



Boston Latin School

Argo

Class of 2023



EDITORS' NOTE



Salutations, seniors, loved ones and those still stuck at BLS!

We present to you the 2023 Graduation Issue, powered by Big Daddy's pizza, *Adobe InDesign* and pure *Argo* love. From News's reunion with former Head of School Rachel Skerritt and Forum's fight for naptime to A&E's coverage of the Eras Tour and Sports's review of the NBA Draft Lottery, there's something for everyone here (although we know you're probably here for the Senior Surveys, starting on pg. 29. But before you flip there, read some articles!).

But before we get too ahead of ourselves, we have to speedrun some gratuities for our lovely, departing Argonauts, from whom we received about 25 extension requests on Farewells. Clearly, senioritis extends beyond May 26, but we still love you!

To Elyssa, the *Argo*'s soft spoken yet most powerful soldier, we appreciate you for your sharp focus on all things News and for absolutely slaying Capstone. Cinly, our fierce and fashionable Forum Editor. Your magnetic personality and ability to spill tea is truly unmatched. Ellis, we're convinced that the reason readers are drawn to the A&E section is because of the album reviews that you spearheaded. They won't be the same without you, but we'll make you proud. Irene, our number one PDF Editor (and A&E Editor, of course). At this point, we probably have thousands of "ID"s down our spreadsheets, and we have you to thank for that. Eliza, Eliza! Your warm brown eyes, comforting hugs and ability to edit crossword clues make 016 a brighter place. To the holy trifecta of Lauren, Maddie and Romy, thanks for bringing FemInSports content to the paper — we will make sure that your legacy lives on. Y'all are forever our basketball, soccer, tennis and track queens running between 016 and practice.

To our Copy Editors, Darren and Justine, we have no idea how y'all always edit in the middle of night. Whether it's across the Charles or an 11-hour drive away, we hope you'll still be deleting Oxford commas and entering spaces on both sides of em dashes. Mary, our forever Dance Partner, drama queen and talented photographer, thanks for being the life of the *Argo*. Even in the fleeting moments you rush down to visit us between shows, your dance parties and Show Choir choreo tutorials leave us feeling a little more alive (especially when it's 9:00 P.M. on a Friday). To Karen, our Latin queen, whiteboard calligrapher and *Photoshop* wizard, we'll make sure baby Andrew continues your legacy of amazing Versus photos. Also, please keep singing and making new music videos :). Alex, our Head Baking Editor and the school's official *Google Photos* album distributor, one of us (and Andrew and Mari) already wrote a dazzling spotlight on you, so please turn to page 26.

Although the Selizabina powerhouse is leaving us, we'll still make sure to order Hawaiian pizzas and walk to the dumpster to discard our empty pizza boxes. Liz, we'll think of you everytime we decide not to shuffle the "argonauts 22-23" playlist. We'll think of you when Andrew pulls out that god-forsaken Taylor Swift Eras Tour spreadsheet. We'll think of you whenever a writer asks for an extension. Selina, Layout will never be the same without you. Thank you for being our Layout mother and for your amazing emails (though they were cringey). Jenny will miss pestering you for all the Layout knowledge next year (yes, Jenny wrote this, but she mentioned herself in third person. Funny move! - Joanna).

To our new board: congrats on finishing our first issue of the *Argo* together! We've put our blood, sweat and tears into this (aka yelling at each other to get submissions in, heated debates over the use of commas over parentheses and PDF edits).

To you, reader: sit back, relax and enjoy the first issue of the JOEanny era.

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Argo

Boston Latin School

Ad Veritatem Petendam

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.



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Students Unwind at NHS De-Stress Fest

By **Olivia Chen (V)**

Staff Writer

On May 26, the National Honor Society (NHS) held their first De-Stress Fest to give back to the Boston Latin School community as well as to allow students to socialize and relax before final exams.

This event presented a variety of activities, booths, games and performances in the dining hall. Booth offerings included coloring, face painting, karaoke, trivia, CD art and origami.

Although the 2019-2020 officers originally developed the idea, this was the first year that NHS held this event. Due to COVID-19 and remote learning, it could not happen until this year. BLS Classics teacher and NHS advisor Mr. Patrick Finnigan explains, "When our officers were elected this year, I brought up the idea to them at our first monthly officer meeting, and I was so excited that they all were on board and eager to make it happen."

The planning process went smoothly. In addition to general meetings with the officers, Mr. Finnigan and volunteers from each of the three specific committees — Activities, Decorations and Food Sponsorships — also held frequent meetings.

All three groups had specialized jobs. The activities group developed their own booths, decoration volunteers created de-

signs on their own time and volunteers in charge of food called and visited restaurants for donations.

There were, however, still a few hiccups in the preparation process. Communication posed a challenge to the officers. NHS Vice President Ada Wu (I) explains, "We've recruited over 100 NHS members to assist with the De-Stress Fest, and oftentimes large-scale communication with members can get difficult, especially with everyone being busy and not having the time to carefully read emails."

Since the event and planning took place at the end of the year, it was also difficult to find time for it. Most students were busy preparing for their AP exams and finals, attending extracurricular activities and applying to summer jobs. Despite students' tight schedules, everyone involved dedicated many hours to make the event happen.

The theme of the De-Stress Fest was "The Year 2000," a style based on late '90s to early 2000s trends. Jane Kungie (II), a participant in the event, says, "I think that the 2000s subculture is something that really has not been a huge thing recently, but bringing it back to the Sillybandz is something I appreciate."

Many staff members, volunteers and students attended the event. Students met new people and socialized with their friends while playing board games and making



Andrew Lay (II)

Students make bracelets at the gimp station.

crafts together. The festival was also the last chance to spend time with seniors on their final day of academic classes.

Although many believed the event successfully reached its goal to offer students a time and place to relax, some students have ideas for future improvement. Zoe Fulton (II), a volunteer at the origami booth, suggests, "I think it would be a lot more de-stressing if it happened on the lawn at the back [of the school] because, for me, I think that fluorescent lights, and just the school in

general, it's kind of stress-inducing."

The De-Stress Fest, a product of teamwork, perseverance and effort, has been a remarkable experience for many people. Wu reflects on a memorable moment: "I saw a few volunteers working on decorations out of the blue in the Art Wing. It was a wholesome moment just seeing everything piece together with all this collective effort. Some friends popped out to help out as well even if it was not their original purpose for being in the Art Wing."

Reuniting with Ms. Skerritt



Matt Kalinowski

Ms. Skerritt stands as the only POC Head of School in BLS history.

By **Amanda Ajdini (III)**

& **Weian Xue (V)**

Contributing Writers

Hello, beautiful people! Almost a year has passed since former Head of School Rachel Skerritt ('95) stepped down in order to spend more time with her family. Over the

course of her five-year tenure, her inclusivity and constant involvement in school events impacted students tremendously.

Ms. Skerritt currently works as a Chief Strategy Officer at Attuned Education Partners, an organization that strives for educational equity and advancement. Part of her role in the company includes creating five-year plans for school districts or charter net-

works rather than individual schools.

Ms. Skerritt chose this position because she wanted to stay in the educational field while doing something that would impact students. It allows her, moreover, to "continue to learn and grow."

The districts and networks that Ms. Skerritt works with are located all over the country, which requires her to travel much more than she did while working at Boston Latin School. She enjoys her current job, as it allows her to connect with educators who strive to better their communities and school systems.

When she is not traveling for business, Ms. Skerritt works from her home office, since Attuned Education Partners does not have a physical workspace. She mentions that this is a big difference from her previous role as Head of School, saying, "I don't have as regular of a touch point with young people, and that's something that's a big source of energy in my job and in my day-to-day life."

Frequent interactions with students is one of the things that Ms. Skerritt misses the most about BLS. Having led the development of an environment that accepts and supports students in what they enjoy doing, she reflects, "I try to bring that to my new job

in terms of trying to help other school systems and networks think about what would be possible for their students."

To keep in touch with the BLS community, Ms. Skerritt has attended events such as Asian Night and MLK Day this year. As a trustee of the BLSA, she is also involved in various school events and functions. Some events she plans to attend are this year's graduation and prom, as well as the *Matilda* musical.

Ms. Skerritt's involvement in school activities and interaction with students during her time as Head of School left a lasting impact. Vera Knobel (I) remarks, "She just came to every single event. [...] That made everyone feel more included in the BLS community because all of their contributions were validated."

Although Ms. Skerritt regrets not being able to see the Class of 2023 — her first sixie class — graduate with her as Head of School, she expresses that her departure last year was the right decision for her. She hopes that the Class of 2023 will value and appreciate their time at BLS as the years go on. "I'll just always remember this class fondly, and I look forward to seeing all that they do to impact BLS in the future and to impact the world," Ms. Skerritt concludes.

Remembering Nafiun Awal ('08)

By **Ailin Sha (III)**,

Sylvia O'Hearn (II)

& **Mary Deng (IV)**

Head Editor and Assistant Editors

On May 8, Nafiun Awal ('08) and his friend Eli Michel left to climb Mt. Denali in Alaska but did not return to camp. The two men have since been declared missing, and as of May 30, rangers are conducting an ongoing search for their bodies.

During his time at BLS, Awal enjoyed learning STEM subjects, especially physics, which he later majored in at Boston University. During a study-abroad session in Switzerland, he discovered his love for hiking, climbing and embarking on adventures in general.

Mariha Mahaseen (III), Awal's cousin, recalls, "He was extremely caring and he always put others before himself." Awal's passion and perseverance extended to his climbing. In fact, he took a break from pursuing a Ph. D. at New York University to further pursue climbing, and he traveled to Australia.

After Awal set out with Michel to climb the Moose's Tooth trail on Mt. Denali, the tallest mountain in North America, their friends noticed that they had not checked in on their satellite communicators. Two days later, rangers conducted search parties but did not find the climbers. They did, however, recover their camp gear, including helmets, skis and tents.

After retracing the pair's steps, searchers have concluded that they were likely caught in a small avalanche, and



Alpine Ascents

Awal was an experienced mountain climber and hiker.

the chances of survival for the climbers, given their situation, is "outside the window of possibility."

Mahaseen hopes that Awal will be remembered as "just a very caring person, [who was] very passionate about his job."

Valete, Magistri!

By Ross Wilson (IV) & David Wang (VI)

Staff Writer and Contributing Writer

Ms. Bauer



After teaching for 46 years, Latin teacher Ms. Tamara Bauer has decided that, at 70, she has taught enough students, seen enough sixies graduate and that it is finally time to retire.

During her time at Boston Latin School, Ms. Bauer taught over a thousand students. Her primary goal was to give sixies a good foundation in Latin.

She reflects, "I have a lot of good advice, but I've used it up all on sixies." Her instruction has ensured that students will be able to read and write Latin in a school known for its classical education.

BLS was one of her favorite schools to teach at, since it has a large Classics Department compared to other schools she has taught at, where only one or two teachers taught another language. Her proudest moments are when she sees seniors that used to be her sixies graduating.

During her retirement, she plans to learn more languages such as Hebrew, and read more Latin and Greek. She is also excited to be able to "annoy" her friends with mosaics and go to Peru.

Mr. Concannon



After teaching Humanities to BLS sixies for 14 years, Mr. Joseph Concannon is moving on to the next chapter of his life and saying goodbye to the school. He will be moving to a lake house in Maine that his parents bought over 50 years ago to spend his retirement.

"My time at Boston Latin School has been rewarding, I have become a better teacher in these past 14 years, and I work with an amazing group of people. I leave having made many friends with students and some parents as well," reflects Mr. Concannon.

In those rewarding years, one of his proudest moments was when he accepted a teaching award recognizing dedication to students presented by the late Boston Mayor Thomas Menino. He hopes to leave a legacy that emphasizes the values of education, lifelong learning, kindness and helping others.

Mr. Concannon's parting words to students are simple: "Be good to yourself and others."

Mrs. Gribaudo



Mrs. Monica Gribaudo is ready to relax after 30 years of teaching, 24 of which she spent at BLS. While at the School, Mrs. Gribaudo taught sixies for six years and eighth graders for five years. She has also been in her current position of teaching the sixies' Algebra I class and four Algebra II classes for ten years. Her instruction has extended to numerous students over the years.

Mrs. Gribaudo values preparing students far beyond the next quiz or exam, explaining, "I just hope they remember how to factor, how to do the quadratic formula — just the stuff that we have where it's not 'we learn it for today's test and then it's gone.'"

Mrs. Gribaudo was also a Boston Teachers Union representative and the Faculty Senate president for more than ten years, during which she represented the faculty through both good and difficult times.

She offers a final piece of advice for the students: "Just be nice. Be kind to older people, be kind to younger people, just be nice."

Mr. Greenidge



Mr. Kyle Greenidge has recently announced his departure from BLS after two years of being a high school guidance counselor. He will be leaving to pursue a Master's degree in social work.

"BLS and its students have helped me to see that there's more than helping from the school counseling aspect. I love [guidance work] and can still see myself doing [it] in the future," remarks Mr. Greenidge.

While at BLS, he has seen many students through graduation and has helped manage their workload. Mr. Greenidge has always put in care and effort to bring out the best in his students.

In addition, he put on a stellar performance at the Student-Faculty Basketball Game in April, and he is extremely proud of his 2-0 record.

He wants students to always remain hopeful, explaining, "I hope people — students, faculty and staff — are able to realize it only takes one person to spread a smile."

Ms. Freeman



Having taught for 22 years at BLS, Ms. Judi Freeman has left her mark as the Facing History and Ourselves teacher, advisor to the Topol Fellows and co-founder of the Senior Capstone class. Ms. Freeman has taken her students on many trips across the world, including to Eastern Europe and Washington D.C..

She believes Facing History and Ourselves is an important course, explaining, "It's a course that every student should take because having a moral compass is a necessary skill."

Ms. Freeman will keep herself busy by writing a biography about Dorothy Thompson, an American journalist who gained fame for interviewing Adolf Hitler. Thompson became a very influential woman who warned Americans about the threat that Nazis posed.

Ms. Freeman shares her parting words to students, "Think about what you want your education to be. Do you want it to be driven by textbooks and tests? Or, do you want it to be about the important issues where you don't have to cram facts in your head because you care about them? [...] Make your education have meaning and not just a transcript."

Ms. Shipley



After 14 years of teaching orchestra, Ms. Susan Shipley is retiring from Boston Latin School to enter a new phase of her life.

When Ms. Shipley first came to BLS, the orchestra program was much smaller than it is now, with her teaching all string classes. Now, there are seven orchestras and part-time teachers to help out.

"I'm personally ready. I've reached the age. I'm over the age, and it's a stressful job, and it needs somebody younger than me. I've been thinking about it for a while, but it just felt like the right time," Ms. Shipley explains about her retirement.

Ms. Shipley came to BLS after being a freelancer and teaching at different schools on a day-by-day basis. She also taught students privately starting in college, making a late career change to BLS. Her career ends on a high note as she received the Crystal Apple Award for Excellence in Teaching this year, the first Visual and Performing Arts teacher to do so in almost a decade.

She reflects on the impact she's made on her students, "Very few students have gone on to have careers in music, but I know that [all of them] are going to include music in their lives."

Ms. Varano



After nine years of teaching Italian, Ms. Katie-Nicole Bagarella Varano will be leaving BLS to teach middle school students at the Elliot School, a change that will better fit her schedule.

She reflects, "The school has given me so much. The caliber of students here is something that has just blown my mind. I learn from [students] as much as [students] learn from me."

She has taught all levels of Italian at BLS, and currently teaches both Italian 2 and AP Italian classes. Outside of teaching, she also ran the Italian Film Club for three years.

She finds that it is difficult to apply proficiency standards to her students and to encapsulate their language skills in A-F grades.

Ms. Varano advises students, "I know BLS is a place where demands are high, but I want the students to know how in awe and proud I am of their everyday work. I hope the students know how much I've learned from you and that I'll never forget the memories we have from our times together."

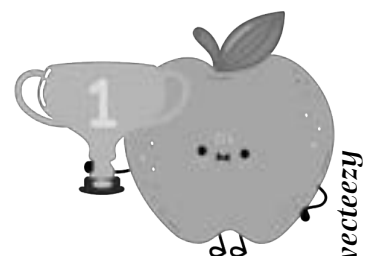
**Congratulations
to This Year's
Crystal Apple
Award Winners!**

**Mr. Andy
Zou***

**Ms. Susan
Shipley**

**Ms. Sandra
Stuppard**

***will also receive the
Gerald L. Gitner & Family
Award for Outstanding
Teaching**



Class of '24 Picks President and More

By Rachel Starr (III)

Staff Writer

Boston Latin School's rising seniors will elect their Class of 2024 officers this month, with the first round of elections held on June 7.

The top two candidates for each position — president, vice president, treasurer and secretary — move on to a final round of voting on June 13. Social media and physical campaign flyers, however, began streaming out from candidates in mid-May. While in the past, students voted on these positions in the fall of senior year, the elections were moved to late spring to maximize the necessary planning time in the summer.

BLS guidance counselor Ms. Andrea Encarnacao and BLS mathematics teacher Ms. Alyssa Sarkis, the senior class advisors, found this change successful with their first attempt in 2020.

Although the pandemic halted spring elections, both Michelle Zhang (I), the current treasurer of the Class of 2023, and Ms. Sarkis agreed that the change will benefit next year's officers. They will "hit the ground running" with fall events in mind, says Ms. Sarkis, as some highlights of the year — including the senior picnic, Halloween and Rally Day — come up quicker than expected.

Looking ahead to next year, fundraising and finding new methods of engagement is a priority for the class officers. Zhang explains that they have done a lot of food-related fundraising this year, partnering with Chipotle and Blaze Pizza.

"Our class has definitely been one of the most involved in that area, so a lot of it actually comes to fruition," says Zhang.

The Class of 2023 officers were the first to organize a paint night, and Ms. Sarkis hopes more new ideas will arise with the Class of 2024.

A staple of high schools across America, student government builds leadership skills, a community-based mindset and a better sense of student perspectives. Especially for those apprehensive to share their ideas, this tradition of democracy offers a support system and the opportunity to put ideas into action. Ms. Sarkis emphasizes, "When we meet every week, there's a really good sense of community. [...] Working collab-



Officer election flyers cover the walls of the first floor.

oratively has been successful for all these years."

She adds that while each student comes in with a specific role, the ideas and tasks are fluid across the positions and not necessarily based on a student's title. At these weekly Wednesday meetings, the five leaders discuss fundraising or manage details of upcoming occasions. In addition to planning, they are the faces of the senior class, often giving speeches at assemblies.

Many of the juniors agree that there is a balance between people voting for a candidate's values and their popularity. A unique aspect of current elections is the availability of online information about the candidates; specifically, social

media accounts that let the personalities of the candidates shine through.

Natalia Troy (II) explains, "I'm looking for someone who is willing to put in the work to improve things [...] who is running for a position because they actually want it." Current juniors also look forward to seeing how their class will step up as the oldest students in the School next year, even those who are not elected.

Most importantly, the officers should aim to create a fun, tight-knit senior year. Zhang leaves a piece of advice for the rising seniors: lean into the support of the leadership team and always be passionate about the events being run.

Student Council Chats About *ChatGPT*



A student tests out the functions of *ChatGPT*.

By Meilin Sha (VI)

Contributing Writer

During W block on May 24, the Boston Latin School Student Council hosted a Town Hall assembly about *ChatGPT* and artificial intelligence (AI), seeking student voices to express their opinions on this new technology.

ChatGPT is a newly-developed AI chatbot with the ability to replicate human writing. Since the software is free and easily accessible to the general public, students may be incentivized to use *ChatGPT* to plagiarize and cheat.

"The fact that this is the last Town Hall is for the most part coincidental, but in some ways, it does make

sense to look forward to a topic that will affect the foreseeable future at BLS in our final Town Hall of the year," explains Student Council Co-President Niall Reynolds (I).

During the assembly, students discussed the importance of preserving academic integrity. The advancement of AI technology means that programs can now drastically alter the structure of one's writing, creating a fine line between utilizing AI software as a helpful tool and using it to cheat.

With such a significant increase in the usage of *ChatGPT*, homeroom representative Adi Acosta (III) remarks, "It's important to hear student voices on this topic so that teachers and administrators can understand why and how students are using AI to complete

their assignments. Our assignments, classroom policies and grades are all impacted by how BLS responds to the use of *ChatGPT* in school, so [we] need to be part of the decision making regarding the topic."

Although AI is not viewed as inherently bad, students still believe that it is important to establish boundaries for when *ChatGPT* is appropriate to use for school assignments. Many are unsure of what is considered cheating when it comes to a piece of new technology they are unfamiliar with.

A lack of clarity combined with reluctance to reach out for help can motivate students to use *ChatGPT*. Acosta explains, "Sometimes using AI isn't a sign that a student is lazy, but rather that they are going to the wrong place for the academic help they need." Students may turn to AI software for answers if they are unwilling or uncomfortable with using established resources, such as the Writing Center.

Because the software gathers and pieces together pre-existing information from numerous sources available on the internet, using *ChatGPT* to complete assignments is considered a form of plagiarism.

Assistant Head of School Danielle Murray notes, "I think to some folks, it feels like that this is just helping their writing. But when you turn in something that's so far away from your own original work, it really obfuscates what you need support on."

Some express that if students use AI tools on assignments, teachers would be unable to offer support for students on the topics they struggle with. Not only does using *ChatGPT* lead to heavy consequences regarding academic dishonesty, but it can also prevent students from developing their writing and thinking skills.

During the assembly, students also raised further questions about how teachers may detect plagiarism in the future. Although any type of AI detection software is imperfect, BLS is currently working on a system to adapt to the new technology and to discourage students from using tools like *ChatGPT*.

Assistant Head of School Murray remarks on plans the BLS administration has for the future, "We'll hopefully be able to navigate it as we have [with] all the other technological advancements we've had. We can help connect with students and maybe have study resources more available."

Spotlight on... BLS's Favorite Food Vendor!



By Brian Xu (VI)
Contributing Writer

Mr. James Bennett, the owner of Jimmy's Catering, the food truck stationed in the faculty parking lot in the early mornings at Boston Latin School, is recognized for his essential role in selling food to students and teachers

alike.

Mr. Bennett initially started selling food at BLS in 1985, when he inherited the food truck from its original and now retired owner of the food truck.

"I had left college and wasn't working when my brother introduced me to a friend of his who had trucks. I liked it, so I started working for him

and two other people, eventually to go on my own when I was 21," elaborates Mr. Bennett.

Since then, the truck has been an integral part of BLS culture. The food truck is not only a way of delivering delicious food to students; it is also helpful to students who are unable to get food otherwise.

Samuel Pierre (VI) explains, "I buy things from the food truck due to me sometimes not being able to get something to eat for lunch."

In his food truck, Mr. Bennett sells a variety of food, including sandwiches, sausages and pizza. He also provides drinks, chips and desserts.

Many students enjoy the food that he sells, including Pierre, who adds, "It's a good place to get something to eat if you're hungry or are in a hurry."

Initially, the food truck was parked at the back of the School, which made it difficult for students to access it. Mr. Bennett explains, "I used to park on the street in the back of the School in the early days, but have moved to the front because the truck that used to park there did not come back after COVID-19."

Besides running his food truck, Mr. Bennett also enjoys watching movies, listening to music and playing golf in his free time. His favorite movies are *Rocky*, *Cinderella Man* and *Elf*. He is also a fan of classic songs, such as "Mac the Knife" and "My Way."

Ultimately, Mr. Bennett's diligent work ensures that BLS students are able to eat, and he is committed to his job and motivated to serve students at BLS for many years to come. Mr. Bennett, acknowledging his food truck's significant role, concludes, "I like it because it's a people business. I am fortunate to work for myself, and money is always a good deciding factor whether to stay or go."

Blast From the Past: BLS Alumni Reunions

By Keeva Donoghue (II)
& **Constance Fang (VI)**
Contributing Writers

On the weekend of May 5, Boston Latin School honored alumni with an array of celebrations at its 20th to 75th year anniversary reunions.

On Friday, students performed in Prize Declamation and alumni heard from Head of School Jason Gallagher. Alumni also had the opportunity to meet current students and staff in the classroom. Members of the Class of 1973, returning for their 50th year, participated in the Golden Diploma Ceremony and paid their respects to fellow classmates.

The following day opened with academic sessions, including a handful of TEDx-style Capstone presentations from seniors.

Sofia Daffin (I) presented her Capstone project to the alumni and screened a documentary she created, which explored hair discrimination within the United States — specifically, its effect on Black youth in schools. Daffin explains, "In a lot of ways, the alumni who had come by, were just genuinely very interested [...] and passionate about hearing students' voices."

BLS Nurse Ms. Ellen Moy-Maneikis ('73) explains that both she and her husband, another graduate of BLS, love returning to the school's foyer and going up the marble staircase.

As part of the first class to include young women, Nurse Moy-Maneikis recalls, "We didn't feel welcome. [...] We had one bathroom, we had no locker room." Despite these past challenges, Nurse Moy-Maneikis reflected that student support and student-teacher relationships at BLS



These BLS alumni returned to their alma mater to judge Prize Declamation.

have improved significantly.

She adds that her BLS education has helped her later in life: "I know people do not love declamation, public speaking or the rigor of the academics here, but I think it really prepares you for the real world."

Former Ambassador Lawrence Silverman ('73) also spoke to students in the Schwabel Center about his extensive foreign service experience. Having served as U.S. Ambassador to Kuwait and worked in many Middle

Eastern countries, he encouraged students to consider careers in foreign service. His BLS experience, he explained, taught him the importance of having a respectable and trustworthy reputation within the professional world.

In addition, many BLS graduates have returned to teach and give back to the school, including AP Biology teacher Mr. Lawrence Spezzano ('93). These teachers were happy to reconnect with fellow classmates

who did not return to the school. Mr. Spezzano shares, "It was nice to check back into that community, and to hear from people I hadn't talked to recently."

Reunions give former classmates a chance to catch up with one another and reminisce on their experiences at BLS. As the seniors graduate, the value of reunions becomes more apparent, and many former students concur that they are a great way to stay connected to their school community.



CONGRATULATIONS ETHAN!

You have worked so hard these past 6 years and we are so proud of you. We cannot wait to see what you accomplish in the future and how you change the world. You will do amazing at Northeastern!

With love from Ba, Ma and Hoai-Mi
aka the best sister ever



The future is bright!

We are so proud of you, Lauren!

**Love from your biggest fans:
 Mom, Dad and Christopher**





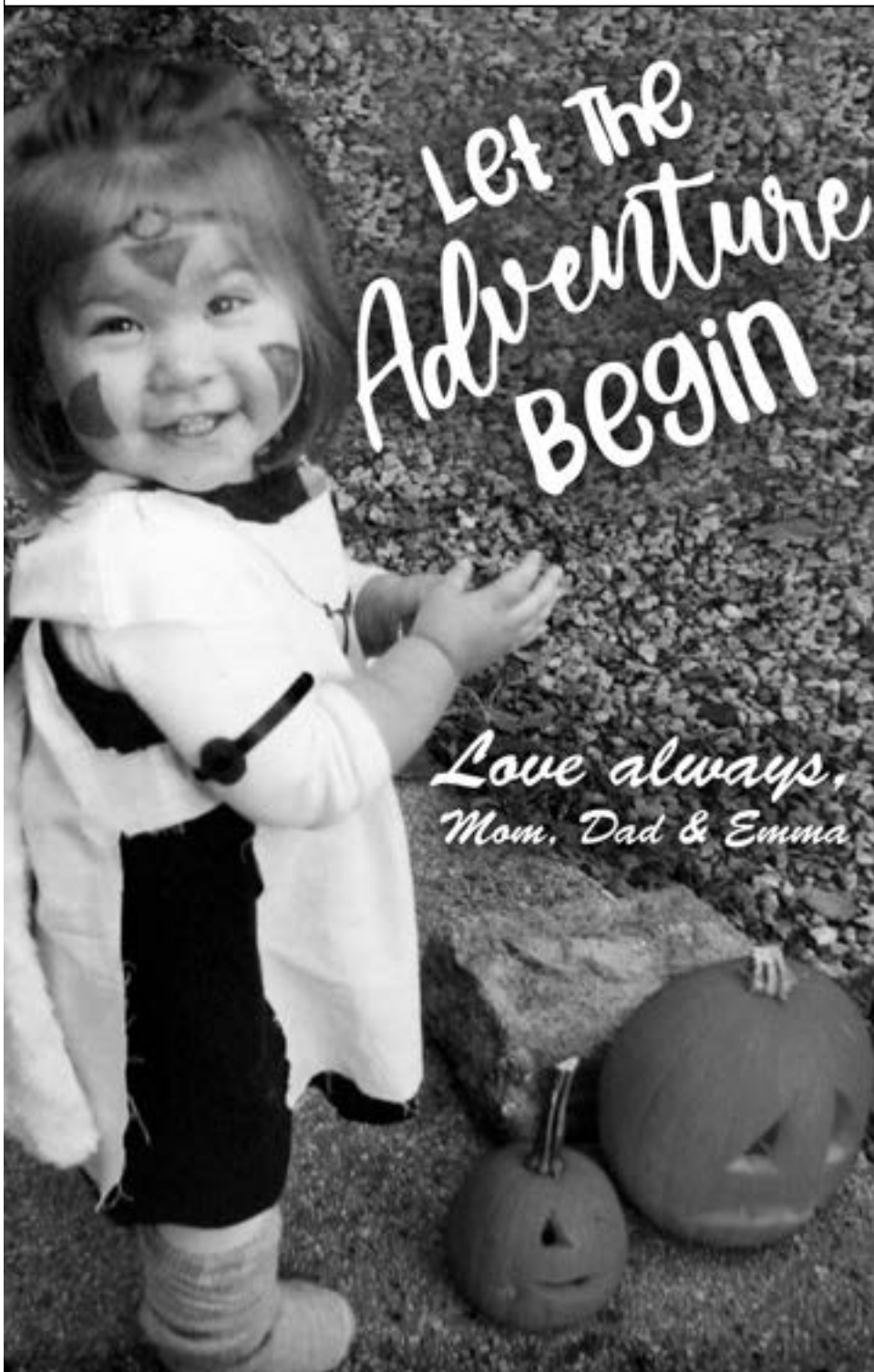
Congratulations, Cecilia "CC"
Jackson and the Boston Latin
School Class of 2023.

We are so proud of you -
YOU DID IT!!

Best of Luck at the University
of St Andrews next year!

We love you so, so much!
Carpe Diem!

Mom, Dad, Annie, Joe and Pat



Congratulations, Kirsten!
Love,
Mom and Dad



**WE ARE SO
PROUD OF YOU.
CONGRATS ETHAN!**



Bring Home Home Economics



Rinne Allen

Chef Hugh Acheson teaches middle school students how to cook.

By Mark Snekvik (III)

Contributing Writer

If you ask most members of the Boston Latin School graduating class to find the derivative of $\arcsin[\ln(6x^2)]$ or to identify the chiasmus in a line of Cicero's *In Catilinam*, many will answer with ease. But ask them how to change a tire, create a 401(k) or poach an egg, and they will likely whip out their phones for assistance. This is an issue that needs to change and it starts in the classroom.

The root of this issue is that "adult skills," such as cooking, sewing or budgeting, which were once taught at home or school, are disappearing from both places. Home economics teaches students how to successfully run a household; for instance, Shop teaches woodworking and metalworking. So, why are such important and necessary lessons being removed from the curriculum?

In fact, these classes and lessons were once mandatory in most schools. Ever since institutions segregated by gender-reinforced sexist roles, however, these classes have lost popularity over the past 50 years. This, combined with America's shift to prioritize STEM subjects, has led to the classes' sharp decline. Even their rebranding to Family and Consumer Services (FCS) has not stopped the 38 percent decline in enrollment in the last decade alone, according to NPR. With the rise of dual-income households, moreover, these skills are less likely to be taught at home.

This produces appalling results. Students leave BLS for college well-prepared for academics, but not for life. BLS art teacher Mr. Joseph Carrigg recalls that a colleague of his from Massachusetts College of Art and Design told him that "decades ago, the kids doing sculpture knew how to use tools because they

cut the lawn, did the shrubs, painted the porch with their parents. And now, the kids arrive at MassArt and say, 'Which way do I turn the bolt?'"

Many students avoid exercising crucial life skills by outsourcing labor. Need dinner? Get takeout. Ripped your jacket? Buy a new one. Need to replace a tire? Call a specialist.

Such tendencies create excessive waste and expenses, harming both the environment and the individual. Furthermore, a reliance on frozen and restaurant food fuels the country's obesity epidemic. Even resources such as *YouTube* and *Blue Apron* that allow one to complete tasks on their own do not force one to internalize information. As a result, people have lost a sense of self-sufficiency and become reliant on outside sources to accomplish basic tasks.

Advocating for FCS at BLS would alleviate this issue. Since BLS is a college preparatory school, some might view FCS as useless for BLS students' futures, but Fiber Arts Club President Adriana Passacantilli (II) argues, "There should be a home [economics] course at BLS. Life skills — knitting, crocheting, being able to make your own stuff — are important no matter if you're going to college or not." Everyone has to cook, clean and manage their money as an adult, so everyone needs to be trained in these things.

In fact, ancient Greek education, which many of BLS's courses are rooted in, emphasized training the body along with the mind, and recognized that a purely academic education builds weak and unresourceful people. Furthermore, for students from low-income or immigrant families, many of whom are tasked with cooking or navigating the family's finances, learning FCS in school would help them complete these tasks

more efficiently and allocate them more time to focus on academics, easing the cycle of poverty.

Finally, these courses would address the teen mental health crisis because they are hands-on, away from screens and often relaxing. Doing something physical after six periods of sitting in class and staring at a computer would bring life back to many burnt out students. Recent methods to address student mental health at BLS, such as breathing exercises and W block workshops, are so in-your-face that they aren't always effective. FCS doesn't scream "This is good for your mental health!" but rather subtly provides students with a variety of mental and physical benefits.

At BLS, FCS can begin as a series of W block lessons for seventh and eighth graders. Cooking classes can begin with activities that do not require stoves, such as pickling vegetables. Fiber arts and finances can be taught anywhere.

But Mr. Carrigg adds, "[The classes] would be a challenge. I mean, you have a kitchen down there, but how do you get the permission to bring in a pilot program? It would be a matter of funding." On the topic of funding, the state needs to invest more into FCS, and the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education would have to add FCS as a marker of educational excellence, incentivizing teachers to enter an FCS track and provide schools the funding to implement programs.

Common Core has been a big failure for education in Massachusetts, and it is time for something new. The beneficial aspects of FCS must be separated from its sexist past and be revived. Students would become more practical and resourceful, and ultimately, gain the abilities to truly THRIVE.

Pride in 2023: Accentuating Action and Advocacy

By Ariel Mura (III)

Staff Writer

Pride was first conceptualized after the Stonewall riots of 1969, when the New York City police raided the Stonewall Inn, a gay club, and sparked widespread protest. This event served as a catalyst for the queer rights movement in the United States. The U.S. government, however, continued to discriminate against the LGBTQ+ community with the onset of the AIDS crisis. But during this time, queer people were able to recover by building a united community and advocating for each other, a legacy that continues in the celebration of Pride each year.

Although much progress has been made in terms of LGBTQ+ rights and visibility, members of the LGBTQ+ community continue to face oppression around the world. It is imperative that advocacy, activism and protests remain at the core of queer identity, especially during Pride Month.

In recent years, U.S. government authorities, especially those in conservative states such as Texas and Florida, have increased efforts to enact legislation imposing on LGBTQ+ rights. These include a plethora of discriminatory laws which restrict gender-affirming healthcare for transgender people and decrease representation of LGBTQ+ people in education and literature.

Residents of Massachusetts, a primarily progressive and liberal state, however, are often spared from

the brunt of bigoted political attacks. As a result, many residents are disconnected from these national issues, and therefore ignorant to the current threats the LGBTQ+ community is facing.

Many internal issues persist within the queer community, namely transphobia, biphobia and a lack of intersectionality. Nandini Chilakapati (III), president of Boston Latin School's Gender-Sexuality Alliance, explains, "Even though the fight for LGBTQIA+ rights was started by Black and Brown trans women of color, white people have become the face and focus of the community." Chilakapati goes on to discuss the importance of "[taking] steps to include and accept people of all cultures and experiences if we have any hope of becoming an inclusive space for all people under the LGBTQIA+ banner."

The frequent misrepresentation of LGBTQ+ people in media exacerbates the issue. Though much progress has occurred and increased the visibility of queer people in mainstream media, there are still many issues with how this community is represented.

BLS Assistant Head of School Ms. Danielle Murray explains, "Sometimes there's been this discussion on the sidelines of 'should this group be part of Pride?' [...] And I think, actually, they're all parts of our community. [...] We need to embrace all of them and not [...] just the parts that look mainstream, but the parts that challenge our sense of norm because



Octavio Jones

Florida students walk out of schools to protest the "Don't Say Gay" Bill.

those folks are beautiful and included in our community too."

Furthermore, the issue of performative corporate support has magnified the misrepresentation of the LGBTQ+ community. Performative support from corporations manifests itself through a myriad of brands releasing rainbow-themed clothing, changing their logos to include rainbows and releasing statements pledging their allyship with the queer community, and their devotion to supporting and accepting all. Many of these companies, however, are not true to their word, as many also support homophobic politicians, donate to conversion therapy organizations or create discriminatory environments and policies for their employ-

ees.

Murray adds that "pride should have all sorts of diversity, not just racial diversity, not just gender diversity, but [also] diversity of lived experiences that should be celebrated. I think the more corporate we get, the more "safe" people want to play it." The way LGBTQ+ people live should not be dictated by others' expectations, and Pride should be an opportunity to embrace this counterculture.

Pride Month should never act as a facade to mask the reality of current LGBTQ+ rights around the world, but it can still serve as a celebration for this rich community, which is just as crucial as advocacy. Pride demonstrates how queer joy can and should exist alongside the desire for change.

Should BLS Have Finals?

Yes, BLS Should Have Finals.

By Brandon Flores (IV)

Contributing Writer

Are you still upset that you didn't get the grade you wanted on your sixie Latin final? Probably not, but back then, you were so worried about it, as if your entire future counted on it. But it didn't, and you probably do not even remember the grade you got on it.

Finals get a bad rep, but they provide a solution for something students always complain about: the idea that classes have limited value, especially since you forget so much of the content so soon. Final exams hold students accountable for their education, so it is up to them whether or not they retain the knowledge they have gained.

Cumulative assessments may be flawed, but they consistently reappear in one's future. Many career paths require a license which must be renewed every so often by passing (you guessed it) a cumulative assessment. They are an efficient way to measure proficiency on a large scale, which is critical even past high school. They are required in college as well! As a school that aims to prepare students for future endeavors, regardless of what they are, Boston Latin School should provide a platform for students to learn how to prepare for something like a final and overcome the challenges that come along with it.

Final exams are also advantageous because they bring together all the important and necessary content covered throughout an academic year. These tests are particularly helpful for the students who will take a related class the following year. Many courses often require foundational knowledge covered in the previous academic year. Without finals, students would not have motivation to retain information for the long term. Although students might forget a significant amount of information over the course of the summer, it would be even worse without a final exam.

Since the study skills applied throughout the year are crucial for success, it is indispensable for teachers and students alike to understand what requires improvement and what is going well. It also helps administrators and teachers better understand what works and what does not since final exams are identical, regardless of the teacher. If there is no absolute standard to measure up to, what value is there in building a solid foundation throughout the year?

For all students, especially at an elite school like BLS, finals are valuable tools to prepare students for the future. Performing well on them only demonstrates a student's progress and skills and is simply an opportunity to measure one's understanding of a course and grow from it. This means that grades on a final exam do not always reflect a student's performance over the course of an entire year, nor do they reflect their effort. All BLS students have been disappointed by a grade at one point or another, but what makes students exceptional is how they take those results and push themselves to grow from their mistakes.



No, BLS Should Not Have Finals.

By Roan Wilcox (III)

Staff Writer

As the saying goes, "short-term pain for long-term gain." Final exams at Boston Latin School, however, counter this philosophy by exchanging short-term gain for long-term pain and rewarding last-minute cramming instead of students' critical thinking skills. When it comes to assessments that can make or break a student's grade, it's best to administer them correctly or not administer them at all. BLS finals clearly belongs in the latter camp.

It is difficult to find any student walking the halls of BLS who truly likes the current model of finals, and for good reason: it is terrible. Whether it's math, history or science, today's finals merely evaluate a student's ability to regurgitate formulas, vocabulary and dates that are briefly mentioned

throughout the year — rather than the ability to think critically and understand the material at hand. Many classes additionally spend only around five days reviewing 30 or more weeks of material. This short preparation period forces students to spend inordinate amounts of extra time memorizing information, which damages their physical and mental health.

How BLS administers finals, moreover, is absurd. During the three days of end-of-year testing, students take not one, but two finals per day, with normal classes and lunch in between. Unlike many schools, which hold only one or two tests per day and then dismiss their students, BLS and Boston Public Schools insist that its students, as "overachievers," must continue attending regular classes alongside finals. There is a fine line between making students sweat and making them want to cry, and the BLS finals system is markedly crossing it.

Brian Huang (III) comments on this disconnect: "It'd be better to just show up at the school, take the exam and leave since students would have had sufficient preparation before test day."

In theory, it is critical to have an in-depth understanding of subject matters and to hold students accountable for their performance throughout the year. Finals and testing at BLS, however, generally miss the mark when it comes to what school is really about. Rather than focusing on fostering a knowledge of content that students will retain well after they graduate, BLS finals, administered by teachers who have spent a lifetime in their field, often get lost in a focus on the fine details of a subject.

Ultimately, the question is not whether BLS should assess students, but how BLS should do it. Tests evaluating four terms' worth of knowledge, administered back-to-back over three days that determine a large portion of a student's grade are certainly not the appropriate way to execute finals. If finals aren't done well, they shouldn't be done at all.

The Internet Made Us Dumber



A student uses online databases as resources for school projects.

By Hannah Yu (III)

Contributing Writer

Many students vouch for the positive impacts of technology, but they often overlook their own dependency. Retaining information and strengthening one's independent knowledge no longer seems relevant when students are within reach of every answer through various technological devices. The emergence of the internet has reinvented the

ways we search for information and learn and consume media, but has simultaneously fostered immense dependence on such assistance, possibly resulting in devastating consequences for younger generations.

Although the internet can make students' lives more efficient by providing immediate answers, this convenience encourages cramming. Students rely on sources from the internet for homework and classwork, but when it comes time for an assessment,

they realize that they have not retained any information. Students ultimately fall into the rabbit hole of turning to the internet for help when they do not truly understand academic concepts, which produces short-term benefits but ultimately results in long-term consequences.

Islay Shiland (III) emphasizes, "People are trying to cram [things in] a second they've never actually learned before and that just doesn't work."

Authentic practice is necessary to truly learn and master any skill or piece of material, but many students bypass this in favor of attaining the correct answer through more convenient means. As Boston Latin School physics and chemistry teacher Mr. Conor Fearon puts it, "Did you actually learn anything? Did you take anything away from it? Or did you just get the information enough to get a green check mark on *Desmos* and move on?"

The accessible nature of the internet also diminishes creative thinking. For instance, when writing essays or answering open response questions, many turn to *ChatGPT* or other artificial intelligence (AI) resources that can create decent pieces of writing within seconds. This reliance on artificial intelligence discourages the development of the essential skill of individual thought.

Currently, *ChatGPT* draws from previously created sources and essentially recycles

other works of writing, meaning that the content produced isn't original or new. BLS English teacher Mr. Robert Oakes insightfully notes that "The most powerful thing that people, especially young people, have is their ability to use words. That's the most powerful tool that you have. And so using any kind of shortcuts are shortcuts that prevent you from achieving your full potential with words."

Overreliance on technology at an early age also affects proficiency in future careers, as it diminishes motivation and work ethic. Mr. Fearon shares, "One of my best friends works for NASA and he says that these engineers are woefully inept. It's actually impressive [that] new interns are constantly looking for someone else to do the thing for them because they don't want to actually apply their brain and knowledge to do it." Shortcuts taken from the internet lead to inert approaches to working, which are alarming to future industries and critical analysis-oriented occupations.

Schools, teachers and students must become more aware of these paramount effects and advocate for traditional methods of critical thinking, where students are encouraged to perform and display their individual thought processes and voice. As BLS Keefe Librarian Ms. Deeth Ellis puts it, "[the internet] is going to diminish how well-educated we are as a society if we aren't holding ourselves accountable."

The Impact of “No Impact”



Student stu-DYING for finals.

By **Annie Dai (IV)**

Assistant Editor

“Don’t worry, it’s just one grade!” Every student has heard their teacher tell them not to worry about individual assignments or assessments, but in reality, such words discredit students’ efforts and the school environment.

Boston Latin School English teacher Ms. Sophia Campot says, “Teachers are tempted to say it because we see students stressed and we don’t want them having undue stress. [...] My intentions are to make sure students don’t catastrophize. [...] I say it because I want to alleviate the tension there. But I don’t say they’re ready for something or something will be easy for them unless I’m confident I’ve prepared them sufficiently.”

If teachers monitor their words and

say these phrases only when they truly apply, they can build trust with students and make them feel more comfortable. Unfortunately, many teachers do not consider these factors and use reassuring statements far too often to brush aside students’ worries. False assurances result in a slew of detrimental effects on students.

One consequence is that the statements contradict the students’ beliefs. Grades are crucial to most students, and many often prioritize and place much work, worry and emphasis on them. Despite educators’ and administrators’ promotion of the concept that grades do not define students, the education system proves otherwise. Students receive four report cards a year and they are required to meet with their guidance counselor if they perform poorly academically. Grades matter to many students’ guardians, ad-

ditionally, and that degree varies across households.

When teachers make statements suggesting the opposite of students’ convictions, it devalues students’ efforts and the things meaningful to them.

Belittling the reality of school and grades also downplays the weight of academics and the gravity of the school environment, which causes students to become more unsettled in an already taxing situation. Although the statements are well-intentioned, the outcome is nothing short of the opposite.

For instance, such discrediting produces divisions and disorder in students’ mindsets and generally does not ease their anxieties because students can interpret those statements and results ambiguously. Susan Chen (II) adds, “I think that it is different for every student. [...] Some students may take those assignments less seriously, and some may get frustrated and more stressed than before.”

These varying responses show that many educators and students do not quite understand each other, and the dynamic disrupts their relationships, which stems from a lack of support and trust in schools. Students experience such intense and competitive environments and endure immense stress and academic pressure. Educators often express their sympathy disguised as empathy and provide short-term solutions in an attempt to briefly and quickly relieve students of their concerns, but they do not truly comprehend students’ troubles.

Even the current guidance system, which is designed for students to easily find academic and personal assistance, is still reliant on interactions with someone who acts and speaks on behalf of the faculty, not the students. Therefore, the differences in position and perspective create a lack of

trust and confidentiality between teachers and students.

Moreover, it is difficult to feel like anybody is advocating for the student body, as students’ frustrations are grouped and issues are often left unsolved. This generalization is visible when teachers improperly advise students not to worry about individual assignments or assessments instead of ensuring they are well-equipped with the necessary skills and knowledge to succeed.

Improvement begins in the classroom, where teachers and students interact most often. Teachers should not use empty words to console students because students do not wish to be mindlessly comforted; they prefer to do well on assignments and understand their teacher’s expectations. If teachers hope to facilitate student success and make an improved and lasting impact on their students, they should utilize other, more helpful strategies.

Bella Choi (IV) explains, “[Teachers] have good intentions, but it’s just the wrong way of doing it. It’s much better for teachers to clearly state what needs to be studied, how much it’ll be weighted, how big it’ll be and truly help students, rather than trying to downplay the importance and telling students they’ll be fine. Students need that reassurance and clarity when it comes to assignments and the impact on their grades. [...] [Teachers] should just be straight-up.”

Although this shift is a small step and will not magically resolve all existing issues, it is one step in the right direction. By doing this, teachers will build trust with their pupils and make them more confident in themselves, their academic abilities and their communication skills. More importantly, however, it will preserve school transparency instead of causing students to believe fallacies.

Snoozing: The Key to Cruising Through High School

By **Louis Nguyen (IV)**

Contributing Writer

In the fast-paced world of Boston Latin School, where academic demands, extracurricular activities and social commitments collide, students often find themselves needing a nap. It is common to see students nodding off in class, struggling to keep their eyes open and fighting a losing battle against sleep. Amid the hustle and bustle of students’ academic lives, a question arises: the last time students experienced the bliss of nap time was back in preschool, but does it have to remain a distant memory?

Nap time might be viewed as an unconventional solution for high schoolers’ sleep deprivation. The teenage years, however, are a critical period of growth and development, and sleep plays a crucial role in supporting growing bodies. As research continues to highlight the importance of sleep for cognitive function and overall well-being, naps for teenagers during school may not be as far-fetched as initially thought.

Not only would nap time enhance focus and productivity during the school day, it could also potentially lead to long-term benefits such as improved academic performance and reduced stress levels. Incorporating sleep into the existing school schedule would be the easiest way to address the lack of sleep and energy that many high schoolers face daily.

Hoa Nguyen (IV) shares his firsthand experiences with sleep deprivation relating to classroom engagement: “I constantly struggle to stay

awake during class, and it makes it that much more difficult to even understand what is going on. I often sacrifice some of my other important times during the school day to catch up on sleep, like during my studies or even lunch.”

Implementing nap time would resolve many of these problems and provide a dedicated period for students to recharge their minds and bodies. Rather than struggling with fatigue and dropping concentration levels throughout the day, students would have the opportunity to replenish their energy levels and enhance their ability to engage actively in their studies or extracurricular activities with an organized nap time.

Getting enough sleep could also have long-lasting benefits as students transition into college and adulthood. Naps can go beyond physical rest; they create time for mental rejuvenation and stress reduction. This extra help allows students to navigate the challenges of adolescence more effectively.

For younger students especially, significant transitions, more academic pressure and more social or emotional complications are hallmarks of their teenage years. Integrating a brief period of rest into the school day could provide a much-needed break, promote good mental health and reduce risk of burnout from anxiety-related issues.

“High school life can be tough with so much pressure put on you, such as maintaining good grades and maintaining healthy relationships, which can further cause stress and



BLS student falls asleep during a class period.

anxiety,” says Benjamin Leung (IV). “However, it could be helped by having nap time in schools, which will allow people to catch up on sleep and help a person instead of punishing them.”

Adding an entire period dedicated to sleeping into the school day does, however, raise questions about its feasibility; especially after looking at the standard BLS schedule, it seems challenging to allocate time for napping. The idea of designated sleeping periods, however, is realistic.

When asked about this topic, BLS Spanish teacher Mrs. Denise Rodrigues Akkus offered a solution: “One idea would be during studies. [...] It’s a time that you could nap. Granted, you’re sitting in those chairs and at

those desks, because I don’t see what other space [there is]. I do think some students have already implemented their own time during Study Hall.”

By utilizing available spaces such as empty classrooms, high schools can create designated nap zones allocating additional costs for renovations or changes. This approach would allow schools to address the importance of rest and sleep for students while keeping their budget in check.

As we navigate our BLS lives, let us remember the importance of rest and rejuvenation; nap time can become a cherished tradition once again. After all, a little shut-eye might just be the secret to unlocking our full potential and making a healthy high school life a dream come true.

Long Distance Creates Long-Lasting Relationships

By **Angelina Wei (IV)**

Contributing Writer

As graduation approaches for seniors, many prepare to embark on a new chapter in their lives, which may lead them to different locations around the globe. With this transition, many young couples must decide whether to maintain or end their relationships when physically separated. The decision to pursue long-distance relationships requires an immense amount of consideration. By exploring the intricacies of a long-distance relationship, couples can discover the immense value they offer, which fosters personal growth and strengthens their love.

The loyalty required for a long-distance relationship goes beyond that of a short-distance one. When partners decide to maintain their commitment despite being physically apart, they demonstrate their devotion to their relationship, which strengthens the bond between them. Long distance creates a barrier they must overcome, creating a deep emotional connection from their unwavering trust in each other.

Michael Nil (I), who is currently in a long-distance relationship, adds, "A long-distance relationship can definitely strengthen the bond between partners because they are expected to keep in contact with each other. Day by day, this will strengthen the bond between them as long as partners interact in a meaningful way."

The experience of managing a long-distance relationship can also lead to a blossoming of love and personal development. After graduating high school, people have the time and freedom to undergo immense individual growth. Couples can effectively use their time spent apart for themselves, enhancing their positive traits and skills.

This independence, when balanced with the commitment to the relationship, will also allow partners to become more mature and self-fulfilled. The ability to adapt to change and embrace each other's growth will strengthen the resilience of the relationship.

Boston Latin School Italian teacher Ms. Katie-Nicole Bagarella Varano, who has experienced a long-distance relationship separated by seas, adds that these relationships "are much more difficult [...] than a regular relationship, so you are forced to do a lot of introspection and reflection and you do have to work on yourself in order to make a long distance relationship work long term." Through a journey of individual and collective progress, couples will be able to produce a stronger connection between them, enriching their lives both independently and together.



Mela Xides

Distance makes the heart grow fonder.

Many couples who do not support long-distance relationships believe that they will never work out, as the other person wouldn't be able to commit to the connection; they fear that their partner could potentially turn to infidelity or replace them. One of the main causes for cheating is a lack of attention or communication.

Long-distance relationships, however, actually foster effective communication between couples, allowing them to succeed. Without physical contact, a partner must rely on open and honest communication to convey their emotions and thoughts. Partners can video call or send heartfelt messages to remain connected and informed on each other's lives. Through these various forms of communication, partners can learn to share their experiences and desires without unhealthy codependency. These interactions can nurture trust and loyalty and create a solid foundation for a lasting relationship.

Michelle Zhang (I) reflects, "I believe that long-dis-

tance relationships foster effective communication if effective communication is already established and the norm between two people to begin with. The above being true, long-distance relationships may strain a relationship in certain ways for short durations at a time, but contribute overall to a healthier relationship because it's a shared experience that two people persevere through together in their own independent ways."

Long-distance relationships may seem daunting, but they are immensely valuable to both partners. Through an unbreakable bond, effective communication and individual development, couples can expand their love for each other despite being hundreds of miles apart and without physical contact. By embracing the challenges of commitment, seniors will embark on an incredible journey of self-discovery, deepening their love and building a strong foundation for a lasting relationship that transcends distance.

America's Debt Ceiling



Alex Wong/Anna Moneymaker

Biden and McCarthy have different views on the debt ceiling problem.

By **Denis Cunniffe (II)**

Staff Writer

For the past 60 years, American citizens and residents have enjoyed a luxury that many of them do not even recognize. This luxury is known as "dollar supremacy," a collection of the countless benefits that the American dollar's stability and global use provide.

The United States Dollar (USD) is by far the world's most traded currency and is unofficially the world's reserve currency. Dollar supremacy allows the American government to enjoy large amounts of free-

dom in spending with little short-term consequences. Many crucial government programs rely on the government being able to spend like this, and losing this would harm a large portion of the American people.

On May 28, President Biden and Speaker McCarthy reached a solution to suspend the debt ceiling until 2025. The deal does not provide an adequate long-term solution to improve the national debt and instead sets the country up to have another dispute two years from now. The compromise reached by Biden and McCarthy just expands the debt ceiling further and pushes the threat of a default further

back. The American government cannot expand the debt ceiling endlessly, and must control its debt more responsibly in a way that will not negatively impact the welfare of the American people.

When a country defaults on its debt, they admit that it admits that it cannot pay back what it owes. This tarnishes the country's reputation and prevents them from easily extracting more money in the future. The U.S. has never taken such actions, and therefore has a reputation for being fiscally responsible and low-risk.

As Boston Latin School economics teacher Mr. Dominic Rinaldi puts it, "The 'lower risk' a country is, the more likely creditors are to lend money and investors are to invest there. A country that is deemed 'high risk' will have a tougher time participating effectively in the global economy. And as much as some hate it, the world is completely globalized and no country can survive entirely on its own."

The government has to prevent default in order to avoid drastic consequences. Aidan Ormsby (II) explains that "services that are crucial for our country's functioning like social security would be depleted." The country's military would also be put at risk from a default with defense companies facing their contract payments delayed, halted production, as well as the pensions and healthcare funding for veterans being depleted. Not to mention, the millions of federal employees could have suddenly stopped receiving paychecks as the government would have run out of funds to pay them.

Although it is definitely needed right now, constantly raising the debt ceiling is not ideal in the long term. Zach Chen (II) states, "In the long term a better solution must be found or we will risk having the U.S. dollar replaced as the World's reserve currency." The government must control its debt over time by expanding taxes on corporations and the wealthy, as well as control excess spending on unnecessary activities and projects.

This may seem unattainable, but it is actually what the Biden Administration set as a focal point in their negotiations. Biden's plan to raise taxes on the wealthy and corporations would provide adequate funding and stability to our country's welfare system. Unfortunately, Speaker McCarthy refused to accept many of Biden's proposals unless he agreed to cut down on funding for welfare programs, therefore voiding Biden's goals. Biden must not accept any deal like this because it would make taking on more debt arbitrary if the government just reduces the quality of the programs it is trying to protect in the first place.

These pointless negotiations have become far too commonplace in American democracy and reflect how growing partisanship is causing the government to prioritize useless charades no matter how close it comes to bringing society near crashing down. The country desperately needs to find an effective long term solution to the debt ceiling that protects social welfare and takes from the wealthy instead of from programs that support the well-being of American citizens.

Congratulations, Oliver!



**We are so very proud
of you and all you
have accomplished!**



**Onward & upward
to new adventures!**



**Love,
Mom, Dad & Ben**



Sumus Primi!



**Congratulations to
the little girl who could!
Livia, we are so proud
of your dedication and
hard work. Enjoy your
achievements and keep
aiming high! We'll be
with you every step of
the way. With so much
love from all your family,
near and far.**



You did it, Tess!

**We love the way you look at the world
Keep sharing your gifts at RISD and beyond!**



**Congratulations, Paige!
We love you so much and we are super proud of you.
Love,
Mom, Dad and Marilyn**



**Love,
Mom, Dad and Lucas**

Congratulations, Rachel!

We are endlessly proud of you and all the effort you have made to achieve your success. This milestone was no easy feat but you made it seem effortless. It is without a doubt that you will excel in anything you choose to do in this next chapter of your life. MIT is so lucky to have you!



**We will forever be here
to cheer you on.**

**With love always,
Ba, Ma, Ngoai, Chi Hai, Pumpkin and Gumi**

President
Fabiola Alanis



Dear Seniors,
Congratulations! :) I'd like to start off by expressing what an honor it's been to be a part of this class and to grow alongside all of you for the past four or six years. Sometimes I think it's unbelievable that only a short time ago we were all these small, fresh-faced sixies or B-sies, so unsure of what BLS would do for us (or to us) and what our lives would look like at the end of our senior year.

I'll be the first to admit that this was never what I imagined. My senior year is nothing like what I described in my sixie letter, and I'm glad. I am happy to say that I am leaving BLS as a completely different person than the one who pops up in my Snap memories and I believe that all of you are too. I hope that for you, just like for me, BLS has been an extremely

formative experience, something that you can look back on and say, "I can't imagine my life without having gone to that school."

Because as much as you stressed about your work and teachers, the truth is that your time here, regardless of what you did, was unique and worthwhile. As our time quickly approaches its end, I think it is important to look at how far you've come. Somehow, somehow, you've all successfully completed the dreaded declamations, survived life in the basement as an eighth grader and ultimately made it to the long-awaited Graduation day. I am so proud of the BLS Class of 2023 and I know that you will all achieve thousands of amazing things in the years to come.

With that being said, however, I'd like to leave you all with one mes-

sage: don't stop now. Many of us were fortunate to take advantage of the numerous resources that our school offered and while I believe that those accomplishments are worth commending and celebrating, I'd like to encourage you all to keep going. Look at the next four years as your chance to do everything you've ever imagined and to also try doing things you can't even imagine now, all so that by the time your 2027 Graduation rolls around, you are not only excited to move on, but are completely satisfied because you made the most out of your time.

It's been such a pleasure to be your co-president this year and I can't wait to see what life has in store for all of you. I wish you all the best of luck!!

Fabiola Alanis

President
Riccardo Rollo



As I reflect on my time at Boston Latin School, one thing keeps coming back to me: nothing is impossible when we work together. Seriously, I can't think of any instance where we did things alone. Whether it was a student getting sent to Mrs. Murray's office for jumping on the lunch tables or a student winning a prestigious academic award, the impact of our classmates was always there. We lived in this school together and supported one another through the ups and downs. When our grade faced hardships, we united to comfort each other; when something positive happened, we gathered to celebrate. We truly grew up together.

Now that we embark on our separate paths, I hope the sense of community that we fostered during

our time here will endure. My dream is that the challenges and achievements each and every one of us will face in the future will be commemorated by all, and our class of 410 individuals will be known across the world as the BLS Class of 2023.

We've all heard the phrase that BLS is the hardest school out there, but if we truly believe it, then there's no limit to what our class can accomplish. My parting message is simple: follow your dreams. Whatever it may be, chase after it, because the relationships and tools gained from a school like BLS will unlock the opportunities to achieve any dream that you set your mind to.

Before I wrap this up, I want to give a shoutout to my fellow class officers as well as Mrs. Sarkis and Mrs. Encarnacao for making this

year special. I also want to express my gratitude to each and every one of you for creating the incredible environment that exists at BLS. There were times when school work seemed impossible, but I could always count on my classmates for support. We grew academically, and the blossomed friendships and relationships emerged will have a lasting impact on my life.

It has been an absolute honor to be part of this remarkable class, and I'll cherish the memories we've created over these years forever. I can't wait to celebrate the amazing accomplishments awaiting everyone in this graduating class.

Class of 2023, keep moving forward together,

Ricky Rollo



Congratulations, Sophia!
We are beyond proud of you
and we love you so much.
Accomplish great things on
other side of the river!

Love,
Mom, Dad and Issie



Congratulations, Maia! I am so proud of you and so excited to see you continue on your journey!

Love, Mom

Vice President
Nyla Anderson



It has been an incredibly long, majorly exhausting, painstakingly difficult beautiful six years (or four). While I can't say I'd do it all over again, I can easily say I wouldn't have wanted to do it with anyone else. Class of 2023 is a class I'll forever be proud to be a part of, and I couldn't be more honored to have been VP with my lovely fellow officers. Despite our differences, we've all helped form a community that's all our own.

I remember coming into sixie year and knowing one person. One out of just over 400. Now we can walk through the halls and call each other out by name regardless of how close we are. Maybe it's because of sixie year math, where the second you met, you laughed so much that the teacher split you up, and then from across the room you still found reasons to laugh. Maybe an eighth-grade science class, where you sat beside someone for just

the first term, but they never failed to make the class more bearable. It could have been Latin freshman year, spent doodling, whispering and learning nothing but still making the best out of an otherwise tedious class. An unlikely ally in a Zoom breakout room, a forever friend in French 4 or a friendship re-configured in 014.

Whatever it was for you, odds are it happened at least once. And maybe that once was exactly what you needed to get you through at that moment. I'll forever be grateful for all of you, for understanding what school is like here and for always being willing to help a friend.

Looking back on our time at BLS isn't all positive — no high school experience is — but there's something special about working as hard as we did and coming out the other end together. There's pride here: for ourselves and for each other. No one here

can walk away and say that these past six years were easy. I'm proud of all of you. Whether it was conquering declamation, finally finishing your Junior Research Paper or simply passing AP Lit this year, you've all done incredible things here. As we get ready to say our final goodbyes to this building, I'm confident that you'll continue to do incredible things.

Let's not worry too much about the future right now though. Take this time to hug your friends extra tight. Tell them you're proud of them, and then tell yourself too. Gush about prom, graduation and senior sign out. Just please, enjoy your last few weeks before we join the esteemed BLS alumni (that's genuinely so insane to say). We finally did it! Congratulations Class of '23. It's been a hell of a ride.

All my love,
Nyla

Treasurer
Michelle Zhang



Class of 2023,

"Where'd All the Time Go?" I have to admit, I've been staring at a blinking vertical black line for just about half an hour now, with absolutely nothing on my page. Writing this was harder than writing my Term 3 AP Lit paper (sorry, Ms. Moon). Though, admittedly, it's pretty hard to say goodbye to something we never thought would arrive. It's even harder to say goodbye to something that we don't want to leave behind. It seems strange, though, to not want to leave behind the 5:00 A.M. wake-ups, the jitters before declamation or the sound of critters (a euphemism) running through the pipes. The elation of "It's All Over" seeps into

melancholy as we're staring up at our childhood bedroom ceilings at night, wondering how much of this we'll remember a week, a month, a year from now.

"Everything must come to an end," but even so, our memories keep this chapter from closing shut. Yes, ten years from now, we may not all be in the same state, country or even planet... but it is with a 100 percent guarantee that I can say a small smile will appear on our faces whenever we hear the words "beautiful people." I can also guarantee that a dangerously large smile will don our faces whenever someone says "I am an alumni..." instead of "I am an alumnus..." And of course, our memories of how to sing

"*sumus agricolae*, bum ba dum bum bum bum..." is forever a cherished classic.

1,080 school days later (or maybe 720 if you're lucky) and it's graduation day. These are precisely the "Good Old Days." We know it. We feel it. We see it in the uncontainable smiles of our faces. We see it in the tears rolling down our cheeks (not me, though, I just have allergies). It's been a fantastic ride. Time is flying, but so are we.

One final *ciao*,
Michelle Zhang

And of course, non-MLA citations (in order): Dr. Dog, every senior class ever, Bojack, RS, Farmers Insurance Ad, Andy Bernard.

Secretary
Nicky Tran



CLASS OF 2023! Where'd all the time go?

Just kidding. We've been waiting for this moment our whole lives and WE DID IT!

Congratulations to us all for these past four or six years, 'cause it's truly been a crazy time of our lives. I knew almost no one coming into Boston Latin, and as the shy girl who always wore the same black leggings and ponytail up in sixie year, I am truly grateful to have been given the chance to be your Senior Class Secretary. I never would have imagined it. I also never would have imagined bonding over such memorable (traumatizing) experiences with you all, and I wouldn't have shared them with any other class. From memorizing Latin declensions and conjugations (core memory: *ubi est porcus?*), to the horrors of declamation (my outfits were dreadful), to those goofy PACER tests (that I actually tried really hard on) and of course, to the pandemic. We're a class that made history, a class that's been through history, and a class that

can change history. I am so genuinely proud of you all.

There is no denying that BLS has made us all feel like we've been dragged through the mud. Yet we're all here, at the finish line together, and I can't wait to see all our caps up in the air! I admit, it's slightlyyy bittersweet, but I really couldn't be happier to see us all starting new chapters in our lives. I am extremely honored to be part of the same graduating class as you all. To be able to sit in classrooms filled with so much youthful talent and intelligence — I will always be in awe at how much we all have accomplished, and how much we are all capable of.

I personally hate being sappy, but there comes a time where I can't help it — so it will continue (apologies to those who share the same hatred for sappiness as me). The friends we've made along the way will last a lifetime, or at least longer than a cup of coffee that a teacher catches you holding in the hallways. I can't express how thankful I am to those who have stuck by me (including the faculty),

because I owe it all to you for helping me through the times when I struggled so much that I couldn't see the end of it. Having a shoulder to cry on (or to lean on as I fell asleep on the tedious subway ride home) has allowed me to get so far, and it's opened my eyes to the community we built as the Class of '23.

I would also like to thank my fellow Class Officers — Fabric, Rique, Nylon and Michelin, for joining me in bringing the community together for our final year, and although we didn't get our toga day or an actual good picture together (we desperately need one), we worked hard to make senior year the best it could be.

Here's to the Class of 2023! Live in the moment, get more sleep and don't feel pressured to have your life all figured out. I'm looking forward to watching your stories unfold for these next chapters. And to those still here, I'm sure you got this. :)

Toodles,
Nicky Tran

Best wishes to the Class of '23!

And a big shout out to our scholar-athlete, **Maayan!**
We're so proud of you and excited for your next chapter!

*With loads of love,
Mom, Dad and Bro*

Congratulations, Alex and BLS Class of 2023!



From the very beginning you have kept us on our toes... We are so proud of the inquisitive and creative young man you have become!

Love,
Mom, Dad, David ('21) and Nathan ('27)

Dear Jiayi,
From East Coast
to West Coast,
from Snow
Storm to Sunset
Blvd, no matter
where you are,
we know that
you will do great!



Congratulations and good luck to our Seniors!

— Friends of BLS Crew



Gabriel Dantas
Emilia Saldaña
Bryant Nguyen
Megan Li
Nathan Zhang

Sasha Bornhorst
Nicolas L'Huillier
Bryanna Upton
Vishnu Eskew



Go after your dreams, girl! We are so proud of you and will always be here for you.

Mom, Dad and Jiaming

Future Plans List

Abdow, Colin	U of Vermont	He, Kathleen	U of Massachusetts, Amherst	O'Brien, Ciara	Loyola U Maryland
Aho, Tess	Rhode Island School of Design	Hemr, Louisa	Bowdoin College	Odunaik, Israel	Wentworth Institute of Tech.
Aina, Oluwatomisin	Northeastern U	Ho, Ethan	Northeastern U	Oh, Hannah	Wellesley C
Aitelhadj, Amir	U of Massachusetts, Lowell	Hoang, Marvin	Boston U	Okwesa, Samantha	Northeastern U
Alanis, Fabiola	Boston U	Holleran, Sophia	Loyola U New Orleans	Paik, Justin	Tufts U
Albert, Ash	The New School	Hollins, Laila	School of Visual Arts	Parkerson, Eleanor	North Carolina State U, Raleigh
Babila-Weigmann, Mai	Denison U	Hoogendoorn-Ecker, Kyler	Harvard C	Pelletier, Romeo	McGill U
Barone, Ryan	Northeastern U	Huang, Eric	Northeastern U, Oakland	Peralta-Virtue, Tamsen	The New School
Bello Santana, Jenifer	U of Chicago	Huang, Janie	U of California, Irvine	Perez, Angelica	U of Massachusetts, Boston
Belobokov, Ivan	U of Massachusetts, Lowell	Huang, Lily	Yale U	Pfau, Alexander	Boston U
Benedetto, Riley	Georgetown U	Hughes, Emmett	U of Massachusetts, Amherst	Pham, Emily	Boston U
Berman Reinhardt, Mirabelle	Northwestern U	Hurley, Bridget	George Washington U	Pham, Tam	Cornell U
Black, Nicholas	Boston U	Huynh, Helena	Boston U	Pineda Melendez, Cristian	Northeastern U
Bordon, William	Skidmore C	Imbrogiano, Niccolo	Pennsylvania State U	Poftak, Natalie	Connecticut C
Bornhorst, Sasha	C of the Holy Cross	Jackson, Cecilia	U of St Andrews	Pollard, Honora	Connecticut C
Borovoy, Madeleine	Tulane U	Jaimes, Veronica	U of Massachusetts, Boston	Powers, Liam	Merrimack C
Bosch, Mary	U of Wisconsin, Madison	Jin, Owen	Harvard C	Prentiss, Oliver	Marquette U
Bova, Richard	Brighton A	Johnson, Lilyana	C of Charleston	Raghunathan, Girish	Lasell U
Brady, Liam	Rice U	Johnson, Nathan	U of Massachusetts, Lowell	Ramos, Carly	Harvard C
Breen, Mina	Boston U	Kaneko, Yuta	Tufts U	Reardon, Seamus	Coastal Carolina U
Brigham, Lily	Bridgewater State U	Keane, Jillian	U of Massachusetts, Amherst	Reichgott, Oscar	U of Massachusetts, Amherst
Brown, MacKenzie	Elon U	Kelly, Martin	U of Massachusetts, Amherst	Reynolds, Niall	Tufts U
Brown, Micaiah	Northeastern U	Kennedy, Elizabeth	U of Massachusetts, Lowell	Rhoden, Oriana	U of Massachusetts, Boston
Bryant, Lincoln	U of Massachusetts, Amherst	Kennedy Slesar, Ionie	U of Arizona	Ribeiro, Fatima	Suffolk U
Bui, Kien	Boston U	Khalifa, Hula	U of Massachusetts, Amherst	Ricciarini, Livia	Tufts U
Cabey, Elyssa	Tufts U	Kirby, KC	Morgan State U	Riley, Maya	Providence C
Canavan, Thomas	U of Massachusetts, Amherst	Kirleis, Kirsten	U of Massachusetts, Amherst	Rivkin, David	U of Massachusetts, Amherst
Capogreco, Michalena	U of Connecticut	Knobel, Veronique	McGill U	Rollo, Riccardo	Harvard C
Cedano Peña, Caroline	Tufts U	Kobeissi, Amir	Providence C	Rosi-Kessel, Esther	Bryn Mawr C
Cevallos, Isabella	Davidson C	Kolovrat, Alex	Fordham U	Rousmaniere, William	Loyola U Maryland
Chafiq, Ilyass	U of Massachusetts, Amherst	Kuang, Jason	MC of Pharmacy and Health Sciences	Rozwadowski, Kuba	Boston U
Chakmakian, Harry	Marist C	L'Huillier, Nicolas	Harvard C	Russo, Sophia	Harvard C
Chan, Khugan	U of Massachusetts, Boston	Lai, Anthony	Northeastern U	Ryan, Jillian	Northeastern U
Chavez, Diego	Harvard C	Landry, Amelia	U of New Hampshire	Saldaña, Emilia	Tufts U
Chen, Emily	MC of Pharmacy and Health Sciences	Le, Trinity	Northeastern U	Sanchez, Katie	U of Massachusetts, Amherst
Chen, Ethan	Northeastern U	Le, Trung	Northeastern U	Santana, David	Massachusetts Institute of Tech.
Choi, Elizabeth	Harvard C	Leblanc, Jackson	New York U	Sardina, Evan	Vassar C
Choy, Lauren	Harvard C	Lee, Andrew	Ohio U	Satchek, Dennis	U of Massachusetts, Lowell
Chung, Charles	Boston U	Lee, Annabelle	Boston Conservatory	Seto, Darren	Harvard C
Churchill-Valencia, Jack	Northeastern U	Lee, Oliver	Quinnipiac U	Seul, Ellis	U of Chicago
Ciliberto, Benjamin	State U of New York, Purchase	Lester-Barrali, Abraham	Pace U, New York City	Smith-Stern, Max	Brown U
Clark, Phoebe	U of Wisconsin, Madison	Lezama, Estiven	Harvard C	Smith, Veronica	Providence U
Clauser, Kaitlin	U of British Columbia	Li, Bessie	Wellesley C	Stockwell, Madison	U of Edinburgh
Coppinger, Ava	U of Massachusetts, Amherst	Li, Megan	Harvard C	Stokes-Haith, Miasia	U of Connecticut
Corcoran, Derek	Ohio State U	Li, Romy	Babson C	Strachan, Mackenzie	Clemson U
Daffin, Sofia	Tufts U	Lieb, Sara	American U	Strand, Alex	U of Vermont
Dagli, Niara	Suffolk U	Lin, Albert	Northeastern U	Stratman, Henry	Skidmore C
Daily, Rynne	U of Minnesota, Twin Cities	Lin, Junxiang	Northeastern U	Straub, Brayden	U of Massachusetts, Lowell
Dalmanieras, Julia	U of Richmond	Lincecum, Emma	George Washington U	Tang, Selina	Harvard C
Dantas, Gabriel	U of Massachusetts, Amherst	Lombard, Colleen	Virginia Tech	Taylor, Madelyn	Northeastern U
Davies, Aidan	Tufts U	Long, Catalina	U of Massachusetts, Boston	Terrey, Kathleen	Harvard C
Day, Flora	U of Massachusetts, Amherst	Luciano Giara, Elisha	U of Massachusetts, Lowell	Thai, Nhat	Boston U
Depina, Kayla	Johnson & Wales U, Providence	Lutan, Tianna	U of Massachusetts, Boston	Thomas-Arbaje, Gabriella	Northeastern U
Depina, Prince	Temple U	Ly, Gena	MC of Pharmacy and Health Sciences	Thompson, Kassidi	Bentley U
Do, Lily	Northeastern U	Mabington, Mathew	Northeastern U	Towle, Christopher	U of Massachusetts, Boston
Doherty, Aidan	Bentley U	Maddox, Cora	Tufts U	Tran, Lena	U of Chicago
Donahue, Joseph	Husson U	Magaziner, Maayan	U of Wisconsin, Madison	Tran, Nicky	U of Massachusetts, Amherst
Dong, Karen	Johns Hopkins U	Maher, Christine	Tufts U	Tran, Mymy	Lesley U
Donovan, Caitlin	Wellesley C	Mai, Junqiang	Suffolk U	Traub, Howard	U of Massachusetts, Lowell
Duff-Wender, Eliza	Bryn Mawr C	Malloy, Lulu	Tufts U	Travieso, Christian	Massachusetts C of Art and Design
Duta, Alexandra	U of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign	Mattison, Eva	Rochester Institute of Tech.	Truong, Nha	Boston U
Duval, Sarah	Northeastern U	McDonald, William	U of Toronto	Upton, Bryanna	Northeastern U
Dycaj, Kristiana	Boston U	McGillicuddy, Connor	Bridgewater State U	Valentine, Isabel	State U of New York, Purchase
Edlund Slarsky, Odin	U of Massachusetts, Amherst	McGuinness, Molly	Northeastern U	Vieno, Gage	U of Mississippi
Elias, Isabel	Northeastern U	McHugh, Niklas	U of Massachusetts, Amherst	Virgile, Cliff	U of Massachusetts, Amherst
Eskew, Vishnu	Franklin W. Olin C of Engineering	McKenna, Jane	U of Tampa	Vo, Kenneth	Yale U
Everett, Joe	Providence C	McQuaid, Niamh	Fairfield U	Wallace, Viviana	Bryn Mawr C
Faris, Rowan	U of Massachusetts, Amherst	Mello, Emma	Pace U, New York City	Wang, Catherine	Northeastern U
Fearon, Sophia	Emmanuel C	Mihali, Brandon	U of Massachusetts, Amherst	Wangler, Sha'naï	Clark Atlanta U
Feliz Diaz, Weslin	Curry C	Mirabella, Jacqueline	U of Massachusetts, Amherst	Wei, Justine	U of Michigan, Ann Arbor
Fitzgerald, RJ	Saint Joseph's C	Mo, Cinly	Columbia U	Williamson, James	Husson U
Flowers, Sadie	U of New Hampshire	Mohamed, Halimasadia	Boston U	Wilson Joutras, Devin	Northeastern U
Fortuin, Benjamin	Harvard C	Moran, Carly	Loyola U Chicago	Wilson Joutras, Jadelyn	Wheaton C, MA
Francisco, Sofia	Mount Holyoke C	Mostoslavsky, Ethan	Boston U	Womack, KJ	U of Massachusetts, Amherst
Frost, Maia	Bryn Mawr C	Murray, Kyle	Brandeis U	Wong, Christina	Harvard C
George, Douglas	Hobart and William Smith C	Myers, Karina	C of the Holy Cross	Wu, Ada	Tufts U
Gillis, Emily	TONI&GUY Hairdressing A	Nagesh, Tarun	Northeastern U	Xie, Nicole	Northeastern U
Gipstein, Tara	Barnard C	Najam, Ange	Northeastern U	Xie, Terence	Northeastern U
Gonzalez, Mathieu	Columbia U	Ndah, Benjamin	Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute	Yates, Rachel	Whitman C
Griffin, Samuel	Santa Clara U	Nelson, Maya	Wesleyan U	Ynoa, JC	U of Massachusetts, Boston
Groth, Katharine	Loyola U Chicago	Ng, Dylan	Tufts U	Young, Benjamin	U of Massachusetts, Lowell
Gruosi, Diamante	U of Miami	Ng, Stanley	Northeastern U	Yu, Mira	Harvard C
Guan, Angela	Northeastern U	Nguyen, Bryant	US Military Academy West Point	Yuan, Julia	Northeastern U
Habib, Adina	U of Massachusetts, Amherst	Nguyen, Ethan	Northeastern U	Yuan, Winnie	U of Massachusetts, Amherst
Haigney, Elizabeth	U of Michigan, Ann Arbor	Nguyen, Harry	Northeastern U	Zaman, Faria	Boston U
Haille, Tewobesta	Northeastern U	Nguyen, Kayla	U of Massachusetts, Boston	Zhang, Jiajia	Harvard C
Halwani, Zena	Emmanuel C	Nguyen, Kiana	Northeastern U	Zhang, Michelle	Harvard C
Harnan, Patrick	Brewster A	Nguyen, Rachel	Massachusetts Institute of Tech.	Zhang, Nathan	Harvard C
Harnan, Thomas	Brewster A	Nguyen, Vivian	Boston U	Zhao, Emily	Boston C
Harrington, Mary	Northeastern U	Nil, Michael	St. John's U, New York	Zheng, Wilson	U of Massachusetts, Amherst
Hashem, Dominic	Northeastern U	Norbis, Lorenzo	U of Michigan, Ann Arbor	Zheng, Nataliya	U of Massachusetts, Amherst
Hassard, Naomi	San Diego State U	Nyhan, Laurel	Boston U	Zhou, Ryan	Northeastern U

*Congrats and best wishes
to the class of 2023!*



Congratulations, Ava! We are so proud of you - Can't wait to see what happens next at UMass Amherst.

*Love,
Mom, Dad, Maggie, Emma and Ava*

Congratulations, Mary!



Love,
Mom, Dad, Erin and Grace

Cor Blimey Molly, top shelf.



You did it! Graduating and getting accepted into UC Santa Barbara is a wonderful accomplishment, we couldn't be prouder of you. You've faced and carried a lot! Your perseverance and commitment were brilliant and you overcame it all in stunning style. As you embark on this new adventure, savor every moment, dare to push yourself past your comfort zones, learn something unexpected and no matter how far you roam, make sure to ring home or drop in for some virtual tea & sympathy from time to time. We love you to bits.

Congratulations and all our love! Da fam x

Congratulations, Jackie Mirabella!



You've accomplished something amazing and we are so proud of you. Can't wait to see what the future holds!
Sumus primi, nulli secunda!

We love you!
Mom, Dad, Matthew and Gregory

All of this has been a religious experience: a living hell. Congratulations on your achievement!



Love,
Mom, Dad, Grace & Cookie

Valedictorian Elizabeth Choi



Dear Class of 2023,
After a freshman year cut short by COVID-19, a sophomore year almost entirely online, a junior year marked with masking and weekly pool testing and a senior year that felt surreal, we can proudly say that it's all over.

Part of me feels that our years at Boston Latin School have passed by in the blink of an eye, but after reading my sixie year letter, I realized how much I have changed. My handwriting has altered (for the worse) and my priorities have shifted (arguably for the better), but the most striking difference is my mindset. In seventh grade, I felt little connection to BLS and could not wait to leave. Now, I'm glad I graduated, but I feel so much gratitude

toward this place, which, despite having wrecked my sleep schedule and caused me extraordinary amounts of stress at times, has given me so much growth and love. I have attended new classes, joined new clubs and made new friends. I like myself more than I did when I was a sixie (or a freshman, if you're a B-sie reading this), and I hope you do too.

These changes, however, did not just happen in isolation. Thank you to all of the hardworking faculty members who have guided and rooted for us. Thank you to our families, without whose support we would not be here today. And, most importantly, thank you to the students of the Class of 2023, who have shaped each other into being better people.

Even if I have not met some of you personally, BLS has imparted to us a bond that encompasses but transcends the shared experiences of declamation, 22-minute lunches and Junior Research Papers, and that's something to celebrate. So, congratulations — we did it!

Sincerely,
Elizabeth Choi

P.S. Thank you to the wonderful Editors-in-Chief of the *Argo*, Jenny and Joana, for granting me six (?) extensions.

P.P.S. Shoutout to my lunch table, Lauren Choy, Sofia Francisco, Annabelle Lee and Julia Yuan, who have put up with my ravings about the cheese pockets for a year and who have forced me to include this.

Valedictorian Mira Yu



Dear Class of 2023 and lost readers looking for the Senior Survey results, it's time for a new era. An era where we can use the bathroom without a pass and take longer than 22 minutes to relish our cheese pockets. An era where we can leave behind our ball and chain (Chromebook and charger). With the end of an era, it's time to reflect on all that Boston Latin School has given us.

I remember reading these farewells as a sixie, back when saying goodbye to BLS seemed unimaginable. Yet somewhere along the way, perhaps in the *Zoom* void between the main and breakout rooms, a creeping nostalgia for our earlier memories developed. It's with this nostalgia that I recall my first *Catapulta* article, my first swim meet (it was S-U-P-E-R great) and my first misdemeanor mark. Now, as seniors, we're ready

to take a step closer to the Real World™. It's now up to us to build on what we've learned about ourselves in our next era, and I know we've got it in the bag. Hopefully, the bag in question isn't as heavy as a sixie backpack.

I couldn't write this farewell without recognizing all the incredible people I've gotten to know here. I think of teachers and coaches who were dedicated mentors, fellow students and "upperclasspeople" who were inspirational role models. I think of goofy club camaraderie, both in-person and online. I'll miss quiz show *Discord* calls and *Zoom* speech sessions filled with laughter. "Underclasspeople," I'm thinking of you too. Mock trial minions, I better see you soon.

Class of 2023, I love that we're as varied as the possibilities of 23 chromosome pairs. Each of us is a multiverse of madness

with future timeline branches unknown to even ourselves. Our class comprises artists, scientists, athletes and rappers (Big Ev and Ice Spice collab when??).

Yet as we move forward, our extracurriculars and honors will define us less than the kindness and respect that we show to ourselves and others. Others' expectations may represent only a singular perception of us, one possible timeline branch of many. We may have been born with 23 chromosome pairs, but who we are will be determined by the many choices we will make. What we've discovered about ourselves at BLS will enable us to expand into new dimensions, to pursue our dreams and adventures and to seek out people that push our perceptions.

Class of 2023, I'm so grateful to have shared these past few years with you. *Valeta!*

Salutatorian Lauren Choy



The past six years at BLS flew by. It feels like yesterday when I was a nervous and excited sixie, sprinting through the hallways as I dragged my rolling backpack with my pigtails aggressively bouncing behind me. Yet here I am, six years later. Although I haven't grown an inch, so much has changed, both in who I

am and my relationships in school.

Words can't properly describe my past six years at Boston Latin School, but if I had to sum it up in three words, it would be these: secure, evolving and loving.

During our freshman year, when we were just beginning to feel comfortable in high school, the COVID-19 pandemic sent everyone home to experience school behind a screen. Going into my sophomore year online, I expected to feel detached and uninterested in school. Instead, the opposite happened. My friends came over to do online school with me, my teachers reached out to have individual check-ins and the school ensured that all three of my sports teams continued to play. Without a doubt, the pandemic was in no way easy. The world experienced immeasurable grief and tragedy. There were lots of times I felt scared, confused, lost and stressed out of my mind, but BLS was a place that I knew I could fall back on. Somehow, we figured out how to be a community even when we weren't physically in school together.

A global pandemic abruptly shutting down schools for more than a year was, of

course, extremely unexpected, but BLS was surprising because the pandemic forced us to adapt and evolve — individually and collectively — in new and important ways. As we graduate, each one of us is a very different person from what our sixie selves expected us to be. We have picked up new extracurriculars, made and broken friendships, developed new interests and so much more. For example, coming into BLS, I was convinced I was going to become a math teacher and never would have chosen to run for fun. In sophomore year, however, I joined the *Argo* and really started to find a purpose in writing. Then, I also joined the track team — both were surprising but the right choice for me in the end.

And finally, loving. Despite all the hard days, I got through them because of the love and support that makes up the BLS community. My sports — soccer, track and especially basketball — teams really taught me this. No matter how bad my day was, my coaches and teammates were able to erase the worries from my mind. On bus rides, my buddies (shoutout to Paige, Selina and Maddie) never failed to make me laugh (although I do also

admit to falling asleep on many of those rides). Whether we were 0-10 or 10-0, we came in with the same attitude of determination and togetherness. To those of you who haven't yet graduated, I hope that you look for your own community wherever that may be for you.

Love at BLS takes shape in the amazing people that make up the community. I feel so grateful to be able to say that many of my closest friends from middle school are still my best friends now. I also made new friendships, such as the one with my favorite co-Sal Selina (aka Yeg), who became one of my best friends junior year. So, in all things, BLS is a place to both stick with the old and try the new.

Leaving here, I might not look like the same sixie (thank God I lost the braces and the glasses) but I still have the same excitement and eagerness that's at the heart of who I am. My hope is that, like me, you stay true to who you are even when this place makes it feel hard, and that you take every opportunity BLS gives you to be inspired and be the person that you dream of becoming. Faster than you can imagine, this moment will be here for you too.

Salutatorian Selina Tang



After returning a book by her "favorite" author, Nathaniel Hawthorne, Ms. Moon and I chatted it up. While reminiscing, as old folks do, she told the story of our first encounter. She had asked sixth-grade Selina if she was interested in joining the *Argo*, to

which sixth-grade Selina responded, "Maybe, but I don't know if writing is my jam."

Ironically, I am now graduating as a six-year veteran of the *Argo* and humanities major. Lesson being: none of us entered BLS and left as the same person. In fact, you might not even have finished certain assignments and still been the same person. (at least that's what all the Physics 1 students say after the flashlight project). Undeniably, BLS is a place of information and transformation. Thus, here are my top three takeaways.

One: never overlook the power of BLS faculty. They may pretend to be humble or BPS's minions, but they are always secretly cooking up assignments or empanadas. More importantly, if you are willing to corner them (or be cornered), you are bound to receive an interesting story. Whether it be stories about college mistakes, childhood ballet lessons or former student drama, you'll find your jaw dropped. Life at BLS became much more enjoyable when I could drop by teachers' or Mr. Greenidge's rooms to take a breath or sneak a donut or candy from administra-

tors like Mr. Chen. It was a little awkward at first, but they are humans who (at least pretend to) enjoy our company too.

Two: your purpose at BLS was partially to learn about the world, but more importantly, learn how to educate yourself. You (hopefully) discovered what's the smartest and easiest way for you to consume information. Even if there were classes you found less useful or irrelevant, they taught you a specific skill set. Math projects taught me *blackpenredpen* is better than *Khan Academy*, the Junior Research Paper taught me to reach out to upperclassmen for guidance and Capstone taught me I widely overestimated my self-discipline and the consequences of procrastination. You will unlikely need to engineer a rollercoaster or explain the importance of architectural symbolism again, but you will need to be an empathetic, self-sufficient and flexible human being. I'd argue that the friendships, partnerships and mentorships we create at BLS have taught us that.

Three: in the words of a wise one: "Quit, don't quit, noodles." None other than

Master Oogway delivered this scholarly statement. Since we are emotional and impulsive adolescents that live in a chaotic world, we thrive off of breeding more drama. Nothing will ever go smoothly or perfectly, and you will feel confused and frustrated. You will want to quit trying or caring, but let yourself take a breath and grab a snack before you decide anything (the cereal from the school breakfast is fire). I swear after you fulfill that random craving, you'll figure it out, whether that be to push through APUSH notes or let go of an unhealthy relationship.

Now hopefully you started and ended this farewell as a slightly different person as well. You might be tan from this ridiculous heat, your mascara ruined from this totally moving farewell or your fingers exercised from flipping by this page to find the surveys. We all experience the same places and people, but find ourselves with vastly different memories and impacts. Regardless, I hope we will all embrace those changes for the better. Congratulations to Class of 2023, it's truly all over!

Congratulations Jane!

Cheers on graduating from
Boston Latin School!

Jane McKenna

Your family and friends are
very proud of you and can't
wait to see you flourish at

University of Tampa!



**Congratulations,
Maddie Taylor!**



**We are so proud of you
today and always.**

Love, Mom, Chloe and Tex

**Congratulations,
Andrew C. Lee Jr.**

We are so proud of you!



**Love you,
Dad, Mom, Catherine,
Mary and Martin
*Semper Fidelis!***

Congratulations, Alex and the Class of 2023!

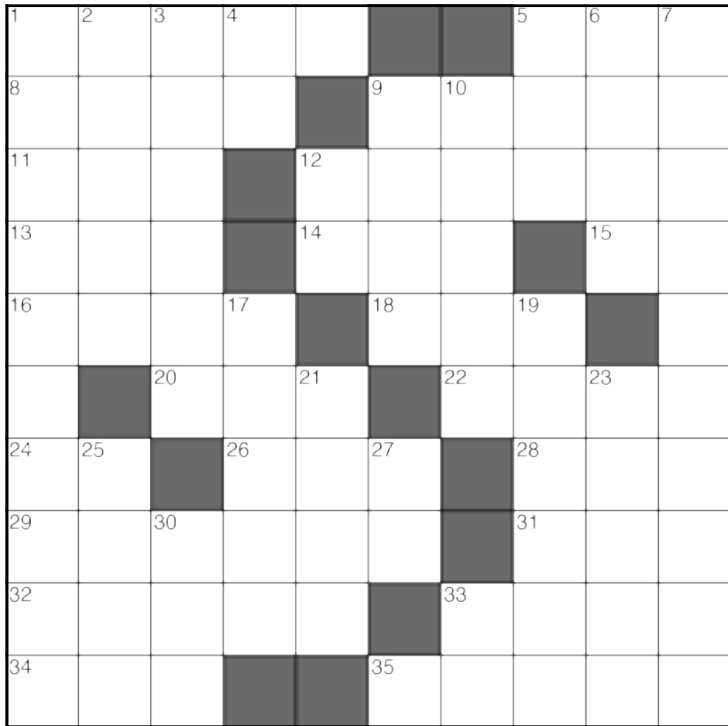


Across

- 1. Alex's favorite breakfast bread
- 5. May be consumed at UVM
- 8. ft. cm, lb, etc.
- 9. Derived from "vulgar Latin"
- 11. What one might do to a (non-electric) car
- 12. Alex's favorite clothing source
- 13. 4G
- 14. Alex's potential major
- 15. State bordering KY
- 16. Charged particles
- 18. Soda in MN or Jimbo
- 20. Mermaid's home
- 22. Alex's residence next year
- 24. Text with multiple people
- 26. Less than scintillating
- 28. Gloria Estefan's "_____ Mi Canto"
- 29. Egg at a Japanese restaurant
- 31. Pod occupant
- 32. Fall in Madrid
- 33. Alex's residence this summer
- 34. CIA, FBI, etc. abbreviation
- 35. Where one may find Alex

Down

- 1. Alex's next four
- 2. Pyrenees mountain
- 3. Starting assumptions
- 4. Phone home or &
- 5. Conservative institution
- 6. Pink Uber
- 7. My Big Fat Greek Wedding + Arby's + Vegetarian
- 9. Structure conjoining one's torso and femur
- 10. Coop group
- 12. Four Stripes
- 17. Type of car
- 19. _____ scooper
- 21. Best newspaper
- 23. Dark bread and New York
- 25. Meow
- 27. Sup
- 30. Big MN mall
- 33. Tantalum



Love, Mom, Dad, Elliot (& Otis)



Congrats, Lincoln. We are so proud.

Love,
Mom, Dad, Daisy, Holly, Hobbes, Fluff and Bird

Congratulations, Louisa and the Class of 2023!

We are so proud of you and can't wait to see what you do next.



Love,
Mom, Dad, Joseph, Moose & Cricket

CONGRATULATIONS



ON YOUR GRADUATION, AVA MCNICOL!!! SO EXCITED FOR YOU!!!

LOVE, MARIE MCDEVITT



Congratulations, Paul Macdonald!

We are all so proud of you, and we know that you will do great things!
God bless you!

Love,
Dad, Mom, Teddy ('16), Theresa ('18), Mary Catherine ('21) and Julie

Congratulations, Karen!



You are amazing! From the first day of Kindergarten to senior year – you have always made us proud! Graduation is just the beginning of your next chapter of life. We can't wait to see what you'll accomplish next!

With love,
Mom, Dad, Lauren and Cosmo



Abe -
Once a superhero, always our superhero. We are so proud of who you are becoming and are excited to see where your superpowers take you next!



Ben,
The whole family is very proud of you! We wish you the very best as you continue your journey at Harvard!

Love,
Mom, Dad,
Sophia, Teddy
and Grandma

Congratulations, Mary Bosch!!



STELLA
ORTA ES
SCINTILLANS
ET MICANS

Much love,
your family



Spotlight on...
Fabiola Alanis



By **Michelle Zhang (I)**
Contributing Writer

Hi Fabi,
I didn't tell you I was writing this (text me when you see this), and I also wanted to let you know that this counts as your birthday present for the next five years. I have 69.84 dollars in BofA as of today. Happy 23rd Birthday!!! Enjoy.

For those of you who don't know Fabi, you probably do, and you just don't know it. Her class president campaign posters are still up on the second floor hallway where she has yet to take them down since Fall 2022. That's my co-pres!!! But in all seriousness, I have never met a more spectacular human being.

She is undoubtedly the most resilient person I know, not only shouldering an insane amount of schoolwork every day, but also her responsibilities as the senior class co-president and TAG president, as well as her dedication to her job, her family, her friends and so much more. But, I'm sure many of you may already know this about Fabi.

What you may not know, though, is how Fabi has always been there for me, no matter what. And I know what you're probably thinking: all friends say that about each other. But in this case, I know, from the depths of my heart, that these aren't just words, they're actions. I can't even begin to tell you how much gas money I probably owe Fabi for driving me to the ends of the earth (Yes, my learner's permit is about to expire. No, I don't plan on doing anything about it.).

how many times she has Ubered food to my house to make sure I had a good day (re: concussion era), and how she is the first person I go to tell everything.

She also happens to be just about the funniest person on the face of this planet. Seriously. I'm not joking. I brought evidence (verbatim):

- If ur universe is flipping then mine has already flipped and is actually in its 3rd cycle of the washing machine
- I have 40 dollars on my card, I can literally buy anything
- I don't think we need anything, just therapy maybe and money

Fabi, I don't know how I would do life without you. In fact, I think I may have hallucinated all the pre-Fabi years. Seriously! It feels like part of me will always have the name "Fabi" engraved into it. It's not so much that we share the same memories and experiences, but it's more so that every time I do *anything*, I can pinpoint exactly how our friendship has made me into who I am today. I see it in the clothes I'm wearing (thx 4 nirvana shirt btw), I hear it in the way I talk (so.), and I feel it in the way I perceive the world. Sauté.

I just know you'll do amazing things. Thanks for being my best friend. Love you, squeeze!

Spotlight on...
Mary Bosch



By **Caitlin Donovan (I)**
Staff Writer

I first met Mary in sixie year One Acts. At 12 years old, I was still confused as to what I wanted to do at BLS and with my life, so I gave theater a hesitant shot. Mary, on the other hand, took the stage like she was meant to be there. Her self-assuredness and passion for the arts are defining traits that I quickly grew to love and appreciate.

Though I eventually quit theater, as it was, in fact, not my true calling, Mary stuck with BLS Theatre for years. She has been in every production known to man, and I have watched her shows with great pride. From the Zoom screening of *Urinetown* to the in-person production of *The Play That Goes Wrong*, Mary has done everything from acting to directing to running lights. I am constantly amazed by her ability to learn and adapt. Mary also plays viola for the BLS Concert String Orchestra, rocks at percussion for the BLS Pep Band and slays in BLS Show Choir.

I have genuinely never met someone as musically talented as her, and the fact is, her singing videos are probably the only ones I don't immediately skip through. Even though Mary does so, so, so much more — I don't even think I know everything she does for the BLS community — her stint as Photo Editor and Staff Writer for the *Argo* makes me the proudest. Mary was the one who encouraged me to write for the *Argo* in our sopho-

more year, so I have her to thank for my love for the newspaper and journalism as a whole. The words Mary Bosch and camera pretty much go hand-in-hand, and she never fails to pop into production week despite her million other commitments. I could go on about Mary's accomplishments for pages, but all I can say is that BLS was lucky to have her for six years, and she will no doubt thrive in Wisconsin for the next four.

Mary is also incredibly intelligent and outspoken. She was a Seevak Fellow, Topol Fellow and Capstone conqueror, and her drive to be the change she wants to see is another central part of who she is. Only one girl could simultaneously subject herself to AP Calculus BC, AP Music Theory and Physics, and that is her.

Mary, however, is so much more than her written credentials. She was — and still is — my guiding light through BLS. I remember our bike rides during quarantine, the semi-failed *Hunger Games* movie marathon, and nights where we simply chatted each other's ears off. To know Mary is to be on the receiving end of life-changing advice and unconditional love, and everyone who is friends with her can attest to that. I know she's going to do amazing things in the future — including the Deitch Fellowship this summer — and I can't wait to continue cheering her on for years to come.

Spotlight on...
Alex Strand



By **Joanna Lin (II),
Andrew Lay (II)
& Mari Baker (II)**

Editor-in-Chief, Head Editor and Assistant Editor

Alex, our resident *Argo* photographer, cruciverbalist and Matcha Lemonade fanatic with the beautiful golden locks: we love you so much and will miss you forever like the stars miss the sun in the morning sky. Thank you for unconditionally supporting us all in our delusions.

From Joanna:

MOMMY ALEX!!! I only discovered Alex Strand at the end of last year. While our time together was short, everything about her is everlasting. Her hugs, her BMW with the *Discord* gamer seats, the camera at her side. Thank you for driving me around suburbia (West Roxbury), for your jokes, for almost being a News Editor (in another world) and for your endless *Google Photos* albums.

Let's not forget that Alex is a powerhouse of her own. Who else could get Ms. Judi Freeman to feature her Eastern Europe photos to every section of Facing History? Who else could get the entirety of the *Argo* board hooked on Matcha Lemonades and as a result, sell out the Longwood Starbucks of those doggone-addicting drinks? No one but Alex J. Strand.

Alex, life at the *Argo* will be different without you (and already is, saying this as we are deep in the weeds of Second Edits and dummies). Clearly, the running *Argo* gossip machine will suffer a great loss when you leave, but you know that we will pick up where you left off.

You are fabulous and I won't ever forget you. Not sure how I'm going to survive Production Weeks without seeing your face. Please come visit us bearing Matcha Lemonades and hugs in 016 whenever you are back from UVM.

From Andrew:

I ALREADY MISS YOU. My partner in crime and fellow Assistant Photo Editor (with better attendance than our Head Editors <3). You supported me when everyone else on the board was being stinky and super boring, and our Starbucks runs together were the highlight of all production weeks. We may not have been the most productive Editors (sorry, Selizabina), but we were the most fun, which is all that matters! Love you to the moon and to Saturn, my dear co-Entertainer-in-Chief.

From Mari:

Alex!!! Even in the most hectic times, you have been there to console me, whether it be with your humor, hugs or Starbucks runs. Your generosity, (whether it's dedications of time, storage or money), is to thank for my happiness during Production Weeks!

Thank you for enabling me in my retail therapy excursions, and for helping me recognize that I'm not the problem, everybody else is. There is nobody I will miss more when walking through the barren senior hallway, and there is no hug more comforting for when I am losing my mind. There is a kind aura around you that can make even strangers feel safe in your presence, and since the first day I met you, I knew I would be able to rely on you. I don't even remember how we got so close so quickly, only that with the blink of an eye, you became one of the most important people in my life.

Thank you for paddling us all through the most difficult production weeks! *Argo* won't be the same without you.

- Your favorite juniors

P.S.: Alex J. Strand is the most visually aesthetic name ever. Love you!

Spotlight on... Mason Choi (III)



By Ailin Sha (III)
& Emily Yu (III)

News Editor and Contributing Writer

If life were transformed into a script of code, Mason's first line would surely be: `System.out.println("Hello, world!!!");` with three exclamation points and a smiley face. Although it may be easy to get lost among the "people seas" of BLS's hallways, Mason is instantly recognizable with a smile that looks exactly like his *Discord* profile picture: the tennis ball from *The Battle For Dream Island*—bright and welcoming.

Mason Choi is among the very few who can shock me more than those who drink milk tea without tapioca pearls. I am not kidding when I say that Mason is one of the most driven, self-made people I have ever met. For instance, his love for all things coding manifests itself in his lovely 3D printer. While students crafted sloppy flashlights with homemade materials for a physics project (I know I did), Mason's sleek, golden, commercial-grade creation literally outshone the rest. But seriously, on top of the horrendous BLS course load, Mason balanced taking numerous outside courses for college and grinding coding projects out of sheer will and love for his craft.

Despite having passions for many projects, Mason never runs out of passion for his friends, classes and atrocious puns. Every day with Mason is like a new adventure. His ability to make somewhat plausible conspiracies adds a hint of much-needed flavor to the mundane routines of class. I can already feel that Calculus won't be the same without his expert tutoring and patience, despite his claims of having an "incapacity to do math." Mason is that person you will always feel safe talking to because, miraculously, whether it's due to trauma bonding or good vibes, he will find a way to soften the situation as an A+ therapist.

An "inability to see [numbers correctly on math problems]" isn't the only thing Mason brandishes. He is an ace at stabbing people in real life (and in *Valorant*), as he's a part of the BLS fencing team that brought home gold this year at states (unlike his *Valorant* rank). Being the multi-talented individual he is, Mason models for *Google Maps* with his impeccable use of a hairband, and always looks to open up to new opportunities and experiences. He knows more languages (including computer ones) than Wonder Woman and is an avid traveler, going to more countries and places than I can count.

His insightful comments during discussions in ELA manage to spark reflection and often humor among his peers. He always takes the initiative to declaim first, volunteering to shatter the nervousness that accompanies public speaking and, undoubtedly, amazes everyone with his performance. We won't forget his charismatic, powerful delivery of "You Can't Handle The Truth" anytime soon. *Et* Mason truly embodies a Boston Latin School scholar, often taking the initiative to create study guides for Latin exams. With his help and contributions, so many of us have been motivated to gain a better understanding of Vergil's epic poem.

Well Mason, it seems our BLS journey is over, ending a bit too fast. I guess it is time for us to say goodbye at last. I wish you all the best, in pop quizzes and math tests. Still recovering from you taking classes to leave, but we will support you all along the way...*Gratias maximas*, Mason!

(P.S. See you during lunch next year :))

Spotlight on... Eliza Duff-Wender



By Joanna Lin (II),
Andrew Lay (II)
& Mari Baker (II)

Editor-in-Chief, Head Editor and Assistant Editor

It would be a great injustice to not write a spotlight about our favorite Ms. Cojohn-loving, cat-owning, earthy-crunchy, beautiful, gorgtastic senior: Eliza Duff-Wender. So,

here goes.

From Joanna:

When Ms. LA put me behind Eliza Duff-Wender in Precalculus, my life changed forever.

I'm not being dramatic; I'm being factual. Precalculus was once a class I lugged my sixie-sized backpack to (sorry, Ms. LA), but following that fateful first day of Term 3, I was skipping to class at the pace of a sixie to see Eliza.

My dearest, Eliza (with a comma after "dearest"), your ability to crack a witty joke or to make a goofy gesture to match mine was enough to make sophomore year bearable. I'm not sure how I found you, but I am so glad I did. Your warm presence and kindness is something that everyone who comes into contact with you comes to appreciate—I hope you never lose that.

To be frank, you were probably my soulmate in another life. Down in 016 during *Argo* Production Weeks, many of my favorite memories include you! From our *Lady and the Tramp* pizza crust moments and creating cringey videos together to just being a shoulder to lean on after a tiring day of school and editing, thanks for always being there for me.

Thanks for hugging me every time we see each other in the hallway. Thanks for listening to my rants and basically being the big sister I never had. Thanks for making me skip parts of Italian class to pick up cake from your AP Lit parties.

And finally, thanks for sending me pictures of your painted nails that far outshine the ones I send you. I'm going to miss you so very much. See you soon baefy!

From Andrew:

Eliza, the most enthusiastic JV track senior I know and my Advanced Geometry prodigy. In the silence that permeated through our geometry breakout room, you were

always there asking some...interesting...questions, but I was thankful you broke the silence. I think you were the one friend I actually made over quarantine, and I was ecstatic to have a new connection, even if we only ever interacted in that breakout room with three other muted lurkers.

Then, in Chemistry the following year, we didn't really talk until Term 3, but you, me and Priya were the dream trio. That R5 section was filled with nothing but tomfoolery, and I'll never forget us yelling at each other about the Precalc final as Ms. Holtz gleefully remarked on how calculus made her drop her Physics major. Even though your taste in people is questionable at best, I know that you can always brighten anyone's day. You are genuinely one of the purest souls I have ever had the honor to meet, and I wish you nothing but the best at Bryn Mawr. (you better visit though)

From Mari:

Dear Eliza, you have a unique power to make anybody feel like they are protected and supported whenever they are around you, and I guess nine-year-old me recognized that when I read your "welcome to fourth grade" letter that Ms. Baldi left on my desk. Ever since then, I have always looked up to you, which might seem strange because I didn't even talk to you until 15-year-old me joined the *Argo*. Now that I know you, I can firmly say I look up to you even more than before. I'm so thankful to have such an amazing friend, and I'll miss running to catch the train with you, or playing stupid mobile games to pass time at Park Street. Thank you for being Layout's Red Line buddy! We all love you so much!

To the most genuine and beautiful person I know, THANK YOU!! You'll forever be my role model, and I hope to someday impact many people in so many good ways, just like you.

Spotlight on... Helena Huynh



By Lily Huynh (II)
& Alex Lam (II)

Head Editor and Contributing Writer

My earliest memory of Helena was in the school weight room when she walked up to me and asked for my vote for her to be the Powerlifting Club's president. In return, I would receive her vote to become vice president, though I was running in a race with nobody else. I reassured her, telling her that she had my vote, even though I was adamantly set on electing Marvin. I had no clue who she was; why would I have voted for her?

A few weeks later, the election results came back and she had won. She was going to be my superior for the next school year. I was initially reluctant of this power dynamic, but Helena has become my rock whom I can always count on, the joy in writing emails and my senior friend who I feel that I can always connect with. Even though I still mistake her for her two younger sisters, Olivia and Gabby, in the hallway, Helena is a one-of-a-kind package. Sometimes you'll find her stylishly dressed up for Koreo, in her green puffer jacket that makes her look like a Viet auntie paired with her green backpack or in a horse mask on all fours.

Helena is the kind of friend who will always be there to lend an ear, whether it be to romanticize our lives together or to coach me through an argument. I saw her as the cool upperclassman with my last name and even though I have come to realize I am actually the cooler one, she has become a

source of comfort for me. I will always remember fondly her handwriting me notes, "snapping" me through *iMessage* and always coming up to chat on my way to AP Lang.

Alongside the significant impact she had on all the friends in her lives, she has played a huge role in the school community as well. In the same way you would see her running to make a costume change in between dances at Asian Night, Helena never struggles to juggle her many talents. A highlight of every school event is watching her perform, sometimes singing with her sister and other times slaying her choreography. Not only can she perform on stage, but she is also one of the strongest lifters I know and has always led the team with heart and soul.

Even though we have only known her for a year, we can see her staying in our lives beyond graduation. We know that she will always be a text away (and ready to host us at her dorm anytime we want :3).

Although our paths never crossed at the Murphy or our first four years at BLS, we would not have it any other way. Congratulations, Helena, we love you (PL is going to crumble without you). Go Terriers! ARF ARF!

P.S. We hope this was good enough, Helena. You can *Venmo* us the commission.

Spotlight on... Caitlin Donovan



By **Mary Bosch (I)**
Head Editor

In the days leading up to my first day at BLS, I got a follow request from Caitlin Donovan. I usually didn't accept people I didn't know, but since she was going to BLS too, I thought, why not? Little did I know, she would become one of my closest friends.

One thing I will always admire about Caitlin is that she is not afraid to try new things. I first messaged her because she posted her fashion design and said she wanted to join the Fashion Club. We then met doing theater together in seventh grade, and I have this vivid memory of her in a long green dress for the show. In ninth grade, we moved on to Model UN and I have a very embarrassing photo of us in our little blazers together. Then at the end of sophomore year, when the *Argo* was looking for more A&E writers, I recommended her and we had that together too.

She took it a step further than me though, and joined a magazine and did a

journalism camp, which I will also be doing this summer. We're academically matched and I've always felt like Caitlin and I have pushed each other to become better; we're even working at the same internship this summer. She is so smart and I have always admired her intelligence and thoughtfulness. For many friendships, COVID-19 and complete social distancing made things strained, but for Caitlin and I, it brought us closer together. We ate together on *Zoom* everyday and watched shows and movies on *Netflix Party*. There were also masked bike rides and outdoor chats around a fire pit, all of which are memories that give me a warm feeling and put a smile on my face. I've always been so sure that we would stay friends for the rest of our lives because she just gets me. I honestly swear that we can read each other's minds with just a look.

When I think about where I will be in

ten or 15 years, I can almost say with certainty where I think Caitlin will be. I know she is going to study hard in college, then go to law school and become a lawyer. I'm not saying this to pressure her, but rather to express how truly driven and hardworking she is. She has never been afraid of seeing her future ahead of her and doing everything in her power to go out and get it. She reminds me that I can do anything I set my mind to. She also does archery, which is badass and definitely fits with her as a person.

It's hard to fit Caitlin into a short little piece of writing. She's a person I'm never bored with and she's a person who encourages me to never live a boring life. I'm so happy I met her and I can already see us getting coffee when we're in our seventies and talking about all the dreams we had at eighteen. I love you, Caitlin, and I know you are going to achieve everything you hope for and so much more.

Spotlight on... Maya Nelson



By **Maia Frost (I)**
Contributing Writer

It's been over ten years since we became frenemies. I'm grateful for every argument we've had, every passive-aggressive eye roll we've shot at each other and every day we've spent together at camp, utterly annoyed with each other.

What I'm most grateful for, though, is that we got to co-lead YouthCAN together. Every day I stare in complete awe as you work your butt off. It's a mystery to me how you survive running two major clubs, YouthCAN and debate, doing capstone, being a Topol Fellow and babysitting at crazy hours of the night.

I'm not here to list your resume, though. During the entire time I've known you, you have always been determined to do the right thing at every turn and treat your loved ones and Cannies with kindness.

YouthCAN brought us closer to-

gether in a way that I didn't think was possible. Thank you for the long meetings in Ms. Arnold's room, the emergency summit phone banking, the daily check-ins, the continuously contaminated compost and the infinite email sending we did side by side. It was you who encouraged me to join YouthCAN back in eighth grade, and it's been by far my favorite part of BLS. I've loved fighting with you for a cause we're both so passionate about.

Watching you find your place as a leader in our community has made me so proud to know you. You are an amazing speaker, debater and activist. You express so clearly what you want to say and are so knowledgeable on political and climate change issues. You have never once shied away from being exactly who you are. I love your loud

personality, your confidence and your thoughtfulness. You always listen to my ideas and we're almost always on the same page, as if we could read each other's minds.

Throughout the past few years, you have taught me so much about what it means to make a difference in the world, whether you're complimenting my outfit, checking in with a Cannie or creating a social justice curriculum for elementary schools.

Now that we're done with high school, I'll be supporting you from a different state as you take on Connecticut. No matter where we are, though, you'll always be my brand-new best friend. Goodbye, other half! I love you and I'll miss you!

-- Maia Frost (Maia-i-a)

Spotlight on... Kathleen Terrey



By **Mira Yu (I)**
Contributing Writer

I just know that Kathleen Terrey is going to do great things, like work on an assembly line or convince everyone she has a leap-year birthday. The world isn't ready for this forest fairy girlboss. But wait, she's not like other FemsInSTEM (of which she's president btw). She's also a Latin genius but like, not in a weird nerdy way (that's a different K). A favorite student of Latin teachers everywhere, she also has a favorite Latin teacher!

Kathleen also knows many, very random facts about many, very random things, and not just *Game of Thrones*, which is why her team ate up first place in Quiz Bowl. Ew, Quiz Bowl, I know, but she also slays at being a varsity soccer co-captain. Unfortunately, the rumors about her being a former theatre kid are true (lead role several times), but now she mostly works as a casting agent for

Playmobil Aeneas.

Some would say that Kathleen is an old soul trapped in a hottie's body. Yes, she may order Old Fashioneds on her granddad's Dunkin' account FOR HERSELF, but she is also pro-allergy medicine. Yes, she may be a registered Athenæum member, but she also adds -ie to words quasi-ironically. Yes, she may listen to *NPR*, and not just when her parents are in the car, but she also spills all the juicy tea. Yes, she may drink 3+ cups of tea daily, but she also enjoys other beverages. Yes, she may text without contractions, but I haven't forgotten her "big dumpy stored in the butt" ob-scenity.

Beyond her accolades and fits that make Caffè Nero employees feral, Kathleen is truly a friend like no one else. No one else has an MFA membership I can freeloader off (bad art friend haha get it!!).

She drives me everywhere; I pretend to nag. She answers my ceaseless "hm-wup4ts" texts; I help her stage photos for *Innerview*. She shows me local Celeste Ng readings; I show her my *AliExpress* sins.

Still, we get each other. We've shared so many eras, like light blue and Brookline boys. We've shared so many surreal experiences, like when we summoned that person that night at Copley or sat on a playground eating empanadas in the rain. There's no one else I'd rather wait with for brunch in front of an anti-vaccination propaganda poster or take walks on the Esplanade in search of men who are hot and derpy at the same time.

I'm manifesting all the Martin's-topping French toast and toned hunks for you in the next four years. And I'll be right there, not criticizing, condemning or complaining, with you.

Spotlight on... Justine Wei



By **Fiona Yuan (II)**
Head Editor

Perhaps she may come off as quiet. Shy, even. But if these are the only adjectives you are using to describe Justine Jiayi Wei, then you're just slightly misguided. If you had the pleasure of being close friends with her, you might realize, out of surprise or sheer horror, that she can be quite the opposite.

I met Justine about two years ago, virtually over *Discord*, but another time in person at the first *Argo* meet when we were both designated as Copy Editors for the 2021-2022 school year. That year, we worked together discussing our silly copy-edits, revising our precious Copy Bible and pestering the associates into doing their work. But, to be honest, we didn't click back then. She was so incredibly busy dancing with Koreo, singing her heart out in Chamber Choir and geeking out at Science Team that it was difficult to get a glimpse of her. First impression: busy girl with a busy lifestyle.

But over time, after some conversations about course selection and challenges with dissecting the English language, we grad-

ually warmed up to each other. And when our friend groups somehow clashed the following year in a suspicious physics group chat named "sexiest babies," accredited to Taylor Swift's "Anti-Hero," I understood her immense power in bringing people together and the fun personality that blossoms when she hangs out with those closest to her. Not to mention, Justine also has such a realistic and positive outlook on life. Perhaps it's thanks to her parents, whom she loves spewing about, the sacrifices they've made as immigrants to America and how she aspires to find love as great as theirs.

I like to joke that we are basically the same person. Who else also worships taking AP Language and Composition with Ms. Barich, has a nerdy obsession with William Strunk Jr. and E. B. White's *Elements of Style* and pulls up the fallacies of language whenever the opportunity comes? She is the only one I've found so far who also finds weird fulfillment in consuming lemon juice plain, straight from the lemon. Looking at Justine

is like looking into a mirror, except one of us is about to graduate and the other is still suffering under the premises of Boston Latin School.

I will miss her strange passion for AP Calculus BC, her questionable devotion to astrology and the high-pitched sound of her voice, similar to mice in the dark when they're hungry and looking for scraps of food. I will also miss the circular glasses placed low that make her look like a senior citizen about to succumb to her retirement funds. Can't forget about her obsession with K-pop, not necessarily the music itself, but her favorite groups that are composed of certain "hot" men that make her go absolutely crazy.

Justine, I will miss you! Thank you for being such an amazing friend and for being my greatest supporter, even when things felt low. I am so sorry, but it's unlikely that I will join you at the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor in subsequent years. Perhaps distance will separate us, but that's okay because we still have *Discord* voice calls. Call soon!

I Admit to...

;) "Oh my goodness!"
61 absences senior year
Accidentally dying the stairs and various classrooms with tea
Accidentally flooding the bathroom across from Mr. Gay's room
Accidentally taking a book from the library without checking it out (don't worry I returned it)
Actually reading all the ELA books
Actually, genuinely enjoying this school and its people
Bad, bad things in the gender neutral bathroom
Being a huge gossip
Being cheddar cheesed during the pep rallies
Being closeted
Being delusional
Being mean lowkey
Being the most awkward eighth grader ever
Being the stats kingpin (tykyk)
Breaking multiple school computers
Breaking the law (you can decide which ones)
Bribe someone with the entire AP Lit spring break packet to get information for assassins
BS on most assignments
BSing everything
Carrying my agenda around so teachers wouldn't ask if I had a pass
Casting hexes on my opps
Catching Prince-Will in BLS shower
Changing profile pictures on peoples' gmail accounts back in 5th grade because they all had the same password
ChatGPT
Cheating
Cheating
Cheating

Cheating
Cheating
Cheating
Cheating
Cheating
Cheating
Cheating :)
Cheating all of Geometry, cheating during online school:(sorry Mr. Howard, I forgot to study for that subjunctive test.
Cheating in 10th grade
Cheating my way through chemistry
Cheating on a chinese writing test
cheating on a latin quiz in 9th grade
Cheating on almost every test imaginable
cheating on every single stats test i ever took
Cheating on every test
cheating on everything
cheating on literally all my tests
Cheating on online school
Cheating on the SAT
Cheating through every single quiz, test and homework in Chinese class
Cheating/using *ChatGPT*
Clogging the 3rd floor toilet 20+ times
Clogging two toilets in one session
Coming in late on purpose
Competing with literally everyone
Crying in every single bathroom
Crying in guidance lol
Crying in the bathroom on Valentine's Day over a guy who didn't get me a carnation
Crying in the bathrooms on MANY occasions
Destroying my sleep schedule
Developing depression because of this school
Disliking how I present

myself
Doing everyone's Latin homework for them
Doing my makeup in the hall next to the Alma Mater statue
Dropping a tampon on one of of the main staircases that was not removed for at least a week circa 2018/19
Eating in class
Exploiting 206's broken lock for nefarious purposes
Faking cramps at the nurse's to lie down
Faking illnesses
Falling asleep in most of my Junior year classes
Falling down a flight of stairs afterschool
Farting in my teacher's chair in sixie year
Farting so much like so many farts all day everyday that I blamed on anyone else
Finding the door with no cameras and cutting class
Flipping off the cameras in the school all the time
Forgetting Latin
Forging passes
Forging passes to get out of my studies
Genuinely liking some of my teachers
Getting a blumpkin in the teacher's bathroom
Getting discord banned at BPS
Getting good grades by cheating
Getting on the school roof and staying in school until midnight
Getting pickaxed by Amir
Going on the roof
Going on the roof
Going on the roof during school
Going on the roof multiple times
Going on walks during Mr. Kearns' class to avoid it

Going to basketball games to scout
Graffiti-ing on a bulletin board near Ms. Murray's office
Hating
Hating every class I've taken on the first floor
Hating Latin
Having a crush on a teacher whose class I wasn't even in
Having a hallway crush for 2 years
Having month's worth of absences
Having multiple crushes on teachers
Having my first kiss next to 028
Having my friend write my ap lit essay
Hooking up in the 3rd floor science staircase
I never did the term 4 declamation in seventh grade
Leaving early or coming into school late for no actual reason
Leaving my R7 study early and then taking the T back to school even though it was past 2:15 because I felt so guilty about it
Leaving school early to get Starbucks before sport games when I had study last period
Liking guys shorter than me
Lying
Lying about needing to use the bathroom and instead walk around in the hallway when stressed out
Lying on the absence request form every time
Making interesting food combinations
Making out in a certain teacher's office during after school hours basically everyday..
Making out in the emergency stairwell

My first kiss being at school
Never doing anything wrong ever
Never reading a single book (except wild ginger)
Nice try
Nicking food from the faculty breakfast
Not actually being sick on days I was absent
Not actually having "appointments" but just wanting to leave early, I love signing out.
Not going back to class after MCAS and hiding in the bathroom.
Not knowing half of y'all on the commits page
Not knowing how to translate Latin
Not paying attention in class
Not reading a single book for any English class all six years and still getting As and Bs
Not reading a single book that was assigned in English class
Not really praefecting
Not returning ELA books out of spite
Not trying in any capacity in Physics 1
Nothing
Nothing
Nothing
Nothing
Peeing in the bushes of a random person's backyard
Plagiarizing my whole Junior Research Paper
Playing *Minecraft* during every online class during 10th grade
Pooping at school
Pooping in the chorus piano
Pooping in the urinal
Popping pimples in the cafeteria bathroom mirror
Pretending to be a good kid so that I can get away with a lot

Procrastinating !!
Puking like 18 times in the girls' bathroom next to the nurse's office
Punching someone in the locker room
Putting the muffins in the freezer.
Really hating physics so much omg
Referencing Mitski
Roof, going places I shouldn't be in general.
Rushing through the halls to see my crush
Saying my favorite grade was 7th grade on this form, while being a bsie
Selling my soul to never end a term with a grade below a B-
Silent farting in every class
Skipped mad classes
Skipping Class
Skipping class in Eighth grade after Capstone and hiding out in the girl's bathroom
Skipping class to go to the boiler room
Skipping most of my studies
Skipping my R7 study every time
Skipping R7 capstone
Skipping Senior Skip Day
Sleeping in 80% of a certain Bio II teacher's class... (sorry)
Sleeping in every humanities class
Slightly rigging senior assassins
Snacking a lot in every class
Sneaking coffee in every single day
Sneaking into the photography room
Sneaking Starbucks into school
Soiling it
Spending half of my days in the nurse's office
Spilling a strawberry acai all over the floor in the

lower gym
Spying on the faculty meeting on the last day of school before COVID-19
Staying after 4:00PM !!!1111
Stealing merch from the visitor locker room
Stealing merch from visitor's locker room
Taking fattest dumps in the school bathrooms whenever I pleased
Taking really, really long bathroom breaks
Talking to a sophomore
The whiteboard
Throwing agenda books in the toilet
Totally crying in school too many times
Tricking Mr. O into giving me a better grade
Tripping sixies in the hallway.
Turning in most of my assignments late and still getting approbation every term.
Using *ChatGPT*
Using ChatGPT
Using my AirPods and phone every single second of the day just to spite every teacher who had an irrational issue with it for no reason
Using Sparknotes and Quizlet for everything
Using the boys' bathroom
Using the secret staircase
Using the staff bathroom on the Art Wing frequently
Using the stat room unauthorized after school
Vaping in the bathrooms
Visiting BLS's pool through the doors underneath the staircase
Writing my friends' AP Lit essays
Writing my initial on the music wing wall (in pencil) and hiding rocks around Mr Harris's classroom

I Will Miss...

135
"Oh my goodness!"
014
1st Lunch
5 minute meditations with Mr. Oakes
Absolutely nothing, and yet quite a few things at the same time
All my boyfriends
All my friends
All my junior and underclassmen friends from show choir & getting to see my amazing best friends every day :(((
All of my beautiful friends
All of my classmates
All of my close friends and lovely teachers + faculty;
Ms. Kwan, Mr. Harris, Mr. Mikalaitis, Mr. Pietrangelo, Mr. Fearon, Ms. Shipley, Ms. Sarkis, Ms. Murray, Ms. Pierce, Ms. Lewis da Ponte
All of my school friends who I most likely won't stay in contact with.
All of my senior dance friends :(
All of my teammates
All of only in-class friends
Anya Bergman
Anya Mary Bergman
AP stats with Natalie
Arbs and trax.
Art
Art with Ms. Walshak
ASIA & VSS
Asian Night, Wolftones
Asking BLS kids random philosophical questions to see how they react.
Avoiding eye contact with Mr. Finnigan in the hallways
Bathroom conversations with random ppl also

skipping
Being a kid
Being a teenager
Being a teenager
Being able to accidentally bump into friends everywhere I go
Being around all my friends
Being financially dependent
Being goofy in school
Being late and getting food
Being with my friends everyday
Boston
Capstone
Charlie Jenkins
Chilling in Mr. Bilodeau's math seminar class
Chilling in the art wing with all my friends (shout out to mr harris fr)
Coming in late with dunkin
Coming late to school
Comp sci corner junior year
Complaining about this school
Ctown carpool
Dance Club
Dancing after school
David Santana
Doing laps around the entire school
Eating the entirety of Ms. McKenna's secret candy stash
Eric
Eric Cordeiro
Everyone and all their crazy drama
Everything honestly (but especially my OneCard and school email account)
Fighting with David Rivkin about the bus
Food fights
Foofling around in art.

Football team
Friday "pizza"
Friday night hangouts with friends
Galleria trips for McDonald's breakfast
Games Day in the library
Getting cereal in the dining hall during studies.
Getting Dunkin every morning at the galleria
Going to Aidan Davies's house before practice
Going to the art wing during studies
Hanging out in the erg closet
Having a free M7
Having a senior crush as an underclassman
Hitting 135
Jason Kuo
Jason Kuo
JUDI FREEMAN!
Kind and understanding teachers
Kit
Late nights at Copley
Lilly Butler
Living a 7 minute walk from school
Loitering in the hallways
Lunch conversations
Lunch table discussions, Agenda Books
Lunch with Sean, Alex, Bart, and Ricardo
M7
Mackenzie Strachan
Maddie Borovoy
Martin Kelly
Messing around with friends in math seminar
Most of the ppl here
Mr. Harris and Mr. Simoneau
Mr. Galego's concept practice horn (fer fer fer ferrrr)

Mr. Gallagher
Mr. Gay
Mr. Gay
Mr. Greenidge, Ms. Bailey, Ms. Campot
Mr. Lane
Mr. Rinaldi
Mr. Simoneau
Mr. Vallone
Mr. Zou
Mr. P, Mr. Howard, Mr. Finnigan, and seriously all my friends and teachers.
Ms. Brogan-Healy
Ms. McKenna
Ms. Buono and Mr. Oakes
Ms. Foley's squishmallows
Ms. hernandez and Ms. pierce
Ms. Kanakry
Ms. Kirkpatrick
Ms. RD and Ms. Stevin at student leadership
Ms. RD studies in 014
Ms. Shipley roasting the basses
Ms. Sylvester
Ms. Walshak
My AP calc table
My art table gossip sessions, hiding dunkin in my locker.
My best friends and Ms. Kanak
My childhood
My clubs and extracurriculars, Senior Dance, performing for Asian Night, Wacky Wednesdays
My creative writing table
My friend group in African American Studies
My friends
My friends
My friends
My friends
My friends
My friends
My friends :)

My friends (aka my second family)
My friends and favorite teachers
My friends and Mr.Harris
My friends and some staff
My friends T-T
My friends that are moving away
My friends who are underclassmen and teachers that are always in a bright mood.
My friends, dearly.
My friends, school events, and the general shared trauma that is the BLS experience
My girlies <3
My Gov Boyfriend
My guidance counselor, Mr Greenidge. He was super chill man.
My home away from home!
My M7
My penguin buddies
My routine for 6 years
My senior art table
My walks to school
Napping at the nurse
Napping in AP Stats
Nicholas Brandon Lai
No one (Kyler)
Nothing
Nothing
Nothing, cya
Officer owens
Orchestra
Orchestra with Ms. Shipley
paulie bevs
Playing cards at the end of the year
Playing catch with Doug
Playing sports with my team
School friends
School Lunch
Second tunnel

Seeing all my friends everyday
Seeing all these people who I have known for 6 years
Seeing my friends everyday
Seeing my friends in the hallways
Seeing my friends, the sense of community and shared truama.
Seeing people in the halls
Seeing sixies run into each other
Seeing the same faces everyday
Senior lunch table
Senior year lunch table
Showing up late
Sitting in RD's room and talking to her about drama in my life
Skipping every class
Sofia Lynds
Some people
Spirit Day
Staying late in school for events or to do homework
Student Leadership
Student Leadership
Studies in the library with friends
Table tennis in the Art Wing at the end of the school year
Taking daily laps around the school during stats class
Tennis season & BLSTV
The 4th floor pool
The boiler room
The boys
The Cave
The collective joy seniors felt when people didn't get into Harvard.
The comfort of BLS
The community here :(
The connections I made

with those who help advocate for my needs
The entire Classics department
the feeling of skipping class
The friends you make from sitting across them on the first day of school
The grade of inflation from COVID-19 year
The grind
The hockey team
The intoxicating effects of sleep deprivation
The morning table <3
The Music Wing
The new air conditioning units
The people
The people
The people at BLS
The people I met sitting across from me on the first day of sixie year
The Routine
The Routine
The satisfaction of turning in a super long assignment
The scream-y assemblies
The sexiest babies
The teachers I liked
The teachers that actually cared about me
Therapy sessions in Ms. Walshak's art class and RD's room
Thomas Harnan
Those late night in an empty hallway vibes
Thursday Club
Tuesday and Thursday ceramics
Walking into school and seeing everyone in the hallways
Will Bordon (a bit)
You all.
YouthCAN

***Congratulations, Michalena Capogreco
and members of the Boston Latin School
Class of 2023!!!***



***We are so
proud of you!***

***From one
Wolfpack to
another – we
can't wait to
see where your
talents take
you!***

***Love,
Mom, Dad,
Antonio, and
Uncle Freddie***



Congratulations, Emmett!



You are done with your BPS journey, and you have made us all so proud along the way! You were so excited to start K1 and go to school "just like your big brother," and we marveled at how much you have loved school ever since.

We have no doubt you will continue to work hard, develop your talents and be the incredible person we know and love.

Love, Mom, Dad and Max



And to the Beethoven crew – Thank you for accompanying Emmett on his K1-12 journey and for being such amazing friends to our guy. We love you and are equally proud of all you have accomplished.



Con-drag-ulations, Gurl!



From
"That you know" to "As it was"

Wishing you all the best in your new adventure.
We love you Laurel.

Forever and always and evermore and on and
on....
Mom, Dad, Pat and Luke

Congratulations!



Gigi on your graduation from BLS and wishing you good luck at Penn State!!

Love,
Mom & Dad



Senior Year Recap


























September 8 First Day of School 	September 12-28 Senior Class Officer Elections 	September 23 BLS vs BLA Football Game 	October 1 FAFSA opens 	October 31 Halloween 	November 1 Early Application Deadline 	November 18 Student v. Faculty Dodgeball Game 	November 21 Powderpuff 		
February 17 Tet Festival 	January 13 MLK Jr. Day of Celebration 	January 1 Regular Application Deadline 	December 23 Start of Winter Break 	December 14-16 Winter Music Nights 	November 23 Pep Rally Day 	November 24 BLS vs English Football Game 			
March 24 Paint Night 	April 28 Student vs. Faculty Basketball Game 	May 1-12 AP Exams 	May 12 Asian Night 	May 26 IT'S ALL OVER! 	May 30 Senior Talent Show 	June 5 Senior Picnic 	June 8 Senior Prom 	June 12 Graduation 	June 9 Prize Night 

Photo Credits: Karen Dong (I); Andrew Lay (II); Jadelyn Wilson-Joutras (I); @bls23niors on Instagram; @blsthives on Instagram



To Annabelle, Cinly, Jillian and Nicole:
 Good luck on your next adventure and thanks for being a part of the best Girl Scout troop!

Congratulations, Mackenzie! I am so proud to be your cousin and have watched you grow into the most amazing, beautiful person. You're so full of love and are destined to do so much for this world! I'm so excited for you and love you so much - Rebeca

Congratulations, Mackenzie! You are such a kind person, an accomplished athlete, and SMART to boot. The future is yours!
 Love, Uncle Francis and Aunt Lynne

Happy Graduation, Mackenzie!! We're so excited for you to start the next chapter of your life at Clemson. Enjoy every second of it, and Go Tigers! Love you!
 Laura, Tomi, Milo & Georgia

Mackenzie, what a proud day! We just couldn't be happier for you! Enjoy your summer, then off to Clemson!
 Love, Aunt Janet and Uncle Paul

Bon Voyage Noodle Head!! Congratulations, Mackenzie- I am so happy for you in achieving this important milestone. I've been along for seemingly every step of the ride, from your riding in child seats in the back to now my riding in the back seats while you drive! I am impressed by the talented, kind, and fun-loving person you have become. And I am equally excited for your transition to college to begin your own exciting life's journey. Wishing you "fair winds and following seas" on this wonderfully wonder-filled journey!
 Love, Spencer

"Kindness is a language which the deaf can hear, and the blind can see. -Mark Twain
 Congratulations Mackenzie! We're so in awe of the sweet, strong, accomplished young lady you've become. Thank you for being such a good role model to all of your cousins. Wishing you nothing but the best as you embark on this new journey.
 Xoxo, Michelle, Allen, Charlotte, Alexandra, David and Caroline.

Mackenzie, Congratulations! We could not be more proud of you and the amazing person you have become. We love you so much and are excited for your future ahead!
 - Mom, Dad, Cole and Jake

Congrats Mackenzie on graduating! I'm so excited for you to be moving on to Clemson and to hear some stories. Also, can't wait to see if you've been practicing the handshake!!
 Love, Parker

"You have brains in your head. You have feet in your shoes. You can steer yourself any direction you choose. You're on your own. And you know what you know. And YOU are the one who'll decide where to go..."
 - Dr. Seuss, *Oh, the Places You'll Go!*



Devin & Jadelyn
 Congratulations!
 The Tassel was worth the Hassle!
 Your future is bright and your possibilities are endless
 Best Wishes as you follow your own path
 Love Mom and Dad



Artist Spotlight: Annabelle Kayla Lee (I)

By Catherine Cox (III)

Staff Writer

The Boston Latin School community is, without a doubt, home to many talented individuals. Within the Visual and Performing Arts department, Annabelle Lee (I) stands out for their exceptional talent both in and out of BLS's orchestra program. While Lee is best known for their violin talents, there is a lot more to this senior than what is on paper.

Lee's first dip into music began when her mother signed her up for her elementary school's orchestra at six years old. Once at BLS, seventh-grade Lee entered the Philharmonic Strings Orchestra, the second highest level orchestra. The following year, she started her journey in the prestigious Concert Strings Orchestra.

Over the course of their violin career, they have also participated in various groups and esteemed performances, including the New England Conservatory, YOLA National Festival, Longy El Sistema Side-by-Side and Green Mountain Chamber Music Festival.

In addition to being a student in orchestra, Lee also leads others in their musical endeavors. For instance, she conducted the Concert Strings Orchestra for a warm up rehearsal at the annual Winter Concert. BLS orchestra teacher, Ms. Susan Shipley, described her perfor-

mance as "stellar."

Lee also began teaching at the beginning of the year, mentoring their own private student. They express the joy they derive from their student's growth and accomplishments: "She's improved a lot and I'm really proud of her progress. We don't meet that much anymore because she's busy with the musical, but she still tells me about how much she loves to play and learn new songs."

Lee has also assisted in teaching online master classes that pertain to violin playing. Exploring the instrument on a technical and artistic level, these classes shine light onto Lee's immense talent, in addition to providing an opportunity for them to showcase their appreciation for violin.

"I love master classes because they make me realize techniques that I'd never even thought about before. [...] There's actually a pretty popular video on *Youtube* of one of my master classes: it's with [conductor] Ben Zander and it's well known within the music community because of his comments on my relationship with my mother," Lee shares.

Alongside Ben Zander's class, Lee has been featured in classes with notable musicians such as Midori Goto, Timothy Chooi and Simon Bernardini.

Lee's talent is recognized throughout the BLS community, including by Ms. Shipley.

"Annabelle is bold, and that's



something I really like about her. She has opinions and will be the lone voice when I ask the class a question like 'What did you think?' Her playing is bold, and yet gorgeously refined and elegant," remarks Ms. Shipley.

Most important to Lee is having fun and loving what they do. This year, Lee has performed at the Asian Night Showcase, hosted by BLS A.S.I.A., and Chamber Night. Lee notes that their musical interests are not limited to violin, but

also include singing, composing, guitar, cello, keyboard and a bit of ukulele.

While Lee's BLS career has come to an end, her journey in the music and performance world has just begun. This summer, Lee is attending the YOLA National Festival, Apple Hill Chamber Music Workshop and Festival Groba in Spain. In the fall, Lee will be attending the Boston Conservatory, where they will be studying violin performance with Markus Placci.

Memories At Midnight: Taylor Swift's "The Eras Tour"



Taylor Swift meets her fans in the pouring rain at the Eras Tour in Gillette Stadium

By Mindy Luong (II)
& Parker Alva (IV)

Staff Writer and Contributing Writer

Breaking records is nothing new for the Pennsylvania-born pop star who requires no introduction. Since the announcement of The Eras Tour, her first headlining tour in five years, online ticketing platforms such as *Ticketmaster* have been flooded with eager "Swifties," shattering the record for most concert tickets sold by any artist in one day.

According to *Ticketmaster*, "over 3.5 million people pre-registered for Taylor-SwiftTix Presale powered by *Verified Fan*, which is the largest registration in history." Despite the resulting system crash, nearly 2.5 million tickets were sold from

the first presale alone. Her influence as a social and cultural icon is extensive, having been prevalent in pop culture since the mid-2000s. Glendale, Arizona, her first tour stop, was even briefly renamed "Swift City" in her honor.

May 19 marked the first out of three Eras Tour nights at Gillette Stadium in Foxborough, Massachusetts. Originally featuring 27 tour dates across 20 different cities, Taylor Swift later added 25 more shows due to overwhelming demand. The tour's weekend in Boston were her 11th, 12th and 13th shows since the tour kicked off in March.

The opening acts featured GAYLE, Gracie Abrams and Phoebe Bridgers, with the latter having joined Swift in a duet to "Nothing New" later on in the show.

The set production of the 3.5-hour-long performance was unmatched in its technological and visual coordination. Every detail, down to the light-up bracelets handed out by Gillette staff pre-show, were synchronized to each song, which, in the vast, dark stadium, resembled brightly-colored stars in the night sky.

Each era, or album, features a drastically different set. Some notable stage effects included air cannons, fog machines, moving pillars, a cabin for *Folklore*, a man-made forest and moss-covered piano for *Evermore* and an exhilarating fireworks display to close out the night. The singer herself underwent at least ten costume changes, bearing garments ranging from shimmering leotards and bedazzled blazers to flowy, trailing gowns.

Swift showed true dedication to her artistry when she performed at Foxborough's second show of the weekend under a torrent of rain. She maintained absolute professionalism and a positive attitude even as the weather impeded her ability to strum her guitar, calling it "the rainiest rain show that ever rain showed."

Arguably the most anticipated aspect of the tour are the "surprise songs" which Swift performs outside of the regular setlist, catered to each show. Once a song is introduced as a surprise song at one of her shows, it is unlikely to reappear throughout the rest of the tour. Massachusetts's surprise songs included "Better Man," "Should've Said No," "Question...?," "Invisible," "I Think He Knows" and "Red."

Many of the costume changes feature vibrant graphics distinct to each era, creating a visually striking experience. Switching between the surprise set and the "Midnights" era, Swift is notably shown diving into a platform beneath the stage and swimming up the catwalk through the floor graphics. She later returns donning a pastel purple coat for "Lavender Haze."

After attending the third night, Valerie Dam-Nguyen (II) remarks, "They were able to use [costumes] to add to the storyline. Because then you could tell which era was going to come up next."

Swift's contribution to the economy has not gone unnoticed either. Fans from all over the United States reportedly flew out for shows, most notably for Nashville's show at Nissan Stadium. Local businesses profit greatly from the surge in tourism as concertgoers rush to make hotel and restaurant reservations. Boston's own MBTA Commuter Rail reported that all special service tickets to the Foxboro/Gillette stop sold out in less than a minute.

With her stunning vocals and spectacular performance, Swift managed to create a memorable night for all attendees. In all of her excellence, some may say that when Swift walks into the room, "[she] can still make the whole place shimmer."

A Letter About Asian Night



BLS Breakers shake the stage with their performance.

By **Anneliese Yu (VI)**
Contributing Writer

On May 12, Boston Latin School's Asian Students In Action (A.S.I.A.) presented its annual Asian Night. The show honored

the heritages of the Asian American student body and served as a final hurrah for the graduating Class of 2023. In an impressive array of performances, students, faculty and families came together to celebrate the Asian American and Pacific Islander community.

This year's Asian Night theme, "A Letter To Home," was inspired by Janette Wu's *Letters to Home: A Memoir (& Other Stories by an ABC)*. The memoir sought to capture identity struggles faced by members of the Asian American community while presenting the necessity of reconnecting with the past.

"A *Letter To Home* is [about being] connected to your roots, whether that be your cultural identity, your gender identity, or even to your childhood," shares Nha Truong (I), co-president of BLS A.S.I.A.

To honor the theme, A.S.I.A. held a Multimedia Contest where students could submit artwork, photography and literature showcasing their connection to their Asian heritage. Winners Michelle Wang (III), Nandini Chilakapati (III) and Olivia Huynh (III) were featured in the Asian Night program and received a monetary prize for their submissions.

BLS guidance counselor Mr. Samson Luu comments, "I know just how much time and effort that each and every single group had put into the performances. Some of them had started practicing the summer before this year."

The audience witnessed stunning

displays of talent in the form of dance, song and skit. This year's acts ranged from a red carpet-themed fashion show to a throwback medley of dances performed by members of the Class of 2023. In addition to the night's splendid performances, many enjoyed dinner from the Eggroll Cafe food truck.

The hard work and commitment from A.S.I.A. board, performers and volunteers truly made the show come to life. Truong states, "[Asian Night] is our biggest event, so we take a lot of time planning it."

This year, the auditorium for Asian Night was packed with students from BLS, neighboring schools and family members. It was the biggest crowd BLS has seen from a student-led event.

Thanks to the amazing performers, A.S.I.A. officers and volunteers, the show was a night to remember, and audience members were able to walk away with an important message that was displayed throughout the performances.

"I have never been to an Asian Night [before], so when I went it was really fun and I got to experience something I haven't seen before," Ladan Mohamed (VI) remarks. "Some of my friends [were] on stage, which was exciting to see!"

East Meets West: MFA's Hokusai Exhibit

By **Alice Li (V)**
Assistant Editor

From March 26 to July 16, visitors of the Museum of Fine Arts (MFA) can visit the exhibit *Hokusai: Inspiration and Influence*, which showcases Katsushika Hokusai's impact on the history of art.

People around the world recognize Hokusai's iconic woodblock print *The Great Wave*. Many, however, do not know that his influence is entwined within the art community: he was a source of inspiration for artists such as Claude Monet and Vincent Van Gogh. The exhibit aims to highlight his impact on art during and beyond his time.

Including a multitude of styles, time periods and artwork from artists across the world, the exhibit displays pieces from both Hokusai and those inspired by him. It contains over 200 pieces of various mediums ranging from block printing to manga.

Hokusai lived from 1760 to 1849 during the Japanese Edo era. In his early career, he studied with Katsukawa Shunsho, who was a leader in the *Ukiyo-e* genre

of art, meaning "art of the floating world." Under Shunsho's mentorship, Hokusai was able to develop a strong set of fundamental techniques for the style, utilized in his artwork along with techniques from western artists.

"I personally believe his work has a timeless quality to it," comments BLS art teacher Ms. Elizabeth Walshak. "His style is simultaneously historical yet fresh and remains relevant to today's visual culture."

Hokusai's masterpiece, *Under The Great Wave off Kanagawa*, otherwise known as *The Great Wave*, was considered a commercial success in his lifetime. The scene depicts three boats with sailors about to be engulfed by towering waves. The use of jagged lines adds terror to the scene. While the waves of the sea can be viewed as a metaphor of helplessness and being overwhelmed, a glimpse of Mount Fuji in the background symbolizes hope.

"The contrast of the cobalt blue, the white caps of the waves [and] the white at the top of the distant Mt. Fuji [...] make this image a dynamic imitation of the power of nature," adds BLS visual arts teacher Mr.



A Lego model of *Under the Wave off Kanagawa* is displayed.

Joseph Carrigg.

A key technique Hokusai brought over from western artistry is perspective drawing. Contrary to the customary eastern art techniques, Hokusai's paintings use exaggerated vanishing points to converge lines to one direction, something

frequently seen in Italian Renaissance art.

Although Hokusai drew inspiration from western art, Hokusai himself was an inspiration to western artists. Pieces inspired by Hokusai's nature prints include Claude Monet's painting *The Water Lily Pond*, which is showcased in the exhibit.

Album Review: *MY WORLD* by aespa

By **Parker Hastings (II)**
Staff Writer

SM Entertainment's aespa is back at it again with their latest comeback *MY WORLD*. The newly released album features the six tracks "Welcome To MY World," "Spicy," "Salty & Sweet," "Thirsty," "Unhappy" and "Til We Meet Again." Announced April 17 and released May 8, *MY WORLD* brings a familiar electropop sound to the group's growing discography.

MY WORLD opens with "Welcome To MY World," a perfect introduction to the release. The siren-esque melody and guitar chords in the chorus ring in the listeners' ears.

Following the hypnotic melody of "Welcome To MY World" is "Spicy," which combines every classic vibe of an aespa song. With drilling bass and experimental instrumentals, the song builds up to one of the most satisfying high notes of recent K-pop records at

2:25.

The track succeeding "Spicy" is "Salty & Sweet." With their throbbing synth and recognizable noise, both songs perfectly contribute to the formation of aespa's DNA.

"Thirsty" opens with a dreamy tune akin to pop hits "Nonsense" by Sabrina Carpenter and "Thank U, Next" by Ariana Grande. The soft, flirtatious track reminds listeners of what it feels like to fall in love.

"I'm Unhappy" comes next, bringing listeners down from la-la-land and encapsulating feelings of longing. The members use the digital world as a metaphor for the disconnect they feel in their life.

Wrapping up *MY WORLD* in its shiny, bright-green lettering is "Til We Meet Again," a beautiful ballad dedicated to fans. While not as catchy as previous tracks, its sweet lyrics like, "Remember when you're alone / The power of the music / Will connect us," make up for its unfamiliar mellow

tune.

Overall, the album is a wonderful addition to their catalog, with tracks "Spicy" and "Salty & Sweet" being the most memorable.

With the release of aespa's EP came their promotional period, a week-long span in which artists perform their releases on different music channels to compete with fellow artists. Album sales, streams and popularity determine the winning song of said shows.

aespa is no stranger to these shows; so far, *MY WORLD*'s title track "Spicy" has won four awards. The album also sold over two million copies in its first two weeks of release, making aespa the fastest girl group of all time to do so.

The group is currently preparing for their "SYNK: Hyper Line" world tour, which will span across three continents over the course of a month and a half. Catch them in our backyard September 2 at MGM Music Hall!



My World

By aespa

Released: May 8, 2023

Genre: K-Pop

Highlights: "Spicy", "Salty and Sweet"

Rating: 8 / 10



Laura Hollins

Across

- 1. To fill out a ballot for Senior Class Office, say
- 5. Subject of the Versus on pg. 11: Final ___
- 9. On ___ (busy)
- 14. y2k music player
- 15. *Mean Girls* producer and SNL cast member Fey
- 16. Whose album Parker Hastings (II) is reviewing on pg. 34
- 17. "No ___ Modelz" by J. Cole
- 18. What celebrities walk on at the Met Gala and movie premieres
- 20. Your pop's pop
- 22. International Hole in One Association (abbrv.)
- 23. Senior chant heard at lunch and the end of R7
- 26. Shock, in a way
- 30. Large quantity
- 31. Be under the weather
- 32. Something a snitch might get
- 34. Get into
- 37. Something one may shed at graduation
- 38. How a teacher may present information on Zoom
- 41. Second section, perhaps
- 42. Garlicky Provençal sauces
- 43. Tesla's rival, or holder of 1,093 patents
- 45. *Roblox* death sound
- 46. Lorax's "Let it ___w"
- 49. Superlative suffix
- 50. Warfare hiatuses
- 54. State school system that BLS seniors might commit to
- 56. Type of asymptote
- 57. June 12, 2023
- 62. Apple's version of *Google Calendar*
- 63. Finished the job
- 64. Apiece
- 65. Invite-only national mathematics competition
- 66. Missouri city, informally
- 67. Odds and ___
- 68. Bambi, for one

Down

- 1. Author of the epic poem that Latin Prose students typically translate
- 2. City in Portugal famous for its wine
- 3. The Grateful Dead's Built ___
- 4. Problem for a horticulturalist or dermatologist
- 5. ___ or Ext
- 6. When doubled, "thank you" in Mandarin Chinese
- 7. Complete this list: I, II, III ___
- 8. When with "papier," a composite material consisting of paper pieces or pulp
- 9. Purple flavor of boba
- 10. A, B or C preceder
- 11. Opposite of WNW
- 12. Subject of advisory meeting mentioned on pg. 5. Chat ___
- 13. Beowulf's preferred method of storytelling: B ___ ting
- 19. Broadcasts
- 21. This pill works as long as you don't know it shouldn't
- 24. Scalp parasites
- 25. First name of First Lady of Ukraine
- 27. *TikTok* trend: He's ___ but...
- 28. A tear in a piece of cloth
- 29. Solve this word equation using PEMDAS: "ERM" - "RM" + "H" + R
- 33. Customs duties
- 34. The place where people with Hokusai's occupation may work (pg. 34)
- 35. National program that provides payments to older people or people with disabilities
- 36. Says "Scram!"
- 38. "Smooth Operator" singer
- 39. ___ PR, gene editing technology
- 40. Plant used to treat sunburns
- 41. Taiwan capital Tai ___
- 44. College sports org.
- 46. Opener for Taylor Swift's Eras Tour Abrams
- 47. Switch handles?
- 48. Stable employee at an inn
- 51. Lauder of beauty brand
- 52. ___ Night, common "Best Memory" in Senior Surveys (pg. 40)
- 53. Troy story?
- 55. "You're on ___," commonly heard during an online meeting
- 57. Got the goods? More like gt th ___
- 58. Private research university in New York
- 59. Descrip. part of speech
- 60. Condition often causing repetitive behavior, in brief
- 61. Organization that recently hosted BLS's first De-stress Fest on May 26 (pg. 3)

Graduation Crossword

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8		9	10	11	12	13	
14					15					16					
17					18					19					
20				21			22								
23					24	25				26	27	28	29		
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	38	39								40					
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43						44			45				46	47	48
49						50	51	52				53			
			54	55						56					
57	58	59							60	61		62			
63							64					65			
66							67					68			

By Parker Hastings (II),
Lily Huynh (II)
& Joanna Lin (II)
Head Cruciverbalists

American Born Chinese Is Reborn



Luen Yang’s 2006 graphic novel, the show stars Ben Wang, playing Jin Wang, and Jimmy Liu, acting as Wei-Chen. The show features a predominantly Asian cast with actors including Michelle Yeoh and Ke Huy Quan, and Yang as the executive producer.

The series follows Jin Wang, a young Chinese American boy who experiences the challenges of fitting in at school while grappling with his identity.

Jin is forced to befriend Wei-Chen, a new student from Taiwan. From the moment they meet, worlds collide and Jin finds himself entangled in a war of gods. The eight-episode series depicts Jin and Wei-Chen’s journey together on a quest to stop the war happening in the Heavens. The show stays true to Chinese culture and folklore, with mythical elements based on the folktales found in the classic novel *Journey to the West* by Wu Cheng’en, published during the Ming dynasty.

Despite its lighthearted nature as an action comedy, *American Born Chinese* tackles serious topics such as identity and self-doubt. The task of introducing said themes to young audiences, although not easy, is important. In an interview with *Entertainment Weekly*, Yang reflects, “telling stories about Asian Americans is a way of telling Asian Americans that their lives are worthy of story, that they’re three-dimensional characters, that what they go through is important.”

The idea of accurate representation in the media is not a new concept. William Liang (III) explains, “Media is a significantly powerful political platform that can influence a false representation [of] specific people. [...] Take quarantine, for example, [when] Asians were stereotyped all over the media.” Similar to the 2018 release of *Black Panther*, the

first superhero movie with a predominantly Black cast, *American Born Chinese* has the potential to be impactful for young audiences who are not usually represented in television. “Social media is able to transform views on people,” says Liang.

Boston Latin School’s English Department introduced the graphic novel to the seventh grade curriculum in 2021. “When they’re coming into seventh grade, it is like they’re coming into a new world. This idea of seeing something similar [to you] and seeing your own experience reflected in a novel definitely allows people to connect with it,” says BLS English teacher Ms. Keri Orellana.

A fan of the novel, Ian Sturke (VI) watched the show in hopes that it would be similar to the book. “I’m a visual learner,” Sturke says. “I like having it as a graphic novel better than reading it. [...] It was like watching a movie. It was kinda [like the book].”

The complexity of *American Born Chinese* is exigent. Telling multiple stories at once, the series was forced to modify itself to honor the text-to-television pipeline. Certain aspects of the graphic novel, such as the character of cousin Chin-Kee, would not translate well into a show or any live-action medium.

The novel maintains an aspect of ambiguity, representing hardships in different ways, which a viewer of the show could unfortunately misconstrue. The series does, however, do a fantastic job of preserving the essence of the story; it feels like a perfect interpretation given the change of time and culture.

Overall, *American Born Chinese* is a great addition to the growing list of media highlighting Asian-American experiences. All eight episodes are available to stream on Disney+ now!

By Penelope Meisel (II) & Parker Hastings (II)
Head Editor and Staff Writer

Disney+ released its highly anticipated TV show, *American Born Chinese*, just in time for the end of Asian American Pacific Islander Heritage Month this May. Based on Gene

Senior Steez: A Look into BLS Seniors’ Distinct Styles

By Lena Thai (III) & Catherine Cox (III)
Head Editor and Staff Writer



Abraham Lester-Barrali (I)

Messy, Comfortable, Fun

Q: Where do you get your style inspiration from?

A: Different music I listen to and my dad a lot. A lot of it is inspired by the ‘80s and ‘90s, which is pretty popular right now.



Junqiang Mai (I)

Comfy, Soft, Effort

Q: What is your favorite article of clothing/accessories at the moment?

A: I’ve been loving this vintage jacket Vivian thrifted for me.



Vivian Nguyen (I)

Chic, Fashionable Grandma

Q: Where are your favorite places to shop?

A: Trick question. I don’t have a favorite place to shop, because once you limit yourself to a store, you also limit your style.



Livia Ricciarini (I)

Random, Seasonal, Layered

Q: How do you think outfits serve as a form of self-expression?

A: That’s what my Capstone is about! It’s just another medium that people use to express themselves. Like any form of art, it’s just one of the most accessible ways to express yourself.



David Rivkin (I)

Silver, Sambas, Slay

Q: What is your go-to outfit?

A: Earthy [colors], jeans, comfortable, iconic, chic.



Michelle Zhang (I)

Low. Rise. Jeans.

Q: What is your favorite article of clothing/accessories at the moment or of all time?

A: My Biggie Smalls pullover is a staple in my closet because it starts so much conversation.

Thank you BLS! Forever Grateful



*Carissimo Riccardo
Tantissimi Auguri e Complimenti da
Mamma & Papà e
Allegra ('17), Federico ('19) e Ludovico ('21)*



Sumus Primi



Veritas

Favorite Class

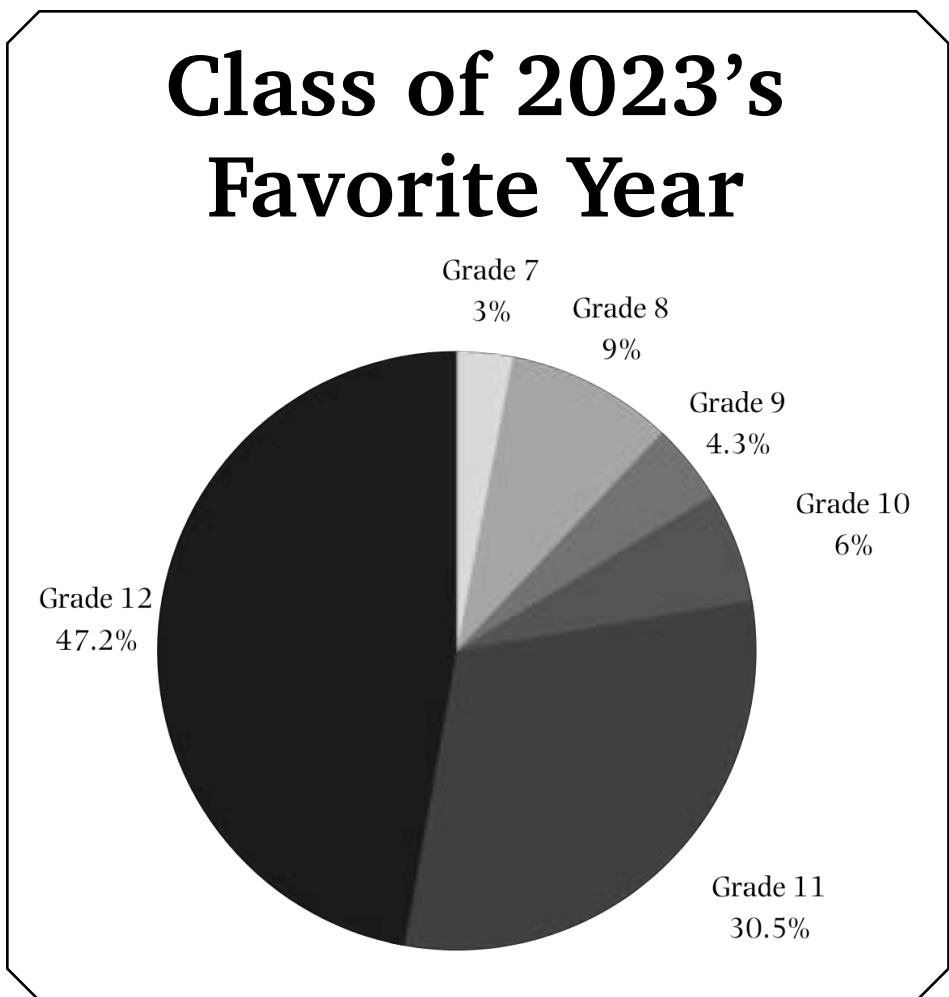
“Oh my goodness!”	AP Computer Science	AP Psychology	Creative Writing	FOUNDATIONS OF VISUAL ARTS	Myth
11th grade english with Ms. Moran	Principles	AP Psychology / Humanities	Creative Writing	Freshman Biology	Myth
8th Grade English with Ms. Long	AP Economics	AP stats	Creative Writing!!	FVA	Myth
8th Grade History with Ms. Arnold	AP Environmental Science	AP Studio Art	E&M	FVA with Ms. Walshak	Myth Trad
8th grade Italian with Ms. Buono	AP Environmental Science	AP US GOV	E&M	Gels theater	Myth Tradition
9th Grade Bio	AP Environmental Science	APES	Economics	Graphic arts	Myth Tradition
9th grade world	AP Euro	APES	Economics w/ Mr. Rinaldi	Graphic Arts	MYTH TRADITION (WE LOVE YOU MS. FOLEY)
Advanced Algebra 2	AP Environmental Science	APES	ELA 11	Graphic Arts I	Myth Traditions
Afro American History	AP French Language and Culture	APES	Electricity and Magnetism	Graphics	Mythology
Afro American Studies	AP Government	APUSH	English 11	Greek 1	Ninth grade biology (Thank you, Ms. Messemmer)
AP Art	AP Lang	APUSH	English 11 & Myth	Humanities	Physics
AP Art	AP Lang	APUSH with Mr. Zou	English 11 w/ Sully	Humanities	Physics 1
AP Art	AP Lang	APUSH with Mr. Zou	English 11 with Mr. Sanford	Humanities (senior year)	Physics 1
AP Art	AP Lang	APUSH with Mr. Zou	English 11	Humanities (Sullivan)	Pre Algebra
AP Art	AP Lang	Art	English class eighth grade	Humanities with sully	Pre-Calculus
AP Art	AP Lang	Art	Environmental Science	!!!	Precalc with Ms. Scott
AP Art	AP Lang and Comp	Art	Environmental Science	Junior Math Seminar	R5 Enviro Senior year
AP Art	AP Lang with Mr. Oakes	Art	Environmental Science	Junior Year Humanities with Mr. Sullivan	Regular Environmental science
AP Art	AP LANG!!!!	Art	Environmental Science with Mr. Gay	Latin	Senior Math Seminar
AP Art and Chemistry	AP Language & Composition	Art	Facing History	Latin I with Magister Smithio	Senior Math Seminar
Ap Biology	AP Language and Composition	Art	Facing History	Latin Prose	Senior year graphic arts
AP Biology	AP Language and Composition	Art	Facing History	Latin V	Sixie Algebra I
AP Calc BC	AP Language and Composition	Art	Facing History	Latin V Poetry or AP Chem	Sixie Humanities
AP Calculus BC	AP Language and Composition	Art	Facing History	Lunch	Spanish 2 with Sra. Williams
AP Calculus BC	AP Language and Composition	Art	Facing History	Mr. Barry’s English 11 class	Spanish 4 (ily Ms. Fernandez)
AP Calculus BC	AP Language and Composition	Art	Facing History	Mr. Barry’s English 11 class	Spanish 4 (iykyk)
AP Calculus BC	AP Latin	Art class	Facing History and Ourselves	Mr. Harris’s art class.	Stats
AP Calculus BC	AP Literature	Art with Ms. Walshak	Foundation of Visual Art	Mr. Smith’s Afro Class last year	Stats with Mr. Simoneau
AP Calculus BC	AP Mech	Art with Ms. Walshak	Foundation of Visual Arts with Ms. Walshak	Mr. Sullivan’s English class	Studies (because I can go to the boiler room)
AP Chemistry	AP Mech	Bio 2	Foundations of Art	Mr. Walker’s Algebra I	Study Period
AP Chemistry	AP Mechanics	Bio 2 with Ms. Castellanos	Foundations of Visual Art	Mr. Zou’s APUSH	Sullivan’s English 11
AP Chemistry	AP Physics	Bio 2 with Ms. Castellanos	Foundations of Visual Arts	Ms. Arnold’s U.S. History 8th grade	Theatre
AP Chemistry / Latin 5	AP Physics (both of them)	Bio Freshman Year	Foundations of Visual Arts	Ms. Balbian’s AP Economics Class	US History 2
AP CoGo	AP Physics C: Electricity and Magnetism	Calculus	Foundations of Visual Arts	Ms. Guzman’s biology class	Visual Arts
Ap Comp sci	AP Physics C: Electricity and Magnetism	Chem 1 <3 (probably actually AP CSA)	Foundations of Visual Arts	Music Theory 1 junior year	Visual Arts with Mr. Harris
AP Comparative Gov	AP Physics E&M	Comp Sci	Foundations of Visual Arts		World History
AP Comparative Government	AP Physics Electricity & Magnetism	Computer science	Foundations of Visual Arts		World History 1 with Mr. Smith
AP CompSci A	AP Physics Electricity & Magnetism	Concert Band Purple			
AP CompSci (Python)	AP Psych!	Creative Writing			
AP Computer Science Principles	AP Psychology				

Top Five Classes:

1. Visual Arts 2. AP Art 3. Myth Tradition 4. Facing History/Humanities (tied)

Class of 2023’s Favorite Teachers

1. Mr. Harris
2. Mr. Sullivan
3. Mr. Oakes
4. Mr. Gay
5. Ms. Cojohn



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

"Oh my goodness!"
All the guidance counselors...making sure all the seniors filled out their college applications correctly and sending reminders for important dates and deadlines
ALL THE NURSES...DOING SO MUCH.
All the teachers I had over these past six years...letting me turn assignments in late and weren't annoying about it
All the teachers...letting me slept in their class
Any...being the best friend ever
Any...the rides. *Argo*...giving me a family
BLS administration...not repairing the bathrooms
BLS...sparking my depression
BPS...nothing
Carine...everything
Carti...making Whole
Lotta Red
ChatGPT...teaching me everything I didn't understand
ChatGPT...supporting my senioritis
Coach Gibbons...making BLS bearable
Cojohn...giving me dried mango that one time
Dance Club Officer Board '23...being the most supportive and kind human beings <3
Dance club...supplying a safe place and such a welcoming family
David Santana...doing SEED robot with me for the last 4 years
Dr. Kaye...helping me get through everything
Dr. Liu...being the most underappreciated teacher in this building
Dr. Nguyen...being a cool guy
Dr. Nguyen...being nice
Dylan...food in Stats class
Elsa...teaching me to let it go
Eric Huang...walking with me to Ruggles almost every day
Ethan Hien Ho...the memories
Ethan...being a good person
Everyone...a good six years!
Everyone...supporting me and their unconditional love in helping me
Flora Day...her parties
Flora...always hosting
Frau Floerke...all the love and guidance she has given me
Frau Floerke...being so kind
Gage...making calculus bearable
Gilmore Girls...helping me romanticize school
Guidance...the food, candy and calm
Hall of Fame bathroom...always being empty
Helena Huynh...being my day 1 and red hair twin
Mymy Tran...being the kindest person I know
Ionie...making bus fun
James Gunn...blessing my Spotify playlist
James...saving me a seat on the bus
Jason Kuo...the memories

Jiajia...always holding on and pushing me to be the best version of myself
JUDI FREEMAN!...being amazing!
Julia...always putting up with my shenanigans
Justine...keeping me sane
Kassidi and Ruo...being the bestest friends anyone could ask for
Kathleen Terrey...being my best friend since 2007
Katie Dunn...talking about a different way to live
Key2STATS...sparking my interest in data science and statistics
Kien...being my favorite dork
Lax...being ferda
Lilly Butler...being my favorite accomplice
Livia...keeping all my secrets
Louisa Crenshaw...always being there for me
Louisa Hemr...doing the most adventurous hang outs with me
Louisa, my twin...being the light of my day and being an amazing unproblematic queen
Me...Believing in me. I want to thank me for doing all this hard work. I want to thank me for having no days off. I want to thank me for never quitting. I want to thank me for always being a giver and trying to give more than I receive. I want to thank me for trying to do more right than wrong. I want to thank me for just being me at all times" - Snoop Dogg
Mirabelle...being the best tennis partner and co-captain I could ask
Mr. Bartoloma...always being there for all the really good and really bad days
Mr. Bartoloma...being sexy af
Mr. Beyer...having a great class
Mr. Beyer...creating a safe space that allowed me to express myself through my writing
Mr. Bilodeau...being a really chill teacher and putting up with us
Mr. Bilodeau...being the most understanding, helpful and knowledgeable teacher I've gotten to have in my senior year
Mr. Brown...dealing with me all year
Mr. Brown...making me smile
Mr. Brown...being the best comp sci teacher
Mr. Chen...being the pierogi prince
Mr. Chen...always excusing my "sick" absences
Mr. Chen...excusing all my tardies, dismissals, and absences
Mr. Chen...excusing my absences, dismissals, tardies
Mr. Chen...taking action when there are problems with my teachers complacent towards accommodations
Mr. Finnigan...being a good teacher
Mr. Gay...being himself
Mr. Gay...being so attrac-

ive
Mr. Greenidge...being my absolute best friend
Mr. Greenidge...everything
Mr. Harris & Mr. Simoneau...being my teacher dads
Mr. Harris...being the best teacher I've ever had
Mr. Harris...being the coolest teacher ever; your brightness will be missed dearly
Mr. Howard...having the most fun class in the school
Mr. Kennelly...rejecting my community service hours
Mr. Kerpan...making Latin so fun
Mr. Luu...helping me through my rough times
Mr. Oakes...being a great role model
Mr. Oakes...making me love writing
Mr. Oakes...teaching me writing is about using your own voice, not grammar constructions
Mr. Osowiecki...not failing me junior year
Mr. Pietrangelo...being awesome and writing my college rec
Mr. Pietrangelo...being highly based
Mr. Sanford...letting me sleep in class everyday
Mr. Simoneau...rounding up my grade every term
Mr. Smith
Mr. Smith...being hilarious
Mr. Smith...being a great teacher
Mr. Snyder...letting me use his piano
Mr. Southwick... being such a passionate teacher
Mr. Sullivan...encouraging a commonplace book to place my ideas, theories, and questions, even though he may have intended it only for humanities rather than science
Mr. Sullivan...such a fun school year
Mr. Sullivan...teaching me how to write to prove a point with a book, not...the book. You are amazing and have made me realize just how much I can love teaching.
Mr. Sullivan...teaching me Stoicism
Mr. Sullivan...teaching me to practice stoicism
Mr. Vallone...Caring
Mr. Walker...being there for your students even when they're seniors
Mr. Walker...believing in me
Mr. Walker...manageable math lesson
Mr. Wetherby...realizing I was smart
Mr. Zou...always being there to talk to <3
Mr. Zou...always dapping me up
Mr. Zou...being my favorite homeroom teacher
Mr. Zou...being the most positive person and the most supportive person I've ever known
Mr. Zou...making junior year first period enjoyable.
Mr. Zou...being an amazing mentor, wonderful

friend and the best teacher ever
Ms. Arnold...always supporting everything I did even after 8th grade.
Ms. Balbian...being such a fun teacher!
Ms. Campot...helping me with my personal college essay
Ms. Campot...helping me with my personal college essay.
Ms. Clougherty...always being there for me <3
Ms. Clougherty...being the sweetest person alive
Ms. Clougherty...introducing me to my dream school
Ms. Cojohn...raising my quantitative abilities above a middle school level
Ms. Cojohn...being one the best math teacher I've ever had
Ms. Delorme-Metayer...putting up with me since freshman year and welcoming me into her room which allowed me to feel safe, protected, and respected at bls. she's truly the #1 person that made bls an enjoyable place to be, and she's the main reason why i stayed here, aside from my mom forcing me to lol. rd, i love and appreciate you more than you know. thank you...being my mentor and my safe space...the past 4 years even though i get on your very FIRST nerve. - your homegirl, and favorite bls student ever
Ms. Dunn...changing my life and showing me that there's always a new way to look at things
Ms. E...getting me through freshman year
Ms. Fernandez...helping me find my voice
Ms. Fernandez...letting us watch Gran Hotel
Ms. Foley...advocating for mental health.
Ms. Foley...being real like she is one of the people that helped me during junior year when things were hard for me
Ms. Foley...being the real teacher out there
Ms. Foley...having a chill class
Ms. Foley...Squishmal-lows
Ms. Freeman...always supporting me even when I failed capstone
Ms. Freeman...convincing me to go to Eastern Europe
Ms. Freeman...everything
Ms. Freeman...the Eastern Europe trip, life changing
Ms. Hernandez...being the nicest secretary ever and people in general.
Ms. Hernandez...feeding me
Ms. Kelley...giving us candy during tests
Ms. Kelly...all the hugs after PL meets <3
Ms. Kines...letting me leave early past 745
Ms. Kwan...making me laugh even when she's yelling at me and letting me stake out in her office on boring days

Ms. Kwan...her unlimited energy
Ms. Kwan...always helping me and dealing with my shenanigans
#FREEMSKWAN (get her a bigger office please).
Ms. Kwan...feeding me donuts and being my 2nd mom
Ms. Kwan...making sure I'm OK and not making too many bad choices
Ms. Kwan...putting up with all of my stupid questions and me constantly forgetting my locker combination.
Ms. Lau...introducing me to my best friend.
Ms. Lau...making me like Latin a little bit
Mr. Walker...his snowball cookies
Ms. McKenna...candy
Ms. Medvetz...fashion inspo
Ms. Moon...being my second mom when I needed one
Ms. Murray...doing her job
Ms. Pierce...being the sweetest & most supportive person ever <3
Ms. Pierce...being genuine and nice to me and helping me numerous times.
Ms. Pinchem...her dedication and passion to make sure each student had a great learning opportunity and welcoming environment
Ms. Sarkis...believing in my math abilities
Ms. Sarkis...caring about us so much
Ms. Sarkis...actually teaching me math
Ms. Sarkis...always trying to improve her ways of teaching and listening to and understanding her students.
Ms. Sarkis...getting me through 11th grade math
Ms. Sarkis...pushing me to be more confident in my abilities.
Ms. Scott...giving me many reasons to not to pursue a career involving math
Ms. Scott...staying past office hours to help me study for the Final
Ms. Smith...being a role model and friend
Ms. Smith...letting us gossip in our study
Ms. Sweeney
Ms. Sweeney...Getting me through college app season
Ms. Sylvester...always being there and supporting me on every endeavor
Ms. Sylvester...being a beacon of support through my entire high school career and getting me into college
Ms. Vasquez...supporting me when I was at my all time low
Ms. Walshak and Mr. Harris...being amazing cheerleaders
Ms. Walshak...being her reason I made it through the day fr like she is so nice and is such a inspiring person (AND SHE'S REAL TOO)
Ms. Walshak...slaying every day

Murray...not expelling me
My boys...being chill n stuff
My friends...always cheering me up
My friends...always supporting me
My friends...being real af
My friends...Being real friends - none of that fake stuff.
My friends...expanding my social life
My friends...keeping school fun
My friends...making me laugh
My friends...making senior year more fun than junior year was.
My friends...making the 6 years fly
My friends...the last 6 years
My friends...their friendship
My math table...getting me through the Dark Ages of Calc
My parents...reading my essays and projects
My senior year teachers...giving me no work
My senior year teachers...passing me
My teachers...being pretty cool
Myself...putting up with everyone's ****
Myself...getting myself out of here in one piece
Myself...for surviving.
Myself...for...making it out of here.
Myself...killing it
Myself...sleeping 8 hours every night
Myself...the biggest academic comeback in the school
Nico L'Huillier...standing up for me
Nobody...nothing
Nurse Healy...supporting me at my worst
Ollie Prentiss...soiling it
Patrick Yaggy and William Whitaker...all of the Latin help
Rachel Nguyen...being my best study partner
Raid Shadow Legends...sponsoring this video
RD...always giving me a place to take a breath
RD...always providing a safe space...me to go when i'm not feeling up to the school day
Riot Games...ruining my life
Selina Tang...being my rock
Tara...being there for me when I was going through hard times
Teachers...either inspiring me to be creative, or pushing me to create a work ethic
The boiler room...all the memories
The class officers...helping to make our senior year the best year
The eighth grader in Latin tutoring...showing me how to remove safe search from images on BPS chromebooks
The sixties...making me laugh
The track team...supporting me through everything
Winnie...making me laugh harder than I ever have and being my best friend

Worst Memory

335
 September 9, 2021
 October 28 2022
 "Be the elephant"
 "Oh my goodness!"
 3 projects due the day after the Winter Concert, working until 3am, then waking up at 5am to continue working for the next 9 hours!!!
 7:45 am for the last 6 years
 7:45 bell
 7th and 8th grade
 7th grade declamation
 7th grade English
 8th Grade
 9th grade before mid-March
 A certain 8th grade Latin teacher
 A certain Algebra 2 class
 A certain English teacher coming back and tanking my grade
 A teacher accusing me of cheating on a test when I didn't
 Accidentally turning off my chromebook instead of hitting backspace during finals last year while writing on a closed google form.
 Advanced Algebra 2, the whole year
 All of 10th grade
 All of 8th grade
 All of 8th grade
 All of 8th grade
 All of junior year
 All of junior year
 All of Sixie latin
 All the panic attacks I had in various school bathrooms
 Almost failing history
 Almost failing a teacher's history class
 Amir stealing my schmeel
 Any moment in Latin
 AP Bio
 AP Bio
 AP Bio
 AP Bio test
 AP Biology
 AP Biology.
 AP Calculus BC
 AP Econ
 AP Enviro senior presentations
 AP Lit
 AP Lit
 AP Lit and Physics
 AP Lit reading checks & ELA

11 dialectical journals
 AP Lit this year
 AP Physics E&M
 AP Psych Email Chain
 APUSH
 Arbs
 Arguing with my ex about Andrew Tate
 Barone's Bertucci's Soil
 Beginning of Senior Year
 Being accused of cheating on a US History test when I didn't
 Being left out by friends
 Being overwhelmed by school
 Being stressed all the time
 Being the only one in person in classes during hybrid
 Breaking hand
 Calc
 Calc with Elizabeth Choi (I'm required to say this is a joke and she said she was fine with being made fun of)
 Calculus
 Cheating on my math test and still getting a 14%
 Chemistry. All of it.
 College apps
 College Decisions
 Coming to school with 102 degree fever because I wanted to see my crush
 Cops at community college
 COVID-19 year term 2 was something
 Crying after declamation
 Crying in front of a certain AP Lit teacher because I messed up my presentation
 Crying in front of the whole class during Latin dec
 Crying in physics :-)
 Declamation
 Declamation
 Declamation
 Declamation
 Dropping passes
 E&M
 Eighth grade English
 ELA 12
 ELA 12
 ELA 12 everyday
 ELA name circle sixie year
 English 12
 Every single math class
 Failing 5 tests in one day
 Failing every AP Lit assignment ever

Failing Graphic Arts (sorry, Ms. Walshak)
 Fainting in AP Italian
 Falling down an entire flight of stairs going to lunch and losing both my shoes on the way down
 Finals week
 Finding out someone was following me around the school because they liked me
 First day
 First Sixie Public Declamation
 First soil
 Getting a censure, 2 zeros on tests, 3 detentions and kicked off of NHS
 Getting a censure, three detentions, F in conduct and three zero test scores
 Getting an F on declamation
 Getting attacked while in a gingerbread man inflatable
 Getting called into Ms. Murray office
 Getting called on in class
 Getting caught cheating
 Getting caught cheating on a physics test
 Getting caught cheating on a pop quiz
 Getting caught for plagiarism
 Getting caught for plagiarism by Ms. Long
 Getting caught red handed by Ms. Murray
 Getting cut from the basketball team twice
 Getting detention for a week back in freshman year
 Getting harassed by a homeless man at the MIT bus stop before the AP chem exam
 Getting in trouble with Ms. Murray for letting student in the back door
 Getting into this school
 Getting kicked out of the caf for a mess we did not make
 Getting quite literally knocked out during a game of knockout in sixie gym class
 Getting suspended
 Getting yelled at by a sixie teacher for turning in an assignment too late in the day
 Hannah asking me for

homework everyday
 Having 4 tests and a prospectus in 2 days while heinously sick
 Having a panic attack after the first football game of senior year
 Having my first panic attack in the 2nd floor girls bathroom because of a certain English teacher
 Having to argue with a certain English teacher about a grade that I got on an essay just because I didn't use his OPTIONAL outline for an essay (I got the grade after 20 minutes :))
 Having to suffer through AP Italian speaking assessments
 Hysterically crying after my declamation sixie year
 I started laughing during freshman year declamation, and then cried after
 I was rejected from a club officer position and that completely broke me because someone who wasn't as involved who just recently joined the club got the position and I didn't. I was discouraged from going to that club after that.
 Junior Forum
 Junior Research paper
 Just my unicorn phase
 Late night AP Lit essay writing
 Latin class ughhh
 Latin Dec
 Latin Declamation
 Latin Declamation Sixie Year
 Latin over the pandemic
 Latin Prose
 Losing my shin guard first game of sixie year
 Losing the Geo Bee to Preston Tran >:[
 Making a Friedrich diary in 7th grade English that took days and was never graded
 MANY mental breakdowns and tears
 Messing up my Declamation
 Mr. Zou predicting we wouldn't come back in 9th grade
 My birthday
 Not being able to go to the

boiler room during english class
 Online Latin Class
 Online Latin Class
 Online School
 Online School
 ONLINE SCHOOL
 Online school
 Online school while in high school ...
 -57384529725/10 do not recommend
 Online Summer School
 Open windows in the winter
 Passing out in the gym on the second day of sixie year
 Passing out multiple times in Facing History
 Passing out on the bus
 Peak College Apps Season
 Peeing myself in orchestra
 Plagiarism flag on an assignment that I stayed up for...
 Precalc
 Pretty much all of sixie year & eighth grade
 Probably falling up the stairs
 Probably one of the Zoom days
 Public Crying (more than once)
 Puking in school when the nurse cooked beans
 Puking on my teachers desk in my 7th grade english class
 Pulling an all-nighter for a project
 Quarantine and Online Class
 R1 orchestra
 Ratted out for food throwing!
 reading Shakespeare
 Realizing you don't talk to some people anymore
 Remote Learning
 Saving all my homework for the morning commute
 Sixie declamation
 Sixie Eng Teacher roasting me for contradicting herself
 Sixie year as whole
 Sixie year declamation
 Sixie year ELA
 Slipping on ice at the front of the school in front of the surge of kids entering the school at 7:40...
 Some classes
 Spilling coffee on my gray

sweatpants on basetball
 grouffit day and then finding a hole in the crotch of my replacement pants
 Staying in homeroom for 5 minutes first period before realizing it was W-day as a Sixie
 Taking Computer Science
 That class. You know the one.
 The day before Capstone was due
 The entirety of a certain English class
 The entirety of senior winter
 Throwing up after declamation
 Tumbling down the stairs
 Sixie Year in front of a Senior while trying to run from Mr. Mulhern
 Ugly crying in front of BOTH of my guidance counselors (Ms. E and Mr. Greenidge)
 Unsure to say hi or not to someone in the hallway and then just forcibly ignore them as you pass them
 Varsity Soccer
 Waking up early every morning
 Walking up three flights of stairs everyday
 When a certain math teacher yelled at me
 When a teacher was not willing to follow my IEP
 When college applications were due
 When I failed my math final
 When I got my period for the first time in seventh grade on my birthday and I also had declamation that day
 When I realize I failed the AP Latin test I studied so hard for and no matter how hard I tried, I thought I wasn't enough
 When I was forced to read my notes in front of the class in sixie English
 When Mr. McQuade yelled at me
 When Ms. Kwan towed my car and I had to pay 250 dollars
 When my dog died and I went to the nurse's office crying instead of guidance

Things I am Glad I Didn't Do

"Oh my goodness!"
 Activities just for my resume
 Any advanced math class
 AP Chem
 AP Chemistry
 AP Latin
 AP Latin
 AP Latin
 AP Latin
 AP Latin
 AP Latin
 AP Latin
 AP Lit
 AP Lit
 AP Lit
 AP Lit
 AP Physics
 AP Physics
 AP Pysics
 AP Spanish
 Apply to a lot of colleges
 Apply to Harvard
 Apply to Harvard
 APUSH and AP Lit
 APUSH Jr. Year
 Arbs
Argo
Argo for more than one year, AP Physics
 Baha
 Be a STEM kid
 Bev on the weekends
 Boys at this school
 Calculus
 Calculus
 Calculus
 Capstone
 Capstone
 Capstone
 Capstone
 Capstone
 Capstone

Capstone
 Capstone
 Capstone
 Capstone
 Capstone
 Capstone, and taking the commuter rail in the morning
 Capstone, NHS
 Capstone...oh wait
 Care
 Care what people think of me
 Cheat
 Cheat
 Cheat
 Cheat <3
 Crew
 Dante
 Date a junior
 Date anyone from this school
 Date someone from school
 Debate Club
 Decide take AP Chem or APUSH
 Did not do any ECs purely because of peer pressure.
 Go to Holy Name dance
 Do drugs
 Do drugs
 Dress to conform to other people's judgements
 Drinking or drugs
 Drop out
 Drop out
 Drugs
 Drugs
 Drugs
 Drugs (narcotics)
 E&M
 English 12

Exhaust myself with things I did not want to do
 Explode my situationship
 Facing DC trip
 Get a nicotine addiction
 Get below an 80% for my average for the ELA 12 essays
 Get caught for skipping class or leaving school early
 Get caught in the bathroom
 Get caught leaving school
 Get detention
 Get detention
 Get good grades
 Get suspended like Oliver and Andrew
 Get into a relationship
 Give up
 Give up, stay in APUSH, fail AP gov
 Just fully give up on doing my work term 4
 Go number two in the men's bathroom
 Go to Arbs
 Go to Arbs
 Go to Arbs
 Go to Arbs
 Go to Arbs
 Go to parties
 Go to St. Patrick's Day Can
 Go to the beach
 Hard drugs
 Have a rolling backpack
 Have to take APUSH in Senior year
 Hit that zaza
 Holy Name dances
 Homewreck
 Hookup with anyone here

HU with anyone
 Play an instrument or join any music things
 Take AP Lit (Oh wait, I did)
 JCL
 Join a club
 Join a club
 Join band
 Join more clubs than what I did this year lmao I would have died
 Keep playing softball
 Kiss up to my teachers, that's mad embarrassing
 Knuckle under authority
 Let people get to me
 Listen to the advice of the previous seniors and take AP Lit
 Methamphetamine
 Multi-variable Calculus as my first elective
 Music/Band
 My homework
 Never praefecting in the library
 Nicotine
 Not go to the boiler room party // force myself to do things because everyone else was doing it
 PDA
 Physics
 Physics
 Physics
 Physics
 Physics
 Physics
 Physics
 Physics and AP Econ
 Physics, Capstone

Play Crew
 Played an instrument
 Playing an instrument
 Poop in school
 Procrastinate big work
 Public declamation
 Public declamation
 Pull an all nighter
 Quit anything
 Senior capstone
 Show up on time
 Show up on time
 Skip
 Smoke pot at school
 Soccer
 Sports
 Sports and Capstone
 Stats
 Stay in band.
 Stay with 321
 Take a single L
 Take advanced math classes
 Take afro instead of graphic arts
 Take any AP stem classes
 Take any physics classes
 Take AP Bio
 Take AP Calc
 Take AP Calc
 Take AP courses
 Take AP E&M
 Take AP Latin
 Take AP Lit
 Take AP Lit
 Take AP Lit
 Take AP Lit!
 Take AP Spanish junior year
 Take AP Stats
 Take APs that don't fulfill college requirements

Take APUSH
 Take APUSH
 Take APUSH
 Take calc
 Take Capstone
 Take Capstone!
 Take Chemistry
 Take Chemistry
 Take E&M
 Take Facing History or APUSH
 Take Hard Classes
 Take Latin after 4 years
 Take Physics
 Take Physics
 Take Physics
 Take Physics
 Take Physics
 Take Physics
 Take Physics
 Take Physics, AP Lit, or any advanced latin/mlf
 Take really hard classes
 Taking APUSH
 Taking U.S. History 2
 The Alabama hot pocket Theater
 Track, more than 1 season of track would've killed me. It was too much, especially after Mr. P left:(
 Vape
 Vape
 Vape
 Vape
 Vape in Bathroom
 Varsity Winter Crew, Get Detention
 Work super hard.
 Worry a bunch about grades.

I Had a Secret Crush On...

... I'm aroace :D	Dominic Hashem	James Reen	Maya Ruth Nelson	Ms. Cojohn (not so secret)	Nico L'Huillier	Sofia Francisco
"Oh my goodness!"	Eamonn Foley	James Reen	(it stopped being secret)	Ms. Dunn	No one	Sofia Francisco - their smile melts my heart:))
Adam Lin (if it has to be a senior then idk Niara Dagli)	Eliza Duff-Wender	Jane Mckenna	Michelle	Ms. Kirkpatrick	No one	Sofia Serig
Addison Jenkins	Eric Huang	Jason "Brad" Kuo	Mina Breen	Ms. Pels	No one...our class is barren	Sophia Holleran
Adina Habib	Esther	Jason Kuo	Mina Breen	Ms. Pels	Nobody	Sophia Holleran
Aidan Goldblatt	Ethan Chen	Jason Kuo	Mira Yu	Ms. Skerritt	None of them were secret	Sophia Russo
Amir Kobe	Ethan Nguyen	Jill Keane	Mr. Boor	Ms. Sweeney	Nurse Healy	Sophie Dunmore
Ange Najam	Flora Day	Joe Everett	Mr. Galego	Ms. Sweeney	Nyla	Stanley Ng
Annabelle Lee	Flora Day	Julia Dalmanieras	Mr. Gay	Ms. Tomashpol	Nyla Anderson	Stefan Rosenfeld
Anthony Lai	Gabe Dantas	Justin with the e	Mr. Bartoloma	Mx. Foulis	Nyla	Steven Chen
Ben Fortuin	Gabriel Dantas	Kien Bui	Mr. Brown	Mx. Foulis	Odin	Tam Pham
Bessie Li	Gabriel Dantas	Kristiana Dycaj	Mr. Finnigan	My lord and savior	Ollie Prentiss	Terence Xie
Bill Chen	Gabriel Dantas	Laura Berberi	Mr. Fogul	Myself	Paige	Tess Aho
Bill Chen	Gabriel Dantas	Laurel Nyhan	Mr. Galego	Myself :)	Patrick Harnan	The monster in the boiler room
Caitlin Donovan	Geoffrey Zou	Lilu!	Mr. Galego	N/A	Patrick Harnan	Theresa Cojohn
Cam Kelley	Harrison Tran	Lily Do	Mr. Gallagher	Nadia	Phobe Clarke	Thomas Caravan
Cameron Kelly	I have a problem where I think the people at <i>Argo</i> can guess who I am, so I don't really want to say. Soo let's go with ... you!	Lily Do	Mr. Harris	Nathalie Poftak	Ppl	Too many people but nothing serious
CATHERINE		Lilyana Johnson	Mr. Gallagher	Neth Kurukulasuriya	Princewill	Veronica Smith
WANGG for six years and counting now		Livia	Mr. Rinaldi	Neth Kurukulasuriya	Princewill Eke	Veronica Smith
Cecilia Jackson		LOL nobody	Mr. Vallone	Neth Kurukulasuriya	Ricky Rollo	William Bordon
Coach Nate (crew)		Mackenzie Strachan	Mr. Andersen	Neth Kurukulasuriya	Romeo	William Wei
Coach Smith		Maddie Murphy (still)	Mr. Luu	Neth Kurukulasuriya	Ruo Wu	Wilson Wei
Cojohn		Maddie Murphy (still)	Mr. Simoneau	Neth Kurukulasuriya	Ruo Wu	Wilson Zheng
Derek Corcoran		Mai Babila-Weigmann	Ms. Kirkpatrick	Neth Kurukulasuriya	Sadie Flowers	Wolf Larsen
Derek Corcoran		Maia Frost	Ms. Long	Neth Kurukulasuriya	Sarah Duval	Yasamin Kiani
Diamante Gruosi		Mak Kelly	Mrs. Pels	Nhat Thai	Seamus Reardon	Yeg
Diego Chavez in 8th grade		Mak Kelly	Ms. AQ and Ms. Smith	Niall R. (as a sixie)	Selina Tang	Yuta Kaneko (lol)
Dominic		Mary Bosch ;)	Ms. AQ	Niall Reynolds	Selina Tang	Zena Halwani
Dominic Hashem		Mary Harrington	Ms. Buono	Nicholas Brandon	Selina Tang	Zena Halwani
		Mary Harrington	Ms. Burke	Lai	Skyler White yo	
		Mathew Mabington	Ms. Clougherty	Nicky Black	Sofia Francisco	
		Matt Carrara	Ms. Cojohn	Nicky Tran	Sofia Francisco	

Most Useful Thing I Learned...

"Authenticity is the Secret Sauce" -Mr. Oakes	most important things in life	adults	How to study well	than the work you do.	That one must always find a good math table group
"Oh my goodness!"	Friends are the most important thing	How to deal with people I find annoying.	How to suck up to Mr. Southwick	Mental health is allowed to be a priority over grades	That square up there is my friend.
Always trust your gut	Genuinely time management.	How to do a lot of things in a short amount of time with great reward and a little bit of effort	How to talk about things other than sports or music	Mitochondria is the powerhouse of the cell	The ability to BS analysis
Anything Brian Smith told me	Getting work done under preasure	How to do the bare minimum without seeming like I did the bare minimum	How to talk back to teachers/superiors	Mr. Rinaldi once told me that you'll find your path, and I've trusted him ever since.	The exact line between what you can and cannot get away with
Anything is possible if you BS and ChatGPT it	Good decision making skills	How to eat lunch in 2 minutes	How to talk to people even when I don't want to.	My work ethic and how to fake one	The pluperfect tense in Latin
Be bold and just live your life how you want to do it	Good strategy for 2048	How to effectively procrastinate	How to talk to teachers	Napping inconspicuously	The power rule
Be confident	How to (better) manage a swath of tasks	How to enjoy learning	How to teach myself class material	Networking makes life much easier	The smaller things won't count in the long run so don't dwell on them too much
Being able to finish work after procrastinating for a long time	How to act like I know what I'm doing	How to finesse	How to work hard	Not my circus not my monkeys	The US is a pretty bad place to live
Being confident in myself academically and socially	How to advocate for myself	How to finesse an essay in 20 minutes	How to work smarter not harder	Nothing	Time is money
BSing presentations and Q&A	How to be charismatic (debatable) and comfortable in public spaces.	How to finish essays the night before it's due	how to work with difficult people	Nothing is worth that amount of stress	Time management
Calculus	How to be successful at procrastination	How to finish tasks last minute	How to write a "so what" in a thesis	Organization in writing	Time management
Calculus...not	How to BS	How to get into the boiler room	How to write a research paper in 2 days	Outsourcing work	Time management (kinda)
Change is good, and embracing it will help you lead a better life	How to BS	How to get work done at the last minute.	How to write an essay	Park benching (Thanks Mr. Sullivan!)	To balance my time
ChatGPT's url	How to BS	How to get work done in the midst of a mental breakdown	How to write essays fast	Planning ahead of time	To celebrate the small wins in life
Cheating	How to BS	How to hide my coffee in the morning	How to write essays the day its due	Playing to your strengths and passions will get you the farthest in all aspects of life.	To cut corners when needed smartly
Cheating works	How to BS	How to ignore people	how to write essays very quickly	Procrastination	To keep a open and relaxed mindset, that everything is going to be okay and I am more than enough for who I am.
Compartmentalism	How to BS	How to make friends and work with others	I cannot become dictator without my toga	Procrastination works	To never be afraid to ask for help
Compartmentalization	How to BS	How to make the most of your weekend	I learned to speak up for myself.	Public Speaking	To not care
Connections are everything	How to BS	How to manage my time	Idk I'm lost	Public speaking	To use Adobe Photoshop & Illustrator
Conversation with anyone can be interesting	How to BS a class and pass	How to manage stress and hard work	If I can make it through here I can make it through anything	Public speaking	To write academically
Create a plan for getting work done and stick with it.	How to BS an essay	How to manage time	Its easy to get away without trying	Public Speaking	Tricking my teachers about missing assignments
Debating skills	How to BS Assignments	How to never have to do work outside of school hours	its not worth it	Public Speaking	TRUST NO ONE
Declamation	How to BS English homework	How to not let little things get you down	Just ball out.	Public speaking skills	Try to get connections with as many people as possible
Do your work as soon as possible and DON'T PROCRASTINATE	How to BS everything last minute	How to overcompensate	Keep a commonplace book	Punctuality	Windows and Mirrors in English 12
Doing well in school does not matter at all	How to calculate electrical cost	How to prioritize my mental health	Latin	Pythagorean theorem	Work hard, but not that hard, because it doesn't matter that much. Responsibility is overrated.
Don't be so trusting of people	How to cheat	How to procrastinate	Leadership skills & how to mindlessly write essays	Red Bull does wonders	Work smarter not harder
Don't get caught cheating	How to cheat the system	How to procrastinate 101	Learning how to teach myself	Reddit has the answers to everything	You get in trouble for getting caught, not for what you did
Don't procrastinate.	How to choose to not care	How to rizz	Learning how to work extremely hard	Relax, things will eventually come your way	You get what you work for
Don't try too hard	How to complete my homework by 12 while starting at 10	How to sleep with my eyes open	Lying	Self-advocacy	Your grades do not define you so don't base your BLS experience around college!
Don't procrastinate	How to confidently advocate for my needs and not let other peoples' ableist standards affect my ability to recognize my own successes	How to stop caring about other people's opinions	Make connections! Connections are so so important; the more people you know, the more all sorts of opportunities are presented to you. It also just helps to have good people skills, better to have people love you than only having neutral acquaintances.	Self-advocacy	Your mental health comes first so take care of yourself
Empathy is key	How to conjugate a verb in Latin	How to study and the best way I learn	Making people (teachers) like you is more important	Self-study	
Existentialism & essay writing	How to cram	How to study effectively.		Special relativity	
F = m*a	How to cram last minute			Stay Away from Math	
Failing a class isn't the end of the world	How to cry silently and unnoticeably & how to poop in under 2 minutes			Stoicism	
Fake it til you make it	How to deal with difficult			Stress is great when you're rushing to finish assignments or projects	
False confidence works everywhere on everyone, including yourself				Study habits	
Find joy in everything				Take the time to have fun	
Focus and grindset				Taking advantage of every opportunity you come across	
friends and family are the				Talk to people	
				Texas Hold'em	
				That hard work beats talent when talent fails to work hard	

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

“Oh my goodness!”
9th graders...to find what you enjoy doing and pursue it
Administration and teachers...to chill out its not that deep
Albert Chen...don't take Physics E&M
All BLS students with learning disabilities...ASK FOR HELP, become besties with all your teachers if you can, and don't let anyone deny you of your accommodations or make you feel bad for needing them. you CAN do really well here as a student but only if you accept that your version of success is not gonna look the same as everyone else's. if you can't do that, there are better schools out there, don't make yourself suffer when you know you could be thriving elsewhere. put your happiness above all else.
All my teachers...let students sleep in class
All of SEAL...do what you enjoy and you'll go places
Amir...keep your chin up
Any person ever...don't take AP Comp Sci A
Anyone at BLS...live your life apologetically and don't be afraid to be who you are
Anyone...don't be scared to join any clubs/try anything new even if it is filled with upperclassman or that you feel like you are “late” in joining or feel imposter syndrome. Do it anyways, people are more friendly than they look!
Anyone...don't worry about anyone else and just do your own thing!
Anyone...is the prioritize your mental health. Get in a healthy routine and stick with it. It's so easy to fall behind.
Anyone...make a schedule and STICK TO IT.
Anyone...to go to the boiler room
Athletes...to chill
Basically everyone...stop stopping in the middle of the hall/stairs, people are trying to walk
BESSIE LI...is to have fun in college
BLS students...drop your fake friends
BLS students...late work shall set you free
BLS Students...major in what makes you happy, not what brings in the most cash
BLSA...check your emails please
Cal...quit baseball, nerd
Class of 2024...Please don't procrastinate and do clubs. Y'all finna have Jialin carrying senior dance next year
David Rivkin...keep being the awesome person you are
Dylan Furlonge...focus on girls instead of school
E&M wannabes...don't take the class
Eighth graders...please move out of the middle of the hallways
Eighth graders...please MOVE!!! out of the way
PLEASE why are you battling each other

Everybody...if you fear how people might judge you or treat you unseriously, you will miss out on how they can (and will) help you no matter how big/dumb/stressful your problem is
Everyone at BLS next year...do student leadership with Ms. McKenna
Everyone...actually do homework — don't just copy
Everyone...be yourself
Everyone...choose peace
Everyone...don't be afraid to let go of extracurriculars that you don't like!
Everyone...don't drink coffee on an empty stomach
Everyone...don't stress about undergrad
Everyone...don't sweat the small stuff and if there's something you want to do just do it
Everyone...enjoy all the moments because it will end so quick
Everyone...have fun no matter what
Everyone...make, embrace, and learn from mistakes
Everyone...read ELA books
Everyone...send arbs
Everyone...take a graphic arts class
Everyone...to live, laugh, and love
Everyone...to not be afraid to challenge yourself
Everyone...to not take more than 2 aps per year
Everyone...to start coming in late and leaving early
Everyone...to talk to as many of your peers as you can! The people around you are incredible and fascinating, but you'll never know unless you reach out
Everyone...try everything and just do it because there are so many things you can invest your time in
Everyone...wear deodorant you stink
Everyone...when you avoid something, ask yourself “WHAT SPECIFICALLY DO I FEAR ABOUT THIS?”
Everyone...you can get away with not doing a lot of work
Everyone...you can still get good grades while leaving time for fun
Freshmen and older...choose your classes wisely
Freshmen...care a lot about your grades early on so that you don't have to work as hard later
Freshmen...keep your grades up academically
Freshmen...your GPA does matter
Future captains...don't become captains with your friends, become friends with your captains
Future Juniors...don't choose classes to suffer, figure out which ones won't end the year with a project due your final week and take those instead
Future math students...get a good math table group
Future seniors...care more about the memories you have with your friends than the grades you get.

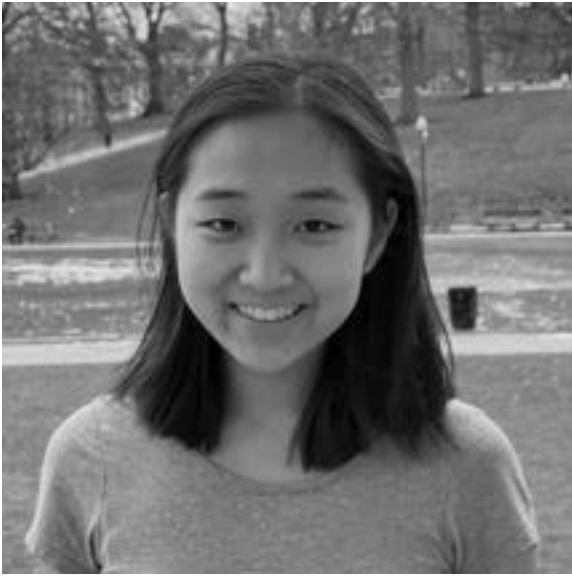
it goes by faster than you think
Future students...use your agenda
Guys...read philosophy books to look cool
High schoolers...date even when it seems stupid
High schoolers...don't stress about grades you will always be able to improve them and in the long run it won't be worth the stress
Incoming seniors...don't take AP Lit
Incoming seniors...make as many friends as you can this year because people stop caring about cliques and it makes the year so much better to be friends with everyone
Incoming sixties...run in the halls and bring a rolling backpack
Incoming sophomores...never take Physics and avoid STEM
Incoming students...become involved and cherish each moment of high school
Incoming upperclassmen...don't take AP Econ
Issie Russo...be nicer to your sister
Janie Huang...know your worth
Juniors...apply to a lot of colleges
Juniors...become friends with your grade
Juniors...cherish every moment of your senior year
Juniors...cherish every moment they still have
Juniors...college acceptances are random, so do not beat yourself up over them. you will end up where you are meant to be
Juniors...do most of your work
Juniors...do not take capstone
Juniors...do not take ELA 12
Juniors...do your JRP
Juniors...don't procrastinate college apps
Juniors...don't procrastinate the college process
Juniors...DON'T TAKE CAPSTONE
Juniors...don't take capstone
Juniors...don't be a senior
Juniors...enjoy it while it lasts
Juniors...everything truly works out in the end
Juniors...find someone you trust and can talk to during college app season
Juniors...get college stuff done
Juniors...get your senior year english teacher to help with personal statement
Juniors...GO TO SLEEP
Juniors...good luck, you're gonna need it
Juniors...have faith it will all work out
Juniors...reach out to everyone
Juniors...relax and have fun
Juniors...research colleges before not while writing the supplemental essays
Juniors...START COLLEGE APPS EARLY
Juniors...start looking for colleges early and make your list first above all else.

Juniors...start your college essays in the summer
Juniors...take at least one fun class your senior year
Juniors...TAKE GREEK
Juniors...to soak it all in
Juniors...try to have as much fun as possible but also make sure to get all your work in
Juniors...WRITE YOUR ESSAYS BEFORE THE SCHOOL YEAR STARTS
Keiran Spock...not be like me when you grow up.
Kyle Donovan...care less about having some common sense sometimes
Literally everyone...join clubs ASAP and stay in them!
Middle schoolers...be painfully earnest
Middle schoolers...wear deodorant PLEASE
Mike Munn...Grow a pair
Mohamed...get a job
Mohamed...get a job
Ms. Murray...keep bringing your dog
My peer mentees...join an extracurricular
My sister...to never doubt her own worth even if my parents compare us too much
My younger self...take risks and have fun
Onyx Dagli...take the classes you find interesting, and seek teachers from other classes to help when the ones you have suck
Other students...don't let school overtake your life, sometimes you just need a day off to relax
Parents...give into the procrastination; it will win every time
People choosing their classes...make junior year easier classes and senior year harder classes
Physics students...DON'T Procrastinate...never stop <3
Rising freshmen...you probably won't be valedictorian
Rising Juniors...don't procrastinate your JRP
Rising juniors...skip school to complete college apps
Rising juniors...take stats
Rising seniors...enjoy your last year, do everything you never got to do - confess to that person, join clubs last minute (it doesn't matter that you didn't do it earlier, get involved, you'll be so glad you did join, better late than sorry); stay late at school with your friends; attend all the school events - concerts, Asian Night, talent shows; do not let college rejections break you; there's so much fun awaiting you this last year, while it is rising, it will all be worth it.
Rising seniors...to take AP Art
Rising seniors...write your essays EARLY
Senior boys...get rid of the mullets
Senior year...take classes you actually like
Seniors...don't take 4 APs
Seniors...take AP Lit instead of ELA 12
Sixes...don't run to lunch
Sixies...wear deodorant.

Please.
Sixies...do not get involved with seniors in romantic relationships
Sixies...be quiet in the hallways and start walking at a faster pace than that of a snail
Sixies...do what you love
Sixies...don't pull all nighters it's not that deep
Sixies...don't try too hard
Sixies...get out while you can
Sixies...is to take BLS seriously even though you hate it. i've hated it since i've been here but it gets better little by little.. there's so many benefits that come with being able to say you graduated from such a good school so please please please don't take that for granted. i also want to remind them that burnout is very much real and it's hard to come back from it, but you still have to try no matter what. i'm so grateful i stayed here, and beyond proud of myself for making it to graduation, keep your heads up and i hope you have a successful bls career.
Sixies...it goes by fast, enjoy it
Sixies...join a bunch of clubs!
Sixies...join clubs that truly bring you joy.
Sixies...join sports
Sixies...learn how to walk and move out of the way
Sixies...make the most out of your BLS experience and involve yourself as much as possible
Sixies...please learn what spacial awareness is
Sixies...please pay attention in math and Latin
Sixies...poop in the urinal
Sixies...RUN AWAY NOW
Sixies...run away now
Sixies...stick with Classics, Latin V is the BEST
Sixies...stop running around the halls, there's plenty of time between classes
Sixies...take every year at a time! there's no rush to grow up, there's no rush to know who you are and what you want to be so early on so please, enjoy as much time as you can and take the time you need to figure out those things!
Sixies...teachers are not always right. Advocate for yourself. Don't let this school gaslight you.
Sixies...time at BLS flies so make the best of it
Sixies...top crossing the green light to catch the train y'all almost get run over every other day
Sixies...visit the 4th floor pool
Sixies...leave while you still can
Students at BLS...enjoy it while it lasts
students in general, have good relations w your teachers
Students...have fun and don't stress
Teachers...more homework helps nobody
Terence Xie...never give up on us
The kids...stay in school
The physics department...be less awkward

The world...jet fuel won't melt steel
Underclassmen...BLS boys are not worth it
Underclassmen...do not take AP Physics E&M
Underclassmen...don't be so annoying and shut up sometimes
Underclassmen...find your people. Don't waste your time with people you do not enjoy spending time with or who do not wholeheartedly support you in all that you do. You will find so much happiness when you find your people and can experience high school with them.
Underclassmen...get into a routine as soon as possible
Underclassmen...high school is easier then your teachers make it seem
Underclassmen...high school is temporary
Underclassmen...it's okay to drop people who are toxic even if they mean a lot to you
Underclassmen...make sure you do all the hard classes/requirements by junior year so that senior year is easy
Underclassmen...organize all the work you have to do (TRUST ME, STAY ORGANIZED)
Underclassmen...participate in Senior Dance when you become a Senior
Underclassmen...please take AP Lang you won't regret it
Underclassmen...remember that your teachers are always there to help you with anything. Don't be afraid to ask for help
Underclassmen...stand up to a teacher's superiority complex
Underclassmen...take art!
Underclassmen...take classes you are actually interested in. You'll do better on them, and enjoy yourself more
Underclassmen...to go to events and participate in activities and clubs!
Try not to be shy - it is so much more fun when you feel like your class is also a community!
Underclassmen...write a letter to yourself so that you can read it back senior year.
UNDERCLASSMEN...you don't have to have it all figured out
Underclassmen...you will get through this!!
Underclasspeople...maintain your valuable friendships
Upcoming seniors...apply to your reach school, even if you are positive you won't get in
Vivian...keep pushing. You're awesome and you got this
You know who...sleep more >:(
Younger classmates...please do what you genuinely love because there's no one way to go to your dream college
Younger kids...close the stall door
Younger kids...slow down
Zach Demichele...stay focused and keep having fun

Editor-in-Chief
Elizabeth Choi



First of all, I am so sorry to Joeanny, from whom I have asked for three extensions and counting (unlike Hamilton, I would not be able to write 51 essays in six months). Secondly, I am so sorry to the Copy and Layout editors for having to edit and format this monstrous farewell. I had the brilliant idea of thinking I could express my gratitude to every single one of my babies (aka the members of 2021-2022 and 2022-2023 boards), and I was about halfway through before realizing that this was a mistake.

Without further ado, however, let's start with News. Katie: thank you for bringing such great energy to 016, even when it was the Production Week of your own Graduation Issue and you didn't have to be there. I am also sad to say that I have not followed the advice you left me in your senior survey. To the **Comic Sans girl** (Alanna): the 2021 November Issue continues to hold my best editors' note, and "Everything Has [Become More Unhinged Since Then]." Kevin: your enthusiasm for journalism shines beyond the *Argo*, and I always appreciate your reminders for Editors' Meetings and your texts about relevant AP Lang prompts. Thank you, Elyssa, for being a rock in the News section amid those truly dreadful requests for additional graphics. To Ailin, who is always on top of everything: I am so excited to see you co-leading News.

Next is Forum! Jack: you are the only one I know who could fill a whole page with one single article (and could probably extend it to the entire 16-page paper, if we let him), and your legacy in Forum is still felt today. Alice: your love for *Insomnia Cookies* and *10 Things I Hate About You* always made the long days of Production Week more bearable. Thank you, Cinly, for spearheading Forum's first-place win in Editorial Writing at Suffolk this year, and who is so talented that Columbia had to accept her after her extracurricular fair article. Jessie: your determination to gatekeep (or steal) article ideas from News made each Editors' Meeting more exciting (and also led to the imposed time limits for each section). Thank you, Michelle, who might as well have been a Head Editor this past year with her great ideas and dedication.

While I love Forum, it is second in my heart (and the actual paper) along with every other section behind the one that started my *Argo* career, A&E. A&E nurtured my skills as a writer and editor for four years, and I will always think of it as my home. Anna: if there's anyone to thank, it's you. After taking one look at my terrible

first article, the then-A&E editors clicked their tongues, shook their heads and gave me your Winnie-the-Pooh exhibit review to use as a guide for future attempts at journalism writing. Since then, you have become my Head Editor, co-Head Editor and my friend throughout it all. Thank you for encouraging me to apply for Editor-in-Chief two years ago when I didn't know sophomores could do so and supporting me when I was unsure if I could take on such a responsibility. I'm so grateful to you for everything.

Continuing in A&E, I would be remiss if I didn't thank Kelsey, with whom I have been through so much. From taking walks around the school with me when 016 became too crowded to asking for the PDFs this year so you can edit them in your college dorm (which, by the way, you never did), I cherish all of our moments together. Maggie: thank you for all of the good advice, both personally and through the advice column. Irene: thank you for making me feel less alone when we were the only sixie A&E writers. Ellis: thank you for introducing album reviews to the *Argo*. Eliza: you suck. Just kidding! Thank you for putting up with my insults, single-handedly destroying the November Issue and lending me your prom dress that's not really yours (and forcing me to wear it to 016 during Production Week). To our creative consultant, Emilia the Amazingest: I had so much fun being your boss this year, and I wish you all the best in finding powerful friends. Kyler and Caitlin: thanks for contributing to the Fun Page with your crosswords. For all of the current students reading this (although I doubt any have made it this far), if you want to join a writing section in the *Argo*, join A&E because 1.) it needs the writers and 2.) it really is the best section.

Now, onto the section that I am always too tired to read through thoroughly on Saturday at 2:00 A.M.: Sports. Thank you, Lilah, because while I'm not sure how Sports won first in Sports Writing at Suffolk last year, I'm pretty sure your journalism major had something to do with it. Shane: thank you for introducing your little brother to the best club at school; we have high hopes for him. To our most committed editor, Lauren, I will miss hearing you say, "Wait, we have *Argo* today?" at lunch on Tuesdays. Romy: you don't know how much I appreciate the fact that you actually look at the PDF edits spreadsheet when I ask Sports to do so. Thank you to Maddie, who is always hard at work in her corner in 016 when she's not on the field or court.

I've said it before and I'll say it again: if I had known Copy was a real section when I first joined the *Argo* in seventh grade, I would have been a Copy associate. In the section that is mine in an alternate universe, we have Darren, who makes Writers' Meetings more eventful with his *Gilmore Girls*-themed questions. There's also Fiona, one of my favorite people ever — thank you for answering my grammar questions no matter how late the night or early the morning (I included the em dash just for you to decide what to do with it). To Justine: thank you for your knowledge of the Copy Bible toward which I aspire. Lindsey: it must have been hard being a new Copy editor this year, but now you are able to enjoy it as a Head Editor.

Layout: I hold no grudge for not adding me to the email list. To the Layout queen, Emma, you are one of the most intelligent and dependable editors with whom I have ever had the pleasure of working. Theresa: thank you for all of the post-meeting words of wisdom that you have bestowed upon me. Additionally, I want to apologize to Lily, who has stayed up until absurd hours fixing all of the last-minute mistakes the Editor-in-Chiefs find; please sleep more next year. To Aidan (Tran): I think you're an amazing person, and the song "Beautiful

Girls" will never fail to remind me of you. Mari: here's to continuing to use the horrorscopes for your own romantic endeavors!

Last but not least of the sections is Photo. Regina: one of our only goals this year was to not disappoint you with the *Argo* playlist even if it doesn't have your top-tier selections. To Mary: the energy you bring to Production Week is unmatched — whether it's ballroom dancing to "The Rainbow Connection," stealing my phone to curl your hair or showing off your Show Choir routine, Production days with you were always better. We have Karen, who despite being the only half-sane Photo editor, is also insanely talented. I will miss watching you edit pictures in class and trying to figure out with me how to attend both *Argo* and Gospel Choir. Alex: thank you for the iconic but scary "Argo 2022-2023" cover photo and the "The Other Side of The Door" screaming sessions. Andrew: there's no one else I'd rather beat in Taylor Swift Sporcle. Also, "Don't You" think it's interesting that my favorite songs and albums have become your favorite songs and albums since we've become friends?

But this farewell is not over yet. Thank you, Nadine and Julie, for navigating the *Argo* unbelievably smoothly through unknown waters (i.e., the pandemic) and for taking a chance on a fifteen-year-old fresh-faced A&E editor; I hope I made you proud. Thank you to those who, although they are not part of the *Argo*, bless us with their presence: K*** Nuuguuyopoon (My), Phatie Hween.jpg (Patty), the self-proclaimed president of the *Argo* (Isa) and the twins who are interviewed in every issue (Sam and Zach). Ms. Ellis and Ms. Harari: I loved talking about books and movies with you two on my way to retrieve the MacBooks. To Ms. Kwan: you are quite simply the best. Thank you, Ms. Pierce, for being the Sherlock to my Watson when we try to track down people's homerooms during carnation season. And obviously, the *Argo* has the best faculty advisor, Ms. Moon. Ms. Moon, the *Argo* would sink without you. Thank you for providing us with your sagacity, horror stories and chocolates from your desk. While I will miss you, I will not miss having to schedule wearing my dad's UMICH sweaters only on days for which I know you'll be absent.

Finally, I have to give a huge thank you to the only two people for whom I have turned on my read receipts: the other halves of Aidabeth and Selizabina. Aidan (Chen): we've come a long way from that infamous four-hour phone call. You were only an assistant editor before assuming the role of (assistant) Editor-in-Chief, but I'm glad I had you by my side as we tried to remember what in-person *Argo* was like (especially the carnations fundraiser, a memory that my mind has thankfully erased). To Selina: the Dad to my Mom (as decided upon by our *Argo* children in their complicated, self-made family tree), I've learned so many lessons from you, like how one can insert puns into any situation or how knowing all of the U.S. presidents is useful for "fun" (her words, not mine) online quizzes. You're both incredibly talented and smart people; thank you for making each year of being EiC memorable in its own way.

It's time to say goodbye to the many nightmares I've had about the *Argo*, the PDF edits that I enjoy a little too much and the badly-timed *Just Dance* sessions. The ship that is the *Argo* will always be my home, but it's time for me to dock and see what lands await me. Jenny and Joanna: we entrust *navem nostram* to your more-than-capable hands. I will be cheering you on from a distant shore, eagerly watching where you sail next.

Love,
 Elizabeth



Editor-in-Chief Selina Tang



Prep your life jackets and tissues because here I (*Ar*)go!

While Liz and I truly believed the *Argo* would capsized after we both missed Graduation last year, it has surprisingly sailed out alive. This would not have been possible without our creative writers, talented associates and thoughtful editors.

I will start with production (Liz has never let me go through them backward in our editors' note). Photo ensures that both our paper and *Instagram* showcase a high-quality lens into BLS. Layout has always been a machine that churns out pages, graphics and posts. I would trust Copy to fix every spelling and grammar mistake on my resume, wedding invitations and testament because they have proven themselves trustworthy.

Of course, there are our writing sections. Sports impresses me with their unexpected speediness, headlines with actually funny puns and passion for promoting girls' sports. A&E greatly expanded our knowledge of the arts world, traversing into industries such as fashion and literature. Forum has never failed to bring us insightful opinions, all the tea on BLS and controversial takes. Lastly, News has started each of our issues strong, dedicating themselves to raising awareness, developing writers and updating their *Google Classroom* banner.

I am incredibly grateful for all the seniors that have accompanied me through the past six years; we survived the confusion

of being packed into 207, disappointment of having our articles cut and stress of Adobe malfunctions. I know you will all continue to thrive wherever you are off to next, but please do not forget the *Argo*, because you have left big shoes to fill and will inevitably receive questions from new editors experiencing their mid-career crises. If you could respond within two business days, that would be fabulous.

To the new board: I cannot wait to see where you will take the paper next. You have all demonstrated your commitment to providing student news and maintaining the legacy of the *Argo*. I know you will make me proud, but more importantly, make yourselves proud. To Jenny and Joanna, you have already accomplished the first step: continue the tradition of a height difference. You also completed the second step if there are people reading this note: complete a graduation issue! Third step: be sure to order Hawaiian pizza and double chocolate mint cookies in case I come visit. Fourth step: trust your guts. You will always figure it out (and if not, Ms. Moon will).

Oh, Ms. Moon! As your name suggests, there is something unworldly about you. We are not sure how you have the physical and mental capacity to teach all your classes, supervise the *Argo* (and other less exciting clubs), attend an exorbitant amount of meetings, bring us food and show us clips of Ohio State's marching band, all while on two hours of sleep. On a more serious note, your perspectives, suggestions and remind-

ers keep the board sane, the *Argo* running and our ledger balance positive. I appreciate you for entrusting me and Liz with the helm.

Finally, I would not have survived this year and be here writing this farewell without my co-grandparent. Thank you for making me feel validated by needing to sleep at midnight but the Layout children are still exporting the PDF. Thank you for knowing all the Classics-related hints when we struggle to test the crossword at 8:00 P.M.. Thank you for being the rational and kinder one that softens the tone of our emails. Despite your refusal to change the inbox wallpaper, shuffle the music or wear your math test outfit in our editors' picture, I am endlessly impressed by and grateful for you. Thank you, Liz.

After counting down each Production Week, Final Friday and Taylor song skipped in the *Argo* playlist, the Selizabina era is finally coming to an end. I thought we would never escape the *Argo* while sitting through those two weeks of interviews. Jenny and Joanna gave us a glimpse of hope when they made us walk the plank (go home) post-ice cream social; however, it appears that one never truly leaves the *Argo*. I will always forget to insert the Oxford comma in my English papers, write out COVID-19's full legal name and never start sentences with 'however.' I will cherish all my memories with the Argonauts who have become my friends and family.

Slayout. Peace out.
Selina Tang

Assistant News Editor Elyssa Cabey



Now that my time at BLS is over, I can't help but sort each of my memories of this school into "Things I'll Miss" and "Things I Won't Miss." Some of the things I won't miss are waking up at 5:30 AM, asking to go to the restroom and MCAS testing. But when it comes to the things I will miss, the *Argo* is undoubtedly at the very top of my list.

I don't think there's any publication quite like the *Argo*. The amount of genuine passion that the people behind the scenes have for connecting with the community could never be matched by any other newspaper, student-run or professional. On top of that, there is a permeant sense of camaraderie among both the editors and the writers that I won't be able to find anywhere else.

The BLS mission statement promised seventh-grade me "preparation for successful college studies, responsible and engaged citizenship and a rewarding life," and I can say with complete certainty that each and every one of these promises was fulfilled thanks to

the time I spent on the *Argo* team. I feel fully equipped to handle whatever challenge the world throws at me, and I've met so many people whose influence truly changed my life.

Hours of rereading and PDF editing taught me that attention to detail is guaranteed to result in high-quality work. Writing calculated emails and making intimidating phone calls showed me the value of effective communication and community engagement. And interacting with the incredible group of staff and contributing writers who helped make this year possible taught me how to be a leader.

To my amazing Newsies crew of Joanna, Kevin and Ailin: thank you for the countless hours we've spent trying to figure out how to fit 11 articles into a nine-article space, and for your commitment to getting the story no matter what. I've learned so much about journalism from the three of you, and I can't tell you enough how much I appreciate the enthusiasm and creativity you man-

age to deliver at every opportunity.

Thank you to Selizabina, our Editors-in-Chief, for your unparalleled organization and leadership. Both of you have been such a source of inspiration for me as an editor and as a student, and I wish you the best of luck (not that you'll need it) in college and beyond. Also, thank you to Ms. Moon for constantly supporting us and keeping us in line.

I also want to give a huge thank you to my favorite A&E editor Irene, because I never could have made it through AP Calculus BC this year without your monthly 11:00 PM phone calls explaining to me the many nuances of series convergence tests.

They say that when something ends you shouldn't cry because it's over, but instead smile because it happened. And thanks to the *Argo*, I get to look back on my time here at BLS with a big smile.

But I definitely can't wait to start using Oxford commas again.

Forum Editor Cinly Mo



"It's all over, you're still here" — the infamous Senior Class chant that celebrates the end of an era. While it may be hard to bid adieu to this school and all its accompanying memories, it is even harder to part ways with the *Argo*, what many consider the ultimate vessel of this school community's voice and what I consider a second family.

Like many Argonauts, I began my journey in the ninth grade as a naive individual who knew two things. For one, I withheld many unexpressed strong opinions about the world because of my innate debate spirit. And for another, I needed an activity that could occupy my free time better than playing *Minecraft*. Lo and behold, I joined the *Argo*'s Forum section and never looked back since.

The most valuable thing that Forum gave to me was an understanding of the power of the written word. There is something special about pouring hours into meticulously drafting an outline and conducting strenuous research for it to accumulate into the perfect article, that is published with

clarity and confidence.

In hindsight, my humble beginnings of being intimidated by previous Forum editors and getting cut from a publication have conditioned me well. The *Argo* gave me a platform to grow not only as a writer and editor, but as a person in my identity. As I've become more confident in the content of what I was publishing, I felt my confidence in my ability to enact significant change blossomed as well.

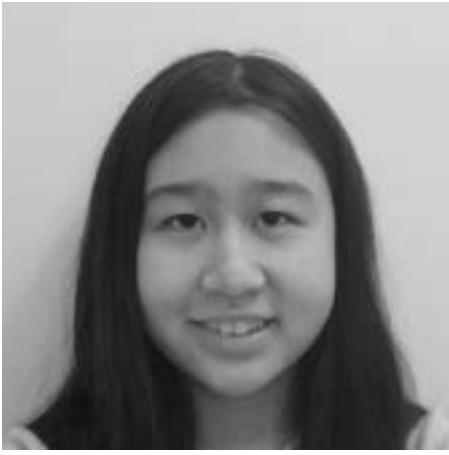
On the editorial side, I pushed our writers to voice their angsty unpopular opinions to fully embrace the authentic art behind journalism (even if it came at the cost of lengthening our editing process and making an enemy out of the Copy section). So to the current and aspiring writers of the *Argo*, don't be afraid to challenge conventional schools of thought, so we avoid losing individual relativity in our discourse.

To the EiCs and the *Argo* editorial board, I will miss our egregiously long Tuesday Editors' Meetings, Insomnia cookie deliveries, subpar ice cream socials, and of course, the collective edit-

ing grind in 016. Shoutout to Andrew and his associates for his innate ability to keep me off task. Here's to Alex for introducing me and the entire Forum section to the glorious Starbucks Matcha Lemonade.

Of course, this farewell wouldn't be complete without mentioning my former *Argo* influences. Nadine and Julianna, thank you for encouraging me to swap out my staff writer application for an editor application two years ago. Jack and Alice, thank you for taking me under your wing and teaching me everything there is to know about Forum. Jessie and Michelle, you are some of the most talented, young, spirited individuals I know. There is nobody else I'd rather produce an article within days with or spontaneously call at late hours to discuss non-*Argo* matters with. I can rest assured that the Forum will be in good hands as long as you guys are in charge and the group chat messages aren't ever leaked. And to Hannah and Annie: congratulations on being accepted onto the board. Wishing you all nothing but the best!

A&E Editor Irene Deng



If my sixie self could describe the *Argo* in one word, it would be “intimidating.” Everyone else — the writers, associates and editors — seemed incredibly experienced and committed to producing an impressive paper every issue. Soon, however, I realized that the *Argo* was a friendly environment where I could improve my writing and editing skills.

I will miss my time within the *Argo*. Writing various articles, interviewing interesting people and learning about my school community has been rewarding. As an editor for A&E, I am grateful for the many opportunities to improve my leadership, in addition to the editors and writers I have worked with.

To Ellis, thank you for being Assistant Editor and then Head Editor alongside me. I especially appreciate your album reviews and enjoyed the time we spent together. You're so dedicated and have significant-

ly contributed to our section. Also, to Eliza, thanks for making the transition from writer to Assistant Editor this year. I'm glad you joined A&E, as you're responsible and hard-working.

To Penny, thank you for your quality articles as a former Contributing and Staff Writer. I'm confident that you'll successfully lead A&E with your initiative and commitment to improvement. To Lena, thank you for agreeing to transfer from News to A&E; I know you'll be a fantastic editor. To Zoe, thanks for your consistency and contributions. Your artistic background will definitely come to use in improving this section. To Alice, thanks for listening to me ramble about A&E at the EC Fair two years ago. I also appreciate your responsibility and dedication.

To Mary and Emilia, thank you for writing the Corner. I never submitted a question, but I'm sure your advice helped every-

one who asked.

To Elizabeth and Selina, thank you for being amazing Editors-in-Chief. Staying at BLS until 10:00 P.M. on certain production days must have been really difficult. Despite the exhaustion that you must've experienced frequently, you led the *Argo* effectively and efficiently.

To Elyssa, thank you for your friendship outside of the *Argo*. I'll miss you a lot. :(

To Joanna and Jenny, congratulations on being the new EiCs. Enjoy your new level of authority, and best of luck with managing the various responsibilities.

Lastly, to any underclassman who wants advice from a graduating senior, I would say to learn from your mistakes and take advantage of opportunities. Also, don't be afraid to take risks, as you might be pleasantly surprised by the outcome. And if you want, make sure to join the *Argo*. :)

A&E Editor Ellis Seul



Before I even knew I'd be going to BLS, I knew I wanted to write for the newspaper in high school. I was eager to have my voice heard and get experience writing about topics I care about, and the newspaper seemed like the perfect place to exercise this creative and journalistic muscle.

When I eventually started at BLS as a B-sie, one of the first things I looked into was how I could get involved in the *Argo*. And although my first meeting was a bit overwhelming for a shy 14-year-old newcomer, I still felt welcomed into the *Argo* community. As a contributing writer, I never would have expected that three school years later I'd be where I am now as an editor, and I'm so glad and grateful for the opportunities the *Argo* has given me.

There are many people I'd like to thank for making my *Argo* experience ex-

cellent. To my Co-Head A&E Editor Irene: thank you for your dedication to making our section as good as it can be, and for your consistent commitment to every step of the editing process. To Eliza: thank you for making the step up to Assistant Editor this year — you've done an excellent job, and it's been great hanging out with you during Production Week.

I'd also like to thank some of the writers who helped make A&E's content awesome and engaging: thank you to Alex, Caitlin and Kyler for your work on the crossword! I've loved looking through your complex and creative clues during Production Weeks. Thanks as well to Mary and Emilia for taking on Corner duties this year and sharing your wisdom with students.

To our incoming A&E editorial board, thank you for your eagerness to take up the

torch of leading our section. Penny, Zoe and Alice, your articles have been awesome and it's been great seeing you grow as writers and editors, and to Lena, thank you for your flexibility in switching from News to A&E and for bringing your new ideas to the section. I know that A&E is in great hands for next year, and your leadership will help the section thrive for years to come.

Finally, thank you to the Editors-in-Chief, Selina and Elizabeth, for leading the *Argo* this year and helping the newspaper reach new heights, as well as Ms. Moon for advising me over the past four years. Your leadership has helped to keep me accountable and grow as an editor and mentor. Along with everyone else in the *Argo* community, you've helped to make my time here awesome, and I can't wait to see where the new editorial board takes us next!

Assistant A&E Editor Eliza Duff-Wender



First off, I will admit that I wrote this farewell letter late. Sorry, Joanna and Jenny. This is not a reflection of my feelings toward you whatsoever. Now that I have confessed that I have neglected my final *Argo* duty, I will get on with this farewell.

I started writing for the *Argo* in my junior year as a last-minute attempt to put something on my college application; however, it transcended its worth as just another extracurricular on my list very quickly. Writing for A&E, I got to write about fun, current events, unlike in English class. I could write casually, with opinions.

When I became an assistant editor at the end of my junior year, I felt a bit overwhelmed — I didn't know anything about the actual process of creating the newspaper, and I didn't know many editors. This changed very quickly. Luckily, with the help of A&E's *Google Slides*, the Copy Bible and my fellow editors, I soon learned how to write a dummy, make edits and put the

finishing touches on an article.

The *Argo* staff welcomed me warmly, and my first time around as an editor, during the Graduation Issue, I was moved by the warm environment. We worked hard, but found ample time to talk about anything and everything.

I have loved editors' meetings and production weeks, and the banter that has come with them. I found a group of amazing friends in the *Argo*, and I have cherished every moment with them.

To Ellis and Irene: thank you for guiding me through my job as assistant editor. I would truly be lost without you.

To Selina: I love you. You are so awesome and I hope you know how much I admire your hard work and intelligence. You and your smile never fail to brighten up my day. I know I can always count on you.

To Elizabeth: I am so glad that we rekindled our eighth-grade friendship. Despite that it may not seem like it because

of my constant teasing, I am extremely grateful that I have come to know you in the past year.

To Andrew: thank you for being friends with me in our chemistry class despite the fact that I was basically the only junior in a sea of sophomores. I love saying hi to you in the hallways and ranting about our calculus-induced stress.

To Joanna: I will miss you terribly. You are simply a ray of sunshine and probably the coolest person ever.

To Mari and Lily: thank you for riding the Red Line with me (yay Dorchester). You are both such sweet people, and I'm grateful that you laughed at my often poorly-executed jokes.

Thank you for the Hamilton and Taylor Swift sing-alongs, the jokes, the dancing, the Starbucks runs and hugs. I will miss you all dearly.

Lots of love,
Eliza

Sports Editor Lauren Choy



Even though I only joined the *Argo* three years ago, it is safe to say that time flew by. I stumbled upon a group of people passionate about writing even amid a global pandemic. At the time, I was unsure of my true interests at BLS and struggling to find a community outside of the sports teams I was a part of.

Writing and editing for the sports section allowed me to pursue my three greatest passions — sports, writing and gender equity — at the same time. I did not really realize how special this was until I wrote the article about the NCAA weight room disparities between male and female athletes. Doing so, I became really passionate about the topic and realized that writing for the sports section was not only about sports reporting but more importantly, it was about advancing equity and changing the male-centered narrative of the sports world.

And there was no one I would have been happier to do so with than my co-ed-

itors, Maddie and Romy. To Maddie, thank you for sprinting from *Argo* to practice with me and for always being down for a run to Boloco. To Romy, thank you for all the laughs and punny captions. Although on some days, we may have spent more time coming up with funny captions than editing articles, I do not regret a second of it. The three of us without a doubt made an amazing team. I mean, who but the three of us would have been able to consistently get awarded to choose Friday's food, yet never been able to eat it?

To next year's Sports editors, Jessica, Vera and Caitlin, please know that I will always be a text away if you ever need anything. Although all three of you are new to the editing process, I have complete faith that you will rock the Sports section next year, making it stronger than ever before. If I had any words of advice, I would recommend that you continue to make sports writing a fun and exciting process. Everyone in the Sports section writes because

they love sports and writing, so rather than encouraging you to try to be on time or be stricter about deadlines, I want you to remember that it always works out. Have fun.

And finally, to my favorite Editors-in-Chief, Selizabina. Thank you for the delicious food, late-night Facetimes and for putting up with me. Throughout the past year, both of you have not only been my EiCs, but you have also become two of my best friends.

To anyone reading this who is an athlete or simply likes watching or learning about sports: JOIN THE SPORTS SECTION. I promise you that we are not intimidating at all. Just like you, we simply enjoy sports and want to use our words to communicate the thrill of the sports world to the rest of the school.

I feel overwhelmingly grateful for all the experiences, friends and lessons that the *Argo* family has given me, and, although I am graduating, I know that this family will stay with me forever.

Assistant Sports Editor
Romy Li



From accidentally getting on the wrong bus on the first day of sixie year to watching as the plumes of dust billowed up around us as we counted down on the last day of senior year, my first and last days at BLS both ended in tears. It's actually all over. As I reflect on the memories, I can note that it has been a trying but transformative six years here.

Going into high school, I was reluctant to join clubs, especially academic ones, and preferred to just take the bus home from school. When the pandemic hit, however, I started reading and writing more in my free time and decided to try writing an article for the *Argo*. I remember choosing the Sports section not only because I loved to play tennis and throw footballs around with my dad, but also because of how welcoming the Sports editors were. Even through the rectangles on a *Zoom* screen, I could feel their energy. I wanted to be that dedicated to something, so I decided to keep writing articles. Being a part of the *Argo* has helped me grow as a

writer, embrace my inner grammar nerd and be inspired by incredibly passionate leaders.

To Selizabina, thank you for creating a wonderfully fun environment for the editorial board during those tiresome Production Weeks where many a feature had to be cut, and for your absolute dedication to the *Argo*; you have both truly exemplified what it means to be a great leader, and I will miss you and the endless sequence of puns in your editors' notes.

To Lauren and Maddie, your dedication to BLS Athletics and to the Sports section has never failed to amaze me. From relentlessly brainstorming and adjusting punny headlines to hiding from senior assassins to making Terence run out and get us food, some of my best days this year were spent with you two in 016. I will miss you both, and I couldn't have asked for better co-editors.

To Jessica, Caitlin and Vera, I know with you three, the Sports section is in good hands. After reading all of the various articles you've

written this year and being amazed by your unique voices and your dedication to outlines and interviews, I am beyond confident that you will head this section with the leadership and work ethic of accomplished student-athletes. I'm proud of you guys, and I can't wait to see how you add your own personalizations to the *Argo*'s coolest section!

To Rachel, Juliet and Julia, it has been a pleasure watching you guys grow throughout the year. I have no doubt that you will continue to bring your best work to the table, and am excited for you guys to continue learning and growing as writers.

Lastly, to all the other editors, writers and production associates, thank you for your dedication and cooperation in producing each issue. I will never forget waking up at 5:00 A.M. on the morning of Valentine's Day to take artsy flower pics and chat, with a side of bundling and delivering flowers.

Wishing all of you the best of luck in your future endeavors :)

Assistant Sports Editor
Maddie Taylor



In the fall of tenth grade, my soccer season didn't happen because of COVID-19 restrictions, so I decided I needed something to do with all my free time. As it turns out, hopping on an *Argo Zoom* meeting in October 2020 was one of the best choices I made during my BLS career.

I went to a few sections' breakout rooms but ultimately decided that I wanted to write for Sports. It seemed most fitting since I was an athlete myself, in addition to the fact that the editors seemed very cool. Three years later, I can confidently say that I made the right decision.

First off, the long list of thank yous:

Thank you to Lilah and Shane for their hard work as Sports editors in 2021-2022 and for being great examples.

Shoutout to Selina and Liz for being the best EiCs an editor could ask

for. I know I speak on behalf of all of the Sports editors when I say we truly appreciate your patience and consistent text reminders. :)

Of course, a huge thank you to Lauren and Romy for being absolutely incredible people to work with. I wouldn't have wanted to sit in our corner of 016 and come up with pun-filled headlines with anyone else!

Thank you to all of the other members of the editorial board for the laughs, constant Taylor Swift tunes and incredible dedication to making the *Argo* possible.

To Jessica, Caitlin and Vera: you guys are going to kill it as Sports editors. Keep the section alive and thriving!

The *Argo* is one of the coolest things about BLS and I am truly so grateful to have been a part of it. From Production Weeks to 5:00 A.M. carnation deliveries, this newspaper

has given me countless memories (I will not miss the PDF edits though...). It has also allowed me to develop a love for writing that I honestly don't think I would've otherwise.

While the Sports section may not be known for a stellar attendance record or punctuality, I'd say we're pretty cool — the chillest, if you will. Honestly, it would've been out of character for any of the Sports editors to actually turn this farewell in on time, so I had to stay true to my section (Though I never thought I would get flamed on the *Argo*'s Instagram story).

To future Argonauts: take advantage of everything this club has to offer. Make friends, interview someone cool, go to a journalism workshop; it's worth it!

Thank you all for the best years at the *Argo*!

Maddie <3

Copy Editor
Darren Seto



In Teddy Roosevelt's renowned "Man in the Arena" speech, he emphasizes that credit should be given to the individual who actively participates in the arena, confronting challenges and criticism, rather than to the critic who merely observes and critiques.

Upon joining the *Argo*, I entered a distinct arena, surrounded by accomplished individuals. It was a humbling experience, as I quickly recognized the magnitude of what I had yet to learn and establish. From understanding the intricacies of the Copy Bible to eventually leading the Copy section, these experiences are ones I deeply cherish.

At some point in our lives, we will all be this man in the arena, confronting challenges and facing criticism. Embrace the things that make you apprehensive, as true growth awaits in these moments.

To those who will follow in our footsteps, I urge you to embark on this path that the *Argo* has to offer. The bonds forged within this community, the camaraderie among our crew during Production Weeks and the journalism community we have fostered have been invaluable experiences — experiences each of you can benefit from greatly, regardless of interests. Here is where one discovers their leadership style, uncovers their potential and hones the skills required to excel. It is through the people who surround you that your character will be enriched.

The *Argo*, in many ways, resembles an arch, with each component playing a role in its strength and stability. Within

this grand structure, it has been an honor to lead Copy.

Firstly, I extend my gratitude to Alice and Cindy, who graciously accepted me as an associate and mentored me in such an arena that Roosevelt mentions, toward becoming a Head Copy Editor — the responsibility entrusted to me during this transition has shaped me into a stronger individual.

Fiona and Lindsey, thank you for standing by my side as fellow keystones over the past two years. Your unwavering commitment to Copy has been instrumental in upholding our section. I have no doubt that both of you will continue to accomplish amazing things with Copy in the coming year. To all the diligent Copy associates, your impressive work has contributed to the excellence of our section, and I extend my sincere appreciation for your dedication. And to Haley and Vicky, congratulations on your new roles. I have full confidence that you will excel in being keystones for Copy, ensuring its strength and integrity moving forward.

As a News staff writer, I have been afforded the privilege of acquainting myself with the exemplary leaders of Boston Latin School through journalism. Thank you to Ms. Skerritt and Mr. Gallagher for the enlightening conversations we shared over articles and interviews. Joanna and Kevin — the News Editors of this past school year: your leadership for News was inspirational, and the assignment emails and meetings led by

you both were filled with creativity and humor. Joanna, your commitment to the *Argo* has been truly inspirational — you will do renowned things in the future in ways I cannot imagine.

I remember my first experience in the *Argo* was going to a Forum meeting with Cinly. Frankly, as a sixie, Forum eluded me. For Cinly, though, it was a section that resonated profoundly with her. Cinly, who anchored Forum with her tireless efforts, seeing your commitment to the section these past six years has been a constant source of inspiration to me. I loved being your greatest cheerleader throughout BLS, and I will continue to be as you head off to Columbia — though our alma maters are somewhat rivals.

Elizabeth, Selina and Aidan, your leadership over the last two years as Editors-in-Chief have been instrumental in propelling the *Argo* — congratulations on the Editorial Writing Awards. The late-night escapades of dashing around with the crew always brought a sense of excitement. Jenny and Joanna: I have no doubt you guys will continue to do great things continuing to drive this school's publication.

To the select group of teachers, mentors and friends — especially those who have gone above and beyond — I cannot thank you enough.

Argonauts — it has been great. Go Wolfpack!

Darren

Assistant Copy Editor Justine Wei



After six long years at Boston Latin School, I am excited to embark on my next journey. But before that, I want to take the time to appreciate the *Argo* and all the memories I've made here.

I was never a good writer, but I remember joining the *Argo* three years ago over quarantine to become a better one. Well, that never happened because after lurking in a basic *Zoom* workshop, I soon realized that writing wasn't my thing. So I decided to join Layout. But somehow I ended up on the wrong *Discord* server and began my first-ever *Argo* Production Week with Copy.

It was the best accident that has ever happened in my life. After joining Copy, my grammar skills have improved tremendously. Reading through an average of 23 articles per issue, my reading speed has increased by 23 percent after speed-editing dozens of late articles to make it in time for Thursday Edits, which resulted in a decline in my average hours of sleep per week by 23 hours. But despite all that, I will miss looking forward to Production Weeks almost every month. I will miss copy-editing articles late at night, during class, on the train and using it to procrastinate on homework. I will certainly miss critiquing a particular section's

unique style of writing that has the same exact plot line for every one of their articles.

But most importantly, I will miss everyone in the *Argo* community, who've made my experience here so memorable — I must not forget about the *Insomnia* cookies too.

To Darren. I understand that as seniors, this year was very overwhelming, but I am glad we were able to pull it through. I am grateful for our time working together and especially thankful for your leadership in keeping Copy together.

To Lindsey. I am so happy to have worked with you this year and occasionally slacking off with our discussions about K-Pop and *Genshin Impact* (I promise these are rare occurrences). Please know that I am very sorry for harassing you into greeting me every time you see me in the hallway.

To Haley and Vicky. I am so proud watching the progress you guys have made this year and I am certain that y'all will be incredible Copy editors, carrying the Copy section when certain editors, cough cough, will be at A.S.I.A. meetings.

And finally, to Fiona. You are my literal twin. Who else also worships taking AP Language and Composition

with Ms. Barich, has a nerdy obsession with William Strunk Jr. and E. B. White's *Elements of Style* and pulls up the fallacies of language whenever the opportunity comes? She is the only one I've found so far who also finds weird fulfillment in consuming lemon juice plain, straight from the lemon.

Looking at Fiona is like looking into a mirror, except one of us is about to graduate and the other is still suffering under the premises of BLS. In all seriousness, I am so thankful that you kept everything together last year when Darren and I were unfamiliar with in-person production weeks. Thank you for always holding me accountable and reminding me to do various tasks when I go off track. Finally, thank you for being such a great listener and putting up with some of my strangest comments about the randomest things (especially that particular letter about cows that we wrote late at night to escape homework). I enjoyed not only our fierce discussions of alterations of grammar rules to the Copy Bible, but also our intimate convos in the corner of 016. Let's have more of those in our future *Discord* voice calls when I am in Michigan!

- Justine

Photo Editor Mary Bosch



When online school started, I suddenly had more time, so I decided to sign up for Photo and A&E in the *Argo*. At the end of the year, I only applied to be an A&E Staff Writer, but I was contacted to interview for a Photo Editor position. I am so glad they reached out because the *Argo* and Photo section in particular became some of the most special things in the world to me. I now have dreams of becoming a journalist.

The *Argo* has given me so much. I've learned new things, captured moments I'll never forget, talked to people I would never have talked to and made friendships that I will always treasure. Production week in 016 is honestly my favorite place on earth. I love yelling across the room when I finish editing something and stealing the EiCs' chairs when they're out of the room. I love late-night dinners in the dining hall and waking up at five in the morning to deliver carnations to the entire BLS building. The thing I will miss more than anything, however, is forcing ev-

eryone to dance and spin with me because there are such talented dancers in the *Argo*!

The best part of it all, of course, is the people. First to the now college freshmen, thank you for inspiring me and showing me what's ahead of me. To Alanna, thanks for being my *Argo* show choir buddy and for all of the brownies. To Emma, thank you for doing the Tango with me and for always being so supportive. To Aidan, thank you for the rides and late-night chats.

To my fellow seniors, I can't believe we did it and I am proud of this organization because of each and every one of you. To Selizabina, thank you for being the most hard-working and talented EiCs I could ever ask for. You both hold a very special place in my heart. To Caitlin and Eliza, you are my favorite A&E members and Production Week is always more fun with you.

And to the juniors and the rest of the new *Argo* board, good luck and I have the utmost faith in you all. Joan-

na and Jenny, you are powerhouses and I cannot wait to see what you have in store. To all my Layout babies, Aidan, Lily and Mari, thank you for putting up with all my dancing antics and always being a friendly face in the halls. I've loved getting to know you all even if you are underclassmen (haha).

Last, but certainly not least, to the Photo section: I love you guys. Regina, you are one of my biggest supporters and I don't know how I did it without you this year. Karen, you were the best fellow editor and I've come to love how well we balance each other out. To Alex, thanks for being my fellow photographer-in-crime and for all of the memories. To Andrew, I am so incredibly proud of how far you've come and I can't wait to see what you do next. To Alicia, Lauren and Parker, I'm so glad to be passing it on to you.

I love this organization to death; I hope one day to cite it as the beginning of my career.

Mary out.

Photo Editor Karen Dong



The first time I entered the Computer Lab for Production Week was for Layout in seventh grade. My older friends had told me to join the *Argo*, specifically Layout, because they were a part of Layout, and they thought I would enjoy it, so I joined Layout. I stayed there for a few issues, fascinated by all things *InDesign* until I decided to expand my Adobe field of knowledge, which was when I fell in love with *Photoshop*. I bought a camera the summer after eighth grade and joined the Photo section in freshman year. I was promoted to Assistant Editor for sophomore year, and since then it's been an honor seeing everyone around me grow.

To my fellow Photo editors, Mary and Alex: you've made the Photo section an absolute pleasure to be a part of. From cutting down captions to dancing together at 9:00 P.M., Production Weeks have always been the days I look forward to the most, not in small part due to you and the other editors. Mary: I'll forever hold those musical days in my mind when I think of you. I know *Argo* won't be able to find as good a Theatre-*Argo* ambassador as you and wish them all

the best. Alex: thank you for all those Starbucks runs and event photos. I hope you'll continue to pursue photography in college because you are amazing at it, and make sure to share all the pretty photos at UVM with me! As both of you go on to do bigger and greater things, I'll be cheering you on at every moment. I'll miss you both so much as we all go off to different states.

To the photo associates of this year and years past: thank you for joining Photo! I appreciate each and every single one of you, and I hope to continue seeing your names in the Photo Associates list or maybe even as Photo Editors in the future.

To Liz: I'll miss your insistence of never playing playlists on shuffle and all the fun times in Latin together. I loved running the Latin V *Instagram* with you, singing in Gospel Choir on Tuesdays and reacting to everyone's *BeReals*. To Selina: make sure to take care of yourself! Maybe I will end up recording videos of me editing photos just for you, so that you take a break every once in a while.

To all the editors and writers and associates: thank you for all your

hard work in producing issues of the *Argo*. I love you all so much, especially those in the Production sections.

To Joanna and Jenny: congratulations on being elected to Editors-in-Chief. I can't wait to see how the *Argo* improves and flourishes under your guidance.

To Andrew: good luck leading the Photo section next year. I, having known you since you were a little fourth grader, have full faith in you to continue the Photo section's legacy of being fun and hopefully productive. I remember going to your — tenth? — birthday party, and seeing you grow and become who you are today has been a privilege and an honor.

To Alicia and Parker: I look forward to seeing what you achieve. Seeing both of you at the Production Weeks this year, full of passion and determination, has been amazing, and I just know that you'll succeed in your new positions.

To Lauren, my dearest and only sister, I'll just say whatever I want to say to you when I see you at home.

Thank you all for these amazing years, take care of yourself, and I'll be sure to visit in the future! :)

Assistant Photo Editor
Alex Strand



My love of the *Argo* and everyone in it spans longer than Aidan Chen's legendary 2022 farewell; however, I'll try to keep it brief. Ever since I stumbled into 016 as a confused sixie...just kidding. I only joined *Argo* last year.

Over these past two years, I have laughed, cried and learned more about myself than I ever expected to — all in a basement room full of nerdy BLS students. I don't even remember why I decided to join Photo in the first place — it was probably because Mary peer-pressured me. So thanks for that, Mary. By the spring of my junior year, I was armed with a camera at nearly every BLS event, and since then I've expanded my love of photography inside and outside of our building.

To Karen: thank you for being the literal glue of the Photo section (and the only one who knows how *Photoshop* works). You impress me with your com-

posure and kindness every day and perfectly balance out the rest of our chaos. To Andrew: my baby. My child. Do NOT let me down next year. Keep up the hard work with your super fancy camera, you have such a bright photography year ahead. Thanks for listening to my slightly insane rants this winter, and please try your best to have a better senior year than I did.

I also can't say goodbye to only the Photo section. To News and A&E, whom I wrote for a bit too often, thank you. I'll never forget the first article I wrote with Ailin (or more like the article that Ailin wrote with me blindly following), or the pleasure I had writing with Caitlin about the MFA photo exhibit. I know that you both, and every other staff writer and editor, will go so far in the future.

Finally, and most importantly, farewell to the crossword. My pride and joy.

225 little squares of pure exhilaration. Thank you to Kyler (our ghostwriter) and Caitlin for basically writing the whole thing. Those Sunday mornings of bagels, PS gourmet and weird wordplay jokes were the highlights of my weekends. Maybe one day, the *New York Times* will stop ghosting us (seniors — check with any of us for a special senior crossword). Joanna and those who choose to join her ... keep practicing!! One day, you will achieve crossword wizardry that rivals Kyler and Caitlin's.

To all my little beachy future seniors (Mari, Lily, Joanna, Andrew, Jessie, Jenny, Alicia, and more) — keep up the hard work, you are all the most driven people I know. Please don't completely abandon the crossword. Please stay tuned on my *Instagram* for *Google Photos* links.

Adios Argo, don't use *ChatGPT* for articles AND JOIN PHOTO.

Howard Traub

...what a long strange trip it's been...from U.S.E.S to Mt. Alvernia, The Sumner, Beethoven, Orhenberger and now graduating from BLS....through it all, you have always had a smile on your face and ready to move forward!! You embraced every new adventure and made wonderful friends along the way!!!

We are so proud of the young man you have become and cannot wait to see what's next! Please always remember that we love you very much, and we will always be your biggest fans!! Congratulations to you and the Class of 2023!

Much love from Mom, Dad, Aidan and Rusty



Congratulations, Christopher!!

To say we are proud of you would be an understatement!

You have worked so hard and were determined to succeed — and you did!



Always know that no matter where you go in life, you are very much loved.

*Much love always,
Mom & Dad
David, Kayla,
David Zachary,
Jax & Howie
xoxo*

Congratulations, Niamh!

WE ARE SO PROUD OF YOU!

**LOVE,
MOM, DAD,
CONOR, EAMONN,
ASH AND NANA.**



BLS Athletes Commit to College

By **Rachel Li (IV)**

Staff Writer

This year, Boston Latin School boasts 11 student-athletes who have committed to pursuing their sports in higher education. Two seniors have signed a National Letter of Intent (NLI), which binds them to their Division I (D-I) schools, five to Division III (D-III) schools, three to preparatory Post Graduate (PG) schools and one to an international university.

The process of recruitment can be confusing due to its many steps and extended time frame in which it takes place. College coaches first gather a large list of prospective athletes recommended by their high school or coaches or those who expressed their interest via message or campus visits. The coach then sends out information to players to gather interest in their program, narrowing down their prospects. They evaluate and rank the prospective athletes and begin to make offers with their list until the roster is full.

An athlete may show interest before making a verbal commitment, which is non-binding regardless of age. Then, during their senior year, the athlete will receive an official offer from the college coach. After signing an offer, the athlete must continue to meet the academic and athletic requirements for the rest of high school and college.

Pursuing higher education is a great commitment in itself, but balancing one's participation in their sport and their college work load is challenging. Most collegiate athletes train year-round, attend practice six days a week, do workouts on their own time and participate in sports events, all while in demanding academic environments. Often, this can be an obstacle, but our graduating BLS stu-

dent-athletes are undoubtedly equipped to take on the task of balancing both athletics and academics.

The National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) classifies D-I schools as those with the highest level of intercollegiate athletics, a great honor for those who have been recruited to attend for their athletic ability.

Joining the College of the Holy Cross women's crew team is Sasha Bornhorst (I). She is well-prepared for this D-I program after spending five years on the BLS crew team, where she is used to the "similar commitments of practice six times a week and a race on the weekend."

She notes the process of applying to and being accepted into the program. "In my junior year, I explored the sports program and reached out to the coaches to learn more about them," she explains. "They eventually expressed interest and recruited me for their team. After getting to know the team and the coaches, I am excited and confident that I will be very supported in the collegiate athletics environment."

Dennis Satchek (I) will be on the UMass Lowell Division I Track and Field team, and has already signed the NLI.

Six BLS seniors will participate in Division III sports programs. Colleges with Division III programs do not offer athletic financial aid or scholarships and do not generate revenue.

Sofia Francisco (I) will attend Mount Holyoke College (MHC) for basketball. "My goal for a long time has been to play collegiate basketball and now that I'm committed for that, my goal is to continue improving and help MHC win games," she states.

Evan Sardina (I) has committed to Vassar College for lacrosse.

David Santana (I) has been accepted into Mas-

sachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) for wrestling.

Kyle Murray (I) looks forward to attending Brandeis University for baseball. "I was recruited directly by the coaches and offered a roster spot which came with my admission into the school," he recounts.

Douglas George (I) will go on to Hobart College for both football and baseball.

Girish Raghunathan (I) will attend Lasell University for soccer.

Three BLS senior athletes look forward to attending college-preparatory schools after graduation, for post-graduate years, or academically-focused gap years. These unique programs further prepare students for college admission and studies, while also allowing them to develop their athletic skills.

Patrick Harnan (I) and Thomas Harnan (I) will attend Brewster Academy for hockey.

Richard Bova (I) has committed to Bridgton Academy for both hockey and baseball.

Another option for graduating student-athletes is attending an international school for sports. Although the style of play for many sports can differ according to the area, international sports schools maintain many of the same characteristics as collegiate sports programs within the US.

Madison Stockwell (I) eagerly awaits attending the University of Edinburgh in Scotland. This university participates in the British Universities and Colleges Sport (BUCS) network, which organizes tournaments and league fixtures (a British term for match).

Although these outstanding athletes will be missed, BLS is proud and excited to send them off to continue their athletic futures in unique pathways.

BLS Tennis Succeeds At Serving Up the Competition

By **Benjamin Jacobson (III)**

Contributing Writer

The currently undefeated and number one seeded Boston Latin School girls' varsity tennis team has won Dual County League smalls and has moved on to compete at states on May 30. With each swing of their racket, the girls create a spirit of triumph, leaving their opponents in a state of disarray. As the final curtain draws near, the team revels in a sweep of success, building their way to a flawless record and filling the air with the sweet sounds of BLS pride.

Rachel Lantsman (II), one of the team's captains, reveals the secret to their remarkable chemistry, "We are a great team that is really connected with each other even though ages vary so much." It seems that these athletes' strong bond is not only limited to the tennis court but also extends to a profound sense of camaraderie. Their support for one another amplifies their collective strength, creating a masterpiece of teamwork and unity. These words echo what is true for all BLS sports: that athletics are a great way to bring people from different grades and perspectives together.

Halina Nguyen (IV) is a key player on the team as the first singles player. She reflects on the team's success: "The main reason behind our success [is] the fact that we aren't just good as individuals but our combined skill as a team." She adds that tennis, often mistaken for a leisurely pursuit, is far from a walk in the park: "I feel like people think it is easy because the people they watch are good and it doesn't seem like a very active sport, but it very much is." The girls' varsity tennis team's coordination and lightning-fast reflexes set them apart, transforming the court into their own stage.

Hanley Ens Dorf (III), a fellow athlete in awe of their prowess, boldly states, "The girls' team seems pret-



The BLS girls' tennis team is undefeated this season.

ty solid to me, and I think they have a good shot at winning states." Ens Dorf's anticipation of their success amplifies the excitement surrounding the team. The tennis team has the support of the entire BLS community, which eagerly awaits their performance in states.

Their success, however, is not solely due to their skillful strokes and footwork. It is their strong team spirit that truly sets them apart. The team captains cultivate an atmosphere of encouragement and support. "Our team really bonds when we cheer on someone else who is still playing," Lantsman shares. Their uplifting cheers and spirited friendships inspire motivation that invigorates each player, creating a stronger, more connected team.

Within the halls of this school, the achievements of the BLS girls' varsity tennis team deserve to be celebrated. Their triumphs resonate throughout the school, a testament to their unwavering commitment, teamwork and indomitable spirit. Their names should be engraved in the annals of BLS history, as they represent the epitome of dedication and the pursuit of greatness. It has been over 20 years since BLS girls' varsity tennis has won the states tournament, but the girls hope to end their run in states with a new addition to the school's trophy case.

As the final act approaches, the seniors bid farewell to their high school careers, leaving their legacy behind. Some of them may continue their tennis

journeys at the collegiate level, where new courts await their skills. Tennis offers them many future pathways through recruitment and player recognition. Their achievements will inspire future generations to forge their own path of success.

The strategic angles and skillful aces of the BLS girls' varsity tennis team have swept us off our feet. Enchanted by their flawless technique, unwavering sportsmanship and relentless pursuit of excellence, we've been astounded by their success this season. The stage is set, rackets are poised and the game is about to begin. Get ready to witness the resounding triumph of a team that embodies the true spirit of athleticism and sportsmanship next year.

The NBA Draft Lottery Defies the Odds



Up-and-coming basketball players shoot their shot at the NBA Draft.

By Luke Fredericks (II)

Contributing Writer

On May 16, the National Basketball Association (NBA) draft lottery took place, with the San Antonio Spurs taking home the number one overall pick. This moment has the potential to redefine the franchise and basketball landscape for the next 15 years.

At the conclusion of the regular season, the NBA draft lottery emerges as a glimmer of hope for struggling franchises and loyal fans who endured a tough season: a chance to turn the tides. Each year, the 14 teams with the worst regular-season records are rewarded with a chance to win the coveted first pick. The odds decrease the better the team performed; the more games you lose, the higher likelihood of landing the top spot. This year, the Detroit Pistons, Houston Rockets and San Antonio Spurs had the highest probabilities, while the Toronto Raptors and New Orleans Pelicans had the lowest of the eligible teams.

With these probabilities in place, 14 ping pong balls are placed into a lottery ma-

chine, each labeled with counting numbers up to 14. Then, four balls are taken out, creating a unique four digit number. This system creates 1,001 possible combinations, with 1,000 of those being assigned to the different teams based on their odds. For example, since Houston had a 14.0 percent chance of winning, they received 140 possible combinations.

The team assigned the winning numbers are given the first pick, and this process is repeated for the following three picks. Once the first four picks are locked in, the remaining nine are given to the teams in order of worst record.

This year, the lottery shook out in this respective order from first to last: the San Antonio Spurs, Charlotte Hornets, Portland Trail Blazers, Houston Rockets, Detroit Pistons, Orlando Magic, Indiana Pacers, Washington Wizards, Utah Jazz, Dallas Mavericks, Chicago Bulls (traded to Orlando Magic), Oklahoma City Thunder, Toronto Raptors and New Orleans Pelicans.

Starting with the losers of the draft, the Detroit Pistons underwent a huge upset. Despite enduring a dismal campaign

and possessing a shared claim to the best odds, the basketball gods frowned upon them, casting them outside the top four. The Motor City cannot catch a break, witnessing the injury of their young star Cade Cunningham as well. The Detroit Pistons will likely face a long road ahead before they put an end to their 15-year streak of playoff futility, a period without a single victorious game in the postseason.

As for the winners, it is certainly the San Antonio Spurs. For the first time since 1997, Greg Popovich and the rest of the organization will be picking from the top spot. In 1997, they received a basketball treasure in the form of Tim Duncan, an all-time great who led the franchise to five championships. Now, the Spurs aim to capture lightning in a bottle once more, as their gaze falls upon a prodigious talent poised to etch his name into the history books.

Enter Victor Wembanyama, a remarkable 19-year-old hailing from Nanterre, France. Standing at 7'4", this upcoming star possesses the finesse of a player much shorter, coupled with the shot-blocking prowess of Hakeem Olajuwon. Not only is Wembanyama a better prospect than Duncan, but also the most anticipated since "The Chosen One" himself, LeBron James.

San Antonio stands as the ideal destination for this future star, blessed with a stable and accomplished organization, guided by the coaching genius of Greg Popovich, and surrounded by promising teammates Devin Vassell and Keldon Johnson. The possibilities are endless for the San Antonio Spurs, with a remarkable talent now firmly in their grasp.

While the French prodigy undoubtedly overshadows the other prospects, other notable headliners are Scoot Henderson and Brandon Miller. Starting with Henderson, a 6'3" point guard blessed with exceptional physical attributes, his capabilities shine brightest when executing difficult finishes. Boston Latin School varsity basketball player Aaron Tran (II) drew comparisons to another explosively dynamic guard: "I think that Scoot [Henderson] has the po-

tential to be a Derrick Rose type of player," remarks Tran. "He's already shown his skill and freakish athleticism attacking the rim."

Not every prospect is perfect, however. Henderson certainly has his flaws. Tran also acknowledged the guard's lack of "ability to rely on a jumper," evident from a dreadful 17 percent shooting from three during his G-League campaign last season. Despite these imperfections, Henderson's talent warrants the second overall pick. Paired alongside the flashy guard LaMelo Ball and the rest of the Charlotte Hornets, they could form a daunting backcourt duo capable of wreaking havoc on the league for years to come.

If not taken in the second spot, Brandon Miller will undoubtedly be chosen third. The 6'9" forward out of Alabama possesses an elite ability to score from all three levels while maintaining respectable efficiency. His combination of size, polished-ball handling and exceptional shooting aptitude allows him to execute plays reminiscent of stars like Paul George and Jayson Tatum. His lack of explosiveness, however, hinders his ability to generate space, resulting in more challenging shots. Miller's addition could provide much-needed size to the Trail Blazers, pairing him alongside the backcourt of Damian Lillard and A'ronne Simmons. If he is able to fill out physically and convert difficult finishes at the rim, he has the potential to be an outstanding asset for any franchise.

With the 2023 NBA draft lottery now in the books, its aftermath has sent shockwaves echoing throughout the league, leaving fans both exhilarated and disappointed. With the emergence of talented prospects like Victor Wembanyama, Scoot Henderson and Brandon Miller, the future of the NBA appears promising. Yet, only time will reveal the true impact these young stars will have on the game. As fans, we can only speculate and await their journeys, as the true narrative unfolds on court.

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The Dark Side of Animal-Based Sports

By Julia Sax (II)

Staff Writer

In the first weeks of May, the Kentucky Derby and Westminster Dog Show hosted their annual events. The derby boasted 20 competing horses which raced around the one-and-a-quarter mile track at Churchill Downs. Across the Atlantic Ocean, the Westminster Dog Show featured over 3,000 dogs flaunting their best tricks, all hoping to win in various awards, including the coveted "best in show." Both of these events attract immense crowds and garner high television ratings each year.

In the past decade, however, these events have resulted in numerous controversies and debates as spectators question their less glamorous aspects. Since both of these events are centered around animals, there has been a renewed emphasis on humane animal treatment and backlash when ethical standards are not met.

In this year's Kentucky Derby, three-year-old Mage, trained by Gustavo Delgado and ridden by Hall-of-Fame horse jockey Javier Castellano, was crowned champion with 16-1 odds, finishing the race in 2:01.57. The three-year-old horse's win thrilled the crowd immensely. An individual who put down two dollars had a 32 dollars and 42 cents payoff.

Equestrian Sarah Lynch (II) watches the Kentucky Derby every year with her friends, and became curious about what goes on behind the scenes. She quickly found many stories "about the mistreatment of the horses in it and the injuries they sustained"

and "began to think more about the nature of the race itself and if it was ethical to watch."

This March, trainer Dale Romans, whose three-year-old colt was injured on the track at Churchill Downs and later euthanized after sustaining a leg injury, explains, "It hits you bad every time it happens, we own these race horses, [and] they give us so much pleasure. We owe it to them to do whatever we can to make sure they don't break down, to make sure that it's as small a percentage as possible."

The drugging of horses has also emerged as an issue, causing increasing problems for racers. One of most well-known trainers in horse racing history, Bob Baffert, is currently finishing the second year of his two year suspension after one of his horses, Medina Spirit, was disqualified after testing positive for betamethasone, an anti-inflammatory steroid. Following the criminalizing discovery, he denied all allegations, expressing, "We live and work in a fishbowl, with rumors and accusations flowing constantly." The horse, at only three years old, died months later. In spite of this incident, however, Lynch decided to continue watching the Derby to "support the good riders that take care of their horses despite the bad ones."

Across the world, the Westminster Dog Show is not immune to criticism either. The ethics of dog breeding continue to be the focal point of discussion each year because breeding dogs for certain qualities can put animals' health at risk. The breeding of pugs for a flat face, for example, causes a multitude of respiratory problems for the dogs, yet the



Many believe that Medina Spirit passed away from a drug scandal.

show encourages this problem by rating pugs with flat faces higher, valuing the aesthetics of the animals over their health. Ultimately, the number of dogs with this feature increases as demands increase for offspring from winners. The shows set a dangerous precedent by choosing to overlook the health implications of their judging criteria.

This year, Buddy Holly, a petite basset griffon vendéen, took home best in show, much to the delight of Buddy's owner and trainer Janice Hayes. In an interview with

the *New York Times*, Hayes remarks, "I have dreamed of this since [she] was nine years old." She believes Buddy is "the epitome of a show dog; nothing bothers him" and is overjoyed with the win. This is her third Westminster show and her first win in any category.

Although there will always be controversy surrounding sports, especially those involving animals, there will always be people who are well-intentioned and simply want to compete. As long as the crowds continue to watch, these sports will continue to be played.

Should Professional Athletes Be Idolized?

Yes, Professional Athletes Should Be Idolized

By Biya Brook (II)

Contributing Writer

After recent controversies, such as the Ja Morant gun incidents and Deshaun Watson's sexual harassment lawsuits, many have questioned, or even forgotten, the benefits of idolizing professional athletes. Although it may be true that these two individuals serve as poor role models for young fans, it is important to note that they represent a fraction of all professional athletes. Most serve as powerful symbols of inspiration, resilience and achievement, offering valuable life lessons and positively contributing to society through community service.

It is scientifically proven that the human brain has a negative bias, which is a natural tendency to give more weight to negativity than positivity. Sports media also releases more negative stories than positive ones, since they garner more attention. For these reasons, the great deeds of countless professional athletes often go unnoticed.

Articles and headlines regarding Ja Morant waving a gun have dominated sports media, while Stephen Curry, who has been using his platform to promote voter registration and has donated six million dollars in funding to the collegiate golf teams at Howard University, isn't talked about nearly enough.

In addition to being great members of their communities, professional athletes inspire and motivate many young athletes to be just like them. For example, Kylian Mbappe, considered by many to be the best soccer player in the world, was a massive fan of Cristiano Ronaldo in his youth. Mbappe spent many hours watching videos of Ronaldo on the internet, and childhood pictures of him in his room, filled with pictures of Ronaldo, have gone viral. Now a superstar, Mbappe emulates many of the signature moves that Ronaldo performs, and is even able to play games against his idol, smile and converse with him on the pitch. In March 2022, he admitted that he wishes "to imitate Cristiano Ronaldo's career."

Dylan Furlonge (II), a member of the Boston Bolts U17 team and long-time fan of the Brazilian soccer player Neymar, shares a similar sentiment with Mbappe. He explains, "whether it was [Neymar's] hair, the cleats he wore or the skills he did, I tried to copy it." Idolizing Neymar, a player known for his skillful dribbling and playmaking, has helped Dylan add moves to his own arsenal. Furlonge also shares, "Me and my cousins would sit around the TV and watch all the games, replaying the skills and goals we saw. Then we would go outside right after and try them. Ultimately, doing that everyday made us better."

Looking up to professional athletes does not only benefit student athletes, but also non-athlete fans. Carlitz Constant (II), an avid LeBron James fan, expresses, "Lebron's story going from the trenches to one of the greatest basketball players ever is inspirational and motivates me. It is like the hero's journey, and how he goes through many obstacles but comes out successful [...] helps me to continue being determined and go through different challenges." As Constant claims, the benefits of idolizing professional athletes extend beyond the athletes themselves. People can take their success stories and translate them into their own lives, whether it has anything to do with a certain sport.



No, Professional Athletes Should Not Be Idolized

By Liam Sullivan (III)

Contributing Writer

In recent years, professional sports have grown to be much more than a source of entertainment. Watching sports has become a worldwide phenomenon, where the highest level athletes are revered as heroes to millions of fans around the globe. We see athletes' faces on magazine covers, billboards and cereal boxes, painting them as figures with untouchable athletic prowess. Amid the hero-like worship, however, it is essential to question the legitimacy of athlete idolization.

Recent controversies involving athletes, such as the suspension of Memphis Grizzlies point guard Ja Morant, a rising star in the National Basketball League (NBA), highlight the negative consequences that can arise from idolizing these individuals. On March 4, Morant was suspended for eight games without pay after a video of him holding a handgun while intoxicated in a nightclub in Denver, Colorado surfaced. Following the incident,

Morant apologized through ESPN, "I know I've disappointed a lot of people who have supported me. This is a journey, and I recognize there is more work to do. My words may not mean much right now, but I take full accountability for my actions. I'm committed to continuing to work on myself."

Even after all his promises, two months later, on May 13, Morant was once again seen flashing a handgun on *Instagram* while driving. The video circulated the internet, and has since been deleted. Morant faces an indefinite suspension and possible fines from the NBA.

After these events, many of his young fans were left disheartened and disillusioned. Morant's situation proves that the idolization of athletes can blind us to their flaws and mistakes, leading to disappointment.

Idolizing athletes can have adverse effects on society. When a fan places an athlete on a pedestal, their actions can go unquestioned, giving them unjust power. Athletes can misuse their influence, and use their platforms to spread harmful ideas in instances involving criminal activities. The idolization of athletes blinds fans from the immorality of wrongful behavior, which runs the risk of normalizing and justifying such actions to impressionable young athletes. "[Morant] has an incredibly huge following," expresses NBA commissioner Adam Silver, after Morant's second suspension. "And my concern [...] [is that] tens of millions of kids globally would see him as having done something that was celebrating in a way, the act of using a firearm in that fashion."

Aspiring young athletes who are not born with outstanding athletic ability may also fall into the trap of worshiping a professional. The inability to perform at the level of their favorite athlete may lead to feelings of inadequacy and a negative self-image. Ben Davidson (III) shares his opinion on the dangers of hero worship in sports: "The easiest way to destroy young talent is to compare it to something else."

Placing athletes on a pedestal is bound to lead to disappointed fans. Instead of idolizing athletes, we should appreciate their skills and accomplishments while recognizing their humanity, and focus on the positive qualities they embody. By doing so, we can foster a healthier and more balanced approach to sports and admiration.

BLS Women Make Waves in Sailing



The BLS sailing team sails their way to another first place victory!

By Juliet McVay (IV)

Staff Writer

Sailing at Boston Latin School is a co-ed sport, in which athletes sail in races that require dedication, skill and cooperation. The BLS team is extremely hard-working, placing at the top of their division for team racing and fourth in the state for fleet racing. The sailing team, however, still has goals they have yet to

reach in terms of gender equality.

The team consists largely of boys, with only six women on the whole varsity team of 21. Captain Dorothy Russell (II) shares, "Honestly, I was a little overwhelmed at the first day of tryouts due to the lack of women trying out."

To further the inequality, boys usually hold the positions of power on the boats. Of the two roles on a boat, the skipper (captain)

and the crew, boys are the majority of the skippers. This reflects the national demographics, with 90 percent of all U.S. skippers being male. It is rare to find a woman skippering, even in professional sporting events.

Although changes are also being made at the professional level to try and diversify sailing teams, women are often talked down to and face sexist remarks while on the water. A survey reaching over 75 U.S. counties found that 80 percent of female respondents and 56 percent of male respondents believe that gender imbalance in the sport is an issue.

Yet, the girls of the BLS sailing team do not let this intimidate them. Ava MacKinnon (IV) states, "I like being a part of a male-dominated sport as a woman, because it makes me feel like I am paving the way for a sport for women in a male-dominated field."

This year, the sailing team is looking to support their female athletes and break down gender norms with the addition of women-only regattas.

When asked about her opinion on the addition of the women's regatta, MacKinnon shares, "I've never heard of it before this year. It is definitely a new thing. And I like it, but it does feel more segregated, and the women are at the women regatta so we have to send all the men to one regatta that is a co-ed regatta."

Despite this potential downside, she adds, "I do feel like that helps women be a part of the sport," bringing up an important point

about how they promote inclusion and equal representation. With such a limited selection of role models at the professional level within this sport for women, these women's regattas are all the more important.

They give the women a chance to show their skills that may have otherwise gone unnoticed. These regattas create a demand for female skippers, and force school sailing teams to foster the skills of their female sailors in a more well-rounded manner, not just allowing them to be written off singularly as crew. Even if the separation could be a negative aspect, the sailing community's efforts to support its marginalized female members is a net positive.

In this way, the team is making strides to welcome girls into their sport. Although there is a long way to go, there is hope for a more diversely gendered version of the sailing team.

Sailing Head Coach Jesse Hamilton says that the girls "are a solid hardworking bunch and are improving every day" and that "they are a huge part of our team's success this season."

On the BLS sailing team, the majority of the problem is just lack of numbers. Yet, the sport shows clear promise to become more open to women. In tandem with the work being done to create more women's regattas, the BLS sailing team will continue to challenge not only the wind, waves and competition, but the present gender gap as well.

Congratulations, Selina!!
We are so proud of you and
all that you have accomplished.



Cheers to the next chapter of your
journey!

- Mom, Dad, Sophia

Congratulations, Vishnu and Eva!



Tamsen,
We are very proud of all of your accomplishments academically, as captain of the fencing squad, and your level of community service.



We love you and can't wait to see you flourish in the next chapter of your academic life.



Congratulations, Princess!

