

# LWA NEWSLETTER

VOL: 6



## 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,

As I reflect on the last ten months, I am humbled and awed by all we have accomplished and brought to life this year. LWA was the winner of the Best Charter/Parochial Private School, Best High School Principal, and Best College Prep Services/Advisors, and we were the finalist winner for Best Nursery School. All of this would not have been possible without the tireless dedication and effort of our amazing faculty and staff. I know how much their work is done without recognition or accolades, and I want to take this opportunity to thank each and every one of you for all that you do, day in and day out, to serve our students.

As we all leave the school year with warm memories, I can't help but remember the Lower School Costume Parade, Cultural Heritage Day, the Spring Concerts, winning the PSAA Championship, the Upper School production of *A Raisin in the Sun*, hosting Andrew Feldman's show, the Tiger breakfasts, the Friday Forums...and these are just some of the many remarkable events that have brought the LWA community closer together this year, proving that when people are united in their mission, greatness can occur.

Let us end by looking ahead at the year to come. While the students are enjoying their much-deserved months of rejuvenation, rest assured that the administrative team will be busily working on crafting an even better and more exciting school year that will continue to enrich your child academically, socially, and emotionally. Thank you, LWA families, for entrusting your children to us, and for your continued partnership.

We wish you a wonderful and relaxing summer and cannot wait to see you in September!

Best,  
Hank Williams

At Home with  
the World





## COLLEGE CORNER

### **Congratulations, Seniors!**

Chloe Albuquer: Vanderbilt University  
 Cayla Carrión: Loyola University Maryland  
 Lamiyass Chen: University of Richmond  
 Christopher Clark: University of Central Florida  
 Haiming Zoey Du: NYU Stern  
 Christian Ford: Emory University  
 Swasmir Joseph: The University of Connecticut  
 Ciara Leatherbury: Hamilton College  
 Yaoze Frank Liu: Hofstra University  
 Lauren Mitchell: Spelman College  
 Kendell Neely: Carnegie Mellon University  
 Gabriella Nessim: Stony Brook University  
 Xavier Newell: McKendree University  
 Nil Rahola: Institut Químic de Sarrià  
 Destiny Smith: Hampton University  
 Christopher Williams: Seton Hall University  
 Haozhe Oscar Zhang: University of California, Davis



## SPORTS

The Lawrence Woodmere Academy boys Varsity Volleyball team had a successful season. The results didn't always go in our favor, but the chemistry and cohesion this team built, under the leadership of Coach Yasmeen Ramos, outweighs any victories and trophies. A team made up of basketball and volleyball players was always going to be challenging, but everyone involved made it competitive and fun. The victory on senior night was just the icing on the cake. LWA graduated three seniors - Christian Ford, Swasmir Joseph, and Christopher Clark. We wish them all the best for the future. Gkerman Antamian, 11th grade, was selected on the PSAA All-Conference team. Congratulations to Coach Ramos, the seniors, team managers, and the players. Go TIGERS!



## KUDOS

The Long Island Choice Awards were held on the evening of Tuesday, May 14, 2024, and LWA was the winner of the Best Charter/Parochial Private School, Best High School Principal, and Best College Prep Services/Advisors. We were the finalist winner for Best Nursery School.





# LOWER SCHOOL

## STUDENT SPOTLIGHT



For our Vol 6 Student Spotlight, we bring you Samara La Roche, a 6-year-old student in 1st grade.

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

I like to go and spend time with my daddy, my sister, and my mom.

**Doing what?**

Doing nothing. Just having fun.

**What is your favorite class?**

Gym and Art. I like making stuff, and I like running around.

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

My teachers and my friends. My teachers help me learn, and my friends help me play.

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

Be a vet because I like animals, and you get to help sick animals. I can take care of wild animals also.

**What are you grateful for?**

I am grateful for Kennedy, my sister, and my mommy and my daddy and Grandma.

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

Do not do dangerous things because you might fall and hurt yourself.

**What was your favorite part of this year?**

A new teacher and a new friend.

**What are your summer plans?**

Going to camp and on summer vacation.

## CURRICULAR HIGHLIGHT



The Lower School students have worked together to create a beautiful collaborative mural to hang in the hallway for the spring season. Each class worked on a different component of the mural. The third and fourth graders each drew their own very unique bunny! The first and second Graders created colorful flowers and leaves out of paper, while the kindergarteners and preschoolers painted snails and butterflies to complete the artwork. The Lower School students have created many collaborative murals throughout the year, such as our Wall of Peace, where each student painted doves, peace signs, and flowers. These murals are a wonderful way to showcase our children's beautiful artwork and allow them to see that when they all come together, amazing things can be accomplished!

-Ms. Ferro



## SPECIAL EVENT

April was an exceptional month for 3rd and 4th grade. They really stepped up as students and individuals as they navigated through two major special events. The first: a student-led "Save the Imaginary Playground Fundraiser" initiative. 3rd and 4th graders conceived the idea, created and successfully delivered a PowerPoint presentation during our legislative breakfast and Lower School's Community Meeting. Because of their tenacity and hard work, 3rd and 4th grade students have raised over \$600 dollars to help restore the imaginary playground! Their second accomplishment was entering an essay contest for Nassau County on the topic "Treating Animals Kindly." I can't say enough regarding how proud I am of the hard work, research, peer editing, and effort these students put into their work!

-Ms. Lowe



# MIDDLE SCHOOL

## STUDENT SPOTLIGHT



For our Vol 6 Student Spotlight, we bring you Jade Skyer, a 10-year-old student in the 5th grade.

**What are your hobbies?**

Surfing, and I like to draw and paint.

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

My favorite class is Humanities because we get to learn a lot of different stuff. I liked the WWII unit because there is a special song we get to sing in it, and it helps us remember a lot of facts about WWII.

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

I am going to grow up one day and be a marine biologist or an anesthesiologist because they are both very interesting jobs.

**What are you grateful for?**

I am grateful for my family and my friends and all the nice people around me.

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

To follow your dreams and even if something gets hard, you might just have to work a little bit more to achieve your goal.

**What was your favorite part of this year?**

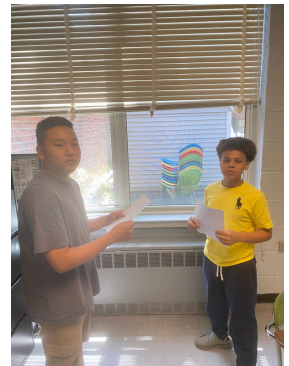
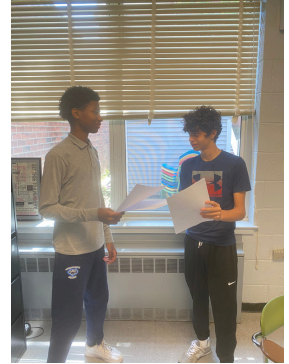
My favorite part of this year was learning about the parts of speech and making new friends.

**What are your summer plans?**

Go to the beach a lot. My friend is moving back from California, so I will spend a lot of time with my friend.

## CURRICULAR HIGHLIGHT

For the final unit in Oration, the 8th graders were given the task of examining the subject area of rhetoric and debate. We began by looking at how tournament debate was researched, formatted, and practiced. After much discussion, the students chose to hold debates in two areas: 'Should minors be tried as adults?' and 'Should violent video games be banned?' During each speaker's turn, it was up to the opposing team to listen and record the arguments, so they could craft a rebuttal that hopefully destroyed the opposing team's arguments. In the end, students learned that what they say and also how they say it are crucial elements to convincing the judges of a win. Each student did well. The standouts included Ethan Alexandre, Steven James, Richard Yu and Josh Meydid.



## SPECIAL EVENT



Middle School and a few Upper School students visited Spyscape on April 19



# UPPER SCHOOL

## STUDENT SPOTLIGHT



For our Vol 6 Student Spotlight, we bring you Gkerman Antamian, an 18-year-old junior, and Nil Rahola, an 18-year-old senior. German is from Greece, and Nil is from Spain.

### What are your hobbies?

- **Gkerman:** Volleyball, art, and video games.
- **Nil:** Play basketball, hang out with my friends, and be with family.

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

- **Gkerman:** My favorite class is Art because I get to do a thing that I like in a safe space, and Ms. Busche pushes me to my new limits.
- **Nil:** U.S. Topics with Mr. Tino because I like to know about history.

### What are your plans for the future?

- **Gkerman:** Hopefully, go to college in a D1 team in volleyball, study psychology, graduate with top marks, find a safe and comfortable space to work, live, and be happy in, and continue exploring life.
- **Nil:** Have good grades in college but also at the same time have good relationships with my friends and family and try to play in a good basketball league.

### What are you grateful for?

- **Gkerman:** All the new opportunities that America brought me, for new friends, new teachers, new experiences, and new challenges.
- **Nil:** I am grateful for the life that I have.

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

- **Gkerman:** Make mistakes, have hope for the best, and be weird.
- **Nil:** Do not care about opinions of others - do what you really like in life.

### What was your favorite part of this year?

- **Gkerman:** Senior trip because of Nil Rahola and his undying humor and snoring on the bus.
- **Nil:** The basketball season because we won the championship and the senior trip because I was laughing all the time.

### What are your summer plans?

- **Gkerman:** To meet up with my friends in Greece, rest, train, and finish my college essay for Ms. R.
- **Nil:** To go back to Spain, hang out with my friends, stay with my family, go eat at nice places, and keep training.

## CURRICULAR HIGHLIGHT



Students delivered demonstration speeches in their Public Speaking course. Speeches included topics such as how to perform CPR on an infant, how to make the perfect spring roll, how to braid hair, and many other interesting tutorials that were delivered with poise and confidence. This was a robust assignment that refined students' communication, presentation, and collaboration skills.

-Ms. R

## SPECIAL EVENT



On May 9, we held the Global Scholars Symposium during which three seniors presented their culminating project: a well-researched college-level paper on a topic of social, national, or global significance. This is the Capstone Project for a program that includes courses on Media Literacy, Leadership, and Social Entrepreneurship. The topics researched were the impact of social media on identity formation, the Black maternal health crisis, and contemporary anti-semitism. It was a beautiful evening of celebration and scholarship.

-Ms. R

# PUBLIC RELATIONS



On Friday, April 5, LWA hosted its first Legislative Breakfast during which Mr. Williams, Mrs. Kalyan, Ms. Breslauer, Dr. Pagieva, Mr. McDaniel, Mrs. Scarantino, Mrs. Sud, and Mrs. Dolcine spoke to a roomful of elected officials about some of the amazing initiatives that have taken place this year and what else we have in store. The PA gave a beautiful speech about the uniqueness of our school community and the immeasurable impact LWA has on students both academically and emotionally. Third and fourth graders delivered a persuasive presentation, students performed music, and there was even an earthquake to ensure our audience was moved! Thank you to Francis Scarantino for organizing this important event.





# UPPER SCHOOL PRODUCTION



## Director's Note:

Last year, around this time, the musical *Little Shop of Horrors* had just closed, and Steve and I were busy taking down the set. I believe it was Steve who said, "Well, what are we doing next year?" I'll admit I had no idea. That is until the next week when Ms. Rabinovich said, "You should do *A Raisin in the Sun*." It was the perfect choice for many reasons. I didn't know it at the time, but *A Raisin in the Sun* has a long history with LWA and specifically the senior class. The seniors first encountered this play in 8th grade English class when they read it out loud with Mrs. R. on Google Meet during the COVID lockdown. So, the play you will see tonight is a culmination of several years.

*A Raisin in the Sun* was the first play, written by a Black female playwright, Lorraine Hansberry, to be put on Broadway, as well as the first with a Black director, Lloyd Richards. Ten years ago, Kenny Leon won the Tony for Best Director for *Raisin's* revival, and a few months ago he graciously gave his time to have a Zoom session with our cast. Last month, Andrew Barth Feldman came to LWA to teach an acting workshop and offer feedback on scenes our students performed during his workshop.

Today, you will see the best of LWA. You will see a group of very diverse students (both idealistically and demographically) come together to perform one of America's greatest plays. The play, which was born from the poem "A Dream Deferred" by Langston Hughes, deals with issues such as dreams, family, money, and race. The play sends a warning to all of us. The ignorant practice of racism, sexism or bigotry slowly kills the hopes of good men and women, turning us all into raisins in the sun. We hope you enjoy and learn from the performance you are about to see. Thank you for coming.

-Henry A. McDaniel, Director

# HOMECOMING 2024



Amidst the gloom, LWA's spirit soared,  
Homecoming, 2024, in rain's embrace,  
A tapestry of memories, adored,  
Despite the weather's melancholic face.

Petting zoo delights, bouncy houses leap,  
A carnival of joy, where laughter reigns,  
In every corner, treasures we could keep,  
As vendors' stalls displayed their vibrant wares.

Martial arts lessons, a disciplined art,  
And on the court, the alumni did strive,  
Basketball echoed with each beating heart,  
As Cacciola's banner came alive.

Giant Jenga and Connect Four in play,  
A testament to friendships, old and new,  
To Frances and PA, we humbly say,  
Your efforts made this day a dream come true.

In white and blue, integrity stands true  
Service and truth, our guiding lights we pursue.





# MUSICAL PERFORMANCE

## MIDDLE SCHOOL AND UPPER SCHOOL CONCERT



The evening of May 16th saw the much awaited Spring Concert for the Middle and Upper School. Mrs. Longo and I presented the students in both vocal and instrumental pieces. The performance spanned from 5th graders through the 12th grade band and choruses. Selections included the M.S. band in “Linus & Lucy” and “Satin Doll”, the middle/upper school chorus in “Hummingbird” and the U.S. band in the Latin classic “Que Sera Mi China?” as well as the ever popular “New York, New York”. Of particular note was the select boys vocal group with their rendition of “Big Bad Bill.” All the students performed wonderfully and Mrs. Longo and I are very proud of their fine work this year.

-Mr. A. Altieri

# MUSICAL PERFORMANCE



The third and fourth grade students performed solos in this year's "jazz inspired" Spring Recital. Along with Ms. Lowe's aftercare dance students and Mr. Cafaro's piano students, all of the talented performers came together to make the night a tremendous success. It was a fantastic event during which all the performers showed their tiger spirit!

-Mrs. Longo





# FEASTS



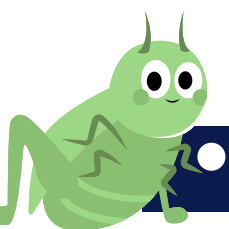
Thanks to our wonderful Spanish teacher, Mrs. Nicenboim, students enjoyed some traditional Mexican snacks in honor of Cinco de Mayo!



Thanks to our wonderful PA, all students enjoyed ice cream on the last Friday of school!



Creating delicious memories, sharing traditional recipes, and making friends: all of this was enjoyed by two clubs - "At Home with the World" and "Helping Hands" - working together!  
- Dr. Pagieva



# AT HOME WITH THE WORLD

Clubs are like the secret sauce that makes high school awesome! Clubs give us a chance to explore our interests, make new friends, and have a blast outside of class. By no means are clubs just about having fun (which they totally are); they also help you learn new things and feel like you belong.

Our club, At Home with the World, is like a mini United Nations; this year, we have had students from Chad, China, France, Spain, Greece, and Israel, and met faculty and staff whose heritage roots are from Ireland, Guyana, India, South Korea, and Russia - making it the perfect place to learn more about world cultures and traditions, taste delicious new foods, and create lifelong friendships (and memories, too).

-Dr. Pagieva



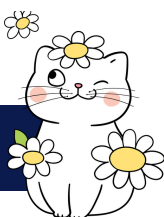
**S-1's Best Club Memory:** "Meeting Noè who helped me to understand best!"

**Nil's Best Club Memory:** "Sharing our cultures and food - it's like the best combo ever!"

**Gkerman's Best Club Memory:** "Mrs. Hockley's presentation about her sailing adventures."

**Oscar's Best Club Memory:** "Mr. Davis is from WHERE??"

**Ilay's Best Club Memory:** "It's like a crash course in global citizenship!"





# CROSS-DIVISIONAL EVENTS



April 8: Solar Eclipse Viewing



April 12: Tiger Breakfast



May 2: Middle and Upper School Trip to Courthouse in honor of Holocaust Remembrance Day



May 17: Field Day



May 31: Tiger Breakfast



May 31: Friday Forum









# WHAT WAS YOUR FAVORITE PART OF LWA THIS YEAR?



- “My nice teachers – it’s like my school family.”
- “You don’t have to be a certain way – you can be however you want.”
- “Ms. Dana and Ms. Sharpe and Ms. Lowe and Ms. Ramos cause they are so cute.”
- “The teachers are so wonderful and really really really amazing at teaching.”
- “There’s no homework on Fridays, and tomorrow is Friday.”
- “Everything.”



- “The Philly trip.”
- “Field Day.”
- “Spring concert.”
- “Adventure Park.”
- “Brooklyn Museum.”
- “Basketball season.”
- “Spyscape.”
- “Science fair.”
- “Socializing, food, fun, adventure, friendships.”



- “Woodloch senior trip.”
- “When Jacob performed at an assembly.”
- “Holiday Hangout.”
- “Virginia trip.”
- “Lunar New Year Celebration.”
- “Fun, community, connection, travel.”



# TIPS!

As we head into summer, we wanted to share some resources to look into when researching what to do with the kiddos - or solo - around the city and Long Island.

1. <https://www.nycgovparks.org/events>

This is an amazing collection of events in NYC parks all around the five boroughs. There are movies under the stars, yoga, arts & crafts, theater, and so much more. You can filter by location, date, event type, etc., for a simple and productive search process. Even if you live on LI, this is worth looking into just for the sheer variety of events.

2. <https://longislandfunfest.com/>

“The 2024 Fun Fest is packed with FREE shows and entertainment with \$5 admission! New for 2024 is the Pirates of the Caribbean Thrill Show, a show filled death defying acts and much more! Back by popular demand is the Kid Bucks Game Show where families and kids can compete on the big stage for prizes! New this year, families will be able to encounter amazing animals in the Sandlofer Family Petting Zoo. We also have nightly music entertainment and so much more. Explore all the fest has to offer on our entertainment pages.”

3. <https://events.longisland.com/kids-family/4/>

Another amazing collection of events, but this one is dedicated to Long Island. You can go watch a Peter Rabbit ballet, spend the day exploring a street fair, or meet Spider Man at Super Hero Night!

4. <https://www.longislandgamefarm.com/>

Get a little wild, and visit Long Island’s largest children’s zoo and wildlife park!

5. <https://www.oldwestburygardens.org/>

“Old Westbury Gardens welcomes visitors of all ages for guided tours of Westbury House, in-depth tours of the formal gardens, school visits, children's programs and events, family programs, museum exhibitions, health & wellness classes, classic car shows, indoor and outdoor classical and pop concerts, lectures, book signings, horticultural demonstrations and workshops, Scottish Games, botanical arts and gardening classes, and Master Gardener and Educator-led talks and tours of topics relating to horticulture, art, history, design and architecture.”

Whatever you end up doing this summer, we wish you a season of joy, rejuvenation, and love!





# GRADUATION CEREMONIES



## June 5

Preschool Graduation  
9:00-10:30

Kindergarten Graduation  
11:30-1:00

## June 6

Lower School Graduation  
Ceremony & Reception  
9:00

Middle School Graduation  
Ceremony & Reception  
11:30

## June 7

Upper School Commencement  
Reception : 10:30  
Ceremony : Noon