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2021 Presidential Inauguration

By Daisy Whiting '23

The twentieth of January marked the momentous inauguration ceremony of the 46th President of the United States, Joseph R. Biden, and the Vice President, Kamala Harris. Despite the ongoing pandemic, the inauguration continued with strict social distancing and safety guidelines for all attendees, with few seats available to the public on the front lawn of the Capitol building. Every person seen was required to wear a mask at all times except for when speaking, ensuring the safety and wellbeing of the various families, past Presidents, and performers.

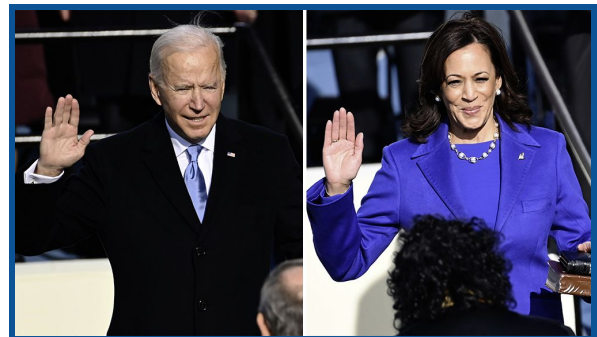
This inauguration marked many landmarks in our nation's history, significantly the swearing in of Kamala Harris as the first woman, African-American woman, and Asian-American woman to be elected and sworn into the office of Vice

President. To many, this is a sign of progress towards greater equality, diversity, and representation in our country, along with making history in our modern day. Although she did not speak at the ceremony, her presence was greatly acknowledged and appreciated as a sign of change for the better.

After his swearing-in, President Joe Biden spoke to the public, discussing his hopes and goals for the next four years. His message was directed towards hope, equality, and a better future for our nation, and some say it was his strongest address yet.

"This is our historic moment of crisis and challenge, and unity is the path forward."

*- President Joseph R. Biden, Jr.
Inaugural Address*





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Among the many subjects he spoke about, unity proved to be a predominant theme, as he emphasized the importance of healing, loving, and tackling our challenges as one nation- a leading force for good.

In addition to empowering musical performances by Lady Gaga, Jennifer Lopez, and Garth Brooks, the nation was presented with the youngest ever inaugural poet, Amanda Gorman, who recited "The Hill We Climb." This poem was nothing short of phenomenal, as she articulated themes of hope and perseverance throughout her crafted rhetoric. Gorman not only expressed the struggles of our nation, but a belief that our future will bring inspiration and action towards change.

*"For there is always light if only we're
brave enough to see it. If only we're
brave enough to be it."*

*- Amanda Gorman,
"The Hill We Climb"*

The ceremonies and celebrations continued throughout the day with a visit to Arlington National Cemetery, the Presidential Escort to the White House, parades, and musical guests. Each contributed to the feelings of hope and renewal that often surround the Inauguration, as our country collectively transitions into a new chapter. The pandemic

persists, yet the message of the Inauguration served as a beacon of hope towards a brighter future for our nation.

Joseph Biden's Stimulus Plan

By Rachel Fox '22

President Joseph Biden has recently released his outline for an emergency relief plan consisting of \$1.9 trillion, in hopes to stabilize the United States' rather turbulent economy. Though it may take real ambition to acquire the support of the Republican Party in investing nearly two trillion dollars, President Biden is aiming his stimulus plan at struggling American households, businesses and communities, along with funding for COVID-19 vaccinations and testing. Biden has stated he is aiming to benefit *all* Americans in the upcoming months.

So what exactly is in this plan? In an attempt to aid American households, the new president plans to expand access to emergency paid leave, release funds towards educational institutions for renovation upon social distancing protocols, and address both minimum wage and the current hunger crisis. President Biden is passionate in raising the minimum wage to a consistent \$15 per hour. He hopes to invest roughly \$3,000,000 towards the Hunger Crisis, particularly in the *Special Nutrition Assistance Program* for low income



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families. Stimulus checks and unemployment benefits are also significant components of financial relief for American citizens; more precisely those who have lost their careers and livelihoods amid the COVID-19 pandemic. The previous unemployment benefits offered included \$300 per person through March, which one could argue was ultimately insubstantial as millions of American citizens found themselves remaining out of work. The current unemployment benefits that have been proposed within this financial relief plan include an increase from \$300-400 per week through September. These benefits appear relatively flexible, as they did not previously apply to those who are self-employed, while Biden now proposes that they do. Financially assisting those who are self-employed is potentially a very large step towards aiding small businesses, starting with their owners. Outside of the unemployment benefits and stimulus checks, there is also \$15 billion in grants, with a potential \$35 billion in funds and \$175 billion for loans, all for small businesses. Regarding the global health crisis, this stimulus plan entails \$20 billion toward increasing production and distribution of the vaccine, and another \$50 billion for greater spaces and opportunities for testing. Biden has proposed funding for vaccine outreach and contact tracing for 100,000 public health workers. Portions of the proposal that

correlate with the pandemic and general healthcare hold additional pursuits for settling medical disparities among people of color (POC) and financially inept health services, typically located on tribal land.

The passing itself of this proposal for the stimulus plan is entirely contingent on congressional approval. As it is probable that responses to this plan on behalf of the Republican party will be skeptical, Congressional approval could very likely be quite difficult for now President Joe Biden to obtain.

The Past, Present, and Future Of The COVID-19 Vaccine

By Quinn Pasmantier, '22

On December 14, 2020, the nation held its breath as New York nurse Sandra Lindsay became the first in the U.S. to receive the coronavirus vaccine.

The event was televised, naturally: it was one of the first symbols of hope for many who had come to fear that the pandemic would never end. Lindsay, 52, was shown sitting patiently beside another nurse, who prepared the needle on a nearby table. As the moment drew closer, microphones fastened to Lindsay's chair picked up her murmured words. "I'm ready," she said, "Let's do this." She didn't flinch or close her eyes as the vaccine was administered, and when it was all over, the



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watching audience (including the other nurse) broke into applause. The first coronavirus vaccine had been given!

It took much work and review to get to that point, however. Usually, vaccines take years to make, but due to the severity of the coronavirus, time was not a luxury the world could afford. The first two vaccines, made by pharmaceutical companies Moderna and Pfizer, were given Emergency Use Authorization by the FDA in late December of 2020 (just a year after research initially began). The Moderna vaccine is 94.1% effective at preventing symptomatic COVID-19, measured starting from 14 days after the second dose. The Pfizer vaccine is 95% effective at preventing symptomatic COVID-19 infection, measured starting from seven days after the second dose.

Both of these efficacy rates are extremely high, but it should be noted that this does not mean they prevent vaccinated people from transmitting the virus if they do become infected but don't show symptoms.

This means it is not only still important, but essential to wear a mask if you have received a vaccination.

"It was one of the first symbols of hope for many who had come to fear that the pandemic would never end."

- Quinn Pasmantier '22

As of right now, eligibility for the vaccine in New York State is limited to medical personnel, nursing home residents, certain kinds of essential workers (including police, teachers and some grocery workers), and anyone aged 65 and older. Unfortunately, those who are under 65 and immunocompromised are not qualified to get vaccines in New York at this time. Gov. Andrew Cuomo explained in a statement on January 15, 2021 that providing vaccines to this group would only force more people onto a waiting list for a limited amount of vaccines.

Hopefully, in the future, this qualification will be extended to everyone. It should be remembered, however, that this vaccine is still just over a month old, and rules are likely to change soon. As for now, all we can do is try to emulate Sandra Lindsay, and stare unflinchingly forward at the long path to recovery ahead of us.

2020: The Marvelous and Murderous

By Ava Filocamo '23

In a speech accepting the Nobel Peace Prize, Irish poet Seamus Heaney referenced the reconciling of the marvelous and murderous. This phrase perfectly describes the past year. 2020 affected each and everyone of us in unique ways. For some, it was comforting to stay at home and to take a step back and pause from the rush



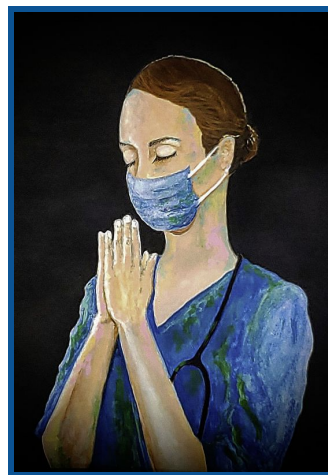
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of life. It was marvelous! People were home, wore pajamas all day, and found themselves doing tasks they would've never thought about if they weren't cooped up in the four corners of their homes. Families rediscovered a closeness lost to the days of packed schedules and deadlines. Others found themselves unceremoniously dumped from their daily routines. They felt so used to their status quo—traveling to work or school and spending time with family and friends. Staying at home was murderous, and felt like a job rather than a time to be leisurely. There was a struggle to find peace while being in a reality of sickness and loss. In the early months of the pandemic, the death toll was staggering here in New York, and it was often difficult to feel safe even in our own homes.



There was no right way to cope, everyone had a different method to handle their emotions. Journaling, watching a movie, going for a long walk, hanging out on Zoom, learning a new skill, and even decluttering a room were just a few of the various ways used to pass the hours. As the

months, which seemed like years, passed by, the world was counting down the days until 2021 arrived.



"Families rediscovered a closeness lost to the days of packed schedules and deadlines."

– Ava Filocamo '23

It seemed like as soon as the ball dropped in Times Square at midnight, all the memories of 2020 would disappear. People were ready to move on with their plans and hoped to forget all about 2020. Even though erasing memories might be a way to cure the rollercoaster of emotions many faced this past year, society should build a bridge between the marvelous and murderous parts of such a defining year. Everyone in some form, whether big or small, changed. Even if



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it is not realized, people reflected on the challenges presented to them to grow, recalibrate expectations, and change direction. The dawn of 2021 did not erase its predecessor. Hopefully, that murderous year will be used as a stepping stone to a year of clearer perspective ahead, where the marvelous prevails.

5 COVID-Friendly Spots Near D.A.

By Victoria Smajlaj '24

Lets face it: staying at home isn't very fun. Yet, it is essential to do what we can to stay safe and healthy. We all miss exploring new places, but COVID-19 restrictions can make it tough to combine safety and fun, (nevermind the cold weather being a struggle.) Luckily, there are plenty of exciting spots that are socially distanced and outdoors, making us want to spend time outside, despite the weather!

CENTRAL PARK

Central Park is filled with safe places to rollerblade, skateboard, and bike. The Bethesda Terrace is a beautiful spot to enjoy the beautiful lake, architecture, and music. The Turtle Pond Overlook is a small pier that gives a beautiful view of Turtle Pond and the Belvedere Castle. At dusk, you can see a heart made up of lights from a building on the Upper West Side.

LOTTE NEW YORK PALACE

455 Madison Ave

If you miss the feeling of watching Gossip Girl on Netflix, you should visit the Lotte New York Palace's entryway. Hanging outside the gates of the hotel will instantly make you feel like a million bucks.

DTUT CAFE

1744 2nd Ave

If you think roasting s'mores in the winter in NYC sounds fun, Downtown-Uptown is a unique place, which is definitely worth checking out! It is a cozy daytime coffee shop, and a great small business to support. Not to mention, it is socially distanced for outdoor dining. There are so many things on the menu, including cappuccinos, hot brewed coffee, and chocolate desserts! A personal favorite on the menu is the s'mores! The order is so unique because it is such a bizarre experience to roast marshmallows in the middle of NYC!

THE GREENS

89 South St

The Greens is a recently opened rooftop restaurant. It is located on a rooftop at Pier 17 and is a miniature clear cabin restaurant which is perfect for social distancing. Each "party" consists of 2-10 people and has their own miniature glass "cabin." The Greens are the perfect place for



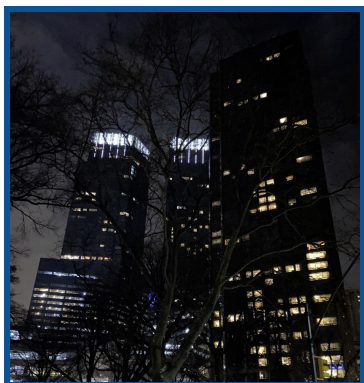
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the cold weather because each “cabin” is roofed, warm, air- purified, and in an outdoor roof setting. Each cabin has cozy seats, heated floors, cute decorations, a “fireplace” and an amazing view!

LIGHT YEAR

Pearl Street Triangle, Bklyn

On the first Thursday of each month, huge pieces of artwork are projected at dusk from D.U.M.B.O. onto the Manhattan Bridge. The art can be seen from the Pearl Street



Triangle. It is such a one-of-a-kind spot to safely explore different forms of art in a new way!

Club Day

By Keira Muller '24

On December 17, 2020 D.A. welcomed another successful virtual Club Day. The entire school took a day's rest from the usual class schedule to attend club meetings. In the pre-pandemic world, D.A.'s

clubs would meet in-person before or after school. However, in order to keep our community safe, all extra-curricular activities are now held virtually.

“Despite all of the difficulties presented by the pandemic, the faculty members and club presidents have managed to make club day a memorable experience.”

– Keira Muller '24

D.A.'s teachers have worked tirelessly to recreate the atmosphere of in-person activities on Club Day. Moderator of Student Council and co-moderator of NHS peer-tutoring, Ms. Reardon spoke on this saying, “In a normal world, on a normal day, I think one of the most important things about our clubs is that it gives students the chance to lead. To recreate that for Club Days, one of the best things we can do is allow our student leaders to handle as much of the planning and execution of our Club Days as possible.” Many of the students at D.A. feel that Club Day is an enjoyable break from their day-to-day lives. Sara Siciliano, a freshman at D.A. who is in Pre-med, Ecology, Campus Ministry, Model UN, and Mock Trial, said, “It's been good and has been a nice way to meet new people.” Demetra Chudley, a fellow freshman who is in Model UN, Drama,



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Mock Trial, Certamen, Campus Ministry, Student Council, and Yearbook, also noted, “Last Club Day was a lot of fun! I had a good time relaxing and spending with the people in my clubs.”

Students are given from 8:30 AM to 1:00 PM to attend Zoom meetings for the clubs of their choice. Similar to the experiences of my classmates, Club Day has been an excellent opportunity for me to meet new people and become more involved in the D.A. community. I am in *Student Prints*, Student Council, Women’s Empowerment, and Social Action Service Club. As a freshman, these clubs have allowed me to meet the upperclassmen that I would usually see in person throughout the school if we were in person.

Despite all of the difficulties presented by the pandemic, the faculty members and club presidents have managed to make Club Day a memorable experience. Thank you to everyone involved in helping the community through this difficult time!

Junior-Sophomore Breakfast

By Kate Izzo ‘22

The Dominican Academy tradition of a breakfast for Junior-Sophomore sisters was a little different this year. We could not meet in person, so Ms. Feldman and Ms. Somboonchoke hosted the breakfast on Zoom. The planning committee started

meeting in November to figure out how we were going to host the breakfast this year.

Usually, juniors get to request sophomore sisters if they choose to and finding a way for that to happen was our first challenge. So, the committee sent out a Google Form for juniors to request a sister and for sophomores to put some information about themselves so we could match as many students based on their shared interests as possible. Because most current juniors had limited contact with the sophomores last year and most of this year has been remote, it was hard to request a specific sister and it made it harder to reach out if you did not know your sister. The pairs were sorted into small groups so that sisters could get to know one another and play games together. It looked different from last year’s breakfast, but it was very nice.

“It was comforting to know that we were keeping such a great D.A. tradition alive, even if it was a little bit different this year.”

- Kate Izzo ‘22

My group planned to play a song association game but we had so much fun just talking to each other we forgot to actually play it. It was great to get to know my sophomore sisters, Hazel and Ryan, and



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talk about our favorite parts of D.A. and what we were expecting for this year. Charlotte, her sophomore sister, Amelia, Alanna, and her sister, Amelie were also in our group, luckily a lot of us love theatre so it was a really fun thing to bond over. It was sad to not meet my sisters in person, but we had a wonderful time online and it was comforting to know that we were keeping such a great D.A. tradition alive, even if it was a little bit different this year.

Movies of 2020

By Damaris Lindsay '23

2020 has undoubtedly been an exciting year, and though this year has been tough for many, a lot of people, me included, have found comfort in the many films that were released this year. I have decided to compile a list of my top 5 movies from 2020 as a way to finally say “so long” to this horrific year and hopefully start anew.

(5) *Babyteeth*

Who doesn't love a good coming of age movie? Welp. This one will certainly make you cry if that is what you are looking for. “Babyteeth” is about a sick teenager named Milla who finds herself fascinated by a random man she meets on a train. The part of this movie that truly got me hooked was

the cinematography. There are these insanely colorful scenes that catch your eye and are magical. The movie stars Eliza Scanlon, who played Beth in the recent “Little Women,” and the way she plays Milla is encapsulating. The ending left me speechless and crying for about a week, and I would recommend it to someone who just needs a good cry.

“...this movie made me laugh, cry, and cry again...”

- Damaris Lindsay '23

(4) *Soul*

Who knew that 2020 would end with an animated movie about the meaning of life? I certainly did not, but then again, I do not think anyone could have predicted what happened this year. This isn't the first time Pixar has tackled tough subjects. With the box office hit, *Inside Out* it should not have been surprising that Pixar would go for more deep themes in its movies. *Soul* whimsically tackles the subject of death. The main character, Joe Gardner (voiced by Jamie Foxx), dies and tries to make it back to his body on Earth. He soon meets a soul named 22 (voiced by Tina Fey) and has to help her figure out the meaning of her life. Together with the beautiful animation and the breathtaking music, this movie made me



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laugh, cry, and cry again, which is not something I would usually expect from a PG animated movie. I recommend this movie to families where the parents would take the kids to see animated movies and then just fall asleep. This movie is nearly impossible to sleep through and is enjoyable for all ages.

(3) *Blow the Man Down*

Blow the Man Down was the first movie I saw in 2020 that I truly enjoyed. Set in a small town in Maine, this movie, primarily produced by women, follows two sisters who end up in a sticky situation which leads them to find out secrets about their hometown. Kicked off by the death of their mother, they realize over time that they need each other. Now, believe me, this is not some sappy movie about the importance of sisterhood, because in the span of a few days three people end up murdered, but the plot twist at the end is what truly made this movie remain in the crevices of my mind all this time. This true masterpiece was a delight to watch from start to finish and I highly recommend watching it if you are looking for some #girlpower.

(2) *The Trial of the Chicago 7*

After how much I loved *The Social Network*, I came into watching *The Trial of*

the Chicago 7 with high expectations, and let's just say that those expectations were met. Both directed by Aaron Sorkin, this masterpiece of a movie left me running to go tell everyone I knew to watch it. Based on a true story, *The Trial of the Chicago 7* tells the story of 8 men who were accused of conspiring riots that broke out at the 1968 Democratic National Convention. I would tell you more about this movie, but I feel if you want to watch it, you need to experience the mastery of this movie first-hand. The most surprising part of the movie was certainly Sacha Baron Cohen, who is known for his improv comedy characters such as Borat. I wasn't sure what to expect from him in this dramatic role, but he certainly delivered. This movie left me horrified and hopeful that the world we live in today is better than what the movie showed.

(1) *Ma Rainey's Black Bottom*

This magnificent movie deserves everything that is coming for it. The story follows a crew through a recording session in the 1920s. Although most of the movie takes place in one setting, through the fantastic skills of these actors, it feels as if you have seen these characters' entire lives. Chadwick Boseman gives the best performance I have ever seen from him and, as the last film of his to come out, definitely the most impactful. Adapted from the play



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written by the infamous playwright August Wilson, this play that was brought to the big screen is insanely brilliant. Inspired by a true story, Viola Davis brings to life the often forgotten mother of blues, Ma Rainey, in an incredibly imaginative way leaving a performance that will never be forgotten. All together with the incredible director George C. Wolfe and August Wilson's incredible plot, this movie deserves the title of "Best Picture of 2020."

The Show Must Go On: COVID & the Performing Arts

By Lauren Mlicko '22

It is safe to say that many of us would have a hard time imagining our world without some form of art. Whether it is the music we sing gloriously off-tune with our friends, the vast range of emotions we can experience at a Broadway show, or for some of us, the magical exhilaration of performing on stage; live entertainment touches us all at some point in our lives. As a performer and arts lover myself, my life wouldn't be complete without the inspiration I get both from viewing a performance and from being in one myself.

I became especially aware of this when the Coronavirus hit. Suddenly, the studio and stage were off-limits. I no longer had the joy of performing live with my friends, which has always been an integral aspect of my school year. Luckily, this

junior had the chance to experience some level of this joy back in late 2020. In December, Regis Repertory put together a free virtual performance of William Shakespeare's *The Comedy of Errors*. The name of the play in and of itself was a perfect representation of what Zoom performances in the COVID era often are: far from perfect, and a bit ridiculous at the best of times. Actors were only costumed within the limits of our Zoom boxes, and our role was easy compared to that of the crew, who had the task of splicing various videos together to create the final product. I am proud to say this final product turned out beautifully. Even more significant, however, was the experience of creating art with my friends, who also happen to be artists that I have a great deal of respect for. Three of these friends and artists are D.A. girls: Leia McNelis '24, Charlotte Ainsworth '22 and Molly Hudson '21.

Another such artist I greatly admire is D.A. 's very own Ms. Bunker. In talking with Ms. Bunker about the effects of the Coronavirus on the performing arts, she was able to give me unique insight into the professional dance world. As well as being our Dance teacher here at D.A., Ms. Bunker is an Associate Artistic Director of the Sokolow Dance Ensemble - a New York City based company dedicated to continuing the work of choreographer Anna Sokolow. Just before the initial COVID shutdown, the



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company had been preparing to perform a piece called *Rooms*. Ironically, the work is about isolation. The company ended up performing it over Zoom, now with the added meaning of isolation in the midst of the Coronavirus. As Ms. Bunker explained, this was just one example of how isolation had become “a springboard for further creativity;” that is, dance companies all over the world have delved into the arena of dance on film. Of course, the stage is the heart of live performance, but COVID has certainly opened up a whole new world of innovative, often more accessible, entertainment.

In talking with Ms. Mooney - yet another artist who is very special to D.A. - I was also reminded of the more difficult aspects of these times, especially for arts

“...my life wouldn't be complete without the inspiration I get both from viewing a performance and from being in one myself.”

- Lauren Mlicko '22

organizations and workers. The unfortunate reality is that most professional artists have no choice but to come up with new and creative showcases, for the sake of their careers and livelihoods. It cannot be stressed

enough that we must all do our part to support our local arts groups. Whether it be attending virtual performances or donating directly to an organization, there are endless ways to help keep New York City's beloved arts scene alive.



To young artists themselves, Ms. Mooney encourages us to take this time at home to develop our artistry. Of course, personal practice can be quite intimidating, and even a bit demoralizing. However, as Ms. Mooney told me, it is also “a great opportunity for students to grow as individual artists.” For D.A.'s singers in particular, she hopes “students... are singing on their own at home, which is actually a very empowering thing. I hope that they're learning more about themselves and about their voice.” Ms. Mooney also noted that D.A.'s annual Evening of the Arts will likely happen as it did last spring, where students submit video performances and photos of artwork. Looking towards the future, Ms. Mooney and Ms. Bunker both can't wait to



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get back to teaching and enjoying the magic of performance in person. As Ms. Mooney says, “I think people will certainly appreciate being together... making music again, and [will] relish the time and not waste it - and not just for making music.”

Taylor Swift: “Sister Records”

By Melanie Robichaux '23

Like most of us, Taylor Swift got bored in quarantine, but instead of making whipped coffee or rearranging her room, she wrote an album (actually two albums). *Folklore* and *evermore*, her 8th and 9th “sister records,” have become a saving grace for many, including Swift herself. While Taylor typically drops Easter eggs hinting at an album release, these two came completely out of the blue. Not only were these albums’ existence completely a surprise, but so was their sound. The folky-alternative vibe of these records truly shows Taylor Swift’s depth and range as an artist and songwriter. This sound is so out of the ordinary of her typical pop style, but these records still bring such an essence and sensation that only Taylor Swift can bring to music. Swift takes a new approach to the storytelling she is so commonly known for, and portrays the tales from perspectives other than her own. *Folklore* holds the narrative of the teenage love triangle between Betty, James, and “August girl,”

who are all products of Taylor Swift’s imagination. With songs like “the last great american dynasty” and “epiphany,” Taylor Swift connects the history of her Rhode Island home with former owner, Rebekah Harkness, to herself, and draws a parallel between World War II and COVID-19. Taylor Swift taps into the experiences that maybe she hasn’t faced, but knows her listeners can relate to. *Evermore*, released five months after *folklore*, takes another step further from reality and tells the tales of make believe, drawing inspiration from books or movies, or maybe just her brain. This album brings the themes of infidelity, unrequited love, regret, and nostalgia from *folklore* and tells its own new stories. As Taylor herself put it, “It feels like we were standing on the edge of the folklorian woods and had a choice: to turn and go back or to travel further into the forest of this music. We chose to wander deeper in.”

“Though we’re not all superstars like Taylor Swift, there is definitely something very relatable about that observation about life in quarantine.”

- Melanie Robichaux '23

This era of music feels different than her previous music; more mature and more understanding. It is not autobiographical, but expands to the feelings and emotions from



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relationships drastically different from her relationship with Joe Alwyn, also known as William Bowery, her boyfriend of over four years and co-writer on both *folklore* and *evermore*. Their fellow collaborators, Jack Antanoff and Aaron Dessner are both featured alongside Taylor in her Disney + special “folklore: the long pond studio sessions.” This feature explains the meaning behind the music and the intentions these artists took into creating *folklore*. “There’s something about the complete and total uncertainty about life that causes endless anxiety, but there’s another part that causes a release of the pressures that you used to feel. Because if we’re going to have to recalibrate everything, we should start with what we love the most first. And I think that was what we were sort of unconsciously doing with this,” Taylor says when introducing this album in the film. And even though we’re not all superstars like Taylor Swift, there is definitely something very relatable about that observation about life in quarantine. Through these songs and the stories within, listeners can definitely see an “invisible string” connecting the dots between *folklore* and *evermore*.

McCartney III

By Nicole Belyy ‘23

On December 18, 2020, Sir Paul McCartney released McCartney III, his

latest creative project. Paul McCartney, a British rock music icon, has continued to be an influential musician for decades, through The Beatles, Wings, and his solo career. He recorded this album during the COVID-19 pandemic and ensuing lockdown, or as McCartney refers to it, the “rockdown.” Paul McCartney performed all of McCartney III’s vocals and instrumentals, which allowed for experimentation with different instruments and techniques.

His newest album follows the path of McCartney I and McCartney II, released in 1970 and 1980, respectively, in which Paul experimented with different instruments and techniques, and sang. McCartney III comprises eleven songs. In his song “Seize The Day,” Paul McCartney encourages the idea of living in the moment and making the most of today, which is expressed in the lyrics: “I only had to open my mind / Seize the day.” This message, especially relevant during a pandemic, shows that we must focus on the present since the future can be unpredictable. One of the songs is “Winter Bird / When Winter Comes,” which describes the various responsibilities and aspects of life on a farm, including fixing a fence, digging a drain, and planting trees. From “Winter Bird / When Winter Comes,” a song that describes mundane country life, backed by an acoustic guitar, to the classic-rock track “Slidin,’” McCartney III showcases various diverse musical styles,



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representative of McCartney's long and distinctive career.

"He recorded this album during the COVID-19 pandemic and ensuing lockdown, or as McCartney refers to it, the 'rockdown.'"

- Nicole Belyy '23

Overall, McCartney III is a noteworthy album and the latest installment in a lifetime of groundbreaking musical work that offers a listener forty-four minutes of enjoyable music.

Meet the Editor!

By Isabella Quatela '21

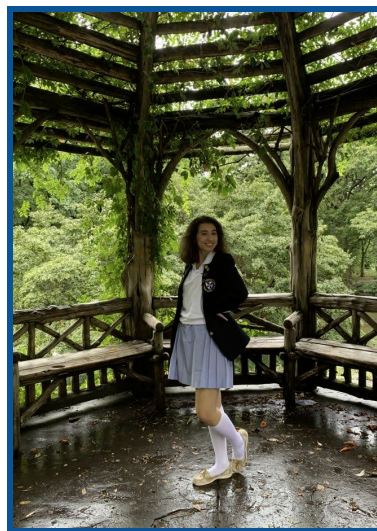
My *Student Prints* journey began in my Freshman year when Mr. McDermott asked me to write an article about the school trip to the American Museum of Natural History. Since then, I have written countless articles for this newspaper logging my journeys in NYC all the way to Europe. One of my favorite articles was the account of my travels to Italy with D.A., topped off with a smiley picture of me giving a "thumbs-up" in front of the Vatican.

Outside of *Student Prints*, my interests include spending time on the volleyball court, catching on the softball field, and playing songs (classical and

modern) on the piano. You also may know me from being the Co-President of Campus Ministry or Latin Club, designing emails and posters for Valor Club, or taking any chance I have to volunteer at an Open House or school function. While I have a passion for *Student Prints* and writing, some of my favorite classes have revolved around STEM—AP Biology, AP Psychology, Physics, and AP Calculus—and I hope to pursue a career in STEM in college and beyond.

"This edition would have been impossible without you, Bella! Thank you :)"

- Gabby Montalvo '21





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Cooking Club!

By Blair Brennan '22



The Cooking Club is run by Annie Reilly '22 and Charlie Kinsella '22 and supervised by Ms. Dee. Cooking Club gives us a chance to follow a recipe and bake as a group! It is a great interactive experience for those involved. Last meeting we followed a recipe for peppermint bark, as described below. The recipe was simple to follow and the result was perfect. The peppermint bark recipe perfectly fit the season. The juniors responsible initiated conversation while carrying out the steps, making it entertaining for all the participants. Cooking Club is so much fun and worth a try!

Ingredients:

12 ounces (339g) high quality white chocolate, broken into pieces and divided*
6 ounces (170g) high quality semi-sweet chocolate, broken into pieces*
1 and 1/2 teaspoons vegetable, coconut, or canola oil
1/2 teaspoon peppermint extract, divided
3 regular size candy canes, crushed

1. Line the bottom and sides of a 9-inch or 8-inch square baking pan with parchment paper or aluminum foil, smoothing out any wrinkles. Set aside.
2. Melt 1/2 teaspoon of oil with 6 ounces of the white chocolate in a small heatproof bowl. Melt in 15 second increments, stirring vigorously with a rubber spatula or spoon after each increment, until completely melted and smooth. Make sure you scrape down the sides of the bowl to avoid scorching.
3. There are two ways you can melt the chocolate. You can use a double boiler over just barely simmering water or you can use the microwave



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(The double boiler is easier, but the microwave is a little more convenient for most people. The KEY to melting chocolate in the microwave is to do it in small bursts and stir frequently. Chocolate overheats so fast, so be careful.) Once melted, stir in 1/4 teaspoon peppermint extract.

4. Pour melted white chocolate into the prepared baking pan, spreading with an offset spatula into a thin smooth layer.
5. Place the baking pan in the refrigerator for 10-15 minutes or the freezer for about 8 minutes; or until almost completely set. If it sets completely, the bark layers could separate.
6. Place the semi-sweet chocolate and 1/2 teaspoon of oil into a small heatproof bowl (or the double boiler) and repeat steps 2 and 3 with the remaining 1/4 teaspoon peppermint extract.
7. Pour all of the semi-sweet chocolate over the white chocolate layer. Spread into a smooth layer.
8. Place the baking pan back in the refrigerator for 10-15 minutes or the freezer for about 8 minutes; or until almost completely set.

9. Place the remaining white chocolate and 1/2 teaspoon oil in a small heatproof bowl and repeat step 2.
10. Pour over the bark layers and spread into a smooth layer. (This layer will not have peppermint extract.)
11. Sprinkle with crushed candy canes—
 - a. To crush- I usually do it in a food processor or stick the candy canes in a sealed ziplock bag and roll with a rolling pin until crushed.
12. Refrigerate the bark until completely hardened. Once hardened, remove from the pan and peel off the foil or parchment. Break into pieces as large or as small as you want.
 - a. Alternatively, you can cut squares by removing from the refrigerator and allowing it to sit at room temperature to soften for 10-15 minutes. Use a very sharp knife and cut.