

The background of the entire page is a mosaic of small, irregularly shaped tiles in various colors including blue, green, yellow, red, purple, and white, set in a greyish-brown grout.

SPECTRUM

HARVARD-WESTLAKE MIDDLE SCHOOL NEWSMAGAZINE VOL. 28

SPECTRUM

HARVARD-WESTLAKE MIDDLE SCHOOL NEWSMAGAZINE VOL. 28

- | | | |
|----|---|----------------------------------|
| 3 | Leaving Teachers | Jade Harris |
| 4 | Head Prefects chosen for coming school year in historic election | Davis Marks |
| 5 | Performing Arts Department films Vocal Solo Show in-person | Davis Marks |
| 6 | Ninth Grade Transition to Upper School | Sophia Vourakis and Ella Yadegar |
| 8 | Instagram account betrays Harvard-Westlake's core values | Eden Conner and Grace C. |
| 10 | Reviews of 2021 HW Summer Camps/Classes | Piper Vita |
| 11 | Karen Korematsu Speaks to HW Students | Dylan Graff |
| 13 | AACC | Nathalie Leung |
| 14 | Safe Summer Ideas | Grace Coleman |
| 16 | Spring into Nature | Jack Limor |
| 17 | Benefits of Thrifting | Kelsey Kim |
| 18 | Climate Change and Debt: The Impact on the Global Economy | Everly Isayan |
| 20 | Entertainment Company, A24, Starts New Era in the Film Industry | Madison Baffo |
| 21 | Brandy Levi, High school Student Supreme Court Case | Averie Perrin |
| 23 | Georgia G.O.P. Passes Major Law to Limit Voting Access Across the State | Kriste An |
| 24 | United States Increases Refugee Cap | Owen Huang |
| 26 | Seven Minutes of Terror: The Landing of Perseverance on Mars | William Liu |
| 28 | The James Webb Space Telescope | Danny Liu |
| 29 | Cool Alphabets from around the world | Jackson Tanner |
| 30 | Art Gallery | |

FACES leaving CAMPUS

Story by Jade Harris '24

Mr. Pease

Choir: four years



Q: What was your favorite part of Harvard Westlake?

A: "Easily the most wonderful aspect of working at Harvard Westlake is the community of people - the best students and colleagues in the world. I've learned so much from the collective passion, professionalism, and kindness at school every day."

Q: Does a specific event or memory stand out to you?

A: "I just think about all the times students have visited the choir room to hang out, play piano, and chat. The hallways of Bing are brought to life every day with so many musicians, actors, and dancers, both during class and free periods. It's magic!"

Q: Is there any way students can remain in contact with you?

A: "Students should feel free to email me at PeaseMusic@gmail.com."

Mx. Suess

English I, Media for the Modern Age News Magazine Journalism: three years



Q: What was your favorite part of Harvard Westlake?

A: "The students are my favorite part. I just love the consistent engagement and willingness to learn and participate in sometimes silly activities with gusto."

Q: Does a specific event or memory stand out to you?

A: "I worked really hard to make it [Of Mice and Men] a fun unit, and I was laying these breadcrumbs for the students to follow. When I got to the house at the end of the breadcrumb trail, I had students stand up out of their chairs and yell, 'oooh!' They were so excited by literature, these little breadcrumbs and figuring out the whole thing at the end that I was just really moved and motivated."

Q: Is there any way students can remain in contact with you?

A: "Students can email me - can email me @ juliet.suess@fulbrightmail.org."

Mr. Lieberman

Honors Algebra II, Advanced Geometry Advanced Algebra I: moving to Upper School



Q: What was your favorite part of Harvard Westlake?

A: "My favorite part of working here is the students. I have worked at many schools and I always love the students, but I find that the Harvard-Westlake student body is particularly hard-working and respectful. It makes a big difference!"

Q: Does a specific event or memory stand out to you?

A: "After my first month teaching here, a student came to me in tears. She had heard someone say something about a test we were about to have and was so concerned that in hearing that, she had broken the Honor Code. We had a great conversation about the spirit of the Honor Code and that the fact that she cared so much about it is what really makes the difference. It was the start of my understanding of what sets Harvard-Westlake apart."

Q: Is there any way students can remain in contact with you?

A: "I'm so excited that I'll have the opportunity to see (and maybe even teach) most of the students I've been working with over the last two years!"

Head Prefects chosen for coming school year in historic election

After 30 years of Head Prefects being 1 boy, 1 girl, Classes of 2022 and 2023 elect 2 girls

By Davis Marks '24

Published on April 28 on
hwspectrum.com

History made.

For the first time ever, the Harvard-Westlake (HW) student body has elected two female Head Prefects.

Current Junior Prefects Jade Stanford '22 and Quincey Dern '22 were elected on April 20 by the Class of 2022 and Class of 2023 to serve as Head Prefects for the 2021-2022 school year.

In an email to the Upper School student body, Prefect Council announced Stanford and Dern as the winners of the Head Prefect election.

Stanford said the HW community means so much to her, so she is appreciative and feels honored that the community placed trust in her to serve as Head Prefect.

"I feel so honored to have been elected Head Prefect," Stanford said. "HW and this community mean so much to me and I'm so appreciative they had faith in me to represent them. I'm so excited to work with Quincey, and the rest of the Council, to make the school the best place it can be for all of you."

Dern expressed that she feels overcome with emotion to have been elected Head Pre-

"Congratulations to Jade Stanford and Quincey Dern for being elected Head Prefects for the 2021-2022 school year! We are confident they will lead the school in a positive direction as we emerge from this pandemic and return to school in the fall."

-Prefect Council

that Jade and Quincey will serve as Head Prefects next year both because of their making of history and the leadership traits and



Courtesy of Quincey Dern '22

Head Prefects-elect and current Junior Prefects Jade Stanford '22 and Quincey Dern '22 pose for a photo on the Upper School campus.

fect, and is excited to get to work with Dern and the rest of Prefect Council.

"I am overjoyed and truly honored to be a Head Prefect," Dern said. "I have such a deep appreciation and love for our school community. I am overcome with emotion that my peers could feel this confident in me

to uphold such a high position. Working with Jade, my good friend, has been amazing and I am thrilled to make a close team of kind and welcoming Prefects!"

As Head Prefects, Stanford and Dern will lead Prefect Council, made up of next year's Senior, Junior and Sophomore Prefects, in its work and meetings. Stanford and Dern will also chair the Honor Board, the a School's Honor Code disciplinary body made up of Prefects, Deans, and teachers.

Sharon Cuseo, an Upper School Dean and Prefect Council

Advisor, said she is thrilled

skills they possess.

"Personally, I am thrilled to have two students who identify as female as Head Prefects for the first time ever," Cuseo said. "And I'm even more thrilled that it's Jade and Quincey. They are experienced, wise, compassionate, organized, committed and just fun to work with. I believe it's going to be a great year back on campus!"

Before 2019, there had to be one female and one male Head Prefect, as well as two male Prefects/Senators and two female Prefects/Senators for each grade. However, starting in 2019, elections for Head Prefect, Prefect and Senator are now determined by the number of votes each candidate receives, regardless of their gender identity. Since then, there have been three Head Prefect elections, with this year's being the first where two students of the same gender were elected.

Unlike Senators and Prefects, Head Prefects aren't just elected by their grade. Head Prefects are elected through two rounds of elections – one primary election where any junior can run, then after the junior class singles down the field to four candidates, one general election where both the junior and sophomore class vote.

Keith Jordan, the Middle School Director of Student Affairs, advised Stanford and Dern when they served on Student Council at the Middle School and said he believes the student body is in excellent hands with them as Head Prefects.

"I know, without a moment's hesitation, that Jade and Quincey will do an amazing

job as Head Prefects,” Jordan said. “I was lucky enough to work with both of them as Senators. They were thoughtful, caring, and hard-working leaders then and they still are today. The student body is in excellent hands.”

Karen Fukushima, a Middle School Dean and former Dean to Stanford and Dern, said she looks forward to their leadership in such a consequential year following a year mostly spent in quarantine.

“I am really looking forward to the leadership that Jade and Quincey will bring to our school,” Fukushima said. “I have known Jade and Quincey since their days at the Middle School and they have always put community and their classmates first. After a difficult year of isolation, I am looking forward to their leadership and guidance in building up our community. The student body has chosen wisely.”

Yoshimi Kimura '23, one of the current Sophomore Prefects and Junior Prefects-elect, said based on her experiences on Prefect Council with Stanford and Dern, she knows they'll be great Head Prefects.

“I'm beyond happy for Quincey and Jade's election!” Kimura said. “Quincey and Jade are two of the most capable and empathetic people I know, and I'm super excited to get the privilege to work with them again next year. They have that perfect balance of fun and responsible and I know they'll make sure our complete return to campus marks the start of the best year yet!”

Student leaders of Middle School affinity groups on campus also expressed excitement at the historic nature of Stanford and Dern's election.

Natasha Clement '24, one of the leaders of the Middle School's Girls Club & Friends, stated that Stanford and Dern's election represents the improvements HW has made in gender equality.

“Their election represents how far the school has come in terms of gender equality,” Clement said. “Although there is still work to be done, it is a wonderful step forward.”

Nyla Shelton '24, one of the leaders of the Middle School's Asian American Culture Club, said that two women of color being elected Head Prefect means much more than just who the Head Prefects will be next year.

“I am truly happy about the election of Jade and Quincey as Head Prefects,” Shelton said. “When the world so often shows us that leadership looks a certain way, it's refreshing and heartening to see leadership take in a different way, particularly in the election of two women of color.”

Performing Arts Department films Vocal Solo Show in-person

After a year of virtual performances, annual show is filmed in the Saperstein Theater.

By Davis Marks '24

Students in three of Harvard-Westlake's (HW) Middle School choirs - Wolverine Singers, Vocal Ensemble and Madrigals - showcased their voices recently during this year's Middle School Vocal Solo Show.

However, due to COVID-19, this year's Vocal Solo Show was not a live show, unlike past years, with a large audience of students, faculty and family members in the Saperstein Theater. To give the performers a sense of normalcy, instead of the virtual performances we'd been seeing all year, the Performing Arts Department, students in the Advanced Stagecraft course, and an outside videography company filmed the show in the Saperstein Theater.

The 2021 Vocal Solo Show had 32 performers, with students in all three Middle School grades performing. The Vocal Solo Show was filmed over three days - May 8, May 15 and May 16 - and each performer was given an assigned date and time to come to the Middle School campus to film their performance. Once each performer arrived, they had three takes to film their performance - one which served as a lighting and sound test and two that served as performances for the video editors to use as footage in the final video.

Jeremy Pease, the Middle School Choral Director, has directed both past in-person HW shows and this year's Vocal Solo Show and said it was great to have students back on stage, and he looks forward to the community seeing the performances.

“It was wonderful that we were able to utilize the incredible HW performing arts facilities for the first time in more than a year,” Pease said. “While there wasn't a live audience, the students sang with Mr. Wong, our accompanist, in person on stage. Their performances have been professionally video

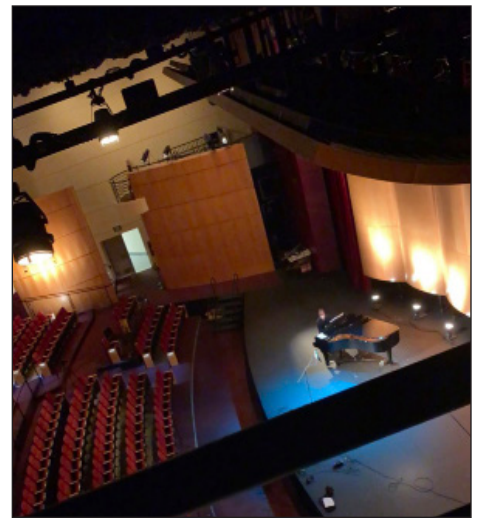


Photo by Davis Marks '24
View of the 2021 Vocal Solo Show's set from the Saperstein Theater's catwalk.

and audio recorded, and we really look forward to sharing their hard work soon.”

Tim Schmall, the Middle School Performing Arts Department Chair and teacher of the Middle School stagecraft courses, said it was great to have all the singers performing again after the inability to host shows due to COVID-19.

“Honestly it was just so nice to hear all the singers again - it's been such a difficult year, especially for music classes,” Schmall said. “Being able to have the singers come in and record their solos one by one on the stage was really a magical experience. They all did such a fantastic job as well! We are so proud of how hard they all worked to make such a great performance to round out the year.”

Elise Fried '24, one of the performers in this year's Vocal Solo Show, said that it was a joyful experience because it was her first time getting to be on stage and perform since quarantine began.

“After a year of not performing at all because of the pandemic, it was nice to be back on an actual stage and perform - regardless of if there was an audience or not,” Fried said.

Samuel Hines '24, one of the performers in both last year and this year's Vocal Solo Show, said while there were notable differences between this year's performing experience when compared to last year's, his time away from performing helped him grow.

“While performing at HW this year was a very different experience than performing last year, I feel like the time I spent away from the stage allowed me to climb out of a shell of any timidity and truly embrace the artist within it,” Hines said.

The Vocal Solo Show is still being edited, and it will soon be released to the community for viewing.

Ninth graders prepare to make transition to the Upper School

Freshmen reflect on their three years at the Lower School and Deans give their best advice for incoming tenth graders.

By: Sophia Vourakis '24 and
Ella Yadegar '24

What are you going to miss most about the Lower School?

"I think that I am going to miss the campus itself. There are so many spots, like the field and the reference room where I have so many memories with my friends. I am also going to miss the teachers and our deans."
Ruby Kemper '24

"When I am at the upper school, I'm going to miss coming to the lower school campus because I like this campus more than the other one."
Matthew Murray '24

"I am going to miss the middle school campus in general and all of the younger grades being together. I'm also going to miss my teachers."
Ellie Whang '24

"I'm going to miss being the oldest on campus because I feel like it gives us a lot of freedom. When I came here in 7th grade, I really looked up to the 9th graders."
Caroline Albert '24

"Even though we didn't get to exactly spend a year at school with the 7th and 8th graders, I am going to miss being the oldest on campus. Also, I'll miss how easy it is to navigate through this [lower school] campus. I know we'll get used to the new campus but I feel like the lower school is very straightforward. Overall, I just like the entire vibe of the campus we are at right now."
Noelle Kim '24

"The middle school is really pretty and I feel like I am definitely going to miss the classrooms."
Janie Chandrasekhar '24

"The thing I am going to miss most about the lower school campus is the teachers. However, I am also very excited to finally be at the upper school."
Olivia Baradaran '24

"I am going to miss the really nice cafeteria at the middle school."
Sam Pulaski '24

What are you most excited for about the Upper School?

"I am excited for the new environment and meeting the upper school deans."
Belinda He '24

"I am very excited about going to the upper school and getting to go to school with juniors and seniors. I think it's very cool that the 10th graders get to transition to a new campus."
Ruby Kemper '24

"Since we have had a year taken away from us, we don't really have the full middle school experience. Although I'm really going to miss the lower school campus, I'm excited to make the transition to the upper school."
Kai Do '24

"I'm excited for the stimulating classes that are offered and the lively conversations with the upper-classmen. While I will miss the Middle School greatly, I can't wait to start a new section of my Harvard Westlake career."
Clementine Harris '24

"I am excited for the level of independence and the ability to take my phone out that comes with being at the upper school."
Sam Pulaski '24

"One thing I am really excited about is being a prefect."
Nyla Shelton '24

For the Upper School Deans: what is your best advice for incoming sophomores about the upper school?

"Trust the hard work you've put into your classes, trust your instincts around social choices and trust that HW has your back! The Upper School Deans will support and encourage each rising 10th grader in whatever ways each of those students needs. And if you are a student who hasn't performed to the best of his/her/their abilities, or you've already made questionable social choices or you're worried that HW Deans and faculty are too busy to care, that's when you go back to the first request to TRUST YOURSELF—and in that case, you're trusting yourself to turn over a new leaf in our compassionate and generous Upper School environment, and know that we have dozens of adults who are here in support."
Ms. Kilgore

"Don't be afraid to ask for help. I think, too often, students feel like they have to have it all together and they need to do it all alone. We have so many incredible resources for students to take advantage of from our learning center, to our counseling team, to the Deans and students should use us. Learning how to utilize your resources is a skill that will serve you well throughout high school, into college and beyond. Things are not always easy, however, there are many adults at Harvard Westlake who are there to help and who care greatly about your happiness and success!"
Mr. Cardenas

Instagram account betrays school's, students' Core Values

Anonymous @wokeathw breeds dissention and lacks integrity

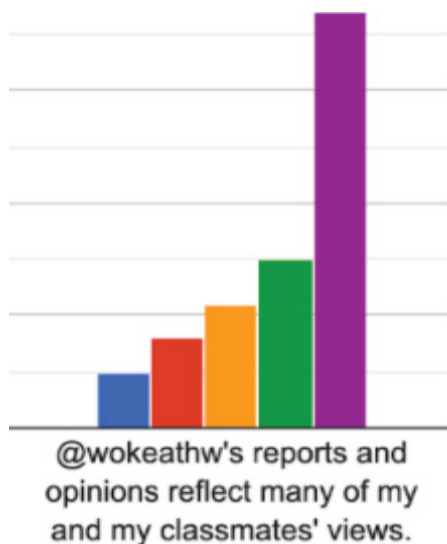
By Grace Coleman '24 & Eden Conner '25

Published on March 25 on hwspectrum.com

Harvard-Westlake's mission statement says that we are a community that lives with integrity, so what are the consequences for those who don't? In recent weeks, @wokeathw, an Instagram account led by members of the Harvard-Westlake (HW) community, was praised by political figures as well as news organizations, despite the problematic anonymity and the animosity it has created.

The content of the page often attacks students and teachers directly, rather than engaging them in conversation, which is not acting with integrity. Despite this, the posts continue and President Rick Commons only referred to this account vaguely in a March 12 email without mention of consequences.

@wokeathw first posted on Sept. 7, 2020. The account's bio describes



Student Responses to @wokeathw

@wokeathw's mission as: "Documenting the self-destruction of an elite private school. Led by concerned students, parents, faculty, & alums." Additionally, they have a link to a google form in their bio, which they say is for students, parents and faculty to use any time their political views feel violated.

The account has gained attention from various news sources since September. More recent news coverage came from Bari Weiss in a City Journal article titled "The Miseducation of America's Elites," as well as Fox News, The Atlantic and Newsweek. Prominent figures like Ted Cruz, Ann Coulter and Mike Pompeo retweeted Weiss' articles. Pompeo's tweet included a call to violence, saying "be a pipe hitter."

Following the coverage, the account gained a couple hundred followers, as well as attention from students and teachers regarding the content they post.

Though the account often takes a right-wing slant and we may disagree with their political opinions, arguing about whose beliefs are "more correct" will not get us anywhere, a point clearly proven by the very tactics the account uses. So, we would like to take "politics" (as in Democrats vs. Republicans) out of the equation and focus on the true problem the account creates: an unsafe environment for every member of the HW com-

munity.

@wokeathw, in multiple situations, called out specific students and teachers, and cyberbullied them without regard for their feelings or privacy. In a recent survey conducted by HW Spectrum, many students shared their concerns with the way the account goes about posting.

"It's honestly disappointing that people would badmouth the school through a social media platform and not bring up their concerns with the school themselves," an anonymous student wrote. "Speaking out and criticizing the school on social media will only bring attention to the matter and not bring much change."

One member of HW Spectrum shared how the account's bullying tactics had scared them away from writing about topics they were passionate about in fear of getting called out.

"After seeing Chronicle members' personal Instagram accounts being shouted out by @wokeathw, I began to limit myself in the types of articles I was writing," they said. "I felt as though the freedom to express myself was taken away when a group of people began cyberbullying others on social media."

Not only has the account called out students, they have also shared emails sent from teachers and teacher profiles.

"My art teacher, Ms. [Zuñiga-West], has been called out," a student shared. "Ms. ZW is a wonderful teacher, mentor and person, and I was insulted on her behalf that anyone would speak badly of her."

Because of how students have been named and targeted, some students fear speaking up in their

class. One student explained the fear they now experience before sharing an opinion in class.

"@Wokeathw can sometimes make

me think twice about speaking my opinions in class,” the student shared. “I’m concerned that if I express a progressive opinion, I’ll end up in an article retweeted by Ben Shapiro.”

Some students also reported similar occurrences at HW that the account portrays, but some of these students likewise take issue with how the account has approached the topic.

“I feel what they are saying happens at HW is true, but the way they spread the word through instagram was wrong,” one student shared. “I can relate with these people, they are not lying about what happens at Harvard-Westlake. I think the people throughout this account should be more focused on improving what they think should be improved. If they want views that are leaning towards the right, they should voice their opinion to the administrators instead of creating an anonymous instagram where it is easy to say and show things out of context.”

Many teachers at HW have dealt with being called out by @wokeathw and others have watched their colleagues and students be torn down by the account, which has resulted in teachers fearing for their safety.

“I felt threatened; it seemed like a step on the road to doxxing, as if online harassment were about to become in person harassment. It made me afraid to share antiracist material in my class. I didn’t stop, but it made me feel afraid for my safety.”

One teacher’s response echoed a question many of us are asking: As students, we join the HW community and are expected to live by the core values of our school mission statement, but what about the adults?

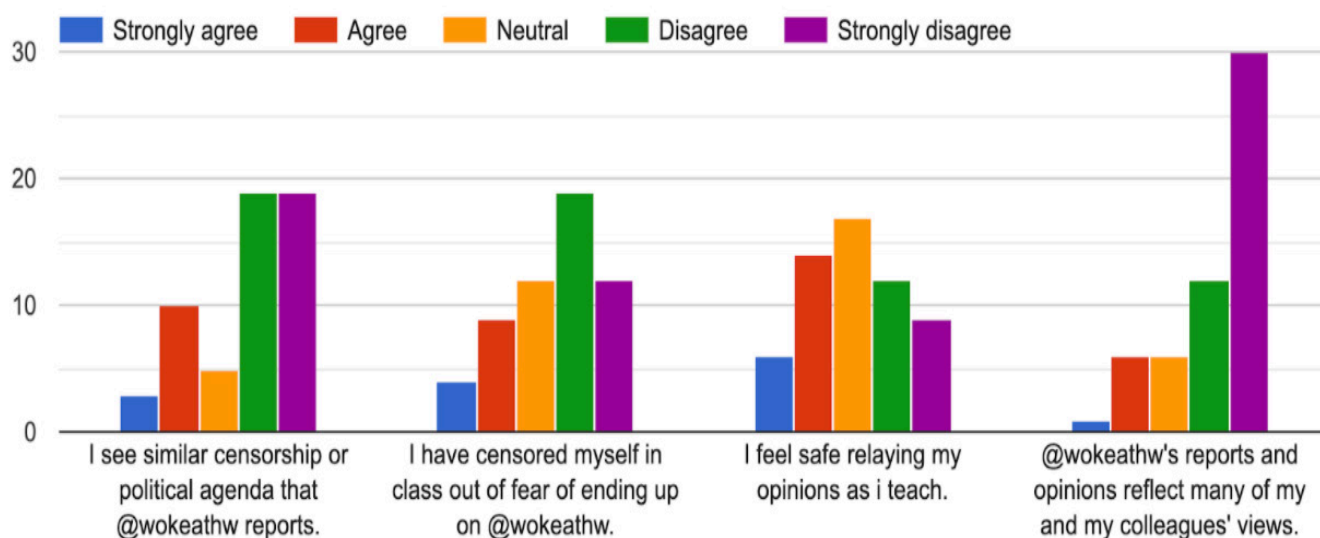
I’ve just been to a diversity council meeting where they asked us to spend 20 minutes deconstructing the school mission statement and I wonder, where do we expect these values to lie? In the student body only?”

HW’s mission statement champions four values that member’s of the community live by. Community. Excellence. Integrity. Purpose beyond ourselves. When we opened our acceptance letters, we entered a community, a place of inclusion and academic freedom. These values must continue to be upheld, and not just by students. The more hate and dissent we breed within our school, the farther away we get from our communities’ founding principles. One

teacher echoed this statement, sharing the importance of creating an inclusive classroom environment.

“Overlaying the narrative with such political language politicizes the work we do,” one teacher said. “When the talk moves in this direction, it is no longer discourse, it is simply discord, calling for walls (rather than bridges) to be built between us. An inclusive education is not about politics; it is about compassion.”

We live in a time where social media dictates so many of our opinions and thoughts. We urge everyone to consider the harm they may be causing others by tearing them down on a social media platform to suit their need for content. We are all human beings, and especially in a time as politically polarizing as this, we need to work together to create a positive environment for all.



Teacher responses to @wokeathw

Highlights of HW Summer Program

A smattering of the many Summer Program offerings taking place virtually and in person this year

By Piper Vita '25

Read more on hwspectrum.com

As our 2021 school year comes to a close and it seems as though we are finally getting out of quarantine, many different summer camps will be opening up to fill the three months that we are away, more specifically, Harvard-Westlake (HW) summer camps. HW offers multiple classes in all sorts of subjects such as art, STEM, sports, entrepreneurship, world language, English, performing arts and debate/public speaking. Now is the perfect time to look into these options for your own summer plans.

HW Summer offers classes to HW students, incoming HW students

and students from other schools in the area. The program follows a three period schedule similar to our in-school school day. You can choose from multiple classes based on each subject to take during the first, second and third period separately, but you don't have to choose a class for each one. A few classes stand independently of the class-period system and occur during their own week, with each class lasting around an hour and forty-five minutes.

Visual Arts

Mixed Media Madness, taught by Sar Shahar, is a generalized drawing and painting class which takes place during period one and two of the schedule. Mixed Media Madness doesn't have a main focus, and your only goal is to create art you're proud of. The Mixed Media Madness curriculum

A middle school student explains the inspiration for his art project to classmates.

Photo by Allison Shelley/The Verbatim Agency for American Education: Images of Teachers and Students in Action

is very student based. From painting shoes, to drawing online, you can learn to draw and paint on different surfaces and with different tools.

STEM

HW Summer also offers a large amount of specific STEM (Science, technology, engineering and math) classes with the hope that middle school students will pursue passion in STEM through the program. And although there are classes for those who are looking to get ahead in math, there are also specified curriculums for those who want to dive deeper into one aspect of STEM.

One of these specified classes is called Boil, Fizz, Pop, which is taught by Leslie Wang, and focuses on aspects of chemistry and cooking through food! You will learn how food is created using science and what sort of practices go into making the food you eat everyday with hands-on activities.

Another STEM class, Tripp Reed, is an extensive three session course that is independent of the summer schedule. If you're interested in robotics and building machines, consider taking Vex Robots, a course independent of the class-period system that goes deep into the inner-workings of robotics and machines. By the end of the week, you will have built a complete and working robot!

Sports and Entrepreneurship

Although the selection of sports and entrepreneurship classes is fairly small, both courses offer an enriching experience of both subjects. And if you're looking for something more specific, the upper school also offers numerous summer camps based in each sport and another entrepreneur-

in each sport and another entrepreneurship class called HW INC, that will teach you to build your own business.

HW Summer offers a generalized sports course that covers everything from ultimate frisbee to soccer, called Action Sports. Led by Freddy Arroyo, Action Sports is an athletically based one week session that will help you develop athletic ability and use teamwork.

World Language

HW Summer offers two classes based in World Language, Fun with Chinese and Around the World in 14 Days, both of which are amazing ways to experience the culture, food and language in other countries.

English and Literature

Whereas some of the other subjects may have slightly a smaller selection of courses, English and Literature have some of the most diverse and specific course curriculums that pertain to your specific interests, from studying superheroes and fictional characters

to journalism.

Journalism is one of the classes that I can speak for personally. Throughout a two week time period, you will learn how to build an article, conduct an interview and research topics. By the end of the course, you will have learned how to structure an article, craft an article, photojournal, create editorials and conduct interviews. Not only that, but you will also have the opportunity to create your own newspaper packed with articles about what is going on in the world around us.

Performing Arts

HW Summer offers extensive courses focusing on many different forms of performing arts. From band to choir, you can find some sort of performing art that pertains to your passions. HW Summer offers two strict band classes, Beginning Violin, Clarinet and Trumpet and String Duets and Trios, both of which focus on specific instruments and instrument categories in order to improve your musical ability.

Two classes taught by Greg Goddu, Create your own Electronic Music and Rock and Roll Recording, focus on recording your own music in two different genres, electronic and rock and roll.

Body in Motion, taught by Patrica Huerfano, will help you improve your dancing skills in contemporary dance, hip-hop, and other forms of dance.

Public Speaking and Debate

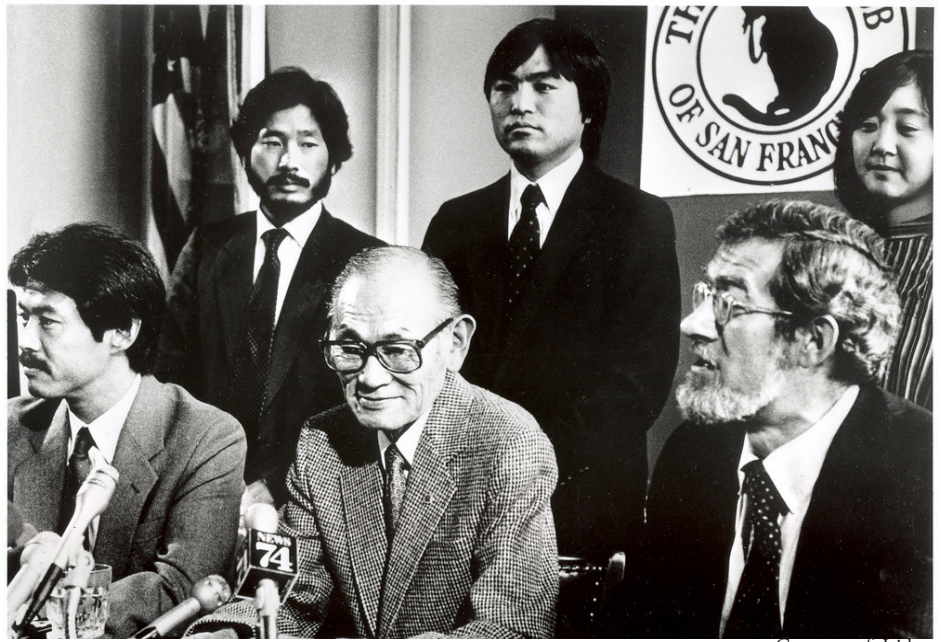
One class independent of the summer schedule, Speak and Debate like Pro, focuses on the aspects of a good speech and how to add emotion to a speech in order to make it convincing, inspiring, enjoyable to listen to. Although the Middle School only offers one speech and debate class, the Upper School offers many more such as Lincoln Douglas debate.

Overall, HW Summer is an amazing program to be a part of and is a great way to enhance your academic and creative abilities. Through these enriching and enjoyable courses, you can not only follow a passion of yours, try something you've been wanting to do for a while, but also improve your skills in preparation for a class you may have in that subject in the future. Being a part of HW Summer is both enriching and enjoyable, and not an experience you will likely forget.

Karen Korematsu speaks to students on Asian Hate

Last week, Harvard-Westlake students had the opportunity to speak with daughter of legendary civil rights activist Fred Korematsu.

By Dylan Graff '24



Courtesy of: Irideae

Fred Korematsu at a press conference regarding the writ of coram nobis which he had petitioned for with federal courts.

Almost 80 years ago, President Franklin Delano Roosevelt signed Executive Order 9066, sending thousands of Japanese-American citizens into internment camps. These Americans were forced to pack all of their belongings into suitcases, sell whatever they could, and move far away to barracks where they were treated like prisoners in their own country.

While that was the story for most, one man named Fred Korematsu decided to take a stand and speak up for the Japanese people who had been stripped of their rights. Korematsu refused to be locked away in the camps and was ultimately arrested for defying the order.

In his fight for human rights, Korematsu truly put the criminal justice system and Bill of Rights to the test, pushing his case all the way to the Supreme Court. Last week, the Asian American Culture Club (AACC) gave Harvard Westlake students and faculty the opportunity to speak with Fred Korematsu's daughter, activist Dr. Karen Korematsu.

Korematsu has dedicated her career to fighting for social justice. In

2009, Korematsu founded the Fred Korematsu Institute, which focuses on the advancement of racial equity and human rights for all. Through the use of education and advocacy, the Korematsu Institute has changed the way Japanese-American incarceration gets taught in schools.

Still, Korematsu has a deep belief that Japanese incarceration doesn't get taught enough in school. She herself didn't even learn about her father's Supreme Court case until her friend brought it up after a brief discussion in an eleventh grade history class.

"Back when I was growing up... there wasn't information in textbooks about the incarceration for one thing," Korematsu said in her all-school presentation. "You might have a mention of World War II and the bombing of Pearl Harbor, and then you might have maybe one sentence about Japanese internment."

In order to combat this, the Korematsu Institute has put a strong emphasis on education, holding educator workshops and creating educational toolkits so teachers are better equipped to tell the story of Japa-

nese-American incarceration. The Korematsu Institute has been able to give out upwards of 12,000 of the kits for free to teachers worldwide. In addition, the Korematsu Institute has held many conferences for teachers and even built a curriculum to pair with the incarceration documentary "And Then They Came for Us."

When it comes to advocacy, the Korematsu Institute has prioritized the advancement of civil liberties for not only Japanese-Americans, but people of all backgrounds. Korematsu has even signed on to amicus briefs defending the rights of Muslim people, most notably in the Supreme Court case of *Trump v. Hawaii*.

Her father's 1944 case, *Korematsu v. United States*, was brought up to draw comparisons to the incarceration of Japanese-Americans and the travel ban which primarily targeted Muslim countries.

After the events of Sept. 11 2001, Fred Korematsu himself spoke out for the rights of Muslim-Americans, famously saying, "No one should ever be locked away simply because they share the same race, ethnicity, or



Courtesy of: Lorie Shaull

Karen Korematsu speaks at the Supreme Court during the proceedings of the Trump v. Hawaii case regarding the travel ban

religion as a spy or terrorist. If that principle was not learned from the internment of Japanese Americans, then these are very dangerous times for our democracy.”

Similar to discrimination and hate crimes against the Muslim-American community following those terrorist attacks, violence against the Asian-American community has grown since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic.

In fact, a report from the Study of Hate & Extremism at California State University, San Bernardino, found that Anti-Asian hate crimes have surged 169% in the past year alone. While Anti-Asian sentiment has a long history in the United States, Korematsu believes that young people are speaking out more than ever and change is coming.

“It’s encouraging to me to see this type of what I call activism,” Korematsu said. “It’s so important that we learn these skills at this age. Certainly when I was growing up there was none of that.”

In order to address these hate

crimes, President Joe Biden recently signed anti-Asian hate crime legislation called the COVID-19 Hate Crimes Act, aiming to create a position in the Justice Department solely focused on anti-Asian American hate crimes. During Asian Pacific American heritage month, it is important to not only celebrate the AAPI community, but also reflect on the discrimination that the community faces every day.

“Every time we’re silent, every time we let hate flourish, we make a lie of who we are as a nation,” Biden said before signing the bill. “We cannot let the very foundation of this country continue to be eaten away like it has been in other moments in our history and happening again.”

In 1942, Fred Korematsu stood up for what he believed in, and refused to be incarcerated for his heritage. Today in 2021, countless of young people have taken up his torch, fighting against inequality and the rising hate crimes against the Asian-American community. Whether it be checking in on a friend or family member, do-

ing research, or helping spread awareness through social media, people are taking action to stop anti-Asian sentiment.

“If you want to make change . . . we all can,” Korematsu said. “We all have that ability. People think that they can’t make a difference, well Fred Korematsu was one person who made a difference in the face of adversity.”



Courtesy of: Karen Fukushima

Karen Korematsu speaks to members of the Asian-American Culture Club

AACC Tackles Asian Hate

Members at AACC have been active this year working together to tackle AAPI Hate.

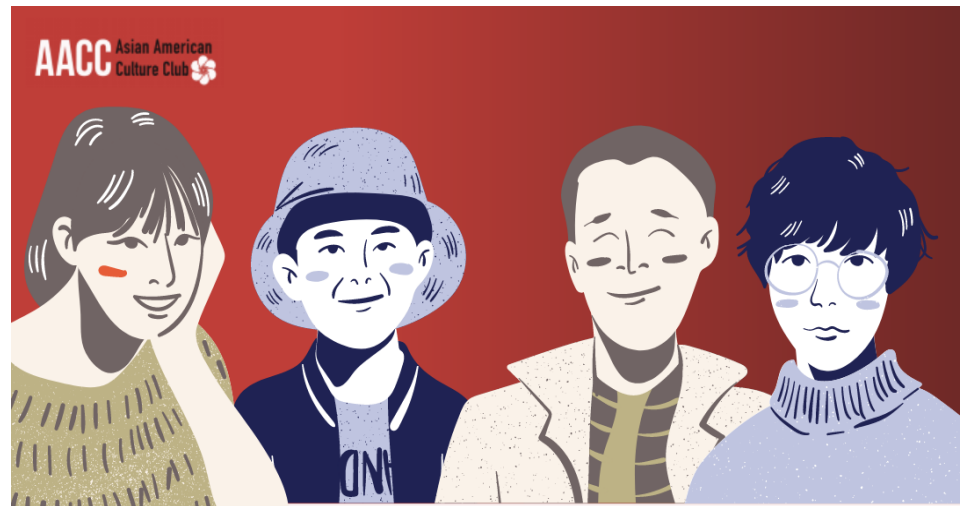
By Nathalie Leung '24

The Asian American Culture Club (AACC) hosts weekly discussions and slideshows during their meetings on Thursdays where they talk about different issues regarding anti-Asian hate. In a recent meeting, they discussed cultural appropriation and how it affects the Asian American and BIPOC communities, and also responded to violent scapegoating of Asian Americans.

AACC encourages everyone in the Harvard-Westlake (HW) community to attend these meetings - not just those who identify with Asian identities - to learn, reflect and promote diversity and inclusion. The purpose of the club is to create a safe space for students to explore and celebrate their identities.

In the past month the club's student leaders created an informational video where a slideshow of anti-Asian hate crimes was explained to the HW community. This presentation was intended for students and faculty who wished to learn more about the hate crimes and for people who wanted to become better allies to the Asian-American community.

They recently collaborated with Japanese Language Culture Club (JLCC) and invited Robert Kikawa, a Japanese internment camp survivor, who spoke about his time in the internment camp. The leaders of AACC also participated in a virtual roundtable for Student Leaders for Inclusion, Diversity and Equity,



ANTI ASIAN RACISM

HARVARD WESTLAKE AACC HOSTED A SPECIAL CONVERSATION AND ALL COMMUNITY WEBINAR WITH **DR. KAREN KOREMATSU**: CIVIL RIGHTS ACTIVIST AND DAUGHTER OF FRED KOREMATSU, WHO CHALLENGED JAPANESE-AMERICAN INCARCERATION DURING WWII ON MAY 10, 2021

#STOPASIANHATE
#STOPAAPIHATE
#STOPRACISM

AACC Flyer created by Noelle Kim '24

where they were interviewed by faculty regarding the antiracist curriculum in hopes for the administration to receive and apply their feedback.

They also invited Dr. Karen Korematsu, civil rights activist and daughter of Fred Korematsu, who spoke on Monday, May 10th at the HW Middle School and challenged Japanese-American incarceration during WWII, to share her story and passion for social justice in a school community webinar for Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders (AAPI) Heritage Month.

"Honestly, our club has just been focusing on educating the community and discussing our own thoughts on the recent events. Generally speaking, we just wanted to use our club as a safe space to process and grieve as a whole," said Noelle Kim

'24, a student leader of AACC. "By putting up the anti-Asian hate crime video, holding discussions, having speakers come in and talk about their personal experiences, we try to provide a welcoming environment where students' voices are heard and people can share how they feel."

While AACC is only at the middle school, there is also an Asian American affinity club at the Upper School called ASiA—Asian Students in Action. They have been around for a few years and have been quite active this year.

"While 'Asian American' is such a diverse and broad term and our experiences are varied and unique, I hope that we can find ways to learn from each other, share our stories, and celebrate our cultures," AACC Adviser Karen Fukushima said.

Safe SoCal Summer Ideas

With summer rapidly approaching, we want to make exciting plans as per usual. But, how do we combine safety and fun for all of us?

By Grace Coleman '24



a look at the beautiful los angeles sunset
by wikipedia

Although it feels like almost everything has changed during this past year, time continues to tick as we approach the summer of 2021. Pandemic restrictions have begun to relax in the United States as schools and sports start up again; beaches and theme parks are slowly reopening with enhanced safety protocols. While some of your plans may have shifted, such as travelling out of the country or going to sleepaway camps, there is still so much to do, even just in your own beautiful state.

Outdoors !

Being outside has always had a multitude of benefits, such as serotonin boosts and vitamin D, coupled with a plethora of fun (and most importantly safe) opportunities available. Especially compared to last summer, the amount of covid-safe activities have greatly increased.

For example, almost every beach in California is open, including some outdoor restaurants near them. Theme parks and conservatories

are also great day trips, so you can be outside and enjoy fun rides and nature while staying safe. National parks are also open, with enough levels of trails to be used by people of any age or difficulty level. Movie theaters and malls are now open, with enhanced distancing safety protocols as well.

Staying Safe

In case you aren't yet comfortable with venturing outside of this year-long quarantine bubble, there's still a variety of home projects you can do to not only self improve, but also have fun while doing so! For example, rearranging your room, desk, closet and drawers is a great way to mix things up to feel as if you're in a completely new space.

Painting or sketching is a stress reliever, and lets you create beautiful art to use wherever you prefer! Bracelet and necklace making has also become quite popular, and there are plenty of inexpensive kits on Amazon to help you start them. These can make pretty and personal

gifts for your friends and family to wear, especially if you don't see them as often as you may like. Additionally, baking and cooking something different is exciting, as your confectionary creations can be enjoyed (or not!) by anyone you give it to, (even if it's just yourself)! Finally, walking around your neighborhood or doing an at-home workout is great to keep your blood flowing and go get some sun.

Whatever you decide to let your summer hold, there are plenty of options that allow for you to have fun all while still staying safe, and protecting those you love.

California Coast Activities



Visit the huntington cherry blossoms! these flowers bloom in the summer, and their rich colors make it a truly beautiful place to visit.

by flickr



Head over to the santa monica pier ! this is a classic summer day trip, and has so many fun attractions.

by free images



Visit the serpentine pavillion at la brea tar pits! these rainbow structures provide an immersive experience, (and a great place for insta pictures!)

by getty images



Go on a hike to view the hollywood sign! this adventure is offered on many sites, and has gorgeous views.

by creative commons



Of, course, what summer is complete without disney land ?? come visit to have an awsome day full of sweet treats and cool rides !


by getty images




Spring into Nature

illustrations by Jack Limor '25


by Jack Limor '25



The greater Los Angeles area is home to some of the most amazing ecosystems and wildlife habitats. Just a short drive from the city can provide a fantastic opportunity to appreciate the nature we live and coexist with, but going off the beaten path or finding the experience right for you is sometimes not as easy as a simple google search. During quarantine, some beautiful single file hiking trails have become overcrowded where others have fallen subject to a lack of maintenance and may be impossible to follow. Furthermore, cell service, parking or access to bathrooms and water stations have changed, and some trails even require permits to enter.

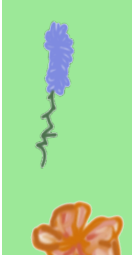


Whether you are looking for an easy hike or a challenging trek, one to do along with a large group or one suitable for solo trips or simply a place to enjoy nature and picnic among the flourishing spring plant and animal life our community has to offer, your destination is just a short drive away.




Here are some nature sights perfect for simple appreciation of the change in seasons:

Westridge Trailhead



The Westridge Trailhead leading into the beautiful Santa Monica Mountain Range is one of the most versatile trails located within a short distance from the ocean provides an amazing view of Los Angeles and the coast on a clear day. No permit is needed, you can generally get one to four bars of cell service, and although the official parking lot is small and almost always full, street parking is plentiful. Do not expect a bathroom at the trailhead and plan accordingly. This trail is sort of a "make-you-own" journey in the sense that it is not only used by mountain bikers, walkers and hikers but also constantly presents new opportunities for brave individuals to challenge themselves with steep inclines.




An easy almost-flat, very wide pathway meanders along the end of mountains

with purple and yellow flowers in full bloom, but take a right and you can ascend incredibly steep hills that drop back off at the path or continue to increase in escalation. Atop the first hill is a bench in which one can sit and enjoy the view whereas the top of the rest of the hills that stretch deeper and deeper into the mountain range, a hiker who chooses the hard path can find a little bit of flat ground to catch their breath, take in the incredible view or sit down for a picnic. In addition, the trail is very well carved out and maintained. The ocean crossbreeze and direct sunlight means that hiking here can sometimes be in ideal conditions, but come in the morning before the clouds burn off, and you may find yourself feeling like you are walking through one! This trail is not a loop, and while in general that can cause the way back to be less exciting, the constant options the Westridge hike presents you with allows you to choose to take a different path even as you are heading back in the same direction you came.

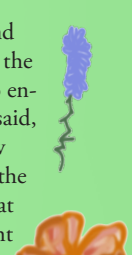
Solstice Canyon

A beautiful Malibu trail provides hikers (who may have to hike from their parking spot to the trailhead) a unique hike with partial shade at times, access to a small creek to cool off and a view of interesting structures and temple ruins. Do not expect cell service or bathrooms once you leave the parking lot, but the trail does have a higher volume of people which can provide safety in numbers. Although this trail is more well-known it deserves its praise. For an easy route, take the Solstice Canyon Trail which is a wider, flatter path preferable for larger groups. For more advanced hikers, take the Rising Sun Trail by ascending a set of wooden stairs and hiking on a slightly narrower, but steeper dirt path. A few miles and you will find a partially shaded rest area in which you can dunk in the creek to cool off or appreciate beautiful temple ruins and a small waterfall.

Placerita Canyon State Park




Placerita Canyon State Park, located in the San Gabriel Valley near Santa Clarita, is home to a visitors center (closed during the pandemic), a variety of California wildlife and a variety of outdoor activities, but the most notable is the moonlight hike. No permits are needed, and the visitor center's closure offers a less crowded environment for enjoying the nature that this site has to offer.

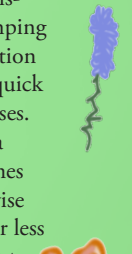


At night, with flashlights and a friend or group of people, the moon lights the trail decently well allowing hikers to enjoy a more rare scenery. That being said, make sure to look at the moon a few nights in advance and google when the full moon is. It's strongly advised that hikers only venture on the moonlight hike during a full moon. Just a short drive from the city, it's easy to feel like you are in another world on this trail. When you give in to the temptation to look up at the night sky, be careful about your footing and surroundings. As you walk the trail, use your flashlight to shine light downwards and slightly in front of you and proceed slowly. In addition to the night sky, you may likely see (and definitely hear) nocturnal wildlife. Evidently, this hike is not for everyone, but it definitely stands out from the rest!

Alta Laguna Park "Top of the World"



Top of the World is a gorgeous hike located at the north eastern edge of Laguna in which you can camp with an incredible ocean view or just take advantage of the setting to enjoy an unparalleled cotton candy sunset. A short distance from the town of Laguna, camping (and hiking) at this site is a great option for Los Angeles residents seeking a quick weekend away without major expenses. This easy trail is a roughly two and a half mile hike and there are sometimes sightings of rattlesnakes, but otherwise the encounter with nature is more or less limited to the desert and coastal plant life of the Laguna hills.



The Benefits of Thrifting

Thrifting is the newest, hottest trend, among students, and here's why.

By: Kelsey Kim '24

Published on April 29, 2021 on hwspectrum.com



Phot Credit: "Thrift Shop" taken by Dennis S. Hurd

Thrifting has become the latest trend amongst a variety of people, and it has many perks that reel in a multitude of customers. Whether you thrift for environmental reasons, or simply want a unique outfit, there's tons of reasons to choose thrifting over other methods of shopping.

Thrifting is beneficial for the environment. According to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, the fashion industry makes up over 10% of all carbon emissions. Producing new clothing requires large amounts of water, up to 650 gallons of water just for one T-shirt, or 1,800 gallons of water for a pair of jeans. Thrifting and buying secondhand clothing reduces the amount of carbon dioxide released into the atmosphere, and conserves clean water. Many common types of clothing fabrics and materials negatively impact the environment, as they don't decompose or degrade easily. According to Insider, polyester is one of the biggest pollutants of the ocean. Clothing items that are made of polyester are often dumped into the sea, and do not degrade easily in the water, which ends up polluting the waters and harming wildlife.

Landfills are filled to the brim with textiles. In a survey done by the Huffington Post, the average American throws away 81 pounds of clothing per year, which is about

26 trillion pounds of textiles that would end up in landfills and also burn fossil fuels and pollute the atmosphere.

On top of this, thrifting is good for the economy and helps local communities. Goodwill, a common store where people can find all different types of secondhand items, employs people who face barriers to possible employment. Salvation Army Family Stores also use proceeds to support centers for people struggling with various addictions. According to the Huffington Post, the secondhand industry employs 100,000 people in the United States and creates \$1 billion worth of wages in the U.S. alone.

Finally, many people enjoy thrifting because of how affordable it is, and how you can find clothing items that are one-of-a-kind. For kids in high school, or anyone in general, it's also more convenient to shop at places that don't cost as much money, and at different thrift stores, the quality of the items is nearly the same. "I really like all the interesting things I can find, and the fact that they're cheaper than shopping at normal retail stores is great too," Fiona Kim '24 said.

Another reason people have begun thrifting is to combat fast fashion and help the environment. Many people, especially

in younger generations, acknowledge the fact that the fashion industry is one of the leading causes of pollution on the planet. "Thrifting is a really good way to start to stop buying from fast fashion brands," Keira Haley '24 said.

So much waste comes from fast fashion, so thrifting and buying used clothes is a really good alternative to mainstream brands.

Climate change related debt impacts global economy

The urge for green debt relief has arisen more frequently, as the economies of countries globally are struggling to deal with continual debt and the effects of climate disasters.

By Everly Isayan '24

Published April 29 on

hwspectrum.com

The urge for green debt relief has arisen more frequently, as the economies of countries globally are struggling to deal with continual debt and the effects of climate disasters.

Many countries struggle with debt and that itself creates issues for their economies. According to Somini Sengupta, prior to the Coronavirus pandemic “low- and middle-income countries alone owed \$8.1 trillion to foreign lenders in 2019.” In addition to their debt, in recent years as climate change has worsened, disasters have profoundly dismantled the economy of less wealthy countries in particular.

Belize, Fiji and Mozambique are a few of many countries to be greatly impacted by climate change, and as a result, the lives of the citizens themselves have been and continue to be impacted. As written by The New York Times, “They owe staggering amounts of money to various foreign lenders. They face staggering climate risks, too. And now, with the coronavirus pandemic pummeling their economies, there is a growing recognition that their debt obligations stand in the way of meeting the immediate needs of their people.”

Belize, for example, has experienced firsthand the effects of climate change on their economy on a drastic scale. Belize has foreign debt that has been increasing over the years while undergoing originally minute climate change aspects. For a tourism-reliant



Creative Commons: UNFCCC, 2015

United Nations Climate Change Conference

country like Belize, the pandemic struck them hard economically. According to the New York Times, “Then, after two hurricanes, Eta and Iota, hit neighboring Guatemala, floods swept away farms and roads downstream in Belize. Today, the debt that Belize owes its foreign creditors is equal to 85 percent of its entire national economy.”

To increase constraints, S&P has downgraded the status of Belize’s creditworthiness to SD. According to the Credit Risk Monitor, “An obligor rated ‘SD’ (Selective Default) or ‘D’ has failed to pay one or more of its financial obligations (rated or unrated) when it came due.” With this new label, comes a title of unreliability for wealthy lenders to consider. This ultimately creates added difficulty for a country like Belize to get a loan from a lender.

Mozambique is yet another country majorly struggling with debt even before climate change effects. Mozambique had admitted to its economic struggles in 2016 stating that from lending, they were \$1.2 billion in debt. In early 2019, Mozambique experienced the devastating Idai cyclone, which killed many citizens, destroyed farms, and disturbed transport (leading to less growth in their population). Leaving extreme physical damages as well, the cyclones cost Mozambique \$870 million for repair alone, which wealthy lenders paid to repair. In the same year, Mozambique was \$14.78 billion in debt, a drastic increase just 3 years later.

As this pressing issue grows there is also concern about the vulnerability these

countries will face without the budget for protective resources against climate disasters. This will create a domino effect of increased spending, further drowning countries like Mozambique in debt. In an attempt to balance the effects of increased spending without spiraling into more debt there will likely be a decrease in income.

In all different forms of propositions, prominent lenders seem to be a popular solution to debt relief. The World Bank, the International Monetary Fund, and wealthy countries, are just some of the lenders being discussed. According to the New York Times, “One widely circulated proposal calls on the Group of 20 (the world’s 20 biggest economies, to require lenders to offer relief in exchange for a commitment to use some of the newfound fiscal space for a green and inclusive recovery.”

In response to the Group of 20 proposal, Ella Yadegar '24 comments, “I think it is very important that governments provide as many resources to combat global warming as possible. This proposal is definitely a step in the right direction.”

In addition to economic relief, a key factor in proposing a long-term solution to this issue is addressing both economies and climate change prevention. Although there is no detailed solution as of now, President Biden has expressed a plan that would involve the Paris Agreement, a legally binding international treaty on climate change.

According to the New York Times, “The Biden administration, in an executive order on climate change, said it would use its

voice in international financial institutions, like the World Bank, to align debt relief with the goals of the Paris climate agreement.”

Through the pandemic, there has been increased debt and slow-paced movement in sustainable development which has allowed for global vulnerability to arguably the greatest threat facing our planet: climate change. The attempt to slow the effects of climate change takes not only increased spending but cooperation globally. A step towards global collaboration will take place at The United Nations climate change meeting in November of 2021 where debt relief and spending will be the main topics of debate.



Courtesy of: Siphwe Sibeko/Reuters

Aftermath of the Idai Cyclone in Beira, Mozambique

Global governments consider vaccine passports to help reopen economies

The possibility of vaccine passports give countries and citizens hope for travel and the future of economies but also raise major ethical concerns.

By Everly Isayan '24

Published March 25 on hwspectrum.com

The Vaccine Passport, soon to be widespread globally, gives many countries and citizens alike hope for the future of their economy but also raises both ethical concerns and high risks.

According to The New York Times, Vaccine passports are government issued certificates stating whether one has been vaccinated for COVID-19. The idea backing the creation of these passports is to provide economic and social relief for families around the globe. Its goal, to a certain extent, is to allow people to return to a stage of normalcy.

As reported by The New York Times, Many argue that in theory the vaccine passport will decrease infection rates due to the fact that vaccines will be needed in order to travel, and that it will possibly relieve people and countries who are struggling economically and rely on tourism. Countries such as Spain, Greece and Thailand are a few of many countries to express their interest in the vaccine passports with the common goal of initiating tourism once again. Other countries with lower numbers of vaccina-

tions, such as France, have expressed their doubts because this policy would create a disadvantage for their own citizens.

There are also many risks the vaccine passport will encourage. For example, they may substitute as a justification for more travel around the world during the pandemic. Because this policy is rather new, some practical risks include that the passports themselves can be simply forged. Despite some discussed upsides of this policy, division between the vaccinated and unvaccinated would be undeniable.

A key factor opposing the vaccine passports are the ethical risks. An overwhelming amount of the vaccines are transported to wealthier countries and within those countries, to racial groups with greater privilege.

According to The Center for Disease Control and Prevention, “Among 6,706,697 (51.9%) persons whose race/ethnicity was known, 60.4% were White and 39.6% represented racial and ethnic minorities, including 14.4% categorized as multiple or other race/ethnicity, 11.5% Hispanic/Latino, 6.0% Asian, 5.4% Black, 2.0% AI/AN,

and 0.3% NH/PI”.

By allowing the expansion of vaccine passports to take place, already extremely large social gaps would be enlarged, allowing certain rights to only the vaccinated and restricting those who are not vaccinated.

As stated by Max Fisher of The New York Times, “Special privileges for the vaccinated would, by definition, favor demographics that are inoculated at higher rates. In Western countries, those communities tend to be white and well-off. This evokes an uncomfortable image: professional-class white people disproportionately allowed into shops, baseball games and restaurants, with people of color and members of the working classes disproportionately kept out. If workplaces require proof of vaccination, it could tilt employment as well.”

Those in favor of the vaccine passport distribution believe that a key goal is economic relief, yet many would argue otherwise. While some will manage to attain some version of normal life back, communities that have already been affected most by the pandemic will experience much different circumstances. Some consider traveling a necessity, crucial to the survival of both economies and people.

Through the vaccine passport, the lack of access to a vaccine shot, regardless of circumstance, highlights many restrictive opposing points. Not only is the right to travel a restrictive topic, but also issues that need to be brought to light, like what will these vaccine passports establish in regards to further division.

Entertainment Company, A24, brings in new era for film



Logo courtesy of A24

A24, a relatively new film company, makes fresh and original strides.

By Madison Baffo '24

Published on March 27 hwspectrum.com

In recent years, A24 has successfully paved the way for indie and distinctive films. A24 is an independent distribution and production entertainment company that was founded in 2012. Over the past decade, they have increased their filmography with many famed and well-acclaimed works.

Daniel Katz, David Fenkel, and John Hodges, the founders of A24, have remarkably broken the rules of Hollywood with their productions. These men are not new to the film industry due to past work in the production industry, they broke out to create a company of their own. The three founders resigned from their careers at Oscilloscope, Big Beach and Guggenheim Partners and created this renowned entertainment company.

Their current filmography contains many well-known films and television shows. From horror thrillers to coming to age films, A24 has proven to earn its esteemed reputation.

In 2015, A24 came out with its award-winning film, "Room", starring Brie Larson and Jacob Tremblay who portrays a mother and her son imprisoned in a room for several years until they are able to finally achieve freedom. "Room" won several awards including an Academy Award for Best Actress in a Leading Role, a Golden Globe Award for Best Actress in a Motion Picture Drama, and several more.

Other films done by A24 include Ari Aster's notable horrors, "Hereditary" and "Midsommar", "Ex Machina", "Moonlight" directed by Barry Jenkins, Greta Gerwig's "Ladybird", Jonah Hill's "Mid90s", "The Farewell" by Lulu Wang, and many more. A24 also produces television shows including Zendaya's iconic, "Euphoria" and "Ramy" from Ramy Youssef.

A24's catalog of films all share the common traits of originality and creativity. Many films are known for their unorthodox plot, film style, and more.

Lily Stambouli '24 says, "I think A24 does a brilliant job at displaying, not only brilliant stories and intriguing plot lines, but also beautiful cinematography, as well as an in-depth relationship with the characters, which is difficult to find in many movies nowadays."

Stambouli, an avid viewer of A24 movies, expresses her gratitude for

the sense of freshness these films bring to the screen. It shows that originality is the key to what makes A24 films so innovative.

A24 recently came out with "Minari", directed by Lee Isaac Chung, which has been the talk of the film community. This film is about "a Korean-American family that moves to an Arkansas farm in search of their own American Dream. The family home changes completely with the arrival of their sly, foul-mouthed, but incredibly loving grandmother. Amidst the instability and challenges of this new life in the rugged Ozarks, "Minari" shows the undeniable resilience of family and what really makes a home," according to A24.

Although it has only recently been released in theaters, at the 2020 Sundance festival, the film was awarded the Grand Jury prize and U.S. Dramatic Audience Award. The film also received the Golden Globe award for Best Motion picture. Nine-year-old, Alan S. Kim, who plays one of the leading roles in the movie, won the hearts of those who watched the award show with his adorable and tearful speech.

The film community is ready to see what else A24 has in store especially with their upcoming films "Zola", "The Green Knight", "False Positive", and "Pleasure".

Brandi Levy and the limit of the First Amendment in schools

The limit of the First Amendment in schools is once again being tested with Brandy Levi's Supreme Court Case.

By **Averie Perrin '24**

The limit of the First Amendment in schools is once again being tested with Brandy Levi's Supreme Court case. Levy, who was a 14-year old first year at Pennsylvania's Mahanoy Highschool in 2017, posted an angry selfie after being rejected from the varsity cheer team. In the photo, she flipped off the screen, and accompanied the photo with a caption that said, "F*** school F*** softball F*** cheer F*** everything" (filtered). The photo made its way to the coach of the cheer team who later noted that some students were "visibly upset" by the "inappropriate" posts. Levy was suspended from the school's cheerleading team for a whole year because of these remarks.

When posting this selfie on Snapchat, it's important to note Levy was off-campus during a non-school day on the weekend. The administration disciplined Levy for her obscenities and her parents contested this but lost. After this loss, the Pennsylvania American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) stepped in to represent Levy in federal court where the federal appeals court ruled in favor of Levy.

U.S. Court of Appeals Third Circuit Judge Ann Krause wrote her ruling, saying, "new communicative technologies open new territories where regulators might seek to suppress the speech they

consider inappropriate, uncouth, or provocative." The school district then appealed to the United States Supreme Court to which the court granted the district's motion to hear the case.

In 1969, the Supreme Court famously ruled in *Mary Beth Tinker vs. Des Moines Independent School District* that students do not "shed their constitutional rights to freedom of speech or expression

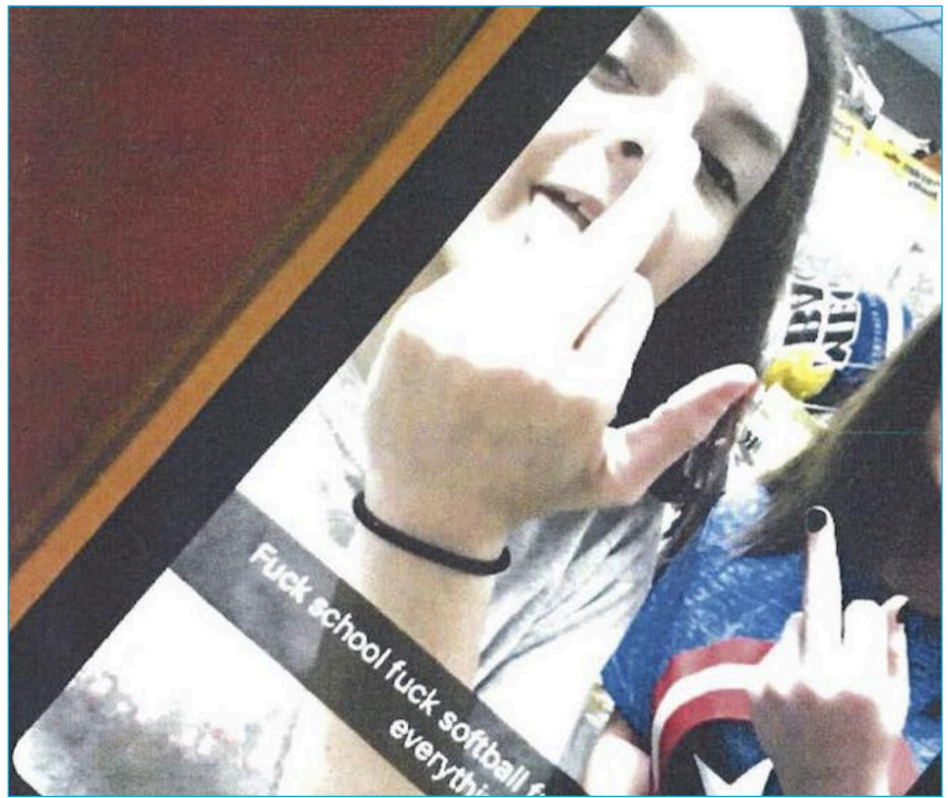


Image Credit: American Civil Liberties Union

Brandy Levy raising her middle finger to the screen in the Snapchat selfie that got her suspended from the school cheerleading team.

at the schoolhouse gate" of their public schools, as these rulings do not fully apply to private school students. This case was about students who decided to wear black armbands to school in order to peacefully protest the Vietnam War. When the school banned the wearing of these armbands, Tinker and other students sought legal action, which was eventually taken to the Supreme Court.

This famous case is an important ruling when looking at Levy's case as well, because they both involve the First Amendment. Snapchat, along with many other social media, did not exist in 1969, so it is difficult to gauge the extent of the First Amendment in Levy's case.

Grace Coleman '24 shared her opinion, saying, "I think that-- I don't know... defamation of schools and school officials like coaches should be censored because at some point, the school loses respect and authority."

"If they rule in favor of the school district that will basically mean no one at public schools can say bad things about their schools or teachers. To me it seems like an unfair restriction of freedom of speech; I hope Levy wins," said Hunter Bridgett '24.

Supreme Court Justice Stephen Breyer asked "she used swear words -- un-

attractive swear words -- off campus. But did that cause a material and substantial disruption? If using those words off campus were the issue, my goodness, every school in the country would be doing nothing but punishing."

Brett Kavanaugh, another Supreme Court Justice, responded to the coaches' reactions agreeing their responses were a "bit of an overreaction."

When Levy joined the Cheer team, according to the school, she did agree to refrain from using "foul language and inappropriate gestures" as well as agreeing to not post "any negative information regarding cheerleading, cheerleaders, or coaches" on the internet or on online social media platforms, which would include Snapchat. The school's cheer coaches suspended her on the basis of these agreements, which she had violated.

Levy, now 18 years old and studying accounting at Bloomsburg University of Pennsylvania, said to the Philadelphia Inquirer, "This is how kids today express themselves and they should be able to do that without worrying about being punished at school."

The case is currently being argued in the Supreme Court and a ruling is expected by June of this year. The ACLU's

national director David Cole argued to the court April 28:

“Outside school [students] should have the same free speech rights that everyone else has. If the school prevails here, young people will have nowhere they can speak freely without fear that a school official will punish them.”

Once reviewing the case, an anonymous HW student said, “I guess I can see where the school is coming from, but it seems like schools in general would be given and would have too much power to regulate speech if the court ruled in favor of the school. I’m assuming that would even mean you could not bad-mouth your school from your home, which seems kind of insane; I think everyone does that now.”

When asked about their opinions on the case, three additional students have announced their opinions on the case, all wishing Levy wins because a ban on talking bad about your school would affect everyone. In the words of one of the students “everybody currently talks bad about their schools, so this would change a lot.”

As opinions on Levy’s case clearly vary, it’s no surprise the case is now being tried at the Supreme Court. This historical decision could really affect students’ free speech in school environments for years to come.

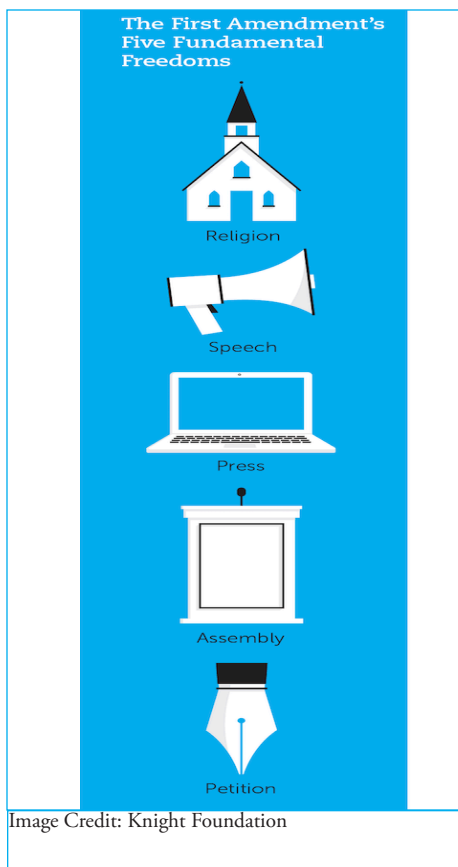


Image Credit: Knight Foundation

How does Amanda Gorman’s poetry affect the community of Harvard-Westlake?

Learn more about what students think about Amanda Gorman’s inspiring poetry.

By Averie Perrin ’24

Published on February 26 on hwspectrum.com

One of the most captivating parts of President Joe Biden’s inauguration was the 22-year-old girl who stood atop the United States capitol like Robert Frost and Maya Angelou famously did before her and recited her own poem: “The Hill We Climb.”

Amanda Gorman is freshly graduated from Harvard University with a bachelor’s degree in sociology and is a National Youth Poet Laureate, who was born and raised in Los Angeles. Gorman was first offered a spot speaking at the inauguration because First Lady Jill Biden admired her work and suggested her as a speaker to the inauguration committee. She began writing her poem on January 6, 2021, the day of the chaotic riot at the US capitol. Gorman wanted to capture the idea of using her “words to envision a way in which our country [could] still come together and [could] still heal,” Gorman told The New York Times.

Gorman’s inauguration poem is largely about unifying our country and healing our past wounds. About Gorman’s message in “The Hill We Climb,” Harvard-Westlake (HW) English teacher Juliet Seuss said,

“I think anytime that someone has a message of unity and progress that’s a good thing. I was very moved by her poem.”

Now signed to IMG Models, with a performance in the 2021 Super Bowl and a coveted spot on the cover of Time Magazine, Gorman has become a national phenomenon and is very popular among young people. She even announced that she’d like to run for president in the 2036 election.

“The Hill We Climb” sparked an interest among many communities “It’s not often as an English teacher that you’re presented the opportunity to talk about poetry that

is being read, understood and heard at a national level,” Seuss said. “Poetry usually doesn’t make those kinds of headlines. It was so awesome to have that opportunity to be able to share that poetry with the students of Harvard-Westlake and to see the responses to it, getting emails about how excited people were.”

Grace Coleman ’24 is an example of Gorman’s popularity among young people. “I feel like Amanda Gorman’s poetry is very powerful and thought provoking, and having such an incredible writer and speaker at the inauguration really made the day feel special,” Coleman said. “I think her works have so much meaning and are incredibly inspiring to everyone.”

There are ways we can apply the message Gorman has to the nation in our school community. Sasha Lee ’24 talked about the things we can do in relation to Gorman’s goals.

“I feel that it is important to appreciate Gorman’s message but I think it is even more important that we take inspiration from them at Harvard-Westlake,” Lee said. “Like Gorman said, there is work to be done. For example, taking a step further than land acknowledgments and including more detailed histories of indigenous people in order to help our community become more culturally empathetic.”

Apart from being a truly inspiring poet, Gorman’s words should be taken into account throughout the country, especially at HW. Gorman’s last lines of “The Hill We Climb” remind us of this, “There is always light / if only we’re brave enough to see it / if only we’re brave enough to be it.”

Georgia G.O.P. passes major law limiting voting access across the state

Georgia introduces a new law to limit voting access primarily for its large Black population.

By **Kriste An '24**

Published on April 29 on hwspectrum.com

Republicans in Georgia passed a major law to restrict voting access across the state, introducing more stringent voter identification requirements for absentee ballots, limiting drop boxes and increasing the Legislature's power over elections. These reforms make Georgia the first state to alter its election system since the 2020 presidential election.

The bill introduces an array of new restrictions, including limiting drop boxes, taking power from the Secretary of State, imposing new oversight of county election boards, restricting who can vote with provisional ballots and criminalizing the act of offering food or water to voters in lines. The law also requires runoff elections to be held four weeks after the initial vote, in lieu of the current nine weeks.

The law passed the Georgia House on a 100-to-75 vote, and was later approved by the Senate on a 34-to-20 vote, according to the Washington Post. The bill was finalized with the signature of Governor Brian Kemp, another Republican.

"We quickly began working with the House and Senate on further reforms to make it easier to vote and harder to cheat," Kemp said in an interview with the New York Times. "The bill I signed into law does just that."

Democrats have criticized these reforms, however, arguing that they make voting harder for the state's large Black population, which played a key role in President Biden's

victory as well as the success of Senators Raphael Warnock and John Ossoff in January.

The reforms directly target Black neighborhoods in Georgia's cities where long voting lines are common. In 2018, citizens in predominantly Black neighborhoods had to wait hours to cast their votes, and many were removed from the voting rolls prior to the elections, according to the New York Times. The bill also increases the Legislature's power over elections, which may interfere with voting in predominantly Democratic and Black counties like Fulton and Gwinnett.

"Rather than grappling with whether their ideology is causing them to fail, they are instead relying on what has worked in the past," Stacey Abrams, voting rights activist and former minority leader, told the New York Times. "Instead of winning new voters, you rig the system against their participation, and you steal the right to vote."

President Biden also expressed his distaste for Georgia's reforms. "Instead of celebrating the rights of all Georgians to vote or winning campaigns on the merits of their ideas, Republicans in the state instead rushed through an un-American law to deny people the right to vote," Biden said, according to USA Today. "This law, like so many others being pursued by Republicans in statehouses across the country is a blatant attack on the Constitution and good conscience."

Harvard-Westlake (HW) student, Davis Marks '24, expressed his view on the bill.

"I'm all for legitimate ways of ensuring

all votes are authentic, but this law is purely partisan voter restriction," Marks said. "Regardless of political affiliation, restricting voters is upsetting, and the new policies created by this law (i.e. less time to request absentee ballots, limiting drop boxes, banning organizations from offering water and food to voters)... are just plain wrong. Not only is it shameful and devastating to our democracy, but it also sets a dangerous precedent for lawmakers choosing the voters, not the voters choosing the lawmakers. American and its government are shaped by its citizens, not the other way around."



Photo Credit: Pennsylvania Capital-Star

Community advocates and labor unions rally on the steps of the Supreme Court to protect their votes.

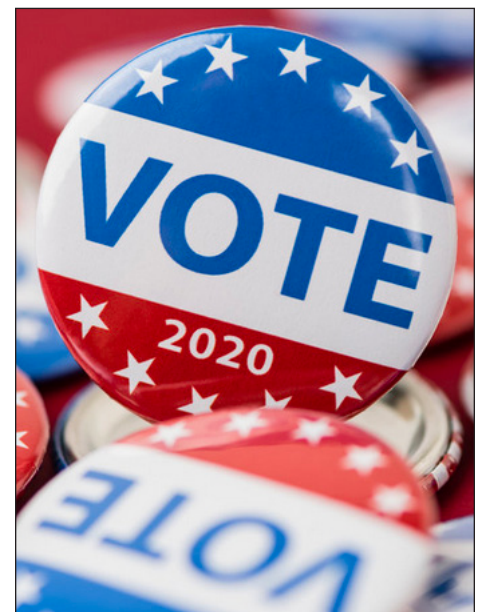


Photo Credit: KFOXTV

Biden increases annual refugee cap to 62,500, doubling back on earlier decision

Despite an earlier choice to keep the Trump-era limit of 15,000, Biden is paving the way for many more refugee arrivals—though it will not be easy.

By Owen Huang '24

After facing heightened criticism coming from fellow Democrats and many civil rights advocates, United States President Joe Biden will dramatically raise the nation's refugee cap for the current fiscal year to 62,500.

In doing so, the country is taking a stark jump up from the previous limit of 15,000 refugees annually, which was created by former President Donald Trump. Though this was the maximum number, actual resettlement was often lower. For the first half of the 2021 fiscal year, only 2,000 refugees were admitted to the country, on track to finish nowhere near the potential 15,000.

The Trump-era level was a historic lowering of what had already been limited refugee acceptance rates, as the United States trended away from its role as a leader. During that time, neighboring countries accepted more refugees than ever before, and other regions also boosted admission rates. Much of Biden's initial policy centers on a goal of restoring the United States' global standing and to fill more traditional roles.

Biden's move is a complete about-face from his previous stance. Prior to the first announcement on April 3, he had maintained that the nation would keep the 15,000 number for at least the immediate future. But to make the stance even murkier, in a February 4th public address Biden claimed his administration would be able to raise the cap to 125,000 people during his first year in office.

Then, on April 17, Biden echoed a theme common during his many press conferences in which he said “we couldn't do two things at once,” referring to addressing the refugee crisis while attempting to meet the needs of those on the southern border.

Despite the strong increase in the potential for refugee resettlement in the United

the United States this year, the administration cautioned that the limit would be hard to reach the first time around by this fall. Biden said in an official release that a shortcoming would be “the sad truth,” In addition to the need for a rapid shift in response policy, the COVID-19 pandemic has severely hindered, and at times completely shuttered international travel.

According to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), there are currently 26 million refugees worldwide, the vast majority of which are unfit to return to their home countries, creating a need for safe places worldwide. Two-fifths are children, and more than two-thirds are from just five countries, with Syria and Venezuela sending the most. However, three-quarters of refugees only settle in neighboring countries, often themselves overcrowded and without adequate resources.

The new, potential 62,500 refugee admissions for the United States are broken down by region the refugees hail from. Sending maximums are 22,000 for Africa; 6,000 for East Asia; 4,000 for Europe and Central Asia combined; 5,000 for Latin America and the Caribbean; 13,000 for the Middle East and South Asia; and 12,500 “reserve” spots to be used as necessary.

With the new goal set to permit heightened refugee travel to the United States,

The initial pushback against Biden's original verdict on the refugee cap came almost immediately. Individual lawmakers and larger groups alike took offense with the decision viewed as something both necessary and simple to change.

With the recent announcement, the former critics have turned back with the decision, applauding the administration for what Krish O'Mara Vignarajah, president of Lutheran Immigration and Ref-



Photo By The Council on Foreign Relations
Kenya's Kakuma Refugee Camp holds thousands of African refugees.

ugee Service, said in a statement “reflects our core values as a welcoming nation, and finally aligns public policy with the unprecedented global need of millions forced from their home by violence, war and persecution.”

For 2022, Biden has announced it is his goal and expectation to return to the original foresight of 125,000 refugees to enter the nation annually. He views this as the ultimate marker for the United States to embrace and improve its service of the global community. Yet the administration's White House official website states “that goal will still be hard to hit,” adding “we might not make it the first year.”

The new refugee policy joins a larger theme of an overall vast departure by the Biden administration from previous, especially Trump-era guidelines. Regardless of the administration, a recent trend has seen refugee caps ebb and flow under political policy rather than actual refugee demand. Prior to Trump, President Barack Obama had admitted up to 110,000 annually by the time he left office.

And, strategically, Trump's low cap not only temporarily reduced admissions, but also served to weaken American resettlement infrastructure making it more ambitious and making goals like Biden's hard to reach. Coupled with that, the pandemic—and it's potentially long-lasting specter—is certainly straining logistical and practical operations. International travel is already ill-advised by many health organizations, and refugee-sending countries overwhelmingly do not have the resources to fight the coronavirus.

The official refugees entering the United States under Trump saw the greatest arrivals from the Democratic Republic of the Congo, with nearly 9,000 per year, followed by Myanmar, Ukraine, and Bhutan. The United States is not currently a leader in accepting refugees from the countries sending the most. These people from the

ple from the Middle East have generally relocated to neighboring nations and many have fled to Europe. In the case of Venezuela, the vast majority have entered fellow Latin American nations, with two million to Colombia alone.

In the United States, the top refugee-receiving states are Texas, which welcomed shy of 2,000 annually, followed by Washington, Ohio, California, and New York. The UNHCR determines who qualifies as refugees and in many cases their future resettlements. Potential host countries are referred to as viable resettlement options, but this organ does not have complete jurisdiction. What is more, it takes on average almost two years for the entire screening, resettlement vetting, and final relocation process to occur before refugees might be welcomed to a new, safer country.



A refugee caravan originating in Honduras makes its way through Mexico to the United States.

United States embraces closer ties with Taiwan

By Owen Huang '24

Published April on 29 on hwspectrum.com

The American “robust unofficial relationship” with Taiwan, as described by the American Department of State, has always been a complicated struggle between support for the semi-autonomous island democracy and hesitancy to disregard the increasingly powerful mainland Chinese government. This tightrope-balancing stance is called “strategic ambiguity” by American diplomats. Taiwan became the permanent housing place for Chinese Nationals who fought the incoming communist regime and fled upon the installation of a new government.

With them, they brought a desire for democracy that was recognized on a worldwide scale. China now claims Taiwan to be its 23rd province, but the island declares its independence. The island has extremely limited recognition on an international scale. As the two entities have gone their separate ways, both have developed economically.

China is now home to the world's largest population and second-largest economy. With the trade war between China and the United States, the only economy larger than it, relations are increasingly hostile as the United States presses China on its human rights record in places like Hong Kong and Xinjiang. In a rare simi-

larity, both the former Trump and current Biden administrations have prioritized the competition with China, extensively criticizing the nation and calling its actions in Xinjiang “genocide,” a word saved for only a few of the most horrendous campaigns in history, according to the Washington Post.

Most recently, Biden announced plans to sell his first arms to Taiwan, who has made a desire for long-range missiles clear. Trump sold billions of dollars worth of weapons during his presidency, in addition to sending cabinet officials to Taiwan to meet with counterparts, a first in recognizing sovereignty. As the United States has recently developed even stronger ties, China is taking close watch over what it considers its own and hinted at threats towards possible advances on the island.

Officials on both sides of the Pacific say that Taiwan could be the biggest contributor to future US-China animosity. In the United States, many experts want a clear declaration of Taiwan's defense.

In “Foreign Affairs” magazine, president of the Council on Foreign Relations Richard N. Haass wrote “The time has come for the United States to introduce a policy of strategic clarity: one that makes explicit that the United States would respond to any Chinese use of force against Taiwan.”

Politicians on both sides of the aisle

have demonstrated clear support for this policy that they say is a more hawkish, but necessary endeavor. There is great trade potential for both countries, as Taiwan is the United States' ninth-largest trading partner, and in turn is the second-largest partner for the island.

Taiwan leads the world in semiconductor production, providing essential microchips for the world's technological consumption. Improving trade ties would benefit both nations, but the main question for the United States remains how far to go to avoid provoking an increasingly strong China.

With the latest actions, both sides have explicitly outlined their contingency plans for coming to Taiwan's defense should the other side advance. Yet Taiwan has made it clear the United States is a valuable ally, and China has no right to assert authority.

Seven Minutes of Terror: The Landing of Perseverance on Mars

Busting the rover through the Martian atmosphere

By William Liu '25

Published on March 25 on hwspectrum.com

NASA's rover, named Perseverance, touched down on the surface of Mars Feb. 18, a remarkable feat that wowed more than 40 million people across the globe and moved mankind one step closer towards the colonization of outer space. The conclusion of a seven-month journey to the Red Planet, Perseverance finally busted through the Martian atmosphere and slowed to a safe descent, ready to begin seeking the soil for past life.

The rover was engineered and manufactured at the Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL) in Pasadena, Calif. Mark Rober, a Youtube personality and science enthusiast has called the NASA site "the center of the universe" for its history in building the majority of the orbiters, probes, and spacecraft sent out beyond Earth's orbit. Amazingly, JPL was able to pull the entire descent stage autonomously, having the rover self-navigate towards its designated landing site, slowing down from just under 25000 miles per hour to a gentle touchdown.

Perseverance touched down at what Martian geologists have called Jezero Crater, the bottom of an ancient lake once filled with water. Scientists have always pursued the question of whether or not Mars was occupied with ancient life. Using radar and probes in the Martian orbit, humans have identified that perhaps the chosen landing site may have hosted a variety of species, the most likely being microbial life. Not only do the experiments conducted there improve our understanding of our planet and origins, but also gives us a gateway into what space colonization may look like moving into the future.

According to the official NASA website, Perseverance is the most complex thing engineers have built and sent to another

planet, including several gadgets we've used on previous missions to Mars as well as some new ones in testing. The SUV-sized rover is almost identical to NASA's older rover Curiosity, which landed in 2012 and is still in operation today.

Perseverance includes many of the powerful features Curiosity hoisted, including laser imaging, X-ray capabilities, radar, and a nuclear-powered source of energy (the rover uses the heat from plutonium radioactive decay to convert into electricity.) Surprisingly, the battery will last 14 years, enough to keep the rover moving however long it may want to be in operation.

But on top of the general gadgets and chassis that it shared with its older brother, Perseverance also comes with an entirely new set of instruments, both modernized and equipped to meet the newer scientific objectives we have set. The rover is equipped with a new hollow drill that can both study and cache samples for later collection and recovery. Unlike Curiosity, which simply took rock dust and studied it aboard, Perseverance will load the samples into 43 small containers that a future mission may retrieve, launch, and land back on Earth. NASA claims that the process will take upwards of a decade, but sometimes it's plausible to wonder whether or not humans will have set foot on the red planet by then.

Another incredible feature loaded on the rover is a miniature helicopter drone that is attached to its underbelly. NASA has released animations that depict it

unveiled from under the rover, and flying upwards, taking pictures of Perseverance, as Perseverance takes pictures of it. The drone, named Ingenuity, will be the first powered flight ever conducted on another planet, again, a remarkable feat.

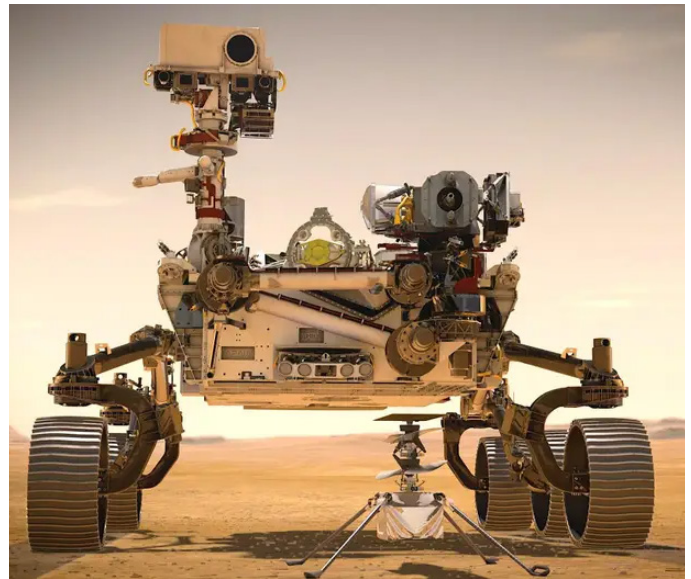
An important new gadget is Perseverance's MOXIE instrument-essentially a mechanical plant that converts Martian CO₂ into oxygen. And since future explorers landing on Mars will need to breathe and use rocket fuel, an abundance of oxygen is greatly needed.

According to NASA, if MOXIE does in fact prove to be highly effective, we'll be able to take advantage of the 96% carbon dioxide atmosphere on Mars, creating a habitable space and supplying upwards of 75% of the propellant needed for exploration.

After more than a decade, the entire rover, equipped with all of its science instruments and weighing 2260 lbs, successfully touched down on the surface of Mars, but the key events leading up to the landing were in the past year or so.

The rover and landing equipment were launched on July 30, 2020 aboard one of the most powerful rockets, the Atlas 5. After several stage separations that boosted the rocket further into orbit, it began the cruise stage. Departing from the rocket at about 24,600 miles per hour, the spacecraft begins a seven month journey towards the red planet.

Using mathematical and astronomical studies accompanied with several trajectory



NASA's rover Perseverance posing with helicopter "Ingenuity" in an animated model of the rover.

Source: NASA

correction maneuvers, the spacecraft will be able to successfully navigate towards the surface of Mars. It is also important to note that all opportunities to adjust the spacecraft's path are meant to perform an atmospheric entry as close to Jezero Crater as possible.

The most challenging part to master, however, lies in slowing the spacecraft down enough so that it doesn't come crashing down onto the red planet like a crater. This is informally known as the "seven minutes of terror", the time between entry of the atmosphere and touchdown on the surface. When the spacecraft first comes in contact with the upper atmosphere, it is exposed to 4000 degrees Fahrenheit, which is why it is equipped with a heat shield that is able to withstand the temperatures caused by such friction. Simultaneously, thrusters aboard the sides of the spacecraft fire to adjust best-fit trajectories that will guide Perseverance towards Jezero Crater. And although the heat shield may have just had to withstand extreme temperatures, the speed of the rover reduces almost 99%.

Now four minutes in, the supersonic parachute gets deployed, reducing the rover to just about 200-300 mph. The heat shield is separated from the spacecraft, allowing cameras on the bottom of the rover to capture the rover's descent as well as perform radar calculations to perfect its trajectory further. Hitting a complete science laboratory twice the speed of a baseball would still destroy it completely, so the backshell of the spacecraft separates, revealing the most sophisticated stage of the descent- the sky crane.

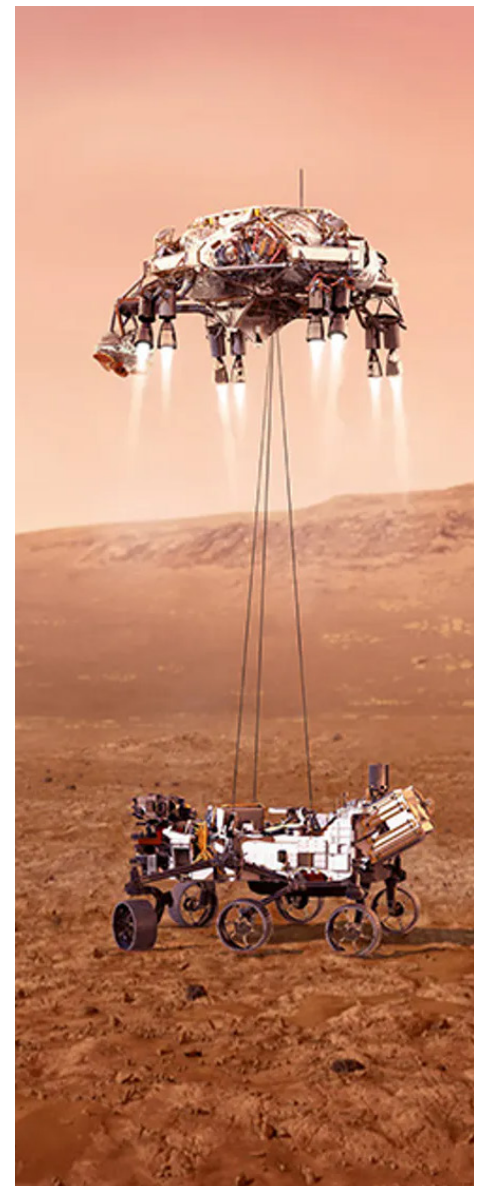
The crane includes eight powered

rockets that hold the spacecraft afloat while carefully slowing it, as well as creating a terrain relative navigation solution, diverting the spacecraft to the best-suited area for a touchdown. And since it would be impossible to land the rover in this configuration without kicking up loads upon loads of Martian dust onto the instruments and perhaps generating a man-made crater, we would have to lower it manually while keeping the sky crane afloat.

In the last few seconds, the rover gets detached from the sky crane and lowered with three 21-foot strong ropes. You may hear in the live stream replay of mission control during the descent, "Tango Delta", a phrase indicating that the rover has made contact with Martian soil. Soon after, we confirm touchdown and the sky crane gets separated, flying off as far away as possible, eventually crashing and running out of fuel.

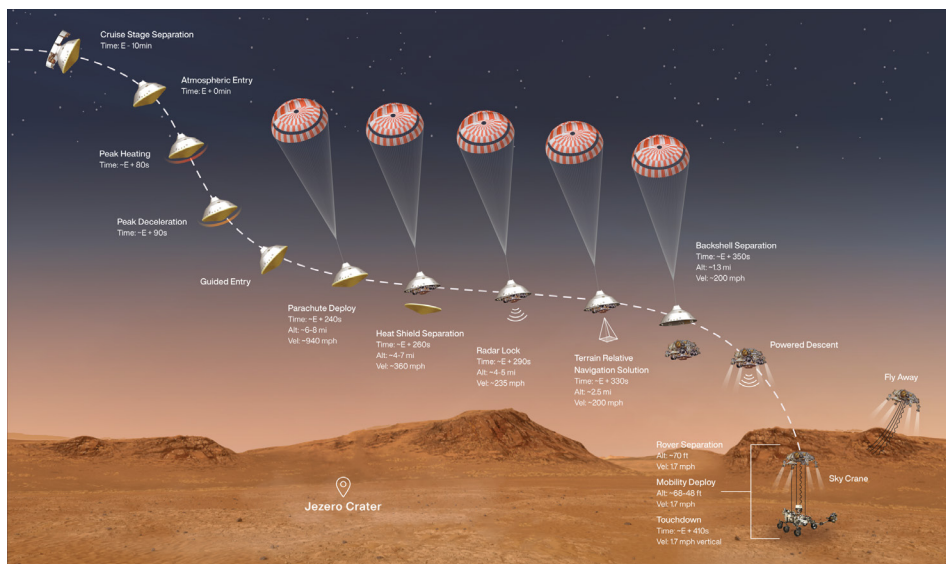
NASA has an animation that depicts the process in detail, but they have recently released brand-new jaw-dropping footage that captures the descent in high definition, all from the parachute deploy to the final sky crane maneuver. Perseverance has also sent us a recording of a Martian breeze recorded by its two onboard microphones. The added filming and recording capabilities will allow the general community to experience outer space like never before.

Elliott Parivar, a middle school science teacher, happened to have free periods during the day of the landing. He described the feeling when the rover touched down as "jubilant, excited, proud, and a moment in history never to be forgotten." Dr. Parivar also attributes the most exciting part of the process to the sky-crane stages, as never



NASA's rover Perseverance in its final touchdown stage depicted in an animation.

Source: NASA



A graphic from NASA depicting the landing events in sequence.

Source: NASA

before has NASA been able to land with such precision. He describes, "In the past, they had dropped other rovers off, encased by inflatable balloons, tumbling and rolling hundreds of feet, before coming to a stop. It takes a great deal of "engineering" to accomplish what they had done so successfully. Science rules."

Perhaps the most interesting part of the landing is that what happened on Mars takes about twelve minutes to successfully translate into a signal here on Earth, based on the speed of light. So while NASA engineers hold their breath in suspense to hear whether Perseverance has crashed or safely landed, the rover has already met its fate 144 million miles away. Stay tuned with NASA to hear more about the rover's discoveries.

The James Webb Space Telescope

By Danny Liu '24

Published on March 25 on hwspectrum.com



The James Webb Space Telescope's mirror by Britannica ImageQuest

On February 18, NASA landed its fifth rover on Mars, completing its seven-month long journey. The landing made headlines around the world as it marked another great success for humanity's journey through space. But another great scientific achievement will be happening this year. The James Webb Space Telescope, or JWST, will be launching on October 31.

Haven't heard of this telescope? The JWST is a deep space telescope built by the company Northrup Grumman which plans on having it succeed the Hubble Telescope.

The Hubble launched in 1990 making it thirty one years old this year. Although still functional, the telescope has served its purpose in capturing beautiful images of the cosmos. With new discoveries revolving around space (no pun intended), a new telescope is required, especially concerning black holes and their natures. Although it may seem easy to capture images of black holes, it proves a difficult task for scientists. First comes the problems of technology.

The Hubble's capabilities in capturing images extend not far beyond the visible spectrum. In fact, it is only capable of capturing images slightly into the range of the infrared. But why is infrared so important?

Current telescopes have the power to see many millions of light years into space, but looking through them is not a simple stroll in the cosmic park. Our galaxy, the Milky Way, is classified as a galaxy with low surface brightness. This means that, viewed from Earth, the galaxy is darker than the ambient light from our planet, making it hard to see from Earth. Long story short, the Earth, a lot of the time, is too bright for us to see our galaxy.

In comes the infrared spectrum. Harnessing infrared light coming from all directions in the cosmos, we can bypass the issue of ambient light flooding the telescopes. We are also able to see through the dust and gas clouds that clog and blur up much of space.

The JWST boasts a newer more advanced telescope able to capture images much farther into the infrared spectrum bringing the darkest shadows of our universe into the light. With its incredible magnification power, we will be able to see further into space than ever before. The implications of this are huge, as the further you can see into space, the farther back you can see into time. Light reaching us from a star one billion light years away, picked up by our telescopes, creates an image of the star one billion years ago. The JWST will be able to see closer to the origins of the universe, allowing us to study it with much more precision.

This new telescope scheduled to launch this year will explore beyond distant planets, further our knowledge of the universe, and most importantly, find our role inside it.

A Collage of the Worlds Most Interesting Writing Scripts

Jackson Tanner 24'

ΔΥΩ CḲΠΕΤḲΒΔΛ'. 20ΤΑΝ
ΤΟΤΕ CΕΝΔCΟΥῶ ΤΗΝΕ Δ'

Javanese Script (Right)

Coptic Script (Left)

ᲀᲚᲐᲛ ᲀᲚᲐᲛ ᲀᲚᲐᲛ ᲀᲚᲐᲛ ᲀᲚᲐᲛ ᲀᲚᲐᲛ
ᲀᲚᲐᲛ ᲀᲚᲐᲛ ᲀᲚᲐᲛ ᲀᲚᲐᲛ ᲀᲚᲐᲛ ᲀᲚᲐᲛ

ᲀᲚᲐᲛ ᲀᲚᲐᲛ ᲀᲚᲐᲛ ᲀᲚᲐᲛ ᲀᲚᲐᲛ
ᲀᲚᲐᲛ ᲀᲚᲐᲛ ᲀᲚᲐᲛ ᲀᲚᲐᲛ ᲀᲚᲐᲛ

Armenian (Right)

Syriac Script (Left)

ܡܢ ܕܢܚܢܐ ܕܢܚܢܐ ܕܢܚܢܐ ܕܢܚܢܐ
ܡܢ ܕܢܚܢܐ ܕܢܚܢܐ ܕܢܚܢܐ ܕܢܚܢܐ

ᲀᲚᲐᲛ ᲀᲚᲐᲛ ᲀᲚᲐᲛ ᲀᲚᲐᲛ ᲀᲚᲐᲛ
ᲀᲚᲐᲛ ᲀᲚᲐᲛ ᲀᲚᲐᲛ ᲀᲚᲐᲛ ᲀᲚᲐᲛ

Georgian Script (Right)

Mandaic Script (Left)

ᲀᲚᲐᲛ ᲀᲚᲐᲛ ᲀᲚᲐᲛ ᲀᲚᲐᲛ ᲀᲚᲐᲛ ᲀᲚᲐᲛ ᲀᲚᲐᲛ ᲀᲚᲐᲛ ᲀᲚᲐᲛ ᲀᲚᲐᲛ
ᲀᲚᲐᲛ ᲀᲚᲐᲛ ᲀᲚᲐᲛ ᲀᲚᲐᲛ ᲀᲚᲐᲛ ᲀᲚᲐᲛ ᲀᲚᲐᲛ ᲀᲚᲐᲛ ᲀᲚᲐᲛ ᲀᲚᲐᲛ

ᲀᲚᲐᲛ ᲀᲚᲐᲛ ᲀᲚᲐᲛ ᲀᲚᲐᲛ ᲀᲚᲐᲛ ᲀᲚᲐᲛ ᲀᲚᲐᲛ ᲀᲚᲐᲛ ᲀᲚᲐᲛ ᲀᲚᲐᲛ

Burmese Script (Below)

Tibetan Script (Left)

ᲀᲚᲐᲛ ᲀᲚᲐᲛ ᲀᲚᲐᲛ ᲀᲚᲐᲛ ᲀᲚᲐᲛ ᲀᲚᲐᲛ ᲀᲚᲐᲛ ᲀᲚᲐᲛ ᲀᲚᲐᲛ ᲀᲚᲐᲛ

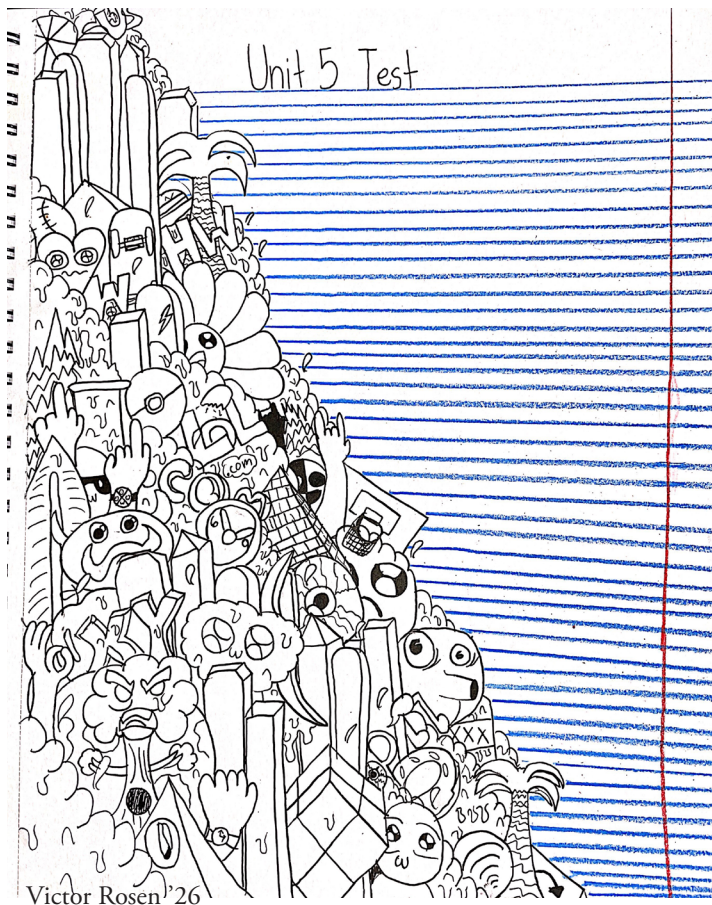
All images
credit
to omniglot.
com

ᲀᲚᲐᲛ ᲀᲚᲐᲛ ᲀᲚᲐᲛ ᲀᲚᲐᲛ ᲀᲚᲐᲛ ᲀᲚᲐᲛ ᲀᲚᲐᲛ ᲀᲚᲐᲛ ᲀᲚᲐᲛ ᲀᲚᲐᲛ
ᲀᲚᲐᲛ ᲀᲚᲐᲛ ᲀᲚᲐᲛ ᲀᲚᲐᲛ ᲀᲚᲐᲛ ᲀᲚᲐᲛ ᲀᲚᲐᲛ ᲀᲚᲐᲛ ᲀᲚᲐᲛ ᲀᲚᲐᲛ

Old Mongolian Script
(Above)

Ancient Berber Script (Right)

ART GALLERY

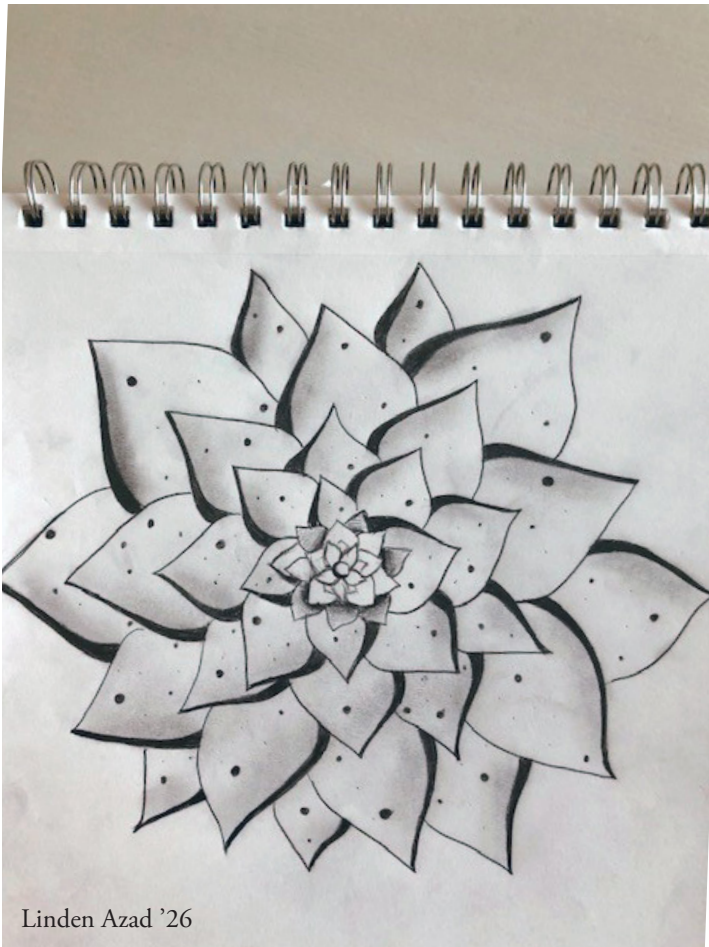




Avery Azad '24



Avery Azad '24



Linden Azad '26



Charlotte Phelan '26



SPECTRUM