



LAURENCE SCHOOL

Lightning Striker



Winter 2016

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Meet our Presidents

By Katharine S.

Who runs the world? Girls! Who runs the school? Girls! Or at least this trimester. Each trimester Laurence students are given numerous elective options. One of the many options is Student Council. Student Council is an elective where students are able to brainstorm and apply ideas, aiming to improve our school and community. Are you ready to discover who our new presidents are? Drumroll please. And our student body presidents are... Maxine Z. and Mysteri G. Both girls are sixth graders who are determined to make Laurence the best school it can be! Obviously it is our job at the Lightning Striker to get all the latest news for future plans here at Laurence, so we asked the new co-presidents a few questions!

Question: What was your reaction when you guys found out you were president?

Mysteri- We didn't want to make other people feel



bad, so we didn't freak out. But inside we were freaking out!

Maxine- We were like "YEAH! We got president!"

Question: What changes are you planning to make?

Mysteri- We're planning to make, like you know how we have Buck a Bagel, we're planning to make a Book a Bagel, where instead of bringing a dollar, you bring a book.

Maxine- And also, we're thinking of doing a "Rest and Recharge" day each trimester. It's a day where we don't get homework, so we get to relax and hang out with our family.

Question: Why did you guys want to become the student body president?
Maxine-We wanted to become student body president because we wanted to take a leadership role. Mysteri- Also, we have really good ideas for being great presidents.

Question: So far, do you guys enjoy being president?

Mysteri and Maxine -Yes, we love it!

Question: What do you think your best idea is?
Mysteri: Our best idea is probably Book a Bagel. Bring a book in exchange for a bagel!



Looks like our future here at Laurence is in good hands!

Ja

Some Unknown Facts about Laurence's New Faculty

By The Lightning Striker Staff

Edited by Sam C. and Katharine S.

Each year our community grows and changes with the addition of new students, faculty and staff members. Each person brings something unique and special to our community. However, while we know our teachers as Ms. or Mr., we don't always get to see them in a different light. Well, now you can! Here at *The Lightning Striker*, we asked our teachers questions so intriguing, and what's even juicier, is that most of them answered our questions. Spoiler Alert: The faculty we interviewed were Principal Mr. Mastin, Office Coordinator Ms. Levine, and teachers Ms. Palmeri, Ms. Muir, Ms. Bruns, Mr. Angeli, Mr. Woolner, and last but not least Ms. Lu. We asked them some intriguing questions that we hope will help you get to know them all a little bit better.

Principal Mr. Mastin

By Katharine S. and Estella F.

1. The most mischievous thing Mr. Mastin has done is fill a student's locker with confetti on April Fool's day. Unfortunately, he ended up having to clean up the bits of the confetti blast by himself!
2. If Mr. Mastin could only eat one food for the rest of his life he would eat tapioca pudding or mac n cheese because it is his comfort food.
3. Mr. Mastin's college girlfriend got him two chipmunks. Shortly after, the cage fell over and killed one, so the other died of sadness.
4. While directing a school play, Mr. Mastin fell off the stool and hurt his elbow so badly he had to get a plastic elbow. The surgeon asked Mr. Mastin if he wanted his real elbow, and then handed it to him. One day he brought his elbow bone

to show his class, and forgot to take it home. The next day it was gone.

5. If Mr. Mastin was an animal he would be a lion or a bear.
6. If Mr. Mastin could only see one color for the rest of his life it would be purple.
7. Mr. Mastin's guilty pleasure is Haagen-Dazs ice cream.



Office Coordinator Ms. Levine

By Kate K. and Maya K.

Although Ms. Levine is not new this year, we thought you'd like to get to know her better!

1. The most mischievous thing Ms. Levine has ever done is hide people's objects without telling them!
2. If Ms. Levine had to eat one food for the rest of her life, it would be strawberries because they are delicious.
3. The strangest pet Ms. Levine has ever wanted is a little monkey because she thinks that they are super silly and sweet. Also, they're very cute!
4. The worst injury Ms. Levine has ever sustained was that she hurt her back badly.



5. The animal Ms. Levine is most like is her dog, Curly.

6. If Ms. Levine could live anywhere she would live on the beach because she loves the sound of the waves.
7. If Ms. Levine could only see one color for the rest of her life she would see purple because it is her absolute favorite.

Art Teacher Ms. Lu

By Katharine S. and Shayna B.

1. Ms. Lu hasn't ever been mischievous, instead she focuses on creativity, once making a table out of logs!
2. If Ms. Lu could only eat one food for the rest of her life it would be sushi
3. The strangest pet Ms. Lu ever had was a rabbit.
4. The worst injury Ms. Lu ever had was when she almost froze her toes off in a pond.
5. If Ms. Lu could be any animal it would probably be a cute puppy.



6. If Ms. Lu could see only one color for the rest of her life, it would probably be sky blue because it is a calming color.

7. If Ms. Lu could only eat one food it would be ice cream food.

Fourth Grade Teacher Ms. Palmeri

By Davis M., Ben S. and Eric V.

1. The most mischievous thing that Ms. Palmeri has ever done was wait by the bathroom door while her brother brushed his teeth, and then when he opened the door she'd

7 Unknown Facts about Laurence's New Faculty (Cont'd)

scare him!

2. Ms. Palmeri's favorite food is baked ziti.
3. The strangest pet Ms. Palmeri has ever had was a Hermit Crab!



4. Ms. Palmeri's worst injury was getting hit by rocks on her head! Ouch!
5. If Ms. Palmeri could live anywhere, she would want to live in London.

First Grade Teacher Ms. Muir

By Kate K. and Maya K.

1. The most mischievous thing Ms. Muir has done was sneak downstairs in the middle of the night and eat delicious chocolate chip cookies.
2. The animal Ms. Muir is the most like is the majestic unicorn.
3. If Ms. Muir could live anywhere, she would like to live in a Redwood tree.
4. If Ms. Muir could see only one color the rest of her life, she would like to see pink.



Music Teacher Ms. Bruns

By Shayna B., Estella F., and Katharine S.

1. The most mischievous thing Ms. Bruns has ever done is sneak into a Spin Doctors' concert that was sold out.
2. If Ms. Bruns could only eat one food for the rest of her life, she would eat Parmesan cheese because it's delicious.
3. The strangest pet that Ms. Bruns has ever had was a corn snake.
4. The worst injury that Ms. Bruns has ever had was a fractured spine caused by a skiing accident.
5. If Ms. Bruns could be any animal, she would be a chimpanzee.
6. If Ms. Bruns could see only one color for the rest of her life, it would be green.
7. Ms. Bruns, guilty pleasures are teen T.V. shows such as *Vampire Diaries*.



Third Grade Teacher Mr. Angeli

By Kate K. and Maya K.

1. The strangest pet Mr. Angeli would like is a Madagascar cockroach because it's cool.
2. The most mischievous thing Mr. Angeli has ever done was steal his friend's lunch.
3. If Mr. Angeli could eat one food for the rest of his life, he would eat sushi because it's yummy.
4. The animal that Mr. Angeli is most like is a llama.



Performing Arts Assistant/Scenic Designer Mr. Woolner

By Kate K. and Maya K.

1. The most mischievous thing Mr. Woolner has ever done is trick his brothers.
2. If Mr. Woolner could only eat one thing for the rest of his life, he would eat yogurt because he likes making it.
3. The strangest pet Mr. Woolner has ever wanted is a sugar baby (a tiny marsupial) because he saw it in a newspaper ad and it looked cute.
4. The worst injury Mr. Woolner has ever had is when he fell off his bicycle and hit his side.
5. The animal Mr. Woolner is most like is a sea otter.
6. If Mr. Woolner could live anywhere, he would live in Monterey Bay because of the sea otters.
7. If Mr. Woolner could see only one color, he would see green because everything that is gross is green.



Ja Journey to Spain

By Milla H.

My Journey:

This summer, I went to Spain including Barcelona, Ibiza, and Formentera.

Barcelona was really pretty. There were many shops. There were big streets and little alleyways. There were huge apartments and little houses. People rode bikes and drove cars. Many things were going on. My family and I went to see Gaudi's famous architecture, and beautiful houses. Gaudi is one of the greatest architects that ever lived. He created houses that were very different than your regular house. He has created churches with huge stained glass windows. We also got to go on a sailboat. We got to jump off and snorkel. The beaches have white sand and the water is warm. We went to a beach with a big rock and we swam out to it, and dove off. They sold ice cream everywhere too including on the beach, and on the streets. The ice cream was really good. It was soft serve, and they added a lot of toppings. If you ever go to Spain, you should go to Formentera. If you go, you should go snorkeling.

The water is super beautiful, and there are many fish. If you and your family are thinking about where to go this summer, you should consider going to Spain.

Popular Food:

Paella

Paella is an internationally-known rice dish from Spain. It originated in the fields of a region called Valencia on the eastern coast of Spain. Today



paella is made in every region of Spain, using just about any kind of ingredient that goes well with rice. There are as many versions of paella as there are cooks. It may contain chicken, pork, shellfish, fish, eel, squid, beans, peas, artichokes or peppers.

Gazpacho

A soup with a tomato base, usually

served cold. Vegetables can be added. The Spanish usually add basil. It is served in Spain and on the border of Portugal.

Seafood

They eat lots of seafood, mostly because Spain is near the ocean. There are many different dishes of fish. For example in the paella they use shrimp, shellfish, eel, fish, and squid.

Additionally, they eat lobsters, clams, oysters, and crabs.

Fun Facts:

*La Tomatina is a traditional celebration where people come on the streets and throw tomatoes at each other.

*Two Roman dams in Spain are still used today after 1900 years

*There is a zip line connecting Spain and Portugal that lasts sixty seconds.

*The youngest king ever was Alfonso the XII of Spain, who was announced king the day he was born.

*Nowadays five languages are spoken in Spain: Galician, Portuguese, Spanish, Basque, and Catalan. More people in the U.S. speak Spanish than in Spain.

*Spain's national anthem has no words.

Punny Puns

By Shayna B.

Mr. Mastin shares puns with the staff every Thursday, but we thought the students would like to read some as well! Here are some funny puns that we hope will tickle your "punny" bone.

1. I used to be a banker but I lost interest.
2. Betsy Ross made the American

flag, or sew it seams.

3. To write with a broken pencil is pointless.
4. Are you having fun with the laundry? Loads.
5. I was wondering why the ball was getting bigger. Then it hit me...
6. When the duck read the pun, he started "quacking" up.
7. Two hats were sitting on the coat racks. The brown hat said to the pink hat, "I'll stay here, you can go on a head."

coat racks. The brown hat said to the pink hat, "I'll stay here, you can go on a head."

8. What do you call an alligator that is a detective? You call him an investigator!

9. What did the baby corn say to the mommy corn? "When is popcorn getting home from work?"

Which one is your favorite?

Ja London and Paris! Fun Facts, Recipes, and Sites!

By Estella F.

From Southern California's sunshine to the streets of London and lights of Paris, this is Estella F. reporting. London is amazing. It's rich in its culture, diversity and much more. Over the summer, I went to London so I'm the perfect person to tell you all about England's capital! It's known as, "The Walking City," and the city with some of the world's most known landmarks! Keep reading to learn more about London and more about the city of love, Paris!



London has so many famous foods. One of the most popular is fish and chips. It's delicious! It is fried fish and scrumptious French fries. Almost every restaurant in London has them and almost wherever you go to get them, they're amazing and tasty! Another famous British dessert is the

classic but delicious and mouth-watering chocolate sponge cake. The recipe for this delicious cake requires 2-4 eggs, about a cup or 2 of flour, 55g of cocoa powder, sugar, and unsalted butter.



London is also known for some amazing sights. When I went, I saw The Crown Jewels, Buckingham Palace, The London Tower, and so many more! The most incredible landmark was Buckingham Palace! Queen Elizabeth stays there during the summer. Buckingham Palace has been standing in London for 312 years, with 775 rooms all built in 1837. Buckingham Palace was probably the most exciting sight on my trip. When I hear the word, Paris, I think of The Eiffel Tower, savory, chocolate, strawberry, banana crepes, and the latest French fashion! I saw all of those! My favorite was the Eiffel Tower. It was even more beautiful at night. At exactly midnight they set off fireworks for no reason! It was the most beautiful thing in the world!

The most famous French fashion designer is Coco Chanel. She was a big influential icon in the 1900's.



This trip was one that could never be replaced. I had a splendid time, and this will be something that I will remember for a lifetime! I definitely recommend this trip to anyone who has the opportunity to go to Paris and London. My favorite city was Paris because I loved seeing the Eiffel Tower with my family and the view was beautiful! I had the best summer ever!

What's Your Flavor?

By Kate K. and Maya K.

Don't you love popcorn? You probably do unless you are the five out of 67 people who we interviewed that don't here at Laurence. We were curious to know what students' favorite popcorn flavors are. So we did a survey to see what the most popular flavor was. Here are our results:

- Movie Theater: 30
- Caramel: 14
- Kettle: 10
- Regular: 8
- Don't Like Popcorn: 5

There you have it. The most popular popcorn flavor is Movie Theater! Now you know! Yummy, tasty, scrumptious, delicious. They all mean, in other words, *popcorn!*



Recker Rolls into Laurence School

By Ben S., Eric V. and Katharine S.

We interviewed one of the newest coaches at our amazing school... Coach Recker! We asked some questions about his life, what he likes to do, and what he did before he came to the magical community of Laurence.

Q. Have you always loved sports?

A. Always, since I was about 3 years old.

Q. Did you go to college?

A: I did go to college. The first place I went to was Nebraska Wesleyan. Then I got my masters degree at a different school called Doane College.

Q. How did you get started as a coach?

A. In college, my first coaching job was at Lincoln Northeast HS.



Q. What is your favorite sport?

A. Basketball is my favorite. There are many reasons why, probably because I love it.

Q. Was P.E your favorite sport in school?

A. P.E. and history were my favorites because I love to exercise and I love learning about the past.

Q. What do you believe it takes to have a perfect team?

A. Skill, cooperation, fitness, and love for the game and great listening.

Q. Did you teach at any other schools?

A. The one I taught at before this was Syracuse Elementary School.

Q. What are your favorite hobbies other than sports?

A. I love to read books and watch movies. My favorite book is Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows.

Q. Are you married? Do you have any kids?

A. I am married, but no kids yet!

Do You Think You Know Coach Servin?

By Davis M., Ben S. and Eric V.

Have you ever wanted to know what Coach Servin does outside of school? Well, read this amazing story about him and you will learn so much.

Q. What's your favorite sport and which do you teach?

A. I like soccer the most and I teach the boys' soccer team, girls' basketball, and boys' football.

Q. Besides sports, what are your favorite things to do?

A. I like to spend time with my family and spend time with my two boys.

Q. What's your favorite animal and

why?

A. Dogs because they are a man's best friend and are very cute and cuddly.

Q. What's your favorite vacation spot and why?

A. Although there are many beautiful places in the world, I like Hawaii. I like it because it is so pretty and fun.

Q. Are you married and do you have any kids? How old are your children?

A. I am married and have two boys. My two kids are 1 and 3.

Q. What is your favorite food and why?

A. ALL KINDS OF PIZZA!

Do you have anything in common with our amazing coach?



Romano Got a Checkmate!

By Davis M., Ben S. and Eric V.

Mr. Romano has been playing chess since he was a kid, and now he has Laurence kids to play with. Did you know this is the Chess Club's second year at Laurence? Last year Mrs. Wolke came up with the wonderful idea of having a chess club.

Some of the top players in the chess club are fourth grader Eric V., third grader Jack L., sixth grader Theo M.,

third grader Van K., and fourth grader Sammy S.



Mr. Romano has been teaching chess for nine years! Is that crazy or what? Did you know that he has gone to more than 100 tournaments? Mr. Romano's favorite chess player is Bobby Fischer because he is very inspirational in many ways. Mr. Romano learned to play chess when he was just a little kid. As you can tell, Mr. Romano loves chess!

The COLORFUL Carnival

By Davis M., Ben S., Eric V.

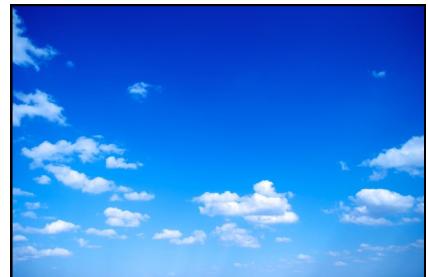
Are you feeling blue? Because most of the school's favorite color is blue. We have asked 66 people what their favorite color is. The results *blue* us away! Laurence is such a colorful place, but everyone likes different things. Below are the results.

Blue=24



Turquoise= 14
Pink= 12
Green=9
Red=4
Purple= 3

Orange was one of the options but wasn't voted for. Orange'nt you surprised?



Laurence School's Favorite Animals

By Davis M., Ben S., and Eric V

Do you have a dog or cat? Well, it looks like many kids at school like dogs best. What is your favorite animal?

Dog: 20

Cow: 12

Cat: 10



Goat: 9

Fish: 5

Bird: 5

We surveyed 61 students and found out that Dogs Rule and Cats Drool!



Ja The Lion King Roars Into Laurence

By Stella B. and Davis M.

Have you ever wondered what the upper grade play will be? Well, this year it's "The Lion King!" The musical is about a young cub named Simba. He goes on a lot of adventures. He is also next in line to become king of Pride Rock. But when his evil uncle Scar kills his father Mufasa, and tells Simba to run away forever. Things get a lot harder for Simba. Join 4th-6th grade for "The Lion King!" The musical takes place in the PAC on March 3 and 4 at 12:30 and 5:30 p.m.

We want to share what the cast members have to say about the play, and their experiences. So lights, camera, action! We interviewed sixth grader Milla H. who plays Timon; sixth grader Sydney M. who plays Pumbaa; fourth grader Natasha C. who plays Mufasa; and fourth grader Muskaan S. who plays Hyena.

Q: How are you like your character?

Milla: We are both funny and we both like to help our friends.. Timon and his sidekick Pumbaa are always looking for adventure. Remember, "Hakuna Matata."

Sydney: I am really funny and I make a lot of things funny that aren't originally funny. When Timon and I do "Hakuna Matata", we get to express ourselves in an energetic way. I love being Pumbaa.

Muskaan: Sometimes I get in trouble like a hyena would with Scar. Hyenas are also sneaky, and sometimes I sneak around



my house.

Q: How can you relate to your character?

Milla: I love my part in the play. I really get to express myself by singing, dancing, and acting. He is like two people. I can be sentimental and funny. I love rehearsing as Timon. He is a big part of the play and being able to be part of it is amazing.

Natasha: I really like my part as Mufasa. I think I leave a big imprint on Simba and help start his journey to become king. I try my best to be the brave and caring lion Mufasa was. But it's hard to sound like a boy!

Muskaan: I really like my part because I think hyenas are cool in real life. I also like dancing in "Be Prepared!"

Q: Do you enjoy your character in the play?

Milla: At the auditions, I felt a little nervous but I was pretty confident that I was going to get a good part. At first, I thought I was going

to get young Simba but when I found out that I was Timon, I was so happy. Timon was my first choice and I am so happy I got that part.

Natasha: I was really terrified at the auditions, but tried to do my best anyway. I really thought I would be Ensemble. But I didn't. I got Mufasa. I was so happy when I got Mufasa. Even though he wasn't on the list of parts I wanted, I'm having a good time anyway.

Muskaan: When I was at the auditions I was only a little nervous because it was my first audition. I wasn't that happy when I got the part. But after a while, I started to love the part.

Q: As you are doing the rehearsal, how do you feel about it?

Natasha: I love rehearsals because I do a lot of blocking. But even if I'm not blocking, I can help with the set.

Muskaan: When I am at rehearsals I like to watch people act. But I'd rather be doing it!

Q: What is the set going to look like?

Milla: The set will have three settings: Pride Rock, the jungle, and the elephant graveyard. All the sets will have a beautiful African touch to it.

Muskaan: The first dance will look like it did in the movie. But I'm not going to spoil it for you!