What is Your Favorite Season and Why?

Haniya Farooq ’22

Ty Eveland, ’22: Summer because I get to go back to camp and it is warm and the stress of school is gone.

Kate Seiter, ’21: Fall because it’s pretty.

Leela DeSilva, ’22: Fall is my favorite season because of the colors of the leaves, the pumpkin spice, and Halloween.

Olivia Mentz, ’21: Spring bc [sic] [of] flowers and new life.

Cat Dwyer, ’22: Winter because it’s cold like my soul.

Amelia Treat, ’21: Spring because it’s like the rebirth of the world.

Maria Cusick, ’22: Winter because it’s rly [sic] pretty.

Origin of St. Valentine’s Day

Angela Cui ’21

St. Valentine’s Day, February 14, is a day of romance, when candies, card, flowers, or other gifts are exchanged between loved ones. But who is this mysterious St. Valentine’s? Why is this day recognized as a holiday? Most importantly, how did this day come to be associated with romance?

The legend of St. Valentine is not specifically determined and is rather vague. There are actually several legends, in which the Catholic Church recognizes at least three different saints named Valentine or Valentinus. One states that Valentine was a priest who served during the third century in Rome. He opposed Emperor Claudius II of Rome when he decided that single men were superior soldiers than those with families, thus outlawed marriage for young men. Despite the emperor’s orders, Valentine still continued to perform marriages for young lovers in secret. When his actions were discovered, he was sentenced to death. Another legend suggests that Valentine helped Christians escape harsh Roman prisons, where they were often beaten and tortured, and was killed once his efforts to do so were found out. Imprisoned, Valentine sent the first valentine to a young girl with whom he fell in love with. She, possibly his janitor’s daughter, often visited him while he remained in jail. He sent her a letter signed, “From your Valentine,” which is still used nowadays.

There are a few speculations as to why Valentine’s Day is on February 4. Some believe that it is to commemorate the anniversary of Valentine’s death. However, others think that the Christian Church chose that day to christianize the pagan celebration of Lupercalia. Lupercalia was a fertility festival dedicated to Faunus, the Roman god of agriculture, and Romulus and Remus, the founders of Rome. At the end of the 5th century, the pagan, or non-Christian, holiday was deemed un-Christian and outlawed,
and February was named St. Valentine’s Day.

St. Valentine’s Day was not actually associated with love until a while after it was decided to be a holiday. In the 14th century, Chaucer wrote a poem in honor of the engagement between Richard II and Anne of Bohemia. Since it is poetic tradition to associate the occasion with a feast day, he associated his poem with Valentine’s Day. Hence, in his poem The Parliament of Fowls, the engagement, the birds’ mating season, and St. Valentine’s Day are all linked together:

For this was on
St. Valentine’s Day,
When every fowl cometh there
to choose his mate.

What is Your Favorite Sign of Spring?

Jessica Horkovich ’22

“I like rain because it make me happy and I like the way it looks outside when it is raining.” (Eesha Rao 2022)

“Seeing flowers because they are full of life.” (Kaila Spearman 2021)

“Flowers because they are pretty and feel like spring.” (Kate Seiter)

“No snow because the cold is gone and to be honest snow needs to go away, it’s March!” (Tyler Eveland 2022)

“Cherry tree because I just like it.” (Matthew Breier)

“My favorite sign of spring is allergies because I hate how spring is in between winter and summer.” (Nana Dondorful-Amos 2022)

“Flowers because they smell nice.” (Sophia Nuterangelo 2020)

“Flowers because they remind me of growth.” (Liz Bamgboie 2020)

“Warm spring rain beacuse I hate cold rain.” (Jonathan Deleon 2018)

“Birds because it sounds like life.” (Mr. Smith)

“When the temperature is the perfect ratio of hot and cold.” (Jacob Wolfe 2018)
Super Bowl Commercials

Lucas Alfaro ’22

Every Year, the Super Bowl is played between the two best teams from both divisions of the NFL. A huge tradition for Super Bowl Sunday is watching the Super Bowl Commercials, which usually air for the first time that day and are only played during and before the game.

Today, I will tell you the top three Super Bowl Commercials based off of www.etonline.com. This website is a news source about entertainment.

The number one Super Bowl Commercial according to etonline was the Audi #driveprogress commercial. This commercial features a little girl that is riding a go-cart race against male competitors while the girl’s father is talking about gender equality. At the end of the commercial, the father and daughter walk to their Audi after the daughter wins the race by passing all of the boys who thought they were going to win. This commercial deserved its praise because rather than advertising their brand, they represented equality.

The number two commercial was the Cam Newton Buick Commercial. Buick has had a long-running campaign of the slogan, “that’s not a Buick.” This slogan is the basis of this commercial which starts at a football game with little kids playing. Then, someone pulls up in a Buick and it is said among the crowd, “Check out that Buick.” The quarterback’s father says back to him, “that’s a nice car, but if that’s a Buick, then my boy is Cam Newton.” On the next play, the little quarterback turned into Cam Newton and the coach turned into supermodel Miranda Kerr after the coach says, “If that is a Buick, then I’m a Supermodel!” This is a funny commercial and is definitely one of my favorites.

The number three commercial was the Tide Gronk’s Cleaner Discount commercial. This starts off with a man walking into his drycleaners to see Rob Gronkowski standing there. When the man receives his shirt, both of the sleeves are ripped off, just like Gronk’s shirt. The man asks where the rest of his shirt is and is told, “Oh, you mean the soy sauce. I used Tide to get rid of that.” This commercial is funny and advertises their product, so it is a good commercial, but not as funny as the Cam Newton commercial, or as touching as the Audi commercial.

My personal favorite commercial is the Anheuser- Busch commercial which tells the story of how America’s beer was an immigration story and that they are not native to America. In fact, when Busch immigrated, he was told by US people that he was not wanted. The message was that all people should be accepted for who they are, no matter the color of their skin, their religion, or beliefs because the people that could give America the most could very well be the person who does not have the same beliefs as most, or look different than most do.

These were four amazing Super Bowl commercials, but there were plenty more and will be more in the future, so even if you don’t like football, I recommend that you watch the commercials and enjoy the game.
March Madness 2017
Lucas Alfaro ’22

Every year March Madness starts at the beginning of March. March Madness is the informal name for the NCAA College Basketball Tournament (March Madness is a better name). This college basketball tournament is for men and women and single elimination. Last year the Villanova University Wildcats won the men’s tournament. The winner of the women’s tournament were the UCONN Huskies (not exactly a surprise). UCONN women’s basketball have one 11 March Madness tournament since 1982. This is the most out of every team that has one the tournament.

This year, the number one seeds for men are The Kansas University Jayhawks (Midwest), Villanova Wildcats (East), North Carolina Tarheels (South), and the Gonzaga Bulldogs (West).

The Kansas University Jayhawks are located in Lawrence, Kansas, and have been playing in the NCAA Tournament since 1940, which is just a year after the men’s tournament was founded. Their current record is 27–3 (first number is the number of wins, second in the number of losses). They are predicted among many to win.

The Villanova Wildcats are located in Villanova, Pennsylvania. They have been playing in the tournament since 1939, which is the year when the tournament was founded. Their record for this year is 27–3 just like the Jayhawks. After winning the tournament last year, they are expected to win, but will have to face many teams to win again.

The North Carolina Tar Heels are located in Chapel Hill, North Carolina. Their first year in the tournament was 1941, which is two years after the Wildcats started playing in the tournament. Their current record is slightly worse than that of the Wildcats and the Jayhawks. Their record is 25–6. This makes them more likely to lose, but they are a good team.

Last, but not least for the men’s tournament, the Gonzaga Bulldogs are located in Spokane, Washington. Their current record is 29–1. They also are the only one seed team that has not won the tournament. That is partially because the team’s first tournament appearance was 1995.

This is just the men’s side of the bracket, but now, you can see the women’s one seed teams. The one seeds are Connecticut Huskies, Baylor Lady Bears, Notre Dame Fighting Irish, and South Carolina Gamecocks.

The Huskies are currently 29–0 and are the team to beat in the tournament. Their first game in the tournament will be against the Grambling State Tigers who are currently 15–12. UCONN has been playing in the tournament since 1989, which is seven years after the tournament started.

The Baylor Lady Bears have a record of 28–2. The Lady Bears have been playing in the tournament since 2001. Being a recent team, they have only won the tournament two times, in 2005 and 2012.

The Notre Dame Fighting Irish hold a record of 27–3. They have been playing in the tournament since 1992. They’ve only won the tournament once, which was in 2001. Their first game will be played against the Bethune-Cookman Wildcats.

The last women’s one seed team is the South Carolina Gamecocks. They have been playing in the tournament since 1982, which is the year it started, and they have a current record of 24–4. Their first game will be against the Robert Morris Colonials.

I hope that everyone gets a chance to watch March Madness 2017, and Good Luck to the teams!
Winter Sports Wrap-Up

JJ Drummond ’22

As winter sports come to an end in these next couple of weeks, spring sports are starting soon! J-school winter sports have consisted of, swimming, basketball, squash, and wrestling.

J-school swimming had a total of 5 meets which were against, Hamden Hall, Kingswood Oxford, and Foote, with wins against Kingswood Oxford and Hamden Hall.


J-school squash had 8 games with 2 wins against Kingswood Oxford and Foote.

J-school wrestling had 3 matches against Hamden hall and Brunswick. With wins against both Hamden hall and Brunswick.

Some J-schoolers played varsity sports this winter. Those very few were, Steven Broun, Prairie Resh, Cristin Earley, Ethan Woolbert, on Varsity Swimming. Jasmine Simmons on Varsity Basketball. Matthew Brier, Dexter Lourenco and Arin Shrivastava, Cat Dwyer, and Jessica Horkovich on Varsity Fencing. Gonzalo Santiago De La Mora on Varsity squash.

Great season to all winter athletes!
Moving Movies:  
The Flicks that Stick  

Sophie Sonnenfeld ’21  

With last year’s top grossing movies, Captain America; Rogue One; Finding Dory; Zootopia; and Jungle Book, we are reminded that the best sellers are not always the best loved films. In fact, there are no shortages of new releases with Hollywood producing over 820 films a year, India’s Bollywood producing 1,255 films a year, and Nigeria’s Nollywood nearby with 997. With so much footage wrapping around the globe, what do we cherish most?

First are the classics. The action-packed, bittersweet, tear-jerking, movies that we do not have the emotional stamina to once again endure on a casual Friday night. Forrest Gump may be number one on this list. The Tom Hanks film with devout followers of all ages and with a sense of elegance and charm is tough to watch without a friend, or pet by your side.

Next, the 1941 movie that earned itself a 100% on Rotten Tomatoes, a complex, timeless film is none other than Citizen Kane. Citizen Kane’s relevance and mystery continues to intrigue all kinds of viewers. The compelling tale of the extra-terrestrial left behind on Earth that befriends a boy is an emotional classic that has captured the hearts of viewers since the eighties. The next time you find yourself curled up in bed with the stomach flu there is one movie that can ease the pain.

Ferris Bueller is another phenomenal film that is really the perfect ‘sick day movie.’

Next are the movies we have always heard about, but never gotten a chance to watch. Princess Diaries, Freaky Friday, and 10 things I hate about you are three of the most talked about coming of age/cliché teen romance movies of the late 1990s and early 2000s. There also are, of course, the three Robin Williams classics that could not be more beloved, or more different from each other. Mrs. Doubtfire, Good Morning Vietnam, and Good Will Hunting are three intense, satisfying movies that explore all different walks of life along with the hardships we endure. Our most cherished movie about the adventures of a band of misfits from the eighties is The Goonies. Another bunch of unexpected heroes join together to entertain us all while fighting ghouls in GhostBusters.

Three movies series have stuck by us all for years. Anytime is the right time for a movie marathon with Indiana Jones, Back to the Future, and Star Wars. Indiana Jones with Harrison Ford consists of four dramatic movies; Raiders of the Lost Ark, The Temple of Doom, The Last Crusade, and The Kingdom of the Crystal Skull. Perhaps the most famous movie series, also starring Harrison Ford, is Star Wars. Although some of us may be intimidated by the immense amount of fanatics or by the dedication of the fans, it is not hard to be dazzled by the magic of Star Wars. Another eighties craze is the Back to the Future series of three films.

Then there are the movies that we haven’t seen in awhile, but will always hold a special place in all of our hearts. The Incredibles may be our favorite animated film. The Incredibles is a everlasting movie that is the perfect family movie to watch on a Friday night. The Karate Kid is another fabulous movie that we all haven’t seen in awhile. One more inspiring family movie is Mulan.

The story of our favorite Disney princess is one that is enjoyable to watch again and again. If you are looking for some heartwarming movies from a few years ago, Ratatouille, Finding Nemo, or Toy Story may be just the right film. Finally, It’s a Wonderful Life is a golden film about the American spirit that all

CONTINUED ON PAGE 7
of us can enjoy surrounded by our family and a box of tissues.

Since 1995, according to Nash Information Services the most popular genres, in order, are adventure, comedy, action, drama, thriller, and then romantic comedy. This data though, cannot account for our love of film classics. There are so many more beautifully made movies that we have forgotten about. So over spring break, I encourage all of you to remember the Truffle Shuffle, the wax on, wax off, Rosebud, and Bubba Gump Shrimp.

Where are the Obamas Now?
Jacob Ragaza '22

It has been a month since Obama left the White House, since we last saw him get on that helicopter, and fly far, far away. Obama took a much-needed vacation in Palm Springs after a very influential, most likely tiring, eight years. Along with him in this tropical retreat is Sir Richard Branson, founder of Virgin Group, a multinational conglomerate company, that owns a variety of things, from airlines to casinos. Apparently, Branson and Obama had a little challenge to see who could learn a new extreme beach sport. Branson told Express: “...we decided to set up a friendly challenge: could Barack learn to kitesurf before I learned to foil board?”

While President Obama did take it easy in California, he stated his opinion on Trump’s previous travel ban. President Obama’s spokesman said, “The President fundamentally disagrees with the notion of discriminating against individuals because of faith or religion.” Note that it is quite uncommon for a former President to comment on a current president’s actions. On the other hand, Michelle Obama recently declined an invite to the hit ABC television show “Dancing With The Stars”. The Obama family, no longer residents of the White House, are living in a house in the Washington D.C. neighborhood of Kalorama. In short, the Obama’s are doing just fine.

Ten Top Tips for Getting Sleep While Maintaining Good Grades
Clara Goulding '21

With the lengthy Hopkins hours, long bus rides, and rigorous workload, balancing homework and sleeptime can be difficult. In order to maintain those difficult (but well earned!) Hopkins grades, there is a balance that needs to be found between health and homework. To help you find this balance, here are some of my tips to incorporate into your studying routine.

1. Follow a regular sleep pattern.
Even though staying up late on Saturday nights may be thrilling, in order to maintain healthy amounts of sleep, following some sort of sleep cycle is helpful. While having a “bedtime” may seem uncool, putting your mind to sleep around the same time everyday helps avoid becoming restless at night.

2. Turn off your phone. While snapchat can be fun (and trust me, I’ve got to maintain my streaks too), phones need to be separated from textbooks. I personally like to put my phone on Do Not Disturb mode every night to avoid annoying alerts.

3. Get comfy (but not too comfy).
Trust me, I would love to be able to sit in bed, eat some potato chips, and do my history homework, but in order to get a decent grade, I need to be focused and alert. Sitting at a desk, turning on the light, and hammering down on the problems is the best way to separate sleep time from homework time.

4. If it’s getting late, turn the computer off! Although tests can be stressful and overwhelming, cramming is definitely not the best way to study. Studying is important for test taking, but sleep is more important. When you let yourself get more sleep, your mind will be better able to focus and “think” when taking the test the next day.

5. Take breaks! While I may feel overwhelmed some nights with the amount of homework I have, taking breaks is the best way to refresh the mind when completing homework

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6
MOVING MOVIES
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7
TOP TEN REASONS

in the evenings. Every 30-45 minutes, take a 5 minute break to help refresh the mind.

6. **Prioritize your subjects each night.** Before I begin my homework each night, I like to make a plan of which subjects I have to get done the next day, versus which subjects are long term. This way, if I run out of time, at least I will have finished the urgent assignments.

7. **Study halls are for studying, not Netflix.** If given the opportunity to do homework, actually do homework! While it may be nice having a break in the middle of the day, hammering down on assignments is a much better (and wiser) use of your time.

8. **Ask for help!** I have no idea how many times I have procrastinated doing something because I was unsure of how to do it. If you are confused on how to do something, phone a friend or send a quick email to your teacher as soon as possible.

9. **Sleep over studies.** One thing I have noticed at Hopkins is how understanding teachers are. If you are unable to complete something, sending an email to a teacher is definitely worth your time. An email the night before is a lot wiser than showing up to class without something done. Plan ahead, know your limitations, and alert your teachers when these limitations are pushed.

10. **Lower your expectations!** While I love how competitive Hopkins is, sometimes enough is enough. Schoolwork in Junior School does not go in any permanent record; just do your best and push yourself, but don’t stress if every assignment doesn’t go as planned. While I understand parents may not have the same exact view, go to school to learn, not to show off a shiny new A.

---

**Phone Policies in J-School**

**JJ Drummond ’22**

Phones have become a distraction in class and in study hall. When students should be doing homework and studying, phones have become a distraction. In most classes in J-school phones have to be turned off and stored in backpacks. Even though in most classes this is a rule, some teachers don’t enforce the rule as much.

Most J-schoolers have at least one study hall per week or more. These study halls are meant to catch up on work and to meet with teachers. Phones have become a distraction during study halls. If it’s texting, snapchat, Instagram, Netflix, or games all these take time away from focusing and studying, it also distracts other students from their homework/class work. This raises the question, Should there be phone policies in J-school?

Although some students rely on their phone for studying by using quizlet, classroom, and google drive. Other students get carried away and when they should be studying, by watching Netflix or texting with friends. Some students work better with music on while working, but others need complete silence to finish their work. Even having phones on desks can be a distraction with notifications.

During tests and quizzes, some teachers choose to take phones away to prevent cheating anyway. Although tests and quizzes are the most important to protect from cheating, what about worksheets, essays, and other class assignments? Or students not actually listening to language dictations but music or watching Netflix? These are all precautions that are taken. They all mostly involve phones. Phone policies may have to be put in place if phones become more of a distraction than they already are. School is meant to learn and practice, if phones are getting in the way, policies might have to be put in place.
**Rock Climb Fairfield vs City Climb**

**Tyler Forman ’21**

Rock Climb Fairfield and City Climb are two popular indoor rock climbing gyms in Connecticut. Rock Climb Fairfield is located in Fairfield and City Climb is in New Haven, very close to Yale. City Climb is a mere thirteen minutes away from Hopkins while Rock Climb Fairfield is twenty-nine minutes away. During the week Rock Climb Fairfield is open from ten am to ten pm, allowing one to go at nearly all hours. City Climb opens at two pm and closes at eleven pm. It is unlikely, however, to be climbing before two pm and after ten pm during the week, so the gyms are available nearly all the time.

Rock Climb Fairfield is slightly more expensive with a day pass costing eighteen dollars instead of fifteen, and equipment rental costing eight dollars instead of seven. The additional cost is worth it, however, due to Rock Climb Fairfields larger size. Rock Climb Fairfield has three different bouldering areas, each one roughly the size of City Climbs entire bouldering area. Bouldering is a form of climbing that has no ropes since the climber only climbs up at most ten feet over a padded mat before jumping or climbing down. Rock Climb Fairfield also has at least one and a half times as much top rope climbing as City Climb and far more lead climbing. Top rope climbing is a type of climbing that has preset ropes that the climber and belayer simply need to tie into to climb, without needing to clip into bolts. When lead climbing the climber must pull the rope up after them and clip it into bolts every several feet to ensure their safety. Lead climbing is more advanced due to the climber not being able to rest on the rope, causing lead climbs to be more strenuous. Rock Climb Fairfield has forty foot walls while City Climb only has roughly thirty foot walls. If you are nearer to Rock Climb Fairfield I recommend trying it, while if you are closer to City Climb, it is not a bad choice either.

**Panda-monium: Bao Bao’s Journey**

**Sophie Sonnenfeld ’21**

Who doesn’t love the occasional panda bear joke?

‘What did the panda say when he was forced out of his natural habitat?’ ‘This is un-BEAR-able.’

But the staggering numbers of panda bear populations are no joke. In 2014 it was found that fewer than 1,800 giant pandas are living in the wild. The International Union for Conservation of Nature stated that in the next 80 years, climate change could destroy more than 35 percent of bamboo forests. Since the 1960s the Chinese government has been conscious of the dwindling panda populations and enforced laws to preserve forests and outlaw the killing of pandas. Panda populations are slowly increasing due to conservation of habitats, adding pandas to the list of endangered species list and creating international captive-breeding programs.

Bao Bao, or 宝宝, meaning treasure, is one of the first surviving panda cubs at the National Zoo in Washington DC. Bao Bao was born on August 23, 2013 and has since grown up with tremendous affection from the many fans and tourists that have visited the zoo. The day before Bao Bao’s second birthday, Mei Xiang gave birth to twins, the surviving cub is named Bei Bei. Bao Bao has now gained more independence from her mother and was CONTINUED ON PAGE 10
sent to China on February 21st of this year to join the species breeding program.

The website of the Smithsonian’s National Zoo & Conservation Biology Institute states:

“As part of the Smithsonian’s National Zoo and Conservation Biology Institute’s cooperative breeding program with the China Wildlife Conservation Association, all cubs born at the Zoo move to China before turning 4 years old to breed with other pandas, helping to keep the population genetically diverse.”

The National Zoo scheduled events to celebrate Bao Bao’s departure at the zoo spanning from Saturday, February 11th through Bao Bao’s departure day on Tuesday, February 21st. These events included the presentation of a heart-shaped ice cake to the Panda as well as panda themed crafts at the zoo to represent global panda fan love.

The zoo says that if the breeding project is successful, it is possible that Bao Bao’s offspring may be released into the wild. Bao Bao traveled to China along with 55 pounds of bamboo, 2 pounds of apples, two bags of leaf-eater biscuits, 2 pounds of cooked sweet potatoes and 10 gallons of water. The 188 pound panda traveled to China accompanied by a keeper and one veterinarian from the zoo as she is adjusting to her new home.

“Bao Bao is very special to us at the Smithsonian’s National Zoo,” said Brandie Smith, associate director of animal care sciences. “She was the first surviving cub born at the Zoo since 2005. She’s captured the hearts of people all over the world who watched her grow up on the panda cams, and she has been an ambassador for conservation. We are sad to see her go, but excited for the contributions she is going to continue to make to the global giant panda population.”

Bao Bao is now in Chengdu in Sichuan province and she is doing well in her new environment of the China Conservation and Research Center for Giant Pandas.

Thus, our knowledge of pandas should not stop with the Kung Fu Panda film series (three movies, five short films, and a TV series.) Surprisingly, this children’s series has been popular even in China, where the series is appreciated for its accurate display of Chinese culture, but Bao Bao’s journey shows the true character of a panda.

The Hilltopper Writing Process

Tyler Forman ’21

At the Hilltopper creating and assigning articles is a multi-day process. The staff begins by brainstorming articles in each circle of topics. We begin with articles related to Hopkins and then we discuss articles related to New Haven. We then talk about articles about Connecticut, the US, the world and space. The process of brainstorming takes an entire session, and eats away at the next. The article picking is made difficult because the Hilltopper can not cover current events. By the time the Hilltopper is published any news that we have chosen will be over and replaced with new news. We try to focus on articles that involve Hopkins, with mild success.

At our next meeting we then brainstorm some more and remove the least liked ideas from the list. Someone then reads out the articles and people volunteer to write them. The only requirement is for you to write at least two articles at least one page long. The golden rule of the Hilltopper is that once you volunteer to write an article, you have to do it. This rule is secured by the Hilltopper hoodies gifted to the staff.

Along with our articles we are required to have at least two pictures per article. The pictures are recommended to have Hopkins students in them, for it is believed
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 10
HILLTOPPER PROCESS

that students are more likely to read articles about each other and with pictures of each other in them. We often then have a little bit of time to write our articles in class, and then we head home. We typically get one week to write our articles. The next class we make sure all the articles are in the right folder and if needed take pictures. It then takes roughly two weeks for the articles to be formatted and put together into a newspaper. We then begin the process all over again.

Gluten Free Brownies
Clara Goulding '21

For the longest time, I have been obsessed with baking different types of desserts. Although I love cupcakes and brownies and such, I realized that not everybody can eat these sweets, whether that be due to allergy or dietary restrictions. So today, I have decided to try out some gluten free brownies, and I am happy to say that they definitely receive my stamp of approval. If you are as eager as I am to bake some brownies, try out the recipe below!

Ingredients:
1 1/2 cups sugar
(PRO TIP: Superfine sugar tastes the best, but granulated sugar will also work.)
1 stick butter
(PRO TIP: This is equal to 1/2 cup.)
1/2 teaspoon salt
1 teaspoon gluten-free vanilla extr.
3/4 cup baking cocoa
(PRO TIP: Dutch-process cocoa makes the best brownies.)
3 large eggs
3/4 cup gluten free flour
(PRO TIP: This can be found at most grocery stores in the baking aisle. It should be labeled something like Gluten Free Baking Flour.)
1 teaspoon baking powder
(PRO TIP: This is NOT baking soda! The one I found comes in a red tin.)

Instructions:
Preheat the oven to 350°F.
Grease an 8" square pan or 9" round pan; either should be at least 2" deep.
Place the sugar, butter, and salt in a microwave-safe bowl. Microwave on high heat at 30 second intervals until the butter melts and the mixture lightens in color. (PRO TIP: If this confuses you at all, DON’T WORRY! Just pop in the microwave for 30 seconds, take it out, stir the mixture, and repeat until the butter looks melted and the sugar mostly dissolved)
Transfer the butter mixture to a large mixing bowl. Blend in the vanilla and cocoa, then add the eggs and mix until shiny. (PRO TIP: I used a whisk to mix the ingredients.)
Blend in the GF flour and the baking powder.
Pour the batter into the prepared pan, spreading it to the edges.
Bake the brownies for 33 to 38 minutes, until the top is set; and a cake tester or toothpick inserted in the center comes out nearly clean.
Remove from the oven and cool for about 15 minutes before cutting. Decorate the brownies with pretty sprinkles/frosting/other edible goodies to make them magical.
Once the brownies are decorated, cover tightly with plastic OR eat them all yourself straight out of the oven:)))
An Explanation On The Recent Rise of Slime

Jacob Ragaza ’22

Have you noticed the large amounts of slime in the hands of students? How did this odd, multi-colored colloid go from a trademark Nickelodeon substance to drench celebrities in becoming a social media phenomenon and a common desk ornament in schools? To find the answer, I found two Hopkins slime vendors, who shall remain anonymous. Before talking to these slime enthusiasts, I thought there was just one kind of slime: the green weird liquid that I only saw during the Kids Choice Awards, whenever someone got up to the podium. How wrong I was. Apparently, there are innumerable different types of slime, with different textures, colors and even scents. For example, there’s butter slime, which due to an added cornstarch, spreads easily, like it’s namesake. There’s also fluffy slime, which feels like a cloud, because of the shaving cream in it’s composition. These are just two of the many types of slime out there.

This new trend started on the social media platform Instagram, when a few accounts showcased their homemade slime. It is believed that these videos and post originated in Thailand. From there, it went the same way most internet trends do, slowly popping up on more people’s feeds, as people share and like the posts, until eventually, all of Instagram has seen it. How did it get into the hands of Hopkins students?

Well, sometime when slime’s popularity rose, a few students started to invent their own ways of making this liquid-like substance, and began to sell it to Hopkins students. From what I’ve seen and heard from these slime vendors themselves, these slime recipes are not simple. Despite this, these vendors create the slime, sometimes in front of customers before selling it. So hats off to them (and all the other slime makers) for such skill and memory in making such intricate and complex mixtures.

In summary, the idea of slime being a gross, green trademark-Nickelodeon liquid, has been shattered. Slime has grown into an obscure phenomenon. Who knew that a mixture of borax and glue could become so popular? Just look at all the pictures under #slime on Instagram. Yeah, crazy.
Haniya Farooq

What do people call you (besides Haniya)?
H. Onion, Honion, Han, Han Solo (please don’t call me that last one).

What’s your favorite color?
Probably strawberry pink, but it varies.

What’s your zodiac sign?
Cancer.

Do you believe in astrology?
Not really…but I like astrology textposts?

Do you believe in astronomy?
Um, yes. Stars are great. (Probably just saying that because I am one).

What’s your favorite book?
It’s called We Are [So Not] the Trevors. It was written by my fifth grade teacher and it’s getting published sometime this year. Go read it when it comes out.

JJ Drummond

10 Facts About Me

1. My full name is Jacqueline Judith Drummond

2. I’m 14 years old

3. I have 4 cats named Trixie, Tina, Buddy, and James

4. My favorite food is Mac & Cheese

5. My favorite sport is Surfing

6. My favorite place in the world is Colorado

7. My favorite TV show is Grey’s Anatomy

8. I’m an only child

9. My favorite movie is Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them

10. My favorite color is Red

Disclaimer: These questions were asked by other people. I did not make them up for myself. That would be sad.

How violently do you have to fight the urge to scream when you hear the ice cream truck coming?
I don’t fight it.

What’s your favorite meme?
Kermit. I love Kermit. He’s versatile.

Pepsi or Coke?
Coke all the way. Pepsi sucks. Well, American Pepsi does. Pakistani Pepsi just tastes like Coke.

If you could choose a superpower, what would it be?
Shapeshifting. Then I could shapeshift into a version of myself with any superpower.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 14
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 13
MEET THE HILLTOPPER

CONTINUED ON PAGE 15

10 Questions for
Cristin Earley ‘21

Q- Do you have any pets?
A- I have 3 cats. Their names are Sonic, Shadow, and Mo.

Q-What sports do you play?
A- For school I play field hockey in the fall, I swim in the winter, and I do tennis in the spring. But outside of school, I swim year round.

Q-What is your favorite color?
A- I like most shades of blue.

Q-What is your favorite song?
A- Right now my favorite song is "Issues" by Julia Michaels.

Q-What is your favorite animal?
A- I like Pandas and koalas but I mostly like all animals.

Q-What do you want to do when you grow up?
A- I want to be an olympic swimmer and then a physical therapist or something.

Q-What is your favorite show?
A- I am watching Scandal but my all time go to show is Friends.

Q-What is your favorite subject?
A- I like English because of the teacher and all my classmates.

Q-Do you play any instruments?
A- I used to play the saxophone but I stopped after last year.

Q-What is your favorite movie?
A- I really enjoy the movie Twister.

Lucas Alfaro ‘22

My name is Lucas Alfaro. I live in Orange, Ct. In my free time I like to watch NCIS, play Call of Duty, practice Baseball, and COOK. When I grow up, I want to own multiple restaurants in New York City and around the world. One of them will be a Bacon themed restaurant. I live with my parents, sister, and two dogs. My sister is named Evelyn and she is in the fifth grade. My parents are named Gino and Jen and my dad owns a plumbing company that my mom works for at home. I also have a brother who is named Nikko, but he decided to move out and get an apartment with his fiance. My favorite subject at Hopkins is Science because it is so much fun to do labs, and Ms. Stauffer likes to do experiments that result in the class eating candy. My favorite sport is baseball and my favorite baseball team is the Mets. I also enjoy playing “recess” football and my favorite football team is the Giants. My favorite movie is Forrest Gump. My favorite TV show is NCIS. My favorite book is Harry Potter and the Sorcerer’s Stone. My favorite movie series is by far Star Wars because the movies are amazing, and there are a lot of Star Wars haters out there, but the movie franchise that has made the most money off of memorabilia, toys, movies, and TV spin offs is Star Wars. My favorite quote is from Forrest Gump. He said, “‘Momma always said that life was like a box of chocolates, you never know whatcha gonna get.”
Sophie Sonnenfeld ‘21

Q and A:

Favorite animals?
LLAMAS ...and animals I don’t eat...

Favorite type of music?
Beatles music...is there any other type?

Who is your hero?
My dog. He is able to keep calm and carry on (except for invading squirrels of course)

What sports can you play?
Anything that does not involve rackets, sticks, swimming, running, or skis.

What is your number one pet peeve?
Stairs.

What is your favorite food?
It depends on the day, but Couscous truly is a food so nice they named it twice.

Angela Cui ‘21 (˚•ω•˚)

Q. What’s your favourite animal?
My favourite animals are cats, and my favourite cat breed is the Russian Blue.

Q. Do you play any instruments?
I play the piano and the violin, though I’ve played the piano longer than the violin.

Q. What’s your middle name?
My middle name is “Yue” or 月, which is Chinese for “moon”.

Q. When is your birthday?
I was born on July 15, 2003, which means that my zodiac sign is Cancer.

Q. What is your favourite color?
I like blue and also black.

Q. What is your favourite subject?
My favourite subjects have to be art, science, and math.

Q. What kind of person are you?
At first I may seem shy, and well, the rest is up to you to figure out.

Q. What food do you like?
I love Chinese food, especially rice.

Q. What do you like to do in your free time?
I like doodling, drawing, reading, or just generally procrastinating life on YouTube.

Q. Do you play any sports?
Yup! When I was really young, I used to do gymnastics, but I quit that pretty quickly. Then, I started karate and swimming. After getting my black belt in fourth grade, I quit karate and just focused on swimming.
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 15

MEET THE HILLTOPPER

Clara Goulding ’21

Q. What is your favorite textbook?
A. Math, because… Why did the orange fail math class? Because he couldn’t concentrate!

Q. What is your favorite computer key?
A. The space bar, because it makes a very satisfying clicking sound and it is so big that my fingers don’t miss it.

Q. What is your favorite sticker on JJ’s computer?
A. The colorful Adidas sticker because it brings out my inner unicorniness

Q. What is the best zipper on your backpack?
A. The one with the fluffy key-chain on it.

Q. What is your favorite computer on the computer carts?
A. Number 5 because I am five stars.

Q. Granny Smith or Red Apples?
A. Red apples because Macintosh trees are cool.

Q. What is your favorite sport?
A. Basketball, because of the amazing song from High School Musical and because the texture of the ball feels and looks like an orange.

Q. What is your favorite fruit?
A. Oranges, because it feels like a basketball! And I play basketball!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Q. Which animal has the best nose?
A. A bear, because they are champion sniffers!!

Q. If I could be a celebrity, who would I be?
A. Deema the Bubble Guppy, because her hair reminds me of an orange, which reminds me of a basketball, and I play basketball!!!!!!!!!!!!!
Tyler Forman 2021  
Q & A  

1: If you could go anywhere, where would you go?  
   I would go trekking in Patagonia.  

2: If you could be doing anything right now what would you do?  
   I would ski or rock climb.  

3: Do you have any pets?  
   I have a havanese.  

4: Do you have any siblings?  
   I have one sister.  

5: Who is your favorite author?  
   Brandon Sanderson.  

6: What is your favorite series of books?  
   The Stormlight Archives  

7: What sports do you do?  
   I play soccer, ski and rock climb.  

8: What is your soccer position?  
   I play center midfield or left or right midfield.  

9: What is your favorite video game?  
   Counter Strike: Global Offensive  

10: What is your favorite Junior School Snack?  
    Goldfish.

Jessica Horkovich 2022  

- 7th Grader  
- Loves Harry Potter  
- Sorted into Slytherin House  
- Loves to sing  
- Plays Piano  
- Went to Pear Tree Point School last year  
- Only uses mechanical pencils  
- Loves all animals (except for bugs and ANTEATERS)  
- Has two dogs  
- Has a beta fish  
- Loves to travel  
- Loves the ocean  
- Takes Chinese  
- Loves Edgar Allen Poe  
- Fences Foil  
- Plays Volleyball  
- Loves to swim  
- Lives in Westport  
- Loves SUMMER  
- Hates the cold  
- Does not eat pig (gummy bears are included as pig)  
- Favorite place to go is the Bahamas  
- Latin name is Lavinia  
- Loves Twenty-One Pilots  
- Likes Panic! At the Disco  
- Favorite color is Azure  
- Has three sisters and one brother  
- Is the youngest child  
- Has braces (is getting them off in March)  
- Favorite place to go is the Bahamas  
- Latin name is Lavinia  
- Loves Twenty-One Pilots  
- Likes Panic! At the Disco  
- Favorite color is Azure  
- Has three sisters and one brother  
- Is the youngest child  
- Has braces (is getting them off in March)  
- Favorite place to go is the Bahamas  
- Latin name is Lavinia  
- Loves Twenty-One Pilots  
- Likes Panic! At the Disco  
- Favorite color is Azure  
- Has three sisters and one brother  
- Is the youngest child  
- Has braces (is getting them off in March)  
- Favorite place to go is the Bahamas  
- Latin name is Lavinia  
- Loves Twenty-One Pilots  
- Likes Panic! At the Disco  
- Favorite color is Azure  
- Has three sisters and one brother  
- Is the youngest child  
- Has braces (is getting them off in March)  
- Favorite place to go is the Bahamas  
- Latin name is Lavinia  
- Loves Twenty-One Pilots  
- Likes Panic! At the Disco  
- Favorite color is Azure  
- Has three sisters and one brother  
- Is the youngest child  
- Has braces (is getting them off in March)  
- Favorite place to go is the Bahamas  
- Latin name is Lavinia  
- Loves Twenty-One Pilots  
- Likes Panic! At the Disco  
- Favorite color is Azure  
- Has three sisters and one brother  
- Is the youngest child  
- Has braces (is getting them off in March)  
- Favorite place to go is the Bahamas  
- Latin name is Lavinia  
- Loves Twenty-One Pilots  
- Likes Panic! At the Disco  
- Favorite color is Azure  
- Has three sisters and one brother  
- Is the youngest child  
- Has braces (is getting them off in March)  
- Favorite place to go is the Bahamas  
- Latin name is Lavinia  
- Loves Twenty-One Pilots  
- Likes Panic! At the Disco  
- Favorite color is Azure  
- Has three sisters and one brother  
- Is the youngest child  
- Has braces (is getting them off in March)  
- Favorite place to go is the Bahamas  
- Latin name is Lavinia  
- Loves Twenty-One Pilots  
- Likes Panic! At the Disco  
- Favorite color is Azure  
- Has three sisters and one brother  
- Is the youngest child  
- Has braces (is getting them off in March)  
- Favorite place to go is the Bahamas  
- Latin name is Lavinia  
- Loves Twenty-One Pilots  
- Likes Panic! At the Disco  
- Favorite color is Azure  
- Has three sisters and one brother  
- Is the youngest child  
- Has braces (is getting them off in March)  
- Favorite place to go is the Bahamas  
- Latin name is Lavinia  
- Loves Twenty-One Pilots  
- Likes Panic! At the Disco  
- Favorite color is Azure  
- Has three sisters and one brother  
- Is the youngest child  
- Has braces (is getting them off in March)  
- Favorite place to go is the Bahamas  
- Latin name is Lavinia  
- Loves Twenty-One Pilots  
- Likes Panic! At the Disco  
- Favori
Signs of Spring Collage,
Haniya Farooq ’22

Faculty Adviser, Donna Fasano
Layout, Lesley Zurolo