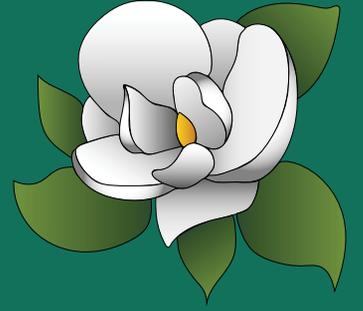


# LOGOS



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## Dining Hall undergoes anticipated renovation

BY AVA CASSIDY  
News Editor

The dining hall is undergoing renovations, a project which has been in the works for years but officially began on April 11. The construction is expected to be completed on Aug. 10, six days before the 2022-2023 school years starts.

The dining hall has been a topic of conversation for many years, but as Harpeth Hall has changed and as enrollment has increased, it has become a priority for the school.

“It’s where we gather, it’s where we share a meal, it’s that time of the day where we all take a breath and pause and laugh and get to be with our friends, and I’ve been sad that we haven’t had that experience to the fullest for the last couple of years,” Director of the Upper School Armistead Lemon said.

Between COVID-19, supply chain issues and food and worker shortages, the dining hall has been operating under major stress, and serious conversations about improving it have been going on since last spring.

Originally, the plan was to add another floor to the dining hall; however, due to the recent uptick in high-speed winds and tornadoes in Nashville, building codes have changed, meaning that it is no longer possible to expand vertically.

Some other short-term solutions were also added, but students and faculty are still dealing with the issue of long lines at lunch.

“We doubled the servery line and took the salad bar out and put it in the middle of the dining hall, and what that really ended up doing was limiting your choices to only the hot food or the salad bar or having to wait in two lines. We knew this was an issue that

wasn’t going to go away,” Director of Finance and Operations Tom Murphy said.

This year, the main issue has been finding a way to get food to the entire Middle School and then serve 420 Upper School students, who all arrive at the same time. As the lines have become longer, a renovation of the dining hall has become increasingly necessary.

“What’s hard is, there are a lot of priorities. There was Bullard, there’s performing arts, there’s our STEM building. . . The dining hall really does touch our entire community, and as our enrollment has increased, we’ve all felt the pinch. It’s moved up the priority ladder,” Ms. Lemon said.

The new dining hall will have four servery lines, each with all of the options for that day including the hot bar, vegetarian

bar, pizza or pasta, salad/deli bar, and soups. Students will enter into the servery from the hallway where the restrooms are now.

There will be 6 rows of tables instead of 7 so that people can more easily access their seat and “to bring a little more civility to the dining experience,” Mr. Murphy said.

Though the seating inside will be slightly reduced, the patio will expand so that it can seat 102 students. 2 large fans and 10 heaters will also be available so that students can eat on the patio in

almost any weather. On very cold days, plastic sides will be added to the patio.

“I think the outdoor seating is going to be where everyone is going to want to sit,” Murphy said.

The area where the Max is will be converted into more seating, and the Max will transform into a rolling cart that will be

wheeled out when available.

New flooring, lighting, and seating will also be installed so that the dining hall ties in with both the Middle School and the Bullard Bright Idea Lab.

“The speed of service is going to increase, so eliminating that line all the way up the stairs and having students have to spend half their lunch period just waiting in line, obviously that’s important. I think the dining experience is going to be much better as well,” Mr. Murphy said.

The hope is that the lines will be drastically reduced so that no student spends more than approximately eight minutes in line and that students will enjoy eating in the dining hall more once renovations are complete.

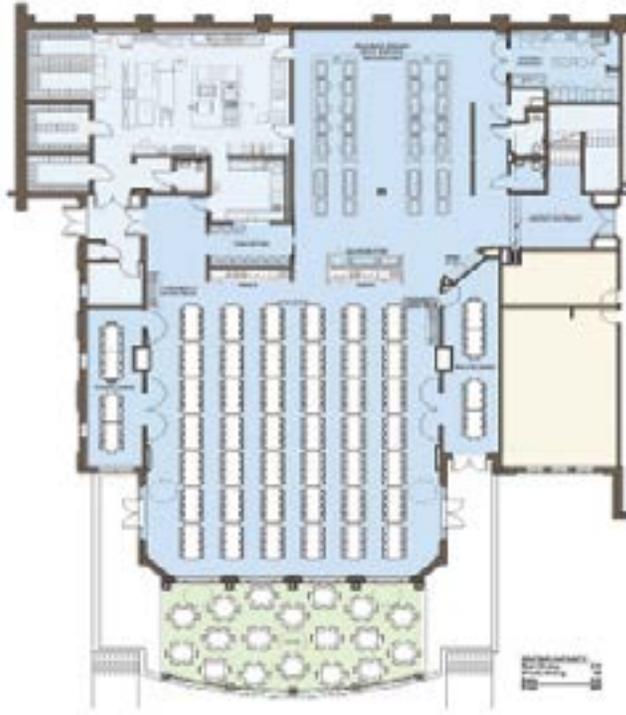
“It breaks my heart when I think that students are discouraged by the lines, and they don’t want to go get the food. . . You all are so efficient with your time and I know how important that lunch hour is,” Ms. Lemon said.

Students are already feeling the effects of the dining hall construction. On April 25, the dining hall started providing boxed lunches reminiscent of Harpeth Hall’s COVID-19 days.

“Over the next three or four weeks, we know that the service is not going to be as ideal, and we appreciate everyone’s patience. . . we know it’s really going to be worth it in the end,” Mr. Murphy said.

“I just can’t stress enough how amazing our dining hall staff is, and Peter Fox who leads that team. They are nimble, they are willing to try anything, and they are incredibly student-centered, and I just am grateful,” Ms. Lemon said.

If everything goes smoothly, students can expect to see the new face of the dining hall on the first day of school next year.



BYE LINES: Blueprints for dining hall renovations. / Photo courtesy of Tom Murphy

## Macron emerges victorious after French election

BY AMELIA ALEXOPOULOS  
News Editor

A tumultuous election season in France ended on April 24 with Emmanuel Macron reelected to a second term as France’s president. Macron, who represents the self-founded center-right party Le République En Marche, won approximately 58% of the vote, while his opponent, Marine Le Pen of the far-right National Rally Party, won 41.5% of the vote.

Macron and Le Pen promoted two starkly different visions for the future of France, with key issues being immigration, the French economy, the European Union, the environment and Russia’s invasion of Ukraine.

While the politics of France have been very moderate in the past, this election highlighted the radical shifts that have occurred in France, with Le Pen on the far-right, and a third candidate in the first

round of elections, Jean-Luc Mélenchon of France’s democratic socialist party, on the far-left.

Many French citizens, especially immigrants, feared what Le Pen’s France would look like. Le Pen had promised to enact policies that can only be described as islamophobic, stating that she would ban women from wearing hijabs in public. “All of these women need to be free,” she said of her policy proposal.

According to Pew Research Center, as of 2017, Muslims make up 8.8% of the French population, a percentage that will further increase as Muslims from North

Africa and the Middle East continue to migrate to France. Islamophobia has risen in France after multiple instances of Islamic terrorist attacks such as the Paris Attacks of 2015 and the 2016 Nice attack on Bastille Day.

With her *Priorité Nationale* proposal, Le Pen planned to distinguish between native-born French citizens and “others” when determining access to housing and social services. She would have prioritized native-born French citizens in this process. This policy would affect not only Muslims, but also the 10.2% of the population who are foreign-born.

**“Macron is one of the most hated presidents in French history”**

- Upper School French teacher, Jenny Jervis

Macron, however, was not always the clear choice for those who disliked Le Pen. Famous for his off-the-cuff remarks that tend to support the opinion that he is “the president of the rich and the president of disdain” as described by the French political journalist Nicolas Domenach, Macron’s approval rate has hovered at around 43% in recent months. This election, in many ways, was a question of who was disliked the least.

In an interview, Upper School French teacher Jenny Jervis quoted an article which described Macron as “one of the most hated presidents in French history.” She described how France, much like the US, has seen its young people gravitate towards either the extreme-left or extreme-right as many European countries are “becoming concerned about losing their identity” as globalization occurs.

[continued on page 3]



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# Farewell, friend: Powerschool's time draws to a close

BY HALLIE GRAHAM

Editor-in-Chief

The end of an era; the death of an age. At the end of May, Harpeth Hall students and faculty will say farewell to our longtime friend (and foe) PowerSchool Learning. After all of the trials and tribulations, from switching from saying "Haiku" to "PowerSchool," to numerous "We're all tangled up" messages, PowerSchool's time at Harpeth Hall is finished.

After 12 years with PowerSchool, the administration is ushering in a

new age for learning communication. An interface similar to PowerSchool called Schoology will be getting a seat at the coveted Bear Clicks table and replacing PowerSchool as our institutional provider.

Why the switch, you may ask?. The PowerSchool Learning software will cease to exist by the end of the school year. Harpeth Hall, the captain of a sinking ship, has seen PowerSchool to its ultimate demise. A notice on the PowerSchool Community message board announced that the service "will no longer be available after Sept. 30, 2022," so it's

official.

"PowerSchool has served us well, but it was time to look at something else," Director of Information Services, Molly Rumsey said.. Last spring, Rumsey, who

loss of my full legal name in Arial font across the top of the calendar dashboard? Will I get to assign my own pastel colors for each class in hopes for not only a successful but also an aesthetically pleasing year?

"The functionality is very similar to PowerSchool," said Rumsey, easing some student worries. "It looks different, but everything we can do in PowerSchool, we can do in Schoology and more."

In other words, Schoology is simply the new and improved Powerschool. . In Schoology, an entire page is dedicated to a full screen calendar where students can even add personal events. In PowerSchool,

the calendar can only be seen

properly with a microscope. Similar to our current system, Schoology also lists upcoming assignments in a clean and clear manner.

"Can you change the color of the class? You can do that," Rumsey said, promising a visually amusing 2022-2023 school year. Students will have little to no change to their daily lives. "You'll have to check Schoology everyday just like you have to check PowerSchool everyday," Rumsey

said.

While students will not be drastically affected by the switch, Rumsey said teachers will have a learning curve. Over the summer, while the students are spending their vacation anticipating this new platform, teachers will go back to class for training sessions and watch tutorial videos in order to master Schoology. "There may be some bumps along the way, but change is never easy. It is part of life," Rumsey said.

Before you ask, no, Harpeth Hall is not, however, switching to an open gradebook. A hotly contested issue at the Hall over the past few years, Schoology will not allow students to view their grades whenever they want. "That's a bigger decision than the tool we use, so in terms of an open gradebook, we wouldn't do that through a learning management system anyway," Rumsey said. While Schoology will bring some changes to the classroom, live performance updates will not be one of them.

May is the month of endings. Classes

enter and

classes graduate.

Seasons come

and seasons go.

The sun rises

and the sun

sets. Harpeth

Hall's sun has

certainly set on

PowerSchool. To

PowerSchool,

thank you for

your service, but Schoology can take it

from here.



**RIP KITTY:** A screenshot shows an oft-displayed screen that appears for users when Powerschool Learning is having issues opening / Photo courtesy of Powerschool Learning

led the charge for Harpeth Hall's switch, looked at six different contenders to replace our tired learning management system after investigating other school's sites as well as compatibility with PowerSchool. She narrowed it down to two.

During Winterim, Mrs. Rumsey put these two systems to the test by having Harpeth Hall teachers give them a go for three weeks. Schoology came out on top.

Questions about the new site have students reeling. What could replace the comforting pastel green background of PowerSchool? What will make up for the

**There may be some bumps along the way, but change is never easy. It is part of life.**

- Director of Information Services, Molly Rumsey

your service, but Schoology can take it from here.

## New evidence advances Jan. 6 attack investigation

BY LILY BOWEN

Staff Writer

Cassidy Hutchinson, a White House aide at the time of the Jan. 6 attack, has testified twice before the Select Committee to Investigate the January 6th Attacks on the United States Capitol, most recently on March 7.

A filing from the committee on Friday, April 22 contains information from her testimonies about the build-up to the attack. Hutchinson told the committee that Anthony Ornato, former White House chief of operations, had warned Mark Meadows, former President Donald Trump's chief of staff, of potential Jan. 6 violence.

Despite warnings from Meadows and other staff, Trump backed those attending his Jan. 6 rally in marching on the capitol, with urges to "take back your country."

The committee used this evidence from Hutchinson to try to convince a federal judge to dismiss Meadows's lawsuit against them. Meadows had

been complying with the committee early on in the investigation, supplying thousands of document pages and over two thousand messages. Those messages include one from Jan. 5 about putting the National Guard on standby, as

well as one about the necessity of a public statement from Trump to convince the capitol attackers to back down.

However, Meadows has attempted to avoid the committee's subpoenas. In response, the committee has presented information on Meadows's role in attempts to overturn the results of the 2020 election. This included a plan that utilized alternate electors, or "false slates of electors," according to the committee's website.

Meadows turned over a Nov. 2020 email with information on alternate electors to the committee. Other messages he supplied before becoming uncooperative revealed his support for protesting President Joe Biden's victory, despite being warned that it would be "highly controversial."

Meadows has announced he will not sit for a deposition he had previously agreed to, breaking a deal he had made with the committee. He is also withholding messages on the basis of executive privilege, a

right of the executive branch to withhold information in public interest. Mississippi Representative Bennie Thompson and Wyoming Representative Liz Cheney, leaders of the committee, issued a statement to

**"The goal of the investigation is to get answers about January 6th for the American people and help ensure nothing like that day ever happens again."**

- Representative Bennie Thompson



**ON TRIAL:** Former President Donald Trump speaks at CPAC in Orlando, Florida on February 26, 2022. / Credit: Octavio Jones

address this.

"The select committee's filing today urges the court to reject Mark Meadows's baseless claims and put an end to his obstruction of our investigation," they said in their statement. "Mr. Meadows is hiding behind broad claims of executive privilege even though much of the information we're seeking couldn't possibly be covered by privilege."

Hutchinson's testimony also revealed evidence of a phone call to plan the events of Jan. 6. According to a witness account, the call took place between Trump's lawyer Rudolph Giuliani, Ohio Representative Jim Jordan and additional members of the Freedom Caucus prior to the

attack, and the possibility of urging rally attendees to march on the Capitol was discussed. Freedom Caucus leader and Pennsylvania Representative Scott Perry supported this possibility.

"I don't think there's a participant on the call that had necessarily discouraged the idea," Hutchinson said to the committee,

The committee's ongoing investigation continues to shed light on this monumental incident in American history. As Thompson said in a statement regarding the committee's subpoenas, "The goal of the investigation is to get answers about January 6th for the American people and help ensure nothing like

# Russia's attack on Ukraine continues

**LUCY FARRINGER**  
Staff Writer

"Our musicians wear body armor instead of tuxedos. They sing to the wounded in hospitals, even to those who can't hear them, but the music will break through anyway. We defend our freedom to live, to love, to sound," Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said in his video which aired at the Grammy awards on April 3.

As Zelenskyy called for the support of Ukrainians "in any way" people could, he sent chilling messages of help as well as hope regarding the recent developments in the Ukrainian-Russian war.

Only a few weeks into the war, on March 8, the United States banned imports of Russian oil, natural gas, and coal. While this ban caused gas prices to rise significantly and led to more American dependence on the US oil supply, it showed support for Ukraine and ultimately deprived Putin of more economic resources to use in the war against Ukraine.

Along with the US ban on Russian oil, President Joe Biden and other war leaders have made war crime accusations. The allegations are founded upon the hundreds of bodies strewn about the streets of Bucha and Mariupol and the harsh torture and slaughter of Ukrainian civilians.

"Under international law, it is illegal to target civilians indiscriminately and besiege them during war. It is also illegal to target sites such as hospitals and to transfer populations forcibly," according to the Washington Post in an article published on April 21.

On the week of April 14, Biden called the merciless execution of Ukrainian civilians a "genocide." "Russia denies targeting civilians and says the aim of its 'special military operation' is to disarm its neighbor, defeat nationalists and protect separatists in the southeast," Reuters reported.

As investigations are still occurring, Mariupol, the center of industry in southeastern Ukraine, has suffered explosions, shelling, mass killings and harsh conditions.

At the start of their invasion on Feb. 24, the Russian military cut off access to many necessities, including food, electricity and medical supplies in Mariupol.

Despite Ukraine's statements accusing Russia and President Vladimir Putin of war crimes, the army has continued to attack Mariupol, leading to the death of

a number of buildings with deep reinforced concrete bunkers that have been difficult for Russian forces to penetrate," according to the New York Times..

Ukrainian forces, doubtful they can break through the heavily consolidated Russian defenses around the city, are stuck inside the plant, awaiting help they are not confident will come. According to the New York Times, Captain Sviatoslav Palamar, a commander of Ukraine's Azov Regiment, indicated that the Ukrainian fighters at the plant

services on the most important day of the year in their faith.

The American agenda in Ukraine has shifted as the war deepens, and Russia continues their attack. The New York Times toughened its messaging on the Ukraine war on Monday [April 25], saying the American aim was not just to thwart the Russian invasion but also to weaken Russia so it could no longer carry out such military aggression anywhere."

Biden plans on countering Russia by supplying Ukraine with powerful defenses. The United States also announced a reopening of its embassy in Kyiv, with a newly appointed ambassador leading the reinstated direct office in Ukraine's capital.

"The American visit itself, led over the weekend by Secretary of Defense Lloyd J. Austin III and Secretary of State Antony J. Blinken, was completed early Monday and amounted to a risky dare to Russia, which has been seeking to subjugate Ukraine by force for more than two months. Russia has demanded that the United States and its NATO allies quit supplying advanced arms to Ukraine's military," according to the New York Times.

Only a few short hours after Austin and Blinken finished talks with President Zelenskyy in Kyiv, Russia dropped rockets on five rail stations near where the secretaries had been. It remains unclear whether they were still in Ukraine during those attacks and whether Russia had been targeting them.

The Pentagon continues to work to try to weaken Russian forces. The hope is that the Russian invasions of Ukraine cease, but the likelihood of the war's end is unclear. The consensus among sources and experts seems to be a non-consensus in itself: the war could last 6 more days, 6 more months, or 6 more years. The



**WARTIME:** A Ukrainian man observes the ruins of his destroyed city in April, 2022. / Credit: Sergey Korovayny

20,000 people in that city alone.

Although Russian troops began to move out of Mariupol and into Kyiv on April 16, Russian forces stormed a Mariupol steel plant later that week. The Russian army has continued their assaults from the Azovstal steel plant in the city, where many Ukrainian troops are posted.

"It is not clear how many people remain inside the plant — a sprawling complex consisting of

were not satisfied with efforts being made to extract them.

On April 21, Putin issued an order to stop the attack on the Azovstal factory; however, fighting did not cease. In fact, bombings continued throughout the factory even on the Christian holiday of Orthodox Easter, which is celebrated throughout Ukraine. The continuous fighting and shellings, however, didn't stop worshippers from attending

## Macron emerges victorious after French election

[continued from front]

Additionally, Ms. Jervis mentioned how Le Pen reorganized her party and message since she last ran against Macron in the 2017 French election and lost by a significant margin, making her party more appealing and accessible to the average French citizen.

Le Pen led the best showing of her party in its history with over 13 million votes cast for her. Although Macron won the majority of votes, he still received the lowest share of votes from registered voters since 1969, due to a historically low turnout and a high amount of blank votes cast in protest. According to one poll, 45% of the votes cast for Macron were cast just to oppose Le Pen. The same poll found that the opposite was also true, however: 45% of Le Pen voters were simply



**ALL MAPPED OUT:** The first round of the 2022 French presidential election between Macron, Le Pen, and Mélenchon. / Photo courtesy of Creative Commons.

interested in opposing Macron.

Experts who study France's history of revolutions see signs of danger in a binary system that

pushes voters to vote for who they see as the lesser of two evils. The low voter turnout is also cause for concern, according to Terrence

Peterson, a political historian at Florida International University. "When voters express that they feel disenfranchised, if a majority of them do, then that's a clear sign" of serious trouble, he said.

When Le Pen conceded her defeat to Macron, she added a promise to help secure victories in the legislative elections in June. "French people have this evening shown their desire for a strong counter power to Emmanuel Macron," she said.

"I was sure that Macron was going to win," one voter holding a French flag said. "I'm still afraid of the legislative elections though. The fight is not over."

As France, much like the United States, has shifted towards more radical politics and nationalistic tendencies, the future of democracy may hang in the balance.

## Ms. Lemon departs Harpeth Hall, returning to her alma mater

BY VERONICA PIERCE

Features Editor

The sky was blue and students were enjoying the warm weather by relaxing on Souby Lawn as I walked into the office of our Head of Upper School, Ms. Armistead Lemon. The room was bright with decor and pictures of loved ones on Ms. Lemon's desk as I sat down, ready to contrast that brightness with a bittersweet topic that has recently been one of the most prevalent discussions at the Hall this year.

"I've been teary all day about this," Ms. Lemon said.

Lemon grew up in Virginia before moving to Nashville to begin her career at Harpeth Hall in the fall of 2005 as an English teacher. After teaching with the department for 12 years, she applied to be the Head of Upper School, where she has remained the division director for 5 years.

"I've spent as much time here as I did in Virginia growing up, and a huge reason I stayed is because this is a place that fosters intellectual curiosity, professional growth, and really values relationships," Ms. Lemon said.

Head of School, Ms. Jess Hill, has worked with Lemon since she arrived at Harpeth Hall. While Ms. Hill began her tenure as the Director of the Upper School, Ms. Lemon had just started her job with the English department. From the start, Hill noticed that Lemon was going above and beyond her teaching to fulfill all of the expectations required of her.

"She was just this bright spirit in the Upper School, but she was also always willing to roll up her sleeves, volunteer for anything, be on that committee, help drive that bus-she was just all in," Hill said.

Hill recounts that her favorite memory of Ms. Lemon is when the students received the news that Lemon had gotten the job as the new head of Upper School.

"I don't know if I've ever heard the students squeal with more excitement, and that includes Reese Witherspoon's keynote address. Some of them had had her as a teacher, but many of them just knew her and loved her," Hill said.

Since then, Lemon has fostered memories within all of the students. One student recounts the pride and excitement Lemon had receiving the soccer and cross country state championship trophies during assembly.

Another student fondly remembers having to report to Lemon about her dance bag that smelled of skunk. Thinking that she was in trouble, the student was delighted to find a laughing and light-hearted Lemon eager to talk about the incident at hand and find a solution to the smell.

Though it is hard to imagine days without those memories, it is certain that Ms. Lemon will continue spreading her generosity, thoughtfulness, and infectious laugh to those students at the North Cross School in Arlington, Virginia, where Lemon will be the new Head of School.

"It's my Alma Mater, so I have great affection for the school. A huge straw for me is that it shares some of the core values that Harpeth Hall does. The Honor Code, a focus on academics, leadership opportunities for students, and a wonderful faculty," Lemon said.

She is also excited for the homecoming factor as she will be able to live in her hometown, see family more often, and have her sons be on the same campus with her. However, there are many parts of Harpeth Hall that she still

holds dear.

"It's the people. It's the students and the faculty and the administrators. I'll be going to a place

Lemon said.

Many different words can be used to describe Lemon: a great thinker, thoughtful, changemaker,

real, approachable, bright. However, the one word that came up the most is understanding.

One student said, "She always has confidence in her students, listens to them with care, and makes decisions from there. She is always very level headed and fair."

While it is difficult for the Harpeth Hall community itself to understand and accept saying goodbye to Lemon, she is certain that the students and faculty will continue to prosper and raise up our place beloved.

As the school day came to a close, Lemon had one final message of thanks and hopefulness to extend.

"I just have tremendous gratitude for this place. I'm

not a graduate of it, but in some ways I am. I've been here 17 years, so I just hope that I will make Harpeth Hall proud," Lemon said.



**A BITTERSWEET GOODBYE:** Armistead Lemon smiles at North Cross School, where she will be Head of School next year. Photo credit to North Cross School.

where I'm not known, and I'll have to build those relationships, and I'm eager to do that, but I really love the community here. I'm going to miss it,"

## Chess Club checks into Harpeth Hall

BY CHEKAYLI MEYER

Copy Editor

This semester, Harpeth Hall's novel Chess Club officially launched. The club's founders, seniors Elizabeth Brown and Molly Niswender, thought they should share their love for chess with the Harpeth Hall community.

Currently, the chess club's gathering spots are in the newly built Bullard Bright Idea Lab and in the library. They have set up multiple chess boards for leisure, practice and matches.

The Chess Club welcomes anyone interested in learning and playing chess, no matter their background or their grade level. The club serves to educate and develop chess players' skills and strategies.



**LOST IN THOUGHT:** Juniors Nandu Govindaswamy and Sarah Joffrion play in the chess tournament on April 29, 2022. Photo by Mia Corts, Lead Photography Editor.

It convenes every Wednesday morning around 8-9 am and during designated Star Club meetings.

Chess is a skill-based game with little regard to age; instead the game relies on and builds memory, focus,

perspective, creativity and planning.

In the 1950s, American mathematician Claude Shannon concluded that there are more possible moves in chess than atoms in the universe.

After every move a chess player makes, the amount of possible play variations increases almost exponentially.

This unique edge to chess is what Mr. Groves and Elizabeth Brown love most about the game.

"Like a snowflake, every game of chess is unique in that it has never been played before," said Upper School Science and Math

teacher and chess club sponsor Matthew Groves.

The club sets up daily chessboard challenges in the Bullard Bright Idea Lab to hone students' skills, such as identifying checkmate within 2

moves. These activities are set up in order to spark curiosity about chess and potential interest in joining the club. Currently, the chess club is engaging in an internal tournament with brackets.

They also intend to set up a wizard's chess board, a massive board with life-sized pieces. The inspiration for constructing this board is the first film of "Harry Potter" series, where Ron Weasley is active player.

Although the chess club is currently more focused on gathering members and having fun, they could eventually compete in the city leagues.

They also intend to start a "March Madness" tournament next year, in which students outside of the club can participate in the game.

The chess club has become a focal point for students of distinctive interests to connect with one another over a competitive but unique game of chess.

# The curtains to Hammyland close after 42 years

BY PRIYANKA CHIGULURI

Editor-in-Chief

Dance Company Director Stephanie Hamilton has been the backbone of Harpeth Hall's dance program for 42 years. However, after decades of work, Mrs. Hamilton is set to retire at the end of the 2021-2022 school year.

"I've been trying to decide for several years what makes sense? How long do I want to stay? When would be a good time to go? How should I go about it?" Mrs. Hamilton said. "It just began to make sense that with things changing in the Performing Arts Department, it wouldn't make sense for me to try to stay."

Mrs. Hamilton, nicknamed Mrs. Hammy by many members of the Harpeth Hall dance community, first arrived at Harpeth Hall in January of 1980 as an dance teacher, and she only taught eighth grade dance and a couple of afterschool classes. She gradually transitioned into the role of Dance Company Director and transformed the dance program to be inclusive to students with varying levels of technique and experience.

Before Mrs. Hamilton, the afterschool Dance Company consisted of long production numbers and auditions to get into the program. Mrs. Hamilton not only reduced the length of each dance in the Fall and Spring Dance Concerts to be about three minutes long but also replaced company auditions with placement auditions.

Students are placed into three levels based on their dance technique and have the opportunity to learn choreography with peers who are at a similar skill levels. Shorter numbers

education curriculum requires students to take an in-school dance class once a rotation while the Upper School does not offer dance during the school day.

"In my first couple years here, Mrs. Hammy and I talked a lot about technique and the desire to raise the technique level while still having the companies be really inclusive. We wanted

new semester of dance.

Additionally, Mrs. Hamilton works closely with the entire Dance Company during the weeks leading up to the performances and gives caring and honest feedback to each student in every dance.

Junior Luca Cyr has been dancing since 5th grade. "Mrs. Hammy taught pretty much all the classes in Middle School, and I definitely wouldn't have

would have the opportunity to perform and share their work with the wider Harpeth Hall community. From the spring of 2020 through the fall of 2021, she worked tirelessly to keep the dancers connected through a drive-through celebration in the spring of 2020, a video production in the spring of 2021 and a modified Dance Concert in the fall of 2021. In normal years she strived to better the Dance Concert each semester.

"I think because of her, so many young women have discovered dance and their love for dance along with that the discipline and dedication and sense of community that comes with dance." Mrs. Hamilton's colleague and Upper School Ballet Teacher Beata Santora said. "There's a huge amount of growth that happens when one is part of the Dance Company and that's all her doing."

Through her dedication to dance and creating connections between dancers, Mrs. Hamilton has brought her imaginary world called "Hammyland" to life. Hammyland is her dream dance world that she often references in class, and Harpeth Hall's dance program is a real-life embodiment of Mrs. Hamilton's imagination. With Mrs. Hamilton leaving, Harpeth Hall's Dance Company transitions into a new era. Similarly, Mrs. Hamilton will transition into retirement in Minneapolis, Minnesota, where she will spend time with family and continue dancing.

As Mrs. Hamilton leaves, she hopes that Dance Company continues to have a family-like environment for the dancers. "I'm really hoping that the girls themselves all know what it's meant to be a part of this family; how important it is that we all work together, that we see the overall vision of what's happening and the process so that they have the resilience, the grit and the love to either continue dancing or appreciating performances," Mrs. Hamilton said.

Through her neverending dedication to dance at Harpeth Hall, Mrs. Hamilton has created a space for students to connect, grow and build long-lasting bonds with other students and teachers. As the curtains to Hammyland close for the last time, Mrs. Hamilton will be missed by many and her work will live on through all the people she touched during her time Harpeth Hall.



**SMILING FOR THE CAMERA:** Stephanie Hamilton prepares for her final dress rehearsal for the Harpeth Hall Spring Dance Concert on April 27, 2022. Photo courtesy of Shari Shephard.

the dance companies to be something that was open to every Harpeth Hall student who wanted to dance," Mrs. Hamilton's colleague and Physical Education and Wellness Teacher Diana LeMense said.

loved it so much if it wasn't for her," Cyr said. "She can definitely show tough love at times, but it always serves a greater purpose because the shows look better and we are better dancers because of it."

The family-like bond that Mrs. Hamilton has facilitated is what makes Harpeth Hall's Dance Company special to the dancers and the wider Harpeth Hall community. Mrs. Hamilton pushes dancers to think past themselves and to prioritize making the group look as good as possible in each dance.

Senior Elisabeth Nelson has been dancing at Harpeth Hall since she was in 6th grade. "I would describe Dance Company as so wonderful because I feel like, within the Harpeth Hall community, it's really given me a family, and in so many ways that is such a testament to our teachers," Nelson said. "Having that family at dance has been so important to me in so many ways, and I'm so grateful for that."

Mrs. Hamilton always prioritized the dancers and worked to ensure that they

**"I think because of her, so many young women have discovered dance and their love for dance along with that discipline and dedication and sense of community that comes with dance."**

**- Upper School Ballet Teacher, Beata Santora**

allow more styles of dance to be incorporated into the program and level placement auditions allow all students who are interested in dance to participate, no matter how much experience they have.

Mrs. Hamilton also includes Middle School students in the afterschool program, so the Fall and Spring Dance Concerts are reflective of both Upper School and Middle School Dance. One of the primary differences between Upper School and Middle School dance is that the Middle School physical

Because of the dance program that Mrs. Hamilton has created, she has the opportunity to build connections with every student in the program. Mrs. Hamilton teaches every in-school Middle School dance class and choreographs their main company dance along with their tap dance. In the Upper School, she teaches tap and extra tap, but she does an immense amount of work behind the scenes building each concert and the framework around every

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# Harpeth Hall is forced to say goodbye to Ms. Ting

BY VERONICA PIERCE

Features Editor

The Mother Daughter Breakfast, a winter concert, Carnegie Hall, the Harris Hillman School, an upcoming spring concert are just some of the many

where she earned her Arts Certificate in Conducting. While there, Ms. Lemon sent her the virtual concert video that the Chamber Choir performed last year.

"I remember Ms. Lemon sent me

work with the choir on a daily basis, Ms. Ting professed love seeing the students having fun and bonding with each other.

"I've never worked with a choir that is so expressive, so engaged, so fun, and willing to commit to the character right away. It's something that I've never experienced," Ting says.

However, because of troubles renewing her visa, Ting is having to cut her time short with Harpeth Hall and say goodbye to Nashville.

For those who are unfamiliar with a visa, it is a government-issued temporary pass to live and work in the United States. If a student is attending school in the US, they are under a student visa, which lasts until 60 days after the student's graduation date. Afterwards, those students must go through Optional Practical Training (OPT) during which the students decide if they want to go home or apply for a new visa.

In Ting's case, she applied for a working visa, which is grouped into two categories. Organizations like nonprofits, government agencies, and churches are all automatically given a working visa. Other forms of work must go through a lottery process in which government officials randomly pick people to be accepted for a visa. If you aren't lucky, you are forced to find some other work internationally.

Ting says that while it is going to be difficult leaving Harpeth Hall, she doesn't feel entitled to a visa as she understands that many other professionals should be given more opportunities for a visa and locals should be given better work opportunities. However, she does

recognize that the United States sets the bar high for international immigrants.

"I'm not the only one who's facing this. Everybody who's a foreigner has to go through this process. The government wants to treat every applicant fairly," Ting said

Ting admits that she is not sure where she is headed in the future. She is thinking of working internationally at schools teaching choral education, but also feels a pull to go home to Malaysia. Her dream is to build either a performing arts business or a school in her home country and grow it from there.

"In Malaysia, it's not like here where performing arts is so vibrant and everyone treasures music. I see great value in doing that in my own country," Ting said.

Though the stressfulness of applications and the lottery can be nerve racking, Ting has remained positive by finding hopefulness in Christianity. She sees this point in her life not as a downfall, but God closing one door and opening another.

"I see this as a pause and looking into many other possibilities that are ahead of me. Maybe I'll go see musical theater in the future, maybe I'll be a businesswoman, maybe I'll be closer to family, maybe I'll meet some other great musicians," Ting said.

Ting attributes her faith to her ability to go out and search for other opportunities and professions that she never thought she could do. Alluding to one of the Chamber Choir pieces, Ting has a message for all those facing obstacles in their lives.

"Hold Fast to Dreams. Just keep going and something will work out," she said.



**CHOIR AT CARNEGIE:** Ms. Ting smiles with the chamber choir after performing at Carnegie Hall in New York City on March 19, 2022. Photo courtesy of Veronica Pierce, Features Editor.

accomplishments of Upper School Choir Director Esther Ting. Throughout her year at Harpeth Hall, Ting has extended her continuous enthusiasm and love for music to people all over the United States.

Originally from Malaysia, Ting moved to Rochester, New York when she was 20 years old to earn her Bachelors and Master's Degrees from Roberts Wesleyan College. She then moved to Atlanta,

videos of you guys, the virtual video," Ting said. "For some reason, when I first saw the videos, I was like, 'I love these girls.'"

While she's worked with lots of glamorous 8-part professional ensembles, she says that she has had so much fun working in a smaller choral environment with the Chamber Choir at Harpeth Hall. Aside from the benefits of having a fixed schedule to

something like that," Mertz said.

Along with touring the city, the visiting students were also introduced to smores, tacos, Crumbl Cookies and Nashville's iconic fried chicken.

Besides spending time in popular Nashville spots, each German exchange student followed her respective host in her daily activities. Schope was brought along to Mchaourab's ice hockey practices, Corbacho to Galyon's daily Walgreens runs and Mueller to Mertz's favorite, Chick-fil-A.

"It's so nice because they are your same age, and they show you everything," Schoppe said.

Compared to their school Humboldt Schule in Wiesbaden, Germany, the exchange students noted that Harpeth Hall was more rigorous with its coursework, especially since at their school, they have no homework and an average of four tests a year per class.

Schoppe also recognized the emphasis that Harpeth Hall students place on college and was surprised at the amount

used to, two of the exchange students got to enjoy classes not provided at their school, including Psychology.

They also noted the close student-teacher relationships dominating the classrooms.

"All the people are so friendly. I've never met such friendly teachers," said Dallmer.

Director of Winterim and International Programs Jacquie Watlington's favorite aspect of Harpeth Hall's exchange program is not only the individual relationships that are built between the students but also the exchange of knowledge between different cultures.

"Here at Harpeth Hall, it [the exchange program]

expands our scope and knowledge of the world," Mrs. Watlington said. "That broad understanding, it's just beautiful."

Harpeth Hall's International Exchange Program will later facilitate the South Africa Exchange in the early fall.

## German exchange students at Harpeth Hall: Ich Bin Great

BY LENA QIAN

Features Editor

You may have noticed some new faces in your classrooms or in the hallways. Four students from Wiesbaden, Germany visited the campus from April 10-30. These students were Antonia Mueller, Juliette Dallmer, Carmen Corbacho and Maria Schoppe hosted by sophomore Macy Mertz, junior Lorelei Christopher, freshman Hallie Galyon and junior Gabby Mchaourab.

Harpeth Hall's International Exchange Program started nearly twenty years ago with the intention of connecting students across the globe to bring greater understanding to various cultures and ways of life. After a pause in international travel from the pandemic, the program's mission still stands.

The German exchange students have had the opportunity to experience both American and Tennessean culture through their after school activities. Schoppe, in particular, enjoyed exploring Downtown Nashville with Mchaourab while Dallmer enjoyed walking around 5th and Broadway with Christopher.

"I think it's really cool to show her [Dallmer] all the places I go most often and introduce her to the food," Christopher said.

Mertz also notes the effect that her exchange student Mueller had on her own experience wandering Nashville.

"It's cool to be like a tourist, almost, like going downtown and doing



**GUTEN TAG:** Gabby Mchaourab, Hallie Galyon, Lorelei Christopher, and Macy Mertz smile with their exchange students, Marie Schoppe, Carmen Corbacho, Juliette Dallmer, and Antonia Mueller. Photo by Jacquie Watlington.

of effort Harpeth Hall students put into their resumes.

"For you, I think it is very important to go to a good college, but in Germany, it is not as important," Schoppe said.

Despite the more stressful environment than what they were

## Dr. Henry Nelson offers retrospective on his time in China

BY AVA SJURSEN  
Editor in Chief

On Thursday, April 14, the Honors Chinese 4 class welcomed Harpeth Hall controller Ms. E. A Homan to their class to present on her grandparents' medical mission to pre-communist China. A Harpeth Hall graduate and faculty member, Ms. Homan spoke about the accomplishments of her grandfather, Dr. Henry Nelson, and the historical context and significance of his mission trip.

Dr. Nelson was born in the Huzhou region of China in 1923 before his family was forced to evacuate in 1927 because of the incoming Japanese invasion of the mainland. He attended the Peabody Day School (now the University School of Nashville) and then Vanderbilt University, where he was placed into an accelerated medical program because of World War II. Through the Southern Protestant

Church of the United States of America, Dr. Nelson arrived in the Zhejiang region in 1947 before being transferred to Taizhou, where



**BLAST FROM THE PAST:** Dr. Henry Nelson poses with citizens of Taizhou. Photo courtesy of EA

the bulk of his work was completed. When Dr. Nelson arrived, the Taizhou hospital was vacant of both materials and employees because of the wartime invasion by Japan. He, alongside a dedicated

staff, rebuilt the hospital from the ground up and was able to see a diverse array of patients, including a boy whose arm was stuck in one position and a schoolchild who was choking on a water chestnut after going swimming.

Alongside many cases of cholera and tuberculosis, Dr. Nelson was also able to set up an anonymous Leprosy clinic in the back of the hospital, where he treated more than 80 patients. Later, when the American was forced to evacuate, the leprosy people were at the forefront of a parade in his honor.

Chinese citizens rallied around "the doctor with big shoes" who was famous for his "come back in one day" policy where he would analyze a patient and then stay up all night studying his father's 12 volumes of medical notes and anatomy textbooks before returning in the morning and treating the patient.

In January 1948, the eastern regions of China fell to the Huhai campaign of the Chinese communist party. Dr. Nelson was forced to evacuate his wife and 2 children out of the country while he

compiled a list of the improvements that must be made before he left.

After completing all these improvements in 3 days at the request of the Communists, "the doctor with big shoes" fled the country. He then embarked on missions to Africa and later returned to Nashville.

Ms. Homan returned alongside her grandfather for the 100th anniversary of the construction of the Taizhou hospital, where he was greeted by relatives of his former patients.

"I wish for anyone to see someone who they care so much about to be able to touch so many people's lives," Ms. Homan said.

After the presentation, Honors Chinese 4 students asked questions about the historical context of Dr. Nelson's mission and anecdotes about some of his staff and patients.

Upper School World Language Teacher Ms. Jingli Jurca also elaborated on her experience living in China during the Communist regime. She emphasized the change in culture that China underwent after the Civil War and how stories like these ones are specific to one period in Chinese history. She commended Dr. Nelson and his colleagues for their bravery and service.

"This is sacrifice. This is passion. This is conviction. They didn't want anything to do with name recognition," said Ms. Jurca.

## From factorials to fighting: Heath leaves Harpeth Hall

BY GABBY MCHAOURAB  
News Editor

As Upper School Math Teacher Pemberton Heath wraps up her second and final year at Harpeth Hall, a new chapter of her life is just beginning. Ms. Heath will be moving on from Harpeth Hall to be coaching and competing competitively in jiu-jitsu full time.

Ms. Heath first got into jiu-jitsu right after college when she was 23 years old. Growing up she loved playing sports such as basketball, soccer, and lacrosse. At the University of Virginia, she picked up rugby and played competitively. In her senior year of college, she broke her leg which led to a long-lasting knee injury. As a result, she was pulled away from any sport that involved running indefinitely.

"That was difficult to cope with because I loved just playing sports of any kind. So for a couple of years, I just worked on rehabbing my knee and getting back in shape in the gym but I really missed doing sports. I missed the feeling of working on a skill set and feeling like you were improving. So I set out to find a sport that didn't involve running and that's how I came across jiu-jitsu," said Ms. Heath.

Ms. Heath began practicing at the beginner level and eventually improved to be able to compete competitively. Five years ago, she became more involved in coaching and competing. She currently trains and coaches at a gym called

Artista Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu.

Along with teaching at Harpeth Hall, Ms. Heath also trains six days a week, coaches four days a week, and weight trains three to four times a week. She spends her weekends planning not only her school classes but also her classes at her jiu-jitsu gym.

She mainly coaches basics for adults of ages 14-65 and are usually beginners. She also helps out with the little Artistas who are aged five to seven years old.

Ms. Heath will be moving on to coach, train, and compete full-time. As of right now, she competes in at least one competition per month. She mainly competes in the International Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu Federation (IBJJF) and will continue to do so.

She hopes to make it last for as long as it can, however, there is a lot of luck involved. A bad injury can always be a big roadblock.

Ms. Heath says, "I have been really fortunate, I have only had a couple of small injuries in the past 8 years, but I will train and compete full time as long as my body allows me to.

Though this opportunity to compete in jiu-jitsu has been a dream for Ms. Heath, the decision to leave Harpeth Hall did not come easy. She loves all her students, classes, and the overall community at Harpeth Hall.

However, Ms. Heath does not see this step as a goodbye to teaching

forever, but rather as an exciting new pathway. She hopes to one day teach again as she enjoys working with students and the subject of math.

"I am very fortunate to have

two great opportunities; on one hand, Harpeth Hall is my dream job but on the other hand, this opportunity for jiu-jitsu is my dream. It was a hard decision to make and I hope I will still be able to be a part of the Harpeth Hall community," said Ms. Heath.

Ms. Heath's impact on many students came through teaching precalculus and statistics as well as coaching the JV soccer team.

"Ms. Heath is the most

organized teacher I know. She wants all of her students to excel and is willing to put in the time and effort to help them succeed. I am very blessed to have had her as a teacher," said junior Lena Qian.



**BREAKING BLOCKS AND BARRIERS:** Ms. Heath poses after winning gold in her division at the Jiu Jitsu Indianapolis International Open in March 2022. Photo courtesy of Ms. Heath

# College decisions at the Hall are off the Wall

BY JULIA ALLOS

Features Editor

Whether encountering curious adults at friends' houses or at family gatherings, almost every student has been asked the most common question a highschooler can be asked, "Where are you thinking about going to college?"

Although this seems like a generally acceptable question at first, I can't help but feel a little bit embarrassed for people who ask that question, as if they are lacking some sort of social awareness. Don't they know better than to ask such a personal question? Maybe I am being unfair, and it isn't a personal question after all.

Nonetheless, the stigma around college decisions at Harpeth Hall has grown to unprecedented proportions, and it is not optimal for the mental health of the student body.

It would be considered inappropriate to ask someone about their GPA or ACT score here at Harpeth Hall. But should asking where someone is looking to go to college be considered equally rude? I don't think so.

Asking about where someone wants to go to college can be a way to look for a connection, common ground, or act of friendship rather than a judge of personal worth.

The conversation includes a typical "My husband attended Auburn, and he loved it!" or "My cousin went to Harpeth Hall and Boston College. You better buy a winter coat!" rather than a way to judge with raised eyebrows and looks of disapproval.

Even our teachers, who have our best interests at heart, have been made to feel like they can't ask us about college.

The argument is that asking a girl where she might apply would make her uncomfortable. I reject this assertion.

Harpeth Hall should be teaching their students to be resilient and to embrace the discomfort rather than protecting us from real life conversations like those surrounding college.

Be strong, and if you don't want to

plaster every detail of our search for the whole world to see. Furthermore, we definitely do not want to endure people's pity if, for some reason, we do not get accepted.

Despite this founded worry, we can still talk about our interests or mention two or three schools. It's not necessary to reveal every detail of our college application

a limited number of people who can sign the wall per week.

When seniors could sign the wall immediately after they committed, it made committing to a college more exciting. Gradually, students could watch as their entire class committed to college. Signing the wall immediately after committing represented a step of moving

on from Harpeth Hall, and each girl was ready to take this step at her own pace. Signing symbolized a student finally being done with the college application process. The current scheduled process of signing the wall just seems more contrived; it's less special and more forced.

So, why the changed policy? To protect the feelings of other students? To couch the stress for undecided students? Is the stigma around college decisions really so bad that we cannot even be happy about others' successes?

"The decision was entirely based on the emotional well-being of the senior class," said Amy Evans, Associate Director of College Counseling. The college counseling office's problem with the previous system is that each day, more students would sign and the level of stress for undecided girls rose even higher.

I like the idea of changing Harpeth Hall's practices to make the college process less stressful for students. But what I would appreciate even more is teaching girls how to manage their stress so that we can still celebrate with one another, hold off on making decisions before we are ready, and figure out how to live fulfilling lives in a world that will never be free of stress.



**ALL SMILES FOR THEIR FINAL DECISION:** Seniors Marion Cummings, Elizabeth Averbuch, Evie Daniel, Miller Clark, Caroline McKight, Anne Carlen Bone, Katherine Lindley, and Elizabeth Masters sign the college wall in the senior house on Tuesday, Apr. 19, 2022. Photo courtesy of Miller Clark.

share collegiate information, say that you do not know yet. But something as fleeting and influx as the college admission process should not be such a taboo subject.

It is true that some girls are uneasy answering these infamous questions, as the college process is certainly a stressful and long one. To protect ourselves from potential rejection, we don't want to

odyssey.

The stigma around college decisions has escalated so high that we cannot even celebrate each other's successes anymore. It is a Harpeth Hall rite of passage to sign the wall in the senior house in permanent marker. Before 2021, immediately after a senior enrolled at a college, she would sign the wall. Now, seniors cannot sign the wall until the 4th quarter, and there is

## Harpeth Hall girls are perpetually plugged-in

BY ANNA KERR

Arts and Entertainment Editor

"Students must respond to a teacher and administrator emails within 24 hours (excluding weekend)... upper school students will incur 3 demerits for failure to respond to a teacher or administrator in a timely manner" states the Harpeth Hall Handbook for Students and Faculty. This demanding rule has led me to download the gmail app on my phone to ensure that if I get an email from a teacher, I will respond to it swiftly because students and teachers alike both get frustrated when the other does not respond within hours of the email being sent.

Despite the need to be available via email, I constantly feel pressure from the society around me that demands I respond to any form of communication as quickly as possible. Texts from friends, my boss, my mom, and other demanding forms of social media all require being ready and alert to respond whenever needed.

School email provides a system of communication that can be very useful, especially whenever a student or teacher has a message to convey to the other. However, this system also leaves me with anxiety

whenever I receive the notification buzz. I immediately grab my phone and check it in hopes that the teacher has responded to the question I asked them about our homework assignment or upcoming test.



**EYE ON THE INBOX:** Junior Maddie McCall checks her email while trying to study and finds it difficult to focus. Photo by Mia Cortis

This same anxiety is triggered whenever I get text, snapchat, or other notifications. For me, email notifications often relate to certain aspects of my school work that I need

to do in the evening. Similarly, social media notification determines my social life. There is adrenaline that quickly overwhelms me whenever the notification bell dings.

The Harvard Graduate School of Education recognized this increase in anxiety levels that affects many people, reporting, "Clutched in the hand of nearly every teen is a smartphone, buzzing and beeping and blinking with social media notifications... Recent studies have noted a significant uptick in depression and suicidal thoughts over the past several years for teens... and especially girls."

There are two types of communication: wanted and unwanted notifications. "Communication is beneficial for a person when getting a notification is what they want, but then other times, you don't want those notifications. There is not a mechanism to stop communication when you don't want it," said Mr. Dan Polk, Upper School History Teacher.

Some days, like my birthday, I love getting notifications! However, on a random Tuesday evening while I am trying to get my homework done, the notifications can be bothersome. Many of my notifications are from social media platforms, such as Instagram or Tiktok, trying to lure me onto the app to waste precious time I could be spending on other things.

The goal of social media is to draw our attention into watching what other creators do in their daily lives. "Many companies

want to turn you into a consumer, not a creator," adds Mr. Polk. "Anyone who is very successful understands that in order to be a creator you have to consume less unwanted or mindless media. Successful people all have gatekeeping systems for their time which is something that is important to learn. You have to understand that your time is really valuable, and to be able to become a musician or a physician, you have to prioritize your time correctly."

The constant influx of notifications, especially from social media platforms, has caused teenagers to spend more time watching others when they should be focused on themselves. I want to see what other people are doing when I get an instagram notification that alerts me when someone has posted. Similarly to Instagram, getting an interesting notification from Tik Tok can cause an hour-long spiral where, instead of watching that one video, we end up watching 50.

The general idea of notifications, whether email or social media, determines how so much of our time is spent. While school emails are important to respond to, the expectation that it must be done within 30 minutes is harmful. By turning off those email notifications in the evening, we might also be encouraged to turn off notifications from other platforms on our phone. Overall, are email notifications really more harmful than beneficial?

# Electric consequences: the pitfalls of EVs

BY KIRAN DHILLON

Opinions Editor

Scientists throughout modern history have made increasingly groundbreaking strides in harnessing the power of electricity to benefit mankind. This trend of inventions includes the manufacturing of electric vehicles (EVs) since the 1890s. Now, with the technological power of the 21st century, hybrid and electric vehicles have recently become commonplace in global automobile markets and manufacturing.

However, as the present era now presents the possibility of a world running chiefly on electricity, the question of whether or not all people will benefit from these technological advances must be considered.

For the most part, EVs have already garnered a fair amount of support across the world, as automobile companies seek to advertise their new hybrid or all-electric vehicles by highlighting their favorable attributes. Energy sources such as wind, water, and solar power generators provide renewable electricity as an alternative energy source to oil and similar finite natural resources to power electric technology.

By utilizing said sources of renewable energy as their chief power source, EVs produce approximately three times less carbon dioxide than gasoline vehicles.

In addition to the environmental advantages of electric energy over gasoline, electric vehicles offer personal benefits as well. Generally speaking, EVs require less regular maintenance and repairs, since they don't have gas tanks to fill or oil to periodically change. Moreover, drivers save money at the gas pumps, as the price of electrically charging an electric vehicle is close to 50% cheaper than filling a full tank of gasoline. This way, drivers are able to put their money elsewhere while still owning a reliable vehicle.

Although several admirable

attributes of electric vehicles cannot be ignored in our ever-changing and innovating society, there are also significant downsides to the technology that are often overlooked.

In terms of conventional impracticalities, electric vehicles

can't travel as far as gasoline vehicles on one full charge. While charge mileages on many EVs have recently increased from 60-100 miles to 250-350 miles, those distances still can't

vehicles' environmental sustainability overshadow a crucial downfall: the creation and disposal of lithium ion batteries. Along with being a massive fire risk to recycling centers around

they decay on shelves now. When the time comes for them to be replaced, EV owners will face thousands of dollars in payment for the battery because of the subsequent scarcity of materials.

Arguably some of the most widespread pitfalls of electric vehicles are the lofty prices associated with their purchase and ownership. This significant inconvenience presents itself to most Americans before purchasing an EV, as the price tags on said vehicles are said to be around \$55,676 as of October 2021, according to Kelly Blue Book. Even with generally lower maintenance frequency with EVs, their sticker price still is not favorable. Additionally, car insurance premiums for EVs are estimated to be 23% higher than that of gasoline vehicles, making routine maintenance and repairs for EVs noticeably pricier.

The price disparity in the electric vehicle market has serious potential to obstruct the success of innovative policies to reduce urban carbon footprints. Take California, for example: many cities, namely Los Angeles, have begun to adopt significant climate policies, one of them being a city-wide regulation for only electric vehicles. For the city's poorer population, such a policy would be difficult to

maintain because of the widespread inability to purchase EVs.

Moreover, with Los Angeles's regulated rolling blackouts throughout the summer, it is hard to see how an all-electric regulation on vehicles is possible as cities with said blackout policies cannot provide enough electricity to power most if not all homes at once.

Beginning the shift from gasoline transportation to mainly electric transportation is not as easy as abruptly expecting a financially-diverse population to buy an EV solely because it's better for the environment and doesn't require gas money.

Socioeconomic and financial statuses must also be included in conversations about the methods in

which the shift will happen so that all people will benefit from it.

A successful future for all in which electric vehicles are the majority on the world's roads is only achievable if all obstacles and limitations are carefully considered first.



**ELECTRIC VEHICLES:** Junior Julia Tavi's electric Nissan Leaf boasts a "zero emissions" bumper tag in the Harpeth Hall parking lot on Thursday, Apr. 28. Photo courtesy of Mary Meacham, Photography Editor.

match the 400-mile tank mileage of the average gasoline vehicle.

Additionally, electric charging stations are sparse in comparison to gasoline pumps, making it difficult

to conveniently charge an EV away from a home station, if they have one. Especially in instances such as long road trips or hurried weekday

mornings, if an EV isn't sufficiently charged, finding an electric station for it can become problematic quickly.

As the absence of engine noise and droning is often viewed as a positive feature of EVs, it can also be deadly. If a pedestrian or another vehicle cannot hear the vehicle approaching, EVs can cause severe injuries or death.

Popular claims about electric

the United States, depending on the manufacturer, lithium-ion batteries

can contain various amounts of nickel, lithium, manganese, cobalt, and other chemicals which

need to be mined from the ground and refined: a process that can result in harmful environmental contamination. Cobalt mining has also been linked to human rights

violations, including child labor in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, where 70% of

the world's cobalt supply is mined. When these batteries eventually end up in landfills, they release harmful environmental contaminants.

In addition to threatening the environment, the price of lithium ion batteries is expected to rise dramatically in the coming years as

**Although several admirable attributes of electric vehicles cannot be ignored in our ever-changing and innovating society, there are also significant downsides to the technology that are often overlooked.**

**For the most part, EVs have already garnered a fair amount of support across the world, as automobile companies seek to advertise their new hybrid or all-electric vehicles by highlighting their favorable attributes.**

**The price disparity in the electric vehicle market has serious potential to obstruct the success of innovative policies to reduce urban carbon footprints.**

# Frist interactive gallery draws HH girls



**STARTING EARLY:** The Martin Art Quest at the Frist Museum welcomes kids from the Nashville area every Saturday starting at 10:00 am. Photo by Anna Cate Graham.

**BY ANNA CATE GRAHAM**  
Staff Writer

Aside from the regular contemporary or historical art exhibitions, the Frist Art Museum entices their younger audience with an interactive, art-making space. In 2001, the Martin ArtQuest opened at the Frist as a place for all visitors to create after being inspired by the art within the exhibitions. ArtQuest is an interactive gallery with artmaking stations such as printmaking, painting, stop motion film, puppet shows, and still life drawing.

After more than twenty years of the ArtQuest, Harpeth Hall teens recall their time in this space as children and admit to still frequenting the gallery for creative practice. Many Harpeth Hall girls' creative and artistic talents resulted from their families regularly visiting the interactive gallery.

Junior Leelee Campbell is a frequent visitor of the Frist's exhibitions and its interactive gallery.

"I visit the ArtQuest about every other time I go to the Frist. Especially for the younger kids, it's a great interactive activity instead of them just walking around. They change the activities for whatever is on exhibition at the time. For example, with the Kara Walker exhibition, there was a printmaking station," Campbell said.

Along with current visitors of the ArtQuest, many Harpeth Hall girls remember visiting the interactive galleries on a regular basis when they were younger.

"I remember going to the Frist as a kid. I went with a friend, and we drew together. I think that space really allows

kids to be immersed in their own art," freshman Hallie Gibson said.

While many of the ArtQuest's activities are targeted toward young children, teens from Harpeth Hall and the greater Nashville area are taking advantage of this space. ArtQuest activities educate children about the masterpieces they just viewed, while empowering them to become artists themselves.

Museums and the art world in general can be intimidating, challenging or somewhat confusing for children and adults alike, and this space allows for hands-on experiences. Positive experiences within the interactive gallery are not to say that the exhibitions themselves are not beneficial to children, but are rather improved upon when coupled with the interactive experience of the ArtQuest.

"I have taken my girls there a few times, especially before the pandemic. They loved it. I even enjoy the light knobs mounted on the wall," Upper School Visual Arts teacher Ms. Carmen Noel said.

Not only do young children enjoy the immersive art experience, but adults and parents, such as Mrs. Noel, get the chance to be creative outside of the classroom.

The Frist Art Museum's Martin ArtQuest interactive gallery is an opportunity for immersive creativity and learning that much of the Harpeth Hall community takes advantage of, whether concerning art of the past, present or future.

# Heavens to Betsy, I do not like Diet Pepsi

**BY OLIVIA MAJORS**  
Editor and Chief

"Diet coke please," I ask the waiter. The dreaded response comes: "Is Diet Pepsi okay?" My blood runs cold. My heart skips a beat. A shudder passes over my body as I imagine the taste of Pepsi on my tongue. "Actually, I'll just have a water please!"

The "cola wars," as the divide between Pepsi and Coke has been dubbed, may seem trivial at first. Diet Pepsi and Diet Coke are both delightfully fizzy, caramel-colored, and aspartame filled. So, why would I be willing to risk the potential health problems associated with zero-calorie sweeteners for Diet Coke, but not Diet Pepsi?

The difference, of course, lies in the taste. Diet Coke is a unique recipe, crafted afresh by the Coca-Cola Company in 1982. Diet Pepsi, however, is simply the same recipe as Pepsi, but with aspartame replacing high-fructose corn syrup. This difference in attention to the recipe shows when comparing the brands-- nothing comes close to beating the refreshing crispness of a freshly-opened can of Diet Coke.

It's true: Pepsi did it first. Almost 20 years before Coca-Cola released its first can of Diet Coke, Pepsi-Cola had crafted its own zero-calories Diet Pepsi, which became the first nationally-distributed diet soda. This lack of originality should not discredit Diet Coke: when Coca-Cola's version hit the market 20 years later, it quickly started outselling Diet

Pepsi by a two-to-one margin, aptly proving its superiority.

It is also worth noting that almost 200 years before any Diet variations, Coca Cola was the original cola producer, selling a million gallons per year before Pepsi even came into existence in 1898. Its origin is not Pepsi's only historical fault: the company went bankrupt two times, in both 1923 and in 1931. In the 1950s, Coke was hitting the silver screen while Pepsi struggled with rebranding in an attempt to keep up. After Coke went public in 1962, Pepsi once again lagged behind until they merged with Frito Lay in 1965.

Pepsi's merger with the salty-snack company transformed Pepsi's annual revenue. The Pepsi-Cola Company currently brings in more annual revenue than Coca-Cola, as Coke has stayed exclusively in the beverage arena. Pepsi's market success, buoyed by Frito Lay's ownership of KFC, Taco Bell, and Pizza Hut and their annual sponsorship of the most famous half-time show in the world, however, does not negate Coke's domination of the drink market, as illustrated in the aforementioned 2:1 sales margin.

For anyone who drinks cola regularly, this distinction is paramount. "Diet Pepsi literally tastes like you're eating a Sweet 'N Low," Upper School Social Studies

teacher Dr. Nicholas Oschman said. When I told Upper School Social Studies teacher Bonnie Moses about this article, her reaction was immediate. "Oh God, I do not like Diet Pepsi," she said.

Interestingly, this preference is not genetic. "My father likes Diet Pepsi better than Diet Coke," Moses said, despite her

own vehement resistance to the beverage.

Until Diet Pepsi finds a way to improve its taste, I will be avoiding Taco Bell, Panera, and Kentucky Fried Chicken, just a few of the places that serve only Pepsi. Instead, you can find me at McDonald's sipping the perfect beverage: an ice-cold Diet Coke.



**A DIET COKE A DAY KEEPS THE DOCTOR AWAY:** Editor-in-Chief Olivia Majors poses gleefully with a 35 pack of her favorite drink. Photo by Hallie Graham.

# The final bow: Klocko's time on HH's stage ends

BY MICHELLE IKEJANI  
Arts and Entertainment Editor

Harpeth Hall is eminent for putting on incredible plays and annual musicals with Montgomery Bell Academy. As Upper School Theater Director Janette Fox Klocko retires, the theater department is to change significantly.

Each year, many talented actresses, dancers and directors conquer the stage by learning from Ms. Klocko's invaluable teaching.

Ever since Ms. Klocko joined Harpeth Hall 35 years ago, there has not been a dull moment of teaching new generations. She has devoted countless hours providing assistance to her students and helping them to reach their full potential as performers.

Over her three years of taking classes with Ms. Klocko, Sophomore Caroline Luttrull, developed a passion for acting, "[Her teaching style] was always varied, she was fun and unpredictable and we did different things everyday," Luttrull said.

According to Luttrull, Ms. Klocko was always trying to make classes compelling, with different activities each day, "At one point she made us blind test candy as an acting technique. She was just so much fun. She was exciting and the class was exciting."

Along with her captivating class activities, Ms. Klocko also made everyone feel as if they were included regardless of their previous acting experiences. Luttrull said, "She would always give feedback to everyone and

was always trying to help no matter where someone was in the scene or their ability or strengths."



**BRAVO, KLOCKO:** Former Theatre Director Janette Fox Klocko sits in the Frances Bond Davis Theatre: her home for 35 years. Photo courtesy of Janet Klocko

Throughout Ms. Klocko's time at Harpeth Hall, she produced performances that would have a lasting impressions on the audience and the school community as a whole. One of Ms. Klocko's favorite shows was a play

entitled The Laramie Project.

"It was about Matthew Shepard who was killed because he was gay," said Ms.

Klocko, "I had to get special permission to do it because it was dealing with issues about being gay and about being homophobic."

Though The Laramie Project took about 20 years to be approved, Ms.

Klocko confirms that it was worth it. "I thought it was really important and it started very important conversations at Harpeth Hall, it was truly amazing," she says as she reflects on the positive impact this play accomplished. Ms. Klocko advocated to produce shows in which the Harpeth Hall community is able to learn and benefit from.

Although Ms. Klocko had to leave mid-year due to COVID-19 difficulties, she deeply misses Harpeth Hall and the culture within the student body.

When asked what she missed most about Harpeth Hall theater, she said, "My student, the collaboration and watching students learn whether it's in class, you know, from the beginning of the semester to the end of the semester."

Though Ms. Klocko will no longer be teaching at Harpeth Hall, she has high hopes for the future of the theater program.

"I just hope that people continue to have that drive and passion for live theater. I don't want to see live theater disappear. I hope that Harpeth Hall continues to have techies and actors who love theater and want to work together to share it with an audience," Ms. Klocko said.

Harpeth Hall will not be the same without Ms. Klocko's presence on campus, but her legacy which has been imprinted upon the theater program and students is immeasurable.

# Grand Reopening for Hammy's last dance

BY CAROLINE FORD  
Arts and Entertainment Editor

There may be a dance battle at Winter Formal, dance parties on the Senior Patio or even just students moving and grooving in the halls, however, there is nothing as professional as the Spring Dance Concert. After two years of having to abide by COVID-19 restrictions, the Harpeth Hall Dance Company is ready for a grand

reopening.

Filled with bright colors and costumes, the Spring 2022 Dance Concert was lively and enthralling. From the bright, flashy clothing in the jazz routines to more light, earthy tones seen in contemporary or ballet pieces, this year's spring concert: Grand Reopening, reflects an upbeat persona that the audience can sense in the dances. There is no dance that is not

carefully crafted to perfectly match the beat and help the flow of the theme pulses through the auditorium.

Featuring students from grades five through twelve,

**"I mean you know I don't want them to feel like there's this strange happening or something weird going on. I want to just enjoy it and take it for what it is. There's nothing to prove."**

- Director of Dance, Stephanie Hamilton

only for her but also for her dancers.

"I mean you know I don't want them to feel like there's this strange happening or something weird going on. I want to just enjoy it and take it for what it is. There's nothing to prove." Hamilton said.

Abby Brandau and Lindsey Beatty have mastered the dance concert lingo and rhythms in their time with the company. Beatty, who has been participating in dance at Harpeth Hall since her 5th-grade year, and Brandau, who started her dance journey at Harpeth Hall in 6th-grade, have both enjoyed their time in the company immensely. Although this may be Beatty and Brandau's last year, they both are holding on tight to this last concert.

"I am so excited," Beatty said. "This is the concert I have been both excited about and dreading the most. I truly can't imagine dancing without these girls every day and I don't know what I will do without them next year."

"When you finally get your pieces perfectly done seconds before we all end, you're up there with all your girls and everyone's so happy for you and you know you just did a semester's worth of work," Brandau said.



**SENTIMENTAL SENIORS:** Seniors pose with Director of Dance, Stephanie Hamilton after her last concert. Photo courtesy of Leelee Campbell.

Grand Reopening showcases the community that the Dance Company provides. After a long, hard two years full of change and growth, the show gives light to the Harpeth Hall community just before the 2022 school year comes to a close.

Grand Reopening was chosen by the Dance Company's leader and facilitator, Stephanie Hamilton, who has worked with Harpeth Hall for over 40 years. Hamilton has no stress or worries about approaching the upcoming concert; she just wants it to be as normal as possible for her last one not

# Spring sports close in on successful seasons

## Lacrosse, track, riflery and softball see improvements and accolades

The field. The court. The track. The range. Spring sports at Harpeth Hall are in full swing. As the season draws to a close, Logos reflects on the events throughout the season and looks at projections for the wrap up.

The lacrosse team played the Baylor Red Raiders in the quarter-finals where Harpeth Hall was the top seed. The bears won 20-4 and advance to the semi-finals on May 7th in Memphis.

"I'm so grateful to have a team that just genuinely enjoys being together. Conditioning or long trips to Memphis - there is a sense of joy in just getting to play," Senior Miller Clark said.

Since the team lost in the state finals last year, Harpeth Hall varsity lacrosse is eager to prove themselves this year. "After coming so close to a state title last year, we have all brought a new sense of motivation and grit with us this season. Our team really just clicks," Sophomore Charlotte Myers said.

The JV lacrosse team won semi-finals on April 29 in a game versus Franklin High School by one with a final score of seven to six. The team lost in the finals by a score of nine to ten to FRA the next day.

"I'm really proud of this team for only losing one game this season. It sucks that it had to be the final, but we fought to the bitter end," Junior Annie Linley said.

From the turf to the dirt, the Harpeth Hall softball team is making a comeback with a record of five losses and five wins. "We're awesome. That's the quote," Junior



**BUILT FORD TOUGH:** Junior Caroline Ford competes in the track meet at Brentwood Academy on May 27th. Photo courtesy of Abby Miller.

Mary Meacham said.

After some early defeats by large margins, the softball bears are winning. A big win, HH softball faced Ensworth on April 21 and won six to five. More recently, the bears beat SCA by a whopping 18 runs, as the final score was 23 to five.

"The varsity softball team is having a great season. We are a tight squad with a positive culture," said Varsity Softball Coach, Anne Marie Helm.

This week, the softball bears face off in a home game against Lipscomb and an away game versus Pope Prep. For now, the bears are swinging for the fence.

On the court, the Harpeth Hall tennis team placed third in the Patty Chadwell Tournament hosted here, at HH, on April 23rd. The team faces St. Cecelia Academy on May 2nd and has high hopes for the match.

In other news, senior Carly Mitchell

recently decidedly signed with the Centre tennis program. For the next four, the Harpeth Hall team will have a representative in college tennis.

"The spirit and support creates the best community," said Junior Ava Grace Meredith, varsity tennis player.

The bears made a ruckus from the range. The Harpeth Hall riflery team won State Championships on March 3 through 5th, beating MBA at home. After a great season, Isabella Baldwin and Kate Stewart will represent Harpeth Hall at the National Junior

can be an automatic qualifier to make the US Junior National Team," said Baldwin. Stewart is competing in standing air rifle, and Baldwin is competing in air rifle and three position small bore.

"A ton of credit for our success this year goes to our senior leadership and coaches. It was great to see our hard work pay off with not only a State Championship but also a new state record," said Baldwin.

On the track, Harpeth Hall runners are taking the season all the way to the finish line. Harpeth Hall won the city track meet hosted by Harpeth Hall from April 19 to the 22nd. The Great Eight, which took place on April 28 at Father Ryan, had 3 top finishers from Harpeth Hall.

Freshman, Anna Maria Bachetta placed 5th in the 3200 and beat her personal record by 8 seconds.

"That's a huge deal," said Junior Bella Guillamondegui who also competed in the Great Eight. Guillamondegui finished in second place in both the 800 and 1600 and PRed by a little in the latter. Senior Sabrina Russell competed in the 300 meter hurdles, where she finished in third with a PR, and the 100 meter hurdles.

"The season has carried with it a great sense of revival because we have really come together without the stress of COVID-19," said Junior and track team captain Caroline Ford.

The Harpeth Hall community waits in anticipation for the conclusion of the spring season. For now, go support the spring athletes in their remaining games.



**BREAKI:** The varsity lacrosse team records a 20-4 win over Baylor in the state quarter-finals on April 30th at Harpeth Hall. Photo by Grace Blankenship.

Olympics at Hillsdale College from May 11 to the 15th.

"Doing well in the Junior Olympics

# Titans shock and score in NFL draft and offseason

## AJ Brown is traded as Titans pick up new offensive and defensive talents

**BY RILEY KATE HIGGINS**

*Sports Editor*

The NFL offseason is filled with hopes for the next season and unpredictable trades or draft orders. While current players retire, unretire, get traded or receive contract extensions, the centerpiece of the offseason is the draft of the NFL's up-and-coming players out of the NCAA.

The immediate headliner of the NFL offseason came when Tom Brady announced that he would be coming out of retirement after announcing he would not return to the Tampa Bay Buccaneers just 40 days earlier. The seven time superbowl winner announced on social media that he would be coming back declaring he has "unfinished business."

Other big names in the NFL jumped on the offseason carousel. Von Miller who just won a superbowl with the Los Angeles Rams is on the

move again as he goes to the Buffalo Bills. The Kansas City Chiefs' star wide receiver Tyreek Hill is off to Miami to join the Dolphins. Another big wide receiver move was Davante Adams leaving the Green Bay Packers and Aaron Rogers to join the Las Vegas Raiders. The quarterback shake-up is in



**NEW KID ON THE BLOCK:** Former Arkansas wide receiver Treyton Burks was drafted to the Tennessee Titans, replacing AJ Brown, on April 28, 2022. Photo courtesy of David Beach.

full force this year as Russel Wilson, Carson Wentz and Deshaun Watson have all been traded.

The main event of the NFL draft is finding out where the star-studded first round talents will end up for the 2022-2023 season. With the first pick of the draft, the Jacksonville Jaguars

selected Trayvon Walker, a linebacker from Georgia. Next to go was Aidan Hutchinson, a defensive end out of Michigan. It was predicted that these defensive powerhouses would go first and second, but the order was not clear until draft day

Hutchinson, now a Detroit Lion, recorded an impressive 11 sacks last year compared to Walker's 6 sacks. But, many think that the Jaguars are betting on Walker improving under the franchise.

Other big names to find teams in the first round include cornerback Derek Stingley Jr. out of LSU going to the Houston Texans and quarterback Kenny Pickett out of Pitt staying in Pittsburgh with the Steelers.

The Titans' regular season success with a quick playoff exit led many fans to look toward next season for notable Tennessee football success.

# HH athletes feel shift towards positive sports culture

## Student athletes appreciate school-wide support but want more attendance

BY RUTHIE GAW

Sports Editor

Sports culture at Harpeth Hall inevitably presents excitement, as most sporting events do, but also, on the flip side, pressure and anxiety. Harpeth Hall's sports program can bring athletes immense stress and anticipation.

However, glancing up at the stands and seeing a crowd filled with student and parent supporters could undoubtedly boost the team's morale on the field, court, or rink.

"When you look into the stands and see your friends cheering you on, then you are automatically more energized, and you want to perform better," said Sophomore Charlotte Myers.

Attendance at sporting events impacts the performance of student athletes, but even more important is the team's morale and energy. Having fans from outside of one's sports bubble can uplift the team's spirits.

"If you're available to come to games, always go because you never know how it will positively affect the team you're supporting," Freshman Campbell Counter said.

Often at sporting events, the varsity and junior varsity teams from the same sport show up to support the greater team. But, for many sports, the attendance does not go much further than the immediate team.

Recently, the Polar Bears hockey team scrimmaged a few members of the MBA junior varsity hockey team. The team saw more fans than usual show up to Bellevue Ford Ice Center on April 26th for their last game of the season.

"Having fans at the hockey scrimmage and shootout energized the whole team and gave me a boost of confidence to make saves," Junior and

Polar Bears goalie Ava Sjursen said.

"It was so fun at the end of the game to pose for our supportive fans, all

Increased support at events is one way to relieve some of the pressure that comes with competing at the high

and field, swim and cross country place a lot of pressure upon the athlete because it's on you to perform your

best. You want to do well for yourself and the team, so it feels like twice the stress,"

Junior track team captain Grace Blankenship said.

Harpeth Hall's campus is constantly filled with sporting events providing students with opportunities to cheer on one another. One way to show support for our athletes is to attend their games, matches and meets.

"It really boosts my morale when my friends and other supporters are at the game because it makes me want to strive to make my performance better," Counter said.

Uplifting our athletes doesn't have to stop on the field or court. One possibility to increase school spirit could be to wear jerseys or uniforms on major game days or to have events such as white-outs or green-outs.

"At other schools, people get excited for dressing up, and then they are more likely to go. But, we have never done that," Myers said. "Wearing uniforms on game days can promote students coming to games."

"The green wigs, skirt flags and boas are a key component of our school's overall pride. I know as an athlete it is extremely encouraging to see a sea of green cheering you on," Junior softball player Vee Counter said.

High school athletics boil down to a celebration of the athletes and their accomplishments on and off the field. Having support from fellow students can uplift team spirit as well as push athletes to perform better. Student support could make a difference in not only individual confidence but also school spirit and pride.



**DRIVING TOWARDS THE BASKET:** Sophomore basketball player Charlotte Meyers plays against Nashville Christian on November 30, 2021. Photo by Rory Fraser.

of whom may not have seen a hockey game before. This meant so much to the team

because they didn't come for the quality of the game, but to energize all of the players," Junior and Polar Bears

defender Riley Kate Higgins said.

Sports can be demanding and invigorating for every athlete involved.

school level.

"Because many Harpeth Hall girls play sports, there is a big community of athletes, which is nice because we all experience the same things and

know the same stress," Freshman soccer player Cecilia Mbow said.

"Individual sports such as track

**"When you look into the stands and see your friends cheering you on, then you are automatically more energized, and you want to perform better,"**

- Sophomore Charlotte Meyers

## Continued from the opposite page: NFL draft

But who did the Titans pick up in the recent NFL draft in Las Vegas? As Titans fanatics get excited about the new season, they look to some incoming stars to aid their team in the quest for the Super Bowl.

While Titans higher-ups have repeatedly reassured fans that Ryan Tannehill is their guy, fans are notably nervous about the quarterback's prospects next season. Probably the most important piece in Tannehill's arsenal was wide receiver AJ Brown. However, the Titans parted ways with Brown sending him off to the Philadelphia Eagles where he acquired a four year, 100 million dollar contract. The huge draft-time decision left many fans in shock and wondering whether their team's offense will be able to improve next season.

"Our offense has to be completely reconstructed in a year where we had a window of opportunity to do something, especially in the super bowl," Junior Gabby Mchaourab said. "I don't know what I was expecting,

but it was not that."

"After the deal went down, I kind of stopped watching," Sophomore Jenny Lott said.

Directly after the trade was announced, the Titans were on the clock with the 18th pick of the draft. They selected Treyton Burks, a wide receiver out of Arkansas who has been framed as a cheaper AJ Brown. Big, fast and physical, Burks might be a good weapon for the Titans offense, but fans are not fully convinced.

"This new rookie better be a good player," Lott said. "Apparently he is supposed to be the new AJ Brown and very fast, but I prefer the current AJ Brown."

But a quarterback needs more than one option, especially after the Titans released Julio Jones. In response to this gap, the Titans picked up Robert Woods, who just won a championship with the Rams.

"We got our guy in Woods," Art History teacher Robert Womack said. "He will help Tannehill, but I am

worried about Tannehill's lack of work this offseason with his wide receivers."

The Titans used their second third round pick to acquire Malik Willis, a quarterback out of Liberty. Willis is a dynamic quarterback who seems to be the heir apparent to Tannehill's team or a player that the Titans can develop and trade in the future. Willis's athleticism opens up running back Derrick Henry to create even more problems on the offensive front. The rookie also has the opportunity to push Tannehill harder this season especially by developing alongside the new receiver.

Another gap in the Titans' roster is the offensive line. While the Titans did re-sign center Ben Jones to a two year deal, there have not been any big moves for the offensive line so far. This leads fans to look for answers in the draft.

"The Titans desperately need an offensive lineman first and foremost," Mr. Womack said.

In response to this gap, the Titans

drafted Nicholas Petit-Frere, an offensive tackle from Ohio State. Since the Titans' offensive line does not have much depth especially amid injuries, Petit-Frere will hopefully add some padding to the roster.

Other Titans picks included second round pick Roger McCreary, a cornerback out of Auburn. This pick will help plug the gap created from the Titans letting Janoris Jenkins go.

The Titans also picked up Michigan running back Hassan Haskins and Maryland tight end Chigoziem Okonkwo. These picks will also help deepen the Titans' roster. Also, they selected another wide receiver: Kyle Philips from UCLA.

This year's draft contained the usual shocks and wins for the Titans, all teams and NFL fans. Despite months without football and the prospect of several months waiting for more football, the NFL offseason has found a way to shock, surprise, disappoint, and excite fans across the country and here in Nashville.