



Bullis Student Tutors' Monthly Newspaper

# The Torch

Our Stories, Our Community



## June Edition

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## An Amazing Year for BST

A thank you to the past leaders and an introduction to the next faces of BST leadership

BST had a very successful year. This couldn't have been done without every single one of you! We would like to thank our seniors for their integral role in BST. You have helped this program achieve new heights. We want to especially thank Ashley Hays and Nathan Chen, our 2023-2024 school year co-directors, along with Alexis Parrott. You two will be especially missed and have left a permanent mark on the program.

Next year, our co-directors will be Alexis Parrott, Ethan Robinson, and Liv Peyser. We are excited to see what you all will do for BST!

Jordan Schulman will manage US 1:1 tutoring. Ava Sharma will be the Manager of US Curriculum. Apple Fang will manage Youtube. Vivian Hunter will be the Manager of MS Tutoring. Zaynah Crawley and Sloane Levine will manage US Clinics. Evan Kim and Eric Zhou will Co-Manage the Exchange Program. Isabelle Hyman and Sadie Ravitch will Co-Manage Marketing. Zetong Bian will manage the Homework Hotline. Emersyn McNamara will manage The Torch.

BST is also excited to introduce two new programs, the Learn to Be Program led by Sanjay Shah and the Wellness Program led by Lucy Keller. We cannot wait to see what these two new programs will achieve.

BST cannot wait for the 2024-2025 academic year!

# An Overview of Lower School BST Tutoring This Year

By Liv Peyser

This year has been monumental for the Bullis Student Tutors Lower School Division! Starting in October of 2023, tutors began working with a group of lower school students on Wednesdays after school. During these tutoring sessions, students worked on their homework and assignments from to build confidence and skills in needed areas. BST also fostered unique and engaging relationships with our lower schoolers which have grown and flourished throughout the school year. Midway through the year, with the help of Mr. Eist and Mr. Pollicino, I was able to complete the mission of creating a activity credit option for upper school student tutors. Creating the course required hard work and dedication. I am thrilled that others will now be able to join in this important work. We now have five upper school students; Siana, Lucy, Zaynah, Zoe, and Liv receiving credit for our BST course. We hope to expand on this next year. As the demand for tutors grew, BST brought back a program called, “The Classroom Aid Program.” Our tutors go into lower school classrooms during the day to assist teachers and learn about tutoring and teaching from observation and hands-on experiences. We have around 20 student tutors working in 3 lower school classrooms. It has gone so well that we plan to expand next year. We are proud to say that the lower school program has over 300 hours of tutoring completed this year!



# SGA and DAWGPOUND at Bullis

## A Glimpse into the new era of school spirit

By Ellie Clark

I know some people may be thinking, what really goes on behind the scenes of school events? Here's the inside scoop into Bullis' new uprising of school spirit and student governing.



Starting off with SGA, Bullis has always had some method of student government. This currently includes two co-presidents and five representatives from each respective grade of the student body. This will remain the same. This upcoming school year, Bullis SGA aims to make everything just that much easier. Prom, Bullis Fun Fest and Homecoming, just to name a few, are events already marked on the SGA calendar. With new student representatives as well as a new Dean of Student Life, SGA is projected to continue to provide our community with enriching opportunities.

Previously at Bullis, there has been a booster club. This consisted of two co-presidents and anyone who put their name on the mailing list at the club fair. This academic year, the booster club has transformed into an organization called the DAWGPOUND. Through careful selection and planning, the DAWGPOUND has recruited multiple students from each grade level to lead the Bullis school in creating a more spirited and tight-knit community. This includes encouraging attendance at games and arts performances, creating hype videos for various activities across campus, and scheduling regular announcements on school news, social media, and assemblies to keep the community informed. But wait... it's about to get even more exciting!



This upcoming academic year, Bullis SGA and DAWGPOUND will be more aligned than ever before. Bullis students are working to improve intercommunication as well as combined planning. This will include school events, spirit days, announcements, and overall participation in the betterment of the community. One of the main themes for next year will be school spirit.

One may ask, why is school spirit important? What does showing up to a game or two do for everyone else? Why do I even need to vote for my student body president? This may seem a simple task on the surface but the relevance of school spirit goes deeper than some may think. School spirit fosters a sense of community within Bullis and brings more excitement to our everyday activities.



Overall, Bullis SGA and DAWGPOUND are working together towards a common goal of community representation and engagement. These efforts will instill a sense of pride in our school, our accomplishments, and our values, extending beyond individual achievements, to encompass a collective pride in the overall reputation and standing of Bullis.

To get involved please email Mr. McGowan ([william\\_mcgowan@bullis.org](mailto:william_mcgowan@bullis.org)).

## The Spikeball Savior: Montayo Bess II

### The revival of Spikeball at Bullis

By Sanjay Shah

Every day at lunch, students gather around the pavilion and the elevated turf field to play their favorite pastime activity: Spikeball. Spikeball is a fast-paced, four-player game



played with a small, round net placed at ankle level, where players hit a small ball off the net to each other in a manner similar to volleyball. The objective is to make the ball bounce off the net in such a way that the opposing team cannot return it within three touches. Recently, the constant use of the Spikeball nets has resulted in certain parts of the nets being broken, and if nets are broken, students cannot play Spikeball. Upon realizing that all the Spikeball nets at Bullis were broken, avid Spikeball player sophomore Montayo Bess II took it upon himself to fix them. Montayo plays Spikeball almost every day during lunchtime and did not want to let broken nets get in the way of his fun, so one day after school, Montayo decided to take it upon himself to fix the nets. First, he took stock of his materials. He had three nets, each with a different broken part. Then, he decided that he would have to sacrifice one of the nets for spare parts to use to fix the other two nets. He began reconstructing the nets from scratch, mixing and matching parts, two of the Spikeball nets were fully repaired and functional. If you are ever playing Spikeball with your friends, you have Montayo to thank! Thanks Montayo for your hard work and dedication to our community.



## The Start of a New ERA

Learning more about the new lower school building

By Emersyn McNamara

This year, Bullis embarked on a new journey: creating a new lower school building. The hope is that this building will serve as a welcoming environment for lower school students, ultimately promoting the goal of learning. Architecturally, the building style will be transitional—a mix of traditional and modern. The building will help the flow of campus by serving as a barrier between the traditional buildings of north/south hall and the Discovery Center.



The building will have three floors; however, on one side of the new loop road, the building will appear as two stories since it is being built on a hill. The building will have grades kindergarten and one on the bottom floor, second and third on the middle floor, and fourth and fifth on the top floor. The building will also include pod areas that are not designated for a specific purpose. These pods will be flexible spaces. Some possible uses for the pods may include academic support and enrichment, small group work, or a space to take a break. The library will serve as a communal space for all lower school students. The library has floor-to-ceiling windows, allowing for natural light to flood the building. There will also be a new playground adjacent to the building. The new building will allow lower school students to have an environment designed to allow for maximal learning.

So far, there have been a few struggles with building the lower school. First, it was a struggle to find an architect to create this building. The design of the building is very specific, since the building is modern yet cozy at the same time. While construction was occurring, a gas line was hit, causing a gas leak. However, this was quickly resolved, and no one was harmed. We are thankful that construction is proceeding smoothly.



The new building is estimated to be completed in 2025, just in time for the 2025–2026 school year. Attached is a fly through of the new building, which shows you the design plans for every part of the building. We cannot wait for our campus to grow and to continue to promote our values of a caring, challenging community.

Here is the link to the fly through of the new building: [fly through](#).

# The Company that Won it All

## Interview with Shara Zuckerman, CEO and CFO of SilverConnect

By Henry Singer

Can you provide a brief overview of your capstone project?

Our project, SilverConnect, is an online platform where senior citizens can make friends, learn new information, and be mentally stimulated through online classes in fitness, literature, and other development areas.

What was the motivation or inspiration behind choosing this particular project area?

We noticed that grandparents and senior citizens in our lives and others around us have struggled to connect with other seniors after the COVID-19 pandemic. We wanted to help them become less lonely and more active in their daily lives.

Were there any challenges or obstacles you faced during the process?

Our biggest challenge was making a senior-friendly website that was easy for senior citizens to find and navigate, as the demographic generally has less technological proficiency than younger generations who have grown up surrounded by the internet.

Did you encounter any unexpected issues or successes during your project?

Some issues occurred when we were learning how to build a website, but for the most part, we were able to mitigate any problems. Thankfully, we won the Shark Tank competition at the end of the year, which will prove very useful in growing our business as we continue to strive for our mission.

Now that you have won the Shark Tank competition, how will you use the money to grow your business?

Through advertising, legal fees, insurance, and marketing. These investments will help facilitate smoother operations for our company and will make it easier for us to develop our services and provide them to a wider customer base.



# A trip to the State Department

Inside into what Bullis Model UN students did at their most recent conference

By Zaynah Crawley

In April, Bullis Model UN students had the amazing opportunity of visiting the State Department with the Bullis Model UN club. While we attended the conference to compete in Model UN, we were able to gain so much more from the experience. When we arrived, we were seated in an auditorium where we heard insightful stories from current State Department members, past Model UN delegates, and student representatives. We were inspired by all we heard from the different guest speakers and gained a deeper understanding of the importance of the United Nations and international diplomacy. While Model UN is obviously just a mock version of the United Nations, the skills learned and relationships formed are definitely real.

Prior to this conference, I knew nothing about Tunisia, the country I was representing. During the committee sessions, I felt as if I was from the country myself, showing passion and persistence in advocating for Tunisia. This passion and commitment was evident amongst all of the delegates, which made the experience so much more exciting. My favorite part of the conference was definitely getting to know all of the delegates and form relationships with them. While we were all advocating for our perspective countries, we were so much more powerful when we came together to develop solutions that would benefit the world as a whole.

I recommend that all students interested in world affairs join Model UN. To learn more contact [caryn\\_rossiter@bullis.org](mailto:caryn_rossiter@bullis.org)

# An Experience of a Lifetime

AP biology students dissect a cat

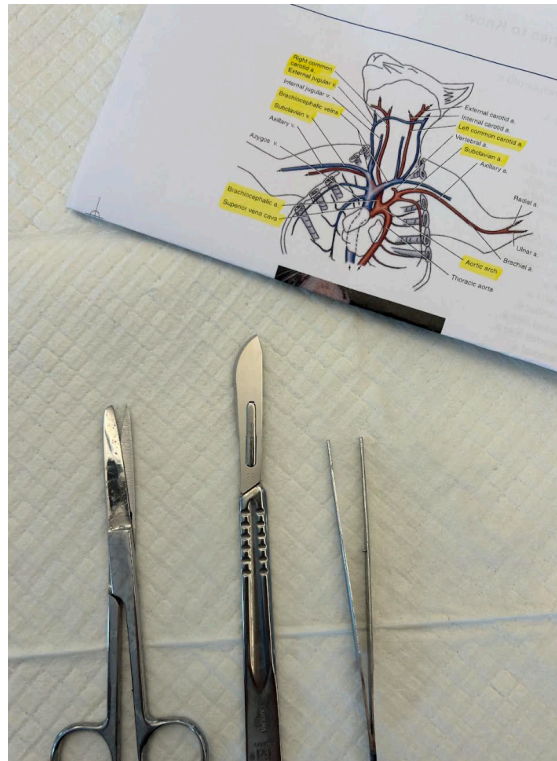
By Sadie Ravitch

I walked into the classroom and smelled the formalin solution and immediately held my breath. As I peered over to the group tables, I saw lifeless cats. At first I was afraid as tears rushed to my eyes. I did not understand the importance of dissecting animals for science; however, I quickly learned that I was wrong. After taking the AP exam, Ms. Nutter introduced our creative project for the rest of the year, which was dissecting cats. We were placed into groups and got to name our cat. My group named our cat Pookie to lighten the experience. Starting on day one we started to skin the cat. While it was a little traumatic in the beginning, I worked up my courage to dissect the cat.

We learned all about the different parts of the cat, such as the bronchioles and superior vena cava. While those parts may seem unimportant they are extremely important

for the anatomy of a cat. We learned after the discretion that many of the cats had been donated to science or that shelters were too overcrowded.

AP biology teacher Ms. Nutter stated “ Our cat dissection is a great way to learn about our own anatomy as cats and humans share similar anatomy. This experience is particularly beneficial to students interested in the medical field as this provides direct experience with real life anatomical structure and it is a-lot like the critical work these students will do with cadavers. Ms. Nutter highlights that she enjoys watching her students get more comfortable with the process as they transform from ambivalent dissectors to empowered surgeons that can teach others!”



## Want to Learn More About Business?

Bullis students have created Business Speaks Podcast

By Eric Zhou and Evan Kim

Upper school students Eric Zhou, Evan Kim, and Noah Margolis have recently launched the Business Speaks Podcast. This innovative podcast features insightful discussions with some of the world's most influential business owners and CEOs across diverse market sectors. Past guests include Joe Ucuzoglu, Global CEO of Deloitte; Talia Fox, Founder and CEO of Kusi Global; and Mark Bucher, Founder and Owner of Medium Rare. Upcoming episodes will feature Julie Sweet, one of the most powerful women in corporate America and CEO of Accenture, among other prominent figures.



In today's rapidly evolving business environment, the topics explored are incredibly relevant, covering artificial intelligence, discovering passions, and strategies for young minds to become entrepreneurial leaders who positively impact their communities. The Business Speaks Podcast uniquely incorporates student perspectives, offering a fresh and relatable approach to business topics. These engaging conversations not only highlight the challenges faced by leaders but also provide valuable, actionable advice tailored to inspire and educate the next generation of entrepreneurs.

Available bi-weekly on Spotify and Apple Podcasts, the Business Speaks Podcast is an exceptional educational platform. It allows students to delve into the business world through the eyes of those shaping it, enriching their knowledge and equipping them with the motivation and insights needed to pursue their entrepreneurial ambitions.

Links to listen:

**Spotify Link:** <https://open.spotify.com/show/7EFh22I5B9QIdIJsFg9Mpf?si=42dfa0aa02a843ff>

**Apple Podcast Link:** <https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/business-speaks-podcast/id1739589131>

**Instagram:** @bizspeakspod

**Website Featured on:** <https://www.bullis.org/alumni/alumni-news/article/~board/bullis/post/business-speaks-podcast>

## Want to Learn About Politics?

Bullis students have created Politics Explained: a political blog



By Evan Kim

Upper School students Evan Kim and Alex Desantis-Baugh founded a political blog called Politics Explained. With a mission to provide youth with a resource to form their own opinions, this blog is centered around non-partisan weekly updates solely on US politics. The blogs are kept short and concise and cover the most pressing topics of the week. Additionally, Evan and Alex conduct interviews, providing personal insights into the political field. Some of their interviewees have included Senator Chris Van Hollen, House Representative David Trone, the Director of Legislative Affairs for Kamala Harris Andy Flick, and many more.



In such a politically divided society, Evan and Alex hope to play their part in fostering more unity and understanding. They also hope to spark conversation within the youth that pushes their generation forward in a positive manner. By educating their classmates and fellow high schoolers about the upcoming election, they aim to provide as much information as possible so that each individual can choose the candidate they resonate with the most. Although the focus is towards youth, Politics Explained can most certainly be utilized by anyone who wishes to keep up with the ever-changing political climate nowadays.

If you'd like to check out Politics Explained for yourself, you can find their website and blogs at **PoliticsExplained1776.com**. They also run an Instagram where breaking news is posted all throughout the week, which can be found **@PoliticsExplained1776**!

## 西班牙语课程的乐趣：游戏中的学习与热情

Apple Fang discusses her favorite parts of Spanish class this year in Chinese

By Apple Fang

今年，我迈入了西班牙语课程的第二阶段。与level 1相比，这个阶段的课程稍稍增加了难度，但却让我更充满了对西班牙语学习的乐趣。一提起西班牙语课，我心中涌起了对那些美好回忆的思绪，尤其是那些让人陶醉的Gimkit游戏。与其他游戏如Kahoot相比，Gimkit独树一帜，其游戏设计别具一格，让我们在欢声笑语中轻松掌握西班牙语中的常用生词。我深深迷恋着我们课堂上经常玩的“你画我猜”游戏，同学们都沉浸在其中，洋溢着无尽的热情。透过这个游戏，我们不仅提高了对西班牙语生词的敏感度，还在不知不觉中提升了我们的熟练程度，这种体验让我难以割舍。

## A New Journey

Zoe Moskowitz discusses what she will be during her year abroad in Spain

By Zoe Moskowitz

During this upcoming school year I, Zoe Moskowitz, will be traveling to Zaragoza, Spain to spend my junior year abroad. I will be living with a Spanish host family and attending school with kids from all over the world who also decided to participate in this program. I am beyond excited!



In Spain, I will take traditional classes such as English, Math, and Science. Interestingly though, all of the classes, excluding English, will be taught in Spanish. However, more excitingly, I am also enrolling in classes like *Experiencial Spanish* and *Macroeconomics and the Global Consumer*. In *Experiencial Spanish* I will have the opportunity to fully immerse myself in the Spanish culture via fieldwork days. In these fieldwork days, my classmates and I will take local adventures to explore the country we will

be living in. In previous years students have visited vineyards and made their own wine, explored local museums, and even traveled beyond their city to other parts of Spain. In *Macroeconomics and the Global Consumer* I will not only learn about macroeconomics in Spanish, but I will also learn about the economics in Spain and how they compare to those here in America. These two classes are extremely unique in that I will be able to take what I will learn in the classroom and apply it to the new country I will be living in.



On a much sadder note, however, I will of course miss the entirety of the Bullis community while I am abroad. I will miss my teachers, Bullis Student Tutors, the beautiful campuses, but above all else I will miss my friends. That is why I am keeping in touch! I plan to stay in strong communications with the Bullis Student Tutors newspaper and YouTube programs. I aspire to keep people informed about what I am doing in Spain; and taking videos and writing articles about my unique journey abroad is just how I plan on doing so. My goal is to share all aspects of my life with Bullis, both big and small. I plan on making some vlog-style videos to share some aspects of daily life in Spain and write articles about larger events or experiences. Through these two mediums, I believe I will effectively communicate my Spanish adventures with Bullis.

I am thrilled to begin this new chapter of my life and can not wait to share all of it with Bullis.

## What's His Name?

Mr. DeJesus is beyond being the bus 11, route 1 driver

By Alexis Parrott

When I first met Carmelo DeJesus, it was my first time taking the Bullis bus on the first day of school, during freshman year. He greeted me with a smile and asked for my name. Soon enough, he had my name memorized along with the other new students riding



the bus. I quickly learned that he was the type of person that wanted to make students feel comfortable in his environment, even if it was only during the hour and a half long bus rides to and from school every day. However, his kindness and his smiles that welcomed us on his bus every day did not go unnoticed.

Thinking about my time at Bullis, especially as I'm about to enter my senior year, I can't help but think about the man that made it possible for me to catch an extra hour of sleep in the morning or complete any standing homework assignments due at 8am. I was able to have a conversation with Mr. DeJesus recently to learn more about him and who he is outside of his job as the driver for Bus 11, Route 1.

As I talked with Mr. DeJesus about his career as a bus driver, both with Bullis for the past eight years and previously with Montgomery County for fifteen years, I learned more about him as a person and his core values that keep him returning to this community. If I took anything from our conversation, it is that he greatly values the influence he can have on children, especially during our most formative years. He enjoys meeting students and learning about the students that range from lower school to high school. When asked about why he chooses to return to Bullis, he explained that it is because of his devotion to students and ability to create a more peaceful environment for us by setting clear expectations that allow for us to maintain a safe and respectful atmosphere.



Further in our conversation, Mr. DeJesus also shared some personal stories. From his anecdotes, I understood that his kindness is what makes students that ride his bus feel comfortable and appreciated. When he talked about his family, particularly his grandchildren, his face lit up and I could see his love and admiration for them. It was evident that he could not be more proud of his four grandchildren as he doted on them and described their busy schedules and accomplishments. Just like any proud grandad, he was

eager to show me a picture of his granddaughter as he discussed her accomplishments and his excitement to gift her a car for her high school graduation.

I am so happy that I had the opportunity to learn more about Mr. DeJesus, as well as share my positive first impressions of him and my high regards. He frequently puts a smile on my face, whether it's when he speaks a bit of Spanish to me or expresses his happiness to see me riding the bus this year, since my attendance has become infrequent with my ability to drive to school. Ultimately, I enjoyed spending the time learning about him, his love for the community, and his character.

Thank you Mr. DeJesus for all you have done and for being you!

## Fudgy Brownies

By Rebecca Eigner

My mom gave me this recipe and I have grown up eating these gooey brownies. She would make them for me when I felt overwhelmed by school. I cherish these brownies as they make me feel like everything will be okay. The way the warm chocolate melts in your mouth can fix any problems you might have. I chose to share this recipe with the Bullis community because I know how stressful the end of the year can be. I hope you all will make and enjoy these wonderful fudgy brownies!

**Fudgy Brownies**

**INGREDIENTS**

- 1/2 cup unsalted butter, melted and hot
- 1 tablespoon cooking oil
- 1 1/8 cup superfine sugar
- 2 large eggs
- 2 teaspoons pure vanilla extract
- 1/2 cup all-purpose flour
- 1/2 cup unsweetened cocoa powder
- 1/4 teaspoon salt

**DIRECTIONS**

- Preheat the oven to 175°C
- Prepare an 8-inch square pan greased with oil and lined with parchment paper (or parchment paper); set aside.
- Combine hot melted butter, oil, and sugar in a bowl. Mix for about a minute. Add eggs and vanilla; beat until pale
- Sift flour, cocoa powder, and salt. Gently fold the dry ingredients into the wet ingredients until ONLY combined (do NOT overbeat as doing so will affect the texture of your brownies).
- Pour batter into the prepared pan, smoothing the top out evenly.
- (OPTIONAL: Top with chocolate chunks or chocolate chips.)
- Bake for 20-25 minutes, or until the center of the brownies in the pan no longer jiggles and is just set to the touch (the brownies will keep baking in the hot pan out of the oven). If testing with a toothpick, the toothpick should come out dirty for fudge-textured brownies.
- Remove and allow to cool to room temperature before slicing into 16 brownies.
- Top with more chocolate if you would like!