

Dean of Studies Introduces New Policy for Assessments Before Winter Break

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI
8	9	10	11	12
			MATH ENGLISH LANGUAGE	MATH ENGLISH LANGUAGE
15	16	17	18	19
ANY CLASS	ANY CLASS	SCIENCE HISTORY RELPHIL	SCIENCE HISTORY RELPHIL	

NICCOLO LEE-SUK & JUNIPER KLOCK

This academic year, Andover is implementing a new policy regarding assessment blocks for the period of classes from December 3 to 18. The policy designates days during which certain departments cannot give assessments worth more than 10 percent of the term grade or in-class assessments over 20 minutes in duration.

On December 11 and 12, such assessments cannot be held in Math, English, or Language classes. The 15 and 16 cannot have them in any class, and on December 17 and 18, such assessments cannot be given in Science, History, or Religion/Philosophy classes, according to Caroline Odden, Dean of Studies. Odden explained the Academic Council's reasoning behind the policy.

"In the past, we found that instructors, quite understandably, tended to schedule a first round of assessments toward the end of this short period. As a result, the week leading up to December break was particularly challenging for students to manage. To address this, this plan adds additional structure to this December period," wrote Odden in an email to *The Phillipian*.

Hanna Lissauskas '28, who heard about the policy from her

advisor, expressed her optimism for an easier week of assessments. She wished that the policy could have been communicated clearer to the student body.

"It's good that the school is trying to acknowledge the fact that this is a really difficult period for students because the classes are asking a lot of us in terms of assessments right before break... I wish that it had been made more clear and that they had sent out an email about it or something to clarify because I feel like some people who I've talked to know more about it than I do. Some people I've talked to didn't even know it was a thing," said Lissauskas.

Instructors were required to organize their curricula differently to adjust to these changes. Leon Calleja, Chair of the English Department, described the adjustments made in English and other departments. He noted that the policy intends to spread out assessments more evenly, avoiding the accumulation of work near the end of the two-week period that often occurred in previous years.

"Teachers are doing their best to adjust. Some are extending work or breaking things into stages over a couple days; others may be assigning an essay or other major assessment for Wednesday and Thursday of next week... Given how soon midterm lands after we return from December break, it can seem imperative for

A.GUTIERREZ-EWING/THE PHILLIPIAN

teachers in all disciplines to start some kind of major assessment in this time period. This often results in teachers using these weeks to start a discrete or mini unit, and this often means assessments can fall heavily on that last week before break. The structure is meant to disperse this load a bit," wrote Calleja in an email to *The Phillipian*.

Despite not yet experiencing this full period of classes, Chance Hernandez '29 appreciated Andover's consideration of student needs with the policy. He explained that the policy can be evaluated and that necessary adjustments can be made for the following year.

"[Evaluating the policy] will mainly be through experience and actually going through my first time with this policy and seeing how it impacts me and my fellow students. But after that, I believe [that] then we can seek to understand possible improvements or remedies for areas of concern or anything that needs to be addressed, just to improve upon it and make sure the purpose of it is actually achieved as much as possible," said Hernandez.

Continued on A5, Column 3

Three Sustainability Scholars Present Case Studies on Natural Conservation Across the World

OLIVIA TEMPLE & SOPHIA TOLOKH

Coral reefs in Italy, natural reserves in Japan, and the tropical rainforests of Papua New Guinea were among the topics explored by Sustainability Scholars Nina Capaldi '27, Keita Narusawa '26, and Mayari Burt '27. Presenting in Kemper Auditorium (Kemper) on December 5, the scholars studied how their respective country addresses the challenges of maintaining a sustainable environment.

With the support of the Community and Multicultural Development (CaMD) Office and the Brace Center for Gender Studies (Brace), the Sustainability Scholar program was founded by Allison Guerette, Manager of Sustainability, Climate, and Energy Programs and faculty advisor for the Phillips Academy Sustainability Coalition (PASC). Guerette explained that the program was created as an extension of opportunities available to students for scholarship.

"In January of 2023, I reached out to the Brace Fellows director and the previous CaMD Scholar director and asked for their advice on starting a research program for sustainability. They had just released the application for next year's scholars, but they encour-

aged me to run with the idea and added a section for sustainability scholars to the application. They held my hand through the first year, and, with their support, it was a success," wrote Guerette in an email to *The Phillipian*.

Capaldi conducted research regarding red coral endangerment due to global warming, ocean acidification, and overharvesting. In her presentation, Capaldi shared how she found inspiration for this topic through her visits to coastal Italy.

"I've had the privilege of traveling to Italy on many occasions, as my family members are from Italy. These trips inspired me to wonder about the way the sea impacts Italian life. The effects of climate change on massive reefs like the Great Barrier Reef are fairly commonly known, but I was curious as to how it shapes Italian coastal environments and the communities that depend on them," said Capaldi.

Narusawa's research on Japan's history explored how the geography of countries can affect their economy and resource management. Narusawa emphasized

Continued on A5, Column 3



Sustainability Scholars Mayari Burt '27, Nina Capaldi '27, and Keita Narusawa '26 presented on December 5.

A Look At the New Safety and Technology Installations Around Campus



Phone installations in dorms give students access to devices amid requirements to turn in phones overnight from 11 PM to 6 AM.

RIAANA BAJAJ & WINSTON WU

Over Thanksgiving break, new phones were installed in several dorms to allow for easy communication between faculty and house counselors, as well as to provide students means for contacting the Sykes Wellness Center (Sykes) or Campus Safety in the event of an emergency at night.

These installations have come alongside new charging docks in the library, and according to Mark Leonard, Director of Campus Safety, his office is exploring in-

stalling a loudspeaker notification system and more security cameras on campus.

Patrick O'Connor, Chief Information and Technology Officer, provided context on why the phones were introduced. He elaborated on the installation timeline, noting that the project will hopefully be completed in the next couple weeks.

"We decided to install them as an emergency backup on every floor in a common area... We will

Continued on A5, Column 1

ASM: SLAM Founder Tamika Guishard '98 Speaks on Being Present

IAN S. KIM & JEREMIAH NUNEZ

As students settled into the Cochran Chapel's pews in preparation for All-School Meeting (ASM), Andover's Step team SLAM, strode up the aisles to the stage on December 5. This performance introduced keynote speaker, filmmaker, and SLAM founding member Tamika Guishard '98. Guishard emphasized the importance of living in the present and offered guidance on how to navigate personal grief.

Guishard expressed that presence, rather than achievement, truly roots us in happiness and self-worth. Guishard shared a personal anecdote about a visit to Andover before her matriculation, describing how a moment of wonder convinced her to enroll in Andover, shifting her perspective on the school from apathy to excitement.

"I [thought I] wasn't coming here, so I cared not one iota. But then, as I was crossing the street heading to our bus parked here at the chapel, a man was walking a pig up the street on a leash. And in my 13 years as a native New Yorker, I've seen lots of things, but never this. I stopped, and pet the pig, and my mother said right then she knew I'd give it [Andover] a shot. Being present in that



Tamika Guishard '98 shared her experiences as a SLAM founding member, Keynote speaker, and filmmaker.

moment [secured] my sense of wonder for the institution," said Guishard.

Later in the day, Guishard and her colleagues hosted "Grief, Gratitude, and Mindfulness" workshops, featuring a film screening and a Mindfulness Drum and Dance class. Sese Upaa '29, who attended the dance workshop, enjoyed listening to diverse community discussions at the workshop. Additionally, she noted that though it was challenging, she found that dancing helped root her in the present.

"The discussion with Tamika was amazing. We spent the first hour talking with her as she emphasized the importance of '7,

her national parks, and the ways we can shift our perspectives from grieving to actions that help us reorient ourselves... Afterwards, there was a dancing portion with Reverend [Nafisa Shariff]. It turned out to be a bit of a workout. Honestly I don't think I was cut out for it, because the style of dance was pretty complicated. Nevertheless, it was fun, and it helped me feel present," said Upaa.

For some students, Guishard's talk pointed toward a more mindful way of moving through the school day. Soohan Cho '29 shared that the talk encouraged him to slow down and approach daily life with more gratitude.

"I really got the idea that it's important to be thankful for every single moment you have. A [prominent] mentality [at] this school that I've observed is taking things one at a time and accomplishing things in a segmented

Continued on A5, Column 1

COMMENTARY

Tamika Guishard '98 Comments on ASM

Read more on A3, Column 1

Commentary, A2

"In Defense of Love Life At Andover"

High school relationships can not only be a positive experience, it is also beneficial for teenagers.

Eighth Page, A8

In the Holiday Spirit

As the Eighth Page wraps up an excellent 2025, strange things are happening on campus. Suspicious pardons, wacky relationships, and the jolly origins of grade deflation are all on the mind as the "holidays" begin.

Sports, B1

Girls Squash Fires Off to Perfect Start

Girls Squash (1-0) was perfect against Milton, of which multiple were 11-0 individual victories.

Arts, B6

Holiday Gift Guide

Read about and take inspiration from some holiday gifts that Andover students enjoy giving and receiving.

SUBSCRIBE/ADVERTISE

Email us with requests: phillipian@phillipian.net

Subscribe online at: phillipian.net/subscribe.

<div><div>The Phillipian</div><div><div>The oldest preparatory newspaper in the United States. Founded 1857.</div><div>Vol. CXLVIII Phillips Academy</div></div></div>		
<div><div>Micheal D. Kawooya</div><div>Editor in Chief</div></div>	<div><div>Arts</div><div>Hluma Mangcu Stella Seong Penelope Tong</div></div>	<div><div>Illustration</div><div>Angela Guo Nathan Wu</div></div>
<div><div>Katherine S. Rodgers</div><div>Executive Editor</div></div>	<div><div>Commentary & Multilingual</div><div>Camille Davis Grace Kim Abby Kim</div></div>	<div><div>Layout</div><div>Gracie Aziabor Siona Chan Jess Jeon</div></div>
<div><div>Abigail Zhu</div><div>Executive Digital Editor</div></div>	<div><div>Copy</div><div>Sahana Manikandan Mira Phan Kendra Tomala Claire Tong</div></div>	<div><div>News</div><div>Jeanne Kosciusko-Morizet Cade Rutkoske Prisha Shivani</div></div>
<div><div>Theo H. Wei</div><div>Managing Editor</div></div>	<div><div>Digital</div><div>Jay Jung Cam Manzo Andre Wu</div></div>	<div><div>Photo</div><div>Kelvin Ma Ishaan Padmawar Mike Stout</div></div>
<div><div>Bailey J. Xu</div><div>Managing Editor</div></div>	<div><div>Eighth Page</div><div>Piper Lasater David O'Neill</div></div>	<div><div>Sports</div><div>Alex Dimnaku Ethan Ly David Siahaan</div></div>
<div><div>Angela Zhao</div><div>Chief Financial Officer</div></div>	<div><div>Graphic Design</div><div>Lucille Heyd Aglaia Hong Claire Wang</div></div>	<div><div>Video</div><div>Edward Chen Nathan Egbuna</div></div>
Associate Positions		
<div><div>Arts</div><div>Wendi Wei Daniel Zhang</div></div>	<div><div>Digital</div><div>Elliot Chang Barrett Kim Charles Yu</div></div>	<div><div>News</div><div>Felix Bret Saketh Lingisetty Kristen Ma Niki Tavakoli</div></div>
<div><div>Business</div><div>Kachi Ikekpeazu Kai Wang</div></div>	<div><div>Eighth Page</div><div>Grace Chen Thiago Jollon Gentry Thatcher</div></div>	<div><div>Photo</div><div>Audrey Baeten-Ruffo Emmanuel Okeke Cindy Zhou</div></div>
<div><div>Commentary & Multilingual</div><div>Melody Oh</div></div>	<div><div>Graphic Design</div><div>Athena Gutierrez-Ewing Samson Gong</div></div>	<div><div>Sports</div><div>Mathew Liu Emily Ney Ashley Suh Haoyu Zhang</div></div>
<div><div>Copy</div><div>Edward Cha Isabela Doust Alexis Lee Jenna Liang</div></div>	<div><div>Illustration</div><div>Gemma Park Mia Walker</div></div>	<div><div>Video</div><div>Morgan Hsu Tiger Jing</div></div>
Staff Positions		
<div><div>Arts</div><div>Daniel Liu Charlize Sow</div></div>	<div><div>Business</div><div>Natalie Giancola Arden Muldoon Maggie Shu</div></div>	<div><div>Commentary</div><div>Jeannie Kang Ian M. Kim</div></div>
<div><div>News</div><div>Niccolo Lee-Sak Adelyne Liu</div></div>	<div><div>Photo</div><div>Andrew Pizzi Nishi Amin</div></div>	<div><div>Sports</div><div>Alex Godsey Eva Jackson</div></div>
<div><div>Eighth Page</div><div>Konnor Fortini</div></div>	<div><div>Illustration</div><div>Carina Paik</div></div>	

Editorial

Dreamwork

It's the most wonderful time of the year — again. With the looming New Year comes a new list of New Year's Resolutions. Unlike last year's shoddy goals and half-baked dreams, this year will be different! “New Year, New Me.” Or so we tell ourselves...

But it seems like most New Year's Resolutions are never achieved. Unlike the goals we carry within our day-to-day lives, people tend to define New Year's Resolutions by their very implausibility. While dreaming big is important, without a plan, grand resolutions often remain unfulfilled. So, this is the guide to make your New Year special, whether or not you achieve your goals.

It starts with the vision. What do you envision for the next 365 days? Instead of short-term, productivity-centered goals, consider a meaningful change you've been wanting to make. As Andover students, our schedule revolves around Andover's trimester schedule. The New Year does not usher in a new term, and it's easy to let that dampen the excitement and freshness that should accompany a new year. The New Year is an opportunity to reflect on the past year and your future self, and not just to make irrational goals. The process of reflection is about the willingness to invest consistent effort into reaching your goals every day. On top of sticking to your plan, it is important to surround yourself with a community that will support you along the way, especially if you're aiming for a hefty goal. When working towards a difficult goal, being held accountable by others is a crucial step.

One possibility that would make you miss

- your New Year's Resolution is not even making a list at all. So if you're feeling uninspired, here are suggestions from the board:
- Take extra time to have meaningful conversation with a house counselor at sign-in.
 - Stop going to the Den twice every day (maybe try going once a day).
 - Take your hand out of my pocket to actually wave at every person you see.
 - Keep up your Duolingo streak or start a new language.
 - Thoroughly investigate one scholarly article a day via JSTOR, and send a write-up to your favorite teacher.
 - Start a journal.
 - Catch up with an old teacher at conference once a month.
 - Brave the winter cold to go to breakfast by 8.
 - Stop ordering food more than two times a week.
 - Take the stairs instead of the elevator!
 - Pick up a paintbrush.
 - Talk to someone new every day.
 - Learn the most dangerous style in gloving.

Take this as an invitation to think about your goals beyond academics, beyond college, beyond the Andover bubble!

This Editorial represents the opinions of *The Phillipian*, vol. CXLVIII.

Max Verstappen Belongs in the GOAT Debate

SIMRAN SHAH



high fashion and an undeniable air of luxury, all of which spoke to me. I began watching F1 dur-

I saw in his behavior a special determination I didn't see in any other drivers.

ing Verstappen's infamous reign of terror, in which he won his four titles back-to-back, two of which brought Red Bull Constructors' Titles. One thing I couldn't wrap my head around was why I felt attached to Max Verstappen. He was often abrasive with the media and aggressive on track, which contributed to his "villain" portrayal online. However, instead of aggression, I saw in his behavior a special determination I didn't see in any of the other drivers; I saw him as misunderstood and a once-in-a-lifetime talent.

Verstappen won his first World Drivers' Championship in 2021, in a controversial title fight with Lewis Hamilton, seven-time World Champion with Mercedes-AMG PETRONAS Formula One Team. The FIA, an organization that acts as referees, issued a call to restart the race with one lap left and Verstappen directly behind Hamilton on fresh tires, disregarding the long gap to Verstappen Hamilton had been building. Many argue the FIA was trying to promote a new champion after Hamilton's four consecutive championships; however, anyone could see that Verstappen still deserved his maiden championship. He became the youngest driver to score an F1 Grand Slam and

secured the most podiums in a season for any driver (a record he later broke in 2023).

Verstappen's winning streak didn't stop there. He won both the World Drivers' Championship and the Constructors' Championship in 2022 and 2023 as well. In fact, in 2023, Verstappen and his teammate, Sergio Perez, won all but one of the races of the season. Verstappen secured the records for the most race wins, podiums, and points in his most dominant season yet. In 2024, Red Bull lost out on the Constructors' Championship, but Verstappen secured his most impressive race win to date, the Sao Paulo Grand Prix. Verstappen won the race from the back of the racing grid, at P17, in heavy rain. The conditions were so terrible that even Lando Norris decided to enter the pit lane partially out of fear, as many drivers wanted the race to stop due to the limited visibility. Verstappen's determination to stay out of the pit lane was one of the largest contributing factors to his win.

Now in 2025, we see the greatest comeback that never was. To comprehend what Verstappen did, we have to understand the state of the team this season. Red Bull was under extreme pressure after the 2024 did not meet the standard set by the team in 2023. Their Team Principal of 20 years, Christian Horner, was removed under mysterious circumstances, highlighting discord within the team. Sergio Perez, Verstappen's longest and most successful driver pairing, departed the F1 paddock after 2024 in favor of rookie Liam Lawson, who was then replaced after two races. The car itself was clearly not up to par, as the Red



FELISHA LI / THE PHILLIPIAN

Bulls lost ground rapidly against their competitors and frustrations were voiced by drivers. Max, himself, along with McLaren's internal struggles, created his championship contention. He ended up as the driver with the most wins, pole positions, and even managed to set an all-time Formula 1 average race speed record at the Italian Grand Prix, all without the fastest car. He also showcased his interest in other racing forms, setting a track record on one of the most difficult tracks in the world and winning a GT3 race on his break.

Max Verstappen has been a force in F1 since his first World Championship in 2021. The 2025 season has separated him from the Red Bull car's previous dominance and showcased his elite capabilities as a driver and most importantly, his mental fortitude. While he did not secure the Championship and had an extremely slow start to the season, he was able

to bounce back and demonstrate his undeniable talent. Although he may not have the most titles like Lewis Hamilton or Michael Schumacher, he has proven his bandwidth for many types of driving, in all qualities of cars, and in any condition. Verstappen is dominance incarnate and a clear contender for the title of "Greatest of All Time". Oscar Piastri said it best: "It's a very different feeling when you've got Max Verstappen in a Red Bull behind you, because you know it's a matter of when he's going to pass you, not if." Now based on the 2025 season, it's clearer than ever that no matter what car Max Verstappen is driving, he will always push to the limit.

Simran Shah is a Lower from Birmingham, MI. Contact the author at sshah28@andover.edu.

Haven of Beauty or Inquiry?

RANIA ALI-SVEDSÄTER



The first time I stumbled upon the Addison Gallery of American Art (Addison), I completely lost track of time, causing me to temporarily abandon my peers studying in the museum library, as a recreational Saturday activity. Interestingly, one friend remarked on his surprise at my disappearance, unlike him and the others who typically spent only a few minutes walking

through the exhibitions. Alas, as I browsed through the museum, I felt a positive bewilderment at the realization that such an incredible haven of art was nestled within the grounds of my new school, equipped with works from the likes of O’Keeffe, Frank Stella and Jackson Pollock. I could not help but devour the descriptions of voyages undertaken by the miniature sailboats in the basement, as well as of the lightly controversial undertones attributed to the provocative Venus Anadyomene sculpture in the foyer. My curious observations were heightened by the outward beauty of the gallery, leading me astray from my impending homework and engagements.

Naturally, my daze was broken by my friend’s comment, and I started to question the purpose of the Addison’s beauty and whether the intricate artwork showcased a greater depth. Was my lengthy quest for the intellectual meaning of the work appropriate, or was I meant to seek refuge and frolic in the

beautiful artwork as a mere break from my studies? Unconvinced by the latter, I consulted sources of history, modernity and personal emotion, ultimately delineating the Addison as a communicator of artistic depth above mere aesthetics. The curated galleries prove that beauty can indeed harbor powerful and meaningful intellectual depth — as long as the observer wills such an exchange. Therefore, the Addison offers more than simply aesthetic beauty.

Through the museum, the founder and alumnus, Thomas Cochran, achieved his vision of a beautiful art haven for the students of Andover, providing an outlet for further education and sophistication beyond their daily coursework. Despite its humble size, the Addison succeeds in its combination of classical structures with modern incentives. For instance, the entrance displays two elegant Greek pillars intentionally placed toward the highway. Here, the traditional intimidation of the pillars is eased by their wel-

coming inward steps, and the museum’s free public entry is represented by its direction to bustling traffic. In addition to his desired presentations of beauty, Cochran achieved a novel sophistication of American art in a field previously dominated by European work. Finally, the Addison is notably opposite another free institution on campus known as the Robert S. Peabody Institute of Archaeology (Peabody). Potentially, the dual existence of both institutions may further promote their functions as bearers of knowledge, using the alluring presentation of their exhibitions as a tool to evoke meaning.

The Addison boasts an array of prominent artwork within an intricate and aesthetically pleasing architectural composition. Since its initial public opening in 1931, the Addison has maintained robust displays of its permanent collection, often paired with vibrant exhibitions that embrace outlandish themes without losing touch with traditional curation. For in-

stance, the current selection of permanent artworks, titled “Captive Lands,” interrogates a past conquest of American lands similar to the adjacent temporary exhibition on the Florida Highwaymen Painters, inviting the visitor to recognize the permanence of natural exploitation across different artistic styles.

Without deviating too deeply into their separate depths, the first exhibition highlights different interpretations of a body of land, conveying different messages within media such as photography and oil painting. Adjacent, the second exhibition focuses on the specific mission and style of the Florida Highwaymen painters, as they sought to capture the deterioration of the landscape under rampant segregation. To curate such a poignant yet delicate conversation between contrasting artistic styles demonstrates the Addison’s duality between beauty and purpose and its role to educate students and visitors alike through their provoked comparison and consideration of different ideas.

Ultimately, the Addison carefully evaluates the beauty across tradition and modernity, suggesting that purpose lies both within the presentation of artwork, alongside a crucial intellectual edge. Through its intentionality of external and internal architecture, the Addison symbolizes a novel gratis of beauty, perhaps diminishing any preexisting mental barriers to attain it. The Addison is accessible and welcoming, rendering its status as an oasis in the intellectually charged atmosphere of Andover. The modern displays and symbols foster new visitors from all backgrounds and ideas, whilst permanent collections and structures preserve the foundation of the traditional canon. It is neither small nor overwhelming, a curated wonder in itself of creative balance. I appreciate the Addison for its elevation of beauty, which provides room for contribution without diminishing or disrespecting its essence.

Rania Ali-Svedsäter is a Senior from Abu Dhabi, UAE. Contact the author at ralisves-sater26@andover.edu.



SOPHIA KIM / THE PHILLIPIAN

LETTER FROM TAMIKA GUISHARD ’98

Dear Editor,
“If you leave here today with anything, let it be this. You do not have to prove yourself — your mere presence is a present. Wracking our minds with what we’ve come to deem as ‘progress’ in life, things like productivity, power, and pedigree, we can so easily take for granted our proof of life: mere breath.”
I jumped at this opportunity to write to *The Phillipian* for this issue because this quote from my ASM keynote last Friday was the crux of the program, intertwining my and Reverend Nafisa’s segments. A combination of acoustics and a bombastic drum bass line may have overpowered these

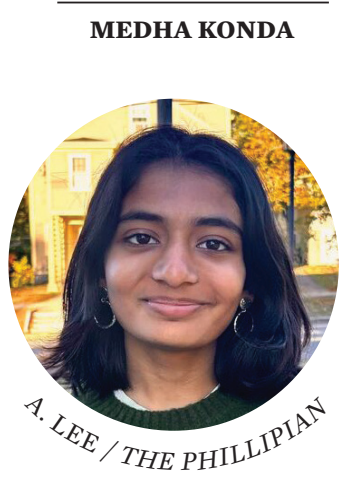
few lines. The intention was that those couple sentences would bridge my speech to the mindfulness exercise that she led in the second segment of All School Meeting. Mindfulness is a practice of making space to just be and to steep yourself in the gratitude of life, without thinking about what needs to be done, what should have been done, or how you are being perceived. Reverend Nafisa’s portion of the program was designed to introduce you to an example of how you can practice mindfulness, and it is a practice that you can do on your own.
As you will remember, Nafisa had us closing our eyes, listening to our breath, feeling

the rhythm of our heartbeat, and reminding ourselves that your presence alone is a gift — to the world, to your community, and most importantly to yourself. What we did together last Friday is just one aspect of mindfulness. The episodes and incidents that I had touched on in my keynote were shared to illustrate that, at various phases in my life, I had taken this concept for granted. Missing my Great Aunt’s husband’s repast for a meeting about producing my scripted feature film or crashing out over my Upper spring “3,” were examples of how this tendency to fast forward or rewind our experiences can result in a dismissal of

how precious the present moment is. The times when I did “lock in” to myself, my breath and my current environment, made for some of the best moments of my life.
Tuesday evening, I was at an Andover event in New York City, which happened to be my birthday. I was catching up with an Andover friend who asked me what I am most looking forward to at forty-five years old. My answer? Staying present. With an end-of-year birthday, my wishes are usually tied to New Year’s resolution-setting, forecasts, and proverbial house-cleaning. Now that I am indisputably middle aged, I have come to embrace that the alter-

native to getting older is to not. Therefore “making every breath count” has transformed from obsessing over professional wins and personal benchmarks to ensure that I leave a mark on the world, to working my hardest to stay steeped in gratitude for being able to breathe. My hope is that you take a minute now to breathe and say to yourself “My presence is a present.”

Signed,
Tamika Guishard ’98



Even on the fourth attempt, distress bubbled over into an inescapable reflex. Running and grabbing onto the wall wasn't enough; there was a prickling feeling in my breath, lightheadedness from hyperventilation, the worry my legs would collapse into a puddle, for the rest of the day. Every Monday afternoon, I head to the Rebecca M. Sykes Wellness Center (Sykes) and hop in the car to the allergist, where a needle enters my arm without a flinch. Twice a week, up to three pokes a visit, in hopes that the relentless runny noses would subside — that has been a part of my daily routine for around five years. And still, a paralyzing terror overcame me when I went to Sykes to receive an injection. I ran away to feel the coolness of the wall under my palm, out of breath with tears everywhere. The way that a needle brought me to a panic attack, and nearly to passing out, is what my mother would call an irrational fear. Those who suffer from irrational fears often cower, making a half-hearted excuse that it doesn't interfere with their daily lives, even when it follows them around like a parasite.

The pinnacle of irrational fear is the debilitating constriction that takes over us, though for me and perhaps many oth-

ers, not rooted in trauma. In passing, I find that I'm comfortable laughing and dismissing this sudden fear of needles, even persuading myself into believing that I can overcome it next time. Concurrently, as we draw closer to facing our

Our imagination causes us to build up an aversion to something simple.

irrational fear, uneasiness runs wild, and our imagination exacerbates it. This, as said by Stoic philosopher Seneca, is the gap between imagination and reality. He notes that, "There are more things likely to frighten us than there are to crush us; we suffer more often in imagination than in reality." Though the types of fear I describe often pose no harm to us, our imagination causes us to build up an

We can lie to ourselves, but the fact is that these fears hold us down, and the need to overcome them remains.

aversion to something simple. Rather than the actual pain of getting an injection, my fear was propelled by anticipation of the pain that would suddenly make me no longer myself, even before the needle was visible. It's normal to get a little nervous or



CARINA PAIK / THE PHILLIPIAN

jumpy upon seeing something painful like a vaccine, but the rise in heart rate that occurs even when scheduling the appointment is the difference between my fear and yours. Uncontrollable factors like the sound of the alcohol wipe being opened, the uncapping of the needle, wear down our will to endure the situation. By being unable to ground ourselves, we fall into a cyclical trap of resigning to the fact that our fear is inevitable, that running away is the easiest solution, and being lost on our journey to overcome them. We can lie to ourselves, but the fact is that these fears hold us down, and the need to overcome them remains.

A first instinct that we often have is to turn to a friend in the face of an anxiety-inducing situation. In practice, however, it's more difficult than we imagine. The vulnerability that we must show to those around us is difficult to imagine happening at all. Rejection, misunderstanding, and the guilt of causing someone to worry about you are all reasons why we struggle to tell our friends what's on our minds. To those who can, though, even if it cannot completely assuage their fear, it offers a sense of understanding. Though I found myself unable to articulate to my friends the type of panic I experienced, I found such refuge in my mom.

Originally, I had expected that she would never understand me. Yet, she did once she came to support me while getting shots. Though occasionally we are met with phrases like "Everyone gets anxiety," or "Face

It is necessary to come clean and accept that these fears hold immense power over our lives.

your fears," which can feel invalidating, we need to be vulnerable first. It is necessary to come clean and accept that these fears hold immense power over our lives, for if we don't, the guise of pretending everything is okay allows more irrational thoughts to fill our heads, intensifying turmoil.

At one point, we must take control of our feelings. But, in some ways, I wouldn't consider my challenges in confronting my fear to be completely pointless. The act of being raw and vulnerable with our fears and acknowledging their presence in our lives helps us get better. The affection of friends and family, or even the medical treatments we sometimes need to receive, allow us to grow more resilient in the face of fear. So, even if the idea of defeating these fears appears daunting, the understanding you will find from family and friends can bring the end in sight.

Medha Konda is a Junior from Tallahassee, FL. Contact the author at mkonda29@andover.edu.

The Privilege of Being in Debt



Every day, we wake up to a similar routine: classes, Commons food, and returning to the comfort of our dorms. The fast nature of our school blends each week into the next, and we fail to recognize that our ordinary lives are anything but ordinary. Our classes are taught by educators dedicated to their fields of study, composed of fellow learners who motivate us to commit ourselves to growth, and take place in state-of-the-art classrooms. We eat meals in a two-story dining hall with transcontinental dishes and a diverse assortment of menus. The dorms we sleep in allow us to be fully immersed in our academic campus and keep us surrounded by opportunities, day and night. Each of these privileges that many of us take for granted is a byproduct of the support we have received throughout our lives, whether it be through encouraging mentors or an effective learning space made possible by the Andover staff. Not a single accomplishment we take pride in belongs solely to us: our success today was built on the support and, often, the sacrifices of others. When so many of our mile-

stones have been shaped by what was given to us, what do we owe in return?

At Andover, "privilege" is a concept we often discuss, but also an idea students rarely internalize. While the word appears frequently in our classes, essays, and community meetings alongside words like "access" and "equity," it is approached on a more conceptual level than it is on a personal level. In turn, each discussion on the existence of a universal lottery falls short as students can only recognize the existence of privilege in an abstract sense, as opposed to acknowledging their own. This limits their reflection on their own privilege and thus confines their willingness to bring about change to their principles.

As Andover students, we have the obligation to reciprocate the blessings that others have

ing have enabled us to be independent scholars with an inherent passion for growth.

Students can only recognize the existence of privilege in an abstract sense, as opposed to acknowledging their own.

The very doctors who were responsible for bringing us into this world constituted the most essential foundation for any of our future successes: our existence. These gifts help us recognize that none of us can take full credit for our lives, as we each have been

shaped by a collective effort. Being a byproduct of many is only meaningful, however, if we take action to honor this privilege by giving back to the world that provided us with these opportunities to begin with. That is not to say that our sense of obligation should be rooted in guilt, or that we have not put in incredible effort ourselves to shape our lives. Our opportunities do not necessarily demand a cold transaction of favors, but simply call for a continuation of the care and effort on which our lives have been built.

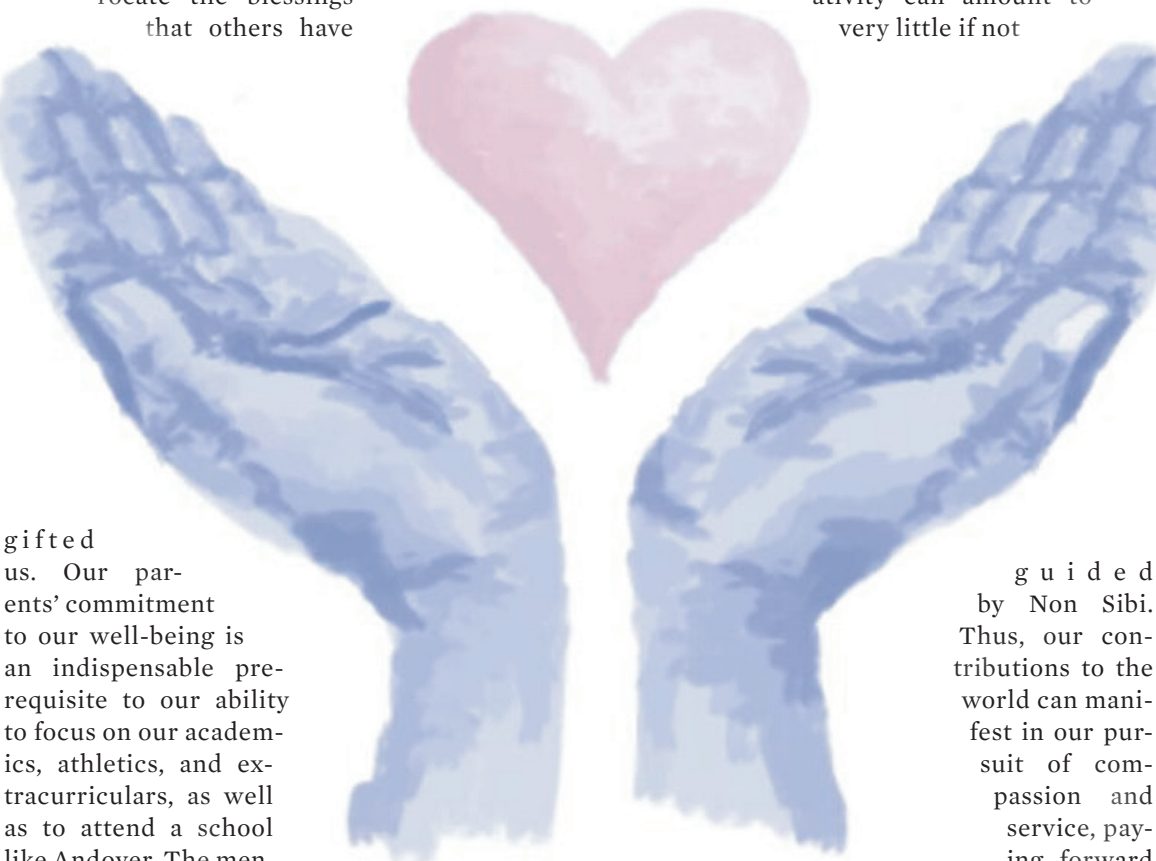
The most crucial metric for appreciating our privileges is the measurable impact we bring about out of gratitude. As Andover students, how we fulfil our obligations to the world can take many forms. Our school's values of leadership, excellence, and creativity can amount to very little if not

the same inspiration provided to us. More specific examples include making a donation — big or small — for a notable cause, to a token of gratitude as simple as a letter. Through my experiences participating in school-organized community service events, I've found that delivering necessities to those in need is fulfilling not only for the recipient but also myself. Traveling to perform for patients in hospitals throughout Korea, I played the clarinet, sharing the gift of music given to me. The heartfelt thanks I received from a bedridden patient helped me discover that to give back does not mean to lose or to sacrifice; it is to give back what has been granted.

Our contributions to the world can manifest in our pursuit of compassion and service.

Gratitude is a necessary virtue, but it should not be a burden. What we owe to the world is not compensation for all that has been given to us, but a continuation of it. It is a privilege to be in debt, because it is evidence of the love and care that have shaped us, and because it allows us to use that support for something greater than ourselves.

Jacob Shin is a Junior from Seongnam, SK. Contact the author at jshin29@andover.edu.



MIA WALKER / THE PHILLIPIAN

gifted us. Our parents' commitment to our well-being is an indispensable prerequisite to our ability to focus on our academics, athletics, and extracurriculars, as well as to attend a school like Andover. The mentors who have guided us in the pursuit of learn-

guided by Non Sibi. Thus, our contributions to the world can manifest in our pursuit of compassion and service, paying forward

New Major Policies Aim To Alleviate Stress

Continued from A1, Column 3

Siyoon Jeong '26 commented on the academic stress the policy aims to alleviate. He described that this period is often overwhelming for Seniors who have to balance their academic workload with college applications, noting how the policy will help them navigate their work.

“[The policy makes it] way better because I know every teacher in the previous years would try to cram in maybe a big test, an essay, or a project all within that two week window. So [now] it feels like everything's spaced out instead of stacked. There are a lot of Seniors who are doing last-minute college stuff, scholarship essays still, and preparation to get them mentally

prepared for their decisions that are coming out. [The policy] won't fix everything but it'll make these two weeks much calmer than what I've lived through in previous years,” said Jeong.

As part of evaluating the policy for future years, Odden shared plans to receive feedback from students and faculty after Winter break. She expressed her intention to improve the organization of academic assessments throughout Winter Term.

“I plan to solicit feedback from students and instructors in February. I am sure we will need to tune things up based on the feedback, but I am open to trying something similar in the future. I am eager to understand how the entire period from the start of the term through the first couple of weeks in January feels to students,” wrote Odden.

Guishard Spoke on Topics Including Grief and The Idea of Presence

Continued from A1, Column 5

way until they're finished. It's really important, as she mentioned about gratitude, to once in a while, step back, look around you, and have a sense of thankfulness that you're here, doing what you love, and that you should be grateful for all the things you have,” said Cho.

Rose Tabuke '26, a Co-Captain of SLAM who helped introduce Guishard at ASM, explained how living in the moment has supported her throughout Senior Fall.

“Something I've been trying to practice my Senior Fall is being present. Going to different presentations, engaging in campus

activities I wouldn't otherwise. Not just to make the most out of my Senior year, but also realize that it'll be happier that way because I am able to actually work myself [in]to what's going on around campus and actually be a part of the community,” said Tabuke.

Reflecting on Guishard's discussion on processing grief, Denys Tereshchenko '26 explained how her differed from his. Tereshchenko shared that it was not easy to immediately recalibrate his perspective on mourning.

“Grief is a very personal thing, and each of us does it differently. For me, it's hard to say how my mind would be changed on grief [from the ASM] or how I would restructure something that happens very naturally. It's hard to say because it's so personal,” said

Tereshchenko.

In an interview with *The Phillipian*, Guishard reminded students not to define their self-worth on others' opinions. She instead encouraged listeners to slow down, appreciate the moment, and recognize their own worth.

“You don't have to prove yourself. The present is a present. It's so easy to get caught up in what comes next or what you're supposed to be doing, but just by sitting here, reading, learning, or engaging in what you love, you are doing something. You are enough. The fact that you are alive, showing up, and moving through life is already a gift. Take a moment to notice that, and give yourself credit for it,” said Guishard.

Sustainability Scholars Provided Their Audiences With Insights into Climate Action

Continued from A1, Column 5

how natural resource limitations can act as catalysts for innovation and national policy.

“What makes Japan an important case study is that its challenges foreshadow those of many other nations, especially places like Germany, Singapore, France, and island states with limited land or natural resources. History shows us that constraints can become catalysts for innovation, for new partnerships, and for reimagining what an energy-secure future looks like. As the world moves towards a renewable future, the

technologies Japan is pioneering today may become essential tools for global energy security tomorrow,” said Narusawa.

Attendee Jeff Shen '26 shared his key takeaways from Narusawa's presentation. He appreciated Narusawa's attention to historical detail, describing how it broadened his perspective on energy.

“The most significant thing I learned from [Narusawa's] presentation was the ubiquitous nature of energy, how even something as little as the light above me is impacting me, and I don't have to [only] think about renewable energy and energy interdependence as something that's present on a global scale through government organizations. It was really shocking to have that point of per-

spective,” said Shen.

In her project, Burt focused on distinct approaches to conservation for individual islands in Papua New Guinea. Through her research, she discovered that local environments were best supported through knowledge specific to the land.

“I was researching how the fact that [the geography] is decentralized can be very powerful and lead to a more intimate conservation approach in different areas. Something interesting is that in these conservation areas, there [isn't] these overlying guidelines, because a lot of the guidelines with how conservation happens in Papua New Guinea [come] from traditional ecological knowledge. [Those] are passed down in gener-

ations... It differs for every single clan,” said Burt in an interview with *The Phillipian*.

Reflecting on Burt's presentation, Jasjit Hargun '27 emphasized the importance of local outreach in conservation efforts. He pointed out that qualitative data can address critical issues regarding sustainability.

“[Burt's presentation] is really important because part of sustainability isn't just reducing the number of emissions but also going to the people who are most affected and asking them, ‘How can we help? What do you think the solutions are?’ It's really important that we don't just look at the data... We also actually go to the communities of people most affected and ask them what [they] need so that

we focus our efforts on the right places,” said Hargun.

Capaldi drew a connection between the work of all three scholars with a call to action. She reminded the audience that climate change can be mitigated through individual action and stressed the importance of local outreach.

“You can look at our presentations and if you think about climate change, it can be really scary sometimes. But when we look at the solutions that we've come up with [and] all this research to be done, there is still hope for the future. Something that we talked about is that it's really important for communities. You have to work with communities and the people that are actually a part of the problem,” said Capaldi.

Recent Cell Phone Installations in Dorms Allow Residents to Access a Device During Emergencies

Continued from A1, Column 2

post some instructions about[how to use it] since students are used to using cell phones and may not know how to use a normal phone. It's meant for any resident of a dorm, or someone who works in a dorm like a custodian to have access to a device to call in the event of an emergency. It was under discussion over the course of the summer, but we got clearance to do it after the start of school. We will try to complete it before the students return from winter break,” said O'Connor.

Sarah Scherini, Instructor in Art and a House Counselor in Paul Revere House, elaborated on the ways students are supposed to use the phones in an email to *The Phillipian*. In her dorm, the phones have been installed on each floor to make it easier for students to reach adults during the night in the case of an emergency.

“These phones are for emergency-only student use since 9th and 10th graders must dock their cell phones each night. There are emergency phone numbers posted by each phone... We've had students become ill in the middle of the night who had to make their

way downstairs to wake up the house counselor on duty instead of walking a much shorter and safer distance to a phone in their hall. Beyond the necessity of them in an emergency, I hope our residents feel a sense of security knowing that there is an easier and quicker way to get in touch with us, campus safety, or emergency services if needed,” wrote Scherini in an email to *The Phillipian*.

Catherine Kemp, Instructor in Biology and House Counselor in Stearns House, explained that the phones will serve a different purpose in Stearns. The phones will be installed in the house counselors' apartments to allow faculty to reach them in the case that they are needed, and are not intended for student use. Kemp noted that the change helps house counselors maintain normalcy and good health practices at night.

“I'm really excited about it, because otherwise you're hoping that I have my cell phone on me all the time. For a house counselor, you actually have to sleep with your phone right next to you all the time. It's fairly healthy that we just have a phone and you know you can find someone... I don't think that there was a problem, but [installation of phones] is more stemming from the awareness about the negative impacts on your health of having your

phone next to you all the time,” said Kemp.

Ryan Loh '28, a student living in America House, notes that he has not used the phones personally. However, he notes that they could come in handy, especially given his dorm's distance from the rest of campus.

“I haven't really used [the phones] yet. There are three in [America] House, and nobody uses a single one,” said Loh. “I haven't really found a reason to use the phones because I can use my phone to call or text people if I need to. In case your phone dies, you can use one. [America] House is pretty far away from the rest of campus, so it would be very hard to get help in case an emergency arose. So the phones might help.”

The Campus Safety office was not directly involved in the installation of the phones, according to Mark Leonard, Director of Campus Safety. However, Leonard noted that they are considering other ways to improve communication across campus, including installing a loudspeaker system to replace the current mass notification system, which sends information to students through text messages.

“We are actually looking at enhancing our ability to send out notifications,” said Leonard. “We're looking at other systems

that will allow us to have different speakers across campus, so that if someone doesn't have their phone with them or the phone's not on for some reason, then we'd still get a message out. We're looking at things like that from a campus safety standpoint.”

Leonard also revealed that Campus Safety is looking into installing cameras on campus to ease observation and surveillance of different spaces.

“We've got some initiatives to add some cameras in certain areas of campus that will help us. We can check multiple spots at the same time as opposed to having an officer go to each of those locations. We're looking to add cameras in certain locations, like the renovation of Graves Hall. Whenever there's a new building, for example, in the Pan Athletic Center (Pan), we only added some internal cameras, but adding external cameras would help us in the event that something's happening or to get eyes on those areas pretty quickly. That's definitely something we're always looking at from a safety standpoint,” said Leonard.

While Campus Safety continues to focus on student security, other recent installations on campus have aimed to improve daily student life. One of these installations includes the new charging stations in the Oliver Wendell

Holmes Library (OWHL). Derek Curtis, the Programming Librarian at the OWHL, said that the new charging station was installed in response to an increase in student demand for a place to charge their devices during school hours.

“We had a number of students coming to the desk needing to charge either their laptops or their phones, and while we wanted them to be able to do that, we needed another space besides them coming to the desk to do that, so we thought we'd create a charging station,” said Curtis.

Curtis further explained that if a student wants to suggest improvements to the library, they can do so by talking to Camille Torres Hoven, Director of the OWHL. Curtis noted that the staff at the OWHL always welcomes student input.

“That would be something where they would need to talk with the director of the library, Ms. Camille Torres Hoven. You'd want to talk to her about possibilities and suggestions. We're open to suggestions. We try to be a space that's open to student voices and what students would like to see the library become. We want to listen,” said Curtis.

New Scholar Opportunities At the Addison and Peabody

JOHN KIM
& SARA SUN

This year, the creation of Addison and Peabody scholars will add another two ‘scholar’ opportunities for Andover students. Student scholars will work parallel to the existing Oliver Wendell Holmes Library (OWHL) Scholars, Community and Multicultural Development Scholars (CaMD), and the Brace Fellows and Sustainability Fellows, who present in the following year.

The scholar will be given the opportunity in researching a topic relating to American art or visual culture. Rachel Vogel, the director of the Addison Gallery, commented on what she looks forward to with the new addition of the Addison Scholar.

“While the Addison only has a few hundred works from our collection on view at any given time, we have nearly

30,000 artworks in our collection spanning the history of American art, more than our staff could ever hope to do in-depth research on. There is so much potential for interesting and exciting research using these objects, and I'm excited for the Addison Scholar to teach us at the Addison more about the works in our own collection,” said Vogel.

She continued, “One unique aspect of the Addison Scholar program is that the student has the chance to work directly with original artworks, developing their visual and formal analysis skills and learning how to use artworks as primary sources for their research.”

Lainie Schultz, the Curator of Education at the Peabody Institute, also provided insight into how the Peabody's new addition to the scholars program would be beneficial to students. The Peabody Scholar will research topics related to Native American and Indigenous Studies.

“I believe the Peabody can

complement the existing programs while making a unique contribution of its own, in offering a program specifically devoted to research in Native American and Indigenous Studies. It's exciting to be able to give this to our future scholars,” said Schultz.

She added, “I'm already impressed by the level of awareness of and interest in issues related to Indigenous peoples that I have seen exhibited by [Andover] students. This program will hopefully encourage this awareness and interest while building students' familiarity with Indigenous research methods.”

Camille Torres Hoven, director of the OWHL, talked about improvements to the application process, such as an increased focus on applicants' ideas. She also discussed that while listening to a lecture can be beneficial for gaining knowledge, the programs grant the opportunity to students to follow their passions in an independent manner.

“[The programs] differ from a classroom in many different ways as you're working independently. You're working with a faculty advisor or a mentor or some kind of liaison, and you're really working by yourself. We might give you guidance but you're really on your own, we're not going to lecture you on a subject. If it's a history topic, I'm not going to sit here and tell you all about the Haitian Revolution. You're going to have to find out all about the Haitian Revolution and then do your work. We help you pick sources, we help you find that research, but it's all done by yourself. And there is no grade attached. It's really about the work that you put into it and you're not going to feel great if you don't put together something wonderful. It's all about what your passion is, which I think is really fun,” said Torres Hoven.

Allegra Lee '27, an applicant for the OWHL scholar program, agrees that this program represents a departure

from the traditional academic classroom. She further sees this program as an excellent opportunity for her to learn more about dancing, one of her passions.

“[The program gives you] the ability to just focus on something, be very all into it and just become an expert in your fields. I've never really had the opportunity to do that. As an Andover student, I'm juggling so many things, and it's not easy to be focused on something that I'm passionate about, and only solely do that... That's something I'd like to exercise. Another thing is just growing my love for learning, because I know I'm going to learn. I will hopefully become pretty knowledgeable about my topic. And even if my project doesn't get accepted, the preliminary stages of research can help you find all sorts of really cool things,” said Lee.

10 Questions with Dr. Xin Yi Chan

REPORTING BY KAI OBATA & HELEN XIONG

Dr. Xin Yi Chan is an Instructor in Biology, as well as a House Counselor in Stimson House and the Class Advisor for the Class of 2029. Dr. Chan taught science at Johns Hopkins University and St. Paul’s School before coming to Andover in 2023.

Could you describe your experience as a house counselor in Stimson?

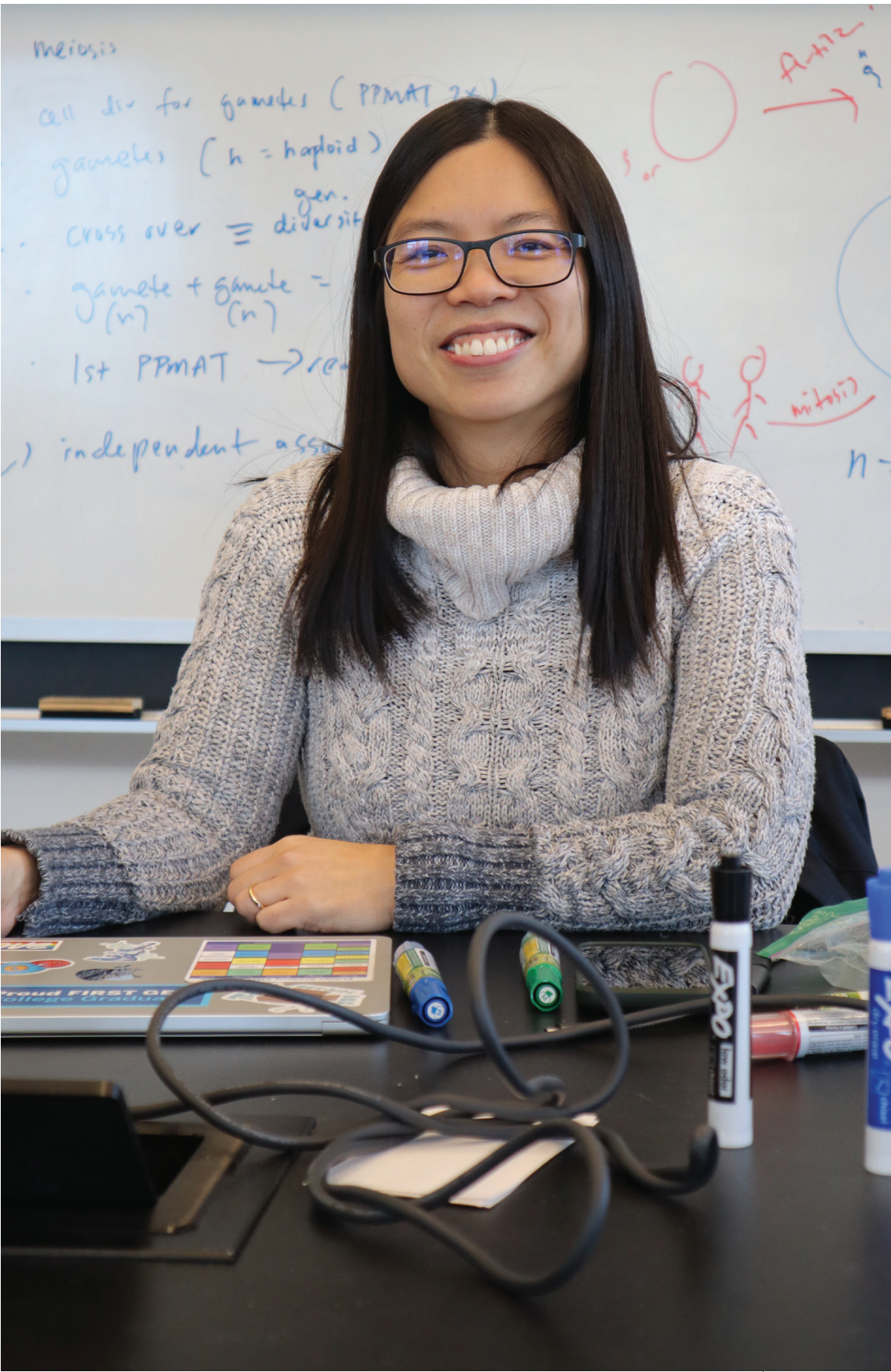
It’s fun. It’s a very big dorm. The last dorm I worked with was also a boy’s dorm at Saint Paul’s, and that was 32 students, and this time it’s about 39, 40 students. It’s nice, and I really enjoy working with my co-house counselors, Ms. [Maya] Darville and Mr. [Troy] Turick. The boys are good. I enjoy our conversations. When I’m on duty, I stay in the common room and just try to make everyone talk to me. If they just say, “Am I good to go?” Not yet. Not until you talk to me.

How and when did you become interested in biology?

A long, long time ago, maybe before high school. I have always liked bio. There may be a little bit of influence from my parents; they really wanted me to study medicine. But as a trade-off, I really went into the basic research of biology, which is pretty much when I started. I like to read up on things.

Your research covers developmental biology, stem cells, and vascular mechanics. How and why did you choose to explore these topics?

I was working in a zebrafish lab as a freshman in college, and that happened to be a developmental biology lab. [My professor] started getting me really interested in basic biology studies, especially in developmental biology. From there, [she left for] another college, and then a new professor came in. I started working for him as a junior, and then continued my PhD research with him in Rochester. He said, “As your mentor, I would advise you to leave and work in another field to expand your horizon. I would love to have you here, stay here, and work with me continuously, but I would say you should go somewhere else first.” Because of that, I went to a lab that was more developmental biology-related. I worked with a pancreatic developmental study in mice, but I didn’t particularly enjoy killing mice, so I worked there for a year, and then I switched to working solely with human stem cell culture. I didn’t intend to do that, but I happened to know someone in that lab. He said that they were actually looking for a postdoc there, and I ended up staying there for six years.



E. LIU/THE PHILLIPIAN

What challenges have you encountered in research as well as STEM in general?

One main challenge is that because I work in a human stem cell lab, it’s pretty close to application. I’m more of a basic biology, scientific method-driven type of researcher. It’s not goal-oriented, but unfortunately, when you move further up the ladder in terms of the kind of organism you study, people tend to focus more on the outcome, rather than the hypothesis and the process. Those are the challenges that I have to slowly overcome and just say, “Okay, I can have a hypothesis, but I also need to be able to produce something.” So, I might as well think of how to tweak the process to get what I want.

What motivated you to move from scientific research to teaching?

When I was doing all my research, starting from grad school and then postdoc, it was sort of lonely. Even though it’s fun looking at the cells and embryos, I started volunteering to teach generally for a lot of outreach programs... Teaching students of different levels is fun. You have to practice how to tell the story in a way that they actually enjoy it. I actually really enjoyed doing that, and a few years into my postdoc, I decided that my next career move would be not to continue becoming a professor but instead to be a teacher in high school.

What do you hope students take away from science?

To go for it. If you feel like you want to do research, get your hands wet, get your feet wet. If you enjoy the process, then you know that you can handle this. The process, is very important, [of] going through the whole scientific method, coming up with something that you are genuinely interested in, and then coming up with an experimental setup to figure out how you can answer the questions that you are curious to find out. When it “doesn’t work” or “doesn’t make sense,” it is, in my opinion, the best part of research. I hope that Andover students can, from our biology classes, figure out that that is the best part. That’s a takeaway. Don’t give up, keep going.

Is there anything you like particularly about Andover?

I like the community here. It’s large but not too large, and it makes me feel very welcome and comfortable in getting to know lots of people. I did not have the opportunity to meet so many people before in a work setting, and have to work closely with them as well. I enjoy that.

What do you like to do in your spare time?

I have a dog, and I have a 5-year-old, so I don’t have a lot of spare time. But when I do, I like to do puzzles. I like to do Legos. I like to simply read. These days, I have been doing a new thing for me, [which] is that I would go to the library and say [to the librarian], “Hey, given the current state of the nation, I am a little bit gingerly about reading books that are too thought-provoking. I want something happy.” I actually went with [those books]. They recommended three happy, good books, and I read all of them over the break.

Do you have a favorite book?

I don’t have a favorite book. I like the general idea of doing something. As for reading, I like the process of reading something, judging a book by its cover first, even though you shouldn’t. But then after that, you say, “Oh, the start is actually pretty interesting.” It kind of gets me hooked. But then sometimes it depends on the writer, and the book will get a little bit less exciting. Or the other way around, sometimes it’s hard to get into a book. You’ll go over the same page many times, but then once you get over that, you get hooked, and you really want to figure out what’s happened in the end, but you have to control yourself not to flip through the end.

Do you have one piece of advice for students at Andover?

This is not the final destination. College is not the final destination either. Treat this as a part, a stage of your life, and enjoy everything, enjoy the process. Find your spark. Find what makes you excited, even if it’s a little thing. If you are excited about eating fries in Commons, go for it. Find that joy in you.

CaMD Hosts Fall Social Justice Leadership Institute

ADELYNE LIU
& BOSON BAI

Students from independent schools across New England traveled to Andover to participate in the Office of Community and Multicultural Development's (CaMD) Social Justice Leadership Institute (SJLI) conference last weekend. Hosted on Andover's Abbot Campus, the conference encouraged students to build leadership skills related to social justice, equity, and inclusion.

Amelia Hicks '28, a student who attended the event, explained SJLI mission and provided her opinion on the importance of affinity and social justice events such as these.

"The goal is to bring together students and youth in general so that we can talk about social justice and acknowledge the past, as well as where we want to go in the future. In the end, youths are the future, and we have to discuss this because the youths are going to be the ones to start making those changes and start learning how to implement a more equal system," said Hicks.

During the conference, students were split into various affinity groups on the basis of aspects such as race, gender, and sexual orientation. Amelia Hicks '28 mentioned the impact of affinity groups, allowing students to bond over shared experiences. Hicks emphasized that her experience in the Latina affinity group granted her the opportunity to discuss ways of breaking stereotypes.

"[The affinity groups were] my favorite part, especially the Latino affinity group which we had as well as the Latina affinity group. The Latina affinity group talked about what it was like to be a woman, and it wasn't just Latina it was also [women] of color. That was really nice to talk about and get our own views out into the air, especially in this current political dynamic, [given the] rise in speaking out against someone's identity instead of their beliefs," said Hicks.

She continued, "We talked about ways to break out of those stereotypes and commit to letting ourselves be ourselves, because we are all different and we are all nuanced. We should be allowed to be different from those stereotypes and society's expecta-

tions of us."

Conference days were packed with activities, allowing students to bond over games, experiences, and workshops. Kavi Vasuedo '29, an attendee of SJLI, outlined the scheduling of the conference.

"We started days at 9 AM with breakfast. After that, we did a mix of games which tied to social justice, which were more examples of situations where social justice applies. We also had gender, sexuality, and race-based affinity groups, which we broke out into throughout the days, as well as lunch, dinner periods, and breaks," said Vasuedo.

Vasuedo also enjoyed being able to meet peers from a wide range of schools. He noted how the variety in student backgrounds helped him grow and better understand the purpose of the conference.

"My favorite part was meeting a lot of different kids from a bunch of different boarding schools and day schools in the Massachusetts area," said Vasuedo. "It was interesting seeing how they differed in ways from Phillips students, and also how they were similar socially, economically, educationally, and in terms of social justice. Getting differ-

ent perspectives from kids at other schools was really useful because the program was built on building on each other's past experiences and collectively moving forward as a society in terms of social justice," said Vasuedo.

Maya Tomlinson '28, another attendee of the conference, noted that meeting new people through the event allowed her to understand a variety of perspectives and hardships. While all students go to a school in New England, she mentioned that there were still differences in experiences, making the event equally diverse.

"One of my main takeaways is that I have to make an effort to recognise the hardships of other people, as acknowledging experiences that you cannot even begin to relate to is not only challenging, but also takes courage and effort. Everyone has a background as your own, and this conference helped me comprehend how important it is to truly understand where somebody is coming from," said Tomlinson.

She continued, "Everyone there was very well-spoken and passionate about what we were aiming to discuss, and

their excitement made it easy to interact and befriend one another. While everyone there was from a private school near New England, we all did come from different backgrounds and lived experiences, creating an air of diversity and collaborative differences."

Hicks noted that the environment of the conference allowed for open conversations about social justice, a topic that can be challenging to discuss. She reemphasized the importance of participating in events such as these.

"Everybody has their own experiences, and it can be a very difficult topic talking about social justice. People can be very uncomfortable with confronting that in its own area and how much privilege they have and how much privilege other people do not have, and how our own internal biases can come out when we talk about it. It's really important that we learn and we do talk about it so we can stand in solidarity with one another and [other groups] to promote equality amongst everyone," said Hicks.

HERE AND THERE: THE WORLD RIGHT NOW

REPORTING BY SOPHIA FANG
& THEODORE STEINERT

War and Conflict: Volodymyr Zelenskyy Refuses Land Cession to Russia

On Monday, December 8, President Volodymyr Zelenskyy maintained Ukraine's longstanding opposition to ceding land to Russia amid pressures from U.S.-backed peace talks. According to "The New York Times," the Moscow Kremlin asserted that Ukraine should cede all of the eastern region, also known as the Donbas, which Moscow's forces have been repeatedly unsuccessful in capturing. "ABC News" reported that in an interview, U.S. President Donald Trump pressed Zelenskyy to concede to the U.S. proposal that Ukraine relinquish territory to Russia, arguing that Moscow has the "upper hand" in its 4-year-old invasion. In a statement, Zelenskyy declared: "Of course, Russia insists that we give up territories. We, of course, do not want to give anything away. That is exactly what we are fighting for."

Politics: Secretary of War Pete Hegseth Faces Public Scrutiny Over September 2 Boat Strikes

In a video published by "Forbes Breaking News," Secretary of War Pete Hegseth appeared at the Reagan National Defense Forum in Simi Valley, California on Saturday. He was questioned about the release of a video documenting the second round of missile

strikes on a suspected Venezuelan drug boat on September 2nd. Hegseth did not provide a date of release, describing it as an "ongoing operation" in which operators are currently reviewing "sources [and] methods." This interview follows a controversial statement from "The Washington Post" that claimed Hegseth allegedly gave an order to "kill them all" during the attack. However, Hegseth denied this report in his interview on Saturday. According to "The Guardian," the New Democrat Coalition is ordering for Hegseth's resignation, declaring him "incompetent, reckless, and a threat to lives of the men and women who serve in the armed forces."

Economy: This Year's Black Friday Breaks Online Spending Record

The 2025 Black Friday Holiday established a new standard for digital spending, primarily caused by massive e-commerce adoption and the integration of artificial intelligence. In an article published by "The New York Times," Adobe analytics reported that U.S. shoppers spent a record \$11.8 billion online, marking a 9.1% increase from the previous year. Total U.S. online purchases reached \$18 billion, as estimated by Salesforce data reported by "CBS News." A major accelerant for this surge in digital spending habits is the widespread adoption of artificial

intelligence. "Reuters" reported that AI-driven traffic to retail websites soared by 805% compared to last year as shoppers bypassed crowded physical stores to find discounts.

Health: C.D.C. Committee Delays Hepatitis B Vaccine in Newborns

In an advisory panel meeting on Friday, the Centers for Disease Control [C.D.C.] committee voted to delay the federally mandated immunization of infants for Hepatitis B, according to "The New York Times." Since 1991, the vaccine has been administered to infants within 24 hours of birth to prevent the spread of the viral disease from mother to child, and has prevented an estimated 99,000 deaths, according to "BBC News." "CNN News" reported that Robert F. Kennedy Jr., the United States Secretary of Health and Human Services, played an influential role in the decision, having fired 17 vaccine advisors six months prior. Kennedy Jr.'s reasoning for the removal of the mandate is to provide more agency to parents, giving mothers testing negative for Hepatitis B a choice on whether they want to vaccinate their child or not. Many experts fear that while some newborns will be safe initially if mothers test negative, the lack of the preventative vaccine within 24 hours of birth puts them at

high risk of contracting the disease from other household members, blood, bodily fluids, and through airborne means.

Climate: Cyclone Ditwah Sweeps Through Sri Lanka

Cyclone Ditwah caused catastrophic flooding and landslides across Sri Lanka, leading to one of the island's worst flood disasters in two decades. According to "UN News," the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) reports that nearly one million people have been affected across all 25 districts, 212 reported dead and 218 people missing. The cyclone made landfall on November 28 before returning to the Bay of Bengal, triggering widespread destruction. President Anura Kumara Dissanayake of Sri Lanka described it as the "most challenging natural disaster" in the country's history and declared it a state of emergency according to the "BBC." The United Nations launched its emergency coordination system to strengthen a unified response, while India and Pakistan sent emergency teams to support the national rescue operations.

Culture: What Happened on the Wicked Press Tour?

On November 17, the Wicked Press Tour concluded after two years at its final destination in New York City. The promotional tour around the globe starred cast members like Ariana Grande, Cynthia Erivo, Jonathan Bailey, Michelle Yeoh, and Jeff Goldblum. "The New York Times" highlighted the stylistic choices for Grande and Erivo for their embodying of their on-camera characters, Glinda and Elphaba. They described Grande's look as "baby pink, princess-adjacent attire" and Erivo's as "greens and blacks with a gothic bent," a theme seen throughout premieres, interviews, and even before the official Press Tour at the 2024 Oscars. The tour's interviews brought attention to an emotional connection between Grande and Erivo. "New University" linked Erivo's response addressing their seemingly "over-the-top" emotions in an interview from "Entertainment Tonight," stating the press tour was a "culmination of a really long friendship that had already existed before anyone's eyes had laid eyes on us." The success of the press tour was made apparent, with Wicked: For Good earning \$226 million globally the week-end it was released.

Write for News!!!

crutkoske26@andover.edu
pshivani26@andover.edu
jkosciuskomorizet26@andover.edu
kyma27@andover.edu
slingisetty27@andover.edu
fbret27@andover.edu
ntavakoli27@andover.edu

(Not) Pheeling Phestive

Cuffing Season

Staff Report

Though this could make the deans his foe

'Twas the night before break,
And T was trying to score.
His 2025 New Year's resolution
of "getting some cake",
Was looking quite sore

Walking with her on the paths,
To her to Art 225 class
He, however, was in 400 level
math,
Their love attracted attention,
alas.

His grade was ran through,
Not one pure, not one true
In desperation he seeked
Thinking fate led the chase,
For someone who hadn't been
freaked.
But the moment he leaned in
She said "this ain't the place."

At the end of the line
He looked down below
The Grade number was nine
And he continued,
Turns out all along,
He'd misread every sign
She just wanted directions
Not a man from 2005.

Naughty or Nice List

Naughty

- Kristi Noem's Plastic surgeon
- Erika Vance
- Wet II Ham
- Juan Soto
- The guy who bet on Lebron's streak
- Patrick Mahomes
- Larry Summers
- Scott on the ladder
- Roger Taney
- Evil casino dealer
- Noble Butter
- The NRA
- Jane Jizzings
- Lily Tino
- NFT
- Pink
- Ole Miss sorority girls
- Lane Kiffin
- Brian Kelly

Nice

- Ms. Rachel
- The Big Don
- Konnor Fortini '28
- Greta Thunberg
- ChatGPT
- Drake Maye
- Twunks
- Upper Management (we tried to put them in Naughty but it keeps teleporting down here)
- Bubba and Bibi
- Tecumsock
- Nick Fuentes-Rubano
- Michelob ultra
- Kelvin Ma '27
- Lily Rice
- Monica

Head of School Pardon

By Konnor Fortini

Hello Andover!

It is I, Dr. Raynard Kington, here to deliver the first-ever Head of School pardon at Andover. Our beloved student, Bralter Bright, has been wronged by our community. He was selling Adderall to students on SAT day, a truly honorable endeavor, yet Dean Flyer apprehended him, and he was quickly dismissed. In his Community Standards meeting, Dean Flyer exclaimed, "HE CAN'T KEEP GETTING AWAY WITH THIS!" While reviewing the matter and the subsequent SAT scores, it is clear as day that Bralter was serving the community with a non-sibi spirit.

In moments like these, we must ask ourselves: What is integrity? Is it following the rules? Or is it inflating our median SAT score to levels so high that colleges weep tears of joy into their yield spreadsheets? When I saw the data, I knew: this was not a conduct violation. This was an Admissions Initiative.

Our testing profile skyrocketed. The College Counseling Office has not stopped smiling in three days. One counselor was overheard whispering, "We might actually beat Exeter this year," before breaking down in grateful

sobs. And yet, in the cold language of our Blue Book, Bralter's actions were labeled "distribution of controlled substances." I prefer a different phrase: "Unregulated academic performance optimization."

After deep reflection, several closed-door meetings, and a quick consultation with our Niche 7th place ranking, I have reached a conclusion:

Bralter Bright is not a criminal. He is what ALL IN ANDOVER truly means.

Therefore, by the questionable wisdom vested in me by the Board of Trustees, the ghosts of Samuel Phillips and Thomas Cochran, and the College Counseling Office group chat, I hereby issue The First-Ever Head of School Pardon™!

Let me be clear: this pardon does not mean that Andover condones breaking the rules. It simply means that when the rules collide with a 1580 composite score, we must, as an institution, engage in "nuanced conversation."

Following this event, it is time to extend our motto to better reflect today's values. No longer is it just non sibi, rather it is now non sibi sed pro schola imagine, translating to "not for self but for the school profile."

How Andover Stole Christmas

Staff Report

The people of Andover loved Christmas. Every year, they would join around and sing songs about glee and well-funded public schools, that was until Samuel Phillips came around. Sam started preaching about non sibi, and the students drank on ideas about community. Soon, these "cat boners" decided to donate gifts to the neighboring town, undoing all the work the poor people of Andover had put into redlining. The Andover students brought boba shops and mochi donuts, and made driving around town more difficult while simultaneously driving up housing prices.

And what would the people of Andover do; they had no hot chocolate to drink. Those damn students had filled up the cafes! Whiling away with their essays while the townspeople considered how to end this, once and for all! They discussed how to hit the Andover students where it mattered most, but what did they care about, these unusual teens? Surely it couldn't be friends or looks?! They've got it! There is nothing a Andover student loves more than sixes! And so, a devilish plan was created. The Dean's team was infiltrated by an outsider, who quickly put forth an idea that would soon make PA students tremble: grade deflation. And so it was that the Christmas spirit returned to the jolly town of Andover, as the PA students stopped going downtown and started studying.



THIS YEAR YOU
WERE IN THE
TOP 1%
OF EIGHTH PAGE
READERS



The Phillipian SPORTS

Volume CXLVIII | Number 26

happy issue XXVI! #26

December 12, 2025

Girls Squash Sweeps Milton 8–0 in Dominant Season Opener

GAURI BHAKTA

SATURDAY 12/6	
Andover	8
Milton	0

Girls Squash (1–0) started its season with an 8–0 win over Milton on Saturday, showcasing depth across the ladder and strong early-season form from both returning players and new additions. With nearly every match won by wide margins, the team succeeded at its first official test of the winter.

Rachel Levitzky '28 reflected on the team's performance. She emphasized that the win was a collective effort from everybody across the ladder.

“It was a clean sweep, which basically means we won [nearly] every match. Isabella [Tang '28] had a good match against her opponent. She really pulled through, and it was a fun match to watch,” said Levitzky.

Levitzky added that the team's preparation in the weeks leading up to the match played a visible role in their performance.

“Most of the team [members] won 11-0 every game, so I think it showed how hard we've been training the past week. We're hoping to maintain that level throughout the season, even



M.STOUT/THE PHILLIPIAN

Isabella Tang '28 defeats opponent 3-1 to secure commanding 8-0 victory against Milton.

though this match wasn't the most competitive,” said Levitzky.

Tang shared that the match showcased not only skill but also team connection. Tang also commended teammate Judy Liu '29 for stepping up in one of the more competitive matches of the day.

“I would say we had a really strong start. We all played our

best, and supported each other, and it was a great first match of the season. Judy [especially] had a relatively tougher match, and it was also on the glass court, and it was her first match as a part of the Andover team, and she pulled through really well,” said Tang.

Liu spoke of the confidence and positivity surrounding the team's performance. She

echoed previous sentiments of the team's consistency and strong showing in each match, applauding new additions to the team.

“Every single one of us won our matches. Most of them were not very close. They were all really good scores, so I would say that we did really well. Both Ava Kung [29] and Lara Kim [29] won their matches with

big margins, and they played with so much confidence,” said Liu.

Liu added that the team entered the match day with specific goals. Although each person had different focuses, everyone was effective in their execution.

“Before the match, we went around, and we talked about one thing that we wanted to work on. Some things people wanted to work on were their serves, not hitting it out, staying consistent, establishing their lanes in the back of the court, volleying, and varying their attacks throughout the point. Everyone did particularly well with their goals,” said Liu.

Tang also talked about the excitement surrounding the team's continued growth and friendship with each other. Especially since it is the start of the season, bonds will only get deeper.

“I look forward to spending more time with the squash team and helping each other improve, do our best, and be a good team. I'm looking forward to all our matches and cheering each other on,” said Tang.

With a strong start behind them, the team now turns its focus toward upcoming matches, including a weekend tournament at Groton this upcoming Saturday.

Fast Start, Close Battles: Girls Basketball Shows Strength in First Three Games

LUCY VINNAKOTA

SATURDAY 12/6	
Andover	51
Kents Hill	69
WEDNESDAY 12/10	
Andover	41
Worcester	49

Girls Basketball (2-1) opened the season with three games in one week. Despite the demanding schedule, the season started off strong, opening with a win at Pomfret on Friday, followed by another win against Kents Hill the next day. They fell in a close game at Worcester Academy (Worcester) on Wednesday, losing by just eight points.

With four Juniors joining this season, the team's preparation not only focused on the technical aspect, but also on team mentality. Jules Stevenson '28 elaborated on how the eight underclassmen influence the team's dynamic.

“For both Pomfret and Kents Hill, we locked in during pre-season in practice and outside of practice. Our team is very young, so even getting to know each other more gave us an upper hand with team chemistry. Every practice, we worked as hard as we would in a game. Learning new plays and defenses forced us to stay mentally ready as well, which we did an amazing job of,” said Stevenson.

According to Emma Moore '28, the way a team structures its plays can help determine the outcome of a game. In these matches, the team aimed to maintain high defensive energy while executing a new formation that it had designed during practice.

Success in this new system allowed the team to display strong teamwork and remain positive throughout each game.

“We were excited. Everyone was in the same headspace, and we were all ready to go out there and work together, not just for ourselves, but for the team as well,” said Moore.

Against Pomfret, the team experienced difficulties in the first half, but recovered quickly. According to Stevenson, the team reconvened during halftime and realized that they needed to make a major adjustments.

“The toughest challenge against Pomfret was adjusting to the zone in the first half. We ended up settling for the first shot we could take, but this completely changed in the second half. We began to use our centers to our advantage and attack the rim. From there, we couldn't be stopped,” said Stevenson.

Basketball is a game of

scoring runs and momentum. Moore defined these invigorating moments as the turning point of both games.

“After the first half and the third quarter, we came out strong because we had a lead. It was the point of the game where you can either let the [opposing] team back in to become a closer game or pull away. In both games, we worked hard and were able to pull away. [It] was really cool to see the team come together like that,” said Moore.

The team saw the loss against Worcester as an opportunity for growth and improvement. Sophie Stetson '29 explained how, despite losing in a tight game, it was a learning moment — something to be aware of rather than look down upon.

“This loss is growth for us and has given us ways to improve. Shots weren't falling as well as the team wanted today, but they will fall. Our team's very proud, because over the last two years, the

team has lost to Worcester by a significant amount. This year, we brought it back to a four-point game going into the fourth quarter,” said Stetson.

According to Stetson, in the two games before Worcester, the team was able to recognize and tackle the most areas for improvement.

“Because our warm-ups were quiet and dull that translated to the beginning of the game. This caused us to be less hyped up and excited to get out there and work hard. [We want to start] the game with a bang, going all-out all four quarters, not starting slow and then picking up our pace. We need to keep going consistently hard throughout,” said Stetson.

Girls Basketball looks forward to playing Loomis Chaffee on Saturday.

Girls Hockey Takes Home Decisive Win Over Groton in Season Opener

EVA JACKSON

SATURDAY 12/6	
Andover	6
Groton	0

Girls Hockey (1–0) opened its season this past Saturday, facing off against Groton. The team quickly found its rhythm and put six goals into the back of the net. Maggie Averill '27 scored a hat trick, and goalie Marie Lee '28 protected eight shots from the net.

The team had only one other opportunity playing together in

a low-stakes scrimmage against Andover High School (Andover High) three weeks earlier. Groton had already played both a scrimmage and a game, coming into the match with an experience advantage. However, as Vanessa Hall '28 described, Andover was able to eliminate its worry and control the game.

“[Our match] wasn't Groton's first, but we played well in the beginning. The first period wasn't bad, but it wasn't good, and it was also our first time really playing together. The second and third periods were really good,” said Hall.

The team made a statement of strength as they beat Groton, displaying team cohesion throughout the game. Lee emphasized how this opener is the start of a

successful season.

“We did a great job of moving the puck and communicating and working together. It's really great that we won 6-0, so it was a big statement. Groton had some great players on the team, and this game was the game we needed to get the ball rolling,” said Lee.

Although Andover was away from its home crowd, the internal support coming from each teammate was contagious and loud. Katherine Cooke '29 highlighted the cheering and bench energy that create the upbeat dynamic on the ice.

“Everyone's super positive. When you get off, everyone's high-fiving each other. There's always cheering going on, even for small plays. We always ac-

knowledge everyone's hard work, and it's a great dynamic to be around, and I have a lot of great teammates,” said Cooke.

Leading up to Saturday, the team was well prepared for the first game, having starting practices before break. Hall described the type of work the team has done to get prepared, not only for the game, but for its whole season as well.

“In the beginning, before break, we did some conditioning work. As we got closer to this game, we started doing more positional work. At the beginning of the week, we did skill work, but in the past two or three days before practice, we did defensive zone and offensive zone, and then special teams to get ready for the game,” said Hall.

With four Juniors joining the team this season, teammates are also working on knowing each other better as they have incorporated fun both on and off the ice. Hall commented on the team's ability to push each other and how its experiences on the ice have bonded everyone.

“Compared to last year, we're more well-rounded, so practice and the intensity of everything are always up. It makes everyone get better. The vibes are always good because everyone's competing hard. We've had a lot of off-ice things, and all those little things brought everyone together,” said Hall.

Girls Hockey will play at Dexter Southfield this Friday.

From Blue Key Head to Indoor Track & Field Co-Captain Sarah Bae '26 Leads With Heart, Humor, and Positivity

ASHLEY SUH

Inspired by her older brother, former Indoor Track & Field Co-Captain Daniel Bae '23, Sarah Bae '26 officially started her journey with track in her Junior year at Andover, having prior exposure to running throughout middle school. Bae, who primarily runs hurdles events, strives to lead through humility and positivity.

Bae seeks to act as a role model to her teammates by, for example, prioritizing sufficient recovery, aiming to inspire them to do the same. Alongside her Co-Captains, throughout the Fall Term, Bae regularly held workouts and, this Winter Term, hopes to hold captain-led practices on weekends to get her teammates primed for competition.

"I motivate the team by just setting an example, like taking pre-meet and recovery seriously and then putting in the time on weekends to adequately warm up and do workouts that are captain-led," said Bae.



COURTESY OF PHILLIPS ACADEMY

Off the track, Bae is a Blue Key Head, and with the team this season composed of more than 150 members, Caitlin Ly '27 highlighted that Bae's energy and high spirits set her apart as a leader. Bae actively works to be a warm presence on the team, cheering everyone on regardless of their experience.

"She's always talking to others in warmups and trying to get to know everyone and she is able to make the environment very welcoming and comfortable, especially for the newcomers. She is super supportive and always cheering on everybody. It's nice to have a loud voice cheering on the team, especially through

some harder workouts as well as meets," said Ly.

Oftentimes, Bae believes, workouts can be rough, but as a Co-Captain, she strives to push the team with humility and lightheartedness.

"A lot of time, the track workouts, they're pretty awful, and people need some positivity or some humor to get through them," said Bae.

Noting her friendly face both inside the track and outside the track, Jenna Robertson-Palmer '27 highlighted one of Bae's key qualities as a Co-Captain, which lay in her efforts to foster an uplifting and friendly team culture.

"Sarah's best qualities as a captain are always leading with confidence and positivity, which are both very contagious qualities to have. Sarah's a great Captain because she not only leads by example through her hard work, but she's also just a very positive and friendly person that you can approach. She's a very approachable person in general. She's a great captain because she holds herself to such high standards, but also helps her teammates

and the people around her to be better," said Robertson-Palmer.

Robertson-Palmer gives insight into a moment where Bae, even when many people were nervous, took the lead in order to turn a stressful moment into a memorable one. She especially highlights that Bae's love for track and field motivates less experienced runners to be confident.

"We've recently had a time trial for track and a lot of people were nervous about it, but Sarah was one of the first people to go and she really led with confidence and more enthusiasm and showed the fun part about this time trial. Overall you can just really tell that she loves running when she's on the track, and that energy is contagious. Seeing her going out there and having fun and not being as nervous or as stressed on the track inspired a lot of people on the team. It's a really good example to have for our younger runners on the team, or maybe people that haven't done track as much as our newer runners," said Robertson-Palmer

Ethan Ly '27 Sprints Toward a Culture of Connection on Track

MATHEW LIU

Indoor Track & Field Co-Captain Ethan Ly '27 began his track career running middle-distance events, but over time, he discovered both a passion for sprinting and a deep commitment to the community around the sport. Ly first got into track through cross country in middle school, later transitioning into sprinting as he realized he preferred power and speed over distance. After overcoming a season-ending hamstring injury last spring, Ly enters this season focused, healthy, and determined to lead a program defined by camaraderie and improvement.

What kept Ly in the sport, he explained, was not only competition but the people around him. From just starting his track journey to his first year at Andover, Ly found mentorship and a drive through people working toward similar goals. Now, as Co-Captain, he aims to create that same environment for every athlete who joins the program.

"My twin sister runs track, and many of the most important people in my life are from the sport. Looking back, what kept me with the sport was always the community. I experienced this most

as a Junior with former Co-Captain Emerson Kington '24, who would always lead as a strong role model both on and off the track. Even though track is an individual sport, the people around you push you to become the best athlete and person you can be. As a captain, I want everyone to feel that same sense of connection that helped me fall in love with the sport," said Ly.

Fittingly, Ly noted that his leadership style focuses on setting the tone during tough training blocks, hoping his positivity and intensity will inspire his teammates to push their limits.

"My role as a leader on the team is to help foster a culture where my teammates have a drive to continue improving and learn to enjoy the sport. Personally, I enjoy seeing myself put in the work to achieve a goal and make progress toward it, and I hope that that reflects on my teammates, who, seeing me push myself, will see it fit to do the same," said Ly.

Cass Dunleavy '29, a newcomer to the team and the sport, emphasized how Ly strives to strengthen individual relationships across the program. Unlike coaches who must oversee the entire roster, Ly and the other captains can offer athletes more personalized support.



COURTESY OF PHILLIPS ACADEMY

"Watching Ethan run helps me understand pacing and form. As someone new to track, having him there makes a huge difference. The coaches can't always give super-specific tips because they're coaching so many people, but the [Co-]Captains run with us and push us. Ethan, especially, is super outgoing. Yesterday, during 8x200s, I was going all out for a time, and right near the finish, he yelled, 'Let's go, Cass!' I hit my goal because of that, and afterward, he came up to me, which meant a lot," said Dunleavy.

Brady Nelson '27, one of the team's veteran sprinters, reflected on the energy and expertise Ly brings to the program. Nelson also elaborated on Ly's support throughout his development as a sprinter, continuing to play a central role in developing athletes and maintaining the team's energy through music.

"I started Track in my freshman spring. Initially, it seemed like such a large group of people that it was hard to see it as a close-knit community, but Ethan was definitely a friendly face. I ded-

icated myself more to the sport last year, and I started going to the extra captains' practices. In captains' practices, especially this year, he always leads by example and makes sure other people can follow and understand drills and warm-ups correctly. On top of that, Ethan has great music choice, which always keeps the energy high during practice," said Nelson.

After missing last spring due to a hamstring injury, Ly spent months gradually rebuilding strength. Returning to nearly full health this season, he enters with a renewed appreciation for competition.

"Last spring, I was disappointed to have injured my hamstring and be unable to compete that season. While I was injured, I was really longing to get back on the track. After a summer's worth of rehab and captains' practices this past fall, I finally feel almost back to 100 percent. The team also had a string of hard workouts recently, and having seen the determination and speed with which my teammates ran, I have a super positive outlook on this season," said Ly.

Editor's Note: Ethan Ly is a Sports Editor on The Phillipian, vol. CXLVIII.

Indoor Track & Field Co-Captain Murathime Daisley '26 Inspires Through Hard-Work and Inclusivity

EMILY NEY

Indoor Track & Field Co-Captain Murathime Daisley '26 initially joined track as a Junior to stay in shape year-round for soccer. However, she fell in love with the sport. She found her mental toughness increasing, an aspect that translated well into her athletic and academic careers. Daisley's primary event is the 800-meter race, which is often called one of the mentally hardest in the sport. Her leadership focuses on inspiring others to push past their own limits, from veterans to newcomers, as she extends her presence throughout the team with inclusivity and kindness.

As a Co-Captain, Daisley strives to make training enjoyable for her teammates. She also emphasized the importance of being genuinely interested in her teammates' success and their personal journeys.

"I try to make everything very fun, trying to show that it's important to be invested in other people's success because I feel like that's the biggest thing about track. It gets fun when you keep up with other people's [personal records] and it gets fun when

you think about and talk to them about their journeys of the work that they put into their events," said Daisley.

Toward the younger athletes on the team, Michelle Onyeka '27 emphasized that Daisley is eager to connect with everyone, helping them to integrate into the team as she acts as a beacon of support and encouragement.

"She cares a lot about the people around her no matter what kind of role she has, but especially as a [Co-]Captain, she makes it a point to talk to everyone and let everyone know that they're doing well, constantly cheering for everyone. That's the kind of leader she is, the kind of person who just cares about everyone and wants to make sure everyone is doing well. And she just has this very welcoming vibe about her that makes her someone easy to talk to," said Onyeka.

Daisley recognizes that Andover can be both motivating and stressful, but she makes an effort to arrive at practice with a smile on her face. She lives for the upbeat moments of practice when teammates find joy even when pushing through a difficult workout.

"We have such a strong track program, it can be super easy

to get super stressed and in our heads about our performances and our times, but I'm hoping that I embody that it's okay to be having fun while you're doing hard things and having a smile on your face and lifting other people up like as you're going," said Daisley.

Chloe Song '26 highlighted how Daisley's energy extends as a warm embrace rather than a formality. Song noted how Daisley's care for others has created a standard for captains to make each teammate feel valued.

"I can't say enough about Mura. Knowing her as a teammate, but more importantly as a friend these past four years, has had a big impact for me personally. A lot of people can speak for the fact that she really gets to know each and every one of her teammates personally. You always feel a warmth that she carries around with her and it makes people really feel at ease and that's not something that everyone has," said Song.

Daisley also seeks to foster a positive team culture where every athlete feels seen. This influences teammates to follow in her lead and incorporate newer athletes into their routines and social circles.



COURTESY OF PHILLIPS ACADEMY

"I try my best to be inclusive in a non-performative way, but in terms of the little things, for people in the smaller event groups, they can feel the most left out. We schedule structured activities to dinner after practice with new people or staying to watch another person's race," said Daisley.

Looking toward the future, Daisley hopes to incorporate

running into her life even if she doesn't compete in college, perhaps finishing a half-marathon or full marathon.

Daisley said, "Running will forever just be a part of my life, even if it wasn't my main sport, just as a nice pastime or hobby, and I hope in the future, I could run a half-marathon or a marathon."

BEAVEN

private tutors
since 1976

&
associates

Major Academic Subjects and
Test Preparations for SATS
and ACTS

Two Dundee Park, 205B
Andover, MA 01810
978-475-5487

peter@beavenandassociates.com
www.beavenandassociates.com

ELEVATE YOUR LIFESTYLE



DRIVE OVER! - OR SCAN FOR A TOUR!



OPTIONAL ELEVATOR IN EACH HOME

Welcome to Clubview Estates at Andover Country Club. Elegant New Townhomes with Exceptional Interior & Exterior Design Features in a Beautiful Tranquil Setting. An Ideal Location in Historic Andover - Far from the Crowds, but Close to the Best of New England.

Homes Priced from: 1.5M
Inquire about Club Membership Opportunities



**CLUBVIEW
ESTATES**
at Andover Country Club

Spacious 2+ Bedroom 2.5 - 3.5 Baths with up to 3885 Sq. Ft. - 3 Level - 5 Stop Elevator Option - First Floor Primary Suite - Gourmet Kitchen - 2 Fireplaces - Living/Dining Room Great Room - Loft/Office - Deck and Patio 2 Car Garage - and Lower Level Walk-Out

Call Maura: (978) 809-5019
Visit: www.homesatandovercountryclub.com

BUILT & DEVELOPED BY: AWARD-WINNING YVON CORMIER CONSTRUCTION CORPORATION

Leading from the Blocks: Co-Captain Kishan Clarke '26 Sets the Pace On and Off the Track

HAOYU ZHANG

Kishan Clarke '26 is one of four Co-Captains for Indoor Track & Field. He focuses on short-sprint events, such as the 55-meter dash and 4x200 relay. As a captain, Clarke tries to create an inclusive and welcoming environment, especially considering the size of the program.

Clarke's primary aspiration is to be a team-first leader. He perceives Track & Field as a training ground to learn and advance both physically and mentally.

"With track, there are a lot of new things to learn, though most things are intuitive. I like to promote a comfortable environment for everyone to learn and grow. Mainly, I'd like to be someone whom people in the team can look up to. If they have any questions, anytime about learning something new, [I want to be] someone that they could reach out to, especially if they don't feel comfortable talking to the coaches," said Clarke.

Clarke's expertise lies in the art of block starts, aiding in his short-sprint events. However, re-



COURTESY OF PHILLIPS ACADEMY

gardless of who comes to him for help or for what reason, Clarke is always ready to offer his best support.

"Earlier this week, we were starting to work on block starts and the first half of the races. I always get questions on how to better my start, and I always

like to demo for people or give particular tips on anyone's form. That's the thing that I have the most knowledge on. Generally, I would say that track workouts are very difficult. So, like the captains before me, I always try to keep [the vibe] positive during really hard workouts, so peo-

ple can feel that they can push through as well," said Clarke.

Brady Nelson '27 praised Clarke for how knowledgeable and helpful he has been. He noted the specifics that Clarke taught him, which helped him improve his own starting form.

"He would teach everybody in the group, and he was very good at giving advice. [For example], he would teach us about ankle positions and where you want to place your hips during the blocks. Then, how to really drive off your first few steps initially, trying to [attain] triple extension," said Nelson.

A large part of Clarke's leadership resembles the captains and practices before him, an intentional act.

"We always start practice each day [together]. We don't separate immediately into different groups. We also have a tradition called 'Birthdays,' where everyone gets in a circle. The captains are in the middle, and whoever's birthday it is, we call them into the middle, and we do jumping jacks. It's different this year because we have a new coach, but most of the team stays together for the majority of the

warm-ups," said Clarke.

Quentin Cynn '28 reflected Clarke's sentiment as he compared Clarke to former Co-Captain Russell Robinson '25. He praised Clarke for the positive energy he brings.

"He's like Russell Robinson 2.0. [Robinson] was always there to support everyone. He brought the team together, and he would be there supporting you the entire way, so Clarke is like [Robinson] in that way. He's always there. He brings everyone up. Even if you're not particularly good at running, he'll still be there for you, helping you," said Cynn.

While Clarke has not committed to any colleges to compete in Track & Field at the collegiate level, that prospect is not yet out of the question. He added that regardless of which college he goes to, his love for the sport will not waver.

"[Running in college] depends on what college I go to. Some colleges would allow me to run, some may not. It depends, but I would love to run in college."

Leading with Love: Indoor Track & Field Head Coach Shalise Manza Young

ETHAN LY

New Head Coach Shalise Manza Young, replacing Keri Lambert who now heads the Academy's History Department, seeks to lead Indoor Track & Field with compassion and support. Despite being new, Young boasts a breadth of coaching experience. Before coming to Andover, she led the Winsor School's Track & Field program to eight consecutive victories — excluding Covid-19 — in the Eastern Independent League (EIL) Championships; she was also named the EIL's Coach of the Year in 2015, 2018, 2019, and from 2022 to 2025. Young was also a sports journalist, having covered the National Football League's New England Patriots for around a decade and the 2021 Olympic Games in Tokyo.

Young walked on to Syracuse University's Division I track program, competing there for two years primarily in hurdles events and the high jump. Her first foray into the sport was in her first year of high school, and before training collegiately, she was entirely self-taught in her primary events.

"In high school, the first time I started doing track was indoor track as a freshman. I had no prior track experience. I knew I wanted to do track. But then when I joined the team for whatever reason I was drawn to them, I had absolutely no coach. Everything I knew about hurdling in high school, I taught myself. Same thing with high jump, I taught myself," said Young.

Young noted that the challenges she has faced in her journalistic experience, particularly having faced skepticism because of her identity and loneliness, have shaped her determination and commitment to creating a team environment where all athletes feel recognized.

"When you are a Black woman covering the New England Patriots, everybody questions why you're there. It's already a knock on you because you're a woman, and all of these male readers are asking, 'What do you know? What do you know? You've never played football,'" said Young.

Young continued in an email to *The Phillipian*, "[My journalism career] did teach me perseverance, but also feeling lonely when I was covering the Patriots made



COURTESY OF SHALISE MANZA YOUNG

me feel even stronger about my teams being a supportive environment where hopefully everyone feels seen and loved."

According to new Assistant Coach Tommy Valero, Young has made clear that her coaching philosophy revolves around inclusion and a positive team culture.

Valero said, "From the moment when we first met, we had a conversation and it was clear that she

wanted to create a program that was accepting and inviting to everyone. She made it pretty clear that she wanted it to be a program that was led with love, and we're on the same page when it comes to that."

Eden Dunleavy '29, a sprinter who is new to the team, highlighted how Young brings enthusiasm and supportiveness to practices, and she also noted how, already,

the Head Coach has successfully pushed her athletes out of their comfort zones.

She's very bright and full of energy. She brings a lot of excited energy to the room that she's in. She was very nice the first time I met her and very intensive," said Dunleavy.

Dunleavy continued, "She puts people in areas they're maybe not comfortable with, but she's putting them out of their comfort zones, which is helpful for them, because they're finding things that they didn't know that they would enjoy, and they now do."

This season, Young noted that she hopes her athletes will strive to work hard, but also that they will acknowledge that they can lean on her for support.

"I'm not going to put pressure on you and say that you must get this time or I'm never talking to you again. I'm going to push you to work hard, but I'm going to be the first person to hug you at any point. Hopefully by being here, because so many of [Andover's] students are boarding, I can kind of be like a mom slash auntie. If you need a hug, the door's always open," said Manza Young.

Boys Hockey Battles Through Jamboree, Secures First Win of Season

ALEX GODSEY & JULIEN REQUA

SATURDAY 12/6		
Andover		3
Pomfret		4
SUNDAY 12/7		
Andover		4
Proctor		1
WEDNESDAY 12/10		
Andover		2
Thayer		5

Boys Hockey (1-3) played the Andover Jamboree this weekend, taking on a demanding three-game week. The team opened with a narrow 3-4 overtime loss against Pomfret on Saturday before responding with a decisive 4-1 win on Sunday, its first win of the season. The momentum was short-lived, though, as



M. STOUT/THE PHILLIPIAN

Bucky Greer '26 warms up on the ice before the Andover Jamboree.

the team fell 5-2 on Wednesday against Thayer Academy (Thayer). Throughout the stretch, Boys Hockey was anchored by strong goaltending from Edouard Lord '26 and saw several players record their first goals of the year.

Boys Hockey hosted Pomfret in what would be a closely contested game, as the team looked for its first win of the season. With just four minutes and 40 seconds left, Andover led by two goals. Howev-

er, after a five-minute penalty was called against the team, Pomfret would be able to capitalize with 3 goals, including the last-second game-winner in overtime. Despite this, there were a number of breakout showings, Nolan Roberts '28 highlighted one of these great performances.

"Michael Barrett [28] is the second youngest player on the team... and he got his first goal at that game versus Pomfret. He's

been working so hard for that goal, and it was an important goal too, because it brought us up 2-0. It really set the tone early in the game," said Roberts.

Jack Cannon '29 was another breakout star against Pomfret, with a goal in his second-ever game on the team. Senji Kimura '29 explained the play that led up to Cannon's first goal.

"One of the best plays was made by Russell Louie [27] sliding across to Jack Cannon and Jack putting it in low blocker," said Kimura.

The second game of the Jamboree for Boys Hockey was a Sunday home game against Proctor Academy. A goal and two assists from new forward Jason Faith '26 PG combined with 32 saves from goalkeeper Lord guided the team to its first victory of the season, finishing 4-1. Roberts reflected on Edouard's player of the game performance.

"He's been our best player in the first three games. Without him we would be losing every game and, Edouard is so consistent. He's been a brick wall, and we're so lucky to have him," said Roberts.

Among those who recorded their first Andover goals was Roberts, who found the back of the net in the game against Proctor. Roberts described the play, highlighting the puck movement and

teamwork that set up the opportunity.

"It was my first goal for Andover. We were on the penalty kill, and Zachary Fedele [26] made a good play, bringing the puck up and getting it out of our zone. Then, Faith got a pass from him, and it was a two-on-one opportunity. The puck got on net, and it was scrambling for a bit, then I found a rebound in front and just hit it home," said Roberts.

In the Wednesday game at Thayer, the team fell in a hard-fought match. Despite this loss, Boys Hockey played a strong game. Nate Kreppner '27 spoke about the team's offensive performance.

"We had a lot of offensive zone time, a lot more than [Thayer]. We controlled below the goal line in their zone really well, and we were able to activate our [defense] and get a lot of shots on net, but their goalie played pretty well today and was able to shut down a lot of our offensive chances. Overall, from our far blue line in, we dominated, but they capitalized on some breaks a few times," said Kreppner.

Boys Hockey will look to bounce back at home on Saturday against New Hampton School.

Arts & Leisure

The Phillipian Co.

Grief, Gratitude, and Grace with Tamika Guishard '98

SOPHIA KIM &
BENJAMIN PARK

Andover welcomed back alumna Tamika Guishard '98, who returned to her alma mater to share inspiration and reflection with current students on Friday, December 5. Following her speech in the All School Meeting (ASM), Guishard hosted two events in the Falls Music Center (Falls). The first was a film screening highlighting the African Burial Ground National Monument in New York, where the first African American was legally buried. Guishard then shifted to an interactive workshop featuring drum and dance. The events blended creativity, mindfulness, and community, encouraging students to explore emotional healing through art.

Guishard emphasized the importance of storytelling as a way to connect with oneself and others. Through film, dance, and conversation, she encouraged participants to express themselves, a process integral to maintaining mental and emotional well-being.

"Storytelling is really cathartic for different facets of life. Stories are important to get your history out. It can be through film, it can be through dance, but it's a part of just being and living. So I hope that they take from this, from the program that their stories are important, whether they are joyful or whether they are grief stricken, all of that is a part of being present," said Guishard.

The workshops centered around the emotion of grief, exploring how loss and healing coexist. Guishard and students shared personal experi-



Reverend Nafisa Sharrieff collaborated with Tamika Guishard '98 to host the drum and dance.

T. BASVI/THE PHILLIPIAN

ences of processing emotions, offering perspectives on acceptance and growth through creative movement.

"We all experience grief, and it doesn't necessarily have to be the loss of a life. It could be the loss of a relationship. It could be the loss of just an idea, the loss of what you thought your life would be. [Grief is] not necessarily something to compartmentalize, but something to embrace and something to live through. It can be intertwined since grief and joy are not necessarily mutually exclusive," said Guishard.

To explore these themes, Guishard led students in reflective exercises and partner activities during the drum and dance workshop. Through

discussion and rhythmic expression, participants transformed their emotional reflections into physical movement and shared energy.

"We first talked about the seven stages of grief. And then we talked about the seven phases of joy. Next, we talked about which stages of grief were most difficult for us. Then we did some partner work, and the partner took the stages that were difficult, and counteracted it with one of the stages of joy. After, we took the number seven and talked about it through a dance that is a cycle of seven. It's called Kakilambe. Kakilambe celebrates how life recycles every seven years," said Guishard.

Many students found the

workshops restorative, a pause from Andover's fast-paced academic life. The event offered an outlet to reconnect with mindfulness, joy, and physical movement. Takunda Basvi '28, a participant in the Drum and Dance Workshop, reflected on how the event impacted her emotionally.

"It was the joy on [Guishard's] face when she was dancing that made me feel very good. As she was dancing, she seemed alive, care-free and just peaceful. I feel like it's something that you don't really find that much in Andover because we're often overloaded with work. Seeing somebody be so relaxed and free, able to practice what makes her happy and just get

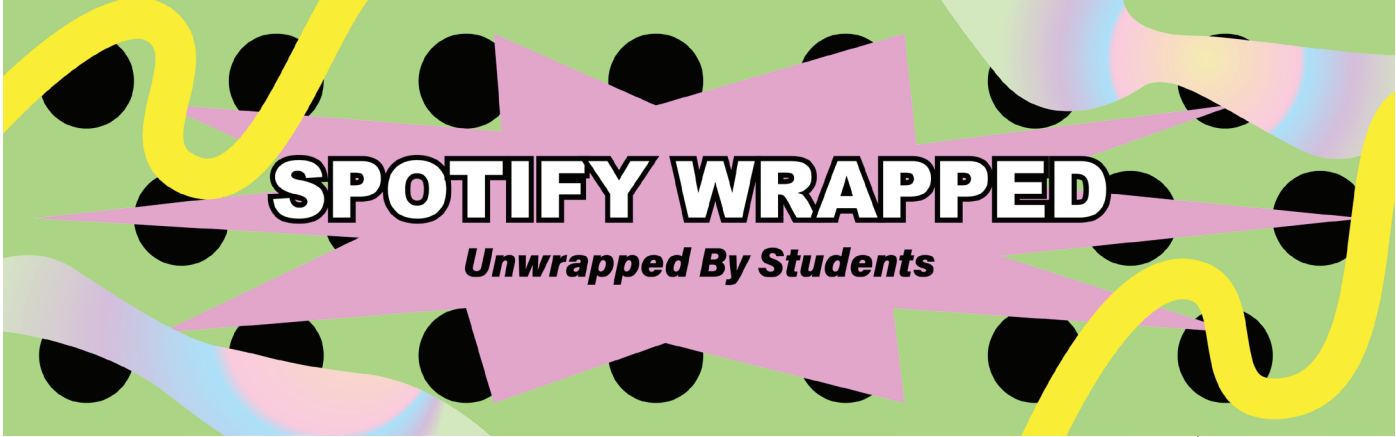
into her deeper self was very inspiring," said Basvi.

Beyond personal reflection, the workshops became a space for community building. Students of different class years came together, bonding over shared experiences and rhythmic collaboration. Dasha Gomez '28 described how the event united many participants.

"[The event] fostered the sense of community because I saw a wide variety of people. It was a mix of different people from different places and classes that usually would not hang out with each other. There was a PG, some freshmen, and lowers, so it was a huge range. Everybody was just dancing and having fun. And I think that was the most important part: in the community, it doesn't really matter whether you know each other or anything," said Gomez.

As the event came to a close, Guishard offered students heartfelt advice on mindfulness and emotional awareness, encouraging them to embrace their humanity amid academic and social pressures.

"You don't have to prove yourself to anyone. Your presence itself is a present. [Being present is] not necessarily easy all the time, but it's totally worth it in the end. It does require acknowledging the experience that you may be having. You may be struggling with emotions, but just take all that in. And even if that day, you weren't productive, you had to sleep, or you missed a deadline, that's okay. You all know that you've already gotten through so much," said Guishard.



C. WANG/THE PHILLIPIAN

AUTUMN XIA & JIA-YI ZHI

Andover students can often be spotted moving between classes or studying with their headphones in, immersed in songs that span everything from focus tracks to pre-game anthems. Spotify remains a common platform of choice as its expansive catalog and personalized selection draws a loyal campus following. On December 3, the long-awaited Spotify Wrapped came out, igniting a familiar wave of Instagram posts, friendly comparisons, and even debates between friends. Here is a closer look into how students are responding to their annual listening recaps and the feature as a whole.

ELLAINE BAN '28

"I listen to music a lot when I'm studying, walking to places, and especially while playing squash. My listening time was nine days, and my top genre was City Pop. One of my top artists was Stray Kids. I expected that, so I wasn't too surprised. Wrapped made me realize that I'm getting a little bored with my music taste. A lot of music I listen to follows a pretty similar beat and chord patterns. [Between my friends and I] the thing that caused the most excitement or shock was the listening age part. We have a very interesting range of music tastes. I have a friend who got 93 years old, and another who got 100...I think overall the Wrapped is a nice way for Spotify to kind of increase user engagement. I feel like sometimes I'm a little bit embarrassed to share it with other people, in fear they may not like my music, so that kind of detracts from the fun of it. But overall, it's in good spirits and it's fun."

TABITHA WEI '28

"When I opened my Wrapped, it was my study music that showed up as my most-played song. Spotify also said my age was 70. I had a lot of classical music for studying, and I also remember I had a phase where I started to listen to my dad's favorite songs. With these factors added together, when I saw my wrapped, I started laughing and I was kind of shocked. The songs that I was listening to were calmer and I feel like they help me focus and do my homework. But, it doesn't really reflect who I am. Some of the songs I played were pretty sad, and I'm a pretty happy person... I listen to a lot of The Marias, Beabadoobee, and also Gracie Abrams."

EDWARD KIM '29

"I was shocked by how good it was at picking artists and songs that really stood my taste. Once in a while, there were songs that really didn't fit me, but most of the time, it pleased me. The songs that they suggested, especially the ones that match my taste, are my favorite part of Wrapped... My listening time was quite a big number, but I do listen to music while working in silent for at least four hours every single day. So, I feel like it wasn't too surprising. My top artists are Bruno Mars, AJR, Adele, and Benson Boone. I feel like the top artists that I usually listen to appear in my Wrapped, which just helps me refresh my playlist and add more songs to my favorites."

ANDY SONG '29

"I listen to music a couple hours everyday, mostly to study or when walking to class. Honestly, I wasn't really surprised; I kind of knew who would be my top artist, my top album, etc. There were some surprises in there because sometimes if I just start playing on Spotify different songs come on shuffle, so some of those songs got on my Wrapped, which was kind of weird, but everything else was honestly really normal, like really expected. My top artists included Billie Eilish and Keshi. My top songs were pretty much all Billie Eilish, and my top albums were Gabriel, by Keshi; Happier Than Ever; and Hit Me Hard and Soft by Billie Eilish as well. My top songs were Billie Bossa Nova, Oxytocin, [and] Bittersweet by Billie Eilish. For Billie Eilish, I was actually in the top 0.2% of global fans... I want to get to one of those top fans [next year] because now Wrapped actually shows you as a top fan if you've listened for long enough. That's my goal for this year."

ELLE PARK '29

"Mine was not that accurate, and I feel like...well, it was definitely A.I. And it also didn't take the last couple of months into account. I was like, 'I fear Spotify did not cook this year.' They said my top artist was Beabadoobee [but] I had a spurt of listening to her in one month, then I didn't really listen to her for much after that, so...not super accurate. A more accurate top artist might be MARINA, Green Day, [or] Weezer because I listen to their songs throughout the whole year, more consistently."

Arts & Leisure

The Phillipian Co.

LOTW: Siyoon Jeong '26 Fuses New York and Korean Fashion Cultures to Curate a “Refined Streetwear” Look

CHARLIZE SOW
& SOOHAN CHO

Styling Acne Studios 1981 jeans with printed charm details, statement jewelry, and chunky shoes, Siyoon Jeong '26 curates a look that combines streetwear with minimalism and refinement. For Jeong, style functions as a form of self-expression, shaped by the duality of growing up between New York's fast-paced streets and the minimalism of Korean fashion. Jeong's outfits are a thoughtful composition of mood, culture, and intention, meant to introduce his presence to each room he enters.

“My fit is my personality, but in fabric. Growing up in New York, I learned that everybody was saying something, mostly with their mouths and some with their outfits. And I prefer that second option. I'm not someone who loudly announces who I am when I walk into a room. My clothes do that introduction for me. I hope my style shows that I care about details even when it looks effortless.



I.PADMAWAR/THE PHILLIPIAN
Much of Siyoon Jeong's '26 style draws inspiration from streetwear in Soho, Korean idol fashion, and runway archives.

I choose an outfit the way some people treat drafting their fantasy football team. I take it seriously because I'd rather the outfit speak for itself rather than me,” said Jeong.

Growing up between two distinct fashion cultures, Jeong learned to merge streetwear silhouettes with the minimalism of Korean aesthetics. By combining Korean-made brands with urban influences and designer pieces, Jeong treats fashion as a deliberate medium for conveying who he is.

“My style shifts between Korean influences and a lot of New York energy. I dress like someone who grew up between two worlds and I try to take the best parts of both. One thing I take pride in is Korean-made brands, [like] Tamburins. Then, I incorporate a lot of New York streetwear into that. I mix streetwear with high end pieces because I like the contrast. The culture piece is big because when I say I care about details, it is like bringing different worlds together: the pace and grit of New York with the clean lines of

Korean fashion. I hope it shows I have fun with self expression and I don't take myself too seriously,” said Jeong.

Jeong's intentionality behind his outfits began to take form once he had room to experiment beyond a dress code. Jeong recalls the years when uniforms dictated his style, making his clothing feel more functional than expressive.

“I used to just wear a quarter zip and dress pants because I had a school uniform. I started caring more when style became intentional for me. I got better at choosing things because I liked them, not because they were trending. I've gone from clothes are clothes to my outfits being a form of communication. Some mornings I wake up and trade my usual streetwear for something softer. Switching it up reminds me my style is not one box I live in. It is something I get to play with,” said Jeong.

Today, much of Jeong's style draws inspiration from streetwear in Soho, Korean idol fashion, and runway archives. He studies these sources not to recreate them, but to understand how different aesthetics can inform the way he builds his own outfits.

“I get a lot of my inspiration from New York street culture and Korean fashion and media. I look at a lot of runway archives. If you go to Soho, there are people who look like moodboards without trying. A lot of them wear the type of streetwear I do. For Korean media, [I look at] the whole idol bit of it, and variety shows where Korean fashion is broadcasted to the world. For runway archives, I look at collections from Maison Margiela or Acne Studios,” said Jeong.

Beyond clothing, small details like fragrance also play an important role in Jeong's personal style. Jeong favors Korean scents tied to seasons, which he feels add a subtle layer to his presentation.

“Honestly, [I can't go without] my fragrance. I use Korean brands like Tamburins. The fragrance is called Late Autumn. It is soft, clean, layered, and sits close to the



I.PADMAWAR/THE PHILLIPIAN

Siyoon Jeong '26 merges Korean-made brands with urban influences and designer pieces.

skin. It feels personal. It matches what I am going for at the time. It is subtle but present. Korean scents are often tied to seasons, which helps me choose them.”

For close friend Elise Zhang '26, Jeong's style stands out for its cohesion and subtle details. She notes that his outfits reward attention, revealing small details that tie everything together.

“I would say he has a refined streetwear style. He definitely goes more on the edgy side, but there's always something cohesive about his style. Plain, but with a bit of edge. When you first look at his outfits everything seems to be kind of plain, but when you look closer there's always little details that add to the intricacy of the outfit. Everything seems to tie together and it is very cohesive,” said Zhang.

Looking ahead, Jeong hopes to continue engaging with fashion as a form of creative exploration.

“Unrealistically, I wanted to model in Korea. I want to push my style further and experiment more. What I wear now is mediocre, and I can go further. I do not want to be a designer but I want to be part of the conversation in fashion,” said Jeong.



Not So Wonderful: A Review of “Wicked: For Good”

CHARLIZE SOW

As theatre lights dimmed and the smell of popcorn drifted through the air of movie theatres, a familiar emerald green washed over the screen. “Wicked: For Good” arrived with built-up anticipation after a whole year of nonstop hype after the release of the first movie last November. From memes of Cynthia Erivo and Ariana Grande going viral on social media to “Defying Gravity” populating playlists, the second part of the Wicked franchise had much to live up to.

To its credit, the movie featured exceptional performances. Supporting characters such as the Wizard and Nessa finally received musical moments of their own, and Cynthia Erivo, Elphaba, and Ariana Grande, Glinda, delivered with strong renditions of songs like “Not That Girl” and “For Good.” Even so, these strong performances simply lacked the emotion and distinction that made every track from “Wicked,” feel iconic. None of the songs particularly stood out, and the emotional depth that defined the first

movie just was not there.

More frustrating was the film's reluctance to explore plotlines that could have added genuine depth. Elphaba's relationship with the animals, for instance, barely registered beyond a few brief scenes. The film showed their oppression, but never fleshed it out enough for the audience to understand why their fate mattered so much, or why this caused Elphaba's grand transformation in the first place. Instead, the movie devoted much more screentime to weak subplots like the romance between Fiyero and Elphaba.

Viewers were given slow pans, intense eye contact, and scenes clearly designed to suggest chemistry, but the spark simply wasn't there. At times, the romance felt forced and the suggestiveness of the scenes felt oddly out of place for a movie still meant to appeal toward younger audiences. Their relationship felt rushed, in part because of the movie's already chaotic pacing, and in part because it added little to the central narrative.

Furthermore, Elphaba and Glinda's conflict over Fiyero didn't help the situation. See-

ing this iconic duo upset over the same boy felt out of character and surprisingly generic. It certainly introduced tension between characters but the film never did anything meaningful with it.

Beyond the romance, there were many other plotlines that seemed thrown in without a concrete explanation. Fiyero's transformation into a scarecrow happens abruptly, Nessa's sudden ability to read the spellbook is never explained, and Elphaba's loss of resolve contradicts her initial determination the film had spent so much time developing. Each subplot felt like it could've been meaningful, but the execution left them feeling shallow and incomplete.

The final scenes only deepened my discontent with the movie. The Wizard's sudden moral awakening, after years of manipulation and cruelty, was unconvincing. It felt like the movie ran out of time and needed him to stop, so he just... did. There was no real struggle, no confrontation, and it felt like we were deprived of a satisfying moment where he faced consequences for his actions. Then, Elphaba and Fiyero's final escape from Oz introduced more ques-



HARRY ZHOU/THE PHILLIPIAN

tions about their future and the world beyond Oz, none of which the film attempted to answer.

Ultimately, “Wicked: For Good” couldn't quite rise to meet its hype. The musical numbers impressed, and longtime fans may have found

comfort in revisiting familiar characters, but the story never found the clarity or emotional depth that made the original resonate. While the movie may have defied gravity, it did not quite defy our low expectations.

WRITE FOR ARTS

hmangcu26@andover.edu, ptong26@andover.edu

sseong27@andover.edu, wwwei27@andover.edu

xzhang28@andover.edu

Arts & Leisure

The Phillipian Co.

Holiday Movies: The Best and Worst of Seasonal Cinema

DANIEL LIU & RAMSEY SARKISIAN

Every winter, as temperatures plummet and Andover transforms into a maze of snow-dusted paths and overworked heaters, students turn again to classic holiday movies for comfort and nostalgia. They curl up in common rooms with blankets and steaming mugs of hot chocolate, using movies as a way to embrace the holiday spirit. While many of these cherished films embrace warmth, nostalgia, and festive spirit, others fall short, offering little more than recycled plots, and stale humor.

HOW THE GRINCH STOLE CHRISTMAS (LIVE ACTION)

Few holiday movies are as instantly recognizable and widely beloved as Jim Carrey’s “How the Grinch Stole Christmas”. Carrey’s grotesque expressions, brilliant acting, and commitment to playing the grumpy green recluse make the film genuinely entertaining. The makeup alone is impressive: the fur, the prosthetics, and the unsettlingly detailed facial movements that make the Grinch look mildly threatening. I remember being terrified of the Grinch’s face when I was younger, and I’m honestly still a bit scared to this day. The exaggerated Whoville sets and use of CGI also help to create an absurd yet emotional film. At the core of the movie is a heartwarming and sincere storyline that perfectly embodies the Christmas spirit. By the end of the film, the Grinch’s “heart grew three sizes,” an authentic and heartfelt finish.



CAMILA CHEN/THE PHILLIPIAN

A CHARLIE BROWN CHRISTMAS

A Charlie Brown Christmas from 1965 is a nostalgic, shorter animated film based on the comic The Peanuts. It focuses on Charlie Brown’s slow acceptance of the holidays, when he sees them as commercialized and insincere. The story is sweet, with Charlie Brown directing a school play along with other kids (who don’t much like his curmudgeony attitude) and his pet dog, Snoopy. This movie is a comforting and nostalgic movie that highlights the significance of spending time with loved ones during the holidays instead of focusing on material items.

THE NUTCRACKER IN 3D

Probably the most infamous holiday film of the last decade, “The Nutcracker” in 3D is an awkward, confusing mess. The movie completely deviated from Tchaikovsky’s famous ballet, changing the original songs into lyrical musical numbers and the Sugar Plum Fairy into a poorly rendered caricature. Even the Nutcracker itself, who’s usually heroic and magical, ends up looking more uncanny than enchanting. With really strange CGI, questionable narrative choices, and odd allusions to the Holocaust, the film managed to alienate both children and adults. The themes of fantasy, wonder, and innocent joy from the original are mostly absent. As a fan of the original Nutcracker, I struggled to follow the storyline of this adaptation.

SANTA CLAUS CONQUERS THE MARTIANS

This movie is exactly what it sounds like. In “Santa Claus Conquers the Martians”, Aliens kidnap Santa and bring him to Mars to teach them about Christmas. The plot makes little to no sense, and I finished the movie more confused than when I started. As a sci-fi story, the poor acting, low-budget sets, and nonsensical logic make it a really hard watch. And as a holiday film it’s even worse, there’s almost no Christmas spirit, no warmth, no charm, just bizarre attempts at originality by combining Santa with Martians.

LOVE ACTUALLY

“Love, Actually”, while it can be seen as heartwarming, reveals more problematic plot lines upon further analysis. For example, Hugh Grant’s character, the Prime Minister, is sleeping with his subordinate. We also see Alan Rickman emotionally cheating on his wife and a 17-year-old Kiera Knightley get nearly stalked by her husband’s best friend. “Love, Actually” clearly doesn’t understand consent. Really, the only slightly healthy relationship in this movie was Sam and Joanna, and they were only in elementary school.

What We’re Giving This Year: A Student-Approved Holiday Guide

HAYLEY FAN & ELIZABETH QIN

Looking for the perfect present? The Phillipian offers fun, thoughtful, and student-approved gift ideas to make your shopping a little easier. Whether you’re shopping for friends, family, or that one person who insists they “don’t need anything,” this guide highlights the types of gifts people consistently resonate with.

JAEWON CHOI ’28

“One element that I tend to value a lot in a gift is if it’s really useful for me. If it’s someone that I know very well, they would know something that might be useful based on my interest or some area of need. A gift given to me that I found to be particularly meaningful was from a reverend at a church I go to, and he gifted me a book. It was a book called “The Book of Common Prayer” about the different liturgical elements in my tradition and my faith as I was preparing to be baptized as a member of that faith. To me, a practical gift is sentimental in its essence. If you’re truly understanding of that person, if you have a good relationship with them, and you’ve spent a lot of time learning about who that person is, it coexists. A sentimental gift would be a practical gift, because you know what that person wants, who that person is, and what that person needs. I would actually say in an ideal case, they’re intertwined.”



CAMDEN SCHOPLER ’27

“A good gift is something you know [your friend] need[s] or something that they would really appreciate, for example, something from one of their favorite shows or maybe their favorite artists. It’s definitely the thought that counts rather than the gift itself. A thoughtful gift really shows that you’re watching the person and that you really care for them. I’ve definitely seen a trend in gifting scarves as of this season. I know another friend who’s giving out a bunch of them to all of her friends. I’ve also given out scarves to people. Another popular gift is probably speakers.”

SAMIHA TASNIM ’29

“A good holiday gift is something that you know about that person that no one else does, and it’s a gift that’s specific to them. It’s something like a small detail that you remember that shows that you care. For me, a gift that has really stood out was when my sister bought me a piano because I wanted to learn how to play. That was really cool. Sentimental gifts are something I will always keep in my memory box. It reminds me of the person. Practical gifts are also really nice because when it’s something that I would have bought with my own money, but it was gifted to me, it’s just really useful, and I would use it in my daily life. But like the piano, it’s best if it’s both. The most popular gifts now would definitely be water bottles, I feel, because everyone keeps losing their water bottles. You can’t go wrong with clothes.”

MICHELLE OH ’29

“What makes a gift special and meaningful [could be the] price but [more importantly], the thought the gifter puts behind it. A gift I’ve received that really stood out to me was a water bottle a friend got for me because she remembered a throwaway comment I made a month prior, saying I really hated my Stanley because I had to carry it around and it leaked everywhere. I prefer both sentimental and practical depending on the occasion or what it is. My favorite gift I’ve ever given someone are the cards I make that go along with the gift because it speaks more to our friendship, and they are so fun to write!”

32 Park Street, Andover, MA • 978.475.1400 • WeGetHomesSold.com • We're Local, We're Global!