

Letter from the Editors

Dear Readers,

At prep school, happy and February are two words that don't often go together. February is that one month that seems to drag on and on, but luckily Valentine's Day tends to spice things up. Here at *The Tavern*, it stirs up many things: dances, dates, crushes, relationships.... Most of us are quick to associate the holiday with romantic relationships, when in fact relationships extend beyond amour.

Relationships are, in fact, one of the reasons we decided to come to boarding school in the first place. There is something special about relationships—both with friends and faculty—formed at a school that you never truly leave, and add that to the fact that we're high schoolers: teenagers going through the most physically and personally transformative periods of our lives. Living with friends that are constantly with us both in and out of the classroom leaves us no choice but to interact, form relationships, and grow together.

In some ways though, even at boarding school, the most important relationship you form is the one with yourself. Freshman year, we enter school stripped of our past, and we are handed an empty slate. Our identity is completely malleable, so we choose the person we want to become. Sophomore year, we're a little more mature and have a lot more free time. We have time to think and reflect about ourselves, taking the first steps of becoming an adult. Junior year, we're overwhelmed with a mountain of work. We test ourselves: will I make or break under all this pressure? At the end of the year, we know that if I survived junior year, I can survive anything. Senior year, we enter the college process which, through one way or another, makes us think about our future and the kind of person we want to become. So yes, in many ways, boarding school is all about me, myself, and I.

All relationships are difficult, and love is a melody everyone hears in a different key. Whether it be a romantic kind or not, love is always in the air at prep school. It transcends the walls of classrooms, the boundaries of campus, and yes, even grade levels. This February, embrace the holiday and extend your love beyond just that special someone. Maybe with a little help from our friends, we can all get through the longest month.

So, yes, in the spirit of Valentine's Day, we decided to tackle the theme, "Relationships." Expect a rollercoaster of emotions as you read through articles on everything from hook-up culture, LGBTQ+ relationships, fake friends, and even relationships with yourself. We encourage you to

use this snowy month to think about your own relationships, and we hope our issue helps get you started. As always, thank you for stopping by *The Tavern*, and we hope you enjoy your stay.

Lots of Love,
The 1st Editorial Board