

LWA NEWSLETTER

VOL: 4



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 honor of Valentine's Day, I wanted to tell you a little bit about what love means to me. My wife and I were married on November 14, 1985, when I was a freshman in college, and what I have learned over these many years is that love demands an overwhelming amount of commitment, commitment to each other, and, for me, commitment to my Christianity. My faith has given me the discipline to try and stay focused on what is right and important in this life. Love is more than a feeling - it's a verb. Love is a daily choice to stay committed to the people who matter most in your life.

It is this same dedication that I see in our community on a regular basis. In the three weeks that school was in session during February, our students and staff organized three amazing assemblies. We came together to celebrate Lunar New Year, International Day, and Black History Month. Every performance was a testament to the effort, devotion, and talent of the LWA community. As you read through February's newsletter, I hope that the love we have for this school and each other shines through every page.

Best,
Hank Williams

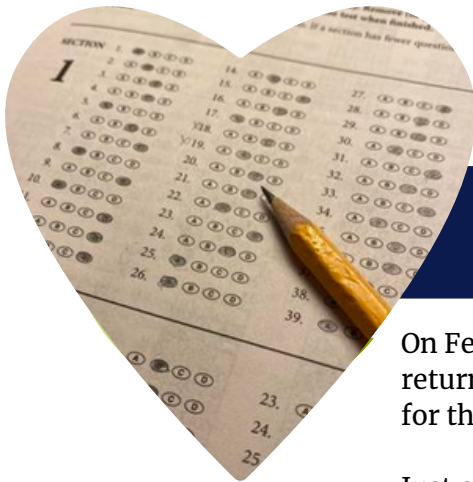
At Home with
the World





SPORTS

The Lawrence Woodmere Academy boys basketball team was crowned 2024 PSAA champions on Friday, Feb 16. The Tigers beat the Bears of Stony Brook 66-54 at Stony Brook University. Freshman Hank Williams, finals MVP, drilled six 3-pointers on his way to 25 points and was also named on the PSAA All-Conference team. Senior Chris Clark had 15 points and was pivotal in clinching the title for the first time since 2017. The Tigers ended their campaign with a league record (including playoffs) of 18-1. Sylvanus "S1" Tabbe was named the league MVP. The Chad native was instrumental in this debut season. Josh Smith, Hank Williams, and Chris Clark were also named on the All-Conference team. The Tigers wish their five seniors all the best for the future and are forever grateful for their dedication to LWA. The seniors are Christian Ford, Swasmir Joseph, Chris Williams, Chris Clark, and Nil Rahola. On behalf of everyone at LWA, we congratulate Mr Williams, his coaching staff and the roaring Tigers! The future is bright. The future is LWA.



COLLEGE CORNER

On February 14, freshmen and sophomores took a practice ACT. Once the scores return, we will be able to see which areas they need to keep working on before they sit for the real SAT or ACT during their junior or senior year.

Just over the last few weeks, Dartmouth, Yale, and Brown have reinstated standardized testing as part of college applications for next year. While we do not yet know whether other universities will follow suit, it is best to be prepared in case they do.



KUDOS

A very warm congratulations to Mr. Hargreaves Wang and his wife on the birth of their first child! Mr. Wang hasn't slept in days but is deliriously happy.

LOWER SCHOOL

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT



For our March Student Spotlight, we bring you Luca Munroe, a 3-year-old student in preschool.

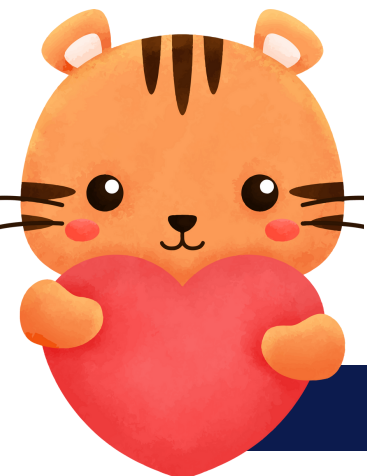
What is your favorite color?
Green.

What do you like most about LWA?
I like school because school is so fun. Learning is so fun.

What is your favorite thing to learn?
Scorpions because they are so pinchy.

What do you like to do for fun?
I like to eat popcorn for fun.

What are you grateful for?
I am grateful for my friends, my teachers, and my parents.



CURRICULAR HIGHLIGHT

First grade has been continuously learning about a different African American person every single day of the month. Some impactful and amazing African Americans who they have learned about are Jackie Robinson, Rosa Parks, Martin Luther King Jr., Simone Biles, Ruby Bridges, and many more. First grade has been fully immersing themselves into African American culture and recognizing that some of the most impactful leaders in education, sports, entertainment, and many more different categories are of African American descent. After learning about each African American, first graders were presented with different questions. Here are some examples of what they had to say about some of the amazing African American people we have learned about.



“Sitting” for what’s right: How would you respond to Rosa Parks if she sat next to you on the bus?

- “I would be so so so so happy to be sitting next to the most important woman in the Civil Rights Movement. She has the same skin color as me.” – Everett Hopkins

Home Run Robinson: If you could play any sport with Jackie Robinson, what would it be? Why?

- “I would play baseball with Jackie Robinson because he is amazing at it and changed the world of baseball forever. He could teach me so much about baseball.” – Calogero Malanga

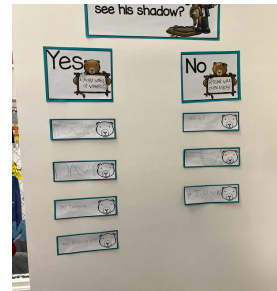
Dreams Come True: What would you do and say if Martin Luther King Jr. visited our class?

- “I would be so so so excited for him to come to our class. I would say, “Thank you for bringing us together. Thank you for thinking about other people’s lives. I am thankful for you.”” – Samara LaRoche

–Ms. Ramos

SPECIAL EVENT

GROUNDHOG DAY



On Friday, February 2, preschoolers learned about Groundhog Day! As soon as we got to school, we made predictions on whether we thought Punxsutawney Phil would see his shadow. We read a story about Groundhog Day and created our own groundhogs and crowns. We ended our day by watching the results. The friends were so excited when Punxsutawney Phil didn’t get scared and go back inside, which means we’ll get an early spring!

–Ms. MacBride

MIDDLE SCHOOL

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT



For our January Student Spotlight, we bring you Maxwell Tillman, a 13-year-old student in the 8th grade.

What are your hobbies?

I like to read my Bible because it teaches me a lot of things about life and has almost all the answers to my questions about life. It also helps me build a relationship with God. I also play basketball and sometimes football. I like to listen to music, such as rap and R&B.

What is your favorite class, and why?

My favorite classes are math and art. Math helps me navigate through certain things because there is so much behind it and so much to understand, and you learn a lot from it. Art is my favorite because I have always loved to draw ever since I was little, and I love being open to becoming more creative and becoming abstract with things I do.

What are your plans for the future?

I want to become a professional basketball player, artist, or a food critic.

What are you grateful for?

I am grateful for all the things that happened to me because I get to learn a lot from my mistakes and all the losses become more lessons than losses, and all the positive stuff is also a lesson because it shows me what I can do and what I can do better.

What advice do you have for younger students?

If you have something you want to do that you are committed to do, you should just do it and be passionate about it.

CURRICULAR HIGHLIGHT

Album Cover Drop

In this project, students pick their favorite song and create their own album cover art. Initially, students listen to their chosen song, pay close attention to the lyrics, do some research about the musicians, and use their imagination to explore what their particular song would look like visually.

Students create their vision by thinking about how fast or slow the song is, what colors they envision, and what subject matter would fit their song. When students have come up with their ideas and plans, they start to ponder what and how many different materials they can incorporate into their album cover.

Once students complete their projects, they will share the process of making their album covers, along with the meaning behind their chosen song.

-Ms. Busche



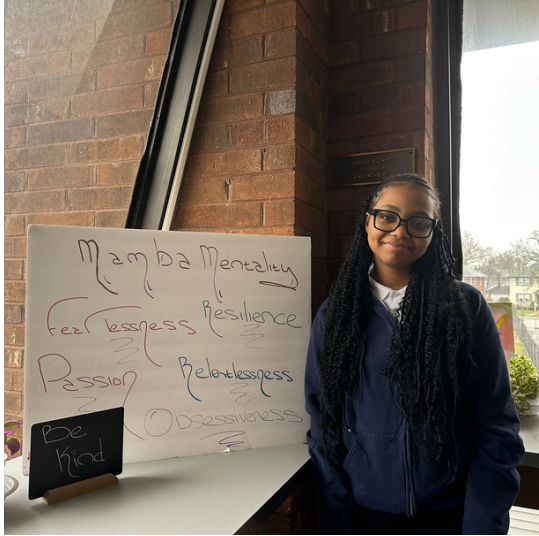
SPECIAL EVENT



In honor of Black History Month, Grade 8 students learned about the Harlem Renaissance by visiting different stations dedicated to various aspects of this era. Students read, discussed, and recorded information about music, art, poetry, and history, and all the while, jazz music was playing in the exclusive Club Ellis!

UPPER SCHOOL

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT



For our February Student Spotlight, we bring you Youshmere Joseph, a 15-year-old sophomore.

What are your hobbies?

Listening to music, especially R&B.

What is your favorite class, and why?

My favorite class is English because it comes naturally to me.

What are your plans for the future?

To become a travel nurse, so I can travel the world while helping people.

What are you grateful for?

My family, friends, and God.

What advice do you have for younger students?

Be yourself and keep up with your work because it will affect you in the long run.

CURRICULAR HIGHLIGHT

This past month, my Spanish classes were working on different topics. Spanish 1 students were learning "Family Members" vocabulary. In order to retain as much vocabulary as possible, we played different games: the 1- Minute Game and Memory Game, among others. We also practiced on interactive websites as seen in the photos. Spanish 2 and 3 students were mostly practicing verbal/speaking skills as they had to retell a story we learned in class. Language and Composition students, on the other hand, worked on listening comprehension from the YouTube program "Hola, ¿Qué tal?" and were immersed in the Spanish language from different countries. Last but not least, the Advanced Spanish class engaged in different conversational topics to intensify their fluency and communication skills. It is my wish that they can use the language and cultural notes in their everyday life. I was very happy to hear that one of my seniors was using her communications skills in Spanish to help Spanish speakers in her part-time job. Kudos to her!

-Mrs. Nicenboim



SPECIAL EVENT



Alumnus Andrew Barth Feldman visited his alma mater to hold a workshop for the cast of *A Raisin in the Sun*

CROSS-DIVISIONAL EVENTS



Friday, February 9, was a very busy day at LWA, full of celebration, family, and love! The day began at 7 a.m. with our quarterly Outstanding Tiger Breakfast during which one student from every grade is honored for being Trustworthy, Innovative, Generous, Empathetic, and Respectful. A few hours later, the marvelous Mr. O'Keeffe hosted yet another amazing Friday Forum during which we shared important school news and honored our students for their Academic, Community Service, Talent, and Sports skills! This Forum was particularly special because The Lunar New Year Assembly was also held during this time. Turn the page for more information about this spectacular event!



AT HOME WITH THE WORLD

Counting Our Blessings

May luck always be at your door and shower you with its blessings. – Chinese Proverb

When the LWA community celebrates international holidays, we strive to expand our horizons, study global traditions and cultures, organize festivals and events to promote our diversity, and learn from each other's perspectives and experiences. We celebrate new points of view and explore the world's true treasures.

On February 9, 2024, we gathered to celebrate Lunar New Year. This holiday is especially important in China because the Chinese believe that a person's character and abilities are closely related to the phase of the moon. Our multitalented Chinese and Korean students and faculty shared a beautifully orchestrated story of the Lunar New Year with music, poetry, dance, and games. What a wonderful way to start the Year of the Dragon!

The Chinese often say that the Dragon moves so fast that it is impossible to see its head and tail at the same time. Therefore, the Year of the Dragon is often associated with changes and unexpected events, and what they will turn out to be, only time will tell.

Here's to hoping our Lunar New Year is full of everything that brings us joy, prosperity, and fulfillment.

We Are LWA – At Home with the World.

–Dr. Pagieva



INTERNATIONAL DAY

February 16 marked the fruition of weeks of hard work for our Lower School community. In an annual LWA tradition, lower school students celebrated various cultural aspects of the country they had studied with their grade via joyous dances and songs. A truly beautiful and immersive event, there is nothing quite like LWA's International Day to remind us of our shared humanity and responsibility to one another.



BLACK HISTORY MONTH ASSEMBLY

In a stunning and meaningful culmination to Black History Month, Student Council organized an assembly that was held on February 29. The assembly featured all three divisions and even some faculty members. Whether it was the first graders' Kenyan folk dance, the Middle School Drama Club's reading of Langston Hughes "Let America Be America Again," Sylvanus Tabe and Chris Ford playing drums together, or our two senior male leads recreating a few scenes from the upcoming play *A Raisin in the Sun*, this year's assembly was a resounding success that celebrated African American artistry both within and outside of LWA. A special thank you to Lauren Mitchell, senior, for coordinating the entire assembly. Following the assembly, juniors and seniors met with professionals in various industries to discuss their career trajectories and receive invaluable advice on topics such as college admissions, pivoting in a career, and the importance of cultivating your personal brand. Thank you to Nadia Kalyan for organizing our second annual Cookies and Conversation.



WHAT DOES LOVE MEAN TO YOU?



"Compassion and understanding"
-Mr. O'Sullivan



"Love means my family"-Dax,
Grade 2



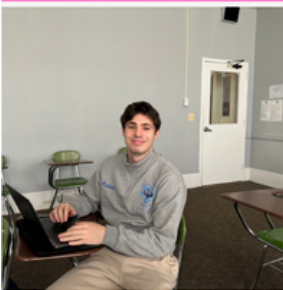
"Love is loyalty"
-Jaheel, Grade 9



"Love means family and friends and animals and the earth"-Jade,
Grade 5



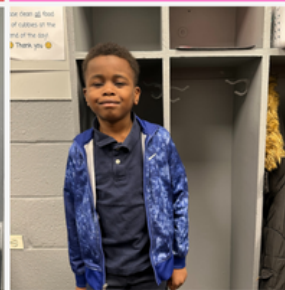
"Mommy"
-Malia,
Kindergarten



"Love is undefinable"-Nil,
Grade 12



"Love means sacrifice, compromise and, I guess, family"
-Mrs. Falloon



"Love means being happy"
-Charles, Grade 3



"Love is when someone cares about you, and even if they are annoyed, they still love you"
-Zoe, Grade 5



"Love is giving service"
-Mrs. Kim

WHAT DOES LOVE MEAN TO YOU?



“Love is expressing your kindness and gratitude for someone”
-Alix, Grade 6



“Love is helping someone be better”
-Juyang, Grade 11



“Love is family”
-Kaylee, Grade 5



“Love is caring, trust, and kindness”
-Jordan, Grade 10



“Love is giving without expecting anything in return. Love is security, safety, and feeling an immense amount of support. Love is my dad, my favorite person.” -Ms. Ramos



“Love means that you really care for someone”
-Caelestis, Grade 1



“Love is being with my family”
-Ms. MacBride



“Love is a personal connection”
-Mekhi, Grade 8



“Love means that someone cares for me and helps me”-Neisha, Grade 4



“It means being authentic and putting others before yourself”
-Mrs. Kalyan

WHAT DOES LOVE MEAN TO YOU?



"The world needs love, and when I hear someone say they love me, it makes me happy"
-Sylvanus (S1),
Grade 10



"I love S1"-Tino



"Love means feeling happy"
-Andrew,
Grade 7



"It means you would do anything for the people you love"-Nik,
Grade 8



"When my mom hugs me"
-Avantika,
Grade 7



"Respect, honesty, and care"-Isabela,
Grade 10



"Love means finding someone special with whom you want to spend every minute and build friendship, trust, and lifelong memories"
-Mr. O'Keeffe



"Love means everything"-Gabi,
Grade 12



"Love has nothing to do with what you are expecting to get - only with what you are expecting to give - which is everything"
-Mr. Tom



"Caring for people around you and giving back"-Harley,
Grade 10

WHAT DOES LOVE MEAN TO YOU?



“Love encompasses the entire universe. It is the driving force of the universe”
-Mr. Altieri



“Love is caring for someone else deeply and unconditionally”
-Ava, Grade 5



“Love means caring about my sister and my family” -
Samara, Grade 1



“Love means everything”
-Santana, Grade 8



“Love means caring, sharing, and kindness”
-Mr. Davis



“Seeing me at my worst and still accepting me”
-Jonathan, Grade 10



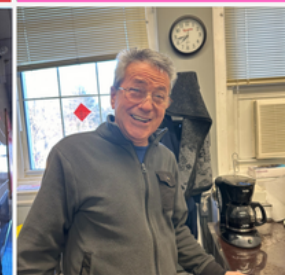
“Love means understanding that it will never be perfect but a continuous effort”
-Lauren, Grade 12



“It is knowing why someone is the way they are and continuing to love them not in spite of but because of it. To be loved is to be known”
-Reina, Alumna



“Ask Segundo. He’s been married longer than me”
-Mr. Nigel



“Love is everything”
-Mr. Segundo

TIPS, TRIVIA, AND COMMUNITY CHALLENGE

TIPS

To conclude our newsletter and in honor of Valentine's Day, we wanted to review a popular book titled *The Five Love Languages*. According to the author, Dr. Gary Chapman, people speak different love languages. Chapman believes that the five love languages are the secret to long-lasting and joyful relationships.

Words of Affirmation

How you speak and what you say is of utmost importance. Words of Affirmation can include compliments, words of encouragement, kind words, and humble words.

Quality Time

The focus should be on spending time together engaged in activities your partner or friend enjoys. Focused attention is the baseline of this love language and is often to be discovered in quality conversation. As opposed to Words of Affirmation, when demonstrating this love language, pay attention to what you are hearing rather than what you are saying. Chapman recommends setting a daily time to discuss some important events of your day. You may also want to text during the day, so you both feel more connected to one another even if you cannot physically spend time together.

Gift Giving

Gifts are a symbol of you having thought about that person, which demonstrates that you were thinking of them even when not in their presence, for "at the heart of love is the spirit of giving."

Interesting caveat: "Physical presence in the time of crisis is the most powerful gift you can give if your partner's primary love language is receiving gifts."

Acts of Service

This involves doing things for your partner or friend that you know they would like for you to do. Think of ways you can be helpful and do something that can ease their daily burden. An act of service requires a level of sacrifice, for "when an action doesn't come naturally to you, it is a greater expression of love."

Physical Touch

Physical touch can make or break a relationship because "to withdraw from my body is to distance yourself from me emotionally." Show your care via physical gestures, such as hugs, holding hands, and massages. Physical touch is a powerful communicator of love.

In order to find out your love language, think of the following questions:

What do the people in your life do or fail to do that hurts you most deeply?
The opposite of what hurts you is likely your love language.

What have you most often requested of your partner/ friends?
That is likely your love language.

In what way do you regularly express love to your partner/ friends?
Your method may be an indication that this method would make you feel loved as well.

Dr. Chapman also wrote a book that specifically discusses how to apply this topic to children. <https://www.amazon.com/Love-Languages-Children-Secret-Effectively/dp/0802412858>

TRIVIA

GUESS WHO

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

PLAY

COMMUNITY CHALLENGE

Tell us about the most important woman in your life, and send us a picture!

Email to
lwanewsletter@lawrencewoodmere.org

Faculty and staff are welcome to participate!



UPCOMING EVENTS IN MARCH

March 5

Grades 2-4 LICM Trip

March 7-8

Senior Trip

March 11-15

Career Week

March 13

LWA Chess Tournament

March 15

Quarter 3 Ends (3/18: Q4 Begins)

March 20

MAGLEV Competition Middle School Trip
Parent Association Meeting at 6:30 p.m.

March 21

Middle School Science Fair at 6:30 p.m.

March 23

LWA Night Out Gala

March 28-April 1

SCHOOL CLOSED: Easter Recess

A FEW OTHER SUPER DUPER IMPORTANT MARCH DATES:

March 8: International Women's Day

March 9: National Meatball Day

March 10: Daylight Savings Day

March 10-April 9: Ramadan

March 11: National Napping Day

March 12: National Plant-a-Flower Day

March 14: National Pi Day

March 15: National Sleep Day

March 17: St. Patrick's Day

March 19: International Read-to-Me Day

March 29: Good Friday

March 31: Easter