

Ten Minute T(ea) with Mrs. Lauren Scott Corwin

*Interview conducted by Natalia Dorogi
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Q) What are some things that you feel are important for building strong relationships?

A) One of the things I immediately think of is knowing yourself. You know, it's not a secret that you evolve as you grow older. For me, I know that I was a very different person in high school. I actually could never see myself as a teacher; that is how different of a person I was. I was very quiet, and I had a very different structure of my relationships basically because I was still figuring out what I was doing and who I was. I think that the more you grow and the more you discover yourself, you can start making decisions on what is important for you. I think that kindness and empathy are always key in the foundation of a healthy relationship, but that is just from my experience of what I think tends to be in the forefront.

Q) February is of course known for Valentine's Day and being the month of love. What are some fun Valentine's memories you've had throughout the years with your husband, Andy?

A) You know, we are not one of those Hallmark couples that do a lot of things; we are always really intentional—this is our first year with a baby, and it has been an interesting adventure. We were really intentional about setting up time to make a good dinner together. And that for us was about the experience. We did not go anywhere special; we just hung out and made sushi, which was actually really good. We were really excited about it because it was something that we just didn't do normally, and we got to learn about how to do it together. We had a really good time even though we didn't dress up and we were just in our pajamas. It was pretty low key, which is just how we both are, so it really fit for us.

Q) You're known as one of the most dynamic art teachers, and you've influenced so many of your students (and I personally love your class). Can you talk a little bit about your relationship with art?

A) It's funny; my relationship with art goes way back. It wasn't a decision I just made, it's just been a way that I always thought. I remember being that ten year-old kid knowing that I wanted to do this forever. And figuring a way out and how to do it is really interesting actually. I met Andy when we were 16. We met at summer camp, so one of the things that I bring to this job at NMH encompasses what I have always wanted to do without knowing it. My relationship with art is obviously very strong, and my relationship with people and being at a camp is really strong. So living in a dorm as an art teacher is like the culmination of everything that I have ever wanted to do with my life. So for me, art was something that the more I learned about, the more I loved. It was always about the process and not the final product. I was always kind of a good student in high school. But it's sort of interesting because, when I went to college, I went to art

school and I was just better. It made total sense because I was doing everything that I loved, and I was exploring, and it was really entertaining. I took a 3D animation class, I took weaving, I took all of these things that I didn't know you could do. I loved it, and I thrived on that stuff. It is even to this day very traditional because I am an oil painter, and the way I do my canvases is really traditional. To me, there is so much influence everywhere—even outside the world of art. You can really find great inspiration anywhere and I find that I do. And it changes how you think and interact with the world, which is pretty interesting when you start to think about it like that. So for me, art has been very cool. I remember when I was five and in kindergarten, one of the gifts I got—this was before a sketchbook was even on my mind—but I got a big ream of paper like 500 pages, and I drew on all of those pages throughout a year. It was fun, and I was that dork. I don't think that any of my stuff wound up on the fridge, but it was something that I enjoyed to the point that I committed to it as a five year-old.

Q) What about the relationship between mothers and their children? How has being a mother given you insight on your relationship with your mother?

A) It's interesting; it makes me appreciate my mother a lot. You don't realize how much you give up when you are a mom and how much life changes and how much your heart can grow. For me, it was very foreign to think about loving a child in a specific way, because how could you know until you experience it? I live in this perpetual state of worry even though he is only eight month olds; I think about how he is going to experience the world, and how the world is going to treat him, and how school will go for him, and how I am going to interact with the world through him. At the same time, you realize the process. Last year I was a hot mess. Like, really big. So they saw that part and the aftermath. You sort of make a kid in front of everybody, and I think that changes everything. From a biological standpoint, you are dealing with this foreign thing alone. There is this little, selfless, innocent thing and you are in charge of it and you are almost scared that you are in charge because you don't feel old enough yet you know you are. It is an interesting interaction for sure, and for me it is all about love. I have grown a lot as a mom, because he is the most precious thing I own. Andy and I are in awe sometimes that he is a person; he just started waving last week, and the fact that he is interacting with us is wild. It's the wildest adventure ever. It definitely makes me appreciate my mom too. It is stuff that you don't think about—something as silly as borrowing money from your parents in high school, like twenty bucks to see a movie, and at some point you realize, “hey I should start paying my mom back,”— and you don't think about the sacrifices your parents make for you until you are an adult. It is just part of the drill and how they see you. I asked my mom about it, like you and dad did so much for me like you paid for my college, you helped me buy my first car, you really like made this work for me to enter my adulthood. She was just like, you'll do that for your kids one day. It was nothing for them and rather a pay-it-forward thing. You don't even think about it until later: how much sleep you don't get, how much you put your parents through, and that they are running on empty for the first few years of your life.

Ms. Lauren Scott Corwin is a Visual Arts teacher at NMH. She enjoys encouraging her students to express their ideas visually and verbally. Apart from being part of the Visual Arts department, she is also dorm head of Upper South Crossley where she lives with her husband, Andy, and son, Felix.