



The Torch

Bullis Student Tutors Monthly Newspaper



DECEMBER EDITION

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Upcoming BST Programs

Join Us!

What?	When?	Where?
One-on-One Tutoring	Schedule w/ BST@bullis.org	Flexible
MS E Block Tutoring	2:45pm every Tuesday, will resume Jan 2024	LibBarn Room 105
US Clinics	Stay posted for upcoming sessions for your class	Varies by session
Lower School Tutoring	Wednesdays at 3:30pm, will resume Jan 2024	Meet in Academic Center
Check out the "I Am" Playlist in the BST Youtube Channel!		

Give Back to the DC Community

By Jordan S. '25

Dawgs!! Are you looking for ways to get involved in our community throughout this year? Families4Families is an amazing organization dedicated towards helping others, developing leadership, gaining social awareness surrounding food insecurity, and forging greater

This Year's National Honor Society

By: Nathan C. '24

The National Honor Society (NHS) is deep into this year's initiatives, after kicking off its annual YMCA Pie-in-the-Face fundraiser. We asked NHS President Clare Vinal '24 about her vision:

"NHS is looking to expand its efforts into the wider community and continue its upholding of leadership, service, scholarship, and character at the Bullis School."

Want to be featured on the newspaper?

Email BST@bullis.org if you want to write a piece for the next edition!

connections with your peers. Families4Families inspires a mission for students to support the DC area's families struggling with food insecurity. They have 64 student-led chapters and nearly 1 million meals delivered!

By joining F4F, you can make a lasting impact on people experiencing or at risk of homelessness. Bullis F4F partners with Valley Place, a homeless service in Washington under the foundation Friendship Place. They strive to rebuild lives and to get people back on their feet. The Bullis chapter is led by Rebecca Eigner ('25) and Adam Ucuzoglu ('25), who host volunteer opportunities all year long. Together, the club collects grocery lists and brings them to the senior lot; from there, more members bring the groceries to the delivery site.

Families4Families holds frequent grocery drives; check your email to stay updated! Reach out to Rebecca and Adam with any questions. Families4Families is looking forward to your participation in our community.

A Brief History of Bullis

By Apple F. '26



Image Source: Bullis

Captain William F. Bullis, a 1924 Naval Academy graduate and preparatory school instructor founded Bullis School in 1930 with his wife, Lois Hoover Bullis.

Bullis served in three military branches over his long career and was appointed to Commander in 1942. Bullis School was established in Washington, DC in the midst of the Great Depression, as a one-year preparatory boarding school for high school graduates. As enrollment grew, the School relocated to Silver Spring in 1935. The Bullis athletics program began in the 1940s and 1950s, with varsity football celebrating an undefeated 1947 season, and experiencing continued success. Bullis made plans to build a larger school near Potomac by 1962. There were three farmhouses on the land. Bullis became co-ed in 1981, with robust academics, athletics, arts, and extracurricular activities. In 2013, Bullis became a grade 2-12 school with the addition of 2nd Grade. In 2017, Bullis added it's first-ever kindergarten and first grade classes, become the K-12 school we know and love today.

Information and Image Source: Bullis Website

Meet a Bulldog Parent! Interview with Scott Maravilla

By: Jack M. '27



Scott Maravilla

Image Source: American University

Hello! For today's interview on Bullis parents, we're meeting with Scott Maravilla. Scott Maravilla works at a Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC). Scott is an administrative law judge and former administrative judge at the FAA, and he is also a writer and public speaker on law concerning popular culture. Scott attended Georgetown University Law Center and graduated at the top of his class. He has been extremely successful in his lifelong career of law and he's been kind enough to answer some questions on how he climbed up to where he is now.

Our first topic is about Scott's beginning interests in law and what motivated him to follow his passion. When Scott was approached with this topic, he exclaimed: "A law degree has a definitive skill set that I knew would lead to a good job."

"Law school teaches legal research, and legal writing, and teaches how to apply legal theory to caselaw to real-life problems. My favorite subjects were business law

classes, like contracts and cooperations. I received the highest grade with over one hundred students a class.”

Scott had an aptitude for business law and his passion for the subjects led him to where his success was. In law school, Scott enjoyed learning much-needed skills for a career in law. This is a lesson that everyone should learn: do what you’re passionate about and take that as far as you can. *Having the courage to take advantage of all opportunities is the key to success.*

The second topic will be focused on what tasks Scott does daily as an administrative law judge. Scott quickly jumped into this topic and said: “First I am a judge in my area of passion, business law, and I hear cases regarding the regulations of banks. The special skills I use are legal research, legal writing, and applying theory, and case law to novel situations.” Scott’s special skills are directly linked to his passion which he achieved with confidence. One of the things Scott wants the readers to understand is that passion will only get you so far; using courage to grasp opportunities is how to truly reach success. Scott uses confidence and skills that are directly connected to his passion for law to reach many of the opportunities that he encounters in his everyday life.

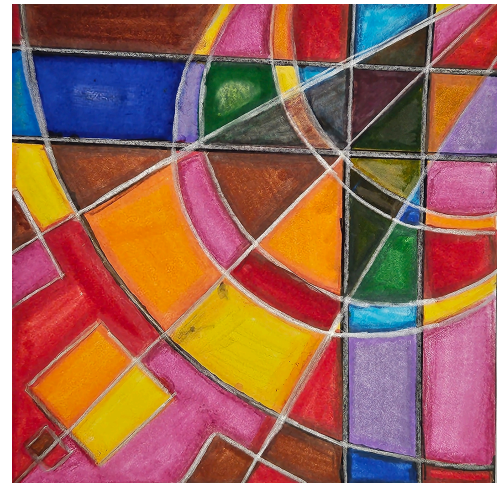
Our final topic is how Scott became a judge. Scott was excited to answer the questions and thought it was a fun story that connected to my theme of success perfectly. Scott’s story was: “I was assigned as a temporary judge in the FAA when one of the incumbents suddenly quit. I worked really hard on the job writing decisions as long as 109 pages and 304 pages. I also assisted with a very large highly publicized case concerning Santa Monica airport. I worked so hard that they gave me the job permanently.” Scott was much younger than the average age for the judge and was only in the FAA three years prior; against all odds and despite all the other competitors who worked at the FAA longer than him, he got the job. Scott obtained the job by finding an opportunity and using his passion and skills in law to fulfill his goal. He earned the job through hours of trial and tribulation. Like Scott, all of us should strive to grasp any opportunity presented to us, as confidence and hard work leads to our success.

Creating Connections: The Unity Circle

By Emily W. '24



Do shapes have universal meanings across different cultures? For some of them, the answer is yes. Circles, squares, spirals, triangles, and crosses are some of the shapes scholars found to represent similar meanings across the world. In Bullis's newest collaborative art project, community members use the shape representing unity — a circle — to demonstrate the connection between everyone in this school. On square sheets of paper, each with a quarter circle, each artist utilizes their own creativity to make a piece in the style they like. Every artist can choose to represent themselves in different color combinations, patterns, shapes, designs, layers, and contrasts, while also highlighting unity with the larger community through the shape of the circle. By putting four pieces together, they will combine to become a full circle in four different art styles. Each piece is diverse and full of personal characteristics, but the action of gathering them together creates a single unit.



Each one of us in this school is diverse and shining in our own way, but together, we are one community

School Spirit: Why is it so important?

How repping school spirit affects our Bullis community today.

By: Ellie C. '25



Image Source: Bullis

I know what you may be thinking, why am I concerned over some game against a school I haven't even heard of? Well, this is part of a greater phenomenon seizing student bodies all across America today; the active participation in school spirit. This includes sports events, arts shows, plays and musicals, and even during grade-wide competitions right on campus. But how does this relate to our very own Bullis school, right here in Potomac MD?

Well, the most obvious achievement we can take away from this newfound enthusiasm is the fostering of a sense of belonging as well as strengthening community ties. Displaying school spirit helps individuals feel connected to their school community; this creates a sense of identity and belonging, as those participating stand on common ground with other participants. This can be particularly important for welcoming newcomers or those who might otherwise feel isolated. School spirit events and activities, such as sports games, fundraisers, and cultural celebrations, can bring the community together, providing opportunities for people to interact, share experiences, and build relationships. Pride in one's school can also motivate individuals to give back, encouraging a culture of volunteering from both students, faculty, and alumni. Would you be persuaded to buy that donut from the bake sale if you knew the proceeds would be going to your school's basketball team? When students and community members display school spirit in a positive and respectful way, they

set a good example for others, including younger generations. This can lead to a culture of respect and pride in the community.

Another positive benefit of school spirit is good old healthy competition. This friendly game environment encourages academic and athletic excellence, benefiting the overall quality of education and extracurricular activities. This also leads to general pride. When the Bullis community achieves success or accomplishes something noteworthy, the entire community can dwell in that pride. This boosts morale and inspires individuals to strive for excellence in their own endeavors while also creating a positive and vibrant atmosphere. People are more likely to be friendly and supportive, leading to a more pleasant learning environment where students represent something greater than themselves. Since Bullis and Landon have been playing against each other for more than 20 years, this friendly competition has turned into a traditional one. Bullis has become more prideful than ever after this year's win from the Boy's Varsity Basketball Team in the IAC championship.

When students take pride in their school, they are more likely to be engaged in their studies and extracurricular activities, leading to improved academic performance and a greater sense of accomplishment. A community that actively supports its schools can help enhance the reputation of these institutions. Better academics as well as better overall athletic performance attracts increased enrollment, which benefits the school and the community as a whole. Basically, once your friends hear how good the Bullis *It's Academic* team is, they'll want to join the fun.

So this year, be sure to show up loud and proud to all Bullis events.

Apps and Technology that Can Help With Your Learning

By: Evan K. '25

As busy students, technology can play an important role in helping us with learning more efficiently and effectively. Throughout this article, I'll go over several different apps and websites to help you get the most out of school and your learning experiences.



Image Source: Tool Finder

For most classes, note-taking is a crucial part of retaining the information being taught. That's why you should consider using Notion, a web-application that allows you to take notes, create task lists, track projects, and organize your life both within school and outside of school. Notion provides a very clean and organized layout in which you can create notes (which are shareable), and from there use its numerous options to create subpages, tables, to-do lists, and many more.



Image Source: Google Play

Next is a mobile app called Bloomberg Connects, which provides a gateway into exploring global culture. Bloomberg Connects has tours of over 200 art museums, where you can virtually visit any of these museums, and admire the art right from your phone. The museum tours consist of videos as well as text and images, which may also be downloaded for when you don't have internet access.



Image Source: Sololearn

Sololearn is an app that provides short coding lessons if you're interested in learning computer programming. Their basic plan is free and includes several different computer languages. They have more than 20 courses, all created by experts in their fields.



Image Source: Elevate

Finally, we have Elevate, a brain-training video game that helps you “Stay sharp, build confidence, and boost productivity.” With 40+ games that will help improve your writing, reading, speaking, math, and memory skills, Elevate is a great way to make training cognitive skills fun.

These are only a few of the unlimited amounts of apps and websites out there that can help you in any of your learning endeavours. Technology has made knowledge incredibly easy to access so consider trying out one of these apps, and it may lead you to a newfound interest or increased success in school!

Sources: Notion, BloombergConnects, SoloLearn, ElevateApp

Study Smarter, Not Harder: Destress Before Your Test

By: Ava S. '25

Have you ever found yourself cramming for a huge exam or getting to a test feeling incredibly unprepared because you procrastinated all night? In today's chaotic and busy world, more students than you think struggle with managing their time. Here are some study tips to help you study smarter, not harder.

The Pomodoro Method:

The Pomodoro Technique is used by thousands of students around the world to help manage their studying. This method is based on using time intervals to study. To start, you set a timer for 25 minutes and begin studying a topic. There are various Pomodoro apps you can download or Pomodoro study sessions on YouTube to follow along with, which have both proven to be highly beneficial. Try your best to minimize all distractions by setting your phone aside and anything else that will cause you to lose focus. After the 25 minutes, take a short break for about 5 to 10 minutes. During this time, you can grab a snack, talk to friends and family, doodle, or stretch. You can do almost anything, but whatever you do, don't continue working during the break! Repeat this process, and after four Pomodoros, take a longer break for 20-30 minutes. These longer breaks are essential because our brains are processing the new information and resting for the next round. Ultimately, this process is

successful because breaking large tasks up into manageable time intervals is one of the most effective ways to improve attention span and concentration.

Active Recall Technique:

During the traditional school day, students are forced to learn by trying to stuff information into their brains. With a study technique called active recall, you are forced to learn by retrieving information from your brain. Although this may sound difficult, with practice, it becomes very simple. To practice active recall, take the topic you want to study, make your own questions based on the topic, and then repeatedly test yourself on those questions, without glancing at your notes. When you encourage your brain to retrieve the information, it guarantees that you *actually* retain it. For any questions you get wrong, continue to return to your notes until you can answer them correctly. Color-coding the questions based on whether you got them right or wrong is a great way to track your progress. With this technique, you are more likely to remember the information you're studying, and it makes you aware of the topics that you don't have a good grip on yet. An abundance of scientific research proves that this can boost memory retention and test performance compared to simply re-reading or highlighting notes to study. Overall, active recall is one of the most efficient study techniques, and all it involves is testing yourself with questions created from your notes.

Box Breathing:

Nowadays, students face stressful situations multiple times a day and many don't know how to cope with them. Box breathing is an easy but powerful relaxation technique that works by distracting your brain as you count to four, calming your nervous system, and therefore decreasing your stress levels. If you ever need to re-center yourself or improve your concentration in a stressful situation, this is the perfect technique for you. To practice box breathing, you start by breathing in and counting to four slowly. Feel the air enter your lungs, and then hold your breath for four seconds. Lastly, exhale through your mouth for another four seconds. Repeat this process until you feel completely relaxed and in control of your emotions. Box breathing can be practiced anywhere, whether it's in public, at school, at home, or before a huge exam. It's immensely helpful when feeling overwhelmed, because the counting takes your focus away from the situation, allowing you to control your mind and body. So, if you ever find yourself feeling irritable or you're having a busy and stressful day, give box breathing a quick try.

5, 4, 3, 2, 1 Technique:

Anxiety is something everyone has experienced at least once in their lives. Public speaking, huge tests, and other responsibilities are just some situations that can cause even the calmest

person to feel a little stressed. This five-step exercise can help you stay in the present moment when your mind is frantically processing anxious thoughts. The first step is to notice and acknowledge five things you can see. This can be a pen, a water bottle, a fan, or anything around you. Next, recognize four things you can touch around you. It can be your shirt, the ground, or even your hair. Then, recognize three things you can hear. This can be any external sound such as the sound of air conditioning. After this, recognize two things you can smell. Maybe you can smell your perfume or the food downstairs, or even the smell of a pillow. Lastly, recognize one thing you can taste. This can be gum, coffee, or even the lunch you just ate. Repeat this process until your mind is completely calm. In conclusion, this powerful technique is a great option to use if you are ever feeling anxious or overwhelmed.

Sources: University of Rochester Medical Center, Todolist, Techtargget, Goodnotes, Osmosis Blog, Medical News Today, Web MD, Monday Campaigns

The Light in the Dark: An Introduction to Shadow Work

By: Linus M. '25

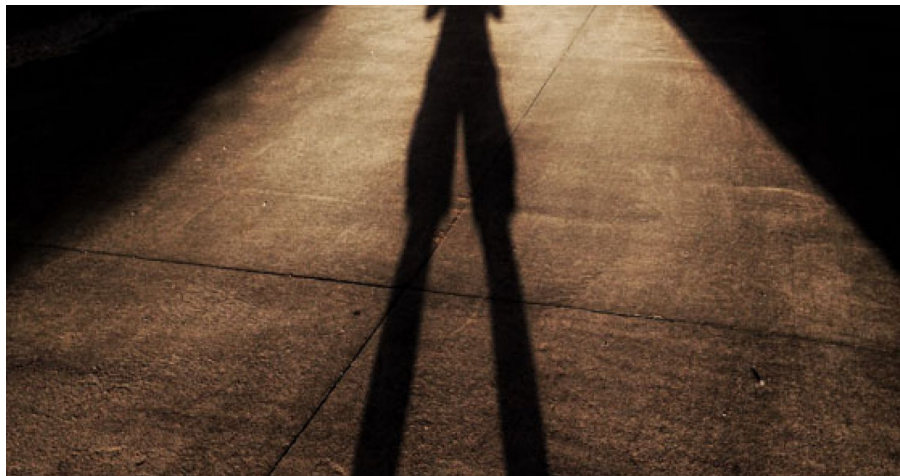


Image Source: Psychology Today

In the depths of our minds, past our innate impulses, past our rationale and morals, into our subconscious, lies a shadow of ourselves. A realm of our “worst” traits, suppressed desires, weaknesses, and shortcomings, the shadow is an inescapable part of our being.

A book exploring the shadow published in February of this year has recently begun to grow in popularity, especially through the app TikTok. This book is a self-reflective journal titled,

The Shadow Work Journal: A Guide to Integrate and Transcend your Shadows, by Keila Shaheen. As of the week of September 17th, 2023, the first and second editions of the journal are on Amazon's top 20 most-sold book charts in eighth and ninth place respectively.

If you're wondering if this is any kind of shady business, it's not. Carl Jung, the creator of the shadow in psychoanalysis, is a renowned psychoanalyst. He described it as the "repressed, for the most part, inferior and guilt-laden personality ... [that] does not consist only of morally reprehensible tendencies, but also displays a number of good qualities, such as normal instincts, appropriate reactions, realistic insights, creative impulses etc " (CW9 paras 422 & 423). It is something that is seen as unjust and evil.

So why is this important? How could it be good? According to Jung, "Everyone carries a shadow, and the less it is embodied in the individual's conscious life, the blacker and denser it is ... It forms an unconscious snag, thwarting our most well-meant intentions" (CW11 Psychology and Religion). Jung states that the more you ignore, antagonize, and repress your shadow, the more consuming it becomes. The shadow is the root of our biases, quirks, and insecurities. By denying its validity, it often causes us to subconsciously project those attributes onto others. For example, you might hate when someone interrupts you, but you often interrupt other people. It's a subconscious defense mechanism that can cause unnecessary conflict.

So how do we fix it? *The Shadow Work Journal: A Guide to Integrate and Transcend your Shadows*, is one of many different shadow work journals. The journal contains shadow work learning, journal prompts, and different exercises, all meant to help you understand yourself on a deeper level. The journal is a medium for profound introspection, healing childhood trauma, breaking generational trauma, developing more compassion for yourself as well as others, and more.

While these journals can teach us an incredible amount about ourselves, they work because they invoke emotions that can be difficult to confront. Shadow work is often done with the guidance of professionals like therapists or counselors. It is important to keep in mind that while you confront your shadow, the goal is not to eliminate it, it is to understand and to integrate. Embracing your shadow is the key to finding inner balance; remember, light cannot exist without shadow.

Sources: Medical News Today, Orion Philosophy, Eternalised, The Society of Analytical Psychology

A Deep Dive into 中秋节, or Mid-Autumn Festival

Celebrate the cultures that make up Bullis by reading in either Mandarin or English.

By: Zetong B. '25

Mandarin Version

中秋节始于唐朝初年，盛行于宋朝，至明清时，已成为与春节齐名的中国传统节日之一。中秋节以月之圆兆人之团圆，为寄托思念故乡，思念亲人之情，祈盼丰收、幸福，成为丰富多彩、弥足珍贵的文化遗产。

中秋节的传说

有传说写道中秋节源自嫦娥奔月的故事。据史书记载：“昔嫦娥以西王母不死之药服之，遂奔月为月精。”嫦娥此举所付出的代价是罚作苦役，并终生不能返回人间。嫦娥自己虽觉月宫之好，但也耐不住寂寞，在每年八月十五月圆夜清之时，返回到人间，但在天明之前必须回到月宫。后世人每逢中秋，既想登月与嫦娥一聚，又盼望嫦娥下凡一睹芳容。因此，许多人在焚香拜月之时，祈求“男则愿早步蟾宫，高攀仙桂……女则愿貌似嫦娥，圆如皓月。”年复一年，人们把这一天作为节日来庆祝。

中秋节的习俗

根据中秋节的来源，就可以知道，中秋节肯定有拜月、祭月的仪式和风俗。故中秋节的民间习俗多与月亮有关。赏月、拜月、吃团圆月饼等，均源于此。中秋赏月的风俗在唐代极盛，许多诗人的名篇中都有咏月的诗句，宋代、明代、清代宫廷和民间的拜月赏月活动更具规模。吃月饼是节日的另一习俗，月饼象征着团圆。月饼的制作从唐代以后越来越考究。苏东坡有诗写道：“小饼如嚼月，中有酥和馅”，清朝杨光辅写道：“月饼饱装桃肉馅，雪糕甜砌蔗糖霜”。南方还有赏桂花、饮桂花酒

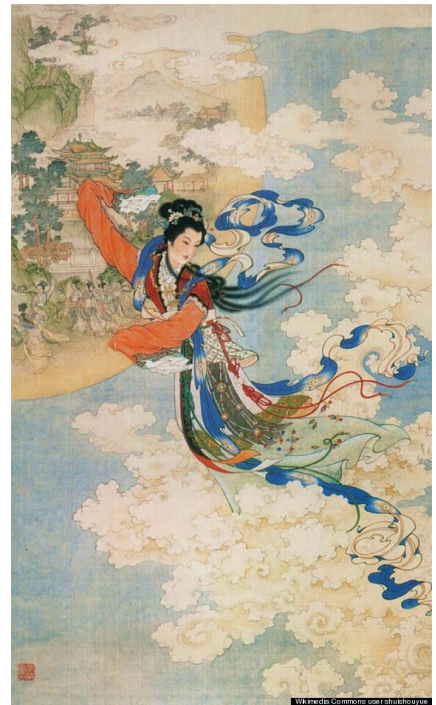


Image Source: HuffPost

的习俗。人们经常在中秋时吃月饼赏桂花，食用桂花制作的各種食品，以糕点、糖果最为多见。中秋之夜，仰望着月中丹桂，闻着阵阵桂香，喝一杯桂花蜜酒，欢庆合家甜甜蜜蜜，已成为节日一种美的享受。

中秋节的意义

自古以来，中秋节因为是在丰收季节，所以很多人都会庆祝丰收，往往阖家团聚一起感谢神灵的保佑，祈祷日子越来越好。古代，月亮常用来表达时间，一圆一缺就是一个月，在月圆之际，人们容易思念亲人，尤其是远在异地的亲人。“身在异乡为异客，每逢佳节倍思亲。”节日是家庭的促进剂，有着强大而又神秘的力量，“团圆”是老子“道法自然”的产物，是“天人合一”哲学理念的高度体现，是中华民族特有的价值理念。花好月圆之夜，就是骨肉团圆之时。

中秋节期待着丰收，因此也期待着和谐美满。中秋佳节阖家团圆、邻里和睦、社区安定、民族团圆、家国和谐、世界大同，其乐融融。正如苏东坡说的“但愿人长久，千里共婵娟”，张九龄说的“海上生明月，天涯共此时。”中秋节是除了春节以外，最重要的一个传统节日，从走亲戚，互赠礼品来看就能知道，只有这两个节日，人们放下工作，去互相拜访，增进感情。中国农业社会时间漫长，人们对丰收的期望就是对生活的希望，中秋承载着人们对美满生活的向往。

English Version

The Mid-Autumn Festival began in the early Tang Dynasty, flourished in the Song Dynasty, and by the time of the Ming and Qing Dynasties, it had become one of the traditional Chinese festivals on a par with the Spring Festival. The Mid-Autumn Festival has become a colorful and precious cultural heritage, with the fullness of the moon signifying reunion and a feeling of longing for one's hometown and family. People gather to pray for a good harvest and happiness.

Legends of the Mid-Autumn Festival

There is a legend that says the Mid-Autumn Festival originated from the story of Chang'e running to the moon. Chang'e took the forbidden fruit of immortality from the Wangmu maiden and ran to the moon as a moon spirit. The price Chang'e paid for this act was to be punished with hard labor and not be able to return to earth for the rest of her life. Although Chang'e had a Moon Palace on the moon, she could not bear the loneliness and returned to the earth on the 15th day of the 8th month every year when the moon was full and the night was clear, but she had to go back to the Moon Palace before daybreak. Whenever the Mid-

Autumn Festival comes around, people in the future generations would like to go to the moon and get together with Chang'e, and they also hope that Chang'e will come down to the earth to have a glimpse of her face. Year after year, people celebrate this day as a festival.

Customs of the Mid-Autumn Festival

Most of the folk customs of the Mid-Autumn Festival are related to the moon. Enjoying the moon, worshipping the moon, and eating reunion mooncakes are all customs of the Mid-Autumn Festival. In the Tang Dynasty, many poets included the moon in their famous poems. In the Song Dynasty, Ming Dynasty, and Qing Dynasty, there were moon worship activities on a larger scale. Eating mooncakes is another custom of the festival, and mooncakes symbolize reunion. The production of mooncakes has become more and more



Mooncakes, eaten during Mid-Autumn Festival

Image Source: TasteAtlas

elaborate since the Tang Dynasty. Su Dongpo wrote in a poem: *"Eating the cake is like chewing the moon, there's butter and maltose within."*

In the south, there is also the custom of enjoying osmanthus flowers and drinking osmanthus wine. People often eat mooncakes and enjoy osmanthus flowers during Mid-Autumn Festival, and consume all kinds of food made of osmanthus flowers, with pastries and candies being the most common. On the

night of the Mid-Autumn Festival, people celebrate by looking up at the laurel in the moon, smelling the fragrance of osmanthus, drinking a cup of osmanthus honey wine, and relishing in the sweetness of the family.

Significance of the Mid-Autumn Festival

Since ancient times, the Mid-Autumn Festival has been celebrated by many people because it is during the harvest season, and families often gather together to thank the gods for their blessings and pray for better and better days. In ancient times, the moon was often used to express time – a full moon is a month. At the time of a full moon, people are more likely to miss their loved ones, especially those who are far away from home. Just like Wanghei, a poet in the Tang Dynasty said, "Being alone in a strange place as a visitor, more so I miss my dear ones on festivals." The night of the full moon is the time for the reunion of all family members.

The Mid-Autumn Festival carries people's desires for a fulfilling life. As Su Dongpo said, *"May we all be blessed with longevity. Though far apart, we are still able to share the beauty of the moon together."* I'll end with a quote by Zhang Jiuling:

*As the bright moon shines over the sea,
From a far away you share this moment with me.*

The Ukraine War's Effect on the Sino-Russian Relationship

By: Henry S. '24

The War in Ukraine has had wide-reaching effects on global politics, economics, and society. However, an often overlooked development is the geopolitical influence it has had on Russia's relations with its allies.

Russia's war against Ukraine is often falsely described as a territorial dispute between Russia and one of its neighbors. However, this notion is wrong in that it fails to consider the complex web of alliances and relationships that both Russia and Ukraine are entangled in. Russia has allies in Belarus and China, as well as handful of other nations. Ukraine, though not a part of NATO, has strong backing from its members, especially the United States, which has sent a total of 75 billion USD. Though only two countries may have boots on the ground, this war is international in scope.

When they were initially founded, China and Russia both adopted communism as an economic system, though Russia was still the USSR and neither country truly practice it today. Similarly, they both have authoritarian governments with ruling autocrats who snuff out any and all political opposition. However, the biggest commonality between the two is that they both have a common enemy in the United States, the one major thing that keeps the two so close together.

As the United States and its allies have armed Ukraine, so too has China armed Russia. Though China wants to appear uninvolved with the conflict, Beijing has been sending non-lethal military aid to Russia, including ballistic vests and helmets, secretly. Additionally, China agreed to provide lethal aid also in secret, though it is not known if it has actually been sent.



Image Source: World Politics Review

The reason for China's secrecy is its economic interests. As the second largest economy in the world, China has significant stake in international trade, especially with the Western countries it often opposes politically. This seeming contradiction causes complications for China as it tries to toe the line between both sides of the conflict.

So what is the state of the Sino-Russian relationship? It's hard to tell. But it is clear

that China is willing to support Russia in its conquest against Ukraine, and sees it as more valuable than keeping Chinese trade partners happy. This could be because China wants Ukraine as a testing ground for a potential invasion of Taiwan, or simply because China needs Russia to win or else the geo-strategic position of the United States would become too powerful. Whatever the reasoning, China is likely to continue supporting Russia through military aid, even if it serves a catalyst for the already deteriorating relations it has with Western countries.

Sources: Politico, The Guardian, Council on Foreign Relations, Wilson Center, International Politik Quarterly

ChatGPT Faces Legal Devastation

By: Ethan R. '25

ChatGPT's creator, OpenAI, has been hit with another wave of lawsuits, and it doesn't look like the storm is close to over yet. The most recent lawsuit was organized by the Authors Guild, and it alleges that ChatGPT was trained on hosts of copyrighted material. They have labeled it "systematic theft on a mass scale."

The Authors Guild has been on



Image Source: Authors Guild

top of the matter of AI for months, insisting that it not only violates copyright laws but is also immeasurably detrimental to authors because of how much opportunity is stolen by AI. The most recent lawsuit includes a 57-page complaint about the training of copyrighted material.

Among the most important parts of the complaint are that OpenAI has openly stated that ChatGPT was trained on “large, publicly available datasets that include copyrighted works”; the similarities between what ChatGPT has publicized about its training set and other sets for Large Language Models (LLMs) which are directly linked to online piracy databases such as library genesis; and the assertion that in order for ChatGPT to produce what it does, they must have used at least 100,000 books.

The most recent lawsuit was filed by 17 authors, including George RR. Martin, the author of the books which Game of Thrones was based on.

The authors are demanding that OpenAI remove any copyrighted material in the training data, and are seeking damages of up to \$150,000 per infringement.

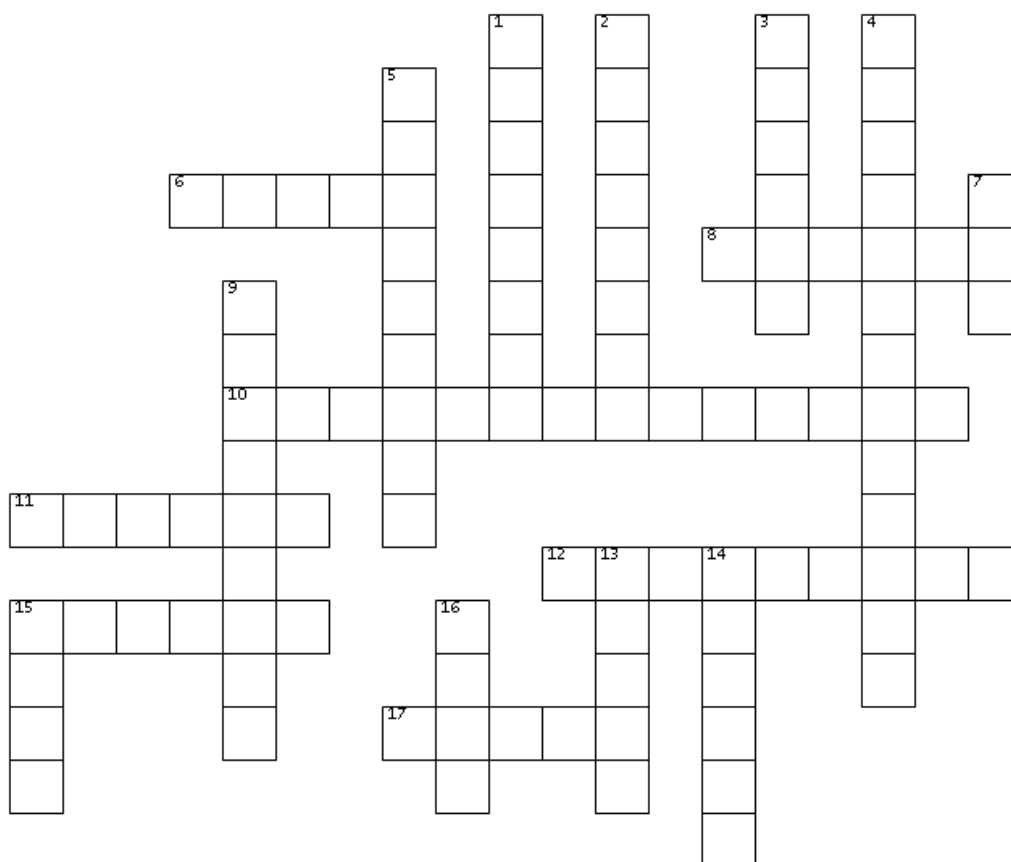
One potential solution to this problem would be regulating LLMs so that any profitable venture must have its training data publicly available. Doing so would discourage ChatGPT from training using copyrighted data, and would disrupt the monopoly currently in place.

Source: Class Action Complaint filed in the Southern District of New York

Bullis-Themed Crossword

Check Your Answers In Next Month's Edition!

By: Ryan T. '24



ACROSS

- 6. Fish and ____
- 8. The 60's or 70's, e.g.
- 10. Year of the Grille
- 11. Link between nations
- 12. Maryland beach town
- 15. Tea Party Setting
- 17. "Let's go!"

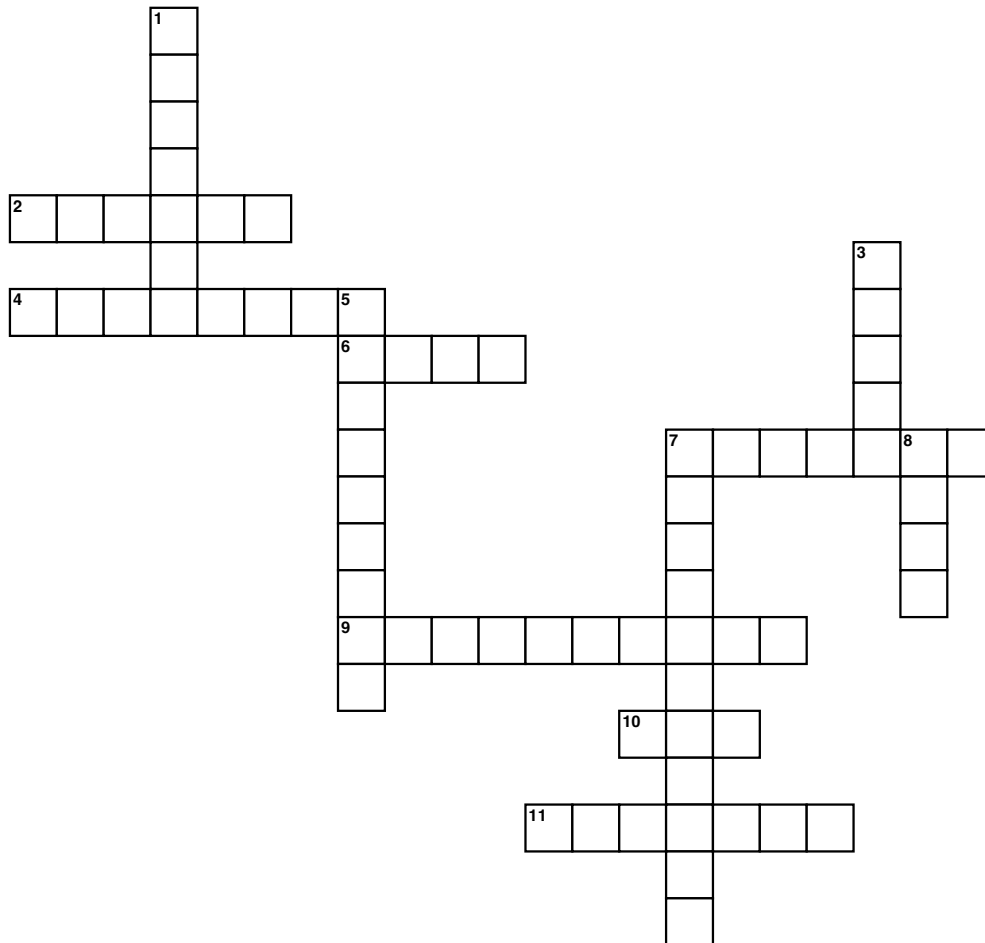
DOWN

- 1. The container Arthur Miller would use to heat substances
- 2. Head of School
- 3. Recently banned
- 4. Taiwan, Greece, London
- 5. Center for STEM
- 7. Reason to Stop
- 9. Honors Pre-Calculus
- 13. Often in Bullis parking lot
- 14. Recently Added
- 15. Lauderdale is south of it
- 16. Leader of pre-1917 Russia

Crossword

Check Your Answers In Next Month's Edition!

By: Max B. '25



Across

- [2] Popular cookie chain known for massive cookies.
 [4] Fundamental math course which explores limits, derivatives, and functions.
 [6] Preferred calculator for High School.
 [7] Lounge area on the roof of the BDC.
 [9] Popular leavening agent.
 [10] Bullis student-run club which tutors students.
 [11] Solar event which occurs twice a year, and is responsible for the start of Spring and Autumn.

Down

- [1] The town in which the Bullis School is located.
 [3] New Delhi is it's capital.
 [5] Who is the man behind the iPhone's creation?
 [7] Wrote the album "Midnights".
 [8] Mediterranean fast food chain originating in Rockville, Maryland.