



## Features

It was an unprecedented year for José De Jesús to take the reigns as Head of School. Yet even after all that's happened, he's still smiling.

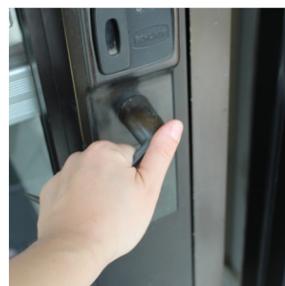
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## NEWS

The *Spectator* conducted an in-depth look at the measures the school is taking to reopen safely and responsibly while maintaining LFA's spirit.

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## SPORTS

Even with the spring athletic season canceled, there are still college commitments to celebrate, with or without a signing ceremony.

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# End of Year Awards

## SENIOR PRIZES

- Aurelian Book Prize.....Angelina Chan  
For the students who embodies the values of the Aurelian Honor Society.
- Alexander Award.....Alex Zhou  
For the senior boy who best exemplifies the spirit and ideals of LFA.
- American Legion Award.....Anna Schilling  
For the senior who exemplifies honor, courage, scholarship, leadership, & service.
- Butler Award.....Annie Gifford  
For the senior who has earned academic achievement through perseverance.
- DAR Award.....Michael Lentskevich  
For the senior who exemplifies service, leadership, patriotism & dependability.
- Faculty Award.....Michael Lentskevich  
For the student who has in thought, word, and deed embodied the ideal of scholarship.
- Freeland Award.....Sophie Waimon  
For the senior girl who best exemplifies the spirit and ideals of LFA.
- Hixon Award.....Audrey McGrail  
For the senior who is outstanding in friendliness and concern for others.
- Service Above Self Award.....Elizabeth Campisi  
For the student who is personally committed to creating positive, public change.
- Speidel Award.....Caitlin Anasi  
For the senior girl who is outstanding in sincerity, courtesy, and thoughtfulness.
- Vaile Award.....Anna Schilling  
For the senior who has most imaginatively discharged administrative responsibilities.
- Wetzel Award.....Elizabeth Campisi  
For the senior girl who has best exemplified the spirit of Ferry Hall.
- Waldie Award.....Giselle Annan  
For the senior who, by the nature of his or her presence, has substantially impacted LFA.

## DEPARTMENTAL AND UNDERCLASSMEN AWARDS

- Harvest Hope Award: .....Michael Lentskevich and Sophie Waimon
- Jonathan Fremd Award: .....Rachel Claxton
- McLaughlin Prize: .....Ricky Ascroft
- Jewel J. Jackson Award: .....Lizzie Dozois
- E.J. Barry Language Award: .....Nicole Tong and Isis Burgos
- Kulieke Award for Spanish: .....Lauren Salliotte and Angelina Chan
- Nelson Award: .....Michael Lentskevich
- Overdorf History Prize: .....Hannah Liu
- Delaplaine Burnet Prize in Economics: .....Rich Park
- English Award: .....Audrey McGrail
- Dana W. Niswender Prize: .....Simone Cathey
- English as a Second Language Award: .....Anna Freyman
- Ainsworth Award: .....Min Jae Shin
- Math Department Award: .....Calvin Osborne
- Louch Award: .....Elizabeth Campisi, Michael Lentskevich, and Alex Zhou
- McCormick Prize in Drama: .....Xueyun "Flora" Zhai
- McCormick Prize in Music: .....Lina Wang
- McCormick Prize in Visual Arts: .....Ani Plambeck
- Everett E. Grace Music Prize: .....Alex Zhou
- Fine Arts Department Award: .....Michael Lentskevich and Sophie Waimon
- Pridmore Award: .....Graham Lin
- Taylor Award: .....Sky Wang
- Theater Tech Award: .....Conor Dranfield
- Yearbook Award: .....Giselle Annan and Shaliya Heard
- Library Media Innovation Award.....Giselle Annan
- Journalism Award: .....Angelina Chan and Mia Walvoord

Cum Laude (seniors inducted this year): Isis Burgos, Elizabeth Campisi, Mia Castle, Angelina Chan, Charnice Hoegnifioh, Michael Lentskevich, Jiayang (Cher) Li, Olivia (Liv) Markey, Rich Park, George Reavis, Lauren Salliotte, Marlena Stathos, Nicole Tong, Cholapat (Turbo) Varongchayakul, Tram Vu, Sophie Waimon, Mia Walvoord, Jiajing (Lisa) Wang, Jiayu (Lina) Wang, Hanhee (Aliana) Yoon, Kefan (Chloe) Zhong, and Yuchen (Alex) Zhou

## ATHLETIC AWARDS

- Freshmen Athletes of the Year: .....Rachael Claxton and Harry Kotlarz
- Sophomore Athletes of the Year: .....Michael Nowak and Natalie Putzel
- Junior Athletes of the Year: .....Dagny Birkerts, Lizzie Dozois, and Max Scott
- Senior Athletes of the Year: .....Annie Gifford and Kenny Turelli
- David O. MacKenzie Award (Male).....Dario Mancari
- David O. MacKenzie Award (Female).....Audrey McGrail

## STUDENT LEADERSHIP 2020-2021

- Prefects: Constantine Alexos, Sebastian Delgado, Lizzie Dozois, Christina Franco, Frank Gu, Ramya Herman, Rachel Johns, Briana Murphy, Calvin Osborne, Gigi Taillon, and Tyler Watts
- Proctors: Frank Gu, Thomas Langston, Tri Vien Le, Sebastian Delgado, Dylan Quane, Rachel Johns, Trang Pham, Tyler Watts, Aiina Wang, Christina Franco, Abby Dandrow, Briana Murphy, Eden Kalaj-Rice, Ed Nunez, Halbert Kim, and Arthur Pan
- All-School President: .....Nick Alutto
- Discipline Committee Chair for 2020-2021: .....Lizzie Dozois
- Master Keys: .....Antonio Costa, James Kuhns, and Natasha Sokhi
- Masters of the Houses: .....Sebastian Delgado and Constantine Alexos
- STUDENT COUNCIL ELECTIONS WILL BE HELD IN THE FALL
- Chief Editors of The Spectator.....Ramya Herman and Garrison Sloan (print);  
Nick Alutto (digital)

# Moments with Bill Dolbee



Photo by Bill Dolbee

Bill Dolbee, a long-time teacher of history, is a force to be reckoned with, much like a Roman soldier.

Three current members of *The Spectator* staff are advisees of retiring Associate Head of School, Bill Dolbee, so while a history of his tenure and unparalleled impact follows on the next page, we thought we'd begin with favorite memories of having him as an advisor from juniors James Kuhns, Briana Murphy, and starting with senior, Nate Koh.

### Nate's Story:

I was a sophomore, completely new to Lake Forest Academy, and I had very little idea where to go. My classes were confusing, especially with the block schedule. My advisor was someone called Mr. Dolbee, who I didn't really know much about besides his impressive-sounding title, Associate Head of School. I was not expecting the jovial, cheerful Mr. Dolbee that greeted me when I walked up the Reid staircase to meet with him before school technically started. He didn't make me feel like I was new, or out of place.

One thing about Mr. Dolbee that always stuck with me was his constant optimism. There was never a time where he didn't

believe that I could ace that test, or win a regatta, or run that track meet. Even if I didn't do as well as I wanted to, especially in track, he always showed up to them, in the bleachers, cheering me on. He was at every musical performance, whether I was backstage or on the spotlights, and enjoying the experience the whole time. From the lighthearted jokes in our advisory about my sailing to cheering on members of the advisory in the annual rock-paper-scissors contest, Mr. Dolbee made all of us more than just a group of students from different years tossed together. He made sure that his advisees were friends.

It's hard to not smile in Mr. Dolbee's advisory, with all the dad jokes being told or being told that you're going to do great today. From the racoon hat prank that Mr. Dolbee has tried to pull on countless people walking past his office door, or all the times Jackson George has nailed his target with a mini-catapult, Mr. Dolbee is the best advisor I could've asked for, and has been a mentor whenever I'm unsure of what I want to do. Without his unrelenting support, I wouldn't have become the person I am today.

# Dolbee's advisees share their favorite memories

Continued from page 1...

## James' Story:

My first hockey game as a Lake Forest Academy Caxy was a good one. I was scared, nervous, and, to be honest, really didn't want to be put in the game. I remember looking at the crowd and seeing a few students, but something that really surprised me was Mr. Dolbee, my advisor, was watching our game.

"Why would he want to come to my game at 7:00 pm when we have school tomorrow?" I remember asking myself. I knew I was not good enough to be put in the game, and I also told him I wasn't going to be playing, so, truly, why did he show up?

Mr. Dolbee showed up because he values the relationships with his advisees more than anything else. He showed up because he believed in me, and he wanted to show it. As a freshman, I had my doubts. I wasn't sure if people would like me or if I would always be known as "Little Kuhns." That's where Mr. Dolbee shined.

By showing up to my sports games, Mr. Dolbee gave me confidence. Every day since, he has taught me to be my true, authentic self. Whether that was fist-bump-

ing the air every time we walked past each other in the hallway or urging me to develop my four-year plan with specific interests in mind, he taught me to harness my talents, and for that I am forever grateful.

In the end, Mr. Dolbee has served as my mentor for the last three years. He has ushered me through the gauntlet that is LFA classes, and without his help I feel like I would not be the same person I am today. Looking back on everything Mr. Dolbee has done for me, it is crazy just how far a simple act of respect like attending someone's sports game can go in developing a person's courage and confidence.

## Briana's Story:

The first question Mr. Dolbee asks me or anybody who joins our advisory is "What's your favorite dessert?" Surprisingly, the answer is usually ice cream. This question helps break the ice and allows his advisees to feel comfortable in the advisory.

That was something Mr. Dolbee always helped me with. He has always been a constant in my LFA career, supporting me in everything I do from track meets to play performances to congratulating me on my academic accomplishments. He was always there for us and interested in whatever



Photo by Bill Dolbe

The Dolbee advisory taking pictures to celebrate a great advisory breakfast.

er we are passionate about.

Whenever I needed advice, help with figuring out life, or if I just needed to complain, Mr. Dolbee was always there for me despite how busy he was. He constantly brings joy to our advisory with his dad jokes and encourages us to have fun in and out of school.

Every time someone in the advisory has a birthday, we're greeted with doughnuts and a gift. We sing a very rushed version of happy birthday, and we all wait to see what the gift will be. These are usually gag gifts that

become well known and frequently sought out objects during advisory.

The most notable of the gifts have been a mini catapult, a tiny tube man, and a balancing game. If it wasn't obvious from the gifts, Mr. Dolbee is a really caring and fun person to be around. He constantly brightened my day during advisory and morning meetings. He helped me learn from mistakes, grow into the person I am today, and supported all of my endeavors. For that, I'm extremely thankful, and I wish him the best in the newest chapter of his life.

## History of a living legend: The Bill Dolbee archives

By Tyler Watts  
Staff Writer

To put it lightly, a lot changes in thirty-six years. Presidencies, the top of the charts, hairstyles, and cars--all aspects of society mold and morph as time continues. But, amid currents of change, William Dolbee has continued to stand as a pillar of the Lake Forest Academy community.

In the fall of 1984, Dolbee began his journey at LFA as a history teacher. Mrs. Rita MacAyeal, Director of LFA's Library and

Archives, recalls being in his class a few years after he arrived at the school.

"He taught me US History when I was at LFA," said MacAyeal. "One thing that stands out to me is that he really brought history to life in the classroom; he got us engaged in looking at history from multiple perspectives and thinking about the voices of history that we don't always hear. It was really inspiring to me."

Regardless of the administrative roles he has served--Dean of Faculty (2003-2008, interim 2012 and 2017), Assistant Head

of School (2005-2008), Associate Head of School (2008-present)--Dolbee has taught at least one history class every year. His assemblage of classes reaches across several corners of the subject of history. Dolbee has taught Regular and Advanced Placement United States History, World History, African-American History, Russian History, Ancient and Medieval Studies, The Sixties, The Vietnam War, and The World since 1945.

Dolbee's phenomenal grasp on the craft of teaching history resulted in him serving as the History Department Chair from 1988-2003 and being the 1991 recipient of the Laima Salcius Faculty Award. More recently, in 2018, Dolbee was named the inaugural Ned & Lynn Jessen Chair in the Humanities. According to Christian Dozois, an LFA History Teacher and past Department Chair, Dolbee has shaped the history curriculum and "oversaw a significant revision of the writing program in the courses." Dolbee never grew complacent amid his successes and completed various professional development seminars and educational institutes, and he applied his learnings to the classroom and curriculum.

Outside of the classroom, Dolbee has been a great part of student life as a 15-year dorm parent and Dorm Head of boys' and girls' dormitories, a faculty advisor for Model UN and the Black Awareness Table (which preceded BSU), a patron of the arts, and as a felt presence in athletics.

"Without offending anyone, I can honestly say that no one at this school in my 15 years can hold a candle to Mr. Dolbee when it comes to his support of Athletics," said Darrin Madeley, Director of Athletics at LFA.

Dolbee has served as Assistant Football

Coach and Assistant Softball Coach, he has worked the clock for Boys and Girls Basketball games, and has worked on the football chain crew managing signals on the sidelines even when he no longer coached the team. Another admirable aspect of his involvement is Dolbee's unmatched attendance at athletic events.

"You see him at away games and home games no matter the climate. Raining, snowing, 90-degrees, and he is there," Madeley said.

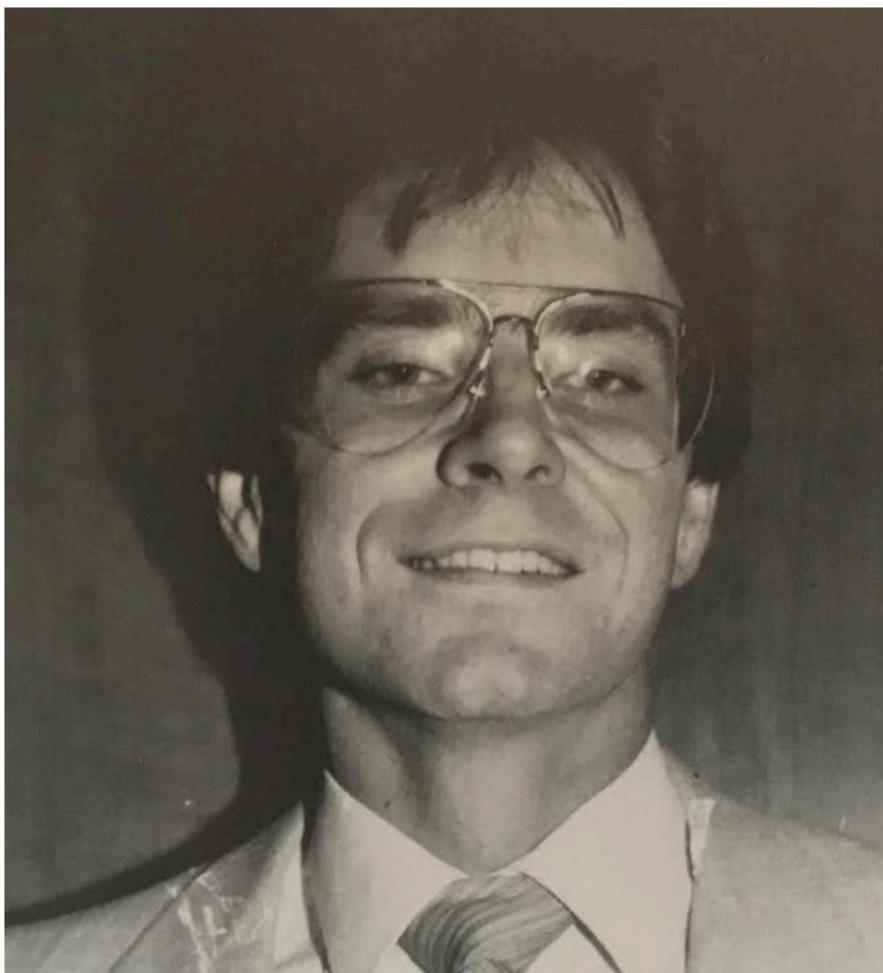
All around, Dolbee does not simply act with heart and care; he personifies heart and care.

From Tom Johnson, Dean of Faculty, "(Dolbee) is always the person that I turn to when I need sound advice or just a sounding board. He is a great listener, and very empathetic. While he has been content to sink quietly into the background, he has been involved in a wide variety of initiatives over his years here at LFA."

Lake Forest Academy would not be the school it is without Dolbee's incredible work and dedication to the many layers that mesh into the beautiful learning environment we have today.

"For over 30 years he has been the triple threat that LFA employees should measure their year against, but what his lasting legacy for me will be his love and dedication for the students at LFA," said Madeley.

Dolbee's phenomenally involved career at LFA is an inspiration to the entire community. While not every Caxy will have thirty-six years to cover ground in a legendary manner like Dolbee, everyone can be inspired to be as present, open-minded, spirited, and kind as he has been. That will make all the difference.



Courtesy of Rita MacAyeal

Mr. Dolbee's yearbook photo from his first school year teaching at LFA, 1984-1985.

# Goodbye Caxys

## LFA's Class of 2020 College List

Adams, Xavier	Undecided	Mancari, Dario	Babson College
Anasi, Caitlin	Brown University	Markey, Olivia	Boston College
Anjum, Haaris	Loyola University Chicago	Martinez, Anya	American University
Annan, Giselle	Undecided	Matta, Lucas	Junior Hockey
Badr-Eddine, Hamza	Babson College	McDonagh, Coleman	Junior Hockey
Baker, Cole	Colorado School of Mines	McGrail, Audrey	College of the Holy Cross
Burgos, Isis	Rice University	Montes, Jazmin	Rhodes College
Campisi, Elizabeth	Northwestern University	Nash, Emily	University of San Diego
Castle, Mia	Northwestern University	Ortiz, Jorge	Miami University- Oxford
Chan, Angelina	Undecided	Park, Benjamin	University of Illinois at Chicago
Chigrinova, Anna	Boston University	Park, Rich	Vanderbilt University
Corsiglia, Simon	University of Denver	Pearlman, Lindsey	University of Michigan
Dekhtiarenko, Mykyta	Northeastern University	Priest, Davis	University of Vermont
Dranfield, Conor	Tufts University	Rapoport, Nikita	Loyola University Chicago
Drury, E. Lilly	Boston University	Reavis, George	Wake Forest University
Eisendrath, Sarah	University of Wisconsin- Madison	Rhoades, Paul	University of Miami
English, Jaiyenian	Occidental College	Rodriguez Borjas-Krause, Monsterrat	Villanova University
Felitto, Jared	Boston College	Runfolo, Vincent	Rollins College
Filip, Joseph	University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign	Salliotte, Lauren	Cornell University
Gallagher, Aidan	Junior Hockey	Schilling, Anna	Duke University
Gifford, Suzanne	Miami University- Oxford	Shapiro, Nick	Miami University- Oxford
Gu, Zixin	University of Rochester	Shin, Min Jae	University of Michigan
Harris, Courtney	Undecided	Skinner, Scott	Southern Methodist University
Heard, Shaliya	Claremont McKenna College	Smalstig, Sasha	University of St. Andrews
Hoegnifioh, Charnice	Yale University	Stathos, Marlena	Brandeis University
Honzarenko, Kalina	Elon University	Steger, Jade	Western Kentucky University
Hromic, Aleks	Marquette University	Tapha, Thitiwat	Penn State University
Hui, Mingyang	Tufts University	Tobin, John	St. Lawrence University
Ireland, Madeline	Denison University	Tong, Nicole	Tufts University
Jennings, Jaylen	Undecided	Turelli, Kenneth	Junior Hockey
Johnson, Charlie	DePauw University	Varongchayakul, Cholapat	Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Kasten, William	Boston College	Vu, Tram	DePauw University
Knowles, Jadin	Colorado State University	Waimon, Sophie	Washington University in St. Louis
Koh, Nathaniel	University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign	Walvoord, Mia	Northwestern University
Kolesnikov, Vladislav	Case Western Reserve University	Wang, Enting	Tulane University
Kossale, Adam	Loyola Marymount University	Wang, Jiajing	University of Michigan
Kotlarz, Joseph	Rollins College	Wang, Jiayu	University of California- Berkeley
Kovalchuk, Alexander	New York University	Wang, Weihang	New York University
Kuehmann, Kayla	Oregon State University	Wang, Yuan	Emerson College
Lentskevich, Michael	University of Pennsylvania	Wen, Wanning	Vanderbilt University
Leonetti, Thomas	New York University	White, Alexander	Knox College
Li, Jiayang	Columbia University	Wong, Chiu	University of California- Berkeley
Lin, Graham	Oberlin Conservatory of Music	Woo, Donghyun	University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign
Liu, Yiran	Emory University	Xu, Zihan	University of Notre Dame
Lu, Carolyn	University of California- Berkeley	Yoon, Hanhee	Wellesley College
Ma, Alaric	University of Southern California	Zhong, Kefan	University of Chicago
Maggos, Lukas	University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign	Zhou, Yuchen	Duke University
Makarenko, Ivan	Arizona State University		

# Congratulations!

*List provided by the College Counseling Department  
Note: This list is not final and is subject to change*

# A look into a historic first year for José De Jesús

By Ramya Herman

Managing Editor of *Global Perspectives*

Often, when entering a new chapter in our lives, we are both anticipatory and fearful, awaiting the best and the worst of what is to come, and often these heightened emotions are applied to the events that we enter alone. With that in mind, it can only be assumed the immense weight that comes with embarking on a journey in which you are leading others. As the new Head of School, José De Jesús began such a journey, and it's time to take a look at how the trip has been.

A school is nothing without its students, its staff, its parents, and everyone who goes into making it the institution of education and growth that it is.

When looking back on what the deciding factor in his move to the academy was, he said "People were really what drew me here more than anything else, and the people who I have met have really not let me down in any way. When you're in crisis the way we are with Covid-19, that's when you really test the community, and I've been really moved by our school and how we've carried on. We're all a community; we are LFA. I love it here very much."

With that said, recent events have proven very testing for the community, and in a lot of ways, the actions that have tak-

en place were not only economically and mentally stressful for everyone, but emotionally as well. According to De Jesús, there was a lot of calculation, collaboration, and disappointment that went into the decisions made to protect the LFA community during such a trying time.

"The hardest thing I've had to do in my career was decide to end in-person instruction at LFA... as a Head of School, as a parent, I was so excited for what the spring would bring, to celebrate this class of really great graduating students. The class of 2020, they're terrific, and I've really had fun getting to know them."

Having entered into the e-learning period, his leadership has been tested in new ways. He mentioned how he, along with the rest of the Deans Council, were busy at work over Spring Break, trying to do what was best for LFA, and, ironically enough, he also pointed out how much he has learned about the school while being away from it, offering a new perspective.

In terms of the personal strifes that are encountered within the community, he said that "the LFA community has been a very wonderful, beautiful, inclusive community, and there are some students and faculty who had a more challenging time at LFA, and learning their stories along with all of the positive things was, at times, challenging... when you ask people for their stories, it's not all going to be sunshine, rain-

bows, and unicorns. You're gonna have moments when people are gonna tell you some hard things, and I was honored that people trusted me, but it also can be tough to hear and to carry."

The importance of compassion in a leadership role has come into play early on in his new position, and he has come to see both the quality and the depth of the situations he encounters.

De Jesús also has a powerful outlook on the larger, more community impacting moments; he said, "I have to make clear my expectation, which connects very intimately to the mission. You can't be a good citizen without openness, without being able to hear others, without acting on the behalf of others. There's so much responsibility that's a big part of the mission statement...people make mistakes, and I think we have to have space to allow for mistakes to sometimes be made, but I *deeply dislike* bullying behavior, and I think that's something that a community has to exclude directly and be pretty strong about, especially when you have people coming from different backgrounds who have different experiences. I don't want people to feel vulnerable because of their particular life experience."

Earlier in the year, he gave a speech in which he discussed the value of staying true to oneself and not "throwing your tapes against the wall," and he has applied

his passion on the matter into his work within the school, ensuring that it remains a place to walk to the beat of your own drum.

Over the course of the past year, he has come to learn some new lessons and reinforce old values. "I learned a lot about some of the strengths of the school, and some of the challenges of the school, and have put into motion some things that I think could help some of those issues and strengthen the school, and I feel like I've done what I really wanted to do, which was to learn. I just tried to learn as much as I could."

In what is one of the most trying times of the modern world, De Jesús was able to provide some sobering yet reassuring words: "In terms of COVID and COVID showing up, I think it's a day-by-day thing, but I can say this--I'm working hard, I'm working with a lot of love in my heart for the community, and I'm very proud of the way people have risen."

Through it all, he described his first year giving the three words "listen, connect, dream." So please, listen to his message, connect with others during a dark and confusing time, and dream of what we will accomplish together in the moments to come.



Photo by José De Jesús

# Opening back up: The road to normality at LFA

By Angelina Chan, Audrey McGrail  
and Rachel Johns

Editor-in-Chief, Managing Editor of  
News and Staff Writer

On Monday, May 18th, Head of School José De Jesús emailed the LFA students, faculty and staff, to inform the community that he and the Academy's Board of Trustees plan (and hope) to open LFA in August. However, there are still concerns regarding the safety of students, faculty and staff. Given the uncertainty of the months ahead because of the looming pandemic, De Jesús, per the May 18th email, acknowledged these concerns and expressed that the Academy is working on "a range of contingency plans made for a variety of alternatives."

LFA has taken necessary precautions to safely reopen. The school has hired an epidemiologist, strengthened its nursing staff to allow for a nurse to be on-call 24 hours-per-day, and is working with various public health professionals. The Academy is also diligently following CDC health guidelines and procuring proper and necessary medical equipment. All of this, and more, is to ensure the health of those in the community and to allow for the reopening of school come August.

"I am confident that united, we will get through this and come back even stronger



Photo by Mandy Krause

Signs are strewn around campus currently restricting people from the grounds.

on the other side. It is clear to me we have a resilient community. I'm looking forward to our community coming back together in August," De Jesús said.

In addition to these health concerns, there is significant economic fallout from the

pandemic and subsequent lockdown. LFA has lost incoming revenue from weddings and summer camps. These events can no longer function under the current circumstances. To allow for financial security for faculty and staff, the Board agreed for the Academy to participate in the recent Paycheck Protection Program. Also, the faculty has to resign their contracts for next year without raises, freezing their salaries like the school did during the 2008 financial crisis.

Additionally, LFA's tuition will freeze at the current 2019-2020 rate for the 2020-2021 school year in an effort to help LFA families financially impacted by the economic crisis. De Jesús said, "we have budgeted increased financial aid dollars this year and are working with families on an individual basis."

These financial adjustments are strongly impacting LFA, and that leaves many questioning the future of expensive projects the school is currently taking on, particularly the Atlas Faculty Housing Project. In the midst of construction, the Board has created a plan to complete the initiative to increase the amount of faculty living on campus without having a negative impact on LFA's finances. By building and providing additional faculty housing, the school hopes to retain more faculty in the long term.

Concurrently with the Atlas Faculty Housing Project, the Advancement office was in the middle of an "Inspire and Invest" campaign to seek more donations. Due to the strenuous financial circumstances of many of LFA's benefactors, the timeline of the campaign has been extended to accommodate donors' varying situations while still accomplishing their end goal.

There is a great deal of uncertainty about what the coming months will hold, especially as it relates to LFA living and learning. This article will take a deeper look into the planning for the Academy's Ad-

missions, Residential Life, and Academic response for Fall 2020 - all in an effort to understand the question: What does the future hold for LFA?

## Admissions

The uncertainty of the fall semester has led people to wonder if LFA admission numbers have been affected. According to Carolyn Gorowski, Dean of Admission, COVID-19 has not negatively impacted LFA admissions significantly.

In fact, the enrollment number is similar to previous years, and this year has one of the strongest yield rates for accepted students. The school is expected to open this fall with a total of 435 students, which is in the typical range. Of course the pandemic has affected a few families' enrollment decisions, but nonetheless, the number of students at LFA next year is predicted to be on par with recent years past.

The Dean of Admission, Gorowski, said that if LFA needs to use an e-learning model this coming fall, then the school may lose some students, particularly boarding and international students. As of now, international student enrollment numbers are similar to those of last year, but the school is monitoring how the COVID-19 pandemic may affect their ability to obtain visas and flights to the US. The school recently decided to cancel the on-campus ESL program that is usually held each summer, and is arranging virtual classes for these students.

Despite the pandemic, the admissions office is still receiving many inquiries about enrollment next year. "I find it extremely encouraging that even with the pandemic, families are interested in and understand the value of LFA," Gorowski said.

There is a lot of uncertainty about how the pandemic will affect the applicant pool for the 2021-2022 school year, much like how there is great uncertainty nationwide



Photo by Mandy Krause

The ID badges for faculty member Mandy Krause and her husband Adam hang next to the front door, along with accompanying masks. Such safety measures will likely become customary as campus reopens.

# Opening back up: The road to normality (continued)



Photo by Mandy Krause

LFA officials will need to consider the protocols that will be in place once the doors to the school open again.

about how the college admissions process is going to be impacted this coming year. The admissions office held its first ever Virtual Open House this spring, and they are brainstorming many alternatives for other virtual events. They are also in the process of enhancing the school website, as more students may have to rely more heavily on it when making a decision on where to go to high school. Gorowski said that the overarching goal of this is “to ensure that we have a full school in August 2021, so it is important for us to be forward-thinking in our ways to connect with and support prospective families in the admissions process in the year ahead.”

## Administrative/Academic

As the 2019 – 2020 school year comes to a close, what will happen in the 2020 – 2021 academic year becomes ever more present, important, and significant. Unlike other fall semesters, the pandemic has ignited questions circulating on what the fall term will look like and how it will take shape. Given the climate of the COVID-19 landscape, no one knows the certain answers to these questions. Significant planning must be done to ensure the school’s flexibility and adaptability to the changing outside world and what the ‘new normal’ might be. “A lot of things are uncertain about the fall, but one constant is that the well-being of LFA students and employees will be the top priority,” said Associate Head of School, Bill Dolbee.

The Academy has been hard at work on five options for the 2020 – 2021 academic year. At the forefront of all of these plans, Dolbee says, are two crucial pieces: “The number one goal is for the health and safety of students and faculty and staff. The second goal, if we can make sure we can take care of the first, is that we think there is real value in face-to-face learning. That is a big part of the LFA experience.”

Unfortunately, given the threat of the

virus, it is possible that the Academy’s first goal can only be ensured if goal two is carried out online. In the five possible scenarios currently being drawn up, this situation is accounted for. “The worst scenario is that the virus is still spreading, and it is not under control,” said Dolbee. If this is the fall, it seems likely that Illinois Governor J.D. Pritzker would not allow for the opening of schools. In this circumstance, LFA would conduct e-learning from the very start of the semester.

Conversely, another scenario is much more optimistic. “One scenario, the happy scenario, is that we have a vaccine and we have effective treatments and it is not an issue,” Dolbee said. This would be a very happy scenario, and also close to a miracle. Dr. Anthony Fauci, director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, estimates that a vaccine won’t be available, at least, until January – and this estimate is optimistic, not guaranteed. “Until a vaccine or effective treatments are developed, it seems likely that we will have to conduct school while observing social distancing, wearing masks, and conducting regular health screenings,” said Dolbee. This situation does point out the eagerness in having a face-to-face learning experience, but also the school’s commitment to caution and safety.

“We truly hope to have face-to-face learning” said Dolbee. Three other planned scenarios will allow, or will partially allow, for leaning in the classroom. One scenario follows a potential government order that allows for K-12 grades schools to reopen, but not colleges due to concern that dormitory living will become a breeding ground for the virus. Since LFA is half boarding and half day schooling, under this scenario, local students would attend school in-person and boarding students would attend school online in an e-learning structure.

In a fourth scenario, school would open in-person come August. However, if the degree and imminence of the virus makes it too dangerous to continue, LFA would quickly adapt and transition to e-learning. Some health officials predict the virus

could rebound in late fall or early winter. “We need to be prepared to shift to e-learning if there is a resurgence of the virus” remarked Dolbee.

A fifth scenario allows for school to open in person, but with social distancing guidelines in place. At the time of this writing, a number of colleges and universities are announcing that they plan to open schools with similar guidelines.

Only time and careful thought will tell which scenario is the right choice. To cement a plan right now with the rapidly changing news landscape would be unwise. It is still largely unknown what three months down the road looks like and, as Dolbee remarked, “a lot of the planning is for something that doesn’t turn out that way.”

To be effective in LFA’s ultimate decision, the Academy is working with a range of medical professionals, and schools, including Lake Forest College, as well as following the advice of institutions like the CDC and state and local governments and health departments. “There is lots of information out there that we keep tabs on and also figuring out what is going to work and

keep people safe in our particular environment” said Dolbee.

If a face-to-face learning environment is ultimately determined to be safe, LFA will enact a new normal – especially to the community’s daily routine. There will be “testing for the virus, periodically, and then a daily health screen for everybody that comes to campus” said Dolbee. Isolating those who might have the virus will also become standard, as well as asking those who may have had exposure if they have any symptoms and who they have been in contact with.

To get to a face-to-face learning environment will take a lot of planning. “We’ve got lots of information coming from different directions, and the challenge, or the fun part, is to say ‘Okay, how does that apply to the way our school operates? How do you make sure every kid has a mask? How do we do temperature checks for the entire student body every day? How do we maintain social distancing in our classrooms?’” said Dolbee. LFA has recently hired an epidemiologist to assess and assist with the situation. “He has already visited campus to get an idea of the layout and school operations and has written up a series of recommendations that we are beginning to work with” said Dolbee. The epidemiologist is a “great fit for LFA” as he has a PhD in public health and a background in congregate living institutions. This new hire is “hugely reassuring,” as it gives validation to all of LFA’s new policies, ensuring they follow health and safety guidelines, and helps the Academy adapt to incoming knowledge. “It is important for us to have expert advice and also to follow the science” said Dolbee.

No matter what the fall brings, what lies ahead is uncertain and adapting to a new normal seems inevitable. Yet, LFA stands ready to face any circumstance on the horizon. Believe Bill Dolbee when he says, “The strength of the LFA community over the past two months tells me that we are ready for the challenges we may face for the next twelve months or so.”



Photo by Mandy Krause

Common surfaces and spaces for gatherings will all be aspects of LFA life needing to be planned for.

# Nick Alutto elected next All-School President

By James Kuhns and Garrison Sloan  
Staff Writers

In this time of uncertainty, one thing has remained constant: the election of a new Junior class member to serve as Lake Forest Academy's All-School President. As opposed to just four last year, nearly a dozen Juniors ran for the position this year through a modified electronic format. However, of course only one candidate can win, and this year it went to incumbent Junior Class President Nick Alutto.

Ever since his freshman year at LFA, Alutto has been involved in student government in some way, shape or form, acting as a sophomore class representative, and a junior class co-president. If not for the experiences he had freshman year, such as watching former All-School President Dieter Villegas speak at one of the first All-School Meetings, Alutto may not have joined the student council at the beginning of sophomore year. "I never thought I would be that person", said Alutto when recalling his reaction to Vil-

legas' speech, but from that point on, Alutto knew he wanted to get involved in LFA's student government.

Although Alutto at first did not have the position of All-School President in mind, as he became more involved in LFA's community, he began to develop his goal of



Photo courtesy of Stuart-Rodgers Photography  
Nick Alutto: 2020-2021 All-School President

becoming the All-School President. With a strong junior year as class co-president, and through organizing countless events, Alutto developed the skills to become what he believed to be a good candidate for the position.

In his self-nomination statement, Alutto heavily emphasized his commitment to LFA's student body. From his statement, "I would continue to act on my belief that the positive change in this school lies within the ideas of the students— all of the students. I would strive to listen to your ideas, so that these ideas can be heard and realized."

Alutto has been a vocal voice in the community this past year serving as Junior Class Co-President. Even as LFA has transitioned to online learning, Alutto has helped organize online class events, such as a school-wide virtual 8-ball pool tournament.

When speaking on goals for the upcoming school year, Alutto hopes to "add more events... that students can look forward to," in particular, events that resemble the yearly Senior v Faculty Basketball

Game, which is one event many members of the community get excited for. While this academic year was cut short due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Alutto hopes to reorganize the events which were to take place this spring and instead do them next fall, when hopefully the LFA community returns to campus.

From a more administrative perspective, Alutto strives to ensure that "the students' voices are heard," for in his position, he can be an outlet for the students' concerns. More specifically, upon meeting with Head of School Jose de Jesus every cycle, Alutto hopes to voice the concerns of LFA's "passionate students body."

As LFA moves towards an uncertain fall semester, here's to wishing the best of luck to our new incoming All-School President. Though the job may be tougher this upcoming year, Nick Alutto should prove to be well up to the task.

# Atlas construction: Senior class gift helps bring faculty home to campus

By Nick Alutto and Garrison Sloan  
Managing Editor of A&E and Staff Writer

The addition of the Deborah MacKenzie Turf Fields at LFA in 2018 was the last major renovation project that many students can recall happening at LFA. However, with the school year ending, a new renovation is being built at LFA. Students may have noticed the beginning of a construction project outside of Atlas. This is the beginning of the four new faculty apartments being built on campus this year.

"All of LFA's on-campus faculty housing is currently occupied, and the school must rent apartments in nearby communities to accommodate faculty," said Vice President of Advancement Dr. Rob Buckla, when asked about the reasoning for the construction. "To answer the need for more on-campus faculty housing, the Academy is proceeding with a plan to add four faculty apartments to Atlas Hall."

These new apartments will be built onto the side of Atlas facing Caxy Drive and will bring the building closer to the parking lot, allowing more faculty members to live in apartments off of Atlas dorm than ever before. The new construction will include two 3-bedroom apartments and two 2-bedroom apartments.

"I think the faculty are excited about it," said Dean of Faculty Tom Johnson. "We gathered feedback from a lot of sources on the designs themselves to make sure that these units will function well for the families that will live in them."

One of the main goals of the project was to be able to bring more faculty and staff onto campus. Many already live on campus in houses and apartments owned

by the school, but this would allow additional faculty members to do so. However, another goal of the project was to narrow the ratio of students-to-faculty in Atlas by bringing in more faculty to the new apartments.

"It was 1 resident for every 18 students, and now it will be 1 resident for every 9 students, which is much more in line with the rest of campus," explained Johnson.

The new dorms will also be a way that LFA can attract new faculty members to the school, by having more updated facilities for faculty members.

"To remain one of the top boarding schools in the nation and the world, LFA needs housing that helps us attract strong teaching candidates who wish to be a part of the school's residential program. LFA has lost highly-qualified faculty candidates because our faculty housing is currently at capacity," Buckla said.

Even with the implementation of Illinois' stay-at-home order, the project has not seen any substantial delays.

"Early permitting work was slowed due to Illinois' Shelter in Place, but the project is on schedule," Buckla stated, "The project is scheduled to be completed by the end of the first semester of the 2020-2021 academic year."

When it comes to filling these new faculty apartments, and all faculty housing on campus, faculty members annually need to submit housing forms stating which units they are interested in moving into, which is then reviewed by the housing committee. Johnson describes, "It's a pretty thorough process that balances the factors of seniority, family need and institutional need."

If LFA were to expand and build more

faculty housing in the future, acting upon long-term plans that already exist for the layout of the campus, the school would have to undergo the whole process again, allocating more residential spots and funding the project.

"Long term, I think we will want to expand the housing options on campus. We will still have faculty living off campus that would like to be on campus. However, these are expensive projects, so it may be a

while until we can take on the next housing project," Johnson said.

Overall, the new apartments being installed in the Atlas Dorm will allow the students in Atlas to have a student-teacher ratio more representative of our school as a whole, while also allowing LFA to supply more on-campus housing for current and future faculty members.



A rendering of what the apartments should look like upon completion.

Courtesy of Witmer and Associates

# Growing through LFA: A senior's perspective

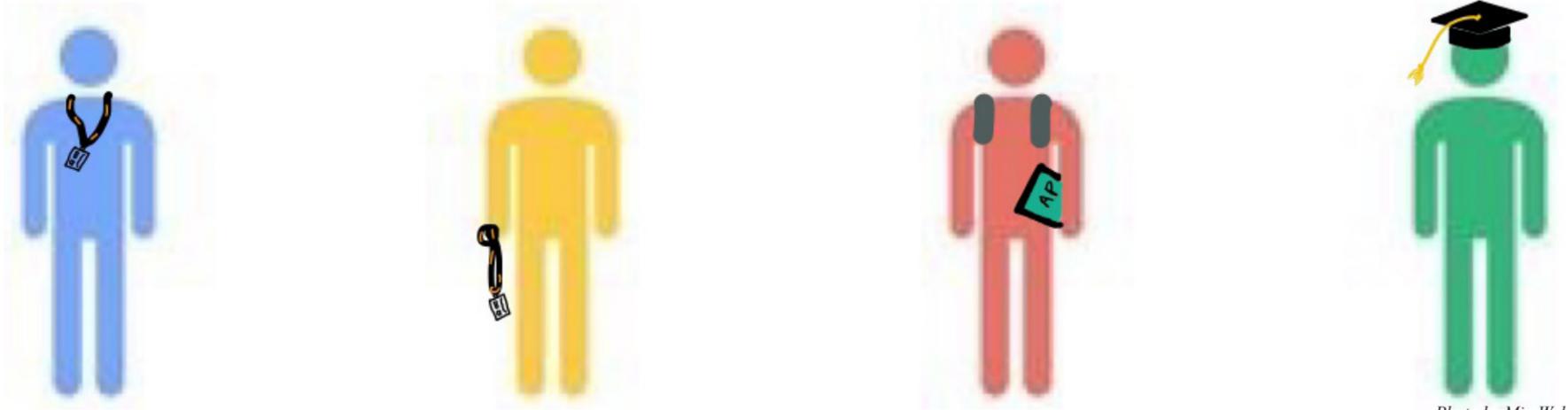


Photo by Mia Walvoord

Each year of the LFA experience offers its own unique challenges and opportunities for growth.

By Mia Walvoord  
Editor-in-Chief

We are all living through unprecedented times. When the decision was made to transition over to online learning for the remainder of the school year, every student and faculty member likely experienced a profound feeling of loss for a variety of reasons, unique to their individual circumstances and aspirations. Despite being scattered across the globe and isolated in our homes, the community has clearly come together and found strength in our shared struggles. Together, we've experienced feelings of grief and have each dealt with that grief in different ways. We've ultimately been united by a situation that threatened to divide us. As the year draws to a close, I think it's safe to say that feelings of sadness and despair over missing out on certain experiences have slowly been lessened and somewhat healed. Although much about the future is uncertain, we should still allow ourselves to look forward to new beginnings. Maintaining a positive outlook and feeling excitement about what's to come will help keep us from getting stuck in a rut and lamenting what could have been. None of us has control over the situation outside the walls of our own homes. We do, however, have power over how we choose to respond in the face of adversity and how we spend our energy once the time for social distancing has passed.

Every LFA student enjoys a unique experience during each year of high school; this is one of the pillars that defines an LFA education. Still, during my time at LFA, I've found that grade levels also hold some commonly shared experiences that students should look forward to as they "move up" this year. In the spirit of looking forward, I've pointed out some key milestones from each of my years at LFA, and I hope they can inspire some excitement for you. Senior year sneaks up fast. It's important to enjoy each year of your LFA experience to the fullest.

There's a lot to learn freshman year. From figuring out how to follow the A-G day cycle schedule and finding your classes to developing more advanced organizational techniques, freshman year offers a whole new level of maturity and independence. Once you discover work habits that jibe well with your learning style, the workload is very manageable, leaving plenty of time for you to begin forming life-long friendships with classmates. The freedom of van runs and free periods help instill time management skills that you'll continue to build upon throughout life. Freshman year presents students with a lot of new responsibilities, and along with that often comes an increased sense of confidence and self-respect.

Sophomore year is when many students experience their first AP class(es). In some cases, this experience can be a bit of a "culture shock". Again, students modify their study schedules and techniques to find the

most effective way to retain large amounts of information very quickly. You find a good balance between dedicating time to work and spending time destressing with friends/family. Sophomores are also presented with the opportunity to act as relatable, helpful mentors to the new incoming freshman class. They still have the experience of freshman year fresh in their minds, putting them in the perfect position to assume a new responsibility: passing their knowledge and advice onto their freshmen peers. The students that make up the LFA community can be partly characterized for their desire to offer a hand out to others. Taking on such a mentoring leadership role creates an even deeper connection to LFA's pillars and values.

Junior year presents a whole new set of challenges and opportunities for growth. Students face their most challenging academic year yet, while also beginning their college application journey. The college application process can be even more daunting if you don't have any family members or friends who have recently gone through the experience. Hitting the ground running during the second semester of junior year and during the summer helps alleviate some of the stress of senior year. (Seriously, take a stab at trying to wrap up the Common App essay over the summer; it's a huge relief to put it behind you.) Maintaining a full course load during junior year can be a huge challenge at times, but the difficulty helps you gain a new appreciation for your abilities and success. By this

point, you have likely gotten a number of credits out of the way, so you'll have more freedom to explore electives and topics you're curious about. It's a lot of work, but at the end of the day, it's all incredibly rewarding and the struggle can help push you to reach your full potential.

Even though the Class of 2020 has been faced with an altered senior experience, our senior year has still been filled with meaning and tradition. From the onset of the school year, you might start bringing a new sense of gratitude to your experiences. Reflection is a key aspect to growth. Senior year is filled with a million little moments of appreciation: for time with friends, family, teachers, and coaches. Staple checkpoints in the LFA school year (the first day of school, interims, the fall dance, the talent show, winter break, prom etc.) can take on a deeper meaning as you realize it's the last time you'll get to experience them from the perspective of a student. I hope that the Class of 2021 gets the opportunity to fully enjoy all that we've missed out on this year. There are numerous end of year experiences that hold a lot of weight in the LFA community (the senior-faculty dinner, the lock-in, graduation). I'm happy to know that LFA's great traditions, though modified this year, will continue for your class. It's my hope that you can take full advantage of your opportunity to lead the student body, setting a positive example and fully engaging with every experience you're presented with.



Photo by Angelina Chan

Students, parents, and faculty gather annually to celebrate the progression of each class during Move-Up Day, a tradition initiated by Ferry Hall.

## Departing thoughts from seniors

While this spot is usually used for the issue's editor-in-chief from *The Spectator*, we thought instead that we would take the opportunity to forgo speaking and just to listen--listen to the parting words from LFA's senior class of 2020.

**"Looking back, it's actually really funny – the whole time I was at LFA, I always had friends or important people leaving, so I always wanted to leave too. But now that the time has come, I wish I appreciated my time at LFA more. It gave me friends I'm going to have for life and experiences I wouldn't have gotten anywhere else. I'm extremely grateful for my past four years at LFA."**

**"LFA has given me an unforgettable four years filled with fun, excellence, and growth."**

**"Going to LFA has been one of the best experiences of my life. I was able to meet friends and build bonds that I will never forget and will always be grateful for."**

**"LFA has been a really great experience for me. It was a really unique experience. I loved my classes and teachers and met some amazing people. Going to LFA was a great decision, and I'm really sad I won't be able to finish my senior year like classes of the past."**

**"If I could say one thing that LFA has done for me, it's prepare me for my future. Graduating LFA, I feel confident that I will succeed in college and in my career after college because of the things I learned at LFA."**

**"LFA challenged me both athletically and academically, but it helped me to grow as a person, and I wouldn't trade it for anything."**

**"Leaving LFA is very bittersweet, but if I had to say one thing as I go, it would be thank you to my friends and teachers. The people at LFA are really what made me love it so much and also what made my experience so memorable."**

## June Horoscopes 2020: Happy Gemini Season! See what the stars

Compiled By Tyler Watts  
Staff Astrologer

have in store for you—(courtesy of Flare, <https://www.flare.com/horoscopes/june-2020-horoscopes/>)

**Aries (Mar 22-Apr 19)**— Not everyone is ready for your wisdom, Aries, and it may be time for you to channel your energy into new people and projects—ones that can nourish you just as much as you nourish others.

**Taurus (Apr 20-May 20)**— Go ahead and speak your truth, Taurus. This is not a time to hold back or stifle what's in your heart.

**Gemini (May 21-Jun 20)**— Don't let life pull you along in different directions without any clear focus. The energy of June is here to help get your priorities in place.

**Cancer (Jun 21-Jul 22)**— You have permission to dream. Be careful about putting limitations around yourself as you feel a pull towards new horizons that may not be fully definable just yet.

**Leo (Jul 23-Aug 22)**— Aim to be a neutral ally and open listener rather than adding fuel to the fire. If something sounds confusing or hurtful, move the conversation offline and clear the air right away.

**Virgo (Aug 23-Sep 22)**— You will be able to come into a better understanding of who you are, rather than living up to old expectations, or sticking to a plan that someone else decided for you long ago.

The Lake Forest

## SPECTATOR

### STAFF LIST



<i>Editors-in-Chief</i>	Angelina Chan (Production) Lilly Drury (Digital) Mia Walvoord (Print)
<i>Managing Editor of News</i>	Audrey McGrail
<i>Managing Editor of Op-Ed</i>	Nate Koh
<i>Managing Editor of Features</i>	Lindsey Pearlman
<i>Managing Editor of Sports</i>	Jared Felitto
<i>Managing Editor of A&amp;E</i>	Nick Alutto
<i>Managing Editor of Global</i>	Ramya Herman
<i>Managing Editor of Production</i>	Briana Murphy
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<i>Faculty Adviser</i>	Mandy Krause

## PUBLICATION

*The Spectator* is published eight times per year by the students of Lake Forest Academy and is a forum for student expression. The views and reporting herein are the sole product of *The Spectator's* student reporters and in no way reflect the official views of Lake Forest Academy faculty, staff, administration or Board of Trustees.

## EDITORIALS

Opinions of the staff are presented in the form of unsigned editorials. Personal views are bylined or presented as formal dissents.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITORS

*The Spectator* welcomes responses to its articles in the form of Letters to the Editors in addition to letters on subjects of the author's choosing. Please e-mail Letters to the Editors to Mrs. Krause at [akrause@lfanet.org](mailto:akrause@lfanet.org).

## AWARDS

*The Spectator* has been awarded several prestigious journalism awards in recent years. It has consistently taken first place in competitions against schools of similar size held by the American Scholastic Press Association and the Kettle Moraine Press Association.

**Libra (Sep 23-Oct 22)**— Go ahead and make that decision you've been putting off. Whether you need to make a commitment, try something new or break away from the past, it's time to listen to your instinct.

**Scorpio (Oct 23-Nov 21)**— You're feeling sensitive and raw, and in need of some TLC. Don't be afraid to drop your guard and admit that sometimes, you just need a break.

**Sagittarius (Nov 22-Dec 20)**— June has a transformational quality to it for you. Be open to where change is taking place in your life, and where you are craving fresh energy.

**Capricorn (Dec 21-Jan 19)**— Continue to unwind out of your old habits. Continue to let go of the things that won't get you any closer to where you really want to be.

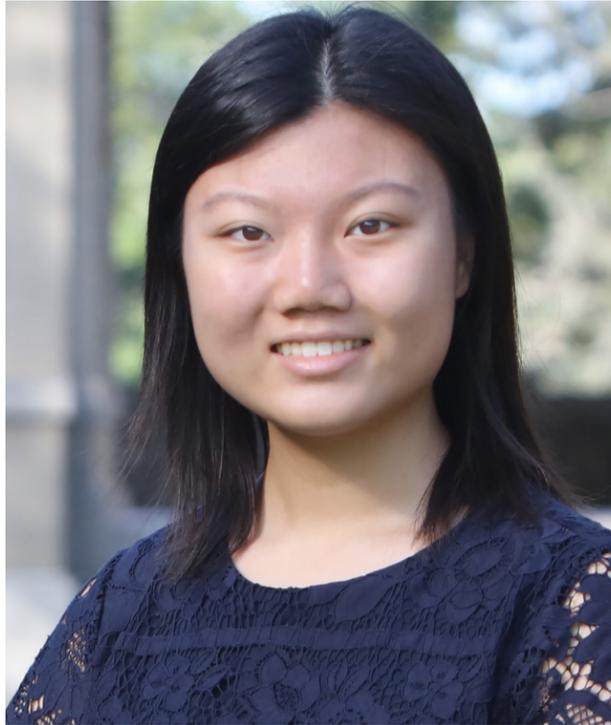
**Aquarius (Jan 20-Feb 18)**— You have a rare opportunity to look back at your former self and look ahead to your future self simultaneously, and gain some key insights into who you are becoming.

**Pisces (Feb 19-March 21)**— Those big dreams and ideals you hold so dear can start to become reality if you start dealing with the parts of your life that feel chaotic, disorganized or confused.

Farewell to *The Sp*

By Shylee Saladi and Gemma Fink  
Staff Writers

Angelina Chan '20, joined LFA's journalism program her sophomore year and is now the Editor-in-Chief of Production. She has always had an interest in photography, but she wanted to see if she could add "a journalistic perspective" to it as well as a new style of writing from the program. From taking journalism and being in the program, Angelina has learned about how to use InDesign to create effective layouts, conduct an interview, meet deadlines, and manage conflict. She has been able to meet and interact with many people at LFA while conducting interviews and taking photos. She enjoyed hearing so many different thoughts in each interview she gave. Being an Editor-in-Chief, there are a never-ending amount of special memories she will keep. Having Mr. Murphy her sophomore year as an introduction to journalism, delving deeper into photography and composition, and experimenting with how to capture and use effective visuals in *The Spector* have been very impactful during her time at LFA and will be even more helpful in the future. Even though she doesn't know what she is going to be doing in the future, she knows that Mr. Murphy's lessons about ethics in journalism will stay with her in whatever path she decides to take.



**Angelina Chan, Editor-in-Chief**



**Lilly Drury, Editor-in-Chief**



**Mia Walvoord, Editor-in-Chief**

Mia Walvoord '20, joined the journalism program her sophomore year, and has taken her skill of writing and turned it into her passion while doing so, becoming an Editor-in-Chief focusing on the print publication. From being in the Journalism Program, Mia has had the opportunity to grow in her writing and become a strong, visible leader. Her ability to communicate with others and offer constructive criticism has grown remarkably. While working on *The Spector* and conducting interviews, Mia has found a new way to connect with others in the community and it has helped her bond more closely with teachers and peers. Her favorite memory of being in the journalism program was the first planning session of this year where Angelina, Lilly, and herself had total responsibility for leading *The Spector* staff. It was the

first time that she has the ability to work with the other two chief editors in leadership, and at that moment she could tell the dynamic of the entire staff would allow the group of students in total to have a really meaningful and fantastic year. She would like to thank Mrs. Krause for all of the work she has put into *The Spector* and Journalism Program at LFA. Mia would also like to thank all of her fellow peers for their commitment to putting in their best work for *The Spector* and for making her last year at LFA so memorable. From her deep love, passion, and appreciation for all that journalism is and stands for: making sure that the truth is heard, she has decided to pursue journalism beyond LFA. Mia has joined Northwestern's class of 2024 to study journalism at the Medill School of Journalism, Media, Integrated Marketing and Communications.

Lilly Drury '20 started the Journalism Program in her sophomore year, after being encouraged to do so by LFA's former journalism teacher, Mr. Murphy, and is now an Editor-in-Chief of *The Spector*. Due to her participation on the paper, Lilly has learned new skills such as how to interview people and the importance of looking at multiple perspectives while writing a story. One of the most memorable moments from her past three years in the Journalism Program was when Mrs. Krause arranged for an All-School-Meeting speaker to be a news producer who worked at NBC, and he gave her a shout-out in front of the whole school, saying her article was really good. Her time working on *The Spector* has helped her discover a passion for writing compelling content. Lilly will be attending Boston University's School of Communications in the fall.

# Spectator's Seniors



Audrey McGrail '20, joined the journalism program her sophomore year and now is the Managing Editor of News. Her freshman year, she thought that working on *The Spectator* and being a part of the staff would be a good experience, which she says has reflected throughout her years in the program. She mentioned that journalism is a very special class, and no other classes function as it does. She has learned and grown so much through her years in the Journalism Pro-

gram. While being part of this special group, she has improved her writing, thinking, and working skills. Audrey says that being in journalism and on the staff pushes everyone to work together as a group to put out a newspaper that the entire staff is proud of each month. Also, when working with everyone in the school, she has learned how to interact with everyone, develop better relationships, and collaborate with others to get the job done. Audrey enjoys learning and looking at different

perspectives as no one in our community has the same story. Her favorite memory of being in journalism was writing a story about the kittens on campus. Every year on *The Spectator*, she enjoyed hearing different stories about LFA and getting to know different parts of the community better. She hopes to show just as much purpose and commitment that she has dedicated through her work as a journalist to what she pursues in the future.

**Audrey McGrail, Managing Editor of News**



**Lindsey Pearlman,  
Managing Editor of Features**

Lindsey Pearlman '20 joined the Journalism program because she wanted to be a broadcast journalist and was encouraged to do so by LFA's former journalism teacher, Mr. Murphy. Her work on the *Spectator* has led to her position as Managing Editor of Features. When asked about how LFA's program had benefited her, she said, "having to write a different story every month on a wide range of topics has helped me to grow as a writer." She also has learned how to be more responsible with meeting deadlines, working with large groups of people, and various leadership skills. Being on *The Spectator* has helped her find the best ways to ask meaningful questions and compromise with people to have a successful end result. One of Lindsey's favorite memories is getting to work on the digital side of Caxy News with a few of her close friends. Lindsey will be attending the University of Michigan next fall.

**Nate Koh, Managing Editor of Op-Ed**



Nathaniel Koh '20 joined the Journalism Program his sophomore year because he was interested in writing for the school newspaper and has now become the Managing Editor of Op-Ed. As

he is looking forward to pursuing chemical engineering after high school, being on *The Spectator* staff has made him more confident in his writing, something that he will have to do when

writing research papers. While in the Journalism Program, Nate has learned how to identify "bad" journalism, which is a great skill to have nowadays. Being on *The Spectator*, he gained confidence when speaking with teachers and other students. After dealing with the stress of an interview with a teacher, it makes it a lot easier to make cycle meetings with them—and a lot less scary. Nate really enjoys when the class discusses stories in their own very high-energy environment and enjoys the helpful feedback he receives during class.

**Jared Felitto,  
Managing Editor of Sports**



Jared Felitto '20, the *Spectator's* Managing Editor of Sports, started LFA's Journalism program during his sophomore year, with Mr. Murphy as his teacher. Though he isn't planning a career in Journalism, Jared views writing as a "life skill," and knows that what he has learnt on *The Spectator*, such as making deadlines and interview skills, will benefit him in the future. Jared notes that his time on *The Spectator* has also helped him connect with teachers through interviews. One of his favorite moments from the past three years he has spent in LFA's Journalism Program was the publishing of his first article, in which he saw his name and story on paper for the first time. He will be attending Boston College next school year.

# Prefect charisma: A recipe for increased school spirit

By Angie Cotton  
Staff Writer

Across many events this school year, this year's diverse group of prefects at LFA have been able to accomplish a wide variety of achievements, including raising school spirit, and in doing so, bringing the community at LFA closer together through

multiculturalism and activities around campus.

But what allowed for there to be such a great bond between this particular group of prefects? In an interview with one of them, Sophie Waimon '20, she stated, "I think that what was really unique was that we went in with almost all of us knowing each other before." She also mentioned that one other factor that might have contributed to

the group's cohesive dynamic was the fact that many of them had previously had leadership positions at LFA, which meant that everyone already had an idea of how others worked together going into this school year.

Speaking of going into the school year, LFA prefect Shaliya Heard '20 said that "at the beginning I was really excited, because there's a lot of things that I wanted to

accomplish, especially as a Multicultural Prefect, because historically, that role had not played a huge part at LFA." She also mentioned that one of her own goals was to work more with Lusanda Mayikana, Dean of Pluralism & Multicultural Affairs, in order to promote multiculturalism at LFA even further. This is one of the many things that the prefects were able to accomplish this year.

But that was not the only thing this particular group pushed forward. Many of the great things that the prefects were able to accomplish this school year included some of the following, as mentioned by LFA prefect, Michael Lentskevich '20. "We wanted to do the survey for the boarders on which food they like, which food they don't. It was also a long-term goal trying to make the food a little healthier by saving money from the food we don't need and using it for other foods." Another outstanding move from the prefects included coming up with more interactive activities, such as LFA's Haunted House for the Fall Dance and Themed Fridays, to name a few.

One thing that seemed to be common in between each of the three prefects interviewed, Heard, Lentskevich, and Waimon, was the fact that they all enjoyed being a prefect at LFA this school year and were proud of themselves and the other prefects for the several accomplishments they were able to achieve together. Also, they were all glad to have had the opportunity to work on all this together and could not have asked for it to be otherwise. This year's senior prefects set a model, a tone for bringing the student body together; it can start with the prefects themselves. They hope that the next school year's prefects will continue bringing the community closer together in 2020-2021, and wish them the best.



Students posing in Student Union as E-People for a themed Friday.

Courtesy of LFA's Instagram

## The Spectator Podcast: LFA journalism takes it to a new level

By Rohan Miglani  
Staff Writer

Lake Forest Academy is a school with so many people from all over the world with so many different talents, and everyone at the school has an interesting story to tell. As *The Spectator* staff tries to find these stories to share with the rest of the school, many on the staff find the 400-500 word limit on the stories challenging, as every interviewee has a story that can not be summed up in 400 words.

Podcasts are also one of the largest growing forms of media due to the ability of a podcast to fit into daily lives without any hassle. People can listen to podcasts while in the car, while exercising, or even while doing work. Podcasts also allow for the listener to get an in-depth view on a particular topic, while still being in a relatively short and bite-sized time frame, an important ability with the average attention span dropping due to the small chunks that people receive information through their phone.

This is the idea behind the LFA Spectator Podcast; it is a way for people in the LFA community to be interviewed and give their full story without parts having to be cut due to a word limit. Also, it's just a very accessible form of media that anyone can listen to at almost any time with no hassle. Nick Alutto '21, one of the hosts of the podcasts, when asked about the importance, said: "It[the podcast] will allow us to provide people who want to listen to more in-depth interviews with members of the LFA community." The concept of a podcast for LFA student news has been something the staff has been working on since early in the semester, with James Kuhns, Nick Alutto, Rohan Miglani and Lilly Drury forming a podcast committee in order to prepare a proposal for launching at LFA.

For the first interview of the podcast, the three hosts Nick Alutto, James Kuhns, and Rohan Miglani sat down with Frank Gu to discuss the challenges that he faced due to Covid-19. Frank, who is currently living in China, has had an interesting experience of getting home during the current

Covid-19 pandemic. He discusses his experiences of quarantine in China, how and where he lived during Spring Break when going back to LFA was still a possibility, and how he adapted to taking AP tests late into the night. In this interview, Frank Gu was able to speak to all of his experiences and thoughts, something that could not be

captured in a 400-500 word article.

*The Spectator* hopes to be able to use the Podcast as a way to supplement the paper with print issues of the paper and the episodes of the Podcast coming out on the same day. You can listen to the first podcast by going to CaxyNews.com to hear the full interview with Frank Gu.



Courtesy of Creative Commons

The Spectator having a podcast will offer a more in-depth format for reporting on stories in LFA's

# New dorm heads take over

By Aylin Tepe  
Staff Writer

As this school year comes to an end, many changes are taking place on the Lake Forest Academy campus. For boarding students like myself, the changes that occur in the dormitories, which are like our second homes--the places we eat, sleep, relax, bond, grow-- have a substantial impact on our lives on campus. This year coming school year, three out of the five Lake Forest Academy dormitories will have new dorm heads, which is a highly significant change for the entire boarding community.

Emily Kalis, the Assistant Dean of Admissions, is going to be taking over as Marshall Field's new Dorm Head next fall. She stated that she is "very excited for this opportunity." Kalis herself was a non-local boarder in high school, and with that, she has a special insight on life in the dorms. Kalis has also

stated that she and the proctors have many new ideas for next year and that "with the proctors' leadership, complemented with the enthusiasm of all the dorm parents, Marshall Field will be more than just a dorm; it will be a home and a sisterhood."

Atlass is getting not just one, but two new Dorm Heads. Kyle Koncz, the Assistant Dean of Admissions, and Joe Ward, a Mathematics Instructor. Koncz and Ward are going to co-head Atlass. When asked how they feel about co-heading the dorm, Ward stated that he is "very excited about it." In regards to Koncz, Ward said, "he is a very kind, helpful, and energetic man who compliments me in very positive ways." Koncz was equally enthusiastic about the situation and stated that he is "excited to work with Mr. Ward as co-dorm head." Knowing that Ward "brings the experience of having already been a Dorm Head in Atlass- at the same time, I think we both have



Photo by Shaliya Heard

To LFA boarding students, the dorm is their home, so Dorm Heads can set the tone for that home.

strengths and ideas that we will be able to bounce off each other to make sure we provide a great environment for all of the Atlass students" said Koncz. As for dorm events, Koncz and Ward hope to gather the four Atlass quads more often and organize feasts, competitions, movie/music nights and many more fun activities to build a great camaraderie throughout the dorm.

Warner House is the third dorm to be getting new leadership. Tyler Madeley, an English Instructor, is taking over as the new Dorm Head of Warner, and he already has a few things in mind for the upcoming school year. Madeley stated that he

plans to increase "student involvement, cleanliness," and will create, "the overall most enjoyable experience for Warner residents". Madeley also plans on having unique events for the dorm, and he wishes to instill pride throughout Warner House.

All of the new dorm heads have ideas planned out for their dorms this upcoming year, and each hope to create a warm, welcoming environment to make sure that the students living away from their families feel at home.



Photo by Shaliya Heard

Marshall Field is just one of the three dorms to be getting a new Dorm Head.

## Changes to the summer scene

By: Jared Felitto and David Oluwole  
Managing Editor of Sports & Staff Writer

With COVID-19 still having a tight grip on the world, many have seen their summer plans get canceled or postponed. While many thought society would see a return to normality at the beginning of the summer, it seems that the pre-COVID times won't be returning anytime soon. Some states such as Texas and Georgia have made the decision to open up restaurants and other public spaces as an effort to jump start local economies. On the other hand, states like Illinois, New York, and California have some of the most restrictive lockdown policies in the entire country. With Lake Forest Academy having students from all over the world, every student's summer is going to be affected in unique ways.

For many, the summer is a time to go travel and experience the world. Whether that is with family, friends, or even through a travel program, traveling over the summer is a common activity students and teachers partake in. Derek Hui, a senior at Lake Forest Academy, was really looking forward to his summer plans.

"I was supposed to go on a vacation with my family to celebrate graduation and to spend

time with them before I go off to college. There's still some chance we might be able to sneak in some travel towards the end of the summer, but I don't think my family or I would want to take that risk," said Hui.

After missing out on a Spring Break trip, Hui commented on how important this summer trip was to him.

He said, "For Spring Break, I was supposed to go to France with my AP Art History class. I was excited to see a part of the world I've never seen before. I had a feeling that trip was going to be canceled, but I didn't think my summer plans would be impacted in any way. Even though it's upsetting, I'm just grateful everyone close to me is healthy and safe".

While many have had COVID-19 put a damper in their summer plans, some are still able to fulfill their summer aspirations. According to senior Alex Zhou, he still has one big goal that he wants to accomplish this summer.

"This summer I plan on learning how to drive. I've never had to drive anywhere being a boarder and being away in previous summers. Now, I'm going to finally learn how to drive."

Similarly, senior Liv Markey had a set

plan for this summer. She planned on working at a gymnastics gym to help teach kids the basics. According to Markey she hoped this summer would be a chance for her to have job experience.

"I was planning on taking a step into adult-

hood by holding a job. I wanted to test myself as well as be able to help my community." Whether or not students' summer plans are thwarted or not, it's undeniable that it may be an opportunity for many to rethink next steps and be creative.



Photo courtesy of Max Scott's mother

Jorge Ortiz '20 hopes to return to the ice rink during the summer.

# Tips for better work/life balance

By Lilly Drury  
Editor-in-Chief

Online school has definitely been a major adjustment that we have all had to face these past two months, and all of us have run into our fair share of obstacles along the way. Coming from someone who thrives off of a strict routine, but also loved the freedom of getting to create my own schedule, I approached online school with the mindset of trying to have it cater to my personal needs, but still echo the much-needed structure that school gives us. I knew that if I brushed off certain aspects and didn't keep up with my work, I would fall behind and not complete what I needed to by the end of the year. Balancing a school/work life while at home is tricky, but I've compiled a few of the tips and tricks that have helped me these past few months, and if (god forbid) we are kept at home for another part of next school year, maybe these will come in handy for many of you.

## Breakfast

Maybe you aren't used to having time to eat breakfast in the morning, or perhaps you just find yourself putting it on the back burner in order to gain a few extra minutes of sleep. However, I find when I give myself enough time to make my bed, eat breakfast, etc., I feel like I'm fully starting my day. I have to be honest—I started out strong during the first couple weeks of online school in putting on real clothes, but now I stay in my pajamas for most of the day. However, I compensate by always completing my morning routine of making my breakfast because it feels like a true start to my day.

## Separate your work space and your relaxing space

I think where a lot of people are struggling with online school is the lack of separation between school and home, (i.e. working and relaxing.) If you're doing your classes and schoolwork while in bed, your brain is wired to feel tired when it's in that space, and you probably find yourself lacking energy and motivation to do your work. Try lugging yourself on over to a desk, table, or even the floor if that's all that's available to you. I bet this separation could even help if you've been having trouble sleeping, since now your brain won't be confused about whether your bed is the place for work or for relaxing.

## Set breaks

During normal school, I am lucky enough to have a few free periods to break up my day. Realistically, as much as I wish I could plow through all my work in the morning and have the rest of my day free, it's just not plausible (at least for me) to stay focused for that long and have my work stay consistent. Instead, I have taken to setting myself a schedule of one hour work, then 30 mins off, and it's worked great. I make sure that, when I'm eating lunch, I do so separate from my work to act like it's my actual lunch period.

## Work exercise into your routine

It's safe to say that we are all moving our bodies significantly less now that we are all in quarantine. We aren't walking to our classes, to our cars, going to practice, etc. So, in light of this, I have tried to add more walking into my day to day. Separate from my workout, I try to take 1 walk outside everyday, weather permitting. I find this helps my mood and increases my ability to get through my work load.

## Keep using your planner—or get a new one

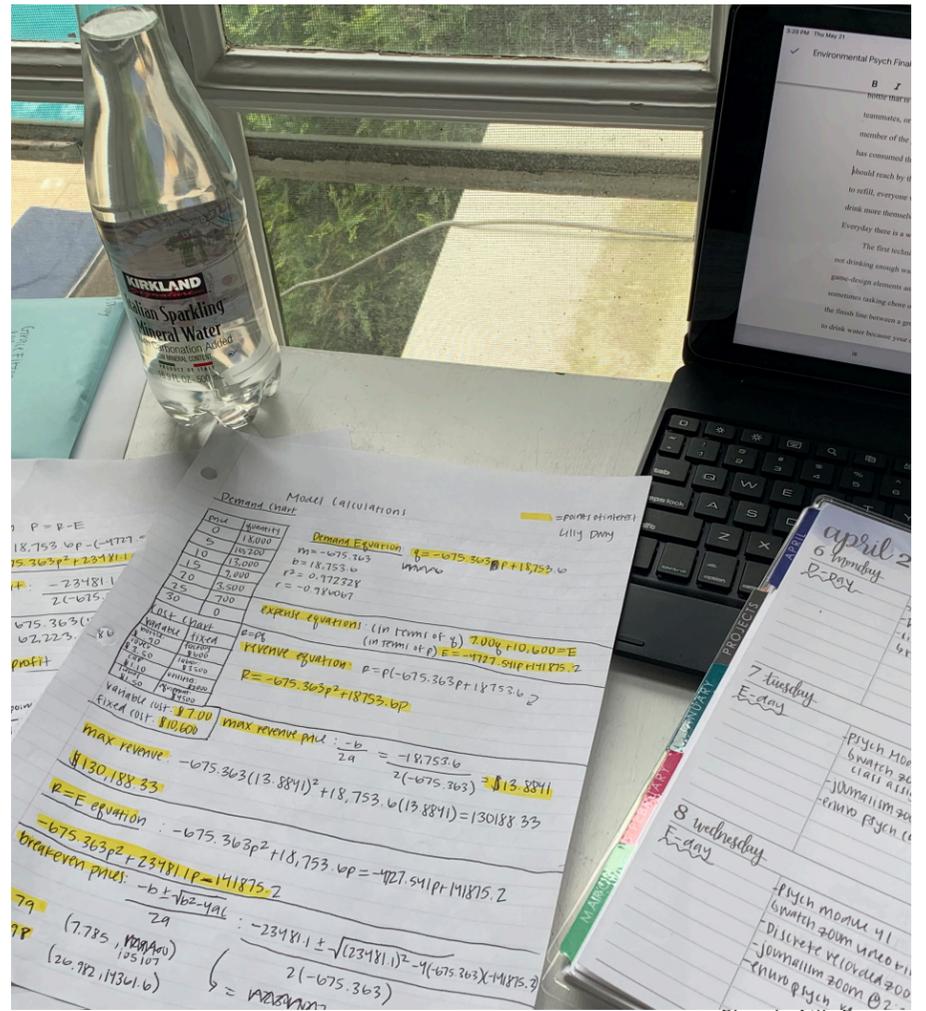


Photo by Lilly Drury

Doing work at a set space or desk and not in your bed can help you get more work done.

The first few weeks of online school were extremely overwhelming for me because it seemed like each teacher I had was interpreting their class schedules differently, and there was no cohesiveness in the way classes were being run. Some classes Zoomed everyday, others once a week, others not at all. Some had class work and homework, some had tasks that needed to be done alone, others with groups. I found myself in a state of constant anxiety, checking my emails and Canvas 24/7 making sure I wasn't missing a Zoom or a class assignment. Finally, after a week of this stress, I got myself a planner and

started to write everything in it. I found that my LFA planner just wasn't working for me anymore, because online school just doesn't work like a normal day. You don't have the same class periods and consistent timing, and it was throwing me off seeing the old times in the planner. By getting a new one, I was able to curate my own day-to-day schedule, which made keeping track of the tasks I needed to complete MUCH easier. Planning ahead is essential to keeping my nerves in check, because I know that the odds of missing an assignment and Zoom are much less when I'm organized and writing everything down.

# Simple steps for health & safety--inside & out

By Shylee Saladi  
Staff Writer

With the impact of the Coronavirus affecting the world, it is of utmost importance now to be staying safe and healthy.

One of the easiest ways to practice social distancing is to stay at least six feet away from others at all times when outside the house. It is important to stay at least six feet away so that when others around you sneeze or cough, you are far enough away



Photo by Shylee Saladi

Shylee Saladi '22 and her sister, Nikita Saladi exercise by doing virtual Zumba.

from them to avoid their germs.

Between the distances of three and six feet, is known as the breathing zone and if you are in this zone, the air that one person exhales is the same air that you are inhaling. If someone has the virus, then they are exhaling it into the air that you breathe. Though we are told to stay at home at all costs, we are in need of groceries, exercise, and fresh air.

If you have to go outside, it is best to go out with a mask and try to avoid people the best you can, especially if you live in a crowded town. After you come back home from being outside, you should always wash your hands even if you feel like you haven't touched anything. This is one of the easiest ways to get rid of germs and to reduce the spread of germs.

Going along with staying safe it is also important to get in some fitness while at home. A couple of ways you can safely workout are at-home workouts, Zumba, running, walking, practicing any sports, and conditioning.

A very simple yet effective workout is doing chores at home, such as doing the laundry, taking out the trash, and cleaning is also a very good way to stay active if you don't want to risk going outside. Helping out around your house is also a very good way to stay active while at home.

If you do want to go outside for a run or a walk, the best way to do so is with a mask and to avoid going near others who are also outside. While outside, it is best to stay clear of places where many people usually go such as parks or playgrounds to avoid contact with others. You can even exercise while at your desk by sitting on an exercise ball while you are doing your homework or in a Zoom meeting which will help strengthen your core muscles.

Overall, during this pandemic, it is very important to stay safe while being able to go outside.

# Falling asleep in class more than ever

By **Bia Leffingwell**  
Staff Writer

It all started when I dozed off at the dinner table after a long D-Day. My parents shook me awake and interrogated me on why I could possibly be tired. Was it my sleep schedule? Was it because I hadn't done anything all day? We were on the right track. It turned out that my lack of energy comes from a popular culprit—“Zoom fatigue.” Zoom is a platform that has surged in use during quarantine for video meetings of all sorts.

When we're on video calls, our energy is drained by working harder at deciphering facial expressions, tone of voice, and body language. Along with trying to figure out our fellow Zoomers, we probably have many different tabs and screens open on our device, sending our brain into a bit of a sensory overload. However, during a face-to-face conversation, we're much more connected with other people.

You may be constantly worried about your internet connection, leading to higher anxiety levels, which tires out your brain and body. You also face a pressure of worrying about your appearance on camera. So, maybe, teachers should stop criticizing us so much for having our cameras off!

It's important that adults be cognizant and respectful of the teenagers that they're teaching. Zoom is hard for us, too. We

should have the option to stay muted and have our cameras off while in class. While participation is very important, it is hard to keep your microphone and screen on for those 45 minutes because we are all in different environments.

We should also have the option to skip some Zoom meetings without feeling guilty, as frequent Zoom meetings in a day or a week can be seriously draining. It is reassuring to know that some teachers are aware of these obstacles, and limit the amount of time we use with Zoom. But, we are still spending a lot of time staring at a screen. It's something to consider if e-learning is something we have to do again in the near future.

If you think you are dealing with extreme Zoom fatigue, try turning your camera off, muting your microphone, and making sure your device is off to the side and not directly in front of you. These little actions have helped me, and many others. Trying to get the right amount of sleep during this time can be challenging, but if you focus on limiting your blue-light exposure before bed, you'll get more sleep. Getting a good night of sleep during a prominent time for Zoom fatigue is so important.

Everyone should be focused on making themselves happy during these times. It's not all about Zoom and having perfect participation in class. We should be most concerned about taking care of our body,

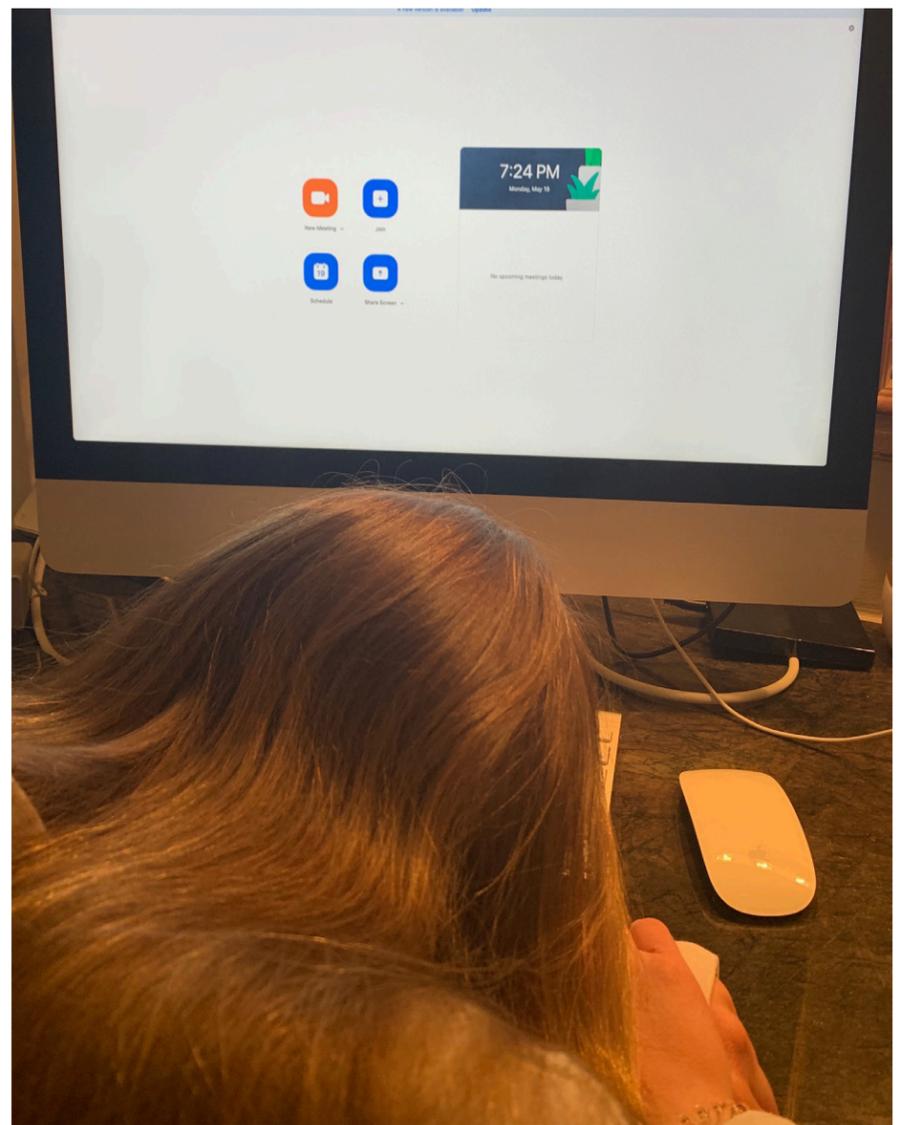


Photo by Kirstin Palasz

Kirstin Palasz '22 falls asleep in front of her computer after a long day of using Zoom.

## The Screenager Stereotype: Will pandemic dependence on tech change misconceptions?

By **Gemma Fink**  
Staff Writer

Today's teenagers have had a unique experience that comes as a result of rapidly advancing technology and the increased access to it. However, despite the benefits that have been reaped due to new methods for work, communication, and entertainment, the negativity of generational stereotypes

has changed much of the population's outlook on the use of technology by adolescents.

Though sometimes unfair or insensitive to the environment that teens have been raised in, the stereotype rings true. Bela De Jesús, a sophomore at Lake Forest Academy, stated that “some of the time, comments or accusations are accurate. Teenagers do use technology a lot, but it is

because it is the main source of our social lives and communication.”

However, negativity—ranging from articles titled “How Obsessed is Gen Z with Mobile Technology?” to documentaries designed to discourage the use of social media among teens—surrounds the “screenager stereotype,” and is damaging to adolescents. Historically, stereotypes have been used to try to fit many different people

in oversimplified categories, and while some may be considered positive, an overwhelming majority of stereotypes can have detrimental effects.

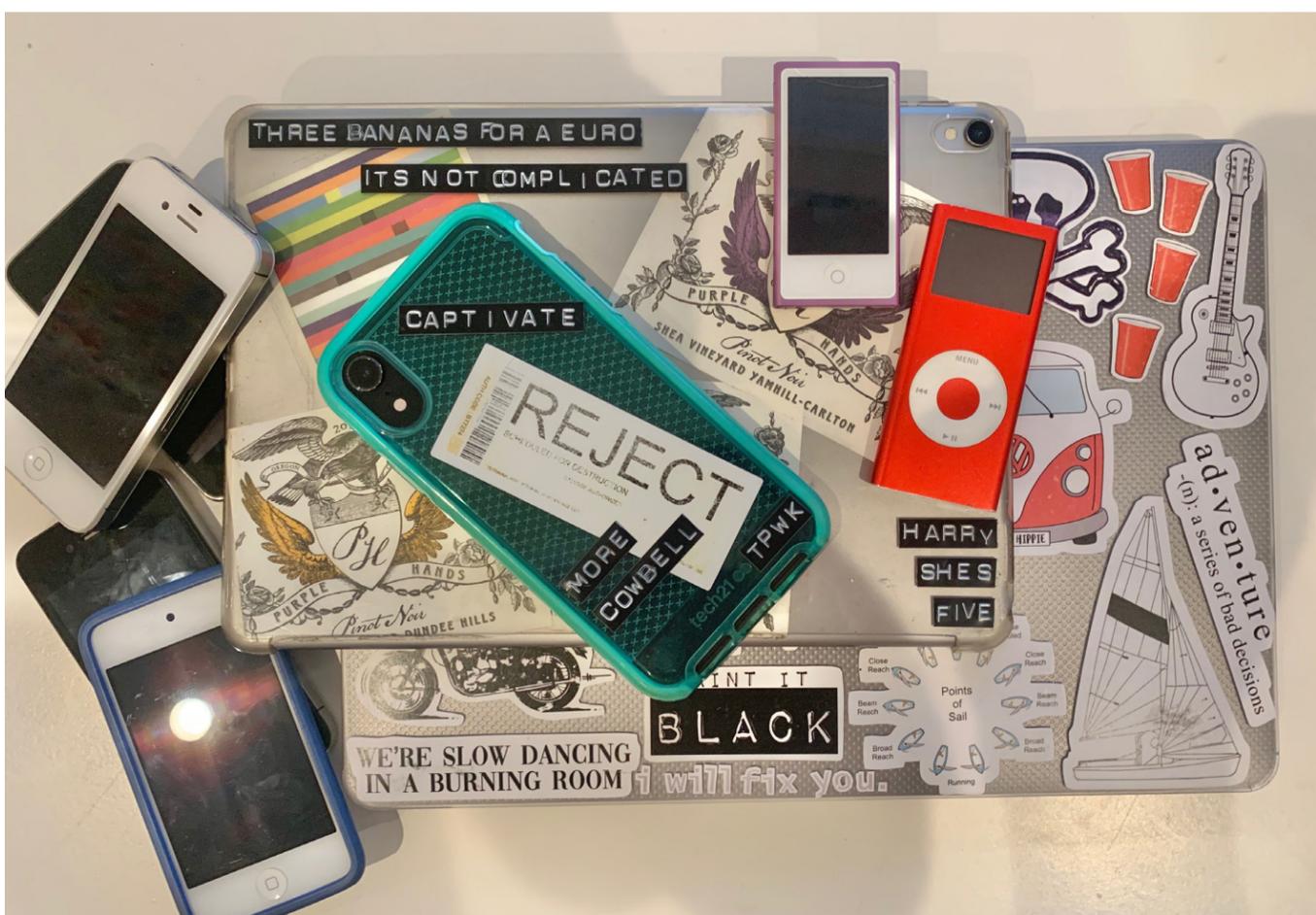
It is also important to note that, because of this overgeneralization, teens who simply use phones, and do not engage with social media often, are thrown into the same category as those who play video games for hours on end, yet all are considered “addicts” due to the unjustified labeling that stereotypes bring.

It is no surprise that teenage dependency on mobile devices and computers has skyrocketed due to the global pandemic ensuing. As the lives of teens are altered by the cancellation of schools, sports, and social events around the world, the necessity for technology to provide safe alternatives is evergrowing.

This begs the question, “How will these stereotypes change now that everyone is forced to live behind a screen?”

Bela De Jesús said, “Now that everyone is forced to use technology for pretty much everything, I think adults will be more empathetic towards teens and their use of technology.”

There is no doubt that, after this pandemic, the skills that society has built due to this unusual experience with technology, remote education, and work from home will factor positively into the workplace, while hopefully also changing people's perspectives surrounding screen time and the supposed “addiction” attached.



This collection is just a sample of the personal technology potentially inundating teens today.

Photo by Gemma Fink

# College commitments to celebrate!

By Angie Cotton  
Staff Writer

This year, LFA's college athletic commitments range from Division I to Division III, including students participating in all different sports teams at LFA. How-

ever, some of these athletes' careers were more directly affected by the current global situation, on which they were interviewed about.

Lucas Matta '20 is a key player of LFA's Prep Hockey team and is commit-

ted to the Northern Michigan Division I hockey team. In an interview, he said, "for me, I'm playing Junior Hockey so I wouldn't have signed my contract this spring anyway, so it didn't really affect me that much signing at LFA."

However, he also mentioned that he felt more affected by not being able to enjoy the spring season at LFA, as Matta does lacrosse in the spring to stay in shape. Along with that, he enjoys having the availability of both the ice rink and gym at any time on campus. Despite currently not having access to any of these sites, he still looks forward to getting back on the ice, making the all-rookie team, in addition to trying to go pro during his four years at Northern Michigan.

Will Kasten '20 plays for the Varsity Boys Tennis team at LFA and is committed to the Boston College Division I tennis team. Although Kasten was able to sign at LFA, in an interview, he mentioned that it is tough not being at LFA right now, since he plays tennis during the spring season and felt like "in high

school, playing for LFA, you have to balance the academics along with tennis, and it's something that you're still going to have to do in college, so that definitely would've helped." In spite of not being able to play tennis this spring, he is still enthusiastic and is looking forward to playing some more tennis, along with working hard to make the lineup as a freshman at Boston College next school year.

All together, LFA has four seniors this school year that have been confirmed to be participating in college athletics next school year, including Charlie Johnson '20 for DePauw football, John Tobin '20 for St. Lawrence squash, Will Kasten '20 for Boston College tennis, and Lucas Matta '20 for Northern Michigan hockey. It is a great achievement for them all, and while moments like Senior Night for Boys Varsity Tennis didn't get to take place, senior athletes, we salute you!



Photo courtesy of LFA SmugMug

Charlie Johnson '20 signs to play football for DePauw University, accompanied by his parents.

# LFA's spring teams stay connected despite pandemic

By Kirstin Palasz  
Staff Writer

Lake Forest Academy has been closed for over two months, causing spring sports to be canceled and, as a result, leaving many athletes deprived of their activities and teammates. Despite this, many of the teams have been staying connected and active throughout these unprecedented times.

During the past months, the spring teams have been staying connected in multiple ways. Some teams have been making videos for the community, and others have been texting in their group chats. Not only have the spring season teams been involved with these connections, but also the fall and winter teams as well.

The Girls' Varsity Softball Team and the Boys' Prep Hockey Team made a community impact despite the pandemic going around, which has kept them connected. The softball team video consists of many of the players thanking healthcare workers.

Darrin Madeley, Athletic Director and Head Coach of Girls' Varsity Softball, talked about how it was well thought out with the diversity in the team. Each person talks in a different language such as English, Chinese, Korean, Spanish, and even sign language. Madeley stated that the main purpose was, "To show that the girls care about what's going on and to show how incredibly diverse our

team is." Madeley also said how it already made an impact on the LFA community, as it was sent out to faculty, and put on social media. Not only is this an inspiring video, but it shows the thoughtful contributions of the LFA community.

As for the Prep Hockey video, it consists of many players passing a roll of toilet paper as a team. A similar purpose conveyed of how these teams are staying connected as well as being aware of the effects of the pandemic.

Through these videos, each team has stayed connected in their own way. Although spring teams have lost their seasons, Madeley still wanted to keep all the teams together. He made slideshows of pictures and videos for each team from the school year. He wanted to create these videos to keep all teams connected. Madeley said, "I really miss having the students on campus. The students are what makes LFA special, and without them we are missing the heartbeat of the school."

Other than staying connected, teams have been staying active as well. With all the sports being canceled, many athletes have been left with a lack of activity. Each athlete has a different way of staying active such as drills relating to his or her sport, or home workouts in his or her house, or just going on a run. Emily Kalis, Head Coach of the Girls Lacrosse Team, created many lacrosse drills for her team as a result of the season being lost. She stated, "The plan involved drills that players could do on their own or including

their family members." She wanted athletes to improve their skills even without their teammates. Some of these drills included "wall ball" which is the "best way to practice dominant hand and non-dominant hand stick handling," as Kalis said.

Although teams are spread across the world and can no longer play together, it is still important to stay connected, "anyway possible. Text, phone, Zoom, whatever. Just to keep spirits high," as Madeley asserted.



Photo by of Mimi Osborne

Mimi Osborne 22 practices her field hockey drills at her house despite not being able to play.

# A dream deferred, not denied

By Mimi Osborne  
Staff Writer

For many college athletes, there is only one goal in mind: to be the best. For many, however, with the cancellation and postponement of events such as the Olympics and Wimbledon, these hopes are slipping away.

Hannah Liu '21 is a competitive swimmer through Patriot Aquatic Club, and has been swimming for ten years now. She strives to get an olympic trial time, with hopes of being the next Katie Ledecky or Missy Franklin. When asked about her opinion on the postponing of the Olympics, she stated, "There was a unique movement within the swimming community." Liu mentioned that a lot of olympic swimmers are posting photos with captions such as, "Just one more year to get better" and using "#Tokyo2021."

All of the olympic athletes are given one more year to improve their sport, and Liu said she feels that, "though this will impact the swimmers greatly, the wait will be worth it." As for her personal improvement, she is taking this quarantine as an opportunity to, "train smarter" for the Olympic Trials to come.

Unlike how people are able to train more for the Olympics, Wimbledon

hopefuls possesses quite the opposite.

Kimberely Graham, English Teacher and Head Coach of Varsity Boys Tennis, and Brooke Farrell '22, member of the Varsity Girls Tennis Team, shared their opinions on the canceling of the Wimbledon. The world-renowned tennis tournament first started in 1877 and has been held in England ever since. For the first time in the 143 years of its existence, the tournament was postponed.

Graham said, "It is sad that the players will not have this tradition-rich tournament to train for and look forward to playing in." However, she believed that the postponement will give the athletes much needed time to, "move away from the circuit and [have] more time to train."

With regards to how the return of the Wimbledon will unfold, Graham said, "I assume the return of live tennis will be much like many other sports, less fans at first." It is hard for many athletes who thrive off the support of their fans, to have to train and play without them. However, with time, the recovering support from the community will provide these players with excitement and drive.

Similar to Graham, Brooke Farrell, a two-year member of the Girls Varsity Tennis Team, felt that, "a lot of people that are upset about it being cancelled and, at least to me, it is the most presti-



Photo courtesy of Hannah Liu

Hannah Liu '21 practices breast stroke during her quarantine.

gious of the slams." Though the earning of this highly coveted title and 41 million US dollars will have to wait, tennis fans are eagerly anticipating the return of Wimbledon.

It is important to remember that though times are hard right now, everything will be better shortly, and the LFA community will be waiting to cheer for these amazing athletes when the time is right.

## Recruitment twists and turns: How the pandemic impacts aspiring athletes

By Kirstin Palasz  
Staff Writer

For many athletes, the ultimate goal is to be recruited to continue playing in college. Getting recruited is a rigorous process that requires a lot of work and dedication. With the recent development of COVID-19, where everything is getting canceled or postponed, many athletes are at a loss with their process. Although the college recruitment process typically starts the summer after an athlete's sophomore year, losing a season and practice time for any athlete of any age can be detrimental. Some athletes have lost their spring season, which is a crucial time for recruiters to see them play. Other athletes have lost practice time, which is a pivotal time to improve skills. These are main concerns with athletes as they feel they could fall behind in this process.

The spring season sports completely lost their seasons, which means that athletes were no longer able to compete in games, which are a crucial way to improve. They also could not practice with a team. Athletes who compete in fall or winter sports are now at a loss of practice time. Both of these things are vital to an athlete's development in their skills at their sports. Not only is this the

ideal time to get recruiters to see an athlete play, but it is also important to gather videos to send to college coaches and recruiters. For any athlete who plays a sport in either fall, winter, or spring, any season is a time to improve skills.

Darrin Madeley, Athletic Director at LFA, stated that athletes' "skill development is what's suffering right now." This means all athletes are affected as well as their development of their sports.

The NCAA has very specific guidelines for what athletes must do to get recruited. With the development of COVID-19, in-person recruiting, as well as official and unofficial visits, have been banned. These two things are pivotal in the recruitment process, but coaches are still able to see videos of game play. Madeley spoke about how he doesn't think the process will be affected in terms of coaches getting to see players because "recruiting nowadays has a lot to do with video."

Darius Duff, a member of the LFA Boys' Varsity Basketball team, spoke about how the NCAA should change some of their rules. He said, "The NCAA should implement more ways to contact coaches even though there are multiple platforms that can make that happen." Duff mentioned how this would help the process since it is at a standstill with so many recruitment events being canceled such as the AAU.

Many athletes are taking this time to focus on their individual and basic skills. At LFA, there are many athletes who are suffering, but everyone is trying to find ways to continue their development.

Duff mentioned how he is able to "focus more on my skills and perfect my craft. [I am] able to get stronger and sharpen my skills up for upcoming events if and when they happen." He said he is able to improve his skills by "lifting weights, and doing basketball-related drills outside with my portable hoop." Unfortunately, some athletes don't have as much equipment to continue their practice and must train in different ways.

Michael Nowak '22, another member of LFA's Varsity Basketball Team, discussed how everything has been shut down, from gyms to outdoor courts, so he "[doesn't] have any place to go to get some shots." Rather than just quitting, he has been working on strength by "[working] on my condition by running. I [am] also trying to work on some dynamics at home."

It is important for athletes to continue to work on their skills, so that progress is not lost. Although some of the recruitment process has not changed to help athletes during this time, it is still important for athletes to keep their determination.



Photo courtesy of Darius Duff

Darius Duff '22' shoots a basketball during an LFA varsity basketball game.

# Summer Entertainment Preview

By Mimi Osborne  
Staff Writer

The realm of arts and entertainment has heavily shaped modern day society as we know it. Whether it has brought childhood crushes to light or tweaked with our emotions, each and every one of us has been shaped by the world of A&E. Movies such as *Titanic* and *All the Bright Places* are known for provoking heart-wrenching pain in their audience members through hurting the characters we form connections with. However, heartwarming love stories like *Dirty Dancing* provide the viewers with the hope that everything will be okay. Now, more than ever, people need this feeling of security, and what better way to bring that to light than through what plays with our emotions most: arts and entertainment. Here are some of the highlights for expected movie releases over summer 2020:

If you grew up in a similar household as I did, Scooby Doo was on constant loop. Whether you relate most to Velma, Shaggy, Fred, Daphne, or even Scooby, this new rendition of the American classic is sure to peak your interest. Due to production companies attempting to still capture their audiences despite COVID-19, some theater releases have been moved straight to streaming. You can purchase your own copy of Scoob now as it was released in this new manner on May 15, 2020.

For anyone who remembers delving into the sci-fi thriller of *Artemis Fowl*, Disney+ has got you covered. The story of a 12-year-old genius and descendent of world-renowned crimestoppers, Artemis finds himself in an epic quest to determine who is behind his father's disappearance. Featuring successful actors such as Judy Dench and Josh Gad, this 125 million dollar budget movie is one you will surely never forget. It releases on May 29, 2020 to all Disney+ subscribers.

Director Shawn Levy is most well known for his works on projects such as *Stranger Things* and *Night at the Museum*; however, his newest comedy is one expected to top the rest. *Free Guy* featuring Ryan Reynolds is about Guy, a bank-teller, who realizes that his whole life is, in reality, is just that of a background character in a video game about to go offline. The quest of one man trying to save life as he knows it was originally scheduled to release in July, but as of this publishing, has been postponed for a December theatrical release.

If you have ever played the hit video game *Monster Hunter*, you are surely going to go crazy over the inspired movie with the same title. The United Nations army falls into a portal where they are shot into an alternate dimension, in which they have to fight off monsters and protect Earth from destruction. *Monster Hunter* is to be released on September 4th, 2020.



Photo courtesy of Warner Animation Group  
Scoobs is released straight to streaming, rather than just a theater release as originally advertised.

Experience the Original Broadway Production

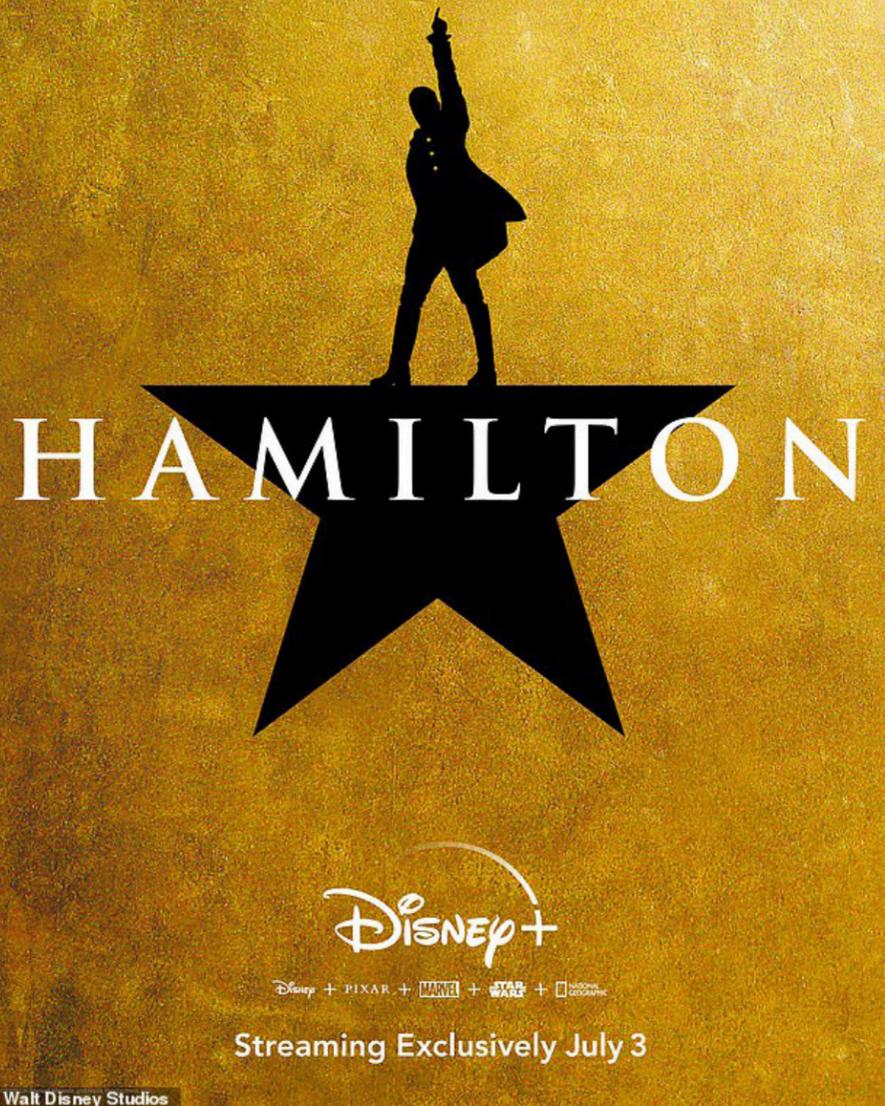


Photo courtesy of Disney

A recorded Broadway performance premieres on Disney+ on July 3rd, 2020.

If you, like me, cried through this book growing up, then it might be too soon to revisit the topic. However, if you don't find the story of Ivan, a silverback gorilla, longing for freedom from the torture of being a circus animal upsetting, then I'm sure you will love this movie. *The One and Only Ivan* is to be released August 14, 2020 with much anticipation, and a few tears.

When I hear the words, "I am not throwing away my shot" I immediately hum the tune to "My Shot" from the hit Broadway musical, *Hamilton*. However, if you never got the opportunity to see this performance live, you can shortly see it from the comfort of your own couch. Lin Manuel Miranda's original musical *Hamilton* will be coming to Disney+ on July 3, 2020. While some Broadway musical recordings have been made available throughout the pandemic, this is sure to be a big one given its current popularity.

Similar to movies, music also has the ability to change the mood of someone with one simple play. For instance, the classic hit "Mr. Brightside" by The Killers can make an entire school go crazy with just a few intro chords. So, let's get excited for the new music to be released over Summer 2020.

Most famous for her songs "Shallow"

and "Poker Face," Lady Gaga is releasing a new album called *Chromatica* on May 29, 2020.

Singer and songwriter Luke Bryan is most well known for his chart-topping country songs such as "Knockin' Boots" and "Country Girl;" however, his new album *Born Here, Live Here, Die Here* releasing on August 7, 2020 is supposed to surpass all his other creations.

Most well known for her portrayal of Robin on Netflix's *Stranger Things*, this scoop-troop member Maya Hawke is releasing her very first album on June 19, called *Blush*.

Glass Animals, a band originating from Oxford, England, is releasing their fourth album called *Dreamland* on July 10, 2020.

Despite not knowing the release date of these next few albums, many artists have dropped the title of their newest albums to come in 2020: Logic's *No Pressure*, Kanye West's *Turbo Grafx 16*, Janet Jackson's *Black Diamond*, Future's *Life is Good*, Alicia Keys' *ALICIA*, Rhianna's *R9*, and The Killers' *Imploding the Mirage* are all on the slate for release.

Whether you like to binge movies, or vibe to some new music, Summer 2020 is surely one to remember with regards to the arts and entertainment field.

# Controversy, Culture, and Contentment: Debate over New Live Action Remakes Explained

By Bela De Jesús  
Staff Writer

Despite the excitement and opportunity that comes with live-action remakes, many have found spaces to cause controversy and backlash. *The Little Mermaid* is one of these remakes, and will be released in November of 2021. The film is directed by Rob Marshall, and the music will be written by the composer of the original animation, Alan Menken, with the help of Lin Manuel Miranda. Halle Bailey has been casted for the role of Ariel.

Bailey, part of the duo Chloe x Halle, has been nominated for multiple Grammys, and has toured with Beyoncé. Despite the immense enthusiasm many felt that Ariel would be represented by a black woman, there was much resistance regarding the casting.

The main argument people are using against Bailey's casting is that she does not have red hair and that Disney is not staying true to the original movie. The backlash against the casting is, simply put, rooted in racism, as the argument that she doesn't have impossible cartoonish red hair is just a way to hide the fact that some do not want to see a character "taken from them" by a woman of color.

However, much of this ridicule is not even from real people. In the age of technology, much of the backlash is from bots or trolls simply intended to invoke anger



Photo courtesy of Disney

The new, live-action *Mulan* aims to depict Chinese culture more faithfully than the animated film.

in people. All of these fake stories grew into a reaction that sadly hid the tremendous pride and goodness that comes with the casting of Bailey.

When asked what she thought about the reactions, one of the heads of Film Club, Jaiyen English, said, "I want you to keep in mind that the only black Disney princess thus far is Tiana from *Princess in the Frog*. For black girls, that is the representation, and that is the princess that we get." English believed that live action remakes should strive to be different from the original and that inclusion in new movies is essential for creating role models for all children.

Another film that will be getting a remake is *Mulan*, which is set to release July 24th, 2020, if cinemas will open by then. The film is directed by Niki Caro, and *Mulan* is played by Liu Yifei. The live-action remake will feature many changes, including the removal of Mushu and Li Shang, while the love interest will be split into two characters. The musical numbers will also be removed, and there will be many additions to the cast, including a female antagonist. The removal of these characters has been controversial but necessary, as Disney wants to remain respectful of Chinese culture and make these changes in order to make a more

accurate depiction of Chinese tradition.

When asked about the alterations in the movie, head of Asian American Affinity Group, Mia Castle, stated, "There's something about the movie being live-action as opposed to animated that greatly elevates the cultural impact of its content, especially when considering how much the Asian demographic in America has changed since the release of the original animated *Mulan* in 1998." Castle also stated that there will always be backlash when creating movies, but the film industry is a business that needs to stay respectful, even if it aggravates some people from time to time.

## Suddenly stopped: Hollywood schedule makes a shift

By Sage Ye  
Staff Writer

Whatever the occasion is, going to the movies is always a way to have fun and enjoy good times. Unfortunately, having this luxury just isn't possible at this time. Ever since the Coronavirus pandemic struck the world in early 2020, most places have been under lockdown to strengthen social distancing and prevent the spread of the virus. With this, movie theatres are being temporarily shut down.

Ever since the middle of March, individual states have been closing down their public services and issuing stay at home orders, starting with bigger,

more hard-hit states such as California. By mid-April, most of the nation was under lockdown in some capacity. This meant that the movie industry was going to take a toll. Every single movie that was either in production or set to be released during this time had to change their plans and either release on a different date or change to an on-demand home release.

According to IMDB, a small number of movies decided to do home releases; those that were released for home viewing included titles managed to make quite a large amount of money from home release, but it is evident that they would have had bigger openings if they were shown at the theatre, given that the

theatre viewings make more money from the theatre experience alone.

Other big Hollywood movies have all pushed their dates back. This includes films like *Mulan*, *Fast and Furious 9*, and *A Quiet Place-Part 2*. According to IMDB, the next installment in the 007 film series, *No Time To Die*, was pushed back from April 2nd to November 25th, more than 7 months. One highly anticipated film from Marvel Studios, *Black Widow*, has pushed its release date from May 2nd to November 6th. In fact, Marvel has decided to push their next 4 films all back as well, including long awaited films like *The Eternals*, or *Shang-Chi*.

Foreign films have also inevitably taken a similar hit. *The Demon Slayer*, a film continuing the storyline of a Japanese anime by the same name, was scheduled to release in November. Due to the halt in its production, it has been pushed back to 2021.

Similarly, the TV industry has also been hurt heavily. Although streaming giants such as Netflix and Disney+ have both seen a large rise in subscriptions, as well as the addition of new shows, all the TV series that were in production at this time were pushed back. The *Stranger Things* season four was pushed from a January 2021 release, to release in spring of 2021. According to Crunchyroll.com, Anime

TV series including *Re:Zero* and *One Piece*, *Attack on Titan* also held off their release dates until a later time.

Both students and faculty here at LFA are devastated by many of their highly anticipated titles being pushed back.

"It's truly infuriating" said Gemma Fink '22 when being asked to speak on the pushed back date of *No Time To Die*.

Spanish teacher Marianela Gonzalez said, "I was actually going to go take my daughter to see *Fast And Furious 9* this summer, but I guess that's not happening."

In the end, compared to everything going on in the world right now, movies being pushed back isn't the biggest problem on people's minds. This did, however, negatively affect everyone that has worked hard in the film industry trying to bring these movies to our lives. Although many films have been pushed back, most of us aren't going to lose a lot from it. With streaming services taking in older shows, and video websites offering films at lower prices, there will always be something out there to cure your boredom.



Photo courtesy of MGM

James bond(Daniel Craig) as seen in the new movie, No Time To Die.

# Love and Hugs:

## The way New Yorkers give back, and how you can too

By **Bela De Jesús**  
Staff Writer

With all of the sadness and separation we feel during these times, places across the world have found ways to stay united and appreciate the sacrifices people on the frontlines have given to save our lives. In the city with the highest amount of COVID-19 cases, this separation seems greater than ever, but New Yorkers have found a simple way to create a positive atmosphere.

At 7pm every night, which is the time in which hospital shifts switch, New Yorkers go out on their balconies, open their windows and shout out onto the streets. They applaud, make signs and shout thank yous for the nurses and doctors who are sacrificing their lives every day for the betterment of all of us.

This has been a daily tradition in New York for months now, and it is a part of every New Yorker's day. Beatrice Clark, a sophomore at the Spence School in New York City, says "I have participated in it every night! The applause for the healthcare workers demonstrates the sense of community in the city and allows for us to show our appreciation for those on the front lines."

For people all over the city, the two minutes people spent thanking their healthcare workers allows for a break from the busy day and a way for people to recognize that staying at home is for a larger purpose.

Barbara Porter, a doctor living in New York City, said, "When we were deep in it, in late March through April, my colleagues and I would talk about how good it felt to again be appreciated as health care workers. Interestingly, in NYC, medical

work has not been a prestigious job, and the clapping made us feel seen. It was remarkable." The applause is something that makes the healthcare workers be seen for the first time in a long time, and gives them the gratitude they deserve.

The question is, if you are not in New York, what are some ways you can give back to the doctors and nurses in your neighborhood? When asked that question, Porter said, "By believing scientists and doctors and nurses. Truly, respecting the advice of scientists and not of politicians and sharing knowledge is giving back...by being patient and kind to the people around you because you have no idea what others are suffering, feel like ways of giving back."

By listening to health professionals and being kind to others, we are able to do what we can to give back to those who are fighting to keep the truth alive.

The way in which New Yorkers are able to unite together for two minutes out of their day to show love and positivity is a beautiful example of the goodness of humanity. It is a daily reminder that we are all in this together, and that the small actions we do each day can have a huge impact, especially during such trying times as these.



Photo courtesy of Clap Because We Care

The Clap Because We Care initiative salutes healthcare and essential workers.

## The Meaning of Mental Health Awareness Month

By **Aylin Tepe**  
Staff Writer

May is observed as the official month for Mental Health Awareness in the United States. Currently mental health is of utmost significance since most of us are stuck at home and unable to go outside due to the global COVID-19 pandemic.

Mental Health Awareness month is meant to raise awareness about the importance of mental health and to help end the stigma associated with mental health disorders. Jennifer Madeley, Seminar Department Chair and School Counselor, stated that, "It is important for our community members to know that mental health struggles can affect anyone, and it is nothing to be ashamed of. It is like any other illness; treatment and care is vital." As a community, right now is an important time to raise awareness and be careful of those around us who may be having a difficult time.

Currently the way our school is raising awareness is by providing specific information on the Wellness Blog, which not only offers support to community members or anyone who wishes to learn more about mental health, but it also helps normalize the stigma surrounding it.

During this pandemic, it is important to make sure to stay healthy both physically

and mentally. Staying home for prolonged periods of time can raise anxiety levels and may cause depressive episodes among individuals, so it is important to keep a lookout for signs amongst friends, family and most importantly, yourself. Some tips you can use to stay mentally healthy are: engaging in physical exercise, practicing mindfulness, doing things you enjoy, picking up new hobbies, staying in contact with friends, engaging with family

members, and taking some time out of your day to simply breathe and collect your thoughts.

Mental Health Awareness month is an important time to take notice of yourself and those around you who might be struggling. Ways we can raise awareness as individuals are talking about mental health, not judging others who have or have had mental health issues, learning some signs and symptoms of various

mental illnesses, saying no to stigma, and spreading the word by using social media and popular hashtags such as "#mental-healthawarenessmonth" and "#break-the-stigma". These are just a few ways to help raise awareness during this month.

This is a month for raising awareness, and as a community, it is important to have a dialogue and not impose judgement on those who share their stories or experiences.



Photo courtesy of #Breakthestigma Instagram

May is a time to bring awareness to mental health.

# Celebration of heritage combats hate

By Sage Ye  
Staff Writer

As the school year ends, and summer comes around the corner for students at LFA, we enter the month of May. May is marked by being synonymous with the Asian American Pacific Islander Heritage Month. This month celebrates and recognizes the Asian American and Pacific Islanders and their history, culture, and influence. This year, people are celebrating it differently with the Coronavirus pandemic spreading across the globe, forcing people to stay inside. With COVID-19, however also comes a surge in hate crimes against Asian Americans in the United States.

Sources such as *Forbes* and *The New York Times* all show that in the past three months, reported and documented cases of hate crime and xenophobia against Asian Americans spiked. This prejudice is most likely fueled by the beliefs that Asians, specifically, the Chinese, are the cause of the virus.

While it is true that the virus did originate in Wuhan, a district in southern China, and its spread was caused by the unfortunate citizens over there who didn't know they contracted the virus, many innocent Asian Americans living here in the United States are becoming victims of racial abuse.

For example, according to *The New York Times*, Yuanyuan Zhu, a Chinese immigrant living in San Francisco who became an American citizen five years ago, was spit on, shouted at, and attacked on the streets. Later on, she heard a man scream when a bus passed, to, "run (her) over." This incident happened on April 9th.

According to the *Guardian*, a separate incident that occurred on April 23rd,

when an elderly Chinese man was shopping in Vancouver, and a middle aged man began shouting racist remarks at him. Many of those remarks were related to the pandemic. He eventually started physically assaulting him--throwing nearby objects towards him and pushing him down. By the time officers arrived, the suspect was gone.

These are two out of thousands, perhaps even millions of incidents in the world targeting innocent Asian Americans, both in day-to-day life and online. In fact, it is important to note that many of the people who are getting blamed for the virus are the same people fighting it on the front lines. According to *The New York Times*, in yet another report, Dr. Peter Lee, who is fighting the Coronavirus, says he experiences this abuse daily, even while working as an emergency room doctor amid this global crisis.

Sophomore Rosie Kim, a boarder at LFA, expressed her thoughts on this matter, saying, "It's unreasonable that a virus is blamed on an ethnicity, and further on an entire race, so blatantly and violently. It is now harming many Asians across America."

Many Asian students here in the LFA community have stated to have seen or experienced this harassment, mostly through TV and social media. One student who chose to remain anonymous said that he had an encounter with a man while walking, who had demanded him to, "Go back to where you came from!"

Junior Mark Peng stated, "I think people forget that (Asians) experience racism too. They think that it's more okay to make fun of (Asians) than make fun of another ethnicity. However (everyone) should be equal." Some other Asian members of the LFA community shared quite similar opinions.



Photo by Sage Ye  
Students Rosie Kim '22, Ellie Wang '22, and Sage Ye '22 pose for a picture on a late night fast food run.

Finally, Yue Chen, an Art and Chinese teacher here at LFA, gave her own input. "Hate Crime is not new in this society. At the moment when the leader of this country publicly called the virus 'Chinese virus', I knew that the new wave of anti-Asian is coming and will be coming hard."

Chen said, "People sometimes have a hard time distinguishing 'government' and 'people' of a country/ region. Also, as part of our human nature, when something bad happens, we need to find someone else to blame it on."

Then she continued talking about the hate felt across the country. "I do remember one of my friends who is a 3rd generation of Asian American told me on a special occasion that 'no matter how hard you work, how successful you are, you just don't belong.' This kind of feeling is rapidly amplified during this pandemic among Asian American communities."

She finished by speaking on the bigger picture, saying, "no individual country or

nation or region can solve a global issue on its own as every global issue (like the Coronavirus) is extremely complex and interconnected. Collaboratively working together is the only way. the only way to a win-win situation."

This pandemic has hit hard and affected all of us. While a lot of people experience racism, Asian Americans have been receiving way more unfair treatment recently due to many people trying to place blame on someone. With it, unfortunately, Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage month is getting less recognition than ever. In contrast, the importance of a celebration like this shines through; as well as the fact that people need to remember Asian culture's accomplishments and contributions here in America, and how people of Asian heritage continue to fight for everyone alongside all the heroes of our essential workforce.

## Celebration Amidst Quarantine

By Bia Leffingwell  
Staff Writer

Cinco de Mayo is a widely known Mexican holiday across the United States and Mexico, occurring on the fifth of May annually. Celebrations are usually elaborate and festive, but this year, that had to change. While celebrations had to be a bit less grandiose, families from Puebla, Mexico and the United States were still able to find light in the situation.

Mariana Quiroz, a sophomore at Lake Forest Academy, has family that lives in Puebla. Quiroz's family celebrates Cinco de Mayo every year with traditional food and mariachi music. She recounted that in past celebrations, family and friends would usually join the Quiroz family in celebration. This year, though, it wasn't exactly the same.

"This year was different because we

were not able to get together with friends. Our family lives in Puebla so we were able to [FaceTime them] this year. We cook a lot of food, but since we usually celebrate with friends, this year we did not have as much food. We usually make mole poblano and tostadas but this year we only made guacamole," said Quiroz.

While the town's parade did get cancelled, Quiroz did not let that stop her festivities in any way. "My family in Puebla celebrated in their homes. No one really got together since there are social distancing rules. When we FaceTimed them they also made some food and were enjoying their families at home," she said. Quiroz's favorite part of Cinco de Mayo is the food, so she was luckily able to enjoy the holiday.

Quiroz said that while the "air wasn't as festive as it usually is, we still made the most of it and spent some quality time together as a family." She reflected on how

this different type of celebration changed her perspective for the future. She said, "One thing I learned was that I will never take social gatherings for granted. It sounds silly, but I never would have thought that something like this would happen, and I never thought about how lucky I was to be able to celebrate a holiday surrounded by people I care about. Not being able to

do that this year will definitely make me remember to be thankful for social interactions in the future."

It is great to hear that the festivities still continued through such a hard time, and Cinco de Mayo showed many people the meaning of celebrating with family.



Photo by of Mariana Quiroz  
Mariana Quiroz '22 made guacamole to celebrate Cinco de Mayo with her family. birthday on Cinco de Mayo. without unless major logistical feats are arranged.