



Bullis Student Tutors' Monthly Newspaper

# The Torch

Our Stories, Our Community



February

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Want to learn about our amazing faculty, fruterías, our talented artists, our female wrestlers, our women in sports day or more about our diverse Bullis community? Than read The Torch!

## Upcoming BST Programs

*Join Us!*

What?	When?	Where?
Exam Review Sessions	Whole Week of Exams	See QR Code Below



Scan QR Code to Find your Exact Exam Review  
Location, Time, and Date.

# Bullis Takes on Diplomacy: American University Model United Nations Conference

*By Felix F.*

Last weekend, from January 31 to February 2, 2025, six members of our Bullis Model United Nations (MUN) Club, led by Ms. Hadaway, attended the AMERIMUNC XII conference at American University, gaining valuable memories, inspiration, and important skills. I would like to take this opportunity to share some of our team members' experiences and insights from the conference.

This conference is a big challenge for us, because the scale of the conference is very large, and the participants are very professional. Because of this, our club made a lot of preparations in the early stages. We took the opportunity of a club meeting to

explain the process of participating in the competition in detail. At the same time, we also conducted some training for the MUN conference, including writing a position paper. If public speech, some contest tips, etc. With the help of Ms. Hadaway, we also have a deeper understanding of the committee's position paper and a better understanding of the historical background, new situations, challenges, and future developments of the topics discussed by the committee. I represented Vanuatu, a small Pacific island nation, in the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women (UNCSW). To prepare, I gathered over 20 pages of research on women's safety and rights. Drawing from this research, I delivered a speech during the conference, which gave me a great sense of accomplishment. Through the materials I organized, I made an active speech at the conference, which gave me a great sense of accomplishment.



Zaynah C., Madison M., Felix F., Cameron C.,  
Hayden B., Sophia N., attending the Model  
United Nations conference held at the American  
University School of Public Affairs.

Other members of the club, including Cameron C, Zaynah C, Madison M, Sophia N, Hayden B, and Felix F, also prepared thoroughly and achieved outstanding results. They represented Bullis School with pride, showcasing the Bullis spirit. I interviewed them, and they all shared that they gained a lot from participating in this conference. They learned a great deal, and it also gave them new insights and perspectives on international politics and the resolution of global issues.

We look forward to our next challenge at the State Department Model UN Conference in April. With continued hard work, we hope to achieve even greater success. Go Bullis!

## For All The Dawgs: An Inside Scoop on SGA

*By Linus M.*

What exactly does the Student Government Association (SGA) do? As a new member among seasoned veterans, I'm here to share my experience and what happens behind the scenes. We met a few times during the summer to break the ice before diving into planning. Mr. McGowan offers invaluable guidance, but students take the lead in generating ideas, planning, and executing events. Big events like Bullis Olympics, Spirit Week, Homecoming, and more are all planned by the SGA.



Linus M. and Alexis P. leading the senior class in an activity at Calleva.



Grade-level SGA is responsible for planning class meetings, large events, and coordinating with the other grades' SGA members as well as necessary faculty. As a senior SGA member, one of my first responsibilities was helping organize the annual senior campfire at Calleva. It's a great way to start the year by getting the class to connect, reflect on their time at Bullis, and look forward to the busy year ahead of them. However, the highlight was the shout-out section, where students were able to show their appreciation for their teachers and peers with kind words and funny anecdotes.

Apart from the grade level distinctions in the SGA, there are also smaller cohorts. The four cohorts include Spirit, Community, Service, and Wellness. Even though each SGA member is assigned to one of four cohorts—Spirit, Community, Service, and Wellness—we often collaborate across groups. My cohort, the Community cohort, is responsible for connecting the divisions of lower school, middle school, and upper school. However, I've also helped with different cohorts' projects, such as organizing the spike ball tournament with the Spirit cohort.

Right now, we're gearing up for the Spring Pep Rally—an event you don't want to miss!

## A Behind-the-Scenes Look at Bullis' Yearbook Team

*By Rebecca E.*

The Bullis Yearbook team has been working tirelessly this winter to create a book that captures the essence of our school year. Here is an inside scoop on the process! As a member of this dedicated group, I can tell you firsthand that crafting a yearbook is no small feat—it requires organization, teamwork, and a keen eye for detail!

We recently wrapped up our fall and winter sports coverage, ensuring every athlete is accounted for on their respective team pages. This means double-checking rosters, making sure names are spelled correctly, and selecting the best action shots that truly showcase each team's spirit.

As a group, we also discussed each page's colors and layouts to ensure everything fits together!

We also completed our student life pages, highlighting some of the year's most significant events, including Make-O-Ween, homecoming, homecoming dress days, and the ever-spirited pep rally. These pages aim to capture the memories that define our school community and celebrate the students who bring these traditions to life.

Now, we're diving into our next big task—student portraits! This step requires careful attention as we ensure that every student is represented accurately and that names align correctly with their photos. It's a time-consuming but crucial part of the process, and our team is committed to ensuring it's done right.

None of this would be possible without the guidance and support of our dedicated advisors, Ms. Vellenga and Dr. Reh, who have been instrumental in keeping us on track and providing valuable insight throughout the year.

As we continue working toward finalizing the yearbook, we're excited to see all the pieces come together. Stay tuned for more updates as we approach the finish line on what promises to be a fantastic edition of the Bullis yearbook!

## Breaking Barriers: National Women and Girls in Sports Day at Bullis

*By Elizabeth B.*

On Wednesday, February 5th, sports teams, universities, and high schools across the country came together to highlight female athletes. National Women and Girls in Sports Day began in 1987 as a celebration of the passing of Title IX of the Civil Rights Act. This eliminated sex-based discrimination in educational and athletic programs.

Bullis celebrated the following day by encouraging students to wear purple shirts, female sports jerseys, or Bullis athletics merchandise. At lunch, students were invited to attend a panel of influential and accomplished women discussing how sports impacted their lives and careers beyond athletics. The panelists included Kyra Caldwell, Shoshanna Engel Lewis, Jamie Walls, Judie Lomax, and Beverly Leon. They shared impactful stories and life lessons they learned through sports and teamwork. Kyra Caldwell shared that following a career-ending injury, she was able to move forward and take the perseverance, work ethic, and drive she developed during her time as a track and field athlete to her new career and time as a student at Howard University's College of Medicine. Similarly, Judie Lomax said that she found her

competitiveness and determination helped her during her basketball career at Bullis and Columbia University.



The Panelists: Kyra Caldwell, Shoshanna Engel Lewis, Judie Lomax, Jamie Walls, and Beverly Leon.

Bullis Athletics created a video with numerous female athletes showcasing how they play and succeed in their sports. Check out the video on Instagram and YouTube on Bullis' main page as well as Bullis Athletics!

The celebration of NWGIS is not limited to one day, though. Nike highlighted some of their most successful sponsored athletes, like Caitlin Clark, Sha'Carri Richardson, and Jordan Chiles, in their first Superbowl ad in more than 26 years. Other sportswear brands like "Togethxr," created by famous professional female athletes Sue Bird, Alex Morgan, Simone Manuel, and Chloe Kim, have taken great lengths to elevate women in sports and combat decades of misogyny as well by releasing merchandise reading "Everyone Watches Women's Sports."

As the popularity of female athletes and teams grows at Bullis and across the country, National Women and Girls in Sports Day is an important commemoration of the determination and relentless pursuit of gender equality.

# Six Million Reasons to Remember: Holocaust Remembrance Day

*By Emily W.*

*What was the Holocaust?*

The Oxford Dictionary defines the Holocaust as “the mass murder of Jewish people under the German Nazi regime during the period 1941–5. More than 6 million European Jews, as well as members of other persecuted groups such as the Romani and homosexual people as well as individuals with disabilities, were murdered at concentration camps such as Auschwitz.” The Holocaust resulted in two-thirds of the European Jewish population being brutally killed. Others worked under harsh conditions in camps, fled their countries, or took refuge in others' homes.



Wall of Remembrance at the  
U.S. National Holocaust  
Museum in Washington D.C.

International Holocaust Remembrance Day, observed on January 27th, serves as a global reminder of the atrocities committed during the Holocaust and the urgent need to combat hatred and prejudice. Designated by the United Nations, this day marks the anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz-Birkenau, one of the most infamous Nazi concentration camps. It is a time for people worldwide to reflect on the six million



Jewish lives lost, as well as the millions of others persecuted under the Nazi regime. By acknowledging this history, nations reaffirm their commitment to human rights, education, and the fight against antisemitism and all forms of discrimination. This day is not only about remembering the past but also about shaping a future where such horrors are never repeated.

We can honor those who passed in the Holocaust by remembering. Remembrance is one of the biggest ways to honor any tragedy because the goal is for history not to repeat itself. Every year, my synagogue holds a Holocaust Remembrance service where we close with, “Remember so it doesn’t repeat.” You can also visit the U.S. National Holocaust Museum in Washington, D.C., for free and learn more about the Holocaust and its effects from a global standpoint. Finally, although there are few left, listening to a survivor’s story can let you into their perspective and the true horrors that happened inside the camps. By keeping their memories alive and educating future generations, we can ensure that the lessons of the past guide us toward an equal future.

## The Hidden Secrets Within the Bullis Community: Rising Stars in the Talent Show

*By Elizabeth M.*

We all know that Bullis has some serious athletic talent; I’m sure almost everyone has attended a football or basketball game. We all know this school has many amazing actors and actresses because we all see their excellent productions in assemblies. We all know that Bullis has some incredible artists who showcase their masterpieces in the halls of Blair. But would anyone have known that Ben M. was so masterful at karate if not for the talent show? Would anyone have known that Eddie D. could play the electric guitar with *his teeth*? Would anyone have seen Ms. Zolet’s unique hobby horse abilities? Lastly, would anyone have seen Joseph H.’s wicked memory in action? No. Bullis’s talent show showcased some of the hidden talents found everywhere on our campus.

Now that you know about these people's extraordinary gifts, I’m going to explain how these abilities came to be.

Talia S. began playing the piano at the age of eight, though her journey has been inconsistent, especially during the pandemic. Her singing career started even earlier

when she joined the children's Strathmore choir at seven years old. By the age of ten, she was taking voice lessons, expanding her musical skills further. Over time, she has also explored songwriting and recently started learning guitar. Performing and singing bring her great joy, particularly when she is writing and composing music. When asked about her favorite performance memory, she said, "I don't have a specific favorite memory, but I've had amazing experiences performing. This year, I loved being in *Six*, and last year, I had a blast playing Wednesday in *The Addams Family*."

Looking ahead, Talia envisions a future in music, particularly as a professional songwriter. She is excited about attending a songwriting camp this summer to refine her craft. However, her journey has not been without challenges—she finds reading music difficult and still hasn't mastered it. When asked about this struggle, she explained, "I find it very hard to read music, and I still can't. I've learned to work around it by focusing on chords and chord progressions. Whenever I'm writing songs, I write down the music notes as letters, and I also memorize piano parts and record myself to help remember them." For the talent show, her groupmate Audrey selected their song because of their shared admiration for Gracie Abrams.

Ethan K. has been singing since 2017 and has significantly improved his technique and expanded his vocal range. One of the biggest challenges he has faced is learning to use his voice effectively and access his full range. Reflecting on this, he shared, "Some challenges I've experienced were learning to use my voice effectively and access my vocal range." Despite these challenges, he remains dedicated to his craft. While he sees singing as more of a personal passion, he remains open to potential professional opportunities in the future, saying, "I most likely plan to use my talents as a hobby, but I'm not opposed to a career."

Juliet W. has been singing since childhood and received her first guitar in fifth grade. Initially, she didn't use it much and spent more time playing the ukulele. However, by eighth grade, she began focusing on the guitar, teaching herself due to a lack of time for formal lessons. One of her favorite musical memories is from camp, where she was just beginning to explore the guitar. "I was at camp, and I was learning how to play a song that everyone in my bunk loved. So, I brought my guitar to pool hour, and we sang the song together," she recalled.

Looking ahead, Juliet sees singing as a major part of her future, though she views playing the guitar more as a hobby. "Although I love guitar, I see it more as a

hobby just because the field that I'm interested in is more singing-focused. However, if given the offer to play guitar in the field I'm interested in, I would definitely take it," she said. With a passion for music and performance, Juliet remains open to new opportunities that align with her artistic ambitions.



Juliet W. Performing Revival by Zach Bryan.

Fisher O-W. has always had a love for singing and took piano lessons as a child, though he stopped years ago. His interest in the piano resurfaced when he watched *Interstellar* as a child and was inspired to learn the theme song. From that moment on, he began teaching himself how to play, though he was not classically trained. One of his favorite musical traditions involves his grandfather. "My grandpa is really good at piano, and whenever it's someone's birthday in my family, he will call them and play *Happy Birthday* on the piano. So, when it's his birthday, I call him and play a much worse version, but I try," he shared with a laugh.

Performing with the rock band has been one of his most enjoyable experiences, especially at events like the jazz café. Though he is unsure whether music will become a career, he knows it will always be part of his life. "I don't know if it will be a career, but I definitely want to make music in the future," he said. However, his journey has not been without obstacles. Since he is self-taught, he struggles with classical techniques. "Whenever I'm in a rock band, and I'm asked to play blues music to warm

up, I'm just like, tell me the chords, and I'll be good to go," he admitted. He also faced a major setback when he suffered a severe injury that required multiple casts and left him unable to move his thumb. "After this injury, I couldn't move my thumb for a while at all, and I had to completely relearn how to play piano," he explained. Despite this challenge, he persevered. His talent show performance stemmed from learning a song he enjoyed by ear. Initially, he had planned to play it for the winter cabaret but ended up not attending. "That's why I signed up for the talent show—I already learned the song, so I figured I might as well play it," he said. His favorite part of performing was receiving feedback from his friends, as their support meant the most to him.

Joseph H. possesses a rare ability to recall sports scores with incredible accuracy. His realization of this talent came during a casual conversation with friends. "Someone brought up a game from a few years ago, and I said something like, 'Oh yeah, that was the game that the team won \_\_ to \_\_!' I didn't think much of it, but my friends reacted with shock. That's when I realized most people don't remember scores the way I do," he recounted. Unlike traditional memorization, Joseph doesn't consciously commit scores to memory; he simply remembers them. "I didn't 'memorize' the scores per se. I just happen to remember them. In my opinion, it would kind of defeat the purpose if I was memorizing them," he explained.

A dedicated football fan, Joseph watches most games, especially primetime matchups, and keeps up with stats and highlights. His love for football extends beyond just his favorite team, the New York Giants, though their underwhelming performance has allowed him to appreciate the sport as a whole. "Since we do poorly, I can pay more attention to other games and teams as well, and just be a football fan oftentimes," he said. His favorite players include Malik Nabers and Justin Herbert, though he once favored Saquon Barkley before his move to the Eagles. Choosing a favorite game is difficult, but he has a few standouts. "For playoff or Super Bowl games, my two favorites are Super Bowl LII (Eagles vs. Patriots) and the Bills vs. Chiefs divisional round in 2022. For a random regular season game, I'd go with Buccaneers vs. Texans in 2023," he said.

Thank you to all who participated in this event, we loved seeing all of your talents! Thank you to the audience for being so supportive, it is because of you that the administration has deemed this event a success and possible in upcoming years. Lastly, to those of you who have talents you want to share, I implore you to have courage and share them with others in next year's talent show. Bullis students certainly have talent!



# From Learning to Leading: Women in STEM Club Prepares for Success

*By Macy B.*

At Bullis, the Women in STEM Club is more than just a gathering—it's a movement. Led by dedicated presidents Olivia Hookman-Vassa and Sadie Leasure, the club is committed to fostering a supportive environment where young women feel empowered to explore, innovate, and thrive in STEM fields.



Last year's Foxcroft STEM competition Bullis winners: (team A) Skylar A. '24, Laverna Y., Ashley H., Julia Z.; (team B) Jiselle J., Victoria D., and Victoria M.

The Women in STEM Club provides learning, collaboration, and confidence-building space. Whether through guest speaker events or team-based problem-solving, members are encouraged to challenge themselves and expand their knowledge. The club is a place where curiosity is celebrated, and perseverance is the key to success. Currently, members are gearing up for the highly anticipated Foxcroft STEM Competition. With plenty of fun and engaging challenges ahead, the club is actively preparing, sharpening its skills, and building strategies to showcase its talents. The competition is an exciting opportunity to apply what they've learned in a real-world setting while working as a team to tackle STEM-based challenges.

The Women in STEM Club is always looking to grow its community! If you're passionate about science, technology, engineering, or math—or if you simply want to be part of a supportive and encouraging environment—this club is for you. Join us in breaking barriers, fostering innovation, and supporting one another in the pursuit of STEM excellence.

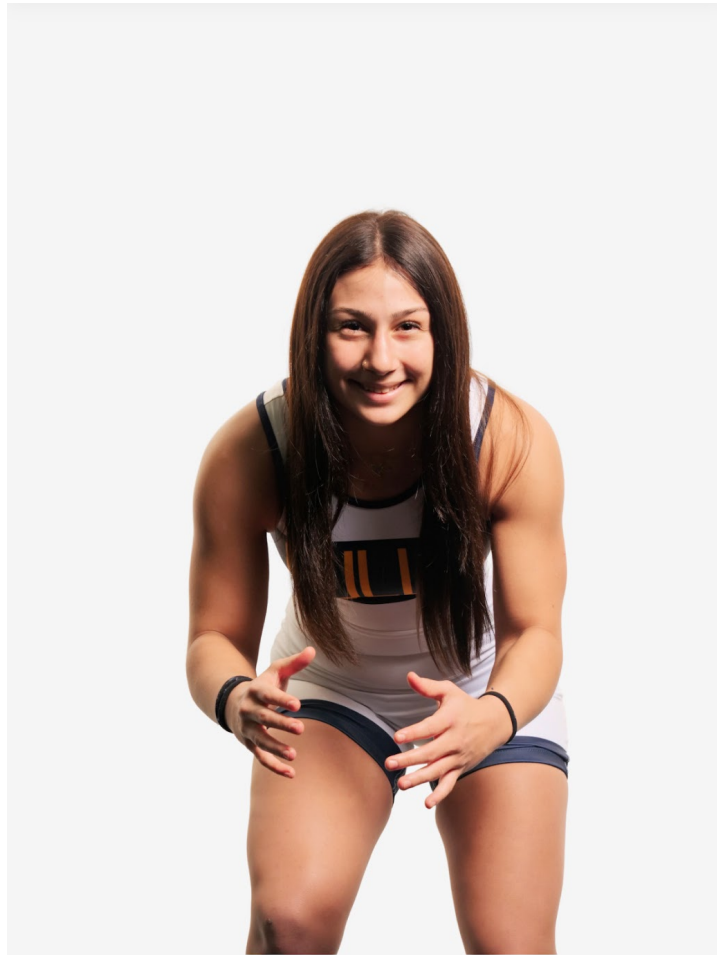
Interested in joining? Reach out to [olivia\\_hookman-vassa@bullis.org](mailto:olivia_hookman-vassa@bullis.org) or [sadie\\_leasure@bullis.org](mailto:sadie_leasure@bullis.org) for more information. The future of STEM is bright, and it starts with you!

## Kesi Tsarni: Bullis School's Rising Wrestling Star

*By Ellie C.*

Kesi Tsarni, a standout wrestler at the Bullis School, has been making waves in the sport since she first stepped onto the mat at just nine years old. Her journey began in third grade, and over the years, she has honed her skills through dedicated training both at Bullis and at Capitol Wrestling Club in Gaithersburg. As one of the few female wrestlers in a traditionally male-dominated sport, Kesi has embraced the challenge, proving herself to be a fierce competitor with impressive technique and determination.

Wrestling is more than just a sport for Kesi—it's a family affair. She trains alongside her brother Salah, who wrestles with her both at Bullis and Capitol Wrestling Club. Their bond on the mat is particularly special to Kesi, as their busy schedules make it difficult for them to spend time together otherwise. In addition to Salah, Kesi comes from a wrestling family, with two older sisters and a younger brother also involved in the sport. This deep-rooted family connection has played a significant role in her love for wrestling and her relentless drive to improve.



Kesi Tsarni.

As Kesi continues her wrestling career at Bullis, she remains a role model for other young female athletes looking to break into the sport. Her dedication and resilience serve as an inspiration, not only to her teammates but also to the broader Bullis community. With her strong work ethic and unwavering passion, Kesi Tsarni is poised to leave a lasting mark on Bullis wrestling and beyond.

## Beyond the Formulas: A Conversation with Mr. Moreau

*By Ethan Y.*

If you've taken Honors Functions or Honors Vector Calculus, you're likely familiar with one of the most well-loved faculty members—Mr. Moreau. For this beloved mathematics teacher, teaching isn't just about formulas and calculations—it's about opening minds to new ways of thinking.

"The most important thing is to enjoy doing math," Mr. Moreau emphasizes, leaning back in his chair with the kind of enthusiasm typically reserved for discussing favorite movies—which, as it happens, is another passion of his. "Many students think these harder courses are all about memorizing formulas, but it's really about developing analytical thinking."

However, Mr. Moreau has not always been sure of his career. Surprisingly, teaching wasn't always his plan. For a brief time, he considered becoming an actuary who, according to Google, is "a professional who uses math and statistics to assess the likelihood and cost of future events." (Don't worry if you didn't know what an actuary was; this interviewer didn't either.) Mr. Moreau's teaching journey started at a boarding school, where seeing students immersing themselves in classrooms day and night cemented his love for teaching.

"When I was younger, there were always kids who were better at math than me," he admits with a smile. "But what really attracted me wasn't just solving problems—it was understanding the concept of mathematics itself. I had great teachers who showed me that, and I wanted to deliver that same experience to my students."

Many students believe math problems should be solved instantly, but Mr. Moreau challenges that mindset. "You can't always sit down and solve a problem right away," he explains. "You have to let it sink in. Sometimes, when students think they don't know how to approach a problem, they just need to give their minds time to process it."

When asked about his mathematical wish list of courses to teach, Mr. Moreau's eyes light up. "Euler's work, linear algebra, historical geometry—and definitely topology would be at the top of the list." If he could meet any historical mathematicians, he'd choose Russell, Archimedes, and Descartes. "Their thinking was so different from ours," he marvels.

Outside the classroom, Mr. Moreau is a man of diverse interests. For eight years straight, he was an avid moviegoer, attending screenings 2-3 times per week. He's also passionate about reading novels, particularly enjoying the works of Haruki Murakami. Perhaps surprisingly, he has a deep love for tango dancing—though he



draws an interesting parallel between dance and teaching: both require opening minds to new possibilities.



Mr. Moreau.

"To pass on information effectively, you have to open minds," he reflects, "and that is the most valuable thing someone can do." It's a philosophy that serves him well in the classroom, where he guides students through the complexities of advanced mathematics with patience and understanding.

To students struggling with complex math, Mr. Moreau offers simple but powerful advice: "Don't give up. Eventually, you'll start connecting things from

different concepts." Coming from someone who teaches some of the school's most demanding math courses, that's encouragement worth taking to heart.

## Beyond the Lab Table: Who is Mr. Wise

*By Jack M.*

Carson Wise is the Bullis AP chemistry and on-level chemistry teacher. He is a strong believer in the importance of pursuing STEM in college. STEM degrees are a pathway to many careers, such as healthcare, engineering, and software development. A STEM degree can let you do anything. In STEM you can pursue anything but if you get a non-STEM degree you can pursue everything except for STEM. In this article, I interviewed Mr Wise on his journey with science and tips for people to navigate science and grow to love it.

### *What was your experience with science in high school and College?*

Mr Wise's first exposure to science was a field trip to the school of pharmacy. He learned that Pharmacies don't just work at retail but at a hospital and a lab. This expanded how he viewed medicine and science and inspired him to pursue science as a career.

Mr Wise got a chemistry and pharmacy degree. He was able to get a BS in pharmacy and chemistry which isn't possible anymore. During his time studying chemistry, he fell in love with the subject, especially organic chemistry. The challenges he faced were taking good notes and using good resources. To succeed you need to know how to make the connections from the notes, to the lectures, and to the lab. A recommendation he has for people looking to do science in college is to do the lab reports before so you know beforehand about the preparations you need. If you don't you will spend most of your time writing the procedure and trying to figure out what items you need during the lab. After college, he worked at Dupont Chemistry Company. There he worked on Crop Protections Chemicals (CPP). He made pesticides, herbicides, fungicides, and insecticides. This was for 10 years until he wanted to become a teacher and work with kids to make them as interested and motivated as he was.

### *How did you choose what college to go to?*

Mr Wise believes that the size of the college matters. He chose a smaller school because he did not believe that he was a strong enough high school student to go to a bigger college. College visits are very important in trying to find the right college

for you and one that you are comfortable with. Mr Wise advises to try to get a science degree because it opens up so many doors and because of technology, you want some sort of degree in STEM.

Mr Wise also advised looking at some hands-on opportunities during high school. There are many opportunities in this area such as the US Naval Academy STEM program, Georgetown summer programs, George Washington University Summer Program, Delaware overnight STEM programs, UMD summer programs, Johns Hopkins summer programs, and Smithsonian Institute STEM programs.



Bullis AP Chemistry and on-level Chemistry teacher  
Carson Wise.

We are so lucky to have Mr. Wise in our Bullis community. He inspires learning and growth within each one of us every day. Thank you Mr. Wise!



# Inside the Mind of Mr. Carlos: A key member in shaping the world of Bullis

*By Brenda A.*

When you go to the library to get a laptop charger and never return it, borrow a Chromebook and leave it through the summer, maybe your friend broke your laptop and you found out you had to take it to Apple due to the critical conditions, or even used it as an excuse to get out of class, Mr. Carlos has been there for you. An eager-to-help smile, ready to solve any difficulties for you. As eyes to the technological world, Mr. Carlos has been our helping hand. I was so lucky to have a conversation with Mr. Carlos to bring a spotlight to the Bullis community.



Mr. Carlos.

*Can you tell me some of your background information and how you became part of the Bullis community?*



Mr. Carlos grew up in Maryland; however, he was born in Peru and moved to Montgomery County when he was around 3 years old. His heritage is extremely important to him as he is still in touch with his culture today. In August 2024, he got a “harian bird” tattoo on his forearm to represent his background. He started Bullis in August 2022, originally in an agency that accepts projects from the permitted education. During this time, he provided technical assistance to a large team. He also embraced his background through this because he provided support for English and Spanish Speakers

With a passion for problem-solving an issue, and enjoying learning new things. He was grateful for landing a spot at Bullis, the same way we are lucky to have him. However, his journey doesn’t stop here. Before this summer, he hopes to land a certification in the CCNA- networking.

***What are your hobbies outside of work?***

His favorite movie is The Shashank redemption and loves a good comedy or drama genre. Not only does he persevere through his problem-solving, he finds joy in going to the gym, hanging out with friends to get his golf game up, or reading books like the Lincoln Law by Michael Conley. Since the beginning of 2025, Mr. Carlos has read a whopping 4 books. If you need any book recommendations you know where to go!

***What is advice you would give to someone who wants to pursue a similar career?***

Mr. Carlos recommends always maintaining curiosity about your field: research the history, the background of the inventors- what led to pursuing their career. Learn about hardware, networks, and other sectors- cloud and cyber security.

***What motivates you to come to work every day?***

He used to have night shifts, so being able to wake up and start his day brings him much satisfaction. He is motivated due to the job he has landed and the help he can provide at Bullis everyday.

Even though Mr. Carlos has been our superhero at Bullis. If he were to have real powers, it would be enhanced speed, so he can get to places faster (save gas)!

*If something good happens to you, pay it forward! -Mr. Carlos*

# Zoe's Trips to the Fruterías

*By Zoe M.*

While studying abroad in Spain this year, I've developed an unexpected obsession: fruit. In the United States, fruit was just another food group for me, nothing particularly exciting. Back home, I used to go to the grocery store, pick up some blueberries, and call it a day.

However, Spain is known for its *Fruterías* - its fruit stores - and I have gotten completely hooked on them. Unlike the massive supermarkets back home, these small and specialized shops offer an incredible selection of fresh, locally sourced produce. Stepping into a frutería feels like entering a vibrant marketplace, with oranges, peaches, cherries, and melons stacked in colorful pyramids and the scent of ripe produce filling the air.

One of the best things about these stores is their seasonality. In Spain, eating fruit is not just about convenience—it's about savoring what's in season. Strawberries dominated the September month, melons appeared in the winter and persimmons took over the fall. This cycle has made me appreciate fruit in a way I never did before. Instead of just picking up whatever is available year-round, I find myself eagerly anticipating the arrival of new fruits each season.

Another thing I love about *fruterías* is the experience of shopping there. Unlike in the U.S., where I would grab a plastic container of pre-washed berries and check out without a second thought, here, the shop owners often pick the fruit for you. If you ask for peaches, they'll carefully select the ripest ones, asking when you plan to eat them to ensure they're at peak flavor when you do. Some shopkeepers even offer samples, encouraging you to try a slice of watermelon or a perfectly sweet plum before you buy it.

Beyond the fruit itself, visiting fruterías has become a small but meaningful part of my daily routine in Spain. I love the sense of community they foster—chatting with the shopkeeper, watching older locals expertly choose the best produce, and seeing families walk home with bags full of fresh produce. It's a reminder of the slower, more intentional way of living that I've come to appreciate while studying abroad.

Now, as my time in Spain comes to an end, I know that my relationship with fruit has changed forever. No longer just an afterthought on my grocery list, fruit has become something to look forward to, to savor, and to enjoy with the changing seasons.



Fresh cherries available in the warmer months.

## The Deeper Meaning within the Strokes: Using Art to Portray Corruption in the Democratic Republic of Congo

*By Christina A.*

On February 3rd, we celebrated our artists on our campus through the Bullis Art Show. The event was a rollercoaster of emotions that portrayed the creative efforts of some of our most talented artists. With the opportunity, the art I decided to showcase was beyond funny characters that popped into my head: it represents the current corruption and injustice in Africa

The beauty of political cartoons is that behind the entertaining exterior, there lies a truth that is meant to expose the injustices in our world. With my cartoons, I chose to illuminate some of those injustices that are hidden by the Western world—specifically in terms of the smuggling of natural resources that the rest of the world depends on. These precious sources include: gold, diamonds, oil, and from the Congo: cobalt. The Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) is a pivotal player in the global cobalt market, supplying approximately 70% of the world's cobalt.



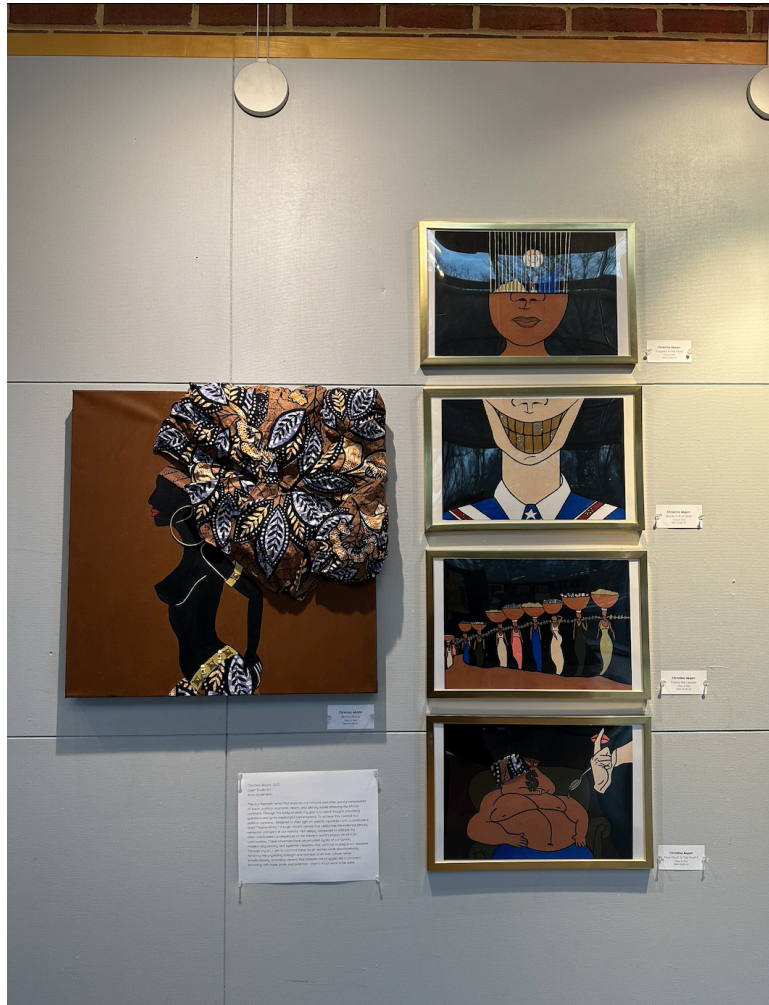
The Remains of Housing Following Evictions to Expand an Energy Transition Mine [Per Foreign Mining Companies], Kolwezi, DRC, September 2022.

Cobalt is the key mineral in the making of approximately 50% of electronics around the world. This means that our cars, phones, laptops, and other devices that require rechargeable batteries utilize cobalt.

A significant portion of cobalt extraction in the DRC is conducted through artisanal mining, often in hazardous conditions. Reports have highlighted severe human rights abuses, including child labor, forced evictions, and unsafe working environments. Amnesty International has documented instances where communities are forcibly removed from their land to make way for mining operations, leading to displacement and loss of livelihoods. Despite all of this, those who work the mines receive no more than \$3 a day and those being forced from their homes— are left homeless.

Knowing what is happening in the Congo and other African countries inspired me to dedicate my piece to shedding light on this crisis. This is a thematic series that explores the intricate and often painful complexities of social, political, economic, health, and identity issues affecting the African continent. Through this body of work,





Christina A. Exhibition Depicting the Struggles in Congo.

my goal is to spark thought-provoking questions and ignite meaningful conversations about our societies. To achieve this, I paired four political cartoons—designed to shed light on specific injustices in the continents of Africa (e.g. the exploitation of miners (cartoons 1 and 3), mineral smuggling (cartoon 2), and hush money (cartoon 4)—with a centerpiece titled "Mama Africa," that celebrates the enduring beauty, resilience, and spirit of our nations. I felt deeply compelled to address the often-overlooked consequences of the Western world's impact on African communities due to my heritage and the unfortunate truth that the influences have perpetuated cycles of corruption, modern-day slavery, and systemic inequities that are overlooked.

Make yourself aware! We must educate ourselves and raise awareness about the hidden realities behind the products we use every day. By understanding the impact

of cobalt mining and other resource extraction, we can make more informed choices as consumers. Supporting companies that prioritize ethical sourcing and transparency is a step in the right direction. Tune into some of the articles and conversations happening in the Congo and other countries on the continent.

## The Innovative Art Corner: Featuring Lauryn B. And Sophia G.

*By Lauren B. And Sophia G.*

**Lauren B.**

I have made two artworks that are based on what it feels like and what it is like to be a weird black girl. I have come to a realization that there is not a lot of media surrounding black women that allows them to be weird and black and it is even rarer for them to be the center of attention.



*"Who's there? " Acrylic Paint, Oil Pastels,  
Fabric, Glue, Cardboard, Paper, Plastic Paper  
12 x 9 x 1 Inches.*



I first got this idea from a video essay I was watching that was about how there is very little media surrounding black girls, but mainly, weird black girls. This video really stuck out to me because it made me realize how I very rarely feel seen while engaging in media. For me, I don't fall into the stereotype that is set out for black girls, such as dressing in a certain way or listening to certain types of music.

I realized that I can't just wait for other people to make me feel seen. So I decided to dedicate my art to black girls who feel that they don't fit within the social norm.



"Nah, I can't go out tonight." Acrylic Paint, Paint Markers, White Cardboard 16.5 x 12 x 2.5 Inches.

## *Sophia G.*

I was inspired by a famous ancient city called Dunhuang (敦煌) in China, located in the western part of Gansu Province, near the edge of the Gobi Desert. It was a key stop on the Silk Road, serving as a cultural and trade hub between China, Central Asia, and Europe. One of the most famous landmarks in Dunhuang is the Mogao Caves (莫高窟); these caves contain thousands of Buddhist murals, sculptures, and manuscripts that date back over a thousand years, showcasing a blend of Chinese, Indian, and Persian artistic influences. These murals and sculptures depict performances of Hu Xuan Dance (胡旋舞), which I aimed to represent through my sculpture. This artwork is significant to me because it reflects my country's cultural heritage and its diversity, as Hu Xuan Dance is a style that synthesizes artistic traditions from different regions.



“遇见胡旋” Resin, Acrylic Paint, Super Glue