

# LWA NEWSLETTER

VOL: 5



## MISSION STATEMENT

LWA teaches and motivates students to seek, discover, embrace, and apply knowledge while exploring their personal, artistic, and academic talents in order to engage in life with a culturally respectful, civically responsible, and innovative entrepreneurial spirit for success in higher education and the careers of an increasingly global society.

## MESSAGE FROM HEAD OF SCHOOL

Dear LWA Families,

In reflecting on the various ways LWA celebrated Women's History Month in March, I found myself thinking about the significant women in my own life, and I thought perhaps I would share some of those musings with you during this month's message.

The first woman to whom I owe everything is, of course, the one who gave birth to me. My mother, Barbra Jordan, believed in me through all the struggles. She is also the one who introduced me to Christianity, and her insistence on sharing her faith with me is the best thing that ever happened in my life, setting me on the right path.

My wife of 40 years, Stephanie Williams, has been a loyal and devoted partner on this journey. She has been an integral part of my success throughout high school and beyond, and I would not be the man I am without her unending support.

Finally, I want to shout out my two sisters, Lawanda Israel and Kathy Williams-Coote, who have looked up to me even though one is older than I am. In many ways, their admiration has shaped me into the person I am today, someone committed to family and growth, because I always wanted to be worthy of their respect.

Last week, I watched a documentary on Shirley Chisholm, the first Black woman to be elected to the United States Congress, and I was struck by how much women have accomplished and how many obstacles they have faced. It is easy to look around, especially in America, and think of how far we have come in terms of gender equality, but it is important to recognize that we still have a long way to go. While we have much to celebrate as a society, we should not become complacent.

Best,  
Hank Williams

At Home with  
the World





## SPORTS

On March 27, Students and faculty competed in LWA's March Madness Basketball Tournament, an event dedicated to our varsity team's victory at the PSAA Championship. Spectators cheered from the stands, foam fingers and pom poms held high as they watched Purdue University (Jonathan Dorsaint, Jaheel Lawrence, Josh Smith, Mekhi Jordan) take the ultimate win over UNC (Christopher Clark, Ethan, Nil Rahola, Nikolas Herrarte) in the final game.



## PA NEWS

LWA's second annual Night Out Gala was a resounding success. People came ready to revel in a rare night out and dance the rainy evening away in a chic rooftop restaurant. Thank you to all who came to support our community and a special thank you to the dedicated women who devoted months to planning this beautiful event!



## COLLEGE CORNER

It is important to take advantage of the summer months and use them wisely to develop one's college profile. There are ample academic and extra-curricular programs available to high school students, and every student should be engaged in multiple activities throughout the summer that they both enjoy and that can be beneficial to their college applications. Here is a link to many such summer programs: [Summer Programs](#). Students and families should begin looking into them ASAP as some require lengthy applications.

Another interesting article regarding this topic:

<https://www.collegeessayguy.com/blog/high-school-summer>

If you would like to have a one-on-one meeting with the Director of College Guidance to see how you can best maximize your summer, please reach out to [mrabinovich@lawrencewoodmere.org](mailto:mrabinovich@lawrencewoodmere.org).



## KUDOS

Our amazing sophomore, Mingzhen (Hamlet) Jia, and his two collaborators (from California, USA, and China) are Silver Medal Winners in Health & Nutrition Category at the prestigious Conrad Challenge Competition 2023-2024 in China. What an achievement!!



# LOWER SCHOOL

## STUDENT SPOTLIGHT



For our Student Spotlight, we bring you Mia Green, a 9-year-old student in the third grade.

### What do you like to do for fun?

I like to hang out and have some fun in my house. I watch T.V., and I learn new things about nature and how things work.

### What is your favorite class?

Music because I love to sing. When I go to music, it's a perfect opportunity to have fun with singing.

### What do you like most about LWA?

I like that it's very different from other schools. All the other schools I have been to were mostly white kids. This school has students of all kinds of different races and cultures, and that's fun to learn about different cultures.

### What do you want to do when you grow up?

I like to build things with Legos, so maybe I'll have a career where I build huge things with Legos, and then I can put them in museums.

### What are you grateful for?

I am grateful for my family and what they do for me. They are always nice to me, and they don't let me down ever.

### What advice do you have for younger students?

Believe in yourself and do not be insecure.

### Who is a woman you admire, and why?

Katherine Johnson. It was very cool how she worked for NASA and helped people with her knowledge of math.

## CURRICULAR HIGHLIGHT

As an annual tradition, the Lower School celebrates reaching the 100th day of school. This day is always extra special for the kindergarteners because part of their math curriculum is to learn how to count and recognize numbers up to 100.

The students spent weeks learning and creating different crafts and projects leading up to the 100th day of school that occurred on March 1 this year.

They worked tirelessly to create unique 100-item projects in class as well as a 100th-day-of-school shirt that they proudly wore to school on the 100th day. Their effort paid off when they showcased all of their work to the rest of the Lower School and to administrators who attended the weekly community meeting.

I am so proud of each and every one of the kindergarteners for being able to stand up and speak to a large group of their peers and show pride in what they accomplished!

-Mrs. Sharpe



## SPECIAL EVENTS



100th Day of School

St. Patrick's Day Celebration

# MIDDLE SCHOOL

## STUDENT SPOTLIGHT



For our Student Spotlight, we bring you Ava Ranieri, an 11-year-old student in the fifth grade.

**What are your hobbies?**

I like to draw, and I also collect keychains.

**What is your favorite class, and why?**

Probably science because Ms. Charles is one of my favorite teachers, and science is kind of fun. Even though I do not understand it thoroughly, I still enjoy it because it is fun and entertaining.

**What are your plans for the future?**

I don't really have anything planned for the future. Since I am only 11, I do not have so many choices set for my future. I am sure that once I am around the age of 15, I will probably have a lot of future plans. One career that I considered is being a photographer because it's so cool and crisp and clean. Nice photographs makes me feel good inside.

**What do you like most about LWA?**

The fact that there are so many events every single week. One week, there is a fundraiser, another week there is a dance - everything is a little chaotic, but it's never boring.

**What are you grateful for?**

I am grateful for food, shelter, my family, and sometimes my friends even though they can be a little bit annoying at times.

**What advice do you have for younger students?**

Do not bring anything into school that you do not need. Focus on the teacher and the lesson because it will make you smarter.

**Who is a woman you admire, and why?**

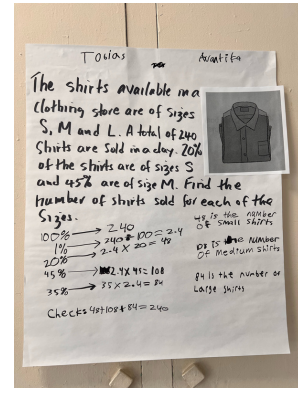
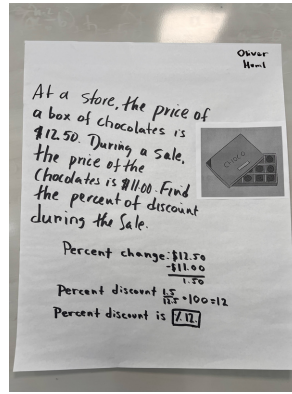
I admire my mom because she is really quick at math. She is really good at everything actually. She is my mom, so of course I would admire her. She is my biggest admirer, and I am hers.

## CURRICULAR HIGHLIGHT

Topic: Percent

Seventh grade students looked at real-world problems where they calculated percent as well as percent increase and decrease. Students now have a better understanding of sales tax, discount, price markups and how interest is calculated on savings accounts.

-Mr. Davis



## SPECIAL EVENT

Thanks to a very generous donation from an LWA family who has chosen to remain anonymous, all Middle School students and a few select Upper School students were invited to visit the Museum of Jewish Heritage in Manhattan.





# UPPER SCHOOL

## STUDENT SPOTLIGHT



For our Student Spotlight, we bring you Charlé Williams, a 15-year-old student in the tenth grade.

### What are your hobbies?

I like to listen to music - my favorite genre is R&B. I like to spend time with my family, specifically my nieces and nephews.

### What is your favorite class, and why?

I like math and science. I like dealing with numbers. It challenges me, and you use it in everyday life. I like learning about atoms and how atoms make up everything.

### What are your plans for the future?

I plan to become an anesthesiologist nurse and hopefully an entrepreneur. I would like to open my own medical practice.

### What do you like most about LWA?

Definitely the people. It is very inclusive, and it is easy to make friends.

### What are you grateful for?

I am grateful for God, my family, and the friendships that I have in my life.

### What advice do you have for younger students?

Stay focused, and keep striving to reach your goals.

### Who is a woman you admire, and why?

I admire my mom because she always makes things happen. She finds a way out of no way. She is selfless and always puts her family before herself, and she is very loving. She is someone you can go to for anything, and so I appreciate her.

## CURRICULAR HIGHLIGHT

In my science class, students learn not only science, but also how to be responsible consumers of science. This month, students presented on the intersection of biotechnology and ethics. The world of biotechnology is moving fast, and it is of utmost importance to make sure our understanding of ethics can keep up with it. Each student chose an interesting topic in biotechnology. The topics ranged from cloning and gene therapy to GMOs and agriculture.

Students conveyed a level of detail that their fellow AP Biology students can understand and appreciate. Students did a marvelous job showing that we cannot silo science apart from philosophy and sociology. One student presented the case of He Jiankui, a scientist who very earnestly made some very unethical decisions. This shows us that there are very real implications to our discoveries for which we must know how to take responsibility.

-Ms. Cohen



## SPECIAL EVENT

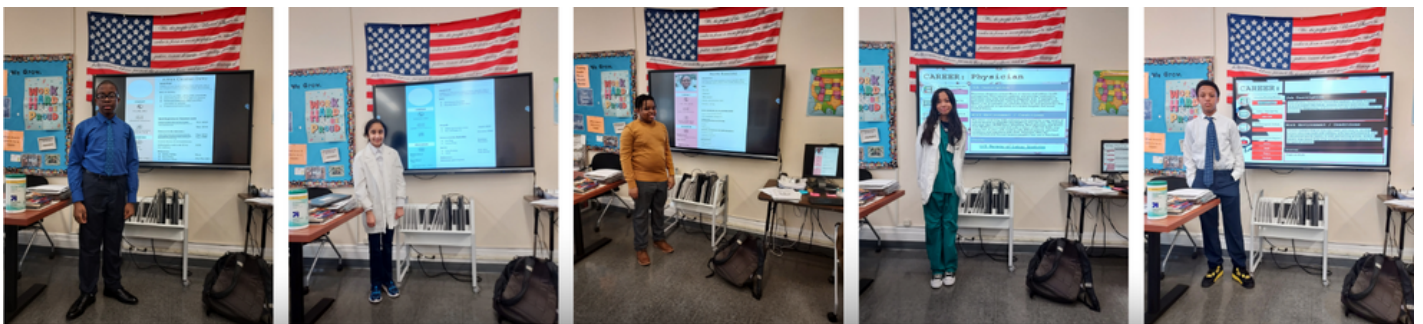


LWA seniors - and a few juniors - went on their senior trip to Woodloch Pines. Fires were built, games were played, and friendships were strengthened.

# PROFESSIONAL TUESDAY

On Tuesday, March 26, Middle School students at Lawrence Woodmere Academy participated in the first annual Professional Tuesday culminating event. Students came to school dressed to impress and presented information about future career interests. Some professions highlighted by students included lawyers, architects, doctors, and engineers. Students completed research about the typical work environment, education, skills, and job growth. Additionally, students completed resumes and participated in mock-interviews in order to prepare themselves for the future, which looks bright for these roaring Tigers.

-Mr. Justin Ellis



## PROFESSIONAL TUESDAY

*planning my best life*





# AT HOME WITH THE WORLD

## Waiting for Acceptance Letters

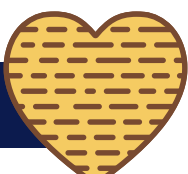
To be honest, I was anxious and unhappy for quite a while, especially after I got rejected by Cornell University and NYU. Although it wasn't easy, I eventually found it more important to accept the unfortunate news, stay positive, and do better on what I can control. Complaints and anxiety can only keep you in a bad mood. Therefore, I calmly (almost) waited for another response, and finally I received the best news! I am accepted by the University of California, Davis, which is a really good school. UCD Fun Fact: During Finals Week, students can take a study break with a pet! It's UCD's famous "Fluffy Therapy" tradition.

-Oscar Yang  
At Home with the World  
LWA Upper School Club Member



# PARENT ASSOCIATION EVENT

On Monday, March 25, all Lower School students gathered outside to search for eggs or matzohs, which had been hidden all around the playground. Thank you to the PA for putting together this awesome event. Happy hunting!





# CROSS-DIVISIONAL EVENTS



## Career Week

During the week of March 11, LWA hosted a virtual career fair for all three divisions. Every day during first period, speakers shared stories of their careers with the students, including their education, ambitions, and daily tasks. Students were then given ample time to ask questions. Careers included speakers from fields in psychology, fashion, marketing, medicine, and law.



## Chess Tournament

On March 13, LWA was proud to host its first chess tournament for Lower and Middle School students. The event was open to students from other schools, and we had 30 participants in total. Competition was fierce, and fun was had by all. Thank you to Frances Scarantino for organizing this event.



# SCIENCE FAIR

Congratulations to Ms. Charles and all of our Middle School students for a wonderful science fair!



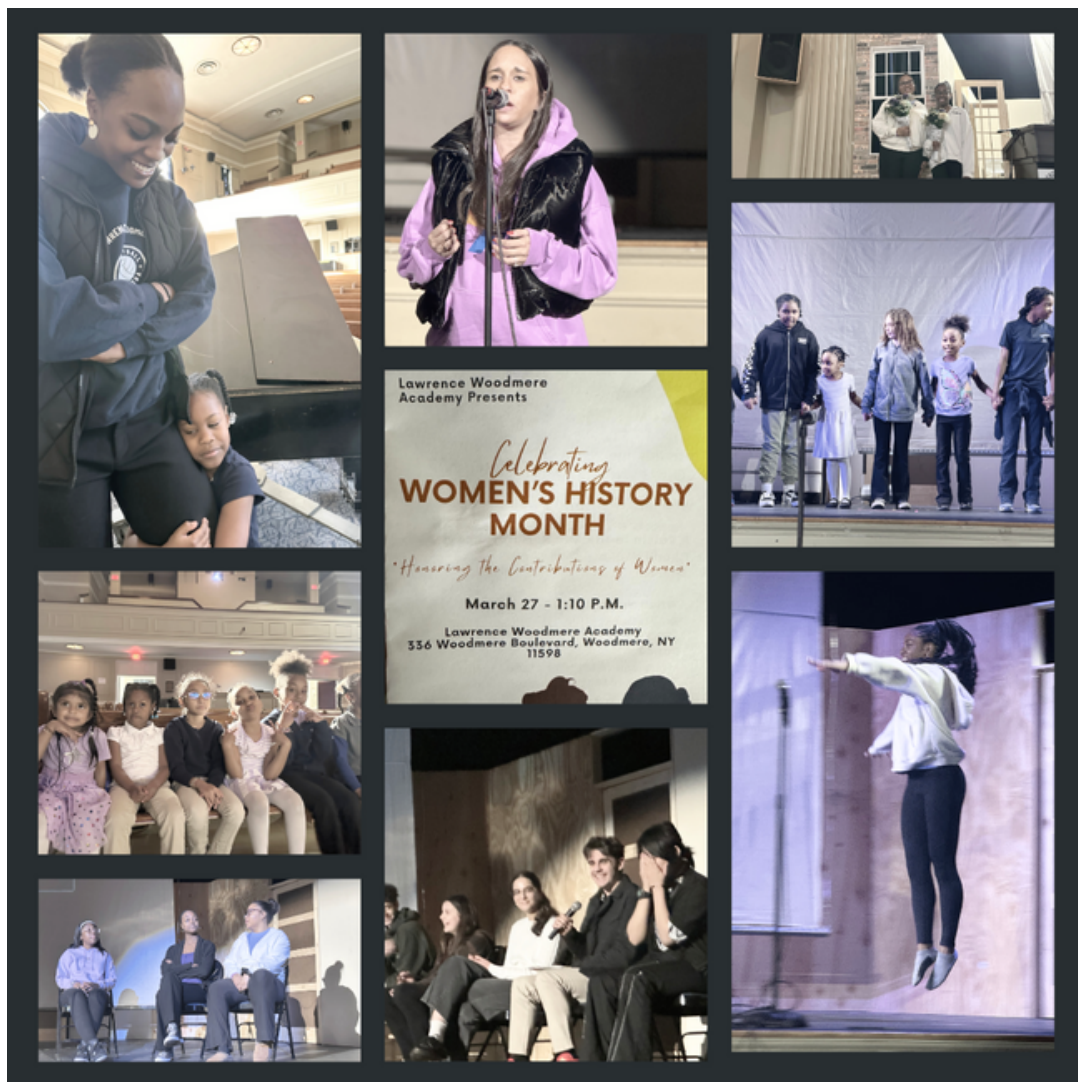


# WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH ASSEMBLY

On March 26, 2024, the community of Lawrence Woodmere Academy came together to celebrate Women's History Month with an assembly that was organized and hosted by Destiny Smith and Ciara Leatherbury. While juggling AP coursework, sports, theatre, yearbook, and a slew of other commitments, the seniors spent weeks planning the assembly that included Lower School, Middle School, and Upper School.

The assembly included a short video on women's history, a scene from the upcoming Upper School play *A Raisin in the Sun*, Ms. Breslauer, an LWA alum and Lower School Assistant Principal, singing "When You Believe," an all-division dance choreographed by Ciara, a lively Jeopardy-style game that tested students on their knowledge of famous women, a video showcasing members of the LWA community sharing their favorite part of being a woman, and a reading of Maya Angelou's "Phenomenal Woman." The event closed with three senior girls, Chloe Albuquer, Lauren Mitchell, and Destiny Smith, singing "Speechless."

At the conclusion of the assembly, seniors presented all the female teachers and staff of LWA with a tulip.



# TIPS, TRIVIA, AND COMMUNITY CHALLENGE

## TIPS

To conclude our newsletter and in honor of Women's History Month, we wanted to share a few tips regarding educating children about gender equality. As with most aspects of education, gender equality begins at home. Having candid conversations, sharing the housework, and interrogating gender norms are just some of the ways you can ensure that your children grow up in a gender-just world.

### 1) Open Dialogue

Children are constantly bombarded by stereotypical gender images and norms via the media. One of the best ways to combat this insidious propaganda is to be open and candid with your children regarding societal gender stereotypes and gender inequality. It is important to recognize that not a single country in the world has yet achieved gender equality. On a global level, there's been little progress on gender equality since the Global Goals were signed in 2015. For instance, women still earn only 77 cents for every dollar men earn.

It is up to us to educate our children about the significance of women's rights, so they can help build a society that is truly just. And don't be afraid to break down the stereotypes at home - dads can be vulnerable, and moms can be strong. Researchers say, children start absorbing stereotypes by age 3, causing the world to expand for boys and shrink for girls by age 10. That's why conversations about gender roles should start early and never end.

### 2) Dads Do Dishes Too!

Women are responsible for at least 2.5 times more unpaid household and care work than men. In 2020, school, preschool, and daycare closures led to an additional estimated 512 billion hours of unpaid childcare globally for women. That's over 57,000 decades of unpaid work. Thousands of women and girls miss out on equal opportunities to go to school, work, or simply relax. Teach your children the importance of equitable distribution of housework by setting the right example and involving both sons and daughters in chores.

### 3) Discuss the unrealistic beauty expectations created by social media.

While all genders are impacted by beauty standards, often young women are more vulnerable to the pernicious effects. In a recent must-read article in *The Atlantic* titled "End the Phone-Based Childhood Now," an essayist, Freya India, is quoted: "It seems like your child is simply watching some makeup tutorials, following some mental health influencers, or experimenting with their identity. But let me tell you: they are on a conveyor belt to someplace bad. Whatever insecurity or vulnerability they are struggling with, they will be pushed further and further into it." So, be vigilant about what your children are engaged with on social media, and make a habit of rejecting sexist and negative stereotypes of physical beauty.

## TRIVIA

### GUESS WHO

... who has worked at LWA the longest. First student to tell Ms. R the right answer gets a yummy treat!

## PLAY

### COMMUNITY CHALLENGE

Tell us about your favorite poems!

Email to  
[lwanewsletter@lawrencewoodmere.org](mailto:lwanewsletter@lawrencewoodmere.org)

Faculty and staff are welcome to participate!





# UPCOMING EVENTS IN APRIL

## April 4

Noon dismissal.  
Parent Teacher Conferences  
12:30–6:30 p.m.

## April 9 and 10

PSAT Grades 8 to 10

## April 12

Outstanding Tiger Ceremony  
7:30–8 a.m.  
LWA Theatrical: *A Raisin in the Sun*  
7 p.m.

## April 13

LWA Theatrical: *A Raisin in the Sun*  
2 p.m. and 7 p.m.

## April 14

LWA Theatrical: *A Raisin in the Sun*  
2 p.m.

## April 17

PA Meeting  
6:30 p.m.

## April 18

Spyscape Trip: Middle and Upper School

## April 22–30

SCHOOL CLOSED: Passover / Spring Recess  
School resumes on May 1