

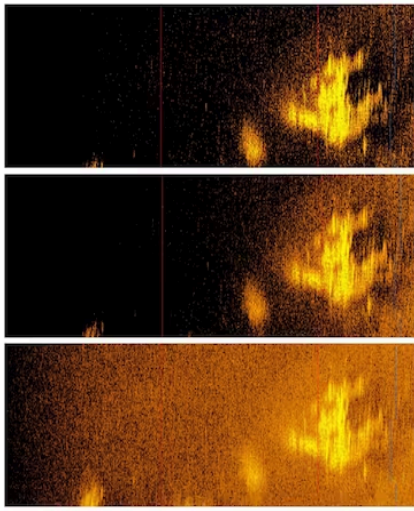


Lata's Latest

March 2024

Sonar technology solves Earhart enigma

Using modern technology to solve age-old mysteries



By Abigail HooFatt '25

July 2, 1937—Amelia Earhart, the first woman to fly solo over the Atlantic Ocean, and her navigator, Fred Noonan, disappeared over the Pacific Ocean during their attempt to circumnavigate the globe. Both President Roosevelt and Earhart's husband, George Putnam, issued massive search operations until October 1937, to no avail. On January 5, 1939, Earhart was declared dead by LA courts. For decades, researchers scoured the Pacific, seemingly in vain, for the remains of Earhart's Lockheed 10E plane.

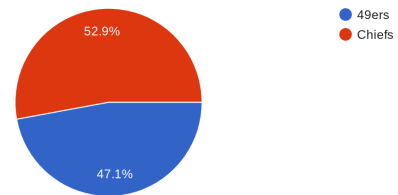
In January 2024, however, a new piece of the puzzle was revealed. Sonar technology detected a vaguely plane-shaped object resting on the ocean floor near Howard Island, close to where Earhart's plane supposedly crashed. Though far from hard evidence, aeronautics curator at the Smithsonian's National Air and Space Museum Dorothy Cochrane has declared it an "intriguing image" worth taking a closer look at. Earhart's infamous vanished plane has eluded researchers for years. Could the decades-old mystery finally be put to rest?

Spartan survey

By Isabella Rodrigues '26

As of February 9th, here are the Spartans' predictions for the 2024 Super Bowl:

San Francisco or Kansas City?
104 responses



How accurate were our predictions?



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Lata positivity

“Positive anything is better than negative nothing.” -Elbert Hubbard



By Ella Burke '25

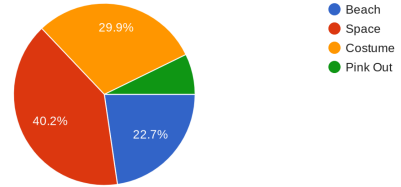
There is a surplus of good news happening globally, even if we can not see it from where we are. Today's segment of "Lata Positivity" focuses on the animal community. A user of X (Twitter) captured and uploaded a wholesome moment of a dog rescuing a drowning fawn. The sight of a threatening shadow appeared to be a beast swimming with a fawn in its jaws. However, when the shadow swam closer, the relieving sight of an exuberant labrador eliminated any feelings of fear. This determined dog risked his life to save a helpless fawn submerged in muddy water. The owner of the labrador retriever captioned this post, "Made my day." This heartwarming story is aimed to make every reader's day, too. That's all for this week's "Lata Positivity"!

Basketball game themes

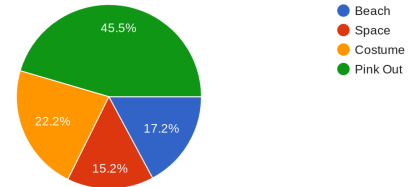
By Will Macken '25

Students were asked to take a poll about what themes they would like to have for the last few Boys Basketball Games. The following pie charts show the results of what students picked.

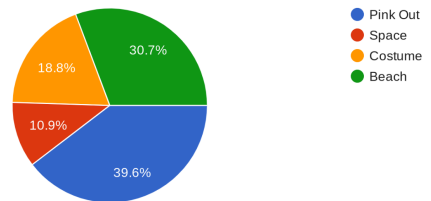
@ Warren Hills 2/17
97 responses



Home vs Notre Dame 2/20
99 responses



@ St Joes 2/23
101 responses





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Student spotlight: interests outside of the school

Take a look into the exciting lives of Immaculata's students when they're taking a break from their academic endeavors.

By Gianna Toto '24

William Bruschetta

William Bruschetta, a senior at Immaculata High School, seeks interest in flying airplanes and studying how they operate. The process for flying airplanes began fairly recently for William, as he started his journey only a few months ago at Teterboro Airport, joining a program called LIFT. Within LIFT, they measured his height, weight, age, and vision to ensure the safety of himself and others so he may begin practicing flying airplanes! Following this event, he attended two months of ground school, where he had to memorize instruments within the airplane, learn the navigation system, radio frequencies, ATC communication, and how to work an E6B calculator. Finally, 40 hours of flying with an instructor is required before a candidate is allowed to take the pilot's test. From here, Billy accomplished the numerous pieces of action needed to achieve his pilot's license.



Maya Mathews

Maya Mathews is a well-rounded senior student here at Immaculata High School. Along with her numerous achievements, Maya has created a baking business where she aspires to continue to keep this business flourishing. While "Baking Magic by Maya" was officially named in 2023, she has been baking for her entire life. Within this business, Maya creates a variety of treats such as cupcakes, cake pops, cakes, and more. Her mission and goals are focused on giving back to the community by donating a percentage of profits to the New Jersey Institute for Social Justice. Similarly, Maya's efforts are not only centered on baking, but she thrives in the business management aspect as well. She manages day-to-day logistical and planning activities around expense management, inventory, online marketing, social media presence, food preparation, and competitive pricing.



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Immaculata boys basketball 2023-24 season

By Jayson Labrador '25

This year, the Immaculata Spartans currently hold a strong record of ten wins and twelve losses. Although this doesn't represent the difficult battle they fought, it *does* represent our school to the fullest. This season has been highlighted by a few signature wins. Arguably, the most monumental moment was taking down Somerville High School, 52 to 46, in the historic cross-town rivalry. This secured the "Mayors Cup," allowing the Spartans to keep the trophy at home for the seventh year in a row. With four games now left in the regular season, the team looks to finish strong as they head into the state playoffs. Eyeing down a massive rivalry game against St. Joes Metuchen in the first round of states, the Spartans look to avenge last year's heartbreaking loss at home. We will continue to cover the season to the very end with hopes of our Immaculata Spartans hoisting up a state championship title for the first time since 2009.



The team poses with the "Mayors Cup" after their exhilarating 52 to 46 win against arch-rival Somerville High School. This makes it the seventh year in a row Immaculata spoils Somerville's hopes of bringing back the "Mayor's Cup" to 222 Davenport Street.

Hot topics of the week word search

By Bianca Borja '24

T	A	S	H	W	E	D	N	E	S	D	A	Y	B
N	I	I	E	R	S	I	R	S	B	E	U	I	E
I	S	R	H	L	N	S	R	S	P	P	S	D	C
N	E	A	I	L	S	N	C	T	F	H	N	S	I
E	N	S	E	P	L	E	C	H	O	E	R	C	V
R	I	M	E	E	S	Y	I	P	I	A	N	E	R
S	T	U	S	S	U	N	S	N	W	E	U	U	E
L	N	R	S	N	H	A	Y	I	H	F	T	S	
O	E	F	A	T	O	S	N	T	H	D	N	S	T
A	L	S	S	L	E	N	U	T	R	O	F	H	E
W	A	R	I	P	E	E	H	S	W	A	E	E	R
A	V	D	E	P	F	T	S	N	Y	W	P	L	C
E	A	F	S	I	S	E	U	P	N	O	E	S	E
Y	R	L	S	U	P	E	R	B	O	W	L	D	S

- DISNEY
- CHIEFS
- NINERS
- BISHOP'S HOLIDAY
- SMURFS
- SPARTAN SPIRIT
- VALENTINES
- FORTUNE
- SECRET SERVICE
- SUPER BOWL
- ASH WEDNESDAY
- PENNY WARS



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Positivity blog - it's routine, it's clock work, it's muscle memory

By Lauren Daly '24

I begin my day as any normal teenager would: wake up, brush my teeth, get dressed, put on my shoes, and rush out the door. Late per usual.

It's routine, it's nothing new.

As I trudge through the hallways with a straight look on my face, I pass by people I see everyday. I listen to my music at full volume, drowning out the loud chatter amongst my peers. Looking down at the tile floor, I wonder, how are we different yet all the same?

All with a beating heart, attending the same school, watching the same TV shows, singing the same songs, scrolling through the same social media, and even waking up at the same times.

It's routine, we know nothing *different*.

One could say, we are all different since no two people are alike, but what we all have in common is the power of our learning from our ignorance.

Learning to recognize and acknowledge.

It's okay to make mistakes, but important to take a step forward towards finding a solution.

Embrace.

Be proud to be wrong or right.

Be proud to embrace integrity.

Develop personal growth.

Create Structure.

Devote your time and energy into something or someone who helps shape you.

Don't lose sight of yourself.

It's different, it's challenging—It's a *new* routine.

College advice part 1

By Elaine Johnson '24

College is a new and exciting time for everyone and there are definitely a few tips to keep in mind that'll make the transition seamless. Here, we will list some pointers for going into college as well as once you're there:

Give yourself time to figure things out. Living away from home, whether you're a half hour away or across the country, can be hard, and that's okay. This is a new chapter of your life, and it can be overwhelming. Try new things that maybe you wouldn't think you'd like, and maybe you'll find more interests. Also, explore things you do like. Join the sports and activities you found yourself doing in high school. This will also allow you to meet new people with similar interests as you.

Another tip is to live with random roommates when living on campus. Some people go to the same college as one or



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multiple of their friends. Instead of rooming with them, find someone new to room with. You never know, those people could wind up being even closer than your high school friends. It will also help you expand your friend groups in college. On the topic of roommates, be sure to communicate openly with them. Communicate who brings what to the dorms, schedules, and any issues that need to be figured out. Be honest with each other and yourself.

Find out what resources are available to you. A lot of resources schools offer are free, so be sure to take advantage of them. Some examples are academic tutoring, writing centers, libraries, career services, counseling services, health centers, study groups, workshops, seminars, etc. Meet with an advisor semi-regularly. This is important for course selections, degree requirements, and your academic journey. They can help you navigate your way through college, and offer insights in career paths and internships, as well as so much more.

Adirondack adventures with the Ski Club

By [Jack DeWitt '25](#)

For the first time of the 2023-2024 season, the Immaculata Ski Club was able to successfully hit the slopes.

Mr. Cilbrith, an avid and competitive skier, wanted to share his love of the sport with Immaculata students.

In conjunction with BOLD Youth Ministries, he organized a weekend ski trip for IHS Students to travel to Gore Mountain in the Adirondacks.

This trip was the perfect length for their first time out. A good showing will go a long way for them to hopefully establish a ski team, considering there is interest from eager sponsors. "We just have to show the school there's enough interest to make it into a sport," Mr. Cilbrith expressed.

Fifteen ski club members took the four-hour trip up to Lake George along with approximately forty-five other students from youth groups around Central and North Jersey. Skiers and snowboarders spent two days on the slopes, attended mass together, and gathered for a bowling outing.

The conditions were surprisingly perfect with sunny days and plenty of fresh snow. With the success of this year's trip, the Ski Club, and hopefully the ski team, have a very promising future.

Trending stories in the world

By [Sienna Armenti '25](#)

The great avalanche: a tragedy

In January, two heroic snowboarders, Loren Ennis and Ben Erksine, saved the lives of skiers in Palisades Tahoe, a ski resort in Olympic Valley, California. Despite the high avalanche risk, they and others conquered a dangerous ski lift leading to the



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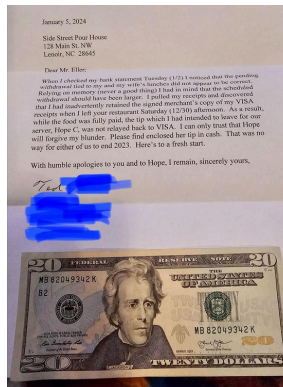
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KT-22 run. However, moments after arriving at the top, they were engulfed by an avalanche. Luckily, they were able to dig themselves out of the snow. Beside them were a skier in her forties and a man who was severely struggling to escape what felt like a “million-pound weighted blanket,” according to Ennis. The snowboarders managed to dig them out of a near-death experience after having fought for their own survival.



There's still good in the world

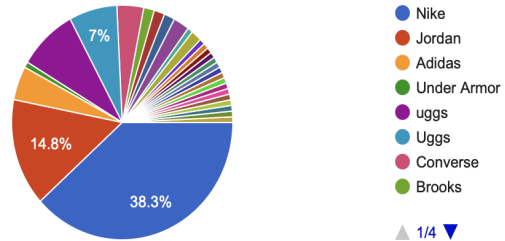
In the last days of 2023, a customer named Ted went to the Side Street Pour House and Grill in North Carolina. He realized later that he had mistakenly taken the customer copy of the receipt instead of the signed merchant copy, which meant he had left without leaving a tip for his waitress, Hope. To make up for his mistake, Ted mailed a crisp \$20 bill as a tip to the restaurant, along with a sincere apology. His kind gesture went viral on social media, showing an example of human



decency and correcting Hope's earnings sheet.

Dress-down day shoes

By Jaden Ng '24



In a recent poll, students reported the type of shoes they wear on dress-down days. Nike resulted in first place, destroying all the other brands. Taking second place were Jordans, and in third place were Uggs. All the other brands didn't stand a chance against these dominant three. To conclude, Nike is the brand preferred by most people to comfort their feet on dress-down days.



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Lata Gallery

Entering the creative world of Immaculata Spartans



By Audrey Saccento '24



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Quotes of the week

By Evelyn McGoldrick '25

