



Boston Latin School

*Argo*

*Class of 2024*





## EDITORS' NOTE



It's all over (for some of us)!

Congratulations to the Class of 2024 and to everyone else; we're almost there!

Now, instead of focusing on what's there, let's look at what's here: the first issue of the *Argo* under Mannah! But before we usher in this new era, here is our gratitude for the newest alumni of the *Argo* Editorial Board in reverse order from Layout, the underdogs, to News, the front pager, and last but definitely not least: JOE.

Layout, you love to remind us that you're the backbone of the *Argo*, and with the stress of Grad Issue weighing down on us, we (begrudgingly) admit that you're right. Lily, thank you for teaching us the ropes of Layout and for adding some level of sanity to those back corner conversations. Your reliability has not gone unnoticed. Aidan, all the Layout associates look up to you, and for good reason. Thank you for being both a mentor and a friend. Keep outshining everyone with your insanely baggy pants and fire thrift finds. Mari, your infectious laugh and comforting genuineness will remain within us forever. Thank you for being a warm hug for anyone that walks into 016.

Andrew, our personal Gossip Girl, what happens in 016 stays in 016. Thank you for making Final Fridays that much more bearable and for being the most attentive listener to every debrief ever. Alicia, your kindness brightens up these dark basement hallways. Thank you for bringing so much positivity to burnt out Argonauts. Parker, you're basically a professional photographer at this point. Thank you for always providing directions for posing, as you make taking pictures much less awkward. We will be sure to continue our *Argo* media days!

Copy, our forever perfectionists. Fiona, Lindsey and Haley, it still hurts to not put an Oxford comma there. Thank you for always correcting us writing section editors during PDF edits and staying forever on your grind. Who needs *Grammarly* when we have you?

Can't forget our athletic queens! Vera, Jessica and Caitlin, it still amazes us how you all managed to balance participating in a varsity sport with the *Argo*. We are still humbled from our pathetic attempt at writing a sports article that one issue. Thank you for making Sports a section that anyone and everyone can enjoy.

To our departing A&E editors: Penny, you are a rock. Not just for your A&E co-editors and writers but for all of us. You're gonna kill it as a Cali girl! Z: from crushing the corner to coming up with creative article ideas, we can't wait to see where your energy and passion takes you. You are probably one of the coolest people we know and we will forever envy your jewelry collection.

Jessie, our Forum queen: you raised us, and look at where we are now! Thank you for all your giggles and the hours spent belting in 016. You're leaving the rest of Forum here, but we will continue to carry on your wisdom and selflessness. While we're sad to see you go, we're excited to watch you grow.

To the Newsies! Kevin, you have brought an admirable amount of professionalism to the News section. Thank you for prioritizing every single one of your writers to your utmost ability. We're sure that your commitment and care will take you far. Sylvia, you are one of the sweetest and most responsible Argonauts. Thank you for being such a reliable editor and companion.

JOE, if we listed out all of your achievements, we would need a whole page. Thank you for redirecting this ship and showing us how much impact the *Argo* can truly have, for diving deeper into the waters of being a student journalist. Your passion and dedication to this publication are admirable. With so much gratitude still left unsaid, we leave you with this: JOE will always be irreplaceable.

While it's all over for the Class of 2024, we will love you forevermore.

Signing on,  
Mannah

### *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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### Special Thanks to

Ms. Ellis	Mr. Hourigan
Ms. Harari	Head of School Gallagher

# Admin Responds to Student Walkout

By Xintong Guo (III)  
& Weian Xue (IV)  
Staff Writers

On May 6, students from Boston Latin School and ten other high schools walked out of class in support of a ceasefire in the ongoing Israel-Hamas conflict in Gaza.

As part of the Boston Students Palestine Coalition, students from high schools across the Boston area, including BLS, Boston Latin Academy and Cambridge Rindge and Latin School, organized and attended the walkout. The coalition planned the walkout a week beforehand and publicized it through social media platforms such as Instagram on May 3.

On the day of the walkout, BLS students left school after R5 and teachers supervised them to ensure that they did not interrupt classes. Students walked together to the MBTA Green Line and Boston Commons, carrying

signs that called for a ceasefire in Gaza. Later in the day, they went to the Massachusetts Institute of Technology pro-Palestine encampment to continue their protest.

The following evening, students who had participated in the walkout were notified by email that they would each receive three detentions for missing two class periods the day before, a standard disciplinary action at BLS.

On May 9, after school, following the notification of disciplinary action, Head of School Jason Gallagher hosted a meeting with those students to discuss the walkout, respond to student concerns and answer questions. During the meeting, he apologized for the administration's lack of communication with the students before the detentions were issued and revoked the detentions. Head of School Gallagher expressed that he was very appreciative that students conversed with him after school. He summarized, "It was really wonderful for me to



Zoe Colimon (I)

Boston Latin School students walk out to Boston Common to protest.

have the opportunity to listen [...] and I really think it was a really good step forward for us to continue conversations going forward."

# School Choice Shot Down



Nancy Lane

Mary Skipper speaks at the BPS School Choice Program meeting.

By Trinity Ngo (III)  
& Christina Luo (IV)  
Staff Writer and Contributing Writer

On May 22, the Boston Public School Committee voted to once again opt out of the 1994 School Choice Program that would allow non-resident students into Boston Public Schools.

The School Choice Program is a state-wide initiative that emerged after Massachusetts enacted the Education Reform Act of 1993. This reform was a dramatic change in Massachusetts in respect to how the Commonwealth managed educational

services by local school districts and sought to close the gap within education across communities.

BPS has chosen to opt out of this program for the past 30 years due to the possibility of hindering their ability to prioritize students living in Boston.

In an interview with the *Boston Herald*, Superintendent Mary Skipper notes, "On the plane they say put on your oxygen mask and do what you have to do. We put on the oxygen mask saying it would compromise our students who live in BPS, especially our Black and brown students, but we're just not at the point where we can do that."

Their reasoning is categorized into four main groups: student assignment issues, space, cost and the decisions of neighboring communities. Firstly, a large number of students enroll into BPS schools each year, and families outside of the United States continue to relocate to Boston throughout the year. As a result, BPS could not guarantee that all families moving to Boston would have a seat, as schools may not have the physical capacity to host a new influx of students.

The next issue is costs and budgets, which include special education classes, English as a Second Language programs and transportation. Since many neighboring districts lack such resources, a predictably large portion of students will seek them, resulting in unbudgeted costs and less accessibility.

In the past, districts neighboring Boston, such as Cambridge, Brookline, Chelsea, Dedham, Needham, Milton, Somerville and Revere, have chosen to opt out of this program. By opting in, BPS could be opening seats within their schools without any reciprocity.

Boston Latin School AP Economics teacher and Boston Teachers Union (BTU) representative Mr. Patrick Boor mentions that while he does not support opting into the program, "the number one issue is that [parents] should have a school in their community that is meeting their needs, and the fact that they have to search out of their district is something that we need to work on as a state."

Conversations, however, have shifted within the School Committee due to falling

enrollment rates within BPS, which caused a decrease in state funding. Opting into the School Choice Program may therefore stabilize enrollment and help with the budget.

Newton has been a big player in this resurgence of the School Choice debate and had even proposed to run a pilot program allowing 70 students outside of the district to attend Newton Public Schools. It was, however, voted down and never went into action.

BLS Assistant to the Head of School and BTU representative Ms. Martha Pierce asserts, "I think it was great to revisit it this year, because I don't think that anybody has taken a careful look and we don't know exactly what it would be like because we've never done it."

An example of an active desegregation program is the Metropolitan Council for Educational Opportunity, where students from underprivileged families enter a lottery system to have the chance to attend a school in a different city.

Cynthia Wang (III) was one such student who was able to attend a public school in Newton through the program. Wang shares, "The people were great and the community was great, but the biggest thing was mostly the distance. The commute was a bit harder and none of my friends were nearby, and so if I wanted to hang out with anyone, it would be like a half an hour drive."

Although the School Choice Program was decidedly voted down by the Boston School Committee, an important conversation regarding equity within education continues on.

NEWS

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# Valete, Magistri!

By Trinity Ngo (III) & David Wang (V)

Staff Writer and Contributing Writer

## Ms. Heflinger



Ms. Maureen Heflinger has announced her departure after five years of teaching orchestra at Boston Latin School.

Her career began at the Josiah Quincy Elementary School ten years ago, where she would teach group classes for the orchestra program. She continued on her path to BLS, where she would predominantly teach viola sections in multiple orchestra levels in addition to conducting the Philharmonic String Orchestra Purple.

Although her work in education began over a decade ago, she has always known that she wanted to mix her passion for music with her love for being around people. Ms. Heflinger comments, "It's always interesting. I can bring the same materials to each class year after year and there's a different result based on who's in front of me."

Outside of school, Ms. Heflinger keeps herself busy by playing and teaching with different organizations throughout the city. She is currently playing in a faculty quartet at musiConnects, but her favorite gig at the moment is the New Bedford Symphony Orchestra.

As for what she plans to do next, she has several exciting things coming up, but is not ready to settle down in a specific direction just yet. She is, however, determined to continue to work in music.

## Mr. Kyriakidis



Mr. Gabriel Kyriakidis is saying goodbye after a year of teaching at Boston Latin School.

During his tenure, he taught Algebra II, Algebra II Honors and Geometry. Mr. Kyriakidis realized his passion for teaching in high school, where he spent most of his time tutoring peers. Mr. Kyriakidis remarks, "Once I thought of [teaching] as an option, it seemed to just make sense to me."

After college, he worked as substitute teacher and joined the Roxbury Preparatory Charter School, before he ultimately came to BLS.

Mr. K, as his students affectionately call him, prioritizes learning rather than memorization. He explains, "I [hope] to [leave] behind not just knowledge of rules [and] theorems, but a[n] appreciation for math as an outlet for critical thinking and creativity."

Benjamin Southwick (V), a student of his, shares, "He was casual; I liked his teaching style, and [it] was always fun and exciting to learn. When I heard he was leaving, I had conflicted emotions."

Mr. Kyriakidis humbly concludes, "I learned a lot here, [and] I still have much I can improve on. I'm grateful for every student [for teaching] me as much as I have taught them."

## Ms. Beard



Ms. Patricia Beard is transitioning to a new role at BLS after two years of teaching Unified Science Foundations.

Ms. Beard's teaching career started in 2002 in Arizona, but she returned home to Boston back in 2019 and started teaching in Boston Public Schools. Teaching, however, was not what she initially wanted to do — at the start, she was an environmental chemist. Yet halfway through her life, she wanted to change to a different field. She explains, "Teaching was a midlife career change for me, having spent years in the hazardous waste industry. Education had always been a dream of mine." In total, she has taught for 22 years.

Before BLS, Ms. Beard taught for three years at Madison Park Technical Vocational High School, but changed schools because of BLS's culture. She shares, "It may sound corny, but when the loudspeaker announcement at Logan [Airport] welcomes people to Boston, 'home of the first public school in America,' I allow myself a sense of satisfaction from be[ing] a part of this tradition."

After teaching for all these years, she plans on becoming a substitute teacher at BLS in the future. Then, Ms. Beard intends to settle in the Twin Cities (Minneapolis and St. Paul, Minnesota), where her daughter lives.

## Ms. Mbaka



After two years at BLS, Ms. Jemima Mbaka is leaving her role of Community Field Coordinator.

Ms. Mbaka started teaching because of her mother and aunt. Her mom was "always passionate about education," and her aunt is a preschool teacher. She attended community college before transferring to University of Connecticut, where she earned her bachelor's degree in psychology. Almost a decade ago, she moved from Connecticut to Boston where she ended up working at BLS.

Ms. Mbaka is finishing up her last semester in graduate school for a master's degree in social work. In the future, she plans on becoming a school social worker, continuing her passion for education.

Ms. Mbaka loved almost everything here at BLS, including declamation, Capstone presentations, sports games, talent shows, concerts and Spirit Week. One of her toughest moments was the loss of Ms. Cynthia Webb last summer. She explains, "I was shocked and it took a long time to process [the] loss. I was glad to be part of her life and see the community show up at her service."

Ms. Mbaka hopes that she will be remembered for her tardy passes, detention reminders and her connections with both students and faculty.

## Mr. De Velis



Mr. Danny De Velis is departing BLS after four years.

During his tenure, he was a substitute teacher and taught many subjects, including biology and history.

Mr. De Velis realized his passion for teaching when he took his first job as a camp counselor in his senior year of high school. He planned to go to art school, but his camp director suggested that he go into teaching. When he considered it, he was instantly enthralled.

After Mr. De Velis's student teaching stint at BLS, he took up a long-term substitute teacher position for his old host teacher. Next school year, he will work at TechBoston Academy as a freshman-class U.S. History teacher.

This year, Mr. De Velis's influence on many students and his positive attitude has culminated in a Crystal Apple Award. He shares, "To me, this is the highest possible award I can imagine. The people that see me [every] day know [me, and] I get recognition from all my students. [Despite] all the homework and classwork that they're working on, they put in the effort to write such thoughtful passages about me."

Mr. De Velis concludes, "BLS is both temporary and forever. It's a unique place that you'll carry with you. Enjoy it while you're here, and remember the shared experiences. I hope my students keep these memories."

## Ms. Harari



After nine years of working as a librarian for the Harry V. Keefe Library, Ms. Susan Harari is retiring.

Although most students know her for checking people in for study hall or telling them to put their phones away, her central role is collaborating with teachers to help students learn research skills and maintaining the digital imprint collection of the library.

In her years at BLS, Ms. Harari, along with Ms. Deeth Ellis, has vastly improved the library. Over 75 percent of the print collection is new and the library has become more flexible and student-centered.

Her passion for librarian work began long before BLS. She started by volunteering at children's libraries when she was young. Then, after finishing school, she taught at Beaver Country Day School and Israel Loring Elementary School.

Concerning the reasons of her departure, Ms. Harari shares, "It's just time for me to retire. I have a lot of love for BLS." While she plans to step back from full-time work, retirement to her does not mean stopping everything, as she wishes to continue as a part-time librarian closer to her home. She also plans on fostering some dogs.

BLS French Teacher Ms. Jessica Blackler is also leaving. Her message to BLS is: "*Bonne Continuation*; it has been a wonderful ten years."



# Boston Busing Crisis: 50 Years

By Meilin Sha (V)  
& Abrielle Huang (VI)

Staff Writer and Contributing Writer

This June marks the 50-year anniversary of the desegregation of Boston Public Schools and the subsequent busing crisis.

Prior to the Racial Inclusion Act of 1965, neighborhoods and schools in Boston were heavily segregated because of redlining, the discriminatory practice of refusing loans to non-white homebuyers. School demographics subsequently reflected neighborhoods varied by race and class. Boston Latin School had a predominantly white student population.

Former BPS teacher and administrator Mr. Jerry Howland started his career in the '70s at the McCormack Middle School—which mostly consisted of Black American students. He recalls, “It wasn’t until I came back after I graduated from college and took a job teaching where I realized how segregated the Boston schools were [...] I didn’t know that the school system was doing it to [that degree].”

After the act was passed, the Boston School Committee (BSC) did not make plans to integrate, which led to the case of *Morgan v. Hennigan*. In 1972, a group of Black American parents sued the BSC on behalf of their children who were enrolled in BPS, claiming that the segregated school district denied Black American students educational equity.

On June 21, 1974, Judge Wendell Arthur Garrity Jr. ruled that segregation was unconstitutional and ordered all BPS schools to desegregate immediately. The

proposed solution was to send students on buses to attend schools outside of their neighborhoods.

Busing, however, only heightened racial tensions and was poorly received by all. White students were reluctant to attend schools with less resources located farther away from their homes. Black American students, meanwhile, faced abuse from outraged white parents who protested violently. Police officers had to escort Black American students to South Boston, where protestors pelted the buses and yelled slurs. As a result, dissatisfied parents moved their children to private or parochial schools, and more than 30,000 students left BPS.

BLS U.S. History and Modern Boston teacher Ms. Robin Kirkpatrick says, “One of the concerns raised by black and white parents alike in 1974 was that absent a real effort to build better schools for all of Boston’s kids, confidence in the system as a whole would continue to suffer. [...] Busing alone did little to improve the quality of Boston’s schools, even if it seemed to provide a ‘remedy’ for the very real problem of segregation.”

The ruling also stated that exam schools like BLS were required to have at least 35 percent of spots allocated for minority students, stirring white residents. In 1995, white father Michael McLaughlin filed a lawsuit against the BSC on behalf of his daughter, Julia, after she was rejected from BLS. He argued that since Julia scored higher on the BLS entrance exam than some minority students, her rejection was a violation of her 14th Amendment rights. Over two decades after ordering for the desegregation of BPS, Judge Garrity ruled in



School buses shuttle Black students during the 1974 busing crisis.

favor of McLaughlin in 1996, allowing Julia to attend BLS starting in the eighth grade.

In 1998, following *McLaughlin v. Boston School Committee*, the ruling which required 35 percent of exam school students to be minorities was overturned, yet again changing schools’ racial demographics. Currently, 36 percent of BLS students are white, compared to 15 percent in the whole district. Many schools are still racially unbalanced, as exam schools like BLS have a larger population of white students. At some other schools, however, more than 90 percent of students are students of color.

Ms. Kirkpatrick remarks, “It is absolutely better for Boston’s kids and the city as a whole that schools are integrated. Debate

remains as to whether Judge Garrity’s plan to achieve this was the most effective mechanism for doing so.”

At BLS, students taking Facing History and Ourselves and U.S. History learn about busing and how integration has shaped BLS and BPS. Busing provided a temporary solution but did not improve racial demographics permanently.

BLS History Program Director Mr. Thomas Kennelly concludes, “It’s important for students to have [a] full history. You know, sometimes we like to learn more of the positive stories as opposed to difficult stories [...] But it is more important for the students to learn difficult histories in addition to more ‘feel good’ histories.”

## BTU Updates



Boston Globe

Jessica Tang takes over the American Federation of Teachers Massachusetts.

By Rachel Starr (II)

Staff Writer

On May 6, Boston Latin School faculty voted for the School’s six allotted representatives for the Boston Teachers Union (BTU), who attend monthly meetings and sometimes negotiate contracts.

BTU is the smaller of two major teachers unions in Massachusetts, with members in Boston and surrounding towns such as Lynn, Lawrence and Salem. It aims to create better teaching en-

vironments and give teachers a voice in policy decisions. Each school’s elections, which are accessible to all faculty members, are held in May outside of school hours.

BLS Latin teacher Mr. John Kerpan was chosen for one of these positions, the number of which are granted based on school size. While negotiations with Boston Public Schools can be difficult, he wishes there was not so much push-back against the existence of unions, as he has seen how much work they do to

create positive teaching environments

His overall experience as a representative has felt effective, especially in the school community. He shares, “At BLS, the teachers and the administration are largely on the same page,” which allows for productive discussion and change-making. Though many assume that the union focuses on educators only, the BTU also advocates for students, even supplying housing for homeless children.

Elections for the president of the

BTU will also commence as the current leader, Jessica Tang, steps down from the presidency and takes over the American Federation of Teachers (AFT) Massachusetts, a branch of the national union. Mr. Kerpan shared that she was successful due to her organizing skills and enthusiasm for bringing people together towards one goal. Elected in 2017, Jessica Tang was the first LGBTQ+ person to hold this position and will be the first person of color to head the AFT Massachusetts.

Lea-Antoinette Serena is the BTU’s elementary representative and acts as a support person for elementary school teachers in organizing and negotiating contracts. She echoes Mr. Kerpan’s sentiment and says, “[Tang] supported the union in becoming less of a service model and more of an organizing model.”

Serena explains that her biggest interest in education is advocating so that teachers can be their best possible selves for students. She continues that Tang’s identity led to “more diversity in leadership at all levels” because, “in a city that serves [many] students of color [...], we should have educators and leaders who look like our students.” Seeing a woman of color in such a high position inspired Serena to get involved.

Vice president Erik Berg will take over the BTU in July until elections take place in two years; his old position will be filled in a special election next October. As contract negotiations continue this spring, the biggest current efforts are for increased paraprofessional salaries and a better allocation of resources, such as making school buildings safer and increasing mental health support.

BLS Student Council president Neil Jin (I) explains, because of its cooperation with educators’ ideas, “the BTU has led to the BPS district being one of the best places for teachers to work in the country.”

## Susan Chen (I) Wins Amazon Future Engineer



Weian Xue (IV)

By **Stephany Zhu (III)**  
Contributing Writer

On April 20, Susan Chen (I) won the Amazon Future Engineer Scholarship.

After hearing about the scholarship from a friend, she decided to apply. Susan was selected as one of 400 scholars to receive a scholarship of up to 40,000 dollars and a paid internship at Amazon.

In December of 2023, Chen began her application process and recalls that “the application itself [doesn’t] have that many questions, but instead, it amasses simple and thoughtful college-level questions that are [often] asked during college admissions.”

Partnering with Scholarship America, Amazon created this program to open up new career opportunities and provide new initiatives for computer science, aimed at students

from disadvantaged backgrounds. They chose scholars based on their academic achievement, leadership, extracurricular activities, work experience and future goals.

Students are encouraged to apply to a variety of scholarship opportunities because of the high sticker price of colleges with the tuition, room and board of many private universities often reaching 90,000 dollars per year. Internship opportunities, furthermore, are highly valued — especially at a major technology company such as Amazon which boasts an acceptance rate of less than ten percent.

Boston Latin School Science Department Head Ms. Kathleen Bateman adds, “Students should apply for every award available because a student [who is] high achieving often [forgets] how special they are as individuals, and [teachers] are glad that this uniqueness is recognized by external partners and external organizations.”

In 2019, Amazon launched the Future Engineer scholarship program and has given out over 54 million dollars to students in scholarships.

Students who are currently enrolled in, or have completed, a high school or college dual degree course focused on computer science, engi-

neering or robotics are eligible to apply for the scholarship.

BLS AP Physics C: Mechanics teacher Mr. Jesse Southwick, who wrote Chen’s recommendation letter for the scholarship, comments, “Chen was an excellent physics student who worked hard to learn physics and to get better [...] so I’m sure that she would make a great engineer.”

Chen had originally decided to major in computer engineering but heard that there was a broad scope of learning in electrical engineering because it contains both computer science and electrical engineering courses in one major. After putting some thought into doing a double major, she has decided that she would like to major in electrical engineering with a minor in computer science.

Chen has committed to Boston University, where she will be attending this fall. She hopes to make use of the valuable job experience she will gain from the internship at Amazon.

Winning this scholarship means a lot to Chen, and she offers advice to underclassmen: “Make sure [to] take opportunities that [you] think that [you] don’t have a chance at because [you’ll] never know what can happen.”

## Relieving Stress With PAW Day

By **Gabrielle Jang (V)**  
Contributing Writer

On April 26, the Boston Latin School Wellness Council launched their first annual Positivity and Wellness (PAW) Day to relieve students’ stress and boost mental health.

PAW Day consisted of many activities, including karaoke, smoothies, arts and crafts, outdoor exercises, dodgeball and dance. It also targeted healthy nutrition for students attending; kitchen staff made around 200 smoothies and fruit snack bars for students to enjoy. A number of teachers brought in various yard games and materials for the students to partake in.

Elda Alibeaj (II) adds, “During the karaoke activity, kids who felt confident enough to get up sang with microphones. It got everybody in the room engaged.”

The event aimed to provide students an op-

portunity to participate in activities, thus allowing them to take a break from academic classes. BLS school psychologist Dr. Vanessa Prosper shares, “This year, the theme was really about engaging students in activities that increase their joy and wellness.”

The Wellness Council is a student-led team at school that works in tandem with mental health-specialized staff. They develop and guide school-based practices and systems that improve school health.

The event arose through a series of monthly meetings during W blocks. After much brainstorming and communicating between the members of the Wellness Council, the idea of having a day for students to take a break from being in the classroom was formed.

Dr. Prosper shares, “We can develop programming. That will support students’ mental health. Either through raising awareness about mental

health or talking about ways to better navigate your emotional difficulties in terms of coping skills.”

In addition to planning the PAW day event, the Wellness Council also provides students at BLS with a variety of other mental health resources. Assistant Head of School Jaffrie Perrotti, an administrative organizer for the event and a member of the committee, remarks, “We gave up social-emotional tips of the month through the newsletter. That was a website put up by the end of the year to increase awareness, among staff, things they could do in their classroom to improve the overall wellness.”

At the conclusion of the event, surveys on The Daily Bulletin were sent out to students and teachers to reflect on their experience during PAW Day. BLS social worker Ms. Winnie Wang states, “Of the teachers that responded, 100 percent of them said that they would want to see it happen again, and of the students that responded, around 96 percent said they would like to see it happen again.”

## Business Blooms at BLS

By **Andrea Pineda (IV)**  
Contributing Writer

On May 7, Boston Latin School students sold self-created products from their companies as part of the Junior Achievement Company Pop-up Program.

Led by Mr. Jim Levesque, Director of the Deitch Leadership Institute, students embarked on a challenge to create innovative and unique products that would be of interest to the BLS community. Some of these companies included press-on nails, pins, origami and potted plants.

By joining this program, students were able to partake in business, make a product they were passionate about and become educated on significant aspects of business. Michael Goldstein (III), who made pins with sports teams’ logos, notes, “One of my key takeaways was how to apply strategic thinking to real-world business challenges.”

Students went through a comprehensive process to create their businesses. Involvement in this program began with a commitment to seven classes taught by a Santander Bank volunteer with a curriculum that prepared students for

planning, launching and operating their businesses.

The first step was to brainstorm a list of ideas that would catch a potential buyer’s eye and be produced with a budget of 50 dollars. Once their idea was finalized, students were able to make decisions in determining the price and quantity of their product. From there, students were able to make their items and develop a marketing plan for their product.

During this process, many participants faced challenges. Shuyin Chen (IV) worked with her peers to create press-on nails. She explains, “The most challenging part was making the actual product because [...] it took a really long time to make each nail. In the end we almost ran out of time.”

After overcoming many obstacles, students successfully created their company and were ready to begin selling their products. When the day came, each company had their product displayed on a table in the dining hall. Students came in and out to view the items that sellers had to offer.

In order to boost their sales, sellers made three payment methods available:



David Nguyen (IV)

Student purchases clothing at one of BLS’ student pop-up businesses.

Venmo, credit card and cash. With the variety of skills learned throughout the program, the company owners were able to interact with buyers and successfully sell their products.

Nicole Lin (IV) purchased an ube brownie mix from one of the businesses.

She says, “I think it’s a great way for students who want to start a business later in their life and just to use their passion or their hobby.”

At the end of the day, the students made a total of 100 dollars while gaining crucial perceptions of the business world.



# Congrats to Jackie Hanlon & His Friends!



What a blast it has been  
to watch this crazy crew grow up together.  
Thanks for the memories, boys!  
The Hanlon Family  
Dorchester

I never had any friends later on  
like the ones I had when  
I was twelve.  
Jesus, does anyone?  
- Stand By Me



*Congratulations Ronan!!  
Love, Mom, Dad, Kieran & Colum*



Saoirse, my heart continues to burst with pride and love for you.

You have overcome some challenges and grown into a remarkable young woman.

Today, I celebrate not only your achievements but also the strength and resilience you possess.

You have worked hard for your next adventure, may it be filled with endless possibilities and happiness.

I love you, always.  
- Mom



**Congratulations  
Maddie!  
Love, Mom, Dad  
& Alex**







Congratulations  
**JOANNA**



Joanna, what a joy and privilege it has been to watch you grow into the brilliant and kind-hearted person you are today! Keep changing the world, take on new challenges, and never stop fighting for what you believe in. You never cease to amaze us, and we can't wait to cheer you on as you enter your next chapter!

With eternal love, gratitude and pride,  
 Mom, Dad, John and Cupid <3





# Congratulations, Jenny!



We are so proud of you!  
 Best wishes and endless love for the next chapter of your journey.  
 Love, Mom, Dad & Helen

# Congratulations, Lily An!

Best wishes  
 on your future  
 endeavors.  
 We love you!!!

Mommy, Daddy,  
 Brother Cody  
 and Andrew





# “Big-Backed”: Funny or Problematic?



Weinan Xue (IV)

Students munch on chips in the dining hall.

By **Fathia Shodeyi (IV)**

Contributing Writer

Generation Z (Gen Z) is often described as “woke,” taking pride in their knowledge of current events, racial prejudice and discrimination. The “cancel culture” era between 2020 and 2022 is a perfect example of this, when influencers and celebrities were held accountable for their statements and actions more than ever before. During this time, many in Gen Z grew wary of being on the wrong side of topics such as body size, race, sexuality and politics to avoid being viewed as problematic. Others began expressing their annoyance, however, at those who took jokes too seriously. As more

people become frustrated with “cancel culture,” there has been a rise in potentially offensive terms such as “big-backed” among the younger generation.

The phrase “big-backed” has become popular among Gen Z. The term first became famous through *TikTok*, where it was used as a joking phrase to describe those who eat a lot. As this trend made it to a darker side of *TikTok*, however, it is now often used as a way to indirectly fat-shame people online. It is necessary for all to be cautious when people use the term in this way, because it can consequently promote fatphobia.

Although this trend mostly consists of eating challenges or people humorously showcasing their appetite, there are some

harmful parts to it. Calling someone fat has become normalized, which gives rise to self-consciousness over eating habits out of fear of being fat-shamed. People also use this term in situations beyond its intended meaning. Olurimi Alofe (II) explains, “If it gets excessive, like every single time you see someone eating you’re like ‘oh you’re a big back’ or ‘that’s big-backed behavior’, then it starts to become a little more serious.” Considering the lack of awareness of possible insecurities within others, constantly making “big-backed” jokes about someone can lead to them gaining a toxic relationship with food, unhealthy eating habits or a deteriorating mental health.

The fatphobia present in these jokes is also shown through what happens on *TikTok*. Plus-sized people that have participated in the trend on *TikTok* often receive disrespectful commentary regarding their weight, as opposed to the collective amusement seen on a video of a skinnier person making the same joke. Romilda Miranda (II) explains, “Fatphobia in its purest form, whether you think it’s exaggerated or not, is just speaking negatively of being fat or being afraid of being fat. It’s literally in the name.” Because of fatphobia, people are influenced by weight bias, in which fat individuals making jokes about being “big” are seen as scary, while those who fit the beauty standards regarding weight aren’t bullied despite similar contexts. We should be careful not to stray from the original meaning of these jokes, which are not meant to antagonize anyone.

A similar phrase popularized on the internet was “girl dinner,” further demonstrating the negative path that originally

funny slangs can take. This trend originally began with people showing random combinations of food and snacks thrown together, using them to substitute a full meal. As the trend continued, however, it became more about portion sizes. Videos on “girl dinners” began to show increasingly smaller portions of food or nothing at all. This romanticized the toxic eating habits of many young social media users, further exacerbating people’s eating disorders and body dysmorphia.

The “big back” trend has the potential to face a similar fate. People may hesitate to show their true meals or make a playful joke about themselves, and instead exaggerate the trend by eating too much or too little, which are both unhealthy.

Phrases like “big-backed,” however, if used appropriately as friendly banter, can be a way to break the ice within groups and make people more comfortable with each other. It has been proven that using slang and having inside jokes have made people closer. Furthermore, the phrase will likely die out soon, as every slang terminology does, and therefore is not a serious concern. Shriya Chan (II) comments, “I bet in the next two years [...] it’s not going to be a slang or a common slang anymore.”

Although people mostly use the phrase in a non-demeaning manner amongst their friend groups, we are unaware of the insecurities people are battling internally. It is important to establish how comfortable someone is with this phrase, and respect those who are offended. Chan adds, “We should still use the term, but obviously keep an open mind of who you’re saying it to.” After all, no one likes to constantly be the butt of the joke.

**Ask the Students: Is “Big-Backed” Fatphobic?**

“In some contexts, it could be used as a derogatory term. However, it just depends on how you use it and what the context is.”

**Michal Tran (I)**

“Being ‘big-backed’ is a mentality; it has nothing to do with your physical appearance.”

**Max Dietch (II)**

“The ‘big-backed’ trend is really a joke unless it’s used to harm others.”

**Chloe Trente Et Un (III)**

“I feel like it’s offensive when people around you are bigger than you [...] it’s just awkward. When someone who’s skinnier says it to a larger person it can invalidate them.”

**Cristina Lopez-Tran (IV)**

“I personally don’t think it is problematic [...] but [...] it could, sometimes, be used as an insult and in that case it would be problematic.”

**Sheldon Bol (V)**

“No, because it seems more like a joke and not something offensive.”

**Noah Baana (VI)**

# The Met Gala: All Hype, No Help

By **Victoria Liu (IV)**

Contributing Writer

Zendaya strides in with a stunning, glittering blue gown. Cardi B’s glamorous dress floods the ground like a dark, rolling storm. Doja Cat struts in with ... a wet T-shirt? You’ve just tuned in to *Vogue*’s live stream of the Met Gala. Anna Wintour, the editor-in-chief of *Vogue*, hosts this event every May to raise money for the Metropolitan Museum of Art’s Costume Institute, which is located in New York. Each year, celebrities and designers flock to the event to show off their outfits and socialize with other high-profile stars. Their outfits are also supposed to fit a theme ranging from “Camp” in 2019 to “The Garden of Time” this year. Despite these exciting features, the Met Gala shouldn’t be supported, as its purpose for charity has been dulled by the focus on celebrities’ wealth and prestige.

Year after year, celebrities’ superficial interpretations of the Met Gala dress code and theme continue to disappoint spectators. With “The Garden of Time” as the dress code, people expected Met Gala guests to show up with unique ideas of the renewing cycle of life and the fleeting nature of

time. Many celebrities, however, showed up in outfits that didn’t seem to resemble the dress code at all, with some participants wearing basic suits or gowns. While designers were given a chance to showcase their art, the simplicity of the celebrities’ interpretations didn’t meet the standards of many viewers, nor did it inspire others.

The theme, additionally, was more complex than just “nature.” It was based on J.G. Ballard’s 1962 short story “The Garden of Time” that tells the story of a wealthy couple holding off the approach of a mob by using time-manipulating flowers. When they finally run out of flowers, the couple meets their demise. The story, seen as a critique of the wealthy and capitalism as a whole, is ironic, considering the stars of the Met Gala are incredibly rich.

Maura Hatala (I), whose Senior Capstone relates to women’s fashion, comments, “Most people ignored the commentary on consumerism [in the theme] and just went straight for nature, and everybody was wearing flowers and greenery.”

When celebrities do not engage in the deeper social commentary present in the theme, it becomes clear that the ostensible purpose of the gala, to spark intellec-

tual curiosity and showcase art, is secondary to celebrity worship.

One of the Met Gala’s supposed goals is to open up opportunities for new designers to display their talents. Unfortunately, because designers attract celebrities to wear their designs by offering free tickets, smaller designers who cannot afford this cost are not able to present their work. The result is that most brands in the gala are already well-established, such as Gucci and Valentino. Thus, smaller designers who were supposed to be highlighted at this event thus do not get the necessary attention and popularity to succeed in the industry.

Since the Met’s Costume Institute also needs the money earned from the gala to fund its operations, it excuses the controversial behaviors of the attendees, ranging from dating scandals to acts of racism, in order to keep them attending. While the gala does raise huge amounts of money, its focus has gradually dropped away from protecting fashion’s past.

BLS history teacher Mr. Dominic Rinaldi says, “To go rogue simply to call more attention to one’s own brands seems a bit disingenuous and distracts away from

what the purpose is.” Its lavish veil muffles the sincerity of honoring and preserving fashion’s history.

Some may argue that the Met Gala works well because it takes money from the rich under the guise of being charitable and uses fans’ devotion to celebrities to spread awareness of the Institute’s collections. While supporting fashion institutes is important, more pressing issues, such as poverty and disease, exist in the world that deserve as big of a platform. Too often, similar galas and events trying to raise money for these causes are overpowered by the Met Gala.

It is vital to understand that fans and viewers have the power to change where fame and attention are directed and can opt to support more deserving causes. Mr. Rinaldi adds, “We need to ultimately break the cycle, but as long as we continue to consume the product, it’s never done.”

Although it is tempting to continue following the Met Gala, people should focus on charities that impact the world more substantially. This is the difference between stuffing cash into an already-rich organization and saving lives across the globe.



# Should High Schoolers Learn How to Drive?

*Yes, High Schoolers Should Learn to Drive.*

*No, High Schoolers Should Not Learn to Drive.*

**By Harry Dinh (V)**

*Contributing Writer*

As a student progresses through their high school career, they will eventually become old enough to obtain a transformational item in their lives: a driver's license. This license grants them the right to drive a car wherever they want, as long as they follow the rules. Although some are skeptical about the need to drive in one's teenage years, this ability leads to numerous benefits.

With the ability to drive comes a plethora of responsibilities on and off the road. Drivers have to make sure they are obeying all the traffic laws, driving safely and being aware of other vehicles on the road. They also have to be mindful of the costs of owning and maintaining a vehicle.

Boston Latin School Classics teacher Ms. Catherine Foley comments, "You need to worry about [car] insurance, maintenance and gas money. [E]ven if you think you're spending enough money to just buy the car itself, you also need to be financially aware that you have all these other expenses [...] like [...] wear and tear [and] stuff like that."

These new responsibilities, though they may seem stressful, help students manage tasks and become more aware of their surroundings, as newly ordained drivers are forced to handle the many moving parts that go into operating a car.

One might argue that with the rise of apps like *Uber* and *Lyft*, the need for students to learn how to drive has diminished since they can simply book a driver on an app and go anywhere. Individuals have more freedom, however, if they drive themselves, as they are directly behind the wheel. For many, taking an *Uber* or a *Lyft* causes passengers to have increased anxiety, as they have to worry about the rideshare driver and their skill level.

Sebastian Inezian (II), who has a learner's permit, elaborates, "Maybe in the short term [*Uber* and *Lyft*] are beneficial, [b]ut just having your own car and being able to have more of a personal liberty to do whatever you want is definitely more important."

For students who view privacy as a factor, driving can improve their sense of security, particularly within the context of lackluster public transit system in Boston. A poll from September 2023 found that most Boston residents feel that the MBTA is unsafe, and more people would use the MBTA if the service was more reliable. The MBTA is dealing with disinvestment and deferred maintenance, which leads to safety issues — hardly reassuring for prospective riders.

Ms. Foley elaborates on the role of her car when it comes to security: "I [...] use it as my alone time [...] I consider it like my little private space where I can think about the day [and] no one's going to bother me if I don't want them to."

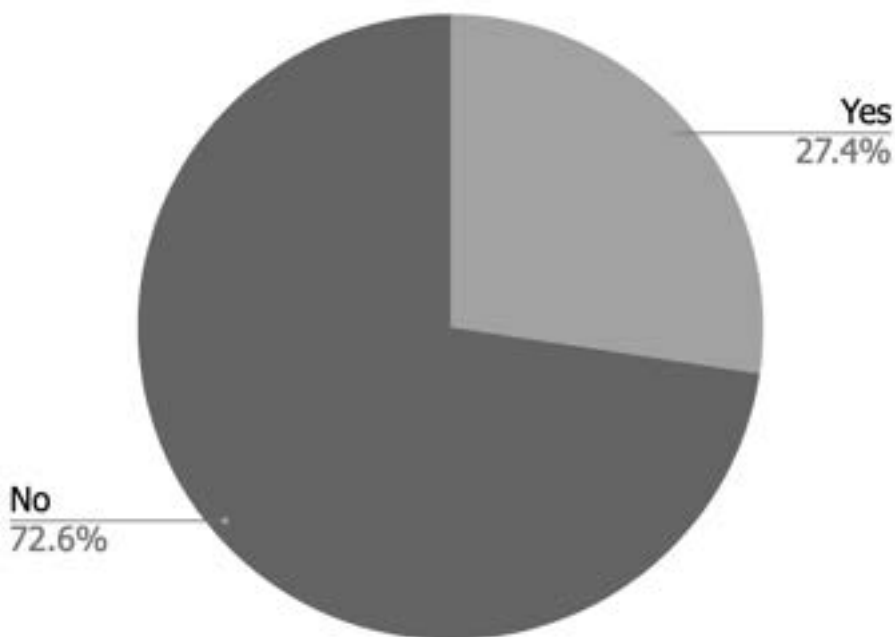
Driving can also help students control their temper. It is common for drivers to experience road rage, which includes unnecessary honking and rude gestures. Teenage drivers who have not faced these aggressive drivers are more prone to be triggered themselves and retaliate with aggressive driving of their own. Exposure to road rage, however, can help drivers learn to stay calm on the road and not escalate situations, which creates safer, more responsible drivers and citizens.

BLS Health teacher Ms. Leah Lipschitz adds, "[Students are] learning about emotional regulation because there could definitely be some stress involved with driving, especially in the beginning when learning how to drive."

Driving is an essential part of how people of all ages travel. While some may think students driving is unnecessary or downright concerning, the skills students gain from it are applicable to all aspects of their lives and far outweigh any concerns about teen drivers on the road.



**Class I and II students, do you have a driver's license?**



**By Alan Zhao (IV)**

*Contributing Writer*

For many high schoolers, getting a driver's license is a major milestone. It supposedly signifies that one is now responsible and begins the transition from childhood to adulthood. How important is it actually to learn to drive? For those at Boston Latin School, it is simply unnecessary, costly and dangerous for the environment. This is echoed by nearly 73 percent of juniors and seniors at BLS who have not gotten their driver's license.

In Boston, driving as a teen is an expensive ordeal. All teens must first pay approximately 1,000 dollars for a driver's education. Then, many will need to buy cars, and insurance for Boston teens is on average 2,997 dollars a year, according to *MarketWatch* — nearly three times more expensive than insurance for drivers over the age of 25. Gas and maintenance costs to keep a car running further burden high school students and their families. When driving in the city, paying for roadside or garage parking is a norm, quickly adding up to a hefty bill. Neil Jin (I) echoes this concern: "My parents didn't want to pay for insurance or buy a new car, so I didn't get a driver's license."

Besides the high cost, learning to drive also places a time burden on already-busy students. Aside from driving courses, which can take place multiple times a week for multiple months, students must also accrue 40 hours of supervised driving. Many students who were polled in our survey expressed annoyances over this time commitment and explained that it prevents them from learning to drive. Jin comments, "It is very annoying to schedule driving lessons, and I didn't want to go through that hassle." For juniors and seniors get-

ting ready for college, time is at a premium. Learning to drive just puts one more thing onto their already-full plate.

Alternatives to driving make these costs extremely hard to justify. For a high schooler in the city, there are not many opportunities where driving is necessary. Many teachers do not even own cars. BLS math teacher Mx. Grace Foulis explains that they "take the T and the buses. I walk a lot [...] or I [take an] *Uber*."

These alternatives are not only a fraction of the price, but are also more practical. Gregory Ware (II) adds, "I live in a city with [...] a lot of easily accessible public transport, and I have a OneCard that [...] gives me free access to it anytime I want."

Public transportation, especially trains, is a more environmentally friendly way to travel. According to *Our World in Data*, "Public transport is usually your best option if you can't walk or cycle. Trains are particularly low-carbon ways to travel. Taking a train instead of a car for medium-length distances would reduce emissions by around 80 [percent]." Free public transportation is a cheaper, more accessible and more eco-friendly way for BLS students to travel on their own.

When high school students become drivers, they send a message to politicians that Americans continue to support the car industry. This causes politicians to continue supporting car dependent infrastructure and ignore the massive environmental problems the industry brings. All this contributes to the country's role as the world's second highest emitter of greenhouse gasses.

Some people may say that learning to drive fosters responsibility and emotional regulation. These skills, however, can be learned elsewhere. When high school students take tests, they learn to keep their emotions in control in a high stress environment. Summer and school year jobs also teach students to be responsible and mature.

Taking public transport, walking, biking or an occasional *Uber* allows students to retain their freedom of movement around the city while mitigating many of the costs and adverse environmental effects associated with driving. Despite what adults and society may lead you to believe, learning to drive as a teenager is not important.

**THE ARGO IS DIGITAL!**

All articles and content of the *Argo* can be found on the website  
**blsargo.org.**





# Protect the Right to Peacefully Protest



UC Berkeley students protest the university's actions

By **Angelina Wei (III)**

*Staff Writer*

In the past year, academic institutions have been the centers of activism, witnessing a multitude of protests over various issues. Demonstrations over the Israel-Palestine conflict have been especially prominent, with students across the country participating in occupations, walkouts, encampments or sit-ins. Even students from Boston Latin School have participated in multiple walk-outs. Many argue that such activism causes disruptions and fosters divisions within school communities. History and modern society, however, highlight that protests are essential in academic settings, as they cultivate a culture of free speech and activism.

For decades, activism on academic campuses has played a crucial role in major social movements. In the 1950s, during the Civil Rights Movement, students challenged segregation and discrimination against Black Americans through marches, sit-ins and protests. In the 1960s, during the Vietnam War,

campuses spread ideas of anti-war sentiment to the public by expressing their opposition through demonstrations. In the 1970s and 1980s, protests were held against apartheid in South Africa, further solidifying academic institutions as platforms for social change. These historic movements emphasize the pivotal role student activism has in advancing societal progress.

BLS history teacher Ms. Paula Bowles adds, "Peaceful acts of civil disobedience, like protests and sit-ins are a time honored tradition in academic environments, both in high school and in college. Civil disobedience, in the spirit of Thoreau, Gandhi and King, can be an educational tool and a way to bring attention to an issue, whether global, national or local."

The ability to protest and express free speech is fundamental in a democratic society, and academic campuses are no exception. The First Amendment guarantees this right, which can be exercised within educational institutions allowing for civic engagement. Engaging in activism teaches students

advocate for change and how to communicate and defend their opinions.

"While I can see how some might think that protests and activism could distract from schools' core curriculum," Ilana Schwartz (III) explains, "I have always seen education to be inextricably linked to being up to date on current events and problems of the time, as well as learning effective ways to make your voice heard and make change."

Protests at world-renowned universities also attract significant media attention, heightening awareness of critical issues. With students at prestigious institutions like Columbia University, Yale University and Massachusetts Institute of Technology protesting, issues draw national and international observation. This amplification in attention facilitates and leads to broader discussions and potential policy changes, further supporting the idea that academic institutions are ideal platforms for spreading awareness.

Despite the benefits, some argue that protests do not belong in academic settings because they can disrupt learning. Demonstrations often interrupt classes, exams and schedules, leading to inconvenience and stress for many students. Moreover, protests might create an "us versus them" mentality within the school community, which creates a counterproductive learning atmosphere.

In light of these disruptions, universities and colleges have responded to protests in various ways. Some institutions have designated zones for protests to minimize disruptions, while others have responded through mass arrests and the detainment of students.

Ms. Bowles reminds that a core part of effective non-violent protesting is accepting punishment: "[C]ivil disobedience is not without personal risk and consequences [...] Students

who engage in acts of protest should be ready and willing to accept the consequences of their actions, including suspensions, removals from campus or more with the hope that the consequences they receive could bring more needed attention to the cause they care deeply about."

While receiving consequences is an important part of nonviolent protest, the punishments should come from universities, not police. "I haven't seen any pushback from organizations in person," says Phineas Manaselaham (I), an active protestor for the Black Lives Matter movement and pro-Palestine movement, "but I have seen a lot of violence from police." If universities want to punish students, that is fair. If they ban certain chants, prevent outsiders from coming onto campus or even block students from graduating, that is fair. But when universities call in outside police to quell nonviolent protest. By not directly dealing with students, they signal that they do not wish to engage students' feelings and thoughts about the most pressing issues of the present day. This undermines the civic engagement, free speech and academic debate that these institutions aim to uphold.

Furthermore, when police are called in, violent scenes often unfold and quickly dominate the media, overshadowing the core issues that are being protested, such as calls for ceasefire. When administrators have instead taken on the role of communicating, mediating and punishing students themselves, safety and order are maintained while respecting the protest process.

Protesting is an essential right for all students as it allows them to exercise their freedom of speech to fight for changes they want. For universities to truly cultivate the leaders of the future, they must remain a place where non-violent protest is allowed.

# Stop the "Bowlification" of Restaurants!

By **David Wang (V)**

*Contributing Writer*

Pizza bowls, poke bowls, *Chipotle* bowls, CAVA bowls, Chinese bowls — name a type of bowl — it exists. The bowl meal, consisting of grains, vegetables and a protein, has been present in the United States for years, but only recently has it become ubiquitous.

Many praise the bowl for its ultra-convenience and speed. The wait time is low and the food can be eaten quickly. This convenience, however, comes with a cost.

The purpose of eating should not be to maximize nutrient intake while minimizing time spent eating. The "bowlification" of cuisines has turned the pleasure of eating delicious food into a streamlined, automated process in an effort to ensure efficient nutrient delivery. Eating at restaurants that use this bowl model is not an enjoyable, social experience, but rather a mere task demanded by society for survival. The value placed on time efficiency over pleasure and taste indeed reflects the rise of hustle culture in today's world, with people preferring to scarf down food as quickly as possible instead of chatting with staff and fellow customers.

On top of that, the bowl often dilutes the authenticity of real food. *Chipotle*, for example, offers a heavily Americanized version of Mexican food.

Founded by Steve Eells, a white man with a predominately white executive team, *Chipotle* has often been criticized for claims of cultural appropriation. Menu items, such as *barbacoa*, often do not encompass the actual dish, and without an explicit explanation of how *Chipotle* alters the traditional cuisine, the audience loses out on learning about the culture behind the dish. One cannot help but ask themselves whether the convenience is worth diluting real Mexican food, especially when so many authentic options exist.

It's not just *Chipotle* — the bowl model's range has been extended to almost everything, even including Chinese food. One example of a place that claims to have Chinese bowls is *Junzi*; yet they fail at providing real authentic Chinese cuisine. Sarah Cao (V) explains, "[*Junzi* bowls] are Chinese-American. If you went to China, they would [ask], 'What is that?' People say that they had Chinese food, but they just had the adapted version."

Bowls, furthermore, oversimplify or outright ignore the techniques and significance behind traditional dishes. Dumpling bowls, for example, which consist of dumpling filling and rice mixed together with other dishes, destroy the cultural significance of the dish. Dumplings have meaning; they are supposed to represent good fortune and unity. Making them and sharing them with loved ones carries a deep cultural



Chon In Lam (IV) enjoys a bowl outside of a local CAVA.

significance. A typical Chinese dinner might be three plates of dumplings on the table with some sauce. When bowl restaurants throw dumplings into a bowl with other Chinese foods, they sacrifice the intended way to eat the meal for the sake of appearing trendy.

BLS Chinese teacher Ms. Muqing Gu shares how bowls decimate traditions associated with Chinese cuisine. She asserts, "[You] cannot say that [it] is Chinese food. If you want authentic Chinese food, then go to the country. They can make it for you there." While

fusion can be innovative and contain the essence of two or more cultures, bowls fail to do so because they dilute any culture into a mix of easily replicable food.

Bowls offer a convenient and seemingly healthy dining option, but they also pose a threat to the authenticity of traditional cuisines. Consumers must be mindful of their food choices and support restaurants selling authentic cuisine or only fusion places that are upfront about their practice of blending food traditions.



# Stay Rooted in STEM

By **Angelina Tang (III)**

Contributing Writer

Everyone at Boston Latin School has undoubtedly heard the question: what do you want to study in college? In the past, most students at BLS would have answered law, politics or government, as the curriculum was focused on humanities. Now, however, responses nationwide have shifted toward computer science, engineering or chemistry. This trend has spread to BLS. It is not surprising that a majority of BLS seniors have declared a STEM major: according to the data collected by the BLS 2024 Commits *Instagram* page, 50.8 percent of the Class of 2024 have chosen to go into STEM. With the spike of interest in STEM comes the crash of a different major: humanities, the umbrella covering all of human society and culture from art to history. This trend is reflected in the BLS Class of 2024: only 16.1 percent of them plan to major in liberal arts.

Although mourned by enthusiasts of the humanities, in a time of constant innovation, the spotlight on majors in STEM is valid, as they yield long-term security and practicality.

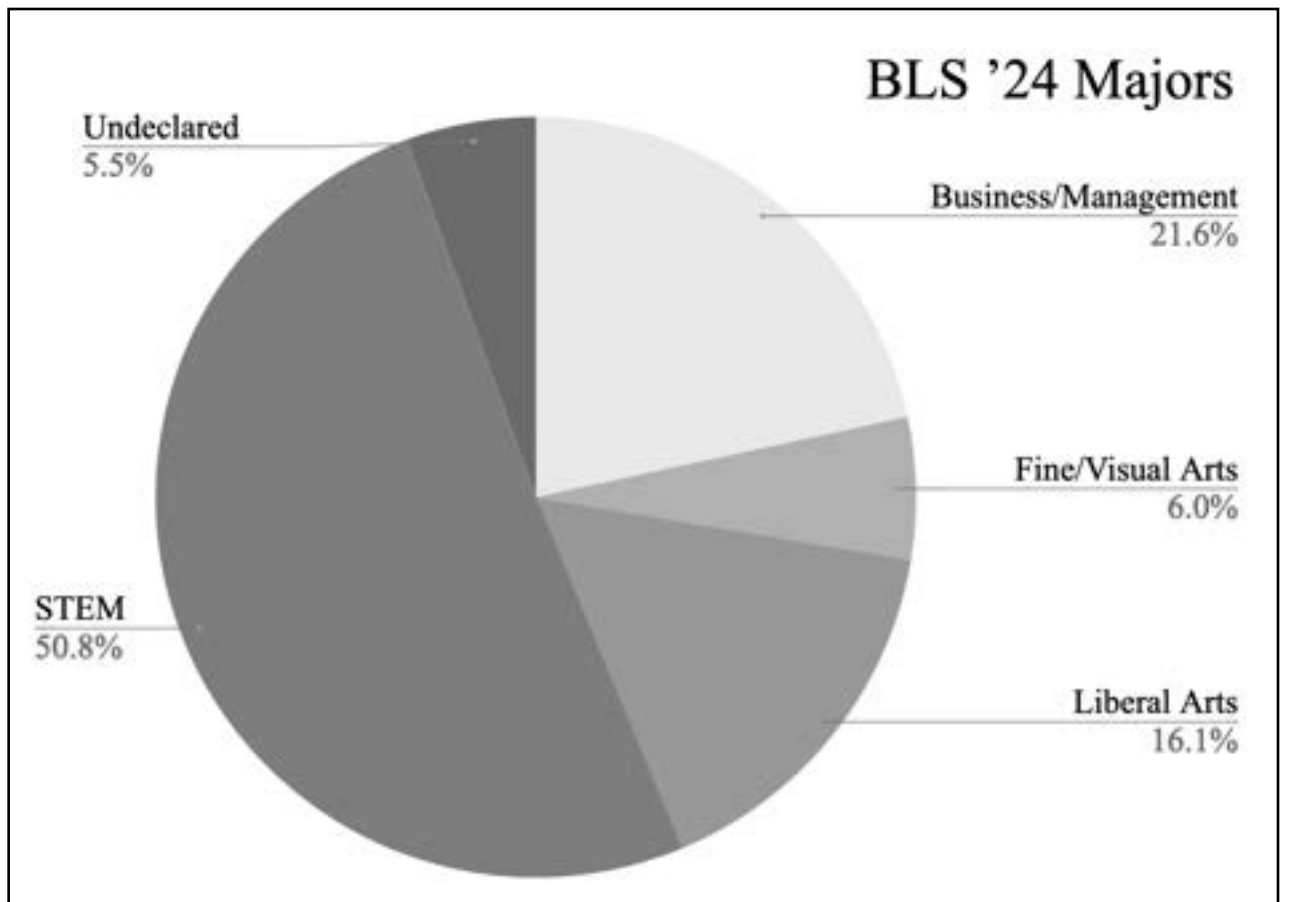
BLS math teacher Ms. Alyssa Sarkis comments, “If we’re thinking about [STEM] and how fast [it is] progressing, there’s clearly a market for that, and people see that as jobs or as a vital part of their life, and they want to be involved in that development.”

STEM majors, moreover, earn 17,000 to 24,000 more dollars, on average, than non-STEM majors, which highlights the appeal for occupations in the field. STEM workers generally provide more tangible services — everyone can see how doctors are helpful — and their qualifications are concrete. The value of humanities, conversely, is not only harder to quantify but also subjective; its value depends on the consumer, and the careers humanities majors could pursue are vague.

BLS science teacher Ms. Gina Castellanos Ellsworth explains, “The bottom line is that a company that generates billions of dollars has more money to pay for top talent.”

These more clearly defined job requirements assure a clearer career path — a welcome prospect for the newly graduated. A pre-medical student, for example, knows that medical school will always be an option for them; a computer science major knows they can find a job at a tech company. In short, a STEM major gives students the “safer” option: guaranteed work that pays well.

That is not to say that the humanities do not have



value, as the interpersonal skills provided in the field are necessary in all lines of work.

BLS history teacher Ms. Clara Webb asserts, “There’s so much that goes into making something successful, and [companies] need all kinds of skills.”

This applies to STEM as well, as even the most brilliant minds still need leaders who can sell their vision to others. Even outside of a STEM lens, humanities has its importance. Ms. Webb contends, “Pure humanities careers do exist, and they do have a value,” She continues, “[They are] about understanding ‘How did we get here?’ and ‘Who are we?’ [...] I don’t think that’s ever going to go away.” Humanities are what make us inherently human — the love that goes into art can’t be replicated in a lab.

There is a hard line, however, between passion and practicality. Higher education is expensive, and even with scholarships, it is important that the selected major is worth the investment. Humanities can be found everywhere, not just in a classroom. One does not need a humanities degree to learn empathy or teamwork. The major someone chooses does not define their entire identity,

either.

“[Majors] are not the only dimension,” Ms. Webb clarifies. “You can certainly pursue [humanities] even if it isn’t your major in college.” If someone can major in something while balancing additional interests, it is objectively better to pursue a higher-paying field. After all, financial stability provides the luxury of maintaining hobbies out of pure interest and not necessity. STEM majors offer more crucial financial and occupational security for a person’s livelihood than what humanities could ever provide.

By majoring in STEM, students can have it all — endless work opportunities, a good wage, a solid career path — while still being able to casually pursue their other interests. There is no guaranteed income in subjective fields like the humanities, and people cannot feed themselves with passion alone. Although it may sound shallow, it is better to pursue profitability because money is essential for survival in modern-day society. The dominance that STEM has over the humanities is for the better; the trend will hopefully continue.

## A Sea of Faces: Navigating Friendships at BLS



Group projects can be a great way to bond with new people.

By **Nicholas Nguyen (IV)**

Contributing Writer

Seven classes a day, four minutes between classes and 23 minutes for lunch — Boston Latin School’s fast-paced schedule and academic rigor are often thought to be the most challenging aspects of the school. Navigating the complex social dynamics and finding one’s place among over 2,400 students, however, is often the most daunting task.

While some may have already developed friendships that carried into BLS, those who didn’t may find it intimidating to approach someone due to social anxiety stemming from the fear of being judged. It

is easy to assume that friend groups made of people who differ from your identity or interests are completely different from your own which makes it scary to branch out to them. While it is true that each friend group is unique, there are common threads in all social circles. Understanding them is a crucial part in helping us branch out to new people and form a stronger school community.

Many of us who are new to BLS are overwhelmed by the hectic school environment, challenging workload, crazy schedule and confusing layout. But often it is these stressors that help us develop connections with others.

Adebola Adetoye (IV) recounts one

such story: “It was 2:00 A.M. or 3:00 A.M. in the morning. Linh and I were basically talking about how tired we were and why we were up so late. That day, I asked Linh to bring me some coffee because she said I could bring you coffee. And we became [close] from then on.”

Involving oneself in various activities, whether they be clubs or sports, is another common way BLS students make friends. “I joined the track team sixie year,” Conor Smith (III) says, “And I made most of my friends that way.” Extracurriculars are great places to meet friends because they help alleviate the stress of school and allow one to meet new people with similar passions and build relationships from them.

No matter how friends are made, they become an extremely important part of thriving at school. They allow us to gain self-confidence, cope with stress, avoid unhealthy lifestyles and increase our sense of belonging.

It’s easy to recognize the benefits of friendships, but often a fear of being judged scares students away from taking the risks necessary to meet new people. While it is tempting to adopt an inauthentic persona in order to make oneself “friend-able” to others, that doesn’t lead to lasting friendships, as it becomes obvious that one is pretending to be someone they are not.

Phillips Exeter Academy student Jacquelin Lonian (IV) advises, “Just be yourself and don’t try to analyze the person and figure out what they’d want out of you [...] If they don’t like that, then they’re not right for you.”

Friendships, however, are never perfect. It can be difficult to maintain them once there are problems like miscommunication, lack of understanding and doubts of loyalty. The key to maintaining a friendship is putting in effort and communicating with your friends. Even then, friendships don’t last forever. They end for many reasons, including rumors, arguments and fights. These are some of the negative factors that bring friendships down. Lonian shares, “My friend group and I had our differences, and they decided to stop talking to me.”

The end of a friendship isn’t always a bad thing. People sometimes naturally grow out of their friend groups by realizing they share fewer common values and interests over time — and this is totally okay! Once there is a disconnection, it is out of your control, and you just have to let it go. It allows new people to enter your life who will help you through its next stages, such as high school. This ebb and flow is just the natural progression of friendships, and although it can hurt, it teaches students valuable lessons in how to socially adapt and remain level-headed during difficult times.

When looking at the vast sea of unfamiliar faces in the dining hall or auditorium, it is assuring to realize that everyone faces similar situations when it comes to navigating friendships. By recognizing our shared experiences, we can learn that most of us are just looking for kind, funny and trustworthy friends. Among the 2,400 of us at BLS, there are plenty of them.

# Congratulations Caitlin!

**It all went by so fast. We're so proud of the incredible young lady you've become.**

**As you start your journey at Syracuse, we will be cheering you on every step of the way.**

**Your passion for sports journalism shines brightly, and we can't wait to see your credit lines. Keep reaching for the stars!**

**Love your biggest fans,  
Mom & Dad**



# *Congratulations Jessica!*

*We're so  
proud of you!*

*Love,  
Mom, Dad, Brandon,  
Gonggong & Popo*



# Aaron,



*We are so lucky to have been able to watch you grow into the amazing person you are now. You were always wholly yourself — silly, smart, so deeply caring. You have been so strong these past few years. Words won't be enough but we'll use them anyway: we are so proud of you. You amaze us. We can't wait to see how you grow and flourish during your exciting next stage. Northeastern's lucky to have you!*

*-we love you always, Dad, Mom, Meg & Lucy xxx*

## CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL YOUR FRIENDS AND THE BLS CLASS OF 2024

Congratulations,

# JACKIE HANLON!



**I guess this is growing up.**

## President Okeoghene Ogege-Abedi



These past six years have flown by and I am incredibly grateful for all of them. From September 2018 until now, June 2024, I have been lucky to be called a student at Boston Latin School. I do not believe my sixie

self could have imagined how far I have progressed and how much I have accomplished at BLS. My very first extracurricular activity was Dues Band which is now known as the Jazz Standards, from there I matriculated into Big Band and became its sole vocalist while still participating in Band as a course and being part of the Wind Ensemble and Symphonic Band. I was also a member of the Gospel Choir. The music wing allowed me to share my talents with the BLS community and I will always remember those who instructed and conducted me these past six years.

We, as a grade, have reached the point where we go onto the next stages of our lives. It is truly bittersweet because I will leave behind the faculty and staff who helped me along the BLS journey from math to science, history, music, physical education, Latin, Italian, English, the Guidance Department, Main Office and administration, and I cannot express the amount of gratitude I have for everyone because they mean so much to me and my story at BLS.

As class president, I am proud to say

that I am a leader of illustrious and intelligent people who have worked very hard to go on in life and change the world. Each and every one of them deserve their accolades for a job well done because they demonstrate and prove why our school has the slogan *sumus primi!* I also had the privilege of working with Jed Muzac, Rachel Lantsman and Minh Nguyen as class officers. Together as officers, we made magic in forms of events such as Senior Kickoff, Senior Jeans Painting, Senior Movie Night, Faculty Talent Show and Pep Rally. We strived to meet the needs and wants of our peers and successfully fundraised to produce 75 dollar prom tickets at the venue of the New England Aquarium. I cannot fail to mention and thank Ms. Alyssa Sarkis and Ms. Andrea Encarnacao-Martin, our advisors, who have helped us every step of the way. Without them, a lot of things would not have not been accomplished. There were phone calls and late emails made to ensure everything went smoothly. These two people are two of the few reasons why I am sad that senior year is short, because I will not have their guidance for a longer period of time and

the time I spent with them flew by so fast.

BLS's Class of 2024 is a magical class with outstanding contributions to the community which include gold medals in music, beating our football rivals on Thanksgiving Day and attaining the MIAA Boys Hockey Championship at TD Garden. At the Garden, we all stood in solidarity in support of the team, forgetting that it was almost midnight with school the next day, hoping for a victory which we would receive. That is a day in BLS history that can never be forgotten.

To my seniors, we have made fond memories together that I will never forget and will always hold dear to my heart. I wish everyone the best of luck and I love all of you. The friendships I have made are too many to be reflected in this farewell, but I am so grateful for all of them. Remember the BLS community you are leaving behind and to always live life to the fullest.

Thank you BLS and my fellow seniors for the best six years of my life.

Sincerely,  
Okeoghene "Oke" Ogege-Abedi

## Vice President Rachel Lantsman



Hey seniors!

It's all over!! The past six years have been the most difficult but rewarding time I've been through. I hate to admit it, but I've loved my six years here. Starting in Mr. Smith's Sixie homeroom and Ms. Holmes gym class, I've made my closest friends and created great memories. Then from Ms. Craven's English class, to Sully's Humanities, I've watched so many of us grow up and become such a united and amazing group of people. From meeting new friends at Jewish Culture Club, to watching the hockey team winning the state championship, I realized the true bond I've developed over my tenure at BLS.

Besides declamation and latin, the most important thing I've learned here is

that the people make the experience. Each year I've met new friends with new stories, and it's so clear that the Class of 2024 shows the true strength of the Boston Latin Community. Whether it was being moved away from a friend because of laughing too hard, or going on walks in the hallways during class, something about the people here makes me so grateful for the last six years.

Earlier this week, I read my sixie letter, and I realized 12 year old me had no idea what was coming. I didn't know I would spend 6 years on the tennis team and find incredible people that will stay with me my entire life. Even though my planned path I had written about did not take its course, I could not be happier with all the memories

I've made since coming here.

Spending my last year here as Vice President was an honor that the other officers made an incredible experience. Ms. Encarnacao and Ms. Sarkis were two of the many amazing faculty that I've been able to learn from and I want to thank them for all of their help and support. It truly is the people that make the place.

Lastly, I want to leave you with advice. If you believe in yourself, you're halfway there. BLS has made it clear that we can achieve anything if we put our minds to it. The heart and soul of BLS rests on our hands, and I'm so grateful to (almost) call myself an alumna.

Best,  
Rachel Lantsman

## Secretary Minh Nguyen



I remember on my first day of sixie year, I was placed at the same homeroom table as Jed

Muzac. We introduced ourselves. As the day went on, I realized I shared a lot of classes with him. When R6 came, I learned we shared the same study period. We were both in Mr. Aaron Osowiecki's room and Jed sat next to me. He asked me the question, "You want to be friends and promise to never leave each other?" We shook on it.

Through each and every one of my six years at this school, I never stopped making new friends. I never stopped meeting new and amazing people. I don't know if it was because of the position I held or just because I love to talk and meet new people. But I just wished I met all these people sooner because now, it's like everything's on a ticking clock. I'm just grateful for all the connections I was able to make, and I'm so grateful for all the fun I had.

Even being secretary was fun. Yes, it was a lot of work, but I think it was all worth it. I like

to think of it as my "political debut." My first step into the world of politics. When I'm in Washington D.C. studying political science at American University, I'll remember you all. And if you ever see me on TV, just know it was you who made it possible. All my success at this school was because of you guys. More importantly, if it wasn't for my friends, I don't think I would have done such a great job. Especially our treasurer and my brother, Jed Muzac.

I'll admit I'm scared for the future and most likely all of you are too. All year the thought of only spending a few more months with you guys has never left my brain. The phrase "just a few more months with these people" always had a double meaning. On the one hand, thank goodness. I cannot with our school sometimes. On the other hand, in just a few months, all these relationships and friendships that I have built may come to a close. That idea scares me of-

ten. I even cried multiple nights thinking about it, but I eventually came to accept it. I believe that I will continue to be part of all of your lives both through memories and eventually, politics.

To everyone reading this, I want to say thank you and good luck. Remember that everything happens for a reason. Don't let any setback stop you from your dreams. My high school experience was full of setbacks. Just this year I lost friends, got in trouble with admin and even got robbed. These past few weeks have been full of only good memories, however. Seeing all your happy faces and getting so much support from you guys has inspired me. As I'm off to pursue my dream, I'll remember the positivity I felt at Boston Latin School and bring that to all my future environments. I hope you all do the same.

Love you all,  
Minh for the Win

## Treasurer Jed Muzac



A year ago today, I got Instagram for the first time, with the hopes of starting a successful campaign to become class treasurer. I uploaded my first stories and liked my first posts, but before I could reach a one-day milestone of having Instagram, my account was hacked by a man from Oklahoma. What

a welcome to the app that was. Fast forward to today, following many stories, posts and promotions, I sit here writing the Class Treasurer Farewell for the *Argo*. Time flies. In other words, time is short, and believe me—I would know a thing or two about being short. My sixie self wrote my future self a letter, which I happened to open this past Monday. I really thought I would be six feet eight inches tall. I now find myself at a staggering five feet six inches tall, and in the spirit of shortness, I'll try and keep this brief.

I would like to start off by thanking my fellow officers, who have been at my side as we battled through the college process and achieved some pretty amazing things this year. To Oke, your drive and energy are unmatched, and I am truly grateful. Perhaps I get annoyed here or there with the average 23 calls per week, but that just revealed your unwavering dedication. We have pushed together, and you were there to pick me up when I felt unmotivated or sluggish. For those reasons above and more, you'll always have

my respect, Mr. President.

To Rachel, your voice and reasoning was critical to our success. When meetings would get out of hand, you kept us all grounded and focused on the goal of providing our class with the best possible year. Your attention to detail, insightful reasoning and judgment strengthened our productivity and made the job manageable. All gratitude to you, Ms. Vice President.

And lastly, to my day one, Minh. Your energy and enthusiasm for your role as secretary truly inspired me every day. To say I am proud of how much you've grown in six years would be an understatement. Thank you for bringing the charm, laughter and charisma to the table, reminding us to enjoy our jobs to the fullest. I am so grateful for what we've been able to accomplish together as friends this year through being class officers, and I can't wait to see what the future holds for you, Mr. Secretary.

And of course, I want to give a huge thanks to Ms. E and Ms. Sarkis. Your leader-

ship and guidance shaped us to become better leaders. No words can express how much you both mean to this team, but thank you, thank you, thank you.

Finally, I want to reflect on the hours raising money during the Double Good fundraiser, or organizing countless bake sales after school. I am truly grateful for this experience and opportunity to serve this class. Regardless of the endeavors in front of us, we've made it—through a long yet quick path. In a couple weeks time, we can call ourselves alumni. The thing is, time really is short. Six years sounds long, but just like that, you realize that a small 12 and 13-year-old is now 18 with a future to start working towards. Time makes a lot of things scary and difficult, but it also makes you appreciate the moments you had. I don't know what's next for you, but I know that the one piece of advice I can give is to enjoy the moments. Whatever the case, live your life to the fullest with no regrets, because anything can happen within hours.

Muzac out.



# Jessie Wang



*Jessie,  
we are so proud of you!  
You are our star and will  
shine everywhere. We love  
you so much!*

*Mom, Dad, Sister and  
Jackie*



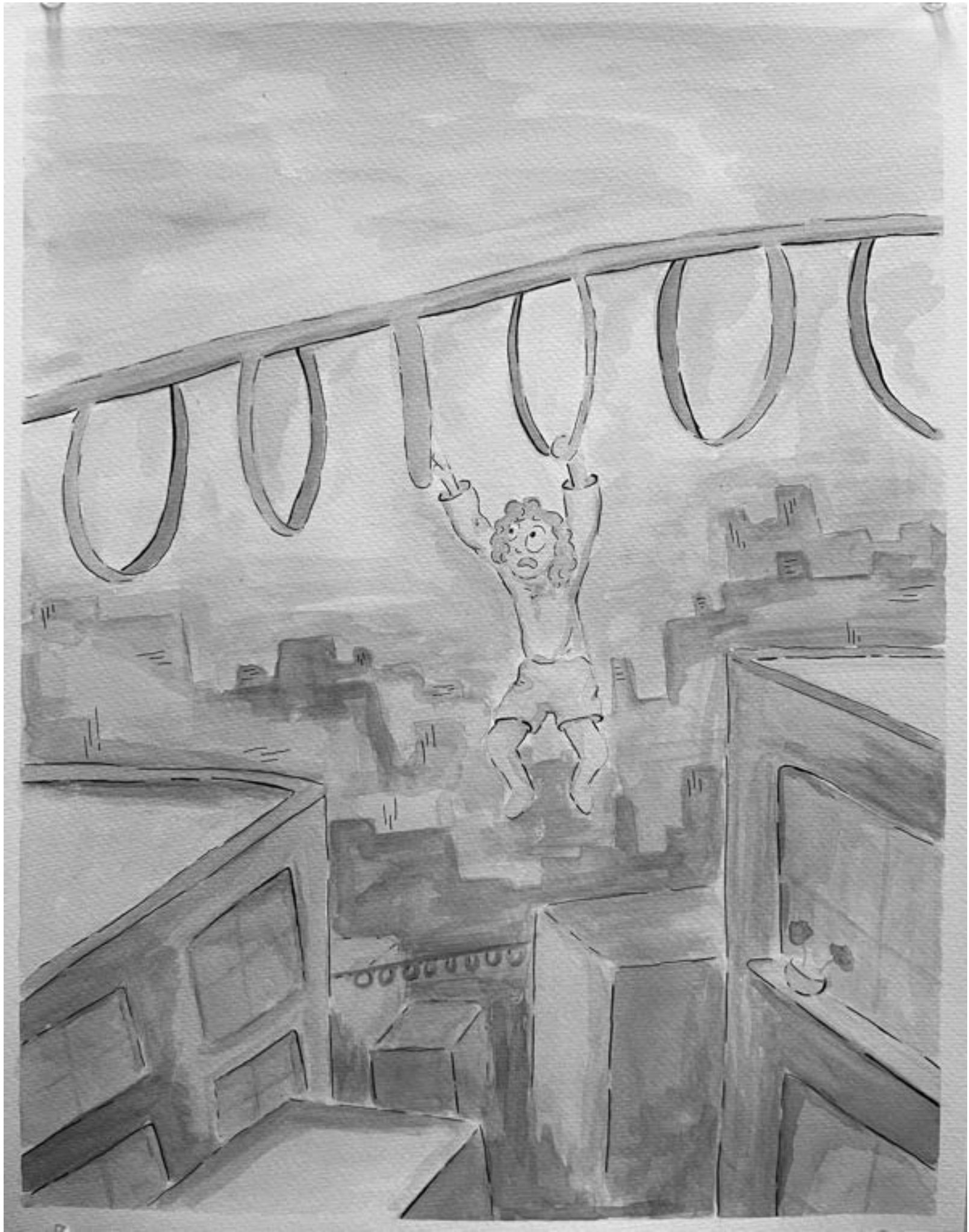
# Congratulations Stella!



*From Titledown  
to Tennessee.  
We're so proud of you.*

*Love, Mom & Dad  
GO VOLS!*





*Ali Cajiga*

**My darling dearest,  
always aim high, remember those  
that helped along the way,  
and maintain a grateful heart.**

*With love and gratitude,  
Mamá*



# Future Plans

Aalto, Maddie	U of Wisconsin, Madison	Lantsman, Rachel	Brown U
Adesoro, Tiaraoluwa	Bryn Mawr C	Laudato, Carmen	Sarah Lawrence C
Ahmed, Alex	Bucknell U	Lay, Andrew	Boston U
Angelju, Aleksa	U of Massachusetts-Amherst	Le, Logan	Brown U
Asiaf, Peter	Temple U	Lendaro, Sean	U of Massachusetts-Amherst
Audia, Sadie	Pennsylvania State U	Levendis, Dante	Northeastern U
Aylwin, Lila	McGill U	Li, Jessica	Harvard C
Bah, Rama	Simmons U	Liang, Alyssa	Rutgers U New Brunswick
Baker, Mari	Northeastern U	Lin, Joanna	Harvard C
Banitt, Creighton	U of Massachusetts-Lowell	Lind, Kento	Brandeis U
Banks, Bobby	U of Alabama	Lugo Diaz, Carolina	Northeastern U
Bautista, Leandra	Harvard C	Luong, Mindy	Tufts U
Beaulieu, Madeline	U of Florida	Madaoui, Nabil	Northeastern U
Beem, Marin	U of Oregon	Maldonado-Werk, Sophia	Boston U
Bellerand, Jolie	Syracuse U	Manasse-Latham, Phineas	Wagner C
Berry, Grace	Bryn Mawr C	Martin, Katherine	Harvard C
Berry, Griffin	Worcester Polytechnic Institute	Martinez, Jeilyn	Boston C
Blair, Colin	Case Western Reserve U	McBride, Vivian	Pace U
Bostian, Gerald	Boston U	McCarthy, Olivia	U of Rhode Island
Brocca, Francesca	Boston C	McCarthy, Thomas	U of Massachusetts-Amherst
Brook, Biya	Stanford U	McDermott, Gavin	Saint Michael's C
Brown, Ronan	Montana State U	McDermott, Molly	Queens U Belfast
Burkes-Nossiter, Marcus	Columbia U	McDonough, Caitlin	Syracuse U
Butler, Lilly	Smith C	McPheter, Giavani	U of Massachusetts-Boston
Cajiga, Ali	Boston U	Medeiros, Coulter	U of Kentucky
Callanan Sloan, Saoirse	Northeastern U	Meisel, Penelope	U of California Los Angeles
Cannon, Jude	McGill U	Mercado, Brenda	Emerson C
Carroll, Katie	U of Glasgow	Mitchell, Joey	U of Massachusetts-Amherst
Carter, Sophia	U of South Florida	Moy, Alicia	Harvard C
Casali, Evan	Fordham U	Moy, Angelina	Tufts U
Casey, Annabelle	U of Rhode Island	Mullaney, Devin	University of Mississippi
Cassidy, Aaron	Northeastern U	Murray, Maeve	Saint Anselm
Cerqueira, Talia	Emmanuel C	Murthy, Meera	U of Miami
Chen, Albert	U of Pennsylvania	Muzac, Jed	Harvard C
Chen, Jenny	Boston U	Nguyen, Jennifer	Northeastern U
Chen, Jialin	Harvard C	Nguyen, Minh	American U
Chen, Sam	Harvard C	Nguyen, Tim	Boston U
Chen, Susan	Boston U	Nguyen, Uyen	Yale U
Chen, Zach	Harvard C	Nilson, Pippa	Syracuse U
Chin, Lauren	U of Mississippi	Norton, Brendan	U of Massachusetts-Amherst
Chodkowski, Elektra	U of Massachusetts-Amherst	O'Brien, Tyler	U of Massachusetts-Amherst
Cole, Hollis	U of Massachusetts-Boston	O'Hearn, Sylvia	U of Massachusetts-Amherst
Colimon, Z	Sarah Lawrence C	O'Leary, Alex	Merrimack C
Comeau, Rezart	Emerson C	Ogege-Abedi, Okeoghene	Boston C
Cronin, Mark	High Point U	Ormsby, Aidan	Northeastern U
Cuddy, Anni	Bridgewater State U	Ortiz Melo, Grisbely	Suffolk U
Cunniffe, Denis	Boston C	Ottinot, Nerla	U of Massachusetts-Amherst
Cutler, Jordan	Mount Holyoke C	Passacantilli, Adriana	Syracuse U
Dam-Nguyen, Valerie	Boston U	Patel, Priya	Harvard C
DeMichele, Zach	U of Georgia	Peña Tejada, Nabeli	U of Massachusetts-Boston
Desir, Deborah	Northern Essex CC	Pena, Geovanny	U of Massachusetts-Amherst
Dierks, Graeme	United States Naval Academy	Peterson, Owen	Worcester Polytechnic Institute
Dinh, Olivia	U of Massachusetts-Amherst	Phelan, Matt	U of Massachusetts-Boston
Do, Haley	Harvard C	Phesay, Logan	Massachusetts C of Art and Design
Donoghue, Keeva	Suffolk U	Phesay, Mitchell	Pratt Institute
Donovan, Ruby	Indiana U - Bloomington	Podolsky, Angelina	Ballet de Barcelona
Drubin, Maggie	Northeastern U	Polson, Ayla	U of Connecticut
Duffy, Delaney	U of Massachusetts-Amherst	Popa, Vivian	Bentley U
Farah, Sofia	George Washington U	Power, Eric	Roger Williams U
Feathers, Sam	U of Massachusetts-Amherst	Preston, Musoke	Suffolk U
Feinberg, Gabriel	DePaul U	Previte, Lilliana	Boston C
Fisher, Colin	Brown U	Reinfeld, Sophia	U of Wisconsin-Madison
Fitzpatrick, Aidan	Boston C	Rodrigues, Giani	U of Massachusetts-Amherst
Flynn, John	Providence C	Rodriguez, Ashley	Amherst C
Flynn, Stephen	Merrimack C	Rothman, Ben	Harvard C
Foley, Roisin	U of Rhode Island	Rowley, Maggie	Clemson U
Fredericks, Luke	Tufts U	Roylance, Amelia	U of Massachusetts-Amherst
Fulton, Zoe	U of Chicago	Rubinstein, Hannah	Mount Holyoke C
Furfaro, Siena	Tufts U	Rubinstein, Max	Maine C of Art and Design
Garity, Victoria	Johns Hopkins U	Russell, Dory	Tufts U
Gentle, Krystal	Simmons U	Russo, Lily	School of Visual Arts
George, Charlie	West Point	Ryan, Georgia	Carnegie Mellon U
Gongaju, Richa	Suffolk U	Salazar, Milani	Emerson C
Gonzalez, Isa	Union College	Sax, Julia	New York U
Gordon, Elliot	Lehigh U	Scheer, Bart	U of Massachusetts-Amherst
Gorman, Declan	McGill U	Seo, Henry	Suffolk U
Greeley, Maeve	U of Rhode Island	Serna Lopez, Valeria	Boston U
Green Barrios, Alexander	Case Western Reserve U	Serwatko, Veronica	Rochester Institute of Technology
Guilderson, Melanie	U of Massachusetts-Amherst	Shortell Higuera, Andrea	Saint Louis University-Madrid Campus
Guthrie, Bella	U of Massachusetts-Amherst	Spock, Ronan	Northeastern U
Guzman Volpe, Ricardo	Worcester Polytechnic Institute	Stanley, Ceva	George Washington U
Hanlon, Jackie	U of Massachusetts-Amherst	Sullivan, Alex	Sacred Heart U
Harris, Brandon	Northeastern U	Sykes, Simone	Clemson U
Hatala, Maura	Arizona State U	Tai-Dawson, Xochitl	School of Oriental and African Studies (U of London)
Heffernan, Lucy	Tulane U	Tangney, Declan	U of Rhode Island
Hein, Rebecca	U of Wisconsin-Madison	Tewelde, Deliet	U of Massachusetts-Boston
Hidalgo, Jesus	Brown U	Toscano, Juliana	U of Massachusetts-Amherst
Ho-Tran, Kaitlyn	Northeastern U	Tran, Aidan	U of Massachusetts-Amherst
Hobbs, Brendan	Catholic U of America	Tran, Angelina	Northeastern U
Hobbs, Ryan	Union C	Tran, Hailey	U of Massachusetts-Amherst
Houton, Veronika	U of Vermont	Tran, Michael	Northeastern U
Huyghebaert, Alex	U of Massachusetts-Boston	Treseler, Bridget	Fairfield U
Huynh, Lily	U of Massachusetts-Amherst	Troung, Leo	Tufts U
Illanes, Julia	U of Miami	Trueblood, Tegan	Boston U
Jackson, Patrick	C of the Holy Cross	Uddin, Salman	Northeastern U
Jacobson, Vera	Cornell U	Van Reijendam, Elisabeth	U of Colorado Boulder
Jenkins, Charlie	Santa Clara U	Verreault, Rebecca	Boston C
Jiang, Lindsey	Harvard C	Villatoro, Arlex	Boston U
Jin, Neil	Northeastern U	Vo, Quyen	Stanford U
Joseph, Cornelle	Boston C	Wang, Jessie	Harvard C
Keleher, Colin	West Point	Washington, Henning	Boston Conservatory at Berklee
Kollett, Eliza	Haverford C	White, Harry	Purdue U
Korovaeva, Sofya	U of Massachusetts-Amherst	White, Mia	U of Wisconsin-Madison
Kotter, Stella	The U of Tennessee - Knoxville	Wyatt, Isaiah	U of Massachusetts-Amherst
Kriscenski, Anna	U of Massachusetts-Amherst	Xu, Alex	Harvard C
Kungie, Jane	U of Massachusetts-Amherst	Yang, Megan	McGill U
Kwan, Evelyn	Boston U	Yu, Alex	Georgia Tech
Lam, Alex	U of Massachusetts-Amherst	Yuan, Gabe	Boston U
Lam, Saffron	U of Massachusetts-Boston	Zaman, Nafisa	Harvard C
Lambers, Sasha	Florida State U	Zaphiris, Aidan	Harvard C
Lange, Sophia	Cornell U	Zhong, Kevin	Harvard C

**Congrats and best wishes  
to the class of 2024!**



# Congratulations, Giani!

*As you step into this new chapter of your life, we want to take a moment to honor and celebrate all your incredible achievements. Your hard work, dedication and perseverance have brought you to this significant milestone, and we couldn't be prouder of you.*

*Your journey has been marked by countless hours of study, moments of triumph and even the occasional challenge that you overcame with grace and determination. You've not only gained knowledge but also built friendships and created memories that will last a lifetime. Keep in mind that this is only the beginning of a brilliant and promising future as you graduate from BLS and receive your diploma. Remember that you have all the tools to succeed; keep reaching for the brightest and biggest stars and never stop believing in yourself.*

*We applaud you for motivating us with your enthusiasm and commitment. We can't wait to see all the incredible things you'll do in the years to come. Again, congratulations, and here's to a future full of limitless opportunities!*

*With all our best wishes,  
Love, Mom and Dad!*



# CONGRATULATIONS, MAGGIE!

*We love you so much and are so proud of you!*

*Love, Mom, Dad, Nolan and Quinn*



# Congrats

to all the graduating seniors of Latin 5 (and Caroline) ^\_^



# Congratulations Charlie, Pippa & BLS Class of 2024!



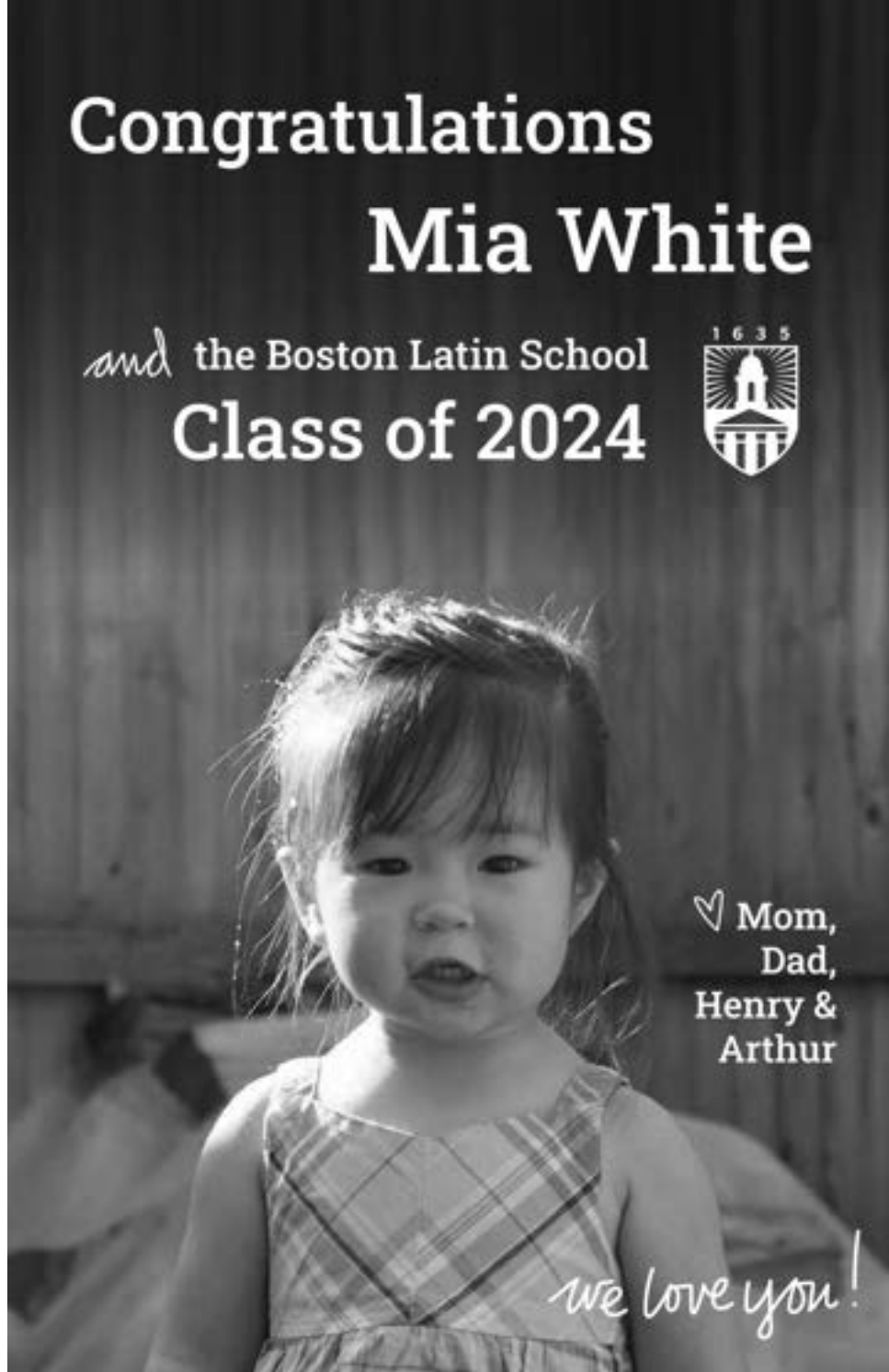
## Congratulations Mia White

and the Boston Latin School Class of 2024



# Congratulations Maeve, we are so proud of you.

Love Mom, Dad, Hannah, Caroline, Emma and Patrick!



Valedictorian  
**Jessica Li**



Dear Class of 2024,

After years of being stuck in the trenches (the front stairways) and battling fierce winds (the junior research paper and declamation), we've made it to the other side!

It somehow still feels like 2020 wasn't that long ago, when I was meeting you all through little rectangles on a computer screen as a B-sie. While I was scared to be the new kid, you all immediately welcomed me with open arms, and in the past four years, I've met some of the most amazing people.

While I'm excited to no longer need a bathroom pass to get away from mushrooms and fungus in the science classroom and to escape the stifling sixie hallway once and for all, there are so many parts of this school that I'll miss. I'll miss blow-

ing up gummy bears during Chemistry Olympiad, singing my heart out at Argo production weeks, late night Catapulta FaceTimes and fun Learning About Biochemistry experiments. I'll miss our deep discussions during math seminar, creating @blssleeperzz in French class and laughter-filled lunches. I'll miss clogging up Wollaston's after school with the soccer teams, making beautiful music with Concert String Orchestra and most of all, the many friends I've had so much fun with.

Boston Latin School has definitely changed me for the better, as I hope it has for you too. Trying to decode the Aeneid, having mental breakdowns and building physics flashlights at the last possible minute may have seemed like the end of the world at the moment, but it's all been worth

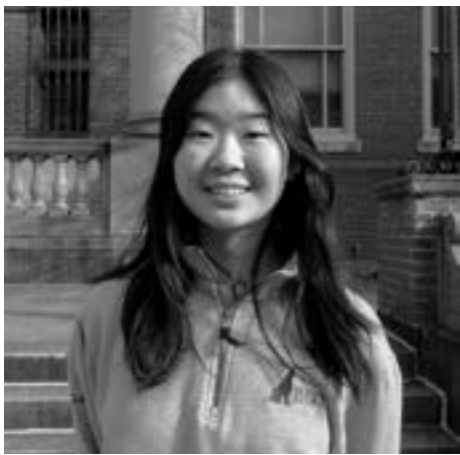
it. Through it all, we've grown more confident as students, developed great work ethic and become strong leaders. I am so proud of each and every one of you, and I cannot wait to see what you all accomplish in the coming years. Leaving here, it's time to pursue your passions, learn as much as you can about yourself and achieve your dreams.

Younger students: work hard, but never at the sacrifice of relationships or memorable experiences. You'll be much happier and a better student if you have a healthy balance of both.

See you all when we're gray, wrinkly and balding at our reunion.

Signing off,  
Jessica Li

Salutatorian  
**Jessie Wang**



Hello beautiful people of the Class of 2024!

It's really not hard to imagine the exact moment when you receive your diploma on stage in a purple robe, as I'm sure we've all fantasized about it over and over again. But it is hard to imagine its repercussions on our life. Leaving Boston Latin School? Waking up after six every morning? Using my phone freely in a hallway? It hardly feels real.

Everyone I've talked to has mentioned that it hasn't "sunk in" yet. They don't have the intense emotions they expected or feel like it's truly "all over." Part of the reason is because we're probably too worn out. We've been through a lot together: from sixie shenanigans to virtual school to Junior Forum sessions to college applications. I'm sure we are all definitely looking forward to a break from all the purple-tinged and paw-printed madness.

But perhaps part of the reason

why it hasn't "sunk in" for some is because it might not be truly all over for us. Many of us will continue to stay engaged with BLS (I know you're rolling your eyes, but hear me out) by visiting favorite teachers or clubs, volunteering as alumni or even returning as key-jangling, cell phone-collecting faculty members years later. I, for one, will be visiting the Argo to swipe some Insomnia cookies, following Ms. Cojohn on Instagram and finally calling Ms. Kwan Jess(i)e 2 right after graduation. I guess as corny and annoying we all thought speeches about our precious alma mater and "Te Scholam Matrem" performances (except for the hilariously off-pitch senior assembly one) were, it still is difficult to part with a school like BLS, where so many of us have blossomed into the people we are today.

The nostalgia is a double-edged sword. While I look forward to never seeing the dreaded blue, black and white screen of SIS again, I'll miss

cry-laughing during club meetings and being there to witness the talent and passions of my peers at Asian Nights, pep rallies and so much more. At the same time, I am so excited for a fresh start. After all this time and change, I cannot wait to discover what the world has to offer and apply what I have learned.

When I look back on the six years I've spent at BLS, I realize that I have changed so much as a person, yet I feel like not much time has passed. I'm not exactly sure when I transitioned from the stereotypical sixie running through the hallways to a proud senior entering a new chapter of her life, but I'm so glad that I did. I'm so glad that all of us did, and that we're ready to take the next step, together.

Congratulations, dear Class of 2024. Here's to old friends and new heights!

Jessie Wang

Layout Editor Comics!



Sophia Fortuin (IV)



Ashley Hur (IV)



# *Congratulations, Phineas Manasse-Latham!*

*We are bursting with pride and joy for you, Phineas! You have not only made it through a tough six years brilliantly, but are coming out as a terrific young adult, and we cannot wait to see what you bring to the world!*



*xoxo,  
Mom, Dad, Walt, Asher and  
Bailey*

To Roisin Foley,  
**Congratulations!**  
All of your hard work has paid off.



We love you very much and we are very proud of you. We wish you all the best at the University of Rhode Island and in all you do in life.

All Our Love,  
Mom, Dad, Eamonn, and Niamh

**MLV  
I  
IV  
III  
L  
M  
XX**

# Congratulations, Max!



It's been a JOY to watch you grow and be by your side to cheer for you. We are extremely proud of you and all your accomplishments. It's time for you to soar to new heights, to experience new adventures, expand your community and discover your passions and interests in life. We LOVE you!!! We will continue to cheer for you and we always will be here to support you.

Love - Mom, Dad and Sarah

# Congratulations, Colin!



We are so proud of you and all of your accomplishments!

Love, Mom, Dad, Caroline and Charlotte



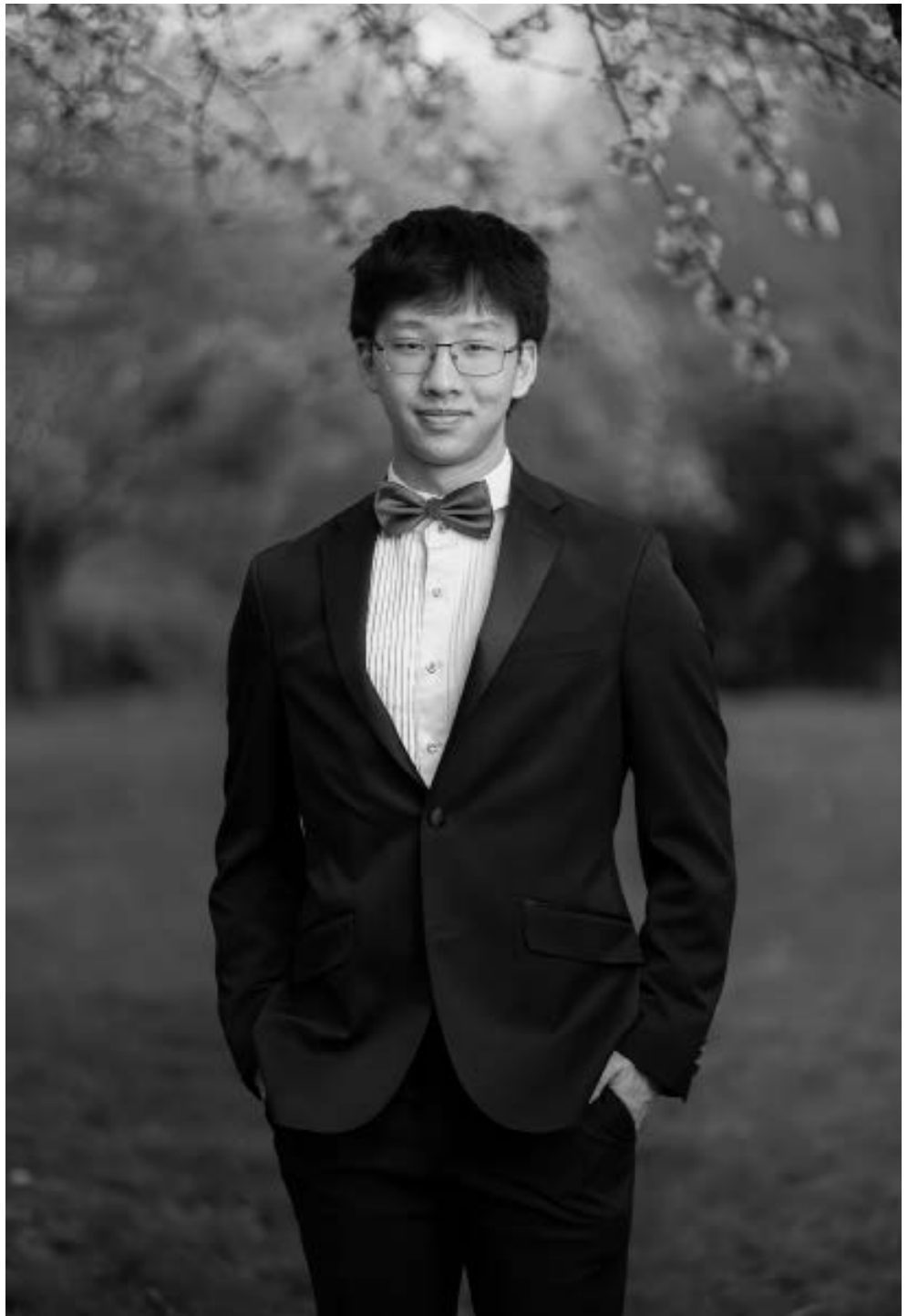
Ethan - you've run your way through BLS, from 7th to 12th and now that leg of the race is done! We are so proud of you!





**Congratulations, Jialin!!**

We are so proud of you!  
 Love you! ~ Mom, Dad, Hanlin  
*Thank you, BLS!*



**Congrats  
 Ayla Polson!!**

*Alicia,*  
 We are very proud of what  
 you have accomplished.  
 Best wishes to your next journey!  
*Mom and Dad*



### Spotlight on... Sam Chen (I)



By Roan Wilcox (II)  
& William Liyuan (II)  
*Forum Editor and Contributing Writer*

Samuel Chen — the former fetus of the debate team — is graduating. It's so strange to think that the debater and captain who has defined BLS Speech & Debate for the past six years with his unwavering passion and vision is leaving us. When you first met us as wide-eyed eighth grader, you were already a rising star. We were shocked and inspired by your commitment; it seemed as though you competed every weekend (and you probably did). Every team email and announcement came with notes lauding your achievements. One day, we thought, we'd be varsity debaters like you. As we are writing this (sitting behind you on an airplane bound for nationals), we are reminded that your passion has never wavered. Where lesser debaters have been washed up or torn asunder by life's various strains, you are the rock that has grounded our community. Your leadership and experience have been invaluable.

You are not just a pillar for our team, but for the whole community too. Whether you are serving on the National Student Leadership Council or organizing forums to increase equity in forensics, you have always had your eye on making real and meaningful change. Never content with having just a single focus, you've also founded an inordinate number of debate camps, institutes and academies

which have cultivated a new cohort of debaters across the country.

A man of many talents, you have also ventured into the worlds of business and the classics, with great success. In business, you qualified to the Distributive Education Clubs of America's international conference three times (including in freshman year!) — an accomplishment which remains unbeaten in BLS history. Through it all, you have always been a mentor for those looking for guidance, teaching the basics of roleplays and test-taking. In the classics, your inspired leadership as Consul made Junior Classical League one of the most successful clubs at BLS, reaping in accolades and making the Certamen team nationally competitive.

We'll always remember you most for debate, however. When anyone thinks of BLS Speech & Debate, they think of Sam. No matter what tournament or scrimmage we are at, when our fellow competitors hear that we are BLS students, the first words that come to their mind are: "Do you know Sam Chen?" "We do know Sam Chen" is invariably the answer. This truly speaks to your ability to break down barriers in an activity where competition is fierce. You embody the best in all of us. We are losing a generational leader to Harvard; they don't deserve you.

### Spotlight on... Zach Chen (I)



By Roan Wilcox (II)  
*Forum Editor*

I first met Zach at a Model United Nations (UN) meeting in 2021 during online school... or at least a black Zoom screen which said "Zachary Chen" — you always insisted that your camera was "broken." I didn't know it at the time, but over the next four years, Zach would come to have an enormous impact on my time at Boston Latin School.

Zach, I'm incredibly thankful for your friendship. Although I was initially hesitant, you convinced me to bridge the enduring rivalry between Model UN and Speech and Debate, helping me find my way as a delegate and debater. The memories I have made in both clubs will last a lifetime. Whether it be prepping Congressional Debate bills at midnight after finding out round assignments on Tabroom, soldiering through Harvard and Boston University's Model UN conferences for three straight days or commiserating about the outrageous cost of airport food en route to debate tournaments, I will always look back fondly on our time together.

It has been equally as rewarding to see you develop in the various activities we compete in. Your drive to increase the number of competitors in our debate event (we're catching up to you, Public Forum!) through aggressive recruitment, taking newcomers aside for specific feedback and leading Model UN

through the turbulent post-pandemic period speak volumes about your abilities as a natural leader. From the long calls about potential lecture topics and strategy to running sometimes mundane weekly meetings, your persistent dedication to helping others succeed, even if it means you will have more competitors in Model UN and Debate, is inspiring.

I'm forever grateful for your willingness to put down whatever you're doing to answer my questions, even if you have a mountain of work ahead of you. I would not be the person I am today if you hadn't acted as a guiding hand through BLS, pushing me to go out of my comfort zone and explore different interests.

Although perpetually sleep deprived, you also had your fair share of competitive success as well. To list just a few accolades, you've qualified to the national debate tournament more times than I can count, was a finalist at the International Science and Engineering Fair and, perhaps most impressively, you placed third at a Model UN conference after missing half of it because your alarm hadn't gone off that morning.

You have an amazing future ahead of you, and I can't wait to see what you'll do at Harvard come September!





Spotlight on...  
**Joanna Lin (I)**



By **Jessie Wang**  
 Forum Editor

Meet Joanna Lin: everyone's favorite academic weapon, fashion icon, cat lover and Pilot pen enthusiast. You've likely seen her name on the Daily Bulletin or heard her infectious laugh from the recesses of Room 319 or the Band Room. Consider yourself lucky.

Fortunately, I've had the opportunity to grow closer to Joanna through many organizations and experiences, including Catapulta, Senior Math Seminar, Senior Dance, Smoke Shop (BBQ) visits, multiple random Ice Spice karaoke sessions and some embarrassing pre-frosh activities we cannot disclose. As a result, I've been exposed to many of Joanna's abundant skills. Not only can she play french horn, basketball and the piano, she can also beatbox, eat up a freestyle rap and skateboard. She can also try her best at volleyball if she doesn't get distracted by Andrew's swing set first.

Something that I love about Joanna is how much she commits to absolutely everything she does. In addition to balancing Catapulta, JCL, DECA, a small business and the Argo, she is the most dedicated Poop Map user and the most loyal friend (which is almost as important). She always makes time for

her friends, no matter how busy she is or how deep into Production Week we are. Perhaps the only thing she has let down in her life is her side part from sixie year, which is widely mourned to this day.

Some say that Joanna is an old soul. Not only does she order HOT coffee from Dunkin' Donuts, but she prefers Applebee's over Olive Garden and probably Sade over Taylor. However, I firmly believe she is a Generation Alpha spy gathering intel for the younger generation because of her Fortnite dances and the stray "SkeeYee"'s she lets loose in the most random situations. Perhaps her behavior is a coping mechanism for the carpal tunnel she has developed from always throwing up finger L's.

Joanna, you always manage to blow me away with your kindness and ability to handle every situation with grace. It has been so fun to grow up with you these past six years as we turned from cringy sixies to even cringier seniors. Thank you for always having my back and introducing me to the mango smoothie from Tea-Do. In all seriousness, you're truly a highlight of my BLS career, and I'm so grateful to have been by your side for it all. Can't wait to watch you go higher than a mother-BLEEP!

Spotlight on...  
**Deliet Tewelde (I)**



By **Melanie Guilderson (I)**  
 Contributing Writer

Deliet Tewelde's remarkable journey through BLS has been a testament to her perseverance and growth.

I met Deliet in sixie year and watched her grow into one of the strongest people I have ever met.

Although many have labeled Deliet as clumsy or forgetful, she has worked quietly yet diligently to rid herself of that persona. She has spent countless hours studying at the library and had many lunches in the guidance office to work on college applications.

Indeed, her efforts were undeniably successful, as she has blossomed into an exceptional writer and our friend group's personal essay editor.

Deliet's story is not just one of academic success (a full ride to UMass Boston), but also of significant personal development, as she has overcome unimaginable obstacles. Deliet confronts her problems and seeks help and guidance when she needs it most.

She has never given up on herself, ever. Although I am trying, it will take me years to achieve the kind of resilience that she so effortlessly carries.

She is my inspiration, motivating me everyday to put myself first: Don't watch yourself get hurt. Instead, address the issue. At the same time, she has taught me not to blame myself for having issues or

things to work on.

As I've strived towards graduation, Deliet has been with me every step of the way, and I don't think I could have done it without her. We teach each other something new every day and support each other through our challenges (specifically late assignments, a frustrating issue we share); thus, whenever I am having a crisis, achieve a personal victory or am angry beyond words, my first call is to Deliet.

She has listened to me talk about the same boy for hours, or go on and on about a show she's never even seen before. She shows such genuine interest in the ideas, opinions and lives of others. We have shared so many laughs, as there is never a dull moment with her; I never feel like my endless yapping is annoying her.

Furthermore, the way she cares for her loved ones, especially her brothers, is extraordinary. She is an amazing sister, and I've never seen someone so dedicated to their family and loyal to their friends.

When I think about Deliet, so many wonderful qualities come to mind and I wish I could share them all. I will end with this: Deliet, you are incredibly intelligent, endlessly caring, unbelievably hilarious and I am honored to call you my friend.

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

Adopting a cat	Having a job in law that gives me the ability to help others and starting my family.	and protecting my peace	On the beach	Suffering from student debt
Alive hopefully	Hopefully a doctor/working with medicine	In your textbooks	On tour with either an artist or in a company	Ssuper duper rich
Amidst crabs	Hopefully doing research as a cognitive neuroscientist.	Learning	Owning a cat	Surrounded by the people I love
as a physician in a hospital.	Hopefully not in Boston hopefully on vacation	Living in Chicago with a dog named Winnie	Playing in the PGA	Teaching
As an officer in the Army	Hopefully rich and with many pets	Living in my highrise condo	Pondering	Traveling
As far as I can get from here	In a downtown apartment with two dogs	Living my best life	Practicing copyright law (hopefully)	Traveling the world
At a baseball game	In a lab	Living my best life in the homeland	Probably at a museum	Traveling the world & living in a castle
At Pats games	In a quaint little apartment with a fat cat	Lockheed Martin	Probably as depressed as I am now	Traveling the world and enjoying a Pina Colada
At the beach	In another country living it up!!!	Making a name for myself	Probably at BLS	Traveling
Becoming one with the insects (in a scientific way)	In Boston making my career	Making art	Probably out of the country, really gay, and living in a small cottage where I do witchcraft	Unemployed
Boston Police Officer	In Congress	Making bank	Rich	Vacationing in the Bahamas with my cats.
Building things	In debt	Making bank, founding startups, living life Mmaking laws in DC	Rich	Whipping my Porsche
Chugging champagne on a yacht	in debt in med school	Making money	Rich, in love, and happy	Who knows honestly
Coaching	In England	Making the world a better place hopefully / being the leader of the toppled government	Running by own law firm	Winning a Grammy
Commentating or reporting for the World Cup/Euros	In grad school	Maybe in Mexico or France	Singing at my concert on a stage on my world tour	With a doctorate making bank, while traveling the world.
Courtroom	In grad school	NOT AT BLS	Sipping cocktails in the park with friends	With a nail business
Dancing professionally at a ballet company	In hematology/oncology residency!	nuh uh	Somewhere	With Daryl Nguyen
Dead	In Margaritaville	On a beach	Somewhere beautiful	With millions of dollars because I made it out the trenches
Defending my Doctorate	In Med School probably.	On a beach hopefully	Specializing in reconstructive surgery	With the man of my dreams and three kids.
Doing what I love	In medical school in California (Stanford hopefully)	On a boat	Stacking paper to the ceiling and riding on 24-inch chrome	Working
Exhausted from medical school	In New York	On a film set	Starring in a Broadway musical	Working a concert
Far far far away from Boston	In New York City	On a private boat	Still drawing cartoon monsters	Working as a nurse hopefully in Boston
Latin School	in orbit	On a yacht	Still in college or maybe residency	Working at a hospital
Finding a cure to a disease through biomedical research.	In the boiler room at bls	On a yacht with a man 6'4 or over	Still in school :(	Working at the hospital
Founding startups	in the woods collecting rocks	On Broadway	Successful	Working remotely while traveling the world
Glowed up tremendously		On my yacht		Yearning
Graduated from law school hopefully?		On my yacht off the coast of Italy		
Happy and wealthy				
Happy, hopefully				
Happy, I hope				

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

Alex...don't let them bother you.  
All bls students ... it's ok to not have big friend groups just find that small group of people or person who mean the most  
All of you will never regret being kind  
Andrew...stop stressing about the minuscule things, I know you want to do great things but you already are! (CMS BOUND)  
Anyone...don't take Physics anyone...take at least 1 layed back relaxing class like art  
Anyone...you're not special--no one will care if you mess up or do something silly  
Audrey...take part in all the hobbies you love! (stop quitting things)  
Bart...get ready for the zoo  
Black and brown students...don't assume this space isn't for you. It is made for you whether others like it or not!  
Bsies...make your electives count  
Caroline Butler...eat more vegetables  
Caroline Song...have a functional sleep schedule (please?)  
Don't worry, it will eventually be your time to graduate  
Eighth Graders...now that you're acclimated, do every extracurricular you think is interesting  
Eighth graders...Take it easy! This is the most fun, least stressful year you will have in your BLS career!  
Ellie...don't get caught  
Everyone...be real  
Everyone...create as many memories as possible before you leave  
Everyone...do what you love!  
Everyone...don't take yourself too seriously.  
Everyone...don't worry too much  
Everyone...find good people to be friends with  
Everyone...hang out with Daryl Nguyen  
Everyone...make friends with your teachers  
Everyone...play football

Everyone...remember that there is beauty in this world that is worth fighting for.  
Everyone...to get enough sleep  
Everyone...to get enough sleep  
Everyone...to not procrastinate  
Everyone...to try new sports  
Freshman...join as many clubs as you can to have for applications  
Freshman...your grades matter  
Freshmen...grades DO in fact matter all four years of high school so have fun but don't slack off  
Freshmen...to start doing clubs and sports as early as possible  
Future Seniors...Don't slack off, work hard in your big finish and then once all the stress is over, do enough to get through but don't overwork yourself.  
Gabby ... have fun the next two years  
Helen Chen...you can do it!  
Incoming students...to make sure to get all of your homework completed. You may not do great on a test, but homework grades can save you. This was the case for me in physics.  
Jeilyn...to continue being amazing and kind  
Juniors...actually look into the colleges your applying to before you apply to them  
Juniors...do not take ELA 12.  
Either take AP Lit or drop out  
Juniors...don't fret. College apps aren't that bad.  
Juniors...don't mess up your GPA and get help when you need it  
Juniors...don't take physics!!!!  
Juniors...don't wish your time away  
Juniors...it's going to be okay, you got this  
juniors...its never that serious  
Juniors...show to college admissions officers WHY you do what you do not just WHAT you do  
Juniors...spend summer wisely  
Juniors...take AP Lit  
Juniors...talk to as many new

people next year as possible  
Juniors...term 1 and 2 of senior is just as hard if not harder that junior year, so stay locked in until college results come out  
Juniors ... to not do all your college apps last minute  
Juniors...to write your JRP in JUNIOR year...like...seriously  
Juniors...you will get in to college  
Kaleigh Hislop...to lock in.  
Lily Crowley...to stop napping in class  
Luka Moreau...get his money up  
Madz...live it up!  
Math students ... make study guides/ formula sheets for every chapter as you learn them  
Middle schoolers ... lock in freshman year  
My friends...to stop messing with loser men.  
Myself...to keep at it  
Next year's seniors ... don't take AP Lit drop it as soon as you can  
People who are unmotivated... lock in  
Rising ninth graders...to lock in for the next four years  
Rising seniors...don't act hyper-competitive during college apps season. Collaboration and helping each other out makes the process more fun and less stressful  
Rising seniors...don't pay attention to the negativity that others emit  
Rising seniors...drop Physics 1  
Rising seniors...keep your grades up 1st and 2nd term because those terms are very difficult and rigorous, but also the most important for colleges!!  
Rising seniors...Senioritis is very silly :)  
Rising seniors...sleep!!  
Rising seniors...to not stress about where you end up going for college because at the end of the day everything happens for a reason.  
Rising Seniors...to take two art classes senior year!

Robert Cal Hale the Fifth...don't mess it up :3  
Seniors...to have fun :) time goes by so so fast  
Seniors...YOLO!!  
Sixies...be prepared how fast time flies  
Sixies...carry everything in your bag (no worry about your locker)  
Sixies...chill  
Sixies...do NOT stuff everything in your bag please  
Sixies...do what you enjoy and try to find activities in or outside of school that align with them  
Sixies...don't take anything too serious to where you can't still have fun  
Sixies...don't wait to join clubs  
Sixies...find things you are passionate in and become the best at it.  
Sixies...go for it! You'll have a great time no matter what  
Sixies...have fun  
Sixies...have fun!! meet everyone!!  
Sixies ... is to keep an open mind and try everything  
Sixies...it does get easier after sixie year (surprisingly)  
Sixies...know that once you make it through the first year it gets SO MUCH BETTER  
Sixies...learn to study early  
Sixies...lock in  
Sixies...stop making chains with each others backpacks  
Sixies...take French it's the easiest A+ ever  
Sixies...to enjoy every day as a high school student because it goes by so quick.  
Sixies ... use your studies!  
Slow walkers...MOVE OUT THE WAY  
Sophie Shepherd...keep smiling :)  
sophomores...don't let sophomore slump set in - you'll regret it  
STEM students...Take AP Physics instead of AP Chem  
Steven Le...Never stop being you.  
Students...stay skibidi

Take Art!!!!  
The Next Head of Set for Theater...  
MAKE A PLAN AND DO NOT PROCRASTINATE  
Underclassmen...be a part of something that interests you!! it's never too late  
Underclassmen...complete all essays early  
Underclassmen...do homework during all your classes so you have free time later  
Underclassmen...do things that truly matter to you; passion is attractive!  
Underclassmen...don't let your fears stop you from trying something that you love.  
Underclassmen...don't listen to the haters, do what's best for your future (college wise)  
Underclassmen...don't worry to much about your grades go live your life  
Underclassmen...enjoy being at school with your friends even if it's hard sometimes because you're going to miss it  
Underclassmen...enjoy your senior year activites  
Underclassmen...find something outside of school that fulfills you  
Underclassmen...foster good relationships with your teachers.  
Underclassmen...please take advantage of all the amazing opportunities bls has to offer !!  
Underclassmen...sleep more  
Underclassmen...test out what makes you feel content  
Underclassmen...to take the classes and electives that YOU want, not the ones that will look good for college  
Upcoming seniors ...enjoy their year and their friends  
Upcoming seniors...enjoy it while it lasts  
Upperclassmen...make to do lists and stay organized  
Younger students...listen to Mr. Rinaldi

# Most Useful Thing I Learned

A busy schedule is worth it if you are doing things that fulfill and interest you.  
Advocating for myself  
Always have your resume updated  
Always prioritize your happiness  
Anything is possible  
Balancing a heavy workload  
Balancing schoolwork and a social life  
Balancing way too much at once  
Be friendly with everyone and work hard  
Be friends with people who you actually want to be friends with.  
Common sense  
Common sense  
Competitive Culture  
Cosx is the derivative of sinx  
Do not expect a passive friend to have your back  
Don't procrastinate  
Don't procrastinate the little things, they build up!  
Dont stress out about everything  
Essay writing for college  
Everything that Daryl Nguyen has taught me  
Everything's connected, life's a big piece of fruit, eat the core  
Existentialism  
Finding enjoyment in what you do is the only way to live.  
Form good connections with your teachers, ask for help when you need it  
Gaslighting  
Get your money up not your funny up  
Go for it!!  
Good study habits  
Hard work (corny sorry)

Having a good work ethic carries you very far  
Having connections will get you further than just good academics  
How to "BLS" my way through things  
How to avoid doing homework  
How to be an adult  
How to be productive while also being insanely anxious and depressed (thanks BLS!)  
How to bs  
How to BS anything and everything  
How to bs my way through any problem  
How to bs my way to the top  
How to budget my time and commit to staying focused (Still working on it)  
How to communicate  
How to conjugate a third conjugation verb in Latin  
How to cram  
How to cram  
How to cram  
How to cram everything in at the last minute  
How to cram study  
How to cram the night before and still get a good grade  
How to effectively bend the truth slightly  
How to effectively procrastinate  
How to fake it  
How to find opportunities  
How to finesse  
How to finish things right before the deadline  
How to form arguments  
How to get the best parts for any group assignment.

How to get work done efficiently  
How to Google things effectively  
How to handle large work loads  
How to handle stress  
How to invest  
How to juggle multiple assignments due during the same time period  
How to lead a large group of people  
How to make friends  
How to make fun of people behind their back  
How to manage my time  
How to manage my time  
How to manage my work and time.  
How to manage time and my schedule  
How to memorize the Calvin Cycle, Krebs Cycle, and glycolysis in one night before the AP Bio test ^\_^  
How to photoshop and tolerate the worst kinds of culture club presidents  
How to pretend I read something  
How to prioritize tasks based on time  
How to procrastinate successfully  
How to procrastinate with confidence  
How to public speak  
How to public speak  
How to say a lot without actually saying anything  
How to sleep with my eyes open  
How to socialize  
How to speak in front of crowds without getting nervous!  
How to write  
How to write an essay in 2 hours

I learned how to work harder than I should  
Investing in stocks  
It is never that deep, just thug it out.  
It's better to face things head-on even if your scared because pushing things to the side just produces more stress  
It's never that big a deal  
Just do the bare minimum  
Keep thuggin  
Keep your secrets to yourself  
Latin  
Learn to be open in order to connect with people  
Mr. Harris's class  
Never procrastinate  
Nothing  
Nothing is that serious, no one should be put on a pedestal  
People appear smarter than they actually are  
Politics & History of the United States  
Prioritize yourself  
Probably the stuff we did in resume lab.  
Public speaking  
Public Speaking  
Public speaking  
Public speaking  
Public speaking  
Pythagorean theorem  
Self love is important  
Sleep  
Sometimes you need to talk back to teachers to get your point across.  
Stay out of the rat race  
Stick with the people and things

that make you happy  
Stoicism  
Stoicism  
Stressing about grades is not worth it and doesn't help you at all  
Studying  
The ability to cram.  
How to be organized.  
How to be a leader.  
The Bill of Rights  
The grindset  
The hidden curriculum  
The mitochondria is the powerhouse of the cell  
The most useful thing I learned was to advocate for myself. I am not able to email teachers with issues that I have and that has helped me immensely.  
The power of friendship  
The world doesn't stop for you  
Time management  
Time Management  
Time management  
Time Management  
Time Management  
Time Management  
Time management skills  
*Ubi est porcus*  
Using time efficiently  
Volume by Revolution (disk method)  
When in doubt go with your gut and fake it till you make it.  
Who to make friends with  
Work Ethic above everything  
Write an essay in under an hour  
Write down everything on your agenda before you forget writing, argumentation, and public speaking skills  
Yapping



## Best Memory

2:15 bell every day  
 2023 *Argo* final Fridays with karaoke and ballroom dancing  
 All the seniors coming out of their hr to sign T-shirts  
*Among Us* during lunch in online school  
 AP Calc BC tables  
 Arbs  
 Art with Mr. Harris  
 Asian night 2022  
 Asian Night 2023, and what came after :)  
 Asian Night 2024  
 Asian Night 2024  
 Asian Night 2024  
 Asian Night 2024 & Mr. Southwick going over pear-deck responses (sec. red <3)  
 Asian Night 2024 Gangnam Style  
 Asian Night  
 Asian Night  
 Asian Studies Capstone  
 Band field trip junior year  
 Baseball Carpool  
 Basketball tournament  
 Beating English  
 Beating English Senior Year  
 Beating Westford  
 Being with friends  
 Bentley snorting a rock in Ms. JP's seventh grade Earth Science  
 BLS hockey states game  
 BLS Jog Racing  
 Book room praefecting  
 Burning a cheeseball in chem Capstone  
 Capstone presenting day  
 Cheer

Chilling in 420A  
 Day 6 R6 Student Leadership  
 DC field trip with Facing History  
 Defeating the allegations  
 Dressing up as Mr. Worldwide  
 Eighth grade year, the last day, senior skip day or my senior night  
 Every single friendship I've made here  
 Exploring the school at night  
 Fernandez Spanish Class  
 First Day of Sixie Algebra 1  
 Friday nights :)  
 Getting food with friends before school concerts  
 Going on the roof  
 Going to Florida  
 Going to Mr. Smith's room during my studies  
 Going with Jessie to the All-Eastern music festival in Rochester, New York  
 Gospel Fest!  
 Graduating  
 Greece and Turkey Trip  
 Greece and Turkey Trip  
 Greece and Turkey Trip with Latin 5 in Senior Year!!  
 Green Line after school Guild/Theater  
 Hanging out with friends  
 Hanging out with friends  
 Hanging out with friends before orchestra concerts  
 Having a three period long yap session in the percussion room.  
 Having to explain what ho-moeroticism is to somebody

because of Top Gun  
 Hockey game at TD Garden  
 Hockey game at TD Garden  
 Junior prom  
 Junior year prom  
 Last chorus concert (so bitter-sweet)  
 Last day of school  
 Last day of school  
 Learning to play Ultimate Frisbee  
 Learning we'd have to finish eighth grade online  
 Leaving  
 Leaving  
 Lunch chants on the last day!!  
 Lunch with the nurses and Ms. MacDonald :)  
 Madame Blackler's French 4 Class  
 Making brownies in Ms. Co-john's room  
 May 24 2024 at 2pm  
 Meeting Daryl Nguyen  
 Meeting my best friends for the first time  
 Missing class to chat with Ms. Sylvester  
 Ms. Burke's English class  
 New York Trip with Theater  
 Pep Rally  
 Pep rally  
 Performing music at the Hatchshell  
 Playing cards at the end of the year  
 Playing tag in the halls before concerts  
 Prom 2023  
 Props Closet  
 Senior assassin

Senior football games and pep rally!!  
 Senior sendoff for YouthCAN  
 Senior Skip Day  
 Senior Skip Day  
 Senior Skip Day  
 Senior Skip Day  
 Senior Skip Day  
 Senior Skip Day  
 Senior spring  
 Senior Sunrise  
 Senior year  
 Senior year art class  
 Shake Shack after Harvard  
 Commencement  
 Show Choir's Baystate performance  
 Sitting by the window during the rain  
 Skip day  
 Spending every day at KFT in seventh grade  
 St. Patrick's Day + BLS Hockey Game at the TD Garden  
 St. Patrick's Day hockey game  
 St. Patrick's Day Weekend  
 St. Patrick's Day senior year  
 St. Patrick's Day this year  
 St. Patrick's Day/Hockey game  
 St. Patricks Day State Championship 2024  
 Staying late at school for concerts even when Im half awake  
 Staying until 10:30 P.M. to paint for theater  
 Tahzel  
 taking walks during class  
 The day in class before any break  
 The days leading up to winter break

The Facing History Eastern Europe Trip  
 The fashion show  
 The ones I don't remember  
 The pep rallies especially senior year pep rally because everyone was screaming and celebrating for the last time.  
 The simple things  
 Theater guild 2024!  
 Traveling around America :)  
 Shoutout to DECA and Debate trips  
 Trip to Greece and Turkey  
 Vb senior night  
 Wacky Wednesdays  
 Walking thru the halls after school w my bestie  
 Walks through the Arnold Arboretum  
 Ward Fellow DC Trip  
 Ward Fellows DC trip & Senior Year April Break Cali trip  
 Watching the Incredibles  
 Watching *Troy* in Latin sixie year with Mr. Smith  
 When my mom would pick me up early to go get pizza  
 When there was a bird in Ms. Burn's room and the sub got mad at us because he wanted us to ignore the bird  
 Winning Halloween costume contest  
 Winning States  
 Winning the DCL for the first time with the wrestling team  
 Writing crack fanfiction during class  
 Yapping in the Topol Fellow room during Capstone

## Worst Memory

Latin 3 tests over *Zoom*  
 10th grade  
 11th grade English  
 11th Grade Math  
 2021 Hybrid Mode  
 203's puma socks and toes  
 4 projects due in one week  
 7th grade  
 8th grade year  
 A teacher cold calling on *Zoom*  
 A teacher making me cry in 7th grade  
 Advanced Precalc  
 All of Advanced Precalc  
 All of sophomore year  
 All of the walkouts  
 All the times i fell on the stairs :)  
 Almost every moment  
 Always throwing up sixie year  
 Any english class of ever  
 AP Bio  
 Ap Bio class  
 AP Calc  
 AP Stats  
 AP Stats class  
 AP tests  
 APUSH  
 APUSH  
 Being berated by a language teacher in front of the class until I cried  
 Being forced to take a test while in the middle of an anxiety attack  
 Being pulled into admin's offices several times  
 Bleeding on my chair in English class  
 Boring assemblies  
 COVID  
 Covid  
 Crying in the bathroom one too many times

Crying while getting yelled at by a certain teacher  
 Declamation  
 Declamation  
 Declamation  
 Declamation  
 Declamation  
 Declamations  
 Doing an Ap Lit presentation and then walking out mid way through.  
 Doing college applications, coming back form virtual school, chemistry class  
 ELA 12  
 ELA 12 with a certain former movie star  
 End of Sophomore Year Depressive Spiral  
 English 10... (the teacher hated me)  
 English 12  
 English 12  
 Every day  
 Every day that I walked into Latin 4  
 Everything before Junior Year  
 Facing History DC Trip  
 Failing a summer precalc test  
 Failing my first test  
 Falling going UP the stairs sixie year.  
 Feast  
 Final declamation, I blanked  
 Finals  
 Finals  
 Finding out the opps were scheming behind my back  
 First day of school sixie year when I couldn't find anyone to sit with at lunch  
 Freshmen Year Covid  
 Getting a 76 on my English essay  
 Getting a censure  
 Getting a migraine in a class

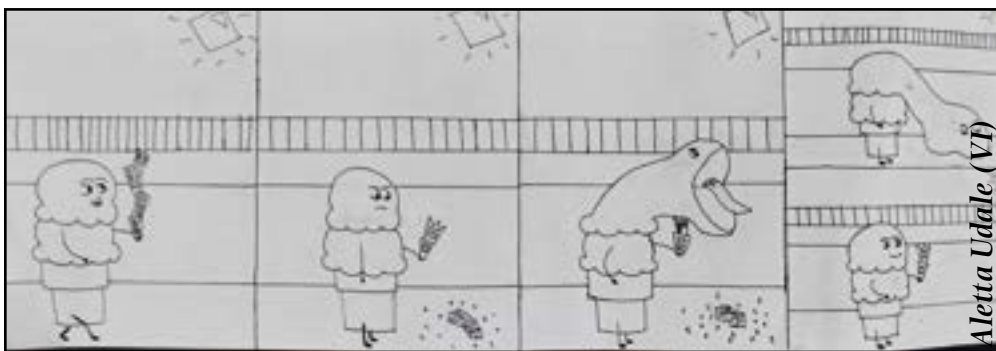
on cuneiform and almost passing out otw to the nurse's office  
 Getting broken up with via mutual friend in the 3rd floor bathroom  
 Getting caught cheating  
 Getting caught cheating  
 Getting caught cheating in ELA as a Sixie  
 Getting caught for skipping  
 Getting covid in 10th grade  
 Getting falsely accused of using *ChatGPT*  
 Getting got by teachers in the hallways  
 Getting hit in the head by a door and getting a concussion for five months  
 Getting lost sixie year and crying  
 Getting my binders thrown in a big trash barrel.  
 Getting pee water sprayed back at me after flushing the toilet. I didn't know it was broken.  
 Having my first AP Lit essay and Harvard application due the same week  
 Having panic attacks during presentations :')  
 In 8th grade when I was searching up covid statistics and a teacher said she couldn't trust me with a Chromebook in front of the whole class and I cried. Later that year, I remember I woke up with a stiff neck so it was tilted the whole day and I had to declaim like that also.  
 Junior precalc  
 Junior prom  
 Junior year  
 Latin

Latin 4  
 Latin 4  
 Latin 4 final exam.  
 Latin 4, it burned me  
 Latin class  
 Latin Declamation  
 Latin finals  
 LATIN on *Zoom*  
 Latin Prose  
 Latin Prose  
*Mean Girls* Rehearsals  
 Missing a lot of school in eighth grade and falling behind.  
 Missing school because I wouldn't see Daryl Nguyen  
 My phone getting taken away on the third floor before 7:45...  
 No such thing  
 Not getting *Argo* EiC  
 November 2023  
 Online Concert  
 Online gym class  
 Online school  
 Online school  
 Performing my seventh grade composition project for Fundamentals  
 Physics class  
 Physics flashlight project  
 Precalculus  
 Precalculus  
 Sixie declamation class, someone cried during it  
 Sixie declamations  
 Sixie *Instagram* groupchats  
 Sixie year English teacher who is now retired  
 Sixie year when a teacher called me in front of the class when I hiccuped and told me to hiccup in front of the whole class. I cried.  
 Slipping by the stairwell  
 Someone trying to get in my

stall while I pooped  
 Sophomore year  
 Staying up until 2 A.M to finish my AP Calc project  
 Taking facing  
 The entirety of 9th grade  
 The entirety of freshman year  
 The entirety of *Zoom* school  
 The Latin Prose playlist project that I pulled an all-nighter for  
 The SASSY gc private comments from teachers  
 Throwing up in the Uber on the way back from Mark Cronin's House  
 Trash talking a teacher to a friend during *Zoom* and accidentally unmuting  
 US History 2  
 Useless classes  
 USH II  
 Wearing masks  
 When a certain sixie English teacher falsely accused me of plagiarism in front of my entire class  
 When a teacher stole my \$40 playa  
 When a teacher took me out of Latin class to tell me off about ruining a school computer even tho it wasn't my fault and it could've easily been cleaned with some paper  
 When I got hit in the face with a milk jug  
 When I had to leave in the middle of R5 Latin to throw up in sophomore year  
 When someone didn't do their latin homework  
 Working overnight for weeks during the pandemic.  
 Yes  
*Zoom* classes

# Things I'm Glad I Did

Actually try in class	DECA	Join theater	Put myself out there to get new friends, especially in senior year.	Take AP Stats
AN2024	Do things I thought I would fail at	Joined band	Quit track	Take art during my senior year
AP art	Drop AP Stats	Joined clubs	Run for President	Take asian studies, join BLS
AP GOPO	Eastern Europe trip	Joined Photography Club	SEAL :)	Powerlifting, not dropping AP CSP
AP Lang	Everything	Joined the Cheer team	Show Choir	Take Enviro with Ms. Dorcy
AP Lang with Ms. Barich	Facing History	Joined the step team	Show up late to school	Take Facing
AP Latin	Facing History	Junior Prom	Skip	Take Latin 5 ^_^
Arbs	Finish hw in school	Keep an open mind	Skip class	Take myth senior year
Arbs	Get litty with the boys	Lacrosse	Skip school to go to the beach	Take psychology
ARGO!	Go on the roof	Learned from people better than me	Sleep	Take several mental health days
Asian night	Go out	Lock in enough to get into my top school	Sleep in class	Taking my required classes as soon as possible
Asian Night	Go to the hockey game	Make friends	Slept instead of staying up late at night	Talk back to teachers
Attend the Arnold Arboretum Band!	Going to Fiber Arts and learn to crochet	Meet new people	Spend time with friends after school	talk to new people
Become a praefect in the library	Got an accordion folder	Meet RD	Sports	Talk to teachers and create strong connections with them!!
Big Band	Got my time management under control	Meet Will Erwin	Sports	Tennis Team!
BLS Theatre	Had fun	Mock Trial	Sports	The <i>Argo</i>
Break up with my ex	Had fun	MOTH day	Start doing art seriously	Theater
Break up with my ex	Hang out with Daryl Nguyen	Not quit violin	Started hockey	Theater, learned how to play drums
Bring a shopping cart for anything but a backpack day	Homework	Philosophy club, take Facing History with Ms. Freeman	Starting a club	Thursday club
Can	Join a bunch of clubs and student events	Physics	Stayed in band all 6 years	Took FVA !!!
Capstone	Join a sport	Play an instrument	Stop trying to make everyone like me and start focusing on the fact that I love myself	Tried pottery
Capstone	Join A.S.I.A. :)	Play Football	Student leadership	Tried Saxophone Junior Year
Cheer	Join concert band	Play sports	Swim team & Senior dance	Try
Cheer	Join Show Choir	Played BLS soccer	Switch in AP Lit	Try hard and clutch up
CLUBS	Join THAT one club in sophomore year	Played music and did ap psych and joined swim and crew	Take a whole bunch of APs	Try new things
Community service	Join the <i>Argo</i> + Date Joanna Lin	Played sports	Take AP Chinese	Visit the pool on the roof
Concert String Orchestra	Join the Girls' Crew Team, create BLS LAB, take French	Played sports, picked classes I liked	Take AP Economics when it was both Micro and Macro	Went on the Washington DC trip.
Connect with my teachers	Join the Step Squad	Praefect at the library	Take AP Euro	
Crew		Push myself		
Debate, Science Fair and performing in Asian Night				
DECA				



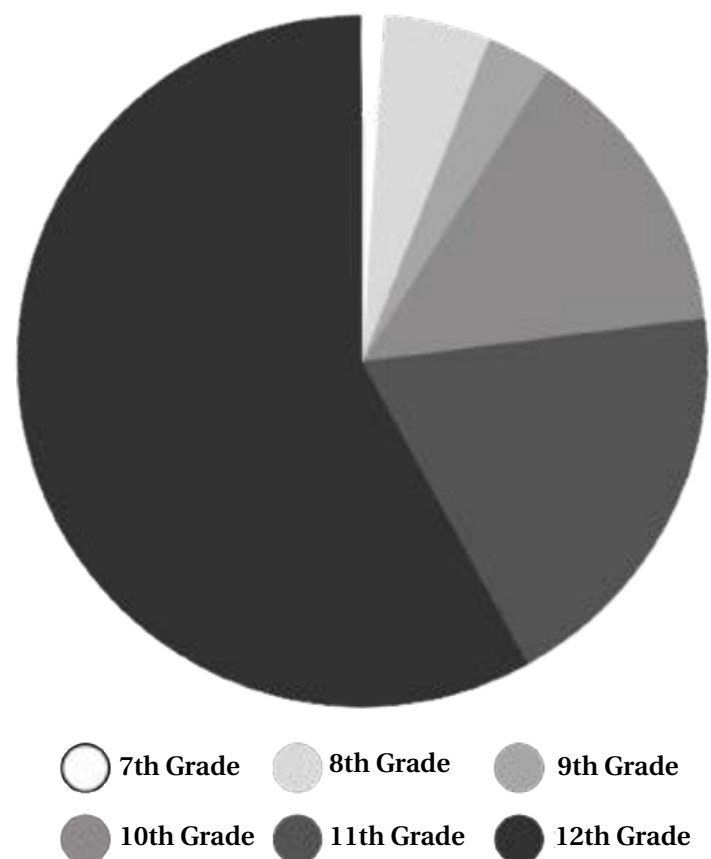
## Top Five Spots at BLS:

1. Art Wing
2. Music Wing
3. Black Box
4. Library
5. Guidance Offices

## Class of 2024's Favorite Teachers

1. Mr. Sullivan
2. Mr. Harris
3. Mr. Gay
4. Tie: Mr. Zou & Ms. LA
5. Mr. P

## Class of 2024's Favorite Grade





## Favorite Class

AP Afro	AP Economics	have friends :)	Creative Writing	Humanities
AP Afro	AP Enviro	APUSH	Creative Writing	Humanities
AP Art	AP Environmental Science	APUSH	Econ with Rinaldi	Humanities
AP Art	AP Environmental Science	APUSH	English 10	Humanities (w Mr. Sullivan)
AP Art	AP Environmental Science	APUSH	English 10	Humanities with Mr. Sullivan
AP Art	AP Euro	Art	English 11	Italian
AP Art	AP Euro	Art	Environmental Studies	Italian 4 with Mr. Rodriguez
AP Art	AP Euro	Art	Every class that I had with Daryl Nguyen	Latin
AP Art	AP Euro	Art	Facing History	Latin V
AP Art	AP Euro	Art	Facing History	Latin V
AP Art + Modern Asian Studies	AP Euro	Art	Facing History	Lunch :)
AP Calc AB	AP Lang	Art	Facing History	Ms Moguel's sixie Latin class
AP Calc BC	Ap Lang w/ Ms. Barich!!!	Art :D	Facing History	Ms. Walshak graphic art
AP Calculus AB	AP Lit with Ms. Burke	Art class	Facing History & Ourselves	Ms. Arnold's 8th grade history class
AP Calculus BC	AP Mech	Art with Mr Harris	Facing History and Ourselves	Music Theory
AP Calculus BC	AP Psych	Art with Mr. Harris	FOPO	Myth
AP Calculus BC	AP Psych	Art!	Foundations of Visual Arts	Myth
AP Calculus BC (with Ms. Cojohn)	AP Psych	Asian Studies	French	Myth
AP Chem	AP Psych	Asian Studies	Graphic Art	Myth
ap chem	AP Psych	Asian Studies	Graphic Arts	Myth Trad!
AP Chem	AP Psych and AP Enviro	Asian Studies	Graphic Arts - I had the most fun in this class since I had the freedom to create art without many restrictions for the first time in my BLS career	Myth tradition
Ap Chem for the class, AP Stats for the content	AP Psychology	Asian Studies!		Mythology
AP Chemistry	AP Stats	Bio 2 and AP African American Studies		Orchestra
AP Chemistry	AP US Gov	Biology II		Precalc
AP Chemistry	AP US Gov	Capstone		Psychology
AP Chemistry	AP World	Capstone		R4 Study
AP Chemistry	AP World History	Capstone		Regular Music Theory
AP Comparative Government	AP World with Ms. Pinchem	Chinese 3 R5 with Ms. Yang & ELA 9 with Mr. Oakes		Senior Math Seminar
AP Comparative Government	APEC	COGO		Senior Math Seminar
AP CSA	APES	Computer Science Principles		Senior Math Seminar
AP CSP	APES	Creative Writing		Spanish 4
Ap Econ	APES with Mr. Gay			Spanish 4 with Ms. Fernandez
	APES, classes where I actually			

## Class I Didn't Expect to Like, but Loved

10th Grade Latin	AP Language and Composition	APUSH	English 11	Mr Barry's English Class
American foreign policy	AP Lit	APUSH	English 11	Mr. Harris Art
AP Biology	AP Lit	APUSH	English 11 (with Mr. Sullivan)	Mr. Spezzano's Biology 2
Ap Calc	AP Lit	APUSH	English 11 (with Mr. Barry)	None :(
AP Calc	AP Lit	APUSH w/ Mr. Rinaldi	English 8	Physics
AP Calc AB	AP Lit	APUSH with Ms. -Balbian	English 9, Bio, or AP French	Physics
AP Calc AB	AP Lit	APUSH with Rinaldi	Environmental science	Physics
AP Calc AB	AP Lit	Calc	Facing History	Physics
AP Calc BC	Ap Literature (shoutout to Ms. Moon!)	Calc	Facing History	Physics 1
AP Calc BC	AP Mech	Calculus	French 3	Physics 1 - it made me realize I actually like math
AP Calc BC (for the ppl)	AP Microeconomics	Calculus	FVA1	Physics 1 (at least the circuitry unit)
AP Calculus AB	AP Psychology	Calculus	Geometry with Mr. Smith	Physics 1 with Mr. O
AP Calculus BC	AP Statistics	Calculus with Ms. LA	German	Physics Mech
AP Calculus BC	AP Stats	Capstone	Graphic Art	Physics.
AP Calculus BC	AP US Gov	Chem	Graphic Arts	Pre Calculus
AP Chem	AP World	Chem	Graphic Arts	Pre-Calculus
AP Chemistry	AP World History	Chem 1	Humanities	Precalculus
AP CSA	AP World History	Chemistry	Humanities	Precalculus
AP E&M	AP World History	Chemistry	Humanities	precalculus (Ms. Sarkis is my queen)
AP Econ	AP World History	Chemistry (not the class but the people)	Humanities	Senior Math Seminar
AP Econ	Ap world history	Chemistry	Humanities	Spanish 4
AP Economics	AP World, Ms. Webb is the GOAT	Chemistry	Humanities	Theatre
AP Enviro	APES	Computer Science Principals	Latin	US 2 with Ms K
Ap Enviro with Ms. Dorcy	APUSH	Econ	Latin	US History
AP Environmental Science	APUSH	Econ	Latin	US History 2
AP European History	APUSH	Economics	Latin	US History 2
AP Lang	APUSH	English 10 (I didn't think I would be in Daryl Nguyen's class)	Latin 2 and Statistics	US II
AP Lang	APUSH	English 11	Latin 4 with Ms. Burns	
AP Lang	APUSH	English 11	Latin Prose	
AP Lang	APUSH	English 11	Latin Prose	

## I Had a Secret Crush On...

8th grade flynn	Charlie Jenkins	Harry White and Luke Fredericks	Meera	Ryan Hobbs
Aaron Cassidy	Christian Lopez	Hayden Cooper DuPont	Meera	Sadly none of them are secrets
Aidan Fitzpatrick	Colin Blair	Jabari	Mindy Luong	Sam Chen
Aleksa	Colin Fisher	Jackie	Minh	Saoirse Callanan
Alexander Zachary Ahmed	Cosi	Jackie Hanlon	Minh Nguyen	Sean J.
Alexander Zack Ahmed	Damian Berry	Jackie Hanlon	Mitchell Phesay	Sean Jaffe
Ali Cajiga	Daryl Nguyen	Jackie Hanlon	Molly McDermott	Sean Jaffe
Ali Cajiga	Deshawn Vega	Jackie Hanlon	My friend's older sister	Sean Jaffe
Ali Cajiga	Diamond Nguyen	Jessica Li	My pillow every night	Sean Lendaro
Alyssa Liang	Dory Russell	Joanna Lin	Nick DiCicco	Sean Lendaro
Amelia Roylance	Dylan Furlonge	John D'Amico	Nick Seaver	Stella Kotter
AP Calc BC <3	Eleni	Jude Cannon	Nico L'Huillier	Thaicha
Ayla Polson	Ellora Bhatt	Kevin McClerklin	No one	The Boys' Soccer Coach Nick
Ben Rothman	Estivan Lezama	Logan Phesay	No one :(	Vivian Popa
Ben Rothman	Ethan Andersson	Logan Phesay	No one, I'm aro :)	Will Erwin
Bennett Resner	Ethan Andersson	Luke	Olivia McCarthy	Wilson
Billy Cunniffe	Evelyn C.	Luke Fredericks	Oscar Ali	YEW
Bryan	Fiona Yuan	Mari Baker	Patrick Jackson	Your Mom
Cal Hale	Gavin McDermott	Matt Carrara	Patrick Jackson	Z Colimon
Caroline Daly	Griffin Berry	Matt Carrara	Ronan Brown	Z Colimon
Ceva Stanley	Grisbely	Matt Carrara	Ryan Gohlmann	Zach Demichele
Ceva Stanley	Hailey Tran	Max Deane	Ryan Gohlmann	Zara Fenton & Nabeli Peña <3

## I Will Miss...

A lot of free time  
All my school friends  
All of my beloved argonauts and seals  
All of my friends  
All of the friends that I have made and being able to see their lovely faces everyday.  
AP Euro  
Band T\_T  
Bang'n BLS Cooking Show group  
Being a hater  
Being able to make and hearing other people make intellectual jokes  
Being young  
BLS Jogracing  
Boiler room  
Chats between classes  
Childhood  
Clogging the toilet in the gender neutral bathroom  
Cracking my back in the desks  
Crochet Snorlax  
Eating Ms. Murray's snacks  
Emma Reitz  
Eric Power  
Everyone  
Everyone  
Everyone :(  
Everyone :(  
Everything honestly  
Exploring different restaurants around Boston with my friends  
Going on the roof  
Going to my locker  
Aossiping in art class  
Hall of fame bathroom

Hanging out at the Galleria with friends before concerts  
Hanging out in the library  
hanging out with all of my friends  
Having the most stressful thing in my life be a group project  
JCL & my friends  
Jenny Chen !!  
Kaitlyn Ho-Tran !!  
Leaving early when I had a study R7  
Lighting things on fire in class  
Like 3 people  
Living in Boston and seeing people everyday  
Looting Ms. Clougherty's snacks  
Lunch table poker  
Main office student leadership morning laps with my friends  
Mr. Galego  
Mr. Harris  
Mr. Harris  
Mr. Rinaldi's class and rants  
Mr. Simoneau(Sim)  
Mrs. Clougherty's Office  
Ms. Kwan  
Ms. Sarkis  
Ms. Segal and her candy  
Ms. sylvester  
My 6 year old BLS lock  
My *Argo* babies :(  
My beautiful friends.  
My Creative Writing table #bless  
My friend, Ms. JP, Ms. Bateman, Mr. P, the Girls' Crew Team

My friends  
My friends  
My friends  
My friends  
My friends  
My friends  
My friends  
My friends  
My friends  
My friends  
My friends  
My friends  
My friends  
My friends  
My friends :(  
My friends :( (  
My friends (basic i know)  
My friends & lunch table  
My friends and our hangouts after school near my locker  
My friends!!!  
My fwends  
My girls!!  
My guidance counselor  
My M7 card  
My school-issued Chromebook  
My senior year lunch table  
My senior year R5 class  
My teachers  
Nothing  
Nothing  
Nothing.  
Playing basketball with friends  
R5 graphic arts :(  
R7 study gossip sessions  
RD's room

School events, like *Tet* Festival  
Second lunch  
Second lunch  
Second lunch  
Seeing all my friends in the halls in between classes  
Seeing Daryl Nguyen  
Seeing everyone  
Seeing friends everyday  
Seeing my friends every day  
Seeing my friends everyday  
Seeing in Mr. E's office with my friends  
Sitting with my friends in the art wing  
Skipping class in the Music Wing :(  
Skipping English and orchestra classes  
Sleeping in class  
Sleeping uncomfortably on those hard ass seats in the auditorium until my limbs go numb  
Standardized test taking  
Standardized test taking  
T Smith  
Taking laps in the mornings, conversing through the hallways, and the long trek to lunch just yapping  
The 2:15 bell  
The art wing  
The auditorium after all the lights are out  
The Bus after a win  
The euphoria that getting 2 hours of sleep gave me  
The feeling of knowing we are

all going through this together  
The few friends I actually like <3  
The food truck  
The hours before our fall or spring concerts where everyone is downstairs in the cafeteria getting ready or practicing  
The library  
The main office  
The music wing.  
The nasty school lunches  
The part where that's my problem.  
The people  
The people, clubs, and some classes are actually interesting (yes they are)  
The routine  
The schedule  
The stupid silly drama Theater  
This group of seniors u :)  
Walking around the halls with Ryan Hobbs  
Walking around the halls with Saoirse  
Walking around the school  
Walking around the silent building when I stay late for a show  
Walking laps in the hallways with my friends  
Walks around school during class  
Watching *Netflix* in class  
Watching sixies run to lunch  
Wrestling team

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

"Mayo fanpage"...being the best friends ever and making my days a 1000 times better.  
"Up a thousand"...being my ride or dies  
Aiden Hu...helping me make it through the year.  
Alyssa...teaching senior dance  
BLS...showing me how to cope with way too many things at the same time  
Creighton...inviting me to play Among Us with Eduard and Damian in 9th grade  
Daryl Nguyen...everything  
Elektra...always scavenging for food with me  
Eliza Kollett...being my best friend for the past six years  
Ellie Haigney...giving me a brownie  
Ellora Bhatt...always making me giggle  
English...the trauma  
Evelyn Kwan...being so real and relatable  
Everyone...everything  
Everyone...a great 6 years  
Fredy...letting us do whatever we wanted in class  
Gibbons...coaching me and allowing me to succeed  
Gibbons...leading me  
Gina...everything  
God...my mortal body  
Guidance ... always being supportive  
Hobbs (Ryan)...thugging it out w/ me  
Iris + Ailin...carrying violin 1s  
Mr. Luu...being such a helpful person to talk to and for never letting me fall  
Mrs. Craven from sixie year...being harsh because it allowed me to realize that I needed to work harder in order to succeed at BLS.  
Jed...being the realest oat  
Joydeep...being rich  
Jperroti...excusing all my absences  
Keeva Donoghue...making high school enjoyable and memorable  
Lindsey Jiang ...helping me with

my AP Lit poetry notebook  
Madame Blackler...always genuinely caring about my well being, not just my missing assignments.  
Maya Tran...Being the best junior ever. I love you!  
mbaker407...being the realest *Roblox* player since day 1  
Mr. Barry...helping me get out of the habit of saying "like" and "um"  
Mr. Beyer...being nice  
Mr. Beyer...encouraging my writing and being so helpful  
Mr. Brown...for letting me sleep through every single class  
Mr. Carrigg...getting inspired to pursue photography  
Mr. E...always letting me chill in his office and for cracking jokes  
Mr. Gay...being goated  
Mr. Gay...DONUTS  
Mr. Howard and Mr. Brownell...making me love classics again ^\_^  
Mr. Howard...feeding me  
Mr. Levesque...being the only relatable administrator  
Mr. Luu...for being super supportive throughout my years at BLS  
Mr. Oakes...caring about his students and their interests  
Mr. P...fostering my love for chemistry.  
Mr. Perotti...excusing my absences and tardies  
Mr. Pietrangelo...getting me a 5 on AP Chem  
Mr. Pitts...Pushing me to join Big Band.  
Mr. Rinaldi...being the GOAT  
Mr. Rinaldi...keeping it real  
Mr. Simoneau...not failing me  
Mr. Smith...being there for me  
Mr. Smith...making my sophomore year more enjoyable  
Mr. Smith (Geometry)...suggesting I work in music  
Mr. Snyder...letting me play his piano  
Mr. Southwick...dealing with my dumb questions afterschool  
Mr. Sullivan...becoming a role

model  
Mr. Sullivan...making me laugh everyday  
Mr. Sullivan...my college recommendation  
Mr. Sullivan...teaching me about stoicism and how to write an A+ paper in humanities  
Mr. Sullivan...teaching me what it means to be human  
Mr. WINaldi...being a great Teacher  
Mrs. Bowles...letting me eat lunch with her everyday  
Mrs. Clougherty...just being there for me and other students whenever we needed it  
Mrs. Moon...making me a better writer  
Ms. Archer...getting me through math  
Ms. Barich...pushing me to always work hard to improve my writing skills  
Ms. Bateman...supporting me and my love for science.  
Ms. Bowles...always believing in me when i didn't believe in myself  
Ms. Bowles...always pushing me to do my best  
Ms. Burns...being there for me in the darkest moments  
Ms. Campot...for teaching me *The Great Gatsby*  
Ms. Campot...making me a better writer.  
Ms. Clougherty...everything, constant support and making me feel so welcomed and seen"  
Ms. clougherty...always having my back  
Ms. Clougherty ...being so kind-hearted  
Ms. Foley...always giving us the space to be ourselves and applying each lesson to our lives  
Ms. Foley...always putting student's mental health first, even before her own.  
Ms. Foley...being the best  
Ms. Foley...letting me sleep  
Ms. Freeman...being such an important mentor to me  
Ms. Gribaudo...not giving me

an F in conduct after catching me cheating on the last test of online school  
Ms. JP...being an amazing club advisor.  
Ms. Kanakry...helping me with my college apps.  
Ms. Kanakry and Ms. Sigillito...always being there for me :)  
Ms. Kwan...all the donuts  
Ms. Leung...showing me I'm not bad at math!  
Ms. McKenna...allowing me to bug her everyday without fail.  
Ms. Moon...for helping me improve my essays  
Ms. Moon...being a great teacher :D  
Ms. Pierce...always supporting me :)  
Ms. Sarkis...all the extra credit  
Ms. Sarkis...saving my life in math  
Ms. Segal...helping me through everything  
Ms. Sweeney...making the college process as smooth as possible  
Ms. Sylvester...being the best guidance counselor and always helping me out  
Ms. Sylvester...being there for me  
Ms. Walshak...being the first person I've met in real life to be a big fan of Industrial and Goth music and for being the most chill and supportive teacher I've had  
Ms. Webb...being the coolest hr teacher  
My brother...all the advice he gave me  
My Capstone table...getting me through the year  
My clubs...great events  
My ex...setting the bar very low  
My exes...teaching me how not to love people anymore.  
My friends...not wetting the bed!  
My friends...being epic  
My friends...being so supportive  
My friends...giving me good advice (iykyk)  
My friends...making school worth it  
My friends...pushing me

My friends...being there when I need them  
My friends...making BLS bearable and enjoyable  
My friends...making 6 years of memories  
My friends...making stuff fun  
My mom...always having my back and being my number one supporter.  
My old french potato fry...being my number one-ilysm  
My parents...endless support  
My parents...everything  
My teachers...everything  
Myself...graduating  
Myself ... putting up with all of y'all's nonsense  
Paul Linso...10th grade  
Penelope Duff-Wender...being the best co-president  
Rosey Pooh and Ms. AA...stopping me from crashing out.  
Sam and Zach...being real ones since sixth grade  
Sam Chen...Computer Science  
Sammy...being a great friend the past six years and always being there for me  
Saoirse Callanan...being a real one  
Show choir...making Thursdays so entertaining  
Sixies...making human chains up the stairs  
That one person in tenth grade...leading me to the most amazing friends ever  
The juniors in my physics class...making it more bearable  
The nurses...helping heal me and provide a safe space for mental breakdowns  
The unappreciated custodian, lunch ladies, workers...making BLS what it is  
Valeria...being the best sister (& summer roomie!) these past 6 years  
Victoria...you are the sweetest, kindest, prettiest girl I will ever meet and thank you for sticking with me and stinking up my side for the past 12 years (+many many more to come).



# Things I'm Glad I Didn't Do

A sport	Capstone, AP Lit	Go to Arbs	Play a spring sport	Take AP Chem
All nighters	Chemistry	Go to Arbs	Procrastinate too much	Take AP language classes
An instrument	Clubs (I found myself outside of school)	Go to Arbs	Public declamation	Take AP Latin
Any of the guys here	Clubs I'm not interested in just for college	Go to Arbs/Can	Public declamation	Take AP Lit
Anything physics related	Commit to a sport	Go to Fallon	Public declamation	Take AP Lit
AP Bio	Computer Science	Go to parties	Quit band	Take AP Music Theory
AP Biology	Continue playing lacrosse	Go to Senior Skip Day	Read most of the ela books	Take AP Stats
AP Latin	Crew	Go to the sixie year Holy Name dance	read the books	Take APUSH
AP Latin	Crew	Having to apply to colleges during winter break	Sacrifice my sleep and happiness for my grades	Take E&M
AP Latin	Debate	Holy Name, dude what even was that	Saxophone in Senior Year	Take English 12 instead of AP Lit
AP Latin and AP Physics	Debate	Join the <i>Argo</i> cult	Sell my soul	Take it too serious
AP math	Debate	Joined a BLS sports team	Sell my soul to Paul Pitts	Take Latin Prose
AP Physics Mechanics	Do any sort of music at BLS	Latin 5	Senior assassins	Take like 12 APs
Arbs	Do drugs	Latin declamation	Senior Capstone	Take physics
Arbs	Drink or smoke	Latin Prose or AP Latin	Senior Capstone	Take physics
Arbs	Drop out	Most of my homework in 9th Grade	Senior trip to baha	Take physics
ASIA	Drugs	Nicotine	Shower in the locker room	Take senior capstone
Band	Drugs, vaping, etc.	not get pregnant	Skip out on hanging out sith Daryl Nguyen	Taking Advanced PreCalc
Be super fixated on my grades all the time	Eat school lunch, go to school dances	Not getting senioritis	Skip too much of school	Took any of the AP science courses
Become a super senior	Enter the forbidden stairwell	Orchestra for 6 years	Sleep through my alarms	Track
Become addicted to nicotine	ERAV	Party hard eve though I knew who was throwing em	Smoke	Track Team
Become an alcoholic	Ever sleep less than 5.5 hr	PHYSICS	Smoke/vape	Try
Burn out	Fail or "do bad" in any classes	Physics	Stay up for homework	Try in AP CSP
Calculus	Get addicted to nic	PHYSICS!!!! OH MY GOD DO NOT DO THAT SENIOR YEAR	Stress as much as half of these people	Try in Ela
Capstone	Get high in school	Play a sport	T pose in sixie assembly	Vape
Capstone	Go to a tennis game		Take an AP science	Vape
Capstone	Go to Arbs		Take AP Calc BC	Vape at school
Capstone, an instrument"			Take AP Calc or Stats	Vape drink, do drugs, etc.
				Vape in the bathroom

# I Admit to...

Academic dishonesty	wing floors	math class	Nothing	building every morning
Attempting to cheat on a quiz in sixie year fundamentals of music.	Dropping crazy deuces in the music wing bathroom	Listening to "Keep Going, Don't Give Up" by Vivian Popa on repeat	Nothing (I am a saint)	Sneaking back into school after 4
Becoming a <i>ChatGPT</i> warrior	dropping out of bc	listening to music all day every day	Ordering food to school multiple times	Spying on what people are doing on their computers.
Being the origin of many sophomore scandals	Eating the whole box, the whole pound	Looting every house's pantry I went to	Ordering food to the school more than once, even though we got in trouble the first time.	Yall are weird.
<i>Chatgpt</i>	Failing all my recordings during covid	Lying about getting the answer right for the <i>New Yorker</i> to get candy from Mr. Sullivan	PDA at school..	stalking teachers' instagram pages
Cheating x12	Falling asleep in French 3.	Lying about grades to friends making out multiple times in the 1st floor bathrooms	Pooping at school	Staying late after club meetings ended to have a quiet study space
Cheating during Covid year	Falling down the stairs (multiple times)	making out with my friend in the first floor girls bathroom	Pooping in school	Staying up way too late playing games with the boys
Cheating on all of my calc tests	Gaming in class	making silly faces at the security cameras	Pooping in the faculty bathroom.	Stealing a role of tape
Cheating on so many exams/homeworks	getting a censure	Missing BLS	Procrastinating my term essays until the night before it was due.	Stealing candy from BLS Theater
Cheating on the listening quizzes in Chinese	Getting caught cheating	Mouthing off to some teachers sometimes	Pulling all-nighters to write each of my ELA essays in one night (I still got A+ on all of them)	Stealing chocolates from Mr. Harris
Cheating/Skipping	Getting lice sixie year	My dad averaging an 8 minute drive from Charlestown to get me to school on time not cheating	Purposefully clogging a toilet	Stealing looks at Daryl Nguyen
Chinos	getting multiple lunches	Not having a lock on my locker all of senior year	Searching "stuff" up during COVID year	Stealing stuff from teachers desk
Climbing onto every high surface in the school (Music Wing roof, Auditorium catwalks, etc...)	Giving up on school entirely in February	Not knowing any of your names	Sending my friends my APUSH notes (sorry Mr. Rinaldi)	Stealing the clock in the auditorium before a concert
Clogging the toilet in the gender neutral bathroom	Going for walks when I asked to go to the bathroom	Not reading 70% of the books	Sending Sean Lendaro a carnation on Valentine's day.	Taking a dump in Clemente woods
Copying and pasting the first 5 pages of my JRP to meet the 10 page requirement.	Going on the roof	Not reading an English book since 7th grade	Sitting on the toilet and peeing through my Adidas pants because I couldn't untie the string in sixie year	Taking pictures of teacher's keys to make copies of
Crying at school	Going out of the window in the Music Wing	Not studying	Sleeping through every class	Using faculty bathroom
Dating weird people	Going to arbs and can	Not studying for a single test I took	Smuggling dunkin into the	Wanting to steal the flag from the front of school
Deleting a few questions off assignments to finish them faster	Going up onto the roof	Nothing		Writing all my college essays the weekend/day before they were due
Doing a math project one period before it was due	hating 24/7			Writing my entire ELA essay in one night.
Drawing wieners on the wall	Having a crush on one of my teachers			<i>Zoom</i> bombing Mr. Njoku's class
Drinking all the BLS 7th floor pool water.	having some regrets			
Dripping paint on the music	Hiding in the loft above the stage so I wouldn't have to help set up			
	I failed chorus freshman year. I fully had a 10 percent for the whole year...			
	Learning how to sleep sitting up because of BLS			
	liking 7 different guys in my			



**WE ARE SO GRATEFUL FOR YOUR LIGHT IN THIS WORLD, ANNA CLAIRE, AND FOR THE BRILLIANT, BEAUTIFUL, AND KIND-HEARTED INDIVIDUAL YOU HAVE BECOME. CONGRATULATIONS ON ALL YOUR MANY ACCOMPLISHMENTS THUS FAR. KEEP SHINING!**

**WITH LOVE ALWAYS, MOM, DAD,**



# Henry, congratulations!



*We are very  
proud of you!*

*Love, Mom &  
Dad*

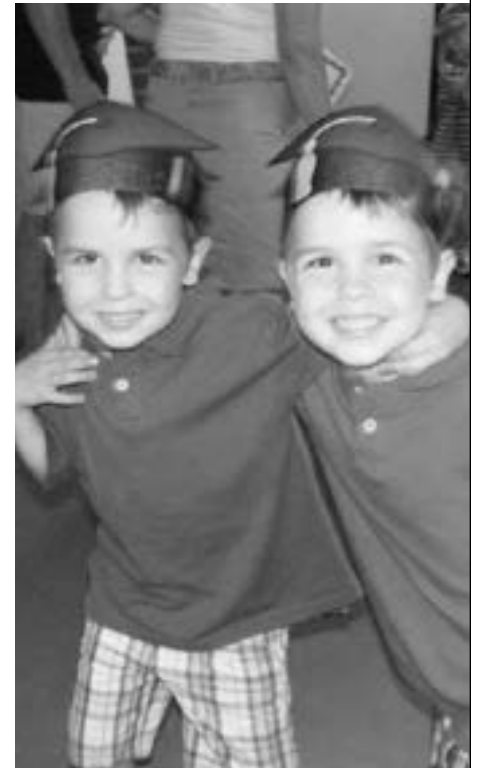


*Congratulations, Ryan and Brendan Hobbs!*



We are so proud of all you have accomplished!  
Can't wait to see where the future takes you!  
Good luck at Union College and Catholic University!

We love you!  
Love, Mom, Dad,  
Sean, Haley and Maya!



**Congratulations to Max and Hannah Rubinstein**



*Congratulations, Max & Hannah!*  
*We are so proud of you two!*  
*Love, Mom & Meems*



***Bobby Banks,***

***Jack's Sixie/Day 1  
chaperone into BLS!***

***Thank you for the  
memories, support  
and leadership.  
We are so proud of you.***

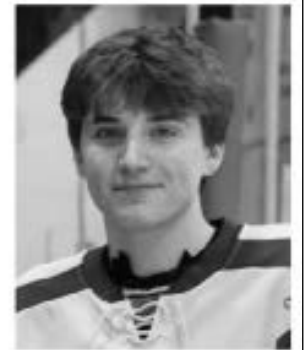
***Best of luck next year.***

***Kevin, Alexis &  
Jack Tkachuk***



***Aidan,***

***There are two certainties in life.  
One, you have an incredibly bright  
future ahead and two,  
you took full advantage of  
a BLS education devoid of  
any late fees.***



**WOW...JUST WOW!**

**THE MEMORIES!**

**CONGRATULATIONS, MATT!**

**WE ARE SO PROUD OF YOU!**

**LOVE,**

**MOM, DAD, EMILY, JENNA & CHARLIE**





# Illuminating the Night of Lights

By **Bridget Blair (IV)**  
& **Lauren Dong (IV)**

Staff Writer and Contributing Writer

On May 17, Asian Students In Action (A.S.I.A.) hosted their biggest event of the year: Asian Night. Hundreds of attendees, consisting of students, faculty and family members came together to enjoy a spectacular set of performances which honored the Asian American and Pacific Islander community at Boston Latin School.

The theme “A Night of Lights” serves to recognize the many unique celebrations students have with their cultures through light as well as shed light on and honor the talent within the Asian American community of the School.

A.S.I.A. officer Angela Deng (IV) remarks, “It’s also a way to represent the opportunities that all of us as a student will have in the future, showing that there is light even if there is darkness.”

The event started at 6:00 P.M. and students scrambled to purchase tickets, which were seven dollars and could be purchased at the door or from an A.S.I.A. officer. Before the performances began, people were able to enjoy food from the Eggroll Cafe food truck, which was parked

outside the front entrance of the School.

Once the event began, attendees were treated to diverse and impressive performances, ranging from a reimagined take on the traditional lion dance to a fashion show. The event was in conjunction with several in-school and out-of-school groups, including BLS Koreo, BLS Desi, BLS Dance and The Color Blue. Guest speaker and alumnus Johnny Wu (’90), CEO of Quartz Capital Advisors, shared his experiences on finding success and grappling with his identity.

Many of the performances, such as those of BLS’s own Zebra Therapy, BLS Koreo and BLS Breakers, involved the use of lights and lighting changes in order to enhance their performances.

“It’s really exciting because there’s so many people and the performances are really cool. I like the energy,” says Noah Liu (III) when explaining why the culmination of Asian Night was appealing.

The amount of collaboration between the groups along with the fact that this is the most elaborate event that BLS A.S.I.A. puts on each year meant that Asian Night took quite a lot of set up.

The A.S.I.A. co-presidents and officers were selected last school year, and the planning took place at weekly Tues-



BLS Dance dances their hearts out at A.S.I.A.’s annual Asian Night.

day meetings, which began soon after winter break. Everything from marketing and logistics to the booklet design and talent lineup was handled by the executive board, all of whom had to balance preparation efforts with schoolwork, especially during AP exam season.

A.S.I.A. faculty advisor Mr. Steven Chen remarks, “This is not something that comes together magically. It comes together

er through the work and blood, sweat and tears of many, many people who are involved.”

While the event may have required a lot of work to put together, it is one of the most encompassing ways that the diversity and talent of the BLS community is showcased. It is also a great way for all attendees to learn more about the traditions and beauty of many Asian cultures.

## Spotlight on Henning Washington (I)



By **Kenneth Cacho-Bermudez (III)**  
Staff Writer

Henning Washington (I) has been dancing for seven years, ever since he was introduced to the art form in the sixth grade. After finding love in the medium, he developed his skill by taking lessons. Recently, he founded his own dance program.

When Washington first began his dance journey, his school partnered with an organization that provided lessons to

students. He stayed with the program up until his junior year, realizing that if he wanted to take dancing to the next level, he could not continue. He later ended up performing in a competition where he was able to keep practicing his craft.

Ever since Washington discovered dance, he has developed a keenness to art. To him, dance is more than just moves and choreography — it is his life. Washington remarks, “I am so lucky to have found my purpose in this world at a really young

age.”

Raymond DuFauchard (III), a family friend of Washington, adds, “I’ve known Henning for a long time. [...] I’d often go to his shows or see him practice at family gatherings.”

Washington centered his Capstone project, which he researched and worked on for his entire senior year, around dance, and more specifically, hip-hop around Boston. He feels that it often goes unrecognized due to a lack of jobs in Boston and its proximity to New York, which has a bustling dance scene.

As part of his Capstone project, Washington founded Boston 4 Life Dance (B4L), which aims to bring awareness to local and emerging dancers. He also feels that people are sometimes warded off from dancing because of the skill gaps they may have with established dancers, which he strives to destigmatize through his program.

Washington ultimately wants B4L to go global, hoping to showcase to the entire world the creativity and zeal of dancers in Boston. But at the end of the day, the number does not really matter — it’s about the impact it causes. Washington explains, “If maybe even one person goes and takes a clacouss because they saw my website, that’ll be enough for me.”

In addition to dance, Washington also plays the viola and has performed at Music Night to showcase his skill.

In terms of the legacy he leaves at Boston Latin School, Washington wants people to know how much effort and love he has put into dance. He states, “If people remember anything, it would be how driven I am towards achieving my goal of entering the entertainment industry and the impact I would make.”

Concerning his future, Washington reveals he “has it all planned out.” He will attend Boston Conservatory at the Berklee College of Music where he aspires to get his bachelor’s degree in commercial dance. From there, he plans to move to Los Angeles with his friends after landing a show to take classes and do auditions, eventually dancing at award shows like the Grammys, hoping to go on world tours with artists. Afterward, he wishes to foster the next generation of future dancers.

The ardor and the devotion for dance is something that will accompany Washington far beyond the halls of BLS. Hard work and determination are values that he holds dear, and he doesn’t seem to be getting rid of them anytime soon.

DuFauchard concludes, “I know his hard work [...] will take him to his dreams and beyond.”

## Laufey’s Bewitched: The Goddess Tour Enchants Boston

By **Aurora McLaughlin (IV)**  
& **Julia Morellato (IV)**  
Contributing Writers

On May 7 and 8, Laufey’s “Bewitched: The Goddess Tour” came to Boston, where the artist initially began her music career. Known for hits such as “From the Start” and “Goddess,” Laufey has recently gained popularity for reintroducing jazz to modern media.

The concerts, held at the Wang Theatre, lasted from around 8:00 P.M. to 10:30 P.M. According to *SeatGeek*, tickets for the shows reached “as low as 70 dollars with the average price [being] 417 dollars.” The decision to perform at a theater instead of a stadium added to the elegance and charm of Laufey and her music.

The performances began with an

opening act from the group Wasia Project, a British duo of Olivia Hardy and William Gao. Katie Baide (IV), who attended the show, recalls the atmosphere of the concert: “I remember looking around and everyone was wearing a dress or skirt, [and] almost everyone had a bow in their hair. Despite not knowing each other [...] the energy in the theater felt very safe and welcoming.”

All of her albums had songs featured in the setlist. From her first album, notable tracks include “Typical of Me,” “Like the Movies” and “I Wish You Love.” She also performed hits, such as “Valentine,” “Falling Behind” and “Let You Break My Heart Again,” along with her two encore songs “Letter To My 13 Year Old Self” and “Street By Street.”

Maggie Hanlon (IV) comments, “The setlist was fire, she had a really nice mix be-

tween all her albums. I liked that she would play some songs that weren’t specifically popular.” Laufey definitely used a blend of all her albums, carefully choosing how to flow from each song to the next. Laufey even referenced pop star Taylor Swift, drawing comparisons with her own song transitions to how Swift similarly introduces her songs.

Combining a modern taste with an undertone of old charm, Laufey’s music usually explores themes of love, heartbreak and identity. Laufey has always tried to make a kind and safe environment for her listeners through constantly interacting with fans and reflecting her genuine joy toward her audience.

Laufey’s performances in Boston were especially significant, as Laufey’s music career originally began in the city.

Between songs, she conversed with her audience about Berklee College of Music, her alma mater, joking with the audience about doing their ear training homework and even quizzing them on what note she was playing.

At the end of Laufey’s performance, she played a special encore song as a tribute to the city called “Street by Street.” The song, written while she was studying in Boston, is about taking back the city after a heartbreak. Laufey reflects on the song, “I looked out at Boston from my dorm on the 14th floor on Mass Ave., and I thought, ‘I have to take back this city.’ I think it’s safe to say that I have.”

Laufey’s presence and discography has taken mainstream pop music media by storm, weaving hints of jazz to modern music and especially to Boston.

# Hallyu! Korean Pop Culture Makes Waves in the MFA



MFA's *Hallyu!* Exhibit displays outfits worn by popular K-pop idols.

By **Sophia Fortuin (IV)**  
& **Sophia Knobel (IV)**

Contributing Writers

Over the last century, South Korea has emerged as a global superpower in the worlds of art, music, technology, cosmetics and cinema.

From March 24 to July 28, the Museum of Fine Arts (MFA) is displaying the story behind this rapid rise, known in Korean as *Hallyu*, or the Korean Wave, and its effects on culture. General admission tickets cost 17 dollars for youths seven to 17 years old, but are free for all on June-teenth on a first-come, first-served basis.

*Hallyu! The Korean Wave* is a truly unique exhibition, being the "first major exhibition to focus on South Korean pop culture and its worldwide influence."

It houses around 250 objects, ranging from moon jars dating back to the Joseon Dynasty to outfits worn by popular K-pop idols in the 21st century.

The exhibit is split into several sections, each highlighting a unique element of South Korea's pop culture. It starts with the Korean artist PSY's signature pink suit jacket, a homage to the iconic 2012 hit song "Gangnam Style," the first music video on *YouTube* to hit one billion views. Boston Latin School AP Art and Design teacher Ms. Elizabeth Walshak comments, "I remember in 2012 hearing PSY's 'Gangnam Style' and [...] realizing what a hit sensation it was. I think that carved out a space in American pop culture for the influence of Korean media."

A large reason for South Korea's ever growing international cultural in-

fluence is due in part to its swift industrialization process after its devastation in the 20th century, which came from the Japanese occupation and the Korean War. Under military dictatorship, South Korea combated their post-war economic state with rapid societal modernization, juxtaposing new technologies with old traditions, while trying to restrict Western influence. This effort was futile though, since Western pop culture infiltrated South Korea through American military bases, and is now very prevalent in South Korea. In a couple decades, the nation went from being severely impoverished to hosting the 1988 Summer Olympic Games in Seoul and founding huge corporations like Samsung and Hyundai. The MFA surfs on this wave by exhibiting photographs and even old electronic parts from that time of astronomical economic growth.

Of course, the MFA can not introduce Korean pop culture without mentioning K-pop. K-pop is not just comprised of music; it also includes elaborate choreographies, performances, fashion and even reality television. Its massive takeoff from international obscurity is largely due to fans' continued loyalty to their favorite groups and the strict beauty standards that idols must adhere to. *Hallyu! The Korean Wave* displays outfits worn by popular K-pop idols as well as a collection of light sticks that fans use during concerts.

Other forms of popular Korean entertainment include K-dramas and films. The exhibit features a replica of the bathroom set of the Academy Award and Golden Globe-winning film *Parasite*, as well as the all-too-recognizable outfits from the internet sensation TV show *Squid Game*. South Korea "provided a

unique blend of genres in their films that gradually gained notoriety in the West," *s Hollywood Insider*. Korean shows and movies range from romance to horror, giving viewers many options to choose from.

Being a leading country for technology, it is no surprise that South Korea has also made great advancements in the beauty industry, known as "K-beauty." Currently, it is the third largest exporter of cosmetics in the world. Many Americans use K-beauty due to its affordability, advanced makeup formulas and quality skincare ingredients. Displays and screens presenting reviews of K-beauty products from American and Korean influencers are included in the exhibit, as well as a breakdown of the famous ten-step Korean skincare routine.

The MFA's newest installation also displays modern takes on the *hanbok*, Korea's national costume, which is a traditional garment that dates back thousands of years. People who want to connect to their roots and explore the beauty of the garment attribute to the *hanbok's* resurgence. The exhibit presents *hanboks* by fashion designers and those that were worn by K-pop idols like RM from BTS.

Whether you are a K-pop and K-drama fan or only know of "Gangnam Style" and *Squid Game*, the MFA's *Hallyu! The Korean Wave* exhibit is nothing short of an immersive and enjoyable experience. It layers "the fun and flash with a powerful narrative about the country's triumph over oppression," states the *Boston Globe*. Ms. Walshak concludes, "This exhibition is a great opportunity to see the connection between the influence of traditional Korean culture and contemporary art and pop culture that has become globally appreciated."

## Did It Hit Hard?: *Hit Me Hard and Soft* Album Review



### *Hit Me Hard and Soft*

by Billie Eilish  
May 17, 2024

Genre: Pop and R&B

Highlights: "SKINNY",  
"LUNCH", "CHIHURO",  
"L'AMOUR DE MA VIE" &  
"BLUE"

Rating: 9.5/10

By **Thomas Germain (II)**,  
**Lara Glaum (III)**  
& **Katie Hurley (III)**

Contributing Writers

On May 17, Billie Eilish released her third studio album, *Hit Me Hard and Soft*, following weeks of promotion that was kept under wraps with not a single title revealed prior to the album's release. While it is similar to her albums *When We All Fall Asleep, Where Do We Go?* and *Happier Than Ever*, its tracks lived up to the hype. Eilish and her record producer and brother, Finneas, venture into many new sounds, symbolizing a mature shift in her art.

Starting the album is "SKINNY," a slow song about Eilish's insecurities. Despite the lyrics, the song is calming and feels somewhat symphonic and ocean-like.

"LUNCH" follows as the lead single, and its music video was released on the same day as the album. Both the song and the video have a distinct '90s feel.

The third track on this album is "CHIHURO," named after the protagonist from the 2001 Studio Ghibli film *Spirited Away*. The song utilizes abstract lyrics and haunting sounds, and it can be

described as how one feels when falling. The ghostly feeling it embodies makes it a highlight of the album.

Following this is the trending "BIRDS OF A FEATHER," a happier and more upbeat song about everlasting love. While this track also borrows from '90s music, it is different from "LUNCH," and is more similar to the band The Cardigans.

Track five is "WILDFLOWER," a dramatic and emotional song that leaves the listener feeling heartbroken upon its conclusion. The song is about how one may feel about their partner's ex throughout the relationship. This track also employs a buildup — a feature that is so prominent on this album.

Following "WILDFLOWER" is "THE GREATEST," a slow, rock-influenced track that also uses a buildup, which conveys sadness transforming into anger.

The next track is "L'AMOUR DE MA VIE," yet another song that is split into parts. Its first half is a slow sarcastic ballad where Eilish wishes her former lover the best. The second half is '80s-influenced and upbeat, symbolizing Eilish's happiness over an ended relationship. The switch in the middle of the song makes it stand out.

Song number eight "THE DINER," which is about Eilish's experience with stalkers. The song has a very creepy feeling, as Eilish sings the song from the perspective of a stalker.

The ninth track is "BITTERSUITE," a three-part song where moods change. It depicts the desire to protect yourself while also searching for a relationship.

"Blue" finishes the album, a combination of two unreleased tracks from previous projects. This two-sided song gives off a feeling of distance, allowing the album to end on a pretty yet solemn note.

*Hit Me Hard and Soft* is an amazing addition to Eilish's discography, symbolizing the breaking of new ground in her music. It's her most mature album so far; while she incorporates new influences, inspiration from her old works is still evidently present. Though all the tracks released are pivotal to the album's success, the songs that feature split halves all have intricate buildups, so the emotion of the pieces hits harder. Billie and Finneas is still the dynamic duo to be reckoned with, which fans will be able to see for themselves when Eilish performs at TD Garden on October 11, as part of the *Hit Me Hard and Soft* World Tour.



*Congratulations Phineas!*

We are so proud of you!  
Love,  
Mom, Dad and Atticus



# GRADUATION CROSSWORD

## Across

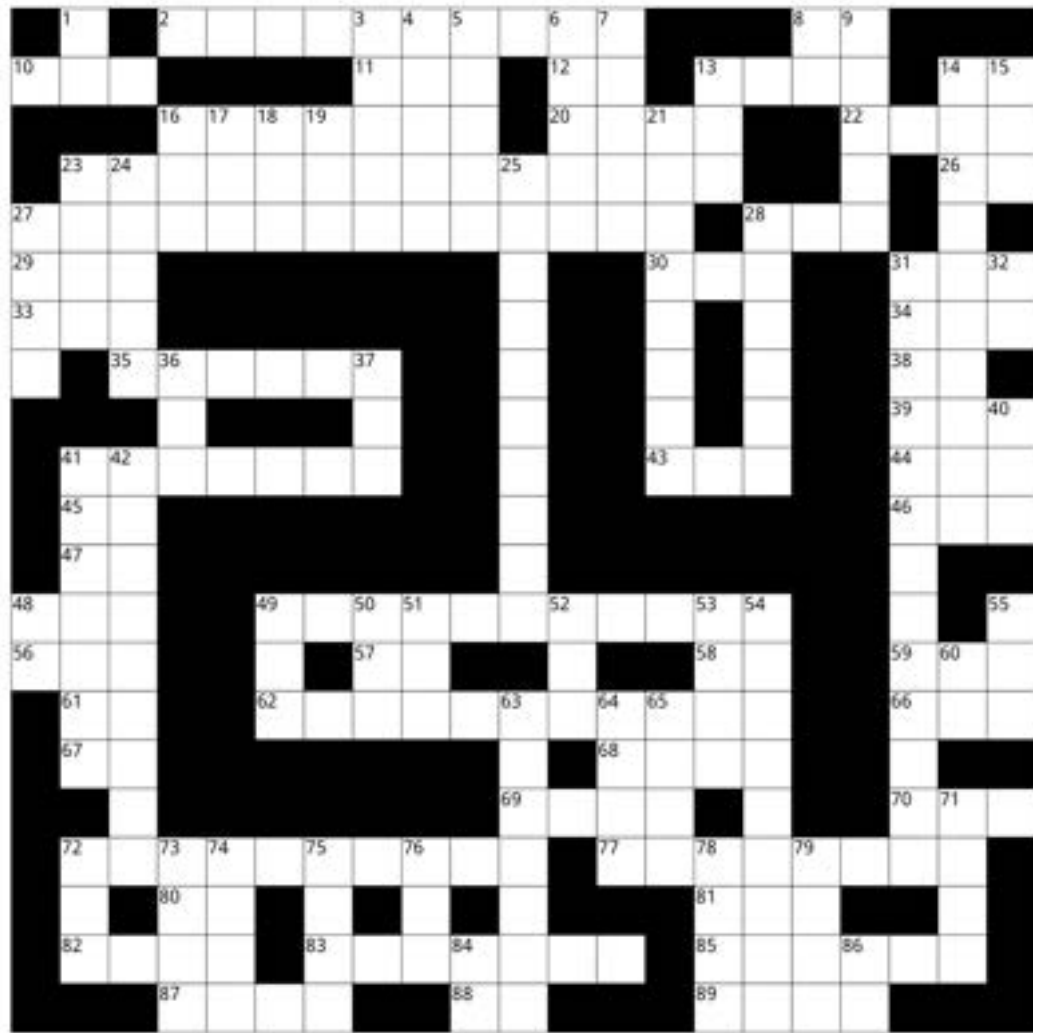
- 2. Senior's End-of-Year Chant
- 8. From, in Latin
- 10. Public Transportation
- 11. Rowing instrument
- 12. Alex's last name (photo editor)
- 13. Tennis star Gauff
- 14. And, in Latin
- 16. "Ulysses" poet Stephen
- 20. "Duh!" in modern slang
- 22. Exercise alternative to pilates
- 23. End result of college
- 26. Toward, in Latin
- 27. A sushi dish with soft shelled seafood
- 28. "Long time no \_\_\_!"
- 29. \_\_\_ Vegas
- 30. Rome's \_\_\_ Appia
- 31. A doctor for animals
- 33. Computer software abbr.
- 34. Conjunction to join two ideas
- 35. Peloponnesian War victor
- 38. Lieutenant abbr.
- 39. A machine that simulates rowing in a boat
- 41. Country with the capital Lagos
- 43. College level classes in HS
- 44. 24 hours in Spanish
- 45. In, in Spanish
- 46. "Eww"
- 47. Can be contracted as "\_\_\_'s"
- 48. Worker in an ambulance abbr.
- 49. Alia Atreides is an example of this
- 56. Roadside assistance org.
- 57. Wishing someone well abbr.
- 58. Sound made when intrigued
- 59. Ump's call
- 61. Doing poorly abbr.
- 62. The Hulk, actor
- 66. Tach reading in a ca
- 67. Prefix "Senior" abbr.

- 68. A heavy metal
- 69. Prompt giver
- 70. A determinant of maturit
- 72. A clock with phone capabilities
- 77. Birth Certificate, for one
- 80. Sometimes confused with the pollinating insect
- 81. NRC Forerunner abbr.
- 82. Silents star Negri
- 83. Alternate to "Baes"
- 85. Religious songs
- 87. When new technology is cutting
- 88. At, in Spanish
- 89. This, in Spanish

## Down

- 1. Go Terriers!
- 3. Chuckled, in textspeak
- 4. Magna Cum
- 5. 2 time Olympic silver medalist figure skater Brian
- 6. Ecuadorian province once famous for its gold
- 7. "I'm Radio \_\_\_!"
- 8. Building heating and cooling system abbr.
- 9. "Taxi Driver" actor Peter
- 13. Prefix with gender
- 14. Like a diva
- 15. Bar bill
- 16. Dementia with Lewy bodies abbr.
- 17. Golfer Big Easy
- 18. ATM transaction abbr.
- 19. Form 1040 calc.
- 21. Kraft cheese block
- 23. Losing casino roll
- 24. Desert watering hole
- 25. Event on June 10th

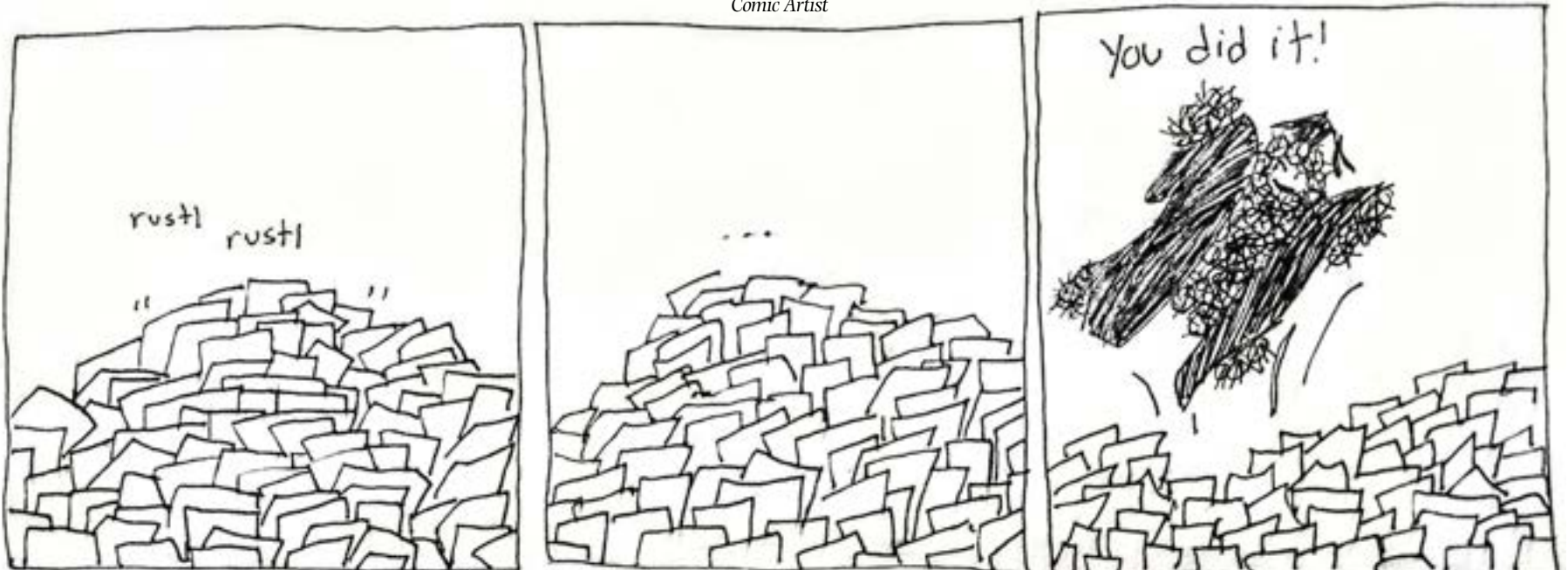
By Ailin Sha (II), Mark Snekvik (II),  
 Hannah Stoll (II), Lena Thai (II), Michelle Wang (II),  
 & Alex Le (III)  
*Cruciverbalists*



- 27. Chowder chunks
- 28. Side dish that gets dressed
- 31. College commencement speaker
- 32. Boston's Garden Stadium
- 36. Porcus, porci
- 37. One way to prove triangle congruency
- 40. Slime on Nickelodeon's "Double Dare"
- 41. High-end department store chain Marcus
- 42. Social media platform
- 48. Sports video game producer
- 49. Beavers build it
- 50. The "A" in U.S.D.A. abbr.
- 51. Civil rights activist
- 52. The "D" in HDTV abbr.
- 53. New Orlean's nickname
- 54. "You were close with that answer"
- 55. Money transaction machine
- 60. Movie with balloons and a house
- 63. Let loose
- 64. Took off
- 65. Prefix of dynamic
- 71. A type of Pontiac (pl.)
- 72. The secretion of a tree
- 73. Up to the task
- 74. Interpret
- 75. Use a napkin on
- 76. Overly
- 78. Summer vacation spot in Mass
- 79. Medical test like the LSATs
- 84. Energy in motion abbr.
- 86. Feminine Spanish article

By Fiala Kraman (IV)

*Comic Artist*





# Wolfpack's Mean Girls: The Musical Is Totally Fetch!



Cady Heron, played by Zoe Colimon (I), struggles to fit in.

**By Isabella Connelly Dow (III)**  
Contributing Writer

It's that time of the year again when classes come to a close, but the Black Box curtains open, where the spotlights shine on the cast of Boston

Latin School theatre's annual spring production. This June, BLS theatre is proud to present *Mean Girls: The Musical*. Adapted from Broadway and based on the 2004 film, the cult classic follows new student Cady Heron as she becomes inducted into an elite group of popular girls. The story navigates not just high

school popularity but also the toxicity and superficiality that often turn teenage girls against each other.

Though many are more familiar with the movie, the musical is widely loved and has been gaining traction in many high school programs, especially since its adaptation into a motion picture this January. Writer of the original and high-school-adjusted musical Tina Fey tells *Playbill*: "I knew a show with five female leads would be great news for most schools," commenting on the popularity of the musical on school stages.

For the past couple of weeks, BLS's own directors, cast and crew have been preparing for the performance dates of May 30 and 31 and June 1 and 2.

Levi Liming (V), who performs in the ensemble, says, "It has been pretty smooth so far, a little rough at some points," while acknowledging how "everyone is doing a great job," referring to the immense amount of effort and hours that have been dedicated toward production.

When putting together a show as grand as *Mean Girls*, it's not all blue skies and rainbows. Parker-Vincent Alva (III), who works backstage, says,

"It's always hard to transition from our guild play to our musical," noting that the change from a single-digit cast to one of over 60 people is a big adjustment. They add that one of their largest challenges was expanding the Black Box stage and heavily reworking the schedule in a limited timeframe. Despite the obstacles, Alva is confident that *Mean Girls* will be "one of our biggest and brightest" shows yet.

Aside from the complex technicalities that go into producing a musical, the cast and crew agree that the community formed by working on a large-scale project is unparalleled.

Faye Nazarchuk (III) plays Janis, one of the lead characters in the musical. She points out the social component of working on such a character-driven show: "Being in the show is great because I got to meet a bunch of people who I didn't know or haven't talked to before. Then I get to go to rehearsal and have a good time with those people."

Liming anticipates that this year's production will be well loved, "especially because it's geared towards students." There's no doubt that *Mean Girls* is a staple high school drama that, no matter how overdone, we can all relate to,

## Certified Big Three?

**By Shirlyn Wang (IV)**  
Contributing Writer

When you picture Drake and Kendrick Lamar, who do you think the better artist is? After their recent controversy, it is quite impossible to like both. Though their rocky relationship spans back to 2013, the two artists have recently taken shots at each other through their music over the last few months, with tensions reaching a boiling point.

Kendrick Lamar is an esteemed hip-hop and rap artist who has won the Pulitzer Prize for Music as well as 17 Grammys. Canadian rapper Drake, a pop-rap artist, also has many accolades.

On March 26, artists Future, Metro Boomin and Kendrick Lamar released their single "Like That," which was featured on the album *WE DON'T TRUST YOU*. In this song, Lamar disses artists J. Cole and Drake, igniting the feud between himself and Drake.

Lamar's lines in "Like That" consisted of the words "Mother \*\*\*\* the big three [...] It's just big me," which was in response to an earlier track made by J. Cole, where he referred to himself, Drake and Lamar as the "big three" of rap. Lamar, however, claimed that neither Drake nor J. Cole could compare to him.

After initially releasing a track in response to "Like That," J. Cole dropped

out of the feud early. He later removed the track from streaming services and issued an apology. He also publicly apologized at the Dreamville Festival in North Carolina, stating his mental health as the reason he abstained from the beef: "I ain't gonna lie to y'all the past two days felt terrible. I \*\*\*\* near had a relapse."

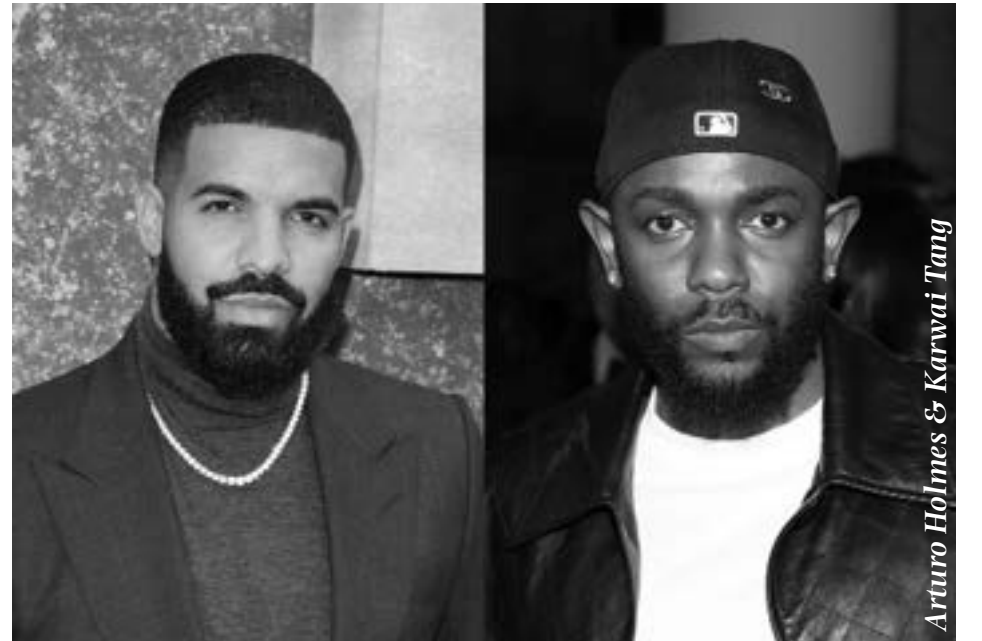
Drake responded to "Like That" in April with "Push Ups," where he mocked Lamar's record deal history and small stature.

Lamar responded quickly in the same month with "Euphoria," where he took shots at Drake's biracialism, calling Drake "not a colleague" but a "colonizer." He also rapped about Drake's fashion sense and alleged claims concerning his relations with various women.

Drake then released "Family Matters" on May 3, where he accused Lamar's fiancée, Whitney Alford, of infidelity. He also accused Lamar of domestic abuse against Alford and called Lamar's son a product of Alford and her bodyguard: "I heard that one of 'em little kids might be Dave Free."

Lamar fired back in less than an hour with "Meet the Grahams," a sinister track that consisted of verses addressing Drake's son Adonis whilst also accusing Drake of having a secret daughter.

Abraham Coumbassa (II) says, "I



Beef between Kendrick Lamar and Drake goes beyond the beat.

feel like the text messages between him and Millie Bobby Brown were questionable for sure," while referring to Drake's interaction with the young actress.

The beef has even drawn international attention, with artists singing in Chinese and Japanese on "BBL Drizzy," an instrumental track produced by Metro Boomin, getting its name from the alleged Brazilian butt lift Drake got. Metro Boomin made this track in response to Drake's line "make some drums" in

"Push Ups."

With fans branching across different platforms, it is clear that Lamar has gathered more support for his side. Avid Kendrick Lamar listener Maya Tran (II) feels that Drake's disses were weaker than Kendrick's: "I felt as if Kendrick's diss tracks were a lot more cohesive and better than what Drake released. A lot of my friends are on Kendrick's team because of this but also because of his renown."

## A Look at Seniors' Favorite Books

**By Catherine Cox (II) & Lauren Dong (IV)**  
Staff Writer and Contributing Writer

**Ryan Hobbs**



*The Things They Carried*  
by Tim O'Brien

"The Things They Carried is a gut punch to read through as O'Brien struggles with issues of pride, masculinity and the death of his closest friends. It leaves the reader to decide if there are any real heroes in war or if every participant is a victim."

**Eliza Kollett**



*These Violent Delights*  
by Chloe Gong

"As the cast of characters [grows] more and more complicated, [...] it really displays Chloe Gong's talents as a writer, as she's able to navigate multiple plot lines [and make her characters all unique] without it seeming overwhelming."

**Molly McDermott**



*The Joy Luck Club*  
by Amy Tan

"As someone with a very close relationship with my mom and a second generation immigrant, this book was able to shift my perspective on the wide variety of experiences within immigrant households and between mothers and daughters."



**AGB**  
**CONGRATULATIONS  
 ON YOUR GRADUATION**  
 LOVE,  
 MOM, DAD, LUCAS, & MAX



You are a hardworking student, a supportive brother, a tenacious athlete, a loving son, and we will always root for your success. Forever in your corner!

*Congratulations, Tegan!*



Awesome from the beginning.  
 We love you, Tegan!  
 XOXO Mom, Dad & Gwen



Congratulations, Sunshine!  
 There is a single light of science,  
 and to brighten it anywhere is to  
 brighten it everywhere ~ Isaac Asimov  
 143!! – Momma

Congratulations BLS Class of 2024  
 with a special shoutout to "FOOT"

Want to see more photo  
 of seniors from *Zoom*?  
 Scan this QR Code!





# Congratulations Declan & BLS Class of 2024!



*And thank you to Boston Public Schools  
for 14 wonderful years!*

**Roger Clap Elementary School  
Henderson Inclusion School  
Boston Latin School**

**With love,  
Mom, Dad and Greta**

*“Education is the most powerful weapon we can use to change the world”*



*You continue to  
make us so proud.*

**You are caring, independent, and capable and you will certainly reach great heights.**

**This was just the beginning!**

Love you,  
Papa, Mama & Luke.



CONGRATULATIONS BLS  
SPEECH & DEBATE TEAM  
SENIORS!  
SAM, ZACH, NEIL, JIALIN,  
AND MARCUS



## **BLS Class of 2024:**

Do you know what's waiting beyond that beach?

*Immortality!  
Take it! It's yours!*

**Love,  
Mom, Dad & Sophia**





## Editor-in-Chief Jenny Chen



My first encounter with the *Argo*'s Graduation Issue was in seventh grade. Contrary to popular belief, it wasn't when the issue was distributed to homerooms at the end of the school year, but rather when I decided to explore *Argo* archives on SIS when I was bored sometime halfway through the year. The Graduation Issue seemed different in the best way, and as I scrolled through each page of the PDF, I only hoped to reach that day where I could fill out my senior surveys and celebrate my journey as a BLS student.

Well, here I am, six years later.

I still remember the first time I walked into 016 ready to be a Layout associate. I had joined the *Argo* on a whim at the beginning of eighth grade and I didn't know anyone else who did Layout at the time. I still remember being told that my textboxes didn't align with the guidelines and I needed to keep extending the text box because spacing needed to work out. I still feel the frustration when the VA doesn't want to work out, or a page won't work, so one of the articles should be turned to 3 columns, but then it messes up all the spacing, so you need to respace everything AGAIN. I don't know how I made it out of my first Production Week, to be honest (it might've been the food).

Speaking of reminiscing, I have some respected elderly to thank first. Emma, Selina and Theresa: thanks for taking me as your young Layout child (Assistant Editor) as we braved the end of *Zoom* Layout and the year of too many PDF edits in one rouch. If you're still wondering, yes, I've turned in all my English essays on time! Sorry for the unnecessary stress I may have induced as I kept writing my freshman year research paper as we were finishing that Grad PDF. Liz: Sometimes, I wonder how you managed to stay sane during your two years as EIC. I used to think it was funny how you pre-drafted all the PDF Edits emails on Friday, but now, I understand. Thanks for staying up on Sunday nights for the PDF even though you were ready to sleep.

Now, I know at the *Argo*, we (or rather I, as evidenced by my countless of PDF edits this year) are particular with our orders of how names, positions and sections are formatted, but I'm gonna break the order today by starting first with Layout — my forever home. Lily: you're the real trooper for always staying up. Never forget that one time I was so done after Round 4 of edits and I just passive-aggressively sent a final PDF to Selizabina because I was ready to crash. In all honesty though, you've been the backbone. You've never shied away from helping out any of us on PDF edits and you are always the first to respond to my questions. Mari: though this year was plagued by a couple of MacBook woes, thanks for always loving to layout the Fun Page (I don't know how you do it since I've been slightly traumatized after my first attempt). I'm so glad you applied for Layout Editor after I nudged back then; this section wouldn't be the same

without you. Aidan: thanks for teaching me the ropes in eighth grade. Those days of not understanding spacing an article out were rough. Sophia: you're the new Layout queen! I can't wait to see where you bring our section next. I know times (the Grad Issue) might get hectic, but trust me, it'll be a lot of fun. To our newly crowned Layout editors, Alan, Ashley and Sam: congrats on your promotion! The heart of the section is now in your hands. It's been a long time coming ever since y'all opened Kwalitty for the first time. I'm forever proud that y'all chose to be Layout minions.

Ok, now I'll go back in order. News: you were my second home after Layout. Though the *Zoom* calls were intimidating at first, I think I found my stride after taking on my first solo endeavor of writing at the end of *Zoom* year. Kevin: you embody the News section. After holding down the fort for the last three years and always having detailed comments after reading each article, I'll miss seeing your announcements in the News *Google Classroom*. Keep me updated on your next adventures, whether it's with the *Crimson* or whatever cool government-related thing you take on! Ailin: *Argo* aside, I'll miss our daily chats as I walk from CoGo to Asian Studies. Thanks for listening to all my rants, always having the time to stay late during Production Weeks and speedily cutting down articles (or adding to them) when spacing absolutely doesn't work. Sylvia: it's been a long time hasn't it? I still remember when we were third graders writing letters in Girl Scouts and I was struggling while you had a perfectly-written letter. I'm so glad this passion has manifested in you becoming an editor. Mary: you've grown so much since we co-wrote together on your first-ever News article. I'm excited to see what's next in your journalism journey.

Forum: we've pushed the boundaries of what type of articles get published this year and it has been so refreshing. Jessie: I'll miss our AP Lit talks — I don't think one Production Week went by without me bringing up this class — and giving each other shoulder massages. Keep enthusiastically taking pictures with your mom iPhone case next year, and I can't wait to see them when I visit! Michelle: every time I've walked into our Editors' Meetings this year, I've always been excited to hear your latest article idea. While I know you won't be the one coming up with these ideas this next year, I'm excited to see how you generate this passion into leading the paper as a whole. Hannah: I've loved seeing you grow into your editorial position this year — your passion for journalism is unmatched. Please invite me to any journalism talks the *Argo* will host next year with your fancy connections. Annie: I know the jump from Contributing Writer to Assistant Editor is a lot, but you've made it work this year. I know you'll keep growing as you continue as a part of the Editorial Board.

A&E: sorry for all the times y'all have gone last during Editors' Meetings this year. Penny: I know you were scared when we jumped into last year's Grad Issue with a new quartet of editors, but look at us now! Thanks to your guidance, A&E articles have been my favorite to read during PDF edits. Lena: even though you switched from News to A&E this year, it seems like you've always been a part of A&E. Even if you had many after-school meetings this year, I knew I could always count on your texts to let me know. Z: you are a star. From starring in many musicals and plays to having the most fire 'fits and making me laugh every time I open the corner for the first time, I'm amazed at how you do it all. Alice: you've been a rock this year. Thanks for always being there any day during Production Week this year and answering all my A&E ques-

tions. I know that now as a Head Editor, your dedication for this club will only continue to shine.

Sports: I'm gonna be honest, in another world, I would've been a Sports writer. Unfortunately, I think *Zoom* might've scared me a little bit, but nevertheless, I've been the most enthusiastic to see what y'all have come up with this year. Jessica: thanks for always doing a meticulous check of each Sports article turned in. Your questions at the EIC table have steered the section into new places. Vera: you're the reasoning behind some of the big changes we've made this year. For so long, *Argo* processes, to me, have felt like a tradition, but I'm glad we took the step to zoom out and reflect on whether everything is working the way it should be. Caitlin: thanks for being our Boston sports nerd. I'm going to be honest, this is probably the one part of Sports that I'm not as familiar with, but I could always count on your article ideas. Rachel: I first met you as a Layout associate, but your dedication to Sports is so impressive. Thanks for always being able to write any last-minute assignments while you balance your editorial duties as well as keep coming to Layout issue after issue.

Copy: unfortunately, I will continue writing with Oxford commas. I will, however, make sure my sentences don't start with conjunctive adverbs (admittedly though, I still look up what they are every time I PDF edit, just in case). Fiona: thanks for answering my gazillion questions whether in person, as I learned the illustrious rules of the Copy bible, or over text. Get some sleep, please! Lindsey: you've been the last man standing on Monday afternoons, but that has helped us a lot this year during Production Weeks. Haley: I've had so much fun slaying AP Latin together and copy editing Corners during our Latin V studies. Make sure you keep drawing stick figures on the next whiteboards you encounter! Vicky: Tuesdays have been chaotic this year, but you've made sure that the Copy associates get started on the right foot; thank you.

Photo: you can always count on me to tell you which photos don't need a caption or are cut after dummies are turned in. Sorry for all the last minute notices I've given this year and in years past. Andrew: though you are Photo's true nepo baby, you've taken this section to new heights. We've been talking for so long about getting rid of stock photos, so a big thanks, especially to your mother for taking that Celtics photo in the November Issue. Even though one chapter is closing, as here we are writing our farewells, I know I'll see you in the next (four)! Alicia: thanks for keeping Photo sane this year, especially that one Wednesday when no one else was there. Secretly I'm a fan of white chocolate macademia cookies from *Insomnia*, but to make sure we don't need to send you to the hospital, I've stuck it out this year just for you. Parker: please creatively direct another photoshoot for me! Your passion for photography extends so far beyond just this newspaper, so I'm glad to be part of your journey. Lauren: apologies for cropping photos in *InDesign* so much that they are no longer 7x5. This attention to detail makes me proud to have you lead the next generation of Photo children.

I have one last group of retired individuals to thank: my former Photo editors. Mary: I know you're an extra 1,126 miles away from Boston, but that only makes me more proud to see your work as a college journalist. 016 dearly misses your show choir dances, harmonies with whatever we are blasting on *Spotify* and your musical costumes. Karen: you, too, are half the East Coast away from Boston, yet I still feel your presence every day when I log in to the Latin V *Instagram* (and

post less often than you did) or see Lauren using your DIY-ed SD card adapter (how does that thing stay intact?). Keep telling me about your triple major adventures or any stories about questionable Latin test moments. Alex: thanks for being my chauffeur that one beach day. To many more! I've dearly missed your *Argo* baked goods as well this past year, just *Insomnia* doesn't hit the same.

To the best club adviser in all the hundreds of rooms and clubs of Boston Latin School, Ms. Moon: there will never be enough words to thank all the work you've done for this club. I do, however, have some highlights. Thanks for dealing with our stress, as Joanna would say, from this year. I'm glad to have spearheaded all our new ideas this year together. There are also no words to describe how much I'll miss the candy bucket in 207. I know I ate way too much candy during interviews this year, and I'm forever thankful for that source of energy over those two weeks. I'm sad to say I've never had you as my English teacher, but our talks about *King Lear* and reminiscing on the English 11 curriculum I never got to experience makes me feel like I did get to see part of what 207 has to offer to its students.

To my other half of JOE(anny), Joanna: where do I even begin. I don't think anyone embodies the *Argo* more than you do. I quite literally wouldn't be here without you — you're the reason I'm in the *Argo* today. I'm eternally grateful you came up to me during the EC Fair in eighth grade, and while I didn't join the *Argo* then and there, it did get me thinking about it that night, and I've never looked back since I filled out that *Google Form*. I'll miss yelling "hello" over *FaceTime* when you start cutting out in the middle of our calls and staying up till obscene hours at NJCL conventions as we scramble to make sure spirit is well-coordinated for the next day of convention. Words can't describe how much I'm going to miss you. I can't wait to see what you'll accomplish across the river and please let me know when you've written your first piece of long-form journalism, I know it's going to be straight FIRE. Keep aging like fine *garum*, girlie!

To Hannah and Michelle (aka Man-nah): the ship is now in your hands! I can't wait to see where y'all will take the *Argo* over the next year. Sometimes it may feel like you are treading in deep waters, but trust me, y'all got this. Please save me a copy of each issue and remind me when it's a Final Friday week next year, I will be visiting.

To the rest of the new board: congrats on making it through your first issue! Though it may have felt stressful and like a tremendous task over the last few weeks, I hope it has been rewarding.

To my little sister, Helen: keep at it! I've had so much fun seeing the start of your journey as a Layout minion and I hope you keep making the trek to 016 even when I'm not there stealing some spinny chair from the corner of the classroom.

Finally to all of y'all, especially those who are flipping through the Graduation Issue or even a copy of the *Argo* for the first time: join the *Argo*! Trust me it's a lot of fun and it's something you never regretted doing. There will be something for you, even if you don't like writing (truth be told, when I first joined I never had an intention to write). And even if it is the middle of the school year and you didn't catch us at the EC Fair, we are always accepting new writers and associates.

*Argo*, *Argoing*, *Argone*. I never thought the day would come when it would be time for me to say goodbye, but the time is now.

*Valete amici* and *slayout*, it's been an honor being your EIC this year.

Jenny <3

Editor-in-Chief  
**Joanna Lin**



From the dank depths of 016 to the warmer climate of Ms. Moon's 207, this newspaper has been with me through it all.

My first days at the *Argo* were rocky. I was "John's little sister" and the awkward sixie. The senior who was paired with me for my first article clearly did not trust me: she wrote the entire thing without telling me.

I vowed that that would not happen again. And under News legends Isabella Tran and Meredith Zielonka, John Lin and Nadine Han, my writer's voice grew. Hours in Lab 016 were peppered with laughter as we churned out copy edits and learned how to pop our hips.

Even during the pandemic, I found my own world in the *Argo*. While you could find me on *Twitch* watching *Corpse Husband* play *Among Us* or screaming on *FaceTime* playing the atrocious game *Family Style* — coincidentally, always with some friends from *Argo* — I spent my other hours deep in the channels of the *Argo* Copy *Discord* server, streaming a document to edit while listening to "Astronaut in the Ocean."

When I could touch grass again as sophomore, I found life in the OG Newsies squad, who made leading News so fun and unforgettable. With us, a fresh revamp of the News section began, with the rise of graphics, *Google Classroom* and a deepened vendetta against Forum for topic coverage (News and Forum Editors, please arrive at a truce and start covering the same topic in both sections this year). That was the year the famed Alex Strand was a News writer, the History of Abortion timeline was published (a true *magnum opus*) and Kevin Zhong became my BFF.

Production Weeks during my junior year, however, were the most exciting parts of the school year. You'd hoped that people weren't getting down and dirty in Lab 016, but Jessie, Andrew and I unfortunately were. Our sweaty *Just Dance* sessions — our specialties being "Juju on That Beat," "Gangnum Style" and "What Makes You Beautiful" — hopefully did not scare the Layout babies away on late Friday nights. I won't forget our long Taylor Swift singing sessions as we pushed in chairs and tidied the laptop areas.

But, to be honest, if there was a year in the *Argo* I wouldn't trade for any other, it would be this year.

This year, I learned so much about what it means to not only be a journalist but to be an empath. This year, I began to think with more intention, to not be afraid to stand up for the student voice. This year, I learned how to open up to people who challenged my thinking. I'm becoming more human.

It's all thanks to the *Argo*. And its people.

These past six years have seen multiple iterations of the *Argo*. These

iterations could not have been possible without all the editorial boards, writers, associates and readers engaging with it, critiquing it, loving it, hating it. I have to acknowledge all of them.

To my '22 Newsies, Katie and Alanna, you made my first year leading News unforgettable. Alanna, thank you for showing us questionable BR images that elicit gasps from me and Kevin and for being my go-to in the case of emergencies (see: fire drill during *Argo*'s first summer workshop). Wishing the best sound experience for your final two years at Simmons while they finish construction. More importantly, thank you for being my partner-in-crime in our campaign to take down the anti-Comic Sans epidemic. Katie, you are the definition of sunshine: every time you smile, the twinkle in your eyes are enough to make my heart flutter. I hope I randomly bump into you while going to Commonwealth Ave. Goodwill.

Kevin! I am so glad that you are still going to be around next year. I hope our long-winded political debates, text exchanges of *Vox* videos and ideation for a more involved News section never end. Your guiding hand has led News to powerful places since eighth grade with your legendary transportation article. You were the best partner-in-crime: fighting with Forum for article topics and with Layout for more graphics would not have been possible without your companionship and our shared love for the section.

Ailin, Ross, Mary, Olivia — our lovely additions to the OG Newsies — thank you for taking on the helm and continuing to steer News into the direction we all want it to be. I am so excited for all of you to create articles that reflect the school and student voices, to shed light on the ins and outs of 78 Avenue Louis Pasteur. Keep an ear and a pulse on the School, always.

Jessie Wang. You are my backbone. Your assertiveness, ability to burst into a beautiful rendition of any song during karaoke and perseverance in creating ricotta cheese with me for AP Chemistry inspire me every day. My Ms. Norbury, talented flute player, Forum section's greatest leader, public declaimer, captain of varsity girls' Volleyball, *femme fatale*, you can be anything — and you will change the world. I will never forget our devious prefrash activities, trips to CVS and Ice Spice jam sessions. I love you <3

Mark and Roan, you guys balance each other in the best ways possible. Your passion for creating relevant and accurate opinion journalism has shown through your writing; Roan, please start that argumentation workshop. Mark, teach our writers how to write those longform analytical articles that you have gotten so good at. Ariel and Annie, don't be afraid to make the reforms you want to make and teach your writers to be assertive!

Penny, thank you for being the rock of A&E: I appreciate your constant presence and unflinching ability to juggle editing while being a crew god. Lena, even though you were a News Editor in an alternative universe, you can take your talents anywhere, from A&E to A.S.I.A. Alice, I can't wait to see you grow as a leader and as a journalist in the next year. Z, the passion and love you pour into every inch of everything you do leaves me in awe every time I encounter you. Your curiosity, inquiry, well-spokenness and powerful intensity went beyond A&E and throughout the *Argo*. Indeed, you likely would have been a frequent interviewee of the newspaper, but thank you for choosing to be an editor. Don't ever stop writing, acting, thinking, directing, creating.

Jessica, Vera, Caitlin — growing the Sports section by your side has been the best experience ever. The section is robust and lively, powerful and athletic, just as you all are. Thank you all for being the most dependable and productive Sports section we have had in recent *Argo* history. Liam, Juliet, Rachel, Dimitra — you have a legacy to protect. You all are so strong as writers and leaders, so step into your role with gumption, as wrestling coach Mr. Gibbons would say!

Fiona! Those copy editing sessions back on *Discord* were unbeatable. Though it hurt my heart to abandon the section, you held Copy together for three years. You know the section more than anyone I know, its vices and virtues, and made the Copy Bible better than it ever could have been. And perhaps, one day, an Argonaut will avenge you in the Great Parentheses-Comma War of 2023. Haley and Lindsey, I appreciate you for always being strong Copy Editors and leaders within the section. To the new Copy section of Meilin, Andrew and Vicky: if you need anything, text me and Fiona.

Oh, Lillius. If you were not Lily An Huynh, you would be Dwayne "The Rock" Johnson the way you carried the section when no one else did. I appreciated your presence next to me at 9:00 P.M. on Friday as we silently grinded out layouts together amid the loudest rap music. It was an honor being Head Cruciverbalist with you, even if we had to scrap a Crossword board four times before we could create something that worked. I guess that's how ingenuity works, though. I hope I will still hear your laugh all the way from Amherst.

Mari, your big personality and even bigger heart lit up each latter half of Production Week. I won't forget The Group Poop, creating the *Argo*-Crew pipeline and making eyes with you across 016 as we sung a song in unison. I personally think you are a genetic win!

To our new Slayout babies, you got this! Sophia, your spunkiness will take you even farther than Layout, but, for now, use it to train your peer editors. Graduation Issue is the toughest, and it will get better from here.

Andrew H. Lay! Your gargantuan aura and your gargantuan camera with the gargantuan flash was something I could depend on every Production Week. Thank you for recording our *Hamilton* jam sessions, our hugs and all the other incriminating moments of *Argo*. You will be missed, cameraman. Marriage soon!

Alicia, I'm so glad you got to be on Photo this year. I always want another excuse to see your face, and I have the *Argo* to thank for granting me more excuses. Parker, my Poop-Map partner-in-crime, your ability to Super Smash photo assignments will never fail to impress me. I loved our puzzlemaking sessions at various Boston cafes: let's make more puzzles soon.

Lauren, you have the blessing of your Photo forebears and myself. You awe me with your photos and ability to corral your associates every time. Alex, please spread your love for live photography to our associates: your involvement with the *Argo*, even as an associate, warmed my heart.

Ben, I enjoyed our talks and I enjoyed seeing you in your photographer element even more. Keep it up!

Now, onto my own forebears.

From my old Copy days: Cindy and Alice, thanks for taking me under your wing and being the first to show me what it means to be a leader within the *Argo*.

Mary Bosch, Eliza Duff-Wender,

Alex Strand, thanks for showing me that love for journalism can spread to real love in a community. Your collective warmth made the *Argo* the best place to be on a late night. You all inspire me with how much journalism you still do. I love you, times a gazillion.

Selizabina, I now know what the importance of not shuffling the *Argo* playlist is. And I made sure to take out the pizza boxes.

To my brother, John, you inspired me to join the *Argo*. As a middle schooler, I loved following you around, trailing you at 7:00 A.M. to help with distribution, sitting next to you in 016 as you edited and helping you win "Best Carnation Seller" by giving News the advantage of accessing the eighth grade market. Thanks for humbling me when I needed it, and for lifting me up in harder times. I'll always talk to you about the newspaper and journalism, even when we are in our seventies. If someone asked me who is a journalist I look up to, it will be you and your level-headedness, intellect and dry wit. I can't wait to do some more journalism with you next year.

Ms. Kwan, I'm sorry for that time our carnations broke one of BLS's tables. And for the times that the *Argo* has violated 016's food policy. Michelle and Hannah will learn from our mistakes. Thanks for your sharp humor and ability to command a room of Argonauts.

Ms. Moon, I know I've said this to you before, but you're the GOAT. You helped the *Argo* navigate uncharted waters with your steady hand, and Jenny and I were lucky to have you with us. Thank you for being the *Argo*'s *ego* (AP Lit-Freud reference!), and for fighting for a journalism course at BLS. Consider me one of your proponents and supporters in the effort. The *Argo* has changed for the better because of you, and you have impacted each and every one of us from each generation of the newspaper. I will miss you tons.

To my other half, Jenny Chen, you're an absolute ten! From that very first *FaceTime* where we screamed our happiness at getting Editor-in-Chief to our very last as we sent out the decision emails for the new board, you have been at my side through it all. Our feverish texts before sending out the PDF, my repeated questioning on how to change the amount of columns in *In-Design*, our new plans to create an *Argo* alumni board and our ability to write an Editor's Note — and somehow even integrate a graphic — in no time will always make me look back at our tenure as JOE fondly. It's joever <3

Our newest Pookies-in-Chief, Hannah and Michelle, I'm sure Hannah will grow on me one day. You both exude a shared passion for journalism and deep love for the newspaper we all care for. I am so excited for you to take *Argo* to even greater heights, and for you to make the changes you talked about in your interviews. Make life for Dearest Mother Moon a little easier, please. And get me a quarter zip soon. And please start doing Multimedia. And text me if you need anything.

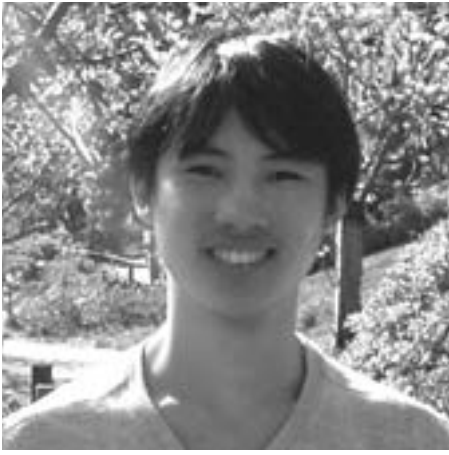
If you have gotten this far, congratulations! JOIN. THE. *ARGO*. This newspaper is on its way to becoming a living, breathing being of the School, capturing the zeitgeist of the student body. Times are changing, and the *Argo* is, too. If you want to be a part of this, stop by 207. You don't have to be a great writer; we'll make you a great journalist.

Thank you, *Argo*. It has been an honor.

Joanna Lin



News Editor  
**Kevin Zhong**



Five years ago during eighth grade, I joined the *Argo* as a Contributing Writer for News. I remember walking into the first general workshop with my friends and playing a *Kahoot* game. I'm pretty sure I placed on the leaderboard because I got an *Argo* pen as a prize (I still have it).

I wasn't sure where the *Argo* was going to take me at the time. I was interested in following current events — specifically politics — so the News section was a natural choice for me. It was my first experience in journalism. I still remember the excitement I felt when I saw my first ever article printed on the November 2019 issue. My momentum continued through the January 2020 issue, where my second ever article was on the front page. I interviewed Ms. Skerritt for that article about the traffic problems during the mornings. Then came the March 2020 issue. I had all my interviews done and half of my article written when everyone received the fateful news on Friday, March 13, at 6:52 P.M. that schools were going to be closed for six weeks because of COVID-19. Although the climate strike that I was writing about was canceled, I still wrote the article as if the event was still happening for extra practice.

My skills as a news journalist couldn't have been possible without Nadine Han ('21). Nadine was a news editor during the time I was a writer. Thank you, Nadine, for mentoring me and giving me advice on how to write news articles during the two second writers' meetings we had in-person that year. Your guidance helped me to create a strong news journalism

foundation that would carry me for the rest of *Argo*. Thank you for believing in me and encouraging me to apply as a News Editor in eighth grade, even though I was still a contributing writer who had only written three articles. Your mentorship and guidance better positioned me to apply for the job when I got the position a year later.

When I got access to the News Editor email in 2021, I found a memorable quote from the writer's evaluation on my first article in 2019: "This kid definitely deserves a five [out of five] (probably more). He's an eighth grader, but his article is probably the best out of all the articles I've read for this issue (and also that I've read in a while, honestly). Despite being new (and really young), he knows how to write formally, objectively and how to not make it a seven-paged essay (crazy, right?). Although I personally think he could have worded or organized some things better, he has a very good foundation. If he continues to perform this well, can we make him a Staff Writer?"

Indeed, I became a Staff Writer by the end of my eighth grade year. During my freshman year on *Zoom*, I continued to write articles. By the end of that year, I became a News Editor, which was my first leadership position of a club at BLS.

Thank you Joanna, Katie and Alanna for being the first Newsies team. I had so much fun getting to know you all and working on the *Argo* the year we got back from COVID-19. I enjoyed our many off topic conversations in the Newsies group chat (the tradition of naming the group chat "Newsies" still continues today). We were the Newsies who brought the News section roaring back post-*Zoom* year. Katie and Alanna, it was sad to see you guys retire from the *Argo* to go off to college — thank you guys for making my first year of editing one of my favorite years in the *Argo*. Remember, Comic Sans > Times New Roman.

Joanna, thank you for being the best news editing partner I could ask for. I remember our first time editing articles together over a phone call on Memorial Day 2021. During our two-year tenure together on the News team, we helped to usher in an age of reform for the News section, due in part to our very similar reform, ambitious mindset to the role that news

journalism plays in society. Thank you for making the long hours of editing, writing our investigative piece on climate initiatives at BLS and back-to-school post-COVID-19 article, battling Forum for article ideas and causing mayhem with our many, many complicated requests for news graphics and timelines inspired by *Vox*, something that I looked forward to every month. I am grateful we were able to work together in News. Thank you for bringing *Argo* to new heights as EiC. Finally, thank you for being one of my best friends at BLS — I am excited for our next four years together across the Charles River; cheers to more basketball and political discussions next year. See you at the *Crimson*!

Ailin, thank you for being an awesome News Editor these past two years. You have a strong dedication and passion for journalism and the *Argo*, and I look forward to the new heights you will take the News section next year. Thank you also for being a good friend and math project partner.

Elyssa, Mary and Sylvia, thank you for being great News Editors and for being part of the News team. We have certainly accomplished much together. Ross and Olivia, welcome to the News Editing team. I have worked with both of you for the past two to three years, and I am excited to see what you will accomplish next year!

For the last three years, I have been proud to lead the News section. During my tenure as an Editor, we established stronger methods of communication and mentorship between Editors and Writers through a newly made News *Google Classroom* (which I changed the banner photo like almost every two weeks) and feedback system. We expanded the vision for the News section to cover more investigative pieces and historical and current events that are relevant to the BLS community. In three years, the News section grew from a small group of ten writers, to a community of 40 writers. All of this would not have been possible without the teamwork of the News Editors that I have worked with during my time as an Editor.

To Jenny, thank you for leading the *Argo* this past year and for being a strong and reliable News Staff writer. Also, thank you for making all of News's timelines and graphics when

you were in Layout — they could not have been possible without you! I will remember our time together in ELA 11 in the best decorated room at BLS (230).

To Fiona, thank you for being a good friend in and out of the *Argo*. I know that you are dedicated in leading the Copy section every issue.

To Aidan, thank you for being my first new friend at BLS. I still remember clearly in Homeroom 236 when you came up to me and talked to me on the first day of sixie year when Ms. Gribaudo asked us to turn and talk to someone. Thank you for keeping the Layout section moving in the seat at the corner of 016.

To Andrew, how could we forget all the stuff that happened in fourth grade (I still have that class photo and the packet of slideshow stories easily accessible, so beware). It's crazy to think how we have known each other for almost a decade. Thank you for your humor and for keeping the Photo section alive.

Congratulations to Michelle and Hannah for becoming the next EiCs! You guys will do great and I am excited to see where you will take the *Argo* next year. Looking forward to this summer where both of you will be part of my Ward Fellows group!

Finally, thank you to Ms. Moon for leading the *Argo*. Everything we do in the *Argo* would not be possible without the long hours you put into mentoring and guiding us!

With that being said, my five years in the *Argo* has come to an end. I will miss the late Friday nights in 016 having great food with the editorial board and rushing to finish the PDF before 10:00 P.M. I will miss the early Wednesday mornings before school running around the entire building delivering freshly printed newspapers before 7:25 A.M. I will miss selling carnations during the morning rush hour and those early 6:00 A.M. Valentine's Day mornings hauling up heavy water buckets of carnations with donuts and hot chocolate. I am incredibly grateful for all the friendships and memories I have made along the way. I have grown so much as a writer, journalist and person since I joined the *Argo* way back in eighth grade. Thank you all for making the *Argo* an integral part of my BLS career.

## *Congratulations to All Argo Seniors!*

Jenny

Jessie

Vera

Haley

Andrew

Joanna

Penny

Caitlin

Lily

Alicia

Kevin

Z

Fiona

Aidan

Parker

Sylvia

Jessica

Lindsey

Mari



## Assistant News Editor Sylvia O'Hearn



When I went to my first ever Writers' Meeting in November of sophomore year, I never imagined that I would become one of the people standing in the hallway reading article assignments off of a Chromebook. Writing for News was my cautious attempt to get back involved with the Boston Latin School community after more than a year of online school, and I was half expecting it to be an awkward experience that I wouldn't repeat. Now, as I get ready to graduate, I'm so glad that I showed up to Room 207 and kept coming back.

The *Argo* is definitely my favorite extracurricular activity I've been involved with during my years at BLS. It is impressively organized while still being student-led and containing differing perspectives. Everyone there is committed to putting together the best newspaper possible, driven by a genuine desire to add something to the BLS dialogue. They're not afraid to take risks and learn from past mistakes.

Besides the writing, editing and media literacy skills I gained, the *Argo* has taught me how to collabo-

rate with others more than any other experience I've had. This publication is a team environment through and through. From co-writing to PDF edits, every article goes through so many Argonauts that our responsibilities are dependent on each others.' Because of this, everyone keeps a strong work ethic and holds each other accountable.

Thank you to Kevin and Ailin for being the best Head News Editors anyone could ask for.

You both are so dedicated to quality news articles and I can tell that you have real passion for journalism. The News section is what it is today because of you two and Joanna. Kevin, have a great time at Harvard. Ailin, I'm glad you'll be here to lead the section into the next school year because your skills will continue to contribute so much.

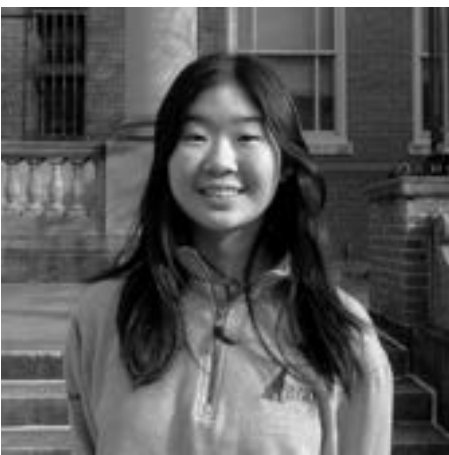
To Mary, my fellow Assistant Editor, I'm so glad I got to know you and work with you. I appreciated having another introvert in the section. You have many talents and I know you will do great things, both in your two remaining years at BLS and beyond.

Jenny and Joanna, our universally beloved EiCs, thank you so much for giving your all to every issue of the *Argo*. You put in so many hours this past year to support all the Editors and writers, and it has never gone unnoticed. Jenny, thanks for being my friend since the third grade and for getting me interested in *Argo* in the first place. I probably would never have started writing if you weren't here as a familiar face.

Of course, thank you to the other writing sections and especially the Production sections, who are the reason articles can see the light of day. Ross and Olivia, welcome to the News editing team. Make the 2024-2025 school year another great year for News!

As I get ready to graduate, I know I'm going to miss the *Argo* routines and team, but I'm very grateful for how it helped me grow. Every evening in room 016, every Writers' Meeting and every morning spent distributing papers has formed lasting memories for me. I know that I will look back on the *Argo* as a central part of my high school experience.

## Forum Editor Jessie Wang



When I read the farewells of other *Argo* seniors, I would always think about what I would write in my own. Now, however, I can hardly articulate what I want to say. But I'll try my best to express my gratitude and love for the *Argo* family.

I'll begin with some individual shoutouts, since I always used to hunt for them in senior farewells. To Michelle, thank you so much for being my loyal editing companion and partner-in-crime. It's been a whirlwind ride of scandals, stress and spreadsheets these past two years, but I am so glad to have had you by my side for all of it. Sorry for making you laugh during interviews :). To Hannah, you always blow me away with your intelligence and passion. I can't wait to see the things you will do as EiC! To Mark, Roan, Ariel and Annie, I could not be more reassured of the future of Forum now that it rests in your capable hands. I am so proud of what our section has become and excited for what it will be. Please continue to gaslight, girlboss and gate-keep articles from News.

To Ailin, thank you so much for being my declamation buddy since freshman year. I still remember how

we accidentally manifested a pandemic with our article about why 2020 was the best year to graduate. To Andrew, you always make meetings so much more entertaining because of your humor and ability to take the most violating photos of everyone. I would not have been able to survive these six years without you, even if you stopped taking the 35 halfway through sixie year. Jenny, thank you for commiserating about AP Lit timed writes with me at 1:00 A.M. and warning me about stiff shoulders. Lauren, I'll miss our carpools so much but I know we'll stay in touch.

While I loved editing articles and working with lovely Forum writers, I'm going to miss the times we goofed off during Production Week the most. Where else can I get a head massage (thank you Jenny) while listening to "Bikini Bottom," editing an article about *TikTok* and trying to eat an Insomnia Cookie under the desk so Ms. Moon won't see? When will I be able to sit in the big red orthopedic wrinkled EiC chair again? Most importantly, how will I cope if I never watch mostly-absent Layout associates pretend to get tipsy off shots of Fanta from tiny

Dollar Store cups again?

Above all, I'm so grateful for all the people I've met because of this silly little canine club. When I was an eighth grader being rejected from a Staff Writer position, I never thought I would be as committed to this club as I am right now. The *Argo* has become such a staple in my BLS career because of the friends I've made and the things I've learned along the way (all hail the inverted triangle).

To the non-Argonauts reading this, JOIN FORUM! If you couldn't tell by the four Forum editors and two Forum EiCs, Forum dominates the *Argo* (sorry not sorry). In all seriousness, I love every part of the *Argo* and will miss it dearly. It's hard to imagine that I will never propose a Forum article idea or be yelled at/gently reminded by Layout to make a dummy, but I could not have asked for a better experience. For all the returning students, you've got this! It might seem dark now, but you'll soon realize how far you've come along the way. For all my seniors, it's all over! While it's difficult to part with this chapter of our lives, there's so much promise and fun ahead of us. To new horizons and onwards!

## A&E Editor Penelope Meisel



When I joined the *Argo* as a freshman during the paper's first and only entirely virtual year, I thought meeting my editors, conducting interviews and learning *Argo*-specific grammar rules over Zoom would be the most difficult part of my time as a writer. Last spring, however, after becoming Head Editor of the then-entirely new A&E Editorial Board, the final year of my *Argo* career became one of the most challenging and rewarding learning experiences during my time at Boston Latin School.

Despite the challenges that came with learning the editing process, A&E has developed into a strong and reliant section over the past year. Every Editors' Meeting, article idea and hour spent on trying to craft the perfect dummy (it turns out they were never that serious... sorry Lena, Alice and Z!) contributed to our section's growth, and I am so proud of the work we have put in together.

Lena, thank you for being such an amazing head editor. I seriously could not have made it through the year successfully without your

skill, commitment and willingness to take initiative at times when I wasn't brave enough to. To Alice, I have absolutely loved working with you this year. It has been so great to watch you grow as an editor, leader and person, and I am so excited to see where the coming years take you — I am confident that you will continue to shine. Z, your commitment to not only the *Argo* but to so many BLS communities has always amazed me. You are an amazing writer, editor and leader, and I am so excited to see where life after high school takes you.

Anneliese, thank you for all your hard work and commitment this year. You are an amazing writer and I have no doubt that your transition to Assistant Editor will be seamless. To, Catherine, Kenneth, Alexandra, Isabella and Bridget — thank you for all of the work you put into the *Argo* this year! A&E has become such a wonderful culmination of all of your ideas, styles and interests, and I know that it will continue to grow under your roles as staff writers. Mindy, thank you for all you have contributed to A&E over the

past years. You are an amazing writer and leader, and I'm so happy that we re-connected through the *Argo*.

To the 2024-2025 A&E board: there is no one else I would trust more to be in charge of A&E next year! It has been so rewarding to witness the section grow stronger, and I am extremely confident in all of your abilities.

Joanna, Jenny and Ms. Moon — thank you so much for your endless support this year. You made the transition to Editor easier and less intimidating; qualities I hope to have mirrored to writers and other editors this year.

To every other editor, associate, contributing writer or anyone who has helped make the *Argo* run this year — thank you! My four years in the *Argo* has taught me the importance of surrounding yourself with supporting team members, and there is no absence of support and intent among any of you.

I will miss the *Argo* dearly, but I know it is in wonderful hands. Thank you for everything!



### Assistant A&E Editor Z Colimon



*Argo* has been essential to my highschool experience. I remember going to my first writer's meeting, having no clue what was going on. Never would I have guessed that I would end up in an editorial position! It has been such a privilege to work for A&E, whether that be editing or writing about the arts, my ultimate passion.

I want to shout out the *Argo* alumni that gave me guidance, notably Eliza Duff-Wender, the editor I wrote under. I also want to thank Mary Bosch. She pushed me to stay with the *Argo* and really helped me with navigating the ropes of doing it

with my other extracurriculars. I also want to shout out Joanna and Jenny for their amazing work this year as Editors in Chief! I absolutely adore their work ethic and ability to create such a safe and fun environment. Their guidance was essential to my becoming a better leader. To my co-editors, Alice, Penny, and Lena, thank you for being so consistently reliable and hard-working. You all are such lovely individuals and I am eternally grateful to have spent the year working alongside you. Finally, I want to shout out my Corner buddy, Parker. The Corner was tremendously fun to write and I was honored to get outreach to the student body with it.

To future Argonauts, don't forget why you signed up for *Argo*! Sometimes the deadlines and processes can be stressful, but the reward of writing a great article is like no other. The ways that journalism teaches you not only about current events, but humanity itself...that is something to never take for granted. And so, if you're ever discouraged, think about the end product. The network of communication that you are adding to. It makes the process all the more worth it :)

Cheers, and thank you *Argo*!!  
XOXO,

Z

### Assistant Sports Editor Vera Jacobson



Having only joined the *Argo* in sophomore year, while the time itself has raced by, the people I have met and their infectious passion for writing is something that I know will stay with me. I had always been quick to build a community on sports teams, but after being interviewed for an article about the volleyball season, my interest in the *Argo* spiked.

While writing for the sports section, I was overjoyed to bring a spotlight to the athletes and their hard work. By providing recognition and celebration to teams, especially those that might fly under the radar within the rest of the school, I felt I was making a tangible difference to promote a sense of camaraderie and connection.

Finally, in my last year as an editor who had power to help determine the direction of the sports section, I got the chance to learn the responsi-

bilities of upholding journalistic integrity and quality writing. I had a voice not just within my section, but within the entire newspaper, and I stepped up throughout the year to ensure our paper remained the best it could be.

Thank you to Maddie, Lauren and Romy, Sports editors of 2022-2023, for being great leaders and amazing examples.

Thank you to the EiCs, Jenny and Joanna, for the colossal amount of work it takes to run and manage this paper.

And of course thank you to Jessica, Caitlin and Rachel for being the best teammates a sports editor could ask for. From creating punny headlines to strategizing how to match up the articles and the writers, it truly is the people that make the place — and in our case, the last four pages of the paper.

Thank you to all of the other members of the editorial board, it is infectious being surrounded by such driven and hard working people.

And to the future of the section — Liam, Juliet, Rachel and Dimitra — I hope you take it to a whole new level, I know you will do an amazing job, keep the section thriving.

The *Argo* has taught me numerous lessons and provided me with countless memories. It is such a unique aspect of BLS as the threadline between so many different sectors of the school. Taking advantage of everything the *Argo* has to offer was one of my best decisions at BLS. To anyone considering joining, it is 100 percent worth it, — especially the sports section <3

Thank you to all who made these years what they were!

Vera

### Sports Editor Jessica Li



When I first joined the *Argo* in sophomore year, I wasn't sure what to expect. It was one of the first clubs I'd joined, and I was nervous about writing articles and meeting new people. Little did I know, writing for the *Argo* was more fun and easier than I had imagined.

While writing, I also expanded my own knowledge about various sports and became more in-tune with groundbreaking sports news. As a sports editor, I have so many great memories from Production Weeks. Some highlights include when we played the Meow Mix for ten minutes on repeat as a psychology experiment until finally one of the editors couldn't take it anymore and begged us to turn it off and when we ordered too many Insomnia Cookies and I took extra ones home.

Sports was also one of the fastest growing sections this year, and it would not have been possible without the work of so many people.

To Joanna and Jenny: thank you for dealing with my never-ending litany of questions and for all the text reminders. You've made so many improvements to the *Argo*, and it is easy to see how passionate you both are about journalism.

To Vera, thank you for being an amazing editor and friend to work with. I will never forget that one afternoon where we spent ONE HOUR editing the same article together — it was truly a bonding experience. *Argo* wouldn't have been half as fun without you, and I'll miss editing and doing other miscellaneous *Argo* activities during math seminar (oops).

To Caitlin, I appreciate you so much for all the article ideas you've contributed to every issue. You somehow know almost everything about sports at BLS, and I know I can always count on you for an extra article idea and for finding potential interviewees. Despite balancing so much sports and schoolwork,

you always make time for the *Argo*, which I appreciate very much.

And to Rachel, thank you for your speedy responses to my texts and for never failing to take care of something when I ask. You're truly an amazing writer and an even better editor — I am confident that you'll help our new editors for the next year transition smoothly.

To next year's new sports editors, Juliet, Liam, and Dimitra, I have so much faith in you; I've watched you all develop into skilled writers throughout the years, and I know you will be amazing editors. Your vision for sports and confidence in your own abilities is inspiring, and I can't wait to see the direction you take sports in!

I am constantly amazed by the creativity and eagerness that younger and new writers bring to the sports section, and I am so excited for the future of the Sports section!

### Assistant Sports Editor Caitlin McDonough



During the summer of my sophomore year going into junior year, I had an epiphany moment of wanting to be a sports journalist after attending the Women's Euros 2022. Being a two sport athlete, I never thought I would be able to add another extracurricular to my plate, but I was wrong.

I joined the *Argo* in the fall of my junior year and it was one of the best decisions I ever made. Oftentimes in English class, I struggled to write complex pieces, however The *Argo* was able to teach me invaluable journalism skills, while meeting great people along the way too. My favorite memory was the first time I showed up for a writing workshop. Immediately walking in, I felt a certain vibe from

the sports section and everything just clicked.

It feels like yesterday I wrote my first article, struggling to develop thought provoking interview questions or wondering whether or not my lede was interesting. Through months of learning the ins and outs, I can confidently say I no longer struggle with the word count, in fact I often exceed the word count. Flash forward months later, I would be named Assistant Sports Editor, an honor for me and my family.

I cannot thank Lauren, Maddie and Romy for giving me the chance to write for the Sports section and for being fantastic role models that I looked up to. I cannot thank Jessica and Vera enough for being the best group of

editors to work with. I cannot thank enough the EiCs, Jenny and Joanna, for being so patient. All of us Sports Editors greatly appreciate your hard work to make the *Argo* the best newspaper in all of Boston.

To all of the other editors, Layout and Copy staff, you all are amazing people who have an incredible taste in music too. From the rush of carnations to the joy of finalizing PDF edits, it has been an incredible ride.

Although it's time to put a final period on this chapter, I know The *Argo* will continue to thrive. Good luck to Liam, Juliet, Rachel, and Dimitra. You all are going to do great things next year. Can't wait to continue reading your amazing work!

Love, Caitlin

## Copy Editor Fiona Yuan



I never thought the day would come when *Argo* would forcefully remove me from my three-year tenure as Head Copy Editor. My unruly, perhaps unsettling young passion for copy editing might have dulled over time, but the leadership and maturity I gained from the *Argo* is something I will forever be grateful for.

Working with the *Argo* has been a pillar in my years at Boston Latin School. If I can bear Room 016, office work can never get the best of me. My love for journalism and writing only grew with the *Argo*, which on that note to any aspiring Argonauts: the *Argo* is the perfect outlet to geek out about everything writing and Production. I'm grateful to have had my quirks validated among such a profound group of straight up nerds and regrettably, Taylor Swift fans.

If Copy is my main home at the *Argo*, Forum is my origin story. Switching over from News to Forum after writing my first article about teacher spotlights (which embarrassingly, Ms. Heflinger's name would be misspelled in multiple ways and eventually printed on paper), I would challenge myself to write op-eds for issues that I had little knowledge in, if it's even a side I agreed with. Measly eighth-grade me always dreamed of effectively forming opinions and keeping firm with a stance. Now as a graduating senior, I can say I've fulfilled that criteria and am much more comfortable voicing my (or others') opinions through journalism. I'm sure eighth-grade me would be incredibly proud. Because of that, Forum will always have a special place in my heart.

Now, Copy! I had so much fun being

your local Copy Editor. Copy editing, out of surprise, never got boring. The rules are ever so changing, and it's great that I had a say in what could completely change the way *Argo* approached a certain grammatical problem. I have a myriad number of people I have to thank — this journey would not have been possible without the many people who have guided and believed in me.

To Alice and Cindy, although you apologized for your messy leadership when I was a timid assistant editor those many years ago, quite frankly, I never noticed. As a naive and inspired freshman during the pandemic, you would lay down the foundations of the long years that would follow me in Copy. Every year I always aspire to not disappoint, if not, be better than what I was provided with.

Darren and Justine: working with you two for two short years (!) has taught me so much about teamwork and balance, and to this day I continue to live up to certain attributes from you that still stick with me. Darren, I will always respect your diligence and perfectionist-like drive toward your work, and Justine, I still find myself reflecting on our silly conversations and your wisdom toward anything life-related. Copy truly hasn't been the same without you two, but it's okay, because we still carry that potential to be greater than ever. I truly hope things have been going well in your first years in college.

Lindsey, Haley and Vicky: thanks for bearing with my messy leadership this year (oh, the generational guilt!) I loved getting to know each of you, both within

*Argo* and outside of it. Thank you for the late-night edits and for accompanying me in hellish Copy weeks, when it seemed like nothing could get finished, yet somehow it came together in the end. Lindsey and Haley, we'll be off to college! I wish the best as you embark on your journeys beyond BLS and the *Argo*. Vicky, I can't wait to see you grow as a leader, and it's been a pleasure to watch you grow as a Copy Editor this year! Andrew and Meilin, I have no doubts that alongside Vicky, you will live up to our Copy legacy. Please reach out if you ever have questions!

To the current EiCs, Joanna and Jenny, I am sorry for delegating certain crucial tasks when I was busy this year, and thank you for caring for this section when we fell short. Elizabeth and Selina, I miss you lots! Thank you for listening to me yap about everything including Copy, and for being so supportive with whatever copy-editing curveballs I throw.

To the rest of *Argo*, thank you for worshipping and believing in our Copy Bible, even if you might not totally agree with our deep hatred for and vendetta against oxford commas. I will most definitely miss those who got their articles in time for Production week, and likewise, I will NOT miss those who didn't! I am joking... I promise. Those who I wasn't able to mention by name, it was such a pleasure to have known and worked with you at the *Argo*.

That's it! It really is my time to go. Thank you for letting me, and us, be your favorite grammar police.

Signing off,  
Fiona

## Copy Editor Lindsey Jiang



Although I will forever continue to use Oxford commas in my own writing, I am glad to give them up this one time.

I remember my first glimpse of the *Argo*, back in eighth grade: I went to a Photo workshop where some seniors taught us how to edit photos into black and white, but I was so intimidated by them, I decided I was never going back. I was wrong, the next year I did go back, despite being mid-pandemic. I vividly remember never taking a single photo, but instead, looking up pictures of Tom Brady to edit. I still felt disconnected though, failing to understand the point (sorry, Photo). So the next year in-person, I decided to try again with something new: Copy. That's when *Argo*

finally clicked for me. I'd always been a bit of a perfectionist, so copy-editing was perfect. All the little grammar details scratched an itch for me. And while I have thoroughly enjoyed all the work I have done, throughout my time in the *Argo*, the most important part has been the community.

First, to Fiona, thank you for being Copy's backbone and being there when I couldn't, especially this past year. I genuinely don't know what I would've done without you. When I think of Copy, I think of you.

To Haley, I wish I could've worked with you more this year. To the next four!

To Vicky, Andrew and Meilin, I know you guys are going to continue to

do amazing work and I'm so proud of all of you.

To Michelle and Hannah, congratulations! You guys are headed for great things and your hard work will pay off. And sorry for finishing this so late.

And to all the young readers out there, especially if you don't like writing but want to be part of something amazing, join Copy! It's worth it I promise.

I cannot believe these years have gone by so quickly. I am so grateful for everything I've learned and experienced here. I'm truly going to miss it all (especially the Insomnia cookies, yum).

Best of luck to everyone!  
Lindsey <3

## Assistant Copy Editor Haley Do



And just like that, my six years at BLS are over. It didn't hit me that I was going to be leaving until the underclassmen I call friends cried on my shoulders, telling me that they were going to miss me. There's not going to be another year of saving the summer reading for the last two days before school starts, there's not going to be another round of schedule releases, and this year, I will be one of the students screaming the "it's all over chant" on the seniors' last day of school. I've been telling everyone how I'm so excited to leave this life-draining "prison," but I guess a little part of me is going to miss these overcrowded halls, crumbling ceilings and the friends I made on the way.

I joined the *Argo* in the fall of sophomore year after the EC fair, partially because I wanted to have more extracurriculars, but mostly because my friends said that they would join with me (they did not). I didn't feel like my writing was good enough to write articles, and to be quite frank, I didn't really want to put myself out there. With only a few more sections to choose from, I decided to give Copy a try, and I'm so glad I did.

Let me start with my very unbi-

ased, super objective, totally not-hot (very cold) take: COPY IS THE BEST! Now that that's over, it's time to propagandize and not-so-politically socialize the youth on why this section's the best. First and foremost, you get to snoop at all the articles before release. I cannot tell you how many times where I've just loitered on docs that I wasn't even editing myself (shout out to writers lmao?). Also if you don't like writing, but still want to improve your writing, this is the section for you. Proofreading writing is a vital skill, wherever you go, so if you kinda suck at writing, hey at least you're a master proofreader now!

I am also very fortunate that I worked with such a great team of Copy Editors this year. Lindsey, thanks for listening to my non-stop complaining about nonsense and making me enjoy Production weeks by getting off track (oops...). Fiona, thanks for always making sure that we stay on task, being so down to earth, answering all my dumb questions and giving me the confidence to step up as an Assistant Copy Editor. I will miss hanging out with you whether it be in 016, Ms. Shipley's closet or on the master spreadsheet at 2:00 A.M. Vicky, I will never not be amused by the way we make eye contact with each

other when presented with a question that only Fiona would know the answer to. Thanks for holding up the fort while the seniors skedaddle to our next adventures. You are a very brave soul (salute).

Although I have such a strong bias towards Copy, credit is due where it's due. Thank you to whoever put an ungodly amount of Laufey onto the *Argo* playlist. And to the rest of the *Argo* members, thank you for the incredible work that you all put into each issue. Without everyone's contribution, the *Argo* wouldn't be what it is now. I'll forever cherish the memories I have in the dungeon of 016 — insomnia cookies at 4:00 P.M., begging writers' sections for articles, etc.

Writing this as my very first and last piece for the *Argo* has forced me to look back at my journey here. For the last few years, I've been so focused on my future that I've neglected to appreciate the little moments in my present. Thank you to everyone who contributed to my experience here at BLS and made this ride enjoyable (and for those who made it a living hell, thanks for giving me something to yap about in the group chat).

Signing off,  
Haley Do <3



## Layout Editor Lily Huynh



I don't think it'd be right for me to begin this farewell without confessing my biggest secret I've kept for the last three years, so here it is: I never wanted to be in Layout.

It was fall of tenth grade and I was at the advanced workshop for the production sections, fully set on joining Photo with Andrew. I was listening to the then-photo editors introduce the basics of using a camera when I spotted my school crush sitting on the other side of the room with Layout. Obviously, fifteen-year-old me thought the best thing to do in that situation was to pick up all my stuff and tell Andrew I wanted to do Layout instead. I went to sit with Mari and our friend Angie to watch the Layout presentation, telling them I changed my mind and wanted to be with them (sorry I lied guys, I didn't actually choose Layout because of you).

Although I didn't join Layout for the

right reasons, I'm glad it's where I ended up in the end, even if it doesn't always feel like it. I'll admit, there have been many sleepless nights and tears shed during production weeks and over PDF edits, but there was also a lot of laughter shared when the 10:00 P.M. delusion hit during final Fridays or throughout the entirety of the carnation process. We suffered, but we suffered together. I owe a lot to the *Argo* for teaching me the importance of double-checking everything, surrounding me with a community of friends passionate about journalism and helping me to realize the futility of the Oxford comma.

To Aidan, I wish this could be the end of our journey together, but unfortunately, you're following me for another four years... There has been a lot of misdirected (and rightfully directed) anger towards you, but thank you for still being my friend after all the punches you've taken. You always bring the energy and "Beautiful Girls" every production week, even if you disappear half the time to play basketball in the Lower Gym. You may be ecstatic that our newspaper and powerlifting endeavors are ending, but I'll miss all of it. Let's take over the Massachusetts Daily Collegian together next fall?

To Mari, my longest friend, shoutout for being one of the few *Argo*-Crew survivors... And thank you for carrying all the *Argo* anger so no one else had to. I would not have gotten through the last three years, or even the last 14, without you. You are truly one of the most passionate, outspoken people, and I know you'd always have my back. Whenever we don't get the recognition we deserve, you're always the one speaking up and advocating for us in every group chat and in person meeting. Maybe you should've

written for Forum. This is not a goodbye, I will be seeing you for plenty of beach days.

To Sophia, my official unofficial head editor. I cannot thank you enough for all the hard work you've done this year. I know you probably went into this year excited to work under the leadership and guidance of three upperclassmen, when in reality, you slowly took on more responsibilities than the aforementioned editors. Layout would've crumbled if we didn't have you to step up for us during the last two issues. It's been a pleasure to work with you for the last year and we're always a text away if you need any help, even if all our Macbooks broke.

To Ashley, Alan and Sam, you were all chosen for a reason! Please be kind to Sophia and take up any extra work you can do, she's lived three years of Layout experience in one year. I know that together, the four of you will leave your mark on Layout.

To Parker and Joanna, my Head Cruciverbalists, it's been an honor toiling over the crosswords every month with you guys. I'll miss our early morning café dates, the laughs shared over absurd clues and pushing the boundaries of what words can be put in our puzzles. I hope next year's Cruciverbalists can be at least half as funny as us.

To Photo,

To Jenny, my Layout queen. I actually would not have survived without you. You were doing so much Layout after becoming EiC that you might as well have just stayed as a head editor with me. Thank you for always helping with any question we ever had and for lending an ear to my frustrations. I'll miss every venting session during Asian Studies and late night texts when we're scrambling to export and no one else is awake. Please re-

lax more next year, you deserve it.

To Joanna, the JOML, I love you. I love how you can't hold in any of your laughs and I love the dedication and care you put into anything you do. You truly deserve the world and I'll be cheering you on everywhere you go. One of the reasons I owe so much to the *Argo* is because I wouldn't know you otherwise. You recognize everyone's hard work and make them feel seen, and I hope everyone who doesn't have the chance to meet you will have someone in their life like you. I can't wait to spend the summer traversing New York (again) and hiking through Maine, and the rest of eternity with you.

To Ms. Moon (AKA the best ELA9/AP Lit/*Argo* advisor combo), admittedly, I've been a little terrified of you ever since ninth grade English. AP Lit, however, has by far been one of my favorite classes and I'm so grateful to have had you as a teacher beginning and ending high school. You've helped me to develop so much as a student and as a person. Keep in touch! B)

To Hannah and Michelle, you both are such driven, inspiring people and I'm happy to have worked under you for those three days I helped during the Graduation Issue production week. You two are going to change the *Argo* for the better!

To the rest of every *Argo* Board I've worked with, past and present, although I did not have the pleasure to get to know all of you personally, each one of you have brought so much to this paper and I'm proud to be part of "the *Argo* cult."

To quote one of the greats: *Slayout*. Peace out,  
Lily

## Layout Editor Aidan Tran



You know who it is: the goat of all goats. But this time this isn't about me; instead it's about the people who made me, me. Thinking back I was just a sixie sitting in the corner of O16. Although I was coerced by my older sister to join the *Argo*, I would not be the

person I am today without it. Shouts out to my big sis: you the real goat.

First and foremost, I would like to shout out my section, the best section, the backbone of the *Argo*: Layout. Not going to lie, I had my moments of weakness, but you guys never failed to support me and the sections as a whole, and I hope that at times I was able to do that for you guys.

To Lily, I really mess with you heavily, that's about it xD.

Mari, you cool too I guess.

Sophia, thanks for sticking with us for the one year we had the pleasure of working together. You are capable of everything you put your mind to and so I retire from the section knowing that its future is bright.

Sam, Ashley and Alan, I'm not going to lie: y'all will go through it. Layout will work you through the long nights and many edits, but it is when we are at our lowest where the most beautiful bonds grow. Trust me when I say that you guys will one day be truly proud to call these people your friends just as my section was for me.

Jenny, isn't it crazy how I was the one to teach you about layout. So technically we can chop it up to: Aidan taught Jenny, so when Jenny was teaching layout, it was really Aidan xD. Anyways, Jenny, you are truly one of the most dedicated and hardworking leaders, teachers and friends I know. Layout definitely would not have survived without you. I was always expecting your promotion to EiC, and I will be manifesting and celebrating your success.

Alright, for real this time, Lily, thank you. Thank you for all the copious amounts of work you did. Thank you for putting up with me and all the mistakes and all the dumb things I did. Thank you for spreading happiness with your contagious smile and your snorting laughter. When we say Layout is the backbone of the *Argo* we fail to mention that you're the backbone of Layout. Although I would love for this to be where our journey ends, you had to trail after me to University of Massachusetts Amherst. But for real, I am very grateful to be entering college with one of my best friends, and I am so very excited for

all the stories we are going to be able to tell.

What's good Mari. Thanks for being my fellow assistant editor until your boy got that big promo B). The kindness and empathy you exude is something I will never forget, not to undermine all the work you did. Your jokes and snarky comments breathed life into every Production Week. Anytime I had something to talk about you were there willing to listen and I really appreciate that. Unlike Lily, you didn't copy my flow, so I am excited to see everything you achieve and we will be celebrating your success from Amherst. You will be missed very much, but it will just make our reunion that much better when we come around for break.

Special shout outs to Kevin, Ms. Moon and EiCs past and present.

There have been times where I had mixed feelings about the *Argo* but looking back on it I wouldn't change a thing.

To everyone in the *Argo*: thank you for everything.

Aidan

## Assistant Layout Editor Mari Baker



At the beginning of sophomore year, I made the random decision to join the *Argo*. Little did I know, that would be one of the most important decisions I would make in high school. I chose to join Layout because I wanted to do

graphic design, and eventually I was promoted to a position on the editorial board.

Throughout my two years as an assistant editor for Layout, I have learned so much about teamwork, patience and persevering even when everything seems to be going wrong. I have so many memories in the *Argo* room, and although we were at school past 9:00 PM on countless Friday nights, those are experiences that I would not trade for a thing. I have formed some of my closest, most valuable friendships in O16, and I am so excited to see where all of my friends end up as we all pursue different paths in the future.

Lily, thank you for being both my rock and Layout's rock! You have carried this section for the past year, and truly nobody can do it like you. Thank you for joining Layout with me in tenth grade, and being there for me as we both were brought to tears under the crippling stress of high school com-

bined with late night Final Fridays. It means so much to me that you've not only tolerated my temper, but matched my energy for the 14 years that we've been friends. There is seriously nobody else I would have rather done this with.

Aidan, I know you won't believe me when I say this, but I am truly grateful for you being a Layout editor. I hope that everyone you encounter in Amherst lets you take aux so you can keep questionably dancing to your questionable songs!

Sophia, I'm so proud of all the work that you have done throughout your *Argo* career, and I know that Layout is in good hands with you. If you ever need help with anything at all, I am always here for you!

And to next year's Layout board, Sophia, Alan and Ashley, I am so sorry for breaking my Macbook (twice), and introducing a broken Mac curse to all the Co '24 editors. I pray that you all are exempt from my curse and have a lovely

time with InDesign! We will always be happy to help! :)

Joanna and Jenny, thank you for being such amazing EiCs. You two are the most passionate and driven people I know, and it has been an honor to witness the ways that you guys have enhanced the *Argo* and inspired all of your peers.

Michelle and Hannah, I am so proud of you! Hannah, anybody who talks to you can get an immediate sense of your passion and good energy. I have never had an uninteresting conversation with you and I don't think it is even possible. Michelle, I am so glad that we have gotten closer over the past year. You are such a diligent and kind person, and I can't wait to see what you two accomplish throughout the next year.

I'm sad my time with the *Argo* has come to an end, but so grateful for all of the amazing friends I made and lessons I have learned. Thank you for everything!

## Photo Editor Andrew Lay



My *Argo* career began back in eighth grade, at the behest of the *Argo*'s bossiest and most annoying editor who just so happened to be my cousin, Regina Chiem. I remember being overwhelmed by Anthony and Jess as they earnestly tried to explain how *Photoshop* worked to me, and how my inexperience accidentally led to the birth of the most horribly edited photo of a duck in black and white with inverted colors... oops. It was so embarrassing that I was unable to show my face for the rest of eighth grade and didn't return to the *Argo* until my freshman year before eventually becoming the beloved editor that we all know and love today. Nevertheless, if you had told eighth grade me that the *Argo*, the club where I almost peed my pants in the legendary presence of Jess Schnitzer, would become my favorite club of all time where I would find my second family, I would have never believed you. Yet here I am now, and I am so happy for the experiences that I had within the trenches of 207 and 016 and all of the memories and connections that I've made over the last four (five?) years. As such, I would like to formally pull what some may call an "Elizabeth Choi" and reflect on all of the wonderful people that have helped shape my experience with the *Argo*.

First up is News! To Kevin, thank you for being my friend since the fourth grade, and for being the rock of the News section. I'll always cherish my time in the News *Google Classroom*, the many Ward events that I totally helped contribute to and the long-standing chain *Ayana's* that we helped found all those years ago. And to Ailin, you are honestly the picture-perfect definition of an editor. You may be News, but your graphics skills are top-tier, and I hope you continue to find success whether it be through the *Argo*, BYSO or the best list of book recommendations that I've ever seen anyone conjure up.

Next on the roster is Forum! First, I'd like to thank Cinly for always keeping me on my toes and always defying my expectations, for better and for worse! I swear I'll never make you trek up Corey Hill again (although the flicks were sooo worth it), but we're definitely having many Bartaco

dates in our future. And to Jessie, I'm going to miss you for the next four years, even if we're just one river apart. Consider this my seminar speech! We've been through thick and thin together — from the Algebra I test that you got a zero on for doing the wrong problems, the endless rounds of *Among Us* that hounded our freshman year and the day where we all decided that you looked like a Lickitung. While you may not be with me physically anymore, I promise you that my ears have been permanently damaged from your piccolo, and I'll never forget the outline of your funeral dress, the many seminar discussions we had or the wide-eyed stare of your blue-dressed headshot which is emblazoned into my mind for all of eternity. And finally, to Mark, I'll always remember you as the really tall kid from karate in JP who never had a frown on his face. The future of Forum is bright with you, and it's no question that you're going to kill it both next year and beyond. And while Mannah may be the new EiCs, they will always be my Forum babies at heart. Good luck leading the *Argo* next year! [especially with Michelle in her *Challengers* era right now ;)].

Next is A&E, or as some of us may call it, (ph)Arts and Entertainment! Eliza, you were the only reason I made it through online Geometry class, and someone I could always confide in during Production weeks, as well as someone I could always split my *Insomnia* cookies with. Z, you are honestly the coolest person I've ever had the pleasure of meeting. I truly believe that there is not a single miss within your closet, and your artistic abilities in theater, singing and even journalistic writing are all profoundly amazing and inspirational. Penny, I'm happy that we got to know each other this year! Thank you so much for always being the first to respond to my pleas for photo descriptions and expect *many* visits at UCLA. Finally, to Lena, you're welcome for the prom date. It's been a crazy ride together throughout this year, especially in a certain black Lexus. In all seriousness, while your transition from News to A&E may have been rather abrupt, I think that you've found a new writing section to call home, and I'm sure that you'll spearhead the success of your section next year! Just please remember to keep those photo descriptions updated for future Photo's sanity. And more importantly, I'm ecstatic that you're staying as \*just\* an A&E editor, and that we all learned from the last time someone tried to lead A.S.I.A. and *Argo* at the same time. <3

Last but not least of the writing sections is Sports! Romy, it's been a difficult year without my double reed twin or without our debriefs in the corner of Production week, but I persevered somehow. And to Jessica, I'll always look back fondly on our study dates at the SEC, and I swear one day I'll get Sage to love me. While your tenure as an editor has been brief, I loved coming up with Sports headlines together, and

I'll always be around if you need a quick headshot! Expect some vile valedictorian speech candids.

Up next is the unsung section of the *Argo*, Copy! To Fiona, thank you for always being around to answer my questions, both related and unrelated to *Argo*, no matter what ungodly hour of the day it is. And to Lindsey, my birthday twin, I can always count on you for Copy advice and caption formatting. Even if you were the one that dragged me into the hells of both K-pop and *Genshin Impact*, I'll always treasure the past six years that we spent together.

Next is the worst section of all time, but one that the *Argo* unfortunately needs: Layout. To Aidan, you are the textbook definition of a bro, and I mean that in the best way possible. Thank you for always being approachable, and I'll miss our hallway chair-racing antics whenever the EiCs weren't watching. To Lily, I don't know how I'm going to get through the next four years without you. I'm sure I'll always be a nagging voice in the back of your head, whether it be a snarky comment or a lingering remnant of insanity from you yelling "Caption needs a character cut!" for the thousandth time of the week. And to Mari, thank you for being the heart and soul of the Layout section and of my experience at Boston Latin for the last five years. Our Final Friday dinners together might be the closest thing to pure happiness that I've ever felt within the cursed walls of this building. To paraphrase and misquote a certain star swimmer with a Victorian-era government name, "We love Mari Baker when we are on our grind. And we are *never* off that grind."

I'll save the best section for last, so I'll dedicate this section to my lovely EiCs, both Selizabina and Joe. To Selina, you can trust that I'll always be around to take the most divine candids of you, and I'll always be there to steal your chair. You helped me write the only non-captions that I've written for this paper, namely a good portion of your editor's notes and have always been like my second *Argo* big-sister. To Liz, the girl that gaslit *Fearless* into my top three Taylor albums, even if our parasocial spreadsheet is basically dead, our friendship is anything but. While I'm still not sure how exactly your brain works, you can bet that I'll always be reading your *Crimson* articles, and that I'll always be there to vigilantly support your violently undecided undergraduate career. After all, as self-proclaimed birds of a feather, we ought to stick together! To Jenny, I can't wait for the next four years together. You really deserve a stipend for babysitting all of the new Layout editors last year, and I hope to see you in orchestra and *The Daily Free Press* next year! And finally, to Joanna Lin. From Hamilton karaoke to intense *Just Dance* sessions and rounds of Super Smash Brothers that never ended well for you, there are no words to describe the influence that you have had on both the *Argo*

and on all of our experiences with the paper. Can't wait to see what you do as our resident singer/hornist/writer/engineer/mathematician/literally whatever you want to be! Hopefully your future is filled with less graphics though. For Photo and Layout's sanity.

And last but not least, the section that I've called home for these past years, Photo. To Mary, you are *the Argo* mother, and your impact as both an editor, staff writer and killer ballroom dancer will not be forgotten anytime soon. To Alex (Strand), we may have been some of the most unproductive assistant editors ever, but I'm sure that the *Argo* may have imploded with monotony if it weren't for our antics. To Karen, I'm so happy to have known you for the past eight years, and although I'll never understand what you could possibly love with Latin, I know that I can always count on you for advice, and I'll keep streaming our AP Calculus BC song in the background forever. Parker, you were always there whenever I needed a good laugh or a bombastic side eye, and I could always count on you to keep the wildest associates in check. To Alicia Moy, you have been such a reliable partner to be a co-editor with, and I don't know what Photo would've been without you this year. Here's to more Vivis runs in our future! To Alex (Le), you are already BLS's star photographer, and I know the future of Photo is safe in your hands. To Ben, it's been a pleasure to watch you grow as a photographer, and I can only hope that your farewell next year will be dramatically shorter than mine. To Lauren, I'm so sorry that you had to deal with three seniors this year, but you did an amazing job, and I know you'll continue to do great things in the future. To Regina, I hate you for dragging me into this mess, but thank you for granting me the opportunity to discover a second family within this newspaper. And finally, to an incoming sixie and Class of 2030 member (gross), Alicia (Lay), because you are family, I am holding a higher standard to follow in my footsteps. Just kidding! I wanted to plagiarize what Regina said about me. But in all seriousness, you *better* join the *Argo* next year as both an aspiring photographer and as the final nepo baby of this *Argo* generation. </3

I have reached the second part of my "Elizabeth Choi" farewell, where I have become overcome with immense guilt over how grueling it was to thank each and every single person that helped me along my journalism journey. This is a formal apology to anyone who has to edit or layout this farewell. Thank you to all of the *Argonauts*, both aforementioned and unmentioned, that have made this newspaper one of my fondest experiences, and good luck to the future *Argonauts*! I know 016 will be way less dank without me, but I'm sure you'll find a way to persevere :).

Signing off,  
Andrew Lay





### Photo Editor Alicia Moy



I first "joined" the *Argo* when I put my name on the sign-up sheet during the extracurricular fair in sixie year. I would get emails from the *Argo* all throughout sixie year and eighth grade but it wasn't until freshman year that I decided I would go to my first Photo meeting. I had nothing better to do with my time so why not take photos for the school newspaper through Zoom? Sounds sappy, but this was the best decision I have ever made. Ever since that day, I have found a community of amazing people and have made so many memories. From eating Cane's with all the Argonauts during Final Fridays to counting and recounting carnation slips in 207, I have had the best time getting to know everyone in the *Argo* family.

Over the years, I have learned so much, not only from the photo section but from all the talented people around me. At *Argo*, I truly felt that I

was learning something new every day and I am so grateful to all the associates and editors who have helped make *Argo* feel like a second family.

To Andrew: You are an OG. From freshman year Zoom Photo to senior year Photo, we have come a long way. Thank you for always getting food during Production week and coming on Vivi's runs with me. We have been through a lot together and I am glad that we were able to make it to the end!

To Parker: Thank you for making *Argo* days so much more fun. From your little comments in our interview notes document to trying to teach our sixies how to use a camera, you never fail to make me laugh.

To Lauren: Thank you for keeping us seniors on track and pushing us through our senioritis. You are the kindest person I know and I am confident that you are going to do amazing things

in the future.

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To Joanna and Jenny: Thank you for being the best EiCs anyone could ask for. You guys have worked so hard and have made my experience in the *Argo* so fulfilling and I am so grateful for everything you two have done!

Finally, to all the Argonauts, thank you for all the laughs and fun memories made throughout these past few years. You all have made the *Argo* an unforgettable experience in the best way possible and I will miss you all very much!

### Photo Editor Parker Hastings



Being an Argonaut has been the best part of my Boston Latin School experience. I am so happy to have spent the last three years with such incredible people who all share a passion for journalism.

To the juniors and underclassmen, please continue to have fun with *Argo*. There is joy in everything that comes with this organization.

JOE! Y'all have been an absolute unit and it's been an honor to work under you. Your dedication to the *Argo* has shone in every issue this year.

To my corner buddy Z, I loved every single Q&A sesh we did. Good grief

were some of them worrisome, but it was a blast, as well as everything else we did for the *Argo*, LOL. Getting to watch movies and review them like we were critics was most definitely the most memorable thing ever.

Moving on, PHOTO! We did so well this year: From engagement to age range, there has been so much growth just from this year and I'm so proud of us. I know our section will only get better!

Dearest incoming Photo section: I am so saddened to leave you all but I know you're going to do great things. Photo is continuing its crawl to be the

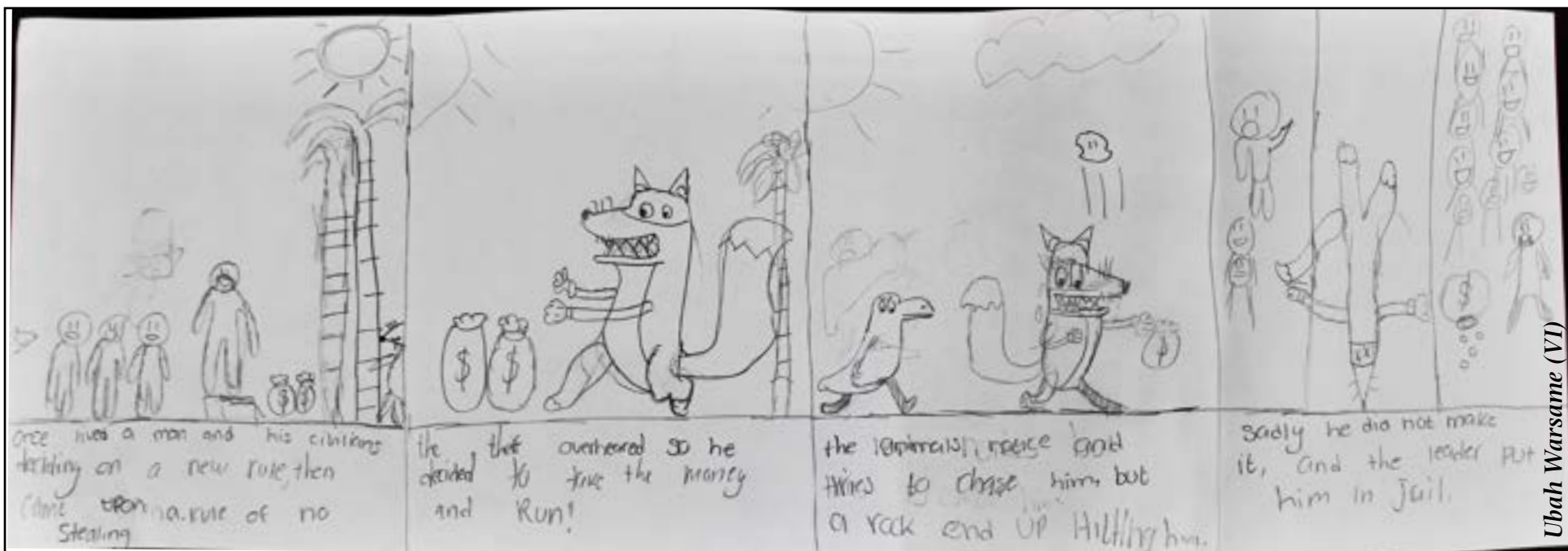
best section, and you three are the best for the job. Alex, you're a powerhouse, you're everywhere all at once and your commitment to photography is unmatched. Lauren, I loved working with you this past year and I am so excited to see you grow. Ben, I'm so excited for your contributions to the Photo section; I have no doubt that you'll succeed and make the section even better. Photo is in great hands with you all!

I love the *Argo* with every bone in my body; thanks for the best.

Parker Hastings



Christine Huynh (VI)



Ubah Warsame (VI)

### Congratulations, Jane!



You are such a thoughtful, eloquent and engaging person. We look forward to seeing you explore the world and wish you great happiness in life!

With Love, Mom and Dad



We are so extraordinarily proud of you Georgia! We have watched you blossom over these past six years at BLS and are so excited for this next chapter for you - you DID IT! We love you so much and will always be here cheering you on from the sidelines. Always. You're simply amazing!

### Congratulations Joydeep!



We are so proud of you.  
Love from the Hankwitz  
House.

### Griffin....



**We are so proud of you!**  
**Love Mom, Dad, Josh and Brian**



*Mazel Tov on all your accomplishments! We are so very proud.*



We can't wait to see what your future holds. Always know we are in your corner. Love you to the moon and back.  
-Always, Ima, Mom, Gavi and Mateo



## CONGRATULATIONS VICTORIA!



From science to swimming to community Service. We are so proud of you and all that you have accomplished. Look out Baltimore. Here comes Victoria!

We love you  
Mom, Dad, Elizabeth, Thomas and Juno

## *Congratulations, Eliza!*



We are so proud of you.  
Love, Mom, Dad and Audrey

UMass Amherst get ready, Isabel-la Guthrie is on her way! Congrats we are so proud of you! We love you more than you words could ever say... xoxo



# Rebecca Hein



Rebecca, we are so impressed by all your academic and athletic accomplishments. But most of all we are so proud of the supremely empathetic, caring and emotionally intelligent young woman you have become. We wish you all the best in Madison!  
On, Wisconsin.  
With much love, Lincoln and Mom

## Congratulations Anna!



We are so proud of you!  
Can't wait to see you shine at UMASS Amherst!

Best wishes to BLS Class of 2024!

Love, Mom, Dad,  
Lucas & Sofie

## Congratulations John! And to the BLS Class of 2024



Such a fun and amazing journey!  
Looking forward to your next chapter!

*Carpe Diem*

**So Proud of You!**

Mom, Dad, Catie '19,  
Madelyn '20, & Mackenzie '22

## Congratulations, Colin Blair!



Outstanding scholar & dedicated rower! We know you will kick butt at CWRU! So proud of you!

Love, Mom, Dad & Bridget





*Congratulations to Vivian Popa and the class of 2024 on this incredible milestone!*

*You made us very proud!*

*"Behind you, all your memories;  
Before you, all your dreams;  
Around you, all who love you;  
Within you, all you need."*

*May you always have the courage to chase your dreams, follow your heart, embrace every opportunity, rise above challenges and never stop striving for greatness.*

*Thank you to everyone who was in this wonderful journey! We will miss you!*



*We love you  
with all  
our hearts, Mom,  
Dad, Grandpa,  
family from  
overseas, friends,  
Max and eight birds  
XOXO*



# Balancing Sports and Academics On and Off the Field



Alex Le (III)

Track runner Matt Ouyang (II) completes his German homework before a meet.

**By Trevor Gracombe (III)**

*Staff Writer*

Struggling to find the right balance between sports and academics is something that almost all Boston Latin School student-athletes struggle with. BLS is synonymous with a heavy workload and rigorous academic curriculum, which often doesn't leave much time for an emphasis on sports.

Most BLS sports compete in the Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Association (MIAA) Division I (D-I) and some, like the boys' hockey team this year, have even won the state championships. So what makes athletes' schedules so busy, and how do BLS

student-athletes manage to keep up such high levels of performance, both on and off the field?

A primary reason as to why student's schedules are so busy is the lack of field space. Even though BLS is located near many fields, such as Clemente, Carter and Sweeney Field, BLS athletes are rarely permitted to use them. This creates a struggle regarding transportation and practice space.

For instance, soccer players have been forced to make the trek to West Roxbury High School, often without a bus. This is an experience shared by baseball players, who use the same home field. The hockey team plays and practices in South Boston, and the ten-

nis team doesn't even have designated home courts.

It is important to note that BLS's suburban competitors in the Dual County League are all able to practice and play on fields at school and thus save valuable time.

Alex Greene Barrios (I) has been a four-year varsity athlete on both the wrestling and soccer teams. He claims that, "The BLS workload is not designed to accommodate athletics."

When considering the amount of time sports and athletics take up, it is no surprise some athletes struggle to make time for schoolwork. Multi-sport varsity athlete Benjamin Davison (II) reflects on his time playing

varsity sports and the impact commuting has had on his student-athlete experience, "Transportation is a big factor, where due to our lack of home fields and practice resources on school campus, we have to commute much further than other schools [...] Practices are usually two hours longer or an hour longer just because of commuting times, which cuts into time to do homework."

The School's student-athletes often find ways to get around these extreme scenarios. Students often suggest taking free time in school, such as studies or W block to do work.

The busy schedule, however, does not curb student-athletes' love for sports. Greene Barrios will continue his wrestling career at the Division III collegiate level and Max Deane (I) will continue his track career at Boston College, a D-I powerhouse.

When asked about the stress of the college recruiting process on top of an already busy schedule, Deane notes, "Although my recruitment process started later than the traditional path, I was able to get a lot done during the summer." Prioritizing sports and academics during the school year and designating outside time to focus on the recruitment process could be a useful strategy for student-athletes.

Greene Barrios adds, "[The college recruiting process is] very involved. Since college sports are so competitive, I really had to market myself and do all the outreach to coaches. Sending in film, transcripts, accolades as well as calling and emailing coaches took up a large part of the early process." He explains, "[My] process was made significantly easier by having good grades. Many of these coaches ask for your grades before even bothering to see your qualities as an athlete because coaches want reliable athletes who would be accepted into the school and eligible to compete their whole time there."

Despite the rigorous academic curriculum, being a student-athlete at BLS will have its benefits. Younger student-athletes should make note of the importance in having good grades for college recruitment, since academics are a huge part of college, regardless of an athlete's ability on the field; academics can be the make-or-break factor.

## BLS Tennis Serves Up a Successful Season

**By Maya Lanfer (IV)**

*Contributing Writer*

The Boston Latin School girls' varsity tennis team has yet again proved itself as an athletic powerhouse, serving up another triumphant season this spring. After dominating their regular season with a 13-2 record, the team is moving on to the state championship, which began May 29, and are looking to make another run at a title.

As of now, the girls' tennis team holds the second-seed position in the Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletics Association rankings. Out of all of their 15 competitions, they have lost just five, falling only to Wellesley and the defending champion, Lexington. This has placed them in a favorable position going into the state tournament and they are prepared to rival the run to the final four made by last year's team.

For their high school season and for states, each competition contains two teams that play five games in total. These games include the first, second and third singles matches and first and second doubles matches. Similar to most sports, if one wins the majority of games, one wins the competition, something that the BLS team has done many times throughout this season.

Despite how successful this team has been as of late, they have come a long way in their development. Head

Coach Paulanne Wilson reflects on the dominance of the current Wolfpack team. She says, "[Determination] stemmed from early on [when] various schools [had] no respect for my team because we were so bad." These humble beginnings have shaped the culture of the team, and as Coach Wilson puts it, a "passion for revenge." That passion has paid off, as the current team has grown and increased in ability.

While tennis out of the school environment can be a more solitary endeavor, high school tennis is centered around the team. Regardless, it requires incredible individual strength, technique and mental toughness. Tennis games are typically played with just two athletes who must deal with the physical demands of playing for hours at a time. This takes much time and dedication to the sport, but however daunting it may seem, it is a challenge that the BLS girls' varsity tennis team is most certainly up to.

Even through all of the intense competition and personal trials necessary for such a sport, varsity player Vanessa Vu (III) emphasizes the deep connections and supportive environment that the team fosters, saying, "Encouraging each other is a normal thing and these players are almost like my second family. We all have built up so many great relationships while developing teamwork skills and it is overall a



Ngoc Ngo

BLS girls' varsity tennis poses for a picture.

wonderful experience." Even while they all fight their own battles in different matches, the ultimate goal is always to win the war and lift the team up as a whole.

This year's team has faced a few major challenges going into the 2024 season, as they struggled to procure court space for practices and matches. Team captain Rachel Lantsman (I) highlights another hurdle: "This year's season has been hard from losing three seniors last year." Three may not seem

like a lot but for a small team, it was a big hit. Especially since those lost players included key athletes like Christine Maher who went 19-0 in the state semifinals and won crucial games.

The team has been able to build back up and continue to establish themselves throughout the season. They have been able to find their way not only back to states but up in the rankings to second seed, proving themselves to be one of the most dominant teams that BLS has seen this year.



# Spring Sports Recap

By **Juliet McVay (III)**,

**Rachel Li (III)**,

**Dimitra Minasidis (III)**

& **Michael Tran (III)**

*Sports Editors and Contributing Writer*

## Baseball

The Boston Latin School boys' varsity baseball team wrapped up the 2023-2024 season with a final record of 11-9, winning a little over half of the games played this school year. The boys played hard this season and are sad to see the seniors — Aaron Cassidy, Mark Cronin, John Flynn, Stephen Flynn, Charlie George, Elliot Gordon, Brendan Norton and Paul Linso — go. These seniors showcased a great amount of leadership and inspired younger players. In the game against Wayland, Brendan Norton (I) threw a complete game, pitching the entire time and only allowing two hits. Although the graduating seniors made significant contributions in the 11 wins this season, the team's future looks bright without them.

## Lacrosse

The girls' varsity lacrosse team ended their season with a 9-8 record and "lots of happy memories" as captain Pippa Nilson (I) says. The team was able to just scrape by with their wins in their season due to their strong perseverance. The team is No. 22 in the Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Association (MIAA) lacrosse ranking and has landed a state playoff spot. Although they are sad to see many of their seniors — such as captain Maeve Murray (I) who had her 100th career goal against Concord Carlisle this season — go, the team has high hopes for next year and are excited to make it to states.

The boys on the varsity lacrosse team have strengthened their bonds more than ever this season. The team faced many major changes during the year, including the influx of many new players and the construction project at their previous field in Moakley Park. The construction project rendered Moakley Park unplayable and they were forced to move their practices to a location in Dorchester. Although this created challenges with transportation and access, they still had productive practices. Defenseman Aiden McCue (III) notes, "The captains are good leaders both on and off the field, and during practices they always keep us focused. As a team, we look up to them a lot." The team ended their season with a 4-14 record. Although they did not qualify for State Championships

this year, they look forward to next season for future success.

## Boys Volleyball

This year, the BLS boys' varsity volleyball team has had many ups and downs, leading to an unforgettable and incredibly fruitful season. They started off strong with wins against schools including Catholic Memorial, Boston Latin Academy (BLA) and Waltham High School. The boys trained hard during the season and won their last game with a clean sweep against Catholic Memorial, ending with a record of 11 wins and seven losses. In addition to their successes on the court, the team boasts incredible energy and has genuine connections with one another. John Tran (II), an outside and opposite hitter, states, "This team has proven itself to be resilient and we have worked hard throughout the season, winning against many teams that we wouldn't have had a chance with last year." Despite various injuries, the team placed in the top 20 of the MIAA Division I and they look forward to playing in the State Championship. Tran adds, "All of us will continue to make strides in the summer and winter to make the team even better next year." They will continue their hard work and dedication throughout the offseason and expect to be even stronger next season.

## Tennis

The girls on the varsity tennis team have been working tirelessly and have certainly been continuing the legacy of last year's success. Ranked No. 2 with a current record of 13-2, the team will play in the State Championships and will most definitely make a spirited run at the state title. Despite facing tough losses against Lexington High School, which is ranked No. 1, and Wellesley High School, they hope to triumph against these teams in their rematches during the postseason playoffs. First doubles player Lillian Nguyen (IV) says, "Last year we made it to the State finals before losing to Lexington. We hope to take it a little further this year but no matter how far we go, our team will try our best to pull through." The team has had an exceptional season so far with wins against schools like Acton Boxborough Regional High School, where they were able to flip the score and come out victorious. The girls will continue to train and play hard and will undoubtedly be a formidable threat in the MIAA State Championships.

BLS boys' varsity tennis team has

made many improvements this season, both on and off the court. With a current record of eight wins and eight losses, the team secured victories against Catholic Memorial, Waltham High School, Newton South High School and BLA among others. In their last regular-season game against Bedford High School, the boys put up a formidable effort but were unable to take the win. Remarkably, they were able to take one point despite needing some junior varsity athletes to fill in, ending the match with a score of 4-1. Hopeful for the future of the team, singles player Simon Chen (III) comments, "Next year, I hope that we can build an even stronger team, as we have some promising players who are capable of playing varsity given that they continue their development." The team will steadily maintain this momentum into the playoffs and will get past as many rounds as they can.

## Softball

The BLS varsity softball team is one of the most focused self-growth teams in the school. Their goal puts less focus on winning but more focus on cheering on their teammates. This is perfectly exemplified by the use of the "top dog," or as more people understand, the MVP of the game. The team celebrates and cheers on whoever is at the forefront of the team during the game and they never miss a chance to name their "top dog." Playing hard games across the state can be rough on players, but the girls have always kept their heads up and focused on themselves and their teammates. By the end of the season, the softball team is happily looking forward to the next season and reflecting on their previous one with fond memories of growth and advancements.

## Crew

The BLS crew team is sending both a girls' and a boys' boat to USRowing Youth National Championships in Florida. The girls are sending their best varsity boat just like last year, whereas this year the boys are sending an under-17-year-old boat of four. The girls' team is sad to see nine of their seniors go this year, but captain Ellora Bhatt (II) is also excited for the future, saying, "I have confidence that the juniors, sophomores and freshmen will step up." The boys' team made tremendous strides this year, such as overcoming their rival Brookline High School, whom they share a boathouse with. Part of the reason for the new successes on the boys' team can be attributed to their hardworking

coach, Atticus Kane, who has made changes to the team. Although the boys were unsure how to feel about the new style of training at the start of the year, captain Rhys Crawford (II) says, "It really feels like a genuine improvement." Encouraged by these major achievements, the boats are eager for new rowers that can bolster their close community.

## Sailing Team

The sailing team is not one to give up, and they have been able to make huge headway this year. Possibly the most exciting part of this year is the girls' sailing team qualifying for the Herreshoff Women's New England Championship for the first time in school history. The team's skills have allowed them to obtain new achievements and they're hoping for many more firsts in the coming years. BLS was able to beat the previously undefeated Gloucester team as well as place second in the Donald Green Regatta. Last year, the team won the Massachusetts Bay Sailing League Division B Team Racing Championship. Although they placed third in that championship this year, they won the Carl Zimba Mass Bay League Fleet Racing Championship for the first time ever. Off the water, sailing looks to raise funds for a new fleet.

## Outdoor Track

The outdoor track team is looking to make some noise to cap off their strong 2024 spring campaign. After gaining access to White Stadium's facilities for practices this season, the boys' track team has seen great success and improvement, especially from their younger players. The girls' track team as a whole is having a remarkable season, with many setting personal records across all grades, and 12 runners qualifying for the divisionals in Westfield, Massachusetts. Captain and Brown University commit Colin Fisher (I) gives lots of credit to the younger runners, as they have played a large role in the team's success. He explains, "They have started to take a bigger role on the team, scoring points and running faster." After finishing second in the Dual County League championship, they are looking to finish off this spring season well at future large meets. The team will travel to both the Divisional and All-State Championships and are also sending numerous runners to the United States National Championship, which is hosted by New Balance, where the team will be looking to make a mark on the national stage.

# Spotlight on Max Deane (I)

By **Alice Fragasso (III)**

& **Eliza Knight Bairstow (III)**

*Contributing Writers*

Wolfpack track captain Max Deane (I) has committed to Boston College (BC) and is looking forward to participating in his sport at the highest level. Deane, who currently holds the school record in the 100-meter and 200-meter dash, is set to run in the National Collegiate Athletic Association Division I and no one is more excited for him than his fellow teammates.

Deane started his track career as a freshman at Boston Latin School and became a dual-sport athlete, competing in both track and hockey. In his senior year, he made the decision to quit hockey and put all of his focus into track, allowing him to compete in the winter season for the first time.

After a somewhat unusual recruitment process, Deane announced his commitment to BC in April, where he will continue his track career at the collegiate level. He remarks that BC had always sparked his interest regardless of whether he would run there or not. "When they recruited me, it just worked out," he says.

For the past four years, Deane has excelled on the track. Each year, he shaves seconds off of his own personal bests, continuously topping himself in the record book. Coach Christian Blondin praises Deane's dedication to the sport, proudly referring to Deane as the most determined athlete he has ever worked with.

"He is somebody that other people should look up to. He puts the work in and shows up every day," Coach Blondin explains. "All of the qualities I look for in the team, he exhibits."

As captain, Deane demonstrates his devotion to the team by putting his best effort into every practice and meet. Deane's teammate and co-captain Rebecca Hein (I) adds that Max looks after the younger athletes on the team: "He is always generous and drives the younger kids to practice. They definitely look up to him as a mentor because he is such a model athlete and captain."

Not only is Deane a phenomenal athlete, he also proves to have good character, which is commended by those around him. Coach Sean Nyhan states, "What I admire about Max is that he is a great athlete, but an even better person."



Record-holder Max Deane (I) sprints to the finish line.

Deane credits his drive to personal motivation. He explains, "I wanted to become the best athlete I could be and a better version of myself." This outlook has led Deane to excel in high school and ultimately set him up for success in his future at BC.

At BC, Deane hopes to continue im-

proving and pushing himself as an athlete and to keep up his record-breaking streak by topping school records. Deane has rightfully impressed everyone by demonstrating both immense talent and a great mentality. It will be exciting to see him excel at the next level, bearing the full support of BLS.

# 2024 Olympic Games: Road to Paris



Christie McClintock

Construction for the 2024 Olympics begin in Paris.

**By Sameena Ballal (IV)**

*Staff Writer*

The Olympic Games, a contest held once every four years, has a history of great feats, amazing achievements and glorious finishes. Starting in Athens and now held worldwide, the Olympics feature big-name sponsors, high stakes and exciting athletes.

This summer, the games are being held in Paris, a city known for its flourishing culture and central role in European history. From July 26 to August 11, there will be over 10,500 athletes competing in more than 30 different sports, all seeking the chance

to win the coveted gold medal. What might not be visible on the surface, however, is the work, effort and planning happening behind the scenes to successfully pull off this year's games.

To be an Olympic participant, athletes must dedicate themselves and their lives to their sport. Michael Phelps, a former Olympic swimmer for Team USA and a 23-time gold medalist, trained non-stop. Usain Bolt, a retired track star with record-breaking times and multiple medals, followed a strict routine of eating, sleeping and running. Simone Biles, one of the greatest gymnasts on the floor, bars and vault, sacrificed her teen-

age years to train. These athletes are just a few examples of the dedication needed to participate in the Olympics.

Boston Latin School Athletic Director Mr. Jack Owens shares the challenges that Olympians overcome: "To be an Olympian, in most cases, athletes need to put personal lives on hold for little-to-no money for a chance just to qualify, let alone make it to the Olympics and then a medal. But many are competing for national pride." Olympic athletes can come from all backgrounds, but they all have one common goal—to win.

Athletes and spectators will stay in Paris for a long time. Paris has taken many steps to include their culture and monuments into the games and create space for everyone. Events will be held around the city at places such as the Place de la Concorde (a public square), Champ de Mars (a public garden) and Trocadero (an area in front of the Eiffel Tower). This will allow spectators to fully immerse themselves in the history and beauty of Paris. The French government hopes that by using existing structures, they can celebrate the breathtaking architecture while cutting out the cost of building new areas, making this year's games one of the least expensive in years.

One of the more recently added sports, surfing, will be held on the island of Tahiti in French Polynesia. As technology has advanced, the games can be streamed live

and audience members can enjoy the excitement from their homes.

The streaming of the Olympic Games has attracted more viewers and inspired athletes. Khaya Dryden-Peterson (II), a member of the girls' varsity crew team, says, "The Olympics are a beautiful thing because they allow individuals and teams to push their bodies to the absolute limit and be celebrated for it. The Olympic athletes have inspired me as a high school athlete to just see the dedication and the execution of unbelievable feats."

Another important part of the Olympic Games is the sponsorships, brands and businesses, which the athletes represent. In order for brands to partner with athletes, there are strict rules that they must follow to ensure that the athletes are the focus.

To put the athletes first, the Olympics have developed a similar branch called the Paralympics. Also held in Paris this summer, these games showcase the talents of athletes with disabilities. Girls' lacrosse team member Adebola Adetoye (IV) comments, "I like the inclusion of various sports and different kinds of athletes."

The Olympic Games are an epic representation of skill and talent from incredible athletes around the world. This year, in Paris, dedicated athletes will show their talent worldwide in historical locations, creating a unique environment and a once-in-a-lifetime experience.

## An Athletic Alternative: BLS Club Sports on the Rise

**By Elizabeth Noronha (III)**

*Contributing Writer*

Here at Boston Latin School, we have almost 20 different sports taking place over the three seasons during the school year, but the hidden gems at our school are the recreational club sports that many students participate in weekly.

These sports include table tennis, pickleball, spikeball, beginner ballet and badminton. While these clubs may not have as much publicity, they are equally important to BLS students, providing a fun opportunity for students to socialize while learning a new sport.

A fan favorite of all who pass through the basement on their way out of school, the Table Tennis Club has been running strong for quite a few years. You can find BLS Latin teacher Mr. John Kerpan playing a fierce game against students every Monday after school. Vice President and three-year member of the Table Tennis Club Jalen Weatherhead (III) reports, "[The club has] seven to ten consistent members, but it's hard to keep track of since many people who are walking through the hallway stop by to play games."

Each game is quick so that every member is included, and they hold a tournament at the beginning of the school year to raise money for equipment. Inevitably, balls are lost due to games being played in the basement hallway, so Weatherhead hopes to someday play in the school gym instead. The club has considered competing against other table tennis teams, specifically from the John D. O'Bryant School of Math and Science. In short, Weatherhead notes that the club is a fun and relaxed environment, perfect for a new player. Join them on Mondays from 2:30 P.M. to 4:00 P.M. in front of Room 025 for a quick match



Lauren Dong (IV)

Table tennis players battle it out in the basement hallway.

of table tennis.

Created in 1965, pickleball is a sport that has been gaining popularity and is highlighted in many major news sources. It is similar to tennis, but players use a solid paddle instead of a racket. Considered the fastest-growing sport in the United States as it expanded almost 40 percent in only three years, Gabriel Yuan (I) introduced it to the BLS community. Yuan founded the Pickleball Club two years ago with a peer after playing the sport with his friends. He states, "It creates an opportunity for people to play pickleball for fun." Every Monday in Room 211, they have their meeting and then move outside the school to play a match with everyone who comes. Currently,

with around ten members, the club is always expanding and is open to newcomers. Members praise Pickleball Club and believe it is a great way to exercise and have fun after school.

Although some may not view dance as a sport, the BLS Beginners Ballet Club proves otherwise. Created in 2022, Avani Shah (II) says that the club "introduces the fundamentals of ballet to those who have never danced before." They only have a few consistent members but hope to have an increase in participants next year. The club starts with barre, which is a simple yet technical form of ballet. The officers of the club are experienced dancers and love to share their passion and knowledge of dance with other

students. Ballet is an art form but also requires athleticism and endurance to perform at high levels, even more so than some stereotypical sports. The club is completely recreational since it was created to teach beginners the simplistic components of ballet and to get people dancing. Shah hopes to hold small performances and work with the BLS Sports Department to create a competitive dance team. She believes that the Sports Department should also collaborate with existing dance clubs such as BLS Step Squad or BLS Dance Club.

Evidently, BLS offers so many clubs for various athletic and academic interests and each one is unique to fit students interests.



# Messi's Major League Magic Transforms U.S. Soccer

By **Simon Hay-Sutton (III)**  
Staff Writer

Lionel Messi is often referred to as the best soccer player of all time. Messi began his soccer journey in 1995, when he joined Newell Old Boys academy in Rosario, Argentina. At the age of 13, Messi moved to Spain to play for Futbol Club Barcelona, where he debuted for the first team at 16.

Messi went on to star in matches for Barcelona and Argentina, winning many major awards in the process. During his time on such teams, Messi won the Champions League four times, gold at the Beijing Olympic Games in 2008 and most recently, the International Federation of Association Football World Cup.

Following financial trouble at Barcelona, Messi joined Paris Saint-Germain in 2021 before transferring to Major League Soccer's (MLS) Inter Miami in 2023. In Miami, he has played 25 matches, scoring 23 goals. Messi currently receives a guaranteed salary of 20.45 million dollars in addition to an ownership stake in the club.

Messi's arrival in the United States has led to an extraordinary amount of new interest in MLS, especially for Inter Miami. The arrival of Messi has increased attendance in league matches, setting new records across the league.

At Chicago Fire's Soldier Field,

62,214 fans attended a match, 72,610 went to Sporting Kansas's Arrowhead Stadium and 65,612 were present at the New England Revolution's Gillette Stadium on April 27 of this year.

Wolfpack soccer player Brendan Hobbs (I) acknowledges the true scope of Messi and Inter Miami's influence. He comments, "I have been to just about every Revolution game this season and there were roughly 20,000 people at each game." Hobbs goes on to describe the match between Inter Miami and the Revolution: "I was there, sitting in the section where Messi walked out, and the energy was night and day different from normal. It was much more energetic. A lot of that energy, however, went into supporting Messi, rather than the Revolution."

Los Angeles Galaxy's Dignity Health Sports Park sold out against Inter Miami within six minutes of tickets being released. Just before the match, tickets were being resold for 1,500 dollars, an unprecedented price for the MLS. Even with these unmatched statistics, the debate of Messi versus Cristiano Ronaldo rages on.

39-year-old Ronaldo made a similar career move to Messi, following an extremely successful career at Spain's Real Madrid, where he became regarded as the best goalscorer in history. Ronaldo declined the MLS in favor of a move to Al Nassr Football Club in Saudi Arabia for 200 million dollars a



Maddie Meyer

Soccer superstar Lionel Messi kicks off the game at Gillette Stadium.

year.

BLS Classics teacher and Arsenal Football Club fan Mr. Salvatore Bartoloma shares, "Ronaldo to me is more of a spectacle." He goes on to compare the two superstars: "Messi is the guy who shows up to work with his lunch pail and puts in a solid eight hours [...] Ronaldo shows up in a tuxedo when everyone else is in work pants." Mr. Bartoloma believed that Messi has not had as much of an impact on American soccer, further analogizing, "If LeBron decided to play for Serbia, all of Serbia would stop what they're do-

ing for the day and marvel at this."

Messi fans were ecstatic at hearing his move and were quick to support the Argentine. Upon hearing Messi coming to the MLS, soccer player and longtime fan Leila Ohashi (III) states, "I was excited! It gives me and other soccer players a chance to see him in-person, which is really special. I think that Messi's transfer to the MLS has brought more attention to soccer in the US, which will help promote the sport for younger players and encourage the development of soccer in the US in general."

# Boston Sports Eye Championship Chances Once Again



Maddie Meyer

The Bruins are seen celebrating a successful win on the ice.

By **Liam Sullivan (II)**  
Sports Editor

Known by many avid sports fans as the best sports city in the country, few cities hold as much sports legacy as Boston. For the 2023-2024 Celtics and Bruins, the goal was to etch their names into Boston sports history. Driven by past success and losses, the teams geared up for a shot at redemption in the current season.

As the National Basketball Association (NBA) 2023-2024 season tipped off, the Boston Celtics were

poised for greatness. Being led by their dynamic duo of Jayson Tatum and Jaylen Brown, the team also added crucial players Kristaps Porzingis and Jrue Holiday. The Celtics stormed through the NBA season, finishing with a 64-win and 18-loss record.

The Celtics's dominance landed the team a first-round battle with the Miami Heat, a team that they had lost to in the 2022-2023 Eastern Conference Finals. The first-seeded Celtics made quick work of the Heat, winning four games and losing one.

After the opening run with the

Heat, the Celtics faced off against the Cleveland Cavaliers. The Cavaliers were met with an offensive onslaught and fell to Boston four games to one. The Celtics went on to sweep the Indiana Pacers in the Eastern Conference finals and look to continue their success in the NBA Finals against the Dallas Mavericks.

The Celtics are primed to make a serious run for the NBA finals, and no one is more thrilled than Boston's fanbase. Wolfpack Basketball's star shooting guard, Jackson Prinn (II), is excited to see what the future holds,

"The Celtics are due for a banner sometime soon [...] I'm super excited to see where this team brings us and I hope they can bring us another banner in 2024."

On the ice, the Boston Bruins began the 2023-2024 season determined to remain among the National Hockey League (NHL) elite. Following a stunning first-round playoff exit to the Florida Panthers, in the previous year, the Bruins refocused their efforts in the off-season and started the season with a clean slate.

With standout performances from David Pastrnak and Charlie McAvoy, the Bruins finished the NHL season with a record of 47 wins and 20 losses while falling short in overtime 15 times. The Bruins dropped the puck with their long-time rivals, the Toronto Maple Leafs, in the first round of the playoffs and quickly jumped to a three-win series lead. The Maple Leafs remained persistent and forced a game seven in Boston. Boston fans were out in full force at the TD Garden and the Bruins overcame the Maple Leafs. In the next round, against a strong Florida Panthers team, the Bruins took an early series lead but eventually fell to the Panthers in six games.

Boston fans were upset with the Bruins's disappointing loss and believe the Bruins have fallen short many times. Long-time Bruins fan and captain of the Wolfpack hockey team, Aidan Fitzpatrick (I), is frustrated with the Bruins's lack of success. "All these years of watching playoff losses and even the two [Stanley] Cup losses in the last ten years, it's rough as a fan [...] It's tough to see veteran guys receive a lack of playoff success." The Bruins look forward to becoming better than ever next season and finally achieving their championship dreams.

# Valerie Dam-Nguyen

Valerie, We are so proud of you and all that you've achieved.

Watching you grow and succeed has been a joy. Congratulations, and here's to all the amazing things you will accomplish next!



Keep reaching for the stars and never stop believing in yourself!

With love,  
Your family



# Patrick Jackson



Congratulations Patrick Jackson  
and the Boston Latin School  
Class of 2024!

We are so proud of you and  
wish you the best of luck at  
Holy Cross!

We love you NMW!

Mom, Dad,  
Annie ('20), Joe ('21),  
Cecilia ('23) and Lucky

## *AP Euro Class*

**CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR CLASS OF 2024  
WRESTLING CAPTAINS  
ON THEIR GRADUATION, COLLEGE COMMITMENTS,  
AND THEIR STANDOUT SEASON. ROLL PACK!  
ERIC POWER, GRAEME DIERKS & ALEX GREENE BARRIOS**

ROGER WILLIAMS UNIVERSITY  
CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT  
WRESTLING

US NAWA ACADEMY  
MECHANICAL ENGINEERING  
MINOR RUSSIAN LANGUAGE

CASE WESTERN RESERVE UNIVERSITY  
BUSINESS, MINOR MARKETING / PRE-LAW TRACK  
WRESTLING



Congrats to the Class of 2024  
and to all the amazing seniors in AP  
Euro (Aaron, Aleksa, Alex A., Alex H.,  
Coulter, Dante, Declan, Evelyn, Gia-  
vani, Jonah, Minh, Rebecca, Rezart,  
Ronan, Ryan, Saoirse, Sasha, Sebas-  
tian, Sophie, Thaicha)! Thank you for  
an incredible year of kings, peasants,  
popes and revolutions!  
#PeaceofWestphalia  
Love, Ms. Webb



*Siena,*  
 so very proud of all  
 you have achieved and  
 cannot wait to see your future  
 success  
 and adventures.  
 Love, Mom and Fifi



*Alex,*  
 We are so proud of your high school  
 achievements. Have fun and reach high in  
 your college life.  
 Love,  
 Daddy, Mommy, Tiffany and Toshi





### Congratulations, Sadie!



*“The best way to predict your future is to create it.”  
— Peter Drucker.  
We’re so proud of you and we love you.  
Love, Mom and Dad*



### Congratulations, Patrick!

*We're so proud of you!  
Love, Mom,  
Olivia, Joe,  
James & Dillon*



### Congratulations, Caroline Grace!



### Congratulations, Christina!



*We love you beyond words and are so proud of you. As you spread your wings and embark on this wonderful adventure, remember always to be true to yourself, trust your gut and know that our love for you is endless. Go forward and set the world on fire!*

*We can't wait to see what you do next!  
Love, Dad, Mom, Ryan and Kate!*

*Love, Mom, Dad, Daniel and Bailey (woof!)*



