



January 26, 2026

Dear Lawrenceville Community,

As we dig our way out of the tremendous weekend snowfall, and as our students enjoy the reprieve of a “snow day,” I too have a moment to pause and reflect on the gratitude I feel for our Lawrenceville community – near and far. The fall and winter have afforded us many opportunities to exercise our sustained commitment to cultivating a community that is “best for all” right here on campus. I also felt a similar sense of warmth and connection visiting Lawrenceville alumni and families, current and prospective, in various corners of the world earlier this fall, including New York, Philadelphia, San Francisco, Palm Beach, Atlanta, Shanghai, Beijing, Shenzhen, and Hong Kong.

Community Highlights

An upbeat [Fall Family Weekend](#) featured keynote speaker Rosalind Wiseman, who has engaged Lawrenceville students and faculty in workshops around community and belonging, and this year’s musical, [Les Misérables](#). For the first time in the 138-year Hill-Lawrenceville rivalry, we “painted Hill red” by arranging for all students to [attend the weekend of athletic contests](#), which we handily swept, bringing home the Meigs-Green Cup for the fifth year in a row. We hosted [Lessons and Carols](#) on the backdrop of a snow-covered campus, which brought another magical dimension to this cherished tradition.

January kicked off with [Wellbeing Week](#) and the theme of “flourishing,” helping our students set the stage for success in myriad aspects of life in both the near-term and into the future. As you heard from Dean of Campus Wellbeing Michaela Chipman in her recent communication, we continue to make progress on our strategic plan, [House, Harkness, Heart: A New Era for Community Wellbeing](#), with student voices front-and-center. In response to student feedback, for example, we are currently piloting the addition of a protein-rich deli bar during dinner that will remain open until 7:45 p.m.

Looking Ahead: AI Literacy

As we look ahead to the remainder of the academic year, we remain actively engaged in discussions around AI literacy for our faculty and students, carefully balancing innovation and tradition in order to create space to change while remaining committed to our enduring beliefs about education. Student efforts to use AI to identify and solve real-world challenges have been showcased at conferences at Princeton and MIT, and our faculty continue to speak at [national conferences](#) on the topic. Our work in this area has been [underway for several years](#); as the technology continues to evolve, we are developing a more formal shared vision that starts with the premise that teaching and learning at Lawrenceville will remain a fundamentally in-person and relational undertaking, and at the same time, it is critically important that we encourage creativity and innovation to keep pace with the rapidly changing AI landscape. This vision will be shaped with considerable faculty input so that we find the right balance, set healthy boundaries, and remain focused on important ethical dimensions. In the spring, we will host a webinar for families to learn more about our work in this important area.

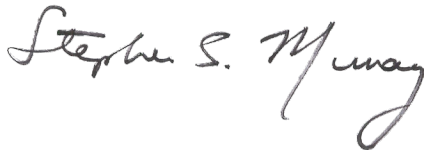
Looking Ahead: Teaching and Learning

Our faculty are engaged in spirited discussions regarding the skills, knowledge, and character traits we aim to develop within students during their time at Lawrenceville. These conversations remain rooted in creating resilient learners who can think critically and engage deeply with a diverse range of perspectives and people, and will help us develop a shared vocabulary when considering the outcomes of a Lawrenceville education. Closely related to this, our work to advance Harkness teaching and learning continues with ongoing assessment of our curriculum and academic schedule - both of which are serving students well by so many accounts - and emphasizing the four critical Harkness Habits: self-reflection, preparation, collaboration, and academic thought.

In Closing

Our charge to prepare a diverse community of promising young people to lead lives of learning, integrity, and high purpose remains as vital as ever. I remain both humbled and inspired by the curiosity, grace, integrity, and ambition of those who make up this community, and I look forward to seeing many of you on campus for Winter Gathering in the coming week.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Stephen S. Murray". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned below the word "Sincerely,".

Stephen S. Murray H'54 '55 '63 '65 '16 P'16 '21
The Shelby Cullom Davis Class of 1926 Head of School