



# Thank You De La Salle: A Graduate's Farewell

By Mary Ho, Grade 12



In November 2017, I was first introduced to “De La Salle College ‘Oaklands’ by Mr. Lundy of the Admissions Services and offered the chance to attend the private school. Although I was uncertain about entering a completely new environment, I am glad I took the risk. I remember my first day of grade nine, when I was looking around the cafeteria wondering who I could even be friends with and thinking, “how could I be at home at Del?” Freshman problems seemed so momentous at that time and looking back on them, as a senior, I can’t help but laugh at those memories.

To be honest, there were moments of spiralling into anxious breakdowns, tumultuous times that were nonetheless full of self-discovery. I cannot imagine it any other way. What would my years at Del be without those nights of suddenly remembering an assignment was due at

midnight, those days of three tests? Or saying “I’m ready to learn” every time I entered Mr. Kulenkamp’s functions class, knowing fully well that I could use some more sleep to pay attention in class. I am forever grateful for the opportunity to come here.

Because of Del I have made wonderful and supportive connections with my teachers and peers. Because of Del I have learned how to be disciplined. Because of Del I am more open-minded to the values and beliefs of others, while maintaining my own core identity. Because of Del I learned why it is important to keep moral values in our culture. Because of Del I am hopeful and prepared for what is in store for the future. I have learned the importance of forgiveness, understanding, kindness, and the art of letting go.

Through my time at Del I have learned many life skills, such as the importance

of discipline and consistency. Although grades define in the academic world, nothing beats hard work. Despite your grades, you can be proud of yourself if you have given it your best under your circumstances. This applies even if you fail a class, but not if you throw in the towel and give up. Mr. Vlahovic’s class discussions have encouraged an open mindset when approaching difficulties in our lives and our academics, including two memorable if unexpected life lessons: it is okay not to know everything, and if you are likely to be incorrect, be flamboyantly incorrect. All those homework quizzes in grade 11, the cellular metabolic pathway poster in grade 12, and the time pressuring oral quizzes have trained me to be more confident in myself even if I make mistakes here and there. I have come to accept challenges so that I can learn more of what I did not know before the evaluation.

Recently, I suddenly remembered that the last few weeks of high school are here, and the long-awaited graduation is just around the corner. I thought about how nerve wracking, yet exciting, it was to flip the page to the next chapter of life. The thought of how my current friendships might not be the same and may fade away due to change made me feel somewhat melancholic. Like words written in the sand where the waves wash over the shore, I worry that my friendships and fond memories will fade away and I will not be able to experience new ones that would make me feel the same way the ones in the past have. I thought to myself, “Isn’t time so cruel?” And the fact is, time is cruel.

The art of letting go is a difficult emotional skill to master. A way I like to think of it is that the past reflects the future. And when you really think about it, the past and the future do not exist. They only exist in our minds because that present moment has already passed, or we are anticipating it to happen in a given time. What it comes down to is that the only thing we have is the present. People will come and go in your life and sometimes your friends will change due to different priorities, values, and interests - and that’s okay because life is full of death and transformation. As a friendship fades away, you will find yourself being able to cultivate new connections that will help you develop in a specific era of your life. I know many soon-to-be graduates reflect on how fast time goes by without us realizing and sometimes it is terrifying. It is important for us to remember that nothing in life is permanent and the best thing we can do is live in the present moment while it lasts. Time is a constant and change is waiting to be embraced.

As I was thrilled to join Del, I feel the same way about graduating and leaving for the next chapter of my life. To my peers, I wish you the best of luck now and onwards. I am grateful to have met you and for you to have been part of my journey of growth in adolescence. I would not have wanted my high school experience to be any other way. The ups and downs transformed me into the person that I am today with a mind and a heart of hope.

Thank you, De La Salle.

## Del's Declassified School Survival Guide

By Giulia Di Fonzo, Grade 12

### 1. Fit “Me Time” Into Your Schedule

High school is all about balance. Although it may be stressful at times, it goes without saying that some designated “me time” is necessary for success at Del. Whether you spend this time reading a book, going for a walk, or watching the latest episode of your favourite show, setting aside an hour away from the computer will leave you feeling calm. During the exam season, set aside designated breaks between study sessions as a way for you to refresh your mind, increase focus, and retain information.

### 2. Embrace School Spirit

The best way to make the most out of your time at Del is to get involved in Terry Fox Day, ShareLife Day, sports, and clubs. Athletics and extracurriculars are just as important as academics since clubs and teams are inclusive environments where you can make new friends. From Ultimate Frisbee to Girls’ Volleyball, Del’s wide range of sports will distract you from school stressors, and promote physical activity. If you’re not into sports, do not fear because Del has many clubs such as EcoTeam and Lasallian Youth for all student environmentalists and activists.

### 3. Seek Guidance

Don’t be afraid to ask for help. Guidance counsellors and teachers are the perfect outlets for you to voice your concerns and questions. With online learning, it is easy to forget about the strong support network we have in place at Del. Schedule meetings with your guidance counsellors

to check-in with current courses or discuss future plans. These will help you build relationships at Del, and understand how to tackle personal and academic goals.

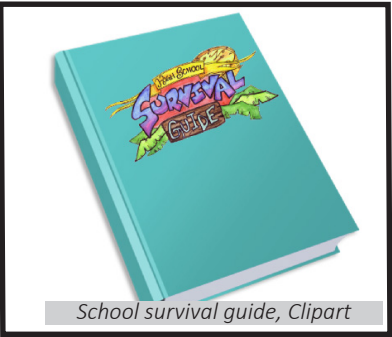
### 4. Sleep, Sleep, Sleep

Everyone needs their beauty sleep. If there is one thing I have learned from Del, it is to not spend time doing homework into the early hours of the morning. Before online learning was in place, it was much more difficult to properly function with three hours of sleep when you had a test the same day. Instead of staying up late to finish a project, create a schedule that allows for the 8 hours of sleep teenagers need. Although coffee may seem like your solution to these all-nighters, in the long run your mind and body will suffer.

### 5. Keep Your Uniform in Check

From a missing button to unpolished shoes, there are many ways to get a uniform slip. While a benefit to online school is not having to worry about uniform infractions, when we return to campus this will only mean we have to once again adjust to keeping our uniform in check. From keeping a spare kilt pin or extra pair of gym socks in your locker, making sure your uniform is not falling apart is a key aspect to succeeding at Del.

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2021 AP Exam Update

View the Latest News

Keep in Mind

🔔 2021 Digital AP Exams

If you're taking digital exams, you'll need to complete some simple setup steps before exam day.

More Details →

🔔 Exam Schedule

AP Exams are given every year in May. In 2021, Administration 3 is given in June.

More Details →

🔔 Exam Locations

AP Exams are administered at many high schools and at exam centers. Ask a teacher or school counselor if your school administers AP Exams. In 2021, digital exams may be taken at home if authorized by your school's AP coordinator.

More Details →

🔔 Exam Scoring

AP Exams are created and scored by teams of AP teachers and college professors.

The AP exam updates webpage, collegeboard.org

AP Exams 2020-2021

By Josiah Reyes, Grade 12

As our school year is coming to a close, the future is still vague in regards to final assessments and possible exams. The stress that accompanies the nearing of summer cannot be explained better than those who are in AP. I interviewed a student in Calculus AP and this is what he had to say: “It’s a stressful time of year, of course, knowing that the AP exam WILL happen online is a relief though. It’s good to have some type of stability right now.”

Most students would agree that now more than ever, stability in our daily life is a breath of fresh air. The student I interviewed had some specific comments regarding the difficulty and details of the Calculus exam: “Well, there’s definitely more pressure on us because once you do a question, you can’t look back at it. Also, you have to type all your answers in, and since it’s math it’s not going to be fun typing pi and stuff into my computer.”

Clearly the regulations within AP exams are made to put

the heat on students entering the gauntlet of questions waiting for them. The grading system consists of five levels. They use levels because the College Board categorizes your mark by how you do compared to everyone else who took that same AP exam. If the overall mark is decently low, level 5 might be as low as 60%. The student I interviewed suspects that will be the case this year. He referred to the AP College Board website when he suggested ways to prepare for AP exams: “Obviously you want to do all the work assigned by your teacher, and even though it’s hard online, you need to pay attention every second of every class and take succinct, but informative notes.”

He also said that using the AP website as a tool can be extremely helpful, whether it be practice exam questions or unit lessons. The website recently introduced Daily AP videos, which are “short, targeted videos” that you can use to your benefit and increase your understanding in the AP course you are enrolled in. With all the resources available, the only element left is for students to access these resources and use them accordingly and effectively. The first wave of AP exams begins on May 3rd, so to all those who are taking them, good luck and study.



How Del Students Spend Their Spares  
By Scott MacDonald, Grade 12

With the traditional four period school day replaced by a new nine period schedule this year, some students have several spares throughout the day. Besides last-minute cramming and homemade lunches, how do they make use of their free time? Some like to play ping-pong in the arena, while others might prefer getting a dose of Vitamin D down on the field. Often, when the weather permits, a socially distanced game of soccer or football breaks out. On gloomier days, students enrich their minds with some peaceful reading in the music hall-turned library.

In a year filled with restrictions and limitations, the staff managed to provide us with revitalized facilities by covering up the arena’s existing ice rink and setting up basketball nets, a volleyball net, ping-pong tables, and an abundance of space for students to chat and eat. These new amenities have addressed the spatial issues of COVID-19 and supplied students with a new stimulating location to spend their much-needed time with one another, all while staying safe.

Earlier in the year, numerous students took on the challenge of learning chess, competing against each other both in the arena and online. Many spent hours playing, but a few dedicated competitors took the extra step, studying different strategies and moves to get a leg-up on their opponents. In regard to De La Salle ping-pong, students did not hold back. Top buttons were undone, hoodies taken off, and sleeves rolled up. The result was a game defined by close battles and legendary rallies that will live on in the minds of students for generations to come. The Senior School Leadership team, led by Mr. Mason, took to the field during spare and got to know younger students in the Junior School during their recess periods. While this only went on for a couple months, it was a rare chance this year for students that were isolated from one another to interact in what we call the “new normal.”

As a result of these new activities, going to school never felt like a burden as it may have in the past – rather, it was something that we looked forward to and anticipated excitedly. Spares have always been a highlight of students’ days and this year was no different, with the challenges we’ve faced bringing old and new pastimes alike onto our campus. Hopefully, we continue challenging ourselves to make our second home as lively as it can be.

Del's Declassified School Survival Guide, cont.  
By Giulia Di Fonzo, Grade 12

6. Make Use of Tutorials

Teachers schedule tutorials for our benefit, so don’t be afraid to use this time to seek clarification. Attending tutorials have immense benefits, since teachers will review homework questions and provide solutions to previous tests. Tutorials are a way to show your teachers that you want to improve in their class, while building upon your work ethic.

7. Prevent Procrastination

Plan ahead. When you are assigned homework, make a schedule of all the tasks you need to complete. These lists are a great way to prioritize your time and assignments. Making notes ahead of tests or quizzes will help you in the long run because during exam season you will already have your written notes compiled together, instead of having to rewrite units. This gives you more time to study.

8. Enjoy Del’s Campus

In the summer or spring, eat lunch outside with your friends or play frisbee on Del’s beautiful field. After spending hours inside, it is important to relax and enjoy the refreshing outdoors. This time outside will relieve your stress from previous classes, while giving you time to socialize with friends and get physical activity. Filled with trees and wildlife, Del’s campus is perfect for spending time in the sun.

9. Spend Time with Friends & Family

When you spend every day in your room studying and attending online classes, it can be difficult to spend time with friends and family. Whether it is through a phone call or face to face conversation, always make time during the day to spend time with those closest with you. Your support network will motivate you to succeed in every aspect of your life.

10. Reflect on Your Accomplishments

You have come so far. After this very complicated year of online and in-person learning, you should be proud of all you have accomplished. Not only did you keep up with your classes, you also managed to survive school during such an unprecedented time. Your hard work and determination are accomplishments worthy of an award.

The Talk of Gen-Z: Trends, Fads, and Pop Culture  
By John Baglione, Grade 11

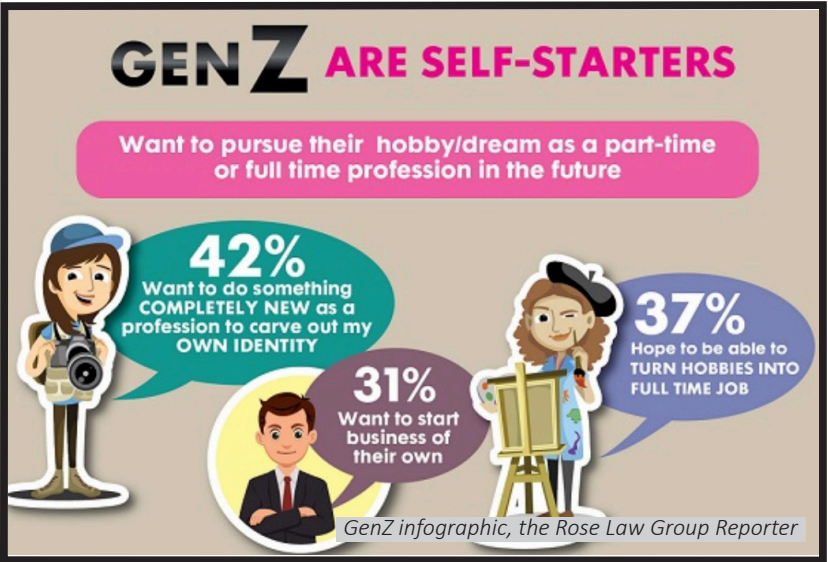
“Sheeeeeesh,” is one of the many popular trends and fads that Generation Z, including myself, find hilarious. Social media incites many popular trends, fads, and has a massive influence on our generation. However, older generations may think that Gen Z’s trends and fads may be idiotic in a sense.

For example, children and teens alike are spending a lot of time on social media and video games, thus they are not going outdoors nearly as much as they did when they were younger, which is something that I have experienced first hand. Furthermore, tending to do idiotic things to go “viral” on social media platforms like TikTok to gain followers or likes. However, on the other hand I believe Gen Z has had a lot of influential things that we have done that go unnoticed and unappreciated.

I believe that Gen Z has done many great things with technology and social media. There has been a lot of innovation with the Gen Z population that has helped out the economy in many ways that people have no idea about and get heavily overlooked. For example in the past 5 years or so I have seen a huge increase in the amount of people start ‘reselling’ things like shoes, old clothes, or sports cards on platforms such as TikTok and Instagram.

Furthermore, I have seen many people turn that into a living, and personally, after starting one myself recently on Instagram, I see that it is a hustle like other jobs and it could be turned into something amazing with hard work and dedication.

In conclusion, Gen Z has done many amazing things for the world and had a lot of innovation that helped out many people all across the world in many different ways. Simply, social media opens up so many doors of opportunity and could best be described in this quote stated from one of our very own students: “Social media nowadays is not only used for socializing or blogging, it can also be geared towards starting your own business and entrepreneurship.”







### The App of the Future: How TikTok is Shaping Our Generation - For Better or For Worse

By Amanda Klunowski, Grade 12

It’s crazy to believe that one social media platform has the power to influence and change an entire generation of people; however, that’s exactly what the app TikTok did over the summer of 2020. When examining TikTok on the surface, it doesn’t seem like something that requires a lot of thought, nor does it seem to offer anything of excitement. The app’s premise is seemingly simple and straightforward in nature, as it functions as a social network that allows users to create and watch short videos of just about anything, whether it be creating dance routines or showing off fashion-forward outfits. So, when the pandemic forced the entire world to remain shuttered up inside for the unforeseeable future, it’s no wonder that this seemingly simple app became a holy grail when it came to providing bite-sized entertainment that could amuse users for numerous hours on end.

The app’s impact was especially profound on people within the “Generation Z” demographic, as it offered a sense of escape from the harsh realities of the world around them, while also allowing them to express themselves through a positive outlet. As the pandemic evolved, and the uncertainty lingered, teenagers began to use this app for connecting with other like-minded individuals from all over the world to share and showcase similar loves of music, fashion, and art.

Moreover, the app also provided a way for young people to use their platforms for good during the height of the social justice movement by enabling users to share their stories and serve as activists for their communities. It paved the way for meaningful conversations about inequality and how to change society for a better future. Because of its content variety and durability, as well as its ability to be a safe space for people to have important and meaningful conversations, it’s no wonder TikTok became so widely used. In fact, the platform was so well-liked that a Forbes article announced that TikTok had become the

most popular, and most used app of 2020.

However, just like social media platforms such as Instagram and Facebook, TikTok began to struggle to keep all content on the app as user-friendly as possible. As the app grew in popularity, so too did the dangers of harmful content being spread throughout the platform, with news outlets reporting about a rise in cyber bullying when it comes to race, body-image, and mental health issues in teens who use the platform. In fact, the app itself has come under fire for hiding posts that depict people who are deemed “unable to fit the beauty standard,” thus subjugating users who may be plus-sized or those who suffer from a disability to unfair treatment.

TikTok has also sparked a large deal of controversy when it comes to fuelling the already large flames of “cancel culture,” with many users using their platforms to spread hate to celebrities and companies who may have acted in an unprofessional manner. Though TikTok can be a haven for bored teenagers, many people within our generation are also suffering from the mental toll of the app. Grade 12 student Amelia D’Alessandro notes that the app can be “negative for [her] self-esteem” at times. While the developers of the app have begun to try to shift the negative culture that is beginning to show itself, it’s hard to deny that it will take a lot of work to get all the discriminatory, sexist, racist, and hateful content removed in the future.

There’s no denying that TikTok has the power to affect and change people’s lives; however, has the app actually stuck to its claim of being an inclusive and positive space for people of all walks of life? In short, while TikTok does have its various shortcomings, there is a great potential for the developers to change the functionality of the platform so that it can foster more positive interactions and experiences for its users in the future. With Gen Z ushering in a new era of socially and politically aware individuals, it is up to them to determine how much of a hold TikTok will have on their daily lives. They will fuel the change to promote a sense of equality, originality, and acceptance in the digital world.

### Kobe Bryant Estate Ends 18-Year Partnership

By Alessandra Cameron, Grade 10

On January 26th, 2020, the world was shocked with the tragic death of basketball legend Kobe Bryant. Kobe Bryant among many other successes, had been a Nike athlete for almost two decades. In his time with Nike, Bryant created and released 11 pairs of shoes with the Nike Kobe series. Bryant’s shoes with Nike released from 2006-2020. On April 19th, 2021, Bryant’s widow Vanessa Bryant released a statement to ESPN, stating that Bryant’s estate had ended their 18-year partnership with shoe brand Nike. ESPN reports, “According to a source, Bryant and the estate had grown frustrated with Nike limiting the availability of Kobe products during his retirement and after his January 2020 death in a helicopter crash. There was also frustration with the lack of availability of Kobe footwear in kids' sizes, according to sources.” Bryant had first signed with Nike in 2003, after ending his contract with Adidas. In 2016, after Bryant’s NBA retirement, he signed a 5-year contract with Nike that ended on April 13th, 2021 according to Vanessa Bryant’s statement. In her statement to ESPN Bryant said, “I was hoping to forge a lifelong partnership with Nike that reflects my husband's legacy. We will always do everything we can to honour Kobe and Gigi's legacies. That will never change.” Bryant’s collaboration with Nike was extremely popular among the basketball community, in many leagues around the world his shoes were favoured by players to be worn on the court. Bryant’s career has been known as impactful on many around the world. I got a chance to ask grade 10 student, John Abainza, some questions about Bryant’s Nike shoes and the impact Bryant had on him.

***Have you ever had a pair of Kobe's shoes? If so how did playing in them make you feel?***

*Nike Kobe 5 Protro - I felt like I was Kobe (not that I am Kobe). You just feel like a basketball player when you wear their shoes.*

***What did Kobe mean/ represent to you?***

*Kobe had a big impact on why I love basketball and how I'm passionate about it. He represented hard work and dedication, and how you can achieve your dreams.*

***What is your opinion on the ending of the partnership?***

*His shoe line will just disappear and I think that people will try and profit off those shoes after his death.*

After Bryant’s death, in many professional basketball games, athletes like WNBA player, Sabrina Ionescu, and NBA player, Julius Randle, paid tribute to Kobe Bryant by playing in his Nike shoe collaboration. It is assumed that all future production of Bryant’s Nike collaboration will be paused at this time. "Kobe Bryant was an important part of Nike's deep connection to consumers, He pushed us and made everyone around him better. Though our contractual relationship has ended, he remains a deeply loved member of the Nike family,” Nike told ESPN in a statement.



### The Super League Explained

By Christopher Prangikos, Grade 12

In 2018, a German publication uncovered the documents of a soccer Super League set to break the European football landscape. The leaked documents outlined a tournament that would feature football's highest status clubs. Set to begin in 2021, the competition would take place separate from UEFA (the FIFA administrative body for football in Europe). Today, the tournament is ready to feature 15 founding clubs who would be guaranteed a spot in the competition and five outside clubs selected yearly based on performance. By locking down the most historic teams in football history year after year, such as Barcelona and Real Madrid, the billion-dollar tournament is primed for financial success and is the materialization of every fan's dream. Or is it?

Talks of a European Super League have been around since the '80s and usually seem to bud its head into conversation when changes to the UEFA Champions League are being discussed. Founded in 1995, the Champions League is

currently our greatest annual soccer tournament featuring the world's best talent. First, with a lengthy qualification process, even the most unlikely of teams have a chance at the championship. Then, after 32 contestants are determined, the teams compete to be crowned the best club in European football.

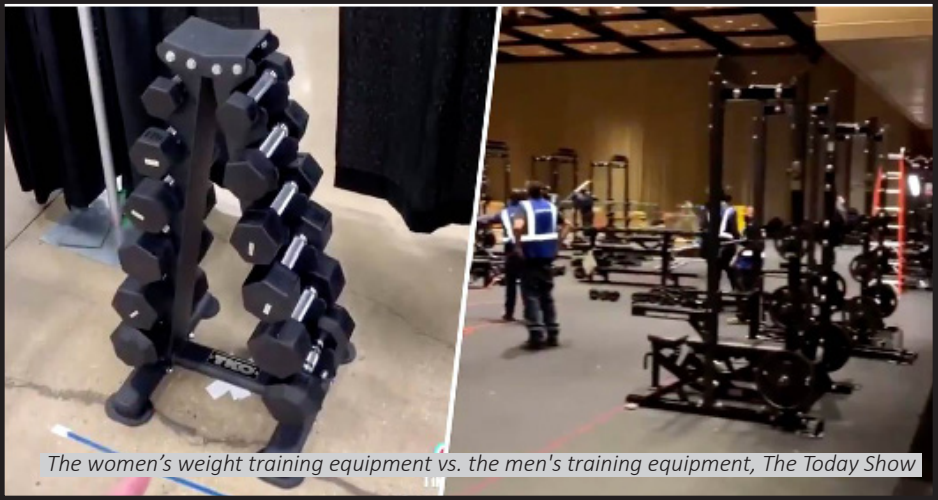
With soccer becoming awash with money in the mid-'90s and profits seeming to become more lucrative than trophies, it has been the Champions League's commercial success that has calmed the further aspirations of the money-hungry for decades. But now, with sights on taking the revenue that comes with the spotlight of a mega tournament all for themselves, the 15 founding clubs of the Super League now threaten the nature and prosperity of the game itself - and the fans have something to say about it.

With information again circulating of a forthcoming Super League, fans exploded. The formation of such a league would see the handpicked richest teams in Europe grow richer, leaving the rest of the continent's clubs out to dry.

It would replace the Champions League – a league where contestants earn the fame and fortune that comes with playing among the world's best unlike the clubs of the Super League, who would be guaranteed it. The Super League would put an end to the aspirations of all the fans and clubs outside its greedy design and could put an end to domestic professional soccer in Europe as we know it. With such a prospect on the brink of formation, the people who generate the sports income – the fans – fought back. And to their success, on April 21st, eight of the twelve teams confirmed to have committed to the breakaway league withdrew their decision. The Super League was three years in the making but only took three days to fall apart.

With heavy hearts, fans and teams worldwide demonstrated the power behind their collective voice in expressing their disappointment in the get-rich-quick scheme. And after the league's dismantlement, the teams involved and the rest of the continent's clubs are now fully committed to finding solutions that honour the integrity of the game.





**AirBall: How the NCAA March Madness Scandal Exposed the Depth of Sexism in Sports**  
By Amanda Klunowski, Grade 12

This year’s women’s NCAA March Madness tournament wasn’t exactly a slam-dunk. On March 18th, 2021 – only four days into the tournament – the NCAA came under fire for its sexist and discriminatory treatment towards female athletes living in the March Madness tournament “player bubble” in San Antonio.

This comes several pictures from Stanford coach Ali Kershner, as well as a TikTok posted by Oregon Ducks forward Sedona Prince, went viral on various social media

platforms. The content showcased the stark differences in equipment between the training facilities, and the quality of the food served to the male athletes versus the female athletes in both tournaments. In the video, Prince lamented the fact that female athletes still have to suffer from sexism in the present-day era, and filmed inside the training room to further illustrate her frustrations with the organization. While the image of the men’s weight room saw a large, well-equipped, and high-tech facility, the women were left with a pitiful stack of yoga mats and a singular set of dumbbells to be shared amongst multiple teams at a time within a small space.

On top of this, Prince also filmed a second video of her eating dinner in the dining hall with some of her fellow teammates, which showcased the questionable quality of the lackluster food they were eating, and compared it to the gourmet catering the men were receiving in Indianapolis. When asked about her thoughts on the situation, grade 12 student Amelia D’Alessandro noted that the situation was “extremely frustrating,” and that this incident

“shouldn’t have happened in the first place.” Unfortunately, instances like this have been occurring within the sports world for decades, with men being at the forefront of all major sporting events and women left in the shadows of their success. According to a study conducted by UNESCO, roughly 40% of all professional athletes identify as female, yet women’s sports receive only 4% of all sports media coverage. So, when sexist incidents like this happen to female athletes, their concerns are generally swept under the rug.

However, lately there have been signs that the sports world is willing to listen to the women who are advocating for equality in the sports they love. Since the video was posted, the NCAA, along with some sporting goods stores, managed to create a massive new training room for the women’s tournament and even hired a new catering company to make the food. There have also been many major sports organizations, news networks, and male athletes, who are using their massive platforms to make sure that female athletes can have their voices heard when it comes to issues of discrimination.

While these are all great steps to help female athletes continue their fight for equality, more must be done in the future to ensure that women are included at the forefront of discussions, when it comes to sports, in order to fuel the next generation of female athletes to aspire to even greater heights than ever before.

**Short Stories**

A short story is a narrative composition in which authors must create an entertaining account, usually in a single scene, in the fewest words possible. In this section, we are featuring some excellent short stories written by Del students.

**Three and a Half Hours Since**  
By Caroline Nicolais, Grade 11

I felt my swollen eyes open just enough that I could squint over my shoulder and read 3 A.M. on the alarm clock. Exactly three and a half hours since it happened. Three and a half hours since I last saw Andre. His blood-curdling scream was buried permanently in my head.

Then it all came flooding back. My glance at the digital numbers on the dashboard reading 11:29 P.M., and the small pointer steadily making its way around the speedometer. My eyes on the sideview mirror where I saw the flashing blue and red lights of the patrol car, followed by the piercing sound of sirens slowly increasing in volume as it edged closer. Seconds later, Andre released the gas and veered to the side of the road to screech to a full stop.

Suddenly, a police officer yelled before appearing near the driver’s side window. He yelled, “Step out and raise your hands.” I felt my body spasm, thinking about what could happen in a second.

Andre followed the officer’s directions, leaving me in the front seat to ponder our situation before I heard a popping sound which sounded like a gunshot. I peered into the rearview mirror to see the police officer, gun in hand, but Andre nowhere in sight.

I pushed open the car door, and nearly stumbled over his body as I came to the back of the car. He was sprawled on the pavement under a pool of his own blood. I remember the moment his slowly moving eyes met mine, right before he shut them for the final time. I don’t recall much after that.

I looked down the empty road and I realized I had no reception out here. The officer jumped in his cruiser and sped off. The occasional headlights from a passing car was the only visible sign of life. I waited there a long time.

I get up out of my bed. Something makes me look down at my flannel shirt from last night. It’s still covered in Andre’s blood, and tossed on the floor like a rag. It’s all I can think of, Andre is dead. That was the night we were pulled over by the police.

**Medow Memories**  
By Alexandra Wietfeldt, Grade 11

My heart was calm as I slowly wandered over the rickety bridge. It was a tranquil summer’s day. The wind blew a crisp, cool breeze through the hazel boughs like golden curls. As my steps slowed, I grasped the rail of the wooden bridge and peered into the river below. I watched as bright yellow fish jumped through the glistening waters. Their tails splashed among the swirling waves cascading on the sparkling rocks of the river bend. Looking up at the blue sky, I watched as fluffy, white clouds slowly glided across the wide expanse with the breeze. I felt that change was near.

This last month has been so difficult for my family. Grandmother has been ill with cancer, and we’ve been told she will not make it passed this year. Soon I find myself in my favourite place in the world, this meadow. Every year my family gathers in this mystical meadow to enjoy a picnic together, a shared feeling. This year has to be different because of my grandmother’s illness.

As I wandered through the wood, I heard the voices of my siblings and cousins playing hide-and-go-seek. I see my little cousin scampering up the tallest oak tree. I smell grandmother’s pie. An abundance of emotions overwhelms me. “Those were the days,” I think to myself.

Then, a siren sings. The yellow fish stopped leaping. The sky dims. I suddenly feel tears well in my eyes. My heart-beat jumps as I speed towards the house.

I see it in my sister’s face, Grandmother is gone before I know it.



**The New Laundry Boy**  
By Ruth McDonald, Grade 10

My brother once said, “If you don’t know who’s being cheated in a pool hall, it’s probably you.”

The piano man near the bar is playing a loud ragtime tune. I search the room, looking for someone who stands out from the other patrons. I find my guy, leaning against the back wall in a trench coat.

“A trench coat in a bar? Not your typical bar attire,” I murmur to myself quietly as I head over.

“That guy can play his heart out,” I remark, gesturing at the piano.

“You think?” he says. “Sounds like someone’s ironing a cat.”

I shrug, then lower my voice. “Do you have it?”

“Depends,” he drawls, avoiding eye contact. “Who’s asking?”

“A friend of Mr. Justice,” I reply, looking across the room.

“Hmm...” he eyes me. “He didn’t tell me there was a new laundry boy?”

“Well, now you know,” I retort. “Now, do you got it or not?”

The suspicion on the man’s face breaks into a smile.

“Alright, give me a second,” he rummages in his pocket. “I got it somewhere here.”

I glance around anxiously, hoping we haven’t attracted any unwanted attention.

“Here you go.” He slips me a small brown package, as he looks over his shoulder. “Two kilos, as requested.”

My face lights up and I shove the parcel under my jacket.

“Thank you, the Mayor will be—”

“Shut up boy!” he hisses, clamping his sweaty palm over my mouth. “Can’t say Boss’ name like that aloud! Or else we’ll both be six feet under!” he snarls.

I nod, and he releases his hand from over my mouth, looking around the room again.

“Plus,” he warns, “the walls have ears. The doors have eyes.”

“Sorry.” I apologize, bowing my head.

“Our time is done here, scram boy.”

I nod, turning, ready to leave. A smile unfolds across my face. I don’t work for the Mayor. I work for the police.



Poetry:

In his essay 'A Defense of Poetry,' English poet Percy B. Shelley describes poetry as such:

*"A poem is the very image of life expressed in its eternal truth."*

In his poem 'The essence of the poem', Palestinian poet Mahmoud Darwish writes:

*"The road to meaning, however long and branching, is the poet's journey...What is meaning? I don't know, but I may know what its opposite is: thinking that nothingness is easy to bear."*

Poetry, however, must be read to be understood. In this section, we are featuring some excellent poetic works from students at Del.



Blossoms, Paige Stoneburgh

Glass Box

By Ruth McDonald, Grade 10

*Can anyone, please help,  
My captors have put me in a glass box,  
Given me an illusion of freedom,  
seemingly merciful,  
Rather than cold, dark, cell walls.*

*But this is a psychological trick  
That puts me on display  
I am an exhibit for people to ogle at,  
they study me.*

*Why?  
Because people who live in glass boxes are breakable  
exposed people shatter*

*Escape only leads to nicks and cuts.*



A cat's shadow, Sadie Lovering

I Wandered Lonely in a Daze

By Isabella Rossi, Grade 11

*I wandered lonely in a daze  
That no sign noticed I anywhere,  
When I'd sauntered for days,  
And careened longing for air;  
Beside the lake, upon the hill,  
The tavern where I drink my fill.*

*Continuous before my eyes  
I saw the bottles line on line,  
They gawked with ardent sighs  
Long I prayed one would be mine:  
Ten toes percussed a melody,  
I chuffed like a train.*

*Elation swelled within my heart  
Saw those bottles glint and gleam:  
My sorrow swift departs,  
Led me forth like a dream:  
Just like the last I felt plenary and whole  
It resurfaced in my soul:*

*For oft, I wavered near  
The place was vacant and cold,  
The dreams flash in provisional cheer  
Which left me astray and old;  
And where my whisky, dusty wine?  
And locked me out, not the canine!*

**Inspired by William Wordsworth’s “I Wandered Lonely as a Cloud”**



In a field, Nicole Chung

That’s Just Nonsense Anyways

By Oliver Lowry, Grade 11

*To you, beauty can be sold  
Is what my patient’s told.  
To sell beauty is a power  
That makes some people sour.  
They do not share the belief  
That my work will cure their grief.  
“Your beauty’s fake,” they say,  
But that’s just nonsense anyways.*

**Inspired by Robert Frost’s “Nothing Gold Can Stay”**

Frantic Mother

By Mia Ferrante, Grade 10

*The forest rocks and chants  
Beneath the goddess dreaming,  
Her beauty soaring across the sky  
As a symphony of diamonds screaming.*

*She is sweet as honey  
a garden rose  
She springs up delirious and sleepy  
And trudges to the water*

*Watching her man swim  
Drunk in a lake  
Together they stop time  
As a languid woman who must cool.*

Dear Love

By Sarah Sirizzotti, Grade 10

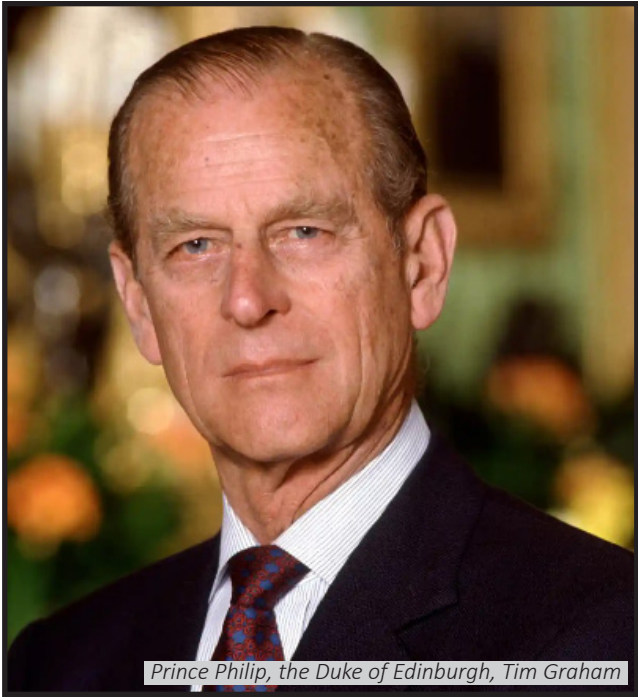
*Dear Love,  
How can you be so complicated?  
Yet so simple.  
Devotion that is a drug.  
You live in my head.  
A heart built upon trust.  
That can be so easily torn apart.  
Cherish the emotions,  
Because you know how to toy with them.  
Forever will there be that feeling,  
Once you fade.  
Bonds can break  
And you will follow.*

Everlasting Garden

By Maria Tassopoulos, Grade 10

*a secret garden for her gentle soul  
is a sanctuary of harmony  
behold a vivid blanket of flowers cover the prairie  
moss climbing up trees & freshly moist grass  
from dusk to dawn  
watch out beautiful earth blossom  
listen quietly  
feel.*





Prince Philip, the Duke of Edinburgh, Tim Graham

The Life of Prince Phillip

By Elena De Tommaso, Grade 11

After serving as the longest royal consort in British history, Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh, passed away on April 9th, 2021. Born to Prince Andrew of Greece and Princess Alice of Battenberg on June 10th, 1921. Philip was born a prince to both the Greek and Danish royal families and was sixth in line to the royal throne. During his childhood, Philip experienced misfortune. At an early age, his father was accused of treason and exiled from the royal family, causing Philip to flee to Paris. Later, he was separated from his mother, who was sent to a sanatorium in Switzerland. With this nomadic life, with little time surrounded by his family, he felt the absence of a home in every sense. Under the care of his aunt and uncle, he attended school in England, briefly in Germany, and later in Scotland. Tragedy continued, when his sister and her family died in a plane crash, soon after the passing of his uncle. At the age of 18, Philip joined the Royal Navy and the Royal Naval College in Dartmouth.

During his time at Dartmouth, he met 13-year-old Princess Elizabeth, seven years later, in 1947 they announced their engagement. Upon marrying Elizabeth, they had four children: Charles, Anne, Andrew, and Edward. On the grounds of his marriage to Elizabeth, Philip renounced his right to the Greek and Danish throne and was granted the title, Duke of Edinburgh. The question of why he remains a prince instead of adopting the title of king is often asked. The British Parliamentary law determines the title a spouse will receive after marrying someone who is up for the throne. This law is dependent on the gender of the spouse and is applied differently for men and women. When a male in the royal bloodline marries, his wife will take whatever the female version of his title is and when a female in the bloodline marries, her husband is not eligible to take the male form of his wife’s title. During his time as an active senior member of the Royal family, Philip’s childhood tribulations played a large role in the man he became. Philip Eade, the author of Young Prince Philip, told Town of Country, “Although he bravely overcame his childhood traumas, the break up of his family and losing the constant loving support of his parents help explain why his emotional reserve became as noticeable as his bluff, controlled, no-nonsense exterior." Before he retired from public appearances in August of 2017, Philip accomplished plenty in his 70 years of service. Beginning in the early 1950s, he had fulfilled 22,219 solo engagements, became president and member of over 780 organizations, and also served as a Captain-General of the Royal Marines.

Following the passing of Prince Philip on April 9th, 2021, at the age of 99, Operation Forth Bridge was set in place. The codename in place for Philip was named after the suspension bridge linking Edinburgh to Fife. Following the death of any royal family member, upon telling the Prime Minister, BBC news is informed and is the first to report the death. Now, that has changed, and it goes out as an alert to the Press Association and is posted on the official website of the royal family. Amid the news of Prince Philip, the United Kingdom (England, Scotland, Wales, and Northern Ireland) entered a national period of mourning, which would continue until the day of his funeral. During this mourning period, flags are lowered to half-mast, except

the Royal Standard flag, which stands above Buckingham Palace, for it represents the monarchy, which is continuous. As for the royal family, dark colours and mourning bands are worn and all social engagements were canceled. The Queen did not conduct any state affairs, therefore; no new laws were passed, for the eight-day mourning period. As requested from Prince Philip, he had a private military-style funeral at St.George’s Chapel with burial at Frogmore Gardens. Now, following his passing the Queen will return to her royal duties and the line of succession will remain unchanged. May he rest in peace.

Forgotten Home-Ridden Seniors left out of Vaccine Plans

By Zachary Leveriza, Grade 11

As of February 26, 2021, the Pfizer, Moderna, and Astra-Zeneca vaccines, to fight COVID-19 were approved for use in Canada. While this approval had looked as if things would go back to normal, cases began to increase, and lockdowns were extended for longer periods. Many at-risk elderly people would be at a much higher risk of contracting the virus. However, their access to the vaccine is not as easy as many people would think.

Many people in Ontario have not taken this situation lightly as they have expressed their frustration vividly. One of these people is 98-year-old North York resident, Sam Meister. He lives with his caregiver, Marizel Evangelista. According to a CBC article, Meister has been furious about how neither he, nor his caregiver, has been able to receive the COVID-19 vaccine. Since March, he has only left his house once for an appointment, while Evangelista has left the house on occasion. She spends most of her time with him as she has not seen her family in over a year. Meister has shown his anger as he states, “...I’m locked in jail,” as he feels trapped in his home.

Unfortunately, Meister is not alone in this upsetting situation as other elderly people are experiencing the same problems. Peterborough resident, Diane Tamblyn has also been an advocate among the elderly who have been pushing for in-home vaccinations to not leave behind any at-risk Canadians. She is more concerned for her 86-year-old father, John Bedborough, who lives in Toronto and is diagnosed with Parkinson’s disease. Tamblyn said how she has not heard about any plan that would protect housebound seniors since they are still exposed through caregivers and relatives that can infect them as they are more susceptible to the virus. She has also expressed some feelings of unfairness by comparing these seniors to those in a care home. “We send the vaccinations into the nursing homes and retirement homes. What would make somebody 85, living on their own that’s housebound different?”

Ontario’s vaccination plan included benefits for seniors in long-term care homes rather than those who live in a community residence. Luckily, Doctor Samir Sinha has been one of the advocates for the government to change the rollout, and their wish was granted. He also believed “...it’s long overdue” and also noted, “Age is the greatest factor for getting sick and dying from COVID-19.” Sinha also worries about other factors that affect the chance for seniors to book appointments: “Many seniors are not internet-savvy, do not have computers, or have English as their first language and many are homebound."



At risk senior Sam Meister, Perlita Stroh/CBC

Although vaccines are rolling out to the communities, we are not close yet to things coming back to normal. Not everyone has the same experiences as others when it comes to fighting this virus. These seniors cannot be forgotten about as they are the most susceptible and in danger. It is good to know that these doctors are looking out for these people as they are no longer people that can be independent.



The online platform Youtube, MIT Technology Review

The Radicalization of Youtube

By Katie Grierson, Grade 12

The power of the media is not an unknown danger in our current society. The almost undetectable impact that media has on our behaviours and beliefs manifests itself in many ways. One such way is the impact of YouTube on the political views of adolescents and teenagers who use the platform. This phenomenon, known as the Radicalization of YouTube, happens due to its algorithm pushing political content to audiences. The process of this ‘radicalization’ begins with the algorithm pushing videos with mild views, then slowly recommending more and more radical videos until the only content shown to the user is extremely radical political content, leaving the viewer in a self-created echo chamber.

The biggest, and most harmful, example of this can be seen in the YouTube-to-Alt-Right pipeline. This pipeline commonly targets predominantly young boys who start using the platform to explore innocent interests unrelated to politics. For example, they are introduced to “humorous” content in gaming through ‘Feminist Gets Owned!!’ compilations and Joe Rogan videos (Joe Rogan was specifically named by a Cornell University study as a common entry point to the pipeline.) This is the first and mildest stage of the pipeline, filled with videos that flaunt their ‘controversial’ takes. After the user has consumed a significant amount of media on this subject matter, the algorithm will push content that falls under the second stage of the pipeline: the “alt-lite.” This phase encompasses creators who “constantly flirt with espousing white supremacy ideals,” examples being anti-Semitic conspiracy theories, and white nationalistic values. This acts as a stepping stone to the final and most extreme stage of the pipeline, which is alt-right content.

Some may doubt the existence of this pipeline, either from ignorance or denial; however, many studies have confirmed that there is a pipeline effect present on YouTube. Data has proven that many users who commented on content that fell under the first stage of the pipeline eventually shifted to commenting on the extreme far-right content found on the platform. While just exposing young people to these hateful perspectives is harmful enough, this easily accessible gateway to white supremacy and “pro-incel” content has resulted in these views influencing their behaviours offline. For instance, this danger was showcased in the Christchurch shooting, where the shooter was subscribed to many alt-right YouTube channels and New Zealand’s Royal Commission of Inquiry, and investigators concluded that this content likely contributed to his actions.

Various efforts are being made to combat this pipeline, with YouTube cracking down on hateful content being posted on the platform. However, knowing the impact of YouTube and other social platforms on forming our beliefs, we must spread awareness to prevent youth from internalizing these ideals and solve the problem at its source, before it takes root in hateful rhetoric and actions.



## A Hopeful Future Awaits: Action Plan To Reduce Our Carbon Footprint From the White House Climate Summit Update

By Daija Pilgrim, Grade 12

Hope for an improving planet is regained! President Joe Biden and 40 other world leaders discuss their plans for managing the climate crisis that is leaving our planet and people in critical conditions at the virtual Leaders Summit on Climate. Last week, both Prime Minister Justin Trudeau and President Biden promised increased climate ambition such as creating new jobs, strengthening the economy, and growing the middle class.

In his address, Trudeau announced new restrictions on emission as a method to reduce further pollution, and to appease the Paris Agreement. Canada will aim to reduce emissions by 40%-45% below emission levels in 2005, by 2030. Additionally, Canada has invested \$53.6 billion towards a cleaner future and more jobs for citizens.

I asked Grade 12 student, Michael Danfulani, for his opinion on the subject:

**Q:** *In your opinion, is the government doing enough to circumvent the irreversible damage that fossil fuels and carbon emissions will have on the planet if action is not taken immediately?*

**A:** *I do feel that the government is taking the right approach to climate change by enforcing carbon taxes and doing more reports and analysis on carbon emissions. They are also making councils specifically to address the steps to reduce our effects on climate change.*

After withdrawing the membership from the Paris Agreement for climate change in 2017, citizens are curious as to how the new Biden administration plans on building confidence for leadership in climate change and ensuring that newly instilled policies will not be undone by future US administration. As Canadians, we too are drastically affected by the decisions of the American government when it pertains to the acknowledgement or denial of world issues. During the summit briefing on CNN, hosted by Dana Bash, U.S. Special Presidential Envoy for Climate John Kerry assured the public that the new policies and enforcements will stay in place because of the trillions of dollars that has been invested globally in the Paris Agreement.

Presently, the Line 3 oil pipeline expansion from Alberta, Canada to Wisconsin, USA is currently under review. One major concern is the possibility of Indigenous communities being uprooted. American Energy Secretary Jennifer Granholm proposes transporting clean energy, such as hydrogen, putting CO2 underground, and clean water through pipes will improve infrastructure that doesn't contribute to GreenHouse gas pollution. In regards to Canadian economic benefits, this will affect us negatively. Canada is the fourth largest producer and third largest exporter of oil, so this halt on the expansion does not economically work in our favour. However, there are other factors to consider, or people rather.

Considering the major announcements from both Prime Minister Trudeau and President Biden, the future sounds promising. Both leaders shared their ambitious plans about creating climate sensitive countries that will benefit citizens financially, as well. Now that words have been spoken, the action awaits. Only time will tell if the agreements and policies discussed in the Climate Summit are acted upon and will grant us a greener future.



Prime Minister Justin Trudeau and President Joe Biden discuss climate change, Evan Vucci/AP



Celebrities, Mahmut Serdar Alakus/Getty Images

## Should We Really Be Idolizing Celebrities?

By Sofia D'Ambrosi, Grade 11

As media becomes more accessible and influential to the masses, the lives of the celebrities involved are having an impact on our society more than ever before. Extreme involvement into the lives of celebrities has caused many to become idolized by young and impressionable fans. However, this has proven to be harmful in many ways, towards both the celebrities and their fans.

When looking further into this, it is clear the idolization of child stars has caused much controversy with many seemingly "good" kids going completely off the rails as they became young adults. Psychologist, Dr Linda Papadopoulos, explains that; "Once these children grow to become adults and their fame starts to fade away, they lose their sense of validation and feel the needs to prove themselves in other ways." These feelings combined with the pressure of financially supporting their families as well as the constant bombardment by paparazzi and tabloids can prove to be too stressful, ultimately leading to the child stars demise in which they lash out in unhealthy ways to cope.

It has become a running joke to predict "which child star would go crazy next," with multiple incidences of these seemingly family-friendly faces desperate to finally take control of their child friendly narrative and reinvent themselves how they please. Although this is not necessarily a problem on its own, it most definitely becomes one when these destructive behaviours are displayed to young children who are often their biggest fans.

However, it is important to mention that it is not just "haters" that cause these problems but also the most well-meaning fans. Their behaviours on social media can be extremely detrimental and cross personal boundaries. The rise of social media has led to celebrities documenting many parts of their personal life, making the fan feel as if they have a connection or a friendship with that figure. This seemingly unlimited access to celebrities' personal lives has caused many crazed fans, often referred to as "stans," to think it is normal and okay to stalk and obsess over them, as well as relentlessly bully anyone who doesn't "support their fave".

Author Derek Thompson explains, "Stans are a classic example of what I call 'soft cults', being groups that self-organize around the principle that the mainstream is bad in some way, and then offer a positive rebellion against it. The internet makes it easier for them, not only because you can self-organize around a single positive idea like Beyoncé is awesome, but also because you can organize around an opposition, like Rihanna fans are trash."

After taking a closer look into the phenomenon of "child stars going crazy" and "relentless soft cult twitter stans," the connection can easily be made that it is the blind idolization of celebrities that has caused many problems in our society. This includes mob mentality, normalizing obsessive behaviours, and bullying to children, the most young and impressionable members of our society.

## Is there a Future for Movie Theatres and Streaming Services to Co-Exist?

By Felicity Kannu, Grade 11

With the unpredictable world we are living in we live in, many people have sought an escape through movies and TV shows during the pandemic. At the start of the lockdown in April 2020, the viewing figures for streaming services were up 71%, indicating a huge surge in the amount of TV and movies being watched during the lockdown. With saying this, a spokesperson for Netflix acknowledged that the growth in numbers slowed after the first couple of months explaining that "Growth is slowing as consumers get through the initial shock of coronavirus and social restrictions." In addition to this, data showed that adults spent nearly six and a half hours watching television per day and that 12 million new customers signed up for streaming services such as Netflix, Amazon Prime, and Disney+.

In contrast to the rapid success experienced by streaming services, movie theatres saw a huge loss of profit during 2020. With theatres having to shut down in mid-March last year, many blockbusters scheduled to release around that time were postponed. AMC theatres, an American movie theatre chain, lost 4.6 billion dollars in 2020 highlighting just one of the companies who took a massive hit.

As the world must continue to adapt to the changes brought on by COVID-19, many may begin to wonder, what changes will become permanent. Questions surrounding movie theatres make us think, do we really need this experience, or will streaming services be enough? A lot of people relish at the opportunity to go to the movies with friends, eat popcorn, and watch a film on the big screen. However, will this fact outweigh the simplicity and convenience of streaming shows from your own home?

On the other hand, many people think that once the pandemic is over, the public will want to return to theatres because of the joy, nostalgia, and comfort they bring. While considering all of this, the culture and experience brought on by theatres seems too strong and loved to be exiled by streaming services in our future, and it's likely they will make a comeback once regulations allow them to open.



Cineplex concession stand, Cole Burston/Bloomberg

## The Art of Making Your Own Playlist

By Stephanie Chaves, Grade 12

The pandemic and its burdens imposed on us this past year has left young people, including myself, left to fend for themselves. Aiming to gain experiences and motivation through one's personal passions, and interests. One great way to channel your interests, and to stay upbeat during this difficult time is to create your own playlist. Listening to music, specifically, a group of songs you chose personally, can be therapeutic and calming!

Making your own playlist can be tough, but I am here to help make sure your playlist is top tier! The first tip seems obvious but may just be the most difficult aspect to making a playlist, and this is to always be on the lookout for new music. You want your playlist to be unique, but also up to date. My next word of advice to you as you enter on this journey of making a playlist is to remember that variety is key, a good playlist includes an abundance of genres of music in it! Next, it is important to consider the length of your playlist. You do not want your playlist to be too short as that will lead to repeats in the same sitting, but also don't want it to be so long that you find yourself constantly skipping through it attempting to hear that one song! This is why it's important to find a happy medium, typically between thirty to fifty songs. This may seem difficult as there are so many good songs out there for a playlist but, a simple trick can make this easier, only include 1-2 songs per artist to keep your playlist diverse. Don't forget to have fun with it!





**The Power of Nostalgia: Why I Don't Like Disney's Live Action Remakes**  
By Matthew Berger, Grade 12

I think we have all heard the old adage before - "if it ain't broke, don't fix it." Except in some situations, I think I wish the saying didn't exist. This is particularly true when it comes to Disney, as it appears that someone told them about it too – which we can see with the chain of events that began in 2010, when they released their first live-action remake of Alice in Wonderland. After making just over one billion dollars at the box office, I'm sure they were excited at discovering the amount of money they could make by playing on the nostalgia of old animated films. Since then, this formula has brought us updated versions of classics from the Disney renaissance such as Beauty and the Beast, Aladdin, the Lion King, Mulan, and soon the Little Mermaid.

Frankly, while I think these movies may be technically and cinematically stunning, I don't think they're a good look. Instead of fostering new ideas and creating original content, these old movies are having the equivalent of a fresh coat of paint thrown on them to try and make them appeal to new audiences. Frankly – it's almost as bad as what they did to Star Wars. Anyways, let's see how we got here.

**The History of Animation at Disney**

It was the '80s, and the Walt Disney Company was close to shutting down their 2D animation studio. The company was nowhere near the size they are today, which meant that it seemed only logical to shut down a department that wasn't generating profit, and had a negative reputation within the industry. Perhaps this would have been the case, if it wasn't for playwright and lyricist Howard Ashman and his composing partner Alan Menken, known for their work on the Off-Broadway musical "Little Shop of Horrors." It was these two who almost single-handedly saved the department when they came up with the idea for and scored The Little Mermaid.

This success set off what many today call the 'Disney Renaissance,' which lasted from about 1980 to 1990, leading to many of the classic Disney films that come to mind when we think of their movies.

**Where This Leaves Us**

Over the past few years, Disney realized that these types of movies were real money makers, starting an avalanche that does not appear to be stopping anytime soon. By relying on existing nostalgia and storylines, they know people will want to see. I feel as if they have stopped prioritizing making good movies, and instead making Disney movies, in a ploy to make sure the younger generations know what the 'Disney brand' is.

In these live action remakes, this often leads to what I like to call 'nothing-can-change-it' where directors are so obsessed with making sure that the movie is a 'no questions asked successor' to the animated original, that there is no room for actors to make the role of the character they are playing their own. I find the clearest example of this to be with Will Smith in the recent Aladdin movie – particularly in 'Friend Like Me.' You would think that a song that was originally adapted for Robin William's character of doing impressions and different voices would also be adapted to Will Smith – but instead, we are left with a song that sounds like Will Smith trying to sound like Robin Smith's genie instead of having a song of his own.

Yet, the people who I feel the worst about in these scenarios are the kids who are being taken to see these

movies. Of course, it makes sense - parents would have seen these movies when they were young children, and they want their children to have a similar experience. The only problem is – no matter how great as the originals were, the cultural significance of their successors is lacking, akin to the tastefulness a reheated TV dinner. In contrast to the absolute frenzy that new movies like Frozen have generated, as seen through the near-infinite amount of themed merchandise created, these remakes seem designed to be a box office hit for a few weeks, and then simply fade away into the cultural subconscious.

Whether it will take Disney running through the whole catalogue of these Renaissance-era films before they change their ways, or whether it will happen some time before then is an interesting question, but all I can hope for now is that down the road I won't be taking my kids to see "The Lion King: Virtual Reality Remake."

**Thriving Under Pressure: Lasallian Excellence in the Face of Global Uncertainty**  
By Amy Richard, Grade 12

Though the pandemic has taken much from us, and we are lacking a lot of the usual student activities and school accomplishments, Del students still never cease to amaze. Through it all, eighth-grade writing competitor, Clara Bertoldi, and future Oxford attendee, Andrei Lambert, are proving that the pandemic cannot stop Lasallian students from achieving excellence.

First, Bertoldi participated in a speech competition called Speaker's Idol this spring. The prompt challenged writers to respond to the following quote by Holocaust survivor, Simon Wiesenthal: "The history of humankind is the history of crimes and history can repeat. So information is a defense. Through this we can build, we must build, a defense against repetition." Participants submitted a written copy of the speech, and the top 16 sent in a video delivering the 3-minute speech. In the semi-finals, participants delivered the speech live virtually. Bertoldi placed in the top 16 in her category and lasted until the semi-final round in the top 23 in Canada.

**What was your interpretation of the quote?**

I tied my speech into the importance of education and how a quality education empowers students to make the world a better place.

**Were you recommended by a peer or teacher to participate, or did you seek out this opportunity on your own?**

Mr. Lombardi told me about the competition, and I decided to try it out!

**Did the work you submitted differ from the writing you do in English class?**

Not at all actually, I used the persuasive speech outline that we learned in class as the structure of my speech.

**Would you recommend other students to participate in this competition?**

I would highly recommend this competition. It's a great opportunity for you to become a better writer and to

share your thoughts on something that you care about. The semi-finals were also very exciting to attend because you get to meet your fellow competitors from all over Canada. It was a privilege for me to be able to listen to their speeches.

**What would you say to another student wanted to participate next year?**

What you have to say matters—don't be afraid to share your voice!

Another example of the perseverance of Lasallian excellence is seen in Lambert's application and admission to Oxford for Theology and Religion at St. Benet's Hall College. Oxford applicants are taken through a rigorous process to find the best fit, which is very different from the Ontario Universities' Application Centre (OUAC) process that student services walks us through for in-province, and even in-country applications.

**How did the process differ from Ontario applications?**

Oxford University requires grades, a reference letter, and a personal statement, which must be a convincing demonstration of the applicant's involvement in the chosen subject (an intense process of many drafts and extensive reading). Additionally, an exam or written work is required. Successful applicants are invited to academic interviews with professors, which are nerve-racking and intimidating but nonetheless a unique and gratifying experience. In my case, it involved sight-passage analyses and subject-specific questions. The application deadline is mid-October, interviews are in early December, and results are released in mid-January. Overall, constancy, determination, and perseverance were most important. Oxford admissions' distinguishing mark is their holistic and rigorous nature.

**Why did you apply to Oxford? Does it offer anything that you cannot find at a Canadian school?**

As my preoccupation with the subject developed, I began researching the best theology programs; Oxford came as a very attractive challenge, having topped world university rankings in this domain. Beyond the university's unparalleled prestige, I was attracted to its rich course content and the unique tutorial system. I thus began to prepare my application, which was a demanding but rewarding five-month process. I received invaluable help from my parents, teachers, and counsellors. Furthermore, the university's cultural heritage is uniquely magnificent, whether in architecture, libraries, art, tradition, or history.

**In your opinion, what are the benefits of studying internationally? What are the drawbacks?**

Studying internationally opens the door to novel, enriching experiences. Academic tradition, excellence in a particular subject area, uniqueness and character—all important factors to consider, and international universities offer value and variety in these respects. As for the drawbacks, separation from family can be difficult; and although a new life in a foreign world can be an adventure, it can also be a great challenge.

**What advice would you give to students who are looking to apply to international schools?**

Seek guidance and counsel from family, teachers, counsellors, and friends. Consider the importance of this choice as a way toward maturity, flourishing, and establishing your role in society. Think comprehensively and prayerfully.





## Off-Campus

## Food, Fridges, and Feminism

By Vanessa Cuiuri, Grade 11

As much as hunger and food insecurity is a human rights issue, it is a feminist issue. Across the globe, women suffer from systemic forms of hunger and poverty, and the injustices allotted to these specific areas are ignored in mainstream society. Instead, we view starvation, malnutrition, and hunger as other-country issues when they exist among our own communities. Our efforts are propelled by momentary virtuous instincts, as in times of holiday when hunger may take the front seat in our moral agenda, but the issue falls back into ignorance the rest of the year. There is still a constant need for food stamps, food banks, and free school lunches, but essential funding and necessary rhetoric are minimal. The struggle to survive daily evades commonly found privilege in our culture; poverty is costumed as purposeful when there are scarce and limited options for survival. For example, communities that lack access to grocers with fresh, affordable produce are found amid food deserts beyond their ability to escape. A food desert refers to an area where sufficient availability of safe food is missing, but delving deeper into the concept of food insecurity and poverty; a 'food desert' may refer to a situation that disables people from accessing food, even if it is available. To illustrate, this means living near a grocery store but not being able to afford transportation or product costs. The inquiries: what is it costs vs. what is affordable and what is needed vs. what is available influence the fundamental rights of livelihood.

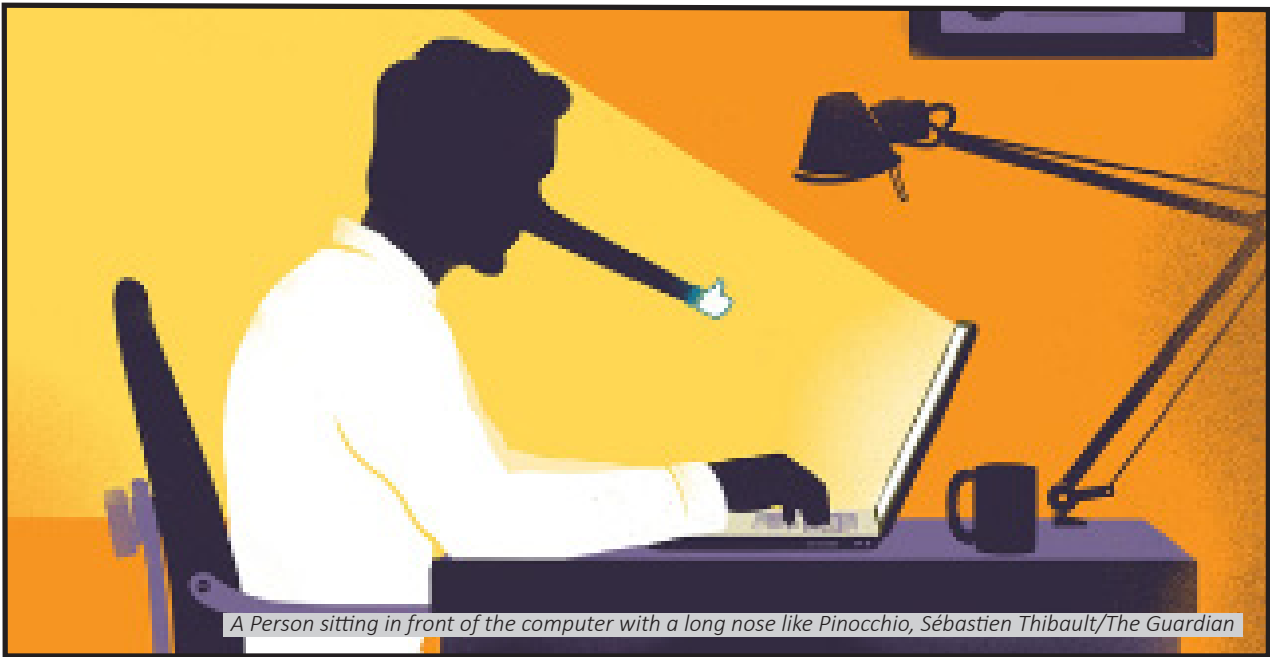
Resolving women's poverty is a crucial feminist issue. Interrogating the lack of support for poor women reveals itself within government to feminist groups. Government benefits like Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and nutrition assistance for women, infants, and children (WIC), are beneficial, but welfare as a whole must be reworked to be less conditional and punitive to being equitable for all living conditions. Food welfare systems have a myriad of eligibility standards and barriers that prevent people from receiving help. Temporary increase of income or inability to work—for any personal, health, or caretaking means—may mean losing benefits. Thus, losing aid reinserts people into the cycle of poverty and unemployment that they were initially seeking haven from. Further, welfare benefits and food stamps are not eligible for products like diapers, cleaning supplies, menstrual products, or household supplies. Needing supplemental service should be accessible and equitable, not a matter of shame or embarrassment.

Food policing places most harm on low-income houses, where the most affordable food on shelves are non-perishable, often "unhealthy" choices. Buying for food intolerances or allergies, like dairy-free or gluten-free options, or organic foods, have significantly raised price tags. Contrarily, long-lasting, affordable shelf staples, like sodas, face additional taxes. Soda tax has been implemented under the premise of combatting obesity; however, there are no restrictions or shame placed on other high-sugar, higher-priced items, like flavoured coffees or sports drinks.

Interrogating what constitutes support in our communities will lead to calling responsibilities from our governments as well as placing stress on inter-community tasks. For example, community fridges and gardens will directly improve hunger and malnutrition circumstances, while reducing wastefulness. Community fridges, like Haven Toronto, redirect privilege and wealth by taking surplus produce from homes and restaurants and share them with people in need. It works in a 'take what you need, leave what you can' concept, and allows for direct initiatives against food insecurities and disparities. Community gardens also present possibilities for fresh foods in communities in environmentally safe and affordable ways.



*Haven Toronto community fridge on College street, Haven Toronto*



*A Person sitting in front of the computer with a long nose like Pinocchio, Sébastien Thibault/The Guardian*

## **“In Plain Sight”: Ingesting and Recognizing Bias in Media as Students**

By Bianca Tri, Grade 12

Did you know that the roller coaster was invented during the Hundred Years' War as a way of launching supplies across rivers? Well, of course not, because this statement is entirely false. If you nodded off this article without reading the rest, maybe you would believe the "fun fact" to be true. Such is the case for your average media consumer; rarely do we ingest content and stop to think about what is in the metaphorical nutrition information of that knowledge. Recognizing bias in the world of ubiquitous data is not a lesson always taught, but one that is desperately needed. Before I give you tips on how to recognize bias in the media, let's take a look at just a few types of bias there are.

## 1. Bias in the source

This kind of bias is one of the more apparent kinds. Everything that is written must have an author, and if there isn't one credited, then that source is likely not trustworthy. Source bias deals with the relationship between an interest group and the media produced. For example, a company that deals with pharmaceuticals and an independent researcher will create vastly different papers on the same subject. Often, political groups, private companies, and even the government will create press releases that favour their agenda to influence the public.

## 2. Bias in the statistics

This bias is any factor that favours certain outcomes or responses, and; systematically skews the survey results. Statistical bias comes in many forms, such as non-response bias (when groups are underrepresented), response bias (when wrong answers are given in a survey on purpose), etc. This is mostly a result of flaws in sampling models, but statistical bias can occur after the information is collected, during interpretation. There are many ways to show data, and as discussed in the previous point, the author will want to represent information in a way that suits their cause.

### 3. Bias by use of language

Diction can make all the difference. In this kind of bias, choice of wording can be a sign of bias. An author may choose to describe someone as a “terrorist” or a “freedom fighter,” and that choice influences that perspective. We must also consider the source of certain definitions; official definitions of words like “terrorism” are written in ways that target minority groups. This is a form of stereotyped language.

Now the question is, how can we break it down? Well, there is no actual way to avoid bias. The average news outlet and everyday person have biases. Impartial journalism is impossible. The next best thing is recognizing it and understanding why it is there. Read the media you consume very carefully; acknowledge the emotions or information you get out of it and ask yourself why you did. Check sources and compare data on the

same topic. It's beneficial to see what is lacking in one source and addressed in another, and vice versa. With the internet's targeting systems, it is easier to see information that agrees with your views and harder to view the opposite. Last but not least, at the end of the day, you have to form your own opinion. Do not let someone else pull the wool over your eyes! Even if it is this article, which, of course, you can choose to believe as accurate or not. If you question anything stated in what I've told you, then I taught you well.

# Oakleaves

## Summer 2021 Edition

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Thank you to all of the contributors to this edition of Oakleaves, especially our graduating Grade 12's!



## Off-Campus / Honest Brakeman



## NASA Space Shuttle 40th Anniversary: A Look at Some of NASA's Space Achievements

By Emma Grierson, Grade 12

April 12th, 2021, marks the 40th anniversary of NASA's 'STS-1' Columbia space shuttle mission. 'STS-1' was humanity's first reusable space shuttle in history, marking a new era in human spaceflight and pushing the boundaries for space discovery at the time. The shuttle lifted off in Florida at NASA's Kennedy Space Centre. Aboard the flight was commander John W. Young and pilot Robert L. Crippen, whose mission was to demonstrate the safe launch of the shuttle into orbit and their safe return. While in orbit, Columbia helped construct what is widely known as the International Space Station. To mark this occasion, let's look at a few of NASA's past accomplishments that have laid the groundwork for the agency's past, future, and current programs.

The Hubble Space Telescope (HST) has proved to be one of the most scientifically important objects ever built. The HST has provided scientists with crystal clear pictures of our Universe that have confirmed over 15,000 discoveries. The HST lets us watch our Universe expand in a way we could have imagined!

The Juno Spacecraft is one of a few man-made objects to pass through the asteroid belt and make its way to orbiting around Jupiter in an elliptical fashion! Juno's mission is to observe and study various aspects of Jupiter, including its atmosphere and gravitational fields. Thanks to the data Juno has collected, we now know more about Jupiter than ever before!

Curiosity, the Mars Rover, is a \$2.5 billion plutonium generated six-wheeled rover that collects data on mars and tweets occasionally. Curiosity has discovered incredible things like evidence of liquid water and organic molecules that could have once existed on the planet! Thanks to Curiosity, our next step is figuring out how to bring a human

to mars!

Apollo 11 was NASA's first successful mission to get America to the moon. After 10 failed missions that cost three astronauts their lives, on July 20th, 1969, Apollo 11 successfully landed men on the moon. Almost 530 million people watched as Neil Armstrong stood on the moon and said, "one small step for man, one giant leap for mankind." This event is widely known and is regarded as one of the most, if not the most, well-known space event in history.

The 'STS-1' Columbia space shuttle mission paved the way for many opportunities in space discovery and exploration. NASA is responsible for some of the greatest moments in scientific and social history, and when the anniversary of these events come around, it's crucial to celebrate these successes all over again!

## Women's World Hockey Championship in Nova Scotia Cancelled due to COVID-19 Concerns

By Skye Reid-Calder, Grade 12

AShock and disappointment triggered a swirl of emotions on Wednesday, April 22. Players found out that the May 6-16 Women's World Hockey Championship, in Halifax and Truro, N.S., was cancelled because of COVID-19 concerns. In two days, they had gone from nervously anticipating the announcement of the World Championship roster to standing around baggage carousels feeling disheartened.

All systems seemed 'go' for the Women's World Championship in Nova Scotia when Premier Iain Rankin pulled the plug over concerns of the increasing numbers of COVID-19 cases and the other variants in the province. He withdrew permission for the 11-day tournament less than a day after his chief medical officer expressed support for it. "I sincerely regret the short notice, but the rapidly changing environment dictates this decision in the interest of the safety of Nova Scotians and participants," Rankin said.

Our school guidance counsellor, Ms. Richards, plays alongside many members of the Canadian National Women's Hockey Team, and a number of her teammates were in Nova Scotia to represent Canada. She explains that 60 Canadian athletes were selected to travel to Nova Scotia for an opportunity to compete in the World Championships. "Prior to traveling, all members were required to provide a negative COVID-19 test to ensure the safety of the province as well as all competitors." Once in Nova Scotia, athletes were tested every second day to ensure they were negative before stepping on the ice. Every country competing had a private source of travel following their

own quarantine in their country and were to enter the 8 day isolation period before World Championships. All in all, athletes would have had to provide 11 consecutive negative Covid tests before competing.”

The strict protocols put in place and Nova Scotia's chief medical officer, Robert Strang, giving his approval for the tournament a day earlier sharpened the sting for the Canadian women. The 2020 Women's Championship in Nova Scotia had also been cancelled because of COVID-19. Canada's women's team has played a total of five international games in the last two years. This year's tournament would have been the last before the 2022 Winter Olympics in Beijing. Ms. Richards says, "I am very lucky to play alongside many members of the Canadian National Women's Hockey Team and know the amount of work and dedication they put into the sport. They are a resilient group that has worked day in and day out to be able to compete on a grand stage and showcase the sport." Putting in so much hard work only to have their championships cancelled adds even more to their disappointment.

Many people feel that International Women's Hockey has been affected by the pandemic in a way that International Men's Hockey has not. For example, this year's Men's Under-18 Championship starts Monday in Frisco, Texas, and the Men's World Championship is scheduled to start in less than a month in Riga, Latvia. In contrast, in January, the World Under-18 Women's Championship in Sweden was cancelled. When asked about this disparity, Ms. Richards expressed the view that "unfortunately, the decision to cancel world championships is yet another example of the inequities women's sports face. While I can't speak directly about what the IIHF does behind the scenes, optically, they have bent over backwards with backup plans for men's tournaments and let women's hockey down." IIHF chief, Rene Fasel, said the focus is now on rescheduling the tournament possibly to this summer and holding it in either Nova Scotia, elsewhere in Canada, or finding another host nation. While the International Ice Hockey Federation and Hockey Canada vow to hold the Women's Championship in Canada this year, when they will play a game that isn't intra-squad is a question that continues to go unanswered.



## What's in My Bag?

By Nicole De Jesus, Grade 10

I carry a fairly small bag, yet it can carry everything I need. When I take my rare ventures outside, I really only bring a few things - and those items may surprise you.

First of all, it is vital, crucial, to bring sanitizer. I consider sanitizer to be a staple bag item because of how fashionable the containers are, but surprisingly they can also be used for portable hand washing - what an invention! Contrary to popular belief, aliens do live amongst us and they are called 'bacteria.' Bacteria are the infamous tiny organisms that can be good for us or very, very bad. They can cause infections and serious diseases. Did you know that a phone carries about 10 times more bacteria than a toilet seat?



toilet seat?  
I shudder  
trying to  
visualize  
what my  
phone  
would look  
like under a  
microscope.  
This is why

sanitizer, which kills bacteria, is important. Then I have my essential items lumped in between two pockets. One pocket has my keys, my earphones, and my gum. The other pocket has my phone (10 times more bacteria than a toilet seat!).

The next most important thing is a mask. Not only are masks 'à la mode,' but they are also great for covering bad make-up days, hiding insecurities, and preventing getting infected by an extremely contagious virus. What a win-win situation! Nothing looks better with a De La Salle blazer than a matching De La Salle mask. I also like to carry around an extra mask in the event that my main mask is unavailable, or worse, it doesn't match my bag!

Finally, the pièce de résistance of any bag I have packed this year is the most brilliant thing money can buy - socks. This year has simply not been a great time for social gatherings, and it is undeniable that all types of gatherings play a dangerous part in the spread of COVID-19. Although sanitizer and masks protect me, the safest thing I could do at this time is just stay home and wear my socks.

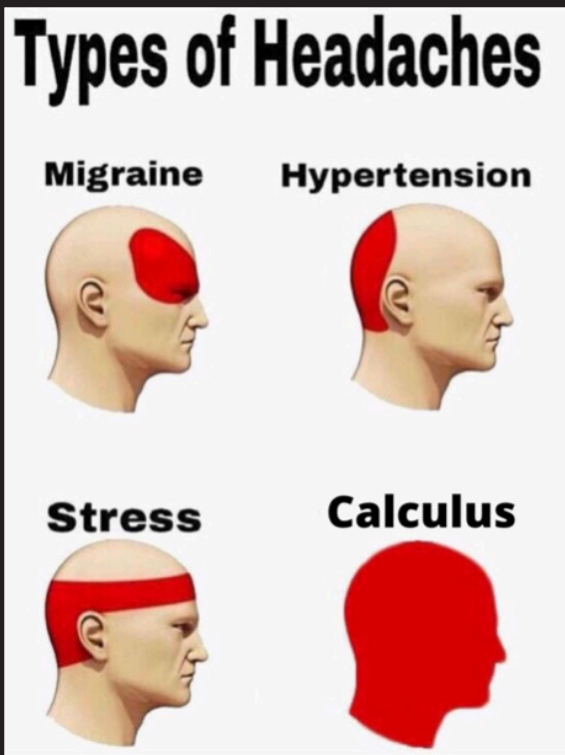
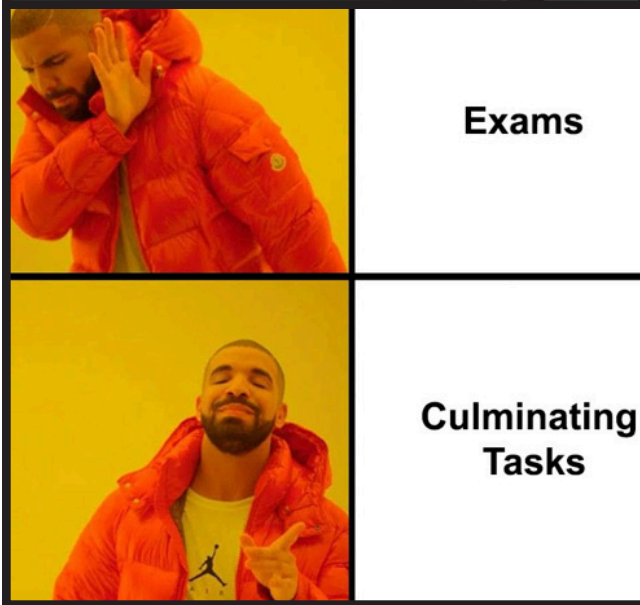


10 OakLeaves-ATraditionSince1931



# Honest Brakeman

Another Day, Another Del Meme  
By Jack Cambell and Taylor Dellelce, Grade 12



Del Horoscopes  
By Elise Cressatti, Grade 12



**Aries (March 21st—April 19th)**  
Aries, it's time for all your hard work and ambition to pay off! Your dedication to your work is impressive, and you'll thrive in this high-stress time. However, you shouldn't skip out some relaxation time this month. You won't be able to see the fruits of your labour if you're too tired to keep your eyes open.




**Taurus (April 20th—May 20th)**  
Taurus, your consistent and stubborn personality will come in handy as you persevere through some nasty finals this month. Just don't forget that you can let some things go; getting stuck on one issue won't help you finish the whole work. If you keep trying your best and go with the flow, and you're going to see some very impressive results!




**Gemini (May 21st—June 20th)**  
Gemini, it's time to focus! Your creativity and passion will help you ace those exams, but make sure that you're staying on task this month. As tempting as it is to dedicate yourself entirely to one or two courses you love, you should still work just as hard in those other less fun courses. Stay engaged this month and you're sure to be a total success!




**Cancer (June 21st—July 22nd)**  
Cancer, exam season can be rough for someone as sensitive to detail as you. Your astuteness and care can be the keys to your success, but be careful to not get sucked into a spiral of perfectionism. Remember to take care of yourself during these stressful last couple of weeks; you deserve it!



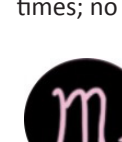
**Leo (July 23rd—August 23rd)**  
Leo, with exam season coming up, your proud and dedicated personality are sure to shine. But remember, it's fine to need some help sometimes too. Feel free to join a tutorial, ask a classmate for any missing notes, or review the class material with a friend. Don't forget that we're all in this together!



**Virgo (August 23rd—September 22nd)**  
Virgo, your intense dedication will be a great asset this month. Working hard will get you some great results, but there can be more than one way to approach these finals. Relax a bit and embrace some creativity this exam season; it'll give you and your teachers something new to read!



**Libra (September 23rd—October 22nd)**  
Libra, your knack for balance and harmony will come in handy as you approach exams this year. Your talent for staying on top of so many things at once will help you get those high averages in all your subjects. But be careful to not let yourself become too focused on acing everything at all times; no one's perfect!



**Scorpio (October 23rd—November 21st)**  
Scorpio, you're going to get through this month no matter how difficult it can be. While finals may feel like the end of the world, your determination will surely carry you to a report card full of A's. During those long hours of essay grinding, remember to take care of yourself as much as you can!



**Sagittarius (November 22nd—December 17th)**  
Sagittarius, I know that exam season can feel constrictive at times to your unique self. Don't worry too much though; you're amazing creativity will shine through in your work, and your teachers will be happy to see your brilliant thoughts. And if you just keep doing your best and get through these finals, you are guaranteed a summer full of exciting freedom!



**Capricorn (December 22nd—January 19th)**  
Capricorn, although exams will be hard, your can-do attitude is going to keep you sailing through them. Your inner strength (and maybe some coffee!) will help you persevere through the late-night study sessions and early-morning exam essays. Don't forget to make time to check in with your friends.



**Aquarius (January 20th—February 18th)**  
Aquarius, summer is just around the corner! You'll have plenty of time to explore all your interesting hobbies then, so getting through these finals is paramount. If you can channel some of that amazing passion into these exams, you've got a great report card to look forward to as well!

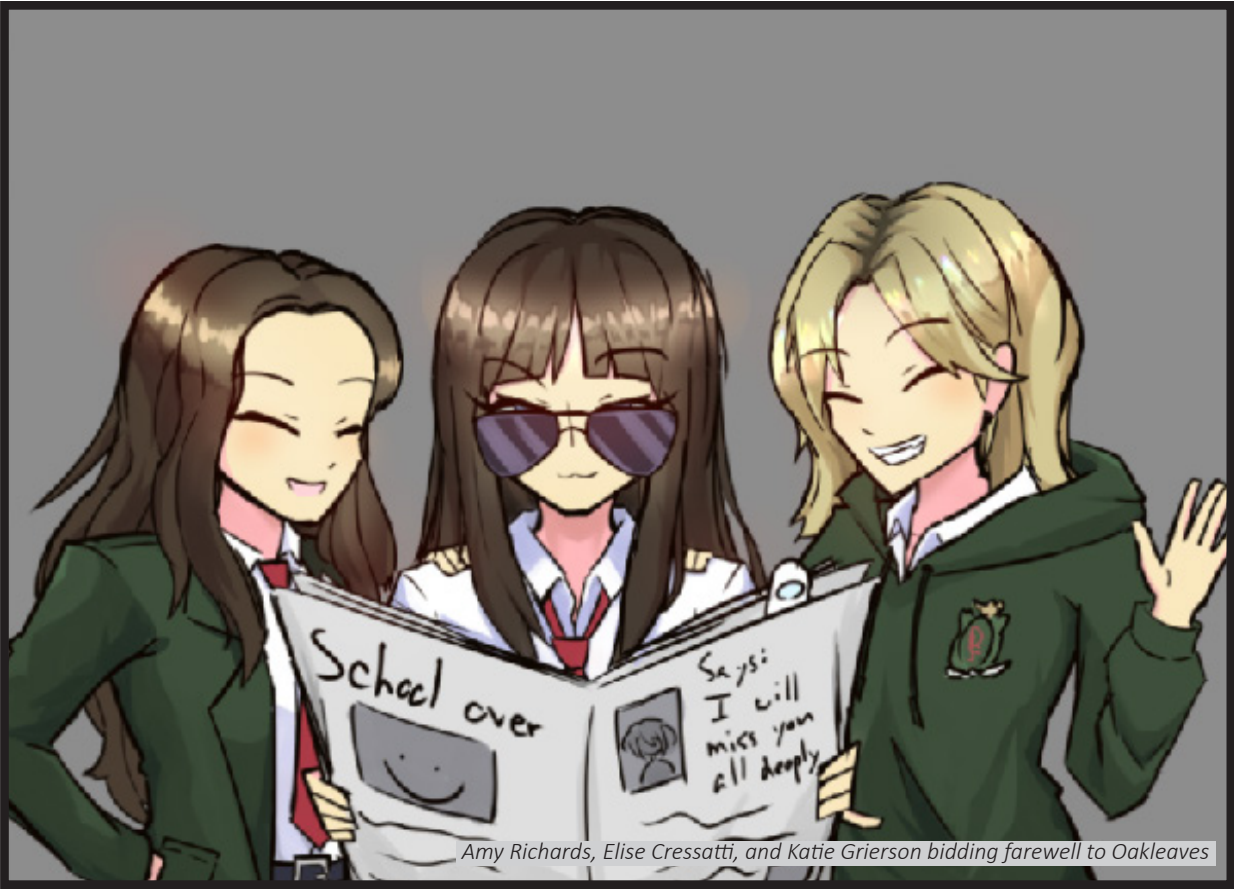


**Pisces (February 19th—March 20th)**  
Pisces, it's time to get down to business. Your ability to adapt and innovate will help you produce some very clever essays this exam season, but it's important that you put pen to the paper and turn all those wonderful ideas of yours into reality. If you remember how to stay productive, you'll surely impress all your teachers!

Zodiac images, Cheri Marshall/thevastathens.com



# Thank You For Another Year of Oakleaves!



**From the Editors-in-Chief:**

This year has been full of uncertainty and challenges, but through it all the newspaper has been a constant source of creativity and connection among the student body. As the editors we are so grateful for everyone who played a part in the newspaper, big or small. We would like to especially thank Mr. Lombardi for giving us both freedom in our leadership and support when needed. As well, a special shout-out to Elise Cressatti, who single-handedly was responsible for the layout; we couldn't have done it without you. We can't wait to see how the legacy of Oak Leaves carries on.

-Katie Grierson and Amy Richards

**From the Future of Oakleaves:**

Communication connects emotion and expression in a time where we cannot physically be together. The Oak Leaves newspaper has provided us with an opportunity to facilitate broader change, create personal relationships, and sustain a space for conversation. We would like to thank Mr. Lombardi for trusting our abilities and appreciating our work. We would also like to thank Amy Richards, Katie Grierson, and Elise Cressatti for their leadership and support. We cannot wait to be a part of the future of Oak Leaves!

-Vanessa Cuiuri and Elena De Tommaso

**CROSSWORD: Do or Del!**

By Mateo Baldocchi, Grade 10

**ACROSS**

- 1. De La Salle's yearbook
- 5. Enter to " \_\_\_\_ "
- 6. School "nickname"
- 9. De La Salle Team name
- 10. De La Salle's annual campaign
- 12. Last Year's NBA champions
- 14. De La Salle's sports league
- 16. The street De La Salle is located on
- 17. De La Salle's bookclub

**DOWN**

- 2. Where we have mass
- 3. De La Salle's newspaper
- 4. One of our national sports
- 7. Leave to " \_\_\_\_ "
- 8. Toronto's Hockey team
- 11. Canada's capital
- 13. Relating to education and scholarship
- 15. De La Salle alumni in "The Matrix"

