



The Lawrencian

ISSUE 2

Lawrence High School: 2525 Princeton Pike, Lawrenceville, NJ

Winter 2020

INTERNATIONAL ALLIANCE: BRINGING UNITY TO LHS



Photos by: Hadi Raza

Lina Chihoub '21 and Jack Granahan '20

Ever since the incident last fall that rocked our community, Lawrence High School has struggled under the weight of an inaccurate image influenced heavily by the media. In response, administrators, teachers, and students alike have consistently expressed that these perceptions, which characterize LHS as “racist” and “unsafe,” do not represent our school or community. One group in particular has been playing an especially proactive role in showcasing the core values—diversity, respect, and opportunity—that truly define LHS: International Alliance (IA).

ARTICLE CONT'D . . .

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International Alliance is a club at LHS that meets every Friday after school to increase its members' and the public's awareness of different cultures. In the past, this goal has taken the form of events, such as Garba Night and Polish Night, as well as presentations by students about their heritage. However, since the incident at the Homecoming Game, the club has been focusing more on establishing closer connections between the variety of racial, ethnic, and religious groups that are a part of the Lawrenceville community.

On December 12, 2019, IA hosted an hour-long event at the school library called Unity Day. Student representatives from other clubs, sports, and groups at the school were invited to attend to share their opinions on how the incident made them feel, what should be done in response, and what attributes they loved about LHS. The meeting culminated in the creation of a new hashtag, #cardinalsculture, along with plans for a LHS Selfie Challenge. Furthermore, a video montage is currently in production. In order to get a deeper feel for the importance Unity Day had to participants, we interviewed several attendees.

Q: What is your goal in coming to this meeting?

- Vishal Madisetty and Suraj Kura ('21): We want to restore Lawrence's pride and image in the eyes of districts and counties nationwide.
- Jonah Adler and Rhea Phadke ('23): We hope to bring our community together.
- Courtney Williams and Jezele Adongo ('22): We want to learn about other people's opinions on the incident and how we should react to it.

In addition to reaching out school-wide, IA has also sought to strengthen relationships between its own members. They have held more team-building activities at weekly meetings. One example is "Discussion Days," in which small groups discuss questions designed to get students to know each other better, such as "What main holiday do you celebrate?"

The officers of IA are hopeful that their initiatives will positively impact the school and circulate an accurate reputation of LHS. Their opinions are quoted:

Q: Why is what your club is doing for LHS important?

- Jumana Khalifa ('20): "Racism is an issue that is always prevalent but often ignored. The occurrence at the Homecoming Game brought it to the surface, forcing the community to address it. What we're doing ensures that our school does something to not let the students who aren't affected by racism forget that they have a role in stopping hate."
- Hadi Raza ('21): "The purpose of our club is for people to feel free while celebrating their culture, so we felt that it was our responsibility to help unite the community."
- Pranav Phadke ('20): "Publicizing what we do at IA will make our own school more aware of the cultural events that we host, as well as the fact that multiple cultures are represented. I feel that a good amount of the school doesn't realize there is a club where they can safely express their religious, racial, and ethnic identity."
- Neel Revankar ('21): "As a club we felt it was important to show that LHS is filled with diversity and we are proud of it."

Both IA and LHS faculty have many events, programs, and challenges planned for community members to express their concerns and show others why we love Lawrenceville. Stay tuned for updates and feel free to contact IA Advisor Ms. Quddus (gquddus@ltps.org) or Principal Mr. Adam (dadam@ltps.org) at anytime with your ideas!



Photos by: Hadi Raza

ON A MISSION FOR SMILES

Sarah Mah '20

Operation Smile is a humanitarian non-profit that provides invaluable medical service to children with cleft palates. Students involved in the organization can apply for missions thorough the International Operation Smile Organization, and Grace Dismukes was extremely lucky to be selected as an ambassador for a mission! Once students are chosen, they are assigned a mission at a select location, which can vary from Italy to India. They work alongside medical professionals as well as a patients and their families, and most ambassadors go to schools and teach various health modules to children in these locations.

Operation Smile Student Ambassador, Marissa Parker, was chosen to be on a medical mission to Guatemala.

Location: Guatemala City, Guatemala

Marissa's Mission Statement:

From September 27th to October 4th, 2019, I was given the opportunity to attend a medical mission in Guatemala City, Guatemala. On the mission my role was to be a student educator where I taught the locals about basic health care safety like washing hands, brushing teeth, hands only CPR, and nutrition. Even with the language barrier, I got along with my student partners, we were able to use translators to communicate and share these important lessons

to hopefully prevent illnesses and injuries. Additionally, I was able to work with the patients that were getting screened for surgeries, and pre and post operation during the surgery days.

It was amazing to be able to take the families minds off of the stress of screening and the fear of surgery and make new friends in the process.

On the last surgery day I was also able to go into the operating room and actually watch and entire bilateral cleft lip surgery which was so fascinating. I was able to see the little boy, Rory Estuardo, before, during, and after his surgery which really allowed me to see the full transformation and process of the work Operation Smile is able to accomplish.

The surgeon was extremely insightful and walked me through the whole process which I am extremely grateful that I was able to take part in.

All of the opportunities I was granted on this medical mission further solidified my plan to go into nursing because of the need for medical care around the world and how amazing it feels to be able to provide that care to others. It was such a life changing experience to be able to help provide medical care to those in need in Guatemala which would usually be easily accessible in the United States, and has really made me realize our privilege.



Photo provided by: Cheryl Eng

Exceptional Educators

Jamie Dering '22

Recently in December, two exceptional figures in LHS were awarded & recognized for all their hard work. Ms. Dawn Recentio, a math teacher here at Lawrence, was awarded the Governor's Teacher award & Ms. Ann Degennaro, LHS' student assistance counselor was awarded the Educational Services Professional award. I personally know these women (Ms. Recentio is my math teacher and Ms. D runs CIA, a club I'm in) and can truly say they both wholeheartedly deserve these awards. I got the chance to not only sit down with the two award recipients, but I also

got to talk to students as well! Ms. Recentio is single handedly one of the best teachers in this school and that is definitely not an overstatement. I got to ask my first period math class why they like Ms. Recentio. The astounding responses were super positive and full of praise. My class all said that Ms. Recentio is kind, loving and caring. That she cares about her class and truly wants them to succeed.

Now the moment you've all been waiting for. I got to sit down with the legend herself and ask her a couple of questions!:

Ms. Recentio has been working at LHS since 2008 and has been a

math teacher since 2004. In her spare time she is a mother of 5 and fosters dogs! When asked about how she feels about winning this award, Ms. Recentio said: "I feel appreciated. It's nice to feel appreciated and to know you're making a difference." Very nice, congrats!!

Last but not least, Ms. D! Ms. D has helped many, many students throughout her years at LHS. When asked how they would describe Ms. D, the responses were very similar: she is unapologetically kind, helpful and hardworking.

ARTICLE CONT'D . . .



Photo provided by: Ms. Recentio

She is understanding and truly cares for each one of her students. I got to sit down with Ms. D and also ask her a few questions:

Ms. D has been working at LHS for 6 years. In her free time she likes to walk and play with her dogs, decorating for Halloween and Christmas and going to the gym. When I asked Ms. D how it felt to win this award, she said: "I feel honored and very humbled."

Congratulations to our recipients!

Photo credits: Siddarth Muchhal



Girls Setting Records



Congratulations! Girls Track team members Zoe Lang, Kavya Singh, Molly Lutolf & Sara Kuwar set a new Girls Indoor Track record in the Distance Medley Relay at the Lavino Relays held at The Lawrenceville School.

Go Lady Cards!



Photos provided by: Mr. Collins

Student Feature: Emily Pirone

Emily Gormley 22'

Anyone at Lawrence High School can tell you that a minimum of 15 community service hours are required per individual in sophomore year, but that does not stop dedicated students from going above and beyond in their participation in the community. These select students take it upon themselves to become even more involved and create a bigger and more meaningful impact. Emily Pirone, class of '21, who is president of a community service club here at LHS, Interact, has done just that.

Through her leadership, the Interact club has generated more than 175 hours of community service this year. Interact has had their hands full thus far into the school year with helping Eldridge Park Elementary School with their destinations program, which takes place after school, and their holiday gift shop around Christmas time. Organizations that Interact has also helped include Homefront and the Lawrence Community Center through food drives and library organization, respectively. Emily has been a vital part of the club through it all as she runs meetings every Tuesday morning, helps plan events, and reaches out to others to find new opportunities where Interact could lend a helping hand.



Photos by: Emily Pirone

ARTICLE CONT'D . . .



Photos by: Emily Pirone



When asked about her involvement in the community and why she views it as vital she responded with, “it is important to get involved... because when you help others you make their day brighter...even an hour of giving back is a great way to make their day.” The club’s wide range of activities also allows for exposure to its members. Elementary students all the way to senior citizens have been shaped by the club as one of the goals of the club is to help and include everyone in the community. Emily also said that, “volunteering to give back to the community is one of the most important aspects in my life... I see it as an opportunity to make the community a better place.” Emily’s goals for Interact this year and in her senior year are to find even more ways to help out and get involved. Her positive experiences with volunteer work have impacted her so that she knows how helping others can change yourself for the better. That’s why another one of her aims is to see more people join the club and become active members.

Aside from being the president of Interact, Emily’s high level of motivation has earned her extraordinary marks in other areas too. In combination with getting good grades she is also a part of Student Leadership and the Girls Tennis Team. This past tennis season she earned a spot in the top seven, which allowed her to play first doubles. Emily has done a hearty job representing LHS and being a good role-model to others. Way to go Emily!

DECA: Regional and State Conferences

Arjun Agarwal '21

On January 3rd, 198 Lawrence High School DECA members dressed up in their best business attire to attend the Central West District Conference at Kean University. Competing in the areas of business management and administration, finance, marketing, entrepreneurship, and hospitality and tourism, 78 Lawrence High School DECA members—the most in Lawrence High School DECA history—qualified to advance to the New Jersey High School State Career Development Conference in March. At the 3-day conference in Atlantic City, NJ, they will compete once again, aiming to qualify for the High School International Career Development Conference in Nashville, Tennessee.



Art by: Aleksandra Mondzik

Deck the Halls with Boughs of Holly....but not a Christmas Tree?

Samantha Staub 21'

There has been much controversy over the issue of schools displaying religious symbols during the holidays. Should we be able to create a Christmas tree out of books in the library or should we only hang snowflakes? Is it okay for a teacher to have a menorah in the classroom or should she be limited to decorative snowmen? I thought it would be interesting to learn how our student body feels about this topic. I originally believed this was going to be more cut and dry, where some students would be in favor of holiday decorations while others were against them. However, after asking several students, "Should schools be able to display religious symbols during the holidays?" the most frequent answer I received was, "It depends."

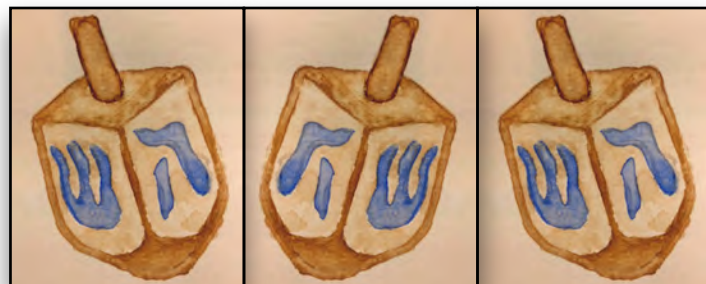
Here are some of their thoughts:

Pro:

MADELINE WEEKS: I think that Christmas trees, Santa, Elves, etc. should be fine no matter what. It seems that they are more cultural than religious. Therefore, I do believe schools should be able to display religious symbols during the holidays. I'm not saying they should have to go out of their way to show religious symbols, but if a teacher celebrates a certain religious holiday, I think she should be able to put those decorations up.



Art by: Aleksandra Mondrzik



Art by: Aleksandra Mondrzik

Con:

CHRISTOPHER JIMENEZ: Lawrence High School, which is a public school, has many people with different views on religion and life. Even though there are people who do have a religion, there are many people who don't, and I believe that should be respected. The students that don't believe might not feel comfortable around that type of environment, and from that moment on, might not be able to focus on the things they're supposed to.

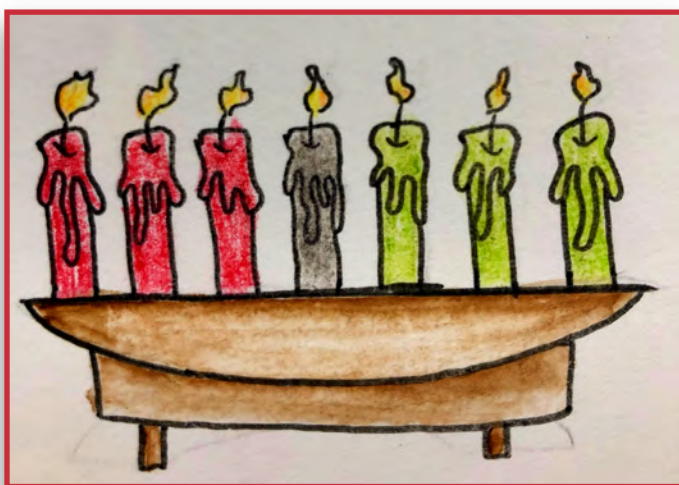
Depends:

SIMARA RODRIGUEZ: If schools were to display religious symbols during the winter holiday season I believe they should display all of them. For example, have a big poster that says Happy Holidays and put a Christmas tree, a Jewish star, and things like that on it. Never put up just a Christmas tree. If you're going to display a religious symbol you need to display all of them.

LEAH BIMPONG: I think schools should be able to display religious symbols as long as they display symbols from all religions possible. It's important to recognize all students' cultures. However, it's also okay if schools don't display religious symbols because it can be easier to display decorations that aren't necessarily religious in order to avoid the controversy that can be caused.

ARTICLE CONT'D . . .

Art by: Aleksandra Mondrzik



KIRA ENG: I do think schools should be able to display religious symbols during the holidays, as long as the symbols are inclusive of the multiple religions. I think schools shouldn't be able to display religious symbols during the holidays if the school only displays one symbol, such as the Star of David, and nothing else. Schools should be inclusive about decorations considering multiple students celebrate different holidays. Also, a school should be considerate and inclusive of students who don't have religious affiliations and display religiously neutral images, such as snowflakes and tree lights, without an explicit religion tied to them.

LHS students seem to understand both the positive and negative viewpoints in banning religious symbols in school. It seems nearly impossible to display every religious symbol, but at the same time, how can we ban them all? Holidays are supposed to be a cheerful time of year, and displaying religious symbols should add to the fun. However, after speaking with some of my peers, I came to understand that it's a little more complicated than that.

What's it like being a new kid at LHS?

Nyiah Hyter '22

Being a new student coming into Lawrence High School for me was overall a good experience. The students and teachers were so warm welcoming everywhere I went, which made it easy to make new friends. The only thing that was a little difficult was learning my way around the school but of course, that's normal. At first, it was really hard dealing with moving schools because I left at the very end of 10th grade, so for the next 2 years, I had left everything I knew behind me, including my friends. But every day it gets a little easier.

The school itself is well organized, and there are so many things a student can do such as clubs or sports teams to keep busy throughout the school year. Not to mention there's always extra sources you can use if you need extra help. Overall, I like it a lot here because it has a lot of new opportunities that I didn't have before and the people are so polite and welcoming. I look forward to graduating from LHS and going off into starting my future career.



Art by: Aleksandra Mondrzik

Winter Choral and Instrumental Concerts

Chloe Asack '22

The winter instrumental and choral concerts took place on December 12th and 19th, respectively. The LHS Music Department put on spectacular concerts, as they were taught and conducted by Mr. Drobish and Ms. Johnson.

Ms. Johnson has been teaching the choral classes at Lawrence High School for seven years. She is also the music director of the school's spring musical, *Les Misérables*.

This is Mr. Drobish's second year teaching at Lawrence High School. He runs the school's marching band, Red Scare, and conducts the pit orchestra for the spring musical.

Mrs. Johnson teaches three choirs: Madrigal, Ensemble, and

Concert Choir. Concert choir is an SATB/SAB (soprano, alto, tenor, bass, or soprano, alto, baritone) choir with no audition requirement. It is a class for students to learn the basics of vocal training at a comfortable pace. Ensemble choir is LHS's only SSAA (two soprano parts, two alto parts) choir that is usually an all female group due to the vocal range that they sing in. Madrigal choir is the most advanced choir at LHS. It is an SATB choir where students are challenged by learning repertoire at a fast pace.

Mr. Drobish teaches the 3 instrumental groups: wind ensemble, orchestra, and concert band. Wind ensemble is a group for students who play wind instruments and there is an audition requirement. Concert band is a group comprised of

people who play wind and percussion instruments, and no audition is required. Orchestra is another non-audition group for students who play string instruments.

The choir concert was a winter and holiday themed concert. Ensemble choir performed "S'vivon " a fast-paced Jewish holiday song. Madrigal sang the complex and emotional "Lully, Lulla, Lullay", which refers to the Massacre of the Innocents. Families came together to watch their children perform and showcase their hard work throughout the first semester. This theme of familial bonding was best symbolized when Ms. Johnson's baby, Liam (a treasure to all choir students), called out to her right before the concert began.

The band concert was an excellent display of all of the three talented instrumental ensembles. According to Jack Granahan, wind ensemble member, and Elias Johnson, orchestra member, the concert was a good reflection of the hard work that the instrumental ensembles did during the first semester. There was even one piece performed without a conductor, as it was chamber orchestra style.

The 2020 spring concerts will take place in May. The choral ensembles will perform May 14 and the instrumental groups will perform on May 21.



Photo provided by: Hope Perry

Keep yourself posted for these UPCOMING EVENTS!



February 28: *Renaissance®*



Art by: Aleksandra Mondzik

- *Jostens Renaissance® is an acclaimed educational enrichment program that is customized by each participating school. Jostens Renaissance® empowers students to make school matter by boosting GPAs, increasing attendance, improving school pride and growing graduation rates.*
- *Your attendance. Your GPA. Your school pride. Your education. Make it matter™.*
- *The Renaissance Program at LHS recognizes academic achievement, good behavior, and recognizes that students don't have to be athletes to be good citizens.*
- *Students needed to have a 2.5+ GPA, no disciplinary actions, and no unexcused tardies during the 2nd quarter.*
- *The "BIG" show is scheduled for **Friday, February 28th**, and is by invitation ONLY.*

Keep yourself posted for these UPCOMING EVENTS!

*Lawrence High School
Arts & Humanities Academy*
presents its

7th Annual Black History Celebration

"Honoring the Past, Celebrating the Present,
Inspiring the Future, Rocking the Vote"

Art
Dance
Food
Music
Vendors

Free Event!
Donations accepted in support of
Tiffany & Company Academy of Dance

Art Voter Drive!

**Saturday
February 29, 2020**

2PM - Black Business Expo
3PM - Cultural Food Tasting
5PM - Official Program

**Lawrence High School
2525 Princeton Pike
Lawrenceville, New Jersey**

Sponsored by Lawrence Township Education Association

Keep yourself posted for these UPCOMING EVENTS!



MR. LHS
BOWLING FUNDRAISER
SUNDAY MARCH 1, 2020
1pm-4pm
Bowling Sessions
1:00pm - 2:30pm
2:30pm - 4:00pm
Tickets \$15.00
Includes 1½ hrs of bowling and shoe rental
TICKETS SOLD BY MR. LHS MEMBERS
SLOCUM'S BOWLING ALLEY
1675 PENNINGTON ROAD
EWING TOWNSHIP, NJ 08618
For more information email: cshell76@aol.com

IF YOU DON'T WANT TO BOWL!!
Stop in for a bite to eat at Slocum's Bar & Grill
And try your luck with our 50/50 and Basket Raffle.
Tickets will be sold for both

BRING THIS FLYER
And 15% of your food order goes to Mr. LHS

• • • • •
• **Proceeds support the class of** •
• **2020's Project Graduation!** •
• • • • •

Keep yourself posted for these UPCOMING EVENTS!

International Alliance Presents...

Slavic Heritage Night

*Immerse yourself in Slavic cultures with this special
Heritage event!*

FREE Food &
Admission!



**March 27, 2020
6 - 9 PM
Lawrence High
School, 2525
Princeton Pike
Lawrenceville, NJ**

Keep yourself posted for these UPCOMING EVENTS!



March 5 & 6 at 7PM and

March 7 at 2PM and 7PM

Lawrence High School 2525 Princeton Pike

Tickets are \$10 for adults and

\$8 for students and seniors

ShowTix4u.com search:Lawrence High School

Director Juliana Long

Choreographer Michelle Robb

Music Director Mandy Johnson

Orchestra Director Michael Drobish

Les Misérables School Edition is presented through special arrangement with and all authorized materials are supplied by Music Theatre International, New York, NY (212) 541-4684 mtishows.com

YOUR HELP IS NEEDED!!!

All donations will aid in the medical treatment and shelter for the people and animals who have lost their homes, habitats, and loved ones.

Help Australia

Please Donate!

Every dollar counts!

To aid those affected by the fires donate to the Australian Red Cross:
Australian Red Cross has assisted more than 18,600 people affected by the fire.

To aid the animals affected donate to the Australia Zoo Wildlife Hospital::
Australia Zoo, has treated over 90,000 animals and they are dedicated to saving more lives amidst the fires.



Campaign created by Annabel Rose, class of 2024.

The Lawrencian

is looking for YOU!

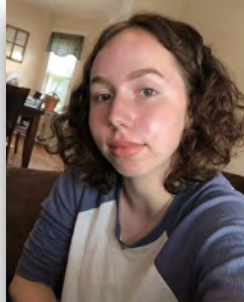
- Do YOU have a message YOU want to share?
- Do YOU want to be heard?
- Are YOU looking for a platform to showcase your writing, artistic, organizational, web design skills?

Why should you join us?

- ▶ Only 4-6 meetings a year
- ▶ team communication through email/google classroom/remind
- ▶ journalism conference in a fall
- ▶ journalism scholarships
- ▶ looks great on college applications



A VERY Special thanks to those who contributed to our second issue:



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Emily Pirone

Hadi Raza

Artists:

Aleksandra Mondrzik



Charu Jain

A Note From the Chief Editor, Charu Jain:

We at the Lawrencian want to showcase the capability of LHS and Lawrence community when we come together. This issue highlights some of the great things our school has done as well as matters of importance to LHS. Enjoy the issue!



Amrutha Sridhar

Chief Editor: Charu Jain keeps the Lawrencian running smoothly and helps edit articles to get them ready for publishing.

Secretary: Amrutha Sridhar keeps up with deadlines, takes notes during meetings, and communicates with writers about upcoming events.



Sarah Mah



Noor-ul Baghri

Layout Editors: Sarah Mah and Noor-ul Baghri (assistant to layout editor) create and finish the final product of the Lawrencian by styling and formatting the pictures and articles on each page of the newspaper.



Hope Perry



Saloni Sharma

Article Editor: Hope Perry reads through each article and provides feedback to writers in order to help them reach their full potential before publishing.

Public Relations: Saloni Sharma is in charge of making the public aware of the Lawrencian and handling all social media accounts. (Follow us on Instagram @LHS_Lawrencian !)



Ms. Elliott, Club Advisor