

Letter from the Editors

IMSA — what do you think first when you hear someone talk about this institution? Perhaps it's the image of Entelechy in front of the school of some 600 students, or the rigorous academic curriculum taught by the teachers inside. Maybe a community of intellectually motivated students roaming around the residence halls, or the numerous opportunities for leadership, research, and innovation. But little thought do we give to the arts.

We live in a STEM-driven era, fast-paced and constantly hounding after the next biggest scientific breakthrough. While this is perfectly understandable, we at Heliotrope believe that in order to *live*, we need more than that. Our society considers the arts a luxury; indeed, they flourish most extravagantly when necessities are fulfilled, and we have the time to truly live. But art also peeks through when there is not time, when we need some space from life. And sometimes, art is made *because* of life - out of solitude, desperation, and necessity.

At the Illinois Mathematics and Science Academy, we are told to advance the human condition by becoming the future leaders and scientists. But you should also remember that we are human beings. The members of this community dream, compose, write, paint, draw, and *express* themselves—who they are and their deepest feelings, sometimes unconsciously but often in secret. Nevertheless, a few have dared to share those thoughts, and that's what we have for you today. We hope you enjoy this small compilation of ideas and observations, from students and staff who are far more multidimensional and profound than what the world might think of us, the community of IMSA. . .

And maybe, just *maybe*, you'll be inspired, too.

Yours,
Lauralyn Lin, Mishelle Mironov, and Chandana Tetali



Mishelle Mironov



Lauralyn Lin



Chandana Tetali