



The Class of 2025 Prepares to Say Goodbye

BY VIVIENNE CRAIG

As April is upon us, the Class of 2025 has begun to participate in some of its many “lasts” here. One event that students particularly await is Senior Spirit Day.

This final school day for seniors will open with Field

Day—a school-wide event—and closed with heartfelt goodbyes sung by the freshman, sophomore and junior classes. Senior Spirit Day is famous for having an ice cream truck, pizza and of

course, the famous slip-and-slide.

Rachel Spencer '25 pre-

viewed the big day this year, her class will “make posters, greet the carpool line and make a goodbye montage.”

The festivities will be emotional for many, but with the event being May 2, later than in past years, seniors have much

to look forward to between now and then.

Recently, members of the Class of 2025 submitted their proposals for their Senior Projects, and according to Assistant Director of Upper School Kate Mitchell, “the projects are very exciting!”

On a variety of topics, the projects will take up the majority of the seniors’ last month of school before graduation.

Keira Oostburg '25 will be visiting New York to intern with Sarah Ettinger '14, the CEO of a sustainable fashion brand. Oostburg commented that she is “excited to spend [her] last month at Holton enveloped within an interest of [hers]” and that it is not “often [that she has] dedicated

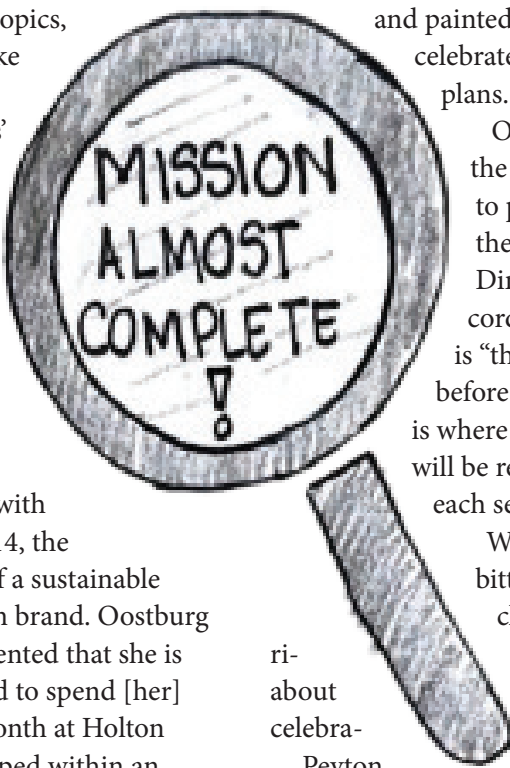
time to think or participate in the fashion industry, [so] to... do so is extremely exciting.” Additionally, to celebrate its remaining month at 7303 River Rd, the senior class will continue to dress up on Fridays with “silly

themes to “promote [grade] unity,” said Spencer, and the students will partake in the annual water gun fight, known as “Senior Survivor,” to keep the class spirit lively and competitive.

As part of their transition, seniors will celebrate Skirt Day on May 1 and wear their college merchandise and painted plaid skirts to celebrate their future plans.

On a new note, the class is the first to participate in the Baccalaureate Dinner, which, according to Mitchell, is “the Monday night before graduation and is where their paragraphs will be read to celebrate each senior!”

While events are bittersweet, the class is also experiencing eagerness the coming tions. Austin '25 said, school gets to have such unique traditions for its seniors. I know our class is extremely excited to finally get to experience all of the traditions we’ve grown up watching older girls participate in!”



art by Laila Clarke

Lauren Hemann Competes with U.S. U-17 Women’s National Team

BY MIRA WISSMAN

Lauren Hemann '27 was recently chosen to represent Team USA at the final round of the 2025 Conca-caf Women’s Under-17 tournament. The games took place the first week of April in Couva, Trinidad and Tobago and determined which teams would make the 2025 FIFA U-17 Women’s World Cup in Morocco.

Hemann commented that she “trained every day in Miami for a week, mostly focusing on how to play [with her new team].” She added, “We focused on what we needed to do to play our best.” The pre-training preparation and post-work recovery were crucial to her team’s success. She said, “Every morning, we had hydration, stretch and jump tests. We had a dietitian helping us eat the foods that would best fuel our bodies.”

Beginning the 2025 tournament with the number one seed, the U.S. did not disappoint. In order to qualify for the World Cup in Morocco, the team had to win its group or be the best second-place finisher. By April 6, the U.S. team had out-scored all of its opponents 17-0 to guarantee a place in the World Cup.

Hemann shared, “It was a window into a world I had never seen or experienced.” While difficult, she learned much about herself.

Hemann commented, “I was the only one there who had never played with the national team before. It was hard to be new to it while everyone else already knew each other and were used to how the camps run. I learned how to push myself out of my comfort zone.” Many students streamed the games on Tubi to support Hemann.

Inside this edition...

News PAGES 1-2

- Class of 2025 Says Goodbye
- Bird Flu Causes Global Egg Shortage
- Tariffs Affect Students’ Lives

Feature PAGE 3

- OPINION: What’s the Value of the 10th Grade Term Paper?

- Should You Bring a Date to the Dance?

Spread PAGES 4-5

- Fast Fashion Impacts the Environment
- EPA Makes Major Changes
- Chesapeake Bay Legacy Act Hopes to

Help Preserve the Bay

- OPINION: The Environment’s Future is Being Shaped Right Now

Sports PAGE 6

- Excitement Surrounds March Madness Tournament
- Coach Janet McCormick Receives Spotlight

- Ovechkin Breaks NHL Record

A&E PAGE 7

- Here’s What You Should Know About Improv
- PUNCH 2025 Delights
- Students Shine at Coffeehouse

Panther PUZZLE! PAGE 8

No Eggs? You Can Blame the Bird Flu

BY MIA ESTEVEZ-BRETON

Egg prices have skyrocketed across the United States in the past few months due to the recent outbreak of bird flu but have started to come down. Avian influenza, also known as bird flu, is a viral infection that primarily targets birds.

The first known human case of bird flu was in Hong Kong in 1997, according to the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). There are different types of bird flu, but influenza A (H5N1) and influenza A(H7N9) most commonly appear in humans.

It is rare for the virus to be transmitted from person to person. Humans usually become infected if they come into contact with an ill animal's body fluid, like saliva or feces, or inhale the particles; thus, farmers and poultry workers are especially at risk.

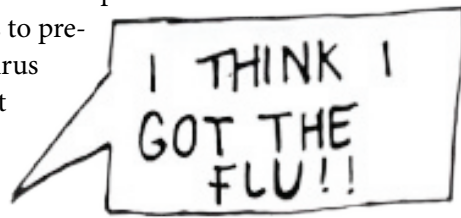
Symptoms of bird flu usually include mild respiratory problems and pink eye, according to Cleveland Clinic.

Birds get avian influenza when they

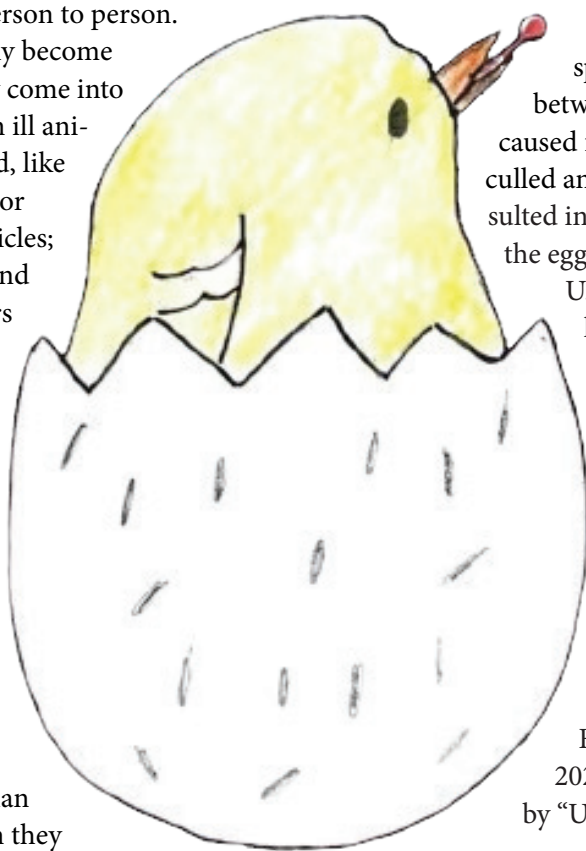
make contact with other infected birds or their residue. Flocks known to have avian flu virus are taken out of the food supply.

Causing outbreaks in poultry and dairy cows, the epidemic of H5N1 started in late March of 2024. The CDC reported that around 70 human cases have been confirmed in the US since March 19th. Through its flu surveillance system, the CDC monitors people with exposure to animals to prevent the virus and treat it earlier.

The



spreading virus between birds has caused flocks to be culled and therefore resulted in a decrease in the egg supply. In the U.S., the virus has affected more than 168 million poultry, and the global egg shortage has caused a 97% increase in egg prices since February of 2025, as reported by "USA Today."



art by Laila Clarke

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) has invested up to a billion dollars to combat the bird flu and reduce egg prices.

This money is used to fund vaccine research to reduce the need to kill infected flocks and maintain egg production. Additionally, "The Economic Times" stated that the Trump administration has doubled egg imports from Brazil in an attempt to lower egg prices.

When asked about the increase in egg prices, Talia Wissman '27 stated, "I have definitely noticed the inflation in eggs. It is worrying to see such a food that is so commonly used become much more expensive."

In the March 2nd "Sunday Skim," a dining hall update stated that "hard cooked eggs would no longer be available...due to high prices and limited availability."

According to CBS News, egg prices have finally gone down 43% since the beginning of 2025. This change is a relief to many, especially those who plan to celebrate Easter. Studies show that egg sales go up 40% around the holiday's weekend.

On the other hand, some are waiting to see how President Trump's new tariffs will continue to impact egg prices. According to "ABC News," many Americans are worried that the tariffs will only increase prices.

Will Tariffs Impact Students' Lives?

BY ELLA HENDERSON

In recent weeks, students and teachers alike have heard much dialogue and debate surrounding U.S. tariffs on goods imported from multiple countries, most notably China, the EU and Canada.

But what are tariffs, and how do they impact the school community? According to the BBC, a tariff, in its most simple definition, is a fee a buyer pays a foreign seller.

Tariffs are paid by companies importing goods from foreign countries, not by the governments of the countries from which those goods are coming.

In April, President Donald Trump announced significant new tariffs, including a minimum of 10% on

all U.S. trading partners and higher numbers on some of the country's biggest trading partners.

The administration placed on countries additional tariffs on top of those already, including a 20% on imported goods from the E.U., a 34% tariff on China in addition to its 20%, and a 24% tax on Japan. A market downturn occurred, and President Trump paused the tariffs on dozens of countries for 90 days. The changes are still ongoing.

While Canada and Mexico were excluded from the major tariff announcement, both countries had been given tariffs earlier this year with some Canadian ones being rolled back by the Senate.

There exists the possibility of an increase in automobile prices, though

this effect may take longer than other price upticks.

So, are the tariffs impacting students?

Kriti Hota '26, said, "My family and I have mostly noticed an increase in grocery prices."

Advanced Topics in US Government Teacher Louisa Nill commented that in the coming months and years, along with fresh produce, alcohol and even maple syrup, "homes may also become more expensive over time as construction costs go up, and imported cars are sure to take a serious hit."

Charlotte Fritz '26 explained that her family is "keeping an eye on the impact of auto tariffs on car prices" as they plan to buy a car once she gets her license.

While some classes, such as Nill's

Scribbler

C.S.P.A. Gold Medalist • 2017
C.S.P.A. Silver Medalist • 2018
C.S.P.A Silver Medalist • 2019
C.S.P.A Silver Medalist • 2020

The Holton-Arms School
7303 River Road
Bethesda, MD 20817
www.holton-arms.edu
301.365.5300

Letters to the Editor and opinion columns are the expressed opinion of the author and not of Scribbler and its editorial board or advisor.

Scribbler welcomes letters, which should be e-mailed to the Editors-in-Chief at: eliza.dorton.2025@holton-arms.edu or mira.wissman.2025@holton-arms.edu. Scribbler cannot publish anonymous letters, or anything deemed libelous, obscene, or in poor taste.

Rights are reserved to postpone, edit, or withhold from publication anything that does not meet specifications.

The opinions conveyed in Scribbler are not those of the Holton-Arms faculty or administration.

Executive Board

Editors-in-Chief Eliza Dorton
Mira Wissman

Managing Editors Isabelle Applebaum
Hannah Ordan

Lead Layout Editor Taylor Schwer

Art & Photography Editors Laila Clarke
Emme Poole

Editorial Staff

News Editors Taylor Gaines
Ella Moss

Assistant News Editors Chloe Spiegel
Talia Wissman

Features Editors Blair Greenspan
Sophia Kutko

Assistant Features Editor Taby Darge

Spread Editors Claire Doh
Kate Rudge

Assistant Spread Editor Tabitha Cutler

A&E Editors Grace Curley
Charlotte Fritz

Assistant A&E Editor Lily Hibey

Sports Editors Mia Estevez-Breton
Sophie Famili

Assistant Sports Editor Merritt Feldner

Advisor Mrs. Maggie Spak

Advanced Topics in US Government class, discuss the tariffs frequently, many students do not converse about the topic with peers and thus do not feel well-informed.

Kate Rudge '26 said, "Because it was something that was brought up so much during the election, I did try to seek out more information from my parents and articles online," but she believes the subject can be confusing.

While it can be difficult and overwhelming to stay informed on the topic, many students identified news sources such as CNN and CBS as producing easily digestible information.

Some students, however, also use social media, such as Instagram, to access details on policies and politics.

OPINION: The 10th Grade Term Paper Makes Students “Well- Prepared for the Many Academic Feats That Lie Ahead”

BY TAYLOR GAINES

The 10th-grade term paper is a rite of passage, and it is one that some students dread. Writing eight-to-ten pages on a topic of your choice, supported by months of research, can feel like a daunting and almost insurmountable task. Yet, despite its challenges, the term paper stands as one of the school’s most important and rewarding academic experiences.

While the process may initially seem overwhelming, it equips students with skills and knowledge that extend well beyond time at Holton.

For my term paper, I chose to explore the college admissions scandal after I watched Netflix’s “Varsity Blues” documentary with my family. The story immediately caught my attention, and I was eager to understand the broader implications of the scandal. The topic not only ignited my curiosity but also allowed me to engage with a complex, real-world issue.

What stood out most about the term paper process was the amount of time spent researching, outlining and revising content. Over the

course of several months, I developed stronger time management skills as I learned how to break the project into manageable tasks.

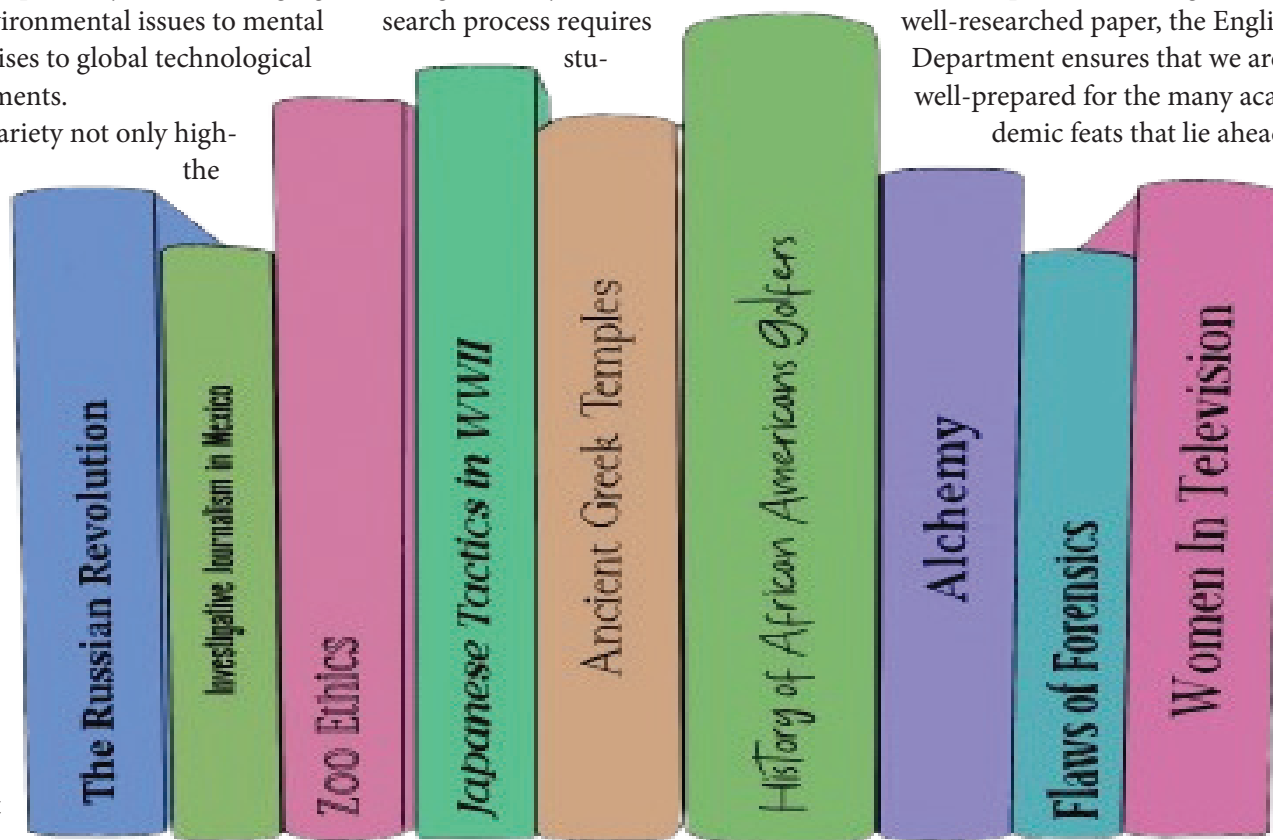
Another valuable aspect of the term paper was learning about my classmates’ diverse research interests. It was fascinating to see the wide range of topics they selected, ranging from environmental issues to mental health crises to global technological advancements.

This variety not only highlighted the diversity of passions within our classes but also broadened my understanding of subjects I had not previously explored (and some I had never even heard of). The term paper ultimately became a window into the interests of my classmates.

The value of the 10th grade term paper goes far beyond simply producing a lengthy essay. It teaches critical skills that are indispensable in college and beyond. The research process requires

students to identify credible sources, analyze data and construct a cohesive argument.

The project encourages students to delve into subjects that truly fascinate them while simultaneously building essential research, writing and organizational skills. In requiring students to produce a thoughtful, well-researched paper, the English Department ensures that we are well-prepared for the many academic feats that lie ahead.



art by Emme Poole

Do Students Prefer Bringing a Date or Going Stag at Dances?

BY SOPHIA KUTKO

Every time a school dance rolls around, students ask themselves an important question:

Should you

Be my date to Prom?

bring a date?

On one hand, bringing a date allows students to get to know someone new or to have fun with their significant other. In contrast, students attending with friends don’t have to worry about making sure their dates feel welcomed at a Holton event.

If students bring someone they don’t yet know well, there is the added pressure to make a good impression.

Emme Poole ’26 thinks that bringing a date to dances can present challenges because “[if it’s] not someone that spends time with you and your friends... you end up either abandoning your date or your friends.”

Taylor Gaines ’26 agreed and ex-

plained that it is easy for dances with dates to become awkward, uncomfortable experiences that can “sometimes cause stress.”

Despite this possibility, many students still opt to attend dances with a partner.

The few times Gaines has brought dates, she has enjoyed the opportunity to “meet new people from other schools” whom she would not have met otherwise.

Upper school Biology teacher Lisa Craig thinks that “if you are already good friends with your date, you should be able to have a great time at the dance.”

If students do not know their dates as well, Craig thinks that students can still have a fun time and suggested finding “safety in numbers.”

She thinks going in groups takes “pressure” off of individual students to entertain their dates

and notes that groups should be “not too small but not too large.”

Craig additionally advised students to “[be] a good host to your date” and above all else “don’t dump [the person]!”

At the end of the day, it is up to each students’ personal preference.

Poole would rather attend with friends because “all of your friends will be there” anyway, “so why not spend [the time] with them?”

Gaines agreed that dances are more fun with friends because she doesn’t like the “pressure of having to find a date and then drag them to a dance where they don’t know anyone else.”

Poole suggested that a good solution would be to “pick [another] activity that doesn’t require splitting time” for dates “like a concert.” That way, students can have fun dates and spend time at school events with their friends.

art by Mira Wissman



How Do Your Fashion Choices Affect the Environment?

BY LILY HIBEY

What if someone told you that the jeans you're wearing took 2,000 gallons of water to make? And your shirt another 700?

According to Earth.org, "fast-fashion" refers to rapidly produced clothing being sold at cheap prices in response to current trends. Some of the most notable fast-fashion brands include Forever 21, H&M, Zara, Shein and Temu.

These retailers compress the production cycle so that they can make large quantities of clothing available to consumers for very low prices.

With much of the fashion on the ready-to-wear market becoming more and more expensive, consumers have few options to turn to. Trends seen on social media further perpetuate the constant need to have the coolest and most stylish clothing items.

The financial convenience of fast-fashion, however, comes with a detri-

mental impact on the environment.

According to "Business Insider," fast fashion production contributes to 10% of total global carbon emissions. The industry is also the world's second largest consumer of water, and textile dyeing alone is the second largest global polluter.

Any water left over from textile dyeing is then often dumped into rivers or streams and ultimately ends up in the ocean, where harmful pollutants spread and harm marine life.

Fast-fashion brands thrive off the use of synthetic fibers such as polyester and nylon in order to lower prices even further. These fibers, however, are non-biodegradable.

In a 2017 report, the International Union for the Conservation of Nature found that 35% of all microplastics, pieces of non-biodegradable plastic, in the ocean resulted from synthetic materials, which are most commonly used in the making of apparel.

The producers of fast-fashion are not the only problem; consumers play a role as well.

People are quick to throw clothes away because they are of lower quality and often wear out after just a couple washes. These clothes then pile up in landfills, and, once the trash is later incinerated, nearby residents become exposed to the burning garbage's toxic chemicals, and the atmosphere also suffers the consequences.

Being mindful of which brands you purchase is extremely important. If you're unsure about whether or not to support a certain label, simply conduct some research online.

Vivienne Craig '27, a member of PUNCH, shared, "My go-to options for being environmentally conscious are thrift stores and flea markets. You can find original pieces and reduce the amount of waste in the industry. Two good brands I would recommend are Rumored and With Jean!"

Reformation, Levis, Patagonia and Eileen Fisher are other well-known paragons of sustainable, environmentally friendly fashion.

Second-hand clothing is a great alternative to trendy fast-fashion stores.

Purchasing an item second-hand extends the item's lifespan as well as minimizes product waste.

Specifically at school, the Hang-Up provides an easily accessible opportunity to donate and buy gently-used skirts, polos, sweatshirts and athletic wear.

Aside from the annual fashion show, PUNCH also held a pop-up shop, where club members collected old clothing from students and repurposed it into their own designs to sell to members of the community.

PUNCH Co-president Keira Oostburg '25 remarked that "the PUNCH Pop Up Shop is meant to promote sustainability within Holton and to raise awareness of the rapid cycles of consumption that Holton often finds itself stuck within."

Oostburg continued, "To me, repurposing clothing promises a connection with the past and adds an additional element of warmth, history and weight to the clothes you wear; the clothing had a life before you, and that's extremely powerful."

Chesapeake Bay Legacy Act Aims to Diversify Bay's Ecosystem and Reduce Waste

BY CINDY MIAO

According to the World Health Organization (WHO), around two billion people worldwide consume water that is contaminated. This alarming statistic highlights just how serious water pollution is on Earth. In the United States alone, the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) estimates that unsafe drinking water affects around 7.2 million people.

Upper school science teacher Rachel Lowenthal said, "Of all the environmental issues, water pollution is what I'm most passionate about. Everyone needs and deserves clean drinking water, and water bodies provide so many services in return."

Close to our home, water pollution poses a serious threat to the health of the Chesapeake Bay, the largest estuary in the US. Lowenthal explained, "The Chesapeake provides many of the ecosystem services that we often take for granted. The wetlands provide flood protection and water purification, and the bay itself is a nursery for many different estuarine and marine species as well as birds, plants, etc. Without the Chesapeake,

our state's biodiversity would look very different. People wouldn't be able to fish, crab, go birdwatching, kayak, swim, etc."

In response to these ongoing environmental challenges, Maryland has recently introduced the Chesapeake Bay Legacy Act to state leaders. According to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), this legislation uses federal funding to clean up the bay. The act specifically focuses on reducing nutrient and sediment pollution by funding endeavors such as the Chesapeake Bay Program, a regional partnership that works across state lines to improve water quality. Key components of the act include restoring critical habitats, minimizing agricultural runoff, and upgrading wastewater treatment systems. These measures are designed to limit the amount of nitrogen and phosphorus entering the Bay. By prioritizing ecological health, the act seeks to protect both the Bay's biodiversity and the communities that depend on it.

Lowenthal believes that "we're lucky to benefit from many environmental policies that have been designed to support improving water quality in the Chesapeake. Up until recently, these policies and their

efforts have been supported through federal and state funding on a bipartisan level."

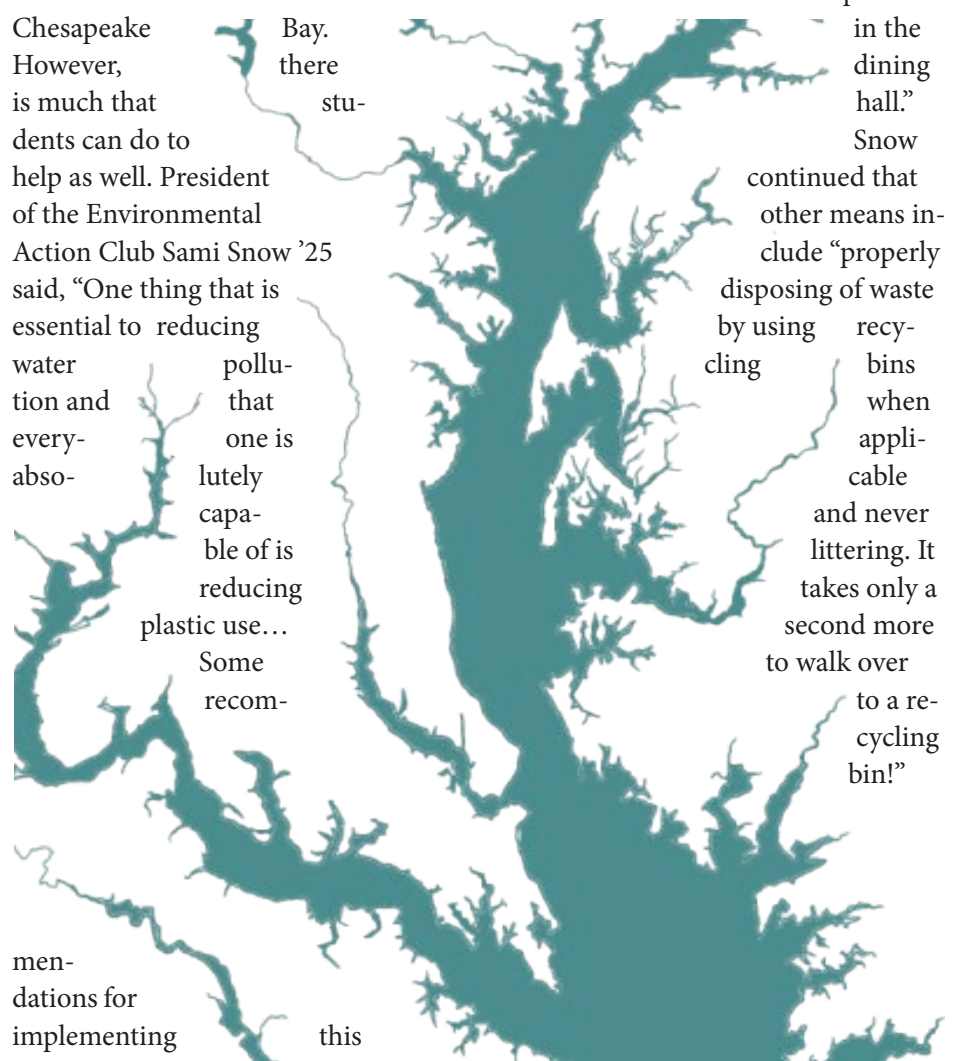
If the act is successful, many foresee a revitalized Chesapeake Bay. However, there is much that students can do to help as well. President of the Environmental Action Club Sami Snow '25 said, "One thing that is essential to reducing water pollution and every-absolutely capable of is reducing plastic use... Some recommendations for implementing this

in daily life are using reusable water bottles, bringing reusable bags to the grocery store, and choosing metal silverware

over plastic in the dining hall."

Snow continued that other means include "properly disposing of waste by using recycling bins when applicable and never littering. It takes only a second more to walk over to a recycling bin!"

art by Emme Poole



Environmental Protection Agency Undergoes Major Changes

BY FRANCESCA DENNIS

In recent months, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has made significant policy changes that, according to ABC News, many scientists feel will most likely affect the future of environmental protection efforts in the U.S. Prior to his arrival into office, President Donald Trump appointed former Republican U.S. Congressman Lee Zeldin from New York to lead the EPA.

According to the U.S. Senate, Zeldin believes in “protecting the environment while also protecting our economy.”

In mid-March, Zeldin announced almost three dozen deregulatory actions that would get rid of environmental rules that have had a negative impact on industry, according to AP News.

These deregulatory moves include reconsidering power plant emission

standards, wastewater rules for coal plants and greenhouse gas reporting requirements, specifically on vehicles and power plants.

Following the announcement of the new rollbacks, Zeldin stated, “Today is the greatest day of deregulation our nation has seen. We are driving a dagger straight into the heart of the climate change religion to drive down cost of living for American families, unleash American energy, bring auto jobs back to the U.S. and more.”

Upper School Environmental Science teacher Rachel Lowenthal believes that “the main issue is that climate change is already significantly affecting our air and water, and de-emphasizing its underlying impact on our environment could not only leave communities vulnerable in the future but also prevent impactful mitigation measures to reduce emissions right now.”

According to the EPA, this shift in priorities proves evident in the reduced regulation of harmful chemicals in factories, such as long-lasting chemicals known as PFAS, which experts claim pose significant risks to public health.

Zeldin believes that with the reduced regulations, the United States’s economy will see increased productivity. Additionally, according to “The New York Times,” Zeldin strives to limit the workforce in the EPA as a means to reduce government spending.

Lowenthal believes that “there is a possibility that the proposed cuts to the agency’s workforce and the changes to key rules and enforcement procedures could provide ways for polluters to pollute more and put our sources of air and water at risk.”

“Chicago Tribune” journalist Michael Hawthorne stated that “if the

Trump/Zeldin rollbacks survive court challenges, every \$1 million saved by polluters would impose \$6 million in health-related costs, including increased rates of asthma, cancer and heart disease, according to another study by a group of former EPA officials who based their estimates on agency data.”

Environmental Action Club co-president Sedona Hawkins opposed the actions. She stated, “These changes only provide a temporary solution to the economic issues that plague our country.”

She continued, “Rather than thinking in the long term and funding/investing for suitable solutions that would benefit our country in the long term, these policies only provide a temporary solution while simultaneously creating additional problems that will be much more difficult to address.”

OPINION: With Climate Change, “Our Future is Not an Abstract, Far-Off Reality. It is Being Shaped Right Now”

BY ISABELLE APPLEBAUM

As fires rage across the globe and temperatures break record after record, it often feels like the world is quite literally on fire. Between the charred remnants of Los Angeles homes and drowned North Carolina towns, the climate crisis feels like an unstoppable and uncontrollable force. Rather than confronting this escalating crisis, however, I believe President Donald Trump’s policy and rhetoric have only accelerated it.

Climate change is often distorted and misrepresented as a distant consequence of our current actions. As we continue harmful practices, we remain complacent by believing these actions will only impact an unnamed, distant “future generation.” However, according to NASA, as we retreat from bold climate policies, hurricanes grow stronger, droughts become more frequent, wildfire seasons lengthen and global temperatures keep rising. On the most basic level, I see President Trump’s rhetoric as fanning the flames by turning denial into policy and delay into destruction.

The “BBC” reported that President Trump has labeled climate change a “mythical,” “non-existent” and “expensive hoax.” The world isn’t just warming; it’s burning, drowning and

suffocating under the weight of not only inaction but also a pure denial of science.

Just hours after being sworn into

going to drill, baby, drill.”

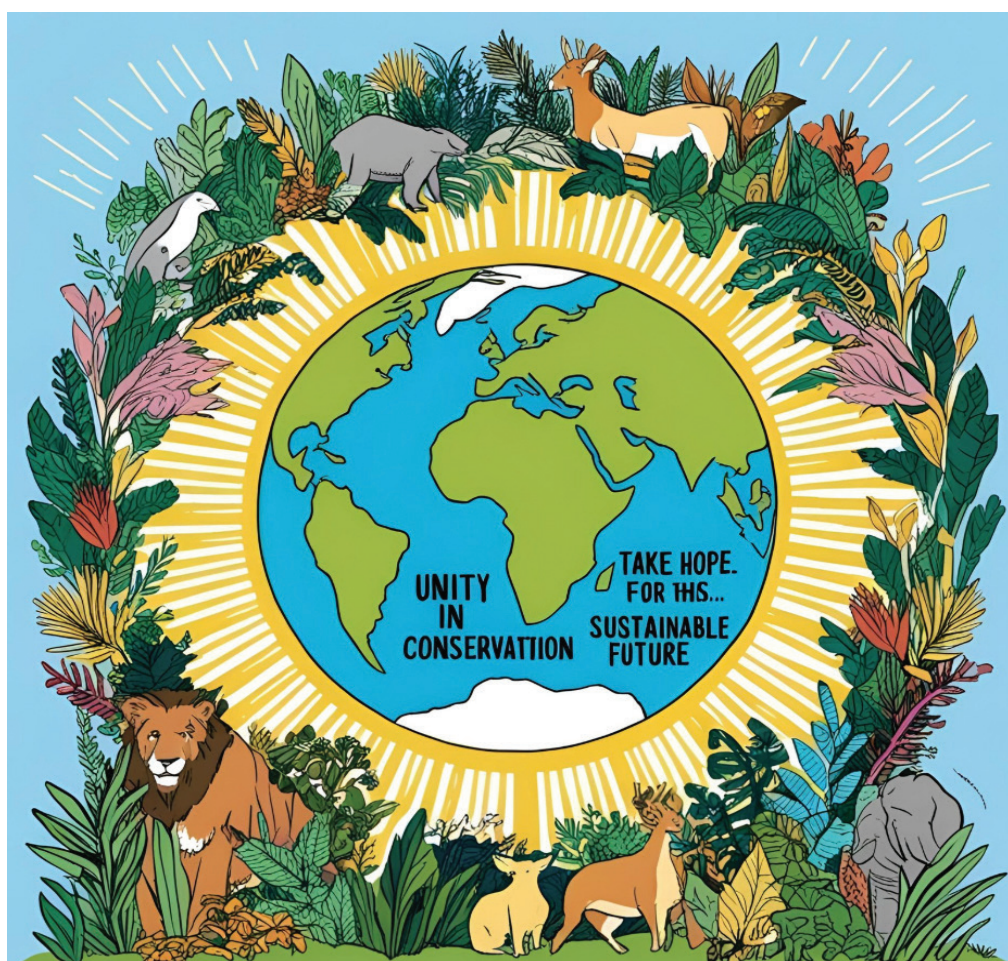
According to “The New York Times,” this statement has proved to be more than just

of oil and gas projects as he works to stoke supply as well as demand for fossil fuels.” NPR reported that President Trump also re-withdrew the U.S. from the Paris Agreement.

Columbia Law School raised questions about the constitutionality of Trump’s executive order and stated, “Announcing a ‘national energy emergency,’ regardless of fanfare and spectacle, does not give President Trump carte blanche to pursue his energy policy.”

Additionally, “The New York Times” reported that President Trump has overseen mass firings of the Environmental Protection Agency, the Interior Department, the Department of Energy and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

We are not the “future generation.” Our future is not an abstract, far-off reality. It is being shaped right now, and the choices made today will define the world we inherit. The government’s refusal to act on climate change is not just negligence; it is a betrayal of the young people who will bear the brunt of burning cities, unbreathable air and a planet in crisis.



the highest office in the United States, President Trump defined his administration’s goals by saying, “We’re

empty words. President Trump has declared an energy emergency, so he is able to “fast-track the construction

Coach Janet McCormick Inspires Players to Improve “the Magic is in the Journey”

BY KATE RUDGE

Whether she’s on the turf coaching varsity lacrosse, hard at work in the pool lounge as associate athletic director or walking through the halls chatting with students, Coach Janet McCormick’s impact at school is undeniable. For the past 14 years, students and athletes have benefitted from McCormick’s passion, experience and encouragement on the lacrosse field and beyond.

McCormick’s interest in lacrosse began when she was just in fourth grade because she could catch rides to practice with a neighbor. At the time, she was more interested by basketball. McCormick humorously explained that she was already 5’7 by the time she was in fifth grade, a height advantage that aided in her ability to rebound and “shoot the ball over and over until it went in.”

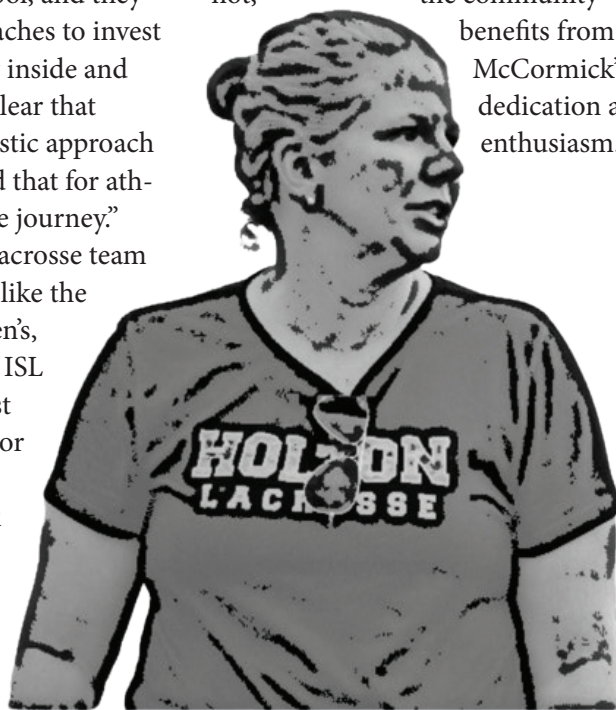
Over time, however, basketball faded from view, and she realized her serious aspirations as a high schooler to play lacrosse in college. She accomplished this goal through the Division 1 lacrosse program at the University of Connecticut, a school she still enjoys cheering on in many sports,

especially during March Madness.

Like her love for lacrosse, McCormick’s role as a coach is nothing new. Before working at Holton, she coached at boarding schools in Connecticut, where she appreciated how faculty members played an active role in students’ lives.

McCormick said she was originally drawn to Holton because she felt the same energy here as in the boarding schools she loved as “the kids here were happy to be at school, and they wanted teachers and coaches to invest in what they were doing inside and outside of school.” It is clear that McCormick takes a holistic approach to coaching; she claimed that for athletes, “the magic is in the journey.”

Whether the varsity lacrosse team is celebrating big wins - like the 2019 defeat of St. Stephen’s, which had never lost an ISL playoff game, for the first time in school history - or moments of doubt and frustration, McCormick helps athletes grow as players and people, learning by experience and achieving goals in the process.



McCormick’s strategies as a coach inspire players. Livie Thomas ’26 explained that through lessons about sportsmanship and leadership, “each player that goes through the [varsity lacrosse] program comes out a better person because of her.”

Additionally, Eliza Clessuras ’26 stated that “since [her] freshman year, McCormick has pushed [her] to be more confident in lacrosse.”

Whether on the lacrosse team or not, the community benefits from McCormick’s dedication and enthusiasm.

March Madness Tournament Excited Students

BY TALIA WISSMAN

The NCAA college basketball tournament nicknamed “March Madness” began on March 18th. The tournament always captivates fans with its unpredictable upsets and high-stakes matchups. According to “NCAA,” 39 million fans created brackets between the men’s and women’s divisions.

In the tournament, the top 64 Division I college basketball teams battle for the trophy. The winning team must advance through the first round, the round of 32, the Sweet Sixteen, the Elite Eight, the Final Four and finally, the Championship. Teams are seeded based on their performance through the beginning of the season. There are four groups, the East, South, Midwest, and West. The champion of each group goes on to play in the Final Four and then the winners on to the final.

This year’s Men’s Final Four took place on Saturday, April 5. The teams who played were all the number one seeds from their region: Duke, Hous-

ton, Florida and Auburn.

While Duke had been a force all season long led by 6’9 freshman Cooper Flagg, the team ultimately lost to Houston in a high-intensity, low-scoring match.

The Florida Gators, who dominated the SEC all year with speedy transition-scoring, swiftly beat the Auburn Tigers. According to ESPN, Florida’s win can largely be credited to the team’s point-guard Walter Clayton Jr., who matched history and contributed over 30 points to the team’s win.

On Monday, April 7, Florida and Houston faced off in Texas for the NCAA Men’s Basketball Championship game. Ultimately, according to ESPN, the Gators defeated the Cougars in a game that came down to the last 4.2 seconds.

Similarly, the Women’s NCAA tournament fulfilled expectations of excitement and intensity. UConn, UCLA, Texas and South Carolina were the Final Four teams, with UConn and South Carolina making it to

the championship. The UConn Huskies ultimately defeated the Gamecocks 82-59. UConn has consistently been a powerhouse in basketball with stars such as Paige Bueckers and St. John’s graduate Azzi Fudd.

Students love March Madness and many take part in the upper school bracket for both tournaments. Barrett Poling ’27 appreciates March Madness for the competitiveness and chooses her picks based on seeding but then selects “a few upsets.”

Sophia Lekeufack ’25, who ran the upper school bracket this year, commented, “I love March Madness just because of how much excitement it creates. With such a big bracket, it allows for so many possibilities from upsets to Cinderella stories. Additionally, making the brackets based off my knowledge puts high stakes on all of the games and increases the fun.”

Lekeufack congratulated Temi Sobande ’25 for winning the women’s bracket and Lucia Almonte ’26 for winning the men’s bracket.

Capitals Star Alex Ovechkin Breaks NHL Record for Career Goals Scored

BY HARPER LANPHER

After 20 seasons, Alex Ovechkin has broken the National Hockey League’s (NHL’s) all-time scoring record held by Wayne Gretzky since 1999.

Widely regarded as the greatest hockey player to ever live, Gretzky has maintained the record of 894 goals since his retirement 26 years ago. Since Ovechkin was the first overall draft pick in 2005, people already expected a lot out of him, but nobody could have predicted the goal-scoring machine he became. Additionally, Ovechkin holds the record of most 40-goal seasons in NHL history and is a nine-time winner of the Maurice “the Rocket” Richard trophy, which is awarded to the leading goal scorer in the league. Ovechkin has been the captain of the Washington Capitals for 15 years.

894 goals is a truly remarkable record, as only 48 players in NHL history have ever surpassed the 500-goal mark. At the beginning of this season, Ovechkin was on track to break the record quickly, but a fractured fibula that caused him to miss 16 games proved to be a setback.

Despite his injury, he has been on a goal-scoring tear all season. On April 4, in a home game against the Chicago Blackhawks, Ovechkin officially tied the record of 894. Journey Stenerson ’27, who was at the game, commented that “seeing Ovechkin get one step closer to making history brought tears to [her] eyes.”

Finally, in a matchup against the New York Islanders on April 6, Ovechkin scored his 895th goal, surpassing Gretzky’s record. Following the goal, the game paused for a ceremony. According to NPR, Ovechkin was joined by his family and NHL Commissioner Gary Bettman.

Ovechkin’s goal chase has excited fans throughout the school and the DMV. Martha Lauren Nichols ’25 said, “All hockey fans stood for Ovechkin on [the day he beat the record], and I am so happy that the community has something to celebrate.”

Here's What You Should Know Before Attending Your First Improv Performance

BY SOPHIA LEKEUFACK

One Friday a month, the Holton and Landon Improv Troupe, formerly known as Clause & Effect, comes together to provide a show for their peers.

With event locations alternating between the Holton Black Box Theater and the Landon Performing Arts Center, Improv performs a set filled with laughs, surprises and some would say...insanity.

The troupe is led on the Holton side by Audrey Colbourn '25 and Betty Rose Bean '26.

On the Landon side, Improv is coordinated by Jack Sadow '25 and Asher Josef '25.

Members of the troupe practice twice a month for their monthly shows, preparation that Colbourn

said helps "performances feel more comfortable achieving a conclusion."

The typical improv show is an hour and a half, split into two 40-minute acts with an intermission in between.

The shows start and end with a game of "freeze," a classic game that allows the audience to participate.

In "freeze," members of the troupe perform a scene before being "frozen," and then another person taps in and creates a different scenario based on the previous members' positions.

The troupe plays a variety of other games throughout the show, some involving storytelling and others directed toward the faculty guests.

Senior Michelle Tan stated, "I love seeing the faculty guests get out of their comfort zones! It's great to see them in a different light and having

fun on stage."

Improv is not just a monthly show led by students; it is an integral part of the Holton-Landon Performing Arts Community.

Sadow remarked, "At least at Landon, the drama community is not always given the most attention, so it's nice to have something to attract people to performing arts."

And in the life of Colburn, improv "serves as a place of community and joy and laughter. Holton can get very stressful, so Improv serves as a breathing space from all the stress."

The unique and authentic nature of Improv appeals to audiences greatly, and the troupe recently celebrated its 20th anniversary. It intends to be around the Holton-Landon community for many years to come.

Coffeehouse 2025 Empowers Students

BY BLAIR GREENSPAN

Coffeehouse, an annual showcase of original artistic work, continued its impressive run in 2025. Mark Robinson, director of Theatrical Arts and co-producer of Coffeehouse, explained that Coffeehouse is intentionally set up like a cafe, complete with a stage and a coffee barista. Performers sign up prior to the event and showcase their work.

The tradition of Coffeehouse began over 20 years ago with Mary Jane Pagenstecher, the school's former director of Fine and Performing Arts. The Beebe Black Box Theater was created for events such as PUNCH and Coffeehouse, where students can express themselves through multiple mediums in a cozy and welcoming environment.

Robinson's favorite part of Coffeehouse is its ambiance. He shared, "When we set the Black Box up with all the decorations, it is such a beautiful space to be in."

Robinson also observed that students can become caught up in the concept of performing an original piece. However, performers in the past have also created unique arrangements of existing songs to demonstrate the nuance and variety in Coffeehouse performances. Other forms of artistic expression at include poetry, comedy, choreography and play readings.

Sarah Roney, dance instructor and co-producer of Coffeehouse, expressed that she loves participating in "this event where community members get to share their creative ideas with an audience that is open and ready to support them."

Ella Henderson '26 took part in Coffeehouse for the first time this year by performing an original song called "The Lie," which she both sang and played the piano to. She never had showcased her original work anywhere prior to Coffeehouse.

Henderson stated, "I was actually about to pull out, but Mr. Robinson and [Director of Chorus and Handbells Yee Von] Ng convinced me to stay in the program, and I am so glad that I did. I felt overwhelming support from all my friends and fellow performers as well as the audience members."

PUNCH 2025 Shows "Fashion is a Form of Art"

BY CHLOE SPIEGEL

The 2025 PUNCH fashion show took place on Friday, April 4. PUNCH (People United for New Creative Hunches) is a fashion club that showcases the creative design talents of upper school students. A tradition since 1998, the club has hosted an annual fashion show that showcases student designs.

The show also doubles as a fundraiser supporting the Suited for Change organization, which helps low-income, local women entering the workforce by providing professional attire as well as career advice and skills for no cost.

Each student designer has the creative liberty to make a fashion line of

any number of pieces and out of any materials.

Additionally, each line revolves around a theme of the designer's choice, ranging from personal statements to current trends in the media.

Many students participated who did not design clothes since each line can have student models to show off a friend's work.

Model Chase Herwig '27 said, "Getting ready together was super fun, although stressful, and I think we all loved the excitement beforehand."

PUNCH executive board member and designer Vivienne Craig '27 shared, "My favorite look from the show this year was the book dress that Ilsa Peterson ['26] wore, designed by Betty Rose Bean ['26]. It

was so beautiful and very creative."

The well-executed clothing pieces create an interesting show, but the unique and custom accessorizing and personalities shown amplify the experience.

First-time designer Sofia Aquino '27 commented, "One of my favorite looks from the show this year would definitely be Anya [Husain '27]'s blue miniskirt paired with the very Isabel Marant-esque brown boots!"

She continued, "I thought it was so uniquely put together in Viv [Craig] and Lisa [Maitland '26]'s line with a fun clash of colors that additionally complimented Anya's personality well and was fun to witness both on the runway and backstage."

As for trends, the loose guidelines ensure that each line is inspired not only by trends but also by an expression of a designer's aesthetic, personality, or even emotions to allow for a unique and diverse show.

This tradition provides entertainment and highlights how fashion is a powerful instrument of self-expression that serves to bring our community together.

Craig shared, "Fashion is a form of art and contains so many emotions and can showcase a person's soul and personality in ways that may not be immediately visible otherwise. Who knows? Maybe one day the whole world will be wearing the designs or supermodels will be walking down the runway wearing their pieces!"



(Left to right) Maggie Shelton '26, Lily Rogers '26 and Ilsa Peterson '26 model with Betty Rose Bean '26 (center right) for her PUNCH line.

Across

1. Developer of the polio vaccine
5. _____ to riches, common storyline
9. A division in a long poem
14. Algerian port city on the Mediterranean
15. Capital of Norway
16. How you might read to an audience
17. Grain that is crucial to the construction of sushi
18. Where Lower-Schoolers go to play tetherball
20. Pay close attention to
22. Lightly washes
23. To be in debt
24. What a doorbell did once pressed
25. Intersecting like Venn diagrams
30. Milligrams, for short
33. Not often
34. Et cetera, for short
35. Prefix meaning “horn”
36. Pain, torment
37. Units that speeds limits are commonly posted in, for short
38. Pairs well with sour
39. One of the seven deadly sins causing intense desire
40. Spanish definite article for feminine plural nouns
41. Beard style, commonly sported by hipsters
42. Observe, view
43. Free market advocates
45. Units of time measured in sunrise to sunset
46. He sits on the shelf
47. Life partner
50. Southeast Asian country, home of the Borneo rainforests
55. Versatile, like flour used in many recipes
57. The Buckeye State
58. Type of lily often seen at weddings or funerals
59. Forever and _____
60. Enter
61. Madame de _____, French writer during Napoleon’s era
62. High next for an eagle
63. Rounded end of a church, often behind the altar

Down

1. Do this when organizing
2. An often dramatic solo piece in an opera
3. To be without something essential
4. Joint with the patella bone
5. Suspended transporter
6. Not awake
7. “Happy to!”
8. Alternative to oat or whole milk

9. Kind, compassionate
10. To string _____
11. Intelligence, common sense
12. Essential thing to do to a string instrument before playing
13. Chances
19. Allow, permit
21. Traditional Christmas symbol with spiky leaves
24. Decadent, like chocolate cake
25. Exams in Spanish class, maybe
26. Brief, unclear
27. Eaten away, bitten

28. Monopoly player’s payment
29. Coke competitor
30. Where swimmers compete
31. Say hello to
32. Satisfies
35. River in a famous WWII movie
37. World charts
38. Music teaching method
40. Seven _____ Dip, chip topping
41. Place to exhibit art
43. “It’s hard being _____” - line from a Chappell Roan song
44. Trailer

45. Two beats in music
47. Cul-de-_____ (streets that you can’t drive through)
48. Map of streets and building lots
49. Cafe de _____ (spiced coffee)
50. Change locations
51. Relaxation method for many
52. Do this at the mall
53. 3s in ancient Rome
54. “In _____ horse open slay”
56. Uncomfortable thing that a princess had at the bottom of her mattress



CREATED BY CARLISLE WINN

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8		9	10	11	12	13
14					15					16				
17					18				19					
20				21					22					
				23				24						
25	26	27	28				29					30	31	32
33							34				35			
36						37				38				
39					40				41					
42				43				44						
			45					46						
47	48	49					50				51	52	53	54
55						56					57			
58						59					60			
61						62					63			

ANSWERS

- ACROSS:
1. Salk
5. Rags
9. Canto
14. Oran
15. Oslo
16. Aloud

17. Rice
18. Playground
20. Take heed
22. Rinses
23. Owe
24. Rang
25. Overlapping
30. Mgs
33. Rarely

34. Etc
35. Kera
36. Agony
37. MPH
38. Sweet
39. Lust
40. Las
41. Goatee
42. See

43. Capitalists
45. Days
46. Elf
47. Spouse
50. Malaysia
55. All purpose
57. Ohio
58. Calla
59. Ever

- DOWN:
1. Sort
2. Aria
3. Lack
60. Go in
61. Stael
62. Aery
63. Apse

4. Knee
5. Ropeway
6. Asleep
7. Glad
8. Soy
9. Carling
10. Along
11. Nous
12. Tune

13. Odds
19. Grant
21. Holly
24. Rich
25. Orals
26. Vague
27. Eroze
28. Rent
29. Pepsi

30. Meets
31. Grets
32. Sates
35. Kwai
37. Maps
38. Sol Fa
40. Layer
41. Gallery
43. Casual

44. Teaser
45. Duple
47. Sacs
48. Plat
49. Olla
50. Move
51. Yoga
52. Shop
53. IIs
54. A one
56. Pea