

The Highlander



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The Frederick Gunn School



Gunn Goes to Washington DC

Alex Johnson '23

During winterim, a group of FGS students elected to join the Washington DC winterim trip. Led by Mr. McMann and Ms. Petrillo, the class initially started the course by watching Peter Sagal's, four-part documentary *Constitution U.S.A.*. The class would analyze the documentary with a lively discussion and learn about the US government, its history, and political issues affecting the country today.

Eventually, the day came, and the class set out for a very long travel day from Washington, CT, to Washington, DC. The train took 6 hours, and the class was exhausted upon arrival in DC that evening. The DC winterim was partnered with the Close Up Foundation, a non-profit non-partisan organization that offers programming to educate students on Civic affairs and government. In addition to the FGS crew, another group from Mexico also participated in the program.

The following week was filled with thoughtful discussion and sightseeing. Each day concluded with workshops where the group was split up into small workshops where the day was debriefed and discussions and debates were held. The program included a live debate between Conservative and

Liberal analysts on day one just as the class had arrived from the train station. The next day on December 5th, the winterim group visited various memorials around DC, such as the FDR, Jefferson, MLK, and Marine Memorials. Each stop included an informative discussion on the history surrounding each memorial. The day concluded with work--shops about defining our own political values and creating policies surrounding the environment or homelessness.

The next day on the 6th, had a similar schedule. The group visited various memorials, for example, the Korean War, Vietnam War, WWII, Airforce, and Lincoln Memorials followed by an opportunity to visit the Smithsonian Museums on the National Mall. The day wrapped up with students participating in a mock congress. On the 7th, the Capitol was visited, which was the highlight of everyone's week. The Winterim class had the opportunity to meet with staffers working for Richard Blumenthal, the senator from Connecticut, and staffers working for Jahana Hayes, the representative from the Frederick Gunn School's district. The day was wrapped up with a viewing of *A Christmas Carol* at Ford's Theatre. On the final day, the group visited the White House and Arlington National Cemetery

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Boys Varsity Hockey win against C-Bury!

Megan Sladish '25

As usual, the Boys Varsity Hockey Team continues to show up, compete, and outwork their opponents, with their latest win coming against Trinity-Pawling on Monday, January 16th. Coming to the middle of the season, the boys have been chugging along continuously, with an overall record of 12-3-2. Their league record stands tall at 7-0-0, but that's enough of the season recap. Let's dig into the long-awaited Canterbury game!

On Friday, January 13th, the Boys Varsity Team traveled to Canterbury to compete head-to-head and bring back a Canterbury point. The team even took on a big role, arranging fan buses to come and cheer them on at the big game. They had help from many teachers and faculty to make this happen. Three fan buses showed up, holding 42 students. In addition, many other students who did not ride the buses got rides with teachers and faculty, while others even drove themselves. The energy created was amazing, and we carried ourselves well. As a community, we definitely shocked and outshone Canterbury with our fan section and outstanding support.

The game started strong, with both teams scoring fairly early in the first period to make the score 1-1. Eventually, Gunn took over the entire game, outscoring Canterbury 6-2 by the end. Six different players scored the goals, including Wood, Smyth, Donohue, Goich, Calabria, and Pizzo. At the end of the day, it was a solid evening to be a Highlander, earning Gunn another Canterbury point. Let's keep up the great work!



Constuction of the Lizzie

Maeren Hay '23, Georie Charette '23, Peter Murphy '24

When construction of the science building began, there was nothing but empty space where the old science building had been demolished. No one knew what the building would actually look like. The architects provided visuals of the groundbreaking building, which helped but also raised many questions about a robot. Now that progress has been made and the structure of the new building is clearer, people can see what the science building will look like in the future.

FGS students have heard a great deal about the Lizzie, and we have seen plenty of computer-generated photographs of what the building is going to look like. The Highlander News Network was eager to get the inside scoop on what the new building looks like so far. After requesting VIP access from Mr. Mihaly, we were granted permission to meet with Matt Olfsheski, the superintendent for the science building project from O&G. After pulling on our strongest boots and putting on the required golden helmets, safety glasses, and safety vests, we were ready to explore. Surprisingly, we could generally visualize where everything was going to be in the building. Computer generated photographs were placed in areas that they were representing. When we asked Olfsheski if he knew anything about the possible robot rumors, he pleaded the Fifth. He did give us some information, though, on why some areas are being dug up around campus.

These areas have been excavated to help the construction team to run electrical lines and running water down to the new building from Kirby Road. Matt told us how the construction plan was put in place to preserve as much terrain around the new science building as possible. Luckily, the absence of snow has helped their project run faster and smoother, giving the team an advantage of building without removing feet of snow. Their working space is relatively small in order to protect the mossy rocks and trees that lay around the area. Matt also told us how they are using a large tree, cut down from clearing the area, to build a beautiful wooden sitting area for the interior. It is nice to know the old science building and the beauty around it is being preserved and restored.

A big question that we all want answered is, where will the beam that we signed reside? Although we couldn't safely visit the second floor of the building's frame, we were able to see our personalized beam already secured to the structure from afar. The beam is in the very center of the frame, confirming that our marks on history are being incorporated into the building process. When we were actually inside of the frame, the tarped out walls gave us a real sense of what the building will feel like. Although the ground was covered in gravel, we could truly visualize the beautiful wooden sitting area, the self-operable dividers, and the amazing rooms that are soon to be built. Olfsheski is in the center of the image to the left!

Never fear where unfettered thought may lead you.

Digital Banking and the Dangers it Poses

Bridie Strowe '24

Whether we like it or not, technology has etched its way into every aspect of our lives, and it's become one of the most controversial topics in our world today. Technology gets people worked up, and it makes sense! Change is difficult to accept, especially when it threatens our daily routines, but over 100 governments have begun to accept the technology involving the one thing that gets people more angry than when others gain their basic rights: money.

In the perfectly put words of Pink Floyd, "Money... It's a crime." There has been much discourse over whether CBDCs are a violation of citizens' financial rights or not. But let's put that aside for a moment, because you're probably wondering, 'What's a CBDC?' I'll back up...

The acronym, CBDC, stands for 'Central Bank Digital Currency,' and it means pretty much what it sounds like! It's a bank, run by a country's government, that establishes a standardized digital currency.

The argument of governments and supporters of CBDCs is that the current banking system has become slow and outdated. The requirements to open a bank account leave many without one, particularly people without social security numbers or distinct proof of citizenship in their countries. Even if someone does have a bank account, many banks have monthly fees that range from \$4 to \$25 (according to CNBC, 2021). While this doesn't seem like much, these fees can add up quickly. For these reasons, CBDCs can be extremely beneficial for some people.

On the flip side however, CBDCs put power over accounts directly into the hands of the federal government.

I hope it's needless to say this poses a major threat to democracy. This gives the government power to simply cut off your supply of funds if you do something they don't like. CBDCs give the government power to do this in addition to tracking financial interactions (sales and purchases), and they even have the ability to create money and directly control the economy. While they may make a decision that is amazing for the economy, it could suck for the individual citizen; these are the dangers of CBDCs.

There are both wins and losses when dealing with a central digital (and federal) banking system, but many have already chosen to accept the pros with the cons. The US government is currently debating whether a CBDC is a good idea, but the Federal Reserve has already stated that if we do develop one, we'll have it in tandem with our current financial system. This indicates that the Feds are seriously considering a US CBDC, whether this is good or bad is up to the people to decide. Currently, Jamaica is the most recent country to join this long list of CBDC converters, countries including the UAE, Ghana, South Africa, Malaysia, Singapore, Sweden, and Thailand. For governments, the CBDC trend is spreading faster than political movements and COVID combined!

College Applications: Tips for Juniors

Bridie Strowe, '24 and Jenny Shen, '23

It's that time of the year again, when juniors begin to scramble into the college application process, feeling stressed and intimidated. We understand your plight, college is scary! It means saying farewell to the familiar past and forcing our eyes open to an uncertain future. The FGS College Counseling Department is no stranger to panicked teens questioning their place in the universe, and this year, they're handling 97 applicants (NOT including seniors). One of these counselors is Mrs. McMann, the head of the counseling department, who's currently directing about 30 juniors.

During an interview with Mrs. McMann, she introduced that the College Counseling Department consists of three full-time counselors, one part-time counselor, an administrative assistant, and a testing coordinator. For the past few years, FGS students have been admitted to a variety of colleges and the list shifts annually. Nevertheless, some schools such as UCONN are consistently popular because lots of the students on campus are from Connecticut. Mrs. McMann also mentioned that the full matriculation list can be found on the website with data for the most recent three years (check this out if you are interested!).

When asked to give some tips to the juniors who are just starting the college process, Mrs. McMann said: "Start working harder in the classroom, getting a stronger sense of yourself and what you enjoy doing. Show up to the meetings, start researching schools and have an open mind on what schools you want to go to."

Even though colleges generally want students with different values, priorities, and transcripts that show some degree of self-challenging, what really matters to them are varied from one to another. So just relax and be yourself. The college application process is not one-sided, you are also picking the colleges the same time they are picking you. At this point in our life, many people could be unsure about what they want to do after high school but there is no need to stress about that. The most popular major for incoming freshmen is undecided. It is perfectly fine to go to college undecided or to change your mind on what you want to study later on.

Mrs. McMann expressed that: "We want this to be a process of self-discovery, come in ready to engage and explore what you want for the future, you'll be successful wherever you land." Lastly, Juniors, remember to check your emails regularly!

Death of a Fashion Icon

Martha Ewing '26

The world has just lost a fashion icon. On Thursday, December 29th, 2022, Vivienne Westwood died in Clapham, England. She has arguably had the biggest influence on British design, forming the punk scene in London. Coming from a small background to creating one of the most famous fashion houses in the world, how did she make her name, and what makes Vivienne Westwood stand out?

Born on April 8, 1941, in Tintwistle, England, Vivienne was an elementary school teacher interested in fashion, but didn't think she could pursue it as a career. At night, however, she would travel to Portobello Market in London to sell handmade jewelry. Through her brother, Gordon Swire, she met Malcolm McLaren and realized that she could achieve the glamorous life she had dreamed of. They got married, and while as a couple, Vivienne made clothes for them both. Onlookers were taken aback by their unique street style. Londoners were shocked and amused by the garments they wore. A man named Bradley Mendelson offered Malcolm the back of his newly opened shop for his own retail space in which they sold recycled denim items that Vivienne had designed. They believed there was enough fabric in the world and didn't want to become another fast fashion company. This sustainable mentality followed Vivienne throughout her occupation. Their philosophy and Vivienne's clothes were a hit, and they eventually took over the whole store, naming it "Let It Rock." This was the beginning of her fashion career, and Vivienne ran a few other successful shops before becoming a global sensation.

Her store catered to the rebellious youth of London who protested against matters such as police brutality, and she came to be known as one of the founders of punk style. She was known for her graphic tees with slogans, imagery, and outrageous designs. As her business became more and more lucrative, Vivienne expanded her Let It Rock brand to include a wider variety of items such as jackets, shoes, and accessories. The men she worked with, The Teddy Boys, started to garner a bad reputation from the public as they were accused of being racist and misogynistic. Vivienne cut off ties with them and rebranded the store "Too Fast To Live, Too Young To Die." This store name was changed soon after the rebrand as it was too long to say, but the skull emblem that came with it has remained a symbol in Vivienne's clothes and brands throughout her career. As she rebranded and became more successful, her scandalous clothing and persona pushed away people like the Teddy Boys and helped Vivienne and Malcolm cultivate their following of "punks." After a few more rebranding efforts, the store was named "At World's End" which was a name that has stuck, even to this day as a trademark slogan, and Vivienne began to take the spotlight as a designer to be respected in the industry.

Vivienne presented her first official collection at London Fashion Week in the Autumn/Winter of 1981. This collection shocked the fashion industry as it showcased striking colors and patterns. It was also the first collection to take exact historical garments and reconstruct them for the modern day. The show was a huge success, with other brands following in her footsteps. It resulted in "At World's End" being able to open another boutique in London. Gradually, Malcolm McLaren grew jealous of Vivienne, and they parted ways just after the Autumn/Winter show of 1983. Eventually, Vivienne rebranded for the last time, and her company was named Vivienne Westwood. Just after the AW83 collection was put into stores, Madonna wore one of Vivienne's skirts in a music video for "Borderline" in her debut, self-titled album *Madonna*. This was huge for the brand, and its sales soared for the following months. From Spring/Summer 1984 to 1987, Vivienne Westwood continued to incorporate her glamorous, punk styles into her collections. Her Autumn/Winter collection of 1987 presented the quintessential "orb" logo, which transpired from her partnership with the Harris Tweed Authority, who made the traditional Scottish fabric featured in the collection. Not only did she keep the trademark orb, but she also saved the Harris Tweed industry in Scotland from dying out. Even though Vivienne became incredibly successful, she still wasn't fully respected as a designer, with the people at the Designer of the Year awards refusing to give an award to her and giving one to every other designer possible. Eventually, she was given one after the designers began to refuse the award until Vivienne earned one herself in 1990.

Vivienne Westwood went on to open stores in Japan, impacting Japanese fashion to this day. She created a wedding dress line, a menswear line, a popular jewelry line (featuring the orb logo in most of the designs), and for a while, a perfume line, among other successes. She married Andreas Kronthaler, who impacted her brand, and even has his own collection, Andrews Kronthaler for Vivienne Westwood. She received an OBE (Officer of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire) from Queen Elizabeth and became Dame Vivienne Westwood. Most importantly, she was well known for her activism, using her platform to speak out against many social justice topics such as human rights issues and climate change, donating millions of dollars to charities across the globe. She was an inspiration to many, and changed fashion across the globe forever.



Girls Varsity Hockey Overtime Win against Canterbury

Megan Sladish '25

Coming up to the middle of the winter sports season, girls' varsity hockey has been staying steady, and they are hoping to get a few more wins in the books for the end of January. The girls are hosting Lawrenceville and The Hill School at the Linen this weekend. For the week leading up to this weekend, the team has been holding a fundraiser benefiting the Concussion Legacy Foundation, hoping to raise money and awareness. On Saturday, January 21st, their game against Lawrenceville will be a white-out event to help raise awareness for CLF. In addition, there will be a brief ceremony before the puck drop that highlights CLF's work and, in addition, a speech given by Junior forward, Jo Wimler '24.

Before we go too far into what's coming up, let's give a brief rundown of the girls' record. So far, their overall record is 4-6-2, while their league record is 3-4-2. The girls have been consistently working hard and battling against each and every opponent, with their last game being against our rival, Canterbury.

On January 18th, the girls traveled to Canterbury to face them head-to-head in a heated battle. This was a personal game for the players and the Frederick Gunn School, as there was a Canterbury point on the line. Throughout the game, both teams continued to battle back and forth, having chances on both ends. The game stayed scoreless throughout the first, second, and third periods leading up to OT. With only 2 minutes into OT, Jo Wimler puts the puck in the back of the net, assisted by Jordan Hopping '24. Emily Krauss '24 stayed solid in the net with her second shutout of two games played against Canterbury. Way to go, girls! It was yet another great day to be a highlander.



Donovan Mitchell's 71-Point Game

Peter Murphy '24

Many people started the New Year off right. Some bought a gym membership that they will never use again after less than two months of usage. Others quit certain bad habits they did last year to try to better themselves. For Donovan Mitchell, this was quite a different story as he came into January 2nd, 2023 with a 71 point game against the Chicago Bulls. The news of this accomplishment made by Donavon Mitchell came to national attention because of the sheer talent it takes to score that many points in a single game. What also makes this significant is that not long ago on March 24th, 2017 when Devin Booker scored a 70 point game which gained the same amount of attention. But how did Donavon Mitchell's path to greatness begin?

Donavon Mitchell was born on September 7th, 1996 in Elmsford, New York. Donavan attended school in Connecticut where he completed middle school at Greenwich Country Day School. He then, unfortunately, decided to attend the Canterbury School for two years, before transferring to Brewster Academy where he really began to shine on the court and gain college interest. Donavan Mitchell would attend the University of Louisville, where he would only stay for two seasons, before declaring for the 2017 NBA

draft. Mitchell would be picked 13th in the first round of the draft by the Denver Nuggets, and would be immediately traded to the Utah Jazz. Mitchell would gain a great achievement at the beginning of 2018 when he would be named for the NBA All-Rookie First Team. Donavan Mitchell would make the playoffs with the Jazz in the 2019-2020 season. On August 17th, 2020, the Jazz would be knocked out of the playoffs by the Denver Nuggets in overtime. Mitchell would score 57 points in this game, which is to this date, the third most points in playoff history. Donavon Mitchell would play for the Jazz for two more seasons before being traded to the Cleveland Cavaliers. Mitchell would debut for the Cavs on October 19th, 2022. Today Donavon Mitchell is still on the Cavs which is 4th in the Eastern conference as of now. Donavon Mitchell continues to amaze people all over the world with his play style and gritty mindset, regardless of his attendance at Canterbury.

Predicting the Premier League's Top 4

Thomas Vo '25 and Hezekiah Benson '26

We are officially halfway through the 2022/2023 Premier League Season! With the February into March grind approaching, here is our take on how things will play out, as we consider which teams have the best chance of making the top four and earning a chance to fight for the Champions League next season.

1- Arsenal

Arsenal is our pick to win the league. They have a sturdily built, deep squad, including young players with great potential and veterans yearning to taste glory at least once before they leave the club. Bukayo Saka has been an inspirational young player at Arsenal, scoring 6 goals and producing 6 assists with only 17 matches played. He will continue to play a key role in this Arsenal side, as will his teammates and friends Martin Odegaard and Gabriel Martinelli. This attacking trio, complimented by J sus at center forward, is the best in the league when in top form. Additionally, Arsenal's veteran players, like Granit Xhaka, are bringing experience to the side. Xhaka is relishing his new role as a more offensive midfielder, and although he is approaching the latter part of his career, he still brings determination and hunger. Xhaka has been leading and inspiring his teammates like a captain of a ship out at sea, a ship soon to find land. Arsenal very well could land smoothly, and who knows, maybe they'll discover a new home full of promises.

2- Manchester City

Manchester City have won the league 3 of the last 4 years, however this year may prove to be different.

At the start of the season, things were running fairly smoothly. Manchester City started near the top of the league and their new signing, Erling Haaland, was surely the best City player: Haaland is a powerful Norwegian striker who is an expert goal scorer. The young talent proved his worth at the Etihad, becoming the fastest individual to score three hat-tricks. He is also the first player in the league's history to score three successive hat-tricks in home games and after just 18 games, he's already scored 21 goals. Perhaps City's most notable game was against none other than Manchester United this past October. The game seemed to perfectly define the state of the club: the team looked unstoppable, scoring mountains of goals, holding off their opponents, moving up the field so rapidly with pin point passes, DeBruyne delivering, Haaland scoring.... and then winning not so convincingly. Despite obliterating United 5-0 after 45 minutes, they conceded three goals in the second half and scored just one more, more of a meek second half than anything else. That's not to mention Man City just to lost to United last Match-week, by a score of 2-1. Yet again they led, and yet again they dropped off.

Take their loss to Real Madrid in the Champions League Semi Finals last year: they won the first leg in a bizarrely entertaining game, 4-3, a match that could've been won by a margin of three or four goals. City then continued to outplay Real Madrid in Leg 2, away at the Bernabeu. With Real's fans' apprehension growing as the minutes ticked by, it seemed their side would have to continue the fight for title number 14 in the next season. The belief in Real wavered so greatly, that the fans of arg-

-uably the most successful side in club football history began to leave. Then Rodrygo scored. And then just a minute later, he scored again. All of a sudden, Manchester City were vulnerable. They held Real off, but only for so long. Incomprehensibly, Real Madrid won.

City's depth may be the best in the world, with practically their second tier team (save for a pass maestro by the name of Rodri, and arguably a few others) thrashing Chelsea 4-0, yet they are still behind Arsenal. Can they catch them? It's certainly debatable, but right now Arsenal look stronger.

3- Manchester United

Prior to the World Cup break, Manchester United were falling apart. Cristiano Ronaldo was either solemnly watching his team from the sidelines or simply out of the picture, Anthony Martial wasn't scoring as much as he should, and promising victories were soon followed by disastrous losses, including that 6-3 defeat to their archrivals Man City. All this time the man at the helm has been Eric Ten Hag, appointed in April 2022. Ten Hag has brought new signings to the team including Antony, Casemiro, Lisandro Mart nez, and Christian Eriksen. All of these new players have contributed greatly to the squad depth. This has been proven as Man United improve each matchweek, and are getting closer and closer to the top of the table. Man United have had a successful post World Cup run, including a great match against Man City in which Rashford and Bruno Fernandes scored and United's committed philosophy culminated in a comeback win. You can count on them to book their spot for season 2023/24, and who knows? With Ronaldo at his new Saudi Arabian club Al-Nassr, we may have some contenders for next year's title on our hands if Casemiro and Rashford stay sharp. With all that has happened, it seems logical to conclude that their best possible finish is at number 3 in the league, but in the words of one of the team's defenders, Raphael Varane, "Everything is possible."

4- Newcastle United

In their 6th consecutive season in the Premier League, Eddie Howe and his roster have had a solid run of wins at the start of the season, propelling them ahead of Liverpool, Tottenham, and Chelsea, and very well positioned in the top 4 race. They are also ahead of Manchester United at the moment, however, as mentioned, we think United will catch them. That's not to say Newcastle's squad doesn't have a lot of potential. With Allan Saint-Maximin, a powerful winger, and the team's new signing, Alexander Isak, Newcastle's attacking force is looking dangerous. Their midfielders Joe Willock and Miguel Almiron are worth noting and in their defensive third, Newcastle's Sven Botman, Matt Targett, and others have created a near invisible wall complimenting Nick Pope's job in goal. But perhaps most notable is Kieran Trippier, one of the best players statistically in the Premier League at the moment, the captain of this Newcastle side. Trippier is better known from his days at Tottenham,

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The Highlander

FGS Winterim

Cultures of Reading, 2022

Megan Sladish '25
Sloane Walsh '25

In Ms. Rimany and Ms. Peluchowski's Winterim class, Cultures of Reading, students visited public libraries, bookstores, and coffee shops around Connecticut, Massachusetts, and New York. The course focused on getting students in or back into reading. The class is great as well if you already love to read. If you are one of these people, Cultures of Reading is a perfect class to take, especially after a hectic fall term. Thanks to Dr. Regan, who is in charge of planning Winterim classes, each student got forty-five dollars to buy a book and journal of their choice. Students in the class picked several different books and took creative approaches to how they wrote in their journals.

Along with picking out a book and journal, the class took trips to the local bookstores, starting with Washington's very own Hickory Stick. The Hickory Stick is a homey bookstore, and the staff was friendly and helpful with the class and gave great recommendations. The second bookstore the class visited was House of Books in Kent, Connecticut. House of Books was recently renovated, giving it a modern look with a beautiful interior and a wide range of options. Most students bought journals and books at House of Books, and a few bought a pen from the bookstore's collection.

The class also visited The Bookstore in Lenox, Massachusetts, and met the store's owner, Matt Tannenbaum. Matt was very outgoing and made sure everyone felt welcome in the bookstore. When the class arrived, he gave everyone a handshake, and while checking out a book, he would always provide another recommendation and try to find a book that he thought would be a perfect fit. He even wrapped some students' books as gifts for the holidays. While in Lenox, the class also got to walk around town and see their beautiful public library and a couple of cute coffee shops.

On campus, the class built a book tree in the library, visited the Gunn Memorial Library, and had time for free reading and journaling. At the end of the course, students got to create something that displayed their reading. Many students had creative takes on the project, making posters, drawings, book reviews, and more. Be sure to check out the library to see all the fun takes on the classes' projects!



Gunn Goes to Washington DC with Mr. McMann and Ms. Petrillo

Winterim Interviews with Students

Gloria Wang '23

Q: Which winter courses did you choose? Why did you choose them? What things are you most looking forward to in this course?

Student A: My first choice is the Live like Sasquatch, which offers an off-campus trip to the White Mountains in New Hampshire. My second choice is the Culture of Reading, because I love to read books during my free time, and my two top favorite kinds of books are novels and memoirs. My third choice is The Great Escape Room because I'm interested in detective films, and I also went to many escape rooms in China, where they have a real interactive NPC. I just love solving puzzles and learning about cryptography, so I think this is a perfect choice for me.

I'm looking forward to taking a break from all the school classes and meeting new friends on this trip. Winter is my favorite season!!

Student B: My first choice is The Film in 2022. My second choice is The Beautiful Game. My third choice was The Crafty Highlander. Fortunately, I got into The Film in 2022. So that's really exciting. I chose film because I've always been interested in movie production and cinema in general. I chose The Beautiful Game as my second choice because I've always been fascinated by soccer. I haven't played it since I was six, but it seems really interesting to me. I'd like to learn more about it and watch the World Cup with my friends, so I thought that'd be cool. I chose The Crafty Highlander as my third choice because I used to do arts and crafts for like two weeks. And that just seems like something fun and low stress to do between the holidays. I am so looking forward to winter because I like the winter season in general, and I am actually going to do Highlander hockey. Recently, I've been learning how to ice skate and play hockey, which I didn't know how to do. I was going to ski because this is something our school offers. So I want to give it a shot because I already know how to ski. And finally, I'm looking forward to the holiday market that is going on during the winter, and I think that's going to be really cool!!!



Cessna 182 intro-ride for Introduction to Aviation with Mrs. Fischer



Exploring Connecticut

Gunn Goes to Washington DC - Continued

Alex Johnson '23

Finally, the day concluded with a farewell banquet and a dance.

The winterim trip returned to FGS the next day and began to write policy papers on a variety of topics ranging from gun control and energy, to public safety and more. Overall, the students found the trip to be fun, informative, and valuable, and would recommend the trip to students next Winterim.



Cultures of Reading with Ms. Rimany and Dr. Regan



Belize Trip with Mrs. Lyon and Dr. Teresita



Top Scholars of 2021-2022

Gloria Wang '23

Chris Wang '23

Can you please briefly introduce yourself?

My name is Chris Wang and I am from Beijing, China. I will be 20 in January, but I am still 19 right now, probably the oldest on campus. I am a three-year senior and I am a prefect this year. I enjoy singing, painting, playing tennis, and reading.

What was your favorite class this year? Why?

My favorite classes this year are the Philosophy seminar and AP Lit. Because I can get engaged in conversations and discussions about the world we live in and explore the layers of complexity.

What is your greatest strength/weakness academically?

My greatest weakness is procrastination, and my greatest strength is the ability to combat that weakness.

Why did you choose to come to the FGS?

I choose to come to the FGS because it has more courses offered than my last school, the FGS offers AP courses in various categories which sparks my interest.

What activities are you involved in after school or outside school?

I am doing art as my fall co-curricular. I did sketching and I also tried acrylic painting for the first time. Moreover, I am applying for a job position as a medical scribe outside the school.



Predicting the Premier league's Top 4 Continued

Thomas Vo '25
and Hezekiah Benson '26

...but is performing much more consistently for his new club. Trippier plays as a right back, but can be seen in front of the goal supporting the center halves as well as racing up and down the right flank, counting on the five pairs of lungs he seems to have. If Trippier continues to play like this, then Newcastle will stay in the top 4. Newcastle is a good team and though they're giving the big boys a good run for their money, our best bet is they'll finish 4th, already a very strong achievement for a 'modest' side currently playing with great inspiration. Newcastle have brought about the revelation once again that in this game, you don't need a star on your team: *it's all about how you play.*

Jenny Shen '23

Can you please briefly introduce yourself?

My name is Jenny. I'm from Beijing, China. I'm 17 years old and I'm four years senior at the FGS. I like swimming, playing piano, traveling, cooking, and painting.

What was your favorite class this year? Why?

My favorite class this year is AP Literature. I love Mr. Martin, he's very passionate about teaching. He gives a lot of critical advice on how to improve my writing and reading interpretations. We also read some interesting novels and plays this year so far like Hamlet and The Wide Sargasso Sea.

Who has been a role model for you?

My role model for life is probably my grandma because she taught me how to learn to be myself, how to be independent, and how to live my life freely.

What is your greatest strength/weakness academically?

Academically, I think my greatest strength is that I'm a perfectionist. I'm always striving for that 100%. I tried my best to prepare for the exam, so I could get the best score I could, and revise my essays six times to make sure they are perfect. I think I am also good at time management and I always have this daily schedule in my head about what I need to do and make sure to finish each one of them by the end of the day. My weakness is also being a perfectionist. Because I'm always trying to do everything perfectly but it's never possible so I get really frustrated and stressed about lots of things...

Why did you choose to come to the FGS?

I chose to come to the FGS because of the atmosphere of the school. People here are really friendly. When I visit the school, all the admission officers are super nice. Mrs. Ince is the best!

What activities are you involved in after school or outside school?

I am a head tour guide this year. I became a part of the tour guide program starting my sophomore year because I like to talk to people and I think it's really interesting to get to know people from different places with different backgrounds. And I'm also one of the leaders of the Asian Student Association and we strive to create a home-like atmosphere for all Asian students. I'm also in Artistry and Technique because I'm a visual art major and it's my passion for life. I do a lot of artwork like self-portrait paintings, watercolors, and drawings. Some of them are at the school's student exhibitions.

Can you share some fun facts about yourself?

I've never been to Europe and I hate seafood!



The Lizzie under construction

Meet Mr. Milano - Jenny Shen '23

Imagine scientists have built a biosphere for plantations where they can control everything – perfect sunlight, temperature, moisture level, soil, and the amount of water that plants get. Everything seemed so ideal and flawless, so how come the trees kept falling down after they reached a certain height?

“It was because there was no wind. A tree is going to get stronger and really be able to continue to grow and stand because it needs to fight the wind. It sways back and forth and that's how it strengthens itself. It's hard in the moment when things are going downhill but that adversity, that difficulty, in the end, is good for you. Struggle is nature's way of strengthening. Obviously it's easier said than done, but trying to live in the moment and just be present is really good too.” This is an analogy, a metaphor for life that Mr. Milano wants to share with the rest of the school.

Mr. Milano, who grew up in Guilford, CT, has entered his fourteenth year of teaching high school Mathematics. In 2009, Mr. Milano graduated with a BA in Psychology at Williams College. Based on the deep relationships he had with former professors, teachers, and coaches, along with his enthusiasm for Education and Social Psychology, Mr. Milano knew immediately that he wanted to go into coaching and teaching. He played football and baseball in high school and was able to continue playing football in college. One of the coaches that Mr. Milano had made a huge impact on his life, so he wants to return the favor and hopefully make an impact on students' lives like his coaches did for him. As a result, Mr. Milano accepted his first job out of college at Canterbury, where they had a math teaching position open, and he has been teaching Math ever since.

When asked the reason he chose to come to the FGS, Mr. Milano responded: “I do believe in small boarding schools. I think those are great environments for students to grow and learn, and so I think the main reason was the location, Washington, CT”

During his career at boarding school, Mr. Milano coached a variety of sports from football, baseball, wrestling, basketball, and intramural, to ultimate frisbee, which he will coach alongside Ms. Rimany this upcoming spring term. Now, Mr. Milano lives on campus with his wife and three children (1, 2, and 4), as well as a dog and a cat. During the school days, Mr. Milano teaches Calculus, Geometry, and Algebra II. After school he is one of the dorm parents for Gunn House. Over Winterim, he taught The Great Escape Room with Mr. Hunt. Recalling his experiences, Mr. Milano expressed: “That was awesome, and one of the things that was cool was that I had not taught any of the students. Being new at a school, you don't know a lot of the students, so it's great to get to know a new group of students. Mr. Hunt was an expert in escape rooms but I didn't know much about it, so it was like a learning experience for me too. I think in the end, one thing you learn as a teacher is that you continue to be a student, which is something I really enjoy.”

Near the end of the conversation, Mr. Milano shared one fun fact about himself with me. Before he decided to become a teacher, he wanted to get into sports broadcasting. As a result, Mr. Milano worked as an intern at ESPN and NBC Sports. During these exciting experiences, he met a lot of athletes, worked with fascinating people, and learned how the production of a sporting event takes place: the research, the preparation, and then the actual telecast of the game where every camera angle needs to be delicately adjusted and all the content of the show needs to be carefully designed.

Lastly, for all the students who are struggling in their Math classes right now, Mr. Milano wants to say: “All you are is all you need. Wherever you are with Math, that is all you need. Math is a universal language that allows you to progress and move forward with only enthusiasm and persistence. Even though it might be difficult for a lot of folks, no matter what, if you are able to put in the effort, you will learn and you will grow. Math is all around us, whether you realize it or not you are doing it all the time.”

The Highlander

Opinion and Commentary

A6

The Frederick Gunn School

Paganini vs. K-Pop: The battle between BlackPink and Twoset Violin

Bridie Strowe '24

On September 16, 2022 the famous K-Pop girl-group Blackpink released their hit song, "Shutdown". It followed a typical pop song format, using a section from a different piece as the melody and adding a beat on top to intensify the original sample. "Shutdown" was entirely typical to the majority of Blackpink's fans, but another group noticed one characteristic that set the song apart from other K-Pop hits. For classical musicians, it was inescapable to notice that the sample Blackpink used was composed by beloved violinist and composer of the devil, Paganini.

Having written some of the most famous concertos and caprices, Paganini is one of the most loved violinists and composers of the classical world. Because of this, the Blackpink's song elicited such a hysterical response from the internet-famous violinists, Brett and Eddie, from their YouTube channel Twoset Violin.

Twoset responded to Blackpink in the form of two videos. The first featured Eddie dressed as Paganini, donning an Italian accent in a reaction-style video. He satirically expressed the pain that Paganini would feel if he heard "Shutdown". The absolute and utter disrespect to the integrity of classical music prompted the composer to exclaim 'Mamma Mia!' about 14 million times. Blackpink's music video seems to some to have been sacrilegious from the first second, starting with an extra note on the downbeat, AND put in the wrong key.

Eddie - I mean Paganini - also had a few comments on Blackpink's editing of the sample, specifically on the change in dynamics. Partway through the song, the sample was trans-

posed digitally instead of just played down an octave on the original violin. The added reverb in later verses paired interestingly with the violin sample, creating an odd 'wet' sound.

Moving on to Shutdown's lyrics, Paganini seemed to be a little lost on the meaning. This is most likely due to the fact that, he's dropped off the face of the Earth for the last 200 years. In particular, the meaning of "Heads turning, careful you'll strain your neck," a lyric in the first verse, seemed to be lost on Paganini as he responded by giving his viewers a short lecture on the importance of good posture while playing the violin. Another line (first verse), "Flooring the gas pedal we go two-zero-five" gave our beloved Niccolo the impression that Blackpink was referring to a tempo setting (a rather difficult one to achieve, too).

Paganini was greatly offended at the phrase, "...Need a lesson..." he responded, "Need a lesson? You think I need a violin lesson? I'm Paganini - greatest violin virtuoso. Mamma mia!"

About four and a half minutes into Twoset's video, a guest star from the nichely famous B2TSM (Beethoven, Bach, Tchaikovsky, Shostakovich, and Mozart) joined Paganini. When Paganini asked, "WHAT IS A SHUTDOWN?", Mozart decided to add a little chaos... "It's like they're taking over your area [...] like they're better than you." His statement sort-of diminuendo-ed towards the end, as Mozart was naturally terrified of Paganini's wrath.

In November, Twoset furthered their satire by releasing an original song mimicking the melody and style of Blackpink's "Shutdown" but with alternate lyrics (In addition to all the things wrong with the original's sample). Throughout the hit-single, Sell-out, Twoset (As Paganini) made hilarious digs at Blackpink and the Pop music industry, all while donning a genuine Stradivari accompanied in the background by a mischievous and twerking Mozart. The dig with the most insult can be found whenever Twoset runs the chorus, "I sold my soul to the devil, you sold yours to your label." The entire video was dripping with Twoset's signature energy, it was satirical and classical perfection.

The Paganini kept with the insults though, calling "Shutdown" a disgrace to art, which is subjective but from the classical perspective, entirely accurate. After Sell-out's release, Twoset received much hate from die-hard BP fans attacking their individual characteristics like race, sexuality, and intelligence, but Twoset's response to this was perfect as well. They released a second video featuring B2TSM and Paganini in a storyline of their own making. The video gave the duo's haters a personality, as well as the social media companies, while using stunning cinematography.

After a moving monologue from Shostakovich about artistic integrity, Mozart iconically threw a clump of grass at Twoset's haters' personification, saying "Oh! Touch grass!" as it glitched out of existence. In the final scene, Paganini once again delivered a 'Mamma mia!', ending the video with the most important message of all: 'Time to practice.'



Outrage with Kanye West

Mairin Hoffman '25

Towards the end of 2022, Kanye West's name was all over the news, but for all the wrong reasons. Kanye West, known for his iconic songs and style, recently made absurd and disturbing anti-semitic comments on his Twitter account. His comments caused outrage over social media, as it was shocking to hear these remarks from such an influential artist. His behavior has been shocking, along with his hateful comments and, at one point, he even went missing.

In October of 2022, Kanye West was spotted wearing a "White Lives Matter" shirt during Paris Fashion Week, which goes against the Black Lives Matter movement and is tone-deaf to the struggles of others. After this incident, Adidas announced its partnership with Kanye West was pending. Kanye West defended his actions by saying it was a "gut instinct, a connection with God, and just brilliance." (Via theweek.com). In response to Diddy reacting in outrage over the "White Lives Matter shirt", Kanye made an anti-semitic post about rapper Diddy, suggesting he was being controlled by Jewish individuals. Instagram then restricted his account, in which Ye tweets to Mark Zuckerberg, "How you gone kick

me off of Instagram". But later that night, Ye released the most upsetting tweets yet, "I'm a bit sleepy tonight but when I wake up I'm going death con 3 on JEWISH PEOPLE," and claiming, "I actually can't be Anti Semitic because black people are actually Jew also You guys have toyed with me and tried to black ball anyone who opposes your agenda". These tweets caused outrage on social media. Celebrities and supporters of his music were outraged, and rightfully so. The next day, Twitter confirmed that Ye's account had been locked "due to a violation of Twitter's policies." The tweet was removed.

However, these events did not stop Ye from speaking his mind. Ye went on multiple talk shows and podcasts and said insensitive comments about his controversial thoughts. He claims things like, "Jewish people have owned the Black voice." He expressed confidence that he believes Adidas won't end their business relationship with West, "I can say antisemitic things and Adidas can't drop me." After all these comments, on October 21st, a spokesperson for Vogue tells Page Six Magazine that "neither the magazine nor its editor-in-chief Anna Wintour intend to work with Kanye West

again." Balenciaga announced that they do not intend to work with Ye again either. A couple of days later, on October 24, Adidas officially announced their departure from working with Kanye West, saying "Adidas does not tolerate antisemitism and any other sort of hate speech". They added "Ye's recent comments and actions have been unacceptable, hateful, and dangerous, and they violate the company's values of diversity and inclusion, mutual respect and fairness". Although not public information, we assume this caused outrage for Kanye, as he showed up to Sketchers headquarters trying to get a deal with them, as he recently lost his major deal with Adidas. Sketchers rejected Ye's proposal and kicked him out.

Various celebrities and companies have spoken vocally about their disappointment with Kanye West's comments and behavior, as he has been claimed as one of the most influential artists of this century. Ye has lots of young and impressionable fans, so his actions may reflect as normal to his fans when it is really just plain wrong. His actions are full of nothing but hate and there is absolutely no excuse for his actions. His career may not recover fully from these incidents.

The Highlander

Est. 1850

A7

The Frederick Gunn School

Highlander Hockey Faces off Against Taft

Jenny Macler '23

On Friday, January 20, the Highlander Hockey team played an intense game against the Taft's girl 3rds team. The game was nearly tied, but in the last 10 seconds, Taft scored the winning point.

The Highlander team played hard, however, managing to score three points. Layla Copen '24 scored the first point, followed by Paige Jackson '24, and then Georgie Charette '23. Inigo Pons Mateo '23 also did an incredible job as the goalie, especially considering this was his first time playing in this position.

Not only was this the first Highlanders game of the season, but it was also many of the team members' first hockey game ever. Highlander, for this reason, provides a unique opportunity for FGS students to learn a new sport, one that not many high schoolers get the chance to learn. Matis Molina Ricard '24 who's new to hockey said, "I wanted to try a new sport and I'm happy I'm in Highlander. I would recommend it to everyone." With that being said, it takes courage for students to try something new, as Paige Jackson says, "it can be scary trying something new" but "no one cares, no one's a professional. It's just about having a great time".

In preparation for the game, the team had to start with the very basics. They learned how to skate, hold the stick, and understand the rules of the game. Paige said that one of the best parts about Highlander is seeing the huge amounts of progress you make each practice, saying "One day I won't be able to do something and then the next day I get better at it, and then the next time I can do it. It's just really cool to see how quickly we're learning." Many on the team went from barley being able to skate, to now handling the stick and puck comfortably and scrimmaging with each other.

In the days leading up to the game, Paige, who plays wing, said, "I am so excited for the game... and I'm really confident in our team. We're aggressive, and we collaborate well". Ashleen Hay '23 was also confident in the team, saying that "this could be the first game that the Highlander team ever wins". Although Taft ended up winning this game, the Highlander team is determined to win their next match with them. But first up, the boys will play Rumsey Hall on Wednesday, February 8.

Benefit Makeup Review

Caroline Marich '24

What are the benefits to wearing Benefit Cosmetics makeup? Let's talk about the Benetint, 24 Hour Clear Brow Setter, and Roller Lash, and whether or not these products are worth your money.

Benetint is Benefit's multipurpose face tint that can be used for cheeks and lips. It is a clear dark pink/purple liquid with a watery consistency and a light fragrance. Some people love Benetint for its lasting blush effect, but many argue that this isn't always a good thing. Benetint can be hard to remove and often leaves a stain, which some people might enjoy while others do not. It is also extremely thin and, when applied to the face, can run excessively. Despite these flaws, the product has become extremely popular among beauty influencers on Tiktok. But to me, this product isn't worth \$21. It can be replaced by any old blush or tinted lip balm.

The 24 Hour Clear Brow Setter has also blown up on the internet for its lasting hold, but it also faces critique. When the set brows are ruffled after drying, they can lose their hold. When the gel dries, it also occasionally crumbles and flakes off. However, for the first few hours of wear the setter holds up great and looks flawless. While the applicator is a little small and there isn't very much product in the bottle, the product will last for months of wear and is easy to apply. In my experience, this product is worth the \$26.

If you've ever watched a single Tiktok created by new internet sensation, Alix Earle, you will have certainly heard of Benefit Roller Lash. Her videos have started a craze for the mascara, due to how amazing her lashes look. But is that because of her violent lash curling method? Or is Roller Lash truly that amazing? Benefit mascara have been renowned in the past, with They're Real also having its moment in the spotlight. The Roller Lash mascara is an average price, coming in at \$28. It claims to hold curl and lengthen well, and most users agree. However, it might not be worth the money, as there are plenty of dupes that do the same thing.

All in all, Benefit has decent makeup for a decent price. It should also be known that Benefit Cosmetics is not cruelty free. Some Benefit products are vegan, but Benefit is not 100% vegan as a brand. In an age of sustainable and cruelty-free cosmetics, Benefit is lagging behind.

Linguistics Club

Jenny Macler '23

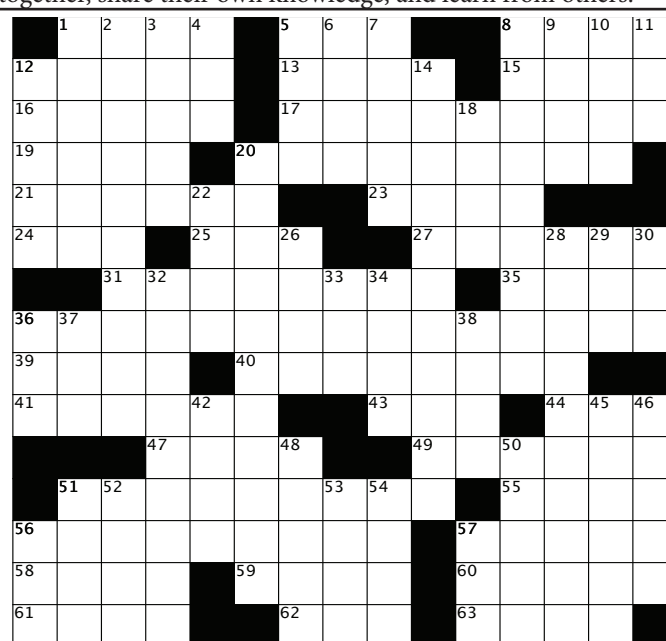
A new club has been introduced into the FGS community: linguistics. In Linguistics, a large umbrella of topics is covered, including the structure of languages, how it is used, and its function in our society. While The Frederick Gunn School offers customary languages in our academic schedule, such as Spanish, French, and Mandarin, the intent of founder, Bridie Strowe '24, is to create a non-academic space for people to appreciate languages for what they are, what they can do, and how they can bring our community together.

In their first meeting, on January 11, 2023, there were four languages spoken in fluency and three others non-fluently. The members spent time looking at the language tree and studying words of similar origin between their languages. They then played a language game in which each person went around saying a word in their own language that sounded similar to the word said before them from a different language. The words were then compared in their origins and meanings to demonstrate word roots.

The club is still in planning, but they hope, in addition to simply enjoying the mere beauty of language, to share their knowledge with the broader school community. Bridie, in her time traveling through Europe, grew an interest in how humans have created different words for the same meaning and she believes that we can take advantage of the many languages spoken within the FGS community in order to better understand this concept.

"People all over campus speak so many different cool languages and we don't get a ton of non-academic opportunities to share them". By creating a more relaxed environment, she and club advisor Karoline Theobald hope that students will be able to share their languages or come and learn about the languages of others.

The club is not limited to the regular day-to-day languages however, but it also extends to fictional languages, such as those spoken in Lord of the Rings, Game of Thrones, the Dune series, or those created by the members themselves. The members hope that this club will enable people to come together, share their own knowledge, and learn from others.



- | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| ACROSS | 36. Highlanders' mantra | DOWN | 12. Eldest Stark daughter on "Game of Thrones" | 42. Ceremonial dance of New Zealand's indigenous Māori people |
| 1. Goes (for) British slang | 39. "Yeah, sure." | 1. Like an athlete temporarily playing for another club | 14. Pandora, and others | 45. Camping snacks |
| 5. Very attractive, in British slang | 40. Beignets, e.g. | 2. Give directions on where to go? | 18. Points on a math test? | 46. Located (in) |
| 8. Mouthfuls whose name is anything but musical about Don Quixote | 41. "Man of La ___," song from Hercules | 3. They can tell you someone's relationship status | 20. They make light work of making light work to make lights work | 48. Do average |
| 12. Keep roommates up at night, say | 43. Capital of Utah: Abbr. | 4. Verb taught in Spanish I | 22. Nautilus captain in "Twenty Thousand Leagues Under the Sea" | 50. Ill omen? |
| 13. (1/2)bh, for a three-sided polygon | 44. Modern port | 5. Observe Ramadan, say | 26. Empire with a capital in Cusco | 51. Shawarma holder |
| 15. "I won't say (I'm in ___)," song from Hercules | 47. Spend more time with someone | 6. Atlantic hurricane that was the world's most searched term on Google in 2017 | 28. Ones who can cash in on good breaks? | 52. El ___ (weather event) |
| 16. Modify | 49. Buddha's teachings | 7. They'll help you make the cut | 29. Kind of trip taken alone | 53. Unit in football stats |
| 17. Suspect treachery | 51. Low roll | 8. Start of any English essay | 30. Fishing tool | 54. Amazing, in modern slang |
| 19. Listen to this! | 55. Execs who manage the books | 9. Background info in a fantasy novel | 32. Unlikely possibility | 56. "SOS" artist featured on Doja Cat's "Kiss Me More" |
| 20. Located, as a soldier or diplomat | 56. Fictional band whose amps go to 11 | 10. One cost as much as \$7 million during Super Bowl LVI | 33. "___ Misérables" | 57. Hashtag on some new posts of old pics |
| 21. Turns down | 57. When doubled, a comforting phrase | 11. Word with the second-most definitions in the English language, after "run" | 34. Times following morns | |
| 23. "What the ___?" | 58. Element used to galvanize steel | | 36. Comic book onomatopoeia | |
| 24. Farm worker | 59. South Asian garb or an apt name for one who bites | | 37. That, in Spanish | |
| 25. Retired QB Manning | 60. Unstimulated | | | |
| 27. Famous dog in records advertising, or an apt name for one who bites | 61. Put ___ out of line | | | |
| 31. Where one might find Caesarean sections? | 62. U.S. org. featured in the board game "Pandemic" | | | |
| 35. 2012 Best Picture winner | 63. Prep a salad | | | |

The Highlander Social Media, News Network, and Podcast

Instagram:

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YouTube:

The Highlander News Network

Spotify:

The Highlander Podcast

(Hint: Check out Jenny Macler's 'Culture to Citizenship' Series & Daisy Moriarty's interview with our Director of International Recruitment)

Go Gunn!

Ready for a challenge, Highlanders? This is a more difficult crossword, and we wanted to make it interesting.

The first 3 students to finish this crossword puzzle will get a shoutout and the 1st student to complete the puzzle will receive a prize! When you finish the puzzle. Please email thehighlander@frederickgunn.org with a picture of your finished crossword...

Good luck Gunn!



The Highlander

Est. 1850



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Jenny Macler '23, Alex Johnson '23, Jenny Shen '23, Maeren Hay '23

