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E-Sports Logs in at LHP

By Mac McLaughlin

When it comes to what exactly defines a sport, every person has his or her own opinion. Some say if there are points involved, it's considered a sport. Others argue that competition and some degree of physical exertion are required. However, most can agree that the idea of players sitting in comfortable chairs and playing video games as a sport seems outlandish. But ever since the days of *Starcraft* and *DOTA 2*, competitive e-sports have been big business. Every year, competitions get more comprehensive and reward larger prizes. Even major sports channels like *ESPN* have begun to televise e-sports competitions, from *League of Legends* to the new *Overwatch League*. With the rise of e-sports, colleges and high schools have been following suit by creating e-sports teams of their own, ready to compete for the digital gold.

Enter John Silva, a Junior who has created Lake Highland's first e-sports team. His interest in the e-sports world was borne out of a passion for video games. Given the uncertainty that 2020 has presented traditional sports teams, Silva feels that now is the time for LHP to put together its own e-sports team. When it comes to putting together an e-sports team, there's a lot of moving parts. What games will members be playing? Will they be a part of a particular league, or will the team play on an informal schedule? Fortunately, Silva has answers to all these questions and more.

When it comes to a league and competition, the LHP e-sports team will be taking an unconventional



(Above) When it comes to competitions like e-sports, competitive diversity is the name of the game. While the club does plan to focus on games like *Overwatch* and *Rocket League*, they plan to mix up their roster with less traditionally competitive games like *Minecraft* and *Super Smash Bros*. Not to mention, who plays just one game? Learning about new games from teammates and friends allows the e-sports team to be a melting pot of interests and skill levels, where anyone can find something to learn on just about any game. The team also celebrates members bringing new and exciting games to their attention. As far as they're concerned, variety is the digital spice of life. Graphic by Mac McLaughlin.

approach. The simplest way to describe the team is half club and half team. He explained that the primary goal of the team is to create a positive and tight-knit community. Currently, the team is small enough that every member knows everyone else by name, and while Silva is working to expand the team's roster,

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Treating a Play Like TV on Stage

By Rebecca Reif

Peter and the Starcatcher, a play that gives the backstory of Peter Pan, is the newest production presented by Lake Highland's Theatre Department. The century-old story of Peter and the Starcatcher portrays an orphan, also known as Peter. He eventually transforms and develops to become "The Boy Who Would Not Grow Up," which is how Peter Pan ends up being. This play and its story comes from an adaptation of Dave Barry and Ridley Pearson's best-selling novels, and is described as "Wildly theatrical." *Peter and the Starcatcher* also has some ties with *Disney* and allows the audience to gain and learn the values of duty, love, greed, despair, and friendship.

From both November 14 to November 16, and from November 15 to November 17, the play will be performed by two different casts.

The play was split into two casts for multiple reasons. One obvious reason is for the safety of the students performing, due to Covid-19 and social-distancing. This method of casting allows for more students to be in the play, while also taking the correct precautions to present and rehearse the play. The second reasoning behind this double-casted play is based on the amount of characters in *Peter and the Starcatcher*. There are only 13 spots open to be casted, and therefore two casts give more drama members a chance

to perform. Now, 26 members have the opportunity to perform and be a part of the cast and play, instead of only 13. This take on casting results in four showings of the piece, instead of only two, and the casts perform every other day. Additionally, in order to follow the safest precautions possible, both the props and costumes come in sets of two, so that each cast has its own materials.

Mr. Jeremy Henry-Dixon, the director of *Peter and the Starcatcher*, is excited about the play this year, especially considering the circumstances that the Drama Department has had to dodge because of Covid-19. Mr. Henry-Dixon's passion for theatre shows through his enthusiasm for the play giving the people "The opportunity to feed these incredible performers' passion for theatre and being able to offer performances of theatre to our community when so many of us have been missing it for almost half a year." He also plans on Covid-19 not taking away from what makes Lake Highland plays truly special, which is their enthusiasm. One major difference for the performers themselves is the change in environment, with there not being a live audience for performances. Instead, there will be a virtual recording that the general audience can watch by purchasing tickets for the play. The main reason for having this streamed performance is for the safety of both the cast and audience. Adding onto there being different

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A First Generation’s Take on Asian Parenting

By Lauren Shang

I have never been one to shy away from my Asian heritage. I love it. I love the fact that I know that my family’s past took place in another country. I love the fact that I can say my parents were able to leave everything behind in their home country and make a living for themselves here. Saying that, I don’t love all the struggles unique to Asian parenting that come with them.

I am one of the many first generation Asian Americans. All of my life, like many other Asian American children, my parents have had this expectation for me to become the perfect Asian American child. The stereotypical Asian American child is someone who always get President’s List or Honor Roll, is in multiple excurriculars, knows how to speak his or her native language, competes with his or her cousins on achievements, plays the violin or piano, gets an almost-perfect score on the SAT or ACT, and last but not least, is bound to go to an Ivy League school and become a doctor or lawyer, completing the, “Checklist for Success.”

To enforce this tough-love mentality, many traditional Asian parents don’t normally express affection or pride in their children’s achievement. The problem is that it makes a child feel never good enough. Furthermore, by not being open with their kids, the children face high levels of extreme pressure, stress, and insecurities with their abilities because they never got reassurance in the past.

I remember when growing up, I always felt a pressure to fit into this stereotype and make all my hard work worth it. Looking back, I think that I became one of those people checking off the items on the list. I tried to do well in the classes I took, practiced my piano, did SAT prep to the point where I felt like I could see equations popping out of the page, and attended virtual college visits that offer Pre-Medicine as a major. My life had become literally a blueprint of my parent’s plan, and they weren’t the only ones that were drawing in it anymore.

I came to that realization, and I started to question everything about this checklist for Asian American children. Who decided that this checklist was a guaranteed way to get into a good college? Why did my non-Asian friends spend quality time with their family? How did they never feel nervous telling their parents that they did poorly on a test? All these questions built up to a point where I was at a standstill. Do I forget about everything my parents have taught me and rebel to find out who I am? Or do I take a step back and try to understand every action of an Asian American parent to the best of my ability? Well, if any of you know who I am, then you know that the goody-two-shoes part in me was not going to let me rebel against the people that let me live under their roof. So I decided to see things from my parents’ perspective.

As a parent, you are thrust into this position where this new child is your responsibility. No matter what happens, you will always be traced back to them. Of course, you want what is best for one’s child and will do anything to ensure their well-being. Now take into account this reality but with a Asian parent. Many of them left everything they knew in their home country based on their own faith that America was going to be the best place for their child. Most likely, they couldn’t speak English and had to start from rock bottom. Not to mention, there are even some Asian immigrants that I’m sure have faced racist or xenophobic actions once if not more. For example, when my mother’s family had to enter America, it was completly different to their life in Vietnam. My grandfather went from being an Army genral to someone mopping the floors in *Taco Bell*. It is stories like these that gain my respect and love for my Asian parents to the point

Asian Checklist For Success

- Is on Honor Roll
- Participates in Multiple Excurriculars
- Earned An Almost-Perfect SAT Score
- Plays an Instrument
- Attends Ivy League School
- Speaks Native Language



(Above) Many Asian parents use this, “Checklist for Success” as a guideline for their children to ensure a bright future even if that means sacrificing a healthy relationship with them. Graphic by Lauren Shang.

As a parent, you are thrust into this position where this new child is your responsibility. No matter what happens, you will always be traced back to them. Of course, you want what is best for one’s child and will do anything to ensure their well-being. Now take into account this reality but with a Asian parent. Many of them left everything they knew in their home country based on their own faith that America was going to be the best place for their child. Most likely, they couldn’t speak English and had to start from rock bottom. Not to mention, there are even some Asian immigrants that I’m sure have faced racist or xenophobic actions once if not more. For example, when my mother’s family had to enter America, it was completly different to their life in Vietnam. My grandfather went from being an Army genral to someone mopping the floors in *Taco Bell*. It is stories like these that gain my respect and love for my Asian parents to the point



(Above) Asian parents often display their love to their children in cooking elaborate dishes that can take hours to prepare. Like many other parents, they believe to work hard, one must be well-fed. All photos by Lauren Shang.

where there are no words to describe it. However, would I ever say that to their faces? Probably not. Saying, “I love you” in my family was so foreign because it was like a special phrase that would lose its meaning the more times you would say it.

Of course, this doesn’t mean that they don’t love me. I just know they show their love in a different way. My mother cooks meals that take hours of preparation, offers me fruit when I’m up late in the night studying (best feeling ever), takes care of me whenever I’m sick, makes it known that I can always live with them, and plenty more. She even drives an hour every day to and from school and is first in the carpool line so I won’t have to wait for her to arrive. While these little everyday actions may seem like nothing to other children, I know that this is my parents’ own special way of saying, “I’m proud of you.”

Yes, I do agree that the constant pushing to do well in school can burn out your child. The refusal to openly show affection can make him or her wonder if he or she is good enough. That “Checklist for Success” can make the child feel like they aren’t living their own dream, but only fulfilling what has been written for them by their parents. I get it, because I also felt like that at one point. However, whenever people like to list the poor stereotypes of Asian parenting, they tend to forget where it originates. Asian parents’ actions are always for their child’s future. They try to fix every problem for their child and save the day in whatever way they can. The parents will do anything for their children and try to make sure that their kids will be guaranteed a life that won’t have the burdens that they themselves had.

We like to believe that adults and parents have everything figured out and that they have all the answers. But that is simply not the case. They are trying to understand things one day at a time but continue to make sure that you are taken care of. So, as a first generation Asian American daughter, my message to my parents, if they choose to read this is, “Thank you for all that you have done for me, and I love you more than you can imagine.” My message to anyone who understands even a little bit of what it is like as an Asian American child is while it may seem like our parents don’t value our achievements or happiness based on their lack of expression, that is actually the thing they care about the most. So just remember that for every time your parents may nag you about the smallest things, it really does come from a place of love.



(Above) My mother was in a refugee camp for Vietnamese immigrants after escaping Vietnam during the war. Being a new immigrant with nothing, a good work ethic was instilled in her to help her family.



Your Passport to Travel During COVID

By Sarah Finrock

With Thanksgiving and Christmas just around the corner, more and more people are considering whether it's safe or not to travel during these uncertain times. Although the *Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)* continues to advise against traveling, they do provide information and protocols for those that must. If traveling for the holidays, one should be aware of the risk of contracting COVID-19, or being placed in a quarantine, which could last a few days to multiple weeks. Visiting people at high risk (the elderly, people with underlying medical conditions, and pregnant women) should be avoided under all circumstances.

There are many alternatives to traveling this holiday season. For family reunions, one could initiate a *Zoom* or *Facetime* call. Although it's not the same, it keeps all family members safe and connected. Sending gifts, cards, and homemade crafts or food by mail is also another option. If traveling for the holidays is a family tradition, try doing things to get in the spirit of exploration without leaving the house. For example, one could watch a foreign film on TV, learn a new language, or indulge in the virtual travel industry.

On the bright side, many holiday experiences are not taking place in 2020 anyway. So by not traveling, tourists are not missing much. New York City's *Times Square Ball Drop* will become virtual due to COVID-19. *The Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade* will be televised only, and the handlers holding down balloons are being replaced by motorized vehicles. *Mickey's Very Merry Christmas Party*, occurring annually at *Walt Disney World*, was also cancelled this year.

Another option would be to use this time at home to start new holiday traditions. Instead of eating a potluck or going out for dinner, families can use the time to make traditional meals and dishes such as gingerbread cookies, stuffing, pumpkin pie, or cranberry sauce. People could walk or drive in their neighborhood to admire the Christmas lights and decorations. Additionally, instead of planning holiday festivities, spend the time decorating the house for whatever holiday is being celebrated.

	
Pros	Cons
-Currently, travel is much cheaper than it's even been	-Could be risking personal health
-It may be necessary for work/school	-Risking health of others one comes in contact with, especially high risk
-It can provide emotional comfort, especially if visiting loved ones	-Many events currently cancelled

If a family does choose to gather for the holidays, eating outside, or in an open doors space if possible, can make the experience safer. Depending on whether the family is quarantining together or not, masks should be worn when appropriate. Hosts should maintain social distancing between the guests as much as possible.

Another step that can be taken is having guests bring in their own serving utensils for family-sized dishes.

The destination chosen also plays into whether or not the trip can be made safely. Countries, in red, depicted on the background map, are completely closed off to foreigners, such as India, Argentina, and Canada. Countries in pink are partially open, meaning it depends on the tourists' country of origin or nationality as to whether they may enter: the United States, Australia, Russia, etc. Yellow depicts countries that may be opening soon. This includes Nepal, and Jordan. Green highlights the nations with no travel restrictions, pertaining to Brazil, the United Kingdom, Mexico, and others.

With international travel, one should take note of foreign COVID policies, which are constantly changing. They may be more or less strict than the United States, and one would not want to get caught up in breaking a law overseas for the holidays. For example, while Belarus is known to be very lax in their enforcement of lockdown protocols, China was very strict on their quarantine; However, regulations have eased since April.

Regardless of the reasons, sometimes travel is still a necessary component of life. If one chooses to do so, he or she should exercise increased caution due to the Coronavirus pandemic currently taking place. Travellers should also regularly check national and local guidelines for how to best protect themselves and others.

1 Although traveling is strongly discouraged by the *CDC*, in the event that it is necessary, travellers are advised to wear a mask at all times in public spaces. Masks should consist of three or more layers of cloth. Therefore neck gaiters and face shields alone will not be sufficient. Children younger than two should not wear a mask, but everyone over that age should wear one that covers both the mouth and nose. To ensure proper sanitation, wash hands before putting on and taking off a mask.

2 It is strongly advised that people check on their destination's COVID policies to ensure safety measures are being taken to the fullest extent possible. Companies should detail their policies on their official website. Some preferable operations would be contactless check-in and payment, mask wearing by staff and guests, plexiglass barriers, and increased sanitation efforts. *Airbnbs* and *RVs* would put travelers at less exposure to others. Therefore, they could be safer options than hotels.

3 Before booking vacation trips, one should consider events and locations in the local community that he or she could visit instead, such as nature parks, golf courses, and farmers' markets. However, if one chooses to travel, he or she should take into consideration that some destinations may be safer than others. For example, island nations such as Fiji, St. Kitts and Nevis, and New Zealand tend to have fewer cases, as it is easier to track positive COVID patients and control border immigration.



4 Along with obvious travel necessities, there are many additional items one should bring when traveling during a pandemic. For example, multiple masks, either disposable or washable, should be on hand at all times, as one never knows when he or she may encounter others. Hand sanitizer is another prominent travel accessory for 2020. A less considered item is food and drinks. By bringing these things, one is less likely to stop for a meal at a restaurant, and therefore it limits possible exposure to Coronavirus.

5 Despite increased scrutiny, according to the *CDC*, airline travel may not be as dangerous as one may think. This is due to the way air is circulated and filtered on planes. This makes planes safer than trains and buses. However, increased time in security lines and at departure gates, increases exposure to more passengers. As long as one is wearing a mask and social distancing, airline travel should be moderately safe. But nothing can 100% fight against Coronavirus, and airline travel should still be avoided unless necessary.

6 Cars and *RVs* are still much safer options than airline, bus, and train travel. The exposures would be limited to only the people in the car. If any non-immediate family members are in the car, masks should still be worn at all times. An *RV* may be safer than a car as they typically require less stops. If getting a rental car or *RV*, it would be advisable to sanitize all surfaces with a disinfectant.

All information current as of October 9, 2020, and it may not be valid at date of publication.

ENTERTAINMENT

Enola Holmes Steps Out of Sherlock's Shadow in *Netflix* Original

By Lauren Shang

Throughout the years, there have been countless remakes of the famous British detective Sherlock Holmes. Movie stars like Robert Downey, Jr. and Benedict Cumberbatch have given their own spin on the worldwide known tale, there was never a sister in the Holmes mystery series. Especially a sister that is capable of outsmarting the infamous detective that is based in Baker Street. Netflix decided to change this by making a film from on the mystery book series, *An Enola Holmes Mystery*.

The film, *Enola Holmes*, has an impressive cast of Millie Bobby Brown (most famously known for her role in *Stranger Things*), Henry Cavill (the latest actor for the *Superman* series), and Sam Claflin (frequently on the *Hunger Games* series). The movie follows Enola, a fearless 16 year old girl who really only has a relationship with one person: her mother (Helena Bonham Carter). Enola makes it clear in the opening scene how she and her mother are quite different from the women in their time. They practice tennis indoors, read multiple books, practice martial arts, and do mind puzzles. However, that soon takes a dark turn when Enola's mother suddenly disappears without saying goodbye to her. The only thing she leaves behind is a gift box that says, "Use these gifts wisely." The movie then follows Enola's journey from her familiar country life to the booming London city looking for her mother.

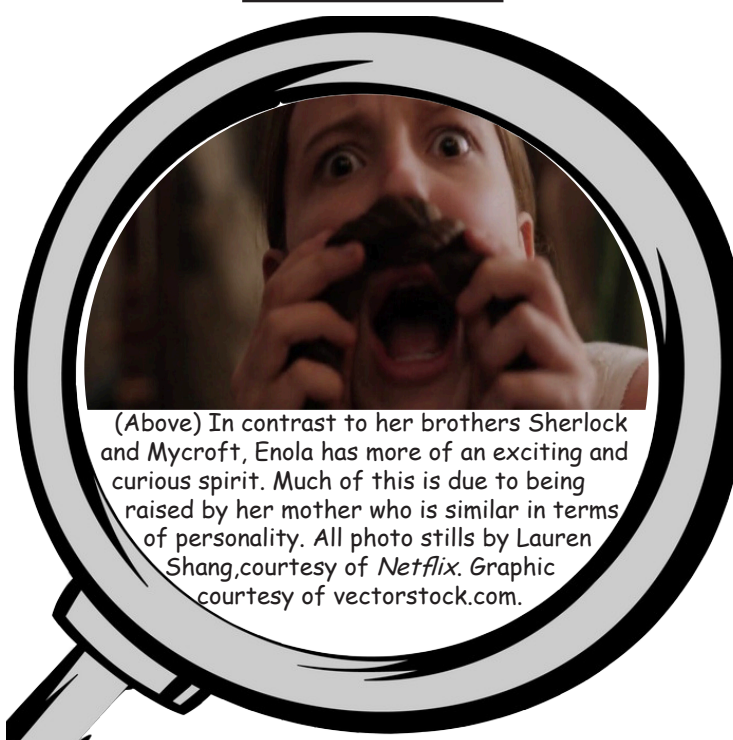
Along the way, Enola also starts a friendship, and possibly something more, with a missing boy who may hold more power than Enola first thinks. This role is played by upcoming British actor Louis Partridge. By playing aside multiple accomplished stars,



(Above) Since filming *Enola Holmes*, Millie Bobby Brown and Louis Partridge have become close friends. Partridge has even posted photos of himself and Brown together with some friends celebrating a birthday back in England.

Enola Holmes is definitely poised to be the breakout series for Partridge who is already gaining popularity with his audience. It looks like, for the remainder of 2020, he may join the list of teenage heartthrobs with multiple social media app users noting his character in the movie. Since the movie's release, Partridge has gained over 1.7 million followers on his *Instagram*, and it doesn't seem to be stopping anytime soon.

An important topic that was a key element in the movie was feminism. The timeline of the movie was set right when civil disobedience in London was at its peak for common suffrage. I was especially interested in this movie because I knew that it was going to be based on female empowerment since it is a female take on a clever detective. But to actually set Enola Holmes, a bold woman who defied all standards for women, in the time period when history was being made, placed the movie on an entirely different level. The director



(Above) In contrast to her brothers Sherlock and Mycroft, Enola has more of an exciting and curious spirit. Much of this is due to being raised by her mother who is similar in terms of personality. All photo stills by Lauren Shang, courtesy of Netflix. Graphic courtesy of vectorstock.com.

did a perfectly good job of taking many Victorian cultural traditions and putting a feminist twist on them.

For example, Enola mentioned the corset at one point in the movie. The corset is a controversial item due to the conflicting arguments on whether it symbolizes women's desire to look better for men or whether it was just a piece of clothing. Well, Enola incorporates both sides by stating that while it is a symbol of repression for those forced to wear it, the corset actually serves her justice by hiding items along her journey.

Furthermore, throughout the movie Enola never had a weak moment to where she was a, "Damsel in distress" and needed a man to save her. Part of her not being acclimated with the rest of society is part of the reason why she is so adamant about her not needing a man just to survive. She even calls the new male friend, "Useless" at times when he can't seem to match her intellectual ability. This was deeply inspirational for me because the writers did such a great job of making sure to create a character who always stood in the shadows of the men in her life, but was able to still have a personality that was comical, brave, and courageous.

Throughout the movie not only did Millie Bobby Brown do a great job of showing how Enola Holmes was especially talented with looking for clues, she also did a great job of bringing to life that childish side of Enola. Many viewers, like myself, probably forgot that Enola is just a 16 year old child in this movie based on her maturity. This was a result of her mother leaving, as well as her brightness. However, Brown is able to still make Enola entertaining by often adding humor into her actions. For example, Enola often makes fun of the term, "A lady" and how women are supposed to act in the scene of a dressing room where she changes out of her usual attire into a dress to fit into society. As she enters the room, she turns to the camera like she is having a conversation with the audience and starts playing with a fake piece of hair. She holds the fake piece of hair up to her mouth in a way where it looks like she is wearing a

mustache and starts to pretend to be all the men that try to control her life. The writers introduce many scenes such as these that paint Enola in a positive light and gifts viewers with an entertaining person to watch that audience members can't stop rooting for in the movie.

Even though this movie is focusing on Enola and her journey, it certainly didn't leave out Sherlock or Mycroft Holmes. Cavill does his character justice by often appearing as detached from the rest of the movie and always focusing on the clues that can solve his next mystery. However, what I enjoyed most about Sherlock being in the movie is how he stayed mostly out of the picture and was more of a spirit that would try to watch over Enola. Mycroft is different in regards to his manner with her since he is more focused on making Enola fit more into society and become a lady. This I find ironic because he clearly states, "I'm not the villain here." However, since the whole movie is from Enola's perspective she often views Mycroft as her own villain and thus often tries to outsmart him.

What I especially like about the movie is that

Enola has multiple obstacles and villains to fight against throughout the entire duration of the movie. This not only adds suspense to the movie but also action since Enola doesn't just try to find the past clues from the villains but also goes against them in terms of fighting as well. This ties back into the feminism aspects in the movie since even though Enola faced scrutiny for knowing how to fight, it actually came in handy in the movie. The multiple villains may upset some viewers since they might say it makes the movie less focused on the main plot and seem scrambled. However, this only highlights how resourceful and strong Enola is and makes the movie never have a dull moment.

Scoring a 91% on *Rotten Tomatoes* so far, I know that I'm not the only one that would recommend watching *Enola Holmes*. It does such an amazing job of incorporating girl power, humor, mystery, and action into a two hour duration. I loved it so much that after watching it for the first time, I watched it three more times. And if you would classify yourself as a specific genre lover, *Enola Holmes* is bound to fit into multiple. In my opinion it could even classify as a chick flick to watch with friends on the weekend if anyone chose to do so. As of right now, *Enola Holmes* is my favorite movie and will probably be number one on my list for a while until another movie of the series gets released (fingers crossed)!



(Above) While Enola's mother taught Enola skills that may have been looked down upon by the society, they weren't just for fun. Many of the skills that Enola learned were able to guide her in her journey across London.

Reviews

MOONCHILD Exhibits A New Phase of Music

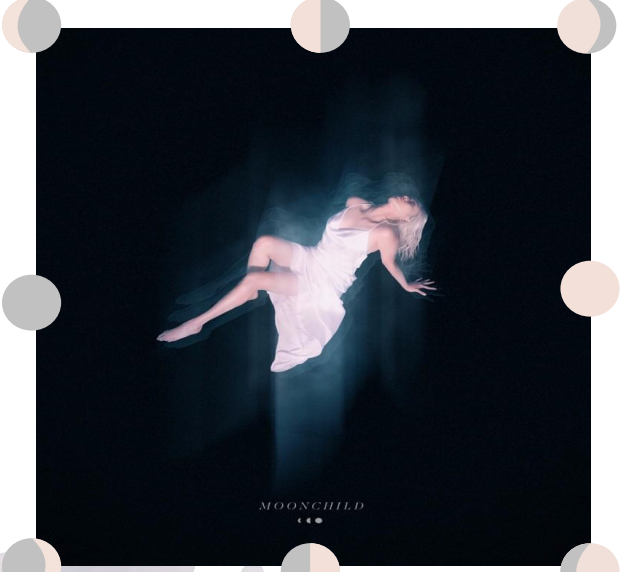
By Alexandra Caballero

Nicole Zefanya, commonly known as NIKI, showcases her musical talents in her new concept album, *MOONCHILD*. With the album containing various music genres, ranging from danceable pop songs to emotional ballads, any listener can find an enjoyable track on this new album. NIKI, who often stays within the R&B music genre, explores her musical abilities as she believes that sticking to a single style, “Completely just defeats the purpose of calling yourself an artist,” according to *New Musical Express*. Being one of the largest projects of her entire musical career to date, NIKI doesn’t hold back in bringing complexity to such a short, yet complete debut album.

Born and raised in Indonesia, NIKI first gained traction when she opened for a Taylor Swift’s concert. Because of this opportunity, NIKI was able to gain a following on *YouTube* where she often posted videos of her playing songs on her acoustic guitar. She soon moved to Tennessee to enter a music program and pursued her dream as an artist. Later on in her career, NIKI joined the music label *88Rising*, which has helped her spread her music.

With only 10 tracks on the album, NIKI precisely encapsulates a mystical story about self-discovery and empowerment. As she develops her music, NIKI incorporates her own personal experiences into many of the songs, including her struggles with finding her identity and mental health. The album is strategically divided into three parts, each representing a different phase of the moon as the listener follows the story of a moonchild.

The first phase includes four of the album’s most up-beat and pop genre songs. One song in particular, “Switchblade,” has a style that is very similar to indie-pop artist Lorde’s album, *Melodrama* as it heavily relies on electronic tones and background synth. As the phase progresses, NIKI’s music shifts from an electronic tone to a more funky style with



(Above) NIKI wants her listeners to feel empowered by her music. In the song “Drive On,” NIKI sings, “It might be dark so turn your headlights, headlights on, and drive on.” NIKI encourages people who may be going through rough times to look to the positive and keep moving forward. Photo courtesy of [genius.com](#). Graphic courtesy of [wallpapersafari.com](#).

her song, “Selene.” Being one of the most popular songs on the album, “Selene” brings a moment of recklessness to the album as the main character of the album, the moonchild, is overtaken by the Goddess of the Moon.

The second phase takes on a much more serious tone. While the first group of songs takes an innocent approach, the second phase resembles the moonchild having to deal with the harsh realities of life. This phase includes a variety of genres as it begins with the incredibly ominous opening song, “Tide.” As the phase progresses, this dark tone transitions into an ethereal beat which highlights the issue of increasing poor mental health, and ends with the dreary yet hopeful ballad, “Lose.”

Finally, the album concludes with a very satisfying end with the moonchild finding her place in the world. Continuing this idea, the third phase emphasizes finding comfort and support in those around you. In the last song of the album, “Drive On,” the moonchild reinforces this idea by explaining how after everything is said and done, we must help each other through difficult times and continue on together as the thunderclouds start to clear.

Overall, while *MOONCHILD* is very ambitious, the unique album has proven to be a success. Its ideas of finding oneself and a place in the world is a widely relatable concept. NIKI’s countless personal messages reach the listener through her music and can serve as a great source of advice as all people, in their own way, are like a moonchild.

Nectar Draws Musician Back into Industry

By Alexandra Caballero

Almost two years after releasing his debut record *BALLADS I*, self-made musician, George Miller, otherwise known as Joji, returns to the music industry with his new album *Nectar*. Popular among Gen-Z listeners, Joji strays from what is typically known as R&B as he is known for his hypnotic beats and calming multi-layering of falsetto vocals. With his previous album gaining a total of nearly four billion streams, *Nectar* has been long awaited by fans. Already, certain pre-released songs have been very well-received by listeners, with one of the songs, “Gimme Love,” becoming a sensation on the popular social media platform, *TikTok*.

Since he was a child, Joji always had a love for music. As a hobby while growing up in Japan, Joji would spend his free time creating and producing music with his friends as a hobby. During this time, Joji also had a strong following on the platform *YouTube*, where he would normally post skits and, occasionally, his music. Like many other artists, Joji’s music has opened doors full of opportunities for him. After becoming tired of creating skits on *YouTube*, Joji signed with the music label *88Rising*, where he would be given the opportunity to make his music for a living. Indeed, he has already found a great deal of success.

While known for lofi-like beats in his past work, *Nectar* focuses on the genre of pop more frequently with undertones of other genres in his music. As *Nectar* sets a new standard for his music, this 18 song album showcases more of Joji’s vocal range as the songs vary from pop to alternative rock. Also, the album

features a wide variety of popular artists currently in the industry, such as the American rapper Lil Yachty, pop singer BENEE, and indie singer Omar Apollo, surely bringing in listeners from all genres of music.

Nectar bases itself on a story of someone struggling to find love in their life. The album begins with the uniquely named track, “Ew,” in which Joji describes his past relationships and his struggle with trying to find the right person. Some followers have theorized that the interesting title stems from the word “Yêw,” which means, “Love” in some Vietnamese dialects. However, these are just theories and possibly could be incorrect considering



(Left) In his music, Joji highlights the complexities of relationships. In his song “Like You Do,” Joji reflects on his dwindling relationship as he sings, “Lately, I can’t help but think that our roads might take us down different phases.” In this instance, Joji and his partner are separated by their differences, emphasizing the sacrifice that comes with being in a relationship. Album photo courtesy of [twitter.com/sushitrash](#). Background graphic courtesy of Chevy Fleet and web-comics.com.

Joji himself is not Vietnamese. The song, consistent with Joji’s signature style, features a delicate ballad, accompanied by elegant piano and falsetto singing.

One of the more well-known pre-released songs, “Run,” serves as a peak for the album. The rock-pop song creates a melancholy tone as Joji deals with the fact that someone he has feelings for has found someone else. “Run” shines in the album not only because of its intricate guitar solos, but also because of Joji’s well taken advantage of vocal abilities. Being a pre-released song, it is accompanied by a captivating music video in which Joji wakes up in an endless train-like vehicle, similar to the setting of the movie, *Snowpiercer*. Joji is surrounded by joyful partiers, but as he walks and progressively runs through countless train cars, he becomes more trapped in his own isolation. This ability to transform such a chaotic scene into a calming experience for the viewer is a characteristic unique to only Joji. The music video concludes with what is the beginning of his music video for “Sanctuary,” as the two pieces seamlessly transition into each other.

Whether or not *Nectar* is your favorite release from Joji, his experimental and fusing style of music is guaranteed to captivate listeners. Despite gaining much of his following from *YouTube*, Joji has proven his ability to be a professional musician as he has matured into this new style of music. With *BALLADS I* and *Nectar* being successes among listeners, Joji has an extremely bright future ahead of himself with being a musical artist for audiences of all ages, and listeners are eagerly waiting to see what he creates next.

HIGHLAND HELPS

Single Day of Service Brings Aid Through New Platform

By Santiago Calderon

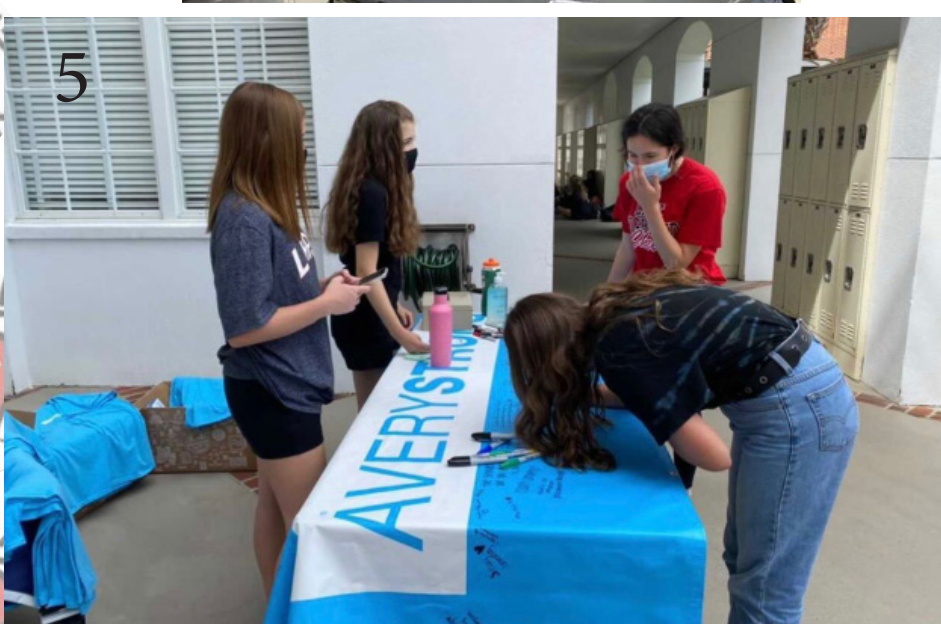
At Lake Highland, students do the most possible engagement with the Orlando community and beyond, with dozens of clubs and organizations across campus planning events year-round. As many know, LHP has *Heart of a Highlander Day*, a day where students can take the school day off and be a part of a larger effort to make positive change for others. The following are six different ongoing community service activities hosted by Highlanders.

(1) Starting in 1999, David Copperfield’s Orlando chapter of *Project Magic*, founded by Ms. Ginger Bryant, has been responsible for the transformation of, “Traditional, boring” therapy for childrens’ hospital patients to fun and engaging magic for physical rehabilitation. Although all members of the 24-person group have been trained in sanitization under hospital protocols pre-COVID, hospitals still deem it unsafe to allow any non-family visitors, which is why Ms. Bryant says, “Our large touring stage show that travels to deaf audiences, home schooled groups, students with special needs, and children in underprivileged areas who have never seen any form of live theatre before, has been indefinitely suspended.” Hope still exists, however, as monthly therapy sessions have still been going on via *Zoom* to aid patients who need help with their treatment in a difficult era. Because scheduled hospital outreach is on a recurring basis, *Heart of a Highlander Day* for club members is actually every month! Overall, you can still catch *Project Magic* virtually everywhere, whether it be the Homecoming pep rally or multiple special pop-up events on the horizon. Photo by Ms. Ginger Bryant.

(2) Right under the bridge leading to the *HCCA*, the recently started *Share the Sports* club hosted its first donation drive. Founder of the club, Kamran Moinfar, grade 11, explains that he started the club after he, “Coached tennis one summer to underprivileged kids and realized that their equipment was worn out and their rackets were bent.” As a result, he, along with the other 14 active club members, wanted to make a difference so these kids could have proper access to the equipment they need. For *Heart of a Highlander*, they plan to organize more donation boxes that will go to a charity Señor Rafael Cruz, their club sponsor, works with in Puerto Rico. Overall, for Kamran, the most enjoyable part of the club has been, “Interacting with all the people participating that share a common vision for the community.” Photo by Santiago Calderon.



(3) Prior to the pandemic, teachers had rotations of traffic duty throughout the Upper School campus. It was the teachers’ duty to oversee students when getting dropped off in carpool or crossing the street from the *Annex* when school ends. However, due to a reduced bussing capacity and teachers having to take care of sanitizing their classrooms after every period, Lake Highland security and bus drivers, have taken the temporary role of handling traffic duty. Mr. George Clemens, AP European History teacher, explains that, “Although no longer directing traffic leaves a gaping hole in my heart, as my orange vest has been replaced with a wipe and spray bottle, sanitizing the desks after every class period has given me something to fill that void with.” Photo by Santiago Calderon.



(4) To raise money to fund treatment and the development of a cure for Sanfilippo Syndrome, a rare genetic disorder that has a life expectancy in the teens, Grey Chapin, grade 11, started the *BLAIR Connection* and *Stand for Courage* in response to the disease affecting her own sister, Blair. On top of providing comprehensive networks and blog opportunities for people with terminally ill siblings, Grey has created a “drive-thru” rendition of the *Purple Lemonade Stand* for its 10th anniversary, an event bringing in countless volunteers and donations. For the drive, the organization has adapted their efforts for the terminally ill due to COVID-19 by having people stay in their cars. Volunteers wear masks, and all baked goods, along with lemonade, are being carefully pre-packaged beforehand. Photo courtesy of Grey Chapin.

(5) Community service doesn’t always have to be volunteering abroad, but can also be promoting well-being on school campus as well. The Lake Highland cheerleading team does both. By supporting Lake Highland teams and spreading school spirit, Carlee McCook, grade 11, says that, “Our hope [is] to make this challenging time a little more positive for everyone!” On top of that, the cheer team has been involved in fundraising for a fellow cheerleader in the Orlando community. Avery Barnes, a junior at Bishop Moore Catholic High School, has undergone numerous surgeries and physical therapies following her critical condition after being involved in a tragic accident involving a drunk driver. In response, the cheer team has been selling, “Avery Strong” shirts at lunch to raise money for her family’s expensive medical bills. As the team usually completes regular semester volunteer hours, Carlee explains that the cheer team plans to, “Join together as a team to complete a project for *Heart of a Highlander* day [because] one of the best parts of being a cheerleader at LHP is the opportunity to give back to our community.” Photo courtesy of Carlee McCook.

(6) The Lake Highland *Young at Heart* club is for students who love entertainment and want to brighten the days of the elderly through performances at nursing homes. Founder and President, Asha Reddy, grade 11, explains that, due to COVID-19, “Each club member records themselves singing or playing an instrument and sends it to me, and I edit the videos together into one large recital.” So far, there have been three virtual recitals sent to five different nursing homes, uplifting and cheering up residents as they watch on large screens or *iPads*. For *Heart of a Highlander*, they plan to put together yet another virtual concert to send to even more nursing homes, as all club members remain eager to go back to in-person performances. Photo courtesy of Asha Reddy.



Remembering a Justice for our Times

By Rebecca Reif



(Above) Ruth Bader Ginsburg found joy in education for the majority of her life. This love of education was instilled into her by her mother and brother because of the expenses that came from her brother's college. Photo courtesy of cnn.com.

Ruth Bader Ginsburg, an Associate Justice of the United State Supreme Court, passed away on September 18, 2020. In addition to being the second woman on the Court, Justice Ginsburg was also the first Jewish woman to serve in this role. In order to reach this plateau in her profession, Justice Ginsburg had to overcome many obstacles that helped her pave the way so that today's women would not need to face such roadblocks. Although originally nominated with the expectation that she would be a moderate on the Supreme Court, she ultimately charted her own course on legal matters and became the backbone of the liberal section on the Court. She gained such a following through her work that she became a pop culture icon in the latter stages of her life before her death at age 87. Her passion for protecting women's rights and gender equality, as demonstrated in many of her rulings, will be felt for many future generations.

Justice Ginsburg was born in 1933 and grew up in New York. She attended Cornell University before marrying Martin Ginsburg and starting a family. She transferred to Columbia University's Law School after her husband took a job in New York City and graduated as the top student in her class. Regardless of her initial academic credentials, Justice Ginsburg did not have an easy path forward in her career due to the mindset at the time that law was a profession for men. She was initially rejected



(Above) After Ginsburg's initial start at Cornell University, she went to law school at Harvard, being one of the only women in her class. Photo courtesy of twitter.com/Harvard.

nately, she was paid less than her male colleagues since her husband worked. She continued in this role for nine years, achieving tenure while founding the first law journal focusing on women's rights. In 1972, she pursued a job as a professor at Columbia Law School, became their first tenured woman, and co-authored a book on sex discrimination.

Prior to becoming a judge, much of Justice Ginsburg's work focused on women's rights including work on gender discrimination. She won five out of six cases on this topic in front of the U.S. Supreme Court. She used each case to build on another, purposefully picked the plaintiffs (which even included males who had been discriminated against), and helped remove laws that required women to be dependent on men. She also focused on the term "gender" rather than "sex" so as not to gain negative impressions from the mostly male judges. Her work influenced protections on the Equal Protection Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution and helped to end differentiation between men and women under the law.

In the late 1970s, the decision was made to expand the number of federal judges with the intent to increase the number of women and minority groups in the federal court system. After her application was reviewed, she was selected by President Jimmy Carter for the U.S. Court of Appeals in 1980.

During her time as an Associate Justice of the U.S. Supreme Court, Justice Ginsburg moved from a more moderate judge to a more liberal judge as she often disagreed with the majority. When it came to dealing with cases involving gender discrimination, Justice Ginsburg's experience helped set precedent



(Above) In 1993, Ginsburg was nominated by President Bill Clinton to fill the vacancy of a retiring justice on the U.S. Supreme Court. President Clinton had wanted to expand the diversity of the Supreme Court, and her gender and religion fulfilled two criteria in this regard. Photo courtesy of oyez.org.

such that a government must show, "Exceedingly persuasive justification" to use a classification based on gender and rejected an argument based on, "Separate but equal." She inspired legislation that made it easier for employees to win in pay discrimination cases. She was also very influential in court opinions regarding search and seizure, voting rights, Native American law, and affirmative action. Quite uncommon for a U.S. Supreme Court Judge, Justice Ginsburg became extremely popular outside of the Court later in her career.

The country has recently lost one of its greatest women with Justice Ginsburg's passing. She spent her life overcoming challenges, first in her education and then throughout her career. Having faced her own gender difficulties in gaining her education (as she was accused of taking a spot at law school that could otherwise have been offered to a man), in her first job (as she was not offered a judicial clerkship regardless of her credentials), and in her first permanent position (as she was paid less in her law professor job than men), her background shaped her future. Her fight against gender discrimination is her greatest legacy and has set the tone for ending ingrained policies differentiating between men and women. These fights allowed her to transcend the normal recognition received by Supreme Court justices, making Justice Ginsburg not only an accomplished jurist but also a popular culture icon. Her passing is a loss for our country.



(Above) For a time as the only female U.S. Supreme Court Judge, and as a justice with well-argued dissents, she became compared to a rapper, The Notorious B.I.G., with some calling her "The Notorious R.B.G." Photo courtesy of Click On Detroit.



(Above) As a form of remembrance, closely after her passing, the court's eight justices gathered together in court. This was the first time in over eight months that the justices got together, and it was to pay their respects to Ginsburg. Photo courtesy of WGBH.



(Left) Books about Ginsburg's life followed, along with operas, various memorabilia inspired by her, comedians portraying her on television, references in popular movies, and, finally, a movie based on her fight for equal rights, *On The Basis of Sex*. Graphic courtesy of The Atlantic.

Special Feature

Behind Closed Doors

By The Staff of Twice -Told Tale

When attending Lake Highland for multiple years, it is sometimes difficult to find and explore new things on campus. However, if one takes the time to look around the school, he or she will find a plethora of places and things to discover. Throughout the Lake Highland campus, there are many doors which lead to things unknown. To discover something new at Lake Highland, one does not have to go far.



(Above) Due to the addition of the wheelchair lift, fans are now able to access the Lake Highland stadium, even with mobility limitations. The half door blocks fans from the drop to the bottom floor of the stands. However, the lift is reserved for use solely by people with limited mobility and is off limits to everyone in the event of a fire. Photo by Sarah Finrock.



(Above) The scenic shop, located in the Harriett Coleman Center for the Arts, is definitely not what it seems to be on the outside. While at first it may appear as the entrance to a dark, boring storage room, it is actually where the backstage crew creates unique pieces for theater sets. Almost everything guests see on stage has probably been handmade in the shop, where the crew is hard at work every day. Using simple materials such as wood and paint, they are able to create something new for any Highlander drama event. Photo by Luis Roldan.



(Above) The Professional Learning and Instructional Design Room, otherwise known as the PLAID room, is home to Ms. Mary Scott, Lake Highland's Instructional Technology and Design Specialist. Ms. Scott assists the integration of technology, such as the new Apple TVs that many teachers now have in their classrooms instead of SmartBoards. Moreover, the PLAID room is a space for teachers to come in and test out their lessons on the new technology before implementing them into their curriculum. Because it is so integrated into technology, the room is also where the Girls Recode Club meets, one of the most unknown spots for club meetings. Photo by Santiago Calderon.

“There are things known and things unknown and in between are the doors.” - Jim Morrison



(Above) When it comes to running a school as large as Lake Highland, you need more than pencils and books. But thanks to the tireless work of the LHP Facilities Department, the lights stay on, and campus always looks beautiful. The nerve center for all that work is shut behind a rarely noticed door beneath Hale Hall. From lightbulbs to piping, the room is a one-stop shop for anything and everything that Facilities needs, as well as the space to work on it. Photo by Mac McLaughlin.

Behind Closed Doors

By Twice-Told Tale Staff

(Right) Whether you're climbing up *Johnston Hall* to get to class or heading out on an exciting Friday night, you've probably passed this strange hatch above the girls' bathroom. With help from LHP Facilities, it turns out that there's a whole lot of nothing. Disappointing discovery, or lucky escape by hidden fugitive? We'll leave that to you to decide. Left photo by Ms. Ginger Bryant. Right photo by Mr. John Kennedy.

5,100 years is the age of the oldest door in the world. It was discovered in Zurich, Switzerland.

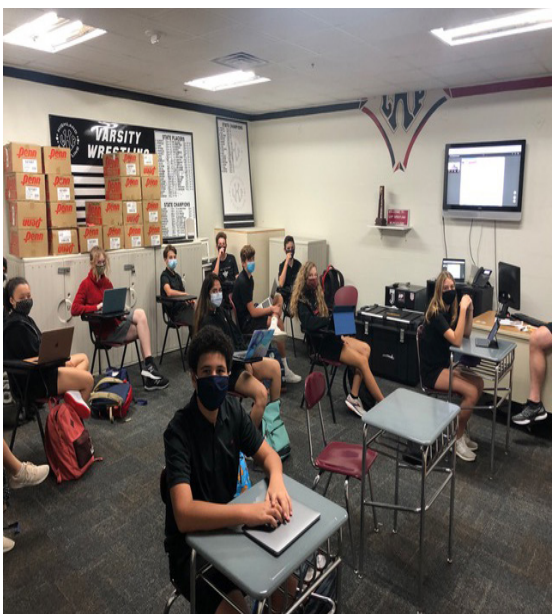
33 percent of robbers enter through the front door

1888 is the year when the revolving door was patented by Theophilus Van Kannel in Phildelphia.

(Right) In *Calkins Library*, the records room is often unseen by students as it lies behind a door of another room that is only accessible by a key owned by LHP staff. The room is a fireproof safe that stores files of LHP students that have graduated since 2009. Each file that belongs to a student contains personal high school transcripts, medical information, and important documents that are provided in case one needs it for application purposes. Additionally, the room is secured in order to protect these numerous files of highly-classified information. Photos by Amanda Wiboon.

There is an old saying:
If you want to hide the treasure, put it in plain sight. Then no one will see it.

-Larry Dossey



Follow your bliss and the universe will open doors where there were only walls.

-Joseph Campbell

(Left) Inside the *Weng Family Gymnasium*, numerous students walk past this location while on their way to the athletics facilities downstairs. Near the back of the basketball court, there is a padded door with metal-see through grates. Normally, LHP's basketball team holds instructional meetings for the season in this space. More specifically, the classroom is utilized by Mr. Mike Palazzo and Lake Highland's wrestling team. However, for now, he teaches rising ninth grade students. Photos by Zeal Patel.

456 feet is the height of the tallest door in the world, 150 feet taller than *The Statue of Liberty*. It is located at *NASA*, and for vehicle assembly.

1926 is the date of the first automatic garage door, which was made by C.G. Johnson.

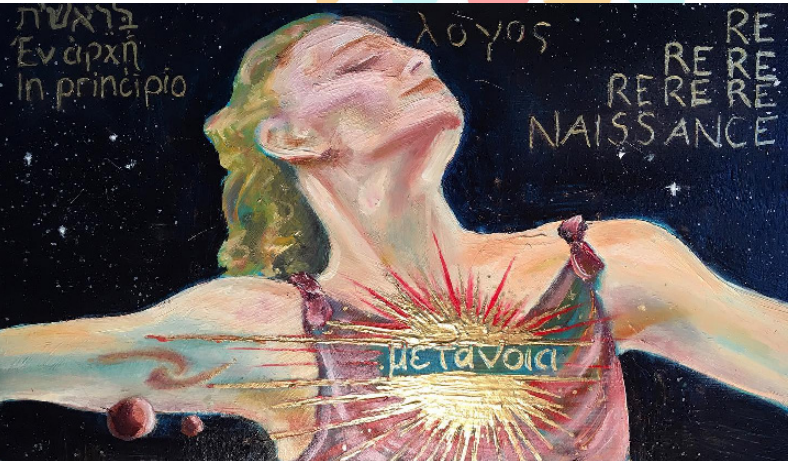
(Left) When it comes to secrets, mystery, and rumors, no group on campus comes to mind before David Copperfield's *Project Magic*. Besides their infamous non-disclosure agreement upon joining the club, silence is a necessity when deceiving a gym full of eagle-eyed high schoolers. Pictured here is the humble room where it all begins: *The Magic Factory*, one of two storage spaces. From floor to ceiling, there's tricks, boxes, and magical artifacts covered in heavy tarps, concealing the dark secrets within. When it comes to their reputation, the club's founder Ms. Ginger Bryant has only this to say: "Professionalism and secrets are the key to preserving the magic." Photos by Mac McLaughlin.

Spotlight

Laura Powers Her Passions to New Heights

By Santiago Calderon

Lake Highland holds itself to instilling the best values into its students in order for them to lead successful futures for themselves, which is why so many of its alumni are successful. LHP provides resources for students to explore all of their interests, whether it be in the visual, performance, or digital arts. As a result, students utilize these tools to gain unparalleled experiences in high school so they can apply this knowledge in college and later in life. Laura Powers’s experience at Lake Highland has undoubtedly mirrored what the school has promised to offer for help in the moment that carries into the future.



(Above) Because Laura is so inspired by human movement, her paintings are influenced by her participation in dance and aerial. According to her, “My goal is often to capture the vitality of a moment, and I just tend to think in terms of figurative expression.” All photos courtesy of Laura Powers.

Laura Powers began studying at Lake Highland in 2001, and graduated in 2015. High school was when she discovered her passion for the arts when she, “Took many art classes with Ms. [Kathy] Forster, performed with the *Marching Highlanders* in the Color Guard, and participated in *Project Magic*.” Apart from the numerous activities Highlanders are able to participate in, passionate teachers like Ms. Forster spark interest for their students as well. Laura explained, “Every age and place may evolve tendencies of visual art; individuals may raise up their own voices.” Through this, Laura’s interests in painting and aerial fabric developed, with her experiences encouraged by Lake Highland, such as



(Above) Laura not only can perform complex acts like the double trapeze, but can elegantly go through the ropes individually. She enjoys not only trusting herself in the air, but also has a passion for helping others gain trust and self-esteem for themselves in aerial. Background graphics courtesy of clipart-library.com and ClipartMax.com.

her aerial performances with David Copperfield’s *Project Magic* at past Homecoming pep rallies.

Why does Laura love art so much? For her, art has an effect that’s difficult to explain as it is,

“A calling or vocation of sorts.” This is because she feels like her talents carry an external obligation that she is pulled into developing through artistic expression, something that she learned from one of her professors who said, “Don’t do art because you want to. Do it because you have to.” Art also carries the weight of creativity and beauty, which allow humans to stop thinking that things are only valuable when useful and instead view new ways of reflection and joy that preserve human traditions.

Beyond Lake Highland, the most notable opportunity Laura took advantage of was joining Florida State University’s *Flying High Circus*, particularly performing aerial. This is an amazing, “Rag-tag crew” that gave Laura a community of supportive and authentic people who shared the same passion for performance arts. She considers these people her second family. In this way, she enjoyed being a small part of a larger organization because there is so much more to accomplish when there is strength in numbers. One of her favorite parts of being in the crew was

that it was such a tight-knit community that allowed her to have a niche in such a large school.

Not only does Laura love being in a strong community of artists, but she was also able to use aerial to get past her fears, something she enjoys as she pushes herself to achieve tangible growth in her practices. In fact, Laura has always been afraid of heights! As a result, she states that, “Performing aerial without a net challenges me to trust myself and my partners.” Support not only comes from her partners and four roommates, who she’s been in the circus with, but from her family as well. Her parents actually met as show-skiers for *Cypress Gardens*, meaning, “They were sympathetic to my cause and have always supported me in all my crazy pursuits!”

This support system was passed along as Laura loves mentoring younger performers at *Gym Force Gymnastics* and *Fit & Functional*, while also coaching at *Flying High Circus Camp* in the past. She enjoys using her expertise to show students what has worked best in her years of experience. For example, Laura helps aerialists prevent shoulder injuries with her knowledge on exercise science. Ultimately, Laura sums up the reason for her coaching by saying that, “Especially when it comes to training people who are younger, coaches have this awesome opportunity to make an impact on a person’s life, in more than just the activity at hand.”

Going into the future, Laura wants to continue coaching aerial, “With hopes to expand my practice to be accessible for people with disabilities.” She wants to pursue the field that is called the “Social Circus” which builds confidence in youth through circus arts, particularly children who have been marginalized in some way. Indeed, her experience at Lake Highland through *Project Magic* is what largely inspired her to pursue these goals. In



(Above) Even if Laura thinks art will never pay her bills, she believes that her attraction comes from outside of her. This is a result of when she, “Briefly tried to move away from art, it became clear to me that talents carry a certain obligation to be developed.” Her experience on personal training along with knowledge of anatomy allows her to have a unique perspective on figurative painting, something similar to, “Leonardo da Vinci [having] to risk his health and reputation for [art] back in the day.”

order to continue the use of arts for social good on a more professional and impactful level, she is set to finish her Masters of Science in Special Education and Certificate in Flexibility Therapy and Prescription.



(Above) Although Laura has had incredible moments in the air, she admits to having an embarrassing story on the double trapeze. In the first show of the 2019 season, she explained that, “When it came time to do our newest trick, I totally bailed and fell slowly to the mat.” Her spotter helped her get back up, but Laura says she still cried, despite a redemption later in the act after getting less in her head about the challenging routine.

Overall, community building at Lake Highland through activities like *Project Magic* can impact many students’ lives. Ms. Laura Powers has been able to achieve masterful heights in art, whether it be visual or performance while also using it to create a positive impact on the aerial community. There is thus no doubt that she has been one of the most dedicated Lake Highland alumni in the arts and making the world a better place, something that all Highlanders should strive for.

New York Staple Arrives on Park Avenue

By Luis Roldan

Located on lively Park Avenue, a bustling cafe is attracting the attention of many Orlando residents. *Financier Patisserie*, a New York City based chain of French pastry shops, opened its first location outside of the city early this year. Contrary to what people may think, it is more than just a pastry shop. Think of any typical French dish and *Financier Patisserie* is bound to have it. From steak-frites to an array of delicious desserts, it's really no wonder the cafe has become such a hit.

Financier actually got its start in 2002 in Lower Manhattan and has expanded into six locations, including five in New York. It got its name from the many financiers who frequent the area, especially Wall Street. The shop quickly became a staple for many New Yorkers which is what eventually inspired the owners to branch out of their city roots. As they searched the Orlando area, they came across Park Avenue in Winter Park and saw a chance. "The building number is 212, just like the New York area code. Also, the restaurant is right across the street from Central Park (in Winter Park) so it felt like just the right sign!" confirmed Mr. Theo Goupil, manager and pastry chef. These similarities, along with the overall vibe of the area, made choosing this location an easy decision. Park Avenue is well known for its wide range of shops, restaurants, and other establishments, so what better place could there be?

When you imagine a cafe, you might think of simple pastries and coffee. Yes, *Financier* is definitely popular for these items, but what they also specialize in are savory dishes that attract many customers to



(Above) This prime location on Park Avenue resembles that of a quaint street cafe in France, which gives it a unique and European feel. The outside seating area is ideal for people watching, while the inside area provides more of a bistro vibe. Wherever guests choose to dine, they will surely be welcomed by friendly faces of waiters and staff.

dine there regularly. "Overall, the most popular dish is probably the croque madame throughout lunch and dinner. It has a rich, creamy sauce that adds to the taste. Other than that, it's the steak-frites that makes people keep on coming back," Mr. Goupil explained, recognizing the importance of producing quality dishes. When I tried the steak-frites, it was not what I usually expected from such a "simple" dish. Still, they managed to make the dish stand out by transforming a normal skirt steak with their own twist. The fries, a side dish that is usually overlooked, had a distinct crispiness which complemented the main dish.



(Above) The main dining room includes many modern features which give it a casual yet sophisticated atmosphere. To one side, there is a coffee counter filled with pastries and coffee options to satisfy any quick sweet tooth. On the opposite side, there are relaxed seating options for customers who wish to dine any time of the day. All photos by Luis Roldan.

A restaurant's menu is heavily influenced by the chef's choices and his or her preferences. As I continued my conversation with Mr. Goupil, he revealed some of his biggest inspirations, "Actually, I'm a pastry chef at heart. Most of the menu that we have now is what I consider 'grandma cooking.' It is kind of my comfort food. My wife, Danielle, is Puerto Rican, and she has made a great influence on my cooking. I also had a reawakening of Spanish culture after my childhood, which helped build my tastes and confidence in the kitchen." These inspirations have left a lasting impact on the restaurant's menu, especially with specific entrees such as Pascal's Paella. This hearty dish mixes seafood and other meats such as chicken, chorizo, scallops, saffron, and squid. It incorporates key ingredients that complement the menu as a whole. Because the menu is mostly focused on French cuisine, Mr. and Mrs. Goupil believe that adding this special Spanish-influenced dish would pay tribute to their roots and backgrounds. From the story behind it to the actual flavor, this dish was a game changer on the menu.

Everyone's favorite part of their meal is dessert, so why not save the best for last? I decided to share the raspberry tart since it is something that I would not normally eat. However, the presentation and the flavor proved to be better than I had originally thought. Although I am not much of a coffee drinker, I opted to try the house coffee since it is an established cafe. The drink was the *Financier* blend, which had a strong, but not overwhelming taste that kept me energized for the rest of the day. As you walk out of *Financier*, you will not be disappointed. Instead, you will be enticed to return for their unique pastries, dishes, atmosphere and service.



(Above) One of the menu's highlights is the steak-frites, which is an unmissable dish. Served with fries and mixed greens, the plate really shows the talent of the chefs and quality ingredients.



(Above) This chocolate mousse does not look like a typical one you would see elsewhere. Instead, it is prepared to appear more like a small cake. This is one of many features that makes the pastry designs attractive yet simple.



(Above) Mr. Theo Goupil's great passion for pastry making is mostly due to the versatility of the process. He sees it as a form of art, since he can find new ways to create flavors and designs, such as the Raspberry White Chocolate Mousse, one of his favorites.

Continuation

...E-Sports Logs in at LHP, Continued From Page 1.

playing a multitude of games, from first person shooters like *Overwatch* and *CS:GO* to games like *Hearthstone* and *Super Smash Bros*.

To combat the problem of so many different styles of gameplay, the idea is to gather a group of students, each of whom has a unique specialty to bring to the team, so that every member is contributing an area of expertise from which the group can benefit. Rather than a traditional sports team where a coach teaches specific skills to form a cohesive group, the e-sports team represents a gaming workshop, team, and sounding board all at once. The team welcomes those who are interested in offering their skill set just as readily as those willing to learn.

When it comes to team competition, the e-sports team will be participating in the *HSEL*, or *High School E-Sports League*, with high school teams not only from Florida, but all across the United States and even a few international teams. The benefit of a digital arena means that no matter the conditions outside, the competition goes on, as long as everybody has a stable Wi-

Fi connection. While the team intends on developing as a competitive force to be reckoned with, its schedule was built with flexibility in mind. The team meets every Friday in Dr. Darin Hughes' room in the *Calkins Library* to discuss any new developments. In that sense, Silva and his team have come up with the winning blend of club, team, and community. Whether you are seeking a competitive

(Right) The architect of this new e-sports team is John Silva, a Junior with some very big plans. According to Silva, "Schools are going through a progressive era with lots of changes. E-sports is part of that change. With big competitions offering millions of dollars in prize money, now is the time for Lake Highland to join schools across the country." The benefits of an e-sports team in a socially distanced world are clear. Quarantine keeping your teammates from training? Not on their watch. Photo by Mac McLaughlin.



challenge, advice to sharpen your skills, or even a wider circle of friends to play with casually, the e-sports team represents a one-stop shop for anyone with a love of the game, no matter which game it may be.

Introducing Your New Lake Highland E-Sports Team!



Michael "The Tank" Grant
Favorite Game: *Skryim*
Team Role: Tank
Quote: "I think this is a great opportunity for Lake Highland!"



Kai "The King" Walls
Favorite Game: *Grand Theft Auto 5*
Team Role: DPS (Offense)
Quote: "I was bored, and e-sports sounded fun."



Brian "The Paladin" Smith
Favorite Game: *Fallout 2*
Team Role: Support
Quote: "..."

It is this very community that is the greatest strength of the new e-sports team. Though club members may have big ambitions, they already contain the drive and commitment to succeed. And with their mix of brand new recruits, seasoned teammates, and experienced members, the team has all the tools they'll need to grow. The only question is, where do we get tickets to the next game?

...Treating a Play Like TV on Stage, Continued From Page 1.

sets of costumes and props, the actors will also be assigned different spaces and times to get ready, so that there will not be too many people preparing for the performance at once. Overall, Mr. Henry-Dixon believes that Covid-19 cannot stop his cast from their love of acting. He added, "At the heart of every actor is a storyteller, and that sentiment is just as true for *Peter and the Starcatcher* as with any play before Covid-19 hit, but the way we tell stories has adapted to make sure safety is at the forefront of everything."



(Above) Tickets for the play are being sold <https://www.showtix4u.com/events/17709>. Along with the tickets, if purchased in a family pack, comes a viewing party box that includes snacks, keepsakes, and programs for four people. Graphic courtesy of Mr. Henry-Dixon.

Even though the majority of plays have leads, including this one, *Peter and the Starcatcher* gives all cast members an integral part in the performance. This goes back to the small cast of 13 people, and the storyline of this particular play. Based off of the storyline and how *Peter and the Starcatcher* is staged, Mr. Henry-Dixon explains that, "No one really leaves the stage." However, he does not want to pass over or disregard the leads of the play because all parts of the play are vital to the final performance. There are four main leads to the play, with there being two coming from the Orphan Cast, and two coming from the Starcatcher Cast. In the Orphan Cast, Sophia-Bella Carrasquillo is playing the role of the Boy, or Peter, and as well as Lily Tanner, in the Starcatcher Cast. Also appearing in the Starcatcher Cast is Thalia Vasilakis, playing the role of Molly, or the Starcatcher, and Asha Reddy is portraying this character in the Orphan Cast.

Since the cast is unable to perform in front of a live audience, the method of streaming is being used, so that people can still enjoy *Peter and the Starcatcher* in a safe way. However, this is rather different for the cast, since they are used to performing in front of a live and interactive audience. From Mr. Henry-Dixon's point of view, this style of performing a play is, "More like performing for camera such as TV or film, than the traditional performing for a live audience." Even though this may be difficult for the performers, new ideas and mediums are being discovered, so that, "We can enhance the performance for the audiences," added Mr. Henry-Dixon.

Not specifically for just *Peter and the Starcatcher*, but for all plays, Mr. Henry-Dixon appreciates putting together and rehearsing pieces of drama. Although he appreciates the costumes and read throughs, his favorite part is, "After hours of rehearsal and weeks of trying to remember, the cast finally settles into the skins of their characters and as an ensemble starts to find their specific rhythm."



(Above) The cast hopes that every audience member is just as excited as they are, with the fact that people have not been able to watch theatre for so long."magical" Mr. Henry-Dixon believes that live theatre is truly "Magical," as so does the cast and audience. Photo by Mac McLaughlin.

By watching the cast from day one, Mr. Henry-Dixon is finally able to see the, "Growth and creativity" from both the cast, and inside the play. He describes this moment as, "It truly reflects the magic of doing live theatre," and it achieves his goal of being an successful educational theatre director.

Every director of a play has hopes of what the audience will get out of the performance from their cast, including Mr. Henry-Dixon. With having a different setting than a traditional performance, he really wants to emphasize the message that, "You don't need big flashy sets and lights or costumes to make that happen, but you need a group of people who care really passionately about a story that they're all working so hard to bring to life." Instead, he hopes the audience will understand the story that the cast is illustrating, and to see the artistry in their performance of *Peter and the Starcatcher*.

FINE DINING

U & Me Revolving Hot Pot Smartly Cooks Up Business

By Amanda Wiboon

Since the beginning of the pandemic, restaurants have unexpectedly undergone dramatic changes, whether that means the upsetting closures of some locations, or the introduction of new safety protocols that adhere to CDC guidelines. Like many other businesses, keeping a restaurant open is important to its employees and also owners who want to gain profit from customers. Specifically, buffets have struggled immensely in trying to keep businesses alive. Buffet chains, such as the favored *Sweet Tomatoes*, closed 97 of its nationwide locations after filing for bankruptcy. As someone who considers *Sweet Tomatoes* an important part of my childhood, I was extremely upset by the news. After some thought, I didn't believe that many buffets could survive the pandemic if formerly economically stable businesses had to suddenly shut their doors. Planning for individual safety requires extreme caution in order to ensure that all cus-



(Above) The process to cook food at the table is simple for even young individuals to understand. Alyssa Wiboon, grade 8, can easily wait for her pot to cook multiple raw foods from her plate. In other words, no prior cooking experience is required for anyone to dine at *U & Me*. All photos by Amanda Wiboon.

tomers remain safe when picking out the different foods many buffets in business have to offer. However, after scrolling through *TikTok* one day, I found a local restaurant that is thriving since it naturally adapts to COVID-19 limitations, despite ironically opening in the middle of the pandemic. *U & Me Revolving Hot Pot*, located on 12384 South Apopka Vineland Road near the entrance to *Disney World* was featured on multiple *TikTok* videos that have quickly gone viral. In fact, moving robots that make the restaurant so successful were featured in them! Its popularity drove me to question how a buffet in the middle of the pandemic is suddenly becoming a tourist destination. Deeply interested in seeing how this location was attracting guests, I decided to dine in myself. Upon entering, I was greeted by a friendly employee, who almost immediately sanitized my hands and gave me a quick temperature check. Nearby sat a cute, tiny robot, which the employee was able to program to guide me to my seat. The robot, customized and imported from China, used sensors to navigate itself to the designated table that was identified by a letter and a number. To me, and many of the guests, that moment of being guided by a robot was the highlight of the visit. The robot even spoke kindly, introducing the guests to their tables and wishing them a good experience at *U & Me*. In terms of health and safety, this was one of the many smart techniques the restaurant used to limit employee and guest contact. Throughout the process, masked employees provide minimal service, such as serving boba drinks (a must-order) and broth orders as a base for the hotpot. They also consistently clean up after empty bowls and plates. Fortunately, because *U & Me* is a hotpot restaurant, much of the hands-on work involves guests at their tables with service assisted by efficient technology. In most modern Asian hotpot restaurants, the process is fairly simple. Each person has his or her own stove in which the broth pot rests. After selecting a soup broth, settings can be adjusted to cook the food of your choice at your table. There are two ways at *U & Me* to choose your food: either by retrieving items at the



(Above) Selecting favorite raw meats and seafood to cook at this buffet-style station is a must. Customers can select meats such as beef and chicken, and seafood like shrimp and crab with gloves and tongs to safely collect them.

been to in the past does not. The fact that guests can cook directly and personalize their culinary experience makes it reasonable that *U & Me Revolving Hot Pot* is one of Orlando's thriving local businesses so far during a time when many businesses are troubled. *U & Me Revolving Hot Pot* may be an example of a future with more buffet-style restaurants offering different cultures. Though its service encourages temporary social distancing, its efforts to increase efficiency to meet guest demands may begin to change the way traditional buffet restaurants serve their guests forever.



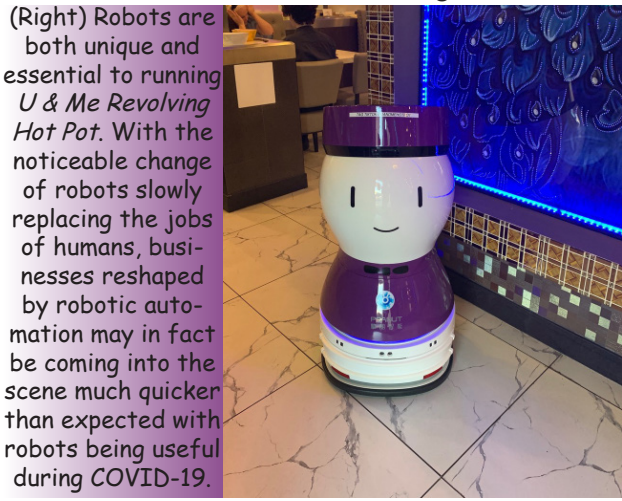
(Left) This restaurant is especially ideal for families who, for example, cannot agree on what or where to eat. Each family member can cook food based on his or her own preferences, making the hotpot experience an enjoyable feast that fairly satisfies everyone as a whole.

(Right) Robots are both unique and essential to running *U & Me Revolving Hot Pot*. With the noticeable change of robots slowly replacing the jobs of humans, businesses reshaped by robotic automation may in fact be coming into the scene much quicker than expected with robots being useful during COVID-19.



(Left) *U & Me Revolving Hot Pot* offers a memorable, customizable experience for anyone who visits. The opportunity for customers to pick out their favorite Asian foods and cook them to their own pace are aspects that make each visit unique.

(Right) Robots are both unique and essential to running *U & Me Revolving Hot Pot*. With the noticeable change of robots slowly replacing the jobs of humans, businesses reshaped by robotic automation may in fact be coming into the scene much quicker than expected with robots being useful during COVID-19.





Big Brother at The Dining Table

By Ethan Leckie

For all my Gen-Z people out there: when you want to go out, how do your parents react? Actually, you don't have to answer that- I already know. Before you even step foot outside, they want to know what you're doing, how long you'll be gone, who you're going with, where you'll be going, what the astrology sign is for that day... I could go on. In an age of uncertainty, parents want to be as certain as possible. That's why, in addition to their seemingly endless barrage of questions, they use the gifts of the 21st century to monitor their kids- *Find My Friends*, *Zubie*, *Life360*, and *FamiSafe*, just to name a few. However, there was a time when it wasn't like this. So, what changed?

When my mom was growing up, she could wake up, get dressed, head outside, and not come home until dark; even crazier than that was that all of these things were perfectly acceptable. She would be summoned home, not via a concerned text message, but by her dad beating on his chest, screaming like Tarzan on the front porch. She would have orange fights with her neighborhood friends (getting pelted by oranges is the most Florida thing I've ever heard), and no one would bother to break them up. My mom, along with everyone else in her generation, seemed to have good-natured, outdoor fun. Then it suddenly stopped.

I think one of the reasons for this is the media. There are countless reports about child kidnappings and abductions on the news, but these incidents are still incredibly low. In fact, according to *FBI* research, only 0.1 percent of missing children cases are reported as abductions by a stranger, with most happening when the child is going to and from school. Surprisingly, children are actually more likely to be abducted by one of their parents. So, why are parents (who don't kidnap their children) so worried about this happening to their kids? It's incredibly obvious that crime is lower now than when my parents were growing up; it's the perception of high crime, however, that makes parents bite their nails. As irrational as this fear is, it's also completely understandable. Parents want to keep their kids safe, and a way to do that is to keep themselves



(Above) I was raised doing more structured activities. I can't say that I really know what I missed out on, but I never had those spontaneous outings with my friends when I was younger. I mean, I guess I turned out okay, right? All photos courtesy of Mrs. Elizabeth Leckie. Background graphic courtesy of netclipart.com.

informed about what's going on around them. Unfortunately, our sources of information are more concerned with making a profit than whether or not you find anything useful out of their content. Stories about kids being kidnapped or going missing are captivating, which means that they're also good for the almighty ratings, which equates to dollar signs in the eyes of media executives. As a result, parents are left scared and largely uninformed about how to protect their children.

In addition, I think that a lot of this sentiment comes from living in a post-9/11 world. I would hear countless stories about how people would simply walk up to an airline's kiosk and buy a plane ticket like they were at the movies. While this has nothing to do with children being kidnapped, pre-9/11 society seemed to be more relaxed back then. People weren't worried about things that were happening halfway across the globe, or the new method that people were trying to use to bring harm upon their kids. All they cared about was what was happening in their little bubbles.

This brings me to my next point: people seem to be so scared of each other nowadays. I remember my parents making me watch videos about the dangers of interacting with strangers. As a little kid, it was scary to me. If this video I watched were right, then simply talking to a stranger would get me thrown into the back of some van. As I've said before, the chances of this happening are incredibly low; yet we are still taught to be fearful of everyone we meet. Of course, there are people who do kidnap children, and yes, kids should be taught the proper ways to behave around strangers, but that doesn't mean we should be shaking in our boots whenever we see someone we don't know. Most people will not try to abduct your

kids, but if you were to look at how we educate our children about "stranger danger," you would think that child abductors are running rampant.

As a fellow Gen-Z member, I can't write about this without talking about another, marginally less harmful factor: technology. I'll be honest- I've spent hours scrolling through Instagram on my phone and playing *Star Wars: Battlefront II* on my Xbox instead of going out to play basketball with my brothers. On the flipside, there's a lot of times when technology has brought people together. For example, I use *Discord* and *Zoom* to keep in touch with my friends, and we play games like *Among Us* and *Minecraft* together. In a lot of ways, technology has redefined what a social activity can look like, but it seems like these kinds of activities are taking up more and more of our time. It's kind of scary to me that the outside world now has to compete for our attention. Who needs to go to the park to play basketball with their friends when they have *2K20* on their PS5 and can interact with them in real time? For most of us, the latter sounds much more appealing, and I only see this issue getting worse as technology is improving at an almost exponential rate.

Lastly, kids nowadays seem to be extremely micromanaged. There doesn't seem to be a single minute of a child's day that doesn't consist of a scheduled activity. There's no more room in a kid's day to, you know, be a kid. Free time is now seen as a problem to be solved rather than what it is: an opportunity to do whatever the heck you want. There've been plenty of times when I've been so tired after school and SAT tutoring that I decide the best use of my time is taking a nap, but when one of my parents walks in my room and sees me on my bed, he or she attributes it to, "Laziness," and not being, "Productive." It seems to me that we value one's propensity to work more than the content of their character. We have put productivity over our own happiness and well-being, and it hasn't been working out too well for us. Kids seem to be more tired, overworked, and unhappy than ever.

So, can these problems be solved? I think so, but history has shown us that changing a society's culture doesn't happen overnight. It's going to take a lot of time and a lot of people to change the way things are going. Hopefully the next generation of kids will be able to roam their neighborhoods, embarking on an adventure to the retention pond or engaging in orange-to-orange combat.



(Above) I hope that kids today can one day have the same freedom that our parents' generation had. We know too much about the dangers of being stuck inside with technology, being overly monitored, and the ensuing lack of social interactions and connections. Hopefully parents can see that the world isn't as dangerous as the media makes it out to be.



(Above) Although I never experienced the impromptu excursion, I was still able to interact with many other people my age. I think I still developed into a normal, sociable person with my structured activities. We would do all the typical activities of preschoolers together, but always under some sort of supervision.



In the Lane For the *Olympics*

By Zeal Patel

As the year continues to present numerous issues to society, people are beginning to overcome them. Just as professional sports teams have decided to continue their activities, Lake Highland is following in their footsteps. Nevertheless, Lake Highland’s swim team has taken a proactive approach in their response to the pandemic. In an attempt to continue their practices and competitions, LHP Swim has decided to make some major adjustments to their conventional plans for the season. Obviously, prior to the pandemic,

wearing and social distancing very well, which makes it easy to know I am safe while I swim.”

Just as schools around the country have taken an on-line approach to teaching students, competitions and practices are headed towards the same direction. With the newly created *Citrus League*, a group of six Orlando private schools including LHP, Bishop Moore, Montverde Academy, Trinity Prep, The First Academy, and Windermere Prep, students will be able to continue their season. Thomas Metevia of *ClickOrlando* contextualizes that an

Senior and captain of Lake Highland’s swim team, has committed to Villanova University due to his dedication towards the swim program. Many other upperclassmen would also like to have the same opportunity that Josh was offered. Until then, they will try their hardest to improve their time and hopefully make it to the state championship in their division.

Success has always been vividly apparent through the countless number of records LHPS swim has broken in the past. Specifically, Hayden Curley, class of 2018, is currently



the swim team had traditional practices and tournaments, along with their rigorous athletic schedule of daily morning and afternoon practices. This distress-free environment, however, will be missed, as numerous steps have been made to their schedule to accommodate for COVID-19 guidelines and school policies.

Practices have drastically decreased for the varsity team. They are now following numerous regulations in place: instead of daily morning and afternoon practices, they have been moved to just two days a week. The number of the people in the lanes and locker rooms has been limited, and there are less competitions taking place. However, that doesn’t mean that the mindset should be changed. Ainsley Myers, grade 11, notes that, “We practice less, but we are more focused,” as the pandemic has instilled desire and dedication to achieve success. She explains Lake Highland’s preemptive response to allow for the continuation of season: “The swim coaches have enforced mask

educational-based athletics league has been created in the wake of the Coronavirus pandemic. Specifically, he explains that, “What started as a temporary concept to provide the safest and best competitive opportunities for our student-athletes during COVID-19 has transformed into... [a] potential long-lasting partnership... for our student-athletes.”

Peter Lopez, grade 11, explains this transformation: “Due to Corona, we now have to have virtual meets in which each school’s team swims at their own pool on the day of the meet and then sends their times to the other team, so that they can put them together and find out who won.” Obviously, this form of swimming may be discouraging to many, but the incentive still exists. For Pete and Ainsley, they want to improve their event’s time, while bringing a welcoming environment to the team. Overall, Pete summarizes his sentiment, “The virtual meets kind of take away a lot of the fun that came with the season, so many people are trying their best to make them hype.”

This motivation is much larger for the rising Seniors who have limited time left on the team. Numerous Seniors are looking into colleges to commit to swimming. For example, Pete’s goal for the season is making it to, “A-Finals at the State Competition, which is top eight in a certain event” which would allow him to look appealing to college scouts. This becomes especially rewarding through hard work and dedication. For example, specifically this year, Josh Brown,

attending Louisville University as a sophomore and is bound for the *Olympics*. Ainsley Myers explains Hayden Curley’s vital role to the team: “He swam at the same time as my older sister, and she would always tell us about his amazing accomplishments and races. He was one of the best swimmers ever at LHP; he won several races at States in several years... Hayden Curley was an amazing role model for the team, pushing every swimmer to do better.”

Louisville University explains the specifics of Hayden Curley’s athletic record which allowed him to further his love for swimming in a professional setting: “After a strong rookie season, Curley continued to solidify his spot in the *Cardinals’* distance group and qualified for the *NCAA Championships* in the mile before the meet was cancelled.” Due to his success on the team, he is going to the *Olympic* trials in 2021. He will be representing not only Louisville University, but also Lake Highland’s swim program and how it can create an opportunity for others to follow.



(Top) Lake Highland provides much athletic equipment across campus. However, many contend that the *Olympic*-sized pool is the pinnacle of LHP’s athletic facilities. Photo by Zeal Patel. (Left) Fortunately, LHP’s swim team utilizes the pool often for weekly practices and competitions; yet, this opportunity isn’t limited to just the varsity swim team. Lake Highland offers diverse swim programs ranging from Lower to Middle School students as a segue to join *LHP Aquatics* when possible. Because the younger swimmer will be forced to uphold national and school-issued regulations, the swimmers will be socially distanced from each other in the pool, deck, and locker rooms. Photo by Zeal Patel. (Right) Hayden Curley, class of 2018, qualified for the *Olympic Trials* next summer in his category: 400 Freestyle. Until then, Hayden will continue to swim for Louisville’s distance group. Photo courtesy of Louisville University.

THE COLUMN

It Counts; Trust Me

By Ethan Leckie

December 12, 2019. I have finally made it. I have reached the age of majority in the United States of America. I can get a tattoo. And sue people. Oh yeah, and I can buy spray paint. All of those things are cool and all, but what I am really excited about is being able to vote. No longer can self-righteous grown-ups tell me that my opinions don't matter because I can't cast a ballot- now the joke's on them.

This whole thing had me thinking: how much power do I have with my vote? For starters, if no one voted, no one would win. If enough people vote for

someone, that person will be elected. Don't believe me? Well, listen to this: Zaza Pachulia was almost an *NBA All-Star*. Why (If you're also

asking yourself, "Who?" that's perfectly acceptable as well)? Because enough people voted for him. In fact, he had so many votes at one point that he almost took a starting spot from Kawhi Leonard. KAWHI. LEONARD. You're telling me that a player most people wouldn't know even if he stared them in the face was almost able to take a spot on the *All-Star* team from one of the league's best and most marketable players because a bunch of people thought it would be funny? After hearing that, how could voter apathy ever be an issue?

Anyway, a few months after my birthday, I would hear people say that voting third party is, "Wasting a vote," because it, "Takes votes away from the other guy." Let me just say that I'm not endorsing any particular political party here, but I think that that is the biggest lie I have ever heard. Going back to my first point: if enough people vote for a person (or Harambe), that person (or gorilla) will win. I get that we don't do that popular vote thing around here, but those electorates would be in a real awkward spot if they don't cast their votes with the majority of their states (I also know that they don't always have to). Also, if that third party candidate takes votes away from whoever else is running, then there is literally nothing wrong with that. Do you know what happens when you vote for someone? You take away a vote from the other person. That's called voting, and I don't know why some people are still having trouble understanding that. Also, who cares if that's never happened before? Before the election of 1800, no one ever thought that a presidential election would ever be decided by the House. Putting it simply, it doesn't matter



(Above) Contrary to what most people will say, it doesn't matter who- just go out there and fill in a ballot for whoever you like. They've made it easy this year- you can just go to the *Amway Center* and use one of their 60-80 booths, regardless of where you live in Orange County. Photo courtesy of baynews9.com.

when that pig flies, because there's always a chance it can strap on a set of airplane wings and take off. With this newfound power, I find myself in a weird position. For the first time in my life I can affect the entire nation with an action I take.

This past August I voted in the Florida Primary election. When I got my ballot, I finally felt like I had a say in how things are run. What I think and believe can now be represented in the electorate. Even though I was only voting for obscure circuit judges and school board officials, I felt like I was taking the first step towards being an involved citizen.

What I'm trying to say is that your vote matters. When I say that, there is no ulterior motive- I'm simply stating the obvious. That brings me to another point: if someone votes for a candidate you don't agree with, or if your guy doesn't win, don't get mad. They're not "Enemies of democracy," or, "Traitors." They're just doing the same thing you are. What we need to understand is that we are not our enemies. If you find yourself disagreeing with someone, that's okay- it's as traditional and American as apple pie.

So whether you vote for Trump, Biden, Jorgensen, or yourself- just make sure you do it. Get registered. Do your research on the candidates (and no, don't just read the headlines, and yes, I mean all of the candidates). Find your polling location. Bring some friends (voting-age friends) to vote with you. If you're feeling really patriotic (or have a lot of free time), maybe volunteer to be a poll worker. Just do whatever you need to do to ensure that your voice will be heard. I know it's not required to vote in this country, but the least you could do is take a few minutes to cast your ballot. If Zaza almost got elected, then who knows what will happen?

All photos courtesy of: asauckykitchen.com, averiecooks.com, *The Boston Globe*, Clipart Library, colourbox.com, crunchycreamysweet.com, delish.com, masterfile.com, southerndiscourse.com, and thenovicechef.com.

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