



The Highlander



Volume II Issue I

October 2023

The Frederick Gunn School

Play 4 the Cure

Mairin Hoffman '25

On October 6, 2023, one of the school's many cherished traditions, Play For The Cure, was held on a cold, slightly rainy night full of competitive field hockey games with a huge crowd. Each class participated in their own teams. The night ended with a twist, as the junior class won for the first time in years.

Play For The Cure is a worldwide celebrated event as all the proceeds made via donations are towards cancer research. The donations were collected via each team member paying to play, paying for a dress-down day, and a table full of baked goods to enjoy while watching the games go down. The games started at 7 p.m. when all teams gathered on the turf to practice before the intense competition. Mrs. LeBlanc and Ms. Paulekas gathered all the players into the center of the field to explain the rules to new players and excited each team for what was to come.

The games started off with the seniors vs. sophomores and juniors vs.

freshmen. The Senior class won with a score of 3-0, and the Junior class won in a very close game with a score of 3-2. The games were full of enthusiastic audiences, peer support, and funny errors and



lessons players learned from each other while playing in the fast-paced game.

The final two teams, Juniors and Seniors, had a long game ahead of them to determine who was the winner of the game this year. Each team was screaming, and when people scored, the

and enthusiastic cheers from each side, building up tensions for both teams. Two ten-minute periods of extreme action and hard work led to shootouts from each team after a tie of 1-1, and the juniors took the game-winning goal, done by Jake Pellicane and Billy Collins '25. Even after all the competition, the night is highlighted by students throughout the year as being one of the best nights on campus. With all of The Highlanders coming together and working hard for a great cause, it really shows how much of a force the community truly is.



The Lizzie and Jonathan Tisch Center for Innovation and Active Citizenship

Bridie Bolger '24

After Jonathan Tisch's (Class of '72) announcement in the TPACC Auditorium last year, Highlanders were overjoyed to hear news of a future building crowning our campus. Now, almost a year later, the I-beams are up. The concrete is poured and a steel bar, signed by the students and faculty of the Frederick Gunn School, has been hung in full view inside for all members of the community to enjoy. While the expected grand opening of the building won't happen until January 2024, families and members of the school's community will be offered the opportunity to see the quickly developing interior later this month for Fall Family Weekend.

In the winter of 2022, the school's leadership released architectural models to the public before demolition of the old science center began in June 2022. Although some Highlanders protested the modern style, the Lizzie's design echoes aspects of Gunn's campus in many ways, such as Tudor style coloring and geometric themes. Jonathan Tisch described his excitement about the opportunities the new building will provide to students of his alma mater. "When you're on the outside looking in, you will see all of the various departments. You will see the classrooms and the students learning. And then you've got a view on the campus that deserves to be embraced. That's what is so amazing about the design."

The official Lizzie and Jonathan Tisch Center for Innovation and Active Citizenship will mainly focus on STEM courses, entrepreneurship, and the iconic I.D.E.A.S. Center of The Frederick Gunn School. But the Lizzie will also be the new home of the Center for Citizenship and Just Democracy, where our student leaders of The Washington Eagle hope to welcome citizen journalists from Washington and Litchfield communities to collaborate with their neighbors on local news stories about our amazing active citizens! A virtual tour of the center is available on The Frederick Gunn School's website for those curious, but a mere drive down Route 47 past the quad will give a glimpse of the sleek glass and metallic gem that overlooks the historic school.



The Production of Common Ground

Matis Molina Ricard '24 and Martha Ewing '26

On Sunday, September 24th, the Common Ground episode, Women's Rights: Life After Dobbs was filmed in the auditorium of the Thomas Perakos Arts and Community Center, of the Frederick Gunn School. In this episode, Jane Whitney interviewed Fatima Goss Graves, Katie Paris, Gretchen Sisson, and Alice Stewart, who discussed the politics and opinions surrounding the overturning of Roe v Wade, also known as the Dobbs Decision, in June, 2022. This decision to ban the right to abortion in many states has been one that has impacted the everyday lives of women and has caused outrage among different communities across America. In this episode, three of the four panelists were left-leaning, pro-choice activists, with Alice Stewart as the single pro-life interviewee. While there was clear disagreement about the Dobbs decision, each panelist articulated their respect and compassion for their counterparts and all agreed the conversation was important to bridge some of the divide and come to more of a consensus concerning the future of abortion rights in the United States.

Adoption was a heavily discussed topic in this episode. Gretchen Sisson, a social scientist who studies the relationship between abortion and adoption in the United States, brought an educated view, supported with data, on this topic. "Adoption has long been the common ground of the abortion debate," said Sisson. "Most women who relinquish infants, want to parent. They come to the adoption decision when their path to parenthood is blocked because they don't have support or resources to make that possible. Rather than considering how adoption speaks to the question of whether or not people need access to abortion, we should be looking at whether or not adoption is a reflection of our overall social safety net."

In an interview with two audience members, journalists for the Frederick Gunn School uncovered a personal perspective on the topic of adoption and what it means for the child. One of the interviewees, Kathleen, said, "It was harder than I thought it was going to be to listen sometimes." She then went on to introduce her husband, saying, "He's adopted, and so that was really interesting to hear some of that discussion. Some of it was frustrating. The audience was amazing, actually. I haven't sat through something like this - I'm terrible with confrontation and I thought it was handled incredibly well." The other interviewee, Kathleen's husband, went on to say, "I always respect that other people have opinions, while I disagree with other people's opinions sometimes, they are totally allowed to have them. I am adopted and I do believe that it is an option. I always say to anyone who is going to put their own child up for adoption, 'Know that your child will be loved more than you can even imagine but those parents have so much love to give.' If parents are brave enough and love the child enough to put the child up for adoption, and the child's new parents welcome the child into a loving home, then the child is loved twice as much as just a regular child. It's amazing."

This highly disputed topic is one that invokes heated conversation that does not just involve political opinions, but personal ethics. It is important to find Common Ground, for issues like these, and to understand that people have had different experiences and come from different walks of life, shaping their perspectives in ways that might differ from one's own views. The overturning of Roe V Wade has changed the trajectory of American History and the repercussions of the decision are not yet certain. As Alice Stewart said at the end of the episode, "If there is an issue that you are passionate about, do something about it. Don't just sit on the sidelines - really get involved. We view this differently, but I fully support anyone if they are passionate."

The Highlander

Gunn Life

New Highlander Head New Faculty Admission

Matis Molina Ricard '24 and Martha Ewing '26

Eung Jay Lee '24

In December, 2022, following Peter Becker's announcement that he would be leaving The Frederick Gunn School, the search began to find a replacement Head of School. Questions began to arise of who would be able to fill the big shoes that Mr. Becker had left behind after his eleven transformative and extraordinary years at the school. After a few months of searching all corners of the globe, in the spring of 2023, the Search Committee announced it had chosen the new Head of School. Much to the delight of students and faculty, instead of selecting an external candidate to take on the role, the Frederick Gunn School looked inward, choosing Emily Raudenbush Gum to be the 12th Head of School. Mrs. Gum's PhD from the University of Oxford and her time spent at the University of Saint Andrews in Scotland, make her more than able to be a diligent and qualified leader at the Frederick Gunn School. Mrs. Gum moved to Washington, Connecticut five years ago with her family and has been an integral part of our community ever since.

Mrs. Gum already has plans to integrate the Frederick Gunn School into the Washington, CT community. In an interview with members of the Civic Journalism and Media making course at the Frederick Gunn School, Mrs. Gum took the time to answer some questions. When asked about how the school is integrated into the community, she responded: "There are some obvious ways the school is integrated in the community through our facilities, things like Common Ground, open spaces, and we want to make sure that the town knows that this campus is very much for the citizens of Washington and we want community members to be part of what we are doing on campus. But I think the deeper question is how to live up to the ideals of Frederick and Abigail when they started thinking about this school and lecture series and a library and arts as things that really benefit and ground a town. I come from towns where there were major universities that helped to be part of the public conversation, helped to pull people together and be a backbone institution. We don't have a backbone university in Northwest Connecticut, but we have a pretty phenomenal network of independent schools with campuses and communities that are committed to things like active citizenship and public knowledge, and that's really what drives me from a leadership standpoint."

When asked about what she loves about this community, Mrs. Gum replied, "I love the commitment to culture and the arts. I love the commitment to local food sustainability, the outdoors and Lake Waramaug, and the stewardship of these spaces over generations that allow those of us who move in to find a home very quickly and understand where are food systems are and where our energy systems are, and what it means to embed ourselves in the world around Washington."

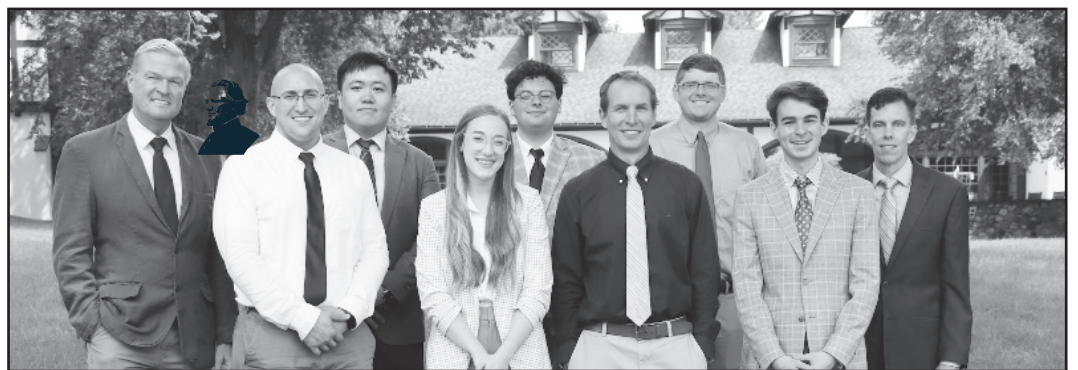
The addition of Mrs. Gum to lead Frederick Gunn School, will be instrumental towards the relationship between the school and Washington, CT, strengthening and unifying both communities in a way unique to our town and our people. Washington is a town built on individualism and culture that is fostered in its people and echoed into the surrounding districts. These values are evident in our new Head of School, as she takes on this new leadership role in our institution.

After a long summer break, the academic year 2023-2024 for The Frederick Gunn School finally began. All returning and new students welcomed each other and got ready for the new school year. On the first day back on campus, students were thrilled to see their old friends whom they missed over summer vacation. The meet and greet was filled with such excitement through kind interactions and pleasantries. But above all, students frequently asked this question: "Wait, who is this faculty?"

For this '23-'24 school year, nine new teachers joined the Gunn community: Mr. Bannon as a strength and conditioning coach in Athletics, Mr. Schatz and Mr. Jiang in the math department, Mr. Braithwaite and Dr. Durning in the history department, Ms. Parrish in the science department, Miss Dest for the assistant of the library, Mr. DePreter in the English department and outdoor leadership, and Mr. Rees for the Director of Entrepreneurship

The process for new faculty recruitment begins in late winter early spring. In between spring and the end of the school year, current teachers have to let the school know that they are not coming back the following year. At this point, the process of new faculty recruitment starts. By connecting with various recruiting consultants and posting job opportunities on the school website, the recruitment team seeks to find new faculty who can fit into our community perfectly. All candidates have an initial interview with the Leadership Team through a Zoom meeting. If the school wants to know more about the specific candidate, the school will invite him or her to campus to take a campus tour with the current student tour guide and to observe classes and sports. Lastly, depending on their interests, candidates will have small group interviews with members from the Athletics, DOS, and Academics teams. After the candidates finish all tours and interviews, they wait for the potential job offer. After they receive the offer, they then start to prepare for school life by moving in during the summer and arriving at school around two weeks ahead of the student's arrival.

"My favorite part during the recruitment process was the current student tour," said the new library assistant Miss. Dest. Mrs. Lyon, who is the Dean of the Faculty and takes charge of the new faculty recruitment, also emphasized the student tour during the process. "Compared to other schools, the current student tour is a specialty of our school. Students can provide information with deeper insight into our community than our faculty can." She also emphasized another characteristic of the new faculty recruitment process. "We recruit new faculty not just for replacing the teachers who left the school, but also for assisting our community with the current students and faculties to enhance our school."



New faculty photo (From left: Mr. Rees, Mr. Bannon, Mr. Jiang, Ms. Dest, Mr. Schatz, Mr. DePreter, Mr. Paradis, Mr. Braithwaite, Mr. Durning)

The Difficulties of Recruiting

Trey LaMay '25

In The Frederick Gunn school's history, there have been thousands of college athletes. These athletes have shown what it means to play a sport at the Frederick Gunn School and have gone on to continue to show their athletic abilities on the field or court at the collegiate level.

Less than 2% of High School athletes go on to play Division One athletics. Around 7% of High School athletes go on to play a sport in college. There are 1,100 NCAA schools. There are 361 D1 schools, 300 D2 Schools, 436 D3 Schools, and then 525 NJCAA schools. In an extensive investigative report, the Highlander News sports desk interviewed adults from different backgrounds about college recruiting. The former Sacred Heart University baseball coach Wayne Mazzoni, a recruiting expert said: "If your goal is to play your sport in college, be prepared that it will be the hardest thing you have gone through in your young life to date. Get organized, get some guidance, and buckle up for the journey. The outcomes are worth all the effort, but

it will have a lot of ups and downs."

The HN sports desk also talked with former Gunn baseball player and now Northeastern star Mike Sirota



about how he felt during the process. "It's unnecessary added pressure, but it's nice to feel wanted." Major League Pitcher Joe Zanghi, who had an up-and-

down college experience but still made it to pro baseball. He said, "The unknown was some of the darkest times." He emphasized "Am I going to be able to go to the school I

want, or do I have to sacrifice that to be able to keep playing baseball?" The last idea he said was "Am I going to get a scholarship?" Showing all the factors that go into picking

a school. The common theme when talking about college recruiting was the amount of stress put on these players, not only in the classroom but on the field.

The staff wanted to see if anything had changed since these veterans had been recruited so The Highlander reached out to recent Hostfra commit Owen Laatsch for his thoughts on the process. "It was very exciting but also stressful. It was hard for me to not pick the name-brand schools but I knew at the end of the day, Hofstra was the place for me." Also recently committed Brandon Rovenilli had this to say about his recruiting experience "The recruiting process was very fun but a stressful time that I wanted to end as soon as possible. I chose Columbia because they're an Ivy league school with a great winning baseball tradition allowing me to play in the NCAA tournament and win the Ivy."

The Highlander

Gunn CoCurriculars

Football Preseason Boys Varsity Soccer

Ryan Ryu '24

Matis Molina Ricard '24

In a blink of an eye, the Highlanders are back on campus. As the fall term began, football season started its practice with the football team's signature hype chanting, "It's a great day to be alive, but it's even a greater day to be a Highlander." Football is one of the longest-running athletic programs at the school; as the Frederick Gunn School states, "Football has had a long-standing and rich tradition here at The Frederick Gunn School, as students at our school have been playing this great sport since the mid-1850's when Mr. Gunn – our founder – was running the school and organizing games throughout the fall and winter seasons. Mr. Gunn believed that athletics played a significant role in a student's personal development."

The football program at the Frederick Gunn School is unlike any other regular football program across the country. In early October 2015, The Frederick Gunn School and Millbrook School made a groundbreaking announcement regarding their collaborative effort to introduce an eight-player football initiative within New England's prestigious preparatory school circuit. This initiative aims "to provide a viable, long-term alternative to the game in its traditional form." Since the initial announcement, the league has seen an impressive surge in participation, with over nine more schools eagerly joining the league.

Following a thrilling conclusion to the 2022-2023 football season, where the Highlanders secured an impressive record of four wins and only two losses, the anticipation is palpable as we embark on another exhilarating season of football action. Despite facing the challenge of a reduced roster due to the departure of ten seasoned seniors, the Highlanders have displayed unwavering dedication and commitment to their quest for excellence in the game.

Assistant Coach Mihailey, who has recently joined the Gunn community as a Director of Campus Safety after being the Head Coach for baseball and football at Emmett O'Brien Technical High School and Head Football Coach at Nonnewaug High School, describes, "We are working hard to build off the success we had last season. Last year's seniors set the standard for the program moving forward. This year's group knows what the expectations are and understands the challenges we face each day. The camaraderie is there, the work ethic is there, and now we have to come together as a unit. I look forward to seeing this group prepare and strive to be successful on and off the field."

As the sun sets on one season, it rises on another, and the Highlanders are determined to once again stake their claim as a dominant force on the gridiron. With unyielding teamwork and relentless effort, they are ready to face the competition head-on and continue their pursuit of triumph and glory. The stage is set, the players are prepared, and the Highlanders are primed for an unforgettable journey through this new football season.



The varsity boys soccer team has set the standard with their recent performances and has high hopes for the rest of the season. The team finished off last season and made a strong playoff push going 4-1-2 in their last seven games. Hoping to build off the momentum from last year, the team fought hard against two Founders League teams where they were able to do more than just hold their own.

They played a friendly game against Kent that started rough as the Highlanders went down 0-1. The team only had two practices before this match whereas Kent had three weeks of pre-season and was much more prepared. As time went on, they were able to come back and tie the game 1-1.

In the first official game of the season, they played against Trinity Pawling, a very talented team, and knew that they would have to have a good performance to be able to get a win. And that is exactly what happened. After an unfortunate first half full of chances, they could not put any of them in the net and it ended 0-0. During the second half, the team was hungry for goals and made sure to claim a lead. They finished the game 2-0, happy with the win, but disappointed that the lead wasn't greater.

The Highlander Newspaper met with some members of the team. With high hopes going into the season, we met with the team's stars, such as Vico, a junior. He had this to say about the team "This season is going to be special. We have an amazing group that works together inside and outside the field. We had a good start to the season and no matter what the team is always going to be together for no matter what. We are always going to fight for each game and battle to get a win every time."

We also talked to senior captain Adrian Daou who said, "We had two unfortunate losses but we showed that we can be competitive with any team we play against. I'm excited about the future and I think if the team can start to string together a few more wins in a row we could have a productive season and hopefully make it to the tournament for what I believe would be the first time in Gunn boys soccer history."

Overall, the team seems to be very optimistic about the rest of the season and are ready for the rest of their games. The team will be fighting for a spot in the NEPSAC playoffs the rest of the way. The team will be looking to make history the rest of the way and be looking to clinch coach Sheikh's first NEPSAC playoff appearance.

2023 Fall Play: Silent Sky

Samara Kinyanjui '27

On November 9-11 2023, the production of the fall play will be presented in the TPACC auditorium. Mr. Burnham will be directing the play titled Silent Sky by Lauren Gunderson. Mr. Jiang, new to the Gunn Arts department, will be taking on the position of assistant director to Mr. Burnham.

Silent Sky is a play that takes place in the 1900s when women could not work with a telescope due to discrimination and bias in the workplace. The five women who played a big part in astronomy in the 1800s were Williamina Fleming, Antonia Maury, Henrieta Swan Leavitt, Annie Jump Cannon, and Cecilia Payne. The Lauren Gunderson play Silent Sky is one of the thousands of plays produced over the years. Going back to when the first play was, in 472 BC, "The Persians" by Aeschylus. The

Persians is one of the oldest Greek plays to survive. Playwriting has changed drastically from the 5th century to the present day. Before, plays only tended to involve a protagonist and a chorus. Now, there are many additional roles in plays.



The leading roles in Silent Sky will be played by Sofia Panzer, Daisy Moriarty, Taylor Sall, Shannon McCormack, and Sonia Romanenko.

Today, only 27.3% of astronomers are women as astronomy is generally a

male dominated field. Between 2010 and 2021, the gender ratio of women to men fluctuated significantly. The play Silent Sky captures the relationship between both men and women in the workplace and how each gender is treated.

and connect with both students and faculty alike. I hope that the Gunn drama productions expose our community to playwrights that they would not normally get exposed to. As a director who has directed two of Lauren Gunderson's plays, I think that she is vibrant and prolific in her writing. I love this play so much, I see it as moving, powerful, and admirable because it shines light on someone in history that was overlooked, and performing this play gets Henrietta Leavitt her due credit."

Mr. Burnham's love for the play and his passion for the arts will surely help produce an amazing theatrical piece. He wants to do right by the school and the women who inspired Lauren Gunderson to write the play Silent Sky. The Frederick Gunn School welcomes the entire Washington, CT community to come enjoy the play at the Thomas S. Perakos Arts and Community Center on November 11, 2023.

The Highlander

Washington & World News

Possibility of Life in Space

Sebastian Komaritsky '25

An exoplanet is a planet that lies outside of our solar system. Many space agencies have found different exoplanets but the exoplanet K218B is different. K218B is 120 light years away from Earth and lives within the habitable zone. K218B also circles an M star which is the most common, they tend to be redder, cooler, and dimmer than the Sun. It is about 2.6 times the size of our Earth.

The chemicals that The James Webb telescope has reported show possibilities of life. Astronomers and NASA, ESA, and CSA used the James Webb telescope to record the gasses in the atmosphere, revealing: Methane, Carbon Dioxide, and Dimethyl Sulfide (DMS). These chemicals are vital to life but more importantly, the only other place we have seen DMS is in our own atmosphere because our marine life produces it. This discovery means there is a possibility of life on an ocean-covered planet. “The detection of any Carbon molecule in an atmosphere is a huge advancement in the field” (Madhusudhan, 2023, CNN interview). This is a big step toward finding planets that are hospitable to human life and most likely means we are not alone in the universe.

In the future, as we discover more planets and the technology and the field of space exploration develop, we will be able to live on different planets. Exoplanets such as K218B, whose sizes vary between those of Earth and Neptune, are unlike anything in our solar system. This lack of equivalent planets nearby means that these ‘sub-Neptunes’ are poorly understood, and the nature of their atmospheres is a matter of active debate among astronomers. Although, as the field of exoplanet science grows and technology advances, we will have a better understanding of these ‘sub-Neptunes’. Characterizing the atmospheres of exoplanets like K218B, meaning identifying their gasses and physical conditions, is a very active area in astronomy. However, these planets are outshone, literally, by the glare of their much larger parent stars, which makes exploring exoplanet atmospheres particularly challenging. Despite these challenges, the scientists were able to overcome them and deliver the news that there is a possibility of life out in space.

Washington Farmers Market

Paige Jackson '24

Every Saturday in the quaint depot of Washington, Connecticut, a farmers market gathers. A number of different vendors come together to provide the locals with a selection of fresh goods at 1 Green Hill Road. This tradition is invaluable to both town citizens as well as students at the nearby preparatory academy, the Frederick Gunn School, which houses teenagers from around the world.

The market is open every Saturday morning until November 18th from 9:30 to 12:30. It is run by and located at the Judy Black Memorial Park and Gardens, a local community gathering space. From farms like Averill Farm, Finnegan’s Farm West, Ox Hollow Farm, Shepaug Valley Farm, Kimberly Farm, and Waldingfield Farm, to Paul’s Custom Pet Food, the market has everything a Litchfield County local could need. It was ranked in the top three farmers markets in the county by Litchfield Magazine Reader’s Choice Awards.

Depending on the weekend, the farmers market will occasionally have music, such as Annie and Safari Bob. Other fun vendors include Beau Noir Microbakery, Farmers & Cooks, Krafted Brew Lab, New Curds on the Block, Oliva’s on Main, Rachel’s Salsa, Ruth Chase Flowers, and To the Gills. All of these businesses are local and independently run, and supporting them helps give back to the community.

Washington Eagle asked Frederick Gunn students, Layla Copen and Emily Fonte, about their opinions on the market.

“My favorite is Jobana, the bread vendor. She makes the best challah, sourdough, and muffins,” Copen, a Washington local, began. “I’ve been going ever since I can remember. I think it is very important that students are able to go down to the market and take part in the wider Washington community.”

More information on this gem of a farmers market can be found on their instagram page; @washingtonctfarmersmarket, or their website.

The Essential Highlander

- DeSelby (parts 1 & 2) - Hozier
- Between the Bars - Elliot Smith
- Smaller Axe - Zack Bryan
- Izzo (H.O.V.A.) - JAY-Z
- I Got You Babe - UB40
- My Love Mine All Mine - Mitski
- Sail Away Virginia - Mr. Blotto
- Something EP - Sol ChYld
- (You Make Me Feel Like) A Natural Woman - Aretha Franklin
- Domino - Van Morrison
- Me and Bobby McGee - Janis Joplin
- Shakedown Street - Grateful Dead
- I Will Survive - Gloria Gaynor
- My Old Man - Mac DeMarco

The Highlander Staff is excited to bring you a new Gunn tradition, *The Essential Highlander*. Every print edition, we will be collecting 15 song recommendations from around campus. Next time you see someone in headphones, they may be listening to one of these songs! Our community is reflected by the music we listen to, so enjoy!

Music on the Green

Bridie Bolger '24, Peter Murphy '24, Daisy Moriarty '25

Last week, on Friday, September 22, Washington community members gathered to enjoy the first ‘Music on the Green’ of Autumn. Some audience members conversed while others opted to enjoy the first falling leaves as The Regulators, a local band, provided warm, nostalgic tunes for an audience totaling around 40.

Pastor Robyn, the leader of The First Congregational Church and the organizer of Music on the Green explains, this tradition began three years ago in the summer of 2020 in response to widespread requests for more family-friendly events. Music has a way of bringing people together, which was something the Washington community needed after being quarantined. Music on the Green has had changes since it was started, including the recent edition of sponsors. These sponsors believe that local events like Music on The Green represent the next step in reinvigorating the Washington community.

This belief is shared by community members such as Anne and Rob Hungerford, who have lived in the area since the 90s. They stated that Music on the Green “Brings the community together, we really needed some music!” The two were accompanied by Raider, a fluffy Washington resident, who expressed enthusiastic agreement by licking the notepad.

Maggie Conlangelo, owner of the Po, who worked alongside the First Congressional Church to make Music on The Green happen states, “Since its inception, the church, The Po and a small group of community members have been meeting to schedule and welcome area talent. Our goal is to provide entertainment for the community while waking up this quintessential, yet quiet New England green.” The Po offers a variety of food and drinks for concert go-ers to have while they watch Music on the Green performances. Some favorites include lobster rolls, espresso drinks, Po lemonades, and ice cream.

The regulators, who performed at Music on the Green on Friday, September 22, are all local to Litchfield County. They describe their music as “Rock-Americana with a country flair”. The Regulators have been together since 2011, and Marty, one of the band’s guitar players and vocalists, revealed “We started this band to try to do something a little bit different than what everybody else is doing...we didn’t want it to be the typical ‘Brown Eyed Girl’... ‘Stairway to Heaven’, we wanted to do something different.” At Music on the Green, the Regulators played mostly covers of songs, but also performed four originals. Marty explained, “It depends on where we are. In some places we play a lot more originals, and sometimes if we’re playing in a rowdy bar...we might play more of the rowdy songs that people know.”

Music on The Green was an overall success, as people from a wide array of towns were able to enjoy some music and be with friends and family on the gorgeous green. Pastor Robyn, who was also enjoying the music, expanded on the normality of the day, and how since 2020, things have gotten back to a more normal way of living by saying “I feel like bringing the community together when we’ve been isolated was huge, I feel like it really gave people an excuse to come together and celebrate together and be together”



Find Freddy!!

Last year, we presented Highlanders with a challenge: *find Freddy Gunn*. The face of our founder is seen on the front page, but there is another image somewhere else on this edition, and it is your job to find it. The reward for the first to contact an editor (see back page) with the location of Freddy’s face will receive a \$10 Po gift card. Good luck!

The Highlander Social Media, News Network, and Podcast

Instagram:
@thehighlandernewsnetwork

YouTube:
The Highlander News Network

Spotify:
The Highlander Podcast
(soon to feature *The Essential Highlander* as well!)

The Highlander

Gunn Opinion

Fahrenheit 451: a Doomed Destiny, Happening Now

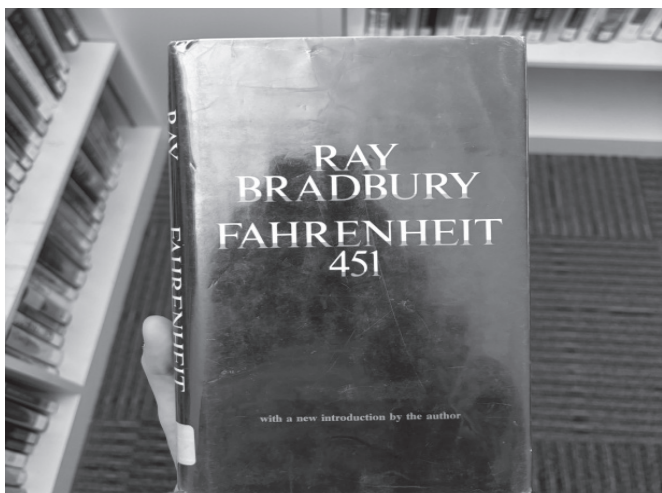
Benjamin Davis '27

Written in 1953, *Fahrenheit 451* is a deeply insightful novel, provoking the reader to think about one's true purpose and finding a reason to live. Set in a future dystopian city, Ray Bradbury introduces the protagonist, Guy Montag, as a content, law-abiding citizen who experiences multiple consecutive events that cause him to ponder his existence. Montag is a fireman; an ironic term, as in this culture, firemen are government-hired mercenaries tasked with widespread suppression of unfiltered thought via the burning of books. Trisected, each chapter of *Fahrenheit 451* explores Montag's increasing awareness of the masqueraded horrors surrounding him. Despite being released over half a century ago, Bradbury's acclaimed opus remains critically pertinent today due to its relevance in our current political climate, where literature and free speech are heavily censored throughout the nation.

Soon after the story commences, a young woman named Clarisse moves into the house adjacent to Montag's. Though initially presenting as odd and eccentric, the newcomer has developed a connection with her worldly environment that most others cannot achieve. Upon seeing Clarisse's euphoric clarity, a strength that punctures the suffocating totalitarian veil, Montag realizes that a life worth living requires one to be in touch with their surroundings - a contrast to the jaded, illusory nature of a society prioritizing television over all else. The fireman's novel gaiety is short-lived, however; tragedy strikes, and heightening paranoia begins to affect him. As traumatizing affairs trigger a paradigm shift in the self-made pariah, Montag begins to steal the very books that he has been hired to destroy.

While freedom of opinion and subsequent expression is a central American tenet, censorship is a ubiquitous fog that permeates every aspect of our civilization on either extreme of our political binary. Bradbury was inspired to write *Fahrenheit 451* after the horrific burnings of countless volumes in Nazi Germany; but both Democrats and Republicans have their own more covert, subtle means of achieving the same result as Hitler's radical regime. On the left, cancel culture is a controversial but effective method of ostracization that limits well-known figures from voicing their stances on many issues; on the right, numerous works have been banned from schools, causing students to miss out on important historical lessons and modern problems. Even though the United States is advertised as a country that prioritizes the people, the government has a surreptitious clamp on the public mentality.

Regardless of its fictional status, *Fahrenheit 451* speaks volumes about a present reality, continuously misinformed and smothered behind the veneer of a first-world utopia. It cites the sheer merit of knowledge's pursuit, and how an uneducated society is a numb society. As tech and industry evolve, the general need for learning is gradually diminished, and the uncannily applicable tale strongly warns against taking an unambitiously passive approach to life. Bradbury thought that a sense of connection with nature, of hereness, is the greatest value one can have. As he concludes *Fahrenheit 451*, he writes, "[Montag] stood breathing, and the more he breathed the land in, the more he was filled up with all the details of the land. He was not empty. There was more than enough here to fill him. There would always be more than enough."



What is the Junior Speech and how do you Prepare for It?

Ryan Ryu '25



The Junior Speech at The Frederick Gunn School represents a significant milestone in our students' journey. It's a tradition that holds immense importance, where every student has the opportunity to address the entire school community consisting of 400 students and faculty members.

Stepping up to the podium in the Tisch Family Auditorium is a moment of courage and self-expression. Students embark on The Declaration during their Junior year, the third installment in our four-year Citizenship Curriculum. The preceding two years encourage introspection, helping students contemplate their values, choices, and life aspirations, ultimately setting concrete goals. The third course, The Declaration, equips students with invaluable communication skills, reaching its pinnacle with the delivery of their heartfelt speeches. This moment empowers our students to voice their passions and stand up for what they believe in.

The Director of Citizenship and Just Democracy, Mr. McMann, discussed the evolution of the junior speech over the last decade. "The Junior Speech has been a longstanding component of Gunn's curriculum. When tasked with developing a Citizenship Curriculum for the Center for Citizenship and Just Democracy, I chose to retain the Junior Speech course, which we named "The Declaration." This program begins by examining the Declaration of Independence and the fundamental principles upon which our nation was founded. We then encourage students to reflect on the values they intend to shape their lives around and the narratives they wish to share with their community to illustrate these values. Ultimately, our goal is for this speech to serve as a symbolic commitment to a hopeful future. We want students to transition courageously and confidently into young adulthood, embracing the responsibility and aspiration to become active, positive citizens."

Students are enrolled in one of three unique Public Speaking courses, each led by Mr. McMann, Mr. Low, or Mr. Burnham, during the fall, winter, or spring terms. In these dynamic classes, students delve into the art of persuasive communication, mastering the elements of the rhetorical triangle—ethos, logos, and pathos—as well as the power of the 'rule of three.' The curriculum strengthens their public speaking skills and challenges them with various engaging activities. These activities include delivering concise 30-second self-introduction speeches, crafting persuasive impromptu speeches, and refining their persuasive prowess in well-structured persuasive speeches. Furthermore, students have the opportunity to draft and refine their speeches, culminating in captivating presentations delivered in front of their classmates in the school's auditorium.

The Junior Speech at The Frederick Gunn School is not merely an academic exercise but a transformative experience that shapes the future of our students. It's a rite of passage that instills courage, fosters self-expression, and enables them to articulate their values and beliefs before their peers and mentors. As they embark on The Declaration, these young minds refine their communication skills, embracing the responsibility of becoming active, positive citizens. The Junior Speech is more than a tradition; it's a pledge to stand up for what they believe in and make their voices heard, setting the stage for a promising journey into young adulthood.

A Modern Take on *The Metamorphosis*

Benjamin Davis '27

The *Metamorphosis*, a novella published in 1915 by Franz Kafka, immediately thrusts the reader into the eyes of a hardworking man who finds himself in a perilous and extraordinary situation without any sort of explainable cause. Forced to adapt to his unfortunate circumstances rapidly, the victim of this sudden absurdity endures an onslaught of trauma, anxiety, pressure, and fear. Kafka's tale, though fantastical on the surface, perfectly describes a multitude of issues today upon further inspection. These struggles circumscribe one common concern: mental health and how it affects a person and those surrounding them.

Kafka begins *The Metamorphosis* by introducing Gregor Samsa, a young man who provides the entirety of the income for his lower-class family. Required to work tirelessly at a tedious job each day, the protagonist's consistent labor is not only underappreciated but also expected. This is why, when he awakes to find himself transformed into a grossly enlarged insect (usually interpreted as a beetle or cockroach), his parents and sister aren't just horrified but even more impoverished than before. Furthermore, Gregor retains the ability to understand but not communicate with them. The Samsas are faced with an impending dilemma as their belongings slowly trickle away: continue caring for Gregor, whose humanity is very much in question, or leave him to die and live semi-comfortably without him. Throughout the ordeal, Gregor exists in a state of paranoia and pain as each member of the Samsa home must balance their reality with what is right.

While outside of the fictional world, no one truly does "metamorph" into a bug, Gregor's emotions and feelings are very much non-fictitious. His verminous body can clearly be interpreted as a pessimistic outlook as opposed to an actual form. Kafka subtly indicates that Gregor is wildly disconnected from his surroundings throughout the book; for example, while his size is only described as "monstrous," his physical appearance must distort to make various events make sense, as his inferred dimensions can't be the same. One such contrast is how Gregor is small enough to crawl under a sheet to hide, but later an entire apple lodges in a chink on his back. His delusory illness and his overwhelming sense of being trapped and vulnerable directly compare to symptoms of increasingly present problems currently, especially in those with mental disorders. In a literal sense, the son of the Samsas is experiencing a serious cognitive plight in an unsupportive, hostile environment.

As science advances and hidden troubles come to light, the pertinence of mental health is evermore important. *The Metamorphosis* is a crystal-clear allegory of why proper aid to stressed individuals is not a thing to be ignored, despite the obstacles that come with it. Perniciously, read cites how much it means to be there for someone simply; initially, his household is there to succor, and Gregor, though confused, is relatively grounded and content. When these buttresses to his fortress of sanity slip away, and a dangerous solitude transpires, Gregor loses all stability, commencing his delirious collapse. This "help them help themselves" concept is not merely Kafkaesque, however, so many people live without a prosperity of the psyche, and the walls to their personal fortress remaining intact is critical to their happiness - well-being, even. They need assistance because they're human, no matter how much of an "insect" they are.



The Highlander

Gunn Funn

2023 Class Trips

Mairin Hoffman '25

On Monday, September 26, each grade at the Frederick Gunn School went on their class trip to various adventure parks in the area. The Class Trips is a tradition started years ago school year and allows students to get to know each other in the challenging yet fun environment of a ropes course. The day consisted of ziplines, climbing, and fun activities that beneficially tested students' strength and trust. Although the day had a forecast of rain, this did not stop the Highlanders from eagerly embarking on these adventures with a positive attitude.

The freshman and senior classes traveled to Boundless Adventures in Harrison, New York, about an hour's bus ride from campus. Although the weather was gloomy, senior, Peter Murphy, had positive things to say about the trip: "It was an interesting trip because the entire time, our class thought that we were going to go to a trampoline park or laser tag because of the rain, but instead, we stuck with our original plan and actually had a good time despite the weather."

The sophomore class made a trip to Catamount Mountain, which has a full ropes course in the woods, away from the ski slopes. Catamount Mountain is located in Egremont, Massachusetts, about an hour and ten minutes from Washington. Martha Ewing '26 also had positive remarks about the trip, as she said enthusiastically, "Although it was rainy and cold, we all managed to have a good time, and some managed to conquer their fear of heights."

The junior class' day didn't go as planned, but it was a fun day of basketball competition nonetheless. The class' bus ride to Storrs Adventure Park was interrupted when the bus was sideswiped and made a speedy trip back to campus. The Highlanders did not give up as the three class representatives quickly organized a basketball competition with prizes. Domino pizza was also provided for students. In the end, the winning team was given Po gift cards. Class Representative Kate Richards '25 was enthusiastic about the basketball tournament, "I think our class had a fun time participating and showed up for each other even through unfortunate circumstances."

Although the day seemed full of poor weather, the Highlanders persevered and made the best out of their trips. The next major off campus event, Mountain Day, will allow students to come together, get to know each other in a different way, and immerse themselves in the world surrounding The Frederick Gunn School.. This tradition is one that will be passed on and enjoyed by students soon to come.



All School Walk

Samara Kinyanjui '27



The annual All School Walk, started by Frederick Gunn, took place on the fifth of October, 2023. Leading the Frederick Gunn School up to Steep Rock was Director of Outdoor Programs, Dan Fladager. Seizing this opportunity and challenge, he led the school up a different path this year, making it a great All School Walk.

The All School Walk was not always named what it is today. In the 1860s, The Gunnery participated in a walk similar to what the Frederick Gunn School took this past month. The Gunnery participated in a walk which they called Gypsying. Frederick Gunn started out with gypsying every two years for three years. The Gunnery would do the walk each August in the years of 1861, 1863, and 1865. "Each August, the old school-boy home was depopulated while we made the journey of forty miles to Welch's Point, which juts into Long Island Sound, two miles south of Milford, Connecticut" (Master of The Gunnery 98). Just like today, there were many preparations leading up to the walk. From figuring out the path the students take to designing the All School Walk t-shirt, students are always active participants in creating an awesome experience for the school community.

The All School Walk has been a big event for the school since the beginning of its history. Frederick Gunn firmly believed in "every kind of rational exercise" (Master of The Gunnery 81). It was his way of building up character in his students. Joining the walk as a guest speaker for the school this year was professor Christopher Ives, who believes that nature is connected to a person's well-being and that the more a person is connected to their surroundings, the more centered they will be.

Director of Outdoor Programs, Mr. Fladager loved planning and leading this amazing event once again this year. "Shepherding a tradition that is more than 100 years old is a huge responsibility — you never want to be the person that messes it up — but the school makes it easy because everybody works together to make this a great day for each other. Yeah, I put up the flags and ensure the attendance is taken, but it is truly our responsibility to honor the spirit of the day, and this year's All School Walk went about as well as anybody could have expected. This is a great omen for the start of an incredible year!"

The Freshman Experience

Samara Kinyanjui '27

Being away from home is a new experience for some students. For the 2023-2024 school year, the Frederick Gunn School welcomed fifty-six new freshmen to join our community. Some students traveled from across the country and, for some, the world to study on its campus.

The freshman class of 2023-2024, of fifty-six students, boasts students from six different countries and nine different states. Many students have come to the Frederick Gunn school to explore their academic pursuits. Also, some students chose to attend Frederick Gunn for sports or were attracted by the beautiful campus/ environment.

In the United States, about 35,000 students attend boarding school. Many students take the opportunity to come to the U.S. to study because there can be more opportunities in America than anywhere else. The Frederick Gunn School was created to educate a vast amount of students of different genders, races, and ethnicities. Over

the past 151 years, the school has welcomed many international and domestic students to obtain academic excellence and character development.



Two freshmen students have different feelings about this new experience. Snow Zhang '27, an international student from China, shared this sentiment. "I felt nervous about meeting new people, and the fact that

I had to meet my roommate on move-in day made me even more nervous. But then I started meeting people who made my nerves fade. I felt sad about leaving my

in Washington, gave insights into day student life. "The Frederick Gunn School does a great job integrating students in their daily academic life by letting them have space in a House and letting them know about activities that they plan on having compared to other schools that I looked at." Frederick Gunn is all about striving to make one's high school experience great.

Ms. Dea, Director of International Recruitment, is extremely excited to welcome the Class of '27 for the 2023-2024 school year, "Bringing together a freshman class of just fifty-six from hundreds of applications is exciting! When I see everyone starting to arrive on campus, I see two things: potential and adventure. Each of our students is walking on campus with the potential to do great things and, best of all, to have great adventures. I encourage our new students to say yes to any opportunity that presents itself. Then, every day will be an adventure, and there is no better life than that!"

family in Beijing. But the people on campus and in the dorms made me start to feel welcome, and I felt like I could be my true self." Charlotte Friedman '27, who once lived in California but now resides locally

The Highlander

Gunn Continued

Updating the Library Reading Room

Peter Murphy '24

The 2023-2024 school season has officially begun! And with this in mind, new places have been renovated on campus. In our school's wonderful library, the infamous classroom for Citizenship and Just Democracy will be moved to the new Lizzie Science Building in January. Over the summer, the CJD room has been replaced with a new luxuriant and calm space. Highlanders now have a place to rest, get some coffee and tea, or have some fruit or granola bars to ease their minds from the academic day.

The new space is officially called the Library Lounge. Students at Gunn can now be seen doing excessive amounts of homework or sleeping from being exhausted from all the work they have to catch up on. Students can also use this space to do homework and hang out with friends!

The Highlander Newspaper decided to interview the Head Librarian at the Frederick Gunn School, Mrs. Conlan, to ask about the new space and what it has to offer to the campus.

"I'm really excited about it. It's going to be really good for everything from club meetings to reading groups, and even for faculty members groups to have meetings!"

Trey LaMay '25, also talked enthusiastically about the room, "I think it's a great space for studying and collaborating, but it could use some hot chocolate." The new space is undoubtedly a big win for The Frederick Gunn School and its facilities because when it comes to places to take a break, this space is most definitely the place to go to.



New Prefect Introduction

Eung Jay Lee '24

The Prefects are the most influential student leaders in our community. As part of the highest leadership role in the FGS community, they organize and run weekly school meetings, and productively liaison comments, concerns, and questions between the school administration and students. Prefects also thoughtfully serve on Disciplinary Committees. They are the model citizens for the community and represent the student population effectively under the school's mission, core values, and the values and beliefs of Mr. Gunn. They will be the leaders whom students meet with most often.

Here is our Prefect group 23-24: Bea Flynn (Head Prefect), Erin Whitney, Taylor Brown, Anna Damosy, Layla Copen, Eung Jay Lee, Alejandro Zafra, and Ty Novenstein. They work with the Prefect advisors; Mrs. Gum, Mr. Fladager, and Dr. Konik, who all advise the Prefects about their work and help them to become true leaders in our community.

Last winter, more than twenty rising seniors applied for the Prefect position. They started with writing resumes and school handbook reflections. And, most importantly, they prepared for the Prefect speech and Q&A in front of the whole school. Finally, after voting by students and faculty, the final new eight Prefects were announced. The eight Prefect-elects and the Prefect '22-'23 went on a Prefect retreat for leadership training to learn how to become great leaders for the FGS community.

"I am so very excited to give back to this loving community that has given so much to me over these past two years," said one of our new prefects Ty Novenstein. Another Prefect Taylor Brown also emphasized that his decision to become a Prefect was from his thankfulness to our community. "I cannot wait to continue to help and grow the community that has helped me mature not only in my time here but my entire life." If you want to know more about our new Prefects, check out the "Meet Our Prefects" board between the Dining Hall stairs and the Gunn mail room!



Prefect 23-24(from left to right): Erin Whitney, Taylor Brown, Anna Damosy, Layla Copen, Mrs. Gum(Head of the school), Bea Flynn(Head Prefect), Eung Jay Lee, Alejandro Zafra, Ty Novenstein

New International Students

Trey LaMay '25

The Frederick Gunn School continues to recruit students from around the world and the school is proud to boast of such a diverse incoming new student body. The Frederick Gunn School is built on 20% of international students from 20 different counties not even including the school faculty. The most common countries represented at Gunn are China, South Korea, Spain, Canada, and Mexico. International students make up 4.6% of American classrooms. That is a staggering 16% less than at FGS. International students first came to The Frederick Gunn School in 1872 when the first international student came from China. The Frederick Gunn School also has alumni from over 50 different countries.

During the first week of the year, The Highlander Newspaper met with the Director of International Recruitment and Senior Associate Director of Admissions Ms. Dea. The newspaper learned about the very important international admissions process. Ms. Dea described her plans to take a 57-day trip, where, for the first time in Gunn's history, she will try to grow our Central and South American population. She will travel to countries like Columbia and Brazil.

Ms. Dea also told the Highlander News Team about this year's new students. There are three new students from Japan and a new student from the United Auburn Indian Community, which is a Native American tribe located in the Sierra Nevada foothills near Auburn, in Placer County, California. Ms. Dea passionately argued that the Hall of Flags in the dining hall is much more important than people might think. The Hall of Flags is a celebration of our diversity and global reach as a school. That's why Ms. Dea made it her mission to show off every student's nationality. She believes that students should be proud of their heritage and nationality and always have a little bit of home with them while at The Frederick Gunn School.



School Store Renovation

Mairin Hoffman '25

Over the summer, the once-small school store was transformed into a new walk-in space with brand-new Gunn merchandise and exquisite dressing rooms. Since the retirement of Ms. Doody, the previous school store director, the space was transformed into a larger space with supplies that the Highlanders need. This includes fans to keep students cool in hot weather, various food selections for a wide range of students, school supplies for last-minute needs, and various kinds of new merch and gadgets.

Along with the new store is the new school store manager, Ms. Szarlan-Baltrush. Ms. Szarlan-Baltrush is from the Western Massachusetts area but lives in Torrington, CT. She joined the FGS community because she felt it was tight-knit and inclusive. "The passion and energy of students and teachers here are inspiring and beautiful to me. The Highlander community is so friendly and welcoming."

After a long history of retail work and the theft that was involved, Ms. Szarlan-Baltrush wanted to focus on the people part of a retail job. She expresses her excitement for the upcoming year and what it offers. "I can't wait to attend the upcoming plays, concerts, and student art events. I don't know if you are aware of this, but you also have the best trees!" Lastly, her favorite item sold at the school store is "the blue coffee mug that says, "A good person is always learning."

New items sold at the school store are brand-new Under Armour hoodies and shirts and brand-new sweatshirts, raincoats, and sweatpants. New school supplies repping Gunn are also available for last-minute needs, and multiple Gunn gadgets are available for phones and more. The new school store is a great space to show all that the Frederick Gunn School has to offer for the students and helps students express their love for their home away from home, The Frederick Gunn School. So take a visit and take in all the school spirit.



The Highlander

Gunn Photos

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Thank you to Gunn Candids for supplying photos!

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