

End-of-Term Comments Made Optional for Winter Term

ANGELINE ZHAO

When Andover students opened BlueLink on March 9 to see their winter term grades and comments, some were met with solely or mostly numerical grades. This was because teachers were not required to give comments for student grades above a three. Making end-of-term instructor comments optional for the winter term has not been done since the winter of 2019-2020, before the Covid-19 pandemic.

John Rogers, Instructor in Physics and former Dean of Studies, explained that the change stemmed from a need to balance the ways in which faculty worked to help students. Many teachers felt that the hours spent writing comments could have been better utilized through direct meetings with students, grading student work, and other curricular planning. By requiring teachers to write comments, they felt they were given significantly less time for other methods of engagement with students.

“The overall context in which decisions have been made about the nature and frequency of report writing is one of balancing the many ways in which faculty might spend time helping students. For many years, the academy found this balance by asking that faculty write reports on students twice per year: once at the end of the fall term, and once at the end of the

academic year. Then, abruptly, faculty were asked to write comments at all six of the reporting periods. This increase in report writing was felt by many to have quite a negative impact on the overall quality of teaching,” wrote Rogers in an email to The Phillipian.

As a result, a committee—chaired by Kathryn McQuade, Instructor in English—was created to produce a workable proposal for a more balanced system of report writing that would maintain quality instructor feedback without requiring teachers to spend hours on written comments. The committee conducted research and collected feedback from the student body. Conclusions drawn from this research formed the basis of the current report writing system.

“A big takeaway from that research was that students deeply appreciated instructor reports, but also appreciated receiving feedback from teachers while they still had time to do something about that feedback. That’s why the committee recommended requiring instructor feedback at the fall and winter midterms in addition to the end-of-term reporting that had traditionally occurred at the close of the fall and spring terms,” said McQuade.

Another recent change gave teachers the choice between written or verbal feedback during winter midterms. In lieu of the traditional written comments, teachers could conduct one-on-

one, in-person conferences with students. Teachers such as Rogers found it to be a faster and more casual way to connect with students and provide feedback.

“To me, this flexibility is a very positive feature of the current system. By winter midterm, students have received two formal written reports in year-long classes already. It may be, in some courses, that there is more to say in a written format; however, in many classes, the opportunity to discuss things in person—with some back-and-forth, and a different level of trust and candor—is more valuable at that point in the year,” wrote Rogers.

Despite these potential benefits, Anthony Yang ’25 found the lack of comments a jarring change from fall term. For year-long courses in particular, he relied on receiving instructor comments to know which areas he should work on in the next few terms. Further, he felt as though the entire term’s work had been reduced to a single number that did not wholly represent the effort he had put in.

“I was looking forward to reading the comments from my teachers this past term because I found my fall term instructor comments very helpful. For example, I just finished my first term of history, so having more feedback would be helpful and give me more context for the grade I received. That

Continued on A4, Column 1



RYANG/THE PHILLIPIAN

Learning in the World Program Resumes With Most Recent Trip Held Over Spring Break

VERA ZHANG

Since 2014, Andover has hosted the Learning in the World (LITW) program, an opportunity for students and faculty to learn and engage with different parts of the world. During Spring Break, Andover hosted its first LITW programs since the Summer of 2019. Three international students from Andover and two international students from Hotchkiss participated in the program. The trip allowed them to travel around the U.S. and explore sites of rich history.

“[The program,] ‘Destination USA!: An American Travel Experience,’ gave international students from both schools an opportunity to see the U.S. and explore the cultures and landscapes of three distinct regions of the country. As a collaborative project with another school, it was very much an experiment, but it seems to have been an invaluable experience for all

involved,” wrote Mark Cutler, Instructor in Spanish, in an email to The Phillipian.

In this program, students visited places outside of New England, traveling from San Francisco to Florida and even Washington D.C. At each destination, they explored museums of various subjects, such as the history of Native Americans and other relics. Maria Duro Sánchez-Cid ’22, one of the students who attended the program, noted how they learned about cultures aside from those of modern America.

“The city we [stayed in] was an old Spanish colony, so it still had plenty of culture. [It] was really enriching because usually we [only] learn about the English colonization. [So when] we learned about the Spanish colonization, [it] was really interesting being [in that city]. I got to know really important cities in the U.S., and I think that I wouldn’t have done it if it wasn’t for the trip, so I’m really thankful for that,” said Sánchez-Cid.

Typically, each trip has around five to seven attend-

ees, including both students and faculty. Due to the shortage of students in this year’s program, the coordinators reached out to other schools. They finally settled on Hotchkiss, where two international students joined the trip. One of the Andover students who went on the trip, Mathilda Knoblauch ’22, commented that going on a trip with unfamiliar people can be an initially awkward experience and explained the interactions they had.

“We shared so many things, but we also had so many [differences]. The two girls from Hotchkiss were from Ghana, so they were from a totally different place in the world. That was really fun, we got to get to know each other. [At first], it was hard to form a group dynamic, but in the end, we all really got to know each other really well, so that was fun. [If it wasn’t for this trip], I wouldn’t have been able to

Continued on A4, Column 1



KWANG/THE PHILLIPIAN

Masks have not been made optional since the fall of 2021 at Andover.

Administration to Loosen Covid-19 Policies After Thursday’s Self-Test Results

WENDY WANG

In an email from Head of School Dr. Raynard Kington, he announced several updates on Andover’s Covid-19 and masking policies. On March 21, students returned to campus from spring break, marking the start of the 2022 Spring Term. Students were required to self-test upon arrival and tested again on Thursday. Kington indicated that if test results remain favorable, the school will loosen Covid-19 restrictions, including indoor masking and dormitory room visit policies.

“We will mask indoors through Thursday, March 24. If testing results and local conditions remain favorable, we will loosen Covid-19 restrictions starting Friday, March 25. These include moving to mask-optional in all spaces on campus for students and adults (employees), allowing off campus permissions, and welcoming visitors to campus (masked indoors),” wrote Kington in an email to the Andover community.

Jennifer Elliott ’94, Assistant Head of School for Residential Life and Dean of Students, explained the reasoning behind this decision. The decision was based on the “up-to-date” vaccination status of the community and Covid-19 statistics of Massachusetts.

“With our entire community ‘up-to-date’ with their vaccination (having received the booster) and the current data in our region, we feel that we will be able to lift a number of restrictions that we have had in place. We hope to have mask-optional expectations indoors, allow room/dorm visits for day and boarding students, and open up permissions for off campus travel,” wrote Elliott in an email to *The Phillipian*.

Elliott continued, “We hope it will be much more like the spring of 2019! That is our goal. And, we will keep the health and safety of our community as our top priority, and we will shift course anytime we feel that we need to be more cautious. Pro-

Continued on A4, Column 1

Andover Parents Welcome Prospective Students Over WeChat

JENNY JIN

Just ten days after their admission to Andover, new students and their families were granted an opportunity to learn more about the school from current students and parents. On the evening of March 20, twelve current Andover students answered questions about life at Andover to newly admitted students and their parents on WeChat, a Chinese social media platform. The event was organized by Michelle Zhou P ’17 ’22, who currently serves as the host of Andover Parents Group. While the group has been established for more than eight years, the Q&A event was first initiated by Zhou three years ago, with its goal to provide insights about Andover to the prospective families in guiding them while making the commitment decision with informed knowledge.

This year the panel was led by Solar Lu ’24, accompanied by fellow panelists Amber Chou ’24, Ava Chen ’24, Andrew Wen ’23, Claire Wang ’23, Gloria Chen ’24, Jun Fan ’24, Jonathan Ji ’24, Joyce Li ’23, Jenny Jin ’24, Karen Wang ’23, and Melissa Chang ’23. The event consisted of a closed-question session, where students answered questions collected prior

to the panel, followed by an open Q&A session, hearing questions directly from the participants, with each question answered by two or more students.

Zhou believes that an entirely student-led panel constitutes an honest and open environment for the new families who may have many questions about Andover student life.

“[The accepted students] might come here. They might go to Choate or Exeter. So we have to let them know the pros and cons... of Andover. That is why I hold the talking session every March 20 evening. We have a live session where eight or twelve of the current students respond to some of the gathered questions regarding every aspect of [Andover]. It’s from current students who all volunteered from their Non Sibi spirits, so it’s very honest, very humble, and very down to earth. So the prospective families really appreciate that because they are not sugar covered by any parents or admission office or anything. There’s no adults involved in this. It’s all kids,” said Zhou.

During the event, the panelists tried to cover well-rounded perspectives about life at Andover, ranging from academic courses,

Continued on A4, Column 1

Commentary, 2

Vaccine Availability

Andrew Chinn ’24 argues that international efforts to disperse vaccinations are necessary to ensure the safety of the larger global community.

Eighth Page, 6

Of course we’re not on page 8

Welcome to the journey of getting a fancy piece of paper

Sports, 12

Girls Wrestling at Nationals

Three wrestlers from Girls Wrestling were awarded champion titles at the National Prep Tournament.

Arts, 12

“The Batman” Review

Sitting at number one in box office sales, “The Batman” is a movie not to be missed for its brilliant cinematography and unique thematic undertones.

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Editorial

New Season, New Normal

Spring has sprung—and so have masks—off our faces. According to Dr. Amy Patel, Medical Director at Rebecca M. Sykes Wellness Center, Andover plans to loosen Covid-19 restrictions, including becoming mask-optional indoors. In an email to the campus community members and guardians, Head of School Dr. Raynard Kington listed the upcoming changes in Covid-19 policy, including, “moving to mask optional in all spaces on campus for students and adults (employees), allowing off campus permissions, and welcoming visitors to campus (masked indoors).” These new allowances offer more opportunities for campus connection, community bonding, and revival of old traditions. We may now visit nearby family members over the weekends with greater ease, greet each other in the hallways with more than the top half of our faces, and compete, sing, dance, and learn with a full range of expressions. However, as the adage fades away, with freedom comes responsibility, and it is our duty as community members to wield this responsibility sensibly—with care, thought, and consideration.

Perhaps the most anticipated of loosened restrictions is the shift to a mask-optional format (except in healthcare spaces). Beyond being a bit less muffled in class, arts and sports that are inherently obstructed when masking (such as Chorus or volleyball) have the opportunity to operate at the closest to full capacity since the onset of the pandemic. Brass players can rehearse without specialized masks with mouth-holes punched out in the middle, runners can finish their races a little less out-of-breath, and dancers won't have to worry about masks sliding down their faces during turns and leaps. New Covid-19 guidelines offer an opportunity for artistic and athletic communities, separated during remote learning, to begin to restore and reimagine themselves.

In many ways, going mask-optional not only signifies that our campus has been able to balance health guidelines alongside an unconventional Andover experience, but also represents opportunities to return to or reinvent pre-pandemic traditions. For instance, our upcoming spring visits, where we welcome newly admitted students to campus, will resume later this month or in early April. We may more freely attend our friends' games and do justice to every home game by passionately embodying school spirits. While we may never return to a

world untouched by the effects of Covid-19, we can still recreate the pre-pandemic days. Or even better, seize the opportunity to create our own new normal by adapting and improving old norms for the post-pandemic age.

We should still, however, greet these updated restrictions with good sense and judgement. As the saying goes—just because you can, doesn't mean you should. While taking advantage of loosened restrictions, we must also remember whom our actions affect, beyond our immediate circle. We must remember that the Andover community extends beyond students and faculty. Commons workers, our teachers' children who may be too young to get vaccinated, day students with immunocompromised family members, will all be affected by our decisions, so it is imperative we make those decisions wisely. Appreciate the privilege to be mask-optional, but be mindful of who you're unmasking around, and in what spaces. Exercise good judgement—mask if you feel sick, get tested if you're exhibiting Covid-19 symptoms, and take extra care if you are identified as a close contact. Moreover, please be respectful of those who choose to still mask and honour their requests—our community will be at a detriment if members feel anxious, unsafe, or unwell as a result of the masking behaviours of those around them.

Our first “normal” term since the winter of 2019-2020 will likely be a tentative, though long awaited return to a pre-pandemic campus. Warm weather, optional masks, the return of Spring revisits—our campus might just be coming alive again. It will be a relief to know that we can unmask amongst our friends and peers, that we are lucky and privileged enough to safely test the waters of a post-pandemic Andover. Make full use of this time (to your own comfort level), and enjoy the opportunities these loosened restrictions provide. Whether that be showing a new student around campus, rehearsing unmasked, or whatever form the updated Covid-19 protocols take for you—be sensible, engage in your close communities, and have fun. After all, Spring only comes around once a year.

How Was Spring Break?

LEO PETERS '24: CALIFORNIA RELAXATION

My break was really chill! I read a lot and went outside a lot to enjoy the California sunshine, including a few times with friends! I also tried mountain biking for the first time! Mostly, though, I just chilled and did nothing, which was super fun! Probably the most fun thing of all and I will definitely do it again! I probably will try to sleep more consistently next time though.

BRIAN CHICA-HERRERA '24: SAN FRANCISCO VISIT

To be honest, the first half of spring break was relatively boring. I was stuck at home and just watched hours upon hours of Netflix. Even if it was boring, I did find this new song—it's called "The Love Dispensary" by Nuglife. I think by now, it must be my most listened to song on Spotify. Then in the second half of break, I traveled to San Francisco with friends and had a really fun time exploring the city for the first time. We went to Ghirardelli Square and rode the MUNI around, discovering the hilly landscape of San Francisco. Overall, I had a great time and would recommend 10/10.

DOROTHY SWANSON BLAKER

'24: EAST COAST TRAVEL

Over spring break, I went to New York City for a couple days—best bagsels of my life. I am definitely going back as soon as possible, if only for that garlic chive cream cheese. Then I got home and promptly got wiped out by the notorious campus cold. 0/10 would not recommend. Finally, I got to visit the exotic state of Massachusetts for the Crew team's preseason training. Five hours of rowing a day equals a lot of blisters! Overall, my break was really fun and a very nice opportunity to get some privacy and relax at last.

LANGAN GARRETT '24: SEEING COLORADO

My spring break was really awesome. I hadn't seen my parents in a while, and my sister in a long time, and it was so nice to spend such quality time with them. I went skiing, and while I would have been glad to leave the cold weather, I really enjoyed the snow, and the mountains. I love Colorado—it is one of my favorite places on Earth, and I gorged myself on non-Commons food. I ate so much ice cream, burgers, steak, fried chicken, and most of all—sushi. I hadn't had sushi in a really long time, so that was probably a highlight. Definitely the sushi.

JOYCE LI '23: COAST TRAVEL

My spring break was actually really wonderful. It wasn't that eventful, but I liked unwinding at home and reading a couple of books I had been planning on reading for a while. I especially loved *The Argonauts*, by Maggie Nelson. The imagery, and the way she talks about gender and her critique of the simplification of identity was very impactful for me. I also went to a Foxing/Manchester Orchestra concert in Chicago, hung out with some friends, and rock climbed a lot. I don't think I would do anything different in the future.

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CORRECTIONS:
There are no corrections to report.



CAROLINE SHEN / THE PHILLIPIAN

We Don't Always Have the Answers

ANDREW CHINN



TINA ZENG / THE PHILLIPIAN

It has been 12 years since the release of “Waka Waka” by Shakira and the opening of the Burj Khalifa. 10 years since Usaine Bolt ran the 100 meter dash to win his fourth gold medal. It was not perfect, but the world was good then. As I lay in my pandemic induced coma, decades of history, tragedy and triumph, is polluted by one drowning thought: where did everything go so wrong?

After two years of waiting for the unrelenting pandemic, we are still stuck in a continuous loop of death, sickness, and chaos. The consequence of highly contagious variants means that an endemic future will most likely lie ahead. A faltering and overwhelmed medical system will not be capable of dealing with the increasingly contagious strains of COVID-19. We are far past the possibility to stop future pandemics. So, whilst scientific advancements have continued to shine a dim light back to a life, even barely, resembling what we had before, the inevitable consequences of political division and inaction has dug a hole too deep to drag ourselves out of.

Teachers across the United

States have reported cases of “disruptive behavior” tripling since the beginning of the pandemic. In 2020, Americans drove 13 percent less, but traffic re-

sion, in addition to steeper trends of polarizations, inhibit our ability to escape collapse. Climate change continues to fuel a crumbling global society, as political tensions and global con-

that I disregard, I still demand an explanation for seemingly endless, meaningless lifelong challenges that seem to pose themselves at every corner.

BA.2, a sub-

tions. But are we expected to? Brooks, in his Article “America is Falling Apart” says, “As a columnist, I’m supposed to have some answers. But I just don’t right now.” As we grapple to stay afloat in the tsunami of change, sadness, and emotion, it is okay to admit that we, as a society, are overwhelmed. Society is choking on its own pride and forcing our eyes down, hoping that we don’t get a glimpse of what is falling onto us. Just don’t look up, and everything will be ok.

When I was still in elementary school, my childhood innocence shielded my eyes from the despicability of the world. It was growing up that I realized that we won’t always have the answers about the misery that shrouds life and small joys that I, very much, take for granted.

At the core of this issue, the pressure to constantly adjust and conform to the ever changing societal norms keep us naive. I have always felt a responsibility to be informed to tackle each task and question that is put in front of me. Now, more than ever, I realize that I don’t have the answers. As unsatisfying and uncomfortable as that is, it will have to be okay.



CLARIS SHIN / THE PHILLIPIAN

lated deaths rose by seven percent with other Motor Accidents having risen by 18.4 percent. For more than 20 years, drug related deaths have been on a continuous rise. But since the pandemic, the overdose crisis has shot up during the pandemic, and the “Black [overdose rate] exceeded the white rate for the first time.” Hate crime reports have “surged to the highest levels in 12 years”, the FBI discovering a rise of attacks on Black people by around 45 percent since 2019.

All of this trends towards a deteriorating American Democracy as we know it. Crippling politicization and divi-

flict continue to rise steadily. As we observe our crumbling nation, it would be inappropriate to believe that everything will blow over. That we are just drifting through a rough patch of uneven waters, waiting for the weather to finally clear. We are a witness to the pains of our own faults and weaknesses.

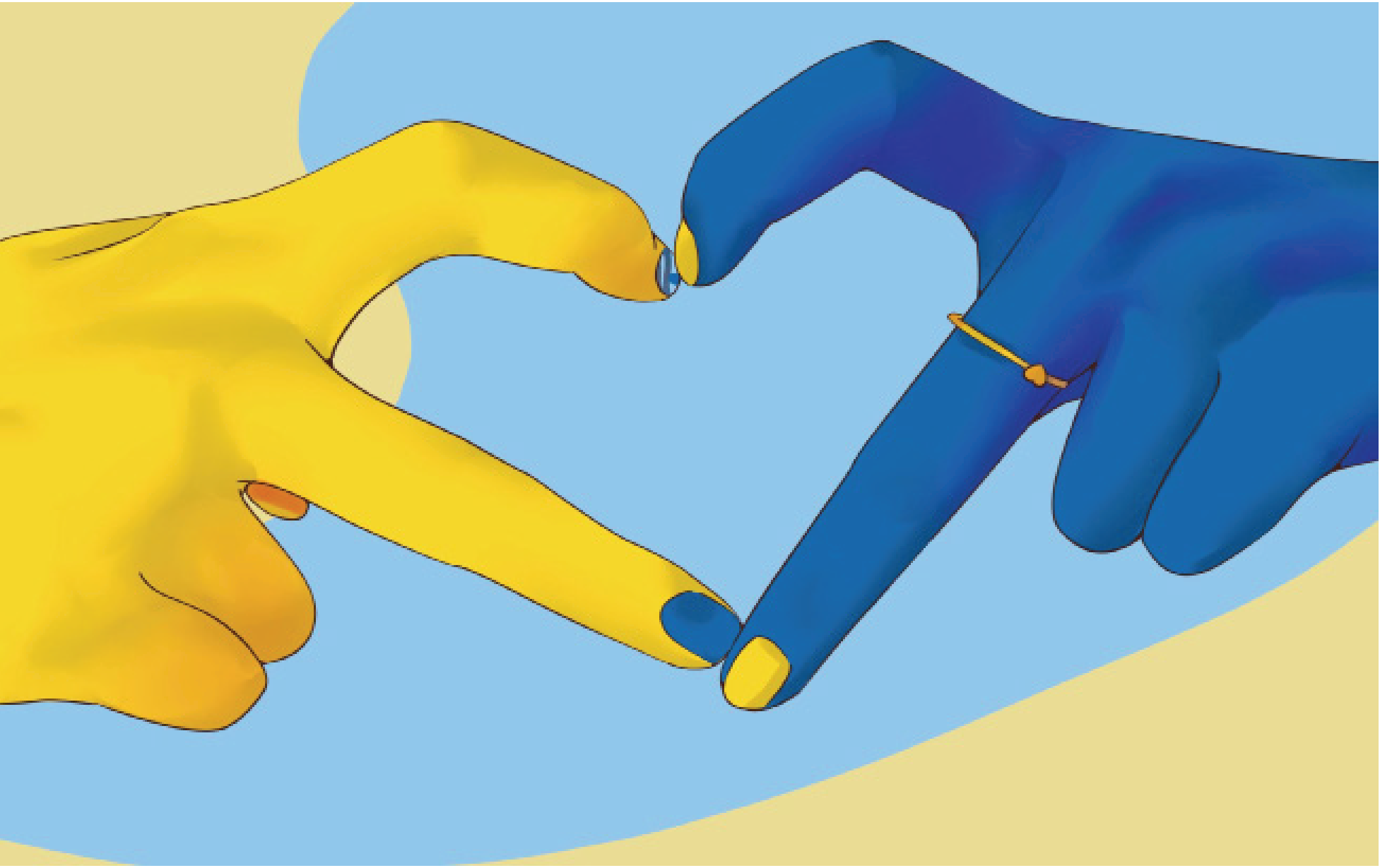
As my memories flicker between past and present, a wave of bittersweet fills my mouth. Deep in my heart, despite my own ungrateful insincerity and the privileges

variant, is currently making waves in sectors of Europe, reversing any hope of shedding the entirety of this plague that has lasted for more than 3 years. An insistent rise in mental health issues, particularly in our youth continues to bedevil a leading generation that have been forced into online graduations and homestuck restrictions.

Why did everything have to change? Why can’t everything go back to normal? Why is everything just so blatantly wrong? The fact is, I don’t know many of the answers to many of my own ques-

Andrew Chinn is a Lower from Indonesia. Contact the author at achinn24@andover.edu.

Supporting Ukraine Through Art



AVIVA CAI

This illustration is trying to raise awareness. The heart created by two hands represents love, and the contrasting colors blue and

yellow demonstrates Ukraine. The simple yet straightforward image aims to support Ukraine and call for peace.

This digital illustration has a simple yet powerful message - to support for Ukraine who is currently in war with Rus-

sia. I try to keep the drawing straightforward so it could deliver idea so it could raise more awareness for Ukraine. The heart created by two hands symbolizes love and the hope for peace. And the colors of the hands, blue and yellow, are

the colors on the Ukraine flag. There is also a heart-shaped ring on the right hand to further emphasize the theme. The idea of using Ukrainian colors to color the hands was inspired by an image I found online of illustrations of hands

having contrasting colors. It brought a lot of visual impact.

Aviva Cai is a Lower from Beijing, China. Contact the author at ycai24@andover.edu.

Students Share Reactions to the Russia-Ukraine War

REPORTING BY SOPHIE STAIH

Since Russia first invaded Ukraine on February 24, thousands of people—both Russian and Ukrainian—have died. Many Ukrainian homes, cities, and countryside have been bombed and destroyed. According to National Public Radio (NPR), nearly 3.5 million refugees have fled Ukraine. The Russian government continues to limit outside contact and punish those who protest the war. Various international companies have suspended their businesses in Russia, including Starbucks and Coca-Cola. Below, students provide their reactions to the Russia-Ukraine war:

Mathilda Knoblauch '22

Right now the only thing that I talk about when I talk with my friends and family back home [in Germany] is the war and [product] prices going up. A lot of people can't afford healthy vegetables and sometimes gas. I was really shocked because [the war] is so close [to my home], but I also feel bad about the fact that I'm more shocked about this war than I've been about previous wars, like the one in Syria, because everything that [was] going on outside of Europe has never affected me that much. I just think it's important that there's awareness here as well, especially because it's a very sensitive topic, [I think we should] put our humanity first before talking about politics, because it affects so many people in their hearts.

Viktoria Georgieva '23

I wasn't surprised when Russia declared the war because it was known that this tension between Ukraine and Russia existed. I'm from Bulgaria, and the biggest thing that affected me and my family was that my sister had to move towns because there are many American troops sending more supplies to cities in Bulgaria, so she wanted to move just in case something happens. In terms of my life on campus, my roommate is Ukrainian, and when she goes to a protest in Boston, I join her... I also take Russian classes, and knowing Russian and other foreign languages kind of gives me access to more resources and points of view because I have noticed news from different countries looks different. I feel like just because we live here in this safe space in the bubble of Andover, it's really difficult to open up your eyes to the conflicts that are happening outside and to get this interest in a conflict that looks like it's happening so far away.

Ani Bayramyan '24

It was heartbreaking, and there was also anger. I'm from Armenia, where we had a war as well in 2020, so I feel like I've already gone through a similar situation. But I have Ukrainian citizenship as well, and I visit there a lot, so Ukraine has a special place in my heart. I was in Kyiv in 2021, and it's a beautiful city with a lot of beautiful people, and now you can see a lot of posts of how they're destroying all these buildings and killing innocent people. It's good to see that it got a lot of Western media coverage, but there is also a double standard about how Western media covered different conflicts and wars in the Middle East, and how they're covering Ukraine's war. I feel like all conflicts should get equal media coverage, and people should educate themselves about all these kinds of issues and try to support the people who have been affected.

Nicholas Donnellan '23

I think the biggest thing was the scale to which it happened, especially because Putin has never really made those sorts of advances in the past [in Ukraine] on a large scale. The definition of a war crime is very specific, but I do think when you start bombing hospitals, civilian areas, and residential zones, there's definitely a disrespect for human rights and liberty in that, as well as the killing of innocent people. I'm not tied to Ukraine or Russia by ancestry, but I do think, as someone who lives in a democratic society, it's sad to see a democratic society fall to an autocracy like that. And obviously Ukraine wasn't a perfect democracy, but they still supported human rights, and they were working in a direction that was beneficial.

Yuliya Solyanik '23

I called my parents at 5 a.m. [Eastern European Time]; they were sleeping at that time, and I remember when I saw my dad, he was like, what happened? I told him war started, and they woke up and started checking the news and hearing all of this information about bombardings and about Russian troops [entering] the country. My town is in the westernmost region of Ukraine, so fortunately it didn't experience any bombardments and stuff—it mostly serves as a place for migrants... My friends text me pretty much every time they hear a siren in my region, sometimes everyday, sometimes in the middle of the night ... I encourage people to help, it seems like we are thousands of miles away from Ukraine, and it doesn't influence our lives in particular, but we never know what will happen next, and we still need to help the people, those innocent people who are suffering now.

Kira Stepanova '25

My general reactions were shock and devastation... seeing all the news and all the cities being bombarded, it's just heartbreaking. It was a Thursday morning—I was having a Chem lab first period that day, but instead of my usual morning routine, I cried for like an hour because of the amount of news I got on my phone and the amount of missed phone calls I saw from my family. My heart aches for all the Ukrainians out there. My whole family is really against it and is currently trying to immigrate from Russia because living under a dictatorship is not our values. The sanctions in Russia [also are affecting access to] quality medicine, and just overall some products are no longer available in shops, like sugar or paper or sanitary products. I am really glad that since I'm in America, I can actually speak to people about it, because if you're in Russia and you want to protest, you can't really because you're going to get detained. You're going to get put into jail. They're going to kick you out from your job, your school, your university. You just can't do anything.



MCHEN/THE PHILLIPIAN

Students Voice Frustration with Lack of End-of-Term Comments

Continued from A1, Column 3

way, I can improve more in spring term history," said Yang. Similar concerns were echoed by Sui Yu '23, who considered written end-of-term comments an integral aspect of her teacher

feedback. She mentioned an alternate method of feedback that would not take teachers too much time but would still give students valuable insight into the reasoning behind their grades. "On BlueLink, there were columns on different aspects of the class and how you did, like 'contributions in class', and you would get an 'S' if it was satisfactory. I

feel like a lot of teachers didn't use it because they write that information in the comments, but maybe if they took advantage of those categories, it would help contextualize your performance in class," said Yu.

Andover Campus to Become Mask Optional For First Time in 2022

Continued from A1, Column 5

viding students at home tests is newer for us, and we hope it was helpful for students who had difficulty accessing tests in previous terms. We have felt that this practice has helped us ensure a safe re-entry through a more user-friendly and expedient process."

In an update from Medical Director Amy Patel on Wednesday, seven students tested positive for Covid-19 between March 4–23: five students tested positive at home over Spring Break and two students tested positive on campus. The positive rate is considerably low compared to that from Winter Term.

With self-tests exempting students from acquiring Covid-19 tests at local test sites or pharmacies, many students are favorable to this decision. William Suh '24 commented that the self-tests provided a solution to his previous difficulties obtaining tests at local sites during the winter term.

"It's definitely become more lenient towards these [Covid-19] protocols because they are being lifted way quicker than any previous term. Also, the self-reporting system is way more lenient than having to go to sites and get tested. I was having a lot of difficulty getting a self-test at the beginning of winter term and this helped me so much for not going through all of that again,"

said Suh. Suh also expressed both excitement and concern about lifting indoor masking. As an indoor athlete, he thinks that the new policy will bring much comfort to practices and games, but might pose a potential danger campus-wide as masking policies become increasingly lenient.

"As a student, it's great. Obviously, the masks have been very frustrating in class, sports, everything in between on campus, but that's on an individual level. For the overall good of the school, I could definitely see some issues regarding the leniency of the masking policy. Although I think it is the right call, there are definitely risks embedded. If the test results are good, I can definitely see how the school is trying to return to normal in a safe manner," said Suh.

Elliott conveyed thanks and gratitude for the community's continued cooperation and the efforts of the school's health care providers. She hopes that a safe and positive community continues to last.

"We are thankful that our community is healthy and safe; we are grateful to our care providers who have kept us safe; we are amazed by our community's diligence, patience, support, and cooperation over the past two years. It has been a long, tiring, frustrating, and hard stretch. We are relieved to be in a better space, and we hope to enjoy it while it lasts," said Elliott.

More Learning in the World Trips to Return By Fall of 2022

Continued from A1, Column 3

know them," said Knoblauch. Cutler highlighted some potential upcoming plans, including new trips and collaborations between departments at Andover, as well as online options to adapt to the pandemic. "This Spring, we continue to offer virtual opportunities for students and adults to connect with their counterparts from around the world. Likewise, we are making curricular connections with academic departments in which students will have immersive learning experiences integrated into their classes. We will run three LITW programs over the summer and hope to scout a number of

new international and domestic travel opportunities this summer. By Family Weekend 2022, we plan to revive many of the LITW programs currently on hiatus and offer a richer, more-robust-than-ever menu of opportunities for students to engage with the world," said Cutler. Given the program's focus on traveling, especially to foreign countries, the pandemic took its toll. However, despite the challenges faced with restrictions and quarantines, the essence of the LITW program has prevailed. "Many leaders of existing LITW programs did not propose running them in 2021-22. Our four domestic LITW programs, however, all respond just as well to the original charge of taking students beyond their bubble in pursuit

of a rich, intercultural learning experience," said Cutler. Cutler added, "LITW came about with the intention of giving every Phillips Academy student an opportunity to learn beyond the Phillips Academy campus. Today, in 2022, it continues to provide experiences through which students and faculty build respectful relationships with communities around the world, wherever we are in the world, including abroad, in the U.S., locally, on campus, and virtually. In the day and age of racial, social, political, and ideological reckonings, this guidance from 1889 continues to resonate and reflects the values of Learning in the World."

HERE AND THERE: THE WORLD RIGHT NOW

REPORTING BY ASHLEY AGYEMAN

Health

The National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID) began a Phase 1 clinical trial assessing three experimental messenger RNA (mRNA) HIV vaccines, according to the National Institute of Health. The NIAID sponsors the study, called the HVTN 302. The Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center in Seattle, funded by the NIAID, is also administrating the trial.

Global Covid-19 cases have started to increase after declining over the past month, Reuters reports. Cases in South Korea and China rose by 25 percent with a 27 percent rise in deaths. Cases in Africa also rose by 12 percent with a 14 percent rise in deaths. According to the World Health Organization (WHO), factors such as the Omicron variant and its BA.2 sublinage, and the lifting of public health and social measures are causing the increasing cases.

Economy

According to NPR, gas prices in the United States have been rising since the war in Ukraine began. The national average of regular unleaded gas on March 20 was over \$4.25, as stated by the American Automobile Association (AAA). However, prices differ by region; for instance, in some parts of California, the price is over \$6.00 per gallon, while a Chicago gas station charges \$4.69 per gallon. The increased gas prices disproportionately affect low income workers, since many of them use driving as their mode of transportation to get to work.

War/Conflict

On February 24, Russia's President Vladimir Putin, initiated an invasion of Ukraine. Mariupol, a city on the coast of the Azov Sea in Ukraine, has been surrounded by Russian soldiers and cut off from food, energy, and water stock. Russian troops have also cut off access to the Azov Sea, according to the Associated Press.

Politics

The prime minister of Greece, Kyriakos Mitsotakis, and the president of Turkey, Recep Tayyip Erdogan, held a rare meeting on March 12, as reported by the Associated Press. The two countries have had tense relations over energy, maritime issues, and migration. According to a statement from the Turkish presidency's communications doctorate, the two leaders spoke about bilateral and international relations and Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

Climate

On March 14, the United States Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) proposed new regulations that would obligate companies to report their greenhouse gasses emissions and how climate change affects their business. Though it has been mandatory for public companies in the United States to give regulators and investors detailed data about their financial performance and possible risks that they may encounter, public companies may have to disclose information about how they are addressing climate change.

Panel Provides Newly Admitted Students with Perspectives from Current Students

Continued from A1, Column 5

extracurricular activities, boarding life, community service, as well as adaptation to the Andover environment such as stress and time management. Aside from delivering the logistics, the students also shared some of their personal experiences throughout their time at Andover and offered advice for the incoming students.

Concerned about Andover's academic rigor, many newly admitted students and parents were curious about the course selection process and sought advice on choosing what courses to take. Aside from offering details about the diploma requirement, Claire Wang '23 wanted to encourage the incoming students to follow their passions and take risks when requesting courses.

"When I first came, I had some misconceptions of how clubs and activities worked, as well as placement and course selection, so I wanted to give these new students a head start. We tried to alleviate some of the worries parents had and help future students succeed and be happy at Andover," said Wang.

According to Anny Wang, a

newly accepted student, the Q&A session served as an opportunity to ask about her concerns and receive assurance on the experiences at Andover.

Wang said, "The responses I heard from the students really showed me how much they loved the school, the community, the faculty, and their friends. Many said that they had similar concerns as me but were able to find numerous support around campus. Now, I have a better understanding of the challenges I might face, fabulous friends I might meet, and potentials I might discover. I am very grateful for the students who answered our questions!"

Andrew Wen '23, also recalling his Junior year and the struggles he had faced, shared his suggestions on adapting to the academic rigor and the environment at Andover. According to Wen, he volunteered to be one of the panelists because he wanted to share more of his experience that might be helpful for incoming students.

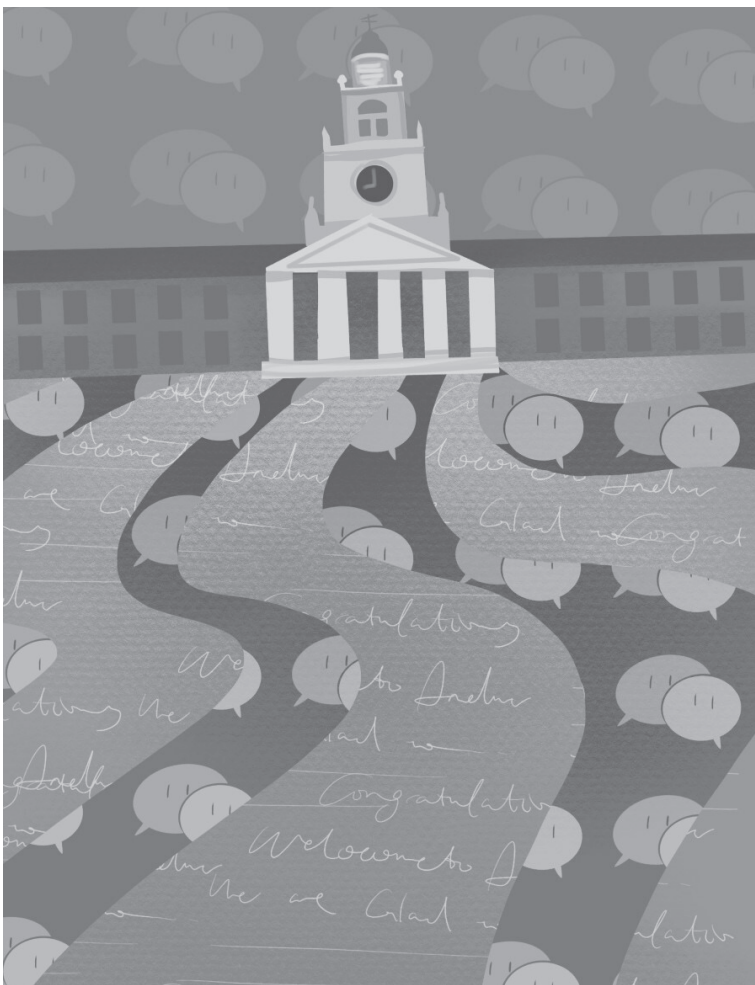
"I thought it would be nice to provide new students with my insight because Andover could be a tough environment, and I didn't want them to go through the challenges I had to go through when I first joined the community as a [Junior]," said Wen.

Similarly, Joyce Li '23, who

reflected on her own personal growth throughout her time at Andover, thought the panel was meaningful. She hoped that after the panel event, incoming new students would be more motivated to fully engage in their Andover experiences.

"I have been living in the same place my whole life—I went to public school for eight years until Andover, and I think that when you're in that environment, it is very easy to fall into the pattern of doing things because everyone around you is doing, or you do it because it's expected of you. And when I came to Andover, I had to almost deconstruct myself. What do I want to do? I am interested in what club? Who do I want to be friends with? Because there is no purpose in doing things that the community expects, you really have to think about what you want not just at Andover, but in life in general," said Li.

Li continued, "I always wanted to share these thoughts and encouragement with the newly accepted students and to people out there who might be immersed in all the intimidation and worries of starting life at Andover. Even to myself when first joining this community, I wish I could've told them to try out more things and be brave, which is why I volunteered to join the Q&A session."



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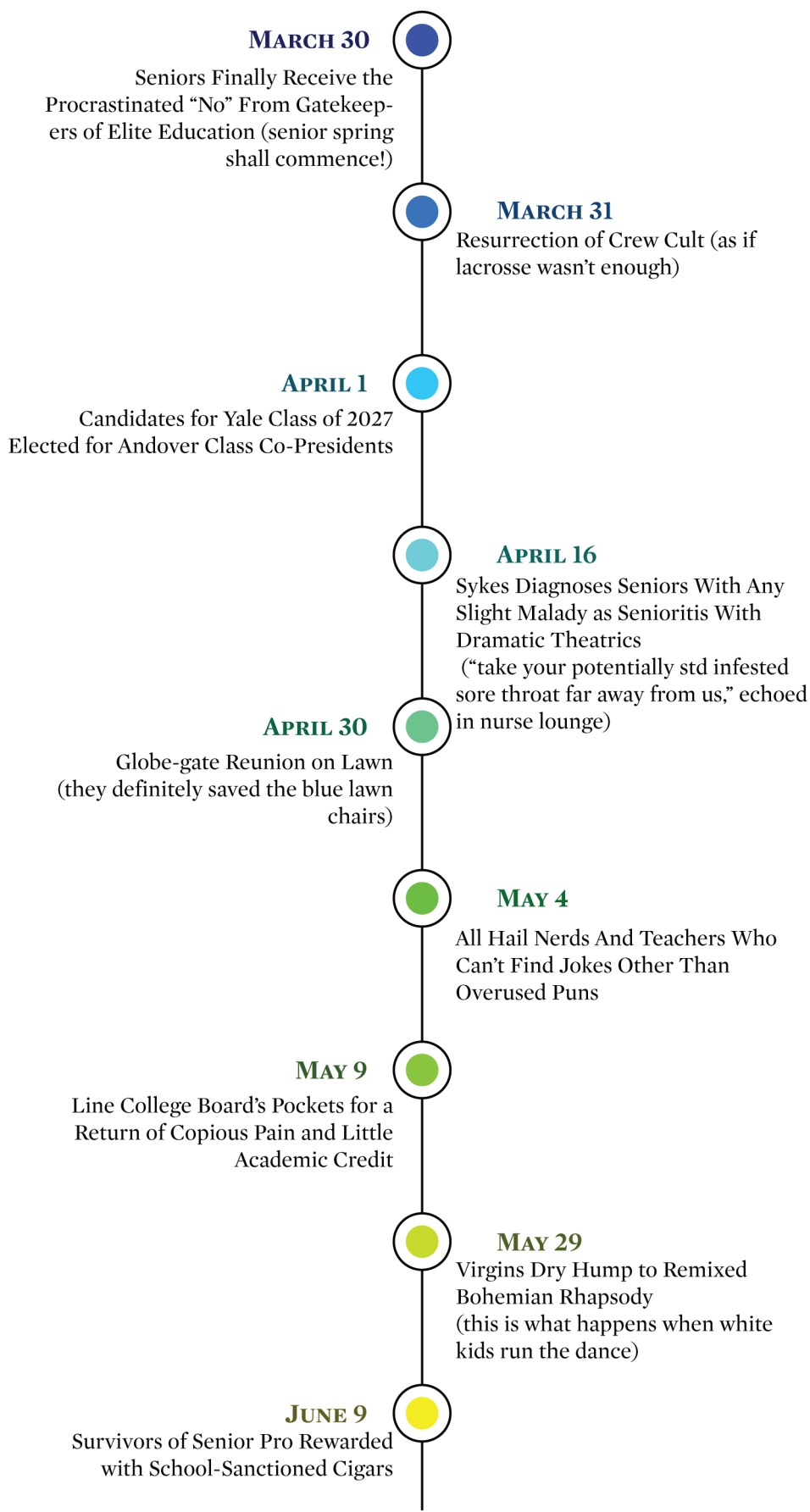


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WEEK'S TOP HEADLINES

- *Sending Scofield a Blue Card Photo Is Harder Than Snapping Your Crush*
- *Blue Book Excerpts From “Major Offenses” Section Reported As Best Beach Read*
- *Bearded Senior Enrages Teaching Fellow Who’s Only Capable of Sprouting Pubic-Hair-Looking Wisps On Chin*
- *Contagious “Senior Spring” Attitude Should Be More of a Concern Than Covid...Quarantine Lazy Seniors!*
- *The Response “I Slept a Lot During the Break” Deemed Weakest Cover Up For Excessive Inebriation*
- *Kanye, Can You Follow @thephillipian? We Have More Funds Than pacryptoclub!!*
- *Recent “Community Concern” Reassures Students Who Were Worried They Got Looped Into a Radical Liberal School*

this is definitely not another one of those filler boxes because evalyn is mediocre at layout and geometrically challenged. over spring break, i had to take the SAT in celebration, florida. although the SAT is a waste of money and a perpetrator of a nonexistent meritocracy, it is a great way to keep my ego in check. i often claim florida is the buttcrack of america, sorry to the floridian readers. just look up "florida man" and you'll see what i mean. maybe the new york post has skewed my perception of a pleasant, politically-influential state. i am prone to clickbait. anyways, my impression of celebration high school was their strong sense of community. i went to use the bathroom and on the tampon box someone carved "at least u are not *pregnant*." andover needs to learn this kind of communal support and encouragment.

"I swear the Gelb birds have more meat on their bones than the Commons ribs."

"Are you ready for thigh guy summer???"

"This Friday, let's drink a ton of Red Bull and take a ton of melatonin and see which wins."

"We're like MGK and Megan Fox"

OVERHEARD ON THE PATHS

"My roommate keeps spraying Febreze everywhere. Must've been a skunk outside."

"I love classic rock! Have you heard 'Hey There Delilah?'"

"What's a black bag? Is that like green boxes?"

"Oh, don't worry about your career. Just write a book about knowing me and you'll be set."

WAYS PEOPLE BOOSTED THEIR IMMUNE SYSTEMS OVER BREAK

(NOT THE GOVERNMENT CHIP)

- Getting lots of sunlight on daddy's yacht
- Shaking hands at church in Florida
- Viewing grindset Tiktok to teach immune system how to be Sigma
- Kissing the homies goodnight at preseason
- Never skipping lung day
- Using tongue in place of hands
- Reciprocating my dog's butt sniffing habits
- Adderall detox
- Making out with frat boys at Trump rally
- Taking shots from Covid-19 antibodies blood test tubes
- Using Sephora testers for daily makeup routine

LETTER OF ACCEPTANCE FOR CLASS of 2026

NED THORNTON

Dear bright-eyed, bushy-tailed, young person with so much unlocked potential,

Congratulations, you've been admitted to the 420th class here at Phillips Academy. You also just found out you were waitlisted at Deerfield. Don't waste your time waiting and say "yes" to Andover. You were one of the few, 13% out of over 3,000 applicants, to be deemed smart enough and well-connected enough for our elite institution. We've chosen you to be a part of our community, a community aligned with values such as equity and inclusion.

We know you'll love it here. In fact, so many students love it so much, they often repeat a grade. Sure, it's labeled as "med-leave" but we see it as loyal dedication to the Big Blue community and more tuition dollars!

Your time here will teach you to redefine happiness. Soon you'll find the 3 a.m. cram sessions for the chemistry test your teacher did nothing to prepare you for the most exhilarating. And we promise you'll love the journey. Our academic rigor does not promise Ivy League acceptance letters, so leave your ambitions at home and brace yourself for a humbling Andover experience.

You will gain newfound independence and freedom. Not only will you have to download an app that reports your location to house counselors, tuck yourself in bed at exactly 10:59 p.m., and ask for permission every time you want to leave campus, but you get to choose your own meals from our wide variety of ethnic cuisines such as salisbury steak and watery beef tacos!

No matter the kind of person you think you are now, your Andover months-years will expand your mind in ways you can't yet imagine. Remember, the "yes" isn't official until a check is in our mailbox!

Love,
Dr. Phillip F. Academy '69



The Phillippian SPORTS

Volume CXLV | Number 3

Someone ate
my pet bunnies

March 25, 2022

GIRLSWRESTLING

Girls Wrestling Crowned Champions at National Prep Tournament

NABILAH NAZAR

Despite competing amongst hundreds of wrestlers, Andover Girls Wrestling did not let the 200 school tournament stifle its mentality. With Sakina Cotton '24, Dani Nugent '25, and Eleanor DeHoog '24 all claiming champion titles along with Head Coach Archambault receiving two separate awards, the team's season has ended on a commendable note.

Head Coach Kassie Archambault '06 credited the team's success to its open mindedness in learning and performing. She believed the wrestlers brought an abundance of energy, heading into matches with strong mentalities and applying skills from the season's cumulative lessons.

"Our wrestlers were tough and aggressive, and implemented everything we've been working on all season at the tournaments.

They are incredibly coachable and make real time adjustments during the matches as we coach them," wrote Coach Archambault in an email to The Phillippian.

One of the champions, Eleanor DeHoog '24 pointed out Cotton's championship matches. Despite being a new wrestler, Cotton managed to take control of her opponents, according to DeHoog. Cotton pinned her championship round competition within the first one and a half minutes to take first place.

DeHoog said, "I would say probably Sakina was amazing, because she's also a first time wrestler this year. So, she [had] two matches [and] she just completely dominated both of her matches. And she came out with a great one. So it was really exciting to watch her."

Cotton recalled her semi-final matches and how she was able to defeat her first opponent on their speed and ability to create shots

right as the whistle blew. Cotton also enjoyed wrestling someone new from DC, rather than just from the New England area. Her excitement was rooted in her opponents' experience and aggression, which provided a learning opportunity for Cotton.

Cotton said, "I've never wrestled somebody who had such quick shots. So the coach was telling me [that] she shoots almost right off the whistle. And normally, I just lock up with people, like you'll see when people are in the resting position, but just have their hands tied around the others' necks, grabbing their arms, like I usually lock up. But she was very quick and aggressive, so it was nice. I won by a major decision, so basically I didn't pin her. It was just a lot of wrestling, but very exciting and a lot of experience."

According to Coach Archambault, fellow champion Nugent, experienced similar success to

Cotton. Coach Archambault noted how Nugent took down her opponents with ease and in the final round was able to win by major decision against a talented wrestler.

Coach Archambault wrote, "At Nationals, Dani Nugent '25 had an incredible tournament. She won her first two matches by pin in the first period. Her finals match was a dominant 8-0 victory against an experienced opponent."

Partnered with the success of the players, Coach Archambault was named NEPSWA Coach of the Year as well as the National Prep Coach of the Year. She saw these victories as displays of the team's hard work throughout the entire season.

"I was incredibly honored to have been recognized as NEPSWA coach of the year and National Prep coach of the year. I've been working hard to expand opportunities for all girls in this sport, and to create an environ-

ment in our program where everyone is welcome. I couldn't do any of it without the support of my coaching staff, and without the buy in and work ethic of my team," wrote Coach Archambault.

Cotton was joyful to see her coach get recognition for her greatness but also believes that even without these awards, Coach Archambault has been an integral and influential part of the team.

"I was really happy to see Coach A [Archambault], get the Coach of the Year Award at the tournament, and I thought that obviously she doesn't need anybody to tell her that she's doing a great job, especially not recognition from them. But it was really nice to see other people getting to know her work and what she's doing, because she is doing most of the work with organizing the girls tournament but also being our head coach. And so I thought it was really cool to see her up there," said Cotton.

GIRLSSOFTBALL

Andover Boys Baseball Returns Undefeated from Spring Break Tournament

MEG STINEMEN

With an undefeated tournament record, Andover Boys Baseball returned from their Florida trip with a newfound preparedness for their season ahead. The team put in the work over a week, constantly practicing for their tournament.

Isaac Lamson '24 expressed that he was looking forward to the trip and was excited to be playing with the team again. After being ranked #1 in New England last year, the team felt confident, he noted. He added that the pitchers had a particularly positive mindset going into the tournament.

"I think the team was pretty ecstatic coming off of being ranked #1 in New England, so we were excited to prove ourselves down there. I think that especially the pitchers, they were ready to go and they showed it on the mound," said Lamson.

Robert Brown '25 says a highlight of the trip was beating Avon Old Farms, a challenging opponent. He added that the trip was important to build team chemistry as well to create friendships between grades.

"To look at this from a baseball perspective was beating Avon Old Farms. They're another really solid baseball team. They have a couple of [Division 1 recruits] and we knew they were going to be challenging going into this, but that would be it from a baseball perspective, as well as just kind of getting closer with a team. I was close with some of the other freshmen, but didn't know the older guys well, so spending a week with them and getting close with the team... was my high-



COURTESY OF KELLY GRABER

Thomas White '23 steps up to the plate and prepares to hit.

light," said Brown.

Luke Gallo '25 emphasized the friendships he created during the trip. Going into it, Gallo expected an average trip, but after his time in Florida, his opinion had changed.

"My initial thoughts were [that] it was just going to be another plain old baseball trip with a new team. I was proven wrong and I now have several friendships within the team and I am so happy that I was given the opportunity to go," wrote Gallo in an email to *The Phillippian*.

Brown highlighted multiple players who played outstandingly throughout the week. He complimented athletes across grade levels for their skills and hard work on the field.

"I mean, obviously it was

Thomas White ['23]. He's just something different. Andrew DeBenedictis ['23] hit really well through all tournaments. He really stuck out to me. Luke Gallo had a great tournament, hitting-wise, and made some really smooth plays in the field. Harrison Milbert ['22]... pitched phenomenally and had six perfect innings. And I would say those guys really stuck out to me throughout the week," said Brown.

In addition to those players, Lamson highlighted Jace Roossien '24 and Joe Carrera '24 for their excellent play and ability to fill their positions on the field.

"I'd say Jace Roossien balled out. He had a bunch of good hits, a bunch of hits in the gap. Played really well be-

BOYSBASEBALL

Andover Softball Strengthens Team Chemistry On Trip To Orlando

MONISHA KATHIKA

Over spring break, Andover Softball traveled to Orlando, Florida for a pre-season spring trip. The trip served as both a means for competition between diverse schools from New Jersey, Connecticut, and Texas as well as for a relaxing and unifying getaway. Participating in both challenging matches as well as bonding activities such as visiting Universal Studios, the trip helped the team in the early stages of developing chemistry, as well as easing it into the long season ahead.

According to Maris Moody '24, although most days were taxing and dedicated to either practice or games, the team still had time to relax and strengthen connections during evenings on their trip. Moody noted that their schedule was a great break from the demanding softball regiment.

Moody said, "From 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. we would practice, and then on certain days, we had games. Some days we even had double-headers, so we wouldn't practice those days. Then we would go back to the resort and just kind of hang out. It was a really good team bonding experience. But our days mostly from morning to afternoon was playing softball."

Fallon O'Connor '23 shared a similar sentiment to Moody, emphasizing the crucial nature of the trip for improving and renewing a team bond. O'Connor specifically mentioned that without the trip last year, the team did not have the opportunity to get as close as they could. As a result, she noticed that this year is already shaping up to be different.

"I actually really thought that [the trip] brought the team together, especially playing last year during Covid-19 and we didn't get the trip... Not that people didn't get along last year, but I thought that we're all closer and everyone's closer together this year because of the trip," said O'Connor.

Moody acknowledged that the team not only had the opportunity to face off against fierce competition, but also train alongside some very renowned and accomplished athletes. Nonetheless, Andover Softball was able to perform well, winning four out of its five games played.

"Our first game was with the [The] John Cooper School. We

did kind of a training session with them beforehand with an Olympian who was teaching us things about running mechanics, stuff like that, and then we played them later that afternoon. We played them twice, on two separate days, and we beat them both times. And then Westminster [School] we played on March 15. We played them for the first time, and we won one game. And then the next day, we played them again, and we lost by five, I believe. Then we played Blair as our last game, and we "mercy-ed" both Blair and The John Cooper School," said Moody.

The team trip revealed new sides of teammates, according to Lauren Mahoney '23. She believed that this brought about a new sense of vulnerability within the team, once again strengthening the team bond.

Mahoney said, "One day...we got to do team karaoke. I would say that was the event that really got us together. It showed different sides of people that I've never seen before. Because we're also concentrating on playing sports, coming together in these team bonding activities was something really special. As a team, we got to see each other's strengths and weaknesses again, and work together to just create a team where we know that making mistakes is okay."

Moody was struck by certain events and moments, as well and how open the team seemed to be with each other. Similarly to Mahoney, she recalled how many instances allowed for the team to understand one another more personally and intimately.

Moody said, "There was one specific night where everyone brought an object that told a story and we all went around. Some people brought necklaces from their grandparents, other people showed photos of them when they were younger, and even our coaches were showing things that were really important to them... Throughout the trip, we all definitely bonded. It was obviously a lot of quality time, but I feel in that specific moment, we all kind of had this heart to heart, tears were shed and smiles were shared."

With five games and many days of relationship building under its belt, Andover Softball looks toward the season with hope and confidence as it faces off against Methuen High School next Thursday.



COURTESY OF ANDOVER SOFTBALL

Softball has 20 games scheduled for this season.

Write for Sports!!!
Contact jrogus23, cferguson23, tmarnoto24, and dmoriwake23

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INDOORTRACK

Indoor Track Travels to New Balance Indoor Track Nationals and Shatters School Records

MEG STINEMEN

Five indoor track athletes headed to the Armory in New York to compete in the New Balance Indoor Track Nationals. Esme Huh '22 and Tam Gavenas '25 were both able to secure personal records as well as school records, contributing to the overall success of the team.

Head Coach Keri Lambert elaborated on her mindset as Nationals approached. She explained how her main hope was for each athlete to exit the competition proud of themselves and with new goals for the upcoming spring season.

“Heading into the meet at the Armory, I was excited for Andover athletes to be there together and really savor the whole experience, from racing in a storied facility against top athletes from across the

country, to the small things like seeing their names on the jumbotron and taking group photos in front of the meet’s countless banners. [...] My top hope was for them to walk away from the meet feeling proud of all the hard work they put in this season and excited to keep working together toward ambitious goals,” wrote Lambert in an email to *The Phillipian*.

Huh mentioned how this meet felt low stress and exciting for her. She explained how she felt confident in her work throughout the season and was looking forward to pushing herself against challenging opponents.

“I was confident in all the work I had done... I felt very low stakes in a way because I wasn’t really stressed... I got to race against girls that were really fast and that helps me really push myself. I wasn’t trying to meet the national

standard this meet I wasn’t trying to do anything specific, like it wasn’t Andover-Exeter where you have to score points, it was just so low stakes for me, so I was just really fine,” said Huh.

Gavenas headed off to Nationals with aspirations of overcoming his own personal record and achieving esteemed awards. In his endeavors, Gavenas also broke Alex Fleury’s Junior record during his 1600-meter race.

“I really wanted to PR. I wanted to race as hard as possible and the top five or top six currently because of the backpack and partly because of the All-American but I was mostly thinking about my coach who helped train me during the break. And I thought, ‘Okay, this is the point where I should put in all the work into this race,’” said Gavenas.

“I thought I could do it.

[...] And we had been training a lot during those past few weeks. So if I just kept my routine stretched out. I work-out my stretches, ate well and everything. And I knew that my teammates were there to support me—Charlotte, Esme, Hayden, and Patricia. They were all there to cheer for me. It was amazing,” Gavenas continued.

Huh reiterated how this moment was very fulfilling for Gavenas, as Fleury is a role model to him. Breaking the freshman boys record created another level of excitement for Gavenas after his race.

Huh said, “I think he broke the freshman boys record and it was actually Alex Fleury’s record which is pretty amazing just because we love Alex Fleury, and he is such an incredible runner. So I think that’s really monumental for Tam just to be able to break that and, [he’s] an athlete

that he really looks up to, so I think that’s kind of a really cool little full circle thing.”

Coach Lambert acknowledges how each and every athlete pushed themselves to be the strongest runners possible. She believes team’s hard work paid off in its Nationals trip.

“The main focus of the weekend was to compete courageously and to be pushed to fast times by tough competition. Every Andover athlete who competed did just that: they put themselves in excellent position early on in their races, made smart moves when necessary to stay on pace or hold position, and fought off fatigue to finish strong. They ran tough and mature races. It was inspiring, and I’m proud of how well they represented PATF,” wrote Coach Lambert.

CREW

Crew Prepares for Season with Local Spring Break Training

NABILAH NAZAR

Andover Crew hosted pre-season training with 40 athletes over spring break at the Andover Boat-house along the Merrimack River. Hosting athletes with a variety of experience and skill levels, the training provided athletes the opportunity to grow comfortable on the water and familiarize themselves with the upcoming season.

Co-captain Aleisha Roberts '22 appreciated the diversity in experience levels amongst team members. She added that the team made important improvements in a short period of time, setting the season off to a good start.

Roberts said, “I think it went really, really well. We had a good mix of pretty novice rowers, plus some experienced people. We had around five boats going out every

day... I think it was really important to get good team culture started with a small group first, so that it was easier to transfer that to the larger team. And then in terms of just endurance training and strength training, I think we managed to make a lot of progress in a short [span of time] and improvement in technique was huge for a lot of rowers, especially the novices.”

New Andover crew member George Stooddy '24 found the proximity of the trip to campus to be an advantage. He believed the team was able to get used to the routine of the season. To him, being familiarized with the equipment and setup allowed for easier transitions and more time on water.

“We were able to come back near campus early, and just work in our boathouse. And while

some teams went across the country for trips, I think that it was beneficial to come here, because we were able to see our home arena and our home river and really get familiarized with our facilities, which will definitely help us once our season starts. And we have to be quick in setting up because it’s pretty tough to get the boats on water and set up all the practices and equipment. So this was definitely helpful that we already came in and are familiar with the space,” said Stooddy.

Wynant Hubbard '23 highlighted the team’s goals for the season. Hubbard expressed the team’s goals for New England Interscholastic Rowing Association championship (NEIRA) this season.

“[Previously] we weren’t quite sure of our races. We had few last minute scrimmages against

other teams, where nothing was planned and was done last minute. This year, though, we have NEIRA’s, which is like the New England Interscholastic League Rowing [Association] Championships, so we have that as our goal. This year we have more regular races every weekend [and] we have more structure. Our expectations have shifted because now we have more of a clear goal. Whereas last year we didn’t really have something we were really working towards,” said Hubbard.

While crew can be a very physically demanding sport, a big part of it is also mental, according to Stooddy. He pointed out Head Coach Dale Hurley’s beliefs on the mentality rowers should go in with, which consists of making sacrifices for the better of the team, for yourself, and for those who depend on you.

Stooddy said, “Something that Coach Hurley has talked a lot about is like a team first mentality. Whenever you’re in that really hard race or whatever, and you want to give up, you have to be thinking, ‘Okay, I’m doing it for the other people in this boat, I’m doing it for my teammates. I might feel tired right now, but I know that everyone who goes into the boat is going in, because they value the team and want to forward the whole team.’ So it’s kind of just a team first, over personal pain sacrifice mentality that we’ll have for the season. So it’s just sacrificing for your teammates, and putting the good of the group over your personal pain, and just doing it for the friends.”

The Andover Crew spring trip allowed new and returning rowers to get a glimpse of the season and provided time to prepare.



Abbot Academy Fund Grants Information Session Sunday, March 27 12:15 – 1:30 p.m. Upper Left

Do you have new, innovative idea that would enrich life at Andover? Stop by and share your ideas with Ms. Caroline Odden, the Abbot Academy Fund Community Liaison.

Twice a year, the Abbot Academy Fund (AAF) invites members of the faculty, staff, and students with a faculty advisor to propose grants that will benefit the Phillips Academy community by improving or enhancing the academic, residential, or social life on campus. Grant applications are due on April 15 and the Abbot Academy Fund board will convene in May to meet applicants and vote on proposals.

Information about the Abbot Academy Fund, the grant requirements, the application process, and examples of recent grants can be found at <https://www.andover.edu/alumni/alumni-connect/abbot-academy/abbot-academy-fund>.

If you are unable to meet with Ms. Odden on Sunday, please contact her at ceodden@andover.edu to arrange a time to discuss your ideas. Applicants are strongly encouraged to contact Ms. Odden before submitting a grant application.

BOYSLACROSSE

Boys Lacrosse Co-Captain Preston Whitehurst '22 Leads Through Meticulous Organization and Straightforwardness

MONISHA KATHIKA

Co-Captain Preston Whitehurst '22 began playing lacrosse in second grade alongside his younger brother. Among other aspects that drew Whitehurst to the sport, lacrosse allowed him to form a special bond with his brother. On the Andover team, he has been able to enjoy working with people of different playing styles and backgrounds. Whitehurst said, "It's really fun to just play with a lot of different playing styles and just different characters, different kids with unique personalities as well. So, I mean, just being on a team like that is great... I guess [I also enjoy] coming to more of an upperclassmen role and just trying to help the guys below me that are just starting with the program."

Whitehurst strives to lead the team as his past captains did when he was younger. While setting a positive example both on and off the field, Whitehurst hopes to develop his vocal presence as a captain. "I hope to lead the team in ways similar to the captains that I had as a [Junior] and [an Upper]. And I guess as a [Lower], even though the year was canceled. All through my years, we've had great upperclassmen, leaders, and great captains that I really look up to when I was an underclassmen and I hope to hope to do the same. Sometimes I like to lead with actions. I guess sometimes I'm not as vocal, so I guess I need to work on that. Coach always talks about like being a good person off field as well; I guess I want to keep the consistent team positive, a positive team culture on campus as well, not just on the lacrosse field, but enforce good habits, just good qualities, good school values off the field as well," said Whitehurst.

Co-Captain Wesley Maloney '22 noted Whitehurst's more reserved nature. According to Maloney, Whitehurst holds a versatile leadership style, stepping up and motivating the team in crucial moments. Maloney said, "I've been here for four years with Preston, and he's just a great guy.

He's a great leader as well as a co-captain. He really leads by example... especially getting everyone hyped before games...He's not loud spoken, he's more of a lead by example captain. But at the same time, when you need them to be loud spoken, he's leading everyone to just be better and have fun too... He's like a take home to the parents type of guy."

According to Charles Whitman '22, Whitehurst's meticulous organization of his room exemplifies the high standards he has for the team. As a captain, these standards keep the team in check so that it is always performing at its best. Whitman said, "Preston is a really smart kid. I've known him for four years, and he's like the most organized person I know. And if you look at his room, it's super clean and organized. He doesn't like when people mess it up. And I feel like that's his role as captain, he's really straightforward with us, gets us going, and he doesn't let people slack around either. I feel like that's his captain role keeps everyone in order, make sure everyone's

playing to the top of their game. He's really talented, so he keeps everyone at a high standard."

In Andover's busy atmosphere, Whitehurst hopes to provide the straightforwardness that keeps the team on track despite distractions. He believes success in game starts before stepping on the field. Whitehurst said, "I hope to lead the team on the field, and I think that just starts with practice and whether that's like leading up to practice or in the locker room, warm ups and stretches, just helping to just put the energy up. I know it's the spring term, and I mean, everyone should be excited to be out there in the warm weather and just a great opportunity to play lacrosse at Andover. But I mean, I guess sometimes [people get] a little distracted. So I think just helping everyone be focused, whether that's going to practices or and especially going to games, just making sure everyone's locked in, focused. and ready to go."



N.NAZAR/THE PHILLIPIAN

Co-Captain Jack Fates '22: Role Model, Friend, and Athlete for Andover Boys Lacrosse



C.BARBIE/THE PHILLIPIAN

ANDREW ZHOU

Over Spring Break, Andover Boys Lacrosse traveled to Arizona to play two scrimmages as well as engage in various team bonding activities. The team played scrimmages against Choate and Pinnacle, a team from Arizona. According to Preston Whitehurst '22, the team was able to begin competitive play with two scrimmages that allowed the team to prepare for the season and see how Andover was progressing. "We scrimmaged Choate while we were there, and we tied them, and we played a team called Pinnacle from Arizona, and we beat them 11-2. Those were a lot of fun just to see how we sized up against New England competition, but also new Arizona competition. It was great to get everyone in and see how having played and how everyone did against those two teams," said Whitehurst.

According to Wesley Maloney '22 and Charlie Whitman '22, the trip provided a great way for the team to bond with one another before the start of the season. The Spring Break trip was especially special for Seniors, as this was their first training trip in a long time, as well as their last chance to travel with their whole team at Andover. Maloney said, "With [Covid-19], we kind of lost a year, especially because we're a pretty Senior heavy team. So it was really good to have this trip to get the whole team to bond because a lot of us are playing together for the first time. Because like last season, we lost a lot of guys, and we got to know a lot of new recruits. So it's really good to just come together, and it forced us to spend a week with each other. And now we're all great buds and

probably going to go to each other's weddings."

Whitman added, "[There was] a lot of team bonding... I met people I didn't know. I met everyone. I feel like I'm friends with every single person on the team, and I think everyone can agree with that. I hope no one feels like they're not friends with everyone... I'm not like the most open guy staying in my dorm a lot this year, but I know everyone on the team. It's really good. We played some fun games there. We're all staying in the same hotel. We did a ropes course that was really fun; we raced each other."

According to Maloney and Whitehurst, the team was able to practice its offense and defense, giving them an advantage before the start of the season. Maloney said, "It was great to really get our offense and our defense down before a real scrimmage. We start our first real game this Saturday away at Governors. So it's really good to have that whole week of just getting all the stuff that takes time and mashing as a team and building that chemistry with each other."

"Right before the trip, our coach sent us the playbook. So most of the time in practice was just going over our playbook and really drilling those plays and getting to know them. So I think that just learning our sets and what we wanted to do and what our goals are, were a great way to start the season, especially in Arizona [with] the beautiful weather. But then also getting to know one another and learning about the team I think was a great opportunity as well," said Whitehurst.

Andover Boys Lacrosse will face Governor's away on Saturday.

Andover Boys Lacrosse Travels to Arizona for Spring Break Trip

MONISHA KATHIKA

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GIRLSLACROSSE

Andover Girls Lacrosse Develops Team Camaraderie on Preseason Trip to Nevada

NABILAH NAZAR

Andover Girls Lacrosse traveled to Mesquite, Nevada, over spring break. Hosted by Trilogy Lacrosse, the team worked with coaches and staff for a week-long getaway consisting of various team bonding and performance activities. Head Coach Heidi Wall '94, who learned lacrosse at Andover and went on to become an all-time top scoring attacker at Amherst College, described the teams focus on developing technical skills during the trip. In particular, the team worked on its offense, defense, and ability to adjust to instructions from other coaches. Coach Wall said, "It's really a trip meant to give us time to work on our skills, work on overall teams systems, team offense, team defense. And it's an

opportunity for players to get to know each other, to receive instruction from [a] variety of different coaches, not only the Andover coaches, but also the Trilogy coaches."

Emily Smith '22 described the trip as a way to form relationships within Andover's lacrosse teams, but also be a place of building one another up through sportsmanship. "The lacrosse trip is always a special experience because it allows everyone in the program from JV to Varsity to create bonds and relationships. It helps facilitate a comradery across the whole program," wrote Smith in an email to *The Phillipian*.

For Ellie Harrison '22, this was her first lacrosse trip. She believed the experience provided a good opportunity for her to get to know her teammates and enjoy time in a beautiful setting.

"I just really loved playing on the turf fields... These turf fields were surrounded by mountains, and it was just so beautiful. And it was really cool to be playing lacrosse there. And we had a few really great practices and scrimmages. So it was just a cool place to be playing lacrosse. And for us all to be out there together," said Harrison.

According to Smith, having numerous athletes being able to attend the trip was crucial to its success. She believed it made many people feel comfortable and relaxed for the upcoming tryouts while establishing relationships with the upperclassmen. Smith wrote, "I think how Girls lacrosse does the spring trip is very unique because it really emphasizes strengthening the program as a whole and Varsity and JV to build connections. We had around forty

girls on the trip and I was able to meet a lot of people that I would have never bonded with or talked to without the trip. It also helps with the nerves before tryouts and creates an opportunity for underclassmen to feel comfortable around upperclassmen."

While at Nevada, the team scrimmaged against Middlesex and Utah State Champions, Park City High School. The team defeated Park City High School, but fell to Middlesex. However, the loss did not upset the team, as it was still adjusting to a new playing style. Harrison said, "We lost to Middlesex, but I would say it really didn't mean anything. They were playing their starters and we were playing with three full rotations of people, totally mixed levels. So everyone was playing. We played well, but it was tough to play against the

Middlesex starters. And then we did win against the Utah team. And they were Utah State Champs, so that was cool."

Coach Wall is optimistic heading into the season. With 40 girls trying out and 16 already on the roster, the team is unable to fit the large mass of interested athletes. According to Coach Wall, she seeks players who are well-rounded in all aspects of the game. "We're looking for competitive lacrosse skills. We are looking for team play. Good overall understanding of the game. We are looking for positive attitudes, coachability, and a high level of fitness and athleticism," said Coach Wall.

Andover Girls lacrosse will have its first game on Sunday against Lincoln-Sudbury.

LOTW Spread: How Andover Teachers Use Fashion to Connect with Students in the Classroom

SARAH HASSANEIN
AND AVA CHEN

Whether it be social justice T-shirts, berets, or mythical monster dresses, Andover instructors Elena Dugan, Deborah Olander, and Erica Nork share the ways they use fashion as a tool in the classroom. Often having statement pieces like historical earrings or a bright blazer, all three teachers find new ways to spice up their fashion each week.

Elena Dugan, Ins

“I have earrings that have ghosts [and] Bigfoot on them... they’ll be different colors. Usually, I’ll pick a pair of earrings and then I’ll try to get an outfit that kind of works with it... There’ll be some days where I know that I’m going to be doing things that might ask me to be a little more serious, or that might ask me to be wearing things that asked me to be one kind of way...and then there’ll be days where maybe I have something more fun or more silly planned, and I can wear bright colors or something like that. So I like the idea that fashion is a way of helping you figure out how you’re going to walk around, how you’re going to move through the world that day.”

I have this dress that has little creatures and monsters, but I think it’s a very pretty and a very classic looking dress. It looks like a silhouette from the 19th century, but it just has these funny creatures all over it. And so one of my favorite outfits that I like to put together is I’ll wear that.



E.YANG/THE PHILLIPIAN



E.YANG/ THE PHILLIPIAN

This dress feauring a variety mythical creatures is one of Dugan's favorite.

Deborah Olander

I go for comfort. And I also usually check out what’s hap- pening with the weather. And then I might work from the bottom up, I might almost decide what shoes I want to wear that day. And then what pants are going to go with that shoes, and then find some sort of layer to go with that on the top. And I would say I have a lot of black clothing, either bottoms or tops...So I like to wear a T-shirt on the day that I see all my classes. And I have lots of different message shirts, but they’re usually around social justice. So feminist, the future is non-bi- nary, Black Lives Matter, it was never a dress, like all of those different shirts that I have. I usually wear those on Monday...I would say that I would still pretty much trend towards a fem- inine gender expression. But it’s just it’s interesting to think about what that means and what that’s meant during, as I was describing earlier in different jobs, how I dress, I would say I probably go more for comfort now than an expectation that a woman would wear.



E.YANG/ THE PHILLIPIAN



E.YANG/ THE PHILLIPIAN

Olander dresses for comfort as a priority.

Erica Nork

I would say dressing, almost a little anachronistically, it makes me feel like a history teacher, dressing like how I would imagine a history teacher in the 70s or whatever at the school would have dressed. I totally forgot to mention my biggest fashion inspiration, Abbot Academy yearbooks, 100%. Abbot Academy yearbooks from the 1960s through the 70s, everyone’s style is amazing, it’s like all these incredible outfits...Sometimes school can be stressful and a little tense and especially the beginning of terms when we’re all get- ting to know each other, I find that if I’m wearing something that’s a little bit of a statement or something that’s a little bit like, ‘oh, you’re wearing a beret’, sometimes students will comment on it. And I feel like that’s almost a way to break the ice and also maybe hopefully have students feel like they can also similarly dress and/or express themselves in that sort of way. So I think dressing like I do feels like a really integral part of how I like to operate as a teacher.

I do have a favorite outfit. It’s this green and blue blazer that’s plaid and tweed...And then I have a black silky shirt that has a little tie, and then I’ll wear black pants, and I have these shoes, I call them my monk shoes...with some of my favorite earrings, especially to teach history, are these little Greek vases, they’re small and kind of subtle, but they’re little ancient Greek vases and I really like that.



E.YANG/ THE PHILLIPIAN



E.YANG/ THE PHILLIPIAN

Nork's tie and necklace, along with the rest of the outfit, showcase a 70s-history-teacher aesthetic.

Cellist Hanbie Park ’23 Channels Leadership and Attentiveness into her Dynamic Musicianship

STAFF REPORT

As a member of Chamber Or- chestra, Chamber Groups, and Andover-Lawrence Strings, cel- list Hanbie Park ’23 performs

vast and engaging repertoires ranging from quartet pieces by Florence Price and solo cello concertos. In her playing, Park captures nuances and depth with mellow, controlled tones.

Though music has been cen-

tral to her lifestyle at Andover, Park’s dedication to the cello started as a hobby that unex- pectedly developed into some- thing more during her child- hood. While she had intended to play the clarinet, a trip with her brother to cello class led her to pick up the string instrument instead. However, Park com- ments that what truly pushed her to commit to the cello was her first exposure to ensemble playing, an experience that re- shaped her perspective on mus- ic.

“A few weeks into my cello playing, I joined this orches- tra in my town, and I loved [it]... I feel like it’s so special, the sound you can make as a group... in a group, your role is kind of way more important. Solo—you’re the only one thing, but in a group, your sound is so important. Without it, there’s something missing, and I real- ly enjoyed making new friends throughout playing in groups,” said Park.

After finding her passion in cello, Park involved herself in various groups such as sum- mer music festivals and other ensembles. During her time at Andover, Park commented that she was not only able to achieve a diverse and in-depth learning, but also was given the opportu- nity to step up as a leader within her section to help the orches- tra create a unified sound. Her playing has since been made

more distinctive by her confi- dence to guide the orchestra’s musical expression.

“Orchestra-wise, I’ve learned what it means to be a leader within a section, and how im- portant it is...When someone’s in the front who hasn’t really sat in the front before, you re- ally see the difference [in] what a leader can do to a section...the leader is what pulls everyone together. Sure, everybody plays their part individually...But [de- termining] when to play and ev- erything—that’s what a leader can show you. They’re the one who makes the major decisions. I feel like you also take respon- sibility as a leader. If your sec- tion is like having struggles, you as a leader should be the one to step up,” said Park.

Friends and peers have not- ed Park to be an inspirational leader in chamber groups, also pointing out the attentiveness and expression of her pieces. A fellow string player, Bren- don Chung ’22 commented on Hanbie’s influence within their Debussy quartet from the Win- ter, highlighting the unique per- sonality that she imbues within her playing.

“What makes Hanbie’s music special is her outcome of many hours of hard work and care in how she chooses to express herself. From my experience a lot of people, while they might be technically talented, strug- gle to make the music they play

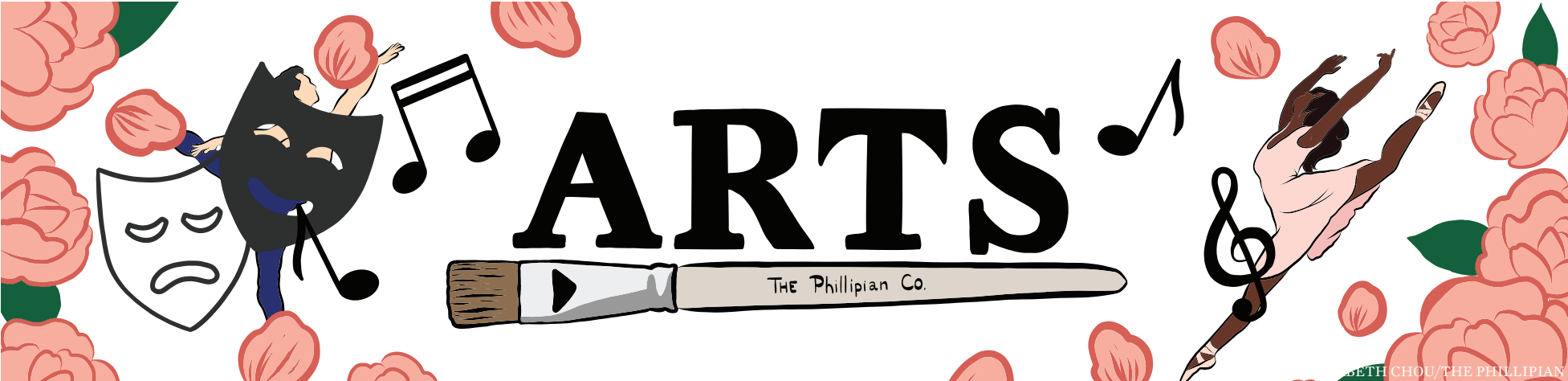
‘their own’ but I think Hanbie does both extremely well. She’s concentrated, yet has fun while playing music and I think that’s what makes her playing so mu- sical and fun to listen to,” wrote Chung in an email to *The Phil- lipian*.

As an engaging player and leader, Park hopes that her efforts within the Andover community can not only set the stage for a new generation of leaders in ensembles, but also inspire those not already participating in music to find passion in an instrument. She hopes that through her unique musical expression and ability to guide others, people will be able to have just as compelling of an experience with music as she did.

“I feel like because I’ve de- voted so much time into it, I don’t think I can imagine my- self doing anything else. That doesn’t matter if I don’t enjoy it, but I do enjoy it. That’s the most important thing for anything, finding the one thing that you really enjoy...[Also,] I feel like music helps other people in so many ways, like performing for little kids. [They] hear the mu- sic, they’re inspired to start up an instrument at only like four or five years old. Just knowing that this is one way that I in- spire others is so meaningful to me,” said Park.



C.MURPHY/THE PHILLIPIAN



Review: “The Batman”—A Carefully Crafted Ode to Detective Noir

KEVIN CHEN
AND GUILHERME LIMA

A strikingly shot homage to 50s film aesthetics, Matt Reeves’s “The Batman” uses the dark and filthy backdrop of Gotham to craft a stylish detective noir with a complex and diverse cast of characters. While the long runtime of 175 minutes is a detriment, Bruce Wayne’s (Robert Pattinson) journey to becoming a better hero is one ultimately worth watching. Released in March 4, 2022, “The Batman” follows the iconic protagonist as he tracks clues to unravel the truth behind a series of connected murders—a journey that eventually leads him into the depths of Gotham’s criminal underworld. As the mystery starts getting close to home, Bruce discovers a whole new layer of corruption within the heart of the city. Warning: spoilers ahead.

Like any other film featuring the iconic superhero, “The Batman” rides or dies with the portrayal of its title character. As a character-centric narrative, the film needs Batman to be likable and interesting to push forward the rest of its plot, a goal successfully achieved through the superhero’s unique characterization and development. In this movie, Bruce Wayne is barely a person, unlike past iterations. With Ben Affleck’s Bruce frequenting galas and Christian Bale’s running Wayne Enterprises, Pattinson’s version seems to pale in comparison to their charisma and congeniality. He scarcely appears out of costume, with evident discomfort when he does. Even the detailed production design takes care to clearly characterize Bruce as trapped and traumatized—his giant manor is decorated like a cage, and with spikes and sharp edges in all the rooms, his life never feels luxurious or fulfilling.

The film’s decision to lean into the edgier, darker side of the iconic Batman story also brings about a sophisticated



S.LU/ THE PHILLIPIAN

development arc for Bruce as well. At the start of the movie, Batman is driven by anger and a desire for vengeance—showcased in a brilliantly simple scene where Batman stares at a recently orphaned child with pain and fear in his eyes, clearly seeing a reflection of himself within the kid. The film chooses to explore that trauma in greater depth as the event that both set him on the path to seek justice and caused him to spiral into rage, obsession, and moral-grayness. Throughout the film, Bruce’s coping mechanism is to weaponize his pain and use it to instill fear into the hearts of every criminal in Gotham. But, it becomes all too apparent through the movie his ‘vengeance’ is part of what causes the city to be as crime-ridden as it is. He realizes that to truly aid his city, he needs to move on from seeking to ‘right’ the ‘wrong-

doing’ of his parents’ murder and become a symbol of hope for the people of Gotham.

But Bruce Wayne is not the only highlight of this movie; he is also joined by an expansive array of famous characters from his franchise, including the Riddler (Paul Dano), Catwoman (Zoë Kravitz), the Penguin (Colin Farrell), Alfred Pennyworth (Andy Serkis), and lieutenant Jim Gordon (Jeffrey Wright). All of these characters receive a good amount of screen time, with the exception of The Riddler, who could have had more development as the main antagonist. The character’s biggest point of appeal is not his brains, but rather the duality of him and Bruce Wayne. They were both orphaned, but one grew up with money and the other homeless. From The Riddler’s perspective, he was working with Batman to bring the cor-

ruption of Gotham to light, all while singling out Bruce Wayne—who he had yet to associate with the identity of his vigilante idol—as one of his main targets. Although not as prominent, the Penguin also served as a fantastic secondary antagonist due to the hilarious and campy writing, combined with a committed performance by Colin Farrell. Aside from Batman’s antagonists, his allies also delivered engaging performances. For instance, Jeffrey Wright’s Jim Gordon had a great buddy-cop relationship with Batman. Overall, roles both big and small were developed with care and complexity, making for an exciting cast of characters to follow.

“Batman” does not just excel because of its writing, though. The film-noir inspired cinematography establishes the unsettling tone of the movie. Cinematographer

Grieg Fraser artfully creates a red-orange aesthetic that complements the darkness throughout the film, a choice that highlights Gotham’s dynamically dangerous nature. In the car chase scene between Batman and Penguin, explosions of red and orange were used to heighten the suspense. Additionally, many of the camera angles were attached to the moving vehicles, immersing the audience within the danger of the scene. The movie’s overall use of perspective not only created stunning visuals but also further cemented Batman’s commanding character through shots such as the iconic picturesque shot of Batman walking toward Penguin upside down.

However, the lack of a well-built conclusion makes the movie feel lackluster, especially after its three hours of runtime. A series of convoluted events finally leads up to the reveal of The Riddler’s long-running plan to flood the city, but this climax is far from well-established. His ‘master plan’ doesn’t feel well-established within previous events of the story, and it comes at way too late of a point in the movie. While this situation may have served as a good catalyst for Batman’s character to grow, it felt more like a second act; Batman didn’t have any more time to fully grown into , and at that point, the movie was already 3 hours long. Many of the detective rabbit holes that Batman and Gordon fell into could have easily been replaced by developing The Riddler and the arc that led to the climax, giving this movie the well-deserved conclusion that it lacks.

Despite the long runtime and jarring conclusion slightly hindering its quality, “The Batman” featured excellent characterization, evocative acting, and a masterfully grainy visual presentation of Gotham with beautiful cinematography and lighting; consequently, this movie receives a 4/5.

Playlist of the Week 3/25: Spring Break Serenades

ALICIA ZHANG
AND ASHLEY PARK

This week, *The Phillipian* interviewed students on their favorite songs from the Spring Break. From acoustic J-pop to mellow bedroom pop, this selection spans a diverse range of genres and artists including Mxmtown, Joy Again, JVKE, and more. Scan the link below to listen!



Jeremy Liao ’24

“A song that I’ve been listening to over break is ‘1, 2’ by Mxmtown. This song in particular I listen to for the chorus; I love the way the melody sort of reaches up at the beginning, conveying the feeling of this person that she’s writing about [through] a high note. Then, an airy, synth-like track comes in as the chorus wraps up... I like these songs because they have really soft and chill energy while still feeling like they’re in control... deliberate in the rhythmic and melodic elements of the piece. I tend to not act based on how I feel, love or otherwise, and this song lets me lean into that feeling more rather than forcing me to confront it. I think that applies to a lot of the other music I listen to as well. The sentiment [is] comforting to me in my little corner of the world.”

Marie Faugeres ’23

“I’m really into this band that’s called Joy Again... they’re indie pop/rock, and there’s this song called ‘Necromancer’ that I’ve been listening to a lot. It’s not that I just found it out now but it really matches the winter vibe... When I first heard it, it was a very raw experience. It really makes you feel deep into it because the vocals are really Lo-fi sounding. It’s not high production, it’s low production but that makes it sound so real and it’s literally acoustic guitar and voice. It’s about being so in love with someone that you feel like it’s a curse, like they’ve you under a spell... It’s very romantic but it sounds so sad, almost like this is driving them insane... to a point where it’s more of a longing.”

Grace Hu ’24

“I think just Eve’s music in general... It’s just really calming and it has an atmospheric feeling to it. It’s just nice to listen to while you’re studying or in the car or something... [‘Yuseiboushi’ and ‘Shinkai’] have my favorite instrumentals and I think that the melody was also very catchy in a way... Eve’s lyrics are meaningful in some ways... I think just in general the songs always have a story to them. [In] the animation [for the music videos] and even in the instrumentals itself. There’s a build up, a climax, and then there’s a resolution to it. [This] goes for all songs, but I feel like his genre of music has a really clear beginning, middle and end.”

Vanessa Fan ’23

“‘this is what falling in love feels like’ by JVKE. The song opens with a very mellow, smooth violin intro. There are pleasant bird chirps in the background, which reminds me of waking up on a warm spring morning. When I listen to the song, I can almost imagine lying on my warm blankets, opening my eyes, and watching dust swirling around the sunlight streaming into the room. I stumbled upon this song when I was scrolling through social media. The song stood out because most other songs were loud and much more jarring compared to this short cheerful tune. When I found the full version of the song, I was pleasantly surprised by the violin intro. I love how in the beginning you think you’re about to listen to a calm classical piece, but then it transitions to the sunny, merry chorus. Accompanied with the sunny music, the first line ‘feel like sun on my skin’ makes me feel the warmth of the spring sun. The coordination between the lyrics and song creates the overall warm, bubbly mood of the song.”