

# the fourcast

THE HOCKADAY SCHOOL

11600 WELCH ROAD

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## LEATHERS OFFICIALLY CHOSEN

Dr. Laura Leathers officially named Eugene McDermott Head of School.

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## US ART EXHIBITION

Students showcase semester's work in visual arts.

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## DEFINING SUCCESS

At a highly competitive school, what does being "successful" mean?

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# Dating at an all- girls school



**Flip to pp. 12-13 to read about relationships at a single-sex school and dating as a teenager in the 21st century**

Photo illustration by Melody Hu

# Leathers takes on 'best job in the world'

## New Eugene McDermott Head of School breaks down nuances of role

By Aadya Kuruvalli | Opinions Editor

January 1 wasn't just the beginning of a new year – it was the beginning of a new chapter for Hockaday. The first day of 2023 saw Dr. Laura Leathers officially begin working as the Eugene McDermott Head of School.

Although the search process began in spring 2022, an official successor to Dr. Karen Warren Coleman wasn't found until December.

"This is something that's been kind of an aspirational goal," Leathers said. "I came to Hockaday in June of 2020 and quickly fell in love with the community, our students, our faculty and staff, and really the high academic standards that are in place here."

Although her love of Hockaday was quick to form, it was spending time at the school that truly convinced her the Head of School position was one she wanted to pursue.

"As I got to know more and more people, it was just as a fabulous community and an exceptional school and it was an exciting opportunity to pursue the Head of School job here," Leathers said.

When she was selected for the position, Leathers had been working as the Interim Head of School since July 1.

"There hasn't been much difference in the jobs I did as the interim head compared to now," Leathers said. "The one change is that now I feel like we can plan for more long-term projects and set some goals that I know I'll be around to implement."

Although Leathers' daily duties include planning for the school's future, she also takes time to engage with students. Currently, she is teaching a section of chemistry.

"It's my plan to continue to teach a section of chemistry going forward," Leathers said. "I love that part of my job because I get to interact with our students and get to know a small subset of our student population in a way that I wouldn't otherwise. I get to see girls on good days and on bad days, when they are stressed and when they're excited about something."

Leathers' favorite part of her job isn't just interacting with students or attending meetings, but rather a combination of both. She said she enjoys the versatility being Head of School offers.

"No two days look the same," Leathers said.

Compared to her previous role as Assistant Head of Academic Affairs, the Head of School position allows her more variety.

"Most of my old work focused on the academic experience here at Hockaday and it was integrated within the leadership team, but not as integrated with the rest of the school," Leathers said.

Outside of her chemistry class, Leathers also makes time to support

"As I got to know more and more people, it was just as a fabulous community and an exceptional school and it was an exciting opportunity to pursue the Head of School job here."

Dr. Laura Leathers  
Eugene McDermott  
Head of School

Daisies at extracurriculars.

"I love seeing our girls at sporting events and seeing them working hard together outside of the classroom," Leathers said.

Leathers also collaborates with other school leaders to create the best possible environment for students.

"As Head of School, I love to work with our leadership team to talk about strategic schoolwork," Leathers said. "That is really exciting when we think about how to best prepare our girls for the future. When I get to do that with other smart school administrators who are passionate about what they do, it's a pretty magical space and magical conversations happen."

Beyond Upper School, Dr. Leathers also engages with Middle and Lower School Daisies as well as parents and guests.

"On Jan. 11, I started my morning in Lower School at Rotunda Rocks, so we were singing and dancing and the girls were in pre-Kindergarten," Leathers said. "Seeing that age group enjoy each other's company and celebrate each other's birthdays and be excited about their day was very rewarding."

Leathers also was preparing for school events on the same evening.

"Tonight we have a speaker on campus, so I get to introduce our speaker to the parents and hear someone talk about a lot of the stresses that girls are facing these days," Leathers said. "Then I get to go to an alumnae board dinner event."

During the course of a given day, Leathers may interact with students from all divisions, faculty and staff, the leadership team, parents and alumnae.

"I feel like the variety of the interactions, the excitement that's here on campus, and simply getting to spend time with all of the different sections of our population makes Hockaday a pretty special place and I'm excited for the work we can do in the future," Leathers said. "I feel like I have the best job in the world."



Dr. Laura Leathers speaks at a Hockaday evening event.

Photos courtesy of Sara Stoltz



Leathers meets with Ashna Tambe '24 and Olivia Park '23 in the Head of School's office, above.



Leathers helps Karla Cervantes '23 and Aurora Dunn '23 in her chemistry class, left.

# Southwest delays travel

## Holiday cancellations cause snowball effect

By Hanna Asmerom | Web Editor

**D**uring the busiest travel time of the year, Southwest Airlines canceled more than 16,700 domestic flights in the months of November and December.

Junior Haley Chu experienced the effects of this meltdown firsthand on her family trip to Washington, D.C. during the holiday break.

Chu's flight from Love Field was canceled and she was provided no alternate flight.

"The only way we got to D.C. was because of a pilot who volunteered to fly us there," Chu said.

On Dec. 26, Chu's family was on the way back from the vacation and arrived at the airport to find out Southwest had canceled all flights leaving from that airport for the next few days.

"At that moment, we knew that we could either wait three days for the next available flight, or drive there, which is what we ended up doing," Chu said.

Chu and her family then embarked on a 20-hour drive back to Dallas without breaks because of their short window of time.

Southwest officials said the system breakdown was caused by the company's inability to recover after cold temperatures and keep track of available pilots. Amplified by the lack of up-to-date infrastructure, the backup snowballed into an almost \$825 million mix-up. Many frequent users had predicted this would happen soon, citing the fragility of the company's system as a whole, according to the New York Times.

Transcending Southwest's customers, the meltdown and rescheduled flights also etched into other airlines' processes. Junior Stella Wrubel encountered these effects on her way to Boston via American Airlines.

On the way there, what was supposed to be a 2 p.m. flight ended up getting delayed to around 5:30 p.m. Although that delay was annoying, Wrubel said



Photo by Joe Cortez via Flyertalk

Southwest celebrated its 51st birthday on June 12, 2022. The company struggled to deal with the impact of canceled flights and mixed up schedules over the holidays.

"At that moment we knew that we could either wait three days for the next available flight, or drive there, which is what we ended up doing."

Junior Haley Chu, whose family trip to Washington, D.C. faced disruptions

the real problem was the family was supposed to catch a connection in Charlotte, North Carolina soon after their flight landed. Because of the three-hour delay, they ended up missing their connection and having to drive from Charlotte to Boston.

Like these two students, thousands of travelers resorted to driving to their destinations. This further perpetuated the backup onto rental car companies, where travelers reportedly stood in lines for three to four hours for a rental car.

## NEWS SNIPPETS

### Impact-A-Thon



Lila Puig '28

On Jan. 13, students accepted a challenge from AT&T to make a 30-second video encouraging young people to recycle. Their final products will be presented to the company's vice president for Global Sustainability.

### SPC Ring Celebration



Sunnie Wang '25 and Molly Ford

To celebrate the 2022 Championship Lacrosse Team, students and staff gathered Jan. 23 at the Margaret D. Crow Amphitheater

for an SPC Ring Celebration. Team members received rings adorned with the Texas state map and Hockaday logo.

### TPSMEA All-State



Erin Antes '24, Jessica Cai '24, Laya Ragunathan '24, Aneeka Misra '26, Carady Martin '23, Zoe Bennett '26, Jessica Moran '26

Fifteen choir, orchestra and band members were selected to participate in the TPSMEA All-State Clinic and Concert from Jan. 26 - 28. The concert was at the Charles W. Eisemann Center for Performing Arts.

## NEW ON WELCH

A look at what's happening on campus



Photo by Anjy Fadairo

### Security lanyards

Students recently received ID cards that unlock doors during school hours. The ID cards were distributed to Lower, Middle and Upper School students.



Photo by Shreya Vijay

### LED Scoreboard

Penson Gym has a new LED scoreboard. The scoreboard will display scores and important events during athletic games.



Photo by Jessie Crowley

### New Semester Classes

Semester classes new to Upper School include Introduction to Evolution and Social Impact Synthesis.

# Hoping for success at ISAS

## Traditional festivities resume post-COVID

By Melody Tian | News Editor

For the past three years, the ISAS arts festival had either been shortened or canceled due to COVID, and this year marks the first time it will resume its normal activity after the pandemic.

ISAS is a yearly festival intended to foster high standards and stimulate creativity in the performing and fine arts programs for independent schools. This year, the festival will be held April 13-15 at All Saints' Episcopal School in Fort Worth.

"We did extra lunchtime concerts and coffeehouses the past few years because we felt the loss of the festival," said Performing Arts Chair Emily Gray. "Thankfully, ISAS is going back to what it was four or five years ago, and I think most people are very happy with that."

The festival will start at 8 a.m. and lasts until 10 p.m. At the beginning of each hour, there will be new performances and exhibitions from different fine arts. Students can also participate in workshops and master classes by local professionals.

Gray said the festival is a

concentrated experience that would be hard to emulate in any other setting, with a multitude of theatrical events, workshops and classes.

"Even if I took my students to the most expensive trip to New York or London, there is no way they could see five one-act plays, three improv troupes, an orchestra and a dance group all in the course of three days and two nights," Gray said.

There will also be tons of choices, everything ranging from doing yoga and paper marbling on the lawn to sitting and talking with friends while drinking a coffee. Depending on the student, Gray said the ISAS experience could be a great learning opportunity or a more laid-back and relaxed festival. Fine Arts Board Chair Maia Hartley said one of her favorite activities last year was a visual arts loom, where people had the chance to add yarn to a large rectangular string design.

Though ISAS could be an unforgettable experience for students, teachers may also enjoy the event. Gray said she has attended workshops by



Photo by Melody Tian

Sophomores Aynalie Charron and Tennie McFarland create pottery with a throwing wheel.

talented professors and listened to what they had to say.

"I'll just kind of stand in the back and listen, and so in a funny sort of way, it's kind of extra professional development and inspiration to faculty," Gray said.

Studio Art is planning to bring a great body of student work to ISAS where they will be critiqued by other artists, art teachers and professionals.

"I always look forward to this as a good milestone," said Studio Art teacher Bobby Weiss, "We have to have work ready for this show because all schools



Photo by Bobby Weiss

Senior Catherine Choi works on a self-portrait in preparation for ISAS.

are going to see it, and we want to make sure Hockaday shines."

For students who have not attended ISAS before, Hartley said there is a lot to look forward to.

"I would recommend trying to find something new that you haven't seen before or just going to support your friends," Hartley said.

# One Hockaday celebrates community

## Students, alumnae join to recognize MLK, participate in service

By Kailey Bergstedt | Photo & Graphics Editor

Lower, Middle, and Upper School students and faculty gathered in the Penson gym on the morning of Friday Jan. 13 for the Martin Luther King Jr. One Hockaday celebration. This was the first year the celebration has taken place in person since the COVID-19 pandemic began. The assembly included a poetry reading, performances by Upper and

of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion, coordinated and planned the event. Since her departure last year, Laura Day, Founding Executive Director of The Institute for Social Impact, helped coordinate the celebration.

"This year, there was a group of people that had been involved in the past who came together and used the framework Ms. Wilson had used in the past to make it happen," Day said.

One of these people was Lower School music teacher Sabrina Kesse. Kesse, who has supervised the celebration's music selection in past years, chose the music for this year as well, including the exit music and songs the choir performed.

The choir practiced several times in the week leading up to the celebration, where they sang "Lift Every Voice and Sing" and "You're the One." Exit music included Michael Jackson's "Man in the Mirror," Sister Sledge's "We are Family" and Al Green's "Put a Little Love in Your Heart."

"I chose these songs because they really followed the theme of impact, specifically the impact that Dr. King made on bringing people together and ensuring that marginalized people were brought to the forefront of conversations," Kesse said. "These songs were reminders of how to create impact within our community as well as how to ensure we take responsibility to create change anywhere we see that

it is needed."

Four seniors in Hockadance also performed. Christie Sullivan, Director of Dance, choreographed the dance and chose the dancers, like she did in past years. Following the performance, Hite spoke about how everyone can stand up for what they believe is right and effect positive social change, as Martin Luther King Jr. did.

"All too often, people believe that a unique ability or qualification is required to be a changemaker, but a willingness to embody the change you desire and push past the challenges that arise is something anyone can do," Hite said.

To conclude the celebration, three Upper School students read a poem aloud. As in previous years, Dr. Mira Cranfill selected the poem and students who recited it.

"We read a poem called 'Praise Song for the Day' which was also read during one of President Obama's inaugurations," junior Jessica Chung said.

After the celebration, Upper and Middle School students assembled in OneHockaday groups for an "Impact-A-Thon," where they brainstormed and collaborated on short videos to motivate people to recycle. While some students enjoyed the celebration, others,



Photo by Kailey Bergstedt

Alumna Brittani Carter-Durant Hite '05 speaks at the assembly. She founded the social impact firm Ethos Equity Consulting to identify and work to resolve systemic obstacles to justice.

including members of the Black Student Union, wished it had focused more on MLK himself.

"I really liked hearing about ways I can lead a life of impact, but I also would've liked to hear more about MLK's life and legacy during the assembly," junior Alyssa Anderson said.

In her speech, Hite focused more on impact and related that to MLK's legacy, wanting to inspire future generations of changemakers.

"It's important to honor the holistic legacy of Martin Luther King Jr. because he faced adversity and ultimately death, in order to catalyze equitable change," Hite said. "Unless we acknowledge his struggle and the things he fought to change, we put ourselves at risk of forgetting history, and that's when it tends to repeat itself."

**"Opportunities to create change are all around us, so continue rising, taking action and leading by example."**

**Brittani Carter-Durant Hite  
Hockaday Alumna '05**

Middle School choir and Upper School's dance company. Dr. Laura Leathers, Head of School, and Brittani Carter-Durant Hite '05 spoke.

"Opportunities to create change are all around us, so continue rising, taking action and leading by example," Hite said. "No matter the size of the change, the world is waiting for you to create it, so why not you and why not now?"

With these words, Hite concluded her speech during the celebration. In past years, Tresa Wilson, Director




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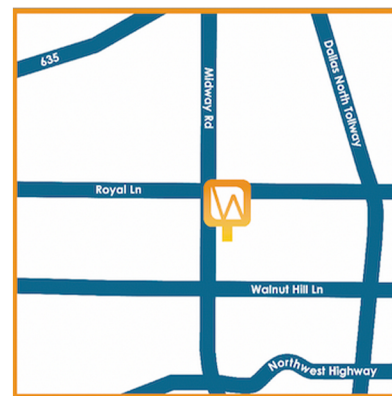


**Dr. AJ Ortega, DMD, MS**  
St. Mark's Class of 1993

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## ‘The Addams Family Musical’ Students take on roles of familiar eccentric characters

By Jane Clark | Editor-in-Chief

**F**orbidden love takes a supernatural twist in the Upper School’s spring musical “The Addams Family.” Wednesday (played by Sydney Hoyl), daughter of Morticia and Gomez Addams, falls in love with Lucas Beineke (played by St. Mark’s junior Miller Wendorf), a normal boy. Their families are disapproving of their relationship, which adds to the drama and comedy in this musical.

“It’s about a very eclectic family,” sophomore Saxon Moseley, playing Morticia Addams, said. “Their daughter falls in love with a guy who’s super normal, and they don’t really like him, causing lots of havoc.”

Moseley enjoys participating in musicals because of the experience gained from the combination of singing, dancing and acting.

“They’re a fun experience with all your friends where you can just really enjoy yourself,” Moseley said.

Senior Brie Johnson, playing Alice Beineke in the musical, likes the idea of this musical because it is a big commercial show people know the name of.

“Ms. Gray wanted to do something that would get everyone excited because people have heard of the Addams family,” Johnson said.

The Netflix show “Wednesday” just came out

as well, which has certainly sparked more interest in the characters in the musical. The cast is moving along quickly with blocking and memorizing lines.

“We just blocked the first big musical number, and right now, we are working on acting scenes,” Johnson said.

Johnson’s interest in theater goes back to her participation in the eighth-grade musical “The Wizard of Oz,” and even further to “The Sound of Music,” which she was a part of in Lower School even though it was an Upper School production.

“I’ve always just liked performing arts, and so it’s kind of fun because it



Members of the cast learn a piece of choreography during an after-school rehearsal.



combines dancing, singing and acting together,” Johnson said.

Senior Sydney Hoyl, playing Wednesday Addams, looks forward to the production, and since they are about a month into rehearsal,

everything is coming together nicely.

“We have learned most of the songs and have choreographed the first big number of the show,” Hoyl said. “I can’t wait for everyone to see it.”



Photos by Kailey Bergstedt

St. Mark’s student Lukas Palys rehearses a scene with sophomore Saxon Moseley who plays the role of Morticia Addams, the mother of senior Sydney Hoyl’s Wednesday Addams.

### LIKE AND COMMENT

Some of our favorite recent social media posts

**Lola Barnard '24**  
Dallas



Junior Lola Barnard celebrates with friends before Winter Formal.

**Abby Carlisle '23**  
Dallas



Senior Abby Carlisle smiles with Kathleen Grip and Alex Crosnoe under the Friday night lights.

**Jordan Lacsamana '25**  
Dallas



Sophomores Jordan Lacsamana and Jayna Khatti pose before WinFo.

# Long-lost laughs revived

## Dancers perform 1900s Russian comedy 'Harlequinade'

By Danya Risam-Chandi | Staff Writer

**H**arlequin dances across the stage, the triangles of his clown suit rotating until he meets his beloved Columbine in her graceful pink tutu.

This year's dance production has roots in early 1900s Russia. The comedic ballet was first performed for Tsar Nicholas II and the royal court. However, all records of the ballet were destroyed during the Russian Revolution of 1918.

George Balanchine, famed choreographer and co-founder of the New York City Ballet, recreated the ballet in 1954, based on his memories of performing it in the Imperial Ballet School.

The only original notation from the play was by choreographer Maurice Petipa. It was only in 2018 when a man named Alexei Ratmansky found the notes and became fluent in Petipa's choreography "language," that the true historically accurate ballet was put together.

"The ballet is fairly new to the world as it was just recently unearthed and reconstructed," dance teacher Alex Fariior said. Not only that, but the dancers performed the same choreography as the original 1900 ballet.

The ballet also differs from others as it is a comedy.

"It's not like Romeo and Juliet, which has drama and tragedy along with it," Fariior said. "It's just a light-hearted comedy."

She said that was one of the most challenging aspects of the ballet.

"You can rehearse the steps over and over again to have beautiful pointed feet and straight legs, lines and designs on stage," Fariior said, "but the moment that you turn your face or energy off on stage, you lose the audience and you lose the storytelling."

The dancers also learned about the commedia dell'arte, an Italian form of improv on which "Harlequinade" is based.

"You have to really act big with your face in order for the audience to see what you're expressing through the mask," said Ava Stern, who played Harlequin.

The playful nature of the ballet shined, and a large part of that was the easygoing nature of the cast.

"The characterization of our dancers and their talents are part of the reason we chose to do "Harlequinade" this year," dance teacher Christie Sullivan said.

The clown motif is evident throughout the ballet, from costumes to setting to acting. When putting together costumes and building sets, historical accuracy was also a priority.

"We do our own research on the ballet and actually, there are a lot of historical photos of characters from this ballet being played by very famous dancers," Sullivan said, "so that's really fun to look at."

Dancing was not all the cast had to manage; they also had to learn to act.

"What excites me the most is



Juniors Melody Tian, Avery Clarke, Elena Zeballos and Alex Cox run in formation.



Maddie Grace Spurl '23 and Miranda Jefferds '23 arabesque in sync.



Ava Stern '23 plays the lead role of Harlequin. Photos by Stella Grabham.

the theatrics of the whole thing," Fariior said. "The dancers have to be completely focused on their character whether they are doing an amazing step or just standing and clapping."

### ARTIST SPOTLIGHT

# Amazing artistry

## Sophomore continues passion for all things art

By Amitha Nair | Staff Writer

Stroke after stroke, erasing any imperfection, never letting a single color outside of its region, artist Emily McShane works on another piece.

McShane, a sophomore, takes Advanced Studio Art III, participates in the AP Art program and creates independent projects outside of school. These projects include films she enters in contests, earning her acceptance as an Official Selectant in the Pegasus Film Festival and the All-American High School Film Festival in Oct. 2022. She also won second place in digital imaging at Young American Talent in the summer of 2022.

"She is very contentious and works hard, on digital art in particular," said Bobby Weiss, Studio Art III and film teacher.

McShane puts hours into her work, day after day continuing the sketches on paper or on line and working on film.

"I think she has really found a way to connect to digital media in a really meaningful way," Weiss said.

At first glance, McShane's

themes seem to be girls, fashion and bright colors, but McShane sheds light on topics that aren't typically covered in some art pieces or forms of media.



McShane's film "I Love You So Mush!" was a Pegasus Film Festival Winner and won official selection in the Pegasus and All-American High School Film Festivals.

"I like to represent stories and underrepresented minorities you don't usually see," she said.

She creates her work through a lengthy, delicate process, starting off with ideas and writing them

down as soon as they come to mind, even if she can't start the artwork right away. This ensures she doesn't toss a potential illustration out the window without giving it the opportunity to be something great.

"Then I will do thumbnail sketches, which are just small drawings that are planning the layout," McShane said. "After, I will start sketching the full piece, and then from that, I have my process from sketching, to inking, to colors, to shading, to finishing."

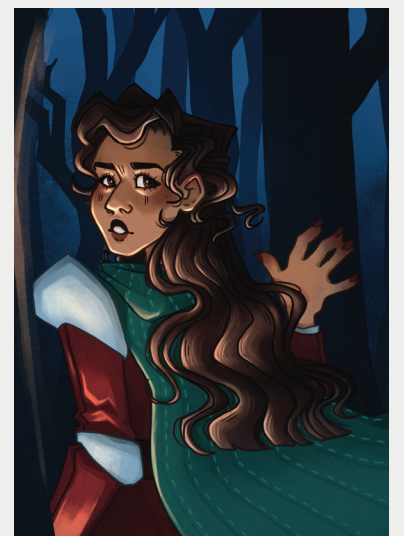
This passion for artistry has been in McShane's life since she was a toddler. As her motivation to create art fuels her future, she looks for colleges and other choices that relate to this pursuit.

"I am looking at art colleges, and I plan on attending an art school and studying illustration," McShane said.

The source of this devotion and the effort she puts into her artwork has never been something she could express in a simple sentence.

"I don't even know how to answer that," she said.

### McSHANE'S ART



Art by Emily McShane

## REVIEWS

## SOS!

## SZA's latest release elevates career to new heights

By Zoya Haq | JADE Editor

**S**pelled out in morse code at the beginning of SZA's newest album, "SOS" is a fitting intro to and name for the singer's latest release: it certainly seemed to bring the world to a state of emergency, topping global charts and prompting mad dashes for tickets to SZA's next tour.

"SOS" takes a more introspective lens than SZA's first record "CTRL," examining themes like self-love, insecurity and soul-searching. The result? An album equal parts empowering and vulnerable, melodious and heart-wrenching.

While the album has its fair share of bold tracks like "Conceited" and "Seek & Destroy," tracks like "Love Language" and "Special" show the R&B singer baring herself to the audience, revealing the desperation and self-doubt that afflict everyone, even those as apparently confident as the singer herself. In that sense, SOS feels like an album anyone can relate to — whether they're looking for an upbeat anthem or an emotional ballad, SZA's got you covered.

Notable on "SOS" is the eclectic group of features that populate tracks

like "Ghost in the Machine" (Phoebe Bridgers), "Used" (Don Toliver), "Open Arms" (Travis Scott), and "Forgiveless" (Old Dirty Bastard). As a Phoebe fan, I went into the album expecting to love "Ghost in the Machine" most, but I actually ended up enjoying the rhythmic beat and smooth vocal pairings of Don Toliver's feature on "Used" more.

I felt like "Ghost in the Machine" didn't take full advantage of SZA's impressive vocal range and ended up seeming less engaging than other tracks on the album, though it was still exciting to see a collaboration between two of the most prominent female singers of 2023.

Having listened to the album probably 30 times now, I think my favorite part of SOS is that it is not an album that can be singularly defined. Within 10 minutes of listening, the audience is taken from lyrics like "I got everything I need, and I want more" to "You made me hate me, regret that I changed me."

Breaking boxes far more than "CTRL," "SOS" is then a microcosm of life and all of its complications. Above all else, it's an ode to girlhood,

to womanhood: it encompasses the feeling of growing up in all of its ups and downs, weaving you through SZA's journey right while you're still navigating your own.

Perhaps it sounds too bold a statement, but I believe "SOS" will cement SZA's position as a singer emblematic of our generation. With "SOS," she explores her dynamic, wide-spreading range, proving her emergence as a defining component of the 2020s music scene.



## Looking through a lens

## Netflix claims new series can be watched in any order

stars

By Bennett Trubey | Arts &amp; Life Editor

Netflix has challenged its viewers to look at one of its newest projects through a unique, rotating lens.

The streaming platform released "Kaleidoscope" on Jan. 1 as a part of its effort to create innovative viewer experiences. The company promoted the series as an exciting collection that can be watched in any order.

"Kaleidoscope" centers on a heist 25 years in the making and is loosely based on the flooding of \$70 billion in bonds during Hurricane Sandy in Manhattan.

Each of the eight episodes is named after a color and set at different times leading up to the heist. Netflix claims the order viewers watch the show will affect their opinions of characters as they learn their motives and pasts through different lenses.

The series is provided in a randomized order to every Netflix user. However, the orders always begin with "Black," a one-minute explanation of how to watch the show, and end with the heist in the "White" episode.

I watched the show in the order I was provided so I could test Netflix's theory, but the streaming platform and many viewers online have shared different orders to watch the show — including chronologically, in rainbow order, as a detective story and even as a Tarantino film.

As I watched the series, I found that I sympathized most with the mastermind of the heist, Leo Pap,

played by Giancarlo Esposito. However, I suspect that those who watch the series starting with another episode, such as "Blue" or "Orange," will have a different opinion of Pap and the heist.

In terms of the writing and characters, I really enjoyed how Esposito's character deviated from the typical, genius mastermind role, but I was disappointed by the halt of his character arc in the weeks leading up to the heist.

As the show shifted focus from Leo and his past to developing more of the motivations and relationships of his crew members, I felt like his character was neglected.



However, the development of the other members of Leo's crew — Bob, Judy, Ava, RJ and Stan — was very entertaining and made up for the lack of attention to Leo during the last three episodes leading up to the heist.

The concept of watching in a randomized order was well-executed. I found each episode could stand on its own and tell an independent part of the story while still connecting to the other episodes and building up to the ending.

That being said, if I could have changed anything about the order I watched it in, I would have watched "White" before "Pink." Finishing with the heist episode left me with an unsatisfactory feeling. After finishing the series with "White," I re-watched "Pink," which is set six months after the heist and was the episode before "White" in the order Netflix provided. I enjoyed it much more in that tweaked order. The ending felt much less out of place and concluded the story in a much more logical manner.

Overall, I would absolutely recommend "Kaleidoscope." I hope Netflix will continue to create unique viewing experiences similar to this series. The thrill of watching the heist unfold and the element of mystery from knowing the aftermath before watching the actual robbery kept me hooked. So if you have some downtime this weekend, go find out what episode order you have waiting for you.

## POP CULTURE WITH HARPER

Features editor Harper Harris is a pop culture fanatic, and she's here to address what's trending.

A new "It Girl" has started to pop up on my "for you" page. Alix Earle's content mainly focuses on beauty and fashion, with her "outfit of the day" and "get ready with me" TikToks.

Earle, 22, a senior at the University of Miami, has been posting on TikTok since 2020, but only recently started to gain a mass of followers and views. In early December, Earle had 627k Instagram followers and 1.2 million on TikTok. Now, Earle has over 1.5 million Instagram followers and over 3.8 million on TikTok.

She posts videos similar to those of most lifestyle and beauty influencers, showing new hair and makeup products, her most recent makeup purchases and her glamorous outfits.

Her influence has reached teenage girls including the Hockaday population. Besides her selling out certain products, I have seen dozens of girls mirroring her demeanor and fashion sense. I have also seen many girls post their own "get ready with me" videos on TikTok that almost always include products Earle swears by in her own videos.

Her influence is more than surface level because Earle's appeal is in her approachable and relatable storytelling demeanor. She is candid and honest, which makes her so easy to watch and enjoy whether she's talking about her experiences with plastic surgery, her struggles with acne or a crazy night she had.

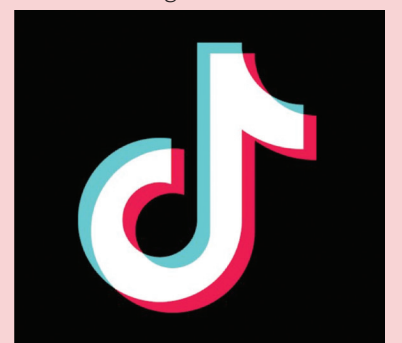
This "openness" on her pages has worked; Earle's following keeps growing, as do her partnerships with brands like Tarte and Rare Beauty.

Her makeup routine is one of the biggest things that made her blow up on TikTok. After watching her videos I found myself driving to the closest Sephora, only to see most of the products in her routine sold out. Rare Beauty liquid blush, Drunk Elephant bronzer drops and Charlotte Tilbury liquid highlighter and bronzer are some of the products Earle posts.

While she has a great influence on teenagers, Earle is not without controversy. Some commenters point out the wealth she flaunts in videos, like her decision to buy a second Dyson Air Wrap, a hair product that costs \$600. The other products in her beauty routine add up to almost \$500.

I believe she comes from a place of privilege since she is able to afford the products she talks about and wears, but I still find myself interested in her content and wanting to watch more.

Earle's impact on teenagers will continue to grow, and hopefully start a movement of positivity and confidence for girls.



Wikimedia Commons via Stikywork



# EUROPE TO DALLAS

## New patisserie serves variety of desserts

**La Reve Gelato & Patisserie, 12817 Preston Rd. Suite #133, 75230**

By Juliana Blazek | Jade Editor



From gelato to French desserts, Le Reve, Gelato and Patisserie, gives customers a range of unique flavors in its different creations. Establishing the motto “the place where you experience the sweetest dream,” the dessert shop’s signature sweets include macarons, an assortment of small cakes, and tarts.

Andy Pham opened Le Reve in January 2022 with its first location in North Dallas between Preston Road and Highway 635. Having grown up with French influences in his life, Pham says on the patisserie’s website that he desires to “take quality ingredients and turn them into innovative desserts.”

Le Reve has a rotating, seasonal menu with new flavors and designs continually making an appearance on the menu. Some of the current items include lavender, Earl Grey, and peach caramel macarons, chocolate and lemon eclairs, and coffee caramel cake.

During my first visit to Le Reve, I had a bit of trouble finding the bake shop as it was tucked away in a shopping center. However, the big black and white sign with French words led me to where all of my European dessert dreams would come true. When I walked into the bake shop, I immediately noticed the clean, organized environment. At the front of the shop, there were two glass cases: one showcasing the macarons and the other a variety of available desserts.

Since I came to Le Reve on a late Saturday afternoon, there was definitely a limited number

of options I had to chose from. After much consideration about which desserts to sample, I bought three macarons in flavors chocolate, strawberry rose, and vanilla and a “tarte au chocolat,” or chocolate tart.

Trying the macarons first, I was amazed at the balance between the crunch of the macaron shell and fluffy filling. In addition, the macaron filling was not too sweet and it just made me want to eat more. My favorite flavor of macaron would have to be the vanilla, which included real vanilla bean in the filling, giving it a rich flavor. The rosette piping and gold flakes on the shell gave the macaron a decadent and sophisticated look.

When sampling the tarte au chocolat, I loved the contrast of the hard chocolate ganache topping that lay over a rich and creamy chocolate mousse, all within chocolate crust. The dark chocolate flavor was not overwhelming and did not give the dessert an overly rich flavor.

After I finished both of these desserts, I immediately wanted to get more, as they leave you with a delicious taste and not-too-full feeling. While the desserts can be a little pricey, especially the macarons, I think that the taste and intricate designs make up for it. I do recommend ordering in advance for a specific dessert as they sell out quickly each day.

Be sure to follow Le Reve on social media, as that is where they post updates on menu switches and exciting new tasty treats.



Photos by Juliana Blazek

### FUN AND GAMES: LOVE LETTERS

Find the Valentine’s Day themed words to get in the spirit of love!



- FLOWERS
- CUPID
- PINK
- VALENTINE
- FAMILY
- LOVE
- HEART
- RED
- CHOCOLATE
- FRIENDS
- BESTIE

M	U	E	F	R	I	E	N	D	S
E	H	T	N	W	H	L	Q	P	K
N	W	A	S	I	F	N	O	N	A
I	V	L	R	M	I	W	I	V	G
T	B	O	E	U	U	P	G	P	E
N	E	C	W	I	C	U	P	I	D
E	S	O	O	B	O	T	J	I	M
L	T	H	L	F	H	X	T	D	R
A	I	C	F	H	E	A	R	T	E
V	E	Y	L	I	M	A	F	L	D



# Bringing out the boots

## Students find fun footwear for JSB

By Melody Hu | Editor in Chief



### The Josie Boots by Tecovas

Hayden Marchant '24

The Josie Boots are classic-style cowboy boots in suede. The bottom of the boot is light blue while the shaft of the boot is white, featuring a light blue design.

Tecovas are known for their comfort and quality. These boots are a fun play on the classic cowboy boot, but still go with a variety of dresses and outfits.



### The Yee Haw Boots by Miron Crosby

Avani Haden '23

With Haden's "Yee Haw" cowboy boots, all the fun is on the top. The top of the boot has different metallic colors, complete with stars, hearts and gold detailing at the top. The right boot has

the word "Yee" on the side while the left boot has the word "Haw." Miron Crosby boots are known for their fun and unique designs and can elevate any look.



### Studded Brown Boots by Idyllwind

Nancy Chen '23

Chen's boots put a fun twist on traditional leather cowboy boots. These brown boots have different studs on the toe and the back of the heel. The boots also have eagle designs all over and are perfect for JSB or

any other event. They are classic, neutral and match almost any outfit or dress. "I bought these boots because I thought the rhinestones gave them a very unique accent," Chen said.

### Pink Heart Boots by City Boots

Abby Carlisle '23

These LoveShackFancy cowboy boots are definitely unique. The boots are bright pink with a large white heart in the center. The boot also has smaller white hearts around the trim. These boots are perfect if you want to add some fun to a simple outfit and

are sure to turn heads at any event. "I love the color pink and my dress for JSB was white, so I thought they would be a fun pop of color and shoes I could wear over and over again," Carlisle said.



### White Boots by Jeffrey Campbell

Millie Trumpower '23

White cowboy boots are the perfect way to bring something different to any outfit. Whether you pair these boots with a bright and fun dress or something simple and neutral, they are sure to elevate your look.

"I really wanted to wear white cowboy boots because not a lot of people will have them, but I'm still able to wear them to a lot of things, like Coachella last year," Trumpower said.



# AROUND DALLAS



1



2

## LITTLE LUXURIES

By Elizabeth Truelove | Staff Writer

As the season of Cupid and love approaches, make sure to check out these bakeries and chocolate shops as the perfect places to find tasty treats for your loved ones.



3



4

**1 Kate Weiser - 8687 N. Central Expy., 75225**  
 With an artistic approach, this delicious chocolate shop sells the perfect bite-sized chocolates with unique flavors such as Truffle Honey, Hazelnut Latte and Cookie Monster.

**3 Susie Cakes - 6100 Luther Ln., 75225**  
 Although known for iconic sugary cakes, Susie's also sells cupcakes, cookies and more. The convenient online ordering and delivery process makes an easy solution for loved ones away from home. In addition to picking the flavor and icing for your treat, you can also choose a Valentine's Day design such as a rose or heart.

**2 BIRD Bakery - 7A Highland Park Village, 75205**  
 Located in the aesthetic Highland Park Village shopping center, BIRD Bakery decorates the store with pastels and a French bistro vibe. Miniature cupcakes come in egg cartons, making for unique packaging with even better treats inside.

**4 Sprinkles Cupcakes - 4020 Villanova St., 75225**  
 This popular bakery chain has created the fastest contactless ordering with the invention of the Cupcake ATM. You can order a variety package of cookies and cupcakes, personalize a box of treats or design the pattern of a cake at the click of a button.

Photos by Elizabeth Truelove | Graphics by Karen Arnold via Public Domain

# Navigating dating at an all-girls school



## Students form relationships inside, outside classroom

By Kailey Bergstedt | Photo & Graphics Editor and Caroline Bush | Arts & Life Editor

*On top of homework, college applications, athletics and fine arts, dating is just another aspect of a busy student's life. Whether with someone at St. Mark's, within Hockaday or at another school, relationships are a key part of adolescence.*

### Students' experiences

Although Hockaday is an all-girls school, students still find opportunities to date. There are also some students who prefer to prioritize school or athletics over their dating life.

"Something we talk about in health class is understanding your values and your value system," Adaku Ebeniro, Health 101 Coordinator, said. "Some people feel like dating is almost like a rite of passage in high school, whereas others feel like they need to get through high school and have those experiences later in life."

Junior Rachel Manley has been dating her boyfriend since October. He attends Jesuit, and the two met at a football game there. They started dating shortly after he took her to Homecoming.

"Although we don't see each other at school, we still make time to hang out on the weekends," Manley said.

Senior Maia Hartley started dating her girlfriend, senior Molly McPhail, in February of their sophomore year. Hartley and McPhail have known each other since the fourth grade and became close after sharing an advisory in Middle School.

"At school we mostly hang out in groups, and we'll do more serious stuff, like homework," Hartley said, "whereas outside of school, we either hang out alone or in a really big group, like at events."

Hartley said being in a relationship takes some of her stress away because

it's something that brings her joy. The couple hangs out every day, and they text all the time.

Relationships at Hockaday, and other same-sex high schools can look a little different from ones at co-ed high schools.

"I think relationships are more visible and more a part of the drama at co-ed schools," junior Jane Hochman said. "Especially if both of the people went to the same school and were interacting with each other at school every day." Hochman attended co-ed schools up until this year.

Although there are still some opportunities to date or interact with boys at all-girls schools, they can be limited. This becomes more noticeable in the weeks surrounding school dances, with some students struggling to find dates. This trend also occurs at many other same-sex institutions.

"I noticed that the girls who always had several options for homecoming dates were those who had connections from a co-ed middle school or knew people from previous encounters," junior Sofia Velesiotis said. Velesiotis attended Highland Park, a co-ed school her freshman year and then transferred to Ursuline, an all-girls high school.

"Especially at an all-girls school, I believe it's a lengthy process to foster your own relationships," Velesiotis said. "Honestly, we tend to turn to Snapchat to create connections and let it go from there."

### Dating in the digital age

Reaching out to somebody you're interested in hasn't always been as easy as the tap of a button. Nowadays, connecting on line is one of the primary ways teens get to know each other romantically. Especially at a same-sex school, if a student is interested in someone at a different school, it's beneficial to have that way to interact.

"Social media creates something like a dating site, but for high schoolers," Tiffani Kocsis, assistant head of Upper School said.

In the digital age, it is easier to connect with somebody when you aren't able to find a time or place to do so. It can also be fun to share aspects of your day through pictures or videos.

"If used thoughtfully, digital communication can even be more comfortable for some people who need some time to think about their words or feel like they need physical distance for a little until they feel comfortable in conversation," Ellen Kaney-Francis, Upper School counselor, said.

Dating in the digital age does have its drawbacks, however. Kaney-Francis said communication through the internet can make it more

difficult for teens to determine boundaries for themselves. Because they can communicate whenever they want, a text conversation between high schoolers can go on for a full day, or even longer.

"It pulls your focus, and it's also draining," Kaney-Francis said. "Even if it's a positive conversation, it takes a lot of emotional energy to keep up."

Texting can also make it much more difficult to interpret tone, and Kaney-Francis said people – especially teen girls – tend to negatively interpret messages more often than not. According to editorial team Scribendi, miscommunication over text can cause relationships to go south. This makes it a better option to have important conversations in person – something difficult to find time for, especially at a rigorous school like Hockaday.

Online interactions also can be dangerous. When anyone can reach out to whoever they want online, it's not uncommon for predators to attempt to contact students.

"For everybody, but especially for young women, there's always the danger of catfishing, or someone pretending to be somebody they are not," Kocsis said. "Predators are on line saying they are 17 when they're really 45."



## Healthy vs. unhealthy relationships

For teenagers new to dating, it's important to know the signs of healthy versus unhealthy relationships. In Health 101, students learn to recognize these signs as well as how to set boundaries in relationships and what these boundaries should look like.

"We really focus on making sure each student knows what boundaries they are comfortable with setting and what they are comfortable with inside the scope of their relationship," said Ebeniro, who teaches the class.

Setting these boundaries is a key part of maintaining a healthy relationship, she said. Other steps can include treating each other with mutual respect, maintaining good and frequent communication and being open to compromise.

"There's a very fine line between healthy and unhealthy relationships and the decisions we make in the relationship can definitely affect that," Ebeniro said.

In relationships, students should feel respected and supported for who they are. They shouldn't feel like they need to change themselves. They should be able to have uncomfortable conversations with their partner, and feel like their feelings aren't being dismissed.

"In a healthy relationship, you should see an equitable distribution of power," Kocsis said.

Kaney-Francis said students shouldn't feel the need to spend every waking minute with or talking to their significant other and also shouldn't find themselves worrying about them being frustrated if they aren't always available to hang out. Although it can be exciting to be in communication all the time at first, it becomes problematic if it's taking away from other important relationships, responsibilities or activities, Kaney-Francis said. It can be a red flag if your significant other expects your time and attention constantly.

"Relationships should be with somebody who will just support you and wants to involve themselves in your life and wants you to be involved in their life as well," Kaney-Francis said.

Unhealthy relationships can look the opposite. Signs of an unhealthy relationship can include possessiveness, lack of trust or students feeling like they need to change themselves or end other

relationships, like friendships, to please their partner. Another sign can be challenging, mocking or crossing boundaries – verbal, emotional, physical or sexual – that have been established, Kaney-Francis said.

"It can feel like you, your feelings, your needs or your opinions aren't being heard or respected," Kaney-Francis said.

Although relationships can and will look different depending on the individuals involved, it's important for all teenagers, especially girls, to recognize these signs and trust their gut feeling when it comes to dating, Kaney-Francis said.

"I think, as females, we're often told to quiet our internal voice that is questioning things, but it's really a powerful tool that can help protect us and help us make good choices," Kaney-Francis said.

Relationships can also have a positive impact on students' lives if they feel supported and are with someone who uplifts and encourages them.

"However, if you're with somebody who you feel like you're kind of walking on eggshells around, it can create a huge distraction," Kaney-Francis said.

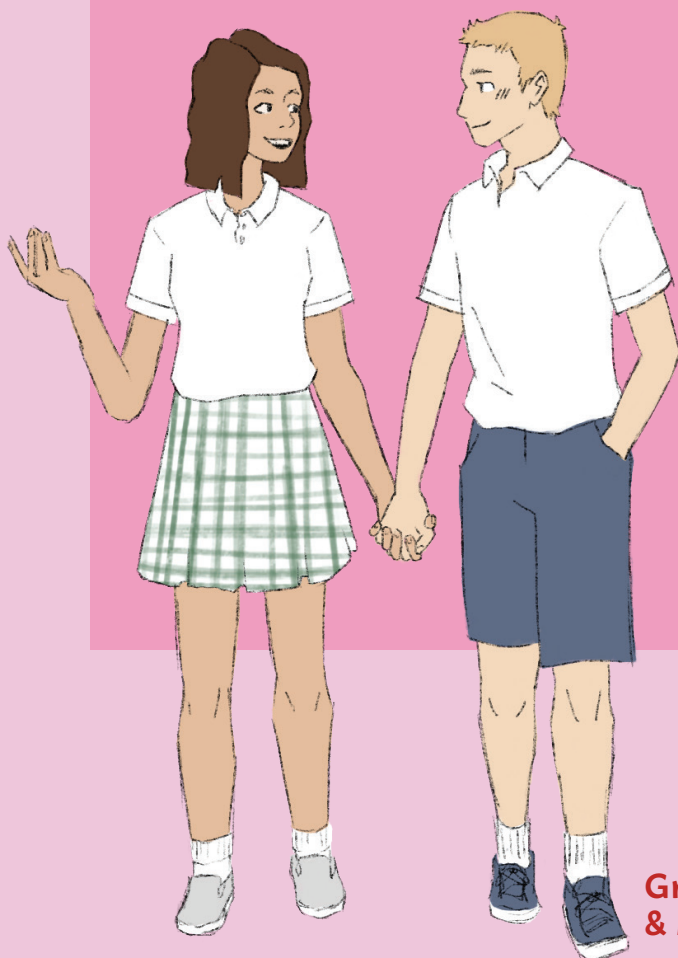
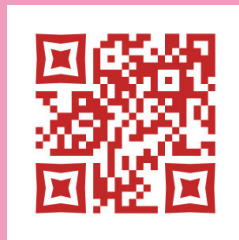
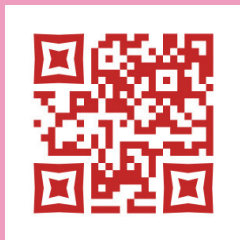
It's especially important for students to have a strong sense of self both before and while they are dating someone. They should remain true to themselves and make decisions based on their values and desires. They should also not base a majority of their self-worth on what someone else thinks or says about them, including a significant other, Kaney-Francis said.

"If you're not somebody who already has a strong sense of who you are and what's important to you, then you might be less likely to immediately notice the signs of emotional or verbal abuse or you might even believe you deserve it," Kaney-Francis said. "However, no one should have to tolerate belittling or repeated criticism from a partner, and it can be hurtful regardless of how confident or strong you may be."



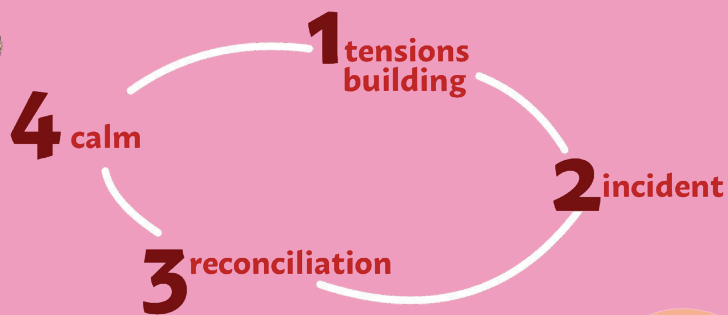
## February is TEEN DATING VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH

Learn more or get help:



### Cycle of Abuse:

If abuse in a relationship follows this pattern, the stages can repeat themselves over and over again.



**1 in 3** U.S. teens will experience physical, sexual or emotional abuse from a partner before reaching adulthood.

**81%** of parents don't believe teen dating violence is an issue or admit they don't know it's an issue

**33%** of abused teens have told someone



Graphics by Elizabeth McNeil & Melody Hu

# Feeding the Need's function and future

## Club educates students, serves homeless in Dallas

By Bennett Trubey | Arts & Life Editor

From packing snack bags on her own as a sixth grader to hosting an event where fellow students packed more than 500 bags, junior Lola Barnard shares her love for service with her community.

Barnard founded Feeding the Need – a student-run nonprofit – her freshman year. The club works to educate students about the homeless community in Dallas and provide opportunities to create an impact.

“I’ve always been super passionate about community service,” Barnard said. “I started helping the homeless in Dallas when I was in middle school.”

Beginning in the sixth grade, Barnard made food and snack bags, gave out blankets and even started a GoFundMe in her neighborhood.

“When I got into Hockaday, I thought it was the perfect environment to make that into something bigger,” Barnard said.

The club participates in holiday-themed service events hosted by Family Gateway – a homeless organization and shelter – and provides students with chances to connect with and serve the families there.

In the first semester, students could participate in a Halloween trick-or-treat event, a holiday cookie decorating session, Family Gateway’s

holiday store and an abundance of donation drops.

Barnard also has organized on-campus opportunities for service, such as a homelessness education discussion, Halloween costume donations and a cookie decorating sessions.

“I want to provide everyone with more resources to better understand who they are helping,” Barnard said. “I think it’s really important to encourage people to volunteer and educate them so they know what they’re doing and why it matters. That has a bigger impact on the person.”

Sophomore Erin Yuan, the communications chair for Feeding the Need, joined her freshman year after coming across Barnard’s stand at the club fair.

“What really aligned with me in the mission statement was the want to help people in our community and actually make change,” Yuan said.

As communications chair, Yuan is responsible for spreading awareness of the club’s mission and getting students to sign up for service opportunities.

“I took a leadership position because I wanted to get more involved in the club, and I think the club has a really good, positive message,” Yuan said.

As for its plans for the second semester, Feeding the Need will be hosting a



Photo provided by Lola Barnard

Club president Lola Barnard and club member Estee Phaneuf advertising Feeding the Need at the club fair in September.

Valentine’s Day service project on Feb. 12 similar to last year’s – during which students made more than 500 decorated snack bags to be donated – and will participate in Family Gateway’s Spring Carnival in March.

“I’ve already seen Feeding the Need have such an amazing impact,” Barnard said, “especially on the people who are in the club.”

# Service organization expands to Galapagos

## Student-created fine arts non-profit builds new chapter

By Alexandra Dassopoulos | Staff Writer

When thinking of the Galapagos, one might envision this archipelago of 19 islands, its plethora of animals and mountainous landscape. But to junior Madeleine Chen, co-founder of Visions For Confidence, the Galapagos is so much more than its rich nature.

Chen co-founded her non-profit in 2020 to provide fine arts access to students in under-served schools, giving them a chance to experience the passion she has found through the arts. V4C recently connected with a school in the Galapagos to help provide them with the same benefits of fine arts that Chen has experienced.

“The reason I started Visions for Confidence was because dance, and all the arts that I had been involved in from a very young age, had given me so much confidence and purpose,” Chen said. “I realized, as I was getting older, that was not a privilege a lot of people in our community, or outside of our community, have. Our mission statement is basically to provide quality resources and boost confidence in our next generation through fine arts.”

In late November, Chen and her fellow leaders at V4C began brainstorming the idea of bringing fine arts access to the Galapagos Islands. Although V4C is in the process of finalizing the contracts, they plan to provide resources to the only bilingual school on the island, the Tomás de Berlanga School.

LA-based Jacklyn Wang became V4C’s Director of International Affairs in November after meeting Chen at University of Pennsylvania’s



Photo courtesy of Madeleine Chen

Madeleine Chen and the V4C team discuss plans for the Galapagos chapter.

Wharton Summer Program. Wang was on a research dive trip with the Charles Darwin Foundation when she discovered the needs of Tomás de Berlanga, a branch of the research institution’s non-profit. Because of her prior connections with the school, Wang decided to pitch the idea of expanding V4C to the Galapagos. While considering the pandemic’s effects on the Galapagos’ tourism-dependent economy, Wang realized V4C could have a mutual benefit from partnering with the school.

“There’s like this cross cultural thing that I think we would all benefit from,” Wang said. “I was thinking people in our organization and our chapters would learn more about international culture, how their lives are compared to ours.”

In December, the organization hosted

a fundraiser for the Galapagos chapter.

As the school lacks monetary support, V4C has many ideas on how to supply resources, including paying a teacher’s salary; donating to the school for materials or purchasing the materials themselves from local companies; teaching through videos; and developing curriculum for the school.

Although the chapter is under development, Chen has encountered some obstacles in communication and coordination, while Wang said that the school’s lack of WiFi access has prevented future Zoom tutoring.

Despite these challenges, the school is ecstatic and confident about the project, as a result of V4C’s own conviction in the program. Educators hope these feelings will translate to the students as they gain

confidence through the fine arts.

“One of our biggest accomplishments was being able to pitch a feasible plan to the school itself for them to implement,” Chen said. “It’s nice to see how thrilled they are about us reaching out and how excited they are about our confidence in the program. They see that we’re kids and we want to reach out, so they view us as an inspiration.”

Throughout the process of adding this new chapter, Chen has gained a new perspective on both the availability of fine arts internationally and goals for the future.

“I’ve had so many people ask me, ‘Oh, people actually live there?’ or ‘Kids actually live there?’ I thought it was just nature,” Chen said. “I think that’s what a lot of people think about whenever they think about the Galapagos. I think what we’ve learned throughout this whole process is that there are so many parts of the world that are thought of in the same way as the Galapagos Islands – but in reality, there can be a lot of kids and people striving to become successful in their own community.”

One path to success is education in the fine arts. V4C plans to facilitate these journeys of success for international students and recognizes the vast opportunities.

“We’ve realized that there’s so much that we can do and I think one of our long term goals is to continue this chapter in the Galapagos for a very long time,” Chen said. “We have a really long list of countries that we’d like to start chapters in.”

# Black History Month breaks glass ceiling

## Community finds ways to celebrate heritage

By Anjy Fadairo | Staff Writer

Each February, Americans celebrate Black History Month. However, despite it being the center of attention and controversy over the years, some do not understand what Black History Month means to members of the Black community.

### Black History Month Reflections

Senior Elle Chavis said she acknowledges and honors her history every day, but the significance of February makes it a unique month for her.

“Black History Month, for me, is a time to reflect, honor and acknowledge my Black heritage,” Chavis said, “it’s really at the forefront of my mind.”

In the spirit of Black History Month, some Black students said the school needs to improve how it teaches Black history and literature.

“I think in Upper School specifically, there’s a lack of knowledge and education around Black History Month,” Chavis said. “I personally have never had a Black History Month-specific poem in English class or taken one day out of history to study an important Black figure.”

Sophomore Anu Akingbade said Black literature needs to be more prevalent in the school’s curriculum.

“It shouldn’t just be briefly touched on,” she said. “If we’re focusing on American literature, why not have several pieces of Black literature — not just one book — for diversity?”

Caraday Martin, president of the Black Student Union, said she would like to focus on learning about Black people’s history before and without enslavement.

“When most people think about Black and African people in the 1800s they are referred to as slaves as opposed to African, Black or Caribbean people,” Martin said. “Taking the time to learn about them before any of this and who they are — their cultures — would be a lot better.”

Adaku Ebeniro, Health teacher and Track and Field Coach, agreed.

“Black history doesn’t start with slavery,” she said.

Sophomore Madison White said it’s important to learn about African tribes as this is her heritage.

Chavis said the school could do a better job on subtle things.

“It doesn’t have to be a big Black history month assembly,” Chavis said, “just some small cultural aspects woven into the classes would be nice.”

### The History of the Month

Dr. Carter Godwin Woodson is regarded as the father of Black history month.

According to the NAACP, Woodson, born in 1875, was the son of two formerly enslaved Americans,

Anne and James Woodson.

Woodson was raised poor, worked in coal mines as a teenager for additional income, and did not enter high school until the age of 20. However, he loved learning and completed his secondary education in two years.

Woodson went on to receive several degrees, including a doctorate in history from Harvard University when he was 37 years old. This made him the second African-American person in the world to receive a doctorate from the university.

Jim Crow Laws, segregation and anti-Black sentiment were in full force during Woodson’s lifetime. Because of this, being an avid, well-educated historian, Woodson was shut out of several academic historical spaces because of his race.

Woodson founded the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History — now known as the Association for the Study of African American Life and History — in 1915 to spread and preserve information about Black history and culture.

During the remainder of the century, the association aimed to focus on and humanize Black history.

According to Case Western Reserve University, the association eventually launched Negro History Week in 1926, choosing February for the week as it was Abraham Lincoln and Frederick Douglass’ birth month.

Over the decades, especially during integration and the Black Power movement in the ‘60s and ‘70s, the week gained momentum and support from several groups for federal recognition.

Sixty years after its creation as a singular week, in 1986, Afro-American History Month, or Black History Month, was signed into law by Congress.

Today, Black History Month is recognized in the United States, Canada, Ireland and the United Kingdom.

### Black History Month in Dallas

Black History Month is celebrated in Dallas in a variety of ways. At the Martin Luther King Jr. Recreation Center, celebrations range from speaker events to soul food cook-offs to student art displays.

Several African-American centers have historical exhibitions that approach Black history in a light way — like the African American Museum of Dallas’ Black History Quiz day.

The Yoruba Cultural Center in Dallas, celebrates with a weeklong historical exhibition of Yoruba and African culture.

### Black History - Present and Future

Currently, just over 9% of Upper School students identify as Black. Each Black student and teacher has a



“Black History Month, for me, is a time to reflect, honor and acknowledge my Black heritage. It’s really at the forefront of my mind.”

- Senior Elle Chavis

unique view of Black History Month.

Senior Skylar Maier said Black history is about recognizing the past, the present and what the Black community can do to improve the world.

For Martin, Black History Month extends beyond history. It is a time not only to celebrate Black historical figures, but also everyday Black culture and influence.

“I think it’s a time to appreciate those in the present,” Martin said, “whether it be celebrities or influencers or historical figures — but also just your friends and family. It’s about spreading Black joy and having time to come together and realize that we are all one.”

For Ebeniro, it’s critical to combat the stereotypes surrounding Black people and the misconception that all Black people are a monolith.

“What is beautiful is that the African diaspora is a conglomerate of different cultures, different languages, different experiences,” Ebeniro said. “Don’t assume anything about anybody because it’s better to simply ask and learn about them. You’ll be surprised.”

“I’m celebrating my uniqueness. I’m celebrating who I am. I’m celebrating my culture. I think that’s a wonderful thing.”

# Helping hands at Habitat

## Hockaday, St. Mark’s students build 16th home alongside families in need

By Caroline Petrikas | Managing Editor

Centered on providing affordable shelter, Habitat for Humanity strives to bring people together to build homes, communities and hope. This year, St. Mark’s and Hockaday’s chapters are continuing their longstanding partnership and constructing their 16th home together during their spring build.

Seniors Lola Isom and Josie Sinwell, Habitat co- liaisons, got involved to learn life skills and because the Habitat mission resonated with them.

“It’s just such a fun way to give back to your community where you can really have tangible results because you’re literally, physically building a house,” Sinwell said. “Also, it’s super helpful and informative because we’re learning important skills such as how to use power tools.”

Though Habitat outsources plumbing and electrical work or anything too complicated for the volunteers, the volunteers are still able to contribute and construct the bulk of the house.

“When we came the first day, it was just a blank slab of concrete,” Sinwell said. “But even in one day,

we were able to assemble all of the walls, construct the basic wooden layout and see substantial progress.”

Though both Isom and Sinwell had volunteered for Habitat previously, becoming leaders and organizing builds presented new challenges. They worked together with St. Mark’s co-leads Roome Becker and Casey Bajec with Habitat for Fundraising, pledging to collectively donate or fundraise \$50,000.

“It was definitely difficult to raise that much money, but we created T-shirts and the leadership board sent out a lot of letters asking for donations,” Sinwell said. “Eventually, we met our goal of \$50,000 and we were able to present Habitat with that money to contribute to the resources and materials needed for the build.”

Additionally, the leaders struggled with gathering support and volunteers for the Saturday morning builds.

“I think our biggest challenge is just post-COVID getting people to want to be involved, especially on Saturday mornings,” Isom said. “But once we see people come out, they usually keep returning because it’s just such a rewarding experience.”



Photo courtesy of Josie Sinwell

The 2023 St. Mark’s and Hockaday Habitat for Humanity building group gathers after their most recent build day.

# HEARD THROUGH THE HOCKA HALLS

## Our favorite quotes overheard in the hallways

By Anjy Fadairo | Staff Writer

“When Taylor Swift wrote ‘This is Me Trying,’ she was talking about me.”  
- Alyssa Kurji '24



“I want to be an attack helicopter.”  
- Abigail Snyder '26



“Nothing in life is free, not even Costco samples.”  
- Alexis Fan '25



“Do you ever feel like you own this school?”  
- Stella Kozielic '23



“Bardenbella daughter or Treblemaker son?”  
- Madelyn Neuhoff '24



# BOARD SPOTLIGHT

Technology Board

Academic Council

By Alexa Muñoz | Staff Writer



Technology Board chair senior Addison London.



Academic Council chair senior Jayna Dave.

After hiking up three flights of stairs (or bearing two awkward elevator stops on the way to the third floor), trekking to the end of the hallway and sitting through a vulnerable hour of your laptop in the hands of “The Tech People,” you begin to wish you had just asked your friend to print that document (like always) instead of trying to do it yourself. Thankfully, the Technology Board is here to help with the entire student body’s tech troubles.

Acting as a middleman for communication between the Technology Department and the Upper School, the Technology Board is in charge of educating students through technology-related talks, or “Tech Talks.”

“Tech Talks” are run by one Technology Board representative at a time, and can range from topics like the future of space exploration to adding school printers to your device.

Diya Cadambe, sophomore Technology Board representative, presented her Tech Talk on app design. Enthused by the topic, she hoped to share the usefulness of this knowledge with high school girls interested in STEM careers.

“For me, nothing compares to the feeling of helping others with something I’m passionate about, which in that case was app design,” Cadambe said.

Addison London, Technology Board chair, enjoys the process of collaborating and exchanging ideas with fellow members, not only through these Talks, but also through board bonding.

“Being on the board has jumpstarted many new personal interests in different realms of technology that I have not thought about before,” London said.



Photo by Addison London

Technology Board members meet in sponsor Candace Townsley’s office to plan their next Tech Talk.

The strong smell of coffee beans fills sleep-deprived students’ noses as they scramble to class amidst one of the most stressful weeks of the year, research paper, phone and flashcards in hand. With a deep breath, they begin their stroll to Metzger Plaza, where the Academic Council’s Coffee and Tea Bar is stationed to remind them that every little thing really is gonna be alright.

The Coffee and Tea Bar is just one of the Academic Council’s attempts to support Upper Schoolers throughout the year. With the Council’s mission to guide the student body through their academic journey, it’s no surprise their biggest events of the year are related to two highly stressful assignments: the Freshman Research Paper Panel and the Junior Research Paper Panel.

“These panels spotlight a few students and have them answer some questions about the paper that the council and audience think of,” Academic Council chair Jayna Dave said. “Through these panels, we hope to alleviate stress surrounding the research papers for students who have yet to write them.”

Academic Council members, despite having their own schedules and workload, find joy in their ability to help the student body navigate the school’s rigorous academics and “stress culture,” continuously working to ease students’ workload rather than add to it. To them, spreading their passion for the goodness in academics is what makes it all worth it.

“Everyone at Hockaday is very academically driven, but it gets easy to lose focus on the learning and only focus on good grades and college,” sophomore council member Rayna Li said. “Always remember that there’s some fun to it – it doesn’t always have to be hardcore studying and working your head off.”



Photo courtesy of Rayna Li

Sophomore representative Rayna Li serves coffee at the Academic Council Coffee and Tea Bar.



# Art classes exhibit excellence

## Students display unique self-portraits

By Melody Tian | News Editor

Sitting at an easel and working assiduously on a massive piece of paper, junior Alyssa Anderson creates a self-portrait. The same self-portrait would be displayed in the art gallery during the Upper School Art Exhibition.

From Jan. 18 to Feb. 6, art students had the opportunity to demonstrate what they had learned throughout the course of the year by displaying pieces of art. Not only was it an opportunity for students to take their work outside of the studio and look at it in a new light, but it was also a chance for their pieces to be celebrated.

Though the artworks may have looked like polished creations inside the gallery, Anderson said her creation process was a challenging undertaking that took almost two months.

Creating the self-portrait required multiple steps. First, students had to make their own hats and take a picture with them. Then, they used the black-and-white photos as references for their portraits.

"The hats are cool because sometimes you're so focused on your face that you lose the ability to see forms," Studio Art teacher Bobby Weiss said. "The hat takes the stress off of that since it is usually more complicated to do than the face."

Weiss said students could also take different approaches while making the hat. Some chose to make their hats goofy and fun while others opted to make theirs beautiful and whimsical.

To create her hat, junior Olivia Zambrano first made a chandelier with a kit she bought, then wired crystals and chains onto the chandelier and finally glued candles onto it.

After taking their photos, students were able to get started on their portraits. Instead of starting on a blank canvas, students put a layer of charcoal powder onto their papers and used kneadable erasers to form their shapes with highlighting.

"We really just started out with a blur," Anderson said. "You look at your paper and all you can see are grays and whites."

Anderson said the first couple of weeks were really difficult, and sometimes she would have to wipe down everything and restart her whole piece.

"What's great about the piece is that the surface can handle a lot of abuse," Weiss said. "Whenever something's not working, you can just put more charcoal and wipe it down again. Through drawing, redrawing and erasing, you can always get back to those lights."

Zambrano said she was most proud of the eyes and the small details.

"I redid the eyes like 20 times because they just didn't look right, but it was definitely a beautiful and nice turnout," she said.

Weiss said he was excited for everyone to demonstrate their pieces of work even if they were not finished. He said the purpose of the exhibition was to look at where the piece was at the stage of completion it was in.

"The show really is a kind of work-in-progress show,"



Self-portrait of junior Alyssa Anderson.



Photos by Melody Tian

Drawings, pottery and photography lined the walls and tables inside the art exhibition.

Weiss said. "The idea is that anybody can show something and everything is allowed to be shown."

He said it also would be a great opportunity to see what everybody else is doing in their classes since it is his first year at Hockaday.

Overall, Anderson said it was a fun and rewarding experience.

"My favorite part was just looking at the picture and looking at my piece and seeing them slowly starting to resemble each other a bit more," Anderson said.

# Working out Winfo

## Activities Board spearheads winter dance

By Caroline Petrikas | Managing Editor

With white trees adorned with snow and masks, a large feathery masquerade backdrop, and countless upper schoolers dancing, Winfo was an absolute success, said senior Activities Board representative Brie Johnson.

"It was so nice to see all of our hard work reflected in the quality of decorations and smiles of our peers," Johnson said.

After months of preparation, the Activities Board hosted Hockaday's annual Winter Formal Dance on Jan. 21 at Venue Forty50.

Following the Student Council Mixer, Activities Board members began planning Winfo in early November. First, the board looks through venue options, chooses a location, has it approved by the board's faculty sponsors and books it. After they choose the venue, the board brainstorm themes and composes a list to send to Student Council to vote. Once the theme is finalized, Activities Board tours the venue and begins searching for decor to match the theme and fit the event space.

"Touring the venue allows us to more accurately plan out the space and select decorations that will reflect the theme," Johnson said.

Led and directed by Activities Board Chair Megan Manning, the entirety of student council then creates a Winfo theme reveal video to share with the Upper School and announce the theme.

"My favorite part so far has been the reveal because it was very interesting and suspenseful, and I loved getting to surprise upper school with the theme," Manning said.

After announcing the theme, Activities Board advertised and sold T-shirts with the Winfo design and theme to Upper School students to expand their budget and account for decor costs. Though Hockaday accounts for part of the Winfo budget, funds for Winfo are derived primarily from Mixer and Winfo T-shirt sales.

"Because Hockaday does not charge for Winfo tickets



Photo by Tiffani Kocsis

The table centerpieces at Winter Formal matched the Masquerade theme.

and funds are based on how many T-shirts we sell, the Winfo budget can be a bit unpredictable, and most of it goes toward the venue and DJ fees," Manning said.

Beside the budget also encompassing venue and DJ fees, it includes the freshman dinner, gifts and decor, Johnson said. After deciding on and purchasing all the decor for the dance itself, Activities Board helps parents plan the freshman gifts and centerpieces for the freshman dinner. This year, with the masquerade theme, Activities Board elected for masks and beaded centerpieces.

Activities Board members said they enjoyed planning Winfo and bringing their vision to life.

"I really like planning events and creating fun experiences that make the Hockaday community a more fun place to be," Johnson said. "Bringing all the different grades together in school is really hard, so it's fun to have nights where we can just celebrate being friends with each other."

# The DAISY STEM

Each issue, The Fourcast highlights a student who has accomplished something in the STEM world or a special event that is STEM-related.

By Elizabeth Truelove | Staff Writer

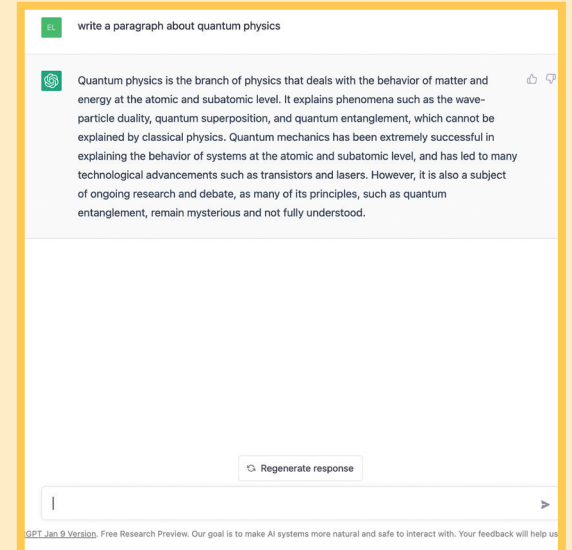


Photo by Elizabeth Truelove

After typing in the prompt "write a paragraph about quantum physics," ChatGPT quickly wrote a paragraph covering the topic.

Only a week after its launch in November, ChatGPT had gained over 1 million users, scaring those across the globe with the strength and intelligence of AI for the future of education. From writing a 60-page thesis about quantum physics, to analyzing the deeper meaning behind "The Wheels on the Bus," ChatGPT has surpassed the boundaries of AI.

The website only requires a simple sign-up process to obtain an account, allowing anyone the freedom to ask for and receive quality papers at the click of a button.

Although no one can predict the educational impact of AI and ChatGPT, Technology Integration Specialist Candace Townsley reminds everyone of the constant development of technology.

"New tech is going to be developed all the time," Townsley said. "You just have to adapt to it responsibly."

While the accessibility to this advanced form of cheating worries teachers, others have already found ways to detect a student's use of ChatGPT. Edward Tian, a senior computer science student at Princeton, created an app named "GPTZero" that is able to detect the use of ChatGPT by analyzing the "perplexity" and "burstiness" of an essay.

"The truth is that when you dig a little deeper than just the surface level of ChatGPT, you will find there are a lot of inaccuracies in it," English Department Head Melissa Allan said.

Allan said teachers should not fear for the future of writing, but rather use these sources to deepen the knowledge of students and their analytical thinking. Allan used the SparkNotes translation, a popular website for summaries of literature, of Fahrenheit 451 in a quiz given to her eighth grade students, asking them "What important information did you read in the novel that this summary does not include?"

"They were the most successful reading quizzes I have given in my career," Allan said.

While statistics have shown an upward trend in cheating within high schools, some teachers and others working in education believe the impact of AI will advance the way of teaching and benefit the depth of a student's knowledge.

"We need to acknowledge that an AI program like ChatGPT is something that can, used in a thoughtful and intentional way, potentially make us better teachers and learners," Allan said.

# Athletes make it official

## Sports standouts commit to collegiate careers

By Hanna Asmerom | Web Editor

Following the biggest college commitment season in Hockaday history, the class of 2023 stands at 11 commits so far. Students have committed to schools all over the country.

Softball player Maia Hartley is committed to play for the University of Pennsylvania. She began her two-year-long conversation with the university's coaches the summer after her freshman year. Despite this relatively early start, she ended up officially committing in the summer of 2022.

"They were one of the first schools that I noticed watching me at my games," Hartley said. "The school looked really cool so I persisted in reaching out to them."

Hartley said she will be competing as a Division I athlete because she felt that level of competition was

appropriate for her lifestyle.

"I love strict schedules and staying busy," Hartley said.

Contrasting Hartley's longer commitment time frame, senior Savannah Frederiksen started and completed her rowing commitment to Tufts University in a matter of five weeks.

Frederiksen began the recruitment process with phone and email conversations with Tuft's coaches during the summer, followed by an in-person visit with the team.

"It was a fun practice and I loved their coaching style," Frederiksen said.

She said she chose to compete as a Division III athlete to achieve a better work-life balance and fully appreciate her college experience.

"For me, it was most important to commit to the team that I felt most at home with and which campus felt best for me," Frederiksen said.

After suffering illness and injury, swimmer Mary Grace Martin persisted and is now committed to swim for Claremont McKenna College. Martin was particularly drawn to Claremont because of its "perfect" mix of athletic and academic opportunities.

"I realized how important academics are to me and I didn't want to sacrifice that for a more ambitious athletic goal," Martin said.

Martin began serious conversations with the school during the spring of her junior year and ended up deciding to swim in Division III.

"I felt like Division III gave me the right balance of academics, athletics and social pursuits," Martin said.

All three athletes agree they are happy with their commitment decisions and look forward to meeting new people and becoming established on a team.

"I am looking forward to experiencing something different than high school and becoming part of a team culture," Frederiksen said.

### Additional Committed Athletes

- Ambyr Baker – Villanova University, Soccer, DI
- Lauren Ingram – Duke University, Volleyball, DI
- Grace Hoverman – Columbia University, Lacrosse, DI
- Lola Isom – Yale University, Track and Field, DI
- Victoria Li – Johns Hopkins University, Fencing, DIII
- Josie Sinwell – William and Mary, Lacrosse, DI
- Ayla Sumer – MIT, Soccer, DIII
- Alexandra Weinmeister – Washington University in St. Louis, Soccer, DIII



Lacrosse commit Grace Hoverman poses for media day photos on an official visit to Columbia University.

Photo courtesy of Grace Hoverman



Photo courtesy of Maia Hartley

Finalizing her commitment, softball commit Maia Hartley visits the University of Pennsylvania softball stadium.



Photo courtesy of Savannah Frederiksen

Rowing commit Savannah Frederiksen shows off her Tufts sweatshirt for social media.

### DAISY DOMINATION

Check out what our athletes and fans are up to



Photo by Hayden Marchant

**45**  
varsity soccer goals  
scored so far this  
season

**686**  
points for varsity  
basketball this season



Photo by Teva Goldstein



Photo by Leila Tarighi

**5**  
victorious meets for  
varsity swimming

## ATHLETE SPOTLIGHTS

# Swimmer by day, DJ by night

## Tarighi's passions take her from pool to playlist

By Alexandra Dassopoulos | Staff Writer

Freestyling with her mixes and in the pool, junior Leila Tarighi is not only a rising DJ, but a talented swimmer, practicing more than 20 hours a week. This season, the swim team has adjusted to some changes, with 6 a.m. practice times at St. Mark's and new coaching.

Personally, Tarighi has overcome adversity of her own with struggling to distinguish herself from her swimming performance. She said time factors create a pressure on her perception of success and define her as a swimmer.

"You feel like your success in the sport is directly associated with your performance and the times that you put up," Tarighi said.

She has combated this by focusing on her passion for the sport and why she swims.

"In reality, once you can be kind of emotionally mature and realize there's a difference, I think that helps you like swimming more," Tarighi said. "That makes you more motivated because you're not as concerned with your performance. You're more concerned about the actual action of swimming, and it keeps you grounded, in a sense."

Although swimming is an individual sport, Tarighi said Hockaday emphasizes fostering a team, which has also helped her surmount these mental challenges.

"I think surrounding yourself with people you care about and who can remind you of why you love the sport also plays a huge role in staying motivated," Tarighi said.



Tarighi gets ready to dive into her race at a dual meet against Cistercian. Photo courtesy of Leila Tarighi

While reinforcing herself with support from team bonding, Tarighi's role as a DJ has also come to the table.

Tarighi highlighted the team's new plaid suit and "war paint-esque" Sharpie designs they make on each other, which have both built up confidence and unity for Varsity Swimming. However, she also emphasized that before meets, music in the locker rooms has been essential in fostering this close-knit team.

Taking on a leadership role, Tarighi has used her DJ skills for the team, hyping up the swimmers with her SoundCloud mixes and playlists. These musical talents have created an upbeat environment for the swimmers, in the midst of such an individualist and competitive sport. Tarighi has also discovered an unsuspected interplay between DJ-ing and swimming.

"Music is obviously a medium for curating vibe,"

Tarighi said. "Being able to curate a vibe in a meet setting is an unlikely place, but it's essential. Music has the ability to connect people, especially when they're stressed – and swimming can be stressful."

Not only does Tarighi's passion for music create a relaxing environment before meets, but the two mindsets of a zoned-in swimmer and "chill" DJ can apply to each other.

"I think honestly, I perform better when I'm relaxed and I'm having fun," Tarighi said. "Keeping that DJ mindset honestly works better for me and my performance. I also think that being able to DJ gives my brain the opportunity to kind of release some of the stress from zoning in during swim."

Yet, Tarighi also translates her swimmer focus to DJ-ing, particularly when transitioning songs.

"It's nice to distinguish the two into separate activities because that allows me to switch between lenses more efficiently," Tarighi said. "I have the toolbox for both, and I can, depending on the situation or the circumstance, be more surgical with my energy."

Using this versatility, Tarighi has achieved many of her goals at meets. So far, she has placed first in almost every 100 meter breaststroke this season and dropped seconds off of her time with her club team.

Focusing on technique, Tarighi said she also altered her pull outs, or her push from the wall, and improved her freestyle, which will be valuable during relays. She hopes to place in her SPC events, which include the 100 meter breaststroke and 200 meter individual relay.

# Holding her horses

## Snadon progresses in equestrian arena

By Alexa Muñoz | Staff Writer

Sweat dripping from her forehead, mud splattered on her pants and hands, cradling buckets of hay, a 4-year-old Lilly Snadon strolls through the barn on a blazing Texas summer's day.

This was her primary role at an equestrian camp in Prosper owned by a friend of her mom: feeding older riders' horses or cleaning the barn stalls. One summer, she developed a hankering to learn to ride and began catch-riding lesson ponies.

Little did Snadon know she would eventually compete at a national level to win season champion awards and be ranked fourth in the North Texas Hunter Jumper Club division.

Equestrian horseback riding, a team and solo sport, can be further classified as Western or English riding. Snadon, a sophomore who competes in a "hunter/jumper" division, specializes in English riding with her horse Loara.

"We got to watch Lilly do her first shows with Loara and admire how quickly they bonded," said coach Susan Horn, who trains Snadon at Prospering Farm. "Loara is such a sweet and kind horse and incredibly athletic – a perfect match for Lilly."

Snadon finds herself grateful for the bonds she has created through equestrian riding – not only with her horse, but also with her teammates, who drive her motivation for the sport. Despite competing against each other, their similar passions have made the sport enjoyable and worthwhile for Snadon.

"We all travel together, work together, and ultimately all want the best for one another, which has produced some really rewarding and close friendships," Snadon said.

Her teammate, Bella Zarembo, has been riding with Snadon for years and appreciates her contributions to the team's atmosphere.



Snadon competes with horse Loara at Texas Rose Horse Park. Photo courtesy of Lily Snadon

"She's a great friend and always makes me laugh," Zarembo said. "She has the magical ability to make people feel better about themselves when their performance was off that day."

Snadon takes pride in how far she has come as an equestrian rider.

"Looking back on how all the hard work I've put in has paid off, and the amazing people I have met and bonded with throughout the years makes it all worth it," Snadon said.

## CAPTAINS' CORNER

## SOCCER



### Sarah Connolly '23

"This season we have played really well so far, and have won all of our conference games. We are looking forward to SPC and hopefully we can achieve back-to-back championships," Connolly said.

## SWIMMING



### Maddy Grace Spurl '23

"The diving team is almost twice the size it was last year and we've loved welcoming our new members. Right now, we are working hard to prepare for our meet and learning new skills to dominate at SPC," Spurl said.

## BASKETBALL



### Chloe Johnson '24

"HVBB works hard all together and communicates well on and off the court. Our spirit game went great and lots of people came to support. I'm excited to see what we can accomplish together in the SPC tournament on Feb. 9," Johnson said.

# New additions to the meadow

## From swimsuits to a big screen, here's what's new in athletics

By Shreya Vijay | Staff Writer

Everyone in the gym hears a neat “swish” as the varsity basketball team scores once more. In front of them, a brand new screen displays the score.

A company named Daktronics built the screen. Its LED modules allow for clear visuals. The assembly of the screen began before Holiday Break, and the screen was first used in Penson Gym on Jan. 6.

Hockaday Coach and Health 101 Teacher A.D. Ebeniro works to display graphics on the board.

“I work closely with Coach Jennifer Peyton and other coaches to display the graphics on the board for various events,” Ebeniro said.

Ebeniro said the athletic department wants to make sure they are using the best technology possible. Since the previous scoreboards were outdated, they wanted to transition to video boards.

“Hopefully soon, we will add a broadcast element where students can work video cameras during games and add a replay element for the full fan experience,” she said.



Photo by Elle Myers

Sophomore Abby Woodberry said the new scoreboard elevates team spirit.

“It’s so encouraging after you make a basket, and it gets the crowd excited,” Woodberry said. “It makes our home games a lot more fun.”

Additionally, varsity swimming implemented a major change to their competition attire. Rather than wearing the typical black Speedos, this year athletes wear plaid printed swimsuits.

The idea for the plaid design originated from head varsity coach Bobby Patten’s 18-year-long dream. He sent the print out in 2005, but due to shipping problems, the design was not used.

Recently, he found his design in the company’s catalog and, with the consent of the seniors on the team, the plaid print became the official competition swimsuit for this year.

“This is a little bit more of a high-tech fabric,” Patten said, adding the new plaid suits are the best quality fabrics within a reasonable price range.

Sophomore Olivia Qiu said the new swimsuits help with team spirit, but the



Photo courtesy of Jennifer Johnson

The new screen in Penson Gym debuted during Spirit Night.

fit of the suits is not ideal.

“The cut of the suit isn’t that flattering and the straps are a little long,” Qiu said, “but the plaid really shows the Hockaday spirit.”

Patten hopes his team stands out when they are in the pool, not only for

their speed, but their style.

“Every other team has blue, black, or green for their suit colors,” Patten said. “You see the plaid suit and go, ‘Oh, there’s a Hockadaisy.’ It sets them apart from all other teams, which I think is great.”

# Trainer turnover

## Department issues updates on search for new athletic trainer

By Ambyr Baker | Sports Editor

When the former athletic trainer left Hockaday in December, Director of Athletics Deb Surgi and Assistant Director of Athletics Jennifer Johnson began the search for a replacement. So far two candidates have visited campus for full-day interviews for the position.

“Once we found out Coach Geier was leaving, we started updating the job description to what we wanted,” Johnson said.

The school posted the job to online sites, the largest being the National Athletic Trainers Association website. Others included the National Alliance for Independent Schools, ISAS, National Coalition for Girls Schools and the Hockaday website.

After reviewing the applications that came in, Surgi and Johnson determined potential candidates to invite back for a pre-interview.

“We do this to see what kind of candidate they are, what kind of experience they have, and if it matches with what we need here,” Johnson said. “Based on the pre-interview, we decide who to bring onto campus for the full-day interview.”

In addition to the entire athletics staff, the candidates meet with the Head of Middle School, Nicole Christensen, Head of Upper School, Lisa Culbertson

and Director of Health Services, Erika Herridge. One full-day interview finalist visited campus in December and the other visited in mid-January.

“Once all of those people meet with the candidate, they submit their feedback and Coach Surgi and I review it to see if the new trainer is a good fit,” Coach Johnson said.

The athletic board and the team captains of all the sports also have a joint meeting to offer student insight and to discuss the candidates’ potential.

Until Surgi and Johnson find a permanent replacement, Hockaday will be in contract with Baylor Scott and White for the rest of this school year.

“We send them all of our dates and times we need coverage for, and they fill those in,” Johnson said. “We have had a contract athletic trainer since November and they are getting to the point where they are repeating so we see people over and over again.”

Student trainer Mabry Dawson said she misses the normalcy of a consistent athletic trainer. Usually, each student was assigned to a certain sport and did rotations at the games. Dawson anticipates a return to routine once a new trainer is hired.

“This will be my third year as a trainer,” Dawson said. “Coach Geier

always had a plan for us so I am looking forward to having an actual schedule again.”

In their search criteria, Surgi and Johnson do not just look for someone who checks the athletic training boxes but also someone who can work as an all round resource.

“We want our students to have someone who knows their personality as well as somebody who is able to observe their practices and their games,” Surgi said. “There needs to be a connection between the athletic trainer, the health center, counselors, division directors, or even parents.”

Surgi adds that an athletic trainer’s role is not just physical but also has a psychological element as well.

“A mental health touchpoint will help us to better serve all of our student athletes,” Surgi said. “The athletic training room tends to be a place where students share things they may not share in other places.”

The athletic trainer recruitment process is about finding a person to make athletes strong for sport performance and beyond. In this role, the person in this position has potential to be an important resource for the entire school community.



“We do this to see what kind of candidate they are, what kind of experience they have, and if it matches with what we need here.”

Jennifer Johnson  
Assistant Director of Athletics

# Groundhog Day wrong in all ways

## Yearly tradition not only useless, but also unethical

By Caroline Bush | Arts and Life Editor

Phil saw his shadow, so that means spring is coming early this year! Groundhog Day is a holiday that happens every year on Feb. 2 in Punxsutawney, Pennsylvania. But can this tradition really be called a holiday?

If it can, I think it's safe to say Groundhog Day is the dumbest holiday. Don't get me wrong – I think Punxsutawney Phil is an adorable little creature. It's



Photo by Anthony Quintano via Flickr

exciting to be superstitious for a day and believe a rodent can dictate the weather.

However, I really don't see the necessity behind this tradition being considered a holiday. Most holidays have a deeper meaning to them, but Groundhog Day is simply Groundhog Day. No parties, no commemoration, and no history.

Also, Phil normally doesn't even predict the weather trends correctly (obviously, since he's a groundhog). According to the Stormfax Almanac, he only has a 39% accuracy rate. The groundhog has only predicted 20 early springs in nearly 150 years on the job.

Not only is Groundhog Day useless, but the group People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals has actually called for Phil's retirement. According to Gray News, they suggest replacing Phil with a tree would be a better option for his well-being.

A letter PETA sent to the president of the Punxsutawney Groundhog Club explains that Phil has done his time. In his retirement, PETA says Phil would benefit from getting away from the fame – things like noisy crowds, bright lights, and near-constant confinement aren't good for groundhogs.

Moreover, PETA says replacing Phil with a persimmon tree would be pretty close to the same thing since it has a 25% accuracy rate. According to PETA, this would be a much better option than Phil, who has "no idea what the weather will be or at least he's not telling in ways humans can interpret."

PETA also has offered an animatronic groundhog that would actually be able to predict the weather using artificial intelligence.

Groundhog Day is unnecessary, unethical and a way of communicating a flat-out lie to the American public each year. Nevertheless, it's fun to forget



Caroline Bush  
Arts and Life Editor

**"Groundhog Day is unnecessary, unethical, and a way of communicating a flat-out lie to the American public each year."**

about everything else going on in the world and just focus on a silly tradition, regardless of whether Phil is really a good meteorologist.

# Where to draw the line

## Is Artificial Intelligence running away from us?

By Zoya Haq | JADE Editor

In 2014, global tech giant Amazon created software intended to streamline its hiring processes. Employing over 500 computer models, Amazon researchers searched for "key terms" they prioritized in candidates' resumes to program the software.

In 2017, news leaked that the program discriminated against female potential hires, weeding out resumes with the word "woman" in them. The software was immediately discontinued – but the bias it unearthed prompted conversations surrounding the potential downsides of artificial intelligence.

Discriminatory AI is not an unfamiliar phenomenon. Since AI's onset, biases ranging from gender to race have prompted conversations surrounding AI's ethical use in policing, profiling and hiring.

Coupled with the argument that the rise of AI will inevitably take away jobs in industries like service, retail and medicine – jobs that often don't require high levels of education – many fear a future governed by artificial intelligence will most heavily impact those already systematically oppressed in our society.

I am a part of that "many." I believe that AI, while promising, must be approached with caution and restraint. Otherwise, we risk

tightening the threads of inequality that are already so prominent across the globe.

As the use of AI continues to expand worldwide, these controversies should serve as a warning to those who believe AI is our future. A future with AI, while exciting in theory, may actually manifest as an inequitable, inhuman and unjust one.

Encode Justice, a global, student-powered nonprofit, is working to address what has been now labeled the "tech-to-prison pipeline." Because AI is being used to determine verdicts in the courts, its use of historical data that disproportionately represented people of color is leading to harsher sentences for Black Americans.

Encode Justice, like many other advocacy groups worldwide, is trying to raise awareness for the hidden bias in artificial intelligence by lobbying for and encouraging data-based change. Governments and companies must take notice of them.

It is true that, by 2026, AI is predicted to contribute more than \$15.7 trillion to the global economy. It has the potential to create more than 97 million new jobs by 2030 and to improve health care and living standards across the globe. AI is a harbinger of a new era. However, it



Zoya Haq  
JADE Editor

is important to recognize artificial intelligence works best when it works alongside human expertise to deliver results.

While AI is certainly moving us towards a new future, it should not be that future. AI is not perfect. I know humans may not be perfect, but our capacity to interpret data in an empathetic and responsive manner places us miles ahead of calculated and – above all else – inhuman AI.

## STAFF STANDOFF: HARRY AND MEGHAN

# King Harry and Queen Meghan

## Royal couple has faced hardships but still prevails

I sat down to watch “Harry and Meghan,” a Netflix limited series, to expand the little knowledge I had about the British Royal Family. The show was like a documentary, as Harry and Meghan are interviewed about their experiences in the Royal Family with close friends such as Tyler Perry and Serena Williams making appearances.

The series provided an deep look into topics such as racism, imperialism, and mental health.

As the first Black person to be married into the Royal Family, Meghan faced hardships such as racism which eventually became one of the reasons Harry and Meghan left the Royal Family behind. Meghan’s looks were constantly berated by the tabloids. Meghan faced criticism in the tabloids for holding her baby bump when she was pregnant with her first child. While you might think holding her baby bump was against royal protocol, Princess Kate, Meghan’s sister-in-law, was praised for the exact same thing.

In addition to the blatant bias in favor of Kate, Meghan faced racism for the mere color of her skin. Throughout the documentary, she explains how the color of her skin affected how the Royals viewed her. As a person of color, I understand how Meghan feels. Unlike me, she was treated this way by the people she called family.

Although the thought of marrying a prince is glamorous, both Harry and Meghan were thrown to the wolves when their engagement was announced. Meghan entered her relationship with Harry to fall in love and have the life of her dreams; however, her good intentions alienated her from her family. Meghan’s father turned his back on her by selling

private information to news outlets; when she needed him the most while tabloids ran stories to profit off their broken relationship.

In addition to losing her father, Meghan discussed her hardships with mental health because of the tabloids constantly condemning her. Although she struggled with mental health she continued to be a light for me and others through her extensive volunteer work.

While I see how others can misconstrue this documentary as a way for Harry and Meghan to make money, I disagree. Harry and Meghan are looking for ways to support themselves after being dropped financially from the Royal Family, so this documentary lets them to tell their side of the story without all of the gossip.

A stream of income for the couple will be Harry’s new book. “Spare” is very graphic as it answers questions no one was asking him. I believe this “tell all” attempt is to make up for years of silence because Harry has never truly had the platform to tell it.

As consumers of media, we are owed nothing to do with the personal lives of those we are interested in, especially if those individuals publicly speak about their negative experiences dealing with media outlets. Harry and Meghan have been the victims of abuse while we have sat idly by expecting and asking more of them. This documentary and their future work such as producing “Live and Lead” and upcoming Netflix documentary are proof the Royal Family, critics, and nay-sayers will not bring them down.

### PRO ELLE MEYERS



# DAISIES' HOT TAKES



“Winfo is not worth the stress.”  
- Taylor Hua '24



“Don’t take the LLARC elevator if you’re going to the second floor.”  
- Molly McPhail '23



“Family vloggers should go to prison for child exploitation.”  
- Dithyae Devesh '25



“Open-toe shoes are nasty.”  
- Elle Chavis '23

# STAFF STANDOFF

## Farewell Sussexes

### Harry and Meghan’s publicity efforts have continually failed

Like many others, I also tuned in to watch “Harry and Meghan” these last few weeks on Netflix. We all got a glimpse into the lives of the former Duke and Duchess of Sussex as they detailed their struggle with media throughout their relationship.

The series was not all that “organic,” despite the intention to make it candid and unfiltered. It was clear Harry and Meghan had rehearsed and curated clips they wanted in the series. Each interview question only catered to their side of the story. Coupled with side interviews from friends with strong biases, as well as authors, “Harry and Meghan” did not do justice to the couple and their supposed struggles.

I have always been a supporter of the couple, particularly Meghan, because of the struggles they endured. I do not tolerate any form of racism or hate speech, and I do believe the UK media failed Harry and Meghan. As a journalist, I do think it is important to have a sense of morality, which the tabloids clearly lacked.

After two weeks, I do not understand the purpose of the show. I felt that Harry and Meghan wanted their viewers to feel sorry for them, which I find very hard to do. The Royal Family has been responsible for impoverishing many countries (to this day), and it is hard to feel sorry for a family that has ruined the lives of so many people. The underlying fact is that Harry and Meghan’s family used their privilege to take advantage of resourceful

countries. It is hard to feel sorry for people in a family that has robbed so many others for centuries.

I admit that Harry and Meghan have been wronged. What happened to them is not acceptable, and I am happy they have found a way to leave that toxicity in the past. However, Meghan and Harry are also incredibly wealthy. They have the resources to fix their situation, which is what the series was supposedly intended to do. They have many luxuries that most ordinary people cannot afford.

Instead of focusing on the process of healing from these traumatic experiences, they are looking for the publicity and the money that comes with talking about their experiences. People who have been this traumatized generally do not want to talk about their experiences for nearly six hours.

I think speaking about their experiences causes many people, including myself, to immediately want to support them. In exchange, they now receive a temporary wave of good publicity. It’s interesting that people who do not want the media to constantly cover them, they continue to find ways to make appearances in the media.

I like Harry and Meghan, and I am happy they are able to create the life they always wanted. But I am tired of watching this “woe-is-me” act. I get that they want to tell their story, but like many others, I am done listening.

### CON SHREYA VIJAY



STAFF EDITORIAL

The staff editorial is an unsigned piece representing a consensus of opinion among members of The Fourcast editorial board regarding a current issue.

# Defining ‘accomplishment’ for Daisies

## Success can have more than one meaning

At a rigorous academic institution like Hockaday, the idea of “success” is pushed onto every student. Often we can forget that success is an abstract idea, and students have different ideas of what it means to be successful.

Whether in math, science or performing arts, every student at Hockaday has unique talents that can shape their future.

It’s often easy to judge each other’s talents or rank one as more useful for success in the future than another – such as saying a mathematician is intrinsically more talented than an artist – but the truth is, we can’t define success so narrowly. Each individual has a definition of success, and we as a community should promote and encourage everyone’s success, no matter what field it’s in.

Nowadays, it seems as if all anyone cares about is how many internships you have or what college you’re going to. However, this viewpoint can sometimes forget about those people who aren’t necessarily planning on going to top-tier universities, either out of a lack of interest or some other situation.

At Hockaday, we have students with a

wide variety of skill sets. As a school, we pride ourselves on encouraging young women to be the best, most successful version of themselves. This is evident in the paths some of our alumnae have taken after graduation.

Our alumnae have proven that the

path to success isn’t always as simple as it seems. Holland Roden ‘05 went on to star in shows such as “Teen Wolf” and “Lost” while Lisa Loeb ‘86 became a famous singer. Other alumnae have gone on to own art galleries, edit magazines and compete in national-level athletics. Our history has proven we cannot quantify or constrict different ideas of achievement.

Unfortunately, during the hustle and bustle of the school year, we can lose sight of what makes someone successful – sometimes it isn’t about winning the Nobel Peace Prize or a Grammy.

We should celebrate the little things in life, like getting an A on a paper or acing a math test. Receiving a grade we don’t like isn’t the end of our path to success – we all have the potential to be successful, regardless of the obstacles in our paths.

So next time, before judging a peer for how “successful” they are, remember that their version of accomplishment in life may be different from yours. We all have different paths in life, and our success isn’t determined by other people’s opinions of us.



Graphic by Zariah Arrington

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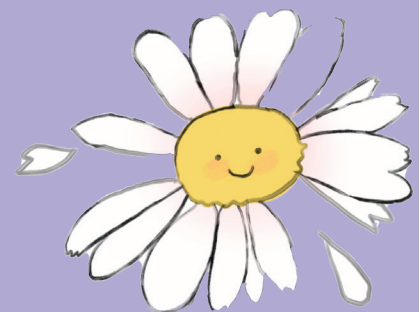
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# We love it, We love it not



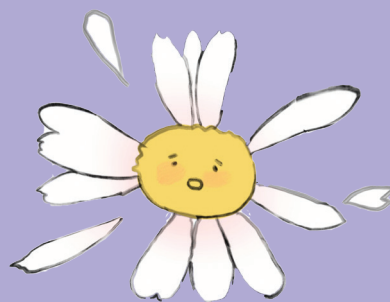
WINTER BREAK

Winter break with no homework will be a good break at the end of February to get students through this spring grind!



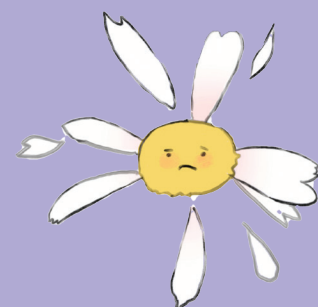
WINTER SPC

All of the athletes’ work is about to pay off at Winter SPC starting Feb 11. Come support our Daisies!



VALENTINE’S DAY

Not everyone will be celebrating this day, but Galentines can always be a fun time!



SPRING BREAK

Sadly, we still have a few weeks till spring break, and some classes will be having exams soon — ugh!



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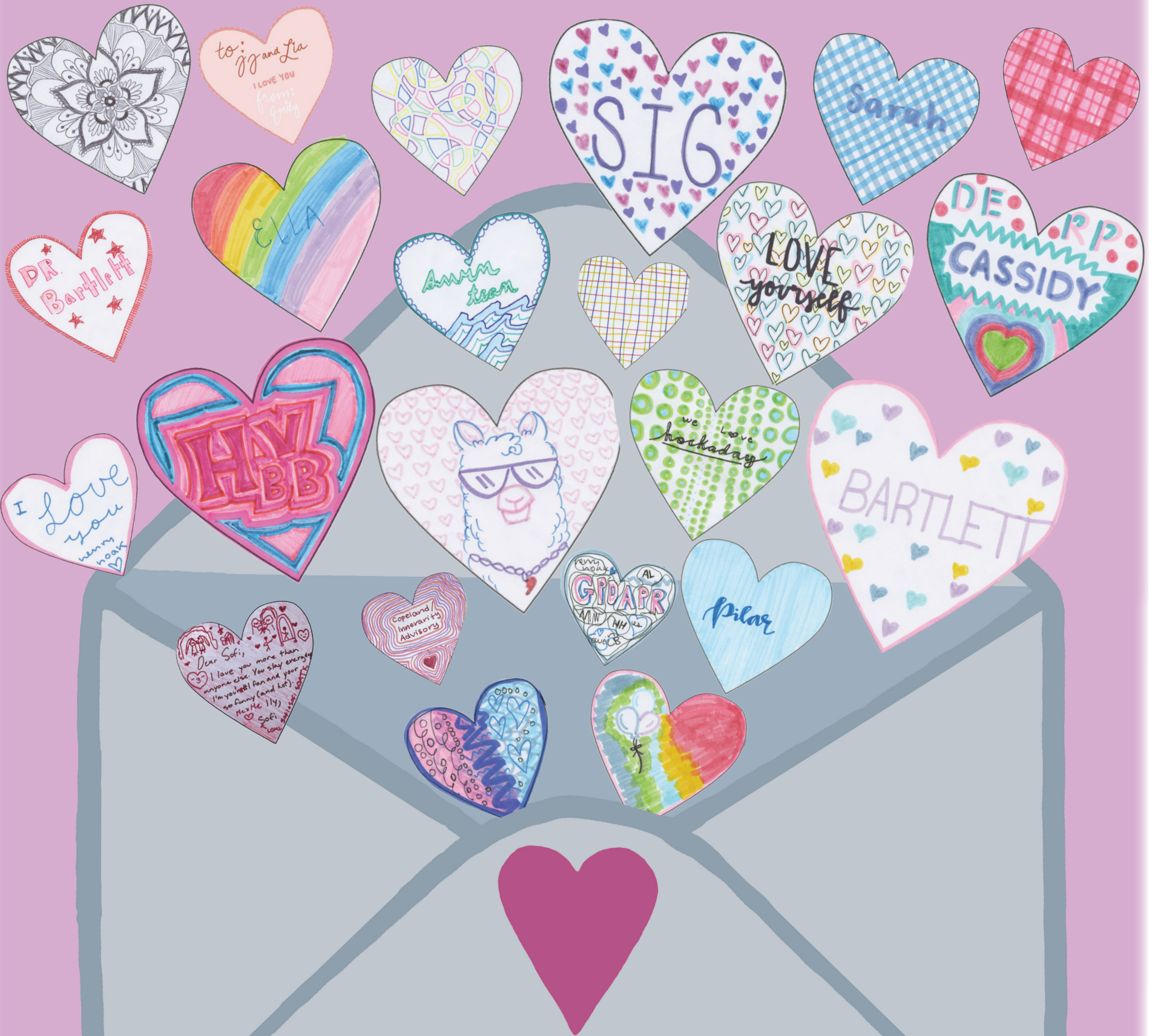
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The Fourcast  
11600 Welch Road  
Dallas, Texas 75229

# Castoff

## FOURCAST HEARTS



By Kailey Bergstedt  
Castoff Editor