By Jordan Murray

He yelled that he could not breathe, but the officers kept applying pressure. It had been only 17 minutes since the police had arrived and George Floyd was already dead. These types of deaths are not new. On May 25, Floyd was murdered by a Minneapolis police officer. A cashier called the police, claiming that Floyd attempted to use a counterfeit $20 bill to purchase cigarettes. Floyd was pinned to the ground with an officer’s knee pressed on his neck. Earlier, on Feb. 23, Ahmaud Arbery, an unarmed black man, was killed in Glynn County, Ga. There had been robberies in the neighborhood and two men saw him jogging. They accused him of being the culprit, chased him and shot him dead. For months, no arrests were made. Two men saw him jogging.

Floyd’s murder, hundreds of thousands have protested across America, fighting to end police brutality. The protesters include black people, other people of color and white people who are fighting for and standing with the Black Lives Matter movement. There has also been an overwhelming outpouring of support on Instagram, from celebrities and other active users. The support is incredible, but the violence, looting and rioting have created criticism from people who do not try to understand why. I want to see the record straight.

Most of the protests that turn violent do so because of police officers who are using tear gas and rubber bullets on peaceful protesters. Also, many of the illegal acts are committed by white supremacists who want to discredit the movement, or by members of Antifa who want to incite chaos, according to The New York Times. They know that this will take away from the cause and that the blame will fall on the BLM protesters. In many cases, protesters have put up barriers in front of businesses to ensure that the people who create chaos are not taking advantage of the protests for personal gain.

The motivation for the riots is collective anger, sadness and loss. Black people are tired of pleas and protests failing to create change. I am tired. I am tired of lives being lost, of people disregarding the movement of reading the news and seeing that another unarmed black man has been killed or that the police have been called unfairly and that another black person who did nothing wrong, I am tired of being afraid. We have the right to express our anger. If you are not black, there is no way you can truly understand what this feels like. So it is unfair for you to tell us how we should react.

The media is also little help. Attention has shifted to the fact that a Target or Nike store have been destroyed and feel for low-income people who work in these large chain stores. We are not seeing much coverage of the shortages of content addressing the material loss of businesses to ensure that the people who create chaos are not taking advantage of the protests for personal gain.

For the first time since 1992, mass protests followed by riots broke out across Los Angeles. Beginning May 29, the demonstrations were sparked by another instance of sickening police brutality that reenergized the movement against institutional racism. Here, one of our senior editors shares her firsthand experiences and perspective in an editorial.

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Brookshire

to become

ew dean

By Ethan Lachman

Director of Admission at Brandeis University Sara Brookshore will replace soon-to-be Head of Upper School Beth Slattery as an Upper School Dean next year. Brookshore graduated from Emerson College with her Bachelor's Degree in Science in Marketing Communication, and later attended Lesley University where she received her master's degree in School Counseling and Guidance Services. Returning to her alma mater, Brookshore served as the Director of Admission at Emerson College prior to her current position, and also serves as an Elected Board Director at the National Association for College Admission Counseling (NACAC). In her email, Slattery said that as an addition to the dean team, Brookshore will not only be valued for her experience in guiding students through the college admissions process, but also for her upstanding personality.

"More than her professional credentials, however, [Brookshore] impressed all of us with her personal qualities of kindness, empathy and humor," Slattery said. "I have had the good fortune of knowing Sara for over ten years and she was one of the first people whom I approached to consider applying for the Upper School Dean job. I feel so grateful to have the opportunity to work more closely with her and I am comforted by the fact that as I transition to my new role, I know all of you will be in amazing hands."

"It is a wonderful opportunity for us to be able to include upper school grandparents and special friends for this event because in the past we've only done it at the Middle School because of the geography of the campus," Schlom said. "So we're really excited to be able to include grandparents and special friends who may be of kids who started at the Upper School and stay in touch with those who have visited the middle school campus."

Schlom said she began thinking about an online Grandparents and Special Friends Day the week before spring break. Alongside Web Manager Lillian Contreras, who designed the website, Head of Communications Ari Engelberg '89, Assistant Director of Communications Shauna Altieri and the rest of the Advancement Office, she worked for over a month to create the experience. Schlom said she is proud that the school found a way to open up the community to grandparents and special friends. "It's a great opportunity for them to see how Harvard-Westlake has pivoted to online learning, and also to see the creativity not only that the faculty has, but that the kids have," Schlom said. "There's still that joy of learning [and] all of the elements that make Harvard-Westlake what it is even though we're not together on campus."

Grandparents’ Day hosted online for first time

By Ethan Lachman

In order to maintain the annual tradition of Grandparents and Special Friends Day, the school launched a website that allows guests to experience students' daily lives during distance learning May 27. Through the virtual experience, guests are able to navigate a traditional school schedule, beginning with a pre-recorded welcome video from President Rick Commons.

"This is a wonderful opportunity for us to be able to include upper school grandparents and special friends for this event," Schlom said. "It is a wonderful opportunity for us to be able to include grandparents and special friends for this event because in the past we've only done it at the Middle School because of the geography of the campus," Schlom said. "So we're really excited to be able to include grandparents and special friends who may be of kids who started at the Upper School and stay in touch with those who have visited the middle school campus."

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In the issue...

MULTICULTURAL MAGIC: 10 Affinity Groups celebrate their cultures online through Zoom meetings during lunch.

DEMANDING DEMOCRACY: Two students give their opinions on the expansion of authoritarian power in the world.

ARTISTIC ACTION: Despite being kept indoors, students have found a way to keep busy during the break through art.

ALL-STAR ATHLETES: The student body-nominated athletes of the year, Mason Hooks '20 and Kiki Iriafen '21, are profiled.

COLLEGE COMMOTION: Students and deans talk about how COVID-19 will possibly affect their chances at college.

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The Chronicle, the student newspaper of Harvard-Westlake School, is published 8 times per year and distributed for free on both the upper and middle school campuses. There are about 730 students at the Middle School and 870 at the Upper School. Subscriptions may be purchased for $20 a year for delivery by mail. Unsigned editorials represent the majority opinion of the seniors on the Editorial Board. Letters to the editor may be submitted to chronicle@hw.com or mailed to 3700 Coldwater Canyon Ave., Studio City, CA 91604. Letters must be signed and may be edited for space and to conform to Chronicle style and format. Advertising questions may be directed to Zack Schwartz at zachwartz21@gmail.com. Publication of an advertisement does not imply endorsement of the product or service by the newspaper or the school.
Actress advocates for women
By Melody Tang

In place of La Femme’s annual EMPOWER conference, actress Beanie Feldstein ’11, who starred in the critically acclaimed movies “Lady Bird” and “Booksmart,” spoke with students about her identity as a woman and her experience in the entertainment industry through an online video call.

To kick off the event, EMPOWER leaders Dahlia Law ’20 and Lilah Weisman ’20 asked Feldstein a series of prepared questions before hosting a Q&A session.

Feldstein said that though she has seen more female directors enter the entertainment business throughout her career, the industry is still far from achieving gender parity.

Feldstein continued by discussing her experience performing in “Hello, Dolly!” on Broadway as well as her time working with actress Bette Midler. Feldstein said that Midler remains one of the most influential and hardworking people she has worked with thus far.

Feldstein also spoke about the difficulties she has faced while balancing both her work as an actress and her responsibilities as a college student at Wesleyan University. “I was really in the middle of this push and pull between [auditioning and schoolwork],” Feldstein said. “My advice would be to own that moment that you’re in, and do what feels right in the moment.”

During the Q&A session, Aariz Irfan ’23 asked Feldstein about a piece of advice she would give to her high school self.

“You have to cut yourself some slack,” Feldstein said. “I would say to myself to be kinder to myself.”

The korris said that she enjoyed learning more about Feldstein and her work to promote women in the acting industry.

“I really enjoyed how much Beanie emphasized not only kindness to others but self-love,” Korriss said. “I thought it was really interesting to hear her insight on making projects with female directors and her take on trying to be a part of projects that empower young women within the last few years.”

HW Venture creates COVID-19 Challenge, awards social fellowship
By Charlie Wang

In an attempt to find solutions to the challenges posed by the coronavirus pandemic, HW Venture announced in an email sent to the student body April 28 the creation of a platform designed as an online hub for students to access and sign up for upcoming events.

With the input of these two groups, Aariz Irfan ’23 developed the website as a way to combat the lack of social interaction during the quarantine period. The website is intended to simulate the upper school quad, the main hub for students on campus.

Prefect Council’s master schedule, a running calendar of all organized virtual activities, inspired the creation of the new website. The Quad team leader and HW Venture head Amaan Irfan ’21 said, “At the start of quarantine, the HW Venture team realized that the community would be lacking bonding, so we first came up with ideas and asked the Prefect Council to perform them,” Amaan said. “We realized that the [master schedule] wasn’t very interactive, so we came up with the idea for an online platform instead.”

Additionally, Head Prefect Michael Lehrhofer ’20 said that the prefects decided to contribute to the website because of their previous success in organizing online activities during quarantine.

“Knowing how passionate students are about their extracurricular interests, we all realized that, though we cannot see each other on campus, we can still engage with our friends through online media,” Lehrhofer said. “Given the past success of our spring break classes, there was no doubt that we wanted to create a more robust website for students and faculty to stay connected.”

The Quad allows students to sign up for school activities, receive notifications about events and indicate interest in upcoming activities. Students can also create their own events through a Google Form request sent to Prefect Council.

Lehrhofer said he hopes to grow the platform in the future and revise the website based on the student body’s needs.

“We plan to expand the types of events, everything from round table discussions to teacher lectures to game nights,” Lehrhofer said. “We’ll be reaching out to ask for feedback on events so that ‘The Quad best serves the needs of our community.”
And the winner is...

Valedictorian - Diego Ahmad-Stein '20
Salutatorian - Dahlia Low '20
Lester Medvene Award - Jason Thompson ’22
Awarded to a sophomore who contributes to the life of the school and embodies Lester Medvene’s “curiosity of mind and dedication of spirit.”
Rensselaer Award - Grace Shin ’21
Given to a junior who has distinguished himself or herself in the study of math and science throughout the year. If the student chooses to attend Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, they receive a four-year scholarship.

Morris Michael Landres Award - Tessa Augsberger ’22
Recognizes a sophomore who has demonstrated “consistent effort, dedication and promise” through his or her work on a school publication.

Tamkin Community Service Award - Carl Cooperstein ’20 and Lauren Lee ’20
Given to seniors who have given their time to serving the community both on and off campus and both independently and with others.

Brendan Kutler ’10 'Two Hats' Award - Paul Boardman ’21
Awarded to a junior who pursues intellectual experiences outside the classroom, takes risks to pursue his or her interests and demonstrates kindness towards peers and adults inside and outside the classroom.

Jerry Margolis Jazz Award - Otis Gordon ’20
Named in honor of performing arts teacher Jerry Margolis, who taught for 36 years beginning at the Harvard School for Boys, to a student who contributed to the jazz program during his or her time at the school.

Frederick Douglass Diversity Award - Skylar Graham ’20
Recognizes a senior for his or her focus on his or her own culture or others based on ethnicity, religion and sexual orientation in a creative, courageous and compassionate way through art, activism or outreach.

Lamar Trott Jr ’50 Award - Wren Eaton ’20
Given to a senior, in memory of Lamar Trott Jr. ’50, who made the most dramatic transformation in his or her life and work both inside and outside of the classroom during his or her time at Harvard-Westlake.

David Justin Rascoc ’91 Award - George Grube ’20
Given in memory of David Justin Rascoc ’91 to a member of the senior class who has always spoken his or her opinions in his or her daily life.

Humanitas Award - Rachel Brown ’20
Honors a senior who has demonstrated service to the school, friendliness, consideration for others and loyalty to the community.

Senior Prefects chosen during runoff elections amid campaign controversy

By Tessa Augsberger and Sophia Musante

After electing Chlo Maloney ‘21 and Jonathan Cosgrove ’21 as Head Prefects on May 7, students chose their Junior and Senior Prefects following several runoff elections between seven senior candidates.

Quiney Derr ’22, Jade Stanford ’22, Micah Gold ’22 and Jason Thompson ’22 will serve as Junior Prefects, while Chelsea Cho ’21, Brooke Stanford ’21, Thomas Schramm ’21 and David Ghodsi ’21 will serve as Senior Prefects next year. During the Senior Prefect elections, Maloney and Cho ran against each other for the remaining Head Prefect position after Cosgrove was elected in the first round. Following Maloney’s designation as Head Prefect, the administration hosted a Senior Prefect election May 19, in which no candidate won more than 50 percent of their peers’ votes. Cho and Stanford were elected prefects after an initial runoff election, and Schramm was chosen following a second. Ghodsi was announced prefect May 22 after a final election.

Throughout the election process, current Head Prefect Grace Burston ’20 and Michael Lehroff ’20 issued warnings reminding upper school students not to publicly promote candidates. Burston said the anti-campaigning reminders came after students endorsed candidates on social media.

“We wanted to stay far away from the criticism of typical high school student government elections, which is that it is merely a popularity contest,” Burston said. “The student body has done a good job of voting for substance in the past, and we wanted to preserve that legacy.”

Overall, Maloney said she will use her platform as Head Prefect to focus on improving her peers’ day-to-day experiences.

“Harvard-Westlake can feel like a transactional experience, as students go there with the intent of getting into a good school in exchange for a challenging education,” Maloney said. “Often in that pursuit, we lose a sense of community, but the reality is we can accomplish so much more by uplifting our fellow classmates.”

The school will recognize students and faculty for their contributions during a virtual awards assembly June 4.

Cusaden Blackwood Medal - Felicity Phelan ’21
Given to a member of the junior class for his or her outstanding contributions to the school environment and spirit. The recipient is nominated and selected by senior class officers and faculty members.

Standout Seniors
Bishop’s Veritas Award - Noah Aire ’20, Grace Burston ’20 and Coco Kaleel ’20
George Coleman Edwards Award - Michael Lehroff ’20
President’s Award - Sophia Núñez ’20 and Clay Skagg’s ’20
Blanche Nelson Boyle Award - Justin Park ’20

Senior Academic Awards
Each department honored a senior for an outstanding commitment to or achievement in that discipline.

Computer Science - Will Liu ’20
Duocommun Award (Mathematics) - Sebastian Li ’20
Chronicle - Tammer Baghdasarian ’20 and Lindsay Wu ’20
Vox Populi - Abby Kirchmeier ’20 and Alessandra Maresca ’20
English - Grace Burston ’20
Visual Arts - Oscar Montanez Garay ’20
Science - Coco Kaleel ’20 and Chase Van Amburg ’20
History - Alexandra Mork ’20
Performing Arts - Justin Park ’20
World Language - George Grube ’20
Debate - Alexandra Mork ’20 and Jaya Nayak ’20
Sandifer Creative Writing - Zoe Redlich ’20
ISIR - Jakob Adler ’20

Faculty Awards
David Justin Rascoc ’91 Faculty Award - Anamaria Avala, Scott Bello, David Fromme, Heather Audersirk, Veronica Cherry, Jocelyn Medawar
Created in honor of David Justin Rascoc ’91, this award funds summer subblishals for faculty members which the recipients can decide how to use.

Athletics Awards
Lee Carlson Award (Athletics) - Rachel Brown ’20 and Pete Crow-Armstrong ’20
Awarded to two members of the senior class, one male and one female, who demonstrate excellence and dedication in athletics.

Athletic Directors’ Award - Mason Hooks ’20
CULTURAL CONNECTIONS: Affinity group leaders organized meetings to celebrate their cultures and discuss their shared identities with upper school students from May 4 to 8 during Multicultural Week. Due to the coronavirus pandemic, the annual event was hosted online through Zoom.

Multicultural Week celebrated over Zoom

By Sarah Mittelman

The school’s annual Multicultural Week took place with 10 affinity groups each receiving a 30-minute slot during lunch break to celebrate their cultures May 4, all from the comfort of their own homes. “Zoom meetings were open to all students, ranged from relaxed conversations to intense debates and film marathons,” Gender and Sexuality Awareness Club hosted a show-and-tell of these club meetings.

“However, we are all proud of the achievements over the course of the year.” Thuis expressed disappointment about the season’s abrupt end but shed light on the team’s record-breaking achievements over the course of the year.

“One of our teams was so highly ranked outside of the tournament that they qualified for the World Championships.” Thuis said.

The bittersweet part is that the actual State and World Championship(s) have been canceled. Still, the fact that we have four teams at the 2020 California VEX VRC High School State Championship, a new record and qualified 62B for the 2020 VEX Robotics World Championship is incredible news.”

Seniors inducted into Cum Laude Society, given world language awards

Due to the coronavirus pandemic, the school canceled the annual induction ceremony, which celebrates the academic achievements of outstanding members of the senior class. 57 seniors were inducted into Cum Laude Society, based on their grades from their sophomore, junior and senior years. Additionally, the world language department recognized four seniors for their accomplishments in the study of foreign languages.

Cum Laude Society, Harvard-Westlake Chapter:

Diego Mitsuraka Ahmad
David Arkow
Tamara Bagdasarian
Analea Simone Beckman
Grace Burton
John Cashel Gallib
George William Caras
Sarah Grace Damico
Benjamin Davidoff
Sophia Ekstrand
Anejee Feng
Finn Chan Gartin
Jessa Rose Glassman
George Grube
Daniel Alejandro Guererro
Guy Nathan Harrstein
Ethan Hodess
Mason Tarver Hooks
Caroline Kaleel
Matthew Takashi Khoo
Hui Nan Eunice Kiang
Sun Jae Jeannine Kim
Amelia Jane Koblenz
Talia Zipora Koch
Jenna Britney Kronen
Lauren Amanda Lee
Joseph Lecher-Laoo
Sapir Elia Levy
Ziyue Li
William Hanbo Liu
Griffin MacDermott
Corey Marley
Monica Martell
Henry Mass
Anusha Mathur
Anusha Mathur
Chessa Todd Van Amburg
Tammer Bagdasarian
George William Caras
John Cashel Cahill
Diego Mitsuraka Ahmad
William Hamilton Seymour
Andrew Sington
Colby Clay Skaggs
Justin Michael Spitz
Scarlett Lee Strother
Chase Todd Van Amburg
Lilah Kate Westman
Philip Stuart Wong
Lindsay Wu
Sahina Yampolsky
Andrew C. Yang
Samantha Yeh
Amelie Rose Ziller

Outstanding Students in World Languages: Chinese: Chase Van Amburg French: Grant Palmer Latino: Amy Kronenberg Spanish: Monica Martell

Alumni discuss colleges

Five alumni spoke about their educational, social and work-related experiences both during and after college at the HW41 Campus: College Experience on May 26.

The panelists included Gene-

sis Aire ‘19, Aiyah Daniels ‘14, Carolyn Hong ‘17, Assistant Di-

rector of Alumni Relations Katie Lim ‘13 and Sarah Wm. bella Kim ‘21, all of whom currently attend or graduated from different univer-

sities and applied to schools for a diverse array of majors.

Hong said that though her college experience began smooth-
ly, her coursework steadily in-

creased after her first semester.

“I think that Harvard-West-

lake did teach me to seek help when I needed it,” Hong said. “I think that was really useful, be-

ing comfortable enough to go to professors or [teaching assistants] and ask for assistance.

Natalie Barnouw ‘21 said the event was an engaging way for her to learn more about college life from the perspectives of vari-

ous alumni.

It was interesting how the panelists said that not knowing what you want to do going into college is totally fine, or even switching pathways for your four years is okay,” Barnouw said.

“I liked how the panic of [say] to take a wide variety of classes when you’re a freshman, so you can get a taste of what you might or might not like.”

Robots championship canceled due to pandemic

By Julian Androne

Due to the spread of COVID-19, the robotics program was unable to send sub-
teams 62A, 62B, 62K and 62X to the 2020 California VEX VRC High School State Championship. Additionally, subteam 62B could not attend the high school division of the 2020 VEX Robotics World Championship, which was slated to be held in Texas in April.

Throughout the year, the robotics subteams met for three to seven hours every day of the school week to hone their craft and aimed to win back-to-back State Championships. This spring, the subteams were preparing for the 2020 VEX Robotics World Championship, which was canceled due to the pandemic.

“It is very unfortunate to have [our season] end early, as we were very posed for [the State Championship] and were preparing every day for months,” Kim said.

“So, we missed our opportunity to go to [the World Championship], as it was canceled, and last year, it provided us with a lot of fond memories.” Robotics coach and math teacher Andrew Thieiss said that the team was dismayed, as it was unable to showcase its month’s dedication and preparation at the “State Championship.”

Thieiss expressed disappointment about the season’s abrupt end but shed light on the team’s record-breaking achievements over the course of the year.

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“It’s heartbreaking to see [the season] end early,” Kim said.

“However, we are all proud of the work we’ve accomplished as a robotics team as a whole.”

Reggie Kim ’21

By Sarah Mittelman

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Reggie Kim ’21
Pat McCullough: History

By Tanisha Gunby

After teaching The World and Europe II and United States History classes for the past three years, history teacher Pat McCullough will leave the school to pursue a career in instructional design and educational technology. “This job will have me spending more time on how best to structure learning experiences and will also let me play with technology in fun ways,” McCullough said. “If I’m right, this career will not only give me exciting new challenges but will also give me more time to spend with my family on evenings and weekends.”

McCullough said he has enjoyed working with colleagues to reimagine what classroom settings could look like and is excited to see how the school changes in the future. “Teaching in our history department these past few years, in the midst of global political upheaval, has been enlightening and invigorating,” McCullough said. “I have so appreciated my many conversations with colleagues about how we interpret events in the news, how they connect to historical events and what we can possibly do about them.”

Grace Daniels ’21 said McCullough is passionate about helping his students learn in a way that will stay with them for the remainder of their lives. “[McCullough] is definitely an intellectual, so much so that you could always tell he was itching to break free from the typical U.S. History class experience by expanding our course material and going into as much depth as possible,” Daniels said. “I’ve found that I’ve been more comfortable engaging in group discussions this year than I’ve ever been in a history class, which I owe to [McCullough]’s openness to interpretation and excitement about hearing new perspectives rather than solely the ‘right’ answer.”

Emery Genga ’21 said she has enjoyed McCullough’s unique, discussion-based teaching style. “I am very thankful that he has been a part of my HW journey, and I am going to miss seeing his friendly face around campus,” Genga said.

Patti Snodgrass: Director of Student Financial Affairs

By Sophia Musante

Director of Student Financial Affairs Patti Snodgrass will retire after 40 years of teaching at Harvard-Westlake. After her retirement, Snodgrass will enjoy boating and spend time with her family on evenings and weekends. “I am excited to have more time to follow my passion for gardening and, of course, looking forward to having more time to spend with my husband and family,” Snodgrass said.

Reflecting on her time at the school, Snodgrass said she will miss her daily interactions with caring members of the school community. “A few of my most memorable interactions have been with new Harvard seventh graders,” Snodgrass said. “They were always the first to arrive around day one and I am still in contact with many of them who now have families of their own. Thank you for allowing me to be amongst some of the brightest, kindest kids I have ever known.”

Dave Waterhouse: History

By Alice He

History teacher Dave Waterhouse will retire after 40 years of teaching at the Upper School. Waterhouse started as a substitute teacher at Harvard School, teaching Advanced Placement United States History and regular United States History. After finishing his doctoral dissertation, Waterhouse decided to return to teaching. Throughout his years at the school, Waterhouse taught many history courses, including AP Comparative Government and AP United States Government, but he said his favorite course has always been AP United States History.

“I just know a lot of interesting things about AP U.S. History, and I think I can make it more interesting than anything else;” Waterhouse said. “[These classes] are all like my children, but my firstborn was AP U.S. History, so I probably have a little bias towards it.”

As Waterhouse prepares for his departure, he said he will miss the community of students and teachers, especially the camaraderie within the history department. “The history department particularly had a very close group of teachers who were there for a really long time,” Waterhouse said. “Many of them [I] have become really, really good friends with.”

Students said they were inspired by Waterhouse and will miss having him as their teacher. “He truly makes a student’s experience one where they can find confidence both as a student and as a human being,” Ava Beaven ’20 said. “He truly has an incredible way to reach for my goals and believe in my abilities.”

After his retirement, Waterhouse said he looks forward to being a grandfather for the first time and fulfilling his wish in the future. His first books will include works about Popular Culture and Mass Entertainment, based on the course he taught, as well as Los Angeles history and mind-altering substances like tobacco and alcohol that have impacted American history.

AP Comparative Government student Kate Konvitz ’21 said she feels lucky to have had Waterhouse as a teacher and mentor this past year. “Without a doubt, he is one of the most caring people I have ever met, and I admire how he loves to learn about anything and everything, all the time,” Konvitz said. “On and off the tennis court, [Waterhouse] is a star, and I hope more than anything we can have a proper celebration for his retirement as soon as time allows.”
David Hinden: Sports Science and Medicine

By Norma Harms

Director of the Institute for Scholastic Sports Science and Medicine David Hinden is retiring after almost 30 years at the school. Hinden has served the community in many different roles, including teacher, Dean of Faculty and coach for both the Mock Trial and Moot Court teams.

Hinden taught Genetics and Biotechnology, Honors Biology, Chemistry and Criminal Law and Evidence. Hinden said he is most proud of the coursework and the programs he developed as well as his successes as a coach.

“Professional highlights were creating our Genetics and Bio- technology and Criminal Law and Evidence courses and developing our Scholastic Sports Science program to the point where we will offer a full academic sports science course next year,” Hinden said. “Another highlight was the bunch of Mock Trial and Moot Court championships we brought to [Harvard-Westlake].”

Hinden said that he has enjoyed his time at the school, particularly because of the community.

“The highlight of my career was working with great kids and colleagues and being part of our vibrant school community,” Hinden said. “It’s been such a privilege to be a part of this place and an honor to put [the title] ‘Harvard-Westlake teacher’ after my name.”

Head of Athletics Terry Bar- num said Hinden’s work with the Institute for Scholastic Sports Science and Medicine and his time as a teacher has made Hinden extremely knowledgable in the field.

“No one has the ability to influence both the academic and athletic divisions of Har- vard-Westlake like Dave Hinden,” Barnum said. “He has truly left his mark on Harvard-Westlake in many ways.”

Hinden said he will use his retirement to travel with his wife as soon as COVID-19 restrictions begin to ease and going overseas becomes a viable option.

“My wife and I [would] love to travel and live part of the year in Italy, and we look forward to both of these things when we can look back on what we are all experi- encing now,” Hinden said.

Krista McClain: Science

By Sandra Koretz

After 13 years at the school, Upper School Scheduler, Chair of the Upper School Faculty Ad- equate Committee (FAC) and science teacher Krista McClain will move to Seattle, Washington with her family in late July.

Next year, McClain will con- tinue working for the school re- motely, mostly assisting with the transition to the new schedule. She will also take over duties as the new registrar and will main- tain her position as a co-chair of FAC.

“I feel so happy to still be working with Harvard-Westlake faculty, staff and students,” McClain said. In addition to teaching Chemistry, Honors Chemistry and AP Chemistry, McClain created Molecular Gastronomy, a popular directed study course.

“I think [McClain] is a won- derful teacher who makes sure that her students understand the material completely,” Porter Littleman ’22 said. “It’s how learning chemistry enjoyable.”

McClain will move to Washing- ton in order to be closer to her family, she said. She also plans to work at an independent school there.

What I will miss most about being in-person at Harvard-West- lake is the connection I have had with students over the years,” McClain said. “I have remained close to many students as they continue their educations in col- lege and now as they are adults. The students at Harvard-West- lake are the most valuable part of the community, and I will miss those daily interactions very much.”

Cubin Molzen ’22 said that he really enjoyed having McClain as his teacher this year because she is very good at teaching. He appreciated that she was always available to help his classmates.

“Having [McClain] this year was an experience where I was actually able to learn chemistry in an enjoyable fash- ion,” Molzen said. “She was defini- tively the funniest teacher, her cheesy jokes, her laugh and most memorable for me.”

Elizabeth Bergman: History

By Sarah Mittelman

History teacher Elizabeth Bergman will depart from the Upper School to continue her career at Geffen Academy at the UCLA next year.

Bergman joined the history department this past fall, and taught Advanced Placement United States History, United States History and The World and Europe II. She holds a bache- lor’s degree from Columbia University and a doctorate from Yale University and served as a professor for more than 10 years at UCLA next year.

“After 13 years at the school, I thought it is time for me to move on to something new,” Bergman said. “I have always been a history teacher and have really enjoyed teaching history.”

“Elizabeth was the first teacher I ever had at the school and the liveliness of the community,” Schroeder said. “She was a wonderful teacher and always had a smile on her face.”

“At the University of New Mexico, I taught second grade,” Bergman said. “I really enjoyed teaching young people and watching them learn.”

With Bergman’s new position, the school will lose a history teacher who has been a part of the community for 13 years.

Virginia Schroeder: Registrar

By Amelia Scharf

School registrar Virginia Schroeder will retire after 29 years at the school in order to pursue her interests in photog- raphy and painting, and to travel with her husband.

“We have visited many Euro- pean countries and traveled quite a bit in the UK, Canada and the U.S.,” Schroeder said. “We’d like to add to that list. Also, I have a few creative endeavors in photog- raphy and painting that I’d like to continue. And of course like everyone else, there’s always another book to read.”

As a registrar, Schroeder per- formed many organizational tasks, such as handling data, pro- cessing grades and comments and attaining visas for staff.

Dean Coordinator and Assis- tant to the Head of Upper School Lynn Miller expressed her grati- tude for Schroeder’s strong work ethic and dedication in HW Life Magazine.

“Her grasp of technology and meticulous care has been instru- mental in our smooth-function- ing system,” Miller said. “Vir- ginia’s professionalism, integrity, attention to detail and organiza- tional skills have been invaluable to Harvard-Westlake. We extend our warm thanks and wish her the best in this next phase of her life.”

Schroeder said that she will miss the community greatly, es- pecially the students.

“I will miss knowing every day I am contributing to help students pursue their education,” Schroeder said. “Over the years, in helping with different record issues and other things needed by students, it was satisfying to know that even in a small way, I was helping them continue on their educational journey through school.”

Schroeder also said she appre- ciated the relationships she made at the school and the liveliness of the community.

“The people definitely were my favorite part of working at HW. I was privileged over the years to work with many peo- ple, and some of them were just amazing,” Schroeder said. “The students gave a level of energy and fun that you don’t find in every work environment. It made for a happy atmosphere at work.”

By Joel Zhang

Senior advisor Harry Salamandra will retire after 30 years at the school, 15 of which he spent as Head of Upper School.

President Rick Commons wrote a tribute to Salamandra in the third digital edition of the HW Life Magazine to thank him for his leadership. Commons went on to say that Salamandra’s guidance was a key factor in the school’s success.

“[Salamandra] has made me feel so much more comfortable. I will always miss her light-heartedness,” Schroeder said. “Her leadership was a key factor in the success of the school.”

Salamandra also took over the position of Chair of the Faculty Direct- ed Study in 2015, when science teacher Krista McClain stopped teaching the class to focus on ad- ministrative duties.

Teacher Gius Gius ’20, who took Salamandra’s Molecular Gastron- omy class in the first semester of this year, said that while many of the dishes he made in class turned out successfully, his most memo- rable experience from the class was a kitchen mishap.

“We all somehow managed to screw up the egg whites on this one dish,” Gius said. “We were beating them until they reached a dry consistency, and then we decided to freeze them everywhere, all over the counter. The next morning, we actually made really some yummy dishes [like] the cho- colate souffle that has become my family’s favorite dessert, but this day was definitely the funniest and most memorable for me.”

Salamandra said that his ex- perience at the school taught him the importance of actively listening to people, both in the classroom and in life.

“Typically on a daily basis, we are moving very fast from one thing onto the next, and some- times it can be difficult to be an active listener,” Salamandra said. “However, the main thing I learned from my students is to stop talking sometimes and just wait and listen to what they have to say before giving a quick answer.”

By Jane Littleman

Elizabeth Bergman expressed her grati- tude to everyone for the relationships she has developed at the school.

“Working with students is the most valuable part of the community,” she said. “I will miss the students, colleagues and being part of the Harvard-Westlake family, she said. She also plans to work at an independent school there.

“Elizabeth was the first teacher I ever had at the school and the liveliness of the community,” Schroeder said. “She was a wonderful teacher and always had a smile on her face.”

“I will miss knowing every day I am contributing to help students pursue their education,” Schroeder said. “Over the years, in helping with different record issues and other things needed by students, it was satisfying to know that even in a small way, I was helping them continue on their educational journey through school.”

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While both campuses are closed indefinitely due to the city’s Safer at Home Order, which began March 19, students and faculty have used the extra time at home to pursue their interests and enjoy the company of their loved ones.

**NO MORE DRAWBACKS:** Ryan Moon ’21 perfects his archery skills in his backyard. Before quarantine began, Moon practiced for 10 hours per week. He began learning this craft the summer before seventh grade, and has since competed at the state, national and international levels. After the school year ends, Moon plans to dedicate more time to archery.

**TURNING OVER A NEW LEAF:** Otis Gordon ’20, a bonsai enthusiast, spends time in the sun with his bonsai, a tree that requires constant maintenance such as pruning and watering.

**LETTUCE BE THANKFUL:** Valentina Gaxiola prepares the plot of land in her grandparents’ backyard to plant seeds. Gaxiola began gardening with her grandma after quarantine started as a therapeutic way to release stress.

**MASK-ARADE HOUR:** Cherry Chen ’23, David Chen ’24 and Evelyn Choi ’21 hand sew 110 masks with HEPA vacuum filter inserts. The masks were donated to a rehabilitation hospital infected with COVID-19.

**EASEL UP:** Continuing one of her favorite hobbies at home, Sofia Li ’22 begins a new acrylic painting of many different types of fruit.

**PAWSOME FUN:** Spanish teacher and animal lover Joaquin Fernandez-Castro poses with his pets Rubito, a house cat, and Saltie, his 40-year-old Double Yellow-Headed Amazon parrot.

**LET’S BE THANKFUL:** Valentina Gaxiola prepares the plot of land in her grandparents’ backyard to plant seeds. Gaxiola began gardening with her grandma after quarantine started as a therapeutic way to release stress.

**PRINTED WITH THE PERMISSION OF RYAN MOON**

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**JUNE 3, 2020**

**A8 News**

**The Chronicle**
EDITORIAL

Media-ting Justice

Breonna Taylor: a black EMT who was shot fatally after policemen investigating a narcotics case confused her apartment with someone else’s. Ahmad Arbery: an unarmed black man who was lynched by two white people solely for jogging in their neighborhood. George Floyd: an innocent, handcuffed black man who was choked to death by four police officers despite not resisting arrest.

These individuals represent just a fraction of the long list of anti-black violence victims. Nevertheless, their stories deserve the space to be told and understood, as they are indicative of a larger cultural problem within the United States; the issue of white supremacy represents a deeply ingrained, ongoing and pervasive plague for the country.

In the face of such grave injustice, the role of the press is complicated. In a world where every piece of information put out by the media is cast as having a spin or political bend to it, journalists are duty-bound to provide objective information. However, objectivity is not always the same as impartiality, which ensures balanced coverage of both parties.

Of course, a news source that promotes opinions rather than facts cannot be trusted to provide accurate information. But when the full range of facts suggests corruption and inequity, providing that information objectively and taking an active stance to criticize instances of racism is a far cry from bias—rather, it is precisely the media’s job.

Floyd’s story, for example, presents clear evidence of extrajudicial violence from authority figures. Thus, treating the opposing viewpoints of Floyd’s and the police force’s supporters equally in this case is nothing more than an implicit authorization of the latter.

Simply put, pure impartiality is neither neutral nor truthful but rather a means of maintaining the inequalities of the status quo. In instances like these, explicit condemnation of racially-biased law enforcement provides opportunities for journalists to promote public welfare, in a way that simultaneously presents the facts and refrains from diluting ethics.

The role of the press in exposing governmental misdeeds has already been accepted in such areas as foreign policy. When the New York Times released the Pentagon Papers to highlight the flaws of the Vietnam War, or the Associated Press reported on torturing practices at Abu Ghraib, they were serving as a necessary check on governmental corruption.

Journalists ought to view police brutality, the broader structures of racism to which police brutality is linked and other civil rights violations in the same way: massive problems worthy of criticism. They should not shy away from using their outlets in a productive way that helps to create awareness and positive change.

The impact of such a proactive attempt at combating discriminatory violence cannot be overstated. Although appropriate reporting likely cannot override centuries-long legacies of inequality, it certainly can add momentum to the movements seeking to do so.

Returning to the example of the Pentagon Papers, the New York Times’ decision to question the motives of the U.S. played an invaluable role in empowering anti-war protests and culminated in the end of the Vietnam War.

In the face of insidious manifestations of race-based violence, journalists occupy a unique position to highlight obvious forms of prejudice, to maintain journalistic integrity and to provide a megaphone for silenced voices that too often go unheard.
For the duration of my time as a Wolverine, the opinion section has been my home. I've taken refuge in its pages for countless late nights, as well as for the sunny tables and the rambunctious library, but the place I will perhaps miss most is the top of A10. The blank space beckoned with making me the person I am today, and for that, I am so grateful.

Clueless and lost as I was as a middle schooler, I somehow found my way to “The Spectrum,” where I began my adventure with opinion writing by penning the “Center” section of the political column “Left, Right, Center.” Reading those pieces now, I can tell I was not yet firm in my beliefs and avoided tackling tougher questions, of which there were plenty, considering my first column was an election season. I was reserved, shy and still finding my voice, which is easily discernible in the fragmented sentences and basic vocabulary that characterize these pieces is my brewing passion for writing.

Knowing that penning editorials fueled my intellectual fire, I branched out from just providing the center piece of viewpoint on immigration and foreign policy. Perhaps most monumentally, I once wrote about the vital role of journalism, not knowing that my interest in the topic would only grow as I became a more outspoken and mature author whose words would ultimately be shaped by her beliefs regarding free speech, transparency and the power of writing.

Beginning again at the bottom of the journalistic spectrum, I was a top scholar still meekly straddling the fence in my viewpoints like I did in middle school. While my vocabulary has grown and my understanding of syntax has improved since then, the most remarkable changes have been in my own thought process, boldness and outlook. I am now proud to be someone who never backs down and has encouraged others to do the same through my writing. Now, I owe this all to the opinion section, because it allowed me to express myself in my early style. Despite this, what is just as discernible in the fragmented sentences and basic vocabulary that characterize these pieces is my fledgling intellect.

The Chronicle, June 3, 2020

An authoritarian rise
By ETHAN LACHMAN AND AUSTIN LEE

During the election process, Prefect Council candidates are not allowed to campaign outside of designated assemblies and websites. Although this is a necessary rule to protect the anonymity of students, leaders around the world have theorized that absolute authority is the only way to maintain stability. As many students were more interested in expanding their political clout, they risk in extending emergency legislation for the position. As students, we are more concerned with our own careers and reputation than the position. As students, we are more concerned with our own careers and reputation than the position.

Campaigning may seem beneficial to a candidate on their road to dominating the political climate, but their optimism alters their perspective on the political landscape. A competitor enters a competition thinking they have a shot at winning, but more importantly, it should be an election for teenagers’ views. As students, we are more concerned with our own careers and reputation than the position. As students, we are more concerned with our own careers and reputation than the position.

A Plea to Prefects
By JULIAN ANDREONE

With little regard for the enlightened principle written into the U.S. Constitution, President Donald Trump declared the authority of the president “total” on April 13. Although he reversed his stance several weeks later, his claim reflects an unsettling trend among governments across the world using the COVID-19 pandemic as an opportunity to seize extensive emergency powers and consolidate authority. Like the USA PATRIOT Act passed in the wake of the 9/11 attacks, the laws being enacted by leaders around the globe will enable governments to more extensively control their citizens and will likely outlive intended lifespans. In doing so, nations blur the line between governments’ duty to act in the interest of their general populations while uplifting individual civil liberties. At the same time, nations risk upending the precarious balance between republican and authoritarian governments on the international political stage.

The expansion of authoritarian systems of government may seem advantageous in the midst of this outbreak. For example, the People’s Republic of China has supposedly suffered fewer than five thousand deaths—less than 0.1% of its population—by lockdown down in 1.4 billion citizens. Despite accusations of Chinese leaders underreporting the case and mortality statistics of the virus, China’s mandatory lockdown appears to have been more successful in preventing the virus’ spread than any democratic na¬tion’s responses. Other authoritarian-leaning leaders around the world have cited the “successful” Chinese response as a reason to expand their own powers, increasing digital surveillance of their citizens and using the military to silence critics and opponents. On March 15, Kazakhstan’s senate passed a seminar to incorporate assembly law banning all mass gatherings. Over the past year, civil protests have been brutally repressed, and the new legislation underscores an attempt to prevent citizens from assembling peacefully during a tumultuous time.

While centralized authority has its benefits, authoritarian governments often violate basic human rights, and the spread of this system of government may pull the world into an ideological conflict as significant as the Cold War. In a la¬ws of the U.S. Sedition Act of 1918, which silenced citizens opposed to American involvement in World War I, the Bolivian Plurinational Legislative Assembly recently cited the coronavirus outbreak as a reason to wield our political dissatisfaction and crack down on individual freedom in accordance to Human Rights Watch. During these chaotic times, however, a diverse array of opinions is more valuable than ever. Leaders must consider the possibility that a road to victory was lost and find the best course of action in response to pressing issues.

Campaigning for Prefect Council president, Palpa¬rine and the Galactic Senate, the Hungarian National Assembly declared a state of emergency and granted Prime Minister Viktor Orban exclusive power to determine its end date. Although Orban may not be plotting to assemble a Death Star and destroy planets as the “Star Wars” vil¬lain did, he is almost certainly planning to deny opposition to his rule. His indefinite dictatorship-like powers point to the fragility of democracy in these trying times.

Thomas Hobbes, widely regarded as one of the fathers of modern political philosophy, once theorized that absolute authority is the only way to maintain stability. As many selfishly disregard social distancing recommendations, our democratic republic seems divided in its response. Still, while consolidated authority may be tempting in this divisive time, dictatorships, authoritarian oligarchies or even democratically elected governments can lack the essential tools to enforce unity are dangerous. Even if Hobbes is correct, citizens around the world must understand the oppression they risk in extending emergency powers. By extending these tools without a definite expiration date. Those who stand idly by and give power to one person, one group, one idea, aid in the slow demise of democ¬racy. We risk the development of human rights around the world.

I am proud to be someone who never backs down and has encouraged others to do the same through my writing. Now, I owe this all to the outlet I was given, the people I met and the fact that a challenge I faced, no matter how hefty, was accompanied by an even larger burst of support and self-growth.

Now, as I finish my last “journal entry” in the space I credit with constructing much of my character, I hope that the next student who has something to say will courageously fill these few inches on the page and that they too find themselves inspired by the magic of candid self-expression through opinion writing.
THE ROAD TO RECOVERY

Students reflect on the ups and downs of the tumultuous 2019-2020 school year.

Junior outlook: Fear of uncertainty
By Ella Moriarty

I was in history class March 11, and I had everything planned out. I would get my homework done at school so that I would have time to put finishing touches on months of preparation for the SAT. I would review one last time Thursday night, and then use Friday to relax and get in the right headspace. But as we opened our computers to take notes, we all saw it. The SAT was canceled. Immediately, the whole room was thrown into chaos as everyone scrambled, and frantic clicks of keyboards and whisps of “Did they respond?” or “Is there a makeup date?” circled around the class. At the time, panic surged through me, and I could barely process my own thoughts. However, this proved to be only a minor inconvenience compared to what would come. By fifth period, the notification regarding Harvard-Westlake’s closure due to COVID-19 began to circulate, and I walked out of school carrying the remainder of my junior year in my arms. My SAT panic was all but forgotten, and everything felt static and numb. And to some extent, it still feels that way. Everything that I had planned out for junior year, including spring concerts, field hockey training, three SAT attempts, Subject Tests, typical AP tests and college tours all evaporated. This semester was supposed to lay the foundation for my future. Instead, that foundation was crumbling brick by brick. While my junior year has been scary, disappointing and sad, so has everyone else’s; seniors are missing out on their celebration of years of hard work, and college freshmen have been kicked out of their dorms. Of course, there are more serious issues: thousands of people losing loved ones and their livelihoods, nurses and doctors placing their lives on the line, the list goes on and on.

However, what scares me the most has little, if anything, to do with being a junior in high school. It is that common lack of control, that uncertainty that everyone, everywhere, feels. All of our plans have been derailed, and we have been thrown into this new world with no map to guide us. That is what unsettles me: having to watch everyone experience a universal uncertainty to which there is no clear solution and very little that we can control.

Solidarity for sophomores
By Daniel Ju

The email showed up in our inboxes. A message from President Rick Commons. But before I could even open it, screams of jubilation and laughter erupted all around silent study. Immediately, I knew what that email was about. Walking down the stairs of the library, I noticed crowd after crowd, kids running out of classrooms and telling their friends “school’s out!” Just like everyone else, I couldn’t help but laugh and smile at that momentous news.

I couldn’t help but feel that “we,” the “we” who snuck up on one another during Tap Out, the “we” who collectively found first period sign-ins annoying. And as a sophomore at the Upper School just beginning to get a taste of those little, big moments, I can say we’ve missed out on the start of a tradition we all evaporated. This semester was supposed to lay the foundation for my future. Instead, that foundation was crumbling brick by brick. While my junior year has been scary, disappointing and sad, so has everyone else’s; seniors are missing out on their celebration of years of hard work, and college freshmen have been kicked out of their dorms. Of course, there are more serious issues: thousands of people losing loved ones and their livelihoods, nurses and doctors placing their lives on the line, the list goes on and on.

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While Studio City business owners struggle to adapt during the coronavirus pandemic, members of the student body are working to provide their communities with essential needs.

By Ethan Lachman

Having experienced nearly a 90 percent drop in business, Dave Rose does not know how many clients to expect when she opens her computer for virtual wellness sessions. As a private trainer who began teaching classes at just 15 years old, the North Hollywood-based owner of Dave's Bodies had to adapt when the threat of coronavirus closures loomed mid-March. She made the preemptive decision to protect her clients' health and conduct business remotely. Now, she said her home studio has come to feel quite normal.

“Online sessions are, dare I say, almost starting to feel routine as opposed to in the beginning where it just felt very alien and upsetting and unsteady,” rose said. “Now it has a very consistent feeling of what I'm offering my clients, my community, and it's still growing and building as people are finding their way.”

Using Zoom software, Rose runs private yoga, fitness and life-coaching classes on an optional donation basis. Additionally, Rose launched a project named Dave's Boredom, which allows individuals with busy schedules to contact her for sessions whenever they are available. Even in this tumultuous time, Rose said she prioritizes the well-being of anyone who seeks out her services without adequate funds who can pay.

“I am at home, [and] I’d rather helping people than watching Netflix,” Rose said. “I’m really excited because it’s been a lot of fun. I’m also a little lonely, and I could almost cry a little talking about it because I’m scared. There’s a lot of uncertainty in my life and our home and my husband’s career. So to fill this sort of emptiness with seeing people I know and love, working out or meditating or doing yoga, it’s a gift to me as well. It definitely goes full circle.”

Despite Rose’s positive outlook, small business owners in Studio City have continued to face mounting economic pressure as a result of the quarantine. Carney's Restaurant owner Bill Wolfe said he saw a 60 percent decline in business due to the mandatory stay-at-home order. To adapt, Wolfe installed a plexiglass barrier at the counter and transferred business to pickup and delivery. Still, the inevitable challenges of these adjustments are tangible, he said.

“It’s very difficult to run the kitchen because you’re getting tablet orders, phone orders and people coming in with orders,” Wolfe said. “There’s a lot going on as opposed to people just coming in and ordering and making their food and walking away. It’s much more difficult, but we’re getting pretty good at it.”

To provide aid for businesses nationwide during the pandemic, Congress passed the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security Act (CARES) on March 27. According to NPR, the approximately $2 trillion relief plan allocates funds to different sectors of the economy, with $377 billion allotted to help small businesses. Wolfe said he received funding through a Small Business Administration (SBA) loan, which he put toward his employees’ salaries. He said he is grateful he has not had to make any layoffs.

“Everybody is working, but they have [fewer] hours,” Wolfe said. “They have to live, that’s really important.”

As a private contractor, Rose is in a unique position because she does not have employees who rely on her. She is also in a co-op, so she is not solely responsible for paying building expenses. However, some of her fellow business owners have undergone immense struggles, such as having to furlough staff or close temporarily to prevent financial loss, she said.

“Probably the hardest thing is the responsibility that [employers] feel toward their staff and how much they care for them and not wanting them to suffer,” Rose said. “There’s no profit margin. They’re barely making it themselves and working with their landlords to assure them in paying partial rent, so the devastation is pretty severe.”

When asked if she has been forced forward, the said owners must reflect on the nature of their livelihoods.

“Some [businesses] may not be coming back,” Rose said. “Some I know have already chosen to not return. Some have already chosen to transport their business to a different platform and not go back to the old way. So it’s a definite time of rebirth and re-identification as to what we really want to do in our careers.”

While coronavirus-related closures have affected Studio City business owners, the pandemic also poses health risks to some of the community’s most vulnerable citizens. Evelyn Choi ’21 said awareness of these ensuing hardships inspired her to found a mask-making program, Operation Cover Up, with Cherry Chen ’23 and David Chen ’24. Particularly concerned with the shortage of N95 masks, Choi said the initiative’s main goal is to help doctors and nurses serving on the front lines.

“Many people, including our family members, have looked for masks in stores since the pandemic started, only to find empty shelves,” Choi said. “In addition, the media’s coverage of many hospitals’ struggles to acquire masks for their healthcare workers gave us the idea to make masks for those risking their lives to tend to others.”

Choi and her team sew their masks themselves using High Efficiency Particulate Air (HEPA) bags and polypropylene to ensure maximum filtration. After a couple weeks of production, Choi said that she was proud to drop off almost 110 masks at Akcok Rehabilitation Hospital.

Similarly, Head of Communications and Strategic Initiatives Ari Engelberg ’19 spearheaded a project alongside robotics coach and math teacher Andrew Theiss to use the school’s 3D printer to produce a critical component of face shields needed for Los Angeles healthcare workers. Although Theiss said the initiative requires substantial work for less optimal reward due to the age and condition of the printers, they have forged ahead with their project.

“Even though [the project] is going slow, [Engelberg and I] are both making a difference, and we will have to change with these masks at whatever capacity we can,” Theiss said. “Because it is for the greater good.”

At school, Theiss said he is able to print a face shield headband every 12 hours using back end plastic and that the trials of the mask-making process are well worth the results.

“I am so glad we are making a difference in this community,” Theiss said. “People need personal protective equipment, and the ability to provide that for people speaks so deeply in my heart that I’m moved every time I press that print button of that old printer.”

While Choi, Theiss and Engelberg have focused on the physical threats of the virus, Hope Shinderman ’21 has concentrated on addressing the mental effects of social distancing among younger populations. At the beginning of the school closure, she founded Bored of Boredom, a free online educational organization that serves elementary and middle schoolers.

Shinderman said that after observing her teachers’ pedagogy during online school, she was inspired to provide the same interaction for their students without access to technology. She said that the program uses a multifaceted approach that strives for educational enrichment and technological opportunity.

“As a non-neurotypical student, I recognize how this distance learning can amplify the pre-existing struggles of various people,” Shinderman said. “The effects of the digital divide are more prevalent now because those without access to technology aren’t receiving any education.”

Katarina Cheng ’21, an administrator of the program, which now has approximately 107 volunteers and 215 students, said Bored of Boredom has allowed her to see the underlying beauty in small moments.

“The part of these sessions that brings me the most joy is the excitement that young kids express over learning seemingly simple things,” Cheng said. “As a teaching an introductory Python class with [Yvette Copeland] ’21 for a few weeks, and we were explaining ‘if-else’ statements. One third grader started bouncing up and down in his seat when he finally understood the concept and was able to implement it.”

Although Wolfe is hopeful for the future as society slowly begins to reopen, he said it is important to realize the long-term effects of the coronavirus pandemic.

“We’re just going with the flow,” Wolfe said. “Things will keep changing, and we will have to change with it. That’s what it’s all about.”
A Year in Review
By Milla Ben-Ezra and Mimi Landes

In August, the community gathered for its annual Convocation Ceremony to kick off the new school year. With speeches and donuts, the school celebrated the commencement of the coming year.

In September, the school community honored the seniors during the annual Ring Ceremony. In the following weeks, students immersed themselves in clubs and programs during the Activities Fair.

Despite the threat of dangerous fires, October managed to be full of celebration. Red, white and black filled the school campuses with pride throughout spirit week and Homecoming, capped off with a win for the varsity football team. For Halloween, students dressed up and presented their costumes at the annual costume contest.

In November, the girls’ field hockey team remained undefeated, winning its third consecutive CIF championship. Also, as the curtains parted, the Performing Arts Program showcased its fall musical, “Into the Woods.”

Throughout December, Community Council held a toy drive where students had the opportunity to donate toys and give back during the holiday season. Although it does not snow in Studio City, the community got into the holiday spirit throughout Prefect Council’s Winterfest festivities.

With the start of a new decade came the beginning of a new semester. In January, the history department took the sophomore class on a field trip to see a private screening of the World War I film “1917” to complement the curriculum.

In February, girls’ varsity soccer reached the CIF playoffs. Then, students performed the winter play, “Stage Door,” after months of hard work and preparation.

Cheers of school pride filled the Firestone Fieldhouse at Pepperdine University as the student body gathered to watch the boys’ varsity basketball team play in the CIF Semi-Finals in March. Due to the rapidly increasing danger of the coronavirus pandemic, school was temporarily pushed off campus and classes were moved to Zoom.

In April, students received news that due to COVID-19, the community would continue online school indefinitely. From college alumni panels to student tutorials, the school and the community thrived during the transition to a remote learning environment.

In May, the school administration informed the community that online school would continue throughout the rest of the year. Head Prefect elections were held over Zoom, with the student body voting Cleo Maloney ’21 and Jonathan Cosgrove ’21 to lead next year.

Students highlight the defining moments of the 2019-2020 school year by exploring its various ups and downs.
By Hannah Han

When an unfamiliar vehicle pulled into his driveway, Jake Schroeder ’20 hurried to the window to watch as his father, a pulmonologist, stepped out onto the pavement donning a hazmat suit. He tossed a coronavirus test kit to the individual in the car, one of his patients, and called out a series of instructions. The patient then administered the test on himself by inserting a probe into his nasal canal and sealing the contaminated swab in a vial, before throwing the plastic kit back to Schroeder’s father.

Since the implementation of California Governor Gavin Newsom’s shelter-in-place order in mid-March, Schroeder’s father has been providing coronavirus tests to his patients who exhibit symptoms of COVID-19. He brings the kits from his office to his house, where he meets patients once every few days. “My dad doesn’t work at the hospital, but the craziest part is when patients come to our driveway so that my house is a ‘drive-through testing site,’” Schroeder said. “It’s so scary, but it’s for the benefit of the world, so it’s fine.”

As a patient leaves the driveway, Schroeder’s father disinfects himself in the garage and enters the house through the back door to shower. Although his father interacts with COVID-19 patients semi-regularly, he is more concerned about his patients’ lives than his own, Schroeder said. “He’s especially stressed because the coronavirus is a respiratory disease, but as long as he wears the correct gear, it’s okay,” Schroeder said. “The scarcest part is more the threat of his patients dying because he’s super empathetic.”

While Schroeder’s father has been working primarily from home, other doctors who are still practicing in hospitals have been inundated with COVID-19 patients. In California, approximately 3,000 coronavirus patients are currently being treated in medical institutions, with 1,491 hospitalizations in Los Angeles County alone, according to Tableau Public. Jessica Metcalf, Princeton University Assistant Professor of Ecology, Evolution and Public Affairs said that the coronavirus poses an especially lethal threat compared to previous viruses, such as severe acute respiratory syndrome, or SARS, due to the high percentage of asymptomatic carriers. “Asymptomatic transmission and very severe symptoms in a subset of people create a deadly combination,” Metcalf said. “The 2003 SARS outbreak was associated with severe symptoms but little transmission without symptoms, so every infected person could be isolated.”

Due to the highly contagious nature of the disease, doctors and nurses are forced to cope with the possibility of not only contracting COVID-19 themselves, but also transferring the virus to their families. The crippling pressure has led to deteriorating mental health among front-line workers. “The crippling pressure has led to deteriorating mental health among front-line workers,” Time Magazine reported. On April 26, New York-Presbyterian Allen Hospital emergency room doctor Lorna M. Been committed suicide, sparking a nationwide outcry about the devastating psychological effects of the virus on healthcare professionals, according to The New York Times. Albert Wu, Internist and Professor of Health Policy and Management at Johns Hopkins School of Public Health, said that hundreds of doctors and nurses have likely died due to exposed coronavirus to patients. “Though the death toll in hospitals is rising, Wu said that the number of front-line workers who have been psychologically impacted by the virus exceeds the number who have been infected with COVID-19. “In some studies, the ratio of psychological casualties to physical injuries can be a factor of 40 to one,” Wu said. “People have certainly suffered quite a bit of distress, anxiety, fear and worry—in some cases, acute stress reactions and panic attacks, and in other cases, exacerbations of existing mental health conditions. The long-term effects are yet to be determined, but historically they have a greater risk of burn-out and even post-traumatic stress disorder.”

Josephine Amakye ’21 said she has observed firsthand how the mental toll that the overburdened healthcare system takes on frontline workers. A licensed vocational nurse, Amakye’s sister practices in New York City, the epicenter of the virus outbreak, with 51,400 recorded hospitalizations, according to NYC Health. “Initially, my sister who is a vocational nurse was really scared [for her own life],” Amakye said. “The hospitals are filled, and she’s working really long shifts. The patients need care, and it’s not your normal 10 patients, but it’s 20.”

Ariana Azarbal ’22 said that her father, an interventional cardiologist at Cedars-Sinai Hospital, frequently operates on COVID-19 patients in a specialized ward. At work, Azarbal’s father must wear a hazmat suit, which he washes upon returning home each day. Having a medical professional within her family has impacted her household. She said, “At first, my little sister and my mom were stressed but it shifted once my dad started going into the hospital.” Azarbal said. “He has to see people everyday that are sick, so now he’s the stress case. He makes us take a bunch of precautions; for example, he washes the fruit with dishwasher detergent.”

Diego Ahmad ’20 said that because his mother, an infectious disease doctor, has underlying health conditions, he has been concerned about her safety. However, for the most part, Ahmad’s routine has not changed significantly. “It’s definitely nerve-wracking,” Ahmad said. “[My mother] hasn’t social-distanced herself from us, which is honestly fine because she’s the most at-risk person in the house because she’s had heart problems in the past. Things at home are mostly normal, but it’s definitely still stressful.”

Ahmad said that his mother expressed distress regarding President Donald Trump’s inaction and ambivalence towards the spread of the virus, a debate about the economic and health-related consequences of ending quarantine. Although Newsom announced May 12 that the stay-at-home order will likely be extended for another three months, Amakye said she has noticed that students are still violating quarantine orders. She expressed frustration toward these individuals and said that social distancing has alleviated the burden on both of her siblings and will ultimately contribute to the end of the pandemic. “It makes me wonder: what is so miserable about staying at home and sacrificing for everyone else?” Amakye said. “Even if you don’t care about yourself, you should care about other people who are risking their lives, like my siblings. If everyone could do their part so that they have to deal with one less patient, [that would be] really appreciated.”

On the Front Lines

Students with family members working as healthcare providers reflect on the government’s response to coronavirus.
Students discuss questions they have after the COVID-19 pandemic has changed both college decisions and the admission process.

By Tanisha Gunby and Frank Jiang

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, many colleges have been making changes to the admissions process. So far, the change in policy to optional standardized testing has sparked controversy. The cancellation of overseas summer activities for students has caused many students to panic. Activities such as sports tournaments, volunteering trips and fellowships, have been postponed or canceled. For Delaney Klace ’21, the stress began to set in when she received an email notifying that the school was planning to cancel its college tours.

“I feel like the collection of schools Harvard-Westlake organized can’t be replicated on a tour. I would do it on my own, based on the number of schools we were going to see and the distance we were planning to travel,” Klace said. “With that said, I understand the need to cancel the tours and I’m just happy that everyone is safe and healthy.”

Even though many college tour trips have been cancelled, the school has provided alternatives, as they have been hosting online college panels with alumni for students to learn more about college life. In addition, many other resources are available for students to explore colleges from the comfort of their homes. Many students like Sarah Rivera ’21 have been taking virtual tours of colleges instead of the college tour they were planning on attending during spring break.

“For now, I’ll have to figure out a way to tour colleges on my own,” Rivera said. “I have taken a few virtual tours, but the experience is definitely not the same as touring a college in real life. There’s definitely a sense of disconnect and a less personal feeling, as well as the fact that colleges can now idealize themselves even more than before, as they have complete control over everything we see on the tour.”

Due to COVID-19, many other factors have changed, impacting the college admissions process. On top of extracurriculars and GPA, there is another statistic that many students have questions about: testing scores. Because of the virus, many paper and pen tests have been converted into online ones. Not only does this mean that the test material itself changes, but also the timing of each test. For example, the Advanced Placement exams taken in May were reduced to 45-minute exams consisting of two questions.

“Personally, I don’t mind the changes in the AP exams because it seems for the most part that the exams will be a little bit easier and less time-consuming than they have been in the past,” Klace said. “I do feel like colleges will value our scores and potential credit even less than they already have, but in my opinion they never valued the scores very much to begin with.”

However, Rivera said she has concerns about the changes in AP exams.

“The changes in AP exams give me mixed feelings, but overall I feel even more nervous than before,” Rivera said. “The 45-minute testing period definitely seems as though it is not sufficient enough to justify our knowledge on the subjects, and I’m most apprehensive about how the language exams, for example, will include both spoken and written sections effectively.”

Furthermore, the College Board canceled the March, May and June SAT exams. Josephine Amakye ’21 said she was planning to take the March SAT and that its cancellation has been significantly more stressful than the changes to AP exams.

“I had been studying for a while and was so close to getting it out of the way,” Amakye said. “Unlike the AP test, some students have already taken the SAT. This factor makes a decision that is universally fair seem impossible to find. There is just so much to consider in deciding what is fair for everyone. I only feel regret for not having taken one earlier but had I taken one I would feel better about it than it wouldn’t be considered as heavily by a school choosing to be test optional.”

While testing scores from the SAT and ACT are important, there are also many other factors to consider in going into a college application like summer activities. Due to the COVID-19 crisis, many activities that students had planned for the summer have either been cancelled or moved online.

For Grant Keller ’21, the cancellation of his Humanitarian Experience For Youth (HEFY) volunteer trip to Ghana and his financial internship were his main worries. Despite his trip to Ghana being cancelled, Keller said that because he’s already had so many experiences to volunteer, the trip to Ghana would not have affected his college applications that much.

In addition to his summer visit to Ghana, Keller said that the only other large thing on his mind was his internship opportunity, which he is unsure will continue.

“If I lost my internship in August, that would be incredibly impactful in a bad way when it came to choosing a school,” Keller said. “I would do something else, like ‘oh I’ll do something reallly easy this summer, even though I haven’t done much prior to this,’ that’s going to be harder.”

Regarding standardized testing and school grading, Slattery said that she believes testing will be weighed the same, and that the statistics will not necessarily be weighted anymore than they already had been in the past.

“For many other schools that are going pass or fail, those schools have increased weight on grades prior to the pass or fail, so in some ways, I think that standards in Harvard-Westlake are in a fortunate position since many of them will have testing and all of them will have actual grades,” Slattery said. “That to me is more helpful than kids in situations where they don’t necessarily have testing and don’t necessarily have grades.”

According to EdSource, students’ college decisions may be affected due to COVID-19, leading them to choose to attend a college closer to their homes instead of their first choice college. In a poll of 140 Harvard-Westlake seniors, 17 percent responded that their college decision was impacted by COVID-19.

Lauren Juang ’20 said she decided to defer her college admission for one year. Juang said she was planning to attend Syracuse University for a degree in music and entertainment.

However, because Syracuse University is a college located in upstate New York, it is close to the epicenter of the COVID-19 crisis, which could be a problem if the virus makes a resurgence in the winter.

Juang said the biggest reason that she deferred was the loss of music opportunities that were integral to her specific major.

“What turned me off is the thing that I love about my program, which is the music festivals and the artists that come and perform and we get to meet,” Juang said. “Same with the weekly speakers that we get, which I doubt we will get because of traveling [restrictions].”

Klace said she is hopeful that the college application process normalizes by the end of summer.

“I hope by the late summer or fall I will be able to see the schools I am most interested in person, but I guess there is really no way to know when that will be possible right now,” Klace said.
By Ruoshan Dong

After spending the afternoon watching and practicing TikTok dances, Linda* put on a fresh set of fake eyelashes and a coat of lip gloss, set up a ring light and finally filmed her own video.

Scrolling through her drafts later, she added filters, glitter effects and transitions, feeling self-conscious about her expressions and poses.

“It’s hard to scroll through TikTok every day and see these gorgeous girls with perfect bodies and perfect lives and not compare yourself to them,” Linda said.

“I’m definitely confident with myself, but seeing those videos always makes me a tiny bit jealous because I’m not as attractive as them.”

TikTok is a video sharing platform that uses artificial intelligence and algorithms to curate a For You Page of videos tailored to each user’s unique interests and preferences. Originally launched as a lip-syncing app, TikTok now boasts a vast array of content, ranging from cooking and dance videos to makeup tutorials.

According to DataReportal, TikTok has over 800 million active monthly users, making it the seventh most popular social media platform in the world. TikTok was also the most downloaded app in the Apple App Store in 2019. 41 percent of TikTok users are between the ages of 16 to 24, according to GlobalWebIndex.

Linda, a TikTok user with over 70,000 followers, said that despite gaining fame primarily through her looks, she still feels self-conscious about every video she posts.

“I try to look my best in my videos and put the best version of me out there,” Linda said. “I would put on makeup and film so many drafts, and in the rare chance that I don’t hate them and end up deleting them all, I finally post one and get so nervous over likes and comments and that stuff.”

TikTok user Sally Ho ’21 said she enjoys watching TikToks because its content is relatable and relevant to her everyday life.

“There definitely are a lot of teenagers on my for you page and usually their content is pretty funny and relatable to me and my friends,” Ho said. “The example is all the videos posted about APs. They were really funny and I personally understood them because I went through the same exact thing. That’s one of the main reasons why I think TikTok is so appealing, it’s mainly teenagers, so it’s like there’s a closer connection between users because we’re all going through similar things right now.”

TikTok is rumored to unfairly promote content from rich and conventionally attractive creators, according to The Intercept. A leaked document published by The Verge revealed that TikTok has content moderation policies that censor videos from users who do not fit conventional beauty standards. Policies also supposedly prohibit videos from users with visible facial deformities or disabilities.

“If the character’s appearance or the shooting environment is not good, the video will be much less attractive,” the content moderation policy leaked by The Verge stated. “It will not be worth recommending to our users.”

According to the leaked document, moderators were also told to avoid promoting content that appeared to be created in “slums, rural fields (rural beautiful natural scenery could be exempted), dilapidated housing or construction sites.”

These policies were put in place with the intention of attracting more users and making the app “fancy and appealing.” Although moderators were not directed to outright remove these types of content, they were instructed to avoid promoting them on the For You Page, according to The Verge.

A TikTok spokesperson told The Verge that these moderation policies were never implemented in the United States.

“Like all platforms, we have policies that protect our users and protect national security,” the spokesperson said.

“(One example is) banning any accounts that promote hate speech or terrorism, as outlined in our Community Standards,” Isaac Diengstaj ’21 said he understands the rationale behind the algorithm and believes it highlights an underlying problem within society itself.

“I feel like that’s putting more blame on TikTok than it deserves,” Diengstaj said. “Even though TikTok is not a respectable company, the algorithm only favors what people want to see. It says a lot more about what our society sees as ideals than the ethics of the company itself.”

You see similar patterns with YouTu be, they only promote to you what it thinks you want to see, based on what you like and what other people like.

Frequent use of social media has been proven to cause negative self-worth and body image issues in teenagers, according to a 2018 study published by Newport Academy. The study found that 14 to 17-year-olds who used social media more than seven hours per day were twice as likely to have been diagnosed with depression, treated by a mental health professional or taken medication for a psychological or behavioral issue during the last year compared to teenagers who used social media for less than an hour per day. In a Chronicle poll of 281 students, 40 percent said that they have been spending more time on TikTok and other social media due to quarantine.

Atiana Pineda ’21 said that her TikTok feed makes her feel self-conscious about herself and that she limits the time she spends on TikTok every day.

“It’s really bad for my self-esteem because I feel like it alters your perception of reality,” Pineda said. “Of course people are only putting their best foot forward, and it’s a really unfair comparison to make, seeing someone with a ton of makeup on while your hair is messy and you haven’t looked in the mirror all day.”

Unlike Ho and Pineda, Sterling Kim ’21 said that he uses TikTok to watch comedy videos and tutorials, and doesn’t feel like his self-esteem has been affected.

“I don’t really get stuck in traps in my feed,” Kim said. “I watch gaming clips or skits or stuff like that, and it’s pretty fun. It’s a neutral experience for me, just like any other social media. It doesn’t really affect how I view myself because that’s not the content I get on my For You Page.”

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Students discuss how TikTok can affect self-esteem by creating unrealistic beauty standards for the platform’s users.
Coronavirus became front-page news for American media outlets mid-February, just as cases were cropping up around the United States. However, Diego Ahmad ’20, whose parents are both medical professionals, first heard about the virus when it was still limited to Wuhan. From the beginning, Ahmad said he has empathized with journalists’ difficult task of cutting through the vast amount of misinformation surrounding the pandemic.

“I think an honest news media is absolutely critical in times like these,” Ahmad said. “The danger is when they’re not able to help people accurately sort out truth from lies and misconceptions.”

According to The Washington Post, as of April 3, President Trump had made an average of 23 false or misleading claims per day since the outbreak hit the U.S. Ahmad said he believes that this rampant misinformation, pushed by both the president and White House officials, creates a dangerous environment that fosters confusion within the public.

“This puts [journalists] in a difficult situation during the pandemic,” Ahmad said. “They are often put in the uncomfortable position of not being able to show the president’s press conferences live without spreading dangerous disinformation.”

Janice Min, former Co-President and Chief Creative Officer at The Hollywood Reporter, said that the misinformation being spread by the President around COVID-19 has resulted in a radical shift—turning the public’s perspective of mainstream media as a reliable source of information.

“Trump was a real turning point in this conversation, where maybe for the first time in a while, people began to see that news media is fairly reliable and that sometimes what comes out of the mouths of our elected leaders is not,” Min said. “Trump has done a really good job of creating enough confusion about news to plant the seeds of doubt in a lot of people’s minds. I think one of the benefits to news about coronavirus is that science largely does not lie and is very fact-based. There is not a lot of opinion that goes into science, there are hypotheses and theories, but science is pretty black-and-white.”

At the beginning of the outbreak, Violet Barron ’22 said she found comfort in the data that the news provided. However, she said she no longer reads the news because she finds it to be highly contradictory, providing no unique insight into the current crisis.

“Nowadays, you can find conflicting stories all over the internet,” said Barron. “Some [reports] are saying this will last well into 2021, and others [are] talking about reopening the economy. With all of these contradicting reports, I feel like there’s no point anymore in reading the news.”

Riley Bock ’21 has also distanced herself from news coverage, saying that it causes her stress and has the potential to incite fear within the general public.

“While I think it is very important to report on COVID-19, I do not think it should be main news coverage,” Bock said. “There are other stories to report, and I think repetitive coverage just instills fear. The news coverage is what convinces many Americans to follow social distancing practices and makes them aware of the world’s situation. However, I think some news outlets are walking a fine line between being thorough and causing panic.”

Upper school history teacher Dave Waterhouse, who teaches Mass Entertainment in America, said that global crises have historically increased news viewership in both print and television.

“Crisis always helps bring readers and viewers to the news,” Waterhouse said. “So, the media often brings attention to things that might be considered a crisis or exaggerates things that really are critical.”

This pandemic has proven no different than other crises, as Min said viewership for both news and television has increased since the outbreak first interrupted within the U.S. She attributes this to a motivation to stay informed, as well as the increased time individuals now have to consume information.

“I think one of the interesting things to note is that I think we have seen, over the past year, a lot of fatigue in news around Trump and around the impeachment,” Min said. “It was beginning to have a little bit of a white noise effect, where people can have the ability to tune-out. [Coronavirus] has brought people rushing back to news consumption because this is literally a life and death matter to be informed now.”

Waterhouse also said that while mainstream news outlets are the most reliable source, the rising popularity of social media and the internet as forms of news can spread misinformation, promoting opinions as facts.

“One on the one hand, the mainstream media has provided a lot of accurate information about the pandemic—more so than the president,” Waterhouse said. “On the other hand, the fringe media have spread many dangerous rumors and unsupported speculation, both of which have been highly counterproductive.”

Claire Wacziarg ’21 said she agrees with Waterhouse, and is similarly concerned that many teenagers and young adults tend to get their news from social media sites, which often promote opinions over facts. However, she finds the lack of uniformity regarding White House press coverage among all the news outlets to be troubling.

“What has upset me recently is that the virus has become a partisan issue, divided along Democrat and Republican lines,” Wacziarg said. “I’ve been noticing that Democrats tend to emphasize the impact the coronavirus will have on people’s health and the cost the virus will have in terms of lives. Meanwhile, the Republicans, namely Trump and his base, are emphasizing the cost it will have on the economy.”

Wacziarg also said that she is often contrasted with the divisions that news coverage can create, and she maintains that unbiased news is the best way to remain connected to world events.

“I feel like often the news can be partisan in a way that vilifies the other side,” Wacziarg said. “[That’s why] finding more centrist news outlets has been important for me. I think that the news should be able to be informative and, as best as possible, not panic-inducing.”

Barron said she agrees that the news has the potential to create panic, but believes that the media has the capacity to bring people together.

She said she thinks that YouTube series like John Krasinski’s “Some Good News,” which features feel-good stories about the kindness in humanity, can significantly impact the mental health of its international audience.

“During global crises, I think the news should be a rock for people,” Barron said. “I’ve realized that good news, whether it be about people going out of their way to help others, or how people are making the best out of their quarantine, is really important right now. Especially during this quarantine, everyone could benefit from hearing good news, even just to remind them that good things are still happening, even when it feels like the whole world has been put on pause.”
Reconciling with Remote Learning

Art students and teachers discuss their experiences with performing arts classes being conducted over Zoom and how it impacts their performances.

By Celine Park

When news of the school’s sudden closure broke out, the quad erupted with cheers, but Elias Peter ’21 did not join the celebration. With a sinking feeling, Peter realized the announcement was not a free four-day weekend, but the cancellation of a long-anticipated Jazz Band trip to Poland and the Czech Republic, he said. Two weeks later, instead of playing his tenor saxophone in Warsaw, Peter spent his spring break watching Miles Davis: Birth of the Cool and Chasing Trane: The John Coltrane Documentary from his living room couch as part of The Jazz Band’s end-of-year project.

“The documentaries brought the upper passion of jazz forward, but the downside is that we can’t have a performance [of] the pieces we’ve worked so hard for the whole year,” Peter said. “We were supposed to go to Poland and Prague for 11 days to perform 46 songs, but that was pretty much doomed during the quarantine.”

While most instrumental and choral classes have not met over Zoom for the past few weeks, dance, acting and visual arts courses have continued to meet regularly in accordance with the school’s online daily schedule. However, remote learning poses various obstacles for the arts, especially when classes attempt to participate in group activities. Actor and the Stage II student Gisele Stigi ’22 said, “During script readings it’s hard to be in character when you’re in your living room, and it’s hard with the internet connection, because you’ll say a line, and then there’s a huge lag before the next person can say theirs,” Stigi said.

Despite technical limitations, Sophia Schwartz ’20 said that Advanced Dance II teacher Anne Moore has effectively structured Zoom sessions that engage students through creative workouts and movement classes.

“It’s good to actually get out of our chairs for once,” Schwartz said. “There’s a certain connection you have when you dance with your friends that you can’t get through a screen, but out of all my classes, dance has honestly been the one that has [adapted] the best.”

Nevertheless, remote learning has pushed artists to explore new outlets. Drawing and Painting II student Skylar Liu ’22 said, “Zoom art has been decent in the sense that it has forced us to try new media,” Liu said. “Some people are doing more digital art, and we’ve been able to collaborate in a group project where everyone worked on the same piece, where we all take turns and pass it around and that’s not something we’ve ever tried before.”

Similarly, Stigi said her class has taken advantage of Zoom’s features in ways that have allowed students to understand acting in a new light. “We’re pretending to pass things through the screen, and pretending to reach over through the other person’s Zoom boxes, and we change our names to our character names; instead of Gisele Stigi, it says Emily,” Stigi said. “I think this is something where the online experience has changed (“Our Town”). We’re taking the fact that it’s online and making our play different, maybe even better.”

Will Nordstrom ’21 said he also has experienced more artistic freedom while creating short films for his Video Art II class. “[Our teacher] assigns something and we do it on our own time; there’s no deadline,” Nordstrom said. “You can make anything you basically want, and it has vague guidelines, but you have full creative control. At school, we have 45 minutes of class and we can only do things in that timeframe, but at home, we have all day to do these short films.”

Following the school’s closure, all performances after March 11—including the Dance Concert, as well as Jazz and Symphony recitals—were canceled. The lack of final shows has affected artists’ motivation, Alon Moradi ’21 said. “I sing, work on my vocal technique and practice music all day because that’s what I like to do, but because there are no performances or any sort of short-term goal I’ve set for myself, I haven’t worked as intensely in certain aspects,” Moradi said.

This year, however, the annual Playwrights Festival will be converted to audio recordings. Leading up to the broadcasts from June 8 to 19, students of the cast will work with professional directors over the course of five weeks to improve their acting and vocal skills.

Stigi, whose play was accepted to the festival, said that she’s grateful for the theater department’s efforts in creating opportunities for student directors to showcase their work digitally. “I obviously prefer having actual class in person, but I think it’s really cool how we’re not just giving up on the process, and we’re finding a way to perform the show,” Stigi said. Playwrights Festival Director Aaron Martin said the adjustment from a physical show to an online recording has not only been difficult, but also reflects changes in the arts community. “My personal opinion is that this virus has affected the art world to years to come, whether through inspiration for virtual artists, new ways of putting on live shows, or obviously the advanced use of digital practices,” Martin said. “There is something profound happening to the world around us and attempting to define it now will be difficult. How we rebuild and what we become attracted to and how we move forward will truly help define our future and art will in many ways help guide those definitions.”

Moradi said while Zoom cannot replace in-person collaboration with his fellow artists, he still believes that the love for the arts as a whole is what keeps the arts community functioning during quarantine. “I think what’s so special about the performing arts, even outside of Harvard-Westlake, is that there are so many different kinds of art institutions that have put out live streams performances and orchestras, which is obviously not the same, but there’s still kind of the power of unification that comes with performing as an ensemble,” Moradi said. “Even though it’s harder to function as a larger group, when it all comes together, it’s really gratifying, because you have this sort of connection everywhere.”
In light of quarantine life causing new daily routines, students share how they are still able to express their unique, artistic mediums even within the confines of their own homes.

Lily Xie ’20

Not even a pandemic could stop Lily Xie ’20, a first-degree black belt in taekwondo, from continuing the training regimen she has followed consistently for the past seven years.

“I actually have a greater desire to train now than I did before,” Xie said. "I feel it requires less discipline now that I have more motivation and fewer time restrictions.”

Taekwondo is a combative martial art, which Xie usually practices at her club Monday through Friday. Now, she has adapted her training methods to the limitations of her home.

“I do sparring, [which usually involves] a lot of kick drills and sparring with others,” Xie said. “Because there is no one to interact with, my training during quarantine is focused on building and maintaining muscles and increasing kick accuracy and speed.”

As a co-leader of the Boxing and Martial Arts Club this year, Xie held monthly training sessions after school to expose students to taekwondo.

“I have learned a lot from [Xie],” co-leader of the Boxing and Martial Arts Club Nancy Zhang ’21 said. “Because of the fact that I can’t really spar during quarantine, I am really thankful for [Xie] since she taught me a lot of kick techniques that I am now practicing at home.

Xie said taekwondo has not only provided structure to her daily schedule, but also helped maintain her strength and provide some normalcy during this difficult time.

“Taekwondo definitely keeps me healthier mentally and physically during quarantine time,” Xie said. “Quarantine has actually boosted my motivation to do my regular training sessions because it’s a way to fill my schedule since I have a lot more free time.”

Skylar Liu ’21

Now constantly surrounded by members of her family, Skylar Liu ’21 has found inspiration for both current and future paintings within the comfort of her own home.

“While some may see quarantine as a hindrance to artistic expression, for me personally, I have [drawn ideas from] my family and its history,” Liu said.

Liu said quarantine has allowed her the time and opportunity to delve deeper into both her Asian heritage and topics regarding mental health, two themes central to her art.

“My most common sources of inspiration are old family photos, antiques, heirlooms and my personal experiences, so quarantine has actually allowed me to explore these more,” Liu said.

Fellow artist Fatamraz Nia ’21 said he is impressed by Liu’s newest painting, which centers around dealing with grief.

“Even though [Liu’s] latest painting is not complete yet, I can tell it’s going to be really awesome,” said Nia. “She has put her heart into this one.”

Liu hopes to create pieces that focus on the cultural and political effects of the pandemic. But for now, continuing to work on current projects has brightened her days, she said.

“Even before the coronavirus, I’ve always found peace while doing art,” Liu said. “As much as I love family time, immersing myself in art is a much-needed break from time to time.”

Spencer Flippen ’21

Before quarantine began, Spencer Flippen ’21 was busy working on his latest short film. A director, writer and actor, Flippen has continued to bring the story of three teenagers trapped in a backyard to life.

“I had to do some thorough replanning, but right now I am mainly focusing on my short film and a couple of music videos,” Flippen said. “During quarantine, I have focused on video editing and am doing some filming, but not as much as I had hoped for.”

Actress Natalie Ayeni ’21 said she is looking forward to seeing Flippen’s newest work in full.

“I was able to witness and be a part of [Flippen’s] short film,” Ayeni said. “His work is really inspiring, and you can tell he has a lot of skills.”

Flippen watched various music videos which in turn helped guide his own films. Flippen said the reason why he enjoys filmmaking because the process of sharing messages through a different medium is rewarding.

“I create films and videos because it’s fun,” Flippen said. “Taking stories that I hear about from other people or my own personal experiences and adapting them into different genres may take a lot of effort, but the result is really fulfilling and entertaining.”
Relating movies to life: enduring quarantine through film

By Annie Beckman

Growing up, I was always a TV show kind of gal. My parents never encouraged me to watch movies as a young child. My first PG-13 movie was actually at age thirteen and it was “The Devil Wears Prada.”

Although a classic in the eyes of a 13-year-old girl, it was no quintessential cultural learning experience.

Alas, I was soon 17-years-old with little to no experience with quality film. Of course, I’ve been to countless movies at the theater and I’ve seen my fair share of Netflix romcoms, but I had never truly been exposed to “old” movies.

So, on Jan. 1, I made it my New Year’s resolution to become more cultured in film. As it commonly does, my eagerness to fulfill this resolution fizzled away pretty quickly. I really wanted to achieve it, but school and the rest of life got in the way pretty quickly. I really wanted to watch stands at around 85 movies. I started my binge with “Annie Hall.” I had never seen a Woody Allen movie. Can you believe it? It was funny, very picturesque. I watched a few more Woody Allen movies, including “Bananass,” my favorite from Woody Allen so far.

I also dove into Quentin Tarantino movies, another filmmaker I had yet to experience. I was never big on violence movies before, but I adored every single one, and couldn’t seem to get enough.

As for the rest of the movies, they included some black-and-whites with Humphrey Bogart, Cary Grant and classic actors and actresses. Of course there were also some Steven Spielberg, Alfonso Cuaron, Frank Darabont and movies from about thirty more writers/directors. I even explored some newer must-watches, like “Good Will Hunting,” “Serendipity,” and some enlightening documentaries like “Generation Wealth.”

This massive movie-binge experience has been a wonderful way to spend my quarantine. Whether the societal comparisons between “Children of Men” and our coronavirus infected Earth, or the subtle teenage relativabilities in “Swingers,” I learned that even a high school senior like myself can compare film to their life and the world around them.

And luckily, I am in no way finished. My remaining list of movies to watch stands at around 85 movies. Oh, the lessons I will learn. Wish me luck!

A Puzzling Pandemic Problem

English teacher Amanda Foushee presents Harvard-Westlake with another crossword puzzle. For Chronicle’s last issue, the theme centers around social distancing.

Across

1. completely
4. sign of a past fire
9. rise over run
14. new prefix
15. reek
16. safari accessory
17. feathered biped
18. streetwise
19. Frank or Pacino
20. aquarium locale
22. originally French, now Swiss
23. gold bar
24. one with a wand, or power
26. a real honorable guy
60. little brothers in quarantine
61. a knight, say figure
62. purpose

4. useful thing
5. celeb
6. drone homebase
7. green with it
8. source of Chicken Little concern
9. vault
10. townie
11. freedom of access
12. anti-war type
13. literary adverb
21. hard to say!
22. key word of giant’s catchphrase
24. BBQ staple
25. rainbow initiator
27. gorilla or bonobo, say
28. agile
29. in protest or prayer
32. purpose
33. choosing in favor
34. a knight, say
35. rings of color
36. margins or edges, for Shakespeare perhaps
37. natural order of the universe
38. Cape
41. distinguish
43. healthcare behemoth
44. known for evil
45. disease spreader
47. now or forever
48. summer fabric
49. silly call
50. 27 across verb
51. 27 across verb
52. Angkor Wat, for example
53. vases
54. raw material for pancake topper
55. performer
56. admissions hoop
57. rose perfume
58. group of pandemic heroes
59. purpose
60. little brothers in quarantine
61. a real honorable guy
62. flour and bread grain

Down

1. cause of weakness
2. Daniel Handler pen name
3. spread out
4. useful thing
5. celeb
6. drone homebase
7. green with it
8. source of Chicken Little concern
9. vault
10. townie
11. freedom of access
12. anti-war type
13. literary adverb
21. hard to say!
22. key word of giant’s catchphrase
24. BBQ staple
25. rainbow initiator
27. gorilla or bonobo, say
28. agile
29. in protest or prayer
32. purpose
33. choosing in favor
34. a knight, say
35. rings of color
36. margins or edges, for Shakespeare perhaps
37. natural order of the universe
38. Cape
41. distinguish
43. healthcare behemoth
44. known for evil
45. disease spreader
47. now or forever
48. summer fabric
49. silly call
50. 27 across verb
51. 27 across verb
52. Angkor Wat, for example
53. vases
54. raw material for pancake topper
55. performer
Field Hockey

By Lucas Lee

As the buzzer went off on the "smurf turf" at Chaminade College Preparatory, the Wolverines found themselves in unfamiliar territory; the score was tied 1-1. After almost three undefeated seasons of shutouts and blowouts, the team had one last chance to preserve its 57-game win streak with a short corner.

On the first attempt, the short corner hit the foot of a Chaminade player, giving the Wolverines another chance. Captain and midfielder Rachel Brown '20 said that the Wolverines knew the stakes, and they wouldn't settle for a tie.

"On our second try, it came to me and then it went to [Bella Ganocy '22], and she scored," Smolev said. "We were overjoyed with my life and the success of the program," Brown said. "We had been through so much as a group over the past four years, there was nothing at this point that could distract or derailed our goals. As for adjustments, I gave this group an immense amount of freedom. I trusted they had the ability to self-evaluate and make corrections when we seemed off course."

This year, all eight of the team's seniors are committed to play in college. United States Naval Academy commit and Boys' Water Polo Head Coach Brian Flacks said, "I think that although this team did accomplish a lot as a whole, we wouldn't have had all the tools necessary if we weren't for the coaches that were before us."

"We had in each other," Flacks said. "We had been through so much as a group, the team's ability to control game play through set plans."

"A lot of people actually saw our win from the year before as a fluke, and [thought] that Newport was going to get the job done for real this time around," goalkeeper Asher Schwartz '21 said. "We knew we were the better team and were very capable of winning the championship, but we definitely had that in the back of our minds throughout the season."

The boys only built on last season's success, however, finishing the year with a 31-2 overall record that culminated in two CIF championship wins. Defeating their rival Newport Harbor 6-4 Nov. 16, the Wolverines secured the CIF Division I title for the second straight year. With this momentum, the team once again triumphed over the Sailors in an 11-10 win at CIF Regionals one week later.

Schwartz credited the boys' success throughout the season to their ability to control game play through set plans.

"Our biggest key to success was playing our game as a team," Schwartz said. "As long as we did that, we'd essentially always win."
Iriafen adds to long list of accolades

The girls’ basketball team concluded another successful season, receiving numerous accolades. Kiki Iriafen ’21 stacked up several awards, headlined by the Cal-Hi Sports Junior State Player of the Year award. She also claimed both the All-CIF Southern Section First Team and Mission League MVP titles. To cap it off, she was named to the LA Daily News All-Area team.

Guard Melissa Zouolenko ’21 was selected to the All-CIF Southern Section First Team. Zouolenko and guards Krista Semaan ’21 and Kimiko Katzarruf ’21 were all also named to the All-Mission League first team.

On top of the player’s awards, Coach Melissa Hearlhy received the CIF Southern Section Division I Coach of the Year award.

- Ryan Razmajoo

Young team gets recognition

After a 15-3-3 season, multiple members of the girls’ soccer team received CIF and Mission League honors.

 Defender Natalie Barnouw ’21 and defender Natalie Phillips ’21 were selected to the All-CIF Southern Division I First Team. Phillips and forward Daniella Quintoer ’22 also received the All-Mission League Defensive and Offensive MVP awards, respectively. Additionally, Barnouw, forward Haynes ’22 and goalkeeper Devon Carmel ’21 were named to the All-Mission League first team, while midfielders Brooke Stanford ’21, Jade Stanford ’22 and Maddie Kirschenbaum ’21 joined the second team.

- Justin Goldstein

Rebibo, seniors receive high honors

The boys’ basketball team capped off their season with the severe accolades. Cal-Hi Sports recognized Head Coach David Rebibo as Coach of the Year. Center Mason Hooks ’20 and guard Spencer Hubbard ’20 were selected to the All-CIF first and second teams, respectively.

Guard Braze Dottin ’20 also made the All-Mission League First Team, and forward Tristan Gentry ’21 and Hubbard made the Second Team. Forward Holden McRae ’20 and guard Cameron Thrower ’22 received Mission League Honorable Mentions.

- Ryan Razmajoo

Greenlee named League MVP

Several players from the boys’ soccer team were granted awards to commemorate their performances this season.

Defender Pablo Greenlee ’20 and forward Langston Holly ’20 were both named to the Daily News Boys’ All-Area team. In addition to making the Daily News All-Area team, Greenlee was also named the Mission League Offensive MVP.

- Ryan Razmajoo

Baseball voted best bench by students

By Maxine Zurifpe and Marine Digreve

Defined by its players’ brotherly connections on and off the field, the varsity baseball team was voted Best Bench of the 2020 school year by the student body. In these uncertain circumstances, the Wolverines balanced fun and hard work, which allowed them to enjoy the few games and practices they had, pitcher and third baseman Jordan Kang ’22 said.

“Our team’s got great chemistry because we are all focused on winning and being able to motivate and help others brings us together,” Kang said.

Some of the team’s favorite game time memories include dugout celebrations after big hits, home runs, strikeouts and victory high fives, Kang said.

“My favorite post-game routine has got to be running off to the outfield and celebrating with my teammates after a great team win,” Kang said. “Even after a long tournament with many tough innings, team members are still excited and proud at the end of each game.”

Center fielder and Vanderbilt University commit Pete Crow-Armstrong ’20 said the team’s camaraderie and respect for the coaches and each other created a productive, yet enjoyable environment.

“Everyone genuinely likes each other, so it’s easy to have fun in the dugout,” Crow-Armstrong said. “There isn’t much that goes unmentioned but we all enjoy spending time in the dugout.”

DUGOUT CREW: George Cooper ’21, Kai Casanno ’23, Jordan Kang ’22 and David Lazano ’23 pose in the dugout before a game March 6.
Nostalgic for a world of sports normalcy

By Jaidev Pant and Charlie Wang

On a mundane Tuesday afternoon during spring break, we both found ourselves sick of binge-watching Netflix shows and were looking for something new. After all, quarantine left us with nothing to do, and that emptiness was only heightened during this time off.

However, as we walked down into our living rooms, miles away from each other, we were both immediately connected, glued to the television screen to watch Game Seven of the infamous Celtics vs. Lakers 2010 NBA Finals. It’s a game nearly any Los Angeles sports fan can remember. As we tuned in, we felt the return of our childhoods, when we played on our mini hoops and yelled “Kobe” before shooting the ball. We imagined “California Gurls” by Katy Perry blaring in the gym as we ran suicides, waiting to see how hot it was inside of Hamilton and yelled “Kobe” before shooting the ball. We imagined “California Gurls” by Katy Perry blaring in the gym as we ran suicides, waiting to see how hot it was inside of Hamilton and yelled “Kobe” before shooting the ball.

Even though it is a documentary, it gives that same thrill of watching live sports, because the details of the documentary are all new to us. Despite the fact that we have never actually watched Michael Jordan’s Bulls in person, we still feel that level of nostalgia that our parents do.

The documentary reminded us of something greater—the love we share for the game of basketball.

In fact, when we saw Scottie Pippen and Jordan pressuring opponents the entire game in full court press, we both texted each other immediately. It had reminded us of our freshman basketball days and the lethal 2-2-1 press that we would use to pestle opponents all game.

We then went on to recall that season, when our biggest worry was whether or not we had worn the right gym outfit or had remembered to bring our team water bottles. During those days, we would complain about how hot it was inside of Hamilton Gym as we ran suicides, waiting to go home and take a shower. Little did we know that one day, the gym would be locked until further notice, and we’d be begging to leave our homes.

Our sports have the ability to take us back to a time of pure joy, a time where all the stresses we feel as high school students disappear into thin air. They have the ability to bring us together with people that we may have forgotten along the way and bring smiles to our faces.

As it becomes more and more of a reality that professional sports will eventually return, we ask you to appreciate sports in a way that you never have before. Remember the time that returns of a regular season game were your only form of entertainment. Remember the time that you dribbled a basketball all around your house out of desperation. As you watch the sporting events in the near future, take a moment to soak it all in, even if there will be no fans in attendance.

In the end, we have learned that the gift of live sports can be taken away any second and we cannot take them for granted.

in brief

Female swimmer to go to Cornell University

Swimmer Angelica Sih ‘20 announced her commitment to Cornell University, where she will continue her academic and athletic career, April 14.

“When I received the offer from Cornell to swim for them, I was speechless,” Sih said. “Cornell was my first choice, so getting an offer from them was definitely one of the happiest moments of my life.”

Sih started swimming when she was eight years old, and continued her career with the Wolverines beginning in ninth grade.

Sih said she is grateful that she was given the opportunity to meet the many amazing people who are a part of the school’s swim program.

“I’ve met some of my closest friends at WPH and I had so much fun practicing and getting to practice with them,” Sih said.

During her fresh year, Sih broke the 100-yard backstroke school record with a 57.68 second time. Additionally, she has qualified for CIF Division I swimming competitions every year.

“I have qualified and placed for CIF every year and for CIF state individually my sophomore year, and placed sixteenth at CIF state my junior year,” Sih said.

“Along with my individual achievements, I qualified and placed for Scholastic All American both last year and this year.”

—Maxine Zuriff

Football hosts contest with New York school

The football program competed in a virtual sports competition against Poly Prep Country Day School, located in New York, on April 24 in what is being called “the 400.”

The competition consisted of 100 pushups, sit-ups, crunches and lunges. The goal of the exercises is to finish them as fast as possible to advance to the next round, nicknamed the “Final Four.”

Blue Devils Athletic Director Rich Corso challenged the Wolverine football program in hopes of engaging in new activities during quarantine.

Football Program Head and Coach Aaron Huerta took on the challenge to motivate his team and to work hard to improve together.

“We hope to keep doing these types of challenges with other teams,” Huerta said. “I think it is good for the kids to compete and challenge themselves.”

Ten players from each team joined a Zoom call and participated in the competition, with the two fastest times from each team advancing to the next matchup. Tight end Miles Cardillo ’22 and running back Josh Dixon ’23 both advanced to the final with times of 6:19 and 6:16, respectively.

On May 6, the finals of the competition took place, with Cardillo and Dixon facing two of their teammates from the football program.

Although Huerta plans to make adjustments to the competition in the future, he said that the event is hopefully the first of many future events with high school opponents.

“We think it is a great opportunity for our guys to compete and keep them motivated during these tough times,” Huerta said.

—Marine Degaise

COACH OF THE YEAR

Program Head Rebibo wins coach of the year

By Charlie Wang

While Basketball Program Head David Rebibo led the Wolverines to plenty of success and multiple CIF championships over the past few years, the 2019-2020 boys’ team is arguably his finest work to date.

Competing in the CIF-SS Open Division, in which a number of ESPN ranked four and five-star players participated, Rebibo’s squad finished the season with a 25-7 record and a Mission League title.

The boys finished the season as the fifth best team in the state after reaching the Southern California Open Division Semifinals.

Recognizing his performance, the student body voted Rebibo coach of the year in the Big Red Sports Superlatives poll. Rebibo edged out his fellow finalists, Boys’ Water Polo Head Coach Brian Flacks and Field Hockey Coach Erin Crezien.

“I am incredibly grateful for this honor, but I have to give all the credit to our players and coaches,” Rebibo said. “Their work ethic and commitment to our program is what has made us successful. I am proud of our program and am appreciative of the great honor.”

“Coach Rebibo has honestly been one of the greatest coaches I’ve had,” Weisskopf said. “His commitment to not only the program, but also to us as student athletes is amazing. He’s made basketball such an enjoyable experience for me and he is fully deserving of the honor.”

Rebibo founded the school’s basketball program in 2015, after serving as an assistant coach at the University of San Francisco for two years and the head coach at El Camino Real High school for six. In his time with the Wolverines, Rebibo’s overall record is 118-42.

In April, Cal-Hi Sports named Rebibo Coach of the Year, a title given to the state’s top basketball coach.

The recognition joined Rebibo’s collection of coaching accolades, which includes the 2017 CIF-SS D1 Coach of the Year and the 2012 City Section D2 Coach of the Year awards.
Athletes of the Year

Mason Hooks ’20

Center

By Ryan Razmajoo and Lucas Loo

Dominance. Center MasonHooks ’20 finished his Harvard-Westlake career with a dominance. Center MasonHooks ’20 finished his Harvard-Westlake career with a 21-9 season. After graduating, Hooks will attend Princeton University to continue his basketball career.

Hooks was the 2020 Mission League MVP and made the CalHiSports All-State Team. He also became the first Harvard-Westlake player to be a CIF Open Division First Team selection.

Many younger players credit Hooks with helping them win. Guard Melissa Zozulenko ’21 said, "He brings remarkable energy that can't be replaced. You always know he's ready to go."

"I think that was so special because our group of seniors had been together playing so much."

In addition to his own stellar play, Hooks's skill and energy has also helped his teammates achieve their full potential. Many younger players credit Hooks with helping them improve and make the team a positive influence on the program. "I am very excited to be joining the team, and I'm really looking forward to playing. There are really smart people there. I really liked their team and their coaching staff is great," Hooks said. "I am very thankful for all the coaches and people who showed up to the game. I love them all. It's been a great four seasons."

Iriafen finished the season as Female Athlete of the Year. Her excellent play in the team's historic 2019-2020 season led the student body to select her as Female Athlete of the Year. Iriafen finished the season with 27 double-doubles, averaging 23.5 points and 15.1 rebounds per game. She was named the All-CIF Southern Section Division I Player of the Year, the Mission League Most Valuable Player and the CalHiSports Junior State Player of the Year.

"Our coach always says, 'When you work hard, you gain a lot more. When you end up with the freedom to choose what you want to do, that is very true—when you put in the work, you gain that flexibility.'"

"Winning the Mission league that year was really great," Hooks said. "We played well in the championship game. That year was great for everyone."

This year as captain, Hooks led the team to another Mission League title after a win against Chaminade College Preparatory High School, averaging 18 points and 11 rebounds per game. The team went undefeated in the Mission League, finishing 27-5 in the season. They went on to the CIF Open Division Regional Semifinals, where the Wolverines finished fifth in the state. Out of many special memories on the team and prestigious awards, this year's experience stands out for Hooks.

"My best memory of my time on the team at Harvard-Westlake was winning the Mission League this year," Hooks said.
ZOOMING AHEAD
By Tammer Bagdasarian

I have around 550 words to write my final story in the Chronicle. 550 words to capture the late September events, celebrating the traditional start to senior year this past September.

EICS:

I still exist—in the dysfunction I think I need to.

But here’s the thing, I don’t really school self behind in an article. Ironically, I now as at the time, I felt those moments ing, high school experience. But action-spurring, worldview build ing, every moment seems like a cli
tion—enough? But now I have only 478

enough? But now I have only 478

have spent at Harvard-Westlake. uniquely meaningful seconds I

Remember how, remember when...

By Lindsay Wu

A couple of weeks ago, I re

turned to campus to retrieve a few

A couple of weeks ago, I re

turned to campus to retrieve a few

forgotten sweatshirts from my

locker. Wearing a mask, I passed

through eerily empty spaces in the

quad, the halls of Chalmers and the

lot near Weiler—places where I’ve

enjoyed formative years in the

lively company of my peers. Now,

looking only the echoes of my

own footsteps, I couldn’t quite

think I need to. That part of me

still exists—-in the dysfunctional

printer, in the paper-stuffed

hat suit, in the pomegranate juice

strain on the pavement from a

late-night experiment gone

wrong—and it always will.

When I revisit old notes I have written and page designs I have worked on, I don’t just see words and graphics. Looking at those pages, I can catch glimpses of different parts of myself, little video loops of memories gone by;

formally tucked away in a dusty

corner of my mind all of a sud-

den brought forward with full

intensity. I can see the parts of

myself I left behind, my debilitat-

ing writing paralysis at the mere

thought of someone not thinking

my editorial voice was insightful

or poignant enough. I can see

myself growing closer to the most

meaningful group I’ve ever been

part of. I can see myself mess

up, grow up, find a second home,

a second family and get closer to

being the person I want to be.

Above all else, the folded

stack of 32 pages that we call the

Chronicle has done one thing for

me. It has given me something
to give myself to. No matter how

could have changing things were in

the outside world, I felt as if I could

always escape to my haven, one

of the three rooms beneath the
green awning on the northern-

most point of campus, and figure

it out.

Picas and baseline grids did

more than space out a page cor-

ectly, they offered me structure

ture and elegant space when

everything around me seemed

cluttered and confused. Editing

als helped me find my voice when

the only thing I was really sure of

was that I was unsure of who I

was. And my fellow Chronicle se-

nior’s, the strange, beautiful, mis-

matched, hilarious, utterly per-

fect group of seniors who I would

not trade for the world, gave me

a reason to dive head

not trade for the world, gave me

a reason to dive head

for the world, gave me

a reason to dive head

dive head

thinking about what the Chronicle was like. 

Oh and by the way, I am now 46

words over the limit. But when

has any of us ever stuck to a word count anyway?
Staging my final memories

By Kyra Hudson

My dad was always curious and slightly concerned about the assortment of random household objects I brought with me to Saturday morning layoffs. As I placed a bag of pennies and some empty pill bottles from my dog’s ear infection into my backpack, he looked at me as if I had been speaking a foreign language. Only “Features kids” know the true struggle of coming up with and finding the painfully specific objects needed to stage photos. My layout days were spent driving to craft stores to find fake snow or calling around asking if anyone sold briefcases. I could probably do my experience justice. One day later (reference in the layout being a package deal of the friends, players and snacks that usually came with it.

But the truth is, no matter what plan goes awry, whether it be a page layout or senior year, life goes on. So, we still have our friends, we will still be going to college next year—whatever that looks like—and I want us to have a little collective love of “The Office.” Fully embracing the cheesiness of my words, I’ll say that if my high school experience has taught me anything, it is that there is uncertainty that is what makes life interesting, and that no matter the setbacks, the world keeps going.

With that, I conclude my stereotypical senior supplement and my Chronicling experience, forever etched into the late nights, the edits and all the memories that came with it.

I think all readers should watch this piece of cartoon genius themselves). “Band Geeks” is about Squidward’s desperate attempt to solicit his friends to form a band to play at a gig he was offered by his arrogant high school rival, Squilliam. After an unsuccessful, chaotic rehearsal, Squidward returns to his Easter Island Head house feeling discouraged, underprepared for the performance and ready for Squilliam to tease him over his failed music career.

One day later (reference in the layout), SpongeBob, recognizing how important this show is to his friend, rallies the other musicians and somehow manages to pull off a jaw-dropping performance that leaves Squidward smiling from ear to ear and Squilliam de-puffing his chest. “Sweet Victory” is about perseverance and teamwork, making the song absolutely perfect for SpongeBob and his gang to dy- namic together through issues, in both senses of the word. This school is a complex place filled with many lessons to be learned, and just as it was impossible to navigate unless you find your own cast of characters willing to go the extra mile for you.

But the truth is, no matter how sweet of a victory it is that they are a part of your life. Finally, remember that mayonnaise is not an instrument.

Those who kayak together stay together

By Casey Kim

Arms aching, mouth dry, eyes watery and glutes on fire. I was on the verge of breaking down, but all I could manage to do was keep going. Even stopping to take a break required more brain and muscle power than I could muster, so I just kept rowing, clockwise (then counterclockwise whenever I got bored). When posed with the task of writing my last article for the Chronicle, I spent hours contemplating the perfect, hilar- ious, non- cliché story that would define my time at Harvard-West- lave.

Though I failed to come up with such, this article is two weeks past deadline and Editor-in-Chief Tanner Bagdasar- ian just sent a passive aggressive email about it, so here is the clos- est I’ve got. The Colorado River retreat in ninth grade was one of the most uneventfully laborious experiences of my life. Especially as someone who was never par- ticularly athletic, those few days felt endless, and I was sore in places I didn’t even know were capable of such pain. I also de- veloped a newfound respect for kayakers.

I hadn’t showered, looked in a mirror or used a proper toilet in days. All of my clothes were filthy, and my shoes were always soggy. My face was plastered with debris, sweat, tears and maybe even a little bit of animal feces. On top of it all, the rest of the class of 2020, which I had only known for a couple months, was there to witness everything and experience the same. However, in the midst of all of the fifth and physically demanding activities, some of the best memories of my life came from retreat.

Singing around the campfire, watching the most beautiful sun- rise, jumping into the freezing cold river after sweating buckets, breathing in the crisp, morn- ing air on a mountain hike and laughing with my friends until our stomachs hurt. There were many late nights and special mo- ments that we had spent togeth- er, and by the end of the trip, I felt like I finally belonged to this school and a part of this class. I guess you can say that ninth grade retreat is my mediocre metaphor for high school. There were ups and downs, tears, laughter, new experiences and new friends. We were shy and cautious around our classmates at first, but by the end, we all shared inside jokes and precious memories. We saw each other at our worst and ugliest, but we also saw each other at our most youthful, shining moments. We grew up together, competed against each other and pushed each other to grow.

There were difficult times, but there were also incredibly happy moments together that made up for it. And despite the long jour- ney, we all made it to the end, better and stronger than when we first came.
More than a paper: my Chronicle family

By William Seymour

When I hear the word Chronicle, one thing comes to mind above all else: family. While my InDesign and Photoshop skills have grown exponentially more than I ever thought they would, I’ve grown as a person even more during my time on staff, nurtured by the family that I’ve done it with.

The sports section was a rag-tag group going into my junior year. We were friendly with each other, but by no means were we a tight-knit group. That all changed within months. My friends thought I was crazy when I said I couldn’t wait for layout. They didn’t understand the appeal of spending Friday nights and long Saturdays in Weiler. But layout rarely felt like work because I was doing it with the people I loved and smiling from ear to ear.

The family we formed on Chronicle will never go away. Sure, we won some fantastic issues, we went to our fair share of games when people were in their comfort zones, and we published some fantastic issues, but I’m leaving staff with some unbreakable bonds with amazing people.

As I enter the next phase of my life, I hope we didn’t just bring me work as enjoyable as my work on this paper, with coworkers and friends who I can also call family. But that’s no small request; the Chronicle was something special.

Our Last Dance

By Will Mallory

I think it’s fitting that ESPN was airing “The Last Dance” during the final months of our senior year. After five NBA Championships and unprecedented success, the 1998 Chicago Bulls took the court for one last season, hoping to win their sixth O’Brien Trophy and solidify themselves as the best of the best. As I quarantined on my couch and watched the magic unfold, I thought of Harvard-Westlake. And here’s why:

Our remarkable teachers are the Phil Jacksons of the community, guiding us through high school with overwhelming passion and interest in their curriculums. Masterminds of our courses, they have always catered to our academic interests, always striving for pride each and every day. Like Jackson, though, they cared more about the students, and I was lucky to get to know a few of them on a deeper level as the years went on.

My friends are the Scottie Pippen’s of my world, always ready to lend a helping hand in the best and worst of times. Ambitious, supportive and extremely personable, they kept me centered at all times, reminding me of the beauties of life while always making sure I kept a chip on my shoulder. I wouldn’t have made it through without them.

Dennis Rodman encapsulates those moments that I just can’t describe. A wildcard among them all, he reminds me of the late nights out, inside jokes and senior year shenanigans that made up my HW experience. It was times like these that encouraged me to let loose a little and live my life humbly and freely. It’s not just about the points and accolades; it is the rebounds that count. Rodman taught me that if I can’t put a smile on my face, I may as well put it on the back of my head.

Finally, the man himself. I believe the spirit of Michael Jordan is best represented by the Class of 2020 as a whole. Talented, competitive and unequivocally authentic, our grade didn’t need to have the highest vertical or heaviest bench to rise above the rest. We spent our time getting to know every one of our teammates, and come game-time, we rose as one.

I always knew that I wanted to write my senior column about sports. Sports have been my language, my building blocks and my joy ever since I was a little kid. Harvard-Westlake gave me a community to play my best game; an opportunity I will always cherish. But what it really taught me was how to dribble with my left, pushing the bound- aries of my comfort zone both on and off the court. From Chronicle to Peer Support, volleyball and Big Red, my HW experience will be one I never forget.

And although we didn’t get to finish our sixth championship to- gether, I wouldn’t want to share my last dance with anybody else. Cheers to the future.

Weiler, this one is for you

By Luxe Casola

“Iguodala to Curry. Back to Iguodala. Up for the layup. Blocked by James!” ABC play-by-play commentator Mike Breen shouted during the final two minutes of the 2016 NBA Finals. Never in my life did I expect that my last few months of high school would be defined by these very words. The majority of my quarantine consists of eating, sleeping and re-watching LeBrons highlights on YouTube, I can proudly say that I’ve watched more LeBron highlight reels than I’ve completed homework assignments during these last two months. With my only human interaction sparked by me and brothers’ midnight trips to the kitchen or by watching LeBrons highlights on YouTube, I can proudly say that I’ve watched more LeBron highlight reels than I’ve completed homework assignments during these last two months. With my only human interaction sparked by me and brothers’ midnight trips to the kitchen or by watching LeBrons highlights on YouTube, I can proudly say that I’ve watched more LeBron highlight reels than I’ve completed homework assignments during these last two months.

As I continue to reminisce on many of my magical high school moments while sitting on my bed for hours on end. “Weiler 104” is the first thing that comes to mind. Weiler 104 has become more than a publications classroom for me but home to my most memorable high school experiences. After my sophomore year, I faced a tough decision; I was faced with stresses of playing varsity basketball or to my schoolwork and extracurricular interests. And let me tell you, deciding to focus on journalism instead of basketball was the best decision I’ve made during high school.

The sports section became more than just a team, but my second family and the thing I’ll miss most about high school. Whether or not I was in the midst of a stressful week or nearly falling asleep due to sleep deprivation, Weiler 104 provided me with a much needed laugh and thrill of joy as “Santeria” by Sublime, “Just Can’t Get Enough” by the Black Eyed Peas or “Crossroads” by Blazin’ Squad was playing on the loudspeakers.

In all honesty, I can’t put the magical bonds that the sports section has created into words, but to my fellow journalists and sports family, in the wise words of the Blazin’ Squad, I’ll “see you at the crossroads.”
Learning from icon Fiona Apple

By Spencer Klink

Right now, we are all stuck in quarantine, perpetually social distancing to preserve a future that feels far too ambiguous. To put it in the words of Fiona Apple, we all feel a desperate need to “fetch the bolt cutters,” or to break ourselves free from this monotonous situation.

As seniors, we were promised prom, parties and fun to celebrate the conclusion of our high school experiences. Instead, we received Zoom classes, closed economies and the novel coronavirus.

Unfortunately, as a result of my physical health problems, I have been no stranger to this when I was still in academic settings, I felt like too competitive and grueling. I normally would have referred to sports as a “family” of various medical conditions, which seemed like burdens that I had to surmount. I even wanted to cut myself free from Harvard-Westlake, which often felt like too competitive and grueling of a school for someone like me. So much of my time in high school was spent shadowboxing with my struggles as opposed to coming to terms with them.

Fetching the bolt cutters never turned out to be a viable option. Despite my numerous and desperate attempts to divorce myself from the circumstances of my physical health, I could never escape my condition or the medications that came along with it. Similarly, despite my anti-high school attitude, I never acted on my irrational anger toward Harvard-Westlake by leaving it behind altogether.

I turned my health condition into a source of political and artistic inspiration, converting my struggles into advocacy for better United States healthcare policy and into complex pieces of art detailing my lived experiences. Similarly, I discovered my second stream of life inside of Harvard-Westlake, realizing that its community is defined by togetherness instead of opposition. The love I’ve received from my English teacher, my dean and countless other individuals has simply been unparalleled.

None of this was possible on my own. My friends in class-es, on the debate team and, of course, on the Chronicle helped me cultivate a more discerning worldview. In other words, these selfless people empowered me to “wise up,” as ‘90s alternative artist Aimee Mann, whose songs are similarly moving as Apple’s, would say. Had I acted on a misinterpretation of Apple’s advice and cloistered myself from any hardship, I would be a much more spiteful and immature person.

In the face of COVID-19, it feels far too tautalizing to rip ourselves out of this situation in order to return to normalcy. Unfortunately, this model of decision making is not only short-sighted but also ill-advised by numerous epidemiologists.

Instead, we again ought to return to Fiona Apple, who reminds us in her song “I Know” to be patient amidst uncertainty, at least for the time being.

Sports: my crazy, beautiful family

By Keila McCabe

“Sports family forever,” “sports fam,” simply put “sports.” Phrases used often when looking back on our group or relishing in a good photo of the gang. During these past couple years on Chronicle, people in and out of the section have referred to sports as a “family.” Mulling over what I could write about for my senior column, the answer seemed clear: family first. While I’ve had my fair share of friends and siblings at Harvard-Westlake beyond Weiler 104, ones that I am extremely grateful to have in my life, they are not nearly as vital as the sports family we call sports.

Will Mallory: our co-parent. Mall and I are the mom and dad, in a figurative and literal sense. In September of this year we became literal parents when we adopted the section mascots Swimmie and BIL, two fantail goldfish from the Petco on Ventura. Back at home, we tried our best to keep the family in check and feed everybody well, with Tostitos hint of lime and Jalapeño kettle cooked chips from Ralph’s.


William Seymour: the eldest brother. The first born and the rock of the group, Swae played his role quite well. He always knows exactly what’s going on with everyone in the family, and offers perfect advice whenever it’s needed. We’ve all had moments during class or layout where we called out “Swae”, made eye contact and he swiveled over in a rolling chair, attentively.

Zack Schwartz: a funny uncle. Always has a bizarre story or extremely well thought out conspiracy theory to share with the group. Whether it’s sitting every one down to watch an El Chapo documentary or demanding we each share our rankings of Kanye West songs, we can always expect the unexpected.

Eugene Wyma: our dog. A loyal, lovable and, at times, lazy creature that can always provide everyone in the section with a massive smile. Maybe a bit gullible, enough so to be convinced of practically anything that’s well photoshopped and argued long enough. And always, always ready to respond to the call of a low below of “Enuuuggg.”

Jay Lassiter: the little brother. Inexplicably laughing and smiling, always ready to play catch on the field and cleverly available for pranks at all times. Like any little brother, Jay always wants shaved ice, and is fittingly the pickiest eater of the group. Perhaps playing “Let’s Get it On” by Marvin Gaye when a male and female member on staff, rumored to be more than friends, walk in the room is annoying, but we all still love him anyway.

Every family has its quirks, fights and times of uncontrollable laughter on the floor; sports has had its fair share. Each member brings something unique, valuable and irreplaceable. While we can and have functioned fragmented, there’s nothing like the whole fam intensely competing in bonk.io with “Duel of Fates” playing through the projector. Thank you guys for nurturing this family we call sports.
Jakob Adler
Bates College
Diego Ahmad-Stein
Stanford University
Alec Ahuja
University of Pennsylvania
Noah Aire
Georgetown University
Nathan Albois
University of Michigan
India Altschul
New York University
(Tisch School of the Arts)
Vito Ameen
University of Colorado Boulder
Jaya Anaanda
University of California, Santa Barbara
Erik Anderson
Purdue University
(College of Engineering)
Justin Ansell
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
(Granger College of Engineering)
David Arzouk
Harvard College
George Arvadian
University of California, Berkeley
Tammer Bagdasarian
Stanford University
Sarah Bagley
Scripps College
Izzy Burdaran
University of St. Andrews
Dean Barkin
University of Wisconsin-Madison
(School of Education)
Annie Beckman
The University of Chicago
Ava Benavente
Muhlenberg College
(Theatre Program)
Graham Berger Sacks
Wesleyan University
Sam Biller
University of California, Los Angeles
Oliver Bisley
Tufts University
Judah Blazer
University of Michigan
Hudson Blatteis
Brown University
Derek Blumenfeld
George Washington University
(School of Business)
Xander Boldt
Haverford College
Drew Bowser
Stanford University
Rachel Brown
Yale University
Blaine Browning
New York University
Meera Burghaert
Princeton University
Grace Burton
Yale University
John Cahill
Dartmouth College
Joy Calderon
Declined to State
Skyler Calkins
Columbia University
(Dual B.A. Program with Trinity College Dublin)
George Caras
Princeton University
Rafa Carbonell
University of Michigan
Luke Casola
University of Texas at Austin
(McCombs School of Business)
Diana Castellanos
Pennsylvania State University
Patrick Castille
Declined to State
Stephanie Cho
Olin College of Engineering
Calista Chu
New York University
(Liberal Studies Core)
Caitlin Chung
Tufts University
(School of the Museum of Fine Arts)
Tommy Cody
Kenyon College
Vincent Cohen
Boston University
Carli Cooperstein
Harvard College
Adam Copsey
Emory University
Michael Corley
Boston University
Paige Corman
Washington University in St. Louis
Sergio Coury
Georgetown University
Lola Craig
Trinity College
Pete Crow-Armstrong
Vanderbilt University
Leila Dall’Omo
New York University
(Tisch School of the Arts)
Sarah Danico
The University of Chicago
Alex Daum
University of Pennsylvania
Ben Davidoff
Georgetown University
Alec Davila
University of Southern California
(Frontiership School of Music)
Fernando Diaz-Ojeda
Emory University
Jonah Dickson
Boston University
Lucia Doib
Pratt Institute
Brase Dottin
Bridgton Academy
Maddy Dupee
New York University
Wren Eaton
Bard College
Erica Ekstrand
Williams College
Sophia Ekstrand
Brown University
(Program in Liberal Medical Education)
Anjee Feng
Declined to State
Ginebra Ferreira
New York University
Morgan Foster
Tulane University
Gage Franchina
Colgate University
Katie Fravez
Carnegie Mellon University
(Fine College of Fine Arts)
Jack French
Oberlin College
Charlie Fuller
University of Washington
Abraham Gallardo
Reed College
Tyler Gamen
University of Oregon
(Clark Honors College, School of Music and Dance)
Bianca Garfinckle
University of Michigan
(School of Music, Theatre & Dance)
Finn Gatin
Tufts University
Georgie Gerber
Wesleyan University
Jessica Gestettner
University of Michigan
Henry Gibson
University of Colorado Boulder
Muthue Githara
Boston College
Jessa Glassman
University of Pennsylvania
Rileigh Goldsmith
University of Michigan
(Dual Degree with School of Music, Theater & Dance)
Mia Goldstein
New York University
(Gallatin School of Individualized Study)
Oris Gordon
The University of Chicago
Skylar Graham
University of Southern California
Pablo Greenlee
University of California, Los Angeles
Henry Greenman
Stanford University
Britt Groneymeyer
University of St. Andrews
George Grube
Gap Year
(Columbia University 2025)
Daniel Guerrerio
University of Pennsylvania
Nico Guillen
Washington University in St. Louis
(Beyond Boundaries Program)
Hailey Hameetman
University of Southern California
(Round of Cinematic Arts)
Raleigh Harris
University of Wisconsin-Madison
Guy Hartstein
Gap Year
(Columbia University 2025)
Jack Hassett
New York University
(School of Professional Studies)
Sarah Healy
Hamilton College
Tyra Hirooka
New York University
(Tandon School of Engineering)
Ethan Hodess
Dartmouth College
Abraham Gallardo
Reed College
Tyler Gamen
University of Oregon
(Clark Honors College, School of Music and Dance)
Bianca Garfinckle
University of Michigan
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Mia Goldstein
New York University
(Gallatin School of Individualized Study)
Oris Gordon
The University of Chicago
Skylar Graham
University of Southern California
The Chronicle • June 2023
Joanna Im
Washington University in St. Louis
Namhun Jachung
Pitzer College
Lauren Juzang
Syracuse University
(S.I. Newhouse School of Communications—Bandier Program)
Coco Kacel
Brown University
Brendan Kang
The University of Chicago
Clay Kantor
Tulane University
Anna Katz
The University of Chicago
Cole Katz
Emory University
Abbe Kaye
New York University
(Tisch School of the Arts)
Charlie Keller
University of Wisconsin-Madison
(School of Business)
Jake Kelly
The Hun School of Princeton
Julian Kemper
University of Miami
Olivia Ketchum
George Washington University
Taka Kho
Dartmouth College
Eunice Kiang
Yale University
Casey Kim
Boston College
Chris Kim
United States Naval Academy
Jeanine Kim
Brown University
Tyler Kim
Gap Year
(Bulson College 2025)
Abby Kirchmeier
Washington University in St. Louis
Fedor Kirilenko
Claremont McKenna College
Spencer Klink
Wesleyan University
Yoohan Ko
The University of Chicago
Amelia Kodebrotz
Princeton University
Talia Koehn
Columbia University
Katherine Konvitz
Cornell University
Emily Kugumont
University of Southern California
Jackson Kriger
Southern Methodist University
Kevin Kroh
Washington University in St. Louis
(Ohio School of Business)
Amy Kronenberg
John Hopkins University
Jenna Kronenberg
Vanderbilt University
(Nashville School of Engineering)
Nolan Krutong
Stanford University
Leo Kurov
New York University
Jay Lasiter
Amherst College
### Most Participants

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### Additional Participants

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By Annie Beckman

It's a.m.

Tomorrow is my first day as a Harvard-Westlake student. I am too nervous and too enrol-
enced to sleep. I know I'll be tired tomorrow, but it won't matter because adrenaline will be cours-
ong through my body the whole day. The first day of a four year adventure. A whole community
awaits me. It is all just so crazy.

The strumming, the chords and the beats are on low vol-
ume. My little sister is sleeping in the other room, but I just can't stop myself. I have to get up and
dance. I've had a rough week, so I'm improvising it out. Sopho-
more year has been a big and dif-
ficult adjustment. I do really like chemistry though, and there's nothing more stimulating than second period with Mr. Yaron.

I'm treading water, and I'm tired, but I'm staying afloat. I've been meeting with Dr. Laffie and Ms. Hutch non-stop. APs and finals are coming up, and I feel the junior year heat. But I'm earnest and all I want is to do my best.

The last of my friends com-
mited to their colleges today. It's finally hitting me that we will be across the country, no, actually across the world from each other next year. My pen is unavering as the pages of my quarantine journal eagerly flip. I'm reflect-
ing on the idea of finality, on the concept of saying goodbye. I've done it before, and I'll do it again, and I find comfort know-
ing that change is good some-
times. We learn from change.

This is how I have spent most of my evenings dur-
ing this quarantine: planning for my freshman year of college. This is how I have spent most of my evenings dur-
ing this quarantine: planning for my future. Although I have a rag-
ing case of senioritis and my mo-
tivation to do any type of school work is at an all-time low, in the last week, I have stopped to take a look at my past. Being stuck at home, bored, missing my friends and missing my senior year—essentially the end of my childhood—has allowed me to reflect on my last six years that I have spent at Harvard-Westlake. I have realized so many things that I have never thought about before.

Going to Harvard-Westlake pushed me in every aspect of my life. I'm not going to sugarcoat it; it was hard. It was really hard. So many tests, so many quizzes, so many projects, so many extra-
curriculars, so much stress, and overall, just so much work. All of this might make it sound as if I were given the choice again, I would have chosen to go some-
where else, but no. I know that this was where I was meant to be, and I wouldn't trade it for the world.

I'll miss walking onto that campus every morning to meet my friends. I'll miss the home-
coming games and dances. I'll miss chaotic Chronicle layouts. I'll miss giving tours to prospective students and the constant question of, "Is Harvard-Westlake hard?" and, "Do you really have so much homework?" (the answer is yes, but it's worth it, promise). I'll miss yelling on the quad with friends. I'll miss eighth-period trips to Riozanos or walks to Starbucks on Hallik. I'll miss the lounge in the morning, even though it's always packed with people and there's barely enough space to breathe.

Leaving this school, I am leav-
ing full of knowledge and experi-
ences that I wouldn't have gained anywhere else, and most of them honestly are not from any lesson or lecture, but from the people around me. I have learned to have courage and to keep pushing on even when things are tough, and that I am stronger than I think I am. We have a beautiful cam-
pus, but the place doesn't make it feel special, the people do. I have met some of the most incredible people here who will go on to do great things and who I am so lucky to have known. That's the most important thing I will take away: friends who will last a life-
time.
High school won't fit in a box

By Laureen Nehorai

To say I’m nostalgic is an understatement. I have taken too many photos, written in a diary, exhausted the phrase “remember when” and saved everything from my first copy of “The Spectrum” to my corsage from prom. True to form, on May 1 when I found out school was officially canceled, above sadness and frustration, I felt nostalgic. How could I mourn the end of such an impactful period of my life when there was simply no end?

I had always planned to make a big, beautiful box filled with all the memories. For years I have been saving homecoming tickets, graded English papers, polaroids and so much more to a degree of borderline hoarding, all with the hope that after graduation I could look back at this perfect and complete box.

But seeing as this “end” was anything but traditional, I decided to do something different. That night, I opened up iMovie and, using my amateur editing skills, attempted to make a slide-show chronicling my Harvard-Westlake experience. I compiled 500 photos from seventh grade until now and set them to the music of my only available playlit, “Eighth Grade EDM.”

As I reminisced over old photos to the sounds of “Starships” by Nicki Minaj, I realized something I missed that I hadn’t thought about until that point: I would never have another newspaper layout.

Between the Chronicle and the Panorama, I have spent nearly every other weekend within the walls of Wefer. I rose through the ranks from all-class sophomore on coffee runs, to an assiduous junior worsening in vision from hours spent staring at the computer screen. When I realized that my journalism means of making sense of the world around me. Now, as a sophomore, I don’t just google it and blindly trust user63958’s July 31 contribution to the given topic’s Wikipedia page; I write about it.

And with each article, it feels as if I have entered new worlds and have the opportunity to share them with others.

I have to leave behind many things, and although I can’t put it into words, I’m glad that journalism will always be one of my keepssakes.

Advice from eighth grade deans

By Luke Schneider

It’s been an odd ending to our senior year, to say the least. Rather than coming together as a class, one final time before we go out into the world and forge our own paths, the end of our high school journey was unexpectedly cut short by a pandemic that has permanently changed the world as we know it. Don’t get me wrong, I’m immensely grateful that I get to go to a school that was ready to adapt to the challenges posed in these past months and that I have all of the resources needed to be as safe as I can during these scary times.

But, when I think about what it would be like to gather on the field with my friends and family and throw my cap in the air, I can’t help but feel a little shortchanged.

It’s during times like these that it’s absolutely imperative that we keep in mind the sage advice offered by Mr. Kim and Ms. Fukushima in our class meeting, right before some of us opened our eighth grade quarter grades to find (gasp) a B+ in English: it’s truly not about the result, it’s about the process.

While I have no doubt that the lack of a proper end to the year is less than fun, by no means does it erase the wonderful memories I’ve made, the friendships I’ve found and the knowledge I gained while at this amazing school.

What I’ve realized is that it’s time to shift our focus from the day-to-day experiences that truly matter. I’ve had the pleasure of spending most of my time these last six years surrounded with the most tenacious learners I’ve kept around in my life, and with teachers who excelled and delighted in making us see the world in new ways. In particular, I will forever be indebted to Ms. Hutchinson, who inspired me to learn as much as I can about our universe, Mr. Sim, who stayed hours upon hours after school to help me rigorously prove the foundations of math, Ms. Casero, to whom I credit literally all of my success and Michael Lichthoff ’20, whose enduring positivity will stay with me throughout my life. (Too many great people to follow the rule of three!) On top of that, I am endlessly grateful to the countless others who expanded my mind in ways I couldn’t have imagined over the course of these marvelous six years. As I finish writing this article, I realize I don’t have a sentence with which I can wrap up all of the memories that make me nostalgic. So I’ll simply end with saying something I missed that I hadn’t thought about until that point: I would never have another newspaper layout.

I have to leave behind many things, and although I can’t put it into words, I’m glad that journalism will always be one of my keepssakes.

One last playlist: my senior year

By Jeanine Kim

Insert tape. Record.

During my whole time at KFHS, our school’s student-run radio station. From my show from 11 to midnight on Wednesday nights sophomore year to my current broadcast at 7 p.m. right after Peer Support on Mondays, KFHS has been a constant, a chance for me to share on Mondays, KHWS has been a student-run radio station. From the upper school, I have been a part of this squad (Casey Kim, Kyra Hudson, Spencer Klink and Lauren Nehorai) spearheaded a groundbreaking Panorama Volume.

As if got harder, we as a collective grew closer together. The supposed hardest year of our lives became just a little bit easier through class group chats, coffee trips during free periods and late-night study sessions. We bonded through our universal dislike of “The Scarlet Letter,” the ever-growing number of phooching cough cases infecting our school and the never-ending length of the junior questionnaire, and by the end, we got through it and were on our way to starting our last year of high school.

Senior year is supposed to be the best time of our lives, the college months where we have the most freedom and the least responsibilities. But instead of counting down the final seconds on the quadrangle and jumping into the pool at the close of the day, I ended my time at the upper school with a Zoom call on my phone and a walk on the beach.

I will always remember the times we had on this campus, the good and the bad.

I will think fondly of all those times I cried countless tears in the Rugby hallway, and my heart will wrench at all the amazing memories I made with my friends.

This one’s for you Harvard-Westlake.

PANO PARTY: This squad (Casey Kim, Kyra Hudson, Spencer Klink and Lauren Nehorai) spearheaded a groundbreaking Panorama Volume.

 QUEEN JEANINE: This is Jeanine. She is queen. (Bottom) This is her at the Bat. Executive Editor Jeanine Kim brought the heat this year, both with her free Chronicle playlist and her skillful edits on articles.
Trading tears for memories

By Madison Huggins

It was one of those indistinguishable quarantine nights that melted into a disturbing blur of a cat with a torn streaked face, satirically framed with duck lips and peace sign fingers. Given this, you can imagine my surprise when realizing I had scrolled through six year’s worth of light tunnel and chipmunk-filtered photos with completely dry eyes.

My unmanageable academic responsibility has not been the sole reason that I can recognize our campus only through eyes blurred by tears. I am familiar with the acoustics of the last stall of the Chalmers bathroom, largely because I am a dangerous but emotional individual. I also have seasonal allergies.

I have come to appreciate the act of crying as an essential survival mechanism during my high school journey. Releasing tears is necessary for progression because in order to trudge forward, we must thoroughly and painfully flush ourselves of whatever stress or has filled us with paralyzing water weight.

That night, my eyes glazed over as unsettling clips of a pre-teen girl in ill-fitting capri leggings brushed across the screen. Wearing her new scoliosis brace and holding a hair brush to her mouth as a microphone, she’s choreographing dances for the eighth grade contemporary dance workshop showcases and deviously asking friends to punch her in the stomach. Already plagued by the reflection time demanded by social isolation, I simply could not fathom how these images failed to summon the usual abundance of tears. However, I soon realized why I had not lept at the opportunity to shed tears proportional to the magnitude of this loss. It’s because the moments that have accumulated in the depths of my Photo Booth and in my heart over the past six years are not something I want to mourn and move on from.

The best friends made, places traveled, talent witnessed, orange chicken consumed, dumplings avoided, Colorado River canoe songs composed, half-time dances performed, essays delicately titled, Peer Support pizza stolen, math teachers’ gaming YouTube accounts discovered, debate tournament campuses navigated, English teacher therapy sessions, successes experienced, failures expected and each of the tears that have landed on the Chalmers bathroom floor—all hold such massive weight in shaping the foundation of the person I am. Rather than releasing them in tear drops, I intend to carry these moments with me into the adult world that I will be entering in a matter of weeks, and with me for the rest of my life.

The privilege of learning and growing at Harvard-Westlake is so extraordinary because we are given as much, if not more, than we asked for. While we are consistently held to such seemingly unreasonable expectations, we are simultaneously offered equally as unimaginable people, places, opportunities and resources necessary to meet them. For more than whatever time or tears this school has taken from me, its challenges have gifted me both the awareness of what there is to be achieved and the faith in my ability to achieve it.

So wherever you are in your Harvard-Westlake journey, let this serve as a reminder to cherish every single crunch of your English teacher’s famous sourdough grilled cheeses at class Christmas parties, and every little squirrel burrow hole in the trash cans as you walk across the quad. Undeniably necessary as crying is for survival, these precious moments are ones we never need, or want, to spill.

Hang in there, it’s all worth it

By Zoe Redlich

Crying in my bed, petting a slightly distressed cat on my lap and emptying my third cup of chamomile tea, my ninth grade self was not at all in its best hands. Although I had only just begun my high school life at the Upper School. The Upper School. Back then, those three words brought to mind a gray campus with endless staircases and a horrifying monster I’d only heard rumors of by the name of “APUSH.” Meanwhile, the Middle School had grown into a second home. From the incredibly supportive teachers to the beautiful library full of sunlight, I could imagine no better place to be. Plus, everyone knew that the cafeteria at the Upper School was objectively worse. I was certain that the future only held misery and the joyful pursuit of education, so I sipped up another cup of tea and turned up the depressing indie rock songs that played on loop. Maybe I should just transfer to Crossroads.

Now, as a soon-to-be graduate of the school, it would be an understatement to say that I’m happy I stayed along for the ride. Although the first couple of months at the Upper School were tough, they were difficult for all of us, and we made it through together. That’s one of the aspects of the school that I’ve really come to appreciate. While there have definitely been times when a pile of work seems insurmountable or extracurriculars become suffocating, I’ve always been able to rely on friends, teachers or my wonderful dean to help me through. Sure, maybe I’ve been seen crying on campus a few too many times for my liking, but at this point, I think we all have, and looking back, those difficult moments have left me with some of the best friends I could ever imagine having. I still miss the light-hearted bus ride to the Upper School, the acoustics of the last stall of the Chalmers bathroom, largely because I am a dangerous but emotional individual.

The Upper School was at times a lot of work and a lot of stress. But now I see that those aspects of the school make up only a small part of the experience. Tucked into a drawer in my desk, I have a letter I wrote to my future self during eighth grade Harvard-Westlake Development, and I wish I could write that Zoe a letter back.

I would tell her that the teachers, deans and counselors she’d meet would make her feel more supported and loved than she had ever expected to feel in high school. And I would remind her to believe in herself, always be the same to smile and say “hi” in the hallways and to follow what inspires her, because I now know that if she does those things as I did, the Upper School will end up providing a community that challenges her in all the right ways while also making her feel profoundly supported, at home and ready to face the world.

3, 2, 1 CHEESE: (Clockwise, from left) Madison Huggins and Casey Kim joke around at a weekend layout session. The two non-matching outfits in the airport, before departing for a journalism convention. Anusha Mathur, Madison and Sarah Healy explore the city together.

Hang in there, it’s all worth it
Approaching the final countdown

By Emma Shapiro

As the final seconds tick away from my high school career, I am reminded of the various ups and downs I faced. Although most credit Harvard-Westlake for creating their most treasured memories, my experience did not resemble a picture-perfect four years. I had bad teachers with perilous gradys, advisors who heard but never listened and peers who wanted so desperately to be the best that they alienated those around them.

High school should be a place that nurtures you, with faculty members and peers. It was hard for me as both a student and as a person. While I can definitely say that I have evolved, I would not use nurturing to describe several people who I encountered. In my junior year, however, I did find a group that made me feel comfortable and helped me grow.

Community Council was one of the best parts of my junior and senior years. I befriended up-perclassmen and underclassmen who shared my drive for community engagement. I became closest to people in my own grade who I barely knew beforehand. We were able to plan huge events that promoted all school involvement, and we were able to organize small fundraisers like bake sales to reach the student body about various different causes.

Besides the events we planned, the Community Council 2019-2020 retreat truly brought us all together. We bonded by watching “After” and “Avatar” together, and we strategized for the upcoming school year by compiling lists of potential projects and non-profits to coordinate with.

The council taught me valuable lessons of teamwork and leadership. At times, I needed to delegate and lead. Other times, I had to listen and help other council members. Outside of the council, I may have encountered poor teachers and selfish peers, but within my niche, I had finally found my safe haven, surrounded by a jumble of friends.

COMMUNITY NEWS ENGAGEMENT HYPE: Assistant Business Manager for her junior year then Community News Engagement Editor for her last. Although she split her time between Business Manager and Community News Engagement, she will always have a home in Weiler.

How to value who you have become

By Caitlin Chung

The world is a very different place than it was just a few months ago. We’ve been isolated in our homes, and masks are now a frequent sight. We stay six feet apart from the people we call neighbors and friends, weary of whether that distance will keep us safe from the virus that has altered the distinct social culture of Los Angeles. And of course for us seniors, this shift has robbed us of all the milestone traditions.

Within this new normal we have come to familiarize ourselves with, I think the most terrifying thing of all is the fact that we are now alone with ourselves more than ever before. Time seems not to be of the essence, as we distract ourselves through hours of family walks and Netflix shows while ultimately coming back to ourselves.

For days, I came back to my room to the eerie silence that contradicted everything I thought would make up my senior year, until one day I started to relish that silence with the noise of the rollercoaster ride that was my six years at HWS.

Throughout my time at this school, I’ve been asked countless questions with regards to my experience. Many of those questions were along the lines of whether or not the school gave me too much homework, or whether I was happy with where I was. But within the countless number of questions I’ve answered, I don’t remember anyone asking me if I was happy with who I had become at the school. I don’t know if you’ve ever been asked that question, but if not, I will be the one to do so. Are you happy with the person the school has helped you become?

If yes, I’m happy for you. But within that yes, I challenge you to dig deeper and identify the specific experiences that have really shaped you, and to strive to find similar experiences in life to help you grow. If not, I hope you find the courage to tell yourself to start all over again. After all, it’s your own story and you’re the author.

For students with years left at Harvard-Westlake, there is an entire world that has been gifted to you, just waiting to be discovered within our campus. Your job is to fearlessly and curiously maneuver your way around this new reality. Someday, something will click and your answer will turn into a yes, but not without time and effort. So as I end my own journey and head off to a whole new world, I wish you good luck with a wave and a smile, six feet away of course.

Back in time with Sarah

By Sarah Halay

On my first day of seventh grade, I walked onto the Hancock Park 1A bus at its last stop and sat in the only seat available, next to a blond boy in the front row. I was nervous about a lot of things coming into Harvard-Westlake; I was the only student from my previous school, a year younger than everyone in my grade and not bad at math. I was most nervous about having to make new friends.

Conversation was really easy with the boy sitting next to me, though. Making small talk, and being a musician myself, I asked if he played any instruments. He responded completely normally, “I play the bagpipes,” and continued to talk about all of the cool competitions he had participated in. After this conversation, I was very intimidated by George Grube, who later became my first best friend at Harvard-Westlake. It was partly because I was a mediocre classical pianist talking to a 12-year-old boy who plays the bagpipes, and I realized that I wasn’t nearly that interesting. But he helped was amazed at how excited he got when he started talking about his instrument. I wanted to have that kind of passion. Luckily, I had come to the right place.

The students at Harvard-Westlake have never failed to amaze me in all of their pursuits. But, and the fact that George was the first person I talked to at this school speaks to that. Looking at everyone I know, they all are incredibly passionate. My theater friends sing, dance and act in all of the productions and go to month-long summer programs every year.

My sports friends attend tournaments on weekends and win national awards. My Chronicle friends spend their precious weekend hours hunched over the computers in Weiler writing meaningful articles and designing pages. And most of my friends fall in multiple categories.

Being part of this zealous community encouraged me to find my own path. I’ve tried a lot of different extracurriculars over the years. I was on two sports teams, took drawing and painting, participated in musicals and Playwrights Festival, tried improv, joined the Chronicle and even auditioned for the jazz band last year (which is the only thing I regret doing because it was a very bad audition).

It took trying everything to realize that what I am passionate about is choir, which I have been doing since seventh grade Girls’ Choir. Not even the humiliation of singing “Walking on Sunshine” in our bright yellow sweatershirt in front of the entire school could deter me, and here I am, six years later, recording myself singing during Chamber Singers on Zoom and loving every moment of it.

Now it’s the end of my senior year, and I have finally become the student I aspire to be on that very first day of seventh grade. I could not have done that without this school. It gave me countless opportunities to experiment and incredible faculty members to guide me, but most importantly, it gave me the most inspiring student body that I am lucky to call my home. I hope that this school with a passion that I am proud of, good at and excited to continue to explore. The spirit of a Harvard-Westlake student cannot be unnoticed, and with each and every person that I encountered here, I would not be the same person that I am today.
THE HOST HAS ENDED THIS MEETING.

CONGRATULATIONS, CLASS OF 2020!

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