By Anna 25

Every year, the new senior class has the rare and exciting opportunity to dive into an internship. Today’s capstone projects provide a chance to meet new people who are happy to educate our Woodlawn students, as well as give them real life experience through internship week. For the last 12 years, Woodlawn seniors have taken part in Capstone projects which include research, personal interests, and internships.

The capstone project is an assignment designed for students to pick a topic they are passionate about and narrow it down to one big question that they can answer throughout the nine month process. During a week in February, the senior class did not attend school and instead interned with various companies gaining knowledge as well as experience in topics that piqued individual students’ interests.

Isabel 22, Molly 22, and RJ 22 shared their experience throughout internship week. Isabel has dedicated her capstone to inclusivity in fashion marketing. Therefore, during internship week she worked with Ms. Lavin, a Woodlawn parent who owns multiple boutiques in hotels located throughout Thailand. Isabel learned how to market products, take inventory, set up a store, and most importantly how to create an inclusive fashion line.

The internship opportunity was introduced to Isabel by her teacher, Dr. Gale, and a classmate. Isabel describes her internship as “helpful and fun.” Not only did she have the chance to work with Ms. Lavin, she also had the opportunity to interview Ms. McCormick about her marketing position at Woodlawn. Lastly, she was able to take the time to listen to podcasts to better understand her capstone topic.

Another student who was happy to share and expand on her internship was Molly, who interned with Jennifer Marion alongside the Randy Marion marketing team where she was able to help manage the company’s social media pages.

The Randy Marion business is a well-known automotive dealership in Mooresville. Molly’s capstone project is based on social media marketing and how to productively use it when running a business. Therefore, she feels as though this was the best internship she could have had. She had the incredible opportunity to sit in on various meetings and work on her own marketing. Her internship was not only informative but interactive.

She expressed her guidance and involvement when she said “They let me make and plan posts to go on the official page and let me voice my ideas in meetings! It was an amazing experience!”

Finally, RJ’s capstone focused on Body Dysmorphic Disorder (BDD) and Eating Disorders (ED) within the United States. Due to the fact that this topic is psychological, his internship week was spent differently than other students. He came up with the idea to interview various people who specialize in BDD/ED’s, or have experienced either of these disorders. Throughout the week he spoke to a physical therapist, an Appalachian State counselor, a Davidson professor, a local eating counselor, and six other people who gave him insight to these topics.

According to RJ “Getting the interviews was not so easy.” He sent countless emails to people he had researched, known, or been referred to and patiently waited to set up meetings with the people he thought would be most helpful. The interviews he conducted exceeded his expectations. He gained knowledge in a manner that no video or article could accomplish.

A common theme among Molly, RJ, and Isabel was the appreciation for internship week and the experience it provided. The upper school is excited about each senior’s work as they approach graduation and their capstone presentations!

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**STEAMfest 2022 is a Huge Success!**

By Anna 24

In early spring, the Woodlawn School campus hosted over 800 guests at STEAMfest! The 2022 STEAMfest holds the title of the largest event ever held at Woodlawn. With a lot of help from Woodlawn parents, faculty administration, and Mr. and Mrs. Blakeley, the school accomplished an event where students and parents from all over our area could come together on our beautiful open campus.

In the school Barn, there were many booths with high school and college volunteers showcasing fun activities in science, technology, art, and math. There were also booths brought to Woodlawn by teachers, businesses, professional organizations, and even museums.

Around campus there were also activities with less scientific or mathematical concepts for the younger kids to have simple fun in between labs such as duct tape wallets or Mr. Hill’s popular crochet station.

When attending the festival guests enjoyed food trucks, fun, and education. STEAMfest has become part of Woodlawn culture, and the school plans to continue this tradition for many years to come. Next year there will be plenty of opportunities for volunteers, businesses, and students to display their interests, so be sure to keep an eye out for these future chances to participate!

For more information go to: steamfest@woodlawnschool.org

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Photos courtesy of Greg Zook

Clockwise from upper left: Isabel 22, RJ 22, and Molly 22

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**Class of 2022's Takes on Internship Week!**
Meet the Blazer Bureau Spring Staff

Editors
Managing Editor - Anna ’24
Photo editor - Woody ’27

Staff
Zach ’24 - Sports and Satire
  (not shown in photo)
Libby ’24 - Sports and Food
Anna ’24 - Sports and Events
Jack ’26 - Feature
Woody ’27 - Feature
Braden ’27 - Sports and Feature
Quinn ’27 - Feature
Allen Miller - Faculty Advisor

Front row from left: Braden ’27, Anna ’24, Libby ’24
Back Row from left: Mr. Miller (faculty advisor), Quinn ’27, Jack ’26, Woody ’27

Who's Most Likely To... Upper School Teacher Edition!
By Zach ’24 & Anna ’24

If you've ever played who's most likely to with your friends, you're aware of the fact that the game tends to reveal a lot about the people you thought you knew. We decided to try the game with our own Woodlawn upper school teachers. Students decided who among their teachers they thought was most likely to... We sent a survey to the middle and upper school that included 8 questions and 10 teacher options. These were the results:

To Go Skydiving
1. Mr. Eggleston - 33% (16 votes)
2. Coach Kyle - 22% (11 votes)
3. Mrs. Obando - 18% (9 votes)

To Quit Teaching And Travel the World
1. Mrs. Obando - 33% (16 votes)
2. Mr. Z - 14% (7 votes)
3. Mr Eggleston/Coach Kyle - 12% (6 votes)

To Become Famous
1. Coach Kyle - 29% (14 votes)
2. Mrs. Tally/Mr. Eggleston/Mr. Z - 14% (7 votes)
3. Mrs. Obando - 12% (6 votes)

To Dye Their Hair A Bright Color
1. Mr. Hill - 52% (25 votes)
2. Coach Kyle - 14% (7 votes)
3. Mr. Eggleston - 12%

To Cry In A Public Restroom
1. Coach Kyle - 28% (13 votes)
2. Mr. Eggleston - 24% (11 votes)
3. Profe/Mrs. Rothstein - 13% (6 votes)

To Become Rich
1. Dr. Stutzman - 46% (22 votes)
2. Coach Kyle - 14% (7 votes)
3. Mrs. Obando/Mrs. Tally - 8% (4 votes)

To Get Away With Murder
1. Dr. Stutzman - 33% (16 votes)
2. Mr. Z - 18% (9 votes)
3. Mr. Z - 14% (7 votes)

To Live The Longest
1. Mrs. Z - 38% (18 votes)
2. Dr. Stutzman - 25% (12 votes)
3. Mrs. Obando - 10% (5 votes)
Woodlawn Rules NHD

By Mr. Coale and Mr. Miller

Woodlawn students achieved historic success in this year’s National History Day (NHD) competition. Beginning with the Regional level, our Woodlawn 8th graders virtually swept the field! In our region, a Woodlawn student received 1st place in every category that we entered! In the Paper and Website categories, our Woodlawn students took 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place!

Exhibit
Lucia 26 - 1st place
Claire 26 - 3rd place
Penny 26 - 1st place
Rusell 26 - 2nd place
Fennis 26 - 3rd place

Website
Jack 26 - 1st place
Reema 26 - 2nd place
Caitlyn 26 - 3rd place

Documentary
Elizabeth 26 - 1st place

At the State level, four Woodlawn students received either 1st or 2nd place in their competitions. This regional competition, and a fifth Woodlawn student was awarded 3rd place. In addition, Lucia 26 received the special Founding Era History Award for the outstanding entry in any category which focused on the Founding Era in American History. This is a tremendous display of the exceptional talents of our students and of the Woodlawn community as a whole. So what is NHD?

Each year, 7th and 8th grade students at Woodlawn participate in National History Day. This is a national event open to middle and high school students. Students are given a theme with which to explore an historical event of their choosing and create a project based on the theme and their event. The 2021-2022 theme was Debate & Diplomacy in History: Successes, Failures, Consequences. This year’s focus was a challenging one, to be sure, and all students should be proud of their accomplishments. NHD is both an individual and team sport. Each student has their own byline, but all benefited from the village experience.

There are regional, state-wide, and national competitions, and the primary goal is student learning and engagement, not competition. Students in 7th grade wrote lengthy research papers, while students in 8th grade had a choice of a paper, website, exhibit, or documentary.

By the end of the project, which ran from January to March, students gained invaluable experience in topic and question generation, background research, primary and secondary source exploration, draft writing, and peer revision, as well as citation. You can see the state-wide virtual showcase at nhd.org, where you’ll see the work of our 8th graders. Please note that 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place projects were eligible to move on to the state-level contest. Here are the Woodlawn State award winners.

The Antonov AN-225 Miriya: The End of an Era

By Jack ’26 and Woody ’27

The Antonov AN-225 Miriya (Dream in Ukrainian), known for being the largest aircraft ever built, was recently destroyed during Ukraine and Russian conflict. Because of this, we have decided to write a history about the aircraft to commemorate the accomplishments the aircraft has made.

The year was 1989. The Berlin Wall was coming down. Pro-democracy rallies in Tiananmen Square were happening. In June 1989, a massive aircraft unlike any the world had ever seen, landed at the China-Beijing Show. This monstrous aircraft was carrying the Buran, the Soviet counterpart to the Ariane. In 1982, the Soviets were rushing to build the Buran. They had to build and assemble the components for the Buran in Western Russia but to be launched in Southern Russia.

The components for the Buran were too large to be transported by rail, so the Soviets had to airlift these huge rocket parts to where the Buran was launched. However, Soviet aircraft at the time were not large enough to transport the Buran’s boosters and fuels. Because of this, the Soviets looked to the Ukrainian Antonov Design Bureau to help design the AN-225.

The AN 124 was a massive cargo aircraft and the largest air cargo transport in the world at the time. Even its immense size was not large enough to transport the Buran’s components. Because of this, Antonov took the design of the AN 124 and gave it a longer fuselage, larger wings, and two more engines. This gave the aircraft a distinct twin-tail vertical stabilizer. This new aircraft became known as the AN 225, the largest aircraft ever built.

In addition to being the largest aircraft in the world, it has many features and boasts many records. One of its many features is its 32-wheel landing gear system. The flight deck can accommodate a pilot, co-pilot, navigator, radio operator, and two flight engineers. It also has an all-digital flight deck that is IFR compatible. The landing gear also kneels down for lower cargo loads. This massive Antonov held 214 national and 124 world records. Some of them include the heaviest cargo ever airlifted at 559,577 lbs. It also has the heaviest aircraft in the world.

The AN-225 is the longest aircraft ever built and has carried the longest air cargo, two 137 test wind turbine blades. Recent developments for the aircraft have been quite rough though. Since the Soviet Union’s dissolution, the aircraft had been used on and off for large cargo needs and was operated by the Antonov Design Bureau. It had flown to many different cities and across the world, including visiting our home airport, Charlotte Douglas International, twice in 2020. During the COVID-19 pandemic, it was used to carry medical supplies to large cities.

The aircraft was at Ukraine's Hostomel Airport during the Russian invasion of Ukraine in 2022. The aircraft was officially destroyed by Russian forces on February 27, 2022, and a video of the burning aircraft was released on March 4, 2022. The aircraft’s destruction caused a major impact in the aviation community and aviation as a whole. The record-breaking aircraft was still left to fly for nearly another decade.

The destruction of the aircraft ended an era of aviation and had a similar impact as the retirement of the Concorde. We hope that designers will create an aircraft like the AN-225 again in the future.
Inaugural Boys Volleyball Sets the Standard

By Libby '24

Woodlawn has always been a school that encourages students' growth and assists them to achieve anything they put their minds to. This year we are welcoming a few new sports teams, including the first ever boy's volleyball team.

Every player is new to the sport and very inexperienced. However, they are all enthusiastic to learn. There is a big range of players from middle school to high school.

The main captain of the team is Gael '22 and they vote for a new co-captain every week, with several players winning the honor. Coach Hayden has many years of experience coaching volleyball at Woodlawn and is excited that the boys have shown interest.

Zach '24 explained how the team was started through students' efforts. "We needed nine signatures to make the team a real thing. Matthew and I went around and ended up getting fifteen. That's when we knew this was going to be a real thing."

They had multiple practices before their first game. However, half of the team was also balancing time with track.

The team started their season with an amazing win against Sun Valley High School in a true David vs. Goliath matchup. Woodlawn is a 1A school meaning that we are the smallest high school while Sun Valley is a 4A making them one of the largest high schools.

It was a close game but the boys were very resilient and made a great comeback. They started off strong winning the first set 25-22, but then lost the next two sets. They persevered and won the next two sets with a remarkable comeback from 10 points down in the 4th set to take the W.

Their first win pumped them up for the rest of the season and, they kept the momentum going throughout! The matches were very exciting, and the team loved all of the support from the Woodlawn community. Congratulations to our boys on a great season!

Track and Field Race To Record Breaking Season

By Zach '24

The track season started with optimism despite key team members graduating last year. The team welcomed their new long distance coach, Coach Valerie Wrenholt. Coach Kyle took over as the sprinting and jumping coach.

The team focused on the training and development of their athletes. The practices were hard and pushed both the track and field competitors to give it their all, but it paid off when the first meet rolled around.

Many students recorded their personal records and Elise '26 obtained the Woodlawn Girls 800m and Mile school records. Gael '22 achieved his personal record in the 800m along with RJ '22 reaching his personal best in the 100m.

Fenris '26 was able to Jump 5'2" on high jump (which means he can jump over Russell '20). The team remained positive and strong for the remaining season. They have faced some challenges throughout the season. They have had practices and even a meet cancelled due to inclement weather, but the team continued to persevere and made it up with hard practices.

They finished out the season and continues to the State Meet. Be sure to congratulate our Blazer athletes!
Girls Soccer Kicks In!

By Anna ‘24

After a rough few seasons due to COVID, the women’s varsity soccer team started the 2022 season with a determined group. The girls were excited to take on the season after a productive pre-season of hardwork and practice.

“They are one of the most fun teams I have ever coached”

–Coach Mike

Led by captains Isabel 22, Molly 22, and Anna 24, the team had players ranging from 9th to 12th grade who were all excited to get to know one another better. The girls started the season off with a scrimmage where they were able to put their efforts towards practicing and getting to know their positions.

By their second game the girls accomplished a 4-0 win at home. As the season continued the girls practiced most days of the school week and looked forward to the upcoming games. Not only have the girls developed their teamwork skills and played well together, they are an extremely close-knit team.

The girls consistently encourage each other and make light of every situation on and off the field. Libby 24 explains that “The team has a really great dynamic with a lot of energy and excitement to play!”

Baseball Arrives at Woodlawn...Finally!

By Braden ‘27

Woodlawn has a baseball team! Baseball has been a sport that has been asked for by many people at this school. I know I am one. I have been asking for baseball since I started playing sports at this school in fourth grade.

The problem in the past with having a team was that the school could not get enough people, but they were always close. Another reason we have not been able to have a team was because we never had sufficient facilities. Amazingly, we have overcome those obstacles!

Woodlawn joined with Grace Covenant Academy, Liberty Prep and some home-school student teams to form a combined team. Grace Covenant has provided all of the facilities and the coaches for the team.

One really cool thing about the season is that even though the players are from different schools the whole team got along really well. We have had to show that in many games and definitely against a team from MARA where we came back from down four runs to win in an awesome victory.

We really showed how well the team has bonded. This year the baseball team had six people from Woodlawn, and we all played very well. The team had a great run this season, and we impressed for a first-year team from small schools. We finished with a record of 12-4.

The team is optimistic about the future. Hopefully, baseball will become a permanent tradition at Woodlawn. I think that our team had a lot of fun this season, and for any students that want to play or are returning next year, the team will be very happy to have you. The team is very thankful for all of the people that came out to watch us this season and the people who helped start and support the team.

Flag Football makes a comeback!

By Anna ‘24

Woodlawn’s flag football team is officially back and running! After several seasons of only practicing, the Woodlawn flag football team was finally able to participate in games against other schools. The team consisted of around 20 boys and girls from 5th to 8th grade, who practiced on the quad field working hard to gain strength and understanding of their positions while bonding with one another.

It is not often that there are co-ed football teams. Therefore, the middle school was excited to have the opportunity to participate in a mixed team. It has brought the middle school closer together and given them a chance to spend more time with each other.

Many of the players were new to the sport, and though many of them may understand American football, it takes time to adjust to flag football where players wear less gear and are generally less aggressive.

The team is coached by a Woodlawn parent who volunteered, Coach Sid, and though the team does not have a permanent captain, Sylvia 27 has been chosen as the team’s main leader.

Soren 26, was happy to talk about the sport and team dynamic and said, “We get along well and work together to improve our skills each practice.”

During the first weeks of the season the team developed new plays that are interesting and unique to other school teams. In their second game Sofia 27 accomplished an 80 yard touchdown run impressing the audience and team players while getting the group excited for the games to follow. The team looks forward to continuously growing as players and having fun on the football field!

The Great Piano Debate

By Quinn ‘27

For many years, it has been debated which piano company is the greatest. Finally, an end is getting to be put to this debate. Yamaha Pianos and Steinway and Sons Pianos are the most elite pianos known to be invented. However, in my opinion, Yamaha is the better piano and I have proof.

Though I can agree with the idea that Steinway is a beautiful looking, sounding, and high-quality instrument, $42,000 to $40,000 is far too expensive for a single, small upright piano.

On the other hand, Yamaha is also an affordable piano. Yamaha upright pianos start at $7,000 while still providing buyers with the exact if not better sound than Steinway.

Also, their design and quality are similar. They are made out of a maple wooden gloss black finish including a set of three pedals with nice gold text above the keys that reads “YAMAHA.”

Unlike Steinway, Yamaha also makes excellent keyboards at an affordable price. Their most expensive keyboard is the Genos, starting at $4,499, but their most affordable beginner piano is their Yamaha P125 digital Piano starting at $499. The Yamaha P125 even won the title of the best-selling instrument in the world, which does not surprise me.

My personal favorite keyboard is the Yamaha Clavinova CLP, starting at only $1,900. The previously stated facts are what lead me to believe that overall, the Yamaha brand offers the best pianos!
Braden's MLB 2022 Picks

By Braden 27

The MLB season has started off with a bang. This season has been very important to the teams starting off, and a very fun one to watch with many teams having a chance to go a long way and finally having the crowds back full strength. Now, here are my picks for the winners of each division.

AL East

The Rays are a good team to pick after winning the East last year and they are already tied for first in the East this year. Their roster strengths are their bullpen and the top of their hitting order. There are no major concerns issues this year or for the next year.

AL Central: White Sox

The White Sox have been the most dominant team in the Central for a long time, with all the other teams in the Central not having the best teams. I think that the White Sox have a lot of good pitching and do not give up a lot of runs.

AL West: Angles

The Angels have an interesting team with players like Mike Trout and Shohei Ohtani. The Angels have been a hyped team for a long time, especially in the last three years. The Angels are a good all around team that I think could be a very good team for many seasons if they have the money to keep their players.

NL East: Braves

The Braves are a very good team coming off the World Series win last year. Even though they got rid of Freddy Freeman, they got a great new player in Matt Olsen. Other than Freddy leaving, they have kept most of the team. Ronald Acuna JR. will hopefully come back better than ever.

NL Central: Cardinals and Cubs

I think that the Cardinals have a real shot at making a long run this year. Even though the Cardinals fired their manager at the end of last year, they kept most of their players. The Cardinals have a good manager and I think could take them a long way.

The Cubs have always been a good team ever since their historic World Series win. Even though the Cubs have gotten rid of most of their good players after last years World Series, the Cubs had a great off-season and signed many good players who were in free agency. I think the Cubs will be the team that has the best chances to win the World Series barring injuries.

NL West: Dodgers and Padres

The Dodgers have been a very dominant team the last four or five years. Last year they almost beat the Braves in the NLCS. The Dodgers had a great off-season and signed many good players who were in free agency. I think the Dodgers will be the team that has the best chances to win the World Series barring injuries.

Camera Guide: Take A Shot With Woody

By Woody 27

Camera buying can be very frightening. There are many different companies, and cameras cost hundreds if not thousands of dollars. Now with this definitive guide, you can easily buy a camera. This article is going to talk about still photography cameras and not video cameras. However, many of the cameras in this guide will be able to take video.

There are many different camera companies such as Nikon, Canon, Sony, Hasselblad, Lumix, Leica, and more. In this buying guide, we will be focusing on Nikon, Canon, and Sony. There is much to discuss when deciding which company to buy a camera from. Should you buy a crop vs full-frame camera, DSLR cameras, price, camera options, and more. All three companies offer excellent beginner cameras, enthusiast cameras, and professional cameras. However, Nikon and Canon have many more options for beginners than Sony.

Before we talk about cameras, we need to talk about DSLR vs. Mirrorless cameras. DSLR means digital single-lens reflex. Light enters a DSLR’s lens and is bounced through a mirror to the viewfinder, so you see the actual image. With Mirrorless cameras, you see a digital image in the viewfinder. Mirrorless cameras can be a lot smaller because of the lack of a mirror. However, this means that an image in the viewfinder is not natural. Mirrorless cameras are significantly more expensive than DSLRs because they are new technology.

Beginner Cameras

This section is for those of you who have never used a camera before. You should look for price, ease of use, control over settings, and ability to grow when buying a beginner camera. The cheapest DSLR that Canon offers is $479.99. It is the EOS Rebel T7. £18. $55 m is 1 T1 Kit. The Nikon camera is the D3400. It is $499.00. Sony offers only mirrorless cameras and their cheapest, the ILCE-6000, is priced at $499 and does not include a lens.

I would recommend the Sony. The Sony has a 24 Megapixels and a native ISO of 100-25600. ISO means sensitivity to light. Using a higher ISO makes your image brighter in low light but it causes more grain in your image. The Sony ILCE-6000 also records full 1080P HD video and has significantly better audio than the other two cameras. Having to buy a separate lens is an issue since they cost $300 or more. However, there are ways to get these cheaper on eBay and other websites.

Intermediate Cameras

I know many of you may not consider yourself an intermediate photographer, but there are many reasons why you should buy an intermediate camera for your first camera. In fact, the first real camera was an intermediate DSLR. Intermediate cameras jump in price from beginner cameras, but they also jump in features. They have a longer shutter life which will make the camera last longer. They usually have better autofocus, are built stronger, are weather sealed, and shoot at faster frames per second (fps).

The main intermediate cameras are the Nikon D7500, Canon 90D, and the Sony Alpha 6400. I would recommend the D7500. (However, I am biased because I own a D7500) The D7500 is a DSLR, has a higher ISO than the Canon, and is infused with lightweight carbon fiber.

However, the Sony 6400 is also significantly more megapixels, shoots 4K at 30fps, has a 108° tilt-able touchscreen, and can shoot silent because it does not have a shutter that physically moves. It is also cheaper than both of the other cameras. However, it is significantly smaller than the other cameras because there is no mirror. This is good for some people, but I prefer a larger camera that I can fit a whole hand around.

The one big thing that I hate about the A6400 is the viewfinder. Mirrorless cameras do not have mirrors to reflect an image into the viewfinder, so they have a tiny screen in the viewfinder where the image comes directly from the sensor.

This has some advantages and downsides. An advantage is that the viewfinder does not go dark for a fraction of a second like a DSLR when an image is taken. Another advantage is that you can see how light or dark the image is in the viewfinder.

However, there are downsides to an electronic viewfinder on a mirrorless camera. It will drain the battery quicker. Also, the viewfinder on the A6400 is tiny. Overall, I would not recommend the Sony 6400.

Conclusion

When buying a camera is a huge investment, do not buy a camera without going into a store and taking a few photos with the camera for yourself. I would recommend going to B&H in Charlotte. Talk to the professionals at the store about what else you need and any questions you have about your new camera.

When determining your budget for camera buying, always make sure you have enough money to buy a case that fits your camera and some lenses. The last thing you want is your $400 camera laying around in a backpack. If you spend over $500 I would get a 3-year warranty on your camera. You should also make sure you have a 3D card. You will not be able to store photos without one.

You should also get an extra battery. You do not have to, but I would recommend getting an extra battery. You can order a better camera without photos on a computer. If you do this, you might want to get Adobe Lightroom to edit your photos. You also need a camera’s complications. Hopefully, after reading this guide, you can determine which camera is best suited for you.
Woodlawn Summer Vacations: Best, Worst, and Wildest

By Libby '24

As the school year comes to an end, people are starting to think about their summer plans. (I know I am.) Students become excited to finally trip, hang out with friends, stay up late, go to camps, and VA-CATION! I personally love traveling—whether it is a trip across the globe or just going to the beach 4 hours away. It is exciting to think about the new adventures and memories you will make, so I thought it would be interesting to hear what other people are doing this summer. I created a Google form asking students a few questions including where they are going this summer, what would be their dream vacation, and what has been their worst vacation ever? (Let’s be real! It is not always sunshine and butterflys.)

When I was looking over my responses, I found Lindee ’23, Zach ’24, and Zara ’24 to be the most captivating. Not a lot of people were able to tell me their worst vacation ever, but Lindee’s was compelling and definitely relatable. She was on vacation with her parents and neighbors to get away from it all. Last summer she went to Asheville with her parents and neighbors to get away from it all. Last summer she went to Asheville with her parents and neighbors to get away from it all. While she finally remembered her shoes it was too late to turn back and she had to walk 4 miles in her bare feet, which were too big and didn’t fit. However, Lindee says she had a lot of fun because her neighbors went too. While it may not have been the best vacation ever, she made the most out of a bad situation and a memory she will never forget.

The second person I interviewed was Zach ’24 about what his DREAM vacation would be, and he had a lot to say about it! Zach chose a private tropical island in the Bahamas where he can build anything he wants. (Jeet! He rich, rich!) In order to get to the island, you have to fly to the mainland before taking a boat, and once you are there you use golf carts as the main form of transportation.

What would one do with their own private island? Zach said, “I would be able to pollute it anyway I want!” For example, he would love to have fireworks go off everywhere, “you know burns trees for the vibe.” Of course the fireworks are for his bands. The Life-Long Learners, music video for their hit song, “Woodlawn Way.

For entertainment he wants nature, the ocean, a bunker with TV’s, a library with thousands of books (just for the aesthetic), etc. Some extra additions to his island would be different houses dedicated to various activities, bedrooms/maids, and a bunch of boats. (Bro, where does he get the money for this?)

Zach would attend all summer or whenever he gets a chance. During his vacation he invites friends and family so he doesn’t get bored just not Anna 24 though because she gives off a ‘bad aura’. I, for one, would love to visit this insane island and see what else Zach could come up with, though I do worry about the laws this island breaks and hazards throughout his dream location but it sounds fun. The last person I heard from was Zara ’24 about her plans for this summer because she is traveling to London, India, and New York. Immediately after school ends Zara and her family are getting on a flight to London where she will stay from June 5th to the 9th.

She has not been there in a long time. She is excited to see a lot walking around the city, taking photos, visiting museums, and going to theaters. They will be staying in India till July 3rd, where she will see her grandparents after not seeing them for 2 YEARS due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

While Zara is there she wants to learn to drive a manual transmission car, along with helping her aunt with her brother and mother. They are staying in Mumbai but are leaving to visit the orphanage that her aunt runs in Pune (which sounds like an amazing opportunity). The plans for New York have not been finalized, but her other grandma lives there and her family used to, so they are definitely making a trip up there.

Originally, I just wanted to ask everyone where they are going this summer. However, I had so much fun with this survey. Reading everyone’s stories about trips that they would love to go on and what was the worst vacation they remember was very entertaining. Lindee forgetting her shoes, Zach creating his dream island, and Zara with her amazing vacation plans are memories they will always cherish. While not all of them are completely realistic (Zach) it was fun to think about previous vacations that you may have forgotten about or ones that you are looking forward to.

Even if you are staying at home this summer there is surely someone else doing the same (just sit and eat on a couch all day). Or you can hint to your parents that you want to go to London (subtle of course). You don’t want to miss them, and hope you had fun reading about other people’s getaway plans and try not to be lazy all summer!

Kung Foo Noodle

Location: 4
Ambiance: 3
Service: 1
Food: 4
Overall: 3.2

By Libby ’24

The first place I decided to write about is Kung Foo Noodle located on Lindholm Dr. in Huntersville, more commonly known as Birkdale Village. It is an Asian fusion restaurant with a big menu that can cater to many different people.

While Kung Foo Noodle has been open for a while I just recently went there with my family for the first time. The location is great if you live around this area because this is a popular place and everyone knows it. You not only have easy access on and off the highway but also have the shortcuts that people who live here know about.

Birkdale is getting a make-over so there is also less parking, but I think they are trying to get it done by the summer. I highly doubt that will happen though, so be prepared for some parking hassles.

The restaurant can get crowded because of its popularity and I think they do a good job managing it. The ambiance of the restaurant is a nice quaint place with an uplifting vibe. However, the entranceway gets very crowded. It’s filled with take-out orders, UberEats drivers, and people waiting for tables to open up. That makes it sound hectic and troublesome but it’s a sociable place where you can eat with your family, friends, or go on a date with.

They also have a second room that is a little more closed off if you don’t want to be annoyed by the people who keep coming in and out of the restaurant. The place is small, but the employees know how to get people in and out, while still showing good customer service.

It may take a while to be seated depending on the time, the day of the week, and how many people you go with because it gets crowded. Everyone there is super friendly though and you tend to see the same people working.

When you step into this place, it does not smell like Panda Express, but instead there is a savory and smoky smell that will make you hungry (not to hate on Panda Express though. LOVE their orange chicken). You can tell they use a lot of different seasonings and I’m assuming techniques that give the meal an amazing smell.

This also makes choosing what to eat harder because everyone’s order looks fantastic (but that could just be me). Just thinking about the spicy rich broth, with cellophane noodles, meat, and vegetables is make your mouth water but it has been pretty amazing so far. From what people have told me the sushi is pretty good but it is better than eez Fusion! I will have to find out.

After thoroughly reviewing and rating Kung Foo Noodle based on location, ambiance, service, food, I have made a decision. While the restaurant has met many of the standards of my rating list, I believe that they deserve a 4 juice box rating. I did not write many bad things about this place because one I’m biased and two it has great food, with flavor!!! I think that if the restaurant was bigger, cleaner, and with more parking then I would have given it a 5 juice rating. You can call or go to the review on thrilling Kung Foo Noodle and hope you will check it out!
Fear and Loathing: A Savage Journey to the Heart of the Woodlawn Dream

By Zach 24

I was somewhere between Van Buren and Woods Hall, when the heat began to take hold. It was one of those days where it was freezing in the morning and sweltering hot after lunch. I remember saying something like, "My god, I don't think I'm going to make it." I looked over at my partner Qoah Ntan. He too had dressed for the cold weather. He wore sweatspants and a god awful sweatshirt with some horrid design plastered over it. We had both been assigned to cover a story on the girls soccer team. My editor, the short greenman, was quick to assign me the story, and I was already beginning to plan my re-venge.

The girls were playing a game today against Diwon. This was the first game of the season, and it was a winnable game for the girls. As I entered the game, I noticed my team was trailing 9-0 in their first game. Mr. Miller knew the game would bore me, but I had to watch this game unless I fall over on the sideline and somehow cripple myself. The girls were physically forced to bestow my eyes upon such an atrocity. I recall saying. So yes, I was looking to re-venge.

However my partner knew quite a lot about the sport and seemed op-timistic about my ability to feel that there was something more about this story. It seemed that we were heading into the fear-some belly of the Woodlawn Dream.

What is the essence of this dream? What dark, insidious kernel lay at the center? The lurid green and white signs and sickeningly slick brochures spoke of new-age ideas like diversity, lifelong-learning, and sustainability (whatever those things are).

There had to be something more than track and field for these girls! Somewhere within me, I knew there had to be some truth to The Woodlawn Dream. Otherwise, why would people be staying, or why would new people be coming in?

As we walked, I could feel the sweat in my legs rub against my pants. God, I loathed that feeling. The sidewalk appeared to be getting longer, and further I walked. I didn't think we would ever make it.

"I can't imagine playing soccer in the heat!" I said with some dignity begging to dip down my face. I couldn't believe it wasn't summer already. I imagined jumping into a pool, but that summer nostalgia felt like a distant memory.

We made it underneath the covering above the sidewalk, momentarily sparing us from the merciless sun.

"This is going to be fun," my partner said sarcastically. I didn't think he had much interest in doing. Qoah took off his hoodie and threw it onto a bench underneath the covering. His shirt was stained with utterly disgusting sweat. It reminded me of a contestant in a wet t-shirt contest gone horribly wrong.

"Let's stop for some water," I suggested. As I already began to make my way to the water fountain. What was he going to do, say no? Qoah walked to his water bottle underneath the tent. I briefly went into the gym and drank up for what felt like hours. I really needed it.

No part of my body seemed to be up to walking back and forth interviewing some girls about their soc- cers and how they came on the day prior. I had a track meet yesterday.

God I began to dislike looking like a know-it-all for my skinny self. I loathed Qoah purely for the fact he doesn't do track. He just sat under the tent the entire practice. I think he quit.

I tried to stay optimistic in covering this story. There were cars rumbling in to watch the game and the turnout was great for a school of such a small size. Parents came to sit on some rocks with no back support to watch their kids play on a hot sweltering day. The two teams were warming up by jogging back and forth as they all giggled amongst themselves. I took a drink, breathed in and out, and then Qoah and I walked down to the girls sideline. We were allowed to sit here, due to the cause of the story. Some people looked at me confused, but I paid no mind. I hoped they knew I wasn't some creep.

One of the Woodlawn girls came on over to me.

"What are you doing here?" she asked.

I ignored the question.

"Quote for the story of the game," I asked in a bright and stupid voice. I didn't wait for her answer. "How are you guys feeling before the game?"

She went on about some quirky things going on with the team and how the girls knew some girls on the other team. I zoned out after a couple of minutes. I did my best Ma-trix impersonation and nodded along with a smile.

The game then quickly began. I wasn't sure what was happening, but I followed the ball. Qoah was yelling and a picture blanks the girls just bellowed. "Let's go!" at distinct two minute intervals. My back became so stiffened on the bench. My posture was already horrid. I didn't need this. As I uncomfortably squirmed like a fish out of water I heard the cheering increase im-mensely. Qoah had stood up and was slobbering and yelling incom-prehensibly. Apparently, we had scored a goal. I blindly followed Qoah's lead and shot up in celebration.

The whole game was back and forth as some swayed medieval battle. The game was then at a score of 4-2 with Woodlawn up. I was now sitting right on the grass as I boiled sweat, which felt more comfortable than the spine chipp-ing hot sand. Qoah was right there with me. I was watching in intense joy at the tension. I felt my interest. Had I somehow become invested in this?

Qoah had been complaining about how I was always so busy. I was the way was, but I was Melville's Captain Ahab looking for that lower layer. I screamed at Qoah, "All visible ob- jects, man, are but as patchboard masks!" His dull stare reflected the hopelessness of my efforts to ex-press the realization that was de-scending upon me.

Near the end of the game Adina raced down centerfield kicking the ball along with her. I stood up and see-ing we were going to happen Adi- na was one on one against the goalie. Qoah stood up with me. We were watching Adina as she forced the ball to the right corner and made the goal. The bench then spiked up with cheer. I began yelling myself and not during my planned inter- vention.

I felt a growing sensation in my gut that my heat-shocked brain was only beginning to recognize. All around me, normally cynical, viru-lently disinterested kids and their families were smiling and cheering. Jumping up and down in victory. They were out in this hellish heat to watch a school game, and I stood with Qoah who was suddenly ready to go. I wanted to stand and cheer with them, and take in what I had been searching for.

What was happening here? I felt like some warped, twisted, and dis-gustingly sweating greenman. Was my heart growing three sizes that day or was it just tachycardia and the growing heat of the Woodlawn Dream? Could it be that I was beginning to care after a prospective parent presentation? The Woodlawn Dream had finally turned off the cold front and I could feel the promises becoming real, finally showing the truth that had been there all along. I have seen Woodlawn, and Woodlawn is us.

Jack's Attack on Ridiculous Things: Coffee Orders

By Jack 26

Hi, my name is Jack. Those who know me well will tend to get annoyed by small things. I find that there are way too many ridiculous things. In this column, I am going to be dis-cussing my opinions on these things, and why they are ridiculous.

Recently, it was a peaceful, Satur-day morning and I offered to walk up to the nearby Donkin Donuts to get coffee for myself and my sister a coffee while I was at it (or so I could prove I am not a bad person). She wanted the coffee, and she started listing off this overly complicated coffee or- der. I was flustered that she wanted, 80 pumps of 40 different sweeteners, and all of these other crazy things.

It was too much for half-awake Jack to remember. I opened the app to order ahead of time, and the first thing I saw was all of these different options for milk and sweeteners. "Unsweetened coffee," whatever that means! It was absurd! (I may be over-exaggerating a little, but it was still too much.)

Just then, I had a moment of real-ization... the end is near! We now have 50 different milk substitutes for every random dietary need, al-lergy, or preference. Do we actually need this? The answer is NO. 50 different kinds of milk for any-thing you can think of is too much. We have milk from animals like cow, sheep, yaks, goats, and from plants like pumpkins, cashews, oats, coconuts, and almonds. We even have different kinds of cow milk. What is the difference between 1% milk and 2% milk that we need to have both types? Is that 1% going to fit someone in that new swimsuit?

What is next? I can go to a coffee shop and request my drink to be made with the milk of a chinchilla or Venus Fly Trap syrup!

Then I had to enter the rest of my psychopathic sister's order. Can we talk about why it takes so long for people to order coffee in the morning? There is always someone who needs to take 15 minutes to order a special drink for every co-worker during rush hour and wastes everyone's time.

These orders are absurd! I wonder if they are even speaking English. Their orders are like, "I want a small vanilla iced latte in the medium cup with 2 pumps of caramel, 3 sprinkles of cinnamon, whipped cream, half Cocker Spaniel milk, and the other half gerbil milk." Meanwhile, there are sane but tired people like myself just looking for a plain-old cup of coffee before we die of old age.

To sum this all up, we need to stop allowing people to order asinine coffee orders with milk options that we can't even imagine. It's time to come up with a solution to a solution for these people. We make a special gus for these peo- ple who want more than one type of milk. Whole milk directly from a cow udder and eat coffee beans for meal. Perhaps that is a little too far you might say? Well, welcome to Jack's world. Stay tuned...