



Blood drive honoring former staff member deemed a success

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# The Quill

Fri., April 28, 2023

Vol. 59, No. 7

HBO series *The Last of Us* expands the world of the popular video game

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Robbinsdale Cooper High School

chs.rdale.org/families/the-quill

8230 47th Ave. N., New Hope, MN 55428

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Hawks compete at state events

While Cooper athlete Bright Deku (12) made it to the state tournament in wrestling, Rowan Tierney (11) competed at state in swimming

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## DEBATE TEAM ENJOYS SUCCESSFUL STATE RUN



Photo by DJ BRYNTESON

Owen Sandlund (left) and Connor Brynteson were Cooper's top finishers, with Brynteson winning the Congressional Debate category.

By NOAH PLAHN  
Quill staff writer

Connor Brynteson (12) and Owen Sandlund (12) went to the Minnesota state high school debate tournament together in their final year at Cooper. They both competed on January 13-14 at the University of Minnesota, where they took part in the Congressional Debate category. Brynteson ultimately won state in his debate category.

Students had to prepare for 23 potential topics, of which they only debated 12. The topics included both domestic and international issues, including reforming nuclear power plants, improving the U.S. power grid, regulating social media and abolishing the CIA.

Coaching the duo to their state appearance was long-time head coach Mr. Brynteson, who is also Connor Brynteson's father. Mr. Brynteson said the process

of preparing for state involved a lot of hard work.

"The first thing you need to do is get a really full understanding of each topic. Since there were so many potential topics, we broke it up into phases. First, we got a base understanding of each topic, why change would be good and why it might be bad. Then, we started prioritizing the items into which areas we believed we would debate. And, lastly, we started working on what is

the material impact of each change," he said.

Thanks to the hard work, Mr. Brynteson said the state meet went well.

"It is always amazing to have so many students compete at state. With two students from Cooper and three from Armstrong, it creates an amazing opportunity for success. The key for me is to just stay as calm as possible to be able to provide clear guidance during the long, two-day

Varsity competitors took top spots in the tournament, while younger debaters also did well

tournament. At the end, it's always exciting to sit back and reflect on the success," he said.

The team member experiencing the most success this year was Connor Brynteson. Last year, he won the state championship and was looking to go back-to-back this year, which he did. Brynteson explained that he did many things during the regular season to set himself up for a state run.

"During the regular season, I kind of went into tournaments with the mindset of I need to work on one thing specifically. I wasn't just going to tournaments and trying to win. Obviously, the goal is to always place first and do the best I can, but there's always little things you can improve on," he said.

Connor Brynteson said there were several things that happened during sections that allowed him to qualify for state.

"I did some of the best speaking that I've ever done, personally. Mainly, it came down to the fact that I was very prepared and I did a lot of research beforehand knowing that I was going to have a target on my back because I did very well last year," he said.

After qualifying at sections, Connor Brynteson

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## Service event helped those facing hunger

IB students made more than 430 sandwiches through an initiative connected to the Sandwich Project Organization



Photo by KARI CHRISTENSEN

The meals were made over the course of two school days during HLL.

By SHENG VANG  
Quill staff writer

International Baccalaureate (IB) Coordinator Ms. Christensen and IB Administrative Assistant Ms. Meyer hosted a sandwich service project event at Cooper on March 6 and 7 during which students made meals for

area food shelves and earned service hours for IB.

The meal-making event was connected to the Sandwich Project Organization. According to that group's website, the sandwich project is an event that serves "those with food insecurity through bringing community volunteers and community partners together."

This year is the first time the project took place at Cooper. Christensen and Meyer had previous experience with the event at Lakeview Elementary School and Robbinsdale Middle School and decided to bring this on-site opportunity to Cooper for the IB Diploma candidates to earn service hours for their CAS requirements. Later, the event was opened up so that other interested Cooper students could participate.

According to Christensen, the event was a "huge success." During the four HLL sessions over two days that the project took place, there were 10 students for each session, which resulted in a total of 40 students. Overall, more than 430 sandwiches were made by the volunteers during the sessions.

"After review, we feel that, for future events, students would be able to make up to 250 sandwiches per day in this time frame assuming that we have the appropriate donations," Christensen said.

Despite this being the first time the event occurred at Cooper, Meyer said they were able to achieve their goals. Both staff and students were able to benefit and they had memorable experiences during the event. Meyer noted that those people who participated in the event were "excited to give back to their community."

"Students were thrilled and eager to do the event again," she said.

Two IB Diploma candidates, Kameron Fox (11) and Trynceston Lee

**SERVICE EVENT** continues on page 2

## March gun threat prompted heightened security at Cooper

An anonymous online post promising violence at school led to bag checks, presence of New Hope police officers on March 15

By JESSE GARCIA  
Quill staff writer

A Snapchat post on the evening of March 14 threatening violence at Cooper prompted increased security at school the morning of March 15. Included in the security was the presence of extra New Hope police officers in the building and a mandatory check of all students' bags as they entered the building.

"Please know that we take all threats seriously and we will fully investigate any perceived threat made at or about our school, our staff or our students," Head Principal Ms. Smith said in a statement on March 15. "Sharing inappropriate content or threats in school and/or on social media can have real-life consequences, including suspension and criminal charges."

School administrators were made aware of the

threatening post by a student who saw it on Snapchat.

"We're thankful someone reported what they saw to school staff," Smith said.

Due to the disruption to the normal morning routine on March 15, attendance was not taken during first period, which gave staff and police officers time to check every student's bags. Additionally, open lunch was cancelled, and students were given the chance to eat in the Community Gym foyer to allow for additional space. All other school procedures were normal throughout the day.

Smith said the district discussed possibility cancelling school for the day after the post was discovered but decided against it.

"We were looking for a way to keep our students safe without cancelling the day as a whole," she said.

Leading to that decision was the fact that the post did not seem convincingly severe. While many students

went home when they saw the bag-check lines or did not come to school in the first place, Smith said the extra security helped keep the potential threat away. She said she gives credit to the students themselves that the day went as smoothly as possible.

While school did eventually run as usual on March 15, Smith said she recognizes that, in the future, the response to a similar emergency will need to be fine-tuned. This is most clearly showcased by the wait time students experienced when arriving at the building. Many students were entirely absent during first period because there wasn't enough staff to check the student bags quickly. Additionally, most of the staff members who were checking bags had never before performed such a task.

"We'll hopefully have more help from law enforcement in the future to have bag checks be handled in a smooth and professional manner," Smith said.

## Hawks used their spring break in different ways

From music tours to working part-time jobs, the time away from school was well spent

By SHENG VANG  
Quill staff writer

Right after third quarter ends, spring break begins. As Cooper students returned to school to start their last quarter for the year, many shared what they did on their one week-long time off.

**Noemi Gonzalez Ruiz (12)**  
“Over spring break, I babysat my nephew and saw my family.”

**Alleyn Syverson (10)**  
“I went to Hawaii over spring break and my favorite part about going there was seeing all the wild chickens on the island.”

**Adrian Her (9)**  
“I slept over at my cousin’s house over the break.”

**Gian Ventura (11)**  
“I caught up on sleep and celebrated my mother’s birthday.”

**Kindric Yang (11)**  
“I went on the orchestra trip to Kansas City over the break. My favorite part of the trip was hanging out with friends.”

**Bee Adams (10)**  
“Over spring break, I went to Sioux Falls in South Dakota. I went to a butterfly enclosure and all the butterflies landed on me, which was really cool.”

**Natalie Yang (12)**  
“I went to the Mad Hatter Cafe in Anoka with my mom and aunt for brunch. I had tea for the first time and ate Swedish meatballs, which was really good. The place was also very nice and fancy. Everything was in gold, [including] the plates and stuff. There was vintage wallpaper around the buildings and it was like *Alice in Wonderland*.”

**Gianna Lee (9)**  
“I watched *Gilmore Girls* and celebrated my birthday over the break.”

**Jasmine Lee (9)**  
“Over spring break, I did a lot of spring cleaning and organizing.”

**Amanda Xiong (12)**  
“I stayed home and played the game *Resident Evil 4*.”

**Ariana Ramos (10)**  
“I got my ears pierced and hung out with my friends.”

**Sofia Swanson (10)**  
“I hung out with friends and hung out at my sister’s house for a few nights.”

**Gabriel Gamligo (12)**  
“I slept and made cheesecake over spring break, but the cheesecake didn’t turn out well.”

**Emily Carrilo (11)**  
“What I did over spring break was I picked up some extra shifts at work, I went on a double date to the Science Museum and celebrated my dad’s birthday.”

**Amy Vue (11)**  
“I did not do much, but my family celebrated my brother’s birthday.”

**Leah Blanchette (10)**  
“I went on the orchestra trip to Kansas City and hung out with friends daily over spring break.”

Whether you did absolutely nothing or did absolutely everything over the break, it is good to get some rest before the school year ends. However, now that we are back in school and only have a few more weeks to go, let’s finish this year off nice and strong.

## Health careers course available in fall

The elective class, which is offered by the health department, gives Hawks a glimpse of many different fields of work



Photo by SHENG VANG

Ms. Kubista is one of the teachers who will be working with students in the health careers course next year.

By LA'SHAYA TAYLOR  
Quill staff writer

Thinking about a career in health? Cooper will be offering a health careers course next school year. According to Ms. Kubista, who will be teaching the class, the course is designed to help students expand their knowledge of health care and determine if they wish to pursue a career in health care after high school.

“We will explore options and pathways for health careers as well as safety practices and legal and ethical issues that may arise in these careers,” she said. “We will expand on knowl-

edge as it relates to anatomy, body systems, human growth development, bedside manner, patients bill of rights, medication use and administration, as well as medical terminology. Students will practice assessing vital signs along with first aid, CPR and AED use.”

Most summatives and formatives will consist of quizzes and practicing techniques. Kubista said she tries to emphasize giving students more “voice and choice” when it comes to class assignments.

“Some formatives will consist of short quizzes to check for student knowledge quickly, while others will be more about practicing the techniques

learned in class,” Kubista said. “In previous years, one of the summative projects was to compare and contrast two health insurance plans to see who ends up paying more money after two sisters with two different health insurance plans got in a serious skiing accident.”

Kubista said the course is taught in the modern classroom format.

“Within each unit, there are pages with slideshows, teacher video recordings, articles and supplemental videos to help you learn the material,” Kubista said. “There will also be class discussions, assignments and quizzes, which are embedded into each unit of study. Along with these more

traditional approaches to education, there will also be time for hands-on learning, which will include field trips to a local college and hospital to learn more about different healthcare careers, as well as practice with first aid, CPR, AEDs and basic hospital equipment.”

One thing Kubista said she enjoys about the class is the ability to guide students through unique class activities. For example, she said one lesson will involve students getting into groups of three or four and then choosing “a body system to become an expert in.”

Joining the course could be of benefit to students considering a job in the health care industry, according to Kubista.

“There are many education pathways someone can take to pursue a career in healthcare and it doesn’t need to involve a lot of schooling,” she said. “Pharmacy technicians can even complete their certificate in less than six months and phlebotomy technicians in less than three months. Many healthcare fields even offer the potential for an unconventional schedule, like three-day work weeks.”

Kubista also emphasized the fact that health careers can give students a chance to support their community.

“If you like to solve puzzles and dig deep into scientific research, an education in public health might help you save lives from disease outbreaks like COVID-19,” she said.

Some of the additional health care careers students in class will learn about include: speech language pathologist, pharmacist, athletic trainer, massage therapist, EMT, medical assistant, dental hygienist, radiologist, registered nurse, nurse practitioner, audiologist, veterinarian, midwife and dietician.

## Older students consider their post-graduation options

While college is the primary path that Hawks have in mind after leaving Cooper, there are other possibilities as well

By JOSEPH METZGER  
Quill staff writer

Cooper students seeking guidance on their post-secondary plans can turn to their grade-level counselor, Ms. Hough. She noted that, nowadays, there are more paths available to students than ever before, and the pressure to attend a four-year college is no longer as prevalent. Hough advises her students to explore many different interests as there is a vast array of opportunities available to them.

“If you are unsure about what to do, experiment and try a lot of things. There is so much out there,” Hough said.

The College and Career Center is a place at Cooper students can turn to when looking for potential colleges and careers. The College and Career Center also brings students different opportunities like scholarships and chances for students to see what a career is like. Mr. Rosenblum, who over-



Photo by SHENG VANG

The College and Career Center can help students make a plan for the future.

sees the center, said he works hard to make sure students have access to information about a wide array of post-graduation options.

“Two-year college, four-year college, trade school, internships, entrepreneurship, military, etc.,” he said. “We help students find

anything they need to succeed after high school.”

In addition to the College and Career Center, a resource available to students that can be helpful in figuring out what to do after high school is Xello. This is a program that assists students in discovering

potential career paths.

Current seniors have various pieces of advice for their peers who are deciding what to do next. For example, Gabriel Gamligo (12) encourages fellow students who have yet to decide their future path to speak with Hough.

“Students should talk to Ms. Hough if they are unsure about their next step,” Gamligo said.

Meanwhile, Zahir Evans (12) recommends that students take advantage of the electives offered at Cooper to “expand their options” for future careers.

For younger students at Cooper, one program that can help prepare them for their next steps is AVID. Ms. Schaffer, an AVID and physical education teacher, considers AVID to be one of the best resources for post-secondary preparation.

“AVID does so much with preparing students for the next step. AVID prepares students academically and prepares them for the real world,” Schaffer said.

## Final plans are being put in place for this year's prom

The 2023 installment of the annual event will be taking place on May 20 at 7 p.m. in the Medina Ballroom

By LA'SHAYA TAYLOR  
Quill staff writer

Are you a senior or junior who is ready for a night of singing, dancing, food and fun? That is great because Cooper’s annual prom is right around the corner.

The 2023 edition of prom will be held in the Medina Ballroom on May 20 at 7 p.m.

“It’s always a really fun night of dancing, friends and food,” English teacher and prom advisor Ms. Obranovich said. “Seeing everyone dressed up is

the best. It’s one of those once-in-a-lifetime nights that you should experience if you’re able to.”

Helping make the prom night possible is the work of students on the prom committee. Obranovich sent out a questionnaire in late winter to members of the senior class seeking people who wish to join the group. According to Obranovich, committee members make major decisions about various aspects of prom.

“Committee members will have input on food selection,

theme selections, decorations and help to promote prom and sell tickets,” Obranovich said.

Obranovich encourages people to join the committee because it helps make the event more attuned to the opinions of the students attending the event.

“It’s a fun way to meet new people and learn what planning a large scale party is all about,” Obranovich said.

In addition to overseeing the committee planning the event, Obranovich also serves as one of the prom chaperones, which she

said is a fun part of the job.

“My favorite part about prom is seeing all the beautiful outfits, hairstyles and accessories. Everyone is just happy and having a good time together,” Obranovich said.

As the date of the event draws closer, many Cooper students are purchasing their tickets and making their plans for the evening. One student who plans on attending is Jayla Richey (12).

“I’m attending prom because it’s my first and last time to experience prom,” she said.

## SERVICE EVENT HELPED THOSE FACING HUNGER continued from page 1

(11), said the event was beneficial in the way that it allowed students to try something new. They said the event was first introduced to them as part of the service requirement for their CAS project. CAS stands for creativity, activity and service.

Lee mentioned that, during

the event, everybody had similar roles in making the sandwiches. Despite that, the event was unique to Lee because he had never done anything like it before.

“It was an event that brought students together and helped each other accomplish the same goal,” Lee said.

Fox commented that he thought this event was heartwarming.

“It allowed students and staff to do something for others that others might not have. It’s a fulfilling thing that we can do to take up some of our time to help others, so I think that is very helpful,”

he said.

In all, due to the many contributions of staff, students and donors, the event was deemed by its participants to be a success.

“It was fun seeing the process, bagging everything and taking all the different meat out that people donated. It was cool,” Fox said.

## Roundelay is being readied for its May release

The yearly Cooper literary magazine features creative writing, art work submitted by students from all four grades



Photo by SHENG VANG

Overseeing production of *Roundelay* is Ms. Major (second from left), who is joined by her student staff.

By LLEWELLYN BOUTHIM  
*Quill* staff writer

Cooper’s literary arts publication, *Roundelay*, is currently being created for its annual publication at the end of the school year.

Overseeing the magazine for the first time is English teacher Ms. Major, who teaches Cooper’s creative writing course.

“I have always loved both

reading and writing, so it was a perfect fit for me,” she said. “I’m so excited that I get to work with such creative students.”

While a school publication like *The Quill* focuses on covering news content, *Roundelay* is focused on student-produced poetry, songs, short essays, short stories and art work.

“The magazine celebrates the creative voices and talent we have here at Cooper,” Major

said.

The process of getting pieces for *Roundelay* started during first semester in Major’s creative writing class, although participation in that class is not required to be involved in *Roundelay*.

“There are quite a few students who aren’t in that course who have contributed their art and writing,” Major said.

During second semester, Major said she continues to get

submissions for the publication and begins the process of assembling it through a HLL session.

“After April 28, we’ll work on compiling the art and writing pieces into magazine format,” she said. “My creative writing class will assist with this, as well as students who choose to come during HLL.”

While details for an exact release date are still being decided, Major said she expects *Roundelay* to be released in early-to-mid May. She said the magazine will be published in both print and digital formats.

“There is something special about reading and seeing art work from a physical copy of a text,” she said.

Students who are interested in submitting work to *Roundelay* can email their writing, photography and art to olivia\_major@rdale.org or they can hand in a copy of their work to Major in room 244. Meanwhile, students who are interested in designing the magazine can contact Major or sign up for her HLL session during April and May to get involved.

“I know that we have very talented people here at Cooper,” she said. “The magazine is another way to show off your talent and express yourself. And, of course, being published in the school’s literary magazine might look good on a resume.”

## Students share their wishes for next principal

While Ms. Smith is currently in the principal role, who will lead the school next year is unclear

By REANA GREEN  
*Quill* staff writer

The retirement of Cooper Head Principal Dr. Hemman on February 28 had many students wondering who the new principal would be. This was answered on March 1 when Assistant Principal Ms. Smith became head principal on an interim basis.

Although Smith will lead Cooper through the end of this school year, it is still unknown what will happen next year. Many students wonder what might become of Hemman’s legacy and whether a new principal will be able to fill his shoes. Meanwhile, other students are hopeful for some changes heading into the 2023-2024 school year.

In order to gauge how Hawks are feeling about the change in principals, 15 Cooper students were asked to take the same poll about what characteristics they want to see in a new principal. Of the students surveyed, 14 out of 15 said they preferred having a person of color in the position. Additional traits these students said they want in a principal include: someone who has a flexible schedule, someone who is willing to be flexible and negotiate with students, someone who is playful and not serious all of the time, someone who is authentic and is comfortable being themselves, and someone who gets involved with students and is easily accessible rather than staying in their office all day.

Students responding to the survey also shared their ideas about the demographic traits of a new principal, with 60 percent preferring a woman and 73 percent preferring a younger person. Meanwhile, 53 percent said they want someone with a large imagination, 96 percent said they want someone focused on school spirit and extracurriculars, 80 percent said they want someone humble about their life and accomplishments so that they can relate to students more while also inspiring them, 73 percent said they want a person that will respect Cooper’s origins while also changing what needs to be changed, and 66 percent said they want a person who is open to letting students get to know them rather than being closed off.

Of the students surveyed, four 11th graders agreed that they want a principal who has more interactions with students, specifically more positive interactions.

“It would make school more comfortable,” Cortez Baker (11) said.

Agreeing with Baker was Anthony Salvator (11), who pointed out the importance of positive interactions.

“Involvement shows they care,” he said.

Another issue students deemed important is a new principal’s ability to communicate with young people. One hundred percent of the students surveyed said they want somebody who can shape the way they approach students based on the generation they are dealing with. Moreover, they want a principal who makes connections with students rather than just being the principal and someone who cares about students’ voices when making significant changes or decisions.

For instance, Nicholas Hott (11) said he wants somebody who can be more than a principal and “help with students’ other problems.” Similarly, Samantha Ojeda-Graves (12) said she wants someone who can “consider certain decisions based on students’ well being” and “someone who can see from different perspectives.”

Another issue pointed out by many students relates to the school’s discipline policies. Eighty-six percent of students surveyed said they want someone who is laid back but still enforces rules. As Hott put it, Cooper needs someone who is “strict in order to make the school less of a playground and more like a school.” At the same time, Hott also said he wants someone to make the school “more appealing.”

As indicated by the students surveyed, many people love Cooper and don’t want too much to be changed about the school. However, some of the respondents said there are some fixes that need to be made. For instance, AJ Sparks (11) pointed out an issue many people

## Bockhaus blood drive exceeds its donation goals

The second annual event, which is named for a former Cooper staff member, saw 40 students and staff members give blood

By LLEWELLYN BOUTHIM  
*Quill* staff writer

Cooper hosted the second annual Jane Bockhaus Memorial Blood Drive on March 6. The event’s organizers had a goal of getting 35 successful donations for the American Red Cross and ended up with 40.

The event was run by AVID coordinator Ms. Lieser and National Honor Society (NHS) advisor Ms. Kilsdonk. Lieser said this blood drive was created last year to honor the memory of Bockhaus, who worked at Cooper for 21 years before retiring as the secretary of the school’s student services area in 2021.

“She was an avid blood donor and loved college basketball, so we felt that naming the March blood drive [after her] would be a fitting combination,” Lieser said.

In addition to the Cooper students and staff members who took part in the blood drive, members of Bockhaus’ family also donated blood. In addition, these family members also put together special

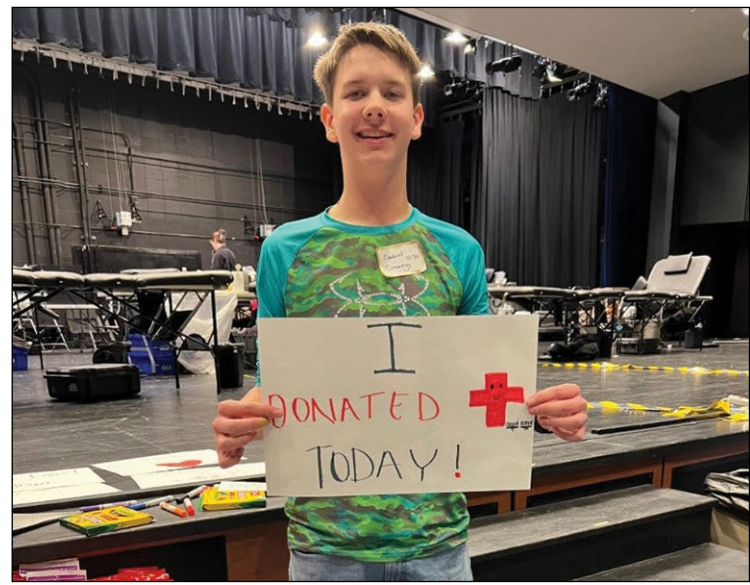


Photo by AMANDA LIESER

Gabriel Cummings (10) was one student who took part in the blood drive.

gifts for the students who volunteered to donate.

“Jane’s daughters and family participated and provided gift cards, stickers and bracelets for student donors,” Lieser said. “The gift cards were for Noodles & Company, Caribou [and] Chipotle, and then some envelopes had cash

in them.”

In addition to the work of Lieser and Bockhaus’ family in putting together the event, Kilsdonk and members of Cooper’s NHS chapter made signs, assembled “increase your iron intake” treat bags and volunteered at the event, Lieser said.

Students who donated blood had to meet several requirements in order to be eligible. First, they had to be at least 16 years old with a parent permission form to take part. However, students who were 17 years old or more could donate without a permission slip. Additionally, there were some height and weight guidelines established by the American Red Cross to make sure those people donating could do so safely.

“The general rule being you need to weigh 110 pounds to donate,” Lieser said.

While the March 6 event was the final blood drive of the current school year, Lieser said more events will take place in 2023-2024.

“Donating blood saves lives and costs you nothing but an hour of your time. Your blood can go to up to three different people, which is an incredible way to make an impact. It’s not always easy to help others, but by giving blood, you are able to help people you will never meet with what can be a life-saving donation,” she said.

## PSEO provides motivated students a chance to earn college credit

While there can be some challenges to taking college-level courses in high school, there are many benefits as well

By JOSEPH METZGER  
*Quill* staff writer

Postsecondary Enrollment Options (PSEO) at Cooper brings many benefits for students who want to experience college courses and earn college credit without spending money.

If a student is interested in PSEO, they can meet with their grade-level counselor for more information. According to Ms. Hough, who is the counselor working with seniors in PSEO, students are mainly offered two options for PSEO: Hennepin Technical College and North Hennepin Community College. However, it’s also possible for students to take PSEO classes through the University of Min-

nesota, Minneapolis College and University of Northwestern.

“Most students go to either North Hennepin Community College or Hennepin Tech, but, currently, I have students at Minneapolis College, the U of M and Northwestern,” Hough said.

The benefits for students who take PSEO classes are that they are able to earn college credits while they are still in high school and they are taking the courses for free, which allows them to save money. Hough said this gives students a huge jumpstart in their college education as well as giving them the experience of college life.

“The greatest benefit is that students have the opportunity to

earn college credits for free, so they save money and time when they do go to college,” Hough said.

While PSEO offers many benefits to students, there are still some drawbacks. Hough mentioned that a student’s PSEO grades are placed on both their high school and college transcripts, which means it will have an effect on their GPA for high school and college. Hough also mentioned that students need to work independently, which may be a challenge.

“Students are on their own. What I mean is that parents can’t check grades and we at Cooper can’t check grades, so students really need to know what is happening in their classes and what

their resources are at the college,” Hough said.

According to Hough, traits that lead students to success in PSEO are organization and time management. She added that it is crucial for students to be able to manage their time since they are completely independent.

Current PSEO student Adil Hassan (12) said that his time as a PSEO student has brought him a good introduction to what college is like. Additionally, he said he really enjoyed being able to take college classes without spending any money.

“I got a good experience knowing what college can hold for me without taking the risk of losing money and time,” Hassan said.

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said he spent the time between sections and state preparing.

“Between sections and state, it really comes down to two things: one, we try to go to at least one tournament to make sure that I’m ready and prepared so that I’m no longer as rusty as I have been,

and, two, we try to do as much research on the debate topics as possible. By the end of the state tournament, I had roughly 100 pages of research,” he said.

As a result of this hard work, Connor Brynteson said state went well for him.

“During the state meet, it was a very stressful day, but it went very well and I won the state championship for the second year in a row,” he said.

Another Hawk who just competed in varsity Congressional Debate at state was Sandlund.

He said he did the necessary work during the regular season to set himself up for state.

“Mostly, [I went to] practices at Cooper and some joint practices

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PRINCIPAL continues on page 10

## Teen activism is critical but flawed

Social media helps people organize, reinforces untruths

By OWEN SANDLUND  
Quill staff writer

Life is full of complex dilemmas and hard-to-face realities. Some of these things are personal, some of these things are local in scope, and some of these things ascend to a national level. Personal dilemmas may relate to the challenge of finding one's purpose in life. Meanwhile, community challenges may involve issues that are seemingly perpetuated by the very institutions tasked with uplifting the community. Finally, the realities that are even wider in scope include issues like our broken healthcare system.

No matter which of these issues we might look at, one thing is clear to young people: we know it's our obligation to attempt to fix all of what is wrong with our society and our generation is outraged about all of it. This is not new, of course. In the past, there were youth movements about drafts, school choice and even about rock and roll. But today, we are seeing something totally different. We are well-informed citizens and we are seemingly being cheered on by large sections of society. In my opinion, young people have more power than ever before in American history and we are misusing it.

Let's talk first about how we are informed. Today, a majority of teenagers use social media as a primary source for news, with BBC reporting that the social media app Instagram alone was the most heavily used source of news for teenagers in 2022. In our school in particular, accounts like "@mnteenactivists" are widely viewed and shared among students. This access to information provides a great opportunity to young people because it's now easier than ever to advocate for our communities and to share our beliefs. In the past, corporations dominated by wealthy, predominantly privileged individuals decided the direction of public discourse, but today, we have a loud and impactful voice.

However, this advantage comes with a great responsibility. For example, controversy erupted recently around the death of Khalil Azad, a young man who was found dead following a confrontation with Robbinsdale police last year. In March, the family came forward in a press conference alleging wrongdoing on the part of the Robbinsdale Police Department and the Hennepin County Coroner's Office. This event was hardly covered by local news, so social media was eventually crucial in spreading the allegations throughout the community. This case isn't alone; every day, there are stories being crucially underreported by traditional media. This is partially a result of the death of so many smaller newspapers correlated with the rise in social media and the for-profit nature of the corporate media that makes up the other chunk of our news consumption.

At a personal level, I first heard the story about Azad at school from a friend who sent me a post from a social media account that had even misspelled his name. At the time, this was the most-seen post on the topic. Later, additional posts about the topic were made by other organizations and users on sites like Twitter and Instagram. For the most part, these posts lacked proper links or even any sort of evidence of wrongdoing beyond speculation. One post that was shared thousands of times from "@mnteenactivists" alleged that the police officers involved were white supremacists and the towing company involved in the incident was owned by a white supremacist biker gang. However, there is no evidence for either of these allegations. Ultimately, the group behind this post was able to organize hundreds of highschoolers to conduct a school walkout about the situation at U.S. Bank Stadium and was featured prominently on local news broadcasts.

While it is important to share the story, the misleading (and possibly defamatory) claims against the private business of Schmitt's Repo Towing and the officers involved in the situation are completely unneeded. Unlike mainstream media, these social media posts don't go through an editorial process or have any degree of required factuality. This leads to the spreading of fake news or unsubstantiated claims that can serve in the long run to devalue the real implications of incidents like the one involving Azad.

On top of the dubious quality of

### ACTIVISM

continues on page 8

## Grab-and-go process needs revisions

The effort to make sure students arriving late to school can still get breakfast would benefit from some logistical changes



Photo by SHENG VANG

The line that forms for grab-and-go breakfasts can sometimes contribute to students being even later to class.

By DAMARIUS HAMILTON  
Quill staff writer

The grab-and-go breakfast process started on January 30 to give students who arrive late to school due to bus issues a chance to get something to eat on the way to their first period class. The breakfast is served from a cart located in the second-floor Y, which is an area of the building most people pass through. While this new system is good for

people who are late to school, there are some issues with how it is organized that could be improved in the future.

One of the issues relates to the organization of the breakfast options. For students who are early, the cafeteria is open for breakfast until 8:25 a.m. and the doors to the room are closed by 8:30 so students can get to class by 8:35. Meanwhile, the grab-and-go cart starts serving at 8:20 and stops by 8:50 to accommodate

late students and make sure they get to class. What has been happening, though, is that the grab-and-go line gets long and students who are not necessarily getting food start congregating with those who are getting food. This makes it seem like the line is not moving, which may make students skip breakfast altogether so they can get to their first period classes.

Another issue relates to the food being served. I often see stu-

dents who are in line get to the front of the line and then change their mind about getting the food because they don't like what's being served. To solve that issue, it might be helpful if the school put up signs with a QR code near the back of the line so students can access the menu for that morning. Giving students an immediate idea of what food option are available would make the line much shorter because the line would not be full of people who will later change their minds. If making signs with QR codes is too time consuming, staff members could also travel up and down the line quickly informing students about that day's food options.

The third issue is that the long food line and the crowd at the Y can make people even later for classes. Some students hanging out in or near the line are not there for food. Instead, they are just in line to talk to their friends. To solve this, it would be helpful for staff members to encourage students to move along. These staff reminders don't have to be aggressive or disrespectful, but they should be clear enough to get students to class.

Almost every time I get to school and see the grab-and-go line, it seems long and it doesn't seem to move. As a result, I never wait to get the food, even if I am hungry. That is a shame because I think the grab-and-go idea is great. Perhaps if the school figures out ways to manage it better, the concept would benefit more students.

## District move to eliminate snow days makes sense

The use of e-learning instead of cancelling school helps students stay on track and avoids the need to make the school year longer

By CHIMUAL VANG  
Quill staff writer

Distance learning made it clear to district officials that we can still have school online when we cannot be together in person. That led to the district's recent decision in February to replace snow days with e-learning days when the weather is bad. Due to the rise in the amount of snowfall over the past winter, these e-learning days became helpful in avoiding missed school. When we are unable to meet up in person due to weather, e-learning is a good way to maintain academic success.

Personally, I find it much easier to manage time and work on e-learning days. Taking tests and uploading files may be harder without immediate help and responses from a teacher, but being able to be in control of everything when it comes to your lessons helps a lot of people learn faster. In addition, e-learning days help teachers catch up with their grading so they can get work back to students in a more timely way.

Another pro to e-learning is that



Photo by SHENG VANG

This year's winter weather led to enormous snow piles around the building.

you can regulate how much time you need to understand a lesson in order to do your assignment. Some assignments are tedious and have more instructions than are necessary. Fortunately, when you are doing it at home, you are able to read and understand at your own pace, which is a great advantage.

When it comes to issues of

comfort, a great pro of e-learning is that you have the ability to take care of personal needs. At school, I cannot use the bathroom without having to ask for permission. When you are at home, you can do that when you need to.

On the other hand, one flaw I see with e-learning days is that it is very easy to slack off when some-

one is not holding you accountable. Having full control of your lessons means you can decide how much you want to participate in that lesson. So, if a lesson isn't interesting, most likely you won't pay attention to it. Based on my experience over the year of online school during the pandemic, I'd say there were times I did slack off, and I am sure I was not alone.

Another vexing con of e-learning is that you consistently don't feel like you're at school. Obviously, that is because you aren't. Instead, you're at home learning online. Not being in the right headspace for school can be challenging during e-learning days.

With the sunny conditions and warmer temperatures that come with spring, it is likely we will no longer need to rely on e-learning days through the end of this school year. As for the future, I'm sure e-learning days will continue to be useful as a way to still have school when the weather is bad. Personally, I sure hope extreme weather does not happen again this school year.

## School friendships do not always lead to life-long friendships

Many people you spend time with at school will likely drift out of your life once you graduate from Cooper

By DAMARIUS HAMILTON  
Quill staff writer

While I don't think there's anything wrong with making long-term high school friends, I believe you have to pick them wisely because most friend groups don't stay that way after high school. One's friends have a huge impact on the way school goes for them. For that reason, I don't think there's anything wrong with not having a lot of friends because, for some people, not having friends at school makes them more focused on getting their

work done without distractions from anyone else. Overall, it is important for people to be aware that choices about friends and whether to have them can have an impact on one's future.

Many students at Cooper have long-term friends they have known since elementary or middle school. However, I don't think you can say whether or not someone is really a long-term friend until the end of your senior year. Prior to that point, you could think someone is solid, but then they might switch up on you quickly. Instances like

this can be unexpected, especially if you thought they were a good friend. While I definitely think it's nice to have long-term friends, they are hard to find in this generation. Nowadays, people make weird decisions and follow the actions they see another person take in order to fit in.

One issue related to having friends is the impact that choice might have on a given student's day. Sometimes, you might be having a good day, and then a small problem with a friend can ruin it. Additionally, one must keep in

mind that there is a difference between school friends and actual friends. School friends are people who could be a friend, but you really only communicate with them at school. People in this category rarely end up being one's long-term friend because the bond isn't the same with school friends as it is with your actual friends.

I've never been a very social person, so I know how some people feel when they say they don't

FRIENDSHIPS  
continues on page 7

## Teen pregnancy brings with it a host of personal, societal repercussions

From a reduction in one's future opportunities to the physical demands of child rearing, giving birth as a teen has drawbacks

By BRIGHT DEKU  
Quill staff writer

Teen pregnancy is a topic that affects many young people in our community, which is why it is an issue that I feel strongly about. I have witnessed the challenges that come with being a young parent firsthand and I believe that we need to take steps to prevent teen pregnancy. Teen pregnancy can lead to some nega-

tive, lifelong consequences for the individuals involved and for society as a whole.

One of the reasons I believe we should prevent teen pregnancy is because it can limit a young person's opportunities. Having a baby at a young age can make it difficult for a person to finish school, pursue a career or even have a social life. The impact of teen pregnancy is not just limited to the individual; it can also

have economic and social costs for society. By preventing teen pregnancy, we can help young people reach their full potential and contribute positively to society when they get older.

Another reason to prevent teen pregnancy is the physical and emotional toll it can take on young parents. Pregnancy and childbirth are physically demanding, and it can be especially challenging for a young person who may not have access

to adequate healthcare. In addition, being a parent at a young age can be emotionally overwhelming. Many young parents may struggle with feelings of isolation, stress and anxiety. By preventing teen pregnancy, we can help ensure that young people have the time and resources to mature and develop the skills necessary

TEEN PREGNANCY  
continues on page 7

## Potential TikTok ban is short-sighted

While concerns over privacy and misuse of data collected by the app are valid, the benefits of TikTok need to be acknowledged

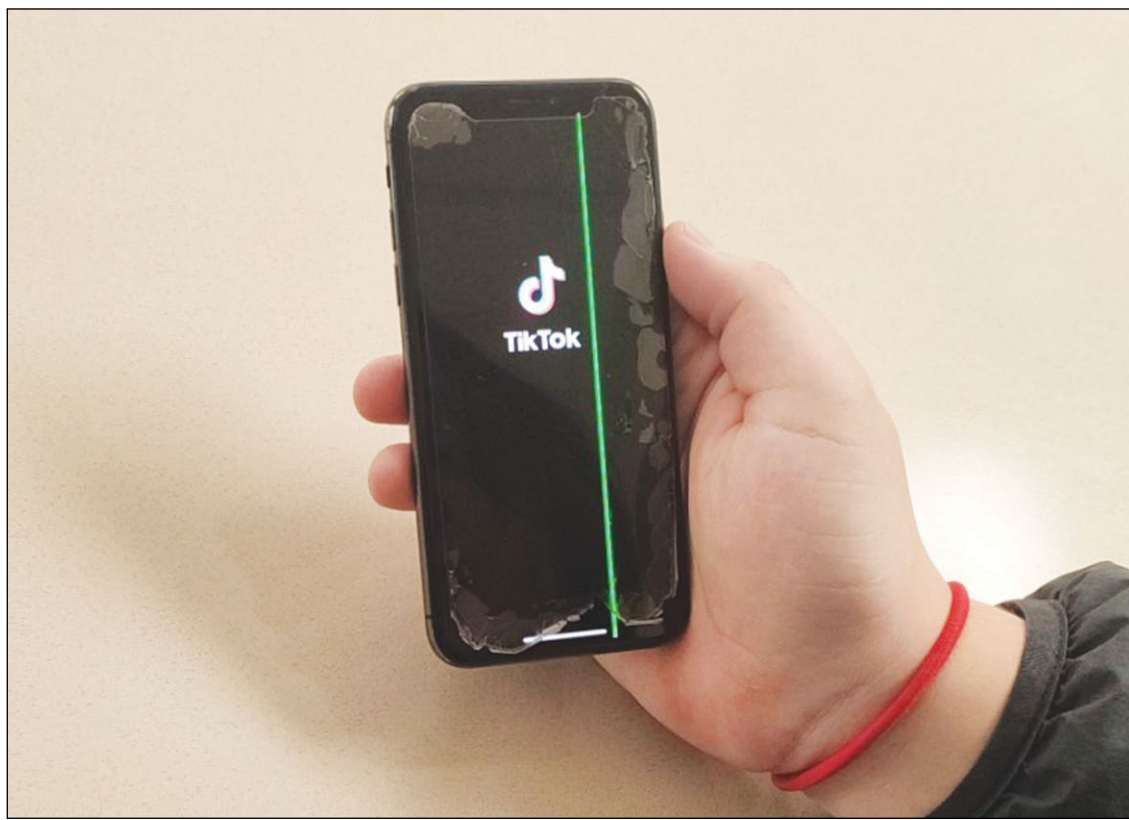


Photo by SHENG VANG

The sight of students viewing or recording videos for TikTok is commonplace throughout a typical school day.

By BRIGHT DEKU  
Quill staff writer

The recent news about the potential ban on TikTok in the United States has caused concern among its teenage users. As an avid TikTok user myself, I feel that the proposed ban would be detrimental to both the platform's commu-

nity and the larger tech industry. There are three key reasons why I believe the TikTok ban is a bad idea.

First and foremost, TikTok has become a global platform for creativity and self-expression. It has given rise to a new wave of creators who have been able to showcase their talents to a vast, global audience. The potential ban on TikTok

would limit the opportunities for creators to share their content and it would hinder the growth of this new form of creative expression. In an era when social media has become a central part of our daily lives, depriving young people of a platform to express themselves creatively is not the right decision.

Secondly, TikTok has become a

platform for activism and political discourse. During the Black Lives Matter movement, for example, TikTok played a critical role in helping users spread awareness and information. The platform has allowed young people to take a more active role in shaping the world around them and it has given them a voice. By banning TikTok, we are not only silencing these voices, but also limiting our ability to have informed conversations about issues that matter.

Lastly, the proposed ban on TikTok has larger implications for the tech industry as a whole. It sets a dangerous precedent of government interference in the private sector, which could have far-reaching consequences. It also sends a message to the international community that the United States is not a welcoming place for foreign tech companies. This could potentially harm our country's economy and stifle innovation.

In conclusion, I strongly believe that the proposed TikTok ban is a bad idea. It would limit creativity and self-expression, hinder political discourse and set a dangerous precedent for government interference in the private sector. Instead of banning the app, the U.S. government should work with the platform to address any legitimate concerns about data privacy and security. The United States is a country built on innovation and creativity and we should continue to embrace new forms of expression and technology.

## Diversity is key to life at Cooper

The school teaches students how to live in the real world

By OWEN SANDLUND  
Quill staff writer

Diversity is present in all aspects of life. There are variations in animals, plants, music and even within humans. Diversity in schools consists of the involvement of people with different backgrounds, be it race, sexual orientation or culture. I think most people at Cooper know the diversity at our school is a good thing because we are told it is. However, I think it's important to better understand exactly why diversity is important.

Cooper is a highly racially diverse school, with 42 percent of students identifying as Black, 20 percent of students identifying as Hispanic, 20 percent of students identifying as White, 9 percent of students identifying as Asian and an additional 9 percent identifying as two or more of these groups according to the Public School Review in 2023. This diversity benefits students at Cooper in a variety of ways, both academically and socially.

Academically, the effect of racial diversity is beneficial. A Drexel University study found that it leads to an increase in the understanding of the subject matter in class and the world around the students. In effect, diversity in school teaches students how to work and contribute to a real-world, diverse environment.

Historically, many American leaders and citizens have had reservations about diverse public schooling. In fact, President Joe Biden famously mused in the 1970s that desegregation was harmful to white children as it put them in a "racial jungle," according to Politico. As it turns out, these fears were unfounded. Meta-studies such as that written by R.L. Crain and R. Mahard for the *American Journal of Sociology* determined that there is no detrimental effect to the education of white children in diverse settings; instead, the impact was found to be positive. Sadly, even today, there is stigma against programs such as open enrollment that increase the diversity of public schools, primarily from agitated white segments of the population.

Beyond academics, the social advantages of learning in a diverse setting are illustrated by the meta-analysis published by T. Pettigrew and L. Tropp in the *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology*. The researchers went through hundreds of studies and found that the research points definitively toward a decrease in prejudice toward other groups, increasing friendships between people of different races and improved racial relations when students are in a diverse setting. It is an immense benefit to the students of Cooper to be able to attend school in such a diverse environment, which leads to their growth as both students and human beings.

As well as being diverse racially, the school is also diverse in its students' sexual orientations and gender expression. Cooper has a flourishing LGBTQ+ community and an active GSA group. When walking around the school, you will see pride flags in classrooms, on backpack pins and, during pride month, even painted on people's faces. Although there is obviously no easy way to quantitatively say how many people identify as which orientation or gender, it is clear that our school does enjoy a decent bit of diversity of this nature, which benefits our students' social well being.

This relative diversity is key in helping many students at Cooper feel welcome and comfortable in our school. In fact, the American Psychological Association says that in many less-accepting school settings, LGBTQ+ youth feel marginalized or even oppressed. In schools with less acceptance and diversity, LGBTQ+ students suffer from lower educational outcomes and an increased risk for mental illness.

It is important to mention that Cooper still has a long way to go when it comes to helping everyone feel welcome in spite of the progress the school has made. In the past and even today, many people have concerns about the acceptance of LGBTQ+ individuals in society and in schools, labeling efforts to accept these students as "grooming" or "predatory." However, regardless of

## Seasonal weather changes have an impact on us as people

From clothing choices to personal care products, there are many steps you can take to prepare for, react to the start of a season

By REANA GREEN  
Quill staff writer

As we move from a long winter into the warmer weather, our body goes through a season of change as well. Of course, these changes are not unique to this time of the year. Each changing season brings with it personal changes to the inside and outside of our bodies. Fortunately, we can prepare for those changes. The following are a number of tips for you about how to address the transitions from one season to the next.

### Winter

Many people experience what is called seasonal depression or seasonal affective disorder when the transition into winter occurs. This most often happens when winter begins and you start feeling mental gloominess from the poor weather. What I have found that helps with my seasonal depression is taking vitamin D pills. With the lack of sun outside, our body experiences a lack of vitamin D. According to the National Institute of Health, vitamin D helps improve mood by directly increasing dopamine and serotonin levels. Many friends and I use vitamin D supplements during winter to aid our seasonal depression.

When moving into winter, we go from moist humidity to dry, freezing weather. Dry weather can lead to many things, including dry hair, dry throat,



Photo by SHENG VANG

Winter coats are being replaced by hoodies as the spring weather arrives.

dry skin and car issues if you have a vehicle. To prepare for a smooth change, I recommend stocking up on Aquaphor or lotions with shea butter, coconut oil or cocoa butter because these ingredients are known to be moisturizing and smell good.

Additionally, dry weather will cause a dry scalp, and a dry scalp sometimes means a flaky scalp. Since no one wants to walk around with white flakes in their hair, you should invest in scalp oils and moisturizing hair masks. Shampooing your hair every day will dry it out even more, so I recommend just conditioning your

hair if you wash it. In dry weather, people should shampoo their hair twice a week and use moisturizing hair cream daily to add moisture. The point is you need to moisturize as much as you can in the winter; otherwise, you'll experience cracking skin and hair breakage.

Everyone's worst nightmare is their car breaking down or malfunctioning when it is cold outside. My dad always told me to get an oil change right before winter starts so I don't have to get outside to do it in the cold weather. Meanwhile, my mom told me to keep a blanket in my car just in case my car breaks down in the cold. Another tip

my family gave me is to never let your car get below half a tank of gas in the winter so that you can keep it running if you are stranded and so you can start it and let it warm up before you drive it. You should also look at new tires for the winter because nobody has time to be sliding and slipping around.

### Spring

Everybody has heard of spring cleaning, which is when you thoroughly clean your house at the end of winter. But I view spring cleaning as a time for change and a new environment. My favorite thing to do at the end of winter is rearrange my room so I have a new environment. Bad memories may be linked to an unchanged environment, creating a bad mood whenever you enter it. To avoid that, consider buying sheer blinds to let the sunlight in or purchase new bedding and desk decorations. You should organize your room to reflect the era of change that you're going through. Your room should be your motivation, and if you have a positive environment that makes you happy to see, you'll be happy when you enter.

My second favorite thing to do during spring cleaning is donate old clothes. This is a good time to get rid of winter clothes because, most likely, winter clothes will go on sale, which

**SEASONAL WEATHER** continues on page 7

## Balancing academics, jobs critical at end of school year

The demands of completing your assignments as the semester wraps up may make it necessary to cut back on your hours at work

Students are grinding to get their work done as end-of-year final tests and projects begin to take shape. As they attempt to manage their time when it comes to school, students must also worry about other responsibilities like part-time jobs. At this time of the year, many students struggle to balance their school life with their work life.

Whether it be working at a fast food restaurant or a grocery store, most students have jobs. Jobs are a step in the process of growing up and being an adult because they teach us about being responsible. Being able to organize one's

time with work, friends and school is part of the learning process as well. Not surprisingly, trying to juggle one's work life, school life and social life can be hard for some, if not most, people.

Being able to schedule time for work, school and friends is hard. Sometimes, your employer may unexpectedly call you in to work, which may cause you to push off your homework or cancel plans with your friends. Even on days

when you know you have to work, you may not get home until late at night. In this instance, your job can reduce the amount of time you have available to do your homework, leading to you getting behind on your assignments. Clearly, your schedule can quickly get cramped with your job and school, making life hard to handle.

There are some solutions to these problems. One of them is to always have

a planner and a to-do list. These are useful methods for prioritizing things so that your school work and time with friends can coexist with your work schedule. Even better, you can try making your own work schedule. Usually, work schedules can be flexible, allowing you to be able to work around your school time and social time. Overscheduling yourself at your job isn't the preferred approach when trying to manage your time, especially when you really need

**BALANCING** continues on page 7

### From the Editors

## Adjusting placement of weekly advisory class could benefit all students

By moving advisory to first period every day, students would have time in the morning to prepare for their classes throughout the day

By REANA GREEN  
Quill staff writer

Everyone knows that students struggle to make it to first period on time. This can be for several reasons: waking up late, late buses, car troubles, traffic or getting stopped by the train. But out of all of these reasons, only one, a late bus, is excusable. An ab-

sence during first period can be critical if you're not a student blessed with a first period study hall. In fact, some students are late almost every day, which means they are missing a lot of information given and work completed in class time.

The Robbinsdale district tried addressing this problem with later start times, which many people wanted. But

the downside of this later start time is that students who are driving can no longer beat the 8 a.m. rush hour traffic. The other downside is that school runs later in the day, giving students with jobs or after-school activities a lot less time to work with.

Given the issues surrounding first period, imagine how much nicer it would be to have advisory every day

during that period rather than having it during fifth period. At the middle school I attended, which was in the Robbinsdale district, this is how advisory was structured. By having advisory during first period, students would have a "rest" hour that could be used

**ADVISORY** continues on page 6

**DIVERSITY** continues on page 8

## Premier Performers

The story of the musicians and artists who bring their talents to Cooper

### Iaan Erickson

By ALEXIS WILLIAMS  
Quill staff writer

Iaan Erickson (12) participates in a range of arts-related activities, including choir, art classes and theater.

"I've been doing choir since my freshman year because I love to hear all these sounds coming together to create something coherent and beautiful," Erickson said. "I only started art classes and theater this year because I wasn't able to before that."

Erickson cited the ability to connect with peers as a highlight of these many artistic pursuits.

"My favorite memories of choir always involve other people and just bonding with them," Erickson said. "In art, I've loved being able to explain the things I am expressing. In theater, I've loved learning about how it works."



Photo by BRIGHT DEKU

Erickson's interest in the arts is also connected to the classes they have enjoyed most this school year.

"Art and Film Study have been my favorites," Erickson said. "I can express so much in art and I think Film Study is interesting. I also love my Introduction to Theater class because I had a bunch of friends and a lot of fun."

When it comes to hobbies, Erickson's main interests are also focused on the arts. In addition to writing stories, composing poetry and customizing clothes, Erickson also likes skateboarding, listening to music and playing video games.

After graduating, Erickson hopes to attend MCAD as a comic art major.

"I want to make graphic novels in the future," Erickson said. "I can't imagine doing anything but art for the rest of my life."

## Mural project lets IB artists shine

Through the annual assignment, students in IB art have a chance to paint a piece on a hallway wall



Photo by SHENG VANG

Past murals can be seen in hallways throughout the building, typically above the banks of lockers in the school.

By YUSEFF SHABAZZ  
Quill staff writer

Students in this year's International Baccalaureate (IB) art class have just started working on their annual mural project.

Many Cooper students have seen the murals located around the school, primarily on the wall space above lockers. These murals were done by students who were in the IB art class. The mural project started at Cooper in 2018, according to IB art teacher Ms. Mielke. She said she likes to do this project every year so students can leave their legacy here when they leave Cooper.

For the most part, only IB art students do murals, but Mielke said that sometimes excellent art students in other art classes can participate without being in IB. She said the murals allow "students to express themselves and leave something to be admired by future students."

Students may work individually or together on one mural. Every IB student who has their other art work completed is able to participate. They are allowed to do the murals "anywhere as long as it's not on brick," Mielke said.

This year, some students will even be doing "commission" murals. Mielke said these are murals that are done based on a specific teacher's request. Students can help the teacher bring an idea to life and place it somewhere in the school. This way, students and teachers collaborate to leave an impression on the school.

The students taking part in the mural project agreed that they enjoy the freedom of expression that they can exercise and the different mediums and materials they can use. Additionally, they mentioned that it is important for current and future students to see the murals.

These sentiments can be seen in the comments of Logan Voigt (12), an IB art student who said he is excited to do a mural even though he's not yet

quite sure what he wants it to be. Voigt said the most exciting thing to him is that "it will be there forever." He added that he first remembers seeing the murals as a freshman and believes they are important because "they leave something for aspiring students to look up to."

"It's important to leave an impact," Voigt said.

Voigt said his favorite mural is the sea turtle mural.

Laue Nyanwleh (12), another IB art student, is also looking forward to doing a mural, "though it does seem very difficult," she said. She plans to do a mural similar to an "alter ego" project she already did in class and something that displays the concept of diversity. She said the murals are important to her because "they can bring awareness to issues."

Nyanwleh added that her favorite mural is the one with African women and the different countries by the cafeteria.

### Aderonke Adeyeni

By ALEXIS WILLIAMS  
Quill staff writer

Aderonke Adeyeni (12) is in choir. She said she has been singing for as long as she can remember.

"It's something I really love to do to the point of wanting to be a musician," she said. "I think life has other choices, but just because of that, I can't stop doing what I love."

As she reflects on her time in choir, Adeyeni pointed out four aspects she enjoys about singing.

"First off, I like the harmony and rhythm it makes, the support, the acceptance of mistakes and the singing itself," she said.

Adeyeni mentioned that one of her favorite singing memories actually goes back to a time before Cooper choir.

"My grandmother and I would

sing together every day and those are core memories for me that I will always cherish," she said.

This year, Adeyeni is in the Treble Ensemble. She said she has enjoyed singing with that ensemble.

Not surprisingly, Adeyeni said her favorite school subject this year is music.

"It's a place where I can sing and express myself without worries or having to fear my mistakes," she said.

Adeyeni's outside-of-school hobbies are drawing and singing. When it comes to a career, Adeyeni is thinking about working in the computer field.

"If it were up to me, I would be an animator," she said. "But I am probably going to be a computer IT engineer."

Whatever career she pursues, Adeyeni said she would like to continue her art-related activities after graduating.



Photo by BRIGHT DEKU

### Andrew Nourie

By ALEXIS WILLIAMS  
Quill staff writer

Andrew Nourie (12) is a musician who has played a key role in many Cooper groups, including Marching Band, Wind Ensemble, Jazz 1 and Pit Orchestra. While the latter activities started after Nourie got to high school, his connection to Marching Band started earlier.

"I've been in Marching Band since before ninth grade after Mr. Hahn visited FAIR School and got me interested," Nourie said.

Given the many groups in which he plays, Nourie said his favorite memories are numerous. One interesting incident he recalled from Marching Band happened during a photo shoot.

"I fell off a malfunctioning bench when a picture was taken," he said.

As for what he enjoys about being

involved in music, the friendships he has formed with his peers has been a common theme. Additionally, he said he likes that he is able to "confidently play wrong notes" when he takes part in Jazz 1.

Nourie's many years of experience led to him being named section leader in Marching Band this year, which he said "went alright." Also new this year was his decision to get involved in the school's theater program, which he said was the result of a "pact [he] made with friends."

His involvement in the arts connects to his classes at Cooper. Nourie said he is enjoying his Wind Ensemble and Acting classes.

"They are two different ways to tell a story," he said.

Nourie will be continuing his work in music after high school. He intends to major in music theory and composition at the collegiate level.



Photo by BRIGHT DEKU

### Nancy Felemu

By ALEXIS WILLIAMS  
Quill staff writer

Nancy Felemu (12) is a Hawk student who participates in band during school and art and orchestra outside of school. Felemu has played in school band since eighth grade.

"I love to write music and be able to play," she said.

Felemu's enjoyment of band led to her decision to join Marching Band as well.

"I love being able to go on trips together," she said.

Outside of school, Felemu has been playing violin since her junior year because she loves "the sound and elegance" of the instrument. In addition, she has taken art classes in her free time for the last five years.

"I really like to draw and express myself so much, either through drawing

or painting or sculpture or woodworks. It really gives you a lot of experience and job opportunities," she said.

While Felemu cites her music and art classes as her favorite aspects of being a student, she also said she enjoys math and being part of the AVID program.

"I really like how we gain more experience of how college is going to look like in AVID," she said.

Felemu is also active in a number of leadership and service organizations at school. She is a member of National Honor Society, takes part in DECA and helps tutor other students.

Looking toward the future, Felemu said she sees herself heading toward a business career.

"I plan on going to Carlson School of Management and majoring in business management and accounting," she said.



Photo by BRIGHT DEKU

## The Last of Us brings classic video game to life

By expanding the world first established in the game, the HBO series takes satisfying risks

By NEMO PONDER  
Quill staff writer

*The Last of Us* is a post-apocalyptic television series created by Neil Druckman and Craig Mazin for HBO. Released in 2023, this show is based on the PlayStation video game of the same name. I decided to watch this show because I played the game and thought it was amazing. After seeing the whole series, I am impressed at how well the show correlates to the original game. If you are a fan of the game, or if you want to watch a show with great action and character development, you will enjoy *The Last of Us*.

The show takes place after a global pandemic has wiped out most human life on the planet. The main character is Joel (Pedro Pascal), who is tasked with transporting a 14-year-old girl named Ellie (Bella Ramsey) across the U.S. Ellie has a condition that might make her the last hope for humanity; coincidentally, the place Joel must take her is near the last place his missing brother Tommy (Gabriel Luna) was seen. As the duo travels west, they go through a lot of adversity fighting different groups of people in addition to finding allies along the way.

The show's use of cinematography, art direction and special effects should be lauded for the way they create a believable depiction of a world decimated by a widespread, apocalyptic event. In particular, the special effects makeup design used to create the contaminated, formerly human creatures known as clickers



Photo by HBO

Bella Ramsey (left) and Pedro Pascal anchor the postapocalyptic drama.

makes the show feel authentic. The way these infected humans move and run as they pursue the uninfected is incredible and terrifying.

The acting from everyone in the show is also amazing. The performances by the main actors, Pascal and Ramsey, are especially noteworthy. Every choice they make as performers is perfect and their chemistry is obvious. From showing emotions to delivering dialogue, Pascal and Ramsey are outstanding. They really make this show feel like you are replaying the original game.

The plot of the show largely follows the storyline from the first installment of the video game. However, the show's creators also change some parts of the game to make it more realistic in

the context of a show. Occasionally, they take some parts of the game and turn them around completely to keep viewers familiar with the game wondering what will happen next. Additionally, the story is not told in chronological order like the game, which makes the show even more interesting.

Ultimately, the people who made *The Last of Us* did a great job bringing the original game to life. Watching it brought me back to the time when everybody was first playing the video game. The show successfully shows how people adapt and try to survive during a global crisis. Although some people might be getting tired of the zombie genre, this show is worth your attention. *The Last of Us* earns five out of five stars.

## ADJUSTING PLACEMENT OF WEEKLY ADVISORY continued from page 5

in many ways, such as taking a nap if you're still tired, having extra time to eat breakfast or getting work done before classes. Most importantly, students coming late wouldn't miss important material from their classes.

Although this switch to advisory would mean we would see our advisors more often, this would also remove the need for the study halls given to students to make sure they are on track to graduate. This change would provide equal work time to students who don't have study halls because they are taking extra classes for credit.

The addition of a first period advisory would also give students more time to build connections with their advisors. Thirty minutes once a week is only so long to get to know the person advising you over four years. Moreover, those 30 minutes we get weekly are usually consumed with the same slides and random surveys that are given to students to complete.

Finally, this change to advisory would also result in an extended lunch period on Wednesdays. That is the one day students with open lunch cannot spend the entire fifth period away from

the building due to advisory. By moving advisory to first period, students would not have to deal with the shortening of lunch.

Overall, the change to when advisory is offered would provide students a space to do work, sleep or eat, and it would allow for some buffer time for students who are running late to school. Additionally, it would address some issues older students have with advisory being offered during fifth period open lunch. I encourage the school administration to think about making this change next school year.

## Strive takes fighting games to next level

The Arc System Works-produced game can help novices get better at the fighting genre while still challenging experienced players

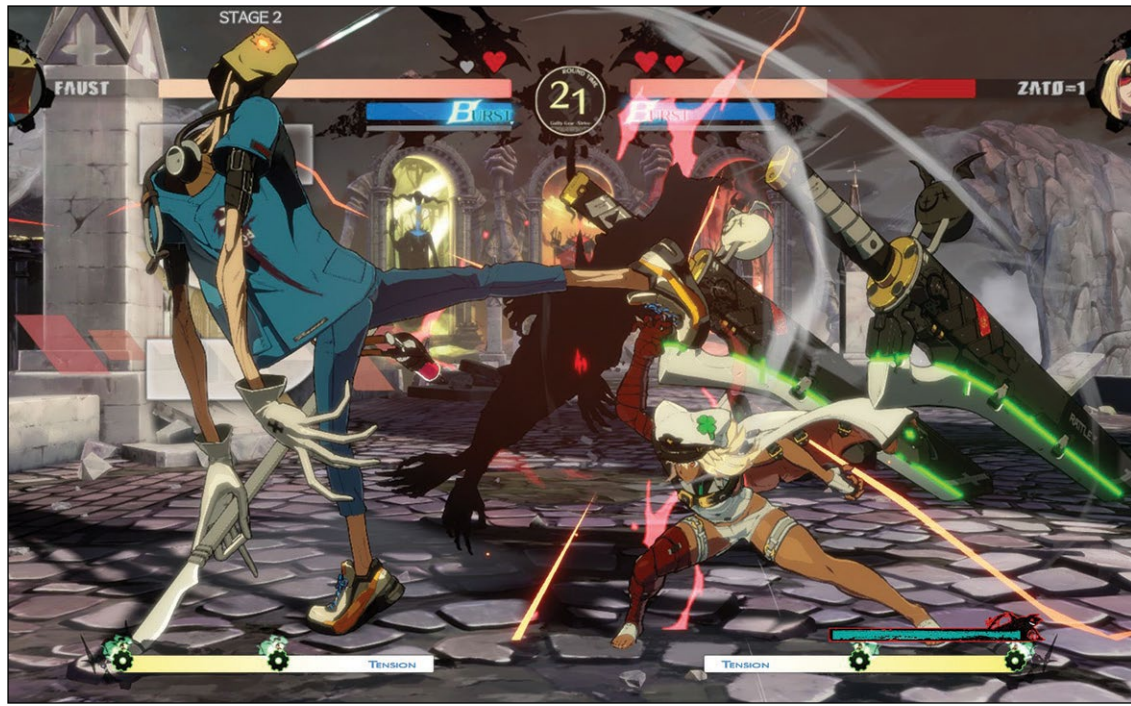


Photo by ARC SYSTEM WORKS

The distinct aesthetics of the game help make the fighting sequences more visually engaging.

By **JESSE GARCIA**  
Quill staff writer

*Guilty Gear Strive* is a fighting game with an extreme amount of popularity that seemingly came out of nowhere. While there was already a pre-existing community in the *Guilty Gear* scene, no one could have expected for the game to become the most-played competitive fighting game currently available. Beside the game's popularity, *Strive* has done a lot for the genre as a whole. It started the push for more player friendly features, as well as making use of Rollback Netcode. These two features have become the most necessary developments in the fighting game genre. Pro-

duced by the well-known company Arc System Works, *Guilty Gear Strive* has cemented itself as a staple game.

The story of *Guilty Gear Strive* takes place in a post-apocalyptic age where our protagonist, Sol Badguy, is put into situations that could determine the fate of the world. As such, we see him grow in many ways and even have a kid over the course of the series.

The general quality of *Guilty Gear Strive* is much higher than many other fighting titles, and given its shift to being a more beginner-friendly game, the designers elevated the hit property displays. Something that was made much more understandable, for example, is the Counter Hit system. In an effort to make

this system more understandable, the Counter Hit message in *Strive* appears on the majority of the players' screens and is accompanied by a brief pause. This allows newer players to notice what it does right when it happens, giving them ample time to react to it. This change looks interesting visually and it makes the game more user-friendly, shedding the previous notion that fighting games aren't meant for new players.

Another selling point of the game is that the *Guilty Gear Strive* team is still adding new characters. As of April 12, 2023, the most recent character to be added is Bedman. This confusing and visually comical character is a kid with a constantly malfunctioning robot that uses

things such as its broken pieces for special moves. As always, his theme music and general aesthetic are incredible and have been well-received by players.

In addition to character development, Arc System Works has done an amazing job at balancing the character and core mechanics in *Guilty Gear Strive*, which makes every character ready for all levels. Using the community's feedback, they've truly morphed the game from a potential overload to an incredible user experience for new and old players alike. The game itself is played in similar fashion to many other "anime" 2-D fighting games, which rely on air dashes, large amounts of visual noise and flashy combos to entice everyone. Possessing some of the best graphics in the genre, Arc System Works has made *Guilty Gear Strive* mechanically skillful and visually amazing, allowing for both a great player and spectator experience.

A common complaint about the game is its simple nature. Many veterans believe the game has been stripped of its legacy difficulty, which has ruined its quality. However, many users will find that, after a bit of play time, the game reveals itself to be challenging to veterans as well. As a result, the game is beginner-friendly, but it allows for newer and older players to grow.

Overall, *Guilty Gear Strive* has pushed the genre in the right direction with its usage of newer features such as Rollback Netcode, crossplay and the balancing of characters. By allowing for community input, this game set itself on a path to success, growing the genre as a whole and putting this series on the map. I rate this game four out of five stars.

## Cowboy Bebop lives up to its great reputation

The classic anime series manages to feel retro and futuristic at the same time



Photo by BANDAI NAMCO FILMWORKS

The show revolves around a makeshift family that is formed among its central group of bounty hunters.

By **YUSEFF SHABAZZ**  
Quill staff writer

*Cowboy Bebop* is a classic anime series that has a retro yet futuristic feel. First airing in 2001, it follows a pair of bounty hunters, Spike and Jet, as they chase criminals to obtain their next payout. The pair travels in a spaceship across the galaxy and lives in it between missions, which provides the main setting for the plot of the show. Although it is more than two decades old, *Cowboy Bebop* still holds up well for fans of animation and science fiction.

As *Cowboy Bebop* begins, the year is 2071. Our main characters, Spike Spiegel and Jet Black, are struggling to make ends meet living as bounty hunters on their space ship. Their lives become more complicated when they adopt a super dog named Ein, associate with a seductive character known as Faye Valentine and begin working with a teenage hacker named Edward. Together, these five figures go on entertaining adventures throughout the episodes that make up this famous series.

One highlight of the show is the interaction between the main characters. While the show doesn't tell the viewer how long Spike and Jet have been partners, it seems they are as close as family and they work really well together. In addition to the interplay between the main characters, I also like the extra characters that are introduced along the way. For example, when they meet Faye on a mission, she becomes a part of the team, which adds to the series as it goes forward.

Another element I like about the show is that it is futuristic but still has elements of past time periods. While there are spaceships and advanced technology throughout the show, there are also places like old western saloons. This connects to the fact that the cities the main characters visit on their missions always have more to them than meets the eye. Every episode is a dive into multi-layered societies and the lives of the characters in the show, which keeps things interesting.

This connects to a third thing I like about the show: the character development. Throughout the series, they give the viewer more information about Spike and Jet's past. Additionally, characters from the past also insert themselves into the current storylines. Meanwhile, when Spike and Jet

**COWBOY BEBOP**  
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## SEASONAL WEATHER CHANGES HAVE AN IMPACT ON US AS PEOPLE continued from page 5

gives you the perfect opportunity to get a whole new wardrobe for the following year. Again, your clothes should reflect your era of change as well. Also, your weight will probably change, meaning those old clothes won't fit anymore, and you'll have to restock anyway.

### Summer

As you head into warmer weather, keep in mind that just because it's hot doesn't mean you have to wear

shorts. If you're one of those people who hates showing their legs, baggy jeans are a great thing to look into. Skinny jeans or tight pants are a no-go in the summer because of sweat. Who wants their clothes sticking to them? Baggy pants cover your legs while giving your skin room to breathe and move comfortably.

Heat exhaustion is critical to think about in summer, so you must stay hydrated, not from juice, but from water. Keeping a water bottle with you at all

times will help keep you hydrated. If you're like me and don't have the discipline to drink water instead of juice, a gallon water bottle with motivational messages and a schedule will be your best friend. Not only will you feel accomplished if you stay on track, but your insides will love you, and you will visibly look hydrated in every way.

Summer is also a time to go outside and have adventures, but there's only so much you can carry all day. A tote bag is an excellent resource as it

helps the environment by being reusable, comfortable and capable of holding everything you need. A tote bag can be like an emergency kit. It should consist of petroleum jelly, sunscreen, extra money, water, a small snack, a change of pants, a charger, deodorant, a hair tie and a book in case you're bored.

Everyone has their routine as one season moves into the next. Hopefully, these elements of my routine can also help you manage the seasonal changes taking place around us.

## SCHOOL FRIENDSHIPS DO NOT ALWAYS LEAD TO LIFE-LONG FRIENDSHIPS continued from page 4

like to go out and make friends. During my freshman year, I didn't talk much but I played sports. Eventually, I looked at my teammates as friends even though I knew deep down that some of them were just school friends. As for the few friends I had at school that were friends with me outside of school as well, we had a good bond for a while, but even that faded away as time went on. Now, I'm a senior and there are a very select

few people I can say I'm friends with outside of school. When it comes to the people I am close to at school, I hope the bond stays strong when we are in college and after because it is a good feeling to know you have a solid friend by your side.

With a long-term friend, you never have to worry about anything weird and you can be yourself. It just makes you more comfortable when you have been

friends for a long time. What I don't think people in this generation realize is that talking every day doesn't make you friends with someone. A real friend is there for you at the highest and lowest moments. They will notice the little things, like times when you have been quiet all day because something is wrong.

I definitely feel like school is one of the hardest places to keep up with friendships that you want

long-term. Since you have to see those people every day, you may get tired of seeing them, which may make you want to separate yourself from them, thereby threatening the long-term nature of the friendship. Ultimately, the important thing is to surround yourself with good people who you can see yourself still associating with down the road. If some of your friends don't seem to fit that description, they might not really be your friends.

## TEEN PREGNANCY BRINGS WITH IT PERSONAL, SOCIETAL REPERCUSSIONS continued from page 4

to be successful parents when they are ready.

Lastly, we should prevent teen pregnancy because it can perpetuate cycles of poverty and inequality. Teen parents are more likely to live in poverty and their children are more likely to face economic and social disadvantages. This cycle

can be difficult to break, and it can have long-term consequences for individuals and communities. By preventing teen pregnancy, we can help reduce the likelihood of these cycles continuing and improve the overall prosperity of our community.

In conclusion, preventing teen pregnancy is crucial for the well being

of young people and our community as a whole. By limiting opportunities, taking a physical and emotional toll, and perpetuating cycles of poverty and inequality, teen pregnancy can have negative lifelong consequences. It is important that we take action to prevent teen pregnancy and support young people in making informed

decisions about their reproductive health. We can accomplish this by providing access to comprehensive sex education, contraception and healthcare services. Teenagers and adults need to work together on this issue to ensure that all young people have the opportunity to thrive and reach their full potential.

## BALANCING ACADEMICS, JOBS CRITICAL AT END OF SCHOOL YEAR continued from page 5

to start working on passing your classes at the end of the school year.

Overall, the best way to manage your time with school and your job is to make sure you prioritize, prioritize and

prioritize. Having a job helps you pay the bills and save for college tuition, but school also helps you, too. If you want to succeed, you have to put in that grind, but you also need to make sure you

balance school and your job. Arrange some days for work, some for school projects and some for friends.

It's going to be hard to balance all of these items at first, but once you

get the hang of it and that money starts rolling in, you will start to realize that it's not as bad, or as hard, as you may think. It just might make you even more successful in the future.

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### Editorial Policy

The Quill is an open and public forum for the thoughts and opinions of all students at Robbinsdale Cooper High School. Editorials contained in the Opinion section of the newspaper are the views of their respective authors alone. They do not necessarily represent the views of Cooper High School or Robbinsdale School District 281.

Robbinsdale Cooper High School's The Quill is a member of the National Scholastic Press Association.



## DEBATE

continued from page 3

at Armstrong, where we did mock rounds with the topics," he said.

When sections approached, Sandlund said he prepared by doing "research on every topic."

"Everyone did about the same on varsity and we shared the info," he said.

During sections, Sandlund eventually qualified for state.

"I had the most accurate judge in the state and he thinks I am great because of my background in one-on-one debate formats," he said.

Although he did not win state, Sandlund said he was satisfied with how the meet went.

"I ended up losing in our rounds, but it was enjoyable to see Connor win the tournament. It is generally a pretty grinding tournament that requires a lot of stamina. I think I lacked experience in Congress," he said.

Following the team's success at state, Mr. Brynteson said the national debate tournament should be an interesting one to compete in this summer.

"We are looking forward to nationals, but we know it will be an extremely difficult tournament. With over 600 students competing, you have to really be on your game to make sure you stand out and advance to the elimination rounds. We are hopeful to improve on last year's performance, but the key isn't the end result. Instead, if we focus on what we can control, our prep and practice before the tournament, that is what matters," he said.

As state champion, Connor Brynteson has a positive outlook heading into nationals.

"So, for nationals, my goal is to place as high as I can as I've never had as much success on the national scale as I have on the state level. I've placed top 100 at nationals before and [did] very well at the Harvard tournament this year, and my goal is to win. I think that's everyone's goal going into it," he said.

## DIVERSITY

continued from page 5

which actions schools take, these students obviously still exist and deserve to be accepted within the school.

If no action was taken to assimilate them into the broader student body, there would be no difference in the number of LGBTQ+ students, only their quality of life. In a high school setting, it is incredibly important to make it an accepting environment for everyone as they come to terms with their identity during the process of puberty. The concerns about doing so are unfounded outside of a few examples of elementary and middle schools going too far.

Interestingly, the presence of a large LGBTQ+ community also benefits hetero-normative students. These students are introduced to a group of people they will have to accept and collaborate with in the workplace or in life in general. In the 21st century, being understanding and knowledgeable about things like sexual orientation, gender identities and pronouns can help both you and others feel good about social interactions.

Finally, Cooper is culturally diverse as well. The school has students who have immigrated or migrated from dozens of countries, foreign exchange students and practitioners of many different religions. There are a multitude of ethnic student groups, performing teams and even religious groups sanctioned by the school. When applicable, these groups are featured at different school events.

What is more, different groups of students are celebrated throughout the school year at Cooper, with expos and spirit days being held in their honor. This celebration of cultural diversity helps all students learn about the world around them. In fact, *The Harvard Business Review* found that 84 percent of corporate board directors found that diversity increases their businesses performance, showing just how valuable the innovation and cross-cultural dialogue that we enjoy in our school can be.

Personally, I am grateful for the opportunity to get to know students of so many backgrounds. I am proud of our school's diversity, as I hope everyone else is. It is important that we all have just a little bit more insight on just how critical diversity is.

# Edgerunners makes up for Cyberpunk game

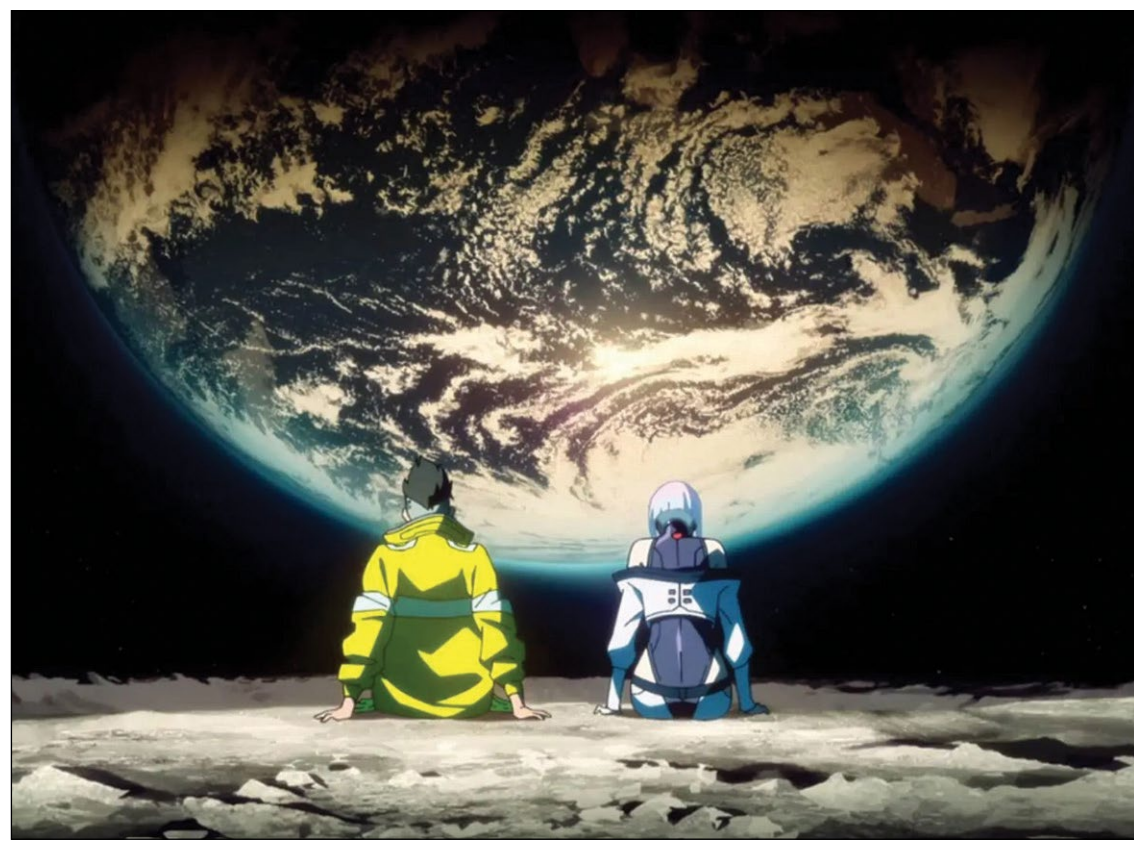
While it seems unlikely that a series based on video game *Cyberpunk 2077* would be entertaining, *Edgerunners* is a pleasant surprise

Photo by CD PROJEKT RED

The music, character development and themes of *Cyberpunk Edgerunners* help elevate the show.By CHIMJUAL VANG  
Quill staff writer

CD Projekt Red, the same creators of the astonishing video game trilogy *The Witcher*, released the game *Cyberpunk 2077* in 2020. After the disappointing sales and poorly rated release of this game, the studio developed the anime series *Cyberpunk Edgerunners*, which redeems the legacy of the original game. Animated by the ingenious Studio Trigger, *Cyberpunk Edgerunners* brings the originally lackluster world of *Cyberpunk 2077* to life.

The series takes place in the city of dreams, Night City. Viewers follow David Martinez, a high school student who attends Arasaka Academy. Coming from

a different background than his peers, David is discriminated against and becomes an outcast from the higher-class community around him. Despite this fact, his only family, his single mother, expects the best from him as she works tirelessly for his future living in the City of Dreams.

When a tragic accident occurs, David is left alone and does not know where to go. He drops out of school and loses his passion to continue. Then, one day, he encounters a suspicious woman named Lucy Kushinada on the Arasaka Metro. David catches her red-handed when she attempts to steal from him, which leads to David being dragged away and interrogated by her mercenary crew of Edgerunners.

It is at this point that David finds

out about his mother's debt to the leader of the crew. Not being able to pay off the debt, David manages to convince the leader of the crew to give him a chance to prove himself worthy of becoming an Edgerunner himself to compensate for the debt.

Honestly, the concept of *Cyberpunk Edgerunners* isn't special or unique, and it follows most of the patterns of crime, action and drama stories. However, I personally don't think the genre is meant to be the selling point of this series. Instead, *Cyberpunk Edgerunners* is a story about dreams and how one's dream can be achieved through pure effort and persistence.

What the series does best isn't its high-octane action or cinematography, but

rather its dialogue and music. In fact, the show's soundtrack creates a compelling atmosphere for the world of *Cyberpunk*. Even without the show's characters, the world of *Cyberpunk Edgerunners* would live on its own.

At the same time, the series does provide some interesting character development. Despite the anarchy and chaos of the crimes being committed in Night City, the David character gives audiences a chance to see things from a different perspective. David is someone with a different background than the other characters around him, which makes him able to contrast everything in his current life with his past experiences. His character proves that, despite all the havoc there is in someone's life, they can keep striving forward toward their one dream, a hope that will bring them peace.

Another character who is extremely important to the series is Lucy Kushinada. She comes off as crude and cold in the beginning and it is unclear what her intentions are, especially with regards to David. However, I believe that by the end, her character development allows the viewer to understand her.

*Cyberpunk Edgerunners* is certainly not suited for everyone. It deals with many sensitive issues as it explores how communities can shatter under corrupt organizations, which leads people to desperation and the constant fear of losing everything dear to them. Night City isn't purely a good or bad place due to the anarchy it contains. At the same time, because it is a city of dreams, anything can happen.

As for the whole series, I give it a solid four out of five stars. I truly believe what the series does is special. It tells a powerful yet bittersweet story. I was left speechless when the story of *Cyberpunk Edgerunners* concluded, wishing that just a little bit more time was given to following these characters in their world.

# Power Book II is a binge-worthy drama from 50 Cent

Although the show is a spin-off from the popular series *Power*, *Power Book II* manages to stand on its own meritsBy NEMO PONDER  
Quill staff writer

*Power Book II: Ghost* is a show directed by Steve Fuller and produced by Courtney A. Kemp in collaboration with Curtis "50 Cent" Jackson. I chose to watch this show because only a few people know about the *Power* franchise, so I think going through the second season of *Power* will get people interested in watching the whole series. Overall, despite some scenes that are really disturbing, triggering or sexual in nature, the show is really amazing.

*Power Book II: Ghost* is about the life of college student Tariq, who is played by Michael Rainey, Jr. As the series begins, Tariq's father is dead and his mother, Tasha, who is played by Naturi Naughton, ends up in prison. Tariq needs to graduate college from Stansfield University in order to get the trust fund that his father left him before he died. However, he also needs to make quick cash to pay for a lawyer so he can get his mom out of prison. As a result, he gets into the drug game with



Photo by LIONSGATE TELEVISION

The show follows Tariq, a college student dealing with various family issues.

someone named Monet Tejada, who is played by Mary J. Blige.

There are multiple elements that make this show outstanding. One of them is the music they play throughout the show. Of course, it's not a surprise that the music is amazing because 50 Cent is behind the intro music and he

helps pick out the songs. The music is one main reason that people watch the *Power* series. Each series has a different style of music and a different intro song. When you watch the show and you hear the beat drop, you want to get up and get lit with the show.

Another key element is acting on

the show. If I had to give the acting a rating on a scale of one to five, I would give it a six. The show is just so real. It feels like you are living the life that the people in the show are living. Every episode is on point with the acting. If the mood is sad, the acting helps viewers feel sad, and if the mood is mad, viewers will feel infuriated. In one of the episodes, Tariq is overthinking things as he deals with the adversity in his life. At this moment, you can really feel what he is feeling. The body language he shows and the facial expressions he makes prompts viewers to sit back and think.

An element I think they could do better on in the show is the use of special effects. For example, the explosions and the sparks that come off the guns when they are fired seem unrealistic. While they are not bad, you can really tell that they are fake.

In the end, *Power Book II: Ghost* is a really outstanding show. From the music to the acting to the story, the many elements of this show make it stand out from other shows like it. I give *Power Book II: Ghost* five out of five stars.

# TEEN ACTIVISM IS CRITICAL BUT FLAWED

continued from page 4

these posts, there is also the danger that other users exploit these posts to raise their own social media profiles in a self-serving way. For example, when young activists post selfies of themselves smiling and posing for the camera at events like the Azad walkout, it delegitimizes the protest and the serious incident that sparked the protest in the first place.

Given the epidemic of police brutality in America that is oftentimes a flash point for civil unrest and racial tensions, it is important that community members have access to objective and level-headed reporting. In the case of the Azad incident, the mounting concern and outrage of citizens prompted the Robbinsdale Police Department to allow a third-party investigation of the situation. Additionally, they pledged to release body cam footage in order to display transparency.

In this instance, social media moved hundreds of teenagers out of their classrooms without a single piece of evidence to push to the forefront of civil disobedience a seemingly buried topic. This clearly illustrates the amount of responsibility that is at stake when young people post online or organize to present facts. Over the last few years, we have seen nationwide how young people can mo-

bilize millions to oppose police brutality. It's evident that we have the potential to do so much, even if we often make mistakes along the way.

The need for young people to get mobilized certainly does not only apply to police brutality. For example, in the next few decades, our generation will take the reins of energy policy at a time when global warming threatens the entire world and energy shortages threaten our very way of life. What is more, our nation is on track to run out of social security in 50 years, our healthcare system is becoming more inaccessible than ever and even water is in increasingly short supply throughout most of our country.

In addition to these many concerns, our education system is being dismantled through budget cuts and bureaucratic stumbling on all levels of government. In fact, Minnesota has the largest racial achievement gap in public schools in the nation according to NPR. In our own school district, the school board that is meant to represent us is bickering over when and how to even have discussions over school safety, a prerequisite toward any functioning school in the first place.

The time to address all of the above

issues is now. Young people are facing a staggering reality of failure in our communities and we are tasked with solving dilemmas that generations before us could not overcome. As today's youth, we have a responsibility to lead and to lead well. I am afraid that growing up in an age of unprecedented political division and social media has thoroughly throttled our generation's critical thinking and governing ability going forward. However, there are various strategies that individuals and our school can employ to restore our potential.

First, our school district needs to facilitate dialogue on issues of concern taking place in the community as well as pressing issues facing our generation and nation as a whole. We also need schools and other institutions that tell people the facts, that allow students to express themselves, and that allow people to hear one another in a safe environment. Instead of turning to the internet, young people need to have qualified adults (such as equity specialists) involved in constructive conversations about issues like the Azad case when they do occur.

On a related note, students need to be taught how to solve real-world prob-

lems and how to advocate for themselves in a positive and effective way. One way of doing this is to better train students on how to conduct research in a proper fashion. Having factual information will allow young people to be more valuable citizens in our democracy. To those at the district and school level, if you value student voices, then foster them instead of merely enabling them.

I don't believe anything unless I am given a reason to. As smart and passionate people, today's youth must use their power in the right way at the right times. When you read something online, ask yourself what the source is, what the purpose of the article is, what the intent of the writer might be, and then verify the information it contains by comparing it with other sources.

To students who want to make positive change, make your advocacy impossible to refute and listen to others even if you may disagree with what they say. While free trade has not always worked in the economic sphere, the free trade of ideas has never hurt anyone. We need to address the injustices and government malpractice occurring all around us and we have to do it right for our efforts to be effective and well-received.

# Interstellar is a thoughtful sci-fi adventure

With Christopher Nolan's new film, *Oppenheimer*, coming out this summer, it is a good time to revisit his 2014 film



Photo by PARAMOUNT PICTURES

Matthew McConaughey (left) and Anne Hathaway anchor an A-list cast in an ambitious film that deals with issues of time, family and regret.

By MILO ATHIAS FINN  
Quill staff writer

*Interstellar*, directed by Christopher Nolan, was released to theaters on October 26, 2014. I chose to review this film because it shows the true importance of family and how the absence of it can create disastrous consequences. The movie features rich cinematography, sound and acting. In fact, it seems as if every actor in the movie is delivering an Oscar-worthy performance at all times. Overall, the Nolan film *Interstellar* uses special effects and the musical score to bring to life a film centered around the importance of family connections.

The film begins in the American Midwest in the not-too-distant future. The main character is Cooper, an ex-science engineer and pilot, who lives on a farm with his daughter, Murph, and son, Tom. Devastating sandstorms have been ravaging Earth's crops, prompting the realization that the ability to keep living on the planet is quickly coming to an end. When Cooper

stumbles upon a NASA research facility near his home, he is asked to go on a daring mission with a few other scientists to investigate a black hole that may give humanity a chance to relocate to a new planet.

In the scene where Cooper and a scientist named Brand enter Gargantua, a black hole, editing plays a huge role. As Brand and Cooper are in the midst of entering the black hole, Cooper realizes that their ship is too large. In order to save Brand from danger, he ejects and enters the black hole alone. Obviously, traveling through a real black hole with the technology humans have now is impossible. Thankfully, Nolan had experienced astrophysicists and award-winning special effects artists working with him to create the look of Gargantua, the space craft and the process of traveling into a black hole. Despite the extremity of what is happening in this sequence, it looks and feels realistic to the audience thanks to the special effects.

The musical score also plays

a large role in this film, especially in the scene when Cooper and his crew go to a planet to see if it can be potentially habitable. The search is halted when Brand spots a giant tsunami heading right for them. Composer Hans Zimmer gives this moment one of the best movie themes of all time to add suspense to the oncoming tsunami. As the tsunami rises, the score gets louder and louder, which adds to the intense feeling.

Another tool used in this sequence is the sound of a clock ticking. Audiences have already been told that each second is equal to one day on Earth, so the ticking of the clock representing the time they are losing as they attempt to save humanity. The chances of Cooper getting out of the humongous tsunami look pretty grim, and when that fact is joined with the music and use of the sound effect, viewers are left in the edge of their seats.

The film's central message is definitely centered around the importance of family. A scene that de-

picts this theme is when Cooper is swallowed by the black hole. Once inside, we see that he is in some sort of multi-dimensional realm that appears to be connected to his daughter's room during the exact moment when he left her for good. He tries to knock down books to get her attention, but fails. He then cries out her name, but this move is to no avail as well. Finally, he sees his past self exit the room and realizes all of the mistakes he has made. This sequence underscores the issue of sacrificing yourself and your family's happiness for the greater good.

Overall, *Interstellar* uses special effects and music to explore the importance of family. I love this film and it is my personal favorite. Everything in the movie is done to perfection, from the acting to the cinematography. Although I am a fan of Christopher Nolan and have enjoyed his other films like *Inception* and the Dark Knight trilogy, these movies have nothing on *Interstellar*. I give this film five out of five stars.

# Flipped looks at joy and pain of adolescent love

The overlooked 2010 romance was directed by Academy Award-nominee Rob Reiner



Photo by CASTLE ROCK ENTERTAINMENT

The film centers on the developing relationship between neighbors Bryce Loski (left) and Juli Baker.

By PRAIRIE MOUA  
Quill staff writer

The film *Flipped* was directed by Rob Reiner and released on August 6, 2010. The reason why I chose to review this film is that it is a mix of comedy, drama and romance, and I'm a big fan of romance movies. In *Flipped*, the filmmakers use editing and costumes to help to bring it more to life and show the real meaning of love.

The movie revolves around Juli Baker, who becomes convinced in second grade that she will someday kiss the boy who lives next door, Bryce Loski. Unfortunately, Bryce has never felt the same way. Then, in eighth grade, everything changes. Bryce begins to see that Juli's unusual interests and pride in her family are interesting, and that is when their relationship starts to change.

Editing plays a massive role in the opening scene of the movie when Bryce and his family are moving into their new house while Juli watches on. The editing technique they use in this sequence is cross-cutting because they have Juli tell the story from her side and then they cut to Bryce's perspective to give us the other side of the story. By showing both perspectives, audiences get a more in-depth understanding of what is happening in the film. Sometimes, one of the characters doesn't say much, but then the other character explains it more.

Another important filmmaking element is costume design. Due to the fact that the film takes place in the 1950s and 1960s, the costumes look different from what you would normally see nowadays. One scene that best shows this element is when one of Juli's neighbors gives her money. The outfits both characters wear are old fashioned, which reinforces that the movie takes place in a bygone era. In this way, costume design fits well with the storyline.

A lesson the movie teaches viewers is that love is not about kissing and appearances. Instead, the movie celebrates the sweet and innocent aspects of love. In the movie, Juli is portrayed as a normal girl who is viewed by others as weird. For example, she isn't the hottest girl in school because she is less interested in looking right than she is in climbing her sycamore tree and watching sunsets. Instead of being a "girly girl" like her classmates, Juli is a girl with a heart full of love who is honest, strong and loyal.

The film *Flipped* uses editing and costumes to show the real meaning of love. Overall, I enjoyed this movie because I love how Bryce just flips one day and realizes he is in love with Juli. I liked how the director made Juli and Bryce the narrators, which gave them both a chance to tell their own stories. I believe *Flipped* deserves five out of five stars.

## COWBOY BEBOP

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meet new characters, those characters challenge the heroes to face their fears and overcome their past.

*Cowboy Bebop* is currently streaming on Netflix, Tubi and Funimation. I would definitely recommend watching it if you're looking for something different. However, *Cowboy Bebop* is not something you want to binge watch, though, because it only has 26 episodes. I give this series four out of five stars.

# The Passion of Joan of Arc makes profound impression

The famous Carl Theodor Dreyer film takes a provocative approach to its retelling of a real-life event from history

By JAMES BERGER  
Quill staff writer

*The Passion of Joan of Arc* is a film directed by Carl Theodor Dreyer that was released in 1928. I have decided to review this movie because I think it's one of the greatest films of all time and it changed the way I view cinema. Its impactful themes and ahead-of-its-time filmmaking make the movie a personal favorite of mine. *The Passion of Joan of Arc* uses effective editing and lighting to explore how religion can be used for good and evil.

The film centers on Joan of Arc, France's leader during the Siege of Compiègne and a national symbol for the French cause during the Hundred Years' War, as she is on trial for heresy. Joan of Arc has claimed to see visions of St. Michael, St. Catherine and St. Margaret, which has resulted in her being imprisoned and urged to recant and repent. Over the course of the trial, Joan of Arc has to endure degradation, torture and the ordeal of endless cross-examinations.

One scene that highlights the excellent filmmaking techniques in the movie is when Joan is being forced to sign her confession. In this scene, after many attempts by the judges to try to get Joan to admit to lying about speaking to God, they give her one last chance to admit guilt or be executed. The one judge who believes her encourages her to sign because he believes that her being alive and still being able to fight for her king is important enough that it's justifiable for her to lie. She begrudgingly signs the confession and is freed from execution.



Photo by THE CRITERION COLLECTION

French martyr Joan of Arc is compellingly performed by Maria Falconetti.

Lighting plays a key role in this scene by putting emphasis on the characters' expressions. The men who are accusing Joan of lying have heavy shadows on their faces, particularly around their eyes. Joan is seen without these heavy eye shadows, and whenever she's on screen, there is always a glint in her eyes. Additionally, we also see shots of darkly lit weapons being held up in the air, which is in contrast to the light sky. The effect on the audience is that it gives us more empathy for Joan and less for her accusers. The heavy shadows on the faces of the men give them a menacing, almost skull-like appearance, whereas the lighting on Joan's face gives her more humanity and highlights the tears in her eyes.

Another pivotal scene is when Joan is executed. In this sequence, she renounces the confession she gave earlier and continues to say she

is innocent. This results in her being burned alive for what the church calls blasphemy. The public is outraged by Joan's execution and riots ensue.

Editing is important to this scene because the viewer is able to draw meaning from the combination of different shots. During Joan's final moments, we cut back and forth between a close up on her face and a cross. Once she's dead, the riots begin and the film cuts between the fighting and Joan's corpse burning. The impact this leaves on the audience is that we understand what Joan and the people who watched her die are feeling. The editing during this sequence displays that, even though Joan is dead, her spirit will be carried on by those who believe in her message and that the church's attempt to silence her beliefs is a failure.

The ability for religion to be used for greatness and corruption is

a key theme in *The Passion of Joan of Arc*. A scene demonstrating this is when Joan renounces her confession. During this scene, Joan calls the judges back to renounce her confession, explaining to them that she feels she betrayed her morals and god by lying about her guilt. Once she renounces the confession, she is sent to be burned at the stake.

This scene demonstrates the great power of religion for good and bad. Joan's faith in her religion is an example of how it can be a powerful source for good. Joan is so dedicated to her morals and being a good, faithful person that she is willing to face death rather than betray her faith and her own self. On the other hand, the judges refuse any mercy in the name of their religious values. They will impose their values upon other people or have them killed. This demonstrates how religion can inspire people to better themselves and be more loving while at the same time showing how religious organizations are oftentimes corrupt and morally bankrupt.

To conclude, *The Passion of Joan of Arc* uses editing and lighting as key pieces of its cinematic language to communicate the positives and negatives of religion. I love this film both because of its cinematic techniques and the portrayal of the characters. Not only was I engaged by the way the characters were written, but also by the fantastic performances, especially from Maria Falconetti. I thought Dreyer did an amazing job at directing the film. *The Passion of Joan of Arc* deserves five out of five stars.

## Hawks compete at state events

Athletes Bright Deku (12) and Rowan Tierney (11) made it to state for their winter sports



Photo by SARA THURSTON

Bright Deku (far left) and Rowan Tierney (far right) pose with the school mascot before a March 1 send-off event.

By NOAH PLAHN  
Quill staff writer

Two Cooper Hawks made it to state in their respective winter sports: Rowan Tierney (11) for swimming and Bright Deku (12) for wrestling. Both of them said they had successful seasons that led them to state. After the state meet, both athletes took a look back at their seasons and the process of their state runs.

### Rowan Tierney

Tierney went to state for the 100-meter butterfly event in swimming. The meet took place March 2-4 at the Jean K. Freeman Aquatic Center on the University of Minnesota, Twin Cities campus.

Tierney said he did many things during the regular season to set himself up for a state appearance.

"[I] came to every practice and worked on specifics relating [to] my event," he said.

Tierney first had to advance through sections to make it to state.

"[I] just simply went faster and made the cut," he said.

Tierney said he had to adjust focus during practice as he prepared for state. His main focus was on having "the right mindset" and participating fully in practice.

As for the actual state meet, Tierney said he wishes he performed better.

"[I] had some troubles getting in, but I got in, and my final time was 55.34 at state, which was slower than my section qualifying time of 55.18. Unfortunately, stuff like that happens," he said.

With one more season to compete as a Hawk, Tierney said he has some future swimming-related goals.

"I'm loosely trying to get the 100-fly school record, but mostly I just want

to have fun," he said.

Lastly, Tierney offered a single tip for future swimmers trying to make it to state: "Kick," he said.

### Bright Deku

In his final year at Cooper, Deku just attended his first state meet, which took place March 2-4 at the Xcel Energy Center in St. Paul. Deku wrestled in the 270-pound weight class despite only weighing 220 pounds. Deku said he spent the majority of his season in the 220-pound weight class but moved up to 270 when he made it to state.

"It was the coach's idea because he felt it would give the whole team a better perspective of going to state because we had enough 220s, so he moved me up," Deku said.

Deku said that making it to state takes hard work and commitment. In light of that, he did many things during the season to set himself up for a state run.

"I really didn't do much different from anyone else, but I was one of the few to make it to practice every single day and I also would attend the gym after practice every once in a while depending on how I was feeling that day. I guess just the toughness of having to go to school then practice and then going to work until 11 p.m. every night helped me," he said.

Once Deku made it to sections, he was committed to making it to state as this was his last chance to compete at Cooper.

"The first match was my first heavyweight match in a while, so me and coach weren't sure how I was going to do, but I actually ended up pinning the kid in just 19 seconds. Then, my second match went on to be six minutes, but I beat the kid 13-2. In my third match, I ended up getting pinned in 5:30, but I got

second place and still qualified," he said.

Once he qualified, Deku had to continue to put in extra work after sections heading into state.

"It was brutal," he said. "I would wrestle almost everyone my size and then I would have to go against the coach. Then, by the time I'm tired, I would have to repeat that three or four times, and then I'd have to sprint down the room. To be honest, it was the first time I've been close to crying in a while," he said.

This hard work paid off when Deku arrived at the state tournament.

"During the state meet, it was pretty fun just being there. I've never been the type of guy to be shy, but once I went out there and it was time to wrestle, I saw all the people and the nerves got to me and I just froze up. I ended up losing my state match by a decision in the end, but at least I went a full six minutes at state," Deku said.

Deku had some advice for future Hawks wrestlers trying to make it to state.

"As long as you put your mind to it 100 percent and put in the work, results should come out. If you're not seeing results coming out just through practice, then start putting in work outside, whether that's going on a run or just doing some pushups at home," he said.

With this being his last season at Cooper, Deku discussed his future goals related to wrestling.

"I have some colleges looking at me and asking me if I would go there, but I don't think it is something I really want to do because I want to go into school for business so I can help my mom open her first restaurant. She cooks and she sells food, but she doesn't have a license or restaurant yet, so it's a big dream of mine to help her open that," he said.

## Students scale new heights in climbing club

Led by Ms. Kraft and Ms. Pflaum, the group welcomes members of all skill levels

By JOSEPH METZGER  
Quill staff writer

Cooper started a rock climbing club this year that is designed to bring a whole new experience for students who want to learn how to climb and try something different.

School nurse Ms. Kraft, who is the head coach along with music teacher Ms. Pflaum, has a lot of experience with the outdoor world. Although she said that she is not the greatest climber, she explained that she wants to show students that it is still possible to do the sport.

"I guess that you could say I'm an outdoorsy athlete. I ski, snowboard, backpack, climb, etc. I'm not an experienced climber, but I want to show the students that you don't need to be amazing at your hobbies; you simply need to enjoy doing them," Kraft said.

According to Kraft, the club is designed to show students that climbing is for everyone.

"My goal is to ensure that they feel included [and] welcomed in the climbing community," Kraft said.

Kraft said her work with the climbing club fits well with her personal hobbies outside of the club, which makes her



Photo by SAMANTHA KRAFT

Students in the club visit local climbing venues to work on their skills. a versatile coach for the group.

"I enjoy all things outdoors: skiing, snowshoeing, climbing, backpacking, mountain biking, paddleboarding. [I do] all these things with my sidekick dog, Loki," Kraft said.

Hunter Olson (12), a student member of the club, said that, at first, it was just something to do on the side, but he now views it as a hobby. Olson said he enjoys climbing and that he looks forward to it whenever they get together.

"It's a pretty cool club. At first, it was

something to do on the side, but now I want to get into it," he said.

Olson also said that they are provided with the equipment and that there are multiple levels, which helps the learning process.

"We are given shoes [and] chalk, and there are multiple levels: beginner, intermediate and advanced," Olson said.

Students who are interested in learning more about the club are encouraged to see Kraft in the nurse's office or Pflaum in room 256.

**STUDENTS SHARE THEIR WISHES FOR NEXT PRINCIPAL** continued from page 3

feel strongly about: "Stop closing the bathroom. People should be able to go to the bathroom freely," he said.

Students have different wants and needs from the school because they will spend four years of their life at Cooper.

To have these needs met, survey respondents agreed that Cooper needs a great principal.

## Cooper Competitors

The story of the athletes who strive for success in Cooper sports

### Funanya Jibunor

By BRIGHT DEKU  
Quill staff writer

Funanya Jibunor (12), a foreign exchange student, has been making the most of her time at Cooper by taking part in sports.

In the winter season, Jibunor joined the Nordic skiing team. In fact, she just started skiing when she decided to become part of the team. Jibunor said she found out about the sport from her friends and counselor.

Jibunor shared that she enjoyed Nordic skiing because it is a "great way to work out" and clear her head "in the fresh, cold air."

"I also appreciated the close-knit team dynamic," she said.

Jibunor added that her favorite memory of the season was a ski trip, which allowed her to "take in the beau-

tiful scenery."

As she looks back on the season, Jibunor said she enjoyed working with the captains on the team, "one of whom was particularly welcoming." Overall, she said she raced competitively three times and made some great friends.

Now that the spring sports season has started, Jibunor has joined lacrosse. She said she is looking forward to gaining experience in a new sport.

Outside of sports, Jibunor enjoys drawing and watching movies. She said her favorite class in school is Painting 1, which is "taught by the welcoming and engaging Ms. Mielke."

Looking toward the future, Jibunor plans to study medicine and pursue a career in the medical field. While she enjoyed her time in Cooper sports, she said she does not plan to continue with athletics after high school.

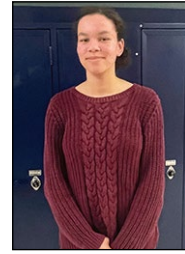


Photo by BRIGHT DEKU

### Princeton Wallace

By BRIGHT DEKU  
Quill staff writer

Princeton Wallace (12) is a Hawks athlete who plays football in the fall and does track in the spring.

Wallace has been playing football since his freshman year of high school, while track and field has been part of his life since sophomore year. He said he joined both sports because his friends were in them and he "felt it would be fun."

Looking back on the football season, Wallace said it didn't go the way he wished, but he is still glad he finished with the team after four years. Wallace added that his favorite football memory was making it to the state football tournament with his teammates.

Currently, Wallace is moving into

the track season. He is part of the team's throwing unit, where he takes part in the shot put and the discus events.

"I want to see how far I can throw this year," he said.

Wallace said he has enjoyed the experience with all his teammates in track. As for his favorite memory, Wallace said he is proud of his first discus throw of more than 100 meters.

When it comes to school, Wallace said his favorite subjects are math and science. He likes math because it challenges him and he likes science because he enjoys learning about new discoveries.

Next fall, Wallace will go to a junior college to play football. Eventually, he would like to earn a sports scholarship to a Division One school. He hopes to major in business at college.



Photo by BRIGHT DEKU

### Mason Stachowski

By NEMO PONDER  
Quill staff writer

Mason Stachowski (12) is a lacrosse athlete at Cooper.

"I play attack position in lacrosse," he said.

Stachowski started playing lacrosse in ninth grade.

"I started playing my freshman year after a couple of my buddies asked me to play," he said.

Stachowski said he loves the bond he has with the coaches and other players.

"I enjoy the relationships I've made with coaches and players, both current and graduated, and being out on the field playing the sport I love," he said.

Stachowski has had his fair share of memories from lacrosse.

"My favorites were definitely scoring my first goal and also the first game

we won," he said.

Thanks to his four years in the program, Stachowski is one of the captains of the team this year.

"Some of the things we've done are set up a meeting, recruit players, talk and get fundraising together," he said.

Instead of doing fall or winter sports at Cooper, Stachowski plays club lacrosse.

"I play for a club team year-round," he said. "I did go to a showcase which went very well and ended up getting contacted by some coaches."

As for school, Stachowski said he enjoys his business and marketing classes because he will pursue those subjects in college. Next fall, Stachowski will go to Trine University to double major in business administration and marketing. He also will be playing lacrosse for that school.



Photo by BRIGHT DEKU

### Peyton Sanders

By NEMO PONDER  
Quill staff writer

Peyton Sanders (12) is a Hawks track athlete who has been competing in the sport for most of his life.

"I have been running track and field since I was five years old. My dad encouraged me to start running and I fell in love with it ever since," he said.

Sanders said he likes the competitive aspect of track and enjoys the hard work the sport requires.

"I've always loved the physical challenge of competing in track and field and the unseen work that gets put in when I'm not competing," he said.

Sanders said one of his most memorable accomplishments in track took place during his junior year.

"One of my favorite memories

from my sport is when I qualified for sections in the long jump my junior year," he said.

Sanders is one of the captains of the track team this year.

"I feel like I bring many assets to the table when it comes to working hard on and off the track, putting in the effort, staying consistent and realizing that mistakes are going to be made," he said.

When it comes to being a student at Cooper, Sanders said he likes his Earth Science, AVID and Weight Training classes.

"I enjoy those three classes the most because they challenge me," he said.

Next fall, Sanders will attend Iowa Central to further his education. He wants to study business management and pursue a real estate license.

"I also committed to Iowa Central for track and field," he said.

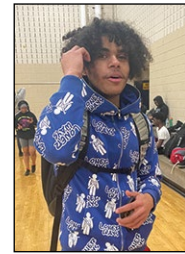


Photo by BRIGHT DEKU