



Bullis Student Tutors' Monthly Newspaper

# The Torch

Our Stories, Our Community



October

## Table of Contents

- I. BST (1-3)
- II. Bullis Community (3-21)
- III. Global Citizenship (21-24)
- IV. What is their name? (24-25)
- V. Challenge problems/games/recipes (25-28)

## Staff

Publisher: Emersyn McNamara

Editor in Chief: Macy Brill

BST Directors: Alexis Parrott, Liv Peyser, Ethan Robinson

BST Sponsor: Mr. Eist

Publisher/Editor-in-Chief: Emersyn McNamara

Reporters: Elizabeth B, Macy B, Ellie C, Rebecca E, Elizabeth M, Zoe M, Andrew P, Ethan Y



Want to hear more about Honoring Coach Ray, The Girls Got Game Night, An Exclusive Interview with Ms. Polun, or about Families4Families? Then read The Torch!

## Upcoming BST Programs

What?	When?	Where?
All tutor meeting	November 11th from 10:35-11:00am	Studio Theater
Human Geo Clinic	October 30th from 10:35-11:00am	NH 110 and 208

## Welcome to the Torch!

Welcome to The Torch! The Torch is Bullis Student Tutor's periodical highlighting the Bullis community. Each month, there will be a new edition containing five recurring sections. The sections include: Bullis Student

Tutors, the Bullis Community, Global Citizenship, What is their name, and recipes/challenge problems. Each section highlights a unique pillar of the Bullis community. The Torch's mission is to connect our community through our collective stories. If you are interested in writing, or have a story to share with The Torch, email [emersyn\\_mcnamara@bullis.org](mailto:emersyn_mcnamara@bullis.org). The Torch is looking forward to an amazing school year filled with lots of diverse articles.

## **Kicking off the BST Programs**

*By Macy B '26*

What is BST: Bullis Student Tutors (BST) is a completely student-run, peer-tutoring organization that serves all divisions on campus. Upper School students are selected, trained, and activated in the mission to empower our community to be lifelong learners.

By now, we are entering the second month of school, and homework and assessments are starting to pick up. If you find yourself stressed or struggling on a particular subject or concept, please reach out to receive 1 on 1 tutoring from a Bullis Student Tutor. BST has tutors in all subjects ready to help you achieve academic success. Please reach out to [BST@bullis.org](mailto:BST@bullis.org) to get matched with a tutor. BST-led clinics will also be starting up this month, so be on the lookout for clinics in subjects such as Math and Human Geo. If you find yourself struggling outside of school hours, the BST YouTube channel has on-demand videos for extra help at any time.

BST has a wide range of programs that are ready to help you! Below is a list of each program, a summary of what they do, and who to reach out to if you need support from those programs:

### **BST Wellness:**

Contact: [Lucy\\_Keller@bullis.org](mailto:Lucy_Keller@bullis.org)

BST Wellness focuses on the well-being of the student body by providing collections of accessible study tools (especially during exam week or AP exams).

**BST Clinics:**

Contact: [Zaynah\\_Crawley@bullis.org](mailto:Zaynah_Crawley@bullis.org), [Sloane\\_Levine@bullis.org](mailto:Sloane_Levine@bullis.org)

Clinics will be organized to help larger groups of students, often before a big assessment in a particular subject. 3-4 tutors will be present at each session to ensure all students receive help. Clinics will also be offered throughout exam week. You will receive an email ahead of time with information on where the clinic will be held, what time, and in which subject. Please contact Zaynah or Sloane if you feel that a clinic may be beneficial in a particular topic that may not already be offered.

**One-on-one Tutoring:**

Contact: [BST@bullis.org](mailto:BST@bullis.org)

One-on-one tutoring pairs one student with a tutor to receive help in whatever subject you need. One-on-one tutoring can be especially helpful if you are overwhelmed by large groups of people during office hours or to prepare for an assessment. If you are preparing for an assessment, please reach out to BST at least 1–2 days before your assessment to allow sufficient time to be set up with a tutor and schedule a meeting time.

**The Torch:**

Contact: [Emersyn\\_McNamera@bullis.org](mailto:Emersyn_McNamera@bullis.org)

The Torch is a monthly periodical that highlights members of our community, events, announcements, and achievements at Bullis. Make sure to read each edition to learn more about community leaders, your peers' activities, and how you can get involved in clubs or organizations around campus.

# Honoring Coach Ray

*By Ellie C '25*

The passing of a coach leaves a profound void, not just in the locker rooms or on the field, but in the hearts and lives of those who knew them. Coach Ray was more than a guide through drills or strategies; he was a mentor, leader, and role model who inspired his athletes and the Bullis community to strive for excellence in sports and life. In his passing, we honor Coach Ray's life's work, the countless hours he dedicated to others, and the indelible mark he left on the people he touched.



Coach Ray pumping up the team.

Although often remembered for his strategic prowess and the victories he led the Bullis Bulldogs to achieve on the football field, Coach Ray's real legacy lies in the lessons he imparted off the field. Coach Ray was a mentor for many athletes who taught the importance of discipline, perseverance, and teamwork. These lessons extend far beyond sports, shaping the lives of young people as they move into adulthood. Whether it was helping a struggling student, offering guidance during personal challenges, or being a constant source of support, Coach Ray's mentorship helped build the character of those around him.



As the DAWGPOUND co-president (Bullis Student Life Association), I found this community tragedy hard to navigate. I had a few days to quickly transform our originally planned USA-themed home opener into a tribute to Coach Ray Butler. I obtained approval for the tribute from Coach Ray's family and the head of school. I worked with the dean of student life to inform the community of hundreds of students and their families about the intended change through social media and email. I then assisted team parents in organizing and selling T-shirts to benefit Coach Ray's family and honor his legacy; the whole school wore these shirts to the game. The community surrounding this event bonded students, parents, and faculty at Bullis in a way I have never seen before. Even when mourning a great loss to Bullis, I was proud to assist and be a part of something greater.



Coach Ray communicating with the booth.

Everyone has been impacted by the lessons and loss of Coach Ray. Senior David Lawrence turned his sadness into action. David played for Coach Ray and admired him, so

he made it his mission to share a special thanks to Coach Ray and to support his teammates in the process. David came up with the idea to create a scoreboard banner in Coach Ray's honor and to display it at the Homecoming game. David turned this vision into reality through teaming with Mr. Harlan, Mr. Weisgold, and Mr. Riffie. You may have seen the banner proudly displayed as our Bulldogs hit the field for their big game. In a moment of reflection, David shared, "It felt great to see Ray at the game."



Coach Ray's banner on the scoreboard.

As we honor Coach Ray, we recognize that his legacy transcends wins and losses. He gave himself to his players, colleagues, and community, leaving a lasting impact that can never be forgotten. The greatest tribute we can offer is to continue living by the values he instilled—commitment, integrity, hard work, and compassion—and to ensure that his story inspires future generations to carry the torch he so brilliantly passed on. In honoring his memory, we do not merely look back; we move forward with the lessons Coach Ray Butler taught us, ensuring his legacy lives on in all we do.

# A Club with a Mission: Unicef

*Andrew P '25*

In a world where millions of children face poverty, health, and education challenges, the work of organizations like UNICEF is more important than ever. UNICEF stands for the United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund, and its mission is simple: to protect children's rights and ensure their well-being. It provides essential health services, vaccinations, and nutritional support to reduce child mortality and malnutrition. The organization promotes access to quality education and ensures children can stay in school. UNICEF also works to protect children from violence, exploitation, and abuse while providing access to clean water and sanitation. At Bullis, the UNICEF club connects students to these global issues and encourages us to get involved and positively impact the world. The two leaders responsible for this important work are Siana Nyachae and Elizabeth Barry, whom I talked to about this club.

Siana and Elizabeth are seniors at our school and the presidents of the UNICEF club. Siana and Elizabeth are passionate about advocating for children, and they put that energy into many initiatives to raise awareness and funds for those in need. Some examples include bake sales, donation drives, book drives, and awareness campaigns. Thanks to their hard work in the club, they have had a big impact at Bullis. They've helped raise money for the International Organization of UNICEF from these events and awareness campaigns. Looking ahead, the club has some exciting plans, including many drives and fundraisers for impoverished kids.

There are so many reasons to join. This club allows you to be a part of something bigger than yourself. Additionally, it looks great on resumes and college applications. If you're interested in getting involved, email either of the leaders mentioned ([elizabeth\\_barry@bullis.org](mailto:elizabeth_barry@bullis.org) or [siana\\_nyachae@bullis.org](mailto:siana_nyachae@bullis.org)), and remember to bring your ideas and energy and make a difference!

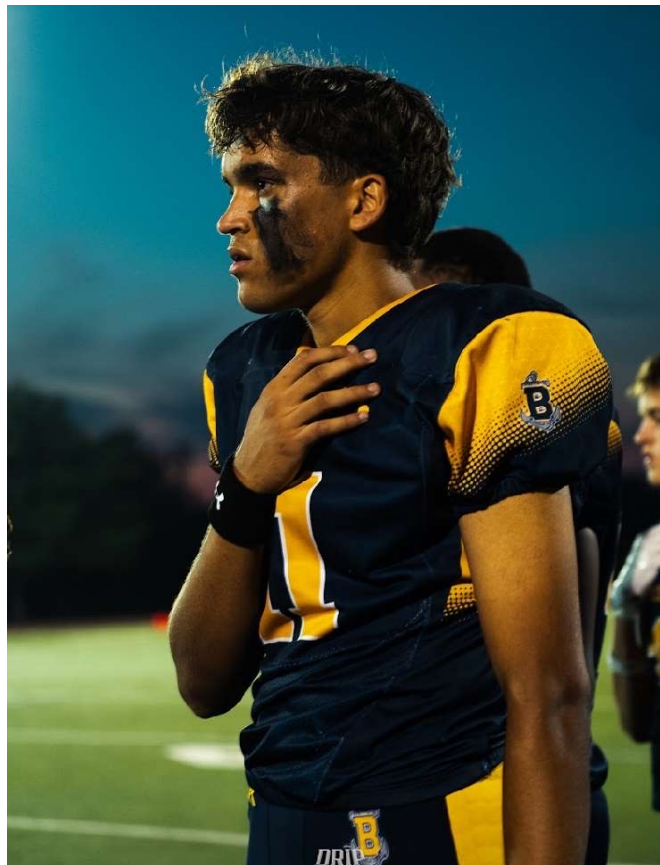
# A Successful Homecoming and Football Game

*Ellie C '25*

Bulldogs of all ages, the most hype event of the season just occurred—Bullis Homecoming 2024! We had a week of school spirit, pride, and good old-fashioned football

under the Friday night lights! We also brought our feathers and fedoras for our Roaring 20s/ Casino-themed dance!

7:00 PM. October 25th, 2024. Kline Alumni Stadium. This marked the battle of the Bulldogs as our Bullis Boys Varsity Football Team took on St. Albans. There was only one way to describe this event: Dogs vs. Puppies. But let's be honest, there was only room for one top dog, and let's just say our Bullis Bulldogs took the bigger bite. STA might also be rocking the Bulldog mascot, but let's just say their bark didn't match our bite. Our fun, food, and festivities on Homecoming eve led the Dogs to a 17-13 win against the Puppies.



Kicker Ravi Rengert saying the pledge.

Before the game, Kicker Ravi Rengert stated, "It's the biggest game of the year; we get to play in front of the whole community and hello to kick off the homecoming weekend right." Ravi has played Boys Varsity Soccer for four years and recently became the Boy's Varsity Football kicker in his senior year. With his soccer skills, he has been able to assist the Bulldogs into their first IAC league game. As a DAWGPOUND co-president, Ravi was ecstatic to participate in this year's homecoming game as the starting kicker and was glad that this event bonded the community together.



This year's theme was the Roaring 20s and the dance was a vibe straight out of Gatsby's dreams. The casinos are calling! Flappers, fedoras, and jazz-inspired fun were all over campus. Don't worry; you didn't have to know how to do the Charleston. And don't forget our spirit days before the homecoming dance. We saw our very own Adam Sandler and Jayden Daniels on our Adam Sandler and Jersey-themed spirit days. Regarding pep rallies and Bullis Olympics, we loved watching grades compete head to head in their respective monochrome outfits.

This Homecoming went down in history. Thank you Bulldogs for showing everyone what Bullis spirit is all about!

## Girls Got Game Night

*Elizabeth B '25*

Athletics is an important part of Bullis. From Friday night football games to basketball games in the winter and our intense rivalry with Landon, athletics are an easy way to participate and engage with the student body whether you are competing on the field or standing in the student section. However, there is less support for certain sports or events than others. So with the help of Ms. Zolet, Dawgpound promoted female games and events like field hockey, girl's soccer, and girl's tennis in Bullis' first Girl's Got Game night. It was a great way to highlight our amazing female athletes and encourage more attendance at a variety of sports events, not just football or basketball.

The afternoon began with Girl's Varsity Tennis who took home a great win against St. John's, beating them 6-1. Rebecca Eigner, one of the seniors on the varsity team, said, "It felt nice to get representation from the school. Tennis is sometimes a forgotten sport. The team was very grateful and appreciative that Bullis highlighted the girls' games." She also said, "The girls' varsity tennis team has one of the strongest bonds an athletic team can have. We genuinely care about one another no matter what happens on the court." When asked how she felt being a female athlete at Bullis, Rebecca said, "I believe that female athletes are underrepresented everywhere. Bullis tries to ensure female athletes are represented, but attending male athletic events has historically been more popular." To increase the size of student sections and create more excitement around female sports, Rebecca suggests we as a student body should intensify the rivalries in the ISL like Stone Ridge or Holton Arms the same way we do with Landon or Georgetown Prep. To do this, she says that "we should encourage attendance and have themes at girls games."

The next game was Girls' Varsity Soccer. They played a hard-fought game against Episcopal. Senior captain Ryan McLemore, says "Having our game highlighted was nerve-



Girls Varsity Field Hockey after their win on Girls got Game Night.

racking at first, but it felt really good to have support.” Ryan says her favorite thing about her team is, “How much positive energy people have.”

The last game of the evening was Girl’s Varsity Field Hockey, who took home a decisive victory over Jackson Reed with a score of 4-0. One of the Senior captains, Siana Nyachae, said, “It felt amazing to be highlighted on the Bullis Athletics page and amongst the student body. Especially a sport like Field Hockey, which is not as popular in America.” She went on to say that she loves the “diversity of our team” and “the strong bonds we have created playing the sport we love.” She says that teaching people more about field hockey could help attendance and encourage people to show up to more of their games.

The Tennis, Soccer, and Field Hockey teams greatly appreciated the support they received on Bullis’ first Girl’s Got Game night, and hope to see more support for female athletes at Bullis and around the world!





Rebecca E dropping off groceries from first drive.

# Families4Families First Drive

*By Macy B '25*

Families4Families proudly hosted its first drive this past month, led by club presidents Rebecca Eigner and Adam Ucuzoglu, bringing together students, faculty, and community members for a cause that matters.

The Families4Families club organizes monthly drives that are open to all students. These drives not only help families in our area but also give Bullis students the chance to actively contribute to their community and earn service hours. With each drive, students can volunteer their time or donate items, making it easy to get involved no matter how busy your schedule is. With drives happening every month, there's always an opportunity to make a difference. Whether you're looking to earn service hours or simply want to help those in need, consider participating in the next Families4Families drive. Your involvement can help brighten someone's day—and strengthen the Bullis community in the process. Keep an eye out for upcoming announcements on how you can participate! If you have any questions on how to get involved, please contact [Rebecca\\_Eigner@bullis.org](mailto:Rebecca_Eigner@bullis.org)

# A Major Win for Varsity Boys Cross Country

*By Elizabeth M '27*

One thousand boys are on the start line with a field before them. The first minute of the race will decide how some of their races will go. Fraught with nerves or adrenaline, they jostle each other on the line. The speaker crackles before a man's voice buzzes over the crowd. "On your marks..." All that can be heard now is breathing. They all get in the starting stance. And then the gun. Immediately, a cascade of boys bolts down the hill: the striking navy blue and blazing gold of the Bullis boys' uniforms whizzing past. The spectators scream with excitement. The boys charge up hills, splash through rivers, and stride along the flats. Unlike in track, pure grit is favored over technique. Soon, they make it to the finishing stretch. Ewan C., a junior on the squad, leads the pack to victory by running a PR (personal record) and the #2 Bullis All-Time. Colin A. brings his experience as a senior and runs the #3 Bullis All-Time. Rei N. pushes his last stretch, passing five people and getting the 20 points they needed to win. Ryan W. and Own H. were instrumental in their placing, as they were the last three scoring boys. However, Shyer S. and Jasper B. helped the team by blocking some of the other team's scoring members.





Boys Varsity Cross Country after their big win.

Five months ago, they were track runners finishing their seasons at Nationals. Four months ago, they were heaving on long runs. In the time between then and now, they shaped themselves into truly exceptional distance athletes and a cohesive team. The team placed first out of 50 teams and won the first invitational that Bullis Cross Country has ever won! They are just getting started.

Here is what their coach, Coach Sarah F., has to say about it:

**What are your thoughts on this past weekend for the boys?**

First of all, I was very excited that we finally had a full boys' team for this race. Considering the schools that were there, I thought we could be top five and then once the race unfolded, I believed we would be in the top 3 if we were lucky. We had some tight races in the end, and it was hard to tell how we'd stack up, points-wise. Fortunately, though, we had a really strong fourth and fifth runner while most other teams didn't, but we couldn't quite tell at the time. So initially it was surprising, but very exciting that we won!

**What are your thoughts on the rest of their season?**

We only have two more meets left, and we need to carry this excitement and momentum to our last two meets, which are the county and conference championships. Since 2019, our boy's team has not placed, and we have never placed on the girl's side. Now, if we can collectively place in the top three on both sides, I think we will have a great end to the season! For conferences, I'd like to think that we could be surprised again and see even better.

**What do you think the implications of this season will be on the rest of Bullis cross country?**

The tricky part of something like this is starting. We didn't have a solid, committed team for various reasons, so we just needed to start somewhere this season. I have always had high expectations as a coach, but this team is getting close to meeting those expectations. We currently have a young team with only two seniors, which usually means the kids coming up will be more experienced and stronger. Therefore, as we get more experienced, we will be able to start something special at Bullis that has never been done here before!

Congratulations to such a cohesive and resilient team! Good luck at Leagues! Bullis, come out and support your Varsity XC team on October 26th at Agricultural Farms at 2 p.m.!

## Bullis Community Art Exhibition

*By Emersyn M '26*

Each year the Visual Arts Department sponsors the Bullis Community Art Exhibition to highlight the creativity and versatility of all of our community. This year, the Art department teamed up with the Parents Association to showcase the creative works of community members, both faculty and parents.

Drawing, painting, photography, sculpture, craft, mixed media, and other original works of art were featured in the show, which opened on October 15th, 2023. The show opened with a reception, and gallery walk and light refreshments were served. In case you missed it, please enjoy the creative artwork of some of your favorite faculty members.





Charles Johnson  
Karen the Kraken  
Visual and Performing Arts  
Theatre and Choir Director

Charles Johnson (Visual and Performing Arts Director) who knew he had such yarn skills!

# A Monumental Experiential Education Trip

*Elizabeth B '25*

In late September, one of Bullis' largest grades to ever matriculate through the Upper School, the class of 2025, loaded onto six buses and embarked to Calleva for the traditional twelfth-grade experiential education trip. We gathered in one giant circle for opening statements and a couple of rounds of grade-wide duck goose as we arrived. Shortly after, each senior was randomly assigned to a small group of eight to ten other students. Each group devised a unique name and team gesture or chant to perform in front of the grade. After each group enthusiastically introduced themselves, we began our team-bonding activities in the woods.

My group's first activity involved thin wooden rails balanced about one and a half feet off the ground using tires and wooden stakes. About four rails, no wider than four inches, met at a platform connected to a giant tree. Our group's task was to split into groups of three or four and stand on a tire that was considered the starting point of the rail. Then, each group had to walk across their rails and meet at the platform in the middle. Then, they walked across a different rail to a different tire without touching the ground. If someone fell, the entire group would be sent back to their original tire, and everyone would be forced to start again. While this task might seem simple from the description, it proved to be one of the most challenging things we participated in all day. Group members were constantly falling and accidentally pulling more people down with them. As the activity went on, our skills progressed. Once, my group discovered that if you hold the hands of your fellow group members and walk across the rail as a unit, you are more likely to balance and finish the course. After around twenty minutes and what seemed to be one thousand attempts, we successfully made it to different tires. As we reflected on our accomplishments, our Calleva group leader asked what we would take away from this activity. In addition to the fact that we could all benefit from balance practice, we learned that communication and trust are vital in accomplishing tasks. Teamwork is critical to success, and not taking things too seriously has proved beneficial.

In addition, to balance practice, my group participated in activities ranging from trust falls off of picnic benches to climbing over walls in the woods to giant swings in the middle of an open field— all designed to highlight the importance of teamwork and connection. After the small group activities were completed, the senior class began one of the most memorable parts of experiential learning: the bond fire. As we gathered around the giant campfire in one big circle, our SGA representatives read questions like “What is one of your favorite



memories from Bullis?” or “What would you tell your younger self?” The most meaningful moment, in my opinion, though, was when seniors were asked to shout out a member of the community they value and admire. The responses highlighted funny memories with friends and impactful moments with teachers.

The bonfire, and Calleva in general, was meant to connect and create friendships amongst peers who might not have known each other. The trip did just that. Senior year, the final year of high school, and for many, the final year of childhood, is a time for connection, emotion, and memories that will stay with us forever. Calleva was just the beginning of this bittersweet end to our high school experience and our time at Bullis. The class of 2025 left Calleva with new friendships and excitement for senior year.

## Interview with Zoe Anderson about the Musical Six

*By Emersyn M '26*

Senior Zae Anderson has graced the Bullis stage since 4th grade and she has been one of our most prolific actresses with 14 performances on her resumé. After a rich history of performing on campus Zae is closing-out senior year with a packed performance schedule. Zae started this school year before most of us were back as she started preparing preparing for the first show of the season, called “6”.



The 5 stars making everything happen behind the scenes.

(From Lft. to Rt.: S. Schroth (10), J. Yoon (11), A. Ross (10), E. Skolnick (10 ) T. Williams (12))

Zae shares her reflections on the experience, “The play “Six,” is about the 6 wives/queens of Henry the VIII who were competing to see who had the worst life and experience with King Henry. My character was Catherine Howard, the youngest of all of the 6 queens!”

Zae explains, “Through the characters’ interactions they come to learn that they are much more than just Henry’s wives. They embrace their similarities and learn an important lesson from each other, namely that their identities are bigger than just being a queen of Henry the VIII. They rediscover that they are actually their own people worthy of their own glory.”

Zae highlights, “...something I enjoyed about the show was intensely working with the small cast. We developed very close friendships through all of our hard work together.” Zae smiled while sharing, “... I enjoyed the fun dances and songs! Working with so many talented actresses in one show was awesome. The large crowd turnout was exhilarating and the engagement with the audience made this show so much more fun.” Zae continues, “...it was so uplifting to hear the cheers and laughter coming from the crowd.”



The six queens of Henry the VIII sharing their glory in “Six”.  
(From Lft. to Rt. T.Sachs (9), J. Wade (10), R.Terwilliger (12), K. Works (10) Z.  
Anderson (12), G. Cellini (10))

Zae shares, “A particular challenge of this show was that we auditioned last spring and we had to be ready in August which meant we spent a lot of time on our own to learn our lines and harmonies before we actually met together. Once we joined together we dedicating many hours after school to make it all work in time for the performance

Zae is excited for the next play “A Monster Calls” as she will be in two different supporting roles. She hopes the next show will be equally impactful for audiences as it deals with themes of life and loss.

The show can be seen this weekend from 11/1@7pm, 11/2@7pm, 11/3@2pm. Please consult the Bullis Website for the performance details. We hope to see you there!



## An Exclusive with Ethan Yu

*By Emersyn M '26*

Artist Ethan Yu (12) shares his personal journey and how it has influenced his art in the exclusive interview. Come out to see his work and the work of all our talented artists at the Upper School Fall Arts Show on through Thanksgiving break.





"Cataclysm" Spray Painting by Ethan Yu  
(12)

**What are you most excited about in the upcoming show?**

I am very excited to being able to showcase my project that I have been working on for the past trimester along with other students who participate in art. Everyone dedicated all they have to their projects and I am thrilled to be able to share that passion with the Bullis community.

**What type of art do you plan to showcase?**

I plan to showcase a clay statue as well as a painting I created with spray paint.

**Tell me a about your painting- what does it symbolize? What does this piece mean to you?**

In the movie Interstellar, the protagonist Cooper says: "We used to look up at the sky and wonder at our place in the stars. Now we just look down, and worry about our place in the dirt." As a child, I always dreamed about the limitless possibilities the future held. Filled with ambition and a desire to become a pioneer, to push the boundaries of human knowledge, to explore the unknowns. But during the college search process, like many



students, I became entangled in concerns about ranking, popularity, and other superficial aspects of a college. For a while, I lost track of why I work so hard—to achieve my dream. Cooper's words in *Interstellar* reminded me of this struggle: we often become so fixated on where we stand, where the path in front of us leads, and the expectations placed upon us, we forget to look up and remember the dreams that inspired us. Therefore, I created this piece of art of two planets colliding and exploding, to remind all of us that there is extraordinary beauty in the sky, so as we walk down the path, don't forget to look up to the sky as well.

The Visual Art Department invites you to join us to see the wonderful Upper School Fall Art Show from November 1-15. Artwork is on display from students in the following classes: Foundations of Studio Art, Advanced Studio I & II, Ceramics, Photography, Digital Art & Design, Drawing, Painting.

## Zoe M's School Year in Spain

*Zoe M '26*

This year, I am spending my junior year abroad in Zaragoza, Spain. Living in another country has its share of culture-shock moments, that being said, I have been here for one month and am loving every second of it!



Zoe M's school in Zaragoza, Spain

The Spanish are incredibly friendly and warm people. I have come to learn this firsthand because I am fortunate enough to be living with a Spanish family. My host family consists of a mom (Natalia), a dad (Manuel), a seventeen-year-old daughter (Carmen), a fifteen-year-old son (also Manuel), and a ten-year-old son (Julio). They are some of the sweetest and friendliest people I have ever met. However, that is not to say I did not have an adjustment period. The family, including Julio, eat very late, often having dinner at 10:30 pm or 11 pm. Their diet was also quite different from mine as they tend to eat a lot of ham and cheese, two things that aren't particularly integrated into my diet in the States.



Zoe M in the heart of Zaragoza, Spain.

My family's house is located in the center of the city, which is very convenient because my school is a five-minute walk from my house. The city is very walkable, especially when one lives in the center. What's more, public transportation is extremely accessible as there is a tram that runs through the entire city and buses that run at all hours. On the rare occasion



that I need to go somewhere outside of the center of the city, I can take the tram which stops right in front of my apartment.

My school is very unique and somewhat different from Bullis. Although I attend school with all of the American kids, the majority of my classes are taught in Spanish. I take six classes and have two free blocks. My required classes are English, Math, Spanish, and Experiential Spanish. I am also taking two electives: Environmental science and Macroeconomics.

I love most of my classes but my favorite is environmental science. In correspondence to what we were learning about the wine cultivation process in Spain, we got to take a field trip to a vineyard. Every Wednesday we get to take field trips to different places all over Spain. So far, we have explored our city, taken a day trip to a vineyard, gone to Madrid, and traveled to Alquezar. On these trips, there is always a balance between touring and educational components as well as independent exploration. This is a very unique part of my school and I love it.



Grapes from Zoe M's trip to a nearby vineyard



Overall, I am loving Spain so far and am looking forward to the next month when we are allowed to take trips on our own.

## The Backbone of Bullis: Ms. Polun

*Rebecca E '25*

At the heart of Bullis are individuals whose contributions fly under the radar but are essential to the school's day-to-day operations. Ms. Polun, Director of Arts Operations, is one such individual. From her beginnings as an active parent to becoming a vital staff member, Ms. Polun has become a key figure in shaping the Bullis experience. Here is the inside scoop on her Bullis career.

### **What inspired you to join Bullis, and what has kept you here throughout your time?**

Ms. Polun's connection to Bullis began when her "lifer" daughter graduated in 2009. She was initially a highly involved parent and even served on the executive parent association. She reflects, "I was asked to help for just a couple of hours a day because I understood what goes on behind the scenes."

Her passion for Bullis only deepened, and what started as a small involvement evolved into a full-time commitment. "I love being here because I get to work with wonderful students from kindergarten through seniors and bright adults," Ms. Polun says. "I've also enjoyed seeing teachers blossom and grow in their roles. Every day is different, and the people make this place so special." She jokes, "My daughter graduated, but I never left Bullis," capturing the sense of belonging that keeps her connected to the community.

### **What aspect of your role do you find most rewarding, and why?**

For Ms. Polun, the most fulfilling part of her job is on the production side—watching students evolve in their artistic passions as they progress through their years at Bullis. "It's amazing to see how much they grow from where they started. Time flies, but I feel lucky to experience the best of both worlds," she says, referring to the privilege of supporting students and faculty behind the scenes and outside.

### **Can you share a memorable experience or project you've been part of at Bullis?**

One of the highlights of Ms. Polun's time at Bullis was the groundbreaking ceremony for the Trone Center. "It was incredible putting that event together—there was music, hard hats, and so much running around behind the scenes. To see the idea come to life was

unforgettable,” she shares. Her background in events and logistics made her an invaluable part of the process.

**What do you think makes the Bullis community unique?**

“Here at Bullis, the teachers care about the students. Their care and concern create an environment filled with joy and learning,” she explains. The community’s genuine interest in supporting one another makes the school unique in her eyes.

**What advice would you give students looking to make the most of their time at Bullis?**

Ms. Polun offers simple yet profound advice: “Take advantage of every opportunity and make an effort. If you see something that needs doing—academic or social—do it.” She encourages students to reach out, saying, “There are so many good people and trusted adults here to help. The people here are truly special.”

Ms. Polun’s story reminds us that the Bullis experience is shaped not only by its students but also by the dedicated staff and faculty who work tirelessly behind the scenes. Through her hard work and passion, Ms. Polun has become a cornerstone of the Bullis community, a constant presence that helps students and faculty alike thrive. Bullis would not be complete with her.



The backbone of Bullis: Ms Polun.

# The History Behind Word Searches

*Rebecca E '25*

Word searches have become a beloved pastime for many, appearing in everything from school worksheets to newspapers, magazines, and mobile apps. But where did this simple yet engaging puzzle originate? Let's dive into the history of word searches and uncover how this game became a staple in classrooms and beyond. The official credit for inventing the word search puzzle goes to Norman E. Gibat, a publisher from Norman, Oklahoma. In 1968, Gibat sought a way to engage readers of his small publication, Selenby Digest. Faced with competition from other local newspapers, he sought to create something unique—a simple yet captivating game that would keep readers hooked. That's when the idea of the word search was born. Gibat's first-word search focused on cities in Oklahoma, and the following week, he designed a puzzle around street names from Norman. Little did he know that this casual idea would soon become a massive hit. Teachers in Norman quickly realized the puzzles' educational potential and began requesting more for their classrooms. Soon, the demand spread beyond Norman, with teachers across Oklahoma and other states asking for more word searches.

Despite the overwhelming popularity of his puzzles, Selenby Digest shut down in 1970. However, Gibat's word search puzzles lived on and became a lasting legacy in the world of games and education.

**Word search on next page!**



# Fall Word Search

S	W	E	A	T	E	R	T	I	E	N	T	E	L
B	O	N	F	I	R	E	D	I	R	Y	A	H	S
C	I	Y	G	S	M	C	W	Y	O	H	C	T	H
A	E	L	S	M	P	O	P	D	D	F	H	G	R
M	U	L	U	D	O	R	E	D	I	C	U	P	T
E	N	I	A	E	R	N	R	L	Y	R	O	M	I
U	E	H	U	A	I	U	I	C	E	I	A	A	M
O	E	C	T	A	C	C	O	K	S	A	H	P	P
C	Y	E	U	C	L	O	S	G	P	C	V	L	I
S	R	Y	M	O	A	P	C	U	A	M	O	E	P
I	B	I	N	R	R	I	M	T	C	A	U	E	S
N	E	I	S	N	M	A	U	I	E	R	P	P	C
H	H	O	U	P	E	O	A	E	A	I	T	C	C
R	E	U	C	E	A	T	S	E	V	R	A	H	T

ACORN  
 GOURD  
 LEAVES  
 CIDER  
 SWEATER  
 MAPLE  
 CRISP  
 CHILLY  
 PUMPKIN  
 HAYRIDE  
 CORNUCOPIA  
 HARVEST  
 BONFIRE  
 AUTUMN

Play this puzzle online at : <https://thewordsearch.com/puzzle/7530200/>

**Answers on next page**



Email [BST@Bullis.org](mailto:BST@Bullis.org) if you read this far!