various expired hot sauces while I feared for your life, and, of course, the *Argo* catastrophes that seem to *always* pop up the last minute before publication. Yet, no matter how dire the situation, you were always the first to jump up, ready to face it head-on. We never got to exploit our supreme power in the spinny chairs of Lab 016, but the two of us did set the *Argo* record as the EiCs with the biggest height difference (albeit only temporarily) and left behind our legacy of a baby website that is sure to develop further in the coming years.

The *Argo* would not be able to run smoothly if it weren't for the awesome, inspiring drive of all its editors and contributors, and, of course, none of it is possible without Ms. Moon, the best faculty advisor we could ever hope for to guide us in such crazy unprecedented times.

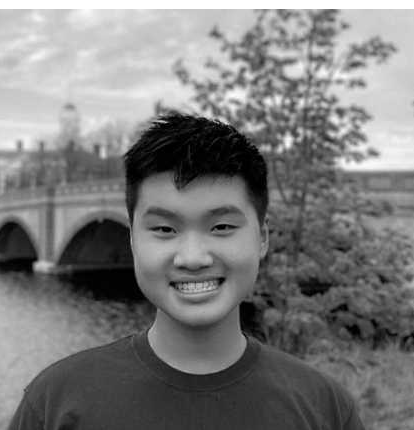
No words can express how grateful I am for all the ways this club has shaped me, from a sixie way too excited over a published Forum article to who I am today. Thank you for introducing me to the concept of journalism and making me appreciate my daily news articles so much more. Thank you for watching me grow up over the last six years. Thank you for bringing me to the greatest of mentors and the best of friends.

Aidan and Elizabeth, the wheel of this ship is in your hands.

Thank you, *Argo*, and farewell. I will remember you all. And when I come to visit next year, I hope you will save a cookie for me. :)

Julie

## News Editor John Lin



On my first day at BLS as a clueless sixie shadow, I came across a strange newspaper with gothic letters adjacent to the now-obsolete pixelated wolf logo — headlined with "Chang Brings Change." Little did I know that one day, I would be making those same corny alliterative headlines at the front of that beast of a publication, known as the *Argo*.

When I first joined the *Argo* all those years ago, the thought of writing ledes, interviewing faculty and writing an entire article terrified my sixie self, and so, I sought refuge in the Copy section, whose legendary Bible and ardent hatred for the Oxford comma welcomed me with open arms. For the next two years, smol bean John locked himself in Room 016 every issue, churning away at articles fueled solely by Insomnia cookies and boba. As much as I enjoyed moving "however"s and deleting commas, I fell in love with

News and the chaotic structure that came with interviewing so many incredible people and putting it all together into a story.

Just as any writing section is defined by its stories and articles, my *Argo* experience was defined by the myriad of stories and the community of people featured in them. Whether it was running around the school with Lienna way after hours on Final Fridays (way too hyper from pizza and Pepsi) or carrying 90 newspapers on my ink-stained fingers up and down an endless flight of stairs on Distribution Mondays, I loved every second of my time aboard. Through laughter and loss, the *Argo* has always been there, and I will be forever grateful for this incredible group of people bonded by our collective trauma in finishing this newspaper on the deadline, our love for boba and the chaotic energy of Production Week.

To Nadine and Julie, huge props to you

both for steering the *Argo* in one of the most turbulent years for journalism. To Emily, my Newsie head editor sidekick, thank you for putting up with me for the past two years in News. To Esther, I have never had an emoji collection that describes my emotions more accurately than your rabbit ones. To smol bean Aidan, it was an honor to see your glow-up from staff writer to EiC; I know you and Elizabeth are going to do amazing things next year. (Oh, and here's a random video of Aidan bopping: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IBhfR7wglno>.)

To my new Head Newsies, Joanna and Katie, I have never been more confident in passing down the Newsie mantle than to you two talented icons. To Kevin and Alanna, I loved seeing you grow as writers and cannot wait to see all the things you will do next year.

Peace out, *Argo*! Happy sailing!

## News Editor Emily Sun



I guess this is it. This is “farewell.” After having spent a third of my life at Boston Latin School and 5/6 of a third (yes even after Math Seminar, fractions are hard) of my life with the *Argo*, I will finally be moving on.

It’s a little weird to think that I won’t be waking up at 6:00 A.M. for class and then staying till late into the evening during production weeks. Part of me is ecstatic — I will definitely be choosing afternoon classes in college — but I also know that the experience of living in the basement computer labs for a week every few months was one many in the *Argo* shared. It is that dedication to writing and journalism that truly reveals how hardworking and amazing our little newspaper crew is, and it is also this community of people that pushed me to continue persevering through the toughest of times.

First, I would really like to thank Ms. Moon for staying late with us and keeping us fed. Late nights were always better with pizza or cookies. To

our retired Editor-in-Chiefs, Nadine and Julianna: I truly appreciate how much effort you put into making everything run smoothly despite the unfavorable circumstances. I love our news blog and hope that the *Argo* will continue to utilize it well for years to come. Thank you for always listening to the input of each section and trying your best to help us all out — you two are awesome leaders.

Finally come the goodbyes to my beloved News section. John, thank you for always making me laugh — your leadership and experience was extremely valuable in holding down the News fort. To Esther, my fellow procrastinator-in-crime, your gentle disposition and positivity were essential to not scaring away our new writers. Now, to our new EiC Aidan (but forever smol bean to me), thank you for all your diligence toward the News section. I’m super proud of all you have accomplished and I think the *Argo* has been left in very capable and trustworthy hands (the capable and trust-

worthy part mostly applies to Elizabeth). I think the first activity the new board should do is watch your dance video together <3. Finally, I would like to thank all the other sections for such a great year. I especially appreciate the Copy and Layout sections for dealing with all the late articles and edits.

Many seniors add a few pieces of wise and helpful advice to their farewells. I can neither guarantee that my advice is wise nor helpful, but in the worst-case scenario, it will be bad advice y’all can just ignore. I want us to picture going back to 2011, where everyone said “YOLO.” Yes, I am cringing too, but some of the best and bravest decisions I have ever made were when I just threw caution to the wind and decided to go for it. Whoever is reading this: this is the world giving you that sign to take a chance on your wonderful work opportunity, relationship, experience or whatever it is. GO DO IT.

XOXO,  
Emily

## Assistant News Editor Esther Shen



To my dearest *Argo*:

As my days at Boston Latin School dwindle into mere memories, it has finally begun to sink in that it’s really all over. Six years of toil, but also six of the most incredible years of my life. As sixies, we all looked forward to the last day of senior year, when we would break free from the chains of high school. Years later, however, I realize that those were not chains at all. Now I sit by the desk I’ve been stuck at all year, trying frantically to put words to my experiences yet coming up empty-handed. As I stare at the incoherent words on my screen, everything is a blur, and not just because of the tears brimming in my eyes. The sad piano music I have on really isn’t helping.

Just as a story is nothing without its supporting characters, I could not have made it this far without the people and opportunities I’ve had the pleasure to encounter. So to all those amazing people, this is my thank you.

Nadine and Julie, you two fiercely steered the helm of our ship, guiding us through the menacing waves of the pandemic. There are no captains I would rather be under during this most tumultuous year. Thank you for always keeping us grounded with your laudable leadership!

Forum, A&E, Sports, Copy, Layout, Photo — thank you for your ceaseless hard work! The newspaper would not be complete without each

of you and the splash of color you bring to the black-and-white pages.

To my fellow seniors, you have been by my side through it all, through the peaks and valleys of this roller coaster ride. As the divergence in the tracks hurtles closer, I’d like to thank you for inspiring, encouraging and having fun with me. I can’t describe how proud I am to be part of the Class of 2021!

Onto my Newsie buddies! John, you are such an icon. Thank you for all the laughs and being my partner-in-crime in trolling smol bean Aidan! Emily, beyond just your last name, you are a literal ray of sunshine. Thank you for being the kindest mistress cop we could ever ask for! Tiniest bean Aidan who is now the big top bean, it has been a pleasure to watch you grow from a sixie featured in the paper as a “Gentleman Gatekeeper” to a shining Editor-in-Chief. Thank you for patiently dealing with us three seniors and graciously taking on the work we gave you. If you were able to handle that, I have no doubts that you and Elizabeth will take the *Argo* to new heights and uphold its legacy to the fullest. Speaking of trolling, here’s that wonderful video of you bopping that John, Emily and I would love everyone to see!

Our newly-minted Newsies — Joanna, Katie, Kevin and Alanna — the torch is yours. All of you have the qualifications and boldness to succeed, and all that’s left is to believe in

yourself! I’d say “make us proud,” but I already know you will.

I also want to thank the other lovely people who have contributed to the *Argo*: writers, associates and friends who came to Room 016 for moral support. And, of course, our fearless advisor Ms. Moon, without whom none of this would be possible. Thank you for sticking with us amidst the crashing waves of the past year and showing us that even in the worst possible situations, teamwork really can make the dream work.

Thank you as well to everyone else who has helped me along the way: my inspiring teachers, compassionate guidance counselors, supportive friends and loving family. I wish I could put into words how much you all mean to me, but everything I come up with falls short.

I watch wistfully as all these years fade into dust and memories, but instead of falling unceremoniously to the ground, I know they will rise as a newborn phoenix, ready to soar and take on whatever awaits me with a fiery spirit. No matter what dark clouds hang above us, we are strong. And if there is no clear path ahead, let’s draw the map, the whole map, again.

I can already see the outline of my phoenix. Take care, *Argo*, and never forget to love yourself. Because all of you are always worthy of love.

Esther

## Forum Editor Jasmine Wong



As I’m sitting at the same desk and craning my neck towards the same screen where I’ve done all of my work this year, I cannot help but be amazed that the year, which has felt excruciatingly long, is somehow already concluding.

I want to say thank you to my fellow Forum editors for grounding such a disconnected year in hours of chuckles and heart-to-heart conversations. When we started the graduation issue, I had sweaty palms thinking about being the only editor left from the last school year. But there was nothing to worry about with this team. Jack, you are so passionate and insightful. Alice Han, you are so compassionate and intelligent. Alice Wu, your creativity and humor are in a league of their own. I’m very sorry you all missed out on the bimonthly dopamine-rush over food deliveries — less sorry about you missing out on counting carna-

tions. But I will miss all of you and the chaos that has been 2020-2021: the last-minute headline, publishing sprint and the occasional laugh at the photo captions. You have all taught me so much, and I will miss this team a lot.

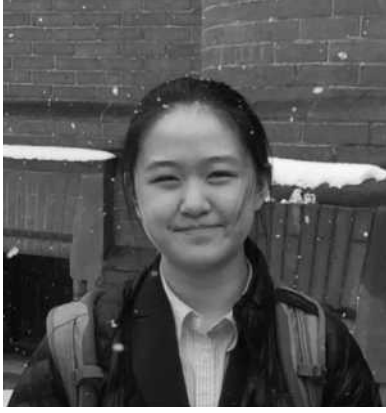
And, of course, thank you to my fellow seniors. Julie, although you have flown out of the Forum section and have been graciously heading the *Argo* boat this year, thank you for always being here for me. You respond to my criminally late texts at equally incriminating hours, and I could not have gotten through the year without your help. Nadine, our absurd Dance Club adventures and golden hour Zooms are immense fun. Alice and Cindy, I apologize for my recurring “oops, it’s a Copy problem” attitude and five-line long sentences. To Anna, NEHSJC was an absolute blast with you. And to all of the other seniors,

thank you for allowing me to be a part of this remarkable team. I wish you all the best in your future endeavors. I am sure I’ll be reading articles, perhaps in *The Boston Globe* or *The New York Times* about all of the marvelous ways in which you will change the world.

And to the new Forum editors, congratulations! You’re in for a periodically tumultuous ride, but there are no better guides than Alice and Jack. I loved reading your articles and absorbing the brilliant and impressively insightful arguments you make within them. Enjoy the company of all the amazingly talented people on the *Argo*, make the most out of the learning experience and continue to write from your hearts.

As I feel the pages thinning on the right-hand side of my BLS journey, I thank you all for leaving me with an armful of beautiful memories. Take care, *Argo* team!

## Forum Editor Alice Wu



In freshman year, like many of my peers, I decided to join the *Argo*. I enjoyed writing, and our school newspaper seemed like the perfect place to contribute my skills. Somehow, I found myself in News purely because it was the most prominent section of the publication (it occupied the front page, after all). I wrote a few articles, had half of them cut due to lack of newsworthiness — and then to cap off ninth grade, my application for a promotion to staff writer was denied.

All in all, a very successful year! After which I naturally decided to quit.

I found myself back in the computer lab two years later, nevertheless, frantically typing yet another article for the *Argo*. This time, however, I wasn't reporting on the latest club event as I did in ninth grade; rather, I was writing an opinion piece about the ongoing presidential race for Forum, the *Argo's* opinion section. My friend Julie (Head Forum Editor at the time) had mentioned that Forum was looking for writers, and I had jumped at the chance.

My interest in politics and argumen-

tation revitalized my interest in the *Argo* — I jumped at the chance to take the hard articles about politics, something I had been too timid and indecisive to do during my time at News, and at the end of the year, I eagerly applied for and was accepted as a head editor of the section.

So what am I trying to say through this anecdote? Well, a few things:

1. Throughout your high school career, do things because they truly interest you. You may feel compelled to participate in something purely because everyone else is doing it, and who knows, you may grow to enjoy it! But that shouldn't be the main reason you join a club or take a class — rather, go with where your interests lie, and I promise that you'll be happier and more fulfilled for it. I knew I liked writing, but my switch to the Forum section was what made me truly love the *Argo*.
2. Failure and rejection suck, but it's an inevitable part of life. I was

gutted after my first application was denied, but looking back on it now... it is what it is. I'm not gonna sit here and tell you something sappy about how I grew from it, but don't let failure prevent you from achieving the great things that you and I both know you're capable of.

3. Finally, join the *Argo*! Obviously, I'm a little biased, but Forum in particular is in need of writers. If you like to debate and be a little bit controversial, this is the section for you!

Before I sign off, I would like to thank my fellow Forum editors for their help throughout this unusual year. Jack and Alice — you guys have been amazing assistant editors, and I know you'll do the Forum section proud next year. Jasmine — thank you for everything, whether it be taking on *those* articles or carrying me in DECA. And last but not least, Julie — you may not be a Forum editor anymore, but thank you for your part in guiding me back to the *Argo*.

## A&E Editor Anna Wilcox



Wow. It's been five years since I joined the *Argo*, but it feels like yesterday that I was signing up to join the paper. The *Argo* is truly a special place. I'm not only going to miss the cookies and hours of bonding after school, but also the editing and stressing over a page in Layout. (To everyone not already a part of the *Argo*, please join it! It's amazing!) As I reflect on my time with the paper, I would like to offer

some words of wisdom: always believe in yourself and don't let the fear of failure stop you from trying whatever you want (some famous person probably said that too). There are so many extraordinary people and activities out there, only a fraction of which the *Argo* was able to cover; I hope to all you readers out there that you can find something truly engaging and fulfilling to be a part of while at Latin.

Lastly, thank you to Elizabeth Choi, Ellis Seul and Irene Deng for being such dependable, hardworking editors. You all made A&E an absolute joy to work for. Also, a huge shoutout to all our marvelous writers who continually impressed me with their talent and dedication to our section. I wish the best to my fellow seniors as they begin their college journey and good luck to everyone still at BLS. Go Wolfpack!

## Sports Editor Ashley Ngo



This past year has definitely not been what we expected. From virtual writers' meetings to remote production weeks, it has not been ideal. Despite this, my first year as a Sports Editor has far exceeded my expectations. When I first joined the *Argo* in tenth grade, I wasn't sure what to expect. I felt out of place among everybody else who knew what they were doing. However, with the help of my fellow Argonauts, I found my footing in the *Argo* family and was able to grow not just as a writer, but a person as well.

I'd first like to thank my fellow Sports

Editors: Ashley, Eric and Shane. I am tremendously grateful to have worked with you all this past year. I'll always cherish the things that we have learned from each other and the time we spent, even if it was through a screen. Thank you to all our writers for your enthusiasm every issue. Thank you, Ms. Moon, for always keeping things organized and making sure that everything is in check. Finally, a special shoutout to our wonderful EiCs, Nadine and Julianna. This year wouldn't have been possible without your hard work, patience and dedication.

As an alum, I have one piece of ad-

vice for the new editorial board: make sure to seize every opportunity. The *Argo* has opened so many doors for me, allowing me to interact with a diverse community of people at BLS, making new friends and forming connections along the way. I have no doubt in my mind that the *Argo* will be in good hands. As I say my last goodbye, I pass the torch onto our new Sports Editors: Shane, Lilah and Lauren. I have the utmost faith that you'll continue to make Sports the best section. Wishing you all good luck and godspeed. I know y'all will go on to do great things!

## Sports Editor Ashley Tran



I attended my first writer's workshop as a freshman completely unwillingly. The thought of sitting in a room with upperclassmen rambling about writing skills sounded dreadful.

But my older brother offered to get me coffee if I went — how could I possibly pass on an offer like that? So I sat in the back of Ms. Moon's room, on my phone, waiting for the workshop to end so I could get my Starbucks.

After that day, my brother kept making those irresistible coffee offers. So, I found myself constantly attending *Argo* meetings, which turned out to be not so bad. I was surrounded by supportive editors and dedicated athletes who were happy to help me with the writing process. Eventually, I started going to *Argo* meetings and production week with-

out any iced coffee bribery.

Fast forward to my role as an editor — I sit in shock thinking about how I got here. I had the impression that being an editor would be tedious, which it was. But no one ever told me about how fun production weeks truly were. I'll always remember getting takeout at 9 P.M., seeing someone walk in with 40 boba orders and hiding my iced coffees in Room 016.

I look back and realize how grateful I am for my time spent here. Being around some of the most motivated people in the school was so humbling, and the only thing I regret was not being able to spend my last year in person with all of you.

Huge thank you to the EiCs: Nadine and Julianna. You both are incredible leaders who managed to oversee everything even

during a hectic year. You truly have bright futures ahead and should have so much pride for the value you brought into *Argo*.

Ashley and Eric, you guys make the Sports section one of a kind. I can't thank you both enough for the number of times my heart has dropped after reading a text saying, "We have an editor's meeting tomorrow?" or "Um we don't have headlines yet." I'll miss frantically scrolling through @BLS\_Athletics on Twitter to find article ideas and reading Eric's last-minute headlines. Even with moments like these, I couldn't ask for better co-editors.

Shane, Lilah and Lauren, we pass the responsibility onto you to maintain Sports' reputation as the best section. I'm confident that you'll produce amazing work. Good luck :)

## Assistant Sports Editor Eric Yu



I'm going to graduate from BLS. I'd never thought I'd be able to say this sentence when I entered as a sixie. It has been a hectic, crazy and amazing six years at BLS. As an underclassman, I was often too afraid of trying new things — I'd promised myself to join clubs since practically everyone said, "It helps with your resume." Honestly, I never knew what that meant, nor gave any thought into it, especially when I was struggling to memorize the first declension in Latin. Two years later, in sophomore year, I took a shot at becoming part of the *Argo* family, and it has been an incredible journey since then. Starting as a contributing writer, I struggled with reaching out to upperclassmen and al-

ways had to pair up with another writer to finish the article. The *Argo* has taught me to become more confident and professional while also having fun doing it. Not only have I been able to strengthen my writing skills as a contributing writer but I have also had the pleasure of seeing other writers grow and improve as an editor. To Nadine and Julianna, thank you for taking me in as part of the editorial board. You guys showed incredible patience with me even though I would reply to your messages three weeks later. Your hard work and leadership have kept the *Argo* the best publication in the school. To Ashley Tran, thank you for being the mom of the Sports section. You would always make sure

the rest of us understood what was happening in the meetings and clarify assignments step by step. To Ashley Ngo, thank you for taking charge when Ashley wasn't there. Although we joined the editorial board together, your confidence and leadership made you look like a veteran in the editor position. To Shane, thank you for being able to adapt and learn so quickly. I have enjoyed watching you, Lilah and Lauren grow as writers and editors. You guys have a bright future ahead of you, and I am confident that you will lead Sports to greater heights and keep it the best, chilliest and most laid back section of the *Argo*.

- Eric Yu

## Copy Editor Alice Zhang



Hi, the *Argo* friends!  
Thanks for reading — it has been a very long ride (maybe a little too long). Graduation issues are always massive, especially this year, which has made every issue especially long and tedious. I appreciate every writer and writing editor that got articles in this year and every year for Copy to edit, Layout for making the issue always look amazing (to the extent of black and white print) and the Editors-in-Chief and Ms. Moon, for holding this whole thing together. I also appreciate all the readers because where would we be without you? To every teacher or peer that told me they read the *Argo* or one of my articles (Forum section shout out?), you made my day.

Here's some advice I have after six years here at Boston Latin School: if you're thinking about joining something, do it. Nobody bites, and we all want to see some fresh faces. You

don't need experience, just a willingness to learn and participate! Do things you love or that you are curious about because it's all about experimentation. Even if you don't like it, you'll definitely meet a friend or two (or an entire board if it's the *Argo*) along the way. Learn to prioritize. You come first and then everything else. I'll share some more wisdom when I get it. After all, I'm still just barely an adult.

Most importantly:

Dear Copy,

I joined in sixie year, having never read a real newspaper in my life (more of a library borrowing books kind of kid). You've helped me find my best friends and gave me the confidence to join so many other things that I was passionate about.

Copy obviously isn't a one man show.

To all of the Copy associates, thanks for always coming to meetings

and putting in your best effort. Joanna, thanks for always striving to keep everything up to date and putting in your best effort. Fiona, thanks for dealing with Cindy and my very messy leadership. I feel very safe entrusting the Copy section to you, Darren and Justine next year.

Cindy, I'm dedicating an entire paragraph to you because what would my experience be like without you? I honestly can't imagine. Staying late after school finishing up editing when articles came in way after the deadline or talking about what to do on \*the section that shall not be exposed\*'s articles are definitely highlight points (perhaps not the most enjoyable ones), but thank you for sticking through this with me after so many years.

To be honest, I only had one thing I wanted to say, but there's a character count, so I had to add everything else before this.

Thank you.

## Copy Editor Cindy Zhou



Well, well, well, the summer of 2021 has finally arrived.

It feels so long ago since I first sat down in Lab 015, puzzling over the copy rules and squinting at an article littered with green suggestions. And now I'm here, puzzling over how to fit everything I want to say and squinting as I tear up writing a farewell draft. Over the course of these six, long years, some of my fondest memories were formed at the *Argo*: chilling with food in the cafeteria after a long production day, intensely selling carnations to literally everyone, laughing over article mishaps while grinding work, etc. And this year, I find myself making new memories I never expected, like vibing to band pieces during Copy production or writing some "spicy" noodle-themed Copy tests. I'm

going to miss it all.

But of course, what would the *Argo* be without the amazing Argonauts that make it up! First of all, shoutout to my partner in correcting-copy crime, Alice Zhang. From being tiny associates to only slightly taller editors, my copy journey could never have been as wonderful without you. My fellow seniors of the *Argo* (Nadine, Julianna, Emily, John, Esther, Jasmine, Alice Wu, Ashleys, Erics, Anna, Aileen and Andre), y'all always made production week and editor meetings a blast, and I loved hanging out and working with you. Ms. Moon, thank you for all the work you do and for making this all possible! Thank you to everyone who's ever been part of the Copy Crew, whether you've eagerly joined our workshops

from day one or whether you've been temporarily pulled in from the library on a slow day (we appreciate every one of you, and y'all are why Copy is undeniably the most fun section :D). Joanna and Fiona, it's been an absolute pleasure to have you, and I can't wait to see what you do as News and Copy Heads (respectively, got to keep up that Copy clarification!). Darren and Justine, I'm so proud to have seen you progress throughout the year, and I'm confident that y'all and Fiona will continue carrying the Copy section.

The *Argo* has been an extremely meaningful part of my life, and it's almost hard to imagine that my time here has come to an end. Thank you for all of the warm memories, lasting friendships and incredible moments. See you on the flip side! <3

## Photo Editor Andre Weiss



Three years flew by, and it felt like I wasn't able to do enough. Being part of a section — that consisted of being active in the community and capturing events and people — somewhat died. But with Karen and Regina, we were able to revive what may have been a dead section. And though it was during a pandemic, I'll still miss it.

Thanks, Karen and Regina, for putting up with my messy, clown self. Being able to actually hang out with y'all and getting to know y'all was something I'll never regret. You both are amazing people who are incredibly capable of a lot. I'll definitely miss both of you and that call where y'all

put up with me for two hours while I was talking to MIT support. Y'all have watched me be a crackhead since day one. I appreciate y'all not judging me, lol.

As for the rest of y'all, even though I crashed the *Argo* pretty late in its run, I will still miss the chaotic Discord and IRL nights where we rushed to get everything in order for publications. Probably won't really miss those moments where we were clowned for various reasons, such as with the anime photo and that weird description. If you don't remember that, don't worry about it.

And for the sappy goodbyes, my

heart goes out to the general staff; I may have not gotten to know most of y'all well, but I wish I had more interactions with y'all to get to know y'all better.

But specifically, I'll "miss" Nadine /s. Thanks for taking care of me, mom. I'll be annoying you when I come to stalk you at Harvard for the next four years. No, seriously, I will. You'll need a restraining order.

Good luck to the rest of y'all for the years to come. It'll be a fun ride, trust me.

And I'm still waiting for that boba that the *Argo* owes me.

- Andre

## Layout Editor Eric Chan



Wow. There's no way we're graduating. Having read all of the farewells from alumni editors, I never thought that the day would come to me so soon. I honestly still feel like it's my freshman year when I first stepped into the infamous 016 computer lab and opened Adobe InDesign for the first time.

Through the *Argo*, I've made countless memories that will stick with me forever. From technical difficulties with the horrible school computers, eating countless slices of chicken Alfredo pizza, to organizing hundreds of carnation slips, I would die to experience some of these things again (especially the pizza and the cookies). Yes, production weeks in person were lots and lots of tiring, gruesome work in front of a screen, but it still really disappoints me that my last runs weren't together with my favorite people.

Out of all the sections, choosing Layout at the Extracurricular Fair was the best one I could ever make.

It's brought my graphic design skills from subpar to above average, but the best part was the people I met in this section.

Selina, thank you so much for carrying me and our section on your back this year. The layout section wouldn't have been able to function without your leadership and dedication. I'll finally admit it: you're better at laying out than me. Emma and Theresa, I've always admired your initiative, hard work and willingness to learn. I'm excited to see all of your ideas come to fruition in next year's issues. To all of my loving associates (there are like three of you), I respect the trial and error y'all go through learning the basics. I know that it can be frustrating at times, but I promise that you'll create a product you're proud of in the end. Never forget to use different pictures of blobfish as placeholders for photos (my favorite is still the realistic one). If you ever plan on joining the *Argo*, Layout is objective-

ly the most fun section out of all of 'em :). I'm glad that I could pass down the legacy for myself in the layout section by putting my name in one of the passwords. It truly is one of the best honors. Heck, I'll put it on my resume later.

Nadine and Julianna, thanks for leading the entire board. Y'all have put so much sweat and tears into the club, trying to make it as efficient as possible despite lousy editors like me holding you back :). To all of the other sections, thank you for putting up with my yells across the room. I think everyone's relieved to not hear "FORUM" and "PHOTO" booming across 016 ever again.

It's been real, *Argo*. Thanks for all of the special memories I made through you. You've made my years at BLS unforgettable. Best of luck to Aidan and Elizabeth heading into the next year! Signing out.

Eric

# Spring Arts Showcase Goes Forward



Beginning Band plays Beethoven's Theme from Symphony No. 9.

By Catherine Cox (V)

Staff Writer

There is no doubt that the pandemic has changed the way we live our lives, putting many events on hold and forcing us to take new approaches — from online learning to interacting with relatives and friends on Zoom. The challenges of COVID-19, however, are no match for the creativity of the staff and students of the Boston Latin School Arts department. On April 30 and May 14, BLS students and faculty took the Spring Arts Showcase to a virtual space, entertaining audience members with two nights of performances and art displays.

During a year of virtual learning, art faculty and members of the BLS performing arts groups have the added challenge of switching to an online recording format to make the virtual showcase possible. This new format has allowed students to combine their individual recordings into a performance of their piece.

While the experience was different from previous years, Mark Snekvik (V) remarks, "There wasn't the excitement or gratification of performing in person, [but] it was definitely exciting to see my band and choir perform together, all on one screen." He elaborates that, "we've been working largely on our own, recording without hear-

ing pieces together, and this was the first opportunity we had to hear all of us together."

Learning to use tools such as Soundtrap, a digital audio workstation, and Flipgrid, a video recording website, brought students' performances together in a virtual space to create new opportunities and challenges.

Cortney Lenz (V), a member of the Class V Chorus, saw some positives in the virtual format. Lenz states, "The one thing that I liked was being able to record [the song] over and over until you got the one you liked [...] The other [positive] was that if you did mess up, but could not go back and fix it, the people who put together the videos could mute or turn down your mic for that part."

Natalia Troy (IV), a member of Concert Band Purple, also shared her views on performing in the virtual showcase and acknowledged both positive and negative aspects of the virtual format.

"It was not as stressful [to perform in the virtual format], but I sort of feel like it seemed as though it did not matter as much. A lot of people were not as worried about it and some people might not have tried as hard," says Troy.

Although audience members only saw the students in the showcase, there was plenty occurring behind the scenes as well. The two-part showcase would not have been possible without the hard work of dedicated faculty. Many teachers spent long periods of time making sure each video synchronized with the music. In the end, all art pieces were shown and every student had an opportuni-

ty to shine.

Mr. Dennison Blackett, a teacher in the Music Department, helped produce the showcase, putting in long hours behind the scenes to ensure a smooth and enjoyable experience for viewers. He praised the hard work of his colleagues, stating, "It was a pleasure to view everyone else's music choices and [witness] all the talent that we are surrounded by. I'm so proud to be part of such a dedicated music staff!"

The virtual format of the Spring Arts Showcase created a way for BLS students to share their work in the Visual Arts as well. AP Art and Class VI visual arts students displayed their work during the showcase to celebrate their creativity and dedication over the school year.

Mr. Joseph Carrigg, a seventh-grade visual arts teacher, highlighted his students' art in the showcase and appreciated the collaboration that brought the visual and performing arts together. "I gathered about 50 images of sixie artwork [...] Then a parent volunteer put them into the showcase. It was great to have the Jazz band play music as these artworks were shown. The Music and Theater Department rocked in putting together all the mixes of music and performances," states Mr. Carrigg.

Even though the pandemic has put many events on hold, students and faculty from BLS's visual and performing arts department showcased their creativity and resilience, bringing together the BLS community and demonstrating that despite a pandemic, the show must always go on.

# BLS Zine: A Forum Where Fashion Meets Writing

By Caitlin Donovan (III)

Contributing Writer

Boston Latin School Zine, a fashion journalism club founded by Tia Hashem (II) and Josie Bailey (II), is one of many clubs that emerged during the pandemic this school year. Both juniors decided to start the club back in fall 2020, hoping to offer an interesting and fun experience that they and their writers would enjoy.

Bailey says, "We put together our interests and realized that fashion was what we were most collectively passionate about." Many clubs come and go as the original founders leave, so Hashem describes BLS Zine's ultimate goal as "to unite people in our school who were passionate about fashion and writing [...] to create a community of people that can use writing

about fashion as a fun and relaxing outlet." Given the impact of the pandemic on many students' mental health, writing about lighter subjects that spark a legitimate interest is undoubtedly cathartic.

Clubs at BLS, however, are often too niche, and finding new topics to talk about can be difficult. For BLS Zine, the biggest obstacle is brainstorming article ideas. Luckily, fashion trends are constantly changing, especially with the popularity of social media apps such as Instagram and Tiktok — creating endless opportunities for content.

Another challenge that the club faces is attracting members even though other pre-existing clubs, such as the *Argo* and BLS Fashion Talent Club, have similar aspects. When asked about how BLS Zine differs from such clubs, Bailey says, "We also like to think that our incredibly talent-

ed group of writers focus on nuanced and diverse topics that people have not thought of before reading our magazine." With the vast fashion industry and its complicated history which spans centuries, there is no doubt that content will be abundant.

Even though the website features more lighthearted compositions, such as *Fall 2020 Color Palette* and *The Evolution of Harry Styles' Style*, the magazine also dives into more serious topics such as the devastating environmental impacts of fashion.

Phoebe Clark (III), a serial writer for BLS Zine, says, "Fast fashion is the largest problem, and a capitalistic sense of consumerism and need for more clothes feeds into that." Clark wrote *Sustainable Fashion*, an article which, in addition to acknowledging the problem with fast fash-

ion, also provided alternatives to shopping on websites that depend on sweatshops. Thrifting, a form of shopping that Clark highlights in her article, is a cheap and environmentally friendly way to buy new clothes. It also allows consumers to try new styles without contributing to unnecessary waste.

Whether you are a fashion fanatic or someone who goes shopping once a year, BLS Zine is crafting barrier-breaking articles that will interest anyone. Ms. Jessica Blackler, the faculty advisor for the club, says, "I see [BLS Zine] as a safe, beautiful forum for sensitive, creative and open-minded people at BLS." Given all of their impressive accomplishments despite having yet to meet in person, readers can look forward to even greater content as BLS slowly returns to normal.

# Olivia Rodrigo's *SOUR* Meets Sweet Success

By Hannah Oh (III)

Contributing Writer

Child actress and now singer-songwriter Olivia Rodrigo is dominating the charts with her debut album, *SOUR*. First known for acting and singing in Disney productions such as *High School Musical: The Musical: The Series* and *Bizaardvark*, she is taking her music to the next level with her new album.

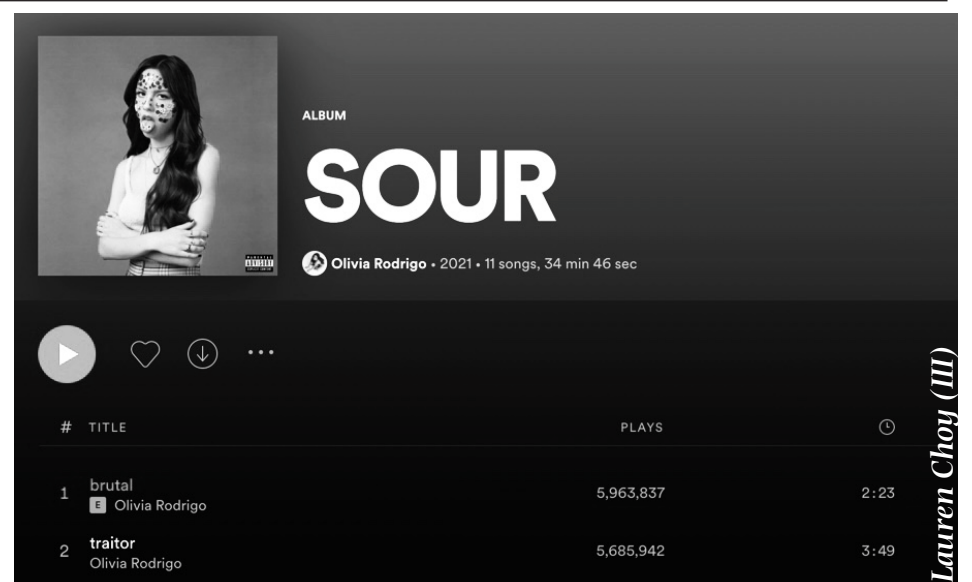
*SOUR* was co-written by Rodrigo and producer Daniel Nigro. The album release was preceded by three singles: "Drivers License," "Deja Vu" and "Good 4 U." Two of these singles, "Drivers License" and "Good 4 U," debuted as the number one spot in the Billboard Hot 100, making *SOUR* the first debut album to have two singles at the top of the charts. *SOUR* itself debuted at number one on the Billboard 200 albums chart and was the most anticipated album on Apple Music.

Although influenced by many different genres, *SOUR* draws mostly from pop and bedroom pop. Rodrigo states in an interview with *NYLON* that she wanted *SOUR* to be "super versatile" and "an intersection be-

tween mainstream pop, folk music and alternative rock."

A fan of the resulting production, Boston Latin School student Michaelena Capogreco (III) remarking how "Good 4 U" was her favorite song, says, "The drums are amazing in this song. I'm a sucker for songs that showcase percussion, what can I say?" Angela Guan (III) also appreciates the genre influences, stating, "'Brutal' and 'Good 4 U' both have that 2000s rock style that I really like."

In addition to being a chart topper, *SOUR* also received widespread critical acclaim — it has a rating of 83 out of 100 on Metacritic, a website that accumulates reviews for popular forms of entertainment. While the album also received some criticism for being too concentrated on heartache, Capogreco remarks that this thematic focus only positively impacted her opinion of the album: "*SOUR* is special for me because I find it relatable despite the fact that I have never been in a relationship before." She furthers, "I think that many teenagers, myself included, have those days where they feel insecure



Olivia Rodrigo released her debut album, *SOUR*, on March 21.

about themselves, and that's one of the main topics discussed in Rodrigo's songs. [...] It's nice to be able to relate to the album on a personal level."

Rodrigo's beginning experimentations in the music industry are certainly ground-

breaking, and many are excited to see what the future holds for her. Guan says, "I'm excited to see her experiment more stylistically and with her voice, and her future music after she's moved on from the love story that she's conveying."

Lauren Choy (III)

# Behind the Production of BLS Theatre's *Urinetown*

By **Penelope Meisel (IV)**

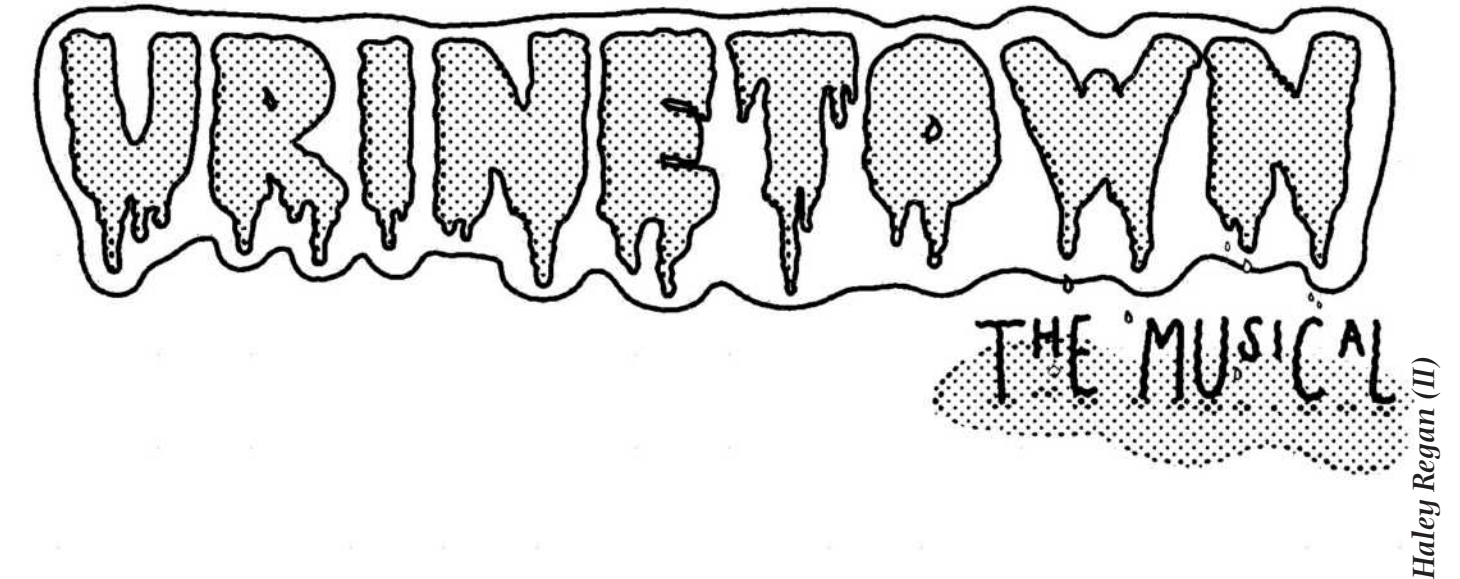
Contributing Writer

Boston Latin School Theatre displayed its commitment and hard work on Zoom with its recent musical, *Urinetown*, which streamed on June 3, 4 and 5. *Urinetown* is a satirical comedy following a town with a severe water shortage that has banned the use of private toilets to limit water usage. Because the musical relies heavily on scenery and sets to convey its plot, transitioning to the virtual platform has been especially difficult. All year, the theatre department has worked hard to bring the magic of theater online using virtual sets and Zoom tactics to capture each scene.

The Head of the Theatre Department, Mr. Joseph Gels, expresses his frustration with Zoom, saying, "The easiest way to do Zoom theatre is just turn on your Zoom camera, turn off your Zoom camera, using virtual backgrounds. But, frankly, people got tired of that really quickly and we got tired of it very quickly here. It doesn't look as good; it doesn't feel like theatre as much."

In an attempt to engage both audiences and those working on the production, BLS Theatre began working with the software Open Broadcast Studio (OBS). OBS is an open-sourced green screen program, meaning contributors from all over the internet developed it and is now available for public use. Although traditionally used by streamers to game on Twitch, many people have adapted the program to use in virtual theatre.

The program works by broadcast-



*Urinetown's* cover artwork is done by Haley Regan (II).

ing the set as a live greenscreen background for actors. Mr. Gels records these sets in the Black Box live and projects them onto the background while actors stream from home. The method creates the illusion that actors are in the Black Box as they would be in a normal year. This is unlike past productions from this year, where backgrounds and sets were virtual and projected through Zoom.

Another key component of the musical's set includes lighting. Mr. Gels says, "We're recording the set live. Part of the reason why is because we're also doing lighting, so the lighting will

change as the show goes. Even though the light technically doesn't hit the actors, you'll be able to see it on the set."

In addition to *Urinetown* being the first partially in-person production this year, it is also the first musical. This brings an entirely new set of challenges such as music and choreography. Lead actor and choreographer, Katie Emery (I), says, "Choreography has been a little more challenging over Zoom and OBS. Because we need to be in the set space of the green screen, movement needs to be more limited so that we don't go out of screen. As choreographer I needed to adjust some

of my choreo just because it wouldn't really translate online."

Despite these challenges, morale remains high amongst the actors. Emery says, "Everyone has been great about adjusting and working on going full out every time regardless of space limitations! So much work has gone into this production, and it's going to be so incredible to see it all put together."

While this will hopefully be the last online production, *Urinetown* represents the development of Zoom theatre at BLS and mirrors the hard work of the cast and crew.

## A Night To Remember: TWLOHA's First Open Mic Night

**TWLOHA**  
open mic night

Friday, May 21st at 5pm

Perform or enjoy

- Poetry
- Visual Art
- Music
- Photography

Topic:  
Mental Health Awareness  
(open to everything!)

Earn 2  
Community  
Service Hours!

Be entered in a raffle  
for \$20 Visa giftcard

Fill out the google form in bio for the  
zoom link & to submit art!

Karen Dong (III)

Performers raise awareness for mental health.

By **Rachel Roncka (II)**

Staff Writer

It's May, and everyone is feeling burnt out. The pressure of AP exams, summer job searches and the Term 4 workload has taken a toll on students' mental health that not even the brightening weather can relieve. It can be difficult to find space or time to release all this pent-up stress and emotion, and the remote learning model has left the school community feeling divided.

Recognizing these challenges, Boston Latin School's To Write Love on Her Arms (TWLOHA) club sought to unite students and elevate the conversation surrounding mental health through its first open-mic night.

Held on May 21 over Zoom, this event allowed students of all grade levels to come together for a night of reflection through art. The audience was sizable, yet small enough to maintain the intimacy of the event, which featured several live performances.

Throughout the event, the club held a fundraiser to raise money for the larger TWLOHA organization, which aims to provide aid and support for those struggling with mental illness. The night began with a slideshow and introductory message from TWLOHA officers. They emphasized the importance of self-care, especially during May, which was Mental Health Awareness Month, and established a safe, positive environment before moving onto the focus of the night: the art.

The event featured pieces from various media, which the officers collected and assembled into the slideshow prior to the event. The mood rose and fell with each performance, from an energizing cover of Olivia Rodrigo's "Good 4 U" to more sobering poetry readings and thought-provoking art pieces. These works explored mental health related themes including gender, self discovery, emotional pain and death. After each performance, audience members flooded the Zoom chat with messages of appreciation for the artists' shared vulnerability and talent.

Natalie Salter (II), who was among those impressed by the showcase, says, "It was a nice space to discuss mental health and be very open and honest [...] and appreciate the fine art that people presented."

Each work of art left an impact on the attendees, but some of the most memorable performances were the live poetry readings. Poems ranged in length but were all equal in emotional depth and honesty. Some were delivered by the poets themselves, while TWLOHA officers read others whose writers wished to remain anonymous. Through their use of unconventional

word structure and lyrical language, student poets were able to channel their own experiences into moving pieces that the audience could connect with.

For performer Isabelle Goodrich (I), poetry has always been a vital medium for self-expression and community engagement. She unmuted (the Zoom equivalent of taking the mic) to share two original poems titled "I Get in the Car With My Father to Talk About Dead People" and "Lieutenant Island, Wellfleet."

When asked about her approach to writing poetry, Goodrich says, "When I write poems I'm really not thinking about a message that I'm sending; I'm thinking about expressing a specific feeling or emotion or experience that I haven't processed yet." For Goodrich and other poets, this makes writing poetry a very personal and rewarding experience. She continues, "To me, poetry is this really cathartic thing. I don't go into it thinking, 'Oh, what are other people going to think of this?' I think about, 'What do I need to say right now or what do I need to express?'"

TWLOHA President Emmanuelle Bogomolni (II) utilizes poetry in a similar way. In addition to hosting the event, she performed an original poem titled "Winter," which draws from her own experiences with mental health. She hopes that events like the open-mic night will encourage students to explore art as a creative outlet and take advantage of TWLOHA's welcoming space. "Art is a really great way to express yourself and channel your emotions," she says, "There's always a community at BLS if you ever just want to talk, or you just want to laugh."



# CONGRATULATIONS!

Today is your day.

You're off to Great Places!

You're off and away!

Kid, you will move mountains!

Jake Leonardo, you are #1 on the fields and #1 in our hearts!

We are so proud of you!

Love Your Biggest Fans,

Mom and Dad





From that bubbly little girl, you've grown into a beautiful, smart and strong lady right before our eyes. You've persevered and worked hard to reach this milestone and we are all beyond proud of this stellar achievement. There is no limit on how far you can go. In this next chapter, always keep with you the humility, kindness and faith that have made you always the best in everything that you do. Keep shining and keep flying high our dearest Quinn Gabrielle! You bet we will all be there every step of the way!!! ~ With much pride and love...

Mommy, Daddy, Justine, Janica, Jaeson, Mama, and all our family and friends in the Philippines and Canada



*Congratulations to Olivia Lee! We are so proud of you!*

*Love,  
Mom and Dad*



**Congratulations,  
Sam Cash! We are so proud of you and know you are ready for your next adventure! All our love, Mom, Dad, Paxton, and Lilly**



**AMBER - CONGRATULATIONS**

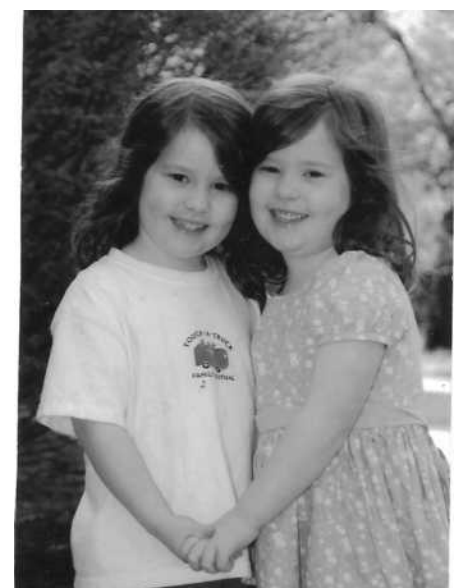
WITH LOVE AND PRIDE TODAY AND ALWAYS,  
NANA



**Lea & Naomi**

We are so proud of you two!

Love,  
Mom & Dad



# Netflix's *This is a Robbery* Steals the Show



Liza Voll

Displayed is the courtyard of the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum.

By **Mary Bosch (III)**

Staff Writer

Have you ever seen the empty frames that hang on the walls of the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum in Boston? If the answer is yes, you may know that they are a result of the massive art heist that took place on the morning of March 18, 1990. Isabella Stewart Gardner herself once wrote in her will that her art collection in the museum would not be changed over her dead body. 31 years later, however, the 13 stolen paintings from her collection remain missing with a 10 million dollar reward on the line, and Isabella's will for the permanence of her procured artwork in Boston stays unfulfilled.

The Netflix series, *This is a Rob-*

*bery: The World's Greatest Art Heist*, began streaming in April and explores this robbery in a four-episode mini-series that was filmed and produced over the course of seven years. The series, directed by Colin Barnacle, is a combination of current interviews, footage from that time and scenes acted out by faceless actors. The show covers a broad spectrum of information, ranging from art history and identification of artistry styles to a comprehensive description of the inner workings behind organized crime in the Boston area.

While this wide range of topics serves to make the series diverse and exciting, it also clouds its direction. The series' vision could be improved if each episode more clearly explored one aspect of the crime, rather than a dis-

jointed collection of information and interviews. Boston Latin School student Elliot Strand (VI) agrees with this sentiment, stating, "[Although I] liked the show, it was way too drawn out."

A more appreciated aspect of the show was the combination of audio and video from when the event occurred and scenes that were filmed for the documentary in which actors' faces were not kept visible. The show is largely framed around blame and innocence, as it builds a suspenseful case for a certain person's responsibility, and then tears down its own argument.

This happens specifically in the second episode, "Vipers in the Grass," in which they place blame upon the guard, Richard Abath, who unreasonably buzzed the robbers into the building.

They claim that he could've had a connection with the robbers, who were dressed as police officers. But the moment that they want you to truly believe he had some involvement, a shot pans up on the actor impersonating him smirking. His eyes, however, are still covered in duct tape, being held hostage. This moment was well-produced; it humanizes him by showing some of his impersonator's face, while also demonizing him with a sly smirk, even though at that moment they claim him to be innocent.

This series bears a strong connection to the BLS community, not only because of the museum's proximity to the school but also because two eyewitnesses of the incident, featured in the series, are BLS alumni. Justin Stratman '90 and Nancy Clougherty ('90) were interviewed about their eyewitness accounts. The two were walking on Palace Road and saw two people, seemingly police officers, in a parked car outside of the Museum. It seemed completely inconspicuous. Clougherty even states that she "probably wouldn't have remembered [that] night, if it hadn't been for what happened later." The heist happened later, and those two "police officers" were the thieves.

Overall, although the series is drawn out and disjointed at times, it gives plenty of interesting context for a complex and unsolved case. Many timeless pieces of art were stolen, and a parallel can be drawn between this robbery and one of the stolen pieces: Rembrandt's 1633 *A Lady and Gentleman in Black*. As the title states, it depicts a lady and her husband in black. Through X-rays, art historians found that there was once a child painted between them. It was painted over, most likely because the child died and it was too painful for the family. The loss of these 13 paintings is treated like a death in the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum family, as these frames hang empty of stolen artifacts, constantly reminding us of what remains missing.

## Artist Spotlight: Faye Papadopoulos (I)

By **Yongyu Qiu (III)**

Contributing Writer

Have you ever seen Faye Papadopoulos (I) perform on stage at the Black Box or walked past them during theatre rehearsals? Throughout their years at Boston Latin School, Papadopoulos has committed themselves to the arts through active membership in BLS Theatre.

Papadopoulos started performing in musicals and plays from elementary school and continued to pursue the arts at BLS. They directed and co-wrote *Friendship Island*, one of the BLS One-Act plays last year. They have also acted in some BLS Theatre productions. Papadopoulos recalls their favorite memory while they were in theater: they were cast as an extra in a superhero play, but "the person playing Batman dropped out of the play, and so then I got to play Batman."

Like Papadopoulos, Mr. Joseph Gels, BLS Director of Performing Arts, says that this memory of Papadopoulos stuck with him: "They were in a superhero play and there's something about the way they just popped up behind the box and plops their arms down on it. [It] made me laugh so much." Mr. Gels recalls the first time he met Papadopoulos — they were a charismatic and high-energy little seventh-grader, but now they have grown much more mature over the years.

From sixie to sophomore year, Papadopoulos also attended a summer camp, Creative Arts at Park, where they participated in musicals and plays to improve their acting skills. Theatre has taken great significance in Papadopoulos's high school experience,



Hana Munoz

and they say it was what kept them here when they thought about dropping out. Being able to find a community and connection, along with their love for theatre and performing has helped them get through difficult times at BLS.

There were still moments when Papadopoulos thought about giving up on theatre. Theatre is a big commitment and on top of that, the pressure of mental health sometimes weighs on them heavily. Most

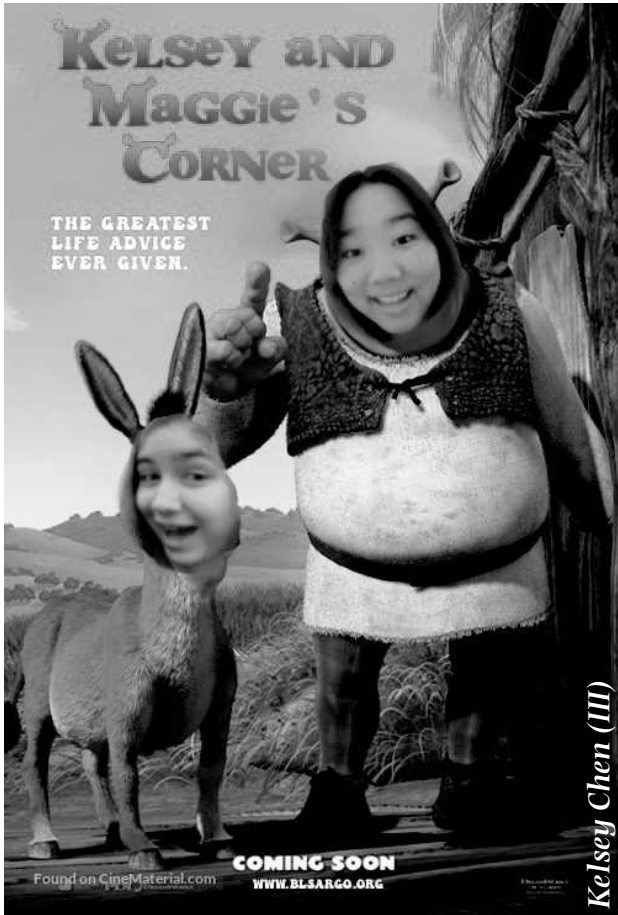
of the time, however, Papadopoulos was able to stick to their dreams and goals, which was very beneficial to them. Papadopoulos feels extremely thankful and lucky for their passion for performing. From their experience in theatre, they learned that they were capable of balancing more than they had originally thought and that they can work hard and still enjoy the process.

Papadopoulos advises students who feel unsure about future plans to do what makes them truly happy because they see no point in doing something unenjoyable. They suggest exploring different options, and their motto over the years has become: "Seek what sets your soul on fire."

They say, "Whatever you find that you love," they continue, "keep doing it and don't worry about whether you're good at it. [...] It is such a horrible way to live if you don't do the things you love or stop doing it because you need to follow a certain life path. I think everyone's life path is different and comparing yourself to others will make you very sad and depressed."

After graduating, Papadopoulos plans to continue their pursuit in the arts by majoring in graphic design at the Florence Institute of Design International in Italy. Papadopoulos had some prior experience with graphic design when they were younger, but taking graphic arts in eleventh grade was what specifically sparked their interest. In addition, Papadopoulos enjoys traveling, and being able to find a school abroad enabled them to combine both their traveling and creative interests. There's no doubt that Papadopoulos will continue to shine, and we hope that they continue to do what they love and enjoy the process.

## Kelsey and Maggie's Corner



### How to get better (grades) in subjects like ela and humanities or anything related to those subjects. - Anonymous

Howdy Anon,

ELA and Humanities aren't easy, but with our tips, you'll be crushing it. A lot of how work is graded depends on the teacher, and there's a wide range.

Also, "better" is based on where your bar currently is — better from the ground? Better from the chair? A couch? The list goes on and on. Assuming you mean better from subpar to amazeballs, we've got some work.

Ask yourself, "Am I reaching my full potential?" To be honest, we're pretty sure this question is generic. If the answer is no, then we have a starting point.

Grades are all about perspective too. For example, we change our perspective to see that "C's get degrees." Once you hit junior year you'll probably change your view too. But, we think you can get the grade you're searching for.

Staples sells some really luxurious white-out... BAM! That F? Draw a line, and it's an A!! See, perspective. Of course, this doesn't work in SIS, obviously. So some more sustainable strategies might be needed. "Sparknotes," can't recommend enough — for reviewing material (definitely not learning it). "Shmoop" for a more detailed review, and if you're feeling adventurous, even the actual material helps.

We know writing is hard, but Grammarly can help. Your writing is grammatically correct, but it's wordy and hard to read. If Grammarly doesn't work out, peer editing is always a great option.

All else fails? Fake it until you make it; we know we've been doing that.

### How do you communicate with a hamster that's currently going through its teenage phase? - Hampter

Bonjour Hampter,

We hope you had luck giving your hamster a happy healthy life! We see that they're going through some difficult changes, but it's probably nothing you can't handle. Hamsters, as we're sure you know, can be closed off creatures; sometimes they're a handful, literally.

Firstly, let them express themselves: it's their body. If they wanna dye their fur green and look like barf, let them. It may be rather stinky in the cage too if they go through that weird neon athletic clothes and Axe body spray phase. Sooner or later, they'll move on to nothingness, closed doors, nights with no sleep, bloodshot eyes, meh moods — who knows, maybe your hamster is actually a vampire?

Second, they might talk to you, maybe. If they do listen without judgment, remember, the next thing your hamster would want is someone with the Grinch-like expressions being their therapist.

Thirdly, don't be afraid to set limits for your hamster, but be sure to let them express themselves or they may feel the urge to escape. And don't forget it's not "just a phase" to *them*, but hopefully, it will be for your sake. Also, thank you for entrusting us with such an important life; we look forward to meeting your hamster one day, or even just learning their name.

**Hi! I'm in the middle of an emotional crisis right now. I have my first gay crush ever and I don't know what to do. Any other time I tell someone I like them, it never goes well and I end up losing a friend. I've known this person for about 3 years and I'd like to keep talking to them. Do I tell them how I feel or do I just keep it to myself?**

- Closeted Queer

Hey there CQ,

Falling for a friend can be a tricky situation, and we're sorry to hear that you are in a state of distress, but never fear! You have a variety of options to look at here, with the two most obvious being telling this person, or keeping your crush a secret.

While honesty is almost always the best policy, you may want to test the waters a little bit. Things could get awkward quickly, so we recommend finding out a few things first.

First of all, find out if they are straight. If the answer to that is yes, then you might be out of luck. There's not much (well, there's not anything) you can do if that's the case, so it's best to try to let it go. If the answer is no, then you may have a shot!

Now it's time to keep an eye out for some hints that they could be into you, and make sure to drop some yourself. If the vibe isn't there, then it might be time to cue some sad Taylor Swift music and take a step back for a bit. But if things seem to be moving in the right direction, then it's time to move onto step three.

If all goes according to plan, then it's a great time to tell them how you feel, if you're prepared for whatever comes after. If you're a close friend of this person, then likely all will be okay no matter the outcome, really! If you're still hesitant to tell them, there is no rush, but if you're ready and comfortable, then go for it!). Wishing you the best of luck!

**Hi, I'm an 8th grader who will be a freshman this September. I'm pretty nervous about making new friends, a greater workload, and everything else that comes with high school, especially because I'll have to adjust to in-person learning next year as well. Do you have any advice for how I can succeed with my schoolwork and maintain a social life as a freshman? Any things NOT to do? Anything I should get a head start on? Also all my friends have already started dating and developing really big friend groups while I haven't, which is pretty daunting which I could use some help with too. Thank you so much! -8th grader**

Hi 8th Grader,

We remember our own freshman year, and we won't be the first people to tell you that times can get tough. It's the first time in a while you've seen the light of day beyond the school basement, and the fresh air tends to get to your head.

While you won't have to deal with this altitude shift, you will have to cope with going back to in-person learning, which has its own set of challenges. How will we manage the treacherous climb to the third floor every morning? How will we make it across the school in under four minutes?

We suggest a small(ish) sturdy backpack. You may still be in possession of a sixie backpack, which is a risky move. A smaller backpack will not only aid you in your daily stair climb, but it will also help your breath control, allowing you to socialize more with people as you walk the BLS halls once again.

In terms of workload, create a schedule and use that agenda book! The workload should not be a dramatic shift, so if you have the hang of it now, you're in good shape. If you're not doing so hot right now, it's never too late. End this year off strong and go into next year ready to crush it.

The social life aspect of ninth grade is more challenging. This will be your first year out of clusters, which is a great chance to meet others, but can also be overwhelming.

If you want to make new friends, we advise joining a club or sport you're interested in. Ninth grade is a great time to try new things, and extracurriculars give a sense of community. We promise, you have all of high school to develop friendships, and it really does get easier with time.

As for what you should get a head start on, those volunteer hours aren't going anywhere. And as we said before, it's also a good idea to commit to activities you're interested in. It can be a fantastic time to get involved with the school. You'll do great next year, and we hope the end of 8th grade is excellent. :)

**How to get to know people that you don't know really well, such as your crush, a person from a different cluster, and you teachers :) - Anonymous**

Hey A,

School actually makes it really easy to get to know people well; you're around the same people all day! As you've probably seen in the last few issues, there're tons of other people looking for friends.

We've heard from a previous client that the bread-baking method we mentioned two issues ago is an *excellent* bonding exercise, so maybe start there? Clubs and sports will allow you to meet people in other clusters and grades and also give you some common ground. Some clubs we recommend are the Lettuce Club, the 3D Toad Club, and also the *Argo* (especially the A&E section).

Teachers can get to know you pretty well through assignments and quick chats before class, but you can also make the effort to talk outside of class, such as office hours.

You also meet some very interesting people wandering around the hallways (if you're in person). The floor that someone is walking around can tell you a lot about their personality. Basement? Probably chill, just having a good time. Third floor? You know that they're stressed about something, with that floor being the math and science floor.

At the end of the day, it's all about personality, so don't be afraid to just walk up to someone and talk to them!

### How can I start talking to my crush and become friends with them? - Anonymous

Cheerio Anon,

At the risk of friend-zoning yourself, here is an easy and quick way to start talking to your crush.

1. Walk up to them.
2. Repeat the words "Hi, I'm so tired" to start the conversation, foolproof.
3. Repeat the words "You're cool, we're friends now."
4. (Optional, but recommended) Have them send homework help because you're SO tired

Please note that you may replace "Hi, I'm so tired" with "Hi, I'm so cold" for equally successful results. You might even get their sweatshirt out of it. :)

**I'm a rising junior and would like some advice on a relationship. In 6th grade, I met a boy. We dated 2x, but he was open and got physical quickly while I was shy and reserved, so both relationships ended in him dumping me. We're currently texting and I have feelings for him, but he doesn't. I think we have good convos over text, but he has told me times are tough twice and ignored me. I discovered he sometimes drinks and does drugs, and I want to help him but idk how. He hasn't been responsive and I try to let it slide, but I'm still upset. I've had feelings for him for 5+ years now and I've tried to suppress them, but I still feel attached and would like to get closer to him. - Anonymous**

Hi Anon,

We would like to say that this is one of the few questions that we're not qualified to answer, so we suggest seeking advice from a professional or trusted adult. But, thanks for trusting us with your question; it means a lot.

We'll cut to the chase, there are A LOT of red flags here. Please, PLEASE make sure you are 110 percent OK with what you're doing; don't let someone pressure you into doing something you're not.

We understand you still have feelings for him, and they're valid, but you have to let go. Although you've had good conversations with him over text, texting is not the same as an actual conversation. Besides, he doesn't seem to value your relationship like you do, which you don't deserve.

He seems to be going through something too, but remember that you're still in high school and the burden shouldn't fall on you. There're ways to help him without hurting yourself in the process. We recommend mentioning your concerns about him to a trusted adult.

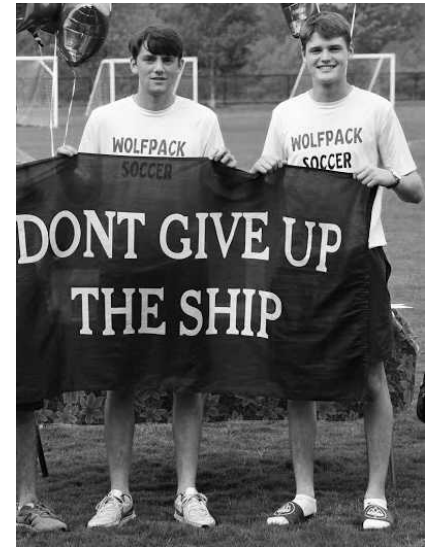
Getting over people can take time and isn't easy, but keep your friends close and don't be afraid to move on; there are plenty of people out there who will value you and your feelings. You're still young. You have a whole life ahead of you, so don't let one thing cloud your teenage years.

To sum things up, don't wait around for someone who isn't doing the same for you, please prioritize your comfort and safety. We wish you the best in getting over him and reach out for help if you need it.

# To the Dynamic Duo –



*you have been friends since 2002 and have been side by side every year since. We are so proud of the men you have become and have loved every minute being on this journey with you. It's been quite a ride!! Best of luck on this next chapter of your lives! We love you!!!*



**From, The Strachan and Sullivan Families**

**Congratulations, Maria!**

You've accomplished so much, ready to do so much more!

You are an inspiration and a role model to more people than you can imagine!

You'll do great wherever you go.

And, by all means, HAVE FUN and enjoy the journey!

2021

Love,  
Mom, Dad and Andrew



You should be so, so proud of all your accomplishments... You've worked extremely hard over the years... The future is yours to make and take...

The world is a better place having you in it...

Best of luck at Regis and beyond...

We love you so very much...

- Gi Gi and Declan

## Congratulations Isla!!



*So proud of you and so much Love!  
xxx Mom and Dad and Theo*



**YOUR GRADUATION IS NOT  
THE END, IT'S ONLY THE  
BEGINNING !**

**-Mom, Dad, Solomon, Zachary, and Charlotte**



# A Look at Some Committed Seniors Around the School



The graduating class displays their commits.

**By Mackenzie Flynn (II)**

*Contributing Writer*

As the seniors finish their last few days as Boston Latin School student-athletes, some have decided to carry on their athletic abilities into college. Lucy Abdow (I), Kerby Gillis (I) and Ludo Rollo (I) shared some

insight on their commitment to their respective colleges.

Abdow has been running for BLS since eighth grade. Heading into her junior year, she decided she wanted to continue her running career in college. Abdow committed to the Northeastern University (NEU) Track & Field and Cross Country Team.

She explains, "The recruiting process was a little difficult with the pandemic. I wasn't able to visit the coaches or the athletes in person and the entire process had to be conducted in a virtual setting. The coaches were really understanding, however, which made the process easier, and I was still able to learn a lot about their programs."

Abdow was welcomed by the coach of NEU and is excited to be a part of such a close and dynamic team. One of the most memorable moments from her BLS running career was when they raced in New York City. During the trip, Abdow says, "We all had a lot of laughs and became really close as a team." She further adds, "Another favorite was when we won the New Balance Emerging Elite 4x800 relay. I remember us cheering when we saw our name in first place on the jumbotron."

Rollo committed to Harvard University for soccer and has been playing competitive soccer since the age of ten. His love for the sport made his decision to play in college extremely easy and is very ready for his next chapter at Harvard University. He says, "I look forward

to pursuing my passions of entrepreneurship, business and soccer over the next four years at Harvard. It'll be an incredible experience and I can't wait to get started."

Rollo acknowledges that he had a different experience with the commitment process, saying, "My commitment process was certainly unique. After an interesting start to my recruiting process, I decided to aim towards my true number one college choice, which was Harvard, and so I reached out to the coaches who had seen me play before."

Rollo adds that it was not just his athletic talent that enabled him to commit to Harvard. "Fortunately, I was able to get into Harvard through my academics, and then I was recruited into the team thanks to my previous exposure to the Harvard coaches."

Gillis, this year's girls' varsity basketball captain, is headed to Hobart and William Smith College to continue her basketball career. She has been playing basketball from a young age and is very thankful for her years at BLS.

Gillis elaborates, "Easily a favorite memory is winning the banner. But I think the good memories are the little things." She goes on to say, "I think BLS was such a contributor to making such beautiful little moments happen in my life. Every moment was the best." Gillis is excited to move onto this new chapter in her life and is ready for the great new memories she will make as she continues her basketball career.

## MLB Pitcher Packy Naughton's Lasting Legacy at BLS

**By Madelyn Taylor (III)**

*Contributing Writer*

Although Boston Latin School is known primarily for its academic excellence, many students and alumni boast impressive athletic achievements. Packy Naughton '14 is one notable example.

Naughton started playing baseball when he was just four years old, following in the footsteps of his older brother, Jake Naughton '12. The brothers grew up playing Parkway Little League Baseball in West Roxbury as a pitcher-catcher duo and continued to play together at BLS.

Naughton tried out for the Junior Varsity baseball team during his seventh-grade year, but was cut by Coach Rene Gauthier. "We still laugh about it today," Gauthier says. After making JV in eighth grade, he was pulled up to the varsity team partway through the season and remained on varsity for the following four years.

It was not until the end of eighth grade and the beginning of ninth that Naughton figured out he wanted to focus on a future in baseball. Gauthier explains that a game during Naughton's freshman year when he struck out 17 players "really put him on the map, so to speak, not that he wasn't already on people's radars [...] I watched him and I was like, 'Oh my god this kid's gonna be a star.' That was definitely one of the coolest things I've ever been a part of as a coach."

Despite Naughton's incredible pitching ability, his role on the team went beyond his talent alone. Naughton sustained an elbow injury that required a serious surgery known as the Tommy John surgery during his junior year. The surgery is common among baseball pitchers, but this ended his junior year season and he was not able to pitch the next year.

Gauthier recalls Naughton's address to the team following his injury: "He basically said, 'We're a team. It's not all about me. You guys are gonna go out there and do a great job. You know I'm not the only member on this team. Mr. G always preaches team and I'm just one small part,' granted he was a huge part."

In addition, Naughton volunteered in Gauthier's learning center at BLS, working with students with disabilities. "Packy was just so kind and patient and open to



Packy Naughton is currently playing for the the Salt Lake Bees.

everyone's differences [...] He was a really good friend," says Gauthier.

Naughton found his time at BLS challenging as a serious athlete, especially at a school where there is a heavy emphasis on putting academics first. Naughton explains, "It's not like going to a Catholic Memorial or a Roxbury Latin or something where they pump money into the sporting facilities or anything like that, but I wouldn't change my experience for the world." He is extremely grateful for how much BLS prepared him for college and says his time on the baseball team got him to where he is today.

Naughton showed his appreciation by buying the current varsity team new practice jerseys this year, saying that he wanted to support his high school team because "they supported me. I'm so proud that I went to Boston Latin School."

Despite his injury setback during his junior year, Naughton still played Division I baseball for Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University. Before completing his college career, Naughton was drafted to the Cincinnati

Reds in 2017 during the ninth round as the 257th overall pick, which, to Naughton, "was a dream come true." By his second full season, he was playing for the Reds' Double-A affiliate Chattanooga Lookouts. In August 2020, Naughton was traded to the Los Angeles Angels. He was assigned to their Double-A affiliate in early May 2021, made one start, and was then called up to the Triple-A affiliate, the Salt Lake Bees, this past month.

Naughton's advice to high school athletes who wish to continue playing after they graduate is to "keep working, [...] that is all I can say. You're never gonna get better by sitting and saying 'Oh I could've done this, I could've done that.' [...] Why not just do it now?" He says that setting goals, even if they're small, and working towards each goal is important to him.

Despite Naughton's success, he has overcome many obstacles, and he still has many years left in his baseball career. Gauthier says, "Packy went out and earned it. Nothing was ever given to him. He had to go out and get everything that he's been able to achieve [...] I couldn't be prouder of him."

## Celtics Face Off Against a Talented Brooklyn Nets

**By Lilah Gutlerner (II)**

*Sports Editor*

The Boston Celtics are currently competing in the first round of the 2020-2021 National Basketball Association (NBA) playoffs against the Brooklyn Nets. After finishing their regular season with a 36-36 record, they solidified their seventh seed playoff position with a final win at their first-ever play-in game. Jayson

Tatum, NBA all-star, led the team to this crucial victory against the Washington Wizards, scoring 53 points.

The Celtics have definitely felt the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic this year, and they were the number one team in games missed due to outbreaks among the players. This, combined with the extraordinary number of injuries affecting star players, deeply impacted the team's consistency.

Kemba Walker, starting point guard and NBA all-star, missed the first third of the season due to a knee injury. Many other players such as Marcus Smart and Robert Williams had on and off injuries throughout the season. Just as the whole team started to get healthy right before the playoffs, all-star Jaylen Brown suffered his own season-ending injury to his wrist.

The Brooklyn Nets are the second

seed in the East Coast, and the Celtics have fallen behind 3-1 in the first round of the seven-game series. Although originally projected to have been a higher rank, it is important to keep in mind all of the obstacles that the Celtics faced throughout their entire season.

Despite everything the team has been through, on May 30, they were able to play their first game with a live crowd at TD Garden since March of 2020.

## Girls' Lacrosse Off to Impressive Start

By **Thomas Stone (I)**

Contributing Writer

A powerful force in the Boston Latin School athletics community in recent years, dominating both the Dual County League (DCL) and high schools around the state, the Boston Latin School Girls' Varsity Lacrosse Team is off to an impressive and unsurprising start this season.

The team is led by a group of determined captains including the O'Brien sisters Quinlan O'Brien (I) and Reagan O'Brien (II), Zada Stuart (I) and Jess Bui (I). Quinlan O'Brien says, "[this group of girls] has 19 players and with only six returners." She went on to say, "It is a young team, but we have so much potential."

With the COVID-19 restrictions in place as well as a large portion of the varsity team graduating last year, the girls faced a challenging year. Reagan O'Brien says, "Our spring season has started later than normal, but we are all excited to be back." She explains, "We are 5-0-1, and we have our sights set on banner up and competing until the very end of States."

The focus of the team this year and the years to come is to build the team and have younger players grow into

roles of leadership and talent. Quinlan O'Brien adds, "It has been an awesome opportunity to be able to play with girls of all different ages too, and even though a lot of us are not physically in school, it's awesome to be able to compete as a team."

Statistically, the girls have been overpowering other teams on the scoreboard. They have started off dominating the competitions in the DCL with a 5-0 record. This impressive start, however, has not come without its challenges.

The girls were handed a tough loss early in the season, but kept a positive attitude regardless of the scoreboard. Quinlan O'Brien explains, "We played a non-league game versus Notre Dame Academy, the reigning State Champions, and even though it didn't end in a win, it was the beginning of the season and we had so much to be happy about." Quinlan O'Brien, a Johns Hopkins University commit, reached an astonishing achievement of her own this season, scoring 500 career points.

The team is continuing to hustle everyday at practice. "Our passing and catching and all-around communication on the field has been progressing throughout the season but we had a rocky start. Now, between quarters we



BLS Girls' Lacrosse is 5-1, their only loss being to Notre Dame Academy.

set goals for how many turnovers we have and dropped balls," says Stuart.

Hopefully, the hard work will pay off for these girls as they plan to make a state championship run this year and are ready to face the challenges that the rest of the season will bring. Quinlan O'Brien illustrates what the rest of the season

looks like for the girls, saying, "On June 7, we play a big game against Wayland and then again on June 10 at home. Sectionals and States are after that, and we hope we will be playing until the very end. We have a really strong team this year and will work to be the best."

## Baseball Finding Success Under Brian Mylett



Head varsity coach Brian Mylett poses with his team after they come off their first big win.

By **Lauren Choy (III)**

Assistant Sports Editor

The COVID-19 pandemic heavily impacted high school sports this year, and the Boston Latin School Baseball team was no exception. Last season, Brian Mylett was supposed to begin his first season as head coach for the team. Instead, he found himself waiting another year until he would make his debut.

He finally made his first appearance on the BLS baseball diamond earlier this spring, which came with lots of excitement. This, however, was far from

Mylett's first experience with the BLS Baseball team.

Mylett is a graduate of BLS himself, and played for the baseball team under Coach Rene Gauthier. Mylett recalls, "Coach G has always been a mentor to me." After graduating in 2011, Mylett committed to Wheaton College, where he continued his baseball career.

Immediately after college, Mylett knew he wanted to come back and coach at BLS. He explains, "Ever since I was a student, I've had mentors and guys I've looked up to such as Coach G. Since that young age I knew I wanted to be

a teacher and do the same for others."

Returning to BLS in 2016 as the assistant varsity baseball coach, he learned many things from Coach Gauthier. "As head coach, you can feel like it's all your decision making, but Coach Gauthier taught me the importance of trusting your players and coaches," Mylett says. He explains that he has carried this lesson into his own coaching this season.

Mylett already had many responsibilities when he was the assistant coach, which he explains is part of the reason for his smooth transition to head varsity

coach this past year. He adds, "Coach Gauthier always wanted to prepare me and was looking out for other people."

Despite this seamless transition, Mylett acknowledges the difficulties of having the entirety of last season being cancelled because of the pandemic. "There were definitely nerves during our game versus Bedford," Mylett says, but the season has come with even more excitement.

Similar to all BLS sports, there are still protocols, such as wearing a mask, that are enforced throughout practices and games. The team, nevertheless, has been optimistic about the season. Mylett expresses the sheer dedication of his players, and remarks, "We talked as a group, and decided that we would all do whatever it takes to mean we have a season."

Mylett continues to reflect, and says, "Funny, there are guys on the team whose faces I've never seen [because of masks] — that was something that was a little different and I had to adjust to." Regardless, Mylett and his team are incredibly thankful for the season they have this year.

Mylett picked up his first official win as head coach against Bedford High School on May 10, and has continued on with many other wins since. He explains that a majority of the team's wins this season were comebacks. Mylett also emphasizes the importance of team losses. For example, regarding a recent game against Boston College High School, Mylett comments, "Even though we lost, we had a great game, and I felt like it was a turning point in our season. The guys had lots of confidence."

## Bruins Set Their Sights on Another Stanley Cup

By **Shane Sullivan (II)**

Sports Editor

The Boston Bruins have been looking to win their first Stanley Cup since 2011, and have an arduous lineup of competitors ahead of them.

Soundly defeating a strong Washington Capitals team in five games in round one, the

Bruins set their sights on perhaps an even stronger New York Islanders group in round two. The Capitals' series saw strong contributions from all four of the Bruins' lines, and the team was able to subtly quell powerhouses like Alexander Ovechkin, Nicklas Backstrom and John Carlson. An unlikely collapse from Capitals' goalie Ilya Samsonov also led to the Bruins outscoring the Capitals 19-9.

The Bruins will see a strong and deep Islanders roster in round two, who are coming off an impressive series win against the number one seed, the Pittsburgh Penguins, in round one. The Bruins will need contributions on all fronts. The red hot first line in Patrice Bergeron, David Pastrnak and Brad Marchand will have to keep up their offensive prowess in order to continue the imposing goal scoring

that the Bruins produced in round one.

Goaltender Tuukka Rask, as well as defensive backbones Charlie McAvoy and Matt Grzelcyk, will also have to be on their A-game in order to match powerful New York goal scorers like Mathew Barzal and Josh Bailey. The Bruins are hoping to defeat the Islanders and be one step closer to raising yet another banner in TD Garden.

# Felicitaciones Tomás





**Congratulations to Joe Jackson and the Class of 2021!**

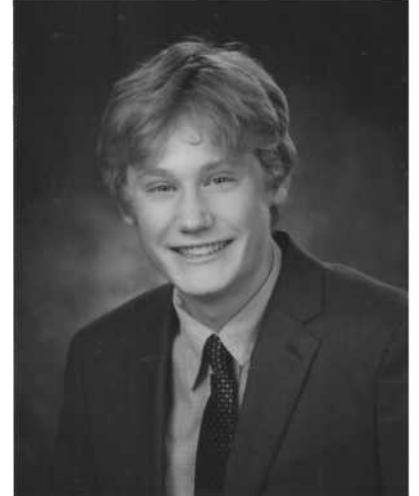


Your hard work and dedication are inspirational.

We are so proud of you and are excited to see what the future holds.

Best of luck at Notre Dame!

We love you!



Dad, Mom, Annie '20, Cecilia '23, Patrick '24 and Lucky



Congratulations  
Olivia Anna Jackson

We are so proud of you and we  
wish you the very best at

Syracuse University

Love Mom, Dad and Caitlin &  
Duff

# Fencing Star Alexandra Jing (II) Competes in Cairo

By Romy Li (III)  
Staff Writer

After fencing for seven years starting in the fourth grade, Alexandra Jing (II) is quite the fencing expert. Last season, in particular, has been an extremely rewarding one for her, winning bronze twice at National Cadet events and silver at Junior Olympics.

The objective of fencing is quite simple, using your weapon to strike your opponent while avoiding being hit yourself. Jing provided more detail on how this challenging sport works, saying, "Fencing has three weapons; the foil, épée and saber, each with their own target area and hitting style. Fencing requires exceptional coordination between both the arms and legs, so it is a full body exacting sport."

Jing has a very impressive fencing career under her belt, perhaps most notably winning gold in El Salvador during the Pan American Games. When asked to share about one person who has shaped her into the accomplished fencer she is today, Jing credits her coach, Ralf Bissdorf, saying, "He has been nothing but supportive and is an

Olympic silver medalist himself. We work really well together."

Jing thoroughly enjoys being a part of the BLS Fencing Team. She has fenced for Boston Latin School in the past, but, unfortunately, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, she was not able to compete this season.

Since everyone on the team is able to contribute to a shared goal, they all strive to perform to their highest potential. Jing explains, "I really enjoy going to meets because the team culture is so positive and the atmosphere is super enjoyable. BLS Fencing is very accomplished and has won titles for consecutive years at state championships; there are so many talented members and we are continuously welcoming more. The coaches are also very dedicated and we owe them a lot for the effort they put in."

In April, she traveled to Cairo, Egypt to compete in the 2021 Junior and Cadet World Championships. Although she was not allowed to tour due to COVID-19 restrictions, she still had an incredible experience there. As a result of many fencers missing international-level events, the competition this year was highly unpredictable.

Jing describes how the competitions



There's nothing stopping Alexandra from advancing further.

went, saying, "In individual tournaments all fencers fence pools, the results of which are then used to rank them for elimination rounds. I had a really good day the day I competed and did well in pools, resulting in a favorable direct elimination bracket. My favorite bout was definitely with the third seeded girl from Turkey, it was a very close bout and was extremely taxing on the mind

and body." She is thankful for having the opportunity to compete in Cairo and face off against so many talented fencers, hoping that she will have another chance to qualify for the junior team again soon. After such a promising season with various achievements, Jing has a bright fencing future ahead of her.

# Red Sox Looking to Continue Their Strong Start

By Lauren Choy (III)  
Assistant Sports Editor

53 games into the season, the Boston Red Sox are off to a decent start, with a 32-21 record. They are currently in second place in the American League (AL) East, behind the Tampa Bay Rays who currently have 35 wins.

After losing the first three games of the season, many were pessimistic about the Red Sox this year. These gloomy out-

looks, however, were left behind as the Red Sox began to prove themselves.

Eduardo Rodriguez, pitcher for the Red Sox who was out for much of last season because of developing myocarditis from COVID-19, is finally back and healthy. Although the process was difficult, his recovery is going well and it is a relief to have him back this season. Alex Cora also returned to the dugout as manager this year.

Because of the pandemic, the Red Sox previously had to play without fans

in Fenway Park. Thankfully, this season, fans have gradually started to return. Over four thousand fans were allowed in Fenway Park at the beginning of this season, and starting May 29, Fenway was finally allowed to be filled to full capacity. The return of fans will hopefully bring more excitement and encouragement to the players.

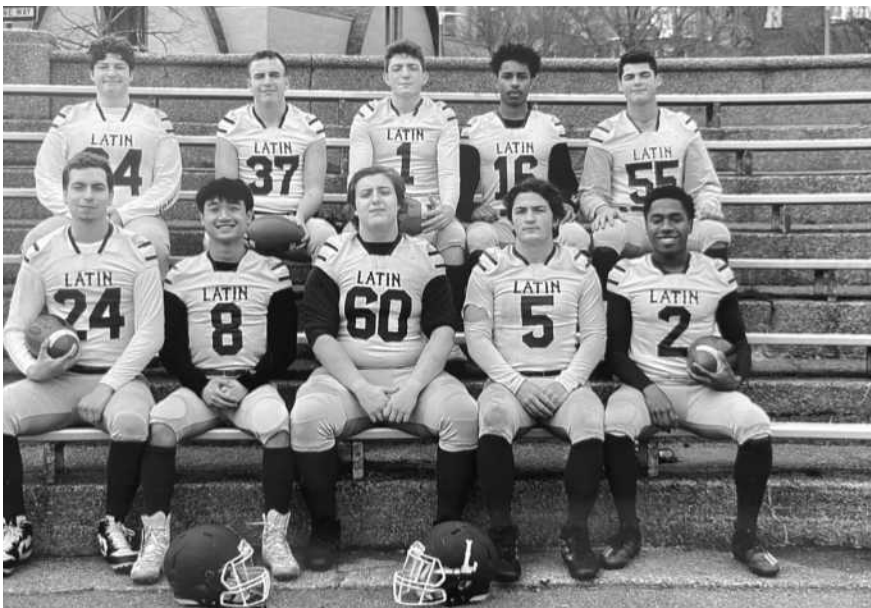
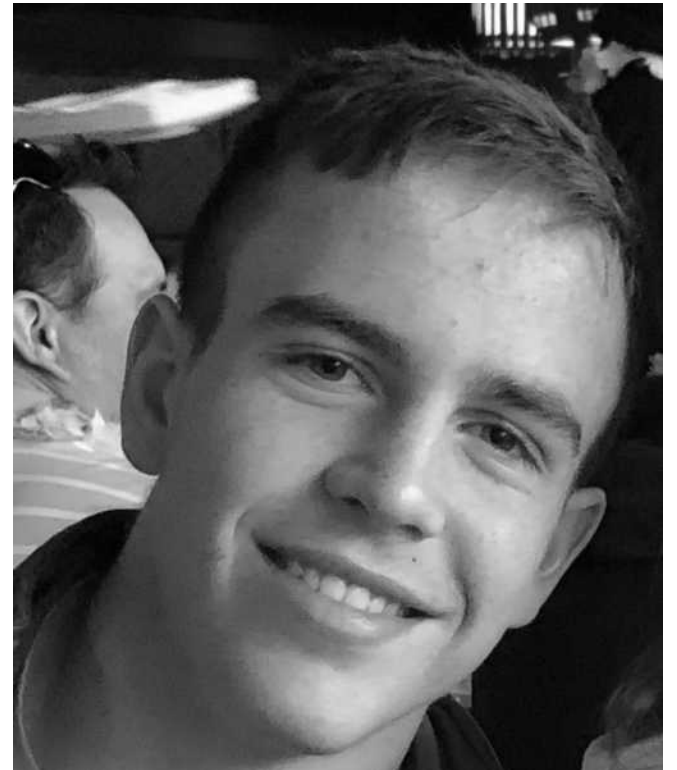
After losing to the Houston Astros 11-2 on Memorial Day, the Red Sox are going to play them three more times this

week, in hopes of coming back and winning the series. After the series with the Astros, the Red Sox are going up against the New York Yankees. This historic rivalry will come with lots of excitement and will definitely be a match to watch.

With 109 games left in their season, the Red Sox are hoping to pull ahead of Tampa Bay and clinch first place in the AL East before playoffs. Once playoffs come around, the Red Sox will hopefully be prepared enough to win another World Series.

*Congratulations, Joe Prior!  
We are all very proud of you.*

*Love,  
Your Family*



*Congratulations BLS  
Class of 2021!*

**CONGRATULATIONS, RUTHY!**

**We are INCREDIBLY proud of you and this outstanding academic accomplishment. You set your goals high and met them all through hardwork and perseverance. Seeing you develop into an intelligent and determined person with the heart of the little girl that was always considerate to others has been amazing. We are always here for you every step of the way.**

**Love, Mom, Dad and Sister**

**CONGRATULATIONS/AUGURI  
CAMILLE!**

We are so proud of you! Thank you for all you have taught us along the way.

Mamma, Babbo, Islay, and Nonno (Mikey says Woof!)



Ciao bella! Terras irradiant...

