

EDITORS' NOTE



Congratulations to the Class of 2025; we know you'll all go on to do great things! We hope that this edition can help you reflect on these past six (or four) years and propel you all into the next chapter of your lives. As you flip through these pages, look for articles on His Holiness Pope Leo XIV (aka America's Pope!), Qatar's Gift to Trump, Asian Night roundup, Wolfie uncovered and so much more! We all know you're here for the surveys though, which you can find on page 25 (bonus if you can find answers in the surveys that don't match!).

Before we move on to the new year though, we cannot forget those who make the *Argo* the best student publication at Boston Latin School. To all our seniors: thank you! Thank you for the countless days spent in 016. Thank you for this community that we have shared. Thank you for your effort this year; we hope that it was as fun for you as it was for us. Now for individual gratitude: we'll start in the opposite order of the editorial board.

Ben, your jokes never failed to make us laugh and your commitment was unrivaled across the board. You were there in a jiff and had the best photo poses. We appreciate the late-night conversations and the advice you shared.

Andrew, your passion for Copy is undeniable, and your leadership was key to Copy's success this year! We commend your ability to fix our many mistakes and to help grow the next generation of Copy associates.

Liam, you're a very spirited individual, and we have appreciated your flexibility and humor. Sports has thrived under your leadership, and we're excited to see where you go next.

Lena, your energy and vibe have made A&E an enjoyable and beautiful section. Although we are sad to see you go, we know that anywhere you go, you will brighten the days of everyone you meet!

Ariel, your inquisitive nature made for thought-provoking articles and amazing advice. Never lose that curious spirit and constant kindness. (P.S. your Capstone was lit!)

Roan, you are wicked smart and always a reliable voice in Forum. We will miss your underappreciated sense of humor during Production Weeks and we are impressed by your sharp wit and dedication to the School community. Have fun in Virginia!

Mark, even though you have only been with the *Argo* for a couple of years, we can't imagine it without you. Your attention to detail is unmatched, and your dedication to your writers is inspiring.

Ailin, you *are* the News section. Your grace through Production Weeks and confident demeanor have made this section so successful. You are an O.G. Newsie, and we were proud to have you on the editorial team these past few years. You and Mark are always welcome to come across the river to visit!

To Hannah and Michelle, Mannah: even though we have taken your jobs, your legacy will continue to live on. From spirited production weeks to team bonding events to carnation craziness, you both have put in so much effort into the success of this paper. Now that it is our turn to take the reins, we will always have your example on how to move the *Argo* into the future.

To our new and returning editors: welcome! We have put our hearts and souls into this issue, and we can't wait to see how you all grow in the upcoming year. Now, let's get to it. Without further ado, welcome to the graduation issue of the *Argo*!

Signing on,
Rolex

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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Leo XIV: The First American Pope

By Mary Deng (II)
& Constance Fang (IV)
Head News Editor and Contributing Writer

On May 8, Cardinal Robert Prevost, now Pope Leo XIV, became the first American elected to head the Catholic Church.

Born and raised in Chicago, he served for two decades in Peru as a bishop and as a member of the Order of St. Augustine, visiting orders around the globe. After serving twelve years in his role, Pope Francis passed away in the Vatican, two weeks before the election.

The successor of a pope has been historically chosen through a papal conclave. The pope nominates 252 cardinals, who are religious leaders. In the papal conclave, eligible cardinals cast repeated votes until a two-thirds majority is reached without outside contact. Only those under the age of 80, though, are allowed to vote. For nearly 200 years, no conclave has lasted more than four days, showing strong consensus among the cardinals to focus on one candidate.

In a conclave beginning on May 7, the election of the pope featured other key candidates, including Cardinal Pietro Parolin of Italy. He acted as the deputy pope and was often seen as the one to focus on diplomacy over religion-specific matters. Pope Leo’s election caused a shift in certain dynamics, as an overwhelming majority of the previous popes had been Italian.

Cardinal Luis Antonio Gokim Tagle of the Philippines shares many of the same views as the late pope, often agreeing with the Church’s stance on common issues today. He was previously a candidate during the 2013 conclave, emphasizing that each individual should be respected. The global growth of the Church away from European countries is clear by representation and a shift in focus.

Though Pope Leo was not considered one of the initial front runners, the decision for the pope was made unusually quickly. At 6:07 P.M., white smoke billowed out of the Sistine Chapel chimney, signaling that



CNS/Vatican Media

Vatican City welcomes Leo XIV as their new pope.

the cardinals had chosen a successor.

The name Pope Leo XIV was chosen to stress the church’s position on labor in the modern world. Known as the “pope of the workers,” the last pope bearing the name, Pope Leo XIII, was one of the longest-reigning popes in history, and his *Rerum Novarum* Latin papal letter was celebrated for protecting workers’ wage rights.

“It was really historic that it was a pope from South America, and he, as pope, tried to continue the work he had done throughout his life, like about focusing on the poor, and that was influenced by his upbringing,” says Boston Latin School AP Comparative Government teacher Ms. Meredith Elliott.

Leo XIII played a major role in changing social systems worldwide and in the Catholic Church. Pope Leo XIV chose his name as an intentional reference to Leo

XIII, as they share many beliefs.

Pope Leo XIV has roots in Creole culture and a multi-racial family ancestry. As the first U.S. born pope, he benefits from being more in touch with American cultural and political dynamics. To many American Catholics, the election of the first American pope helped them feel that their political experiences would be more represented within the Catholic Church.

Lidia Bolec (III) adds, “It’s going to lead to much deeper engagement on regional issues like migration, poverty [and] indigenous rights, especially in Latin America, because of his long-term service in Peru. I think his familiarity with Western systems could help the Vatican engage more efficiently [and] effectively on global issues like technology, ethics, economics and human rights.”

Pope Leo IV currently has plans to

unite the different factions of the Catholic Church, an idea which has been central as the first Augustinian pope. The Church has also decided to become more vernacular through the inclusion of widely spoken languages like English and Spanish.

BLS AP European History teacher Ms. Clara Webb says, “In terms of [direction], Francis was kind of a reformer and was trying to, I think, move the church in kind of a more progressive direction in regards to a lot of different issues, [...] so I think a big question was whether the selected folk was going to continue Pope Francis’s direction or was going to try to [...] reverse [it].”

On May 18, in a Sunday Mass in St. Peter’s Square, Leo XIV was formally inaugurated as the 267th pope of the Roman Catholic Church in front of a crowd of 100,000 people.

A Decade of BLS B.L.A.C.K. and BLS T.A.G. Celebrations



Ms. Koriana Lewis Bradford

BLS B.L.A.C.K. and BLS T.A.G. celebrate their successes!

By Meilin Sha (IV)
Staff Writer

From 3:00 P.M. to 5:00 P.M. on June 8, Boston Latin School Black Leaders Aspiring for Change and Knowledge (B.L.A.C.K.) and BLS Talented and Gifted Latino (T.A.G.) held their tenth annual celebration in the Fiction Room of the BLS Keefe Library.

BLS faculty, alumni and current students gathered to celebrate the collective achievements of the approx-

imately 100 members of the Class of 2025 who identify as Black and Latinx.

In addition to a performance by BLS Gospel Choir, alumni guest speakers were invited to give speeches at the celebration. Previous guest speakers have included Boston City Council President Ruthzee Louijeune, author and community activist Dr. Omekongo Dibinga and record producer Prince Charles Alexander. A highlight video was also played to celebrate the next

step of students’ journeys by featuring pictures of each student and the colleges that they will attend. At the end of the ceremony, students received a kente cloth, a Ghanaian textile worn around the shoulders, or a serape stole, which has origins in Mexico.

The planning process for the celebration was guided by a committee which consists of faculty advisors of BLS B.L.A.C.K. and BLS T.A.G. and non-senior student officers of the clubs. While faculty advisors only started meeting a month prior to the event, preparation started immediately after last year’s celebration. The kente cloths for the Class of 2025, for example, were ordered in June of 2024.

BLS B.L.A.C.K. faculty advisor Ms. Rose Delorme Metayer remarks on the purpose of the celebration: “The journey for Black and Latinx students here in this building is so different, so unique. [...] The goal of it is to remind them that [...] Black and Latinx students have always had a history at BLS, and will always continue to have a history.”

Although 2025 marks the tenth anniversary of the celebration, its origins can be traced back to the 1970s, when Black faculty members would hold small gatherings to congratulate students before their graduations. After a brief interim in the 1990s, the

celebration was brought back in 2016, and has occurred annually since.

The longstanding tradition of the celebration marks a strong sense of community within the Black community at BLS. After COVID-19, BLS B.L.A.C.K. and BLS T.A.G. started combining their celebrations, since many students belong to both groups.

BLS T.A.G. faculty advisor Ms. Raquel Jacobson-Peregrino explains, “We celebrate everyone together, and there’s a nice mixture of all the diverse cultures, backgrounds and communities that our students represent. [...] I [am] proud that [...] this is identified as a place where students can really connect [...], support [...] and celebrate each other.”

The collaboration of BLS T.A.G. and BLS B.L.A.C.K. seeks to promote unity, as both clubs strive to create an environment for students to celebrate their journeys and those of their peers.

One challenge with planning the event, however, was continuing the event’s legacy at BLS, as teachers hope to have at least 50 out of the 100 students in attendance.

BLS B.L.A.C.K. faculty advisor Ms. Cheralyn Pinchem nevertheless concludes, “To see that BLS continues to celebrate and that everyone is welcome, that’s one thing I’m most looking forward to — [...] seeing the tradition continued.”

Valete, Magistri!

By Trinity Ngo (II) & Stacy Jiang (V)
Staff Writer and Contributing Writer



Ms. Arnold

Ms. Catherine Arnold is saying goodbye after almost 25 years of teaching history at Boston Latin School.

Before earning her position at BLS, Ms. Arnold had various jobs, including working as an addictions counselor for teens, as a waitress and as part of a competitive swimwear family business. She then attended college later in her life, graduating from Bryn Mawr College in 1995 and Harvard Divinity School in 1999. In September of 2000, after finding out that she would have to teach science at an alternative school despite her history background, she received a job offer at BLS and accepted it immediately.

Throughout her time at BLS, Ms. Arnold’s favorite memories include the extraordinary opportunities to travel and connect with people. She gives her love to the Youth Climate Action Network for having so many achievements, such as being awarded tens of thousands of dollars to better the environment and earning international recognition in places like Paris and Tokyo. Her students’ passion and youthfulness are contagious and have motivated her to continue working hard these past years.

After such an eventful time at BLS, Ms. Arnold is ready to move on. She is spurred to leave and spend time with her aging mother, and she is excited to take on a new adventure and showcase her love for art and creativity.

As a final message to her students, Ms. Arnold says, “It’s not about finding the right and perfect situation. It’s about bring[ing] your right and perfect self.”



Mr. Barry

After 32 years of teaching at BLS, Mr. Kamissa Barry has decided to move on to a new chapter of his life.

Mr. Barry has worked as an English teacher since 1990, but being a teacher was not his original plan; he intended to go to medical school. After abandoning this goal due to financial reasons, he attended Cambridge University to study economics.

In the summer of 1990, he was working at Phillips Academy in Andover to make some money when his boss convinced him that teaching might be a potential career for him. As a result, Mr. Barry deferred his program at Cambridge and worked at Phillips Academy that year. He eventually got his master’s degree in education and completed his practicum at BLS.

When discussing the best part about teaching, Mr. Barry comments, “The most exciting thing is to see a student learn and activate what they know and get them excited.”

Teaching, however, was not always easy for him. In his first few years at BLS, Mr. Barry had difficulty adjusting to his teaching life. He notes that the English curriculum was literature-heavy and focused more on displaying a teacher’s knowledge than helping students absorb information. To improve, he worked on having a more open mind, inviting professionals to watch him and provide feedback.

For the future, Mr. Barry is ready to live his life to the fullest extent. He leaves this message for his students: “There’s no miracle. The only miracle is that you work hard.”



Mr. Bilodeau

Mr. Gerald Bilodeau is ready to relax after almost 24 years in the BLS math department.

Mr. Bilodeau began teaching as a graduate school assistant. He then taught at Boston College High School for 17 years, where he became Director of Technology and Head of the Math Department. Starting in 2001, he taught math at BLS and became the Math Program Director in 2015. Mr. Bilodeau is also the BLS Math Team club advisor and organizes middle and high school competitions.

The hardworking community around him shaped the start of his career. He specifically acknowledges his first precalculus class, where he was amazed by his students’ willingness to learn. He also appreciates the colleagues who helped him in his teaching career.

One of Mr. Bilodeau’s favorite memories from BLS is going viral on a video that one of his classes posted recently, earning over 2.5 million views on *Instagram*. He comments, “Showing up every day to a class where I’m happy to see them, and they’re happy to see me — [that sense] of joy — that’s an amazing memory.”

When asked about his future, Mr. Bilodeau shares that it will be hard to leave, but he has always wished to leave when he was still teaching at his best. He plans to continue working part-time at Massachusetts College of Art and Design, travel with his wife and explore new activities.

To conclude, he tells his students, “Keep at it. Keep working. Keep thinking. Keep being who you are.”



Ms. Elliott

After 22 years of teaching in the history department, Ms. Meredith Elliott will be leaving BLS.

Before working at BLS, Ms. Elliott interned at the White House in 1997 and began teaching AP U.S. History and English in West Valley City, Utah. Having been born and raised in the suburbs of Boston, she looked forward to returning when BLS had an opening for her in 2003.

During her first year at BLS, Ms. Elliott taught ninth graders and tenth graders world history and began teaching AP U.S. History in her second year. She started teaching AP U.S. Government in 2008 and AP Comparative Government in 2017.

One of Ms. Elliott’s favorite memories was made while teaching at BLS: a political convention in 2004. She also shares, “It’s really fun to see where all [of my] students end up in the workforce, and it’s really fun to see how students grow at different paces while they’re here.”

Despite retiring, Ms. Elliot plans to stay politically engaged. “I want to stay involved in politics, [...] so I’m going to look for opportunities in my community to preserve democracy,” she explains.

Ms. Elliott is also looking forward to spending time away from work with her spouse and focusing on her hobbies.

She shares a parting message: “Try the things that scare you because you don’t know what you might be able to do.”



Ms. Kelley

Program Director of the Modern Foreign Language Department and AP Spanish teacher Ms. Christine Kelley is retiring after almost 20 years at BLS.

Before working at BLS, she taught kids with learning disabilities at all grade levels. She began working at BLS in 2005 after a few years of teaching Spanish at other schools in the Boston area.

Ms. Kelley explains that she never wanted to be a teacher but was assigned to work with students in the sixth grade at a different school. She remarks, “[I] fell in love with watching things click for them [...] and being able to be creative and play games but also teach them at the same time.”

She also acknowledges that there are many memories she made while working with kids that make her laugh, and that there are many opportunities at BLS that don’t exist in other schools when it comes to teaching kids.

Ms. Kelley shares some of the best parts about being a teacher: “[I enjoy] working with the other Spanish teachers and getting to know them outside of the classroom as well.”

Retiring this coming year, Ms. Kelley feels that it is time to try something different. She plans to travel, teach part-time and just see how things go.

Ms. Kelley shares, “Get outside your comfort zone, definitely [...] experience new things and meet new people.”



Mr. Njoku

Mr. Alexander Njoku is departing after nearly 14 years of teaching science.

Prior to working at BLS, Mr. Njoku spent three years as an engineer with Procter & Gamble after graduating from Boston University. He then switched over to education, working at various schools including Boston Latin Academy, Southeastern Regional Vocational Technical High School and Boston Arts Academy. In 2011, he ended up at BLS.

Mr. Njoku’s family is filled with educators. He shares that both his mother and his father used to be Heads of School, and five out of his ten siblings, in fact, have taught before.

When discussing his early years at BLS, Mr. Njoku gives his appreciation to his friendly peers and hard-working students. He is especially grateful to Mr. Jesse Southwick and Mr. Aaron Osowiecki for pushing him to be the teacher that he is today. He also recalls an amusing memory of when he gave a large amount of homework, not expecting that all of his students would complete it, leaving him with a huge stack of papers to grade by the end of the day.

Mr. Njoku’s favorite memories throughout his time at BLS revolve around his students’ reflections at the end of each year. He treasures his students and maintains contact with many.

As a final word of advice, Mr. Njoku remarks, “Anywhere you go in life, honesty is key. As long as you’re honest, your future will be very bright.”



Mrs. O’Donnell

Mrs. Tracy O’Donnell will be making her departure from BLS after more than 11 years of teaching in the math department.

After graduating from BLS in 1981, Mrs. O’Donnell worked in financial services for around 25 years before going back to graduate school and transitioning into her teaching career.

Mrs. O’Donnell has always liked teaching — from helping her classmates as a student in math to tutoring in college. Despite doing well in her career in financial services, she says, “[I] really wanted to give teaching a shot.”

Mrs. O’Donnell began teaching at BLS as a long-term substitute in 2014.

She shares, “[It was] overwhelming to suddenly make a career change,” and that it was tricky to figure out her teaching strategies as a brand-new teacher. She has taught geometry, AP Computer Science and pre-calculus during her career at BLS.

Looking to the future, her plans involve traveling, spending time with her family and being able to visit friends and family who do not live close by.

“I love BLS,” Mrs. O’Donnell reflects, “I love what it represents, and I love the opportunity it gave me as a city kid whose parents couldn’t afford to send me to private school, [...] and it’s still [like] that for so many people.”

Apple-Laud These Amazing Faculty!

By **Stephany Zhu (II)**
Staff Writer

Mr. Fogel



Mr. Nicholas Fogel, who has been teaching world history to freshmen for three years, has not only won a Crystal Apple Award but also the Gerald L. Gitner & Family Award for Outstanding Teaching, which recognizes a teacher’s excellence in teaching.

Last summer, he hosted the podcast *Fireside History 1876*, which is available on *Spotify*. It talks about the most contested election in U.S. history, which ended Reconstruction, paved the way for Jim Crow and nearly launched a second Civil War.

Mr. Fogel is also the faculty advisor for the Boston Latin School Youth Climate Action Network and works closely with students to host their Climate and Sustainability Youth Summit at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology each year.

Outside the classroom, Mr. Fogel spends time raising his one-year-old son and enjoys running. The Gerald L. Gitner & Family Award and the Crystal Apple both mean a lot to him, and he is extremely thankful.

Former student QiLin Zhu (III) is happy that Mr. Fogel won both of these awards, commenting, “Mr. Fogel was a really good teacher. He always found ways to make his class interesting but also engaging. He cared a lot about his students, and I felt like each and every individual student had a close bond with him.”

Ms. Lau



Ms. Veronica Lau, one of the three sixie Latin teachers, is delighted to receive the Crystal Apple Award. Starting in 2018, she has now taught at BLS for seven years. Ms. Lau was previously a student teacher at BLS in 2013 and taught for five years at another school before returning to BLS.

Ms. Lau loves seeing students have that “aha moment” when concepts start to click. Interacting with others is one of the main reasons why she became a teacher. Academic work usually tends to be lonely, so she wanted to pursue a path that is more social and engaging, which led her to teaching.

In regards to winning the Crystal Apple Award, Ms. Lau comments, “I feel really touched that somebody would take the time to nominate me for something, especially because I teach sixies and they tend to be more shy. Also, there are a lot of great teachers in the building, so I was really shocked to personally receive the Crystal Apple.”

This year, she won the middle school division of BLS Junior Classical League (JCL) Coin Wars with a total amount of over 1,838 dollars. Coin Wars is a fundraiser where students can donate to a specific teacher’s coin jar to receive a punishment, such as eating a spicy pepper or getting pied in the face. The proceeds will go directly toward scholarships for students attending the National JCL convention in Ohio this summer.

Mr. Morales



Orchestra Director Mr. Anthony Morales has been teaching music to BLS students for the past two years.

Aside from conducting the orchestras at the Spring and Winter Concerts, he also hosts opportunities for students to participate in Chamber Night. Prior to BLS, he taught at the Boston Strings Academy. His contributions to the Visual and Performing Arts department won a Crystal Apple Award.

Mr. Morales’s style of teaching is different from other teachers, as he is more laid-back, focusing more on making a positive connection with his students by being more approachable. This has allowed him to create a strong bond with his students, as he hopes to stay at BLS in the foreseeable future and continue to teach.

Remarking on the award, Mr. Morales states, “It’s really unexpected, but I’m really happy and excited to receive the award, especially at this time of the year when it’s really crazy. It’s good to get some happy and good news. It makes me feel like I am doing something right from teaching these students.”

In addition to his life outside school, he plays with the Vista Philharmonic Orchestra and performs at Symphony Hall, as well as various events around Boston. He enjoys running in his spare time and recently finished a marathon. Much of his free time is also devoted to taking care of his one-year-old daughter.

Nicla Marabito (I) Goes for Gold at Nationals

By **Olivia Chen (III)**
& **Victor Ly (III)**
Head News Editor and Contributing Writer

Nicla Marabito (I) qualified for the U.S. team for the International Linguistics Olympiad (IOL), which will be held in Taipei, Taiwan.

The IOL is an annual competition for high school students with puzzles on the grammar and structure of different languages. The competition requires no prior knowledge of linguistics and is based on logical analysis and problem-solving skills. This year, Marabito will go on a fully-funded trip to partake in the 22nd International Linguistics Olympiad from July 21 to July 26.

To qualify for the IOL, Marabito passed two rounds of the North American Computational Linguistics Olympiad (NACLO). The first round, or the Open Round, consists of solving eight problems within three hours. The second round, or the Invitational Round, entailed solving eight harder problems within a four-hour time span.

Out of 200 competitors in the second round, Marabito placed fourth. She also received a gold medal during the Invitational Round for scoring the highest points on one of the problems.

Marabito first became interested in linguistics when she won the Boston Cen-

ters for Youth & Families Spelling Bee in sixth grade. After coming to Boston Latin School, she joined the Linguistics Club, a club focused on language and logic puzzles, the first year it was revitalized after the pandemic.

Aside from finding her interests in linguistics, she enjoys participating in this club because of its community: “Although NACLO is an individual competition, I think [collaborating] is the best way to do linguistics.”

Marabito dedicates a large portion of her time to linguistics, having spent over 72 hours preparing for the competition this past year. “Doing hundreds of problems to prepare was hard, but rewarding,” she acknowledges.

As the president of the Linguistics Club, Marabito prepares both herself and her members to partake in the NACLO Open Round. At meetings, she leads the discussion of weekly problems the club does as a group. This exposes her to a variety of questions.

BLS Classics teacher and faculty advisor of the Linguistics Club Ms. Heather Nabbefeld says, “She’s got a mind that sees patterns and is really good at interpreting those patterns.”

In her free time, Marabito studies language and semantics. Through her endeavors, Marabito has learned a total of five languages: Arabic, Greek, Italian, English and Latin.



Olivia Chen (III)

Nicla Marabito (I) smiles for a photo!

Marabito believes that linguistics has benefits that supersede language itself. She says, “Linguistics helps connect people through language [and] discussion but also through the shared love of problem-solving. It gets the brain working.”

Throughout her experience with linguistics, she has learned to adapt when faced with challenges and setbacks. She sometimes needs to skip problems to preserve time and is not able to solve full sets within the allotted time period.

Marabito plans to double major in Physics and Linguistics at Harvard University. She is excited to take the linguistics class LING 107 at Harvard.

Marabito’s goal is ultimately to be involved in future efforts to research and preserve language. She asserts, “Language is a beautiful thing; it is universal. No matter how divided the human race becomes, we will still all have one thing in common: our communication with language.”

The Art of Words: Prize Reading



Oriana Dunker (I) wins the Class Prize Reading Competition.

By Amy Dai (V)
Contributing Writer

On May 8, Boston Latin School students showcased their reading and oratory skills at the annual Prize Reading Competition. Winners this year include students

from across many grade levels — Classes I, II, IV and VI — each with at least one winner and one honorable mention. The competition was established in the 19th century, and it has a rich history that spans over a hundred years. Today, it remains one of the oldest traditions that the School upholds, and it reflects BLS’s excel-

lence in rhetoric alongside other customs such as declamation. Beyond its place in BLS’s history, the Prize Reading Competition also mirrors the School’s core values. BLS English teacher Mr. Mark Sanford, who helped judge the competition, explains, “The Prize Reading Competition at Boston Latin School exists to uphold and celebrate the School’s historic emphasis on rhetoric, eloquence and classical education.” In the days leading up to the competition, participants signed up for the event by pre-registering through a *Google Form*. They then competed on the designated day. Unlike declamation, which requires the student to memorize their piece ahead of time, no prior preparation was necessary before this competition. Participants were instead able to choose their pieces from a textbook filled with a wide selection of passages, ranging from passionate speeches to comedic essays. Official prizes in the form of recognition and awards were given to the winners, including Prize Night money and medals. This year also marked a record number of sixties who participated in the competition. Class VI Winner Freya Eguchi, who read aloud “Neat People vs. Sloppy

People” by Suzanne Britt, comments, “I will definitely do it again next year; it was a fun competition to do with my friends with minimal stress. I definitely recommend [it].” The judging panel consisted mostly of teachers from the English Department under the guidance of Ms. Angelene Thompson, the Program Director for the English Department. Each judge assessed participants based on the criteria that emphasized articulation and clarity, interpretation and expression and poise and presence. Students were also scored based on their overall impact, including the power and persuasiveness of their reading. Regardless of their experience, students who participated were able to gain a deeper understanding and appreciation for the art of expression, making this competition welcoming to beginner and seasoned performers alike. Class I Winner Oriana Dunker, who chose to read Martin Luther King’s “I Have a Dream” speech, reflects, “I would say that it really makes you pay attention to detail. [...] It is something that I wasn’t expecting to take away from doing the competition, but it’s definitely something that I’m glad I did get a chance to look into.”

Day in the Life of Ms. Clougherty

By Ryan Liu (V)
Contributing Writer

For the past 20 years, Boston Latin School Director of Guidance Ms. Megan Clougherty has supported students throughout every stage of their academic careers. Although no two days are the same for Ms. Clougherty, she spends most of her time meeting with counselors and students. Part of her day also includes completing administrative tasks, like maintaining *Naviance* and student records. Her work has especially benefited seniors as they work through the college application process. On the second day of school, seniors are introduced to the support that is offered. Each senior is given a monthly checklist and access to a website with information on applications and events. Throughout the year, Ms. Clougherty meets with seniors in one-on-one meetings to guide them. Ms. Clougherty also helps run multiple senior support programs, including her favorite, *Pizza and Apps*. Held twice every year, the program involves her and her team staying after school to support seniors on their college applications, as well as ordering pizza for them. College planning starts as early as ninth grade, with the first few

years of high school spent determining a student’s interests and the corresponding courses they could take. By junior year, Ms. Clougherty and other counselors begin working closely with them to prepare for the application season. When asked how Ms. Clougherty had helped him, Max Haskell (I) replies, “Ms. Clougherty — she’s always seemed like she really knows what she’s doing. [...] I could just walk into her office [and] ask her a question, and she just knew the answer. [She] had it there for me.” Ms. Clougherty herself has a caseload of students who work with her directly. Although she does so many different things throughout the day, she still believes that this is the best part of her day. “I’ve always been interested about how people work. [...] Working at BLS specifically, I’ve never met two students who are exactly alike,” she says. “Every time I meet a new student and they let me into their world a little bit, I’m just more intrigued by who they are.” Ms. Clougherty first started at BLS as a guidance counselor, working to support students throughout the school year. She then became the Director of the Guidance Programs, allowing her to work more closely on the student welfare.



Ms. Clougherty is hard at work in her office!

Before her work at BLS, Ms. Clougherty considered going into law. While working in a law firm as a paralegal, she found her love of helping clients. She decided then that she wanted to be a school counselor. Her parents, who worked as teachers, had always encouraged her to consider a path in education. Ming Pan Hern (I) recalls, “She was a really great support when I was confused on any component of the col-

lege application process. I remember asking her many questions. [...] She was also really supportive and uplifting when it came to colleges.” As the school year draws to a close, Ms. Clougherty has planned a lot of fun activities for the graduating class. Although Ms. Clougherty has not disclosed what these activities may be, she has stated that the events are in the works for Senior Week, which started on June 2.

Neighborhood News Spotlights

By Eric Zhang (V) & Adnan Sayeed (VI)
Contributing Writers

Dorchester:

The Zoning Board of Appeal rejected plans to build a ten-unit condo building on the back of a preexisting two-family home. The plan’s rejection was largely due to the massive size of the building, as well as it not fitting in with the other old residential houses despite scaling down from 14 units. The project was denied in a five to two board vote (*Dorchester Report*).

East Boston:

Of the 300,000 dollars granted from Save the Harbor and Save the Bay for the 2025 Better Beaches Program Partnership, 36,000 dollars are granted to East Boston to host free programs and beach events throughout the summer. The goal of this program is to break down barriers for people of color, non-native English speakers and people with disabilities. The program started in late May and will end in mid-September (*East Boston Times-Free Press*).

Jamaica Plain:

The Boston Planning and Development Agency held a second community meeting pertaining to the development of affordable units on 3430 and 3440 Washington Street. The proposed project consists of developing two buildings across from each other with 236 rental units, 234 bicycle parking spaces, 54 visitor bicycle parking spaces, 100 garage parking spaces and 6340 square feet of ground commercial space (*Jamaica Plain Gazette*).

Mission Hill:

Mayor Michelle Wu, along with the Boston Public Health Commission and the Boston Emergency Medical Services, acknowledged the graduation of 35 Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) recruits and 13 promotions at a ceremony in Rabb Hall. The new recruits were hired as state-certified EMTs. Among the 13 promotions, 6 were promoted to paramedic, 3 were promoted to captain and 4 were promoted to lieutenant (*Mission Hill Gazette*).

Congratulations, Michelle and BLS Class of 2025



So proud of you and all you have accomplished.
Cheers to new beginnings!

Love,
Mom, Dad and Karen



Congrats Max!



You are tee'd up and ready to launch.
Next stop Nashville!
We love you and are so proud of you!

Love,
Mom, Dad and Chiara

Adam — we are so proud of you.

Your resilience, sense of humor, drive, persistence and compassion round you out to be an amazing person.

We know you're going to do great things!



SARAH MOLLY HUFF



YOU DID IT

We are so PROUD of you
Love, MOM, DAD & CHARLIE



Congratulations Jackson!

We're so proud of you and so excited
for your next adventure. We love you!
- Mom, Dad, Kingston & Clayton

Congratulations Noah!



We are so proud of you!
Love, Mom & Dad



Congratulations, Maya! Felicidades!

We are so proud of you and looking forward to sharing more
memories with you as you start the next chapter of your life.

We love you!
Mom, Papi & Dom <3



Congratulations Kieran!!

Love,
Mom, Dad, Ronan & Colum

Ice Bucket Take Two: Mental Health Ver.



BLS students take the plunge for the USC Ice Bucket Challenge.

By Hiba El Fatihi (III)
Staff Writer

A red circle outlines your friend’s profile picture on *Instagram* — a new story. You tap on the circle, watching them state their name, nominating three more of your friends and then pouring a bucket of ice water on their head. You continue to tap through another person’s story. The same new trend. It is everywhere. Students, friends and even influencers are participating in this newfound mental health challenge known as the University of South Carolina (USC) Speak Your Mind Ice Bucket Challenge. Even though this challenge has been a trend across America, with the goal of promoting mental health awareness, it

fails to spread mental health awareness and make a lasting impact.

The USC Ice Bucket Challenge was inspired by the previous Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS) Ice Bucket Challenge that went viral in 2014, raising over 115 million dollars for the ALS Association. The ALS Ice Bucket Challenge had a clear message: the water thrown on the person represented the paralysis caused by ALS, since the cold temperature tends to make people freeze. The USC Ice Bucket Challenge was created for a similar purpose: to help raise awareness for mental health. Many were motivated to do the challenge for a range of reasons. Michelle Du (II) says, “As someone who has struggled with mental health, [...] I wanted to spread awareness but in a way that

was very fun.” The challenge, however, has begun to lose its main message, with the goal now being to keep up with the latest trend. Many participants have lost sight of what the trend was created for: educating oneself and others on the critical problems regarding teen mental health. People everywhere are participating in this trend simply due to a fear of missing out and posting themselves. Alixmel Valdez (II) believes that “dumping ice on yourself could spread awareness [...], but some people just do it for fun.” More people seem to be focused on the stunt of pouring water and nominating people than the cause the trend is trying to promote.

The USC Ice Bucket Challenge being primarily on social media has made it even less impactful. Apps like *Instagram* and *TikTok*, where stories only last 24 hours, are less effective when it comes to making the trend more informative. Boston Latin School Health Education teacher Ms. Leah Lipschitz emphasizes, “Students and schools could promote a more lasting impact by providing space for authentic conversations consistently, as well as creating time for classes and services that help promote positive mental health.”

Many people argue that any awareness is better than no awareness at all; having unaware teens participate in this challenge without recognizing the purpose, however, diverts the trend from its true goal. This challenge had the potential to educate teenagers across the world, but as it becomes another dead trend that leaves us scrolling, it is no longer helps spread mental health awareness.

The USC Ice Bucket Challenge should be refined. It is critical to measure the actual impact of the trend through increased support, discussions and resources for mental health. A call to action is clearly missing from this challenge. Further actions, such as sharing personal stories, resources or even a fun fact about mental health to help others, would make the trend more meaningful. The lack of information in the trend makes it too simple for anyone to participate or view without learning anything about mental health. So the next time you are tagged in a post like this, ask yourself: what can I add to this to really make an impact?

To America: Love, Qatar

By Brandon Flores (II)
Staff Writer

For almost 250 years, the Constitution has been a symbol of national pride, protecting the rights of American citizens and preventing tyranny from seizing our republic. President Donald Trump, however, has recently been testing the boundaries of the Constitution and challenging the courts that define American law. His latest move, accepting a 400 million dollar gift from Qatar in the form of a Boeing 747 aircraft, is an unacceptable act that jeopardizes the future of the United States.

First, it’s important to understand Qatar’s motives. When a nation spends 200 billion dollars on hosting a World Cup and several hundred million on a gift to a foreign president, one cannot exactly call this “[an act] of goodwill to others.” The U.S. Department of State notes that the investments were likely made to cover up human rights issues, including widespread censorship, mistreatment of migrant laborers and the restriction of women’s rights.

Qatar will certainly expect favors from the American government, such as favorable policies and trade deals. The nation may seek to improve its image in front of the American people, who could overlook its various abuses due to the gift. Elliot Strand (II) sees the situation similarly, saying, “[Qatar] want[s] Trump to be more favorable to their country and make trade deals with them. [...] Why else would you give a country 400 million dol-

lar[s]?” Most critically, accepting this gift from Qatar is blatantly unconstitutional. According to the Emoluments Clause of the Constitution: “No Title of Nobility shall be granted by the United States: And no Person holding any Office of Profit or Trust under them, shall, without the Consent of the Congress, accept of any present, Emolument, Office, or Title, of any kind whatever, from any King, Prince, or foreign State.”

President Trump is clearly a “person holding office” accepting a “present” from a “foreign State” without any “Consent of the Congress,” violating a clause that predates even the Bill of Rights. The framers of the Constitution believed this clause was necessary to prevent tyranny and foreign influence. By receiving this gift, President Trump is opening the doors to corruption. As Boston Latin School civics teacher Ms. Catherine Arnold puts it: “If he can do whatever he wants, where’s the rule of law?”

Trump is sending a clear message by accepting Qatar’s gift. After cutting critical humanitarian assistance by slashing U.S. Aid for International Development in the name of “America first” and “government efficiency,” he is now accepting a jumbo jet from a foreign country for his personal pleasure. Ms. Arnold remarks, “This is unprecedented, in terms of a president being willing to accept a gift of such magnitude from a foreign country.” This gesture makes a mockery of the working-class Americans who voted for him and all the people suffering in



Qatar’s luxury jet is spotted in the air, flying overhead.

the current economy.

If Trump really puts America first, he would make decisions that benefit the people and uphold the Constitution. Instead, by replacing Air Force One with a Qatari plane instead of an American one, Trump is choosing foreign governments over his duty to the United States.

All this being said, some are still not convinced that this Boeing plane is cause for alarm. BLS Latin teacher Mr. Alan Chavero argues that “a gift is a gift” and points to controversies surrounding Hunter Biden selling art: “[T]hat [...] was money laundering [and] buying favors, how is that different?” Indeed, any allegations of millionaire investors handing money over

to relatives of political officials are definitely worth investigating. That, however, is not on the same scale as an entire foreign government attempting to give a 400 million dollar “gift” to the president. Blatant violations of the Constitution and bribes simply cannot be tolerated if democracy is to be preserved in the United States.

The normalization of actions like this is dangerous. It holds politicians less accountable for their actions and makes way for worse. As young and highly educated leaders in our community, BLS students should be concerned about local and national issues. While they may often seem trivial on a day-to-day basis, they will become more and more significant as time passes.

Should Cursive Be Taught in Schools?

Yes, Cursive Should Be Taught in Schools

By Jamie Ramirez (III)

Contributing Writer

In 2010, the Department of Education removed cursive from the Common Core standards. Once in almost every classroom, it is now seen as irrelevant because of its supposed lack of impact in today’s society. Cursive, however, is still important for our everyday lives, so we should bring the dying art back.

Almost everyone uses cursive when they create their personal signature. It gives them the freedom to choose a unique imprint of their name, expressing their individuality. Indeed, everybody has a different signature because of the fluidity and unique swirls of their cursive style, preventing impersonation. Each letter is unique, making it harder to forge signatures and commit scams when using cursive.

Learning cursive can also be a helpful hobby or skill. Cursive can teach people about the learning styles that are best fit for them. Sofia Hernandez (III) says, “[I learned cursive] in first or second grade. My mom taught me and had me just rewrite each letter multiple times.”

Mastering hard skills like cursive teaches children to persist when facing difficult tasks, which eventually leads to improvement. Cursive also allows people to understand the best ways they absorb information. Knowing how one retains information early on leads to an easier time at highschool or work, as they become aware of the most efficient way for them to learn and comprehend.

At Boston Latin School, most students are seen on their Chromebooks or MacBooks when taking notes. Some even stare at screens for over seven hours every day. This has become excessive, to the point where people call Generation Z ‘screenagers.’ People say that handwritten notes waste too much time and effort, but this problem could be alleviated if society began to use cursive again. Its speed and efficiency provides an actual alternative to the typing-driven notes that are commonplace in our world today.

Some might argue that cursive is outdated and has no real impact academically, other than as an alternative to print or screens. Cursive, however, is actually a better way to retain information than using print. Falena Harilall (III) notes, “Cramping [can] occur once in a while when writing lots of things down in a short amount of time [with print].” Cursive was specifically made to limit this pain and fatigue when writing. It creates a faster, less tedious way of taking handwritten notes, ultimately improving the rate of information retention for students taking notes and studying for their classes.

Cursive is also deeply rooted in our society. History is filled with art and literature written in cursive. Harilall warns, “If we cannot decipher these documents, then we cannot gain a full understanding of our history.” Learning cursive goes hand in hand with reading it. This opens up a new world of historical documents, where newer generations are able to read past accounts and descriptions. Not having the ability to write in cursive limits one’s connection to the past that shapes the future of today.

Cursive, overall, is not outdated. It is a unique and aesthetically pleasing way of writing while also being a valuable skill. From helping people define their persona to reducing screen time and enhancing memory retention, it has many practical benefits. Let us collectively use cursive again, because it was never useless!



Lauren Dong (III)

No, Cursive Should NOT Be Taught in Schools

By Hamdi Mohamed (III)

Staff Writer

“Let dead leaves drop.” This timeless saying emphasizes the idea that society should let go of things that no longer serve a purpose. This is especially true when it comes to cursive writing. Cursive is a dying art, and it is time to let it go.

As technology advances and society fights to keep up, cursive is becoming more and more obsolete. People are writing much less than they have historically because, almost everything can be done digitally. Current technology is revolutionary and can be easily used to digitalize formerly handwritten tasks. Rather than committing time to mastering fancy handwritings, we should prioritize digital literacy and making technology more accessible.

Nardos Henock (V) agrees, explaining, “I don’t think cursive is needed in today’s modern society because it’s not convenient, since a lot of people don’t use it.” The digital world is constantly advancing, and society must be able to keep up. In today’s modernized world, cursive sticks out like a sore thumb and looks out of place.

Cursive writing is an outdated practice. Rather than teaching students cursive, students can learn more fulfilling subjects and gain skills that would prove more useful in their adult lives. American Sign Language (ASL), for example, would be a more practical skill for children to learn. Requiring the teaching of ASL to all kids would be more helpful for deaf and disadvantaged children, who are severely disadvantaged in our education system. It would additionally help bridge the communication division in society.

Students and teachers should not be required to dedicate valuable class time to integrate cursive into the educational curriculum. It is extremely time-consuming to learn to write cursive, especially when teaching younger children. Students who learned it in school often find it to be useless.

Linh Duong (III) emphasizes, “I learned cursive [...] in fifth grade. I hate it. I don’t get why people think cursive is good — it’s just letters bunched up together. There’s a whole reason why those letters are separated.” Rather than forcing cursive onto students, many of whom do not want to learn it, cursive is better off as a hobby. It should be done voluntarily, in one’s own time, not in school.

In fact, many schools have adopted the Common Core State Standards, which emphasizes skills like critical thinking over traditional handwriting. Even in many educational institutions, cursive is no longer perceived as necessary. After all, this art was used centuries ago, when it was more efficient to write using a quill.

Cursive handwriting is also incredibly difficult to learn. This is especially the case for elementary students. The shapes of the letters are inconsistent and everything is connected, making some struggle to comprehend its writing and reading style. Sylvie Langhirt (V) explains her experience: “I have never used [cursive], because it’s very difficult to use. It takes extra brain power to try to make it look nice or legible.”

Cursive has no place in American education. Not only is it difficult to learn and old-fashioned, but it is also a waste of time. Students can learn alternative abilities that further contribute to the advancement of our society. We should all move forward and forsake practices that are impractical in the modern day.

Go for Green!

By Ellie Fung (IV)

Staff Writer

Boston has 168 square feet of green space per resident. Lower than almost every other city in recent studies, including Atlanta, Dallas and Los Angeles, the little green space the City has to spare is often converted into new infrastructure. For instance, the recent renovation of Copley Square eliminated much of the green space and historical significance it offered before, sparking widespread negative reactions. While new construction can bring benefits, it should not come at the cost of preserving historic landmarks and green spaces. It is important to preserve the environment in urban areas.

When new construction takes precedence, community bonds can be ruptured. Historical landmarks connect communities by grounding neighborhoods in their roots, and green spaces provide places for residents to connect with each other. Eliminating them reduces the strength of genuine human connections and the close-knit community in neighborhoods.

Gentrification is an additional challenge that new construction creates for communities. Amara Okwor (I) says,

“Gentrification is still a very big issue today. It’s just sort of like a silent bulldozer of communities. [...] It often pushes out people with lower incomes [and] big families.”

Gentrification causes property values to rise and often displaces lifelong residents who can no longer afford to stay there. New construction can make room for economic and urban growth, but the risk of high-income residents and developments weakening original communities and cultures is far more detrimental.

There is also a risk of compromising the environment. Green space is important — especially in urban areas — since it can help reduce the urban heat island effect and filter pollutants from the air. The urban heat island effect is a phenomenon where cities are much warmer than their surrounding areas, driving up energy consumption and emissions due to demand for cooling. Green spaces help mitigate these effects by releasing moisture, creating shade and reducing solar radiation.

There has already been so much damage to the environment; an overabundance of new construction at the expense of the climate is partially how the current environmental crisis has

grown so severe. Disregarding the environment and leaving problems for future generations to solve has failed then and will fail now.

Omitting green space also creates a less pleasant urban experience for residents. Thao Nguyen (III), using the Copley Square renovation as an example, says, “Some big problems that arise are the big lack of trees, permeable surfaces, welcoming space and an increase in temperature [...] the material usage and design of the rest area itself fails to provide any cool shade or resting space.”

Some argue that new construction is a positive force for change, adapting the city to the needs of its people and creating affordable housing. Affordable housing is extremely important, but it should not come at the expense of historic architecture and green space. Architects can instead incorporate green space into their designs and renovate historic buildings rather than tearing them down.

Katelyn Le (I), who did a capstone project on designing architecture for the sake of the community, elaborates, saying, “Unused buildings like offices and schools and even churches can be turned into affordable housing. Churches in the

South End have been turned into housing by maintaining the existing facade of the church and renovating within so that you preserve part of the historical elements. These areas just need rezoning to become housing, and through this, greenery can be implemented vertically.”

Green space and historical buildings help maintain a higher quality of life for residents. One of the reasons residents appreciate historic sights is because they help people stay connected to the past. Eliminating historical neighborhoods would destroy the stories left behind by past inhabitants. Boston Latin School AP U.S. History teacher Mr. Dominic Rinaldi highlights, “Preservation [of historic buildings] is important because you can’t understand where you are now if you don’t know where you came from.”

Boston is a constantly evolving city that must meet the needs of its residents. Those needs, however, should not tarnish Boston’s history, as Boston derives its uniqueness partially from its complex, rich past. New construction should not erase high quality of life. Change is often emphasized, but there remains an immense value in preservation and repurposing rather than starting anew.

Keep Deductions on Donations!



Julianne Jang (IV)

Mr. Fogel stands next to several bags of clothing donations.

By Harry Dinh (IV)
Staff Writer

Did you know that you can be rewarded for supporting a cause that you are passionate about? Ordinary taxes that take a percentage of people’s monthly income are used by the government on public services like building projects or transportation infrastructure. Charitable donations, however, can provide tax deductions. This system was implemented by the Internal Revenue Service to encourage more giving to good causes from people. People are able to donate to qualified organizations, then deduct the amount they spent from their adjusted gross income, thus lowering the amount of taxes they owe. These deductions, essential to helping a community, should be kept.

To begin, tax deductions incentivize donations. According to the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, 69 percent of

the U.S. population made donations within the last year. When people can deduct their amount of taxable income, it makes them more willing to donate to organizations. The tax deduction system also makes donating more accessible for working class people, not just the wealthy. It serves as a miniature act of gratitude from the government for giving back. Boston Latin School AP Economics teacher Ms. Ashley Balbian explains, “Tax deductions for charitable giving are a practical and ethical way to promote the common good.” Tax deductions help direct personal wealth toward causes that benefit communities.

Tax deductions also empower people to choose how they want their money to support the public rather than the government. They can feel satisfied by donating to their local church or a grassroots nonprofit helping with education. Without tax deductions, there is more financial strain

on the donor’s income due to their donation and full-price taxes.

When donations go toward good causes that benefit a community, they should be incentivized. This money is able to fill in the gaps left by government-regulated taxes. Donations, for example, can go to organizations that help with food insecurity or poverty relief, issues that tax dollars typically do not address much. These charitable organizations can be extremely effective, spending money wisely to help the public in specific areas. St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital, for example, uses charitable donations to fund research and cover the cost of treatment for its patients.

Aside from the financial help to the public that tax deductions provide for charitable donations, they also help foster connections and build community by encouraging generosity. Jessica Tec Ciau (I), a frequent donor and volunteer to charity, shares, “[By

donating], you’re also giving people that emotional support they could also use where it’s like there are people who are thinking about you [...] [and] want to help.” It is through the joint effort of many people showing they care to donate that fosters a bond through giving. Taxes that one must pay can never build that same sense of connectedness within a community.

Although many are concerned that tax deductions for donations favor the wealthy, as they can donate money to an organization for large tax deductions, there are ways to prevent this. They should not be outright eliminated because charitable donations still help the general public more than they harm them. Ordinary people would still be donating and helping organizations, even if the amount deducted from their taxable income is smaller.

BLS AP Economics teacher Mr. Patrick Boor suggests, “You could get a bigger deduction [...] if the organization [you donate to] meets certain public good criteria.” Instead of tax deductions being the same amount regardless of the organization, tax deductions could be need-based, with more being allocated to organizations that need more funding and less to already big institutions. In this way, the tax deductions would encourage the wealthy to donate to smaller organizations rather than to big institutions just for the deduction. Another possible solution to help make the system more fair for everyone is to have naturally higher taxes on wealthy individuals. This way, even after they donate to get the deduction, they will still be paying a fair amount of taxes.

Tax deductions overall encourage generosity regardless of economic class. They are a healthy and good way to incentivize donations to organizations that ultimately benefit many aspects of society that cannot be as easily achieved without the deductions. Even BLS students can engage in donating whatever they can spare to foster community bonds and draw more people to help for the greater good of the public.

Too SpaceX-Treme?

By Bella Zhao (V)
Contributing Writer

Boca Chica, Texas contains one of the most ambitious innovation centers: Elon Musk’s SpaceX Starbase. It serves as the main testing and production facility for Starship launch vehicles — some of the most powerful rockets ever launched from Earth. Aspiring to make the multi-planetary future into a reality, SpaceX has invested three billion dollars into building the Starbase, envisioning a human colony on Mars once Earth becomes uninhabitable.

While the launch site may be essential for space exploration, the same energy and capital could be instead poured into combatting the cause of Earth’s destruction — climate change. The potential for space exploration and advanced technology does not outweigh the reality faced by the communities and surrounding ecosystems of Boca Chica, as the Starbase itself has been contributing to environmental damages and community displacement.

Boca Chica is a small area, yet it has such a vast diversity of habitats and wildlife that it is considered one of the most ecologically diverse places

in North America. Surrounding Boca Chica is a federal wildlife refuge and state park that is home to hundreds of threatened and endangered species, such as the migratory birds that inhabit the area every year. This small town is also especially sacred to the Carrizo Comecrudo Tribe, which had resided there for several generations, as they have deep historical and spiritual ties to the land.

Without regard or concern for the original inhabitants, SpaceX has built their space facility on an ecologically sensitive and sacred land. In a press conference, Musk validated his disregard for the land, ignorantly saying, “We’ve got a lot of land with nobody around, and so if it blows up, it’s cool.”

The corporation does not seem to understand, however, that even if the land is underpopulated, many are still harmed. The constant rocket failures have led to explosions that disperse debris across wildlife conservations, ignite wildfires that burn surrounding ecosystems and contaminate the air and wetlands for animals and humans alike.

The facility, moreover, creates unprecedented noise and vibrations,

which disturbs the daily lives of communities living there. As Maya Koreth (I) adds, “They don’t take too much ownership about what they’re doing to the environment, and at the end of the day, we do only have one Earth.”

The Federal Aviation Administration has also supported the decision to allow SpaceX to increase rocket launches at Boca Chica Beach. The Texas Senate has simultaneously agreed to give the city officials the authority to temporarily close a nearby beach during launches, resulting in the land being inaccessible more often. This, however, is a cherished spot among the local community, outraging the people who have worked so hard in the past to protect the area. Using public safety as a justification is disingenuous and penalizes the people who value and have preserved the beloved area.

More action is needed before rushing into space. Tony Zhang (I) believes that only “with proper regulation and agreement with the local communities, space exploration is a worthy goal to ‘sacrifice’ for.” Regulations should address launch operations, debris management and mitigation of negative consequences on wildlife and communities. Without acknowledging

the consequences and wounds Starbase is inflicting on Earth and without supporting methods to save our planet, space exploration should not be prioritized.

While many in support for the Starbase construction argue that it was a near unanimous, democratic vote that included the government and local community, the majority of the voters — nearly 60 percent — were actually SpaceX employees or government officials that were affiliated with the company, skewing the decision in Musk’s favor. Andrew Xue (I) believes that “Elon Musk is just trying to gain more political power.” The vote did not truly reflect the interests of the broader community that would actually be affected by the consequences of the Starbase.

Starbase may be revolutionizing space travel, but it should not be prioritized over ecosystems and welfare on Earth. A member of the Carrizo Comecrudo Tribe states that “on Mars, you can’t see the wonderful animals and plants that you can see on Earth, so there would be no point in living there.” Why are we harming our home planet in order to travel to a foreign one like Mars?

Where’s the Girl Pope?

By Elaine Lin (IV)
Contributing Writer

“In Christ there is no Jew or Greek, slave or citizen, male or female. All are one in Christ Jesus” (Gal. 3:28). Despite this verse from the New Testament, the Catholic Church still denies women the right to be ordained as priests, one of the church’s most sacred roles. This should change; through baptism in Christ, distinctions between men and women disappear, so women should also have the opportunity to priestly ministry.

The Catholic Church contains a seven-level hierarchy arranged from order of authority, with the Pope at the top, followed by cardinals, archbishops, bishops, priests, deacons and the laity, or regular members of the Church. This hierarchical structure defines not only the roles within the Church, but also the spiritual authority held by each role. The Pope, for example, rules the Catholic Church, similar to how a king would rule a country and is the Head of State for Vatican City.

Cardinals are leading bishops and members of the College of Cardinals who participate in the Papal Conclave, electing the new Pope. Archbishops oversee archdioceses and guide bishops of a certain region. Bishops are ministers holding the full sacrament of holy orders. Priests either lead individual parishes or vow to religious orders. Deacons are students of the Catholic Church preparing for priesthood and have the ability to baptize, witness marriages and perform funerals. Finally, the laity make up the majority of Catholics and participate through worship, community service and other church activities.

All of these roles, except the laity, are reserved for men. Women are

currently allowed to serve as abbesses, nuns, sisters and educators, but they are excluded from performing sacraments and holding positions of sacramental authority. Women are essential to churches, often leading religious orders and dedicating themselves to Catholic service and education.

Although nuns and sisters are able to participate toward charity and spiritual work, they cannot completely celebrate the Eucharist, hear confessions or anoint the sick, since these sacraments would require for them to be ordained. This limitation begs the question, should the exclusion of women in Church leadership positions be upheld, or is it a tradition that has outlived its relevance? Amidst ongoing debates in the Catholic Church, it has remained clear that women’s exclusion from sacramental duties limits their potential to serve and leadership within the Church’s hierarchy.

The Bible itself includes many passages dictating that women had held leadership roles in early Christianity. “I commend to you our sister Phoebe, a deacon (diakonos) of the church at Cenchrea” (Rom. 16:1).

Women are still essential to the church because they are seen as symbols for motherhood and innocence; concerning priesthood, however, Adriana DePina (IV) says, “If someone values and loves God, they should be able to have that role.” There is a growing call among Catholics for gender equality within the Church. Many followers of Christ feel that ordainment should depend on their spiritual gifts and leading qualities, rather than gender, something that one is simply assigned at birth.

The Pontifical Yearbook published by the Vatican’s Central Office of Church Statistics has also revealed that the number of priests within the



CNS Photo

Pope Francis blesses women at the Vatican.

3,041 ecclesiastical jurisdictions of the Catholic world has decreased in Europe, Oceania and America, while the general global Catholic population has risen. During a period where there may be a shortage of priests to spiritually guide followers, the Catholic Church should not continue to bar women from taking up this role.

Patrick McLane (II) argues, “The priest acts *in persona Christi* — in the person of Christ — and Christ was a man,” supporting that since Christ was a man, so should priests. This reasoning, however, is challenged by those who believe that spiritual calling and devotion to God is just that: dedication to God and undefined by gender. Critics of this point argue that *in persona Christi* could also be used to symbolize Christ’s actions and missions rather than his physical attributes. Although Jesus chose male apostles, his company also consisted of women, and he was known for his

inclusion of marginalized groups and women.

Sheldon Bol (IV) notes, “I feel that women do not really have much say in the Church — just to be in the Vatican or even Pope, you have to be a man. If someone has faith in God and believes in Catholic values, there is no reason they should not be allowed to be a priest.”

The exclusion of women from holding leadership opposes the core teachings of unity in Christ and undermines their value in the Catholic Church. The debate of women’s roles highlights a tension between tradition and progress. As the calls of inclusivity increase and grow louder, the Church should choose to adapt to reflect modern values of equality and justice, rather than uphold centuries-old custom. For the Church to remain relevant, it must open its sacred roles to all who are faithful, regardless of gender.

Ask the Students: What are BLS students doing this summer?



Johan Pineda Guerrero (I)

“[I will be] attending a research program over the summer.”

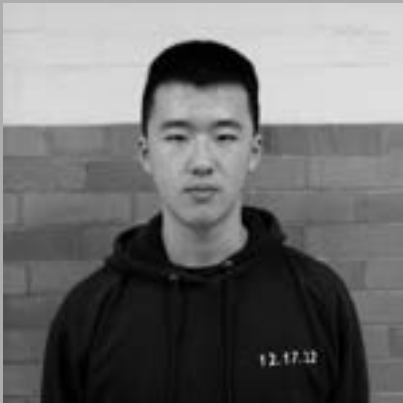


Evan Ding (II)

“Although I’m not employed yet, I’m gonna get a job to pay for more protein and bulk. [...] I’m gonna get bigger than Larry Wheels.”



William Hoang (IV)



William Yu (III)

“I plan to travel to the Dominican Republic for my birthday [...] [and] either [go] to camp or [spend] a bunch of time with my family.”

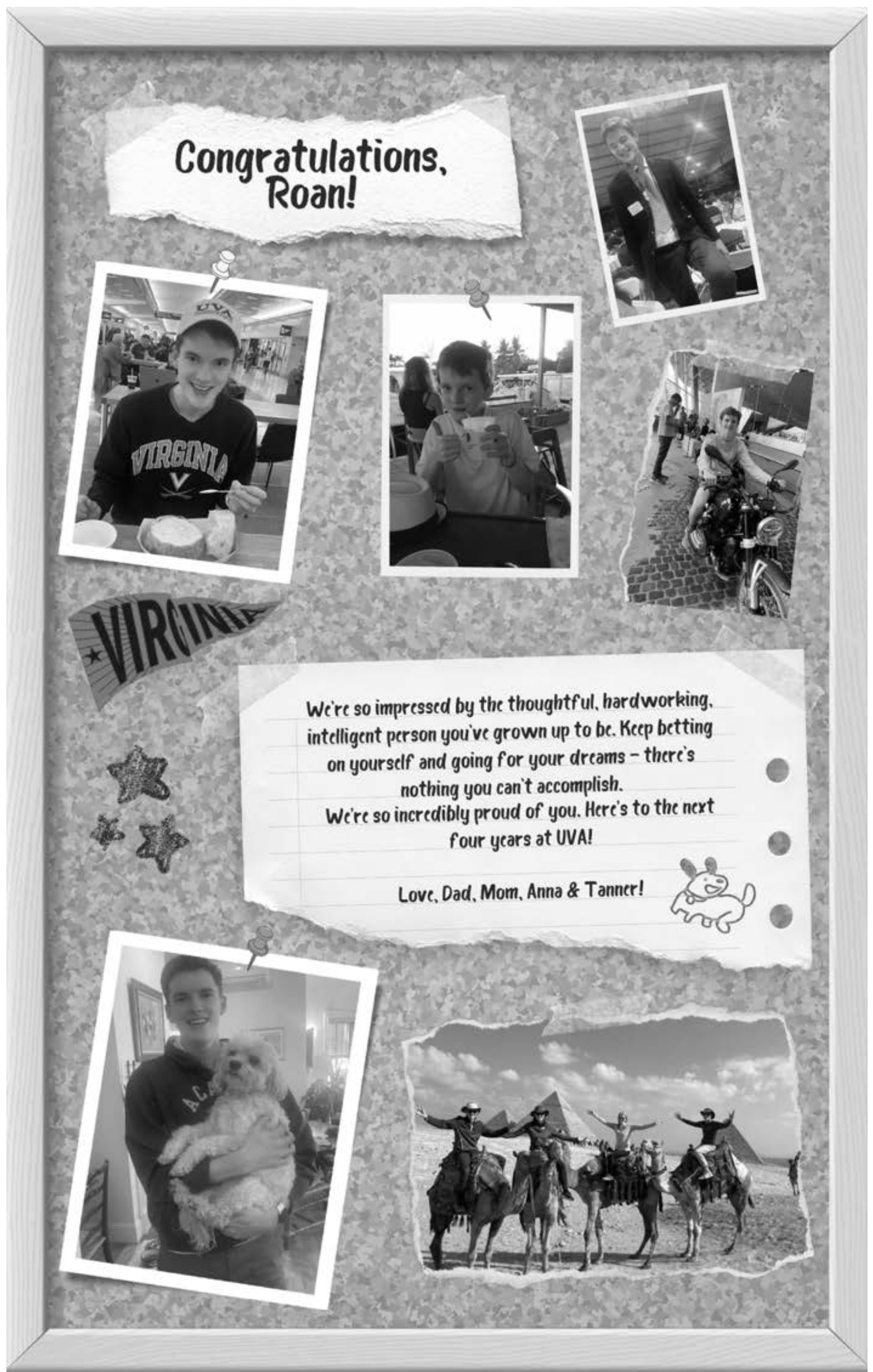


Katherine Nguyen (II)

“[I will be] studying for the SAT [and] trying to enjoy my last year of relatively less busy work.”



Aileen Herrera Tejada (VI)



President
Oriana Dunker



After a long six years, it feels surreal to be writing this farewell letter to the place that watched me grow from a 12-year-old sixie to an adult preparing to take on the rest

Vice President
Benny Pierre Louis



On our last day of classes, we chant, “It’s all over!” This tradition marks the end of

Treasurer
Steven Miall



All great things must come to an end. And while it is bittersweet, we now find ourselves closing the chapter of high school and turning to the next pages of our lives. But here’s the thing: you can’t have chapter two without chapter one. Our years at Boston Latin School will remain etched into the story

Secretary
Milda Miranda



Six years ago, I walked into Boston Latin School for the first time. My chunky Filas skidded across the floor as I got lost on the way to my very first class: homeroom with Mx. Amico. In all honesty, I cried after my first day. Between the four-minute bells, the five-ish floors and the pre-algebra I couldn’t quite grasp, I was frustrated. But I kept going. Through my first declamation, my first printer

of my life. I cannot be more honored to have been able to be your senior class president this past year. This class is a special one — from being the last grade coming into Boston Latin School before the pandemic, experiencing different Heads of School and witnessing social movements that have made world change — we have been through a lot, but it is what has made us who we are. Someone once said, “Be the change you wish to see in the world.” And I urge all of you readers to take this message to heart. If you wish the world were more kind, be kind. If you wish the world were warmer, be warmer. If you wish the streets were more clean, don’t just clean your side, but the entire street for everybody. That may sound like a difficult task, but for underclassmen, BLS is the perfect place to start practicing. Being involved in BLS activities like Cru, Cheer-

our six or four years at Boston Latin School. While the tradition brings all the seniors together for a final goodbye, I’ll never forget the experiences I’ve had at BLS. Sixie year gave me the opportunity to create friendships that I’m sure will last a lifetime. I was introduced to a whole new culture, one where I could sit in a classroom with 30 other students who looked nothing like me. Yet it’s those differences that make BLS so special. Later in my BLS career, I took advantage of so many opportunities, from joining BLS Cru to becoming part of the track team. Even on the days I complained about getting home late, I secretly loved filling my time with the things I liked to do. For my underclassmen: join a sport or club. Don’t overload yourself, but do explore. I don’t think I would’ve run for vice president if I hadn’t gained experience in leadership and team-

of who we are. The laughs, the struggles, the moments that felt like pure joy and yes, even the ones that felt like torture, will stay with me, woven into this book full of love, growth and memory. Serving as the Class of 2025 Treasurer was an unforgettable experience. I had the privilege of working with Oriana, Benny and Milda as we took on the role of trying our best to please the 390-ish students in our grade. While it was a struggle from time to time, being able to represent our class was an honor. To Ms. Sarkis and Ms. E, thank you so much for the guidance and advice for us class officers. It is not easy being in a role where hundreds of students count on us for leadership, but you both made our jobs so much easier and kept the meetings fun and running every time. I personally felt as if our work as senior class officers was a success. While we weren’t able to hit the goal of a 75-dollar prom, we were able to keep the price at a manageable 85 dollars while also upgrading the location and providing shirts and fun activities with the money we

jam in the library and my very first pandemic, I kept going. Five years ago, I didn’t walk into BLS once. Forced to do school completely online, I have never felt more isolated. But somehow, through all the distance, my friendships became stronger. There were many nights spent up until 4:00 A.M. calling with my friends, or playing games online for hours. In the quiet of my home, I learned that distance really does make the heart grow fonder. Four years ago, I was starting high school. Being back in BLS for the first time since 2020 brought me a lot of uncertainty, and being a typical anxious teenager definitely didn’t help. But with the support system of my friends and my favorite staff, I came out of my shell in ninth grade. Even though algebra was still kicking my butt, I would always keep going. Three years ago, I got my first case of senioritis (yes, two years early). I had learned BLS and the people in it like the back of my hand, memorized every corner and rusty pipe and even found the fifth floor pool. Two years ago, I knew that I wanted to bring our class to-

leading, Gospel Choir, Model United Nations, BLS Black Leaders Aspiring for Change and Knowledge, Peer Mentoring, Public Declamation and so much more, has changed my life. They have shown me what it means to have community, what it means to serve and what it means to be, not just a student, but a person. I think back to the summer I spent doing research to fight for air conditioning in all Boston Public Schools, the rally I MC’d at City Hall for adequate buildings and resources and the speech I gave advocating for a new contract for the Boston Teachers Union. The best advice I can give is if you think there’s something about BLS that isn’t right, then change it. If there’s something about BLS that could be better, then fight for it. If not now then when, and if not you then who? I’ll never forget all of the beautiful people that I have met, the friends, teachers and staff that have guided me throughout my

work through extracurriculars. To my classmates, if I could leave you all with one message, it is this: “It’s never too late.” It’s never too late to make amends with the person you’ve beefed with since eighth grade. It’s never too late to reach out to the person you’ve always wanted to be friends with. That guy you had a crush on is leaving for college in months. Your best friend is studying abroad miles away from your in-state school. So why not say all the things you wish you had said sooner — now? These past few weeks I’ve been thinking about what matters the most, and I think it is not having regrets. Time is running out, but you still have the choice to speak your heart one last time. Lastly, I can’t forget my fellow officers. Steven, you always know how to make people smile even in tense situations and

raised. I am truly appreciative of this amazing group. Every meeting with you all never really felt like a meeting at all. You guys let me be my authentic self, stuffing my face with candy and screaming every other minute. To the younger generation: good luck and power through. BLS is a grind. If you put your mind to something, you can do it. Success does not come easily, so you have to work, work and work some more. Having those rough nights is normal, it just shows how much you care about yourself and your future. Focus on the end goal. One more thing: don’t let yourself get consumed by just one part of who you are. Don’t be so focused on school that you forget about the rest of your life, like extracurriculars, sports or your social life. And vice versa: if you’re passionate about a sport, don’t let it be your entire personality, take your talents to other fields. Humans are meant to be versatile. Let every part of you grow and be the best it can be. Balance is everything. Though I am excited to start college,

together in whatever way I could, to make sure everyone had a support system in the way I did. That’s when I hung up my posters and spent days staying up till 1:00 A.M. making my campaign posts to become the BLS Class of 2025 secretary. Almost one year ago now, I started my last year at BLS. I was in full swing nostalgia mode, crying over leaving my friends — even with graduation being eight months away, while also carrying the stress and weight of college applications. Now that I’m here writing this toward the end of May, that bittersweet feeling hasn’t left me yet. I will miss you all in thousands of different ways, and I am forever grateful to have shared these halls with you over the years. To Oriana, our faithful president and my non-blood cousin, thank you for keeping me so focused and head strong this year, while also making me laugh like nobody else. I would take a bullet for you (HaHa). To Benny, my chronically online bff and sister, nobody sees me quite like you do, and I will forever be grateful for your spontaneity and refreshing approach to life. And Steven, my MC buddy,

BLS journey. I would like to extend a special thanks to my fellow class officers who have made this year so fun, and our senior class advisors Ms. Encarnacao and Ms. Sarkis who have made it all possible. And of course, I would like to thank every single one of my classmates who have filled my days with laughter, last-minute motivation before taking a test and relatable sighs after getting them back. You all have inspired me so much, and I will never forget our moments spent together. I know that I cannot appreciate it all right now, but I know in the future that I will look back at these years as one of the best, most formative times of my life — and there’s no place I’d rather have spent them. Sumus Primi! With love, Oriana

Harvard is so lucky to have you. Never stop smiling. Milda, you’re unforgettable. Growing closer to you these last two years made me realize how important it is to make new connections, and I’ve come to know you as both a backbone and someone I look up to. Oriana, when filling out the school survey that asked, “list three students you are close to,” you were always first. I’m glad we met in seventh grade and our friendship has just begun. I couldn’t have asked for a more capable group of individuals to lead our grade with. Being vice president was an indescribable experience, and I’m so grateful to have served a class as brilliant as ours. I know you all will be trailblazers, and I believe in every single one of you. Be the best version of yourself, Benedicte “Benny” Pierre Louis

knowing I will have to graduate and leave this all behind is bittersweet. In fact, earlier today on May 20, which is the day I’m writing this, I ended up crying thinking of graduation day while listening to *The Greatest Showman* soundtrack. I will miss BLS. I will miss being with a community that’s held strong since the seventh grade. I will miss helping out in the main office, tour guiding, band class with Ms. McKenna, fencing meets, DECA meetings and so much more. What I WON’T miss is waking up at 6:00 A.M. to catch a bus every day, assessments for every class weekly and forcing myself to stay awake in my classes. It was definitely a challenge making it through these six years, but it was rewarding. BLS allowed me to get into my dream college and continue to play the sport I love, create lasting relationships with my best friends and open up a network of alumni and connections, which will help set all of us up for success as we age into fine adults. Forever grateful, Steven Miall

thank you for being the light during all of our meetings (which may have been caused by you eating all of Ms. E’s candy, but I digress) and exuding proficiency and understanding in everything you do. I could not have done this without you all. And lastly Ms. E and Ms. Sarkis, thank you for making this process so much easier. You guys are my confidants, my biggest supporters, and you have given me the opportunity to serve my class everyday, which I will forever be thankful for. I love you all. As I graduate and move on to further my education at the University of Connecticut, I don’t think I could ever forget BLS. You have all instilled in me such curiosity to learn and such pride in my school. Never doubt that no matter how much I stressed, how much I contemplated dropping out and becoming a nomad or how excited I am to start this next chapter of my life, I will always bleed purple. Thank you thank you thank you to you all for allowing me to be your secretary. Sumus Primi. Love, Milda



Gianna,
We are so very proud of you!
From Wolfpack to Buckeye Bound.
Love you to the moon and back. ;)
Ella, Mia, Mom and Dad



Congratulations, Liam.
We are so proud of you!



Best of luck to the Class of 2025!
The Sullivan Family

Congratulations Grace!



Love,
Dad, Mom, Kyle,
Owen and Brendan



Congratulations Alexandra
and the Class of 2025!

Thank you, BLS!

Happy Graduation Rhys...
you are on your way!
Love Mom y la Familia!



Happy Graduation, Hannah!



Love,
Mom, Dad, Naomi and Nathaniel.

Congratulations, Jack!

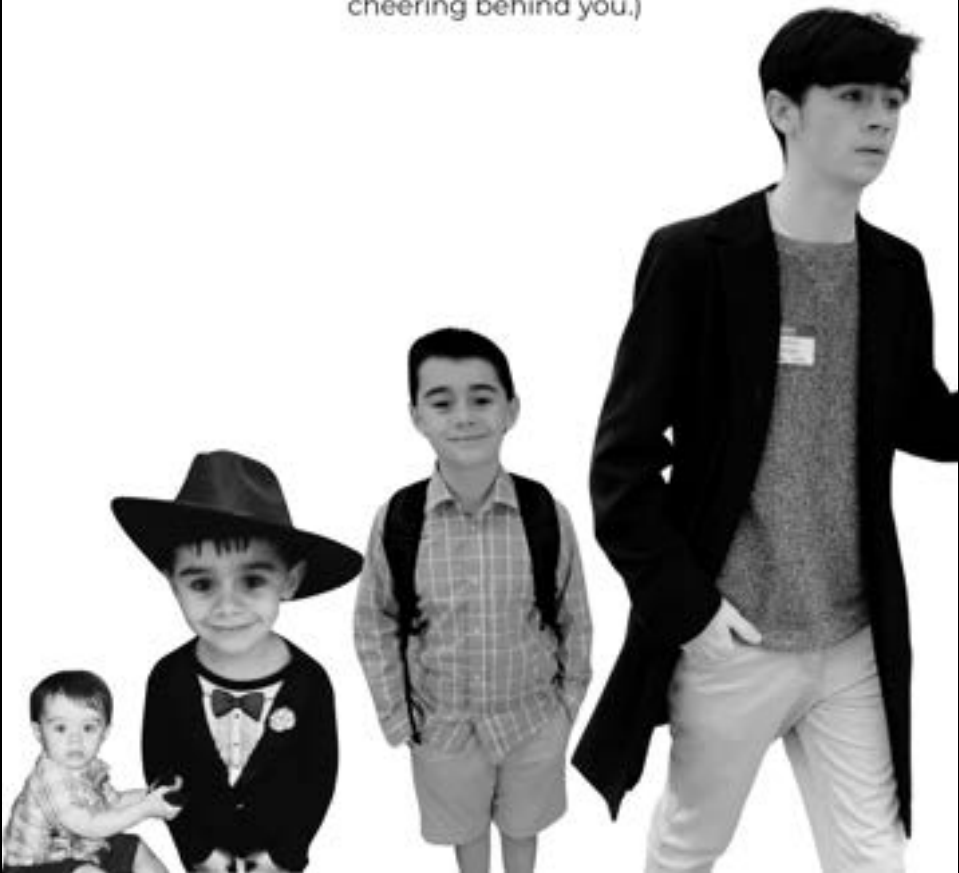


We are so proud of all you have accomplished at BLS, in the classroom and on the field!

Love,
Mom, Dad, William and Gretta

BE BOLD.
BE BRIGHT.
GO BEYOND.
THE FUTURE IS NOW.

with love, with gratitude,
(and your whole fan club
cheering behind you.)



Class of 2025 Franklin Medalists

Valedictorian Nicla Marabito



Dear Boston Latin School Classes of 2025–2030,
Sumus primi — it’s true.

Boston Latin School is indeed first, foremost, number one. If I am at all qualified to give advice on being *prima*, this is it. You should all carry yourselves with the confidence of the best, *primi*. As BLS students and soon-to-be alumni, you are. It’s not arrogance if it’s true.

Being the best is not a solitary effort. Thank you to our teachers, counselors, administrators, staff and families for their knowledge, support, guidance, encouragement and inspiration. Thank you, Class of 2025.

I am grateful to you for staying up late

with me to build electric motors; translating Basque numbers such as *berrehum hiru*, Tariana evidentials and Swahili verbs like *tulipika* in Linguistics Club; suggesting that I include some kind of *concealed message* in this farewell, which I did; keeping me company with all your initials in the top right corner of the *Aeneid I* document the day before the exam; acting as my co-counsel in the Genghis Khan mock trial, which we won; racing me to the top of the theater at Epidaurus while in Greece with the Classics Department; practicing our Italian at the Dante Society; inviting me to your concerts and sharing your compositions; engaging in playful college rivalry by putting your Brown stickers on Harvard’s campus; sharing your fashion advice; mak-

ing me laugh; and impressing me every day with how incredibly smart and motivated you are. It has been an honor to spend the past few years with you.

After graduation, I will study Linguistics and Physics at Harvard College, retire the dark red leather shoulder bag I carry around the BLS hallways and smile whenever I see inscriptions, mottos or abbreviations in Latin. Even as we leave 78 Avenue Louis Pasteur, I am confident we will see each other again. In Catullus’s words from “Poem 46,”

*O dulces comitum valete coetus,
longe quos simul a domo profectos
diversae varie viae reportant!*

Nicla

Olivia Ryan



Boston Latin School has gone by in such a flash. I remember counting down the days to graduation and leaving, and now it’s all over. Despite the struggles, late nights, never ending projects and terrible tests, I cherished my time at BLS. The stress it inevitably brought me also brought me closer to some of the best friends I could ever ask for. I’ve been able to perform at countless Winter Concerts, Music Nights, MLK Day Celebrations and Asian Nights, all bringing me closer to peers

through song and dance.

My favorite experience at BLS has been the Taiwan trip. I got close to so many new people, was able to travel to a new country for the first time and could practice my Mandarin. I (along with so many of my friends who also went) continue to reference our time there, and I wouldn’t trade that experience for anything.

One piece of advice I think helped me is to do things you enjoy. I don’t think I would’ve had such an amazing time at BLS if I didn’t go to events with friends or join any of the clubs and choirs I did. Another piece of advice (or rather a mindset) I’ve adopted this year has been to not take anything too seriously. Put in a good effort, obviously, but don’t stress small details or things you can’t control. I was only able to have fun at events when I stopped stressing about it all. Overall, enjoy yourself at BLS, try new things and savor it all, because it’ll be all over before you know it.

Caroline Song



In my six years at Boston Latin School, I have learned, laughed, suffered and sown the seeds of lifelong friendships. Whether staying up late working on homework or playing *Minecraft* and gacha games, going out to eat croissants or staying in to sing off-tune or even just coexisting in a way that lowers our collective IQ, I have never been truly alone. They have supported me and tolerated my existence in so many ways, whether in math class, debate tournaments or every day at lunch. BLS

has challenged me: my teachers have given their passion along with course knowledge, going above and beyond to make sure I feel safe and welcome; it would be impossible for me to tell everything that has happened. Even in my hardest courses, it was because of my teachers that I did not feel discouraged. Finally, I’m not the best at giving or following advice (my sleep schedule can attest), but if I had to, I would wish you all would take care of yourselves (stop drinking Celsius. You know who you are) and put your own peace of mind first, because whatever challenge you will have to weather will eventually become another fond memory. In the end, I do love you guys. Hope to stay in touch, even as some of you fly off across the country. I’ll miss you, class of 2025, because I’m sure we all innately understand from the bags under each others’ eyes that these six years were not the easiest, but it was the people around us that made it worth it. Thanks for everything! <333

Emily Yu



When I first came to Boston Latin School, I was told this institution would open doors for me. As a sixie, the only doors I was concerned with were the ones which led to the Art Wing. Looking back now as a senior, I cannot count the invaluable opportunities and experiences I would have had if not for BLS.

Dancing the night away at Asian Night, having the cutest birthday surprise in Taiwan, saying, “*lol*” too many times in freshman year Latin, wiping my tears with the April “break” packet from AP Lit and exploring Washington DC with the Ward Fellows are all core memories. I could not have asked for a better commu-

nity to return to after COVID-19 than the girls’ varsity swim team, nor could I think of a moment that makes me tear up more than seeing our mockingbirds perform at Yale Mock Trial.

To my seniors: we are a class for the books. Having spent 33.333 percent of my life here, you guys have 100 percent of my heart.

And of course, thank you to my teachers Ms. Medvetz and Ms. Moon for making me a better writer, Ms. Kirkpatrick for reshaping the way I see the United States, Mr. Howland for being the “grrrrreat-est” coach ever, Mr. Zou for coming in everyday with more energy than a can of Celsius, Mr. Bilodeau for being the GOAT, Ms. Yang for making us your personal choir, Ms. Cojohn for being the reason I remember my +C’s and Mr. P for sacrificing your nose during Catapulta’s Pi Day.

To those returning to BLS as students, my biggest piece of advice is this: explore and enjoy. I suggest growing from looking to your left and right. Look forward. The future will come faster than you know.

Farewell Boston Latin School, it’s been real.

Maya Koreth



Looking back on my years at Boston Latin School, it’s hard to believe how quickly time passed. I still remember the excitement of seventh grade when I believed the stories of the fifth floor pool, nervously clutching my schedule as I tried to find the right hallways. Since then, BLS has become more than just a school — it’s become a second home, filled with laughter, stress and late nights spent frantically messaging friends that turned into unforgettable memories.

If I were to recount every moment at BLS that made me cry, laugh or shout for joy, we’d be here until the blank name in the

auditorium is filled. Watching the step team perform on MLK Day, shouting myself hoarse cheering at *Tet* festival, the pride I felt winning Academic WorldQuest with my team twice — these are moments I’ll never forget. To my fellow seniors — thank you. For the energy you brought to assemblies, the chaotic magic of Spirit Day and for confirming that we will always be second to none in school pride.

Last but definitely not least, a huge thank you to my teachers and mentors. Ms. Medvetz, for giving me the skills I’ll need to succeed in any college writing class; Mr. Southwick, for pushing me to (and past) my limits in physics; Mr. P, for rekindling my love for chemistry; Mr. Mikalaitis, for being one of the most passionate teachers I’ve ever had; Ms. Cojohn, for making sure I never forget the chain rule; Mr. Zou, for being such a kind and funny club advisor and Ms. Segal, who was my lifesaver on more occasions than I can count — I truly couldn’t have done this without you.

We came in looking for the pool. We left with something better: a community of the best people. Here’s to what comes next!

Mark Snekvik



Dear Seniors, It’s all over!! I cannot believe that we have spent the last six years together. We’ve watched one another grow up, fall in love, accomplish amazing things and make mistakes. Thank you all for being such fun, amazing people who made me happy to come to school, even when I was severely underslept.

I remember eating lunch early on in seventh grade and realizing I was wolfing down my pizza super quickly. I realized that besides its delicious taste, my speedy consumption of my lunch was because I needed to fuel myself to keep up with all the stuff happening.

That sense of excitement and energy would continue throughout my time at Boston Latin School. Whether it was staying late for Gospel Choir rehearsals or spending early mornings at Boston University for Summer Certamen practice, the drive and zest for learning in this community has been so amazing and life-giving for me.

I want to shout out my Gospel Choir family, the Junior Classical League and Certamen peeps, Argonauts and band. These have been the places I have found my home at in BLS. Thank you to Ms. Moguel, Mr. Brownell, Mr. Howard, Ms. Lau, Ms. Moon, Ms. McKenna, Ms. LB, Mr. Smith and Ms. Cojohn for being wonderful mentors throughout my time at BLS... you guys are the best.

As we go off to do amazing things all across the world, I hope we will continue to stay in touch. I hope we will stay kind. And I hope we always remember Boston Public Schools so that kids in the future have the same wonderful education that we received.

Go Wolfpack! -Mark

Ailin Sha



Hi beautiful people! It’s all over — we did it! The past six years have felt simultaneously swift and impossibly long. An entire year of remote learning certainly didn’t help improve my perception of time. Ultimately, however, I am proud that we former sixies who had our first year at Boston Latin School abruptly cut short are finally walking the graduation stage.

Thank you to the BLS faculty for being considerate and phenomenal teachers — we have learned so much from you all, within and beyond the classroom. Thank you so much to the senior seminar class led by the wonderful

Mr. Bilodeau — I will deeply miss our R5 antics, from chaotic Secret Santa gift exchanges to lively potlucks. I feel lucky to have contributed to the legacy of *@billys.babies*. I’ll miss the Music Wing and the beloved Concert Strings Orchestra I’ve had the privilege of calling home for six years. I’ll miss Room Q in the library and our weekly Student Council board meetings with Mr. Levesque. I’ll miss the Dining Hall cheese pizza — there’s a special nostalgia to the smooth rectangular (sometimes triangular) slices.

Regardless of whether your BLS experience was smooth sailing or full of ups and downs, it is undeniable that our time at BLS has better prepared us for our futures and our adult lives.

To the sixies (and B-sies): try different things! Sign up for that club you haven’t heard of; try out for that sports team; apply for that summer fellowship. There are endless wonderful communities at BLS and you never know if you might discover a new passion or interest.

Thank you, and congratulations to the class of 2025! -Ailin Sha



← Post

After checking the books, it's confirmed that Charlotte Taieb broke the school record at sectionals in the 100 Backstroke with a time of 1:01.86!! Congrats Charlotte! @bls1635blsa @jgctown @BostonHeraldHS @GlobeSchools



Congratulations, Carina!!



We are so proud of you
and all of your hard work
and accomplishments.
We wish you much success
at Berklee!

Love,
Mom, Dad, Lia & Gigi



Congratulations Amelia! You did it!
We are so proud of the person you are
and the person you will become.
We love you.



Richard – we love you so much and are so proud of all you have accomplished
ALL BY YOURSELF! Go do amazing things and have the time of your life.
We will always be here for you cheering you at every step. Live every day to the
fullest and show this world what you are made of.
Love forever – Mom, Dad and Angela

Congratulations Nora!



We are so proud of you!
Love,
Mom, Dad, Evelyn & Ellen



Congratulations
Sophia!

Always ready for a chal-
lenge since day one! We
love you and are so proud
of you!

Love,
Matt, Dana, Nathan &
Henry

CONGRATULATIONS TRISTAN !

We are incredibly proud of every-
thing you've accomplished — in
school, on the golf course and the ice!
We are excited to see where your
dreams take you next.



Love,
Mom, Dad,
Bradon &
Linnea

I remember when
you were just a
sixie ignoring me
in the hallways,
and now you're all
grown up! Mom
and I are so proud
of you :)
Congrats on
Northeastern!



Congratulations, Catherine Cox!



So proud of
all you’ve
accomplished
and so excited to
watch you grow
and succeed
at Holy Cross!

Love,
Mom and Dad



Best Memory

11th grade lunch table 2:15 2024 Saint Patrick’s Day 3 Cheese bites for lunch Aidan Fitzpatrick winning the Chip <i>Among Us</i> during lunch in online school Anything but a backpack day. APRIL BREAK TAIWAN TRIP!!! Art Wing during W-Block Asian Night ‘25 Asian Night Asian Night Asian Night 2024 Asian Night 2025 Beating BC High in baseball on their Senior Night Being stuck in the lower gym after the sixie year pep rally. Being with my friends and big school events Ben Davidson being so funny in Lit class BLS Crew Bus drives to soccer Cannoli Fest Cannoli Fest Cartwheels in the hallway after the spring concert. Chamber night CIEE Morocco in 10th grade with Mr. Barry Concert nights and staying late at school to watch all the performances Dating my friends sister DC trip with friends Debates in Ms. Fernandez’s Spanish 4 DECA and debate trips “December 12, 2024”	Diana’s Dodgeball heroics Doing makeup with friends before Asian Night Eating pastries with my friends Eating Takis from the vending machine Everyone celebrating with me the day after i got into my dream college Everyone in togas for Latin Prose Declamation Everything that occurred in the advanced math gc First weekend of senior year Freshman table German exchange! Getting food after school before volleyball games and practices Getting into college Getting ready for Asian night Getting the news that school would be closed immediately for the pandemic in 2020. Ghana Trip Girls Volleyball Senior Night 2025 Going on field trips with Mr. Zou Going on the roof for the first time Going to DC with friends Going to Morocco with Mr. Barry. Going to the Peabody Essex Museum for Chinese class GUILD Halloween’s Wacky Wednesday - The entire group pulled up in full banana costumes Hallways after school! Hanging out in the main	office <3 Hanging out w/ friends last week of school Hanging out with friends Having a plank contest in the middle of math class Hell Week 2025 Helping the Soccer team make playoffs back to back my junior and senior year Hockey State Championship Jr year Asian Studies Field trips Jun Yao varsity football stardom Junior Prom Junior prom Junior prom Junior Prom Junior year lunch Last week of school freshman year Laughing with friends at lunch Lifting nationals! Little moments of joy at lunch Making it to the second round of playoffs with the soccer team (twice) March 17, 2024 Meeting all of my friends here! Meeting lid in the dining hall Meeting Max Haskell MLK Day Performances :) Mr. Vallone’s 9th Grade English Ms Castellanos’s Chemistry Class Ms. Burke’s tenth grade english class My 18th birthday My best memory is the pep rallies	My first tackle for loss on Varsity Newbury St after everything Pep rally Performing at BLS concerts Performing in the Arts Playing games on zoom Playing sports Rally Seeing the huzz @ Junior Prom Senior Night for Football against CRLS 54-27 Senior pep rally Senior Sunrise Senior year music night Seventh grade before it was awful Sitting in Art Music wing with friends Sleeping in Sanford ELA 11 Soccer practice Spending time with friends Spontaneous adventures with friends Sports betting Spring of junior year St Paddy’s parade to the Garden St. Patrick’s Day 2024 St. Patrick’s Day 2024 “Starbucks, Chick-fil-a and Newbury runs post lifting” Staying late after school with my clubs for Asian Night Taiwan Taiwan Taiwan trip Taiwan trip Talking with my friends at my locker after school every day :) The hockey locker room The parties in math class	The Red Hood cosplayer putting our school into lockdown Tomfoolery in AP Physics E&M Valentine’s Day/Tet Festival this year Wandering the halls with my friends during studies Ward DC Trip “Watching movies in Mr. Zou’s class (Your Name and Grave of the Fireflies are awesome, go watch them)” Watching someone stick a paper clip in an outlet When I assembled a group of people for just dance (using <i>YouTube</i>) and we just staked out in the blackbox dancing everyday and even got Mr. Blackett to join in BUT the main highlight was beating Ms. McKenna at spit (the card game) ONE time and then she beat me the second time so now I await the grand senior year spit championship When my APES class couldn’t stop laughing “When the person sitting next to me in math started laughing out of nowhere in the middle of a math test in term I. Later when I asked them why they laughed, they said it was because they saw that everybody was looking around clueless.” Winning states Winning the State Championship Winning the state tournament at TD Garden
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Worst Memory

2022 AKA The Dark Ages 2023 BLS vs. BLA football game 9th Grade English 9th grade Spanish Advanced Algebra 2 Advanced Algebra 2 All of 8th and 9th grade All of Latin 4 All of online school All of sophomore year Almost failing AP Stats Almost getting caught using AI any latin class ever Any time I was in physics class. AP Lang AP Latin AP Lit AP Lit AP Stats test AP World cheating scandal Back to back tests Being made cry by Ms. Craven Bio 2 BLS Lacrosse Breaking down in the middle of the hallway. Chinese class Cockroach in my locker College application season Crashing into a trashcan when walking to class Crying about a boy Crying at my first bad test grade in sixie year Crying at the nurse’s office	over a grade Crying in fundies after failing the clapping test 2x Crying over a boy Declamation During senior year when i thought it was the end of the school day and went to my locker but learned that it was actually R7 ELA group projects English 12 English 12 teachers still try hard grading in terms 3 and 4 Every latin class ever Every Latin Prose test Every single day of physics and latin Failing Ms. Burns’s final Failing my first test in a certain math teacher’s class Failing my term 1 essay Falling asleep in Latin Prose and then getting cold called on Fighting sleep paralysis demons in History class First half of senior year Geometry Getting a censure Getting caught cheating by Mr. Finnigan twice Getting caught cheating in Sanford Getting in trouble :(Getting my period on the first day of seventh grade and thinking i pooped my pants Getting pulled into Ms. Mur-	ray’s office Getting rejected from AP Psych Getting yelled at by a certain gym teacher for asking to go to the bathroom and then, once i went to the bathroom, discovering i got my first period Getting yelled at for forgetting my chromebook Getting yelled at for not having a pass to the bathroom Going to BLS :D (joking, I think) Having a panic attack during exam time, and college app season, contemplating my place in life Having declamation and term tests on the same day. Having to meet with Ms. Murray Having to tell my friend I’m dating his sister Junior lunch table Junior prom Kou yi fen Latin Latin LATIN Latin class Latin prose pop quizzes Listening to Mr. DeVelis explain how a hotdog is a sandwich Losing \$10 to Joel Losing the Thanksgiving Football Game	Masks Microwaved school lunch. Ms. Murray’s office Ms. Bateman catching me skipping Ms. Burns’s Class Ms. Murray My metal water bottle falling out of my backpack in the middle of the stairs My worst memory is fighting demons in Ms.Gribados 9th grade math class Physics Physics 1 with Mr. # Physics. Physics. Procrastinating on AP Lit essay Rumors causing me to lose all my friends Junior year. Senior fall Senior winter Showing up slightly late to an AP exam ;(Sophomore year Sophomore year my English teacher coming back and replacing Mr. Kennedy Sophomore year situationship Spanish 2 Stats R1 on a monday Staying up until 3 AM studying Submitting assignments to turnitin.com Summer School Switching friendgroups freshman year	Taking the latin 4 final exam Teacher upset and kicking me out of the zoom class because I had my face partially covered with a blanket. I was cold and had COVID. Tearing my meniscus on the first day of spring track Testing positive for COVID in the nurses’ office during R6 freshman year That time my bathroom stall door jammed while I was taking a final and I had to crawl under it to get out The 2024 spring music night The day before asian night The review before tests in advanced geometry The smell of school lunch fish Theater project in 8th grade zoom Thinking I was gonna get caught for using AI on my Mrs. Dalloway journals Tripping and getting walked around United States History 2 Valentine’s rejections Waking up early Wearing masks in ninth grade When a sixie peed on my geometry binder When my teacher vomited on another student in the middle of class. Zoom.
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Favorite Class

10th grade english	AP Physics E&M	Biology II	Humanities
9th grade history with Mr. Fogel	Ap physics e&m	Calculus	Humanities
American Foreign Policy	AP Psych	Calculus	Italian
AP African American Studies (No competi-tion)	AP Psych	Capstone	Italian
AP Art	AP Psych	capstone	Italian 3
ap art	AP Psychology	Chemistry	Italian 3
AP Art	AP Psychology	Computer Science A	Italian 3 w/ Freddy
AP Art with Mr. Harris and Italian 4 with Mr. Fredy Rodriguez	AP psychology	Creative Writing	Italian 4 w Fred
AP Bio	AP Psychology	“Creative Writing	Italian with Fredy
AP Biology	Ap Spanish	AP Spanish Language and Culture”	Italian with Fredy
AP Calc BC with Dr. Nguyen	AP Spanish Language	E&M	Latin
AP Calculus BC	AP Spanish Literature	Economics with Mr. Kearns	Latin 3 with Mr. Finnigan
AP Chem	AP Stats	“Either AP Bio, Asian Studies or AP Enviro”	Latin Poetry
AP Chem	AP U.S. History	ELA 10 with Mr. Beyer	Latin Prose
AP Chem w/ Izzo	AP U.S. Gov	ELA 12	Latin Prose w/ Mr. Finnigan
AP Chemistry	AP U.S. Gov	ELA 9 with Mr Zou	Latin V Poetry
AP Chemistry	AP US Government & Politics	Facing	Mr Gay APES
AP Chinese	AP World History with Mr. DeVelis	Facing	Mr. Mikalaitis
AP CSA	APES	Facing	Ms. LeDang’s AP Latin
AP CSA (Shoutout Mikey B)	APUSH	Facing History	Ms. Yang AP Chinese
AP Econ	APUSH w/ Balbian and AP Euro	Facing History	Music Theory
AP Econ	APUSH with Mr Rinaldi	Facing History	Myth
AP Econ	APUSH with Mr. Rinaldi	Facing History	physics 1
AP Econ	Art	Facing History	Physics E&M
Ap Econ	Art	Facing History	Pre-Calculus
AP Econ	Art	Facing History	Senior Math Seminar
AP Economics	Art	Facing History	Senior Math Seminar
AP Environmental Science	Asian Studies	Facing History	Senior math seminar
AP Government and Politics	Asian studies	Facing History	Senior Math Seminar
AP Human Geography	Asian Studies	Facing History & Ourselves	Senior Math Seminar
AP Lang	Asian Studies	Facing History.	Senior Math Seminar
AP Lang with Mr. Oakes	ASIAN STUDIES	Facing or AP Bio	Senior Seminar
AP Latin	Asian Studies / AP Psychology	french 4	Spanish 3 Chouinard
AP Lit	Asian Studies with Mr. Zou	Geometry with Mr. Smith	study
AP Physics	Biology 1	Graphic Arts	Visual Arts
AP Physics E&M	Biology 1 with Messemer	greek	World History and AP World History with the goat
		humanities	Mr. De Velis

Class I Didn’t Expect to Like

Adv Precalc BC	AP French w Monsieur R. C.	Calc with ms LA	Latin Prose
“Advanced Precalculus AB	Ap Gov	Calculus	Latin Prose
AP Calculus AB”	AP Lang and Comp	Calculus	Latin Prose
AL Calc AB	AP Latin was the opposite of this	Calculus	Latin Prose
Algebra 2	AP Lit	Calculus	Latin Prose with Mr. Finnigan
Algebra 2	AP Lit	Calculus with Ms. Archer	Microeconomics (with Ms. Balbian)
AP Afro	AP Lit	Chem	Mr Brown’s Precalc class :)
Ap Afro	AP Lit	Chem	Mr. Barry ELA 1 1
AP BIO	AP Lit with Ms. Moon!	Chem 1	Mr. Barry’s 1 1th Grade English
AP Bio	AP Literature And Composition	Chemistry	Ms. L’s Precalc
AP Bio	AP Mechanics	COGO	Myth Traditions
AP Biology	AP Microeconomics	CSP	Physics
AP Calc	AP physics	Econ	Physics
AP Calc AB	AP Physics C Mech	Econ	Physics 1
AP Calc AB and Physics 1	Ap physics e&m	Econ	Physics 1
AP Calc BC	AP Physics Mechanics	Econ w/ Rinaldi	Physics 1
AP Calc BC	AP Spanish	Econ with Mr. Rinaldi	Physics 1 (shoutout mr. southwick)
AP Calc BC	AP Statistics with Sim	Econ with Rinaldi	Physics I
AP Calc BC	AP Stats	Economics	Pre calculus
AP Calc BC	ap us gov	Economics	Pre-Calc/Calculus
AP Calc BC	AP World	ELA 10 w/ Mr Beyer	Pre-Calculus
AP Calculus BC	AP World History	English 1 1	Precalc
AP Calculus BC	APES	english 1 2	Precalc with Ms. Sarkis
AP Chem against all odds	APES	English 1 2.	Precalculus
AP Chemistry	APUSH	English with Mr Barry	Russian
AP Chemistry	APUSH	Enviro w/ Ms. Dorcy	Spanish 3
AP Chemistry	APUSH	Environmental Science	Spanish 4 w/ Sra Fernandez
AP Chemistry w/Mr. P the goat	apush	Facing History	Spanish 4 with Fernandez
AP Chinese	APUSH	Fernandez AP Spanish	“Spanish 4: Ms. Fernandez, my tablemates
AP Comp Sci A	APUSH	Foundations of Visual Art	and surprisingly insightful learning made
AP Comparative Government and Politics	APUSH	Geometry	me genuinely consider taking AP Spanish”
AP CSP	APUSH (notes excluded)	Humanities	Stats
AP Econ	Art	Humanities	Stats
AP Euro	Bio II	Humanities	US 2
AP Euro	Biology	Latin 4	US II
	Biology	Latin 4	World History with Mr. De Velis

Things I'm Glad I Did Do

always finishing essays 3 days before the due date	DECA	Join the soccer team	Played hockey senior year	Take Myth senior year
AP Calculus BC (in term 4)	DECA	Joined BLS Powerlifting	Procrastinate (i said what i said)	Take risks
AP Lit	Deitch	Latin	Public dec	Take risks!
Ap physics	Enjoy my time	Learn how to finish my home-work	Put myself out there	Taking advantage of international trips offered by the school.
ARGO!!	Extracurriculars!	In school	Running 3 seasons	The <i>Argo</i>
Asian Night	“Facing Euro Trip, use AI, heckle Mr. Gay, create drama”	lie to my mom abt where I was	School lunch	Theater
Asian Night Senior Dance	found my true self	Lie to my parents to hang out with my friends	senior dance	Thursday Club
asked questions	Get into college	lock in	Senior dance!	Told a sixie about the 5th floor pool
be extrovert	Get involved with extracurriculars	Made friends with someone who had an elevator pass.	Shoot my shot	Took art class
BLS Crew	go out	make friends with anyone i wanted to	Shoot my shot	“Took Capstone, talked to people”
Broke outside my comfort zone	going out whenever i got the chance	Make such wonderful friends	Show Choir	Trip to DC
build strong relationships with staff members	Graduate	“MC Asian Night, join DECA”	sing for Tet	Try
Bye I can’t think of a single thing maybe starting to dance with clubs	Hallucinate	Meet a lot of people	Sleep instead of studying	Try out for BLS softball
Capstone	Hang out with friends as much as possible and make memories	Meet the people I did	Soccer	Try out for every sport
Capstone	“Have a friend group and have a balance between friends and school, not only school”	“memorize half of my latin declamation from 10th grade so i can use it as a party trick, use it to liven up the atmosphere, use it to annoy my friends, or use it to scare someone into thinking i’m summoning a demon”	Socialize shamelessly	Try out for the cheer team
Capstone	I’m glad I made friends that I will hopefully be with forever	Not caring about grades after getting into college	Sports	“Trying a variety of AP classes, including ones that didn’t align with my intended major”
Cheat :/	Join a club	Not study for the SAT	Start doing more extracurriculars	Use AI for assignments that did not matter
cheat 100%	join a lot of clubs	Not take it all too seriously	Start showering	Use my brain to think deeply and critically
Choir	Join a sports team	Physics 1 in tenth grade	started journaling	Use my locker
“Choir for six years, join multiple clubs, become friends with many different people”	join choir (i <3 gospel choir)	Physics 1 sophomore year	Stay true to myself	Used Chatgpt/Cheated
Chorus	Join clubs	Play sports	Take AP COGO	Walk up to people I found interesting
Coming to this school and meeting all the amazing friends	Join KOREO	Play video games during zoom class	take AP lit	Ward Fellowship
Commit to college early	join mock trial :))		Take AP Physics	Went out with friends
Crew	join powerlifting!		take apush	Went to Mr. Brown after school during his office hours
DECA	“join symphonic band, ap german, greek”		Take Art AND Music classes	
	Join the Crew team		Take electives that were light in terms of workload for my senior year	
			Take Humanities	
			Take Italian	

Things I'm Glad I Did Not Do

AP Latin	Chromebook challenge	Homework	Senior assassins	Take AP Bio my senior year
AP Latin	Come in as a sixie.	I am glad that I never used Chat	Set a Chromebook on fire	Take AP physics
AP Latin	community service	GPT	Shoplift from Sephora	Take AP Physics
AP Lit	Confess to any crushes, take	I'm glad I didn't overload my	Skip class	Take APs.
AP Lit	calculus	schedule senior year	Slack on the college process	Take APUSH
AP Lit	Date	Join a sport	sleep in class	Take chem
AP Physics	Date in high school... (lock in for	Join <i>Argo</i>	Sneak up to the roof	take COGO.
Apush	those grades!!)	Junior Prom	Spend more time in the building	Take french instead of italian
APUSH	Dating	Latin dec	than needed after school	Take physics
Attend online learning	Drink energy drinks	Miss assignments	Stay up late studying	take physics
Band	Eat the lunch	More extracurriculars	Stayed in chorus	Take physics
Band after 8th grade	Everything that is intuitively bad.	Physics	staying friends with people I did	Take Physics
Be fake or stay around fake ppl	Get a boyfriend	Physics	not like	Take physics
Be rude to my teachers	Get a job	Plagiarize on the Intersectionality	study	Take physics
Become chronically absent senior year	get caught up with Ms. Murray	Unit in 10th grade	Succumb to BSing and using AI	Take physics junior year
buy crocs or uggs	Get caught using AI, get below a	play a sport	swim in the 5th floor pool	Take the SAT a 4th time
Buy tickets for the 3rd floor pool	B-, take blame for anything	Play a sport	Take 3 Aps in junior year	Take too many APs
Capstone	Get detention	Play a sport	Take 4 aps	Use AI
Cheat	Get expelled	Play BLS sports	Take a science class my senior	Use ChatGPT
Cheat	Get with my best friend's boy-	Poop at school	year	Utilize the artificial intelligences
Cheat or use AI	friend	Poop in the urinal	Take Algebra 2 Honors	Wait ten hours in that line for free
Chemistry 1 in tenth grade	had a friend group purely for	Procrastinate on homework	Take AP Bio	ice cream (I'm sorry)
	aesthetics	Public dec	Take AP Bio	Wolftones

Favorite Spot

035	chestra side)	Library or the Roof	Nurse's office during an R7 study	The comfy chairs in the library.
206	BLS POWERLIFTING	Libraryy	Our table in the library during	The corridor between the alma
307	Ceramics room	little bench outside the lobby	studies	mater statue and the library stairs
307	clayroom	elavator	Outside Ms. McKenna's room	The dining hall
310	Comfy chairs in library	Mold Locker	Photography Room	The doors
317	Courtney's office after Boloco	Mr Perrottis Office	Physics Closet	the exit
3rd floor bathroom	runs	Mr. Beyer's office	pool on the 5th floor	The front staircase
3rd floor bathroom outside of	Cushy chairs in the library	Mr. De Velis's room	Production Room N	The little bench outside the lobby
mr.andersons room	Dining Hall	Mr. Harris room	RDs room 014	elevator
3rd floor girls bathroom	Dining hall	Mr. Harris room	Room 421	The Main Office or Ms. Frank's
3rd floor stairway with the glass	Dining Hall	Mr. Perrotti's room	room 516	Office
tiles	Football	Mr.Harris side room	Schawbel Center	the middle staircase
Art room	Fourth-floor pool! (Reserved only	Ms Bowles room	secret stairwell	The Music Wing
Art Wing	for seniors though.) The entrance	Ms. Bowles' room	Seevak Room	the music wing
Art Wing	is hidden in one of the art wing	Ms. Cojohn's room	Seevak Room	The pool
Art wing	rooms.	Ms. Foley's classroom	side yard	The robotics room
Art wing	Fulton Street	Ms. Kwan's Office	Stage couch	the roof
Art wing	Girls second floor bathroom	Ms. McKenna's office	The 3rd floor of the stairwell	The roof
Art wing	guidance suite bathroom	Ms. Murray's office	outside room 325	the secret stairwell that went
Art wing	Hall of Fame Bathroom	Music Wing	The Abe Lincoln statue	through the music and art wings
Art Wing	Hall of Fame bathroom	Music Wing	The annex	The spacious halls.
Art wing - Ms Walshak's room!!	Hallway next to homeroom 201	Music Wing	the annex	The staircase with the glass
art wing!	Keefe Library	Music wing	the Art Wing	windows
athletic trainers office	Library	music wing	The art wing	The top of stairwell that looks
Auditorium	library	Music wing	the art wing	over the back lawn
Auditorium	Library	Music Wing bathroom was per-	The back room of the art wing.	The Topol Room
Auditorium Balcony	Library	fect for deuces.	The back staircase	upper gymnasium
Auditorium roof	library	Music wing stairwell	the band wing	Urso's Room
Back lobby	Library	my locker <33	The basement	Weight Room
Back of any classroom	Library comfy chairs	my secret hidey hole where i sleep	The black box	
Balcony of the music wing (or-	Library on the comfy chairs	during r2-3		

Favorite Teacher

Andy Zou	deau	Mr. Mikalaitis	Ms. Bowles	Ms. LA
Bobby Oakes, Timmy Gay,	Mr. DeVelis	Mr. Osowiecki	Ms. Bowles	Ms. LA
CWebb, PSull, McQuade,	Mr. Finnigan	Mr. Pietrangelo	Ms. Bowles	Ms. LA or Mr. Galego
Profe, Ms. Sarkis	Mr. Finnigan	Mr. Pietrangelo	Ms. Bowles	Ms. LeDang
Brian Smith	Mr. Finnigan	Mr. Pietrangelo	Ms. Bowles	Ms. McKenna
De Velis	Mr. Fogel, Dr. Nguyen, Mr.	Mr. Rinaldi	Ms. Bowles or Mr. Ander-	Ms. Medvetz
Dr. Nguyen	Gay	Mr. Rinaldi	sen	Ms. Moon
Frau Floerke	Mr. G	Mr. Rinaldi	Ms. Buono	Ms. Nabbefeld
frau floerke <3	Mr. Galego	Mr. Rinaldi	Ms. Burke	Ms. Pinchem
Frau. Floerke!	Mr. Galego	Mr. Rinaldi	Ms. Campot	Ms. Sarkis
Fredy	Mr. Galego	Mr. Rinaldi	Ms. Cojohn	Ms. Sarkis
Fredy :)	Mr. Galego (AP Psych) -	Mr. Sanford	Ms. Cojohn	Ms. Sarkis
Morales	caring, quirky & often out	Mr. Simoneau	Ms. Elliot	Ms. Smith
Mr. Barry	of pocket (in a lighthearted,	Mr. Snyder	Ms. Fernandez	Ms. Webb
Mr. Barry	humorous way)	Mr. Southwick	Ms. Fernandez	Ms. Webb
Mr. Barry	Mr. Harris	Mr. Southwick	Ms. Buono	Ms. Webb or Mx. Amico
Mr. Barry	Mr. Harris	Mr. Spezzano	Ms. Buono	Mx. Foulis
Mr. Barry	Mr. Harris	Mr. Sullivan	Ms. Campot	P Finny
Mr. Beyer	Mr. Harris	Mr. Sullivan	Ms. Carr	Patrick Sean Finnigan
Mr. Beyer	Mr. Harris	Mr. Sullivan	Ms. Cojohn	Profe
Mr. Beyer	Mr. Harris	Mr. Sullivan	Ms. Cojohn	Richard Beyer
Mr. Bilodeau	Mr. Harris	Mr. Sullivan or Ms. Sarkis	Ms. Cojohn	Smith
Mr. Bilodeau	Mr. Harris	Mr. Zou	Ms. Cojohn	STEEEEEEVE HARRIS
Mr. Boor	Mr. Harris and Mr. Fredy	Mrs. Kelley	Ms. Elliot	TimmeH Gay
Mr. Boor	Rodriguez	Mrs. Pinchem	Ms. Elliot and Ms. Bowles	VI: Ms. George (former
Mr. Boor	Mr. Izzo	Ms. Andersen	Ms. Foley	Fundies teacher)
Mr. Boor	Mr. Izzo	Ms. Archer	Ms. Foley	V: Mr. Walker
Mr. Brown	Mr. Levesque	Ms. Balbian	Ms. Foley (I miss myth)	IV: Mr. Mikalaitis
Mr. Brown	Mr. Long	Ms. Bowels	Ms. Foley & Ms.Archer	III: Mr. Boor
Mr. Brown	Mr. Long	Ms. Bowles	Ms. Foley.	II: Mr. Spezzano
Mr. Brown	Mr. Kearns	Ms. Bowles	Ms. Guzman	I: Mr. Zou
Mr. Brown	Mr. Kearns	Ms. Bowles	Ms. Harris	But really, most, if not all
Mr. Cordeiro	Mr. Mark Sanford	Ms. Bowles	Ms. LA	my teachers were awe-
Mr. De Velis and Mr. Bilo-	Mr. Mikalaitis	Ms. Bowles	Ms. LA	some!”

Top Five Spots at BLS:

1. Library
2. Art Wing
3. Music Wing
4. Mr. Harris’s Room
5. Dining Hall

Class of 2025’s Favorite Teachers

1. Ms. Bowles

2. Mr. Harris

3. Ms. Cojohn

3. Mr. Rinaldi

4. Mr. Barry

4. Mr. Boor

4. Ms. Foley

4. Mr. Galego

4. Ms. LA

4. Ms. Sarkis

5. Mr. Beyer

5. Mr. Gay

Class of 2025’s Favorite Grades

● 7th

● 8th

● 9th

● 10th

● 11th

● 12th

Class of 2025’s Favorite Classes

1. AP Calc BC

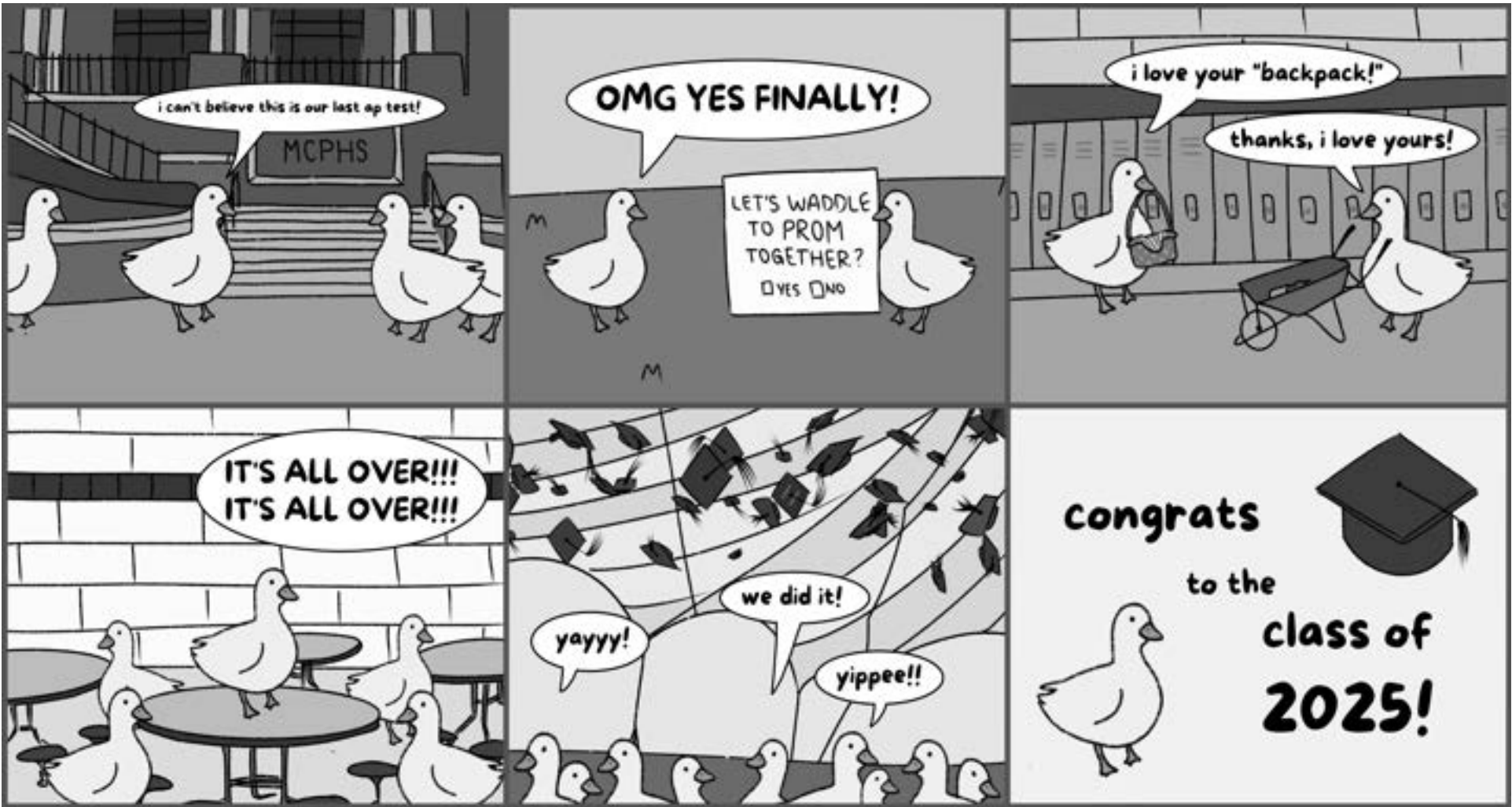
2. AP U.S. History

I Admit To

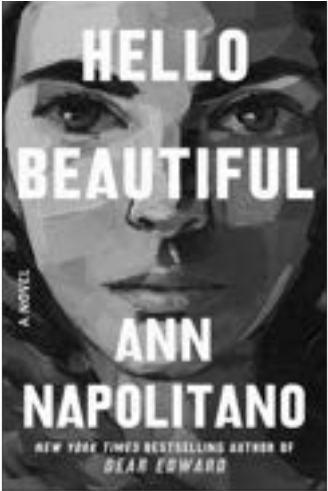
being a hater	doing graffiti in most of the girls’ bathrooms	kickoff	the nurses office
Being the one who got the roof locked sophomore year	dropping people	not reading a single book that was assigned	spending a little too much time in guidance
blowing up the bathroom	Eating in class	Not reading ELA texts	stealing a ruler from the art wing
Breaking a stall door	enjoying Ms. Medvetz’s class	Not telling my crush Richard I liked him	“Stealing, like a ton of stuff. Pens, chromebook chargers, books, chairs, etc. Sorry.”
breaking off an exit sign in the junior hall way	failing my drivers test the first time	Nothing	studying less than 10 times over the 6 years
Breedings rats in room 211	Faking doctors appointments to leave early	nothing	Sucking up to teachers
BSing	Faking physics data	“Nothing. Anything I did, I’ll take to my grave “	Switching locks on lockers in sixie year
BSing almost all my work here	Getting a 1 on AP Calc	Openly hating my latin teachers	Switching my computer screens when the teacher walks by.
“Buying both of Ms. Skerritt’s books (They were actually pretty good, and I need to get them signed.)”	getting caught cheating and then pulling my phone right back out when the teacher walked away	photographing when someone left feces on the toilet seat	taking laps
ChatGPT is my best friend	getting senioritis... sophomore year	Playing strands and country quizzes during class	Tearing the paint off the stage in the auditorium
Cheating	giving myself table points in Chinese for no reason	Pooping in so many bathrooms	Telling my crush I sent him a carnation on Valentine’s Day
Cheating	going on the roof	pooping in the bathroom	Using AI on most assignments
Cheating	Going to the library when I didn’t have spots left.	Prepping all my declamation the day prior to when I had to declaim	Using Chat GPT
cheating duh	gooning to google classroom profile photos	reading other peoples’ texts on the train	Using chat gpt
Cheating in APES	“Having a sleepover with Eva, Meron and Ciaran”	reading other peoples’ texts on the train	Using my phone in most classes
Cheating in Chinese	leaving all my friends on read for months	running multiple schools accounts w/ other seniors	using my phone in the library every single day
Cheating in Chinese	Loving Ms. Medvetz ELA 10 class	Saying I’m busy when I’m actually not	using sparknotes instead of reading the chapter/book
Cheating on every Spanish Test ever	Lying to Mr. Sullivan about getting the New Yorker right for candy.	Secretly enjoying BLS	“using Symbolab...but only on the ones I couldn’t solve myself, I promise!”
Cheating on every US test.	Makeouts in the blue stairwell	Sending an anonymous carnation	Using the elevator when I didn’t need it anymore
Cheating the first day of peer mentoring so we could get the hallway	Memorizing Latin tests	Skiping	Using the faculty restroom
Cheating through Physics	never attending CSP for more than 2 days in a row	skipping	Using the girl’s bathroom accidentally
Cheating/Using AI	Never finishing a single one of my ELA books	Skiping an assembly	Using the staff bathroom
Clogging the toilet in the 8th grade bathroom	Never fully reading an assigned book	Skiping classes	Walking around the hallway when I asked to go to the bathroom
Clogging the toilet in the girls dining hall bathroom on the first day of orientation	Never getting a hall pass	skipping classes a lot	Walking home with a teacher’s keys
Covering my math homework with my arm to make it look like I did it all.	never using ChatGPT	Skiping Gym class in sixie year	Writing answers on my calculator
crying in a bathroom stall (#bucket list task completed)	Not doing any work during sixie year when COVID hit	sleeping during (some) classes	
Crying to get better grades	Not paying for my ice cream at senior	Sleeping in every class	
Discussing physics answers after class		Sleeping through Advanced Precalculus	
		Sleeping through the whole day in	

Graduation Comic: It's All Over!

By Lauren Dong (III)
Comic Artist



Book Review: *Hello Beautiful*



Hello Beautiful
By Ann Napolitano

Published March 14, 2023
Genres: Historical fiction, literary fiction, contemporary fiction

★★★★★

By Weian Xue (III)
Literary Critic

Hello, beautiful people!

Inspired by the classic novel *Little Women* by Louisa May Alcott, Ann Napolitano’s novel *Hello Beautiful* delves into the strikingly beautiful story of the four Padavano sisters, Julia, Sylvie, Cecelia and Emeline, as they navigate love, loss, hope and grief over the course of a lifetime.

Hello Beautiful is similar to *Little Women* in the sense that they are both slice-of-life novels lacking a clearly defined plot. Instead, they are collections of both ordinary and extraordinary events that analyze how these events and relationships shape the course of each character’s life. While the beginning of *Hello Beautiful* may seem boring in comparison to the fast-paced romance novels that are popular today, it contains the exposition and character development necessary to craft a poi-

gnant ending.

The novel begins with expository scenes from the perspective of three of the characters as new adults: Julia Padavano, Sylvie Padavano and William Waters — a source of conflict between the family because both Julia and Sylvie fall in love with him.

As the novel continues, we receive glimpses of the sisters’ lives, all of which provide emotional depth to the family. Through mundane events such as the birth of Julia’s first child to Sylvie’s daily life as a librarian, the novel creates an emphasis on the subtle beauty of each and every moment.

The story ends at a funeral of one of the four Padavano sisters, and despite the bleak setting, the funeral marks a beginning rather than an end, as the Padavano family takes the first hopeful steps towards reconciliation.

The life story of each character generates discussion on deeper topics such as intergenerational trauma,

identity and mental health. Throughout the novel, every character struggles to understand their role in the Padavano family and in society, and Napolitano draws beautiful connections between each moment to create complex character profiles.

Hello Beautiful is a book of oxymorons. It is a book about love and hatred, beginnings and ends and chaos and calm. In just a few hundred pages, Napolitano is able to capture the very essence of life through the relationships the characters form with each other. Above all, *Hello Beautiful* reminds us of the prevailing beauty of life and the people in it. It is perhaps best described by Napolitano herself with the following line:

“We’re part of the sky, and the rocks in your mother’s garden and that old man who sleeps by the train station. We’re all interconnected, and when you see that, you see how beautiful life is.”

Solve This 4x3!

By Lauren Dong (III)
Cruciverbalist

How to play: It’s like *Connections*! Find 4 categories with 3 words in each category. One special word will be used in all 4 categories [originally made by Hank Green]!

Example:
Category 1: Planets: Mercury, Saturn, Earth
Category 2: Rocket Names: Mercury, Falcon, Atlas
Category 3: Elements: Mercury, Iron, Gold
Category 4: Surnames of Famous Band Leads: Mercury, Lennon, Plant

Your Answer:

Category 1: _____: _____,
_____, _____

Category 2: _____: _____,
_____, _____

Category 3: _____: _____,
_____, _____

Category 4: _____: _____,
_____, _____

Email us your answer at blsargo@gmail.com to win a free pen!

False	Cap	Hole
Board	Quote	Ceremony
Bogus	Beanie	Beret

Graduation Issue Word Search

G	F	L	O	W	E	R	S	F	E	G	W	K	E
R	R	C	A	E	F	M	N	F	L	O	S	R	G
O	A	R	S	U	M	M	E	R	G	N	A	N	C
F	G	L	O	W	I	O	G	E	O	E	A	N	O
E	R	A	K	O	R	T	U	S	W	R	W	O	L
T	A	T	A	L	S	T	U	I	N	R	S	E	L
E	D	C	U	F	T	O	G	A	I	U	C	G	E
L	U	C	I	P	A	G	T	A	V	O	K	A	G
A	A	O	W	A	V	A	C	W	R	P	I	G	E
V	T	L	D	C	M	S	E	G	F	G	A	L	A
O	I	A	W	K	N	G	E	C	I	A	O	A	U
E	O	L	A	R	S	T	T	E	G	N	K	T	P
E	N	O	R	R	S	R	O	I	N	E	S	I	E
R	U	I	O	G	L	L	I	E	F	A	E	N	L

CLUES:

ARGO

COLLEGE

FLOWERS

GOWN

GRADUATION

LATIN

SENIORS

SUMMER

WOLFPACK

VALETE

TRY THIS SUPER SUDOKU!

			5		4	1	9	
			6			2	5	
		8	1	2				
6					5			
	1							
	5	6					7	
	7		9					
8			7		3		1	

JOIN THE ADVICE CORNER!

Juniors: Want to give advice to your fellow peers? Sign up for the corner today!




THE ARGO IS DIGITAL!

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



Naveen,
Many years ago we found this life-sized puppet workshop on the RISD campus and we could not get your out of there. Now, you are off to become a Creator yourself. Love ya! Good luck!


Mom and Dad and Sunil



Congrats to the class of 2025 and AP Euro all-stars Franz, Amos, Catherine, Jackson, Noah, Augie, Audrey, Benjamin, Katie, William, Thomas, Ayden, Logan, Maya, Luc, Christina and Teagan!

Thank you for making it a joyful journey through European history. In the words of Rick Steves, keep on travelin'!

Love, Ms. Webb



Congratulations Avani!



As you head into the next chapter of your life, know that we will always be here to support and cheer you on!
We love you!

Mom, Dad and Nikhil



Congratulations,
BLS Class of 2025!

She needs wide open spaces
Room to make her big mistakes
She needs new faces
She knows the high stakes

- The Chicks



You are a wonder and we love you so much, Khaya!

Love,
Your Family



I do know how to pay attention,
how to fall down into the grass,
how to kneel down in the grass,
how to be idle and blessed, how to stroll through the fields...

- Mary Oliver

I like adventures,
and I'm going to find some.

- Jo, Little Women

Here's to wonderful next journeys for the BLS Class of 2025!
With you, the future is bright!

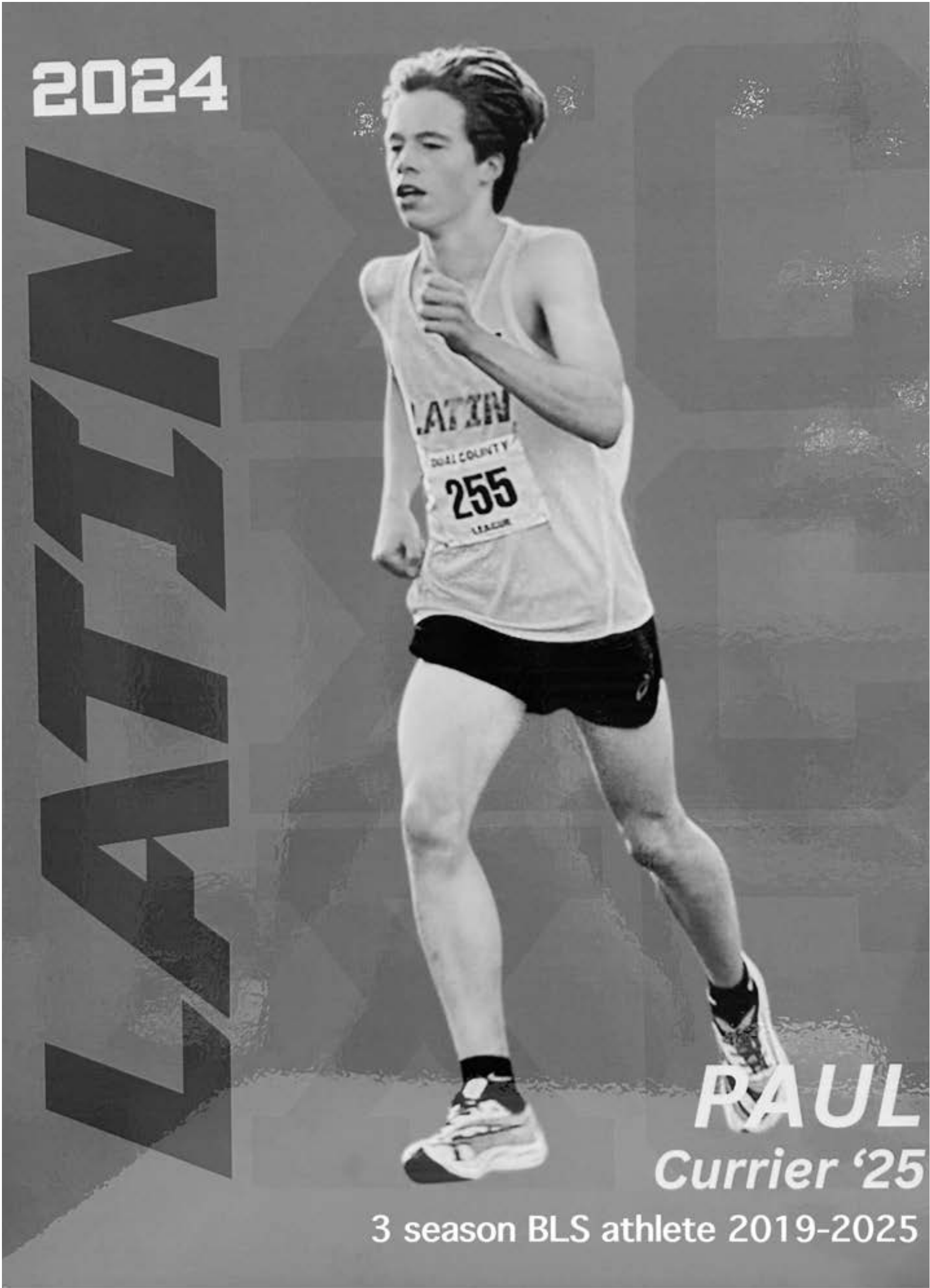


**Congratulations
Lorelei Currier!**

upon completing
your pre-professional
ballet training at
Koltun Ballet Boston
2016-2025

**2025
Youth American
Grand Prix**

**Boston semi finals
Top 24
contemporary soloist**



We are proud of you Pauli!

A Squeamish Sequel: *The Last of Us* Review



Is *The Last of Us* show comparable to the game?

By **Isabella Connelly-Dow (II)**
& **Lara Glaum (II)**

Staff Writer and Contributing Writer

In a reality where global warming has won, zombifying fungi have mutated to take over Earth and the known world has come to an end, how does humanity carry on?

Season Two of *The Last of Us* attempts to give its audiences an answer to this chilling question. Adapted from the Naughty Dog games produced by Craig Mazin, the show first grabbed fans’ attention in early 2023, earning itself a whopping 95 percent Rotten Tomatoes

score and a rapid increase in viewership. The first season of this thriller follows Ellie, a 13-year-old girl who is miraculously immune to the deadly *cordyceps* virus, and Joel, a man sent to protect Ellie as they travel across North America in hope of turning the girl’s immunity into a cure. The second season picks up over two years later, and Ellie and Joel are back on home screens — only with a much bleaker path ahead of them (*warning: spoilers lie ahead*).

The second season premiered on April 13, with the episode “Future Days” followed by “Through The Valley.” Viewers who had played the video games

knew what to expect in these first two episodes, but those who had not were likely shocked. In “Through The Valley,” Joel is brutally murdered in an act of vengeance, and Ellie is forced to watch. The scene is merciless to both the characters and audience, leaving many fans grieving. Cosette Cummins (II), who had not yet watched gameplay of Joel’s death scene but heard of it online, comments, “I really loved the character of Joel; his death was hard.” After witnessing the slaughter of her father figure and only family, Ellie, now 19 years old, decides she must find his killer and avenge him, continuing the never-ending cycle of violence.

Reactions to the show’s second season have been largely positive from critics, but mixed among watchers. As with many game-to-TV adaptations, some fans of the game have denounced the show’s integrity. Sofia Maheras Matthews (II) enjoys the show but states, “I played the game a while back, and I’m a really big fan. I started the show and thought it was good, but I feel like it just doesn’t fully live up to the game.”

Many social media users have agreed with Maheras Matthews, with a few sparking heated controversies about the comparison to the game. The show, for example, splits the storyline of *The Last of Us Part II* game in half and makes way for a potential third season in the future. While some, like Matthews, feel that the pacing is too slow, others think that it contributes to the show’s emotional suspense. Cummins adds, “I feel

like maybe it’s been a little bit on the longer side, but I think it’s still interesting.” Fans overall agree that, regardless of the standards the games have set, the show still stands firm in quality.

“One thing I like about the show,” notes Maheras Matthews, “is how they go into some storylines that weren’t really talked about in the game,” adding that the show invests heavily in the development of its side characters. Ellie’s love interest, Dina, for one, is deeply developed in the early episodes. She is shown to have a stronger connection to Joel, giving her a stronger motive for avenging his death. In fact, the relationship between Ellie and Dina is one of the most beloved aspects of *The Last of Us*, with many, including Cummins, citing it as one of their main reasons for being a fan.

Prior to the seventh episode premiering on May 25, many viewers were curious about what to expect in the season finale. As put by director Neil Druckman, Season Two is not all vengeance and rage: “it circles around forgiveness, including self-forgiveness. Just something to keep in mind as you head forward into the final installments, particularly during more confronting moments.” The true horrors of *The Last of Us* aren’t the *cordyceps* growing from people’s crania (though they certainly are chilling), but how humans can often become the monsters they run from and the difficulties of reconciliation. With the close of Season Two, fans should be prepared to forgive the writers for whatever comes next.

Superfine: Fashion at the Met

By **Michael Nguyen (III)**
& **Aurora McLaughlin (III)**

Staff Writer and Contributing Writer

To many, the first Monday in May is just like any other day. In the world of fashion, however, this day marks the opening of the *Costume Institute’s* annual fashion exhibition at the *Metropolitan Museum of Art*, or the Met Gala. Starting in 1948 as a modest gathering, this event has transformed into one of the world’s most prestigious and extravagant social events, known for its illustrious expressions of artistry and creativity.

This year’s theme was announced as Superfine: Tailoring Black Style, exploring the history and evolution of Black dandyism. Black dandyism has historically served as a tool for Black Americans to express themselves, reasserting agency whilst “tailoring” their own personal narratives. This theme additionally highlights the importance and impact of Black identity on fashion, photography, literature, artistry and so much more. From the Harlem Renaissance to the Black Arts Movement, Black artistry has profoundly and fundamentally altered today’s global narrative. Abe Coumbassa (I) says, “Dandyism is all about taking what we had before in fashion and [...] using it as a sense of protest and pride for our culture.” This year’s theme is quite extraordinary, as Black fashion finally takes center stage at one of the most notable events in the world. It pushes representation, diversity and originality in a world that is consistently trying to suppress it.

With any theme, however, comes misinterpretation. This year, a few attendees left viewers disappointed and went completely off-theme. Actress Sydney Sweeney, popularly known for her role in HBO’s *Euphoria*, arrived in a full-length custom black *Miu Miu* dress, with detailed fringing and a gold accent flower. Sweeney said in an interview with *Vogue* that she wanted to pay homage to the retired American actress Kim Novak, even though Novak was a prominent white actress and the theme is meant to highlight Black artistry.

In contrast to Sweeney’s misstep, fashion critics and magazines were quick to label the “worst-dressed” of the night. One was Kendall Jenner, who showed up in an open-chested gray suit jacket and a floor-length tailored skirt. In an article from *The Cut*, critics state that her attire was “far too simple for the Met Gala.”



Teyana Taylor is spotted at the Met Gala wearing a red maximalist outfit.

Jenner, however, highlighted the Black British-Nigerian designer Torishéju Dumi, and was strikingly on theme. Her attire was meant to channel queer Harlem Renaissance icon Gladys Bentley, a “female dandy.”

While some looks were controversial or misunderstood, a few stole the show and made long-lasting impressions. Making her Met Gala debut, Grammy winning artist Doechii, known for her hit songs “Denial is a River” and “Yucky Blucky Fruitcake,” dazzled in a custom Louis Vuitton tuxedo jacket, with matching checkered shorts, a maroon purple bow tie and an imprint of the iconic “LV” logo on her cheek, all while holding a cigar. Doechii consistently blends the lines between gender and fashion with her looks on the carpet as a testament to her creative and artistic vision.

Gaining insight from someone educated on the topic is important to further understand the cultural resonance of this year’s Met Gala theme. Donnell Davis (III) shares, “Black dandyism was such an impact-

ful part of the Met Gala, because [...] it’s black people claiming back that they are sophisticated, elegant and more than what they are said to be.” This emphasizes that Superfine is not just an aesthetic theme, but a statement of strength, resilience and legacy. Black fashion has long been about more than appearance; it is about rewriting narratives that history tried to overlook.

What makes this year’s Met theme, Superfine: Tailoring Black Style, such a compelling and meaningful theme is its duality; it honors parts of the past while also pushing fashion forward. It acknowledges the roots of Black tailoring, history and elegance while paving the path for trailblazers who continue to refine and shed light on what Black style looks like today. As this Met Gala becomes a memory for another year, the conversations and interests it sparked will hopefully remain. Not just about who wore what, but about whose stories were told.

Tour De Asia Stops at Boston Latin School



BLS S.E.A.L. performs *tinikling* at the annual Asian Night!

By Shirlyn Wang (III)
Staff Writer

On May 16, parents, students and faculty alike filled up Boston Latin School’s auditorium seats to watch show-stopping acts from an array of student organizations and entertainers for Asian Night, presented by Asian Students in Action (A.S.I.A.).

The event has been a staple of Asian cultural representation at BLS for over 30 years, occurring in the midst of Asian American and Pacific Islander Month.

A.S.I.A. is an organization that advocates for Asian advancement and interconnectedness at BLS. The tickets for Asian Night were sold for seven dollars leading up to the event and ten dollars at the door the day of the event. A food truck serving Asian fusion cuisine was offered until 5:30 P.M. The event started at 6:00 P.M. on that Friday.

The profits from Asian Night go into the A.S.I.A.’s club coffers to fund the organization of next year’s Asian Night, in addition to other events that the club holds like Onigiri Omatsuri and the Holiday Sing-Off.

A.S.I.A.’s preparations for Asian Night began immediately after February Break. The event is largely student run, with several divisions focusing on specific aspects of the event. Volunteers are recruited, auditions are held, sponsors are found by the students and logistics are

figured out prior to the night of the event. Assistant Head of School and A.S.I.A. faculty advisor Mr. Steven Chen says, “All the things that you see on stage in May are the culmination of a year’s worth of work and the performance themselves, you can see every second they’re on stage the work they put into it.”

This year’s theme, Tour De Asia, was another aspect of the show that the students of A.S.I.A. developed and used to showcased the diversity of Asia and its culture.

The importance of having diversity exemplified is not lost upon any. As Jessica Holgado writes in *The Commonwealth Times*, “When cultural representation is prioritized, it fosters an inclusive atmosphere where students from all backgrounds can thrive. It is about visibility and recognition in a space where our stories are often overlooked.”

Asian Night also showcased a variety of talents across the BLS student body. It began with a lion dance, featured appearances from clubs such as BLS Koreo, BLS Dance and BLS Breakers throughout the night and ended with performances centered around the seniors.

The performers prepared vigorously for their events, with some starting as early as September. BLS Desi, for example, started their dance practices in December and devoted their meetings each week to prepare for the event, which ramped up as Asian Night approached.

BLS Desi President Anjuli Patel (II) speaks on the club’s participation for the event: “[Asian Night’s] [kind of] just to represent our culture, show that we are part of Asian culture, we are here. Especially since when people think of Asia, India, Bangladesh or Pakistan are not countries that come to mind.”

The variety of groups that performed, along with the Tour de Asia theme, showcased A.S.I.A.’s commitment to recognizing the importance of diversity within Asian representation, demonstrating the beautiful aspects of cultures all throughout Asia.

There were occasional errors in microphone feedback and in the music, but as Angela Deng (III), an A.S.I.A. officer and coordinator of the event, says, “Though these problems occurred, our officers and tech crew were able to solve these problems as quickly as possible.” The effort and passion of those working behind the scenes to prepare for Asian Night allowed the event to run smoothly and for the performers to shine on stage. In fact, A.S.I.A. officers were even able to leave the School after the event earlier than previous years because the cleanup process took a shorter time.

This year’s Asian Night was a smash hit and one to remember. BLS can certainly look forward to many more years of spectacular performances that showcase Asian representation and the talents of the student body!

Spotlight on... Ms. McKenna



By Sophia Knobel (III)
Contributing Writer

On a day filled with celebration and birthday wishes, Boston Latin School Visual and Performing Arts Program Director Ms. Margaret McKenna was named a quarter-finalist for the 2026 Grammy Music Educator Award!

According to the Grammys, “The Music Educator Award was established to recognize current educators (kindergarten through college, public and private schools) who have made a significant and lasting contribution to the field of music education and who demonstrate a commitment to the broader cause of maintaining music education in the schools.”

Ms. McKenna’s path to this national recognition has been shaped by over a decade of dedication and leadership. Now in her 15th year at BLS, she currently conducts the Symphonic Band and Wind Ensemble, as well as the Pep Band after school during the fall. Under her leadership, BLS bands have secured numerous medals at the Massachusetts Instrumental and Choral Conductors Association Concert Festival; this year, Symphonic Band took home Gold while Wind Ensemble earned Silver.

The Grammy Music Educator Award honors teachers who have made a real, measurable impact on their students, and Ms. McKenna is a prime example of just that. Selected as one of just 200 quarterfinalists nationwide, she stands out for her deep commitment to student growth, both musically and personally. “The music department is the only place where a student can have a consistent teacher their entire four or six years [at BLS]. I think that is just such a rewarding experience to see someone grow and flourish into their true selves [...] here,” says Ms. McKenna.

As the Visual and Performing Arts Program Director, Ms. McKenna’s responsibilities include overseeing the visual art, theater and music sectors at BLS. She works from behind the scenes to ensure that all these programs run smoothly.

One of her most cherished memories is not tied to a performance or award, but rather a tradition — saying goodbye to seniors at graduation: “We give them their cords and we do a little speech. That’s my favorite part about everything that we do: just seeing them grow.”

Being named a Grammy Music Educator Award quarterfinalist is a testament to Ms. McKenna’s tireless dedication to her students and to the arts department. Her work has and continues to shape the experiences of hundreds of students each year.

We All Scream For Ice Cream!

By Lauren Dong (III)
Contributing Writer

Visit these three small businesses for a delicious summer treat! By buying a cup of ice cream, gelato or coffee, you will not only satisfy your cravings but also support local businesses in the Boston area.

Delini Gelato

Located on 5 Bellevue Street, Delini Gelato is a favorite in the West Roxbury community. Before the owner, Viktoria Petkova, launched Delini Gelato in 2020, she trained with chefs and artisans in Europe. The shop’s ingredients are locally sourced and or-

ganic, with no artificial additives or preservatives. Their flavors are constantly being updated, but I recommend the Honey Lavender and Salted Caramel. Their gelato’s creamy texture and intense flavors are the perfect addition to a summer day!

Honeycomb Creamery

Made completely from scratch and its dairy sourced directly from Mapleline Farm in Hadley, Massachusetts, the ice cream from Honeycomb Creamery, located at 1702 Massachusetts Avenue, is like no other. Unique flavors include Orange Olive Oil Brownie, Matcha Lemon and notably, Bunny Tracks, a carrot ice cream with

carrot cake pieces. Their flavors, however, rotate, so be sure to check them out before they are gone!

Chill on Park

Home to the Fields Corner community, Chill on Park is located at 142 Park Street. The owners Alan and Wendy Issokson are passionate about engaging with the community through supporting charities, hiring within the Dorchester community and sourcing locally. They also serve coffee and pastries from other small businesses in addition to their delicious ice cream flavors such as Butter Pecan, Rum Raisin and Salted Caramel Truffle.

Graduation Crossword

By Alex Le (II)
Editor-in-Chief

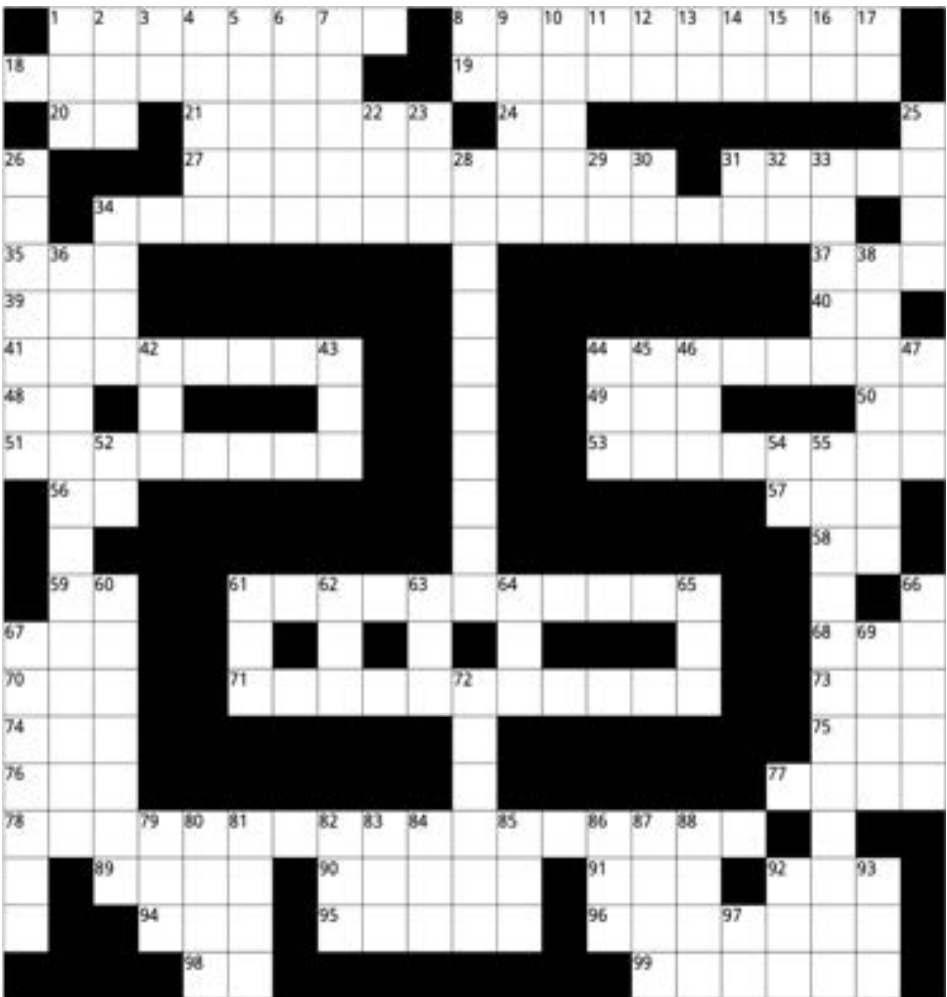
ACROSS

1. “You’re so helpful!”
8. Steel producer in Germany
18. Puts at risk
19. Newbie astronaut
20. Nintendo handheld console
21. Brought a smile to
24. Conjunction that gives you a choice
27. A day of remembrance for soldiers
31. SeaWorld orca
34. Materials where electrical resistance vanishes and it emits magnetic fields
35. Form of “your” in Latin
37. National Alarm abbr.
39. WoW or LoL, for example
40. Toward, in Latin
41. 911 answerer
44. Every teacher has a purple one
48. Restating information abbr.
49. Back in time
50. The leader of BTS
51. Oscar’s home in Elmo
53. A crop of Idaho
56. Steve Lacy’s “___ Girl”
57. Six-pack muscles
58. “It __ what it __”
59. A college level course in HS
61. The locker rooms lack this comms feat.
67. So, in Spanish
68. Shortened
70. Arabic sentence word order acronym
71. A classic image search with a red-shirted man
73. “In the” in Italian
74. Every, in RX
75. Gold measurement abbr.
76. Letter grade representing a 2.0 GPA, phonetically
77. Roofing timber
78. Surgery room drug dealer
89. Org. that fights music piracy
90. A pedal vehicle with pedal assist
91. Unlock, in poetry
92. Long, long time

94. $M \div IV$
95. “Thus”
96. “Ay ___!” (Bart Simpson exclamation)
98. Genitive usage
99. Very hot, in slang

DOWN

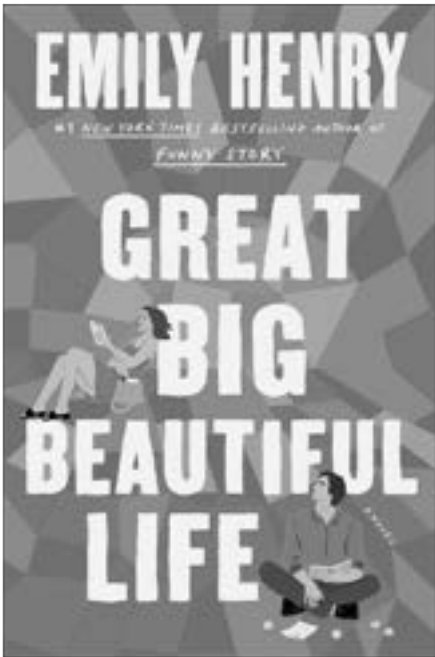
1. A-bomb, for example
2. PCs and printers brand
3. A section of the *Argo* without the &
4. *Lady and the _____*
5. Pop singer Mann
6. Liquid-___ (clog-remover)
7. Professional org. abbr.
8. Abbr. of slang meaning “factual information”
9. Volcanic island of Western Samoa
10. What Cleopatra has but Caesar doesn’t
11. A type of toy car
12. Electrons in the outermost shell abbr.
13. Heating and cooling system abbr.
14. The sixth note of the solfège
15. Sophomore Head Photo Editor’s initials
16. A giddy sound Barbie characters make when they see each other
17. Initials of a popular red video service
22. Mancinelli opera “___ *e Leandro*”
23. ___ Tai Fung
25. Hair donut
26. City in Michigan
28. Ancient apple consumers
29. The “A” in “WYA?”
30. One, in Chinese
31. If, in Latin
32. The Eastern Time of Hawaii
33. Baby’s age after 12 months
34. Common herb lit to ward off bad spirits
36. Seniors compared to juniors
38. State of the Union, for example
42. Hospital personnel abbr.
43. What you would’ve done after 44-Down



44. A full run around a track
45. “Have ___ at it”
46. “___ on my watch!”
47. A type of message that shows as green on iPhones abbr.
52. French preposition used with names of items in the masculine form when it is not a person
54. A person in a classroom shadowing the main teacher abbr.
55. “The Force will be with you, always” speaker
60. Trailblazers
61. “Moooo”
62. Golfers may need to adjust this on their clubs
63. Take to court
64. How sashimi is usually served
65. “Id, ___, *super*___”

66. Shape of a Toblerone box
67. A key ingredient in guacamole
69. Letter after alpha
72. Celery servings
79. Thus, in Latin
80. Tex-Mex dish
81. Soccer segment
82. *Mare*, in English
83. ___ Battuta; famous Muslim traveler
84. Human___ or fact___
85. War on Poverty org.
86. Summer games org.
87. Relaxation resorts
88. There are four of these in SY2024-25
92. Mass. senator’s monogram
93. Palindromic grandma
97. Shirt, in Vietnamese

Book Review: *Great Big Beautiful Life*



Great Big Beautiful Life
By Emily Henry

Published April 22, 2025
Genres: Romance, literary fiction, mystery



By Lauren Dong (III)
Literary Critic

Guess what? It’s finally out! Emily Henry’s *Great Big Beautiful Life* released on April 22, 2025. *Great Big Beautiful Life* focuses on the romance between Alice Scott, a journalist hoping for success, and Hayden Anderson, a Pulitzer-winning author — both aiming to write the biography of one of the most famous women, Margaret Ives, who disappeared from the public eye.

Emily Henry is most well known for *Book Lovers*, *People We Meet On Vacation* and *Funny Story*, which all became extremely successful, making her synonymous with the *BookTok* romance genre. Her novels are characterized by hilarious banter, electric chemistry and character growth. *Great Big Beautiful Life* was also on *Goodreads*’s Most Anticipated Books for 2025.

Despite this, *Great Big Beautiful Life* fell flat — it seemed unrefined and fragmented. The book sits at the intersections of romance, literary fiction and mystery, one of its main selling points. None of these genres, however, were fulfilled

properly. The romance was also somewhat questionable, especially when compared to Henry’s other books. The characters, Alice and Hayden, both lacked personality and depth, which might be a result of the use of the cliché tropes of grumpy/sunshine and rivals-to-lovers. It seemed like Alice’s only personality trait was being happy all the time and Hayden’s was being sullen and tall. Since the majority of the middle chapters focused on Margaret, their relationship felt neglected — until Alice seemingly at random decides that she is in love with him.

The literary fiction portion of the novel, which is mostly made up of Margaret’s story, was somewhat enjoyable. The reader learns about Margaret’s backstory alongside Alice through a series of interviews, where Margaret reveals the drama and events behind the famous Ives family, also called the House of Ives. If you have read Taylor Jenkins Reid’s *The Seven Husbands of Evelyn Hugo*, this might seem familiar. Compared to Reid’s book, however, *Great Big Beautiful Life* felt like an unoriginal, lower quality version. Some of the interviews especially felt unnecessary and drawn out,

making Margaret’s narrative boring at times, whereas in *The Seven Husbands of Evelyn Hugo*, the spoken style of the interviews contributed to the overall drama of Evelyn Hugo’s history. As Jack Edwards, a popular online book creator put it, “[Henry] tried to re-heat Taylor Jenkins Reid’s nachos and they were [...] a little stale. It’s been done! And it’s been done better.” As for the mystery within the book, the shock was a little obvious, but more evidently, it felt rushed and tacked on at the end. It could have been much stronger if we had seen the characters interact more. While it is clear that Henry is capable of writing amazing books, like *Book Lovers*, the main reason for *Great Big Beautiful Life*’s inadequacy is due to the poorly meshed sections of the novel. Instead of Margaret’s story and Hayden and Alice’s romance happening simultaneously, they felt disconnected. While I do respect Henry for trying to step outside of her typical romance stories and appreciate that she made an effort to give the characters depth and detail, I wish this book was more edited and more cohesive.

A Grand National Tour: Kendrick and SZA at Gillette

By **Julia Morellato (III)**
& **Griffin Hastings (III)**
Staff Writer and Contributing Writer

On May 12, artists SZA and Kendrick Lamar performed for thousands at Gillette Stadium as part of their *Grand National Tour*. The two recently began touring together as a means to promote their new albums: Lamar’s *GNX* and SZA’s *SOS Deluxe: LANA*. Their latest collaboration, “luther,” has reached No. 3 on the Billboard Hot 100, in part because of this tour. Although the show’s purpose is promoting these releases, SZA and Lamar also performed older hits like SZA’s “All The Stars” and Lamar’s “HUMBLE.”

The concert’s average ticket price was 206 dollars, but prices ranged from as low as 79 dollars to as high as 600 dollars, according to *MassLive*. The concert started at 7:00 P.M. with DJ Mustard as the opener, who has been a frequent collaborator on Lamar’s albums, such as *GNX*. The entire show ended up being 2.5 hours long, with the duo performing a whopping 50 songs, including two encore performances of their hits “luther” and “gloria.”

The show’s visuals reflected the upbeat nature of SZA and Lamar’s blended discography. Brigitte Currier (III) comments, “I was worried that I wouldn’t like Kendrick’s part since I don’t really like his music, but SZA and Kendrick flowed really well together.”

Displays of fireworks, flames, lights and digital effects brought the performance to life. Beyond the special effects, SZA and Lamar’s outfits added to the aesthetic of their performance and bore deeper messages. During the show, SZA changed outfits and transformed into a butterfly,



SZA and Kendrick Lamar perform at Metlife Stadium on their *Grand National Tour*.

symbolizing not only how her career has transformed since the early days of her music, but also how she has matured emotionally through every stage of her life. Her costumes also symbolized the rebirth of her previous album, *SOS*, with the introduction of the deluxe version. Through the dynamic visuals and costumes, SZA and Lamar demonstrated their creativity and unique artistic perception of music.

There is no doubt that Boston showed its love to SZA and Lamar, as

the audience was said to be loudest out of all of their performances on the tour thus far. Victoria Demarco (II), an attendee of the concert, recounts, “[SZA and Lamar] said ‘Our show was six decibels louder than other shows,’” further noting that it was so loud that it was hard to even hear them speak.

Fans’ admiration for SZA extended beyond the concert as well, as many showed up for a pop-up promotion of her lip collection, ‘Not Beauty,’ before the show. Fans were able to meet SZA as she made an appearance, which

was part of an effort to interact with her fans and meet people who have supported her even since her earliest project, *Z*.

The *Grand National Tour* stands as a landmark event in music. Spanning across 39 stadiums in North America and Europe, the tour showcases both of the artists’ individuality and creative expertise, while also creating an unforgettable experience. Ava Phan (III) states, “The concert was an amazing experience that featured memorable moments and storytelling.”

Wherefore Art Thou? Public Art in Boston

By **Risa Goldfeld (III)**
Contributing Writer

Living in an urban environment can often feel like living in a concrete box. There are many pieces of public art, however, that bring life and color to Boston.

Quetzal
by Felipe Ortiz

This mural, featured on the side of a building on South Huntington Avenue in Mission Hill, is an explosion of green-blue feathers with a few smaller birds around it. It was painted in 2021 by Felipe Ortiz, a Colombian artist who has created many murals throughout the city and country, including those on the walls of Northeastern University and the Mario Umana Academy. He works to combine many elements into his art: the environments of Colombia and the United States, urbanism and nature, and abstraction and realism. On his website, he refers to himself as a “modern surrealist.” *Quetzal* is part of his “Explosive Nature” series.

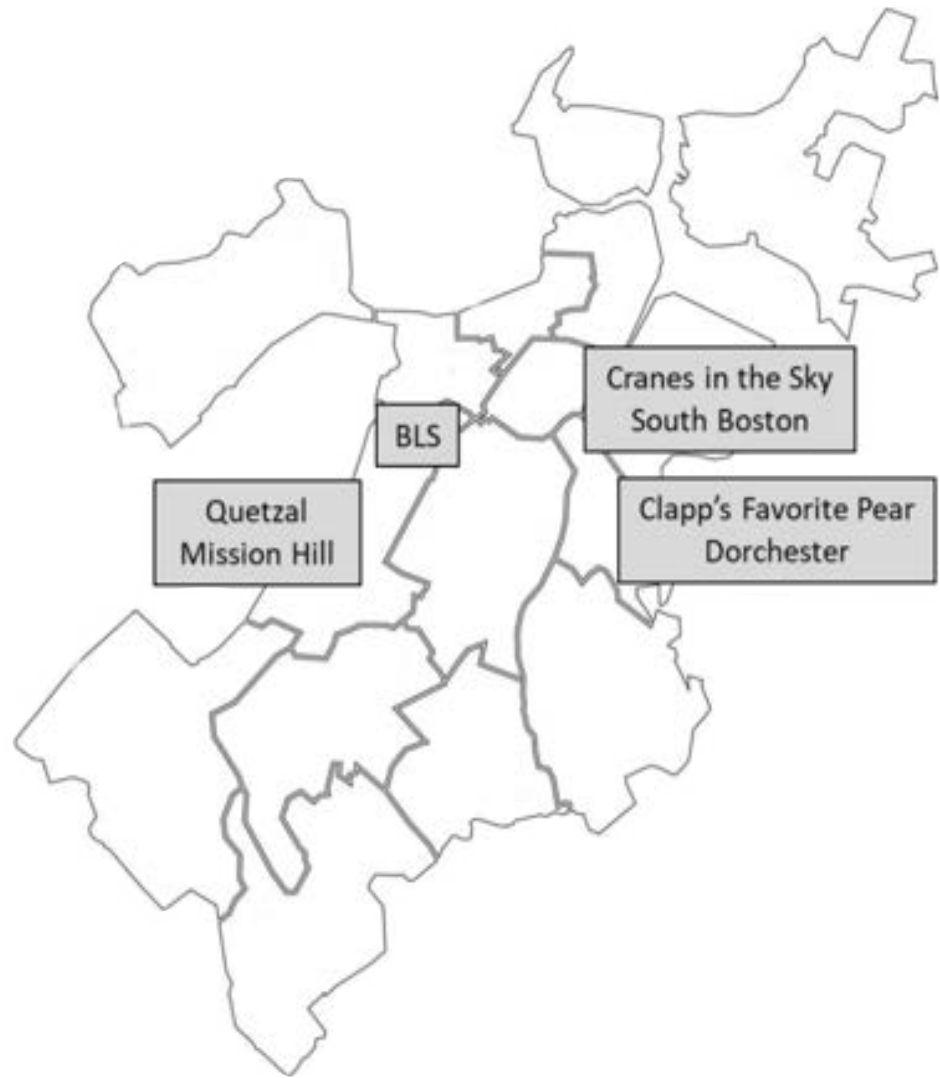
Clapp’s Favorite Pear
by Laura Baring-Gould

Anyone driving through Edward Everett Square in Dorchester will have seen the giant, 12-foot pear sitting in between lanes of traffic. Laura Baring-Gould, a sculptor who creates both public art and smaller pieces inspired by her childhood in Alaska, produced this piece in 2007. The city

commissioned her to create the pear to celebrate the agricultural history of Dorchester, where Thaddeus Clapp, a descendant of one of Dorchester’s founding families, first bred and grew a new type of pear called Clapp’s Favorite. Smaller sculptures, modeled off of community members’ artifacts — such as Dorchester veterans’ dog tags — surround the sculpture. Quotations from stories of real people are engraved on the stands where these smaller sculptures sit. All of the statues are built on top of bricks bought and personalized by residents of the neighborhood. The entire display is meant to represent and celebrate the rich history, diverse culture and hard-working nature of Dorchester.

Cranes in the Sky
by Marka27

This piece depicts an Afro-futuristic woman’s face mixed with geometric shapes, along with cranes flying above them. The artist, known as Marka27, painted it as part of *Underground at Ink Block*, a project that started in 2017 and has since transformed the area beneath I-93 on the border of South Boston and the South End into a park. In 2019, more artists came to add new paintings to the highway. *Cranes in the Sky*, painted onto a 100-foot column holding up the highway, is one of the most notable pieces. Marka27 says that he wants his art to remind every person of color to be proud of their culture.





Congratulations, Ita Mae!!!

We love you so much, and you
make us proud every day!

Love, Mumma, Dad, & Charlie,
Grandma, and Grandpa & Martha

Sweet Mae. Witty Mae. Sassy Mae. Smart Mae. Kind Mae. Silly Mae. Loving Mae. Loud Mae. Singing Mae. Dancing Mae. Caring Mae. Fierce Mae. Vocal Mae. Beautiful Mae. Sharp Mae. Curious Mae. Courageous Mae. Charismatic Mae. Generous Mae. Confident Mae. Creative Mae. Compassionate Mae. Optimistic Mae. Motivated Mae. OUR Mae.

25 adjectives are not nearly enough to capture the wonder that is you,
but here you are, and there you go, to NU, to your future, to everything a-MAE-zing.
You are so loved; we are so proud.



Congratulations,
Cole and the BLS class
of 2025!

We are so very
proud and will always be
cheering for you!

Love,
Mom, Dad and Micah '29



Congratulations Olivia Conroy!
*We are so proud of your accomplishments
and what you've chosen for your future!*
Nursing is a true calling!
Love,
Mom, Dad & Lilah

Congrats, Cal!

**We are so
proud of you!**

**Love,
Mom, Dad,
Vivian & Luna**



Editor-in-Chief

Hannah Stoll



Dear longtime *Argo* readers, dedicated Argonauts and those who pick up the *Argo* only once a year for the graduation issue.

For many years, I have read the pages of graduation issues, looking in awe at the many seniors and their accomplishments, reading through their inside jokes and their reflections on their Boston Latin School experience. I thought they were so cool, so old, intimidating and wise. I never imagined that I would be in their shoes. But here I am. It is now my turn to express my gratitude for this school and this club and how they have shaped me into the person I am right now.

I first joined the *Argo* on a whim during the pandemic, in the fall of eighth grade, when someone (it might have been Lena) texted on my sixie cluster group chat that there was an *Argo* Zoom call that day. Earlier that year, my dad had encouraged me to write a piece for the *Wall Street Journal* opinion page, and so it seemed that the Forum section was a natural fit. So I hopped straight onto that call and into the Forum breakout room.

Jack, Alice, Cinly and the other editors loomed large for my timid eighth grade self. The first few meetings, I wasn't assigned an article, because the older kids got to choose first, and I was too afraid to raise my hand until the end. But at last, I was assigned my first article "Yes, BLS Should Have Virtual Tests." Soon I considered myself a writer able to make broad declarations like "The End of Term has Become Too Stressful" and I was promoted to Staff Writer.

As school returned to in person, I stuck with the *Argo*. I wrote some really good articles, and some REALLY bad articles. I worked really well with some co-writers, and awfully with others. I had a little bit of an ego.

After submitting applications over and over for what felt like years, at the end of tenth grade, I was finally made assistant editor of Forum. To whoever did that, whoever stood up for me and advocated, thanks for choosing me despite my terrible interview skills. Coming into that role is really the step that empowered me to shape the *Argo* into the club I wanted it to be.

Thank you to Joanna and Jenny for being amazing EiCs who encouraged me to share my thoughts about making the *Argo* better and who helped push me to become a leader. Most importantly, thank you for sending that email asking me to apply for EiC and for putting your faith in me to lead the *Argo*.

To Ms. Moon, thank you for pushing me to think just a little bit more about everything I do, both in school, as a leader and with each word we have published this past year. You are an amazing teacher and advisor, and you have always been there for me this past year for questions, concerns and rants. Discussing English with you never gets old and neither does your candy stash.

Now, onto this past year's editorial board, starting with News, the true core of the *Argo*. Ailin, you are truly my day one, and since eighth grade, I have been lucky to know that I can always count on you for a warm smile and amazing fits, as well as your calm and steady leadership. Mary, your quiet and constant presence and thoughtfulness brings more to the *Argo* than you know. Keep pushing yourself to speak up and be a leader. Olivia, watching you grow as a person and as an editor has been truly impressive and deeply rewarding. Keep it up!

Forum (the best section) will always hold a special place in my heart. After a long four years, it was hard to let my section go, but with such an amazing set of editors, I knew it was in good hands. Mark, thank you for everything. You bring such passion and energy to

the *Argo* and to BLS in general, and you always push me to challenge my beliefs. Keep being you — the world will not know what hit it. Roan, over this past year I have come to know and appreciate you as someone who is so deeply smart and witty, and who is so much fun to be around. You make 016 and Comparative Government classes so much more entertaining. Ariel, I remember seeing you on the bus that first week of sixie year, and it's crazy to think how much we've grown since then. Your energy and passion are unmatched everywhere you go, and it has been a pleasure to have you as part of the board this year. Finally, Annie, it's been great to spend the past two years doing the *Argo* with you. I know you will keep the legacy of these past two years of Forum strong, I hope you take advantage of your steady presence and knowledge to help all the new editors settle in.

A&E, the coolest and most joyful section, and the place which readers always flip to first. Lena, since sixie year I have associated you with joy and kindness. You are both highly professional and so fun to be around, and I have loved getting to work with you these past years. Alice, it has been amazing to watch you grow to be more confident and sure of yourself as both an editor and a leader. Keep asking questions and advocating for your writers. Anneliese, despite being one of the youngest people on the *Argo* board, you took initiative this year and always brought a smile to *Argo* meetings and to 016. Thank you all so much.

Sports, Sports ... oh Sports. Although you sometimes gave me some serious anxiety with your tendency to do things just a little last minute, you also brought important new perspectives and readership to the paper, as well as so many laughs that I am infinitely grateful for. Liam, it was so amazing to get to know you better this year, both as a caring and witty person and as an attentive leader, and it was a joy to see all your enthusiasm for the *Argo* and to hear your many journalistic insights. Juliet, thank you for always being willing to rush down from practice to do a last minute cut or find one more quotation; we appreciate it more than you know. To Rachel and Dimitra: keep channeling all your energy and passion into commitment to the *Argo*, and keep advocating for yourselves and one another. It has truly been a pleasure to get to know you this year.

Moving on to production, specifically to Copy. You guys are a family within the larger *Argo* family and you guys have built the section in such an impressive way this year. Andrew, it has been great to get to know you this year, and I loved knowing that during every production week I could always look over to the Copy corner and see you lurking and working away there. Meilin, you've helped prove my hypothesis that the Sha sisters are just insanely cool. While you've followed your sister's footsteps, you've also shaped your own path, and it has been wonderful to see. Vicky — you've grown so much this year and really stepped up and come into your own as a leader. Continue to take initiative and bring good vibes to 016.

Photo, you are truly the heart and soul of the *Argo*, always staying late and jumping in to help in every possible way, as well as doing the crucial task of brightening up the pages of the *Argo* with compelling and evocative images. Ben, thank you for always staying late and listening to all my rants; you are such an incredible piece of the *Argo* team, and it has been a true joy to get closer with you this year. Also, shout out to your dad for driving me home in the rain that time after a super long day of interviews. Lauren, you are not just a photo editor but also a comic drawer, book reviewer and so

much more. You are so on top of things, and you manage to have lots of fun at the same time. It is truly impressive to me, and I hope you keep doing what you are doing!

Layout, you all are a crazy group of people who do such essential and difficult work and I have truly grown to appreciate that this year. You drive me crazy sometimes, but you always get the job done, and I have loved watching you learn to take feedback and run with it. Sophia, you are one of the most amazing and smart people I know and you take on so much. Please try not to stress too much and prioritize taking care of yourself. I am always here for you. Alan, in many ways you have grown up a lot this past year and it's been awesome to see you and your commitment to the *Argo*. Be patient because good things take time. Ashley, I am endlessly appreciative of your positivity and the way you are always willing to jump in. Don't be afraid to speak your mind and share any questions or ideas you have.

Finally, Michelle — my partner in crime, the "M" to my "annah," your ability to get things done is astounding. When you have a goal, you make things happen at breakneck speed and it is incredible to watch you facilitate it all full of perseverance and passion. Thanks for being an amazing and enthusiastic texter and talker; your smiles and laughs are contagious and your quiet compassion and thoughtfulness is so special ... I have never seen someone cook on a sappy editor's note quite like you and I can't wait to be a midwest princess with you in Chicago next year.

To all the new editors, you impressed me so much with your passion and your dedication to the *Argo* that you showed in your applications and interviews. My advice to you is to both have fun with the *Argo* and also take it seriously, and keep shaping it into the best paper it can possibly be. The *Argo* is yours now, and with great power comes great responsibility.

And to anyone who might be reading this, and interested in joining the *Argo*, or in applying for editor one day, go for it — a passion for journalism and a love for our school will take you far, so trust the process.

To our new EiCs, Ross and Alex: go get 'em! You guys are sure to be a dynamic duo that will change the *Argo* for the better. Be sure to listen to one another and to your fellow editors and to trust your gut. I know that the *Argo* is in good hands with you both, and I am sure that the next year will fly by faster than either of you can imagine. Just know I am only a text away if you need anything at all, so please reach out.

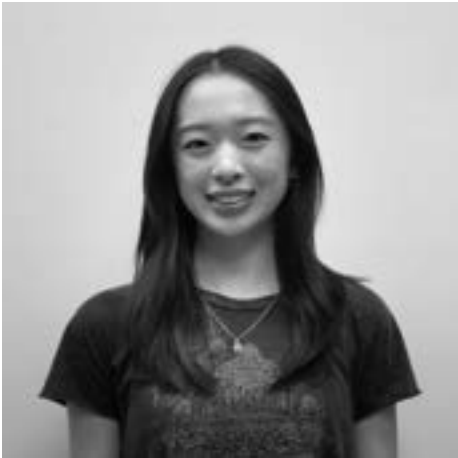
These past five years, the *Argo* has caused me many tears. I have cried after botched interviews; I have cried from well-intentioned but harsh feedback. I have cried from rejection after rejection from *Argo* editorial positions, and I have cried after embarrassing and frustrating interactions with co-writers and co-editors.

I am crying now as I write this, a mix of relief and sadness that my time here is up. I am also crying of embarrassment from the scathing writer's evaluations I just found in the *Argo* drive that brutally tore apart my writing and communication as a writer for the paper.

Argo (and BLS), I love you. Thank you for your late nights and laughs. Thank you for your tough love. Thank you for pushing me to be better, stronger and more confident in my voice. Thank you for teaching me how to strive for excellence.

Signing off,
Hannah

Editor-in-Chief
Michelle Wang



It's actually all over.

Ms. Moon once warned us that the days might feel long, but the year feels short. As I look back now, her words feel truer than ever. It feels like it was just yesterday that I joined my first *Argo* meeting over Zoom in sixie year. Jack, Jasmine and Alice, I still remember how intimidated I felt in your presence — even through the screen. You all possessed a confidence that I could only admire at the time. I didn't get assigned an article that issue because of upperclassmen priority, but I came back the next meeting and I am forever grateful that I did.

My past six years at Boston Latin School have been anything but predictable. As I'm sure you're all familiar with, so many things happen simultaneously within these walls. Consequently, I've felt myself change and learn a lot through my journey here. Amidst the chaos, however, the *Argo* has remained my one constant. Though it's stressful to run the School publication, I found solace in our Wednesday Insomnia cookies, 10:00 P.M. Final Fridays and 016 gossip sessions.

I initially joined the *Argo* in an attempt to step outside my comfort zone. Sixie year me was terribly introverted and I would often shy away from even raising my hand in class. Still, I yearned for an outlet where I could express my thoughts and opinions. Of course, it only made sense that I was immediately drawn to the Forum section. My experience in the *Argo* has taught me more than just how to be a stronger writer. Each interview I conducted, every article I wrote, has encouraged me to be a more open minded listener and empathetic storyteller.

Beyond the paper, of course, it is the people that have made this journey so meaningful. After writing one too many sappy Editors' Notes, please bear with me while I ex-

press my final gratitudes to those that I hold near and dear to my heart. While I cannot accurately encompass all my appreciation for these people in a few sentences, here is my best attempt.

To Ms. Moon, you are undoubtedly the best newspaper advisor we could've asked for. Thank you not only for your words of wisdom, but for putting your trust and faith in us. Through our many conversations, I've learned to be more confident in who I am and the decisions I make, and that is something I will carry with me forever.

To Joanna and Jenny, JOE, thank you for serving as the ultimate role models for Mannah. Seeing you truly push the boundaries of student journalism is what gave us the courage to continue that mission ourselves.

To Cinly and Jessie, my irreplaceable Forum crew, I couldn't have asked for better mentors. You were more than inspirational editors and accomplished upperclassmen; you became some of my most dependable friends. I'll never forget the advice you bestowed upon me or the laughs we shared. #forumforever

To my beloved Argonauts, thank you for making this paper what it is. I cannot express enough how motivational it is to see so many young people who are able to recognize the power behind words (or a camera lens). We've grown up in an era of fleeting trends and ephemeral news headlines, and to have worked with you all to persist the power of storytelling has been incredibly inspirational. Continue to read, write and speak your mind.

To our loyal readers, thank you for taking the time to pick up and flip through the *Argo* every month, even if it is just to attempt our near impossible crosswords littered with Alex's self-proclaimed two letter abbreviations. The *Argo* exists because of our readers, and I cannot thank your engagement or interest enough.

And to my fellow seniors, I'm incredibly proud of how far we have all come. It's bittersweet as we near the moment where we get to toss our purple caps in the air and finally get to wave goodbye to the place we've developed an immense love-hate relationship with over the course of the past six (or four) years. I've seen you all succeed in the *Argo* and beyond, and I know for certain your passion and charisma will bring you far. I am sad to say goodbye, but excited to see what you will do.

Ailin, I've said it before and I'll say it again: you are one of the coolest people I know. Whether it be in a professional setting or not, you possess a one-of-a-kind calm and collected demeanor. I admire your ability to

make such rational and well thought out decisions. News is an incredibly difficult section to lead. I should know, after struggling with writing my first News article last year. You are, without a doubt, the *Argo's* most consistent and reliable editor, and for that, I am eternally grateful. Thank you for being our rock and for being my personal style inspo.

Mark, what can't you do? I've seen you edit an article like no other, play crazy tunes on saxophone and piano and serenade us with your angelic voice. Yes, you are undeniably talented, but you are also incredibly hardworking. I will always be in awe of your compassion and personability — your ability to lead not out of fear, but kindness. I've seen you nurture some of our shyest writers into our most courageous ones. I know you will inspire change wherever you go.

Roan, your ability to command a room amazes me. I think I'd believe anything you told me with the confidence you exude and your tone of conviction. Especially in regards to our most contentious articles, I knew I could count on you to make a sound decision. Your honesty has made you someone I know I can lean on for genuine and helpful advice — *Argo* related or not. Of course, I can't forget to shout out your criminally underrated sense of humor one final time.

Ariel, your optimism and energy are truly admirable. Your positivity during every meeting, every Production Week, was so contagious it (almost) cured me of my senioritis. Your smiles and laughs motivated me to end every issue on a strong note. You might single handedly be the reason Mannah never burned out. Thank you for being the *Argo's* very own sun and for always putting in maximum effort. Your work ethic will truly bring you far.

Lena, the *Argo's* most reliable aux and one of my best friends, I've shared some of the most stomach cramping laughs and heart-breaking tears with you. Thank you for being someone I can count on inside 016 and out. Production Weeks can feel long and draining, especially when we're already coping with the traumatic college process and unbearable workloads. Your laughter has helped make difficult days that much more bearable. Be prepared to see me in Ithaca every other weekend!

Liam, athletic and academic, you might just be our most well rounded editor. Thank you for prioritizing the *Argo* despite being a multi-season athlete, and thank you for pushing sports to be a section that can be enjoyed by all. Whether it was our Halloween murder mystery dinner party or carnations, you were there, energized and enthusiastic.

Thank you for your dedication and for indie-fying the *Argo* playlist.

Ben, you possess a talented eye for photography. Your ability to see both the beauty in something yet also recognize constructive criticism translates itself into feats outside your pictures. I will miss our monthly corner pictures and coordinating H.I.M. into adorably embarrassing poses. Thank you for being an eloquent speaker and a nonjudgmental listener — I've had some of my most thought provoking conversations with you.

Andrew, your efficiency and reliability is greatly appreciated. Copy, one of our most detail oriented sections, can be difficult to manage, yet you've trained newcomers into strong and consistent associates. I thank you for the leadership you've brought to what was once a relatively introverted section. I've seen you bring quiet sixie Copy associates out of their shells, and your ability to have a comfortable conversation with those around you is unparalleled.

Last but most definitely not least, Hannah, the best co-editor-in-chief I could've asked for, my unbeatable partner in crime. From starting out as Forum Contributing Writers to ending as Editors-in-Chief of the *Argo*, we've really been through it all together. It might sound cliché but I mean it when I say I couldn't have done any of this without you.

We both know firsthand how difficult it is to manage and balance all the aspects of a school publication, but I'm forever grateful we could balance each other out. I admire your curiosity, love your quirkiness and will miss the many laughs and rants we've shared. I'm grateful for our journey as Mannah together, but even more grateful that I know our story won't end here. I'll see you in Chicago!

To Ross and Alex, Rolex, I know that we have left the wheel of this ship in good hands. I am confident in your ability to navigate through whatever might be thrown your way. Your journalistic instinct and compatible leadership will take you far. Remember, trust yourselves. And if you ever need anything, whether it be *Argo* related or not, I am just a text away.

I'm getting a bit sentimental as I finish off this excessively long farewell, knowing that this is the last time my words will be printed in this paper. If you've made it this far, congratulations, you have a longer attention span than I do. Finally, to the *Argo*, thank you for the love, the laughs and the forever friends. You will always hold a special place in my heart.

With love,
Michelle



Head News Editor

Ailin Sha



If you spell “the *Argo*” backward, you’d get “*ogrA eht*,” a jumbled mess that doesn’t really make sense — which would be the state of this wonderful newspaper without the incredible, hard-working, and hilarious people who bring every issue to life. Looking back, I begin to see how much this place and its people have shaped me.

Almost six years ago, I joined the *Argo* not quite knowing how profound an influence it would have on my writing, thinking, and high school career. One thing it couldn’t knock out of me, however, was my love for the Oxford comma. Dearest Copy Editors, I humbly beseech you: if you could, please spare them, just this once, for my final farewell.

And now, a heartfelt homage to those who made every last-minute character cut and graphic-altering worth it.

Mary, it’s been a joy to work with you these past few years. Watching you grow into your voice as a writer and editor has been incredibly meaningful. Olivia, I’m so glad we got to work together this year — I admire your work ethic and am excited to see how you shape News next year.

Xintong and Weian, News would not have been the same without your consistent dedication and contributions as Staff Writers. I’m incredibly excited for you guys to continue the legacy of News! Here’s to more quirky national days announcements on *Google Classroom* and late-night article-assignments-posting.

Kevin, thank you for leading by example and showing what it means to be a thoughtful and reliable editor. Room 016 felt a little emptier without you this year, but I’m so grateful to have learned from you.

Joanna, thank you for being such an incredible News Editor and EiC — your leadership and passion for journalism are truly inspiring, and you continue to make us Newsies proud.

Jenny, thank you for being an all-star, from writing for News, to making graphics, to leading Layout, and of course, the *Argo*. You do it all — and we miss you!

Michelle and Hannah, thank you both for being the most wonderful EiCs I could ask for in my final year at the *Argo*. I deeply admire your readiness to trouble-

shoot unexpected issues with efficiency and grace, and I will miss our spontaneous Production Week chats and your eclectic *Spotify* playlist.

Ross, from your excellent interviewing skills as a Staff Writer to your leadership as Head News Editor, it’s been an honor working with you and watching you grow. You’ve made News a stronger section, and I’m beyond excited to see you and Alex lead the *Argo*. Alex, thank you for always bringing humor and great energy to the room, and keeping us on top of photo descriptions. Together with Ross as “Rolex,” I’m sure you’ll keep the *Argo* running reliably and smoothly.

Ultimately, I am deeply grateful for the countless memories, joy and friendships the *Argo* has brought me over the past six years. Alas, “parting is such sweet sorrow,” so I will conclude thus: If you flip “*ogrA eht*” right-side up again, you’ll begin to see the newspaper that has brought us seniors countless memories, joy and friendships over the past six years, and that I hope will continue to be a home and source of pride for all of us.

Thank you, *Argo*!

Head Forum Editor

Mark Snekvik



Bye *Argo*!

It’s been real. I’ve only been here for two and a half years, so I sometimes still feel new, but my year and a half as a writer and my past as an editor have been extremely rewarding. As Head Forum Editor, it has been so exciting to bring a voice to topics about the School that I and others I talk to feel passionate about and to be able to train new writers to find their voice and speak out on issues they want addressed.

To Roan, Ariel and Annie: thank you for being the best editing team I could ask for. I love how many cool, fun and thought-provoking articles we came up with and I truly am proud of the work we put out. Some of my favorite articles we ran include “BREAKING NEWS: Luigi Mangione Is ... Too Hot?,” “Hit the Gym, Get Those Gains” and “Spice Up Senior Superlatives!” My favorite times were when we stayed late for Second Writers’ Meetings — usually being the last section there — and we planned how to better train our writers and waded through the seemingly endless controversies that laced our section.

Roan, I have learned from you how to effectively communicate feedback in a clear, yet respectful manner. You have an amazing ability to teach people how to argue strongly and I will miss our walks to the Green Line.

Ariel, I’m going to miss you, you New York-bound baddie. I have learned from you how to lock in on my organizational skills. It’s incredible how thorough of a note-taker and how crystal clear of a writer you are. I will cherish all the laughs we have shared.

Annie, my first article in Forum was co-written with you. Remember when we stayed late, editing down the word count to meet 700? You were so welcoming to me and made me excited about journalism. As Head Editor next year, I know you’ll be that same welcoming presence for new writers.

Hannah, watching you lead this year has made me appreciate you in a new different way. I’m in awe at how well you deal with adults while also ensuring the *Argo* remains a beacon of student voice. Let’s keep up our coffee chats.

Michelle, I love how fun you make journalism. Our conversations late during Production Week always had me peeling with laughter. You have the remarkable ability to control the room with your engaging presence and sense of humor.

Ailin, I can’t believe it has been six years since we first became friends. Where’d all the time go ... I love our conversations and laughter-filled lunches. I admire how you have led the News Section with calm confidence — it is no surprise there are always dozens of writers eager to join. Koaxkoaxkoax.

Lena, heyyyy! You are such a fun person to be around and it is so cool to see you usher in a new leader of writers and leaders both in *Argo* and BLS ASIA. I’ll miss your laugh and your passion for change-making.

Alex, I’m so excited to see how you

make *Argo* even better next year. Your passion for photography is infectious and impressive. I think you are someone who is extremely thoughtful about your leadership style and ensuring organizational fairness and competency, and so I’m extremely excited to see you lead.

Ross, I can still remember that one time we disagreed on the wording of one of the articles about student protest. Though we did not see eye-to-eye, you were so respectful and calm which was super impressive to me. We were able to come to a middle ground and I respect how you were willing to compromise without sacrificing your beliefs. I have complete confidence in your ability to lead the next generation of *Argo* writers.

Fathia, you are so passionate and engaging, and have grown from an eager writer to a leader unafraid to take risks. I’m in awe of how you have brought in many of your friends into *Argo* and am excited to see how you grow the Forum section in new and exciting ways. Please be bold and really mold Forum into a place that best gives students a voice.

Angelina, thank you for being a rock of the Forum section. Your ability to write about controversial topics in a powerful, yet fact-based way is inspiring, and I am thrilled to see what you do as editor next year.

David, your deep, empathetic way of writing brings a welcome addition to the Forum section. I can’t wait for you to lead workshops on how to discover your writing voice.

Head Forum Editor

Roan Wilcox



I still vividly remember my first writers’ meeting hosted by Cinly and Jessie, volunteering to opine on political polarization in the United States. Three years later, it is difficult to believe that I am now writing my final piece for the *Argo*.

The *Argo* has been more than a place for me to give unsolicited opinions on Boston Latin School testing policies, *TikTok* and American politics; it has been a community that brings together some of the kindest and most thoughtful people at BLS, united by a shared belief in the power of the written word.

The center of that community for me has been Forum, the best section in the *Argo* (I can say that because we write opinion articles). To Mark, thank you for being an incredible head editor; you changed for the better how editors engage with writers, and I will miss your clear-eyed insights and our Green Line conversations. To Ariel, you represent the gold standard for Argonauts with your warmth and empathy; your ability to always see the potential in both people and articles is incredible. And to the future section editors: Annie, Fathia, Angelina and David: I cannot wait to see how you execute on your vision for Forum next year; the ideas you presented in your written applications and interviews were both ambitious and transformative, and I am confident in your ability to enact them.

I would be remiss not to mention our wonderful EiCs, Hannah and Michelle. The amount of time, energy and effort you put into the *Argo* was immense. Whether it be gathering the *Argo* team before the school year to share your master plan or directing the tight turnaround between the Novem-

ber and Holiday issues, your ability to manage (Mannah-age?) such a large and diverse group of teenagers is a testament to your leadership abilities. The state of Illinois won’t know what hit it when you two arrive.

To Ms. Moon, the *Argo*’s faculty adviser, thank you. I deeply appreciate that you are always available for advice but ultimately dedicated to the *student* in “student journalism” that makes the *Argo* such an exceptional organization.

And finally, thank *you*, dear reader, for supporting this newspaper through your readership. If you are a student at BLS, I hope you decide to join the *Argo*; as I hope I have conveyed, this newspaper is a special place, and I can confidently say that your time at BLS will be better for having joined it.

Thank you for the memories and teachings, *Argo*, and *bon voyage* to those in it for the next year!

Assistant Forum Editor
Ariel Mura



When I joined the *Argo* in tenth grade, it was on a whim — a recommendation from a friend. While I was looking for a fun outlet to share my opinions, research new topics and become more involved in the Boston Latin School community, I found much more. I found a community of people I could laugh with for hours every Production Week. I found a club that, although it would be very demanding on my energy and schedule, would also be one of my most rewarding experiences at BLS. My only regret is not joining the *Argo* sooner. Live, laugh, love Forum!!

Before I leave, I would like to express my many thanks to all of the beautiful people that I have been lucky to work with these past three years:

To Forum’s alumnae, Cinly and Jessie, you both are leaders and writers that I can only hope to emulate. Even after my first article was an absolutely disastrous experience, you convinced me to continue writing, and I have been thankful ever since.

My dearest Editors-in-Chief, thank you for your endless support. You guys arrived last May like rockets, equipped with a plethora of new ideas and a vision for the *Argo* and Forum. From ink-stained fingers while stuffing newspapers during last grad issue to pretending to be a 22-year-old psychologist at the spooky Halloween Party (shout-out Ben for being the best fake boyfriend ever!!), this year was full of laughs and giggles, and I have you two to thank for that.

Hannah, I loved waving to you these past six years before our daily morning bus rides and chatting with you in the halls, whether on the way to Co-Go or at Capstone. Please never lose your sparkle.

Michelle, I’m manifesting a five on AP Calc BC! You are such a calm, cool and collected individual. Your fashion sense is gorg, and I cannot wait to see all that you are up to in the future.

Fellow Forum editors, I am endlessly grateful for your unwavering support and relentless brilliance. Working together this past year has been a delight and an experience that I will never forget. #dreamteam #foru-

misthebest

Mark, from waving to each other in the halls of the Curley K-8 school to laughing over non-funny article headline puns, growing up beside you has become a cherished experience. Not only is your singing melodic, but also your character, bringing joy and reassurance to all those around you. I hope Ms. Grassa is proud of the people we have become — I know I am!

Roan, your immeasurable intelligence and never-ending list of accomplishments have made you one of the people I admire most. From solving fake world crises at Model United Nations meetings to stepping out into the real world, we’ve grown a lot these past few years, and I can’t wait to catch up with you at class reunions for years to come.

Annie, getting to know you better this year has been a wonderful experience, to say the least. Groaning together about endless back-to-back AP Calculus BC tests and never-ending production weeks was a hilarious experience, and I can’t wait to see where you take Forum next year.

To the rest of Forum’s future editorial board, I am so excited to see you guys take charge of Forum and bring a fresh perspective to the *Argo*:

Fathia, your creativity and passion are unmatched. Your welcoming spirit and curious mind have been vital contributions to our section. Even when we pushed you out of your comfort zone with article topics or things went awry, you handled every mishap or hiccup with impressive poise and humility and never shied away from a challenge. I have complete faith in your vision for Forum and the *Argo*. Please never stop dreaming.

Angelina, your dedication to Forum has made you an invaluable member of our team. You were present at every meeting and event, bringing a kind smile and intellectual curiosity. I hope you enjoy senior year to the fullest! I can’t wait to see you accomplish great things in the future, both at the *Argo* and in the outside world.

David, I am so glad you made the switch from Layout to Forum. You have become an essential component of the team this year, frequently taking the most creative (and

philosophical) lens on a topic and drafting thought-provoking articles. While the transition from being a Contributing Writer to an editor can be a challenging one, I have complete faith that you will assume your new role with class and humility.

To our Staff Writers, Brandon, Hiba, Harry and Ellie, I look to you now as leaders for Forum’s next generation:

Brandon, though we never got the opportunity to co-write an article, I have loved getting to know you better this past year and seeing your writing grow. I appreciate your dedication and commitment to Forum and the *Argo*, and I hope you enjoy senior year — it goes by quickly!

Hiba, your joyful wave walking out of Ms. Burke’s English class was always a sweet spot in my day. I have loved seeing you grow this past year, both as a writer and as a person. Always text me if you have any questions about anything at all or just need someone to confide in!

Harry, your sense of efficiency and go-getter spirit is admirable, to say the least. I can’t wait to see what you accomplish next. I hope you enjoy the rest of your high school years!

Ellie, when I first met you, you were a brand-new writer, starting your *Argo* journey. Since then, I have seen you grow more confident and sure of yourself, frequently suggesting ideas to Forum and taking on hefty articles with poise. Your Copy experience makes you a valuable asset to our section, bringing a structure and grounding to Forum that we sometimes struggle with. I can’t wait to see what you do next!

Ms. Moon, thank you so much for standing by my side and listening to my anxious rants at countless Model UN conferences and *Argo* meetings. Your kind heart and grounded presence have both comforted me and pushed me to work my absolute hardest. You will remain one of the most influential people of my childhood. From the bottom of my heart, thank you.

Forever a Forum girlie, with love,

Ariel <3

Head A&E Editor
Lena Thai



My *Argo* pilot began when Sarin, a long-time friend and infamous Boston Latin School departer, joined the *Argo Zoom* meeting for the first online issue. After moving through the issues, I became accustomed to co-writing with Sarin, and, unfortunately, my eighth-grade self did not know how *Zoom* messages worked. An unfortunate and haunting comment entered the chat box and, well, I took a hiatus from the *Argo*...

But with the return to school came my return to the *Argo*, where I became an independent and devoted Newsie. But, this wasn’t without the help of News Editors Joanna, Kevin, Ailin and Elyssa. My first roll of gratitude is to this marvelous group: thank you for developing my journalism skills and love for the *Argo*. This was my foundation; you guys built the fortress for which my eventual editorial role would cement itself.

My *Argo* journey took a turn when I had an abrupt transition from News Staff Writer to Arts and Entertainment Editor. It was nothing short of untraditional and presumably difficult, but because of Penelope, Z, Alice and Anneliese, it was one of the best pivots of my life. Diving into the art

of entertaining people, reporting on culture and society’s interests truly changed the way I write and view the world. Spending time with this board changed my BLS career because I had discovered a family. Thank you all for your warmth and welcome. To the two younglings, Alice and Anneliese, I have no doubt the section will grow under your leadership. You two have so much promise. I will miss editing and comparing matcha shades alongside you two. To incoming editors Bridget and Kenneth: welcome! I hope you enjoy editing for the heart and soul of the *Argo* as much as I did.

To the rest of the underclassmen of the *Argo*: live! Stay productive and edit those articles, but also converse with those around you. Exchange small or life-altering events and talk about things beyond the grueling stress of school. You will be thankful for these moments once it’s all gone.

To the seniors: it’s been a joy to witness your talents outside the classroom (although must I say, you guys are talented all around). Whether it be our post-meeting debriefs or the pock-ets of time where we were unable to lock in during Production Week, our dialogue was priceless and these mem-

ories are well-etched into my BLS experience. Thank you for freaking out over college, teachers and so much more with me. You all will always have me as a cheerleader in your corner.

And of course, to the backbones of the *Argo*, Mannah (or now just Michelle and Hannah): you inspire me. I don’t know how you guys do it with such grace! Hannah, thank you for letting me sit in the spinny chair and giving me aux during Production Week. I know I’ll never know just how much you do for the paper, but just by sitting in your seat, I feel the pressure. And Michelle, my best friend. You’ve never failed to show me compassion as an EiC (not so much as a friend...), even while we were going through the same treacherous classes (notably physics) and hauntingly paralleled experiences. Although we’ll have many more, I’ll miss our Fenway runs.

And to Ross and Alex (now Rolex), congratulations! I am so incredibly proud of both of you. Best of luck next year — watch out for some visits soon.

Vale, *Argo*!

Lena

Head Sports Editor

Liam Sullivan



I truly can’t believe that my time at Boston Latin School has ended. Being surrounded by friends, amazing teachers and mentors has made these six years fly by. After seeing my two older brothers Shane (‘22) and Coleman (‘19) start at BLS, I had an understand-

ing of how much of an impact this school has on its students. I knew this place was going to change and shape me, but at that time I did not know by how much.

As the number of brothers in my first-day-of-school pictures dropped and my height (thankfully) increased, I started to grow. From bearing a stressful Latin class to building unexpected friendships, each day at BLS was a new experience, and I am truly grateful for all the people I have met along the way. I can’t believe that in a few short weeks, I can call myself a proud alum.

I first joined the *Argo* toward the end of my freshman year. I figured it would be a good way to join some clubs and expand my extracurriculars outside sports. Plus, I already knew a few people in the newspaper who wrote or were editors. Starting as a Contributing Writer, the newspaper was overwhelming. Stepping into the newsroom (also known as Ms. Moon’s classroom), I was surrounded by veteran writers and future Ivy League grads, so I was admittedly intimidated.

What surprised me about the news-

paper was how much I enjoyed it. As I began becoming more and more involved in my sophomore year, I felt that each article gave me the chance to connect with the School in a way that I had never felt. I tried to capture each athlete, coach or sport I came across in a meaningful way.

Over time, I got more confident and more involved. My writing, editing and communication skills improved, and with that so did my love for the newspaper. From trying my best to be a mentor to underclassmen who may have felt intimidated like me or just diving headfirst into a story, my time in the *Argo* has truly been special and has shaped me into who I am today.

To Michelle and Hannah, thank you for being incredible leaders and making sure the *Argo* was running as smoothly as possible. It was tough at times balancing two sports and the newspaper, but you were always extremely organized and patient. It feels like yesterday we were folding up last year’s Graduation Issue in the basement and loading them onto the band bus to distribute

them. The amount of time and effort you have put into late nights and layout stress is truly amazing.

To Juliet, Rachel and Dimitra, thank you for making Sports one of the best sections in the *Argo* (but most importantly, the chilliest). We have come a long way from playing *Slitherio* during the first Production Week or scrambling for last-minute quotes, and I am grateful for each of your hard work and dedication. It has been chaotic, but in the best way possible.

Thanks to all the athletes, teachers and coaches who let us interrupt their busy schedules for interviews. I commend your willingness to speak to an unknown student with a notebook or phone recorder; it is the heart of our section. To every contributor to the paper, writers, editors, photographers, layout team and associates, thank you. You are the reason this newspaper has become a cornerstone of BLS; this would all not be possible without you.

Thanks for reading, it’s been real. Peace.

Head Copy Editor

Andrew Zheng



Before I even knew it, my time at the *Argo* was over. Even though I had not been on the editing board for as long as many of my peers, I had truly felt like 016 was a home away from home. During my one-year stint as Head Copy Editor, I gained a level of maturity and leadership that I didn’t think was possible until now. My story with the *Argo*, however, begins much

earlier than that.

When I was a wee sixie, I wanted to write an article for the *Argo* after being inspired by an article that I read in the November Issue. I was not a big email reader at the time, nor did I know anyone in the *Argo*, so I had no clue how things worked. I missed the Writers’ Meetings and believed that Production Week was when we started writing. I remember walking into a Production Week and being so intimidated by the buzz in the room that I legitimately froze in place. I felt like an outsider that did not belong to any of the important business going down. I decided then that *Argo* was not for me, and I kept that personal promise throughout the rest of seventh grade and the entirety of eighth grade.

In ninth grade, I finally decided to give it another shot. This time, I decided to try my hand at Copy. This section fit me way better—I could work more at my own pace and the vibe was a lot less intense. This is where I first met Fiona, but I was too scared to talk to her—or really anyone—much. Throughout the year, I attended a few Production Weeks and only edited a couple articles each time I went. I was just getting my

toes wet with the *Argo*.

The next year, I attended more Production Weeks to Copy edit, but I went with a couple of friends each time to make the experience more fun. That year, I edited enough articles to be credited in a few issues. It was this year when I knew that I wanted to be a dedicated member of the *Argo*. In 11th grade, I edited as many articles as possible and I attended almost every Production Week. This was also when I met Vicky, but we didn’t talk much at the time.

That takes us to this year, where I have learned so much about myself and others. It has been my pleasure and honor to help lead the best section of the *Argo*. I loved working with new associates and section heads alike.

To my fellow Copy editors Meilin and Vicky: I know that you guys will lead the section to new heights. Thank you for thugging out this year with me—I would not have rather done it with anyone else. Meilin, your work ethic is both inspiring yet concerning (please get more sleep, you’ll need it). Thank you for always being available online to answer any questions that we or any of the associates have. Thank you for

reeling in so many new associates to put to work—ahem—recruit. I know your fresh ideas will keep this section on its toes. Vicky, your experience from the previous year was invaluable to get the ball rolling this year. Thank you for being there at Production Week basically every day to help edit and answer any questions that we may have. I really appreciated our conversations about school and college as it was definitely a new experience for me to give advice to someone who is in a very similar spot to me last year. Congratulations on becoming a Ward Fellow! I hope my advice helped.

To the former EiCs: Hannah and Michelle, thank you for being the leaders of such an awesome editorial board. Thank you both for steering the ship when the water got rough.

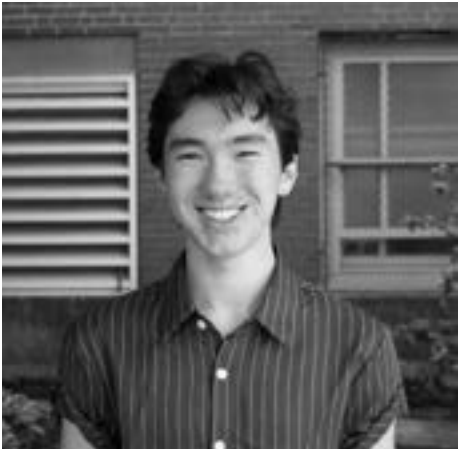
To the new EiCs: Ross and Alex, I wish I talked with you two more this year, but I know that the Argonauts are in good hands. Sorry for turning in this farewell so late, though.

I really am going to miss everyone!

Best of luck,
Andrew

Assistant Photo Editor

Ben Choi-Harris



I remember that in my freshman year, I went to the Extracurricular Fair, and I was so nervous because as a B-sie, I had two less years of experience compared to everyone else in our grade. I honestly don’t even remember signing up for the *Argo*, but now I can’t imagine my Boston Latin School experience any other way. When I joined with my friends and the time came for us to choose a section, I distinctly remember us saying, “the people from the Photo section seem so fun,” and the rest is history.

For all of freshman year, I was too nervous to take a photo myself, and I didn’t even know how to open *Photoshop*. But that Graduation Issue, I went to Production Week, deciding that it was time to learn the ropes. Luckily for me, the lovely Mary Bosch

was there to guide me, proving my initial impression of the section correct and starting a whole new chapter for me.

As my *Argo* experience progressed, I continued to learn more about my section and met new people. I really started to feel comfortable in this environment and later on, when I got the editor position, I was excited, thinking about how far I had come since my freshman year and for what was ahead of me.

I won’t sugarcoat it; all the responsibilities of helping to run the section mixed with the emotional stress of college applications and planning out my future started to add up. But through it all, I’m so glad that I was a part of the *Argo* because of all of the things I learned from this experience, not just about journalism or photos or editing, but about life, and because of the amazing group of people we had.

To my fellow Class of 2025 editors, I have enjoyed getting to spend this final chapter of high school together so much. Hannah, Michelle, Andrew, Liam, Lena, Roan, Ariel, Mark and Ailin, I am so proud of everything we have accomplished, and I am so glad that we got to know each other more. I truly believe that each and every one of you are going to go on to do amazing things and soar to incredible heights. I want to especially shout out Ariel, Mark and Ailin for not just being amazing peers but also amazing friends. Ariel, I will never pass up a tea-spilling and boba session with you, and though we will be busy, I am so looking forward to sharing a city with you for the next

four years. Mark, I am in such awe of your talent and your positivity. Everyone can learn so much by looking to you for inspiration. Ailin, you embody the very definition of “poise” and you are effortlessly graceful. You radiate peace, and I am so glad I’ve gotten to know you over the past two years.

To our Editors-in-Chief, Mannah, I admire you two so much. Your passion and creativity are so clear in everything you do. To Michelle, I am so inspired by your consistently clever ideas and your strength in your beliefs. To Hannah, I am so grateful for your constant enthusiasm and willingness to gossip with me during the downtime of Production Weeks. Chicago is NOT ready for you two, but they’re just a step behind me, because I KNOW you guys will do great things.

Now, to the younger editors, I hope you truly enjoy these next few months or years before graduating. It really sneaks up on you, trust me. I want to specifically point out the Layout and Photo sections.

Layout, you are the last ones to clock out of *Argo* duties every production cycle, and you bring the whole show together. To Ashley, my Korean sister, I’m so glad I got to know you. You are so sweet and I know the next two years will be great for you. To Sophia E., you are such a powerhouse. Your responsibility and dedication are so impressive, and I know you have so much to look forward to in your future.

Photo, it is hard for me to let you go, but I know I must, and I couldn’t ask for a better send-off. To Isabella, you have really

impressed me, and your energy is contagious. I am really looking forward to seeing what you do with Photo. To Sophia K., I have had the honor of watching you grow and become more confident in your abilities within this section. I’m so excited to see what is next for you as you take on this new role. To both of you, Sigma Beta² for life. Now, to Lauren, I am utterly spellbound by your grit, determination and artistry. You manage to juggle so many tasks and duties seamlessly, and excel at each. Our section is in such good hands with you, and I have the utmost confidence in you. I feel so lucky to have gotten to know you better and to work alongside you these past few months.

To Ross and Alex, Rolex (love the name by the way), I know you two will make the *Argo* so fresh and exciting. Remember to take care of yourselves next year because trust me when I say, you have A LOT ahead of you. Still, I have no doubts that you two will be able to handle it.

I want to give one final thank you to Ms. Moon. You ground the *Argo* and make it fully operational. You are our rock, and none of this could even be possible without you. I entered this school as your student, and I think it’s fitting that I’m ending high school the same way, in a sense. Again, thank you for everything.

Y’all try not to miss me too much when I’m gone (even though I will). Thanks for the last four years, it’s been real. Kthx-bye.

Ben <3

BLS Through the Years

By Fiala Kraman (III)
Comic Artist

sixie year



eighth grade



9th grade



10th grade

tall ↑




11 grade



12 grade





Gluten Free Blueberry Muffins

From *Cooking with My Dad, the Chef*
By Ken and Verveine Oringer

Ingredients:

- ☐ 1 1/3 cups blanched almond flour
- ☐ 2/3 cup gluten-free oat flour
- ☐ 1/2 cup mochiko sweet rice flour
- ☐ 1/4 cup millet flour
- ☐ 1 1/2 teaspoons baking powder
- ☐ 1/2 teaspoon baking soda
- ☐ 1/2 teaspoon kosher salt
- ☐ 1/2 cup plus 2 tablespoons sugar, measured separately
- ☐ 1/2 cup plain whole-milk Greek yogurt
- ☐ 1/3 cup extra-virgin olive oil
- ☐ 2 large eggs
- ☐ 1 teaspoon grated lemon zest, zested from half a lemon
- ☐ 2 cups frozen wild blueberries
- ☐ Vegetable oil spray

Directions:

- Heat oven to 375 degrees.
- In a large bowl, whisk all the flours, baking powder, baking soda and salt until no clumps remain, around one minute.
- In a medium bowl, whisk ½ cup sugar, yogurt, oil, eggs and lemon zest until well combined. Add sugar mixture to flour mixture and use rubber spatula to stir until well combined. Add blueberries and gently stir.
- Spray 1/4-cup dry measuring cup with vegetable oil spray. Use a greased measuring cup to divide batter evenly among muffin cups. Sprinkle remaining sugar on top.
- Place in the oven. Bake until the toothpick inserted comes out clean, around 27-30 minutes.
- Take out of the oven and let cool for 15 minutes.
- Enjoy!

GRAD LIBS

By the Argo Editors
Comedic Relievers

Once upon a time, there was a sixie named _____ (NAME). They were known for being _____ (ADJ) and _____ (ADJ) and joined the _____ (NOUN) club. As an eighth grader, they decided to _____ (VERB). Soon, they learned to love _____ (NOUN)! Entering high school, they were scared to _____ (VERB + NOUN) and experienced _____ (NOUN). One day after school in tenth grade, they went to _____ (NOUN). When they entered junior year, they suddenly faced the horrors of _____ (NOUN). They thanked _____ (NOUN) for _____ (VERB-ING) them a lot. Then, in senior year they decided to _____ (VERB + NOUN). And they lived happily ever after.

Interested in advertising your club?

Want to expand the reach of your business? Share your message with over 2400 students & thousands of alumni and place an ad in the *Argo* today!

Contact blsargo@gmail.com for advertising inquiries.



Strands

Theme:
Goodbyes

A	I	C	N	A	I
O	D	I	O	S	J
V	A	A	Z	A	I
U	A	L	E	T	E
F	E	H	E	A	E
W	R	S	N	U	I
I	E	V	E	R	O
E	D	I	O	R	H

In Ten Years, You’ll Find Me...

A Nurse	happy and rich	In my Ferrari	on a plane traveling	Levesque’s job @ BLS...)
abroad and skinny	“happy, healthy, and wealthy”	In the Mongolian grassland	on a sailboat	the military industrial complex
Abroad somewhere	Homeless	in the White House	On a yacht	traveling
Anywhere but boston	hopefully being a well-paid	Jail	“On the big screen, hopefully “	traveling
as a lawyer!	therapist	Joshing	On the cover of a magazine	Traveling far away
as a Mall Cop	hopefully doing my residency	Learning and growing (hope-	on wall street	traveling the world with my
As general store manager at	Hopefully in residency	fully with a dog)	Out of the country travelling	husband and our cats.
Roche bros	“In a classroom, teaching”	“Living in a new city, in law	Pregnant	trying to become moss in a
At a casino playing blackjack	in a fresh business suit	school, surrounded by loved	Probably back at BLS	meadow
at CVS pharmacy	In a homeless shelter or a	ones, and perusing passions to	Probably still either in grad	Unemployed
at the BLS reunion	multi-billionaire	hopefully better the world”	school or a fellowship/residen-	Unemployed
At the Met Gala	in Alabama	Living in a penthouse	cy/training	unemployed
Becoming a doctor	in an argument with Tony	living in Spain	Prolly working	unmarried
biking	in an nyc penthouse	Living in the woods	“Published, interviewed, and	with a lot of money
Broke	In an operating room	Living with bears and with 20	on the big screen”	with lots of money
content	In Boston	dogs	reading a good book in the	with love of my life
Doing something that makes	in Boston	living my best life	woods.	with my nerd husband
me happy (hopefully)	In Chicago	Making bank at an investment	Rich	Working as a Pediatric Physi-
doing...something. That’s for	In either a recording studio or	company	“Rich, hopefully”	cian Assistant!
sure!	a hospital	Making big things	Scrolling through the BLS 25	Working as an MD at a bulge
drinking tea	in finance	Making money	instagram.	bracket firm in IB
Either making airplanes or	In Florida	Maybe homeless (art major)	Signing a couple autographs so	Working as Cooper Flagg’s
games	In law school and having a	“Maybe rich, maybe home-	I can eat my meals for free	agent and attorney
employed	super cool political job	less, maybe huzzless, maybe a	slaving away for nvidia	Working at the International
employed (hopefully)	In medical residency or in Sar-	player, but you won’t see me in	slumped in Copley Library	Court of Justice
Enjoying life	dinia running a cafe business	the states”	spreading positivity & hopeful-	Working finance on Wall
Famous	and dissociating fully from	medical recidency with Olivia	ly traveling	Street
far away from bls	technology.	Mr. Gay’s Bar	Starting at the stars	Working in a Boston hospital
Far too tired and in Law	in medical residency with	Ms. Buonos restaurant	Still procrastinating	married living in a house with
School	Nandini	not anywhere close to BLS	Teaching	a wrap around porch.
Fulfilled and worldly	In medical school	On a beach	Teaching financial litera-	Working in Politics
Graduated with a law degree	In Miami on a yacht	On a golf course	cy! (Potentially stealing Mr.	You won’t

I’d Like to Thank... for...

all my homies for thugging it	I’d like to thank ms. bateman for	Mr southwick for being a great	ranger badge	Ms. Sarkis...Making me like
out with me	always giving that extra push	teacher	Ms Castellanos for being a real	math for the first time
“Ama and Ramiyah...being such	I’d like to thank Ms. Medvetz	Mr. Barry...his long fun rants	one	“Ms. Segal, always being there
amazing people I could always	for introducing me to a new	“Mr. Beyer and Mr. Sanford	Ms Clougherty for literally	for me!”
rely on and for making me	world of perspectives; I will	for their support and fire ship	everything	Ms.McKenna... always keeping
laugh even at my worst mo-	never forget the ineffable power	throughout the years. They were	Ms Scott for teaching me how	her room open <3
ments, love yall :3”	of understanding the world as	huge helps in so many ways, not	to teach myself math	“Ms.Pinchem, always being
BLS... my man x1000	taught by Ms. Medvetz.	just in class”	Ms. Archer ... this is the first	a steady and present positive
BL SPL for giving me some of	I’d like to thank Ms. Sylvester	Mr. Brown; being awesome	time I understand math	force in my BLS career”
my best friends and the confi-	for being the kindest and most	Mr. Concannon; NOT throwing	Ms. Bowles - being understand-	my best friend for making me
dence I needed	supportive guidance counselor	me out the window	ing and lenient with grading	laugh and panicking on dead-
ChatGPT helping me through-	of all time.	Mr. Fearon for giving me an	and treating us as her equal	lines together
out high school	I’d Like to Thank my friends	A even though I didn’t do my	instead of less than her because	My ELA teacher sixie year ...
chatgpt...getting me through	For showing me unconditional	flashlight project.	she’s a teacher.	making me cry in front of my
junior and senior year	kindness	Mr. Fearon for giving me grades	Ms. Burke for letting us go to	entire class
chatgpt...my work	Iris for having one of the best	I definitely didn’t deserve	the vending machine during	my friends for being my family
“class of 2025 for being the	smiles I’ve ever seen	Mr. G...being a king	class	my friends for keeping me sane
greatest class ever, very outgo-	Jolie Nguyen ... Listening to me	Mr. Harris - making me laugh	Ms. Campot for pushing me to	and making me laugh
ing, kind, and beautiful”	yap	Mr. Harris for Carrying my	grow	my friends for making school
Conor Fearon for being my	“Kareem Ahmed, being the best	portfolio	“Ms. Catherine Foley ... foster-	something I look forward to
coach	travel buddy.”	Mr. Levesque...Always being	ing warmth, acceptance, and	my friends stopping my cra-
Dunkin’; keeping me awake	Karina ... listening to all my yap	honest and open and a joy to	openness in her classroom”	shouts
Eddie dervan for being geeked	sessions	talk with	Ms. Clougherty for actually	“my friends, for putting up with
“Ellora Bhatt, for picking me up	lid and van for being my calls	Mr. Luu fast reply to emails	helping with everything	my existence “
when I was feeling down.”	#yaparellas	Mr.Luu for being a major help	“Ms. Elliot ... being a passionate	My friends... being there for me
God for being my strength and	Lorenzo Vespengani for keeping	Mr. Luu...All the times he had	educator who genuinely enjoys	My guidance counselor... for
peace.	me humble	to submit my LOR	teaching and sincerely care for	helping me along the way
Hanley Ensdorf for being my	Marianne...giving me an outlet	“Mr. Osoweicki, inspiring me to	the needs of her students. Your	My parents for supporting me
best friend	to talk about video games	drop physics”	dedication inspires students	unconditionally
harvard...rejecting me	Maya and Laura for helping me	Mr. Rinaldi for being a chill	to excel. Thank you for all you	my peers
Hien & Vanessa.....being the	get through AP Calc	teacher	have done for this community,	my peers for all the support
realest besties ever #yapperellas	Mia... making the last 2 years	Mr. Sanford ... for his unwaver-	and we wish you a wonderful,	Noah Gilbreath, for his amazing
Hien and Lindsay for being my	so fun	ing support	well-deserved retirement!”	music
rocks	Michelle Chen ... keeping me	Mr. Simoneau for a free AP	Ms. Elliot ... exemplifying how	Profe, for being there for me as
I’d like to thank Billy Cunniffe	sane even when she wasn’t	STATS class	to be respected as a woman in	a teacher even though I made it
for being so handsome every	ming pan for being my favorite	Mr. Southwick for being the	a position of power without	impossible, she never gave up.
day	deaf grandpa <3	better physics teacher	disrespecting others	Teachers ... Everything
I’d like to thank Mr. Gallagher	“Mom, for always supporting	“Mr. Zou, making learning fun”	“Ms. Kwan, housing me since	the irish ... saint pattys day
for not putting my suspension	me and keeping me grounded”	“Mr.Brown...being the best	sixie year”	the ladies at the Schawbel cen-
on my perm record	Morgan W...The law firm	teacher I’ve had, trying his best,	Ms. Kwan...letting us stay in	ter for being endlessly amazing
I’d like to thank Mr. Morales	Mr Barry for making English	and giving me the encourage-	the building until 6PM	The nurses for always letting me
and Ms. LB for being the best	fun again	ment I needed”	Ms. LA...believing in me	take a nap.
music teachers	Mr Finnigan for teaching me	Mr. Mikaltis for being nice to	Ms. Lang ... Being an absolute	the nurses’ office heating pad...
I’d like to thank Ms Sylvester for	discipline (I lost it though)	me	queen	curing my cramps
answering my endless questions	Mr gay; for teaching me you can	Mrs. Bowles for being so under-	Ms. Pierce ... Everything	“VSS, A.S.I.A., & Powerlifting
about everything and always	go through the 5 stages of grief	standing	“Ms. Pinchem, her kindness”	... giving me a reason to loiter
being there to support me.	within one class period	Ms Balbian...giving me her park	Ms. Sarkis...loving us	after school”

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

9th graders is to not only focus on school and remember to actually have friends and a life All high schoolers is to enjoy it while you can.
All students ... to see the best in your peers and mentors.
Anybody, don't talk about the Chicken Dance in front of Ms. McKenna
anyone and any situation - don't overthink it
Boys during lunch ... Don't use the dining hall bathrooms, use the ones in the hallways on your way back to classes instead
ALL students ... Take high school seriously! You shouldn't overwork yourself, but stay focused until after college apps. You got this!!
Bsies...put yourself out there Catherine Jestin, make Senior Year the best year possible—you you got this!
Celina ... to watch your step
Current juniors ... don't submit college apps at 11:59 on the deadline
Do not cheat
Don't procrastinate college apps
Don't wait until senior year to try and have fun. You one get one freshman year, one sophomore year, etc. Senior year is special but enjoy yourself throughout all of highschool as well.
Every junior...try everything senior year
Everybody...stop comparing yourself to your friends/peers
Everyone - to play ultimate frisbee
Everyone ... stop caring so much about what others think
Everyone don't take physics
Everyone is fake it till you make it

Everyone, don't think too deep about things
Everyone; do what you love everyday
Everyone... there is a staples near Government Center station that sells disposable cameras for \$19, but processing the pictures costs a few more, I think \$20 without tax. If you are going to use it, try not to use it at night unless the subject is close enough to be lit by the flash.
Everyone...be kind
Find balance no matter how messy life gets there is always stuff to do that outnumber notable moments; find a way to make the good moments happen, you got this.
Fine shyt... lock in I'm ur soulmate
For anyone is you'll find your place and your ppl eventually because they are out there so dw
Freshman - Take non STEM classes and extracurriculars, don't be boring like our grade
Freshman ... not to join one million clubs
Freshman is try something that you think you'll fail, no one's watching and you're stronger than you think.
Freshman, lock in IMMEDIATELY
Freshmen; please lock in with algebra before its too late.
Get your community service hours in early so you don't stress about it.
Girls... never settle for less!
Gretchen ... stop being dehydrated
Interdisciplinary underclassmen is to attend a semester school in the fall of junior year
Joaquin Saldana, to lock in.
Joel, try deodorant.

John Li is to stop sending me instagram reels about chasing the huzz and lock in instead juniors ... don't take anything to seriously
Juniors chill out and stop comparing yourself to others
Juniors is DO NOT TAKE HUMANITIES
Juniors is have your college essay fully done by the end of the summer
Juniors is that you're almost there, keep it up!
Juniors, enjoy every bit of your senior year because it moves very quickly
juniors, senior year is HARD
Juniors; stay locked in senior year
Juniors; to chill out about college
Juniors... please get some sleep
Juniors...don't apply to 20 colleges
Juniors...Hang out with friends whenever you can
Leila Ohashi ... You got this!
Keep up the great work
Lock in and do your work
Meron; keep slaying
Mr. Gay, stop letting kids cheat in your class
My friends...text me
One piece of advice I have for BLS is to please ensure every class has tissues during flu season!
One piece of advice I have for Cal Hale is to show up for math tests!
One piece of advice I have for everyone is to
One piece of advice I have for freshmen is to keep your GPA high or you won't get in to any college
One piece of advice I have for incoming students is to make sure you lock in early because your grades past 8th grade

MATTER.
One piece of Advice I have for Juniors is to always become prepared and take as many opportunities as you can!
One Piece of Advice I Have For Mr. Gay Is Use The Lock Down Browser twin
One piece of advice I have for sixies is use AI, the teachers are using it too
One piece of advice I have for underclassmen is to not procrastinate!!
Peng T. Lam ... adopt Gordito
People ... Have fun
Piece of advice I have for people feeling pressure to take an AP is: YOUR path is way different than everyone else's, you don't have to take 3 AP's to be "smart" KNOW YOUR LIMIT
Rising Seniors ... Live in the moment! Time goes by quickly
rising sophomores is to not take physics until at least junior year
Run to your classes and lunch on the first day of school to get a good seat
Ryan... watch out
Seniors, everything will be okay, I promise
Seniors...don't fall for the junior
Seniors...we're still young
Sixies don't be on your phone when you hangout with friends"
Sixies ... don't feel pressured to hangout with people super often make sure to take time to chill
sixies ... get involved in clubs
Sixies is keep your GPA up
Sixies is say hello to everyone
Sixies is to be friendly towards everyone
sixies is to not take grades seriously till high school like why are we staying up till 1 am

Sixies is to use deodorant and shower
Sixies, fade ap lit
Sixies; you'll get used to it
Sixies...find your people and do what makes you happy
Sixies...if you don't use your one card, sell it to a college student
Sophomores...do not take APUSH
Students...Find out how to balance homework and social life so you get enough sleep
Teachers who don't teach... carpe diem and get a new job
The c.o. '26 - take a deep breath
The little ones, although its nice to procrastinate, you should prioritize your work and ensure you get ample amount of sleep (8 hours), you'll be much happier
The underclassman... document your life
Track team is to be selfless for the team
Underclassmen ... don't take classes you're not interested in just because they "look good" on your transcript
Underclassmen is to not let your freshman year GPA drop
Underclassmen, make friends with your guidance counselor because they are awesome and they can pull strings for you.
Underclassmen: just take ap lit.
Underclassmen... sleep!
Underclassmen... Take a lot of photos and don't take yourself too seriously
Underclassmen... to take the classes that are harder and/or more important to your major
Junior year instead of Senior year
Underclassmen...don't take AP Bio
Younger students don't take AP Lit or physics

I Had a Secret Crush On...

:3
Aaron Tran
Achraf Chafiq, but I'm sooooo uglyyyyyyy
Adam Bedingfield
Adler Linfoot
Ailin Sha
Ailin Sha
Alexander Lee
Alfons Nikola.
Amos Bergen
Andy "popothechicken" Tran
Anna Hsu
Ariel Arias
Ayden Resulaj
Ayden Resulaj
Ayden Soderblom
Billy Cuniffe
Billy Cunnife
Billy Cunnife
Billy Cunniffe
Billy Cunniffe
Billy Cunniffe
Billy Cunniffe

Billy Cunniffe
Cat Zee
Cecilia Paik
Cole :)
Dillion Murray
Eamon
Eamon Innes
Eamon Innes
Edwin Prado
Eleanor Johnson
Elijah Greene
Emily Yu
Emily Yu <3
Emily Yu! <33
Fritz
Gabe Casey
Gabe Dantas
Gabriel Dantas
Gideon Neave
Hanley Ens Dorf
Hanley Ens Dorf
Hannah D. Stoll
Hien Thu Nguyen
I'm not saying that.
Ibrahim Dagher

Iris Tian
Jack Sawyers
Jack Sawyers
Jack Sawyers
Jack Sawyers
Jackson Dempsey
Jackson Prinn
Jackson Prinn
Jadon Berkson
Jadon Berkson
James Heath
Jeibin Fang
"John Li, bro is so fine "
Kayla
Khaya Dryden-Peterson
Kiera Lombard
L'Hopital's rule
Lena Thai
Leo Smith
Leo Smith
Lindsay Tra
Lucy Dorigan
Mae Noonan
Marvin Jimenez Gonzalez
Matt Ouyang

Max Haskell
Max Howard
Max Howard
Michelle Wang
Michelle Wang
Mimi
My pillow
Myself
Nicolas Tse
no one b/c it wasn't so secret
no one everyone's chopped
Olivia H
Olivia Mei En Ryan
Olivia Ryan
Owen Evans
Owen Evans
Owen Evans
Penelope Duff-Wender
Richard (Richie) Wells
Rob Townsend
Rowyn Haynes
Ruby Dai
Sadie Bornhorst

Sam Burnet
Santi Henao
Sarah Huff
Shane Lundrigan
Sienna Barney-Yapo
Sondai Boyd
Sophia Connon
Sophia Ginsburg
Steven Miall
Suyen
Suyen Chiang
Suyen Chiang <3
The Cinder Block outside of Ms. Murray's office
THE GRIND
Tommy
Too many to count
Vanessa Thuy Nguyen
Vivian Hamway
Will Ferraro
Wolfie
Wolfie
Zev
Zoe Mattison

Future Plans

Adi Acosta	University of Toronto	Laney Maddox	Boston Conservatory at Berklee
Camryn Almeida	University of New Hampshire	Nicla Marabito	Harvard University
Olurimi Alofe	University of Massachusetts-Amherst	Joshua Matlin-Heiger	University of Massachusetts-Amherst
Zoe Awa	Massachusetts Institute of Technology	Alexander Matthews	Tufts University
Rajika Rex Bajgain	Boston University	Rose McGillicuddy	University of Massachusetts-Amherst
Sienna Barney-Yapo	Smith College	Kelly McKenna	Roger Williams University
Sadie Bornhorst	Colby College	Cole McKittrick	Boston University
Shriya Chan	University of Massachusetts-Amherst	Abby McLaughlin	University of Alabama
Bella Chavarro	William & Mary	Steven Miall	Harvard University
Nandini Chilakapati	Boston University	Milda Miranda	University of Connecticut
Nigel Chin	Case Western Reserve University	Ariel Mura	Barnard College (Columbia University)
Annika Cohen	Haverford College	David Nguyen	University of Massachusetts-Amherst
Gabby Coleman	Cornell University	Laura Nguyen	Loyola University Chicago
Nora Connolly	Sacred Heart University	Mae Noonan	Northeastern University
Olivia Conroy	Sacred Heart University	Trevor O'Brien	Keene State College
Catherine Cox	College of the Holy Cross	Thomas Oakes	Boston College
Lily Crowley	Merrimack College	Amara Okwor	Syracuse University
Lorelei Currier	Tufts University	Olivia Pappas	University of Massachusetts-Amherst
Ruby Dai	Boston University	Thao Pham	Bridgewater State University
Evan Dalmanieras	College of the Holy Cross	Benny Pierre Louis	Union College
Zinnia Davis	University of Massachusetts-Amherst	Emily Polcaro	Bentley University
Max Dietch	Northeastern University	Tessa Reidy	Tulane University of Louisiana
Khaya Dryden-Peterson	Harvard University	Rajika Rex Bajgain	Boston University
Penelope Duff-Wender	Skidmore College	Manuela Rios Castaneda	University of Massachusetts-Boston
Oriana Dunker	Yale University	Madison Rizzo	Fordham University
Callie Eastman	Louisiana State University	Olivia Ryan	Harvard University
Hanley Ensdorf	Harvard University	Jack Sawyers	Dartmouth College
Ronin Ezekiel	University of Massachusetts-Lowell	Alexa Schmitt	Harvard University
William Ferraro	University of Massachusetts-Amherst	Ailin Sha	Harvard University
Justin Gao	Harvard University	Avani Shah	Syracuse University
Christina George	University of Massachusetts-Amherst	Islay Shilland	Amherst College
Thomas Germain	McGill University	Ayden Soderblom	Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Sophia Ginsburg	Wesleyan University	Caroline Song	Harvard University
Niamh Govender	Georgetown University	Rachel Starr	University of California-Santa Barbara
Timothy Gramer	Northeastern University	Hannah Stoll	University of Chicago
Ramiyah Habib	Brandeis University	Chloe Stowe	University of Massachusetts-Amherst
Vivian Hamwey	University of Vermont	Carina Szocik	Berklee College of Music
Max Haskell	Vanderbilt University	Katarina Taylor	University of Massachusetts-Amherst
Ming Pan Hern	University of Massachusetts-Amherst	Lena Thai	Cornell University
Sylvie Hove	University of Wisconsin-Madison	Caleb Thompson	Middlebury College
Maxwell Howard	Georgetown University: McDonough School of Business	Iris Tian	Brown University
Anna Hsu	Smith College	Alena Tran	Harvard University
Brian Huang	University of Pennsylvania	Lia Tripp	University of Rhode Island
Olivia Huynh	Boston University	Tiffany Uong	Northeastern University
Eamon Innes	University of Washington-Seattle Campus	Morgan Vail	Clark University
Eleanor Johnson	Northeastern University	Maya Valencia	University of Vermont
Katherine Kelly	University of Massachusetts-Boston	Ava Vu	Boston University
William Kirchman	Harvard University	Luc Vulliez	Amherst College
Caleb Kohn	Williams College	Charlotte Wall	Boston College
Maya Koreth	Harvard University	Kevin Wang	Harvard University
Derek Kuang	Wentworth Institute of Technology	Michelle Wang	Northwestern University
Christian Le	Massachusetts Institute of Technology	Roan Wilcox	University of Virginia-Main Campus
Victor Lee	Harvard University	Gianni Wilkinson	University of Massachusetts-Boston
Jacky Li	Harvard University	Andrew Xue	Cornell University
John Li	Tufts University	Emily Yu	Harvard University

Congratulations Argo Seniors!



Spotlight on...
Grace O’Brien



By Lia Tripp (I)
Contributing Writer

“No minute like the last minute” is a quote that perfectly encapsulates Grace. Meet Grace O’Brien: the girl behind the most infectious laugh I’ve ever heard, the biggest heart I’ve ever known and the one person I could not have survived Boston Latin School without. I met Grace 14 years ago at the Patrick Lyndon Elementary School, and ever since then she’s been by my side. If I had to describe Grace in one word it would be “dependable.” If Grace says she’ll be there, she will. If Grace makes a promise, she keeps it. Most importantly, she ALWAYS answers my many *FaceTime* calls, no matter what.

Grace and I both made the decision to take AP Chemistry our junior year. We are hardworking, good students, but this decision did come as a shock to many, and we struggled, but we struggled together. Grace and I *FaceTimed* every night to do our homework together, along with every

Thursday to study for our Friday quizzes. We spent multiple hours laughing as we solved for reaction rates and molar concentrations we truly had no business solving. AP Chemistry was hard; we put a lot of effort in and we spent a lot of time on it. But what could have been so miserable was the best experience of my BLS career, and that was because of Grace.

We then decided to take both AP Biology and Physics 1 senior year, where we had a similar experience of *FaceTimes* full of some of the hardest laughs of my life. The point of this story is that BLS is hard, but Grace has gotten me through even the hardest times.

For the past two years, I have been lucky enough to drive to school with Grace. No matter what, she would be finishing her homework from the night before in the car. This became a running joke that made us laugh, HARD. For example, we had

three months to do the physics book report that Grace completed the night before it was due. Her procrastination is so bad we even joked that she would complete it in the four minutes between Psychology and Physics class. You may think this makes Grace’s work mediocre, but her work is a true reflection of the effort and dedication she has put into everything she has done here at BLS.

Next year, Grace is heading to the University of Tennessee, Knoxville where she will be studying neuroscience in hopes of eventually becoming a surgeon. She is going to forever change the world of healthcare, and I can’t wait to watch!

Grace, I thank God everyday for our friendship, for our laughs and for all our memories. I love you and how much you procrastinate. Go change the world the way I know you will! Always remember to make every minute, especially the last minute, count!

I Will Miss...

4x4
9th grade PE class
Adrian P.
Albert the lunch monitor
all my friends </3
All my friends and all the educators that left a positive imprint.
All my friends and teachers that I enjoyed spending time with
All my friends, teachers, and the huzz
All the people I didn’t meet
All-nighters <3
Always having something to do
anything but Physics 1
Art during W block
Asian Night
band sectionals with Ms. McKenna/Mr. Blackett where we just talk about random stuff
baseball
Being able to say I go to the best public hs in Massachusetts
Being around my lifelong friends everyday
“being around such educated, kind students”
Billy Cunnife
blondie
Breaking in the back lobby
Chat GPT
CO26

Drawing cats :(
Everyone
Everyone D:
Everything
everything and everyone especially Thomas Oakes’s classroom presence
Exploring the after school activities
Frau Floerke’s morning music
Free m7’s
free public transportation
friends
friends and teachers
Getting home late from practice
Getting ones on surveys
Getting snacks from my friends’ lockers
getting to eat lunch with all my friends :(
Getting to say hi to everyone in the hallway
gossiping with my homeroom table
Hanging out with friends
Having a short commute to school
Hellos in hallways, cackling during classes, and loitering by lockers :(
HR102
Jacey Thai
Kai Yuen
Laughing until my stomach hurt with my friends

library studies
Listening in to some of my classmates conversing about the freakiest things I’ve ever heard
Listening to Peter Guo complain about AP Calc at lunch
Mary Le
Max Haskell
Morning car rides
Mr Zou
Mr. Harris
Mr. Rinaldi’s endless sarcasm
Ms Bowles
Ms. Bowles
Ms. Buono
my classmates :(
my fav underclassmen
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 specifically James Heath
My homeroom table

my IEP
My junior friends
My junior year lunch table
My wonderful friends and teachers
not having to pay for a gym membership
Nothing
nothing and everything all at once
orchestra </3
“pep rally and bls vs bla game cinderella hockey championship last year”
performing in Asian Night
R7 studies on a friday
saac
School Lunches
Seeing my best friends everyday
seeing my friends every day
Shoving sixies when the hallway is crowded
Soccer rides with my carpool to school
SOME teachers and most of my classmates.
Staying afterschool and doing things with friends
Studies in the library
Study block adventures
Talking to my friends
The 3 stringed banjo in the band room
The BLS hustle culture
The carpool home with all my

friends.
The cinder block outside
Ms.Murray’s office
The community
The freshman
The friends I made here
the gays
the good times with my friends
the guidance counselors and nurses.
the middle homeroom table
102
The music program
The nurses office
the people at BLS!
the sense of freedom at 2:15
The teachers and peers who make me laugh and make BLS a wonderful place
The teachers and students that I have bonded with so much
the yap sessions
“These people, this building, these years of my life”
W Block in Mr. Harris
Wacky Wednesday
Walking around the hallway in the morning.
walking around the school during studies
Walking to Ruggles
Woolsey
yaparellas
yapping in the halls before hr



Que este diploma sea el símbolo
de tus futuros triunfos.

¡Felicidades, graduado!

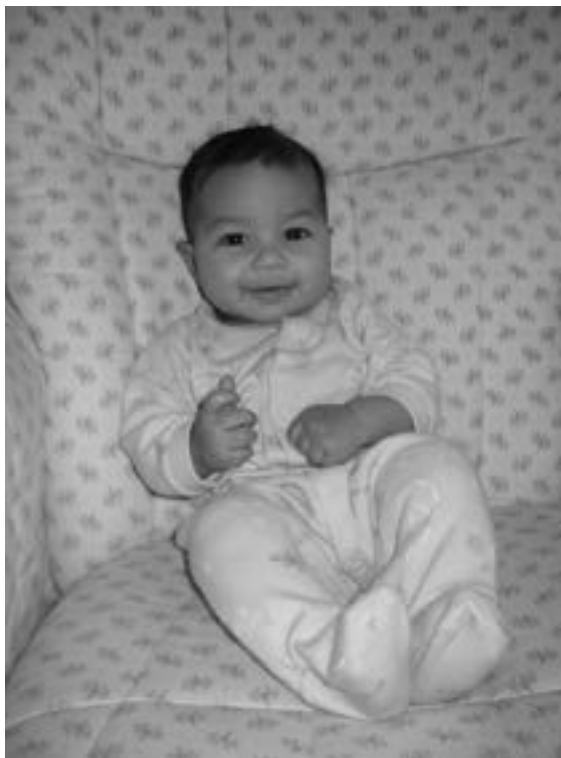
Congratulations Nigel!



It has truly been a pleasure to share these past few years with you and witness you grow as an individual. No matter where you are, I know that you’re going to do great things in the future with your brilliant mind and unwavering dedication. I hope that I get to see you pursue and accomplish your dreams! You’ll always be my GOAT.

Best of luck,
Steph Zhu

Congratulations to Max Dietch and the Class of 2025!



We’re so proud of you and the amazing young man you’ve become! It’s been beyond inspiring to witness the development of your intelligence, character, diligence and sense of humor over the past six years. We can’t wait to see all that you’ll accomplish at Northeastern University. We know you’ll keep rising to every challenge.



Thanks so much to everyone at BLS for the wonderful memories — we’ll miss you!
Love,
Mom, Dad, Jacob and Luna (Arf!)



Issie, we are
so proud of
you! We can't
“WAKE” to
see what your
future holds!

Dear Jadon,
From community to
academics to sports,
CONGRATULATIONS
on all of your admirable
accomplishments.
We are so proud of you
and love you very much!

Mom, Dad, Brennan,
Pastelito pup, Gala,
Poppy, Aunt Dana,
Uncle Craig



First Day of
BLS
Sixie
9/5/2019



Senior Year
2024-2025





Will,
We are so incredibly proud of all of your accomplishments.

We knew from a young age you were destined for greatness, and you have skyrocketed past all expectations. Keep the momentum going at UMass Amherst, and you will be unstoppable.

We love you,
Dad, Mom, Kevin, Jackson, Tommy and Danny
You are our Superhero.



The Fall of Tatum

By Julianne Jang (IV)
& Ladan Mohamed (IV)
Contributing Writers

Jayson Tatum is one of the most well-known and talented basketball players in the National Basketball Association (NBA), and he is rapidly gaining followers globally. During the recent playoff season, the devastating news of his ruptured Achilles tendon struck the media, shocking both Boston Celtics fans and his own teammates.

During a game against the New York Knicks, Tatum lunged for a loose ball and fell awkwardly, clutching his leg in wicked pain. He was wheeled off the court after scoring 42 points, leaving behind an unsettled aftermath.

In a competitive and fast-paced sport like basketball, injuries are inevitable. Over the course of NBA history, players have gotten hurt in various ways. Some spectators, nowadays, can tell whether someone is severely injured or not just seconds after. Boston Latin School Classics teacher Mr. Michael Howard shares his insight: “As soon as [Tatum] went down, I knew [he hurt his] Achilles.”

Despite this, it is impossible to be accustomed to such an event. An injury can either make or break a player in a sport like basketball.

As an injured athlete herself, Lia Ogando (IV) specifically felt “shocked and surprised” after hearing the un-

fortunate news on *Instagram*. As both a basketball player and a Bostonian, this news really hit hard. Many athletes similarly sympathize with Tatum and are both confused and concerned about his future and his career.

Following such events, the future of the Celtics has also come into question. As a key contributor, Tatum has been relied on by many for his role in the team’s success. Without him, fans are concerned that the Celtics will not succeed or play at the same level in future endeavors. The loss of the playoffs following his absence only reinforces these concerns.

Even as an individual player, Tatum’s role on the team is undeniable. Kim Dinh (IV) believes that “one player, no matter how important they are, can have the ability to affect the whole team’s performance. His absence will cause a setback for the team.” As someone who does not watch basketball, Dinh forms her opinion based on her knowledge of a strong team connection and its impact on team performance. When it comes to any team, all members are critical.

Regardless of the recent negative reaction to Tatum’s injury, many stay hopeful. Mr. Howard maintains his hopes for the Celtics, sharing, “I have a more positive view. I think the team will not be the same level of great, but will rally around [Tatum]. I believe the team can help him recover from his injury, and he will.” In contrast to the majority opinion, Mr. Howard con-



Jayson Tatum gets carried off after rupturing his Achilles’ heel.

tinues to hold faith in the Celtics and their ability to return from this setback as a stronger team.

Coming from inside the team itself, Derrick White, who has built a close bond with Tatum, says, “Obviously, it’s tough to see. I texted him. And that was kind of all I could do [...] [to] just tell him that we believe in him and he’s going to have a great comeback from this setback.”

White embodies the moral support a team member should have for their teammates, remaining both professional and respectful about the seriousness of the situation. Many more

of his teammates also show their kindness, support and sympathy, prioritizing Tatum’s well-being.

Celtics Assistant Coach Sam Cassel is optimistic that Tatum will return to his best after he recovers from surgery, but expects that he will miss a major portion of the next season. They hope to grow from this incident — both Cassel and the Celtics emphasize that even when something irreversible happens, all you can do is move forward.

Cassel states, “We’ll grow from this as a staff. We’ll grow from this as a team. We’re the Boston Celtics, baby.”

Unmasking the Magic Behind Wolfie



Wolfie is a symbol of Boston Latin ’s team spirit and pride.

By Elizabeth Noronha (II)
Contributing Writer

What does a school mascot represent? Community. The perfect embodiment of both school spirit and culture is a school mascot. Although they are known for hyping up the crowd at sporting events, mascots also play a crucial role in student life through their enthusiasm for the school and their endless positivity.

At Boston Latin, we are so lucky to have our mascot, Wolfie, show up to

football games at both Harvard Stadium and Clemente Field, the annual Thanksgiving game pep rally and various other school events. Olivia Pappas (I) says that Wolfie “brings spirit to the school and the people who play him are very interactive with the crowd.” Students appreciate Wolfie’s hard work in making each sports event a memorable experience for both the crowd and athletes.

The Thanksgiving pep rally is a prime display of school spirit and an event that Wolfie has been attending for years. Alum Janelle Austin (néé Costa)

(’96) views the pep rally as a core memory in which the school mascot was always featured.

Wolfie excites both the crowd and the team through their enthusiasm and cheerleading. The mascot represents the student body and energizes the crowd at school events. Austin believes that any sporting event without Wolfie was subdued in comparison to the events with the mascot.

Wolfie additionally improves the outcome of sports games. The excitement of the crowd is often dependent

on the presence of Wolfie — it is never turned down by the student athletes and motivates them to play well.

Known for his school spirit, Trevor O’Brien (I) remembers enjoying when the Blue Man Group wrapped Wolfie in toilet paper at Senior Night this year. O’Brien adds, “Wolfie and I are two peas in a Latin school pod. We love taking long walks on the field, posing for pictures and of course sharing our BLS spirit with everyone!”

Many students have had similarly positive experiences with Wolfie and will remember them for years to come. Pappas, for example, spoke fondly about making a *TikTok* with the mascot at one of the football games last fall.

Austin says that Wolfie “was a recognizable symbol of the pack [...] at events or community events. [...] It was definitely something that people would understand as more of a school spirit symbol.” The wolf mascot is a representation of our school’s athleticism and good sportsmanship.

O’Brien believes that Wolfie is intertwined with our school’s history due to its connection with Romulus and Remus. Until its change in 2019, the School’s logo was formerly Lupa along with the two boys Romulus and Remus was a representation of Boston Latin ’s connection to Roman mythology and our education in the classics.

O’Brien also notes that “the wolf reflects the high work environment of Boston Latin School and shows the student’s commitment to rise to any challenge that presents itself.” The wolf mascot is the perfect representation of our School’s history and current curriculum.

Wolfie is a large part of our school pride, and we are proud to have him represent our athletics at BLS. O’Brien hopes for Wolfie to become a part of non-sporting events as well, such as Senior Kickoff or Asian Night to hype up the crowd.

Introducing the Enhanced Games



Founder D’Souza announces the Las Vegas 2026 Enhanced Games.

**By Kyle Lange (II)
& Chelsea Bateman (III)**

Contributing Writers

The Soviet Union’s use of anabolic steroids during the 1954 World Weightlifting Championships was the first confirmed use of performance-enhancing drugs (PEDs) in competitive sports. Since then, global athletic competitions have undergone changes to ban the use of PEDs by testing athletes regularly. Organizations running competitions like the Olympics have agreed that any sort of doping can put athletes at risk and inaccurately display their athletic abilities. Aaron D’Souza is seeking to change this current reality.

Aaron D’Souza is a famous Australian entrepreneur and the president of the Enhanced Games competition, an international, multi-million dollar sports competition meant to take place in the near

future. He studied law at Oxford University, where he was able to make important connections with powerful people, including billionaire Peter Thiel. Thiel is helping D’Souza to produce this unorthodox athletic competition. D’Souza came up with the idea to host an Enhanced Games after conversations with an Oxford bioethicist, and his disdain for corruption scandals in competitions where they are meant to be banned. Many private investors, including figures like Donald Trump Jr., back him up.

The Enhanced Games is a display of athletic strength from all over the world. It is different from the Olympics and other sports competitions, however, because it would not involve any drug testing. In fact, athletes are essentially encouraged to use PEDs to help them compete. The Enhanced Games’s concept of doping without limit has obviously become a very controversial topic, and there are

multiple viewpoints on both the ethical and physical aspects of such a contest. Two European swimmers have already started taking PEDs and enrolled in the games, which are currently scheduled to take place in May of 2026.

From a scientific standpoint, athletes’ use of PEDs could lead to a multitude of complications. For instance, athletes could develop addiction or health problems leading up to and after the games due to excessive doping. The long-term health effects of steroids have not been properly studied and remain uncertain.

BLS chemistry and biology teacher Ms. Gina Castellanos Ellsworth has a background in pharmaceuticals. At her lab, she — along with many professors in her department — has researched molecules that may eventually contribute to the development of chemotherapy. When asked about the Enhanced Games, she

was concerned about the long-term effects of PEDs on users and the impacts of doping on children. She specifically notes the ages of Olympians: “The youngest Olympic athlete was 13; some countries have a minimum of 16, but not all, and consent is tricky in those scenarios, particularly in the [United States].”

As for her thoughts on the ethical component of this competition, Ms. Castellanos will likely not tune into the Enhanced Games.

She says, “I think it violates the very ethos of what [international sports competitions] mean to the world at large.” She noted, however, that she may watch an individual event if there was a possibility a previous record would be broken.

The Boston Latin School athletic community also holds unique opinions on the Enhanced Games. As athletes and students in an environment that pushes them to try as hard as they can, the creation of Enhanced Games may strongly affect their personal thoughts on PEDs.

Aina Nguyen (II), a member of Boston Latin Powerlifting Club, tells us that she “definitely wouldn’t want to watch the Enhanced Games” because she does not agree with “the amount of steroid use it could come with.” She also shares that as a member of the powerlifting team, a sport that is intensely impacted by doping, she would not find the type of competition displayed entertaining, because it “isn’t showing athletes’ real strengths and how hard they worked authentically.”

Although some students shy away from the competitions, some students may believe that it can still be interesting to watch Enhanced Games.

Jared Acevedo (III), who is on Boston Latin’s varsity track team, says that he thinks watching the Enhanced Games “would be cool.” Track is another sport affected by PEDs, and, similar to Ms. Castellanos, Jared thinks it would be interesting “to see people break new records,” even if he does not necessarily agree with the use of doping in most sports competitions.

In the end, the idea of the Enhanced Games being held is certainly both an intriguing and controversial one, but it raises both ethical and health-based questions about what doping means for the future of sports competitions and medicine.

Familia Supra Omnia: Traditions of the Pack

By Maya Lanfer (III)
Staff Writer



Powerlifting

“BLS Powerlifting has [...] unconditional unity. [...] Because powerlifting is an individual sport, people have their own routines to set up each lift, but we are always very sure to show up for every lifter,” says Kate Lincecum (II). The lifters sit on the ground right in front of the competition platform so that each lifter can see and hear their team cheering them on. Lincecum adds, “We truly are a pack, sticking together through the meet and training.”



Sailing

The BLS sailing team has several traditions of their own. While they are split up on the water, they make sure to take time to do things as a team. Elio Kohn (III) comments, “Every day before practice, we do a run down and back along the pier in all our gear.” On the first days of practice, they all bring juice jugs, with Tropicana being the favored brand, to cut open and make into bailing jugs. On that same theme, they give their seniors personalized bailing jugs as a thank you and a goodbye at the end of the season.



Soccer

“After every away soccer game, we roll down the window of the bus and sing ‘Baby’ by Justin Bieber and ‘Don’t Stop Believin’ by Journey to anyone on the streets who will listen,” says Ilana Schwartz (II). This is just one of the BLS varsity soccer team’s many traditions. Other rituals include printing out quotations and putting them in their socks on game day, improvement cards, spirit bags and team dinners at Bertucci’s. This year, the team captains also began a tradition of writing individual letters to all the players at the end of the season.



Tennis

Since tennis is often a more individual sport, athletes sometimes have differing personal rituals. Either way, they always make sure that they are properly fueled for their matches. “Tennis is an individual sport, but we find ways to connect as a team before and after with meals and [make] sure to cheer our teammates on,” says Harkin Lee (III). When playing doubles tennis, they always make sure to high-five or congratulate each other after every good point or set.

Caleb Kohn (I) Reaches A Milestone

By **Trevor Gracombe (II)**
Staff Writer

In the fall, you can see Caleb Kohn (I) dominating the soccer pitch. In the winter, he is blowing his competition out of the water in the swimming pool, and by the spring, he can be found conquering the Boston Harbor with the sailing team.

Throughout his illustrious athletic career at Boston Latin School, Kohn has excelled in each of these sports, which he dedicated himself to for many years. Next year, he will continue his commitment to sailing at Williams College in Williamstown, Massachusetts, while also studying physics and mathematics.

Two-time National Basketball Association MVP Steph Curry has spoken repeatedly about the importance of diversification in sports, saying, “Because [...] you might be better [than your peers] at any certain sport, you might feel comfortable in that space, and that zone. But you don’t get to push yourself, you don’t get to test yourself and how you deal with failure and success.”

Kohn is the perfect embodiment of Curry’s sentiment, and he has had plenty of success in all three of his sports throughout his high school career.

When asked about his athletic goals, Kohn says that his exact goals varied from sport to sport. He states, “For soccer, as a striker, I wanted to score goals. Pretty simple.” He had no trouble doing that, as he has been a key member of the boys’ varsity soccer team

for two years. In his senior season, he notched a team high of seven goals in his senior season, which earned him a spot as a Dual County League All Star.

With little rest, Kohn then moved on to be captain of the boys’ swim team, where he qualified for sectionals in two events: the 50-meter and 100-meter freestyles. After the swimming season concluded, he moved on to sailing.

During the sailing season last year, he achieved his favorite accomplishment of his entire BLS career — winning the Mass Bay League Championship. Of his many accolades, this one in particular was his favorite because “everyone on the team worked really hard and finished top four in their event. BLS was champion for the first time ever.”

According to Kohn, the majority of his success is derived from “[his] ability to learn from teammates.” Despite all of his incredible accomplishments on the field and on the water, he remains down-to-earth and humble in the classroom.

BLS physics and junior varsity soccer coach, Mr. Aaron Osowiecki, adds, “Caleb commits himself to success. Whether it is showing up in West Roxbury each day for training or completing each night’s problem set, Caleb always came through. With persistence, Caleb would work on a problem until he figured it out.”

This persistence has been a clear motivation for Kohn’s success — both in school and in sports. In addition to his numerous All Star awards, Kohn has also won a plethora of academic



Caleb Kohn (I) sails strong with Mary Lee (I) on the Boston Harbor.

awards: Seals of Biliteracy in Latin and Spanish, the AP Scholar with Honor award and Approbation with Distinction every year at BLS. He also earned the Menino Scholarship and the Adams Scholarship, and he was a finalist for the National Merit Scholarship.

Kohn’s leadership has also stood out to his teammates, classmates and teachers alike. Mr. Osowiecki reminisces, “Caleb was chosen by his peers twice to lead the investigation (a scientific inquiry in AP Physics C: Electricity and Magnetism). While Caleb had almost as much trouble wrangling this year’s goofy group as I do, he used his skills to go around and ensure all the different teams followed the instructions and

helped them with the equipment.”

In addition to his leadership prowess in the classroom, Kohn has gained many skills as captain of both the swim team and the sailing team.

Kohn recalls the goal that has stuck with him throughout his high school career: “In both school and sports, I wanted to make an impact on my community.”

It is clear that Kohn truly means this: from organizing the sailing team to tutoring younger students in Latin, he has undeniably contributed to the school community in countless ways. It will be exciting to see Kohn compete at the college level while he pursues his interests in mathematics and physics.

Sports Selectivity: Why Some Sports Exist



BLS girls’ crew team rows down the Charles River after a race.

By **Christina Luo (III)**
& **Isabelle O’Donnell (III)**
Contributing Writers

At a school that offers a wide array of extracurricular clubs and sports, it seems as though there are unlimited possibilities for anyone to excel at their talents and find their passions. Boston Latin School offers an astounding 20 sports to students at all different levels and points in their athletic careers.

Sports are undoubtedly a positive contribution to the growth of a student — they give students an opportunity to escape from the pressure of their academics while also offering several benefits, such as improvements in physical health, discipline, teamwork and leadership skills. In team-based sports, communication, cooperation and

open-mindedness are necessary skills to succeed in not only the sport, but also in school and beyond.

At BLS, many students excel in a variety of sports and receiving awards and recognitions. Beyond these tangible achievements, sports also play an important role in a student’s development. Participating in a sports team develops skill, fosters friendship and prioritizes recreation. These attributes, however, are not specific to the alma mater.

What sets BLS apart is the variety of sports it offers, allowing students to find something they enjoy and build a community around it. With sports like rowing and sailing, BLS’s vast expanse of athletic opportunities allows students to gain unique experiences that they might not get at another school.

At BLS, sports are either funded by Boston Public Schools, BLS itself or

the Boston Latin School Association (BLSA). The BLSA is an independent nonprofit organization that supports BLS and funds departments such as the Arts Department and the Athletic Department.

BLS Athletic Director Mr. Jack Owens explains that the “BLSA, through their hard work and philanthropic efforts, is responsible for the remainder of the budget which allows BLS to compete at the Division I level in one of the best leagues in the state, the Dual County League.”

For example, the BLSA funded all of the renovations to the Roche (Upper) Gym, improvements to the Costello Fitness Center, uniforms and equipment, facility rental fees and more. The BLSA financially supports both Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Association (MIAA) sponsored sports as well as sports that are not MIAA-sanctioned, such as crew, fencing and sailing. Aside from the BLSA, BPS provides funding for things such as coaching, transportation and officials.

While BLS offers many of the more popular sports, such as football, basketball, track and field, soccer and more, some have noticed that other sports, such as field hockey or rugby, are not offered. Although there was a rugby club in the past, it was halted due to both COVID-19 and leadership graduating. Field hockey is also not deemed a popular sport in Boston; there are very few programs, and many fields are not suitable for field hockey.

Mr. Owens notes, however, that the “athletic department is always open to new sports, so long as there is interest, a plan for sustainable longevity and growth, and it works within the construct of the BLS Athletics budget.”

Although funding for each sport

offered at BLS differs, athletes are rewarded with coaches who are passionate and encouraging, as well as the opportunity to build lifelong connections in a like-minded and supportive community.

Anna Carey (V), a current member of the BLS crew team, reflects on how crew has helped her grow: “It gave me a large sense of community [...] and helped me realize how one little thing that someone does can affect so many other people.” Carey furthermore brings to light the fact that crew is accessible to all. She points out how crew has given a sense of community and support to those who want to participate in other sports but have impeding long-term injuries or disabilities.

Not only do sports benefit physical wellbeing, but participating in BLS sports also gives students a sense of belonging.

The BLS sailing team offers a sense of togetherness, connectedness and inclusion. Anne Kashiwagi (III) describes how for her, sailing was a transition from an individual sport to a team sport, stating that after joining sailing, she “learned what it is to be a team,” how to “work together” and the benefits of “playful competition.” Sailing also helps foster relationships between BLS and other schools, as “there are even people on the BLS team that come from other schools that don’t offer a sailing team.”

Sports are essential to BLS’s mission to thrive — it is important for students to pursue their interests alongside others with the same passions and form social connections, which further strengthens the BLS community. These opportunities are all greatly beneficial to the BLS community and they provide an outlet for healthy recreation and connection.

Spring Sports Recap

By **Dimitra Minasidis (II)**
& **Alice Fragasso (II)**

Staff Writer and Contributing Writer

Baseball

The Boston Latin School baseball team had an incredible turnaround this season. Starting off at a worrying 2-6 win-loss record, the team could feel the losses hanging over them, but it was just the incentive they needed. Boys’ baseball captain Amos Bergen (I) shares that the team knew they had to strengthen their offense if they wanted to turn this season around. Since then, the boys have only lost one game, landing a 12-7 record and securing them a spot in the State Tournament. Co-captain Charlie Hauck (I) reflects on the progress the team has made this season, saying, “We are a very close-knit group, which made it possible for us to climb out of the hole we dug ourselves into. Only a special team could do what we have done so far.” The Wolfpack was truly the underdog this season, and it is outstanding how far they have come.

Girls’ and Boys’ Crew

Both the boys’ and the girls’ crew teams have had impressive seasons so far. Weather challenges caused two races to be cancelled, limiting the teams’ chances to qualify for bigger races such as nationals. Despite this, the team has seen a lot of improvement this season. Varsity captain Alexa Schmitt (I) comments, “All of our boats have seen a lot of improvement, particularly throughout our week of April Break practice, where we were on the water twice a day.” Their dedicated training during break is what brought them to seventh place in ranked scholastic teams as they head into their championship season. Girls’ Head Coach Mr. Conor Fearon shares that “among the highs [of the season] were our notable victories and the time drops we’ve achieved over the weeks.” Coach Fearon also adds that the teams’ constant improvement showed “resilience, drive and belief,” which helped them qualify for NEIRA (New England Interscholastic Rowing Association).

As for the boys’ team, captain Rhys Crawford (I) shares that “this season has been one of steady growth.” Every member of the team put in a tremendous amount of effort and dedication to continue their trend of improvement. At this point in the season, Crawford comments that their “hard work is starting to pay off.” This is exemplified in how both the first varsity eight and the under 17 four qualified for nationals, which will be held in Florida. Such a notable achievement is a testament to “the gains [they’ve] made in both speed and cohesion,” Crawford adds. Aside from their success on the water, a special moment this season was “being able to spend time with teammates,” which Schmitt shares “is always a highlight for [them].”

Girls’ and Boys’ Lacrosse

Despite suffering many injuries this season, the girls’ lacrosse team has pushed through and made it to the playoffs. Varsity captain Charlotte Wall (I) shares that despite the injuries, the players “have come closer together as a team and have gotten to experiment with different positions.” Coping with many injuries was a challenge for the team, but they quickly adjusted and continued to work together. Wall also shares that the injured players continued to play a contributing role on the team by “showing up to cheer everyone on” and bringing enthusiasm and energy to encourage the team. Maintaining this positive attitude and perseverance helped against some of their toughest opponents, including Newton South High School, where the team eventually came out victorious after going into overtime. The boys’ lacrosse team has also shown an incredible amount of perseverance and determination throughout their season. With one of their star players, goalie Will Ferraro (I), saving 104 shots in only four games, the team is extremely well-equipped and prepared as they go onto the state championship playoffs.

Powerlifting

The BLS powerlifting team (BLSPL) has reached new heights this season, earning top placements at each competition. Lifters competed in state, national and international meets and swept through each one. They took home first place for the girls’ team and first place for combined team at the 2025 High School Nationals Championship, which featured Kate Lincecum (II), Aidan Mak (II) and Paris Do (IV) in first place and Olurimi Alofe (I), Emily Polcaro (I), Fabiana Polcaro (III) and Emmanuella Gustave-Paul (IV) in the top 5 for their weight class. Some powerlifters competed at the International Drug Free Powerlifting Association international student and university championship, where they also earned first place for the girls’ team. Aside from their impressive rankings, BLSPL has grown as a community, reaching a record-high of over 60 lifters this year. Although their season has ended, you can still find lifters in the weight room talking and joking with one another because, as BLSPL President Emily Polcaro (I) shares, “you come for the weights but stay for the people.” Polcaro encourages new lifters to join the team, where they will be welcomed by next year’s president, Kate Lincecum (II), and the new board.

Sailing

The BLS sailing team is sailing smoothly through their season. During their first regatta, the BLS IA division — Caleb Kohn (I), Mary Lee (I) and Charis Neave (III) — won with only 9 points overall. Although many starters were absent during their quad meet and they had to do a lot of boat shuffling, the team managed to win against all groups except for one. In the Donald Fleet Race, the Wolfpack placed seventh out of 20, with senior captains Lee and Kohn earning first place in division A, and Charlie Guthrie (V) and Elio Kohn (III) securing 15th place in division B. The team has been working hard all season and will miss their seniors.

Softball

The BLS softball team has had quite the season this year, ending with a 5-14 record. Despite this, the girls worked hard and maintained a positive attitude throughout the season. After every game, they shout-out the players who had shone on the field, promoting companionship and effort. The eight seniors have made extremely valuable contributions to the team this year. In the Dual County League, Bridget Ball (I) ranked second for the stolen base category and Christina George (I) ranked third for the win category. Captain Ava Enright (I) fielded a perfect 1.00 and went 2-3 with an in-the-park home run, five stolen bases and two runs batted all in one game. Abigail Rosenfield (I) helped tremendously in their win against Brookline, going 4-4 with three runs batted in and drawing one walk. Kelly McKenna (I) is first on the leaderboard for fielding percentage at a perfect 1.000. Sylvie Hove (I) played a crucial role in energizing the team during a tough game, getting a hit at the most opportune time. Captain Cortney Lenz (I) led the team through the season, placing top three in triples, slugging percentage, runs batted in, earned run average, home runs and on-base percentage. We cannot wait to see what the team has in store for us next season!

Track and Field

This season, the track team has seen a lot of new participants, giving the team more opportunity and depth as it took on some of its fiercer competitors. Varsity captain Benny Pierre Louis (I) shares that it was inspiring to see returning runners “beat their personal records and set a good example for the new teammates.” The unfortunate weather this season, however, presented a challenge for the track team as many meets were cancelled,

limiting the athletes’ chances to qualify for divisional and state championships and, as Pierre Louis says, “testing the team’s durability to work in any condition.” The team has nevertheless seen numerous individuals and relay teams qualify and go on to divisionals, which will take place from May 29 to May 31. As for the seniors, Head Coach Sean Nyhan shares that “this senior class is going to be greatly missed [as they are] one of the best groups of leaders we have ever seen.” The seniors and the captains on the team have worked hard to create a positive and uplifting environment, which has a significant impact on the younger athletes. Because of the constant effort they put in, Coach Nyhan comments that “the future looks bright for the team.”

Girls’ and Boys’ Tennis

The girls’ tennis team has had a strong season so far, even reaching the No. 1 rank in the Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Association girls’ tennis rankings. With an impressive 11-3 record, Vanessa Vu (II) comments that “each loss has been an incredibly close match,” reflecting the team’s work ethic and perseverance throughout the season. The boys’ tennis team started strong, winning their match 1-0 against Catholic Memorial and making playoffs. As playoffs and state tournaments are approaching, captain Niamh Govender (I) shares that she believes the girls’ team has the potential to make it far in the tournament and maintain the strength they have shown all season. In addition to their strong performance, Govender also notes that the team’s dynamic this year “is special; it feels like we are all one big family.” We wish them the best of luck with the rest of the season!

Boys’ Volleyball

With a positive record and an early entrance to the playoffs, the boys’ volleyball team has had a strong season. This year, the Wolfpack defeated the teams that they had lost to in previous years, which is a cause of pride for the boys. These wins, of course, come with a fair share of losses, but captain John Tran (I) shares, “[Although] there is stuff that we wished we could do better, and teams that we played where we wished we could’ve done better, [...] as one of the upperclassmen on the team, I can comfortably say that I am proud of each and every individual on this team.” The boys put in a lot of work and dedication this season, and their effort shows. As the seniors prepare to say their goodbyes, Nicolas Tse (I) comments, “The team has had lots of fun throughout this season and is excited, while sad, for it to slowly come to a close.”

Seniors’ Most Memorable Sports Moments

Khaya Dryden-Peterson

“As we crossed the finish line at States, everywhere around us there was applause, and we were quick to join in. Arlington-Belmont (AB) was still coming down the course after a hard week of having their trailer stolen and their boats crashed. All the teams that were competing knew what AB had been through and we were so proud of them. They had made it to states, practiced and raced in shared boats from other teams, and been resilient. This extreme joy and enthusiasm for others is what I have experienced in my six years on the BLS crew team and it is what makes crew so special. We paddled back to the dock in tears, both about the beauty of sportsmanship that we had witnessed and been a part of, and about sadness of graduating and leaving the team that we love.”

Jackson Prinn

“My most memorable moment as an athlete on the basketball team was winning a playoff game against Winchester. Having the opportunity to play in front of all my family and friends as the underdog and pull off an upset was incredible. I made so many lasting friendships through the program on the basketball team. Even now in the off-season, we continue to workout and play basketball together. Not only did I meet such great teammates, I also had an amazing coach staff [...] who believed in us. My advice to a younger athlete is to stay consistent, and don’t be afraid to make mistakes when working toward your goals. Surround yourself with people who have similar mindsets and goals as you, and you’ll all succeed as a group. Last thing, enjoy playing your sport while you can in highschool; you’ll miss it when it’s over.”

Andrew Xue

“Overall, [most memorable] was the respect we had for each other even when things got tough. Through all the half-joke, half-critiques of each other’s backhands and win-loss records, the loose tension between us eased into camaraderie as we stuck around for the guy clutching out a long match or even just shouted a mutual word of encouragement across the court. Suddenly, what normally would’ve been a ‘watch where you’re going’ or ‘who do you think you are’ became a ‘great shot, nice forehand’ or a ‘stay in it, next point.’ After that, though, it was back to the backhand critiques. My ultimate advice to underclassmen is to take it easy. I’m sure your future work environment will be similar, but here, you get to have some fun while you’re at it.”

SENIORS



YOU GOT THIS!

♥️🐾♥️🎓2025🎓♥️🐾♥️

Dear Katie,

As you graduate from BLS, please know how incredibly proud we are of your accomplishments and in the young woman you've become.

Between your NHS induction, your 250+ service hours and your work at Franklin Park Zoo, it's clear you have the intelligence, dedication and drive to succeed, and yet we are heartened by the kind of little human you've grown up to be: kind, compassionate, generous, responsible and deeply passionate about making a positive difference. Not to mention, you are naturally beautiful, smart, witty and talented. It has been our absolute joy to watch you grow up!

We know the road hasn't always been easy. You work incredibly hard. You might not always see what we see, but know your light is radiant.

We wish you, happiness and satisfaction in every venture. Your voice and your light are exactly what this crazy world needs the most of right now.

All our love,
Mom, Dad, Dylan, Jack, Bryan,
Papa, Maremare, Danny, Grandma and Grandpa



CONGRATULATIONS!
KATIE KELLY
BOSTON LATIN SCHOOL
CLASS OF 2025
B
UMASS BOSTON
ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE AND BIOLOGY

You cannot get through a single day without having an impact on the world around you. What you do makes a difference, and you have to decide what kind of difference you want to make.

JANE GOODALL

Congratulations Catherine Cox!!!

CONGRATULATIONS!

CATHERINE COX



BOSTON LATIN SCHOOL

CLASS OF 2025

COLLEGE OF THE HOLY CROSS

ENGLISH AND MUSIC

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

*Goodbye Boston Latin School...Hello Holy Cross!! Woo-Hoo!!!
So Proud of you!!
Love You to the Moon and Back!! Marie xoxo*



Congratulations
Hanley and the
Class of 2025!
We are so
proud of you!

Love,
Mom, Dad
and Gretchen



We're proud of you,
Gideon, for not only
working so hard, but for
your integrity, humility
and kindness. We know
you'll continue to suc-
ceed with your strong
mind, strong character
and dependence on God.
We love you!
-Mom, Dad,
Charis and Enoch



Islay,
We are so proud of all your hard work
and accomplishments; you make every
place better.
Sei un incanto, T.!

Mamma, Babbo, Lydia,
Camille, Kenny, Luca and Nonno.



Congratulations Lia Jacqueline Tripp!
Your hard work and determination have made us
incredibly proud!

We love you!
xo Mom, Dad, Aidan & Evan



Congratulations Bix!

***Rotman at U Toronto
is so lucky to get you!***

***Love,
Mom, Dad, Casals,
Honey, Cocoa & The Don***



Congrats Ramu!
We're so proud of
you! May Allaah
the exalted grant
you success in all
your endeavors.
- Aya, Oni,
Amma, Abba and
Coco

Good luck - Hish



“Forever is composed of nows.”
-Emily Dickinson

***Be sure to pause and
enjoy this one, Bella!***



***Congratulations,
Eleonora!***

We are so proud
of everything you
have achieved and
we can't wait to see
what the next chap-
ter holds! With so
much love from all
your family, near
and far.

