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Purple Press



Volume #23, Issue #8

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Big changes on the horizon

Nora moving on after 12-year stint

Cal Schmid & Claire Hulson
Staff Writers

After 12 years of teaching at OWL, English teacher Nora Krings is moving on.

Proudly born and raised in Chicago, Nora is well known at OWL. She is proudly, honestly, and unapologetically Nora. She's eclectic: a mental health advocate, self proclaimed 80s and 90s hip hop aficionado,

she's cultured and passionate. She's a wife to Nick Krings and mother to two kids, one being Juniper who goes to OWL.

Her empathetic and selfless nature comes in handy while devoting her time working with the OWL theater, she works with Rebecca Rentzel to direct each department in the school plays and musicals. Nora has never been afraid

to put others first whether it's making lessons to engage students in her free time or ordering costumes for plays.

In our small tight knit community Nora is who you go to when you need someone to stand up for you or someone to voice their unwavering opinion and be heard. She is

Nora, 5

Caryl to retire as media specialist

Kate Houle
Staff Writer

To the heartbreak of many, OWLs beloved librarian Caryl Mousseaux is retiring at the end of the 2022-2023 school year. After many years of working at OWL, Caryl is leaving to live out her and her husband's dream of retiring early and traveling, while helping out their parents.

Caryl has had many accomplishments throughout her career. She was an English teacher for nine years, before going back to school and getting her library masters. She has now been OWLs librarian for seven years, and has built the library from the ground up. "It's hard to build a program, but it's a fun challenge. You have to advocate for what the

students need, and learn how to ask for help and money," she commented.

OWL has nothing but benefited from her dedication to the program. "She will care for the books, but she will also care for you, and will help you find the genres you like and remind you to return

Caryl, 5

OBSA students travel to CO and CA



Tim Leone-Getten



Clara Raineri

Students stopped for a photo on a hike in Yosemite National Park (left), students at the Colorado Outward Bound School posed on a rope bridge (right).

Outward Bound students traveled out-of-state to participate in service learning

Gabby Govrik
Staff Writer

If you're a high schooler in Outward Bound, you can go on a free all-expenses-paid trip - if you're willing to get your hands dirty. This year there were three OB trips: California, Colorado, and Deep Portage in Northern Minnesota. Students on each

of these trips spent much of their time completing service projects.

OWL encourages all kids to be involved, preaching that 'we are crew, not passengers'. Graduation requirements including service hours within and outside of the school community has allowed Outward Bound to play an

instrumental role in our school.

At OWL, Outward Bound functions as a student planning and volunteering committee. The plant sale, the fall family gathering, every school dance, and more recently - OWL Against Hunger has been arranged and worked by Outward Bound.

These are how you attain service hours, and even if you aren't volunteering full day, it really adds up!

Spanish teacher Tim Leone-Getten gave a summary on how these aforementioned trip work. "The trips are paid for by student fundraising, primarily the plant sale and service auction. You qualify

by volunteering and raising money. Each hour you work and each \$10 you raise gets you a point. Students then choose which trip they would like and are assigned to their trips based on the number of points they have earned throughout the year. Tim and

OBSA, 7

Behind a NHD project

What goes into preparing for a competition

Claire Ales and Anya Robertson
Staff Writers

History starts in class for some, but others strive for bigger goals. Have you ever wondered what goes into creating a clean, polished, high quality History Day project? How do you advance to Nationals?

At OWL, 6th, and 7th graders are required to do History Day. 11th graders in US History are also required to participate in History Day at the school competition. They can choose from a documentary, performance, exhibit board, website or paper. They can also choose whether they would like to do a group project or individual.

For each project category there are different requirements. Documentaries and performances both have a time limit of 10 minutes. An exhibit board has a 500 word limit. The 500 words include everything that the student writes. For example, it wouldn't include quotes from another person. Papers must have a minimum of 1,500 words and a maximum of 2,500 words. A website can have a maximum of 1,200 self written words.

People doing History Day typically start in December or January. When selecting a topic students take several things into consideration. The first thing they consider is

History Day, 6

Robotics focuses on team building

The Open Circuits have high hopes for next year

Hana Ninow
Staff Writer

A buzzer rings and the drivers take hold of their controls. The two minutes have started. For the next two minutes there's only one thing they have to focus on: get points. And don't let the other team get points. And don't get in the way of the alliance members. And don't break any rules. And don't cross into the other alliance area. And don't

break anything. And stick to the plan.

So maybe there's a bit more than one thing to focus on while driving the robot, but that only lasts for two minutes. For the entire tournament, only about 20 minutes will be spent driving in qualifying matches. The rest of the two and a half days will be spent making adjustments to the robot, networking with other teams, writing and testing

code, participating in practice matches, and doing fun things like collecting buttons. After that time, teams who did well enough have the possibility to compete in playoffs for the rest of the third day and, if they do well enough there, move on to state, and possibly even worlds.

The OWL robotics team, the Open Circuits, have yet

Robotics, 6



Purple Press Staff Photo

The Open Circuits posed for a team photo after their tournament at the University of Minnesota.



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Track finishes strong

The team saw large improvements this season

Zane Sheire
Staff Writer

The Humboldt track and field team grew a lot this year, in part thanks to the participation of many OWL athletes. On the team this year there are 65 student athletes and it's about 40% Humboldt and 60% OWL.

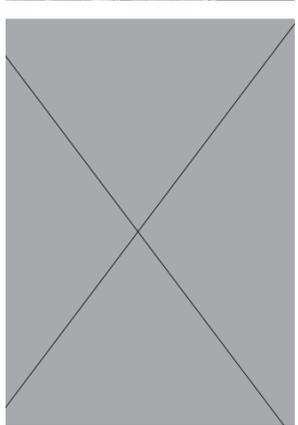
The team is growing each year and there is hope that the team will reach 80 student athletes. The sprinting team is the biggest with a little more than half the athletes doing sprinting events, which are 100m up to 800m and everything in between. The distance team is close in second, and there are 10 throwers so it is by far our smallest team. Of course many athletes compete in multiple events.

At the distance only meet Humboldt placed first overall. Humboldt, Washington, Central, Como, Johnson and Harding competed at this event. Some notable placements included first in the mixed 4x100m relay race. As well, Aviahna Turner (Humboldt 7th grade) and Willa Campion (11th grade) placed one two in the mile run, finishing within three seconds of each other. Bennett Vaughn-Fire (10th grade) placed third overall in the boys varsity mile, while Zane Sheire (10th grade) placed third in the boys varsity Discus. Everyone was very excited and everyone was cheering for everyone and it was overall a great win for the entire team. "It was cool but I think we can do better," said 8th grader Luke Hobday. "I thought we did really well compared to our other meets," said 9th grader August Cheney "It was super great. It was fun to see people run new events and it shows we have a lot of strong runners on our team,"

said Willa.

When the Head Track Coach was asked what his hopes were for the rest of the season he said "I want to be top three in the conference." The teams in the conference are Washington, Central, Como, Johnson and Harding. Over the last few years we have consistently placed fourth.

At the conference meet several athletes made it into the finals for the events they ran: Elijah Stende (11th grade) in the 200 meters got eighth and in the 300 meter hurdles he got third place. BranTaja Loggins from Humboldt got top eighth in girls shot put and discus. Aria Kulseth (8th grade) got fourth place in the girls 400 meter final. Lucy Keenan (10th Grade) and



Julie Christensen
11th grader Eli Stende runs the 300m hurdles (top), 8th grader Aria Kulseth runs the 400m dash (bottom).

Annabelle Wilson (8th grade) both got top 10 in the girls 800 meter final. Lucy Keenan also got 10th place for the girls 1 mile, Aviahna Turner placed seventh for the girls mile run.

At the JV conference meet, which included OWL varsity runners that were in either California, Colorado, or Deep Portage for the Outward Bound trips, Elana Patton (9th Grade) and Olivia Smail (8th Grade) both placed top 10 in the girls 100 meters; they both also placed top 10 in the 200 meter dash with Elena placing number two. Clara Crosby (9th grade) got first place in the Girls 400 meters and Amelia Keenan (7th grade) placed third. Tess Campion (11th grade) placed second in the Girls 800 meters and Amelia placed 7th. Willa and Tess got fourth and fifth in the 300 meter hurdles and Anja Gundale (11th grade) placed eighth.

In the girls 4x200 meter Tess and Willa, Annika Lofgren (11th grade), and Anja placed third. In girls shot put Annika Lofgren placed second, Tess placed fourth and Anja placed fifth. In girls discus Annika placed third, Willa placed third and Anja placed fourth. In the girls high jump Cam Sisson placed first with a PR jump and Olivia Smail placed second. In the boys mile run Owen Vaughan-Fier (12th Grade) placed fifth and he also placed fifth in Boys shot put.

At the section meet several people placed well and qualified for finals in their events, although no one qualified for the state meet. Elijah got fourth in the 300 meter hurdles, two spots away from qualifying for the state meet.



Purple Press Staff Photo

The manatee posed for a team photo after a tournament.

Manatee make program history

They placed 7th at state, higher than any previous boys team

Tess Campion
Staff Writer

After a slow start to the season, the Manatees picked up traction ending the year with a record breaking state tournament finish. Despite hot temperatures in Blaine and some long games, the varsity team finished 7th in Division I, the highest an OWL boys team has ever placed, making program history. The Manatee JV finished 10th in Division III, winning four of their seven games and finishing their season on a strong note. As well, varsity player and 10th grader Danny Hobday was voted a 2023 All-State player.

The state tournament followed a competitive regular season that started in late March. Manatees had the opportunity to play in the Hopkins Hustle and Mitoska Classic tournaments prior to their state showing. The tournaments provided the opportunity to play a wider range of teams across the state. Both Manatee teams were in a competitive Suburban East Conference which was made up of many other Saint Paul schools. Despite not being favored this year, the varsity team won the conference, beating their rivals, Central, for the title. Junior Mintesinot Sturm said it was the highlight of his season. "It especially felt good this year because we were not predicted to win," said Mintesinot.

Manatee coach Joe Ling said this season was the most he has seen a team improve throughout a season and many players agree. Junior captain Cooper Peterson Antin was proud of the 'team's cohesion' this season, adding that he was proud of how everyone worked together and how every win was a team effort. Junior Leland Engleking agreed, saying the team chemistry was a highlight of the season for him.

The Manatees have six seniors graduating this year: Abe Baer Benson, Daniel Meekin, Gabe Kennedy, Brodie Olmstead, Ian Brooks, and Isaac Stender. The spirit brought by the upperclassmen is something that the team hopes to carry into next season. "Being able to learn from the seniors and carry over that mentality for next will be important to make sure not everything is about winning, but also losing graciously," said Cooper.

To continue the team development the Manatee are holding open summer practices to keep players touching the disc and developing chemistry with some new players. With a strong class of rising upperclassmen, the team thinks next year might be their best season yet. "We have what it takes and we have who it takes," said Cooper. The Manatees are looking forward to another successful season.



Purple Press Staff Photo

11th grader Sora Walker reaches for disc in the air (left), 10th grader Noah Johnson sky's an opponent (right).

Wo-manatee place 11th in D1

The team competed at the state tournament two weekends ago

Joe Lodahl
Staff Writer

The Womanatee played in the state frisbee tournament two weekends ago at the National Sports Center in Blaine. They played five games in the first division over the span of two days, winning one and losing four.

"I think we tried our best, especially in the heat at the state tournament, but I'm proud of our conference season. D1 is always a challenge," said junior Elena Davis.

On the first day of the tournament, the Womanatee played their first game against Eagan, followed by a strong game against highly ranked Edina's Varsity team with a score of 5 to 12. They finished off the day with a game against Hopkins, with a close score of 5 to 8.

On the second day, the Womanatee lost to Benilde varsity, but ended with a victory against Apple Valley with a score of 10 to 7. They ended up securing 11th in

state. "The season had its ups and downs, but we improved as a team and as individuals," said 9th grader Violet Baer Benson.

The Womanatee team went 10-18 this season, including the regular season combined with the three tournaments that they were a part of. In

the first tournament that they played in, Matoska Classic, they had a 3-3 record. In the second tournament, Hopkins Hustle, they went 3-3 as well.

"I feel like we were able to grow a lot and learn a lot as a team," said 10th grader Gabby Govrik. "The biggest highlight was when we beat Red Wing 13-10 with only 10 players."

Overall, most team members had positive things to say about the season as a whole. "A highlight was breathing Mounds View on universe point. I improved a lot and our team became really bonded by the end. Willa threw a lot of deeps that I was able to stop people with," said Elena. 10th grader Mylie Antin echoed this. "We learned how to work together with new players, and we improved a lot every time we had a game or practice. I'm super excited for next season and to see where we end up next year," she said.



Brad Benson

The team huddles (top), Tess prepares to throw (bottom)

Students present at capital

8th graders shared their math projects on the state's budget

Connie Van Genderen
Staff Writer

On May 3rd, 8th grade students gathered in the rotunda at the capital of St. Paul to present to representatives.

The Senate expedition is the main project in Algebra 1. The classes present their projects to their representatives in early May each year, where they would take the knowledge that they learned and use it to better the state. The goals of the project are to let students choose a topic they care about, to create high quality work and so children can express what they want to change in MN with one of the most authentic audiences. "Being able to present something that is really dear to me to people who have the power to change stuff and have them take me seriously is incredible," said 8th grader Kaden McNamara. The project has been overseen by Tom Totushek for the

last six years. The students create groups where they can discover their representatives and connect with them about them visiting their project in the capital.

The students create graphs and close their topic from the state spending on their chosen view and compare it to other data sets, for example: MN crime rates vs. MN state spending on education. The students study the data and then create paragraphs utilizing ethos, pathos, logos. The students find a story to connect the reader on a personal basis using someone's personal experiences. Students will make a logos paragraph explaining how the graphs work and how their suggestions will make sense.

They will create a summary about what they want to change and bring some perspectives from the people being affected and explaining,

and create a pull quote that is 22 words long, that will attract the people. 22 words is the exact amount of words the pull quote the students create to attract people, since it has been scientifically proven that that is the most effective. The students will then go through the revision process, editing their project to create high quality work and refine their project. Once the kids have created their polished board, we ship them off to the rotunda to chit-chat with some weirdo senators.

"Our project was about healthcare spending vs. rate of uninsured persons by race. One thing I learned from this project is that there is a huge gap between uninsured white persons and uninsured persons of color. This can become gradually smaller if we continue to spend on healthcare. My experience at the capital was very good. I

think our project was a success. I would tell someone who was doing the project next year to not rush and really consider the idea you are picking. We spent a long time choosing and deciding and it paid off well," said Alva Healy.

"My project was about MN state spending on public safety and corrections vs. three year adult recidivism rate. I'd say that the project was 75% successful because I didn't really feel like I knew enough about our topic and I didn't get to do as much as I wished," said Moises Gadea Rodriguez.

"My project was about environmental resources spending vs. days with good air quality index in the twin cities. I learned that most Americans are affected by air quality if they live in the city. But we just don't notice it, and it can become like a fact of life to us. My experience at the capital

Senate Expedition, 5



Purple Press Staff Photo

Laura Orris has been a regular substitute teacher this year who has done a lot to support students.

The importance of sub teachers

Returning substitutes build valuable relationships with students

Kate Houle
Staff Writer

As you walk past the OWL office on an average school day, you might notice a whiteboard with staffs' names written on it. This board serves as a heads up to students about which of their classes are going to have one major difference that day: a substitute teacher.

Wikipedia defines a substitute teacher as "a person who teaches a school class when the regular teacher is absent or unavailable," but in reality, they're so much more than that. For someone to be a sub in Minnesota, it is required for them to have a full teaching license or a specialized short call license. Substitutes can fill in for teachers (either day-to-day or long-term), paraprofessionals, educational assistants, aides, and even sometimes for custodians or food service workers.

At OWL, it's likely that a student will have a sub in one of their classes at least once a week. It's even higher around weekends, long breaks, and when sickness is going around. "There are days where people are usually probably out more, like Fridays and Mondays. And then like before and after breaks in school, there's typically more teachers out," commented Laura Orris, a substitute very familiar to students at OWL. She's been a long-term sub three times here in the past two years, and can often be found around the building, helping out wherever she's needed. "I've helped Rhonda out with AP testing, getting that ready. I'm going to help out with interim, so everyday is always different," she continued.

St. Paul Public Schools usually hires their subs through an organization called Teachers on Call, who works with over 150 school districts throughout the midwest. They post available positions for their employees to choose from, based on what districts they're centered in. "There's like hundreds of positions a day sometimes," explained Laura, who works for the organization. Teachers on Call is in charge of payroll and workers compensation for substitutes, so the schools themselves don't have to worry about supporting the people they may only see once or

twice.

OWL has a special relationship with subs though. "It's unique in that there are subs that keep coming back, which I don't know if a lot of other schools have that," said Laura, who's only one of many familiar faces for students. 10th grader Michael Ryan commented, "It's definitely like a regular rotation, who it is. Like, we know their names and their general looks," talking about OWL's regular "roster" of substitute teachers. According to the 2023 Biennial Minnesota Teacher Supply and Demand, 81% of MN school districts have problems with sub availability, so the fact that OWL has around six to eight substitutes that are here consistently is a huge advantage.

"With familiar subs it's more like 'oh this isn't just some random old lady that I can mouth off to, this is Laura,'" 10th grader Ruby Kate Nolen remarked. It's a pretty well known fact that classes are more likely to be rowdy when their regular teacher is out, so OWL's subs being able to build relationships with students helps to keep some sense of normalcy and productivity. "You get to know that person, and then you act out less in their class when they substitute," agreed 9th grader Moss Windingstad.

But those relationships go both ways. "The biggest assist that a substitute can have is knowing the names of students. So not jumping around so much helps a lot because you can learn the names faster, and it helps with behavior and building rapport and just getting to know students," commented Laura, "By now, I know almost every student at OWL," she continued, which is certainly an impressive feat. But knowing everyone isn't always the same as being in the community.

"You're definitely a part of the community, but it's kinda hard to gauge how much you're really kinda accepted," Laura admitted, "I work here a lot, but I'm not technically full time here. So it can be an awkward situation." Substitutes are often overlooked, even at OWL. "They're not usually thought of during like teacher appreciation week, they're

Subs, 7

What is the EL Education model?

OWL is one of multiple EL Education schools in the country

Meara Gunderson
Staff Writer

We all know OWL is an EL Education school, but what does that mean? What exactly is EL Education?

EL stands for Expeditionary Learning, and EL schools are focused around high achievement through active learning, teamwork, and character growth. EL Education schools are about a lot of things, including fostering curiosity about the world, having time to experiment, and encouraging students to think in different ways by offering choices of writing topics and choices in selective classes, going on out of school trips, encouraging discussion, debate, and reflection in all classes, bringing in experts in fields related to what the students are learning at that time, and by expanding their world view through service learning.

The EL Education schools movement started in 1991 when the Harvard Graduate

School of Education joined Outward Bound USA to make a new model of schooling: Expeditionary Learning. They got funding from the New American Schools federal initiative, even though only the top 1% of proposals received funding. The first 10 EL schools opened in 1993 when the EL movement got renewed funding and opened schools in New York City, Boston,

Portland (ME), Denver, and Dubuque. After that, the movement continued to grow into what it is today.

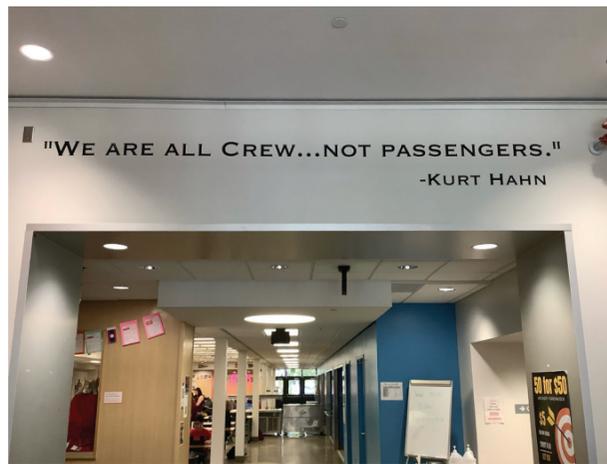
OWL is different from many schools in Minnesota, and across the world. OWL has a large focus on project based learning, letting students control more of their education than many more traditional schools, and is also a close knit community due

to its small size of around 450 students.

"The EL Education is a kind of a school reform model and it focuses on 3 dimensions of student achievement, mastery of skills and knowledge, culture and character, and high quality work because we feel students don't just go to school academically to learn in just content. So just math and science that's critical and important but the culture and character part about who a person is is critical and the quality of work they produce is critical," said Dale Bergerhofer, an EL school designer. This is Dale's 16th year with EL schools and he has worked with OWL the longest, over 10 years.

"We try to look at all three of those areas and when most kids leave school most students go out into the work field if you pursue college or if you go into tech school or whatever direction you wanna go, we look at the students

EL, 6



Purple Press Staff Photo

Kurt Hahn, a founder of EL Education, is quoted in the entryway to OWL.

BTS of community meetings

Everyone in Damon's crew helps to produce the monthly events

Anneli Lofgren
Staff Writer

With 5 minutes left until the community meeting starts, Jeff and Joe's crew finish seating people, the producer sits at the back, and Owen Belmares and Dylan Bickelhall dim the lights, marking the beginning of the meeting. Everybody's tense, hoping the weeks of preparation were enough.

We all know that Damon's Crew is responsible for making the community meetings that we see roughly every month. It's an intense process. The planning for the next community meeting begins immediately after the last one happens, so that we can

spend weeks perfecting the next one. Members of the crew specialize in different parts of the creation and production, helping make the process smoother and more efficient.

In the production department, 7th grader Calvin Hoenisch makes the certificates for Students of the Month, and 9th grader Amya Wright is the head of production, taking charge of the schedule, and overseeing the live production of the event, insuring everything is prepared in advance. "I make sure other people are doing what they have to do, so I basically hassle them," said Amya, adding with a smile,

"maybe threaten them if I have to, you know."

In visuals, 9th grader August Cheney does video production, which takes and collects photos for the opening slideshow. 10th grader Owen Belmares films and edits the monthly theme video interviews. Solitude and Reflection videos are filmed and edited by Damon, Jeff, and 12th grader Gideon Zupfer.

For content, 9th grader Ian Oberheide creates and edits the slides that are displayed on the screen in the community meeting, while I create and edit the script for hosts to read from, working with Ian to determine the order of the

script and stuff like that. I make the basic copy of what the hosts have to go through, then they get a chance to personalize the script, and think about an example of that month's theme.

In technology, 10th grader Owen Belmares and 8th grader Dylan Bickelhall are in charge of lights, making sure the lighting matches whatever is happening onstage. This team can be seen at the light board at the back of the auditorium.

9th grader Nina LaFerla is the main runner, who Damon named his "voice" around school. "I mostly talk to teachers and Dave, about what

Community meetings, 7



NPR

Conversion therapy banned

Governor Tim Walz signed the landmark bill on April 21st

Alva Healy
Staff Writer

On the 21st of April, Tim Walz signed multiple bills in support of women and the LGBTQ+ group, one of which included a historic ban on conversion therapy.

Conversion “therapy” is a practice of “curing” or “repairing” someone’s sexuality or gender identity by using harmful emotional and physical tactics. These tactics can include aversion therapy, brain surgery, psychoanalysis, reparative therapy, etc. Conversion therapy is usually provided by a church.

It has been proven that conversion therapy does not work, and often time can lead the recipient to develop severe depression, anxiety and suicidal thoughts. California was the first state to ban conversion

therapy, followed by bans in 22 states, including Minnesota this year.

Overall, the reaction to the ban has been overwhelmingly positive. Many people agree with the conversion therapy ban. This is because when faced with the truth of conversion therapy, many decide it is not right. Being LGBTQ+ is also more accepted lately in Minnesota, as there has been a rise in support for those in the community. Minnesota is a very blue state, and has a lot of democratic political influences.

The news has excited the students and teachers at OWL. “I was thrilled when I heard the news,” says ELA teacher, Preston West, “It’s disappointing that it took so long, but I’m glad it happened eventually!”

2023 Met Gala red carpet recap

The theme of this year’s star studded party sparked uproar

Maddie Linstad
Staff Writer

For some, the first day of May means spring cleaning, but for many this year it meant the 2023 Met Gala red carpet. This year’s Gala was packed to the rim with dazzling outfits, but the controversy of this gala was by far the most eye-catching.

The Met Gala is an annual event that fundraises for the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York City. It is known as the “SuperBowl of fashion” and “fashion’s biggest night,” meaning it’s a pretty big deal for many celebrities. The Met Gala has been around for 72 years, its first major event being in 1948. It also marks the opening of the annual fashion exhibit from the Costume Institute. This year’s exhibit is titled “Karl Lagerfeld: A Line of Beauty.” The exhibit focused around Karl Lagerfeld’s style and design, with around 150 of his pieces and sketches on display to the public.

The new exhibit went hand in hand with this year’s Met

Gala theme: “in honor of Karl,” who passed away back in February of 2019. Celebrities were told to arrive at the event dressed in Karl Lagerfeld’s fashion trends and designs. What to expect from this theme was bridal gowns, black and white, pearl jewelry, tweed clothing, and Chanel outfits. Many others also predicted that celebrities would dress as Lagerfeld’s infamous white cat, Choupette.

This year’s theme brought out many elegant outfits, but also sparked a lot of controversy. This is because of several problematic comments that Lagerfeld had made over his lifetime. Many of these were around weight and other people’s bodies, specifically women’s. Lagerfeld would express his fatphobia on models and celebrities throughout his entire career. He also was openly racist, Islamophobic, anti-immigrant, and homophobic, expressing his prejudice in interviews, and even through outfits on the runway. Last-

Met Gala, 7

Archers compete at nationals

OWL students traveled to the national competition in Kentucky

Maddie Linstad
Staff Writer

After a wild time all the way down in Kentucky, a handful of OWL archers return from nationals with a new experience.

Preparations for this tournament began in mid April, where archery practice continued on for the qualifiers to practice. “The national archers have been putting in extra time after school Monday through Friday with the hopes of showing well when they shoot in the last flight on Saturday,” said Coach Tom Totushek. For two hours after school, archers shoot on one half of the gym. There are high hopes for these qualifiers, as Senior Nationals qualifier Ian Rosenberg-School reportedly shot a score of 294 during the practice tournament on their

last day of practice.

Archers going to Nationals include Ian Rosenberg-Scholl, Sophie Sherman-Hoehn, Jacob Landy, Theo Kimball, and Duncan Smith. “I’m really nervous,” said 6th grade qualifier Sophie Sherman-Hoehn. “There’s a lot of people and it’s only my first year in archery.” Sophie has reportedly gone to all of the additional practices, and claimed that she’s also very excited to go to nationals.

After the State Tournament, qualifiers and anyone who is interested can go to the National tournament. There are two national tournaments, eastern and western. OWL attended the Eastern National tournament held in Louisville, Kentucky from May 11-13. The Western National Tournament was held in Sandy, Utah from April 28-29. The scores

from teams and individuals from these two tournaments will be combined to determine who qualifies for the Open Championship event, which will be held in early June at Myrtle Beach, South Carolina.

If an archer shoots exceptionally well at a NASP state or national tournament, they could get paid for it. The top five male and female finalists from the combined results from the Western and Eastern tournaments will compete at the Open Championship Tournament to determine who gets which scholarship. These archers compete through a shoot out. The male and female archers who win first in the shoot out get a \$5,000 scholarship, second place a \$4,000, third a \$3,000, and so on until 5th place. Additionally, there are three team schol-

arships available for the highest scoring teams at Nationals. The scholarships are also based on the combined results from both National tournaments. The top scoring team wins \$24,000, 2nd place wins \$18,000, and 3rd place wins \$12,000. The National Tournaments and Open Championship also give away up to 120 scholarships to randomly selected archers. State tournaments also have scholarships available.

Nationals is a very big event, with countless archers. Apparently, there were around 15,000 archers at the national tournament, with about 2,500 archers in each category. “It was very big. There were a lot of people,” said 10th grade qualifier Theo Kimball. Although there were

Archery, 7

New tech brings change to sports

Wilson’s airless basketball prototype debuted earlier this month

Joaquin Paez
Staff Writer

Wilson, the official ball maker of NBA basketball, is making a new airless ball that never has to be inflated. The prototype has been used during the dunk contest by K.J Martin. In an interview after the contest he said, “When I first heard it, I didn’t know what to expect. Once I actually saw the ball in person, it was crazy. I didn’t expect a basketball with holes to bounce and feel like a normal leather basketball.”

This ball is the same size and weight as a normal basketball, so it’s a true breakthrough in tech because the ball is 3D printed in an advanced printer so that every ball would end up the same size and weight as NBA regulation.

This makes every ball take less resources from earth. Making it more accessible to the public. It also makes it easy for the NBA to have an

NBA standard basketball that is already regulation size and pressure that can’t be deflated.

Although there are many benefits of the ball, people seem to believe that it’s not all it’s hyped up to be. Playing street ball could get rocks and dirt inside the ball, and

the airflow could be affected by the many holes in the ball, changing the way you might need to shoot the ball. People are also concerned about the durability of the ball. The ball bounces and feels the same right now, but how can you be sure that it will in a year or so?

The ball is made of elastomeric polymer, a material similar to rubber. And rubber is durable but can lose its hardness and become stretchier over time. Rubber can be damaged by the sun and can develop cracks and brittles over time.

The only person who has used and reviewed this ball publicly was K.J Martin during the NBA dunk contest. He says that having an airless basketball could make it easier and more accessible to kids. “You don’t have to worry about using it outside, you don’t have to worry about popping or deflating,” he said. Martin seems to have a positive reaction on the ball, saying things like “It is crazy to see in person. If you are sitting close up, you’ll see what it looks like. I think it is going to be a different experience for the people in the arena versus on TV, but it should be good both ways.”



Wilson Sporting Goods

The airless basketball was used in a dunk contest by K.J. Martin.

Food science class tours factory

Megan’s CTE students visited St. Paul’s Pearsons’ Candy Factory

Kiara Steiner
Staff Writer

This April, science teacher Megan Hall’s Food Science class visited the local Pearsons’ Candy Factory and saw a real-life chocolate waterfall.

No kids ate gum that turned them into a blueberry, fell in the chocolate river, or were serenaded by any Oompa Loompas. Instead, students got an in-depth look into the inner workings of a 100+ year-running chocolate factory.

In April, students of Megan’s Food Science course took a bus ride to Pearson’s Candy Company. Pearson’s is a Minnesota-originated candy factory that’s been around since 1909. Pearson’s is known for their iconic candy, such as their Salted Nut Rolls and Mint Patties.

Once students arrived they were welcomed by long-time

staff members who were experts at what they did. They gave their introductions in a conference room with complimentary candy made straight out of the factory.

ported from South America. The chocolate is kept hot and constantly spinning so it’s easy to use. The smell coming from these rooms was enough to make your mouth water. Fol-

melted chocolate. The Patties are then sent to a freezer that freezes the chocolate to the perfect temperature. At the end of our tour, we got to see the Salted Nut Rolls being formed, put directly into their plastic packaging and into boxes at the end of the production line.

In a digital age, it was interesting seeing how many people were working hands-on. It was not exclusively run by machines nor will it ever be according to manager Alex Allen.

At the end of the tour, students were sent back to the conference room with complimentary candies and drinks of which they could take as much as they wanted. My personal favorite was the classic Salted Nut Roll but I also got to try products I hadn’t heard of like the Maple Bun.



Purple Press Staff Photo

The tour began with hairnets and labcoats before entering the sugar room. There were big machines mixing tons of sugar to make caramel and marshmallow fluff. The majority of products are made right in the factory except for the chocolate, which is im-

lowing the tour guide, we saw their peanut butter made from roasted peanuts in a big industrial machine.

We then were shown the production of Mint Patties on a large conveyor belt. We witnessed the mint filling being molded and then covered in

Senior Spotlight

Veronica Rohde



What pronouns do you use?
She/her

How long have you been at OWL?
7 years

What are your plans for next year?
U of M for mechanical engineering, yipeeee!

What's been your favorite class in high school?
Senior Sem

What extracurriculars are you involved in?
Archery, Theatre, and intern at a glass shop

Favorite field work experience or school trip and why?
Du Nord because I had the bestest cabin

If you had a walk up song, what would it be?
Kiss me through phone slowed and reverbed covered by me ;)

That One Little Kid

Dayonna Lucas



What pronouns do you use?
She/her

How tall are you?
4'11

What's your favorite book, movie, or TV show?
Duff

Who's your favorite senior?
Dani Butler

What elementary school did you go to?
Maxfield Elementary

What extracurriculars do you plan on getting involved in at OWL?
Volleyball Mascot

Nora, 1

known for her willingness to speak out; she is respectful and welcoming, but she keeps it real. She is also known for her ability to keep a classroom under control. "I fear the middle schoolers will be out of hand after Nora leaves, she really knocks them into shape," said senior Issac Stender.

Nora will leave behind a powerful legacy of project based learning. "One of my favorite parts of teaching was creating authentic projects for students to do where they have to use all sorts and types of learning and for them to be proud of their work," she said.

If you talk to anyone who had 9th and 10th grades taught by Nora and social studies teacher Luke Turvold, you'll know they have some intensive and well-developed projects. Their joint curriculum engages students, and allows them to incorporate their own identities and what they're passionate about into their work.

"She is an extremely talented educator with a work ethic to match. But most of all, Nora cares deeply about her students. One of the things I respect most about Nora is that she holds EVERY student accountable to her high expectations. Nora challenges students' expectations of themselves and helps show students what they are capable of," said Luke.

OWL places importance on community, which makes

crew a highlight of many student's days. Nora in many ways epitomizes the close student teacher relationships fostered here at OWL through its small size.

Students in her crew would describe the group as a family, with her as the matriarch. She creates a space where students have each other's backs, they trust one another, and aren't afraid to ask for help - even when they may feel afraid to in any other space, which is why many students tend to gravitate towards her.

"During the pandemic,

"She creates a space where students have each other's back [...] and aren't afraid to ask for help."

I wasn't showing up to my classes or doing my work, and she was the only teacher who was meeting with me and helping me set up a plan. Even before that she let me go to her home and just have 'therapy sessions,' said senior Maleah Young. She is not afraid to set aside time to work with individual kids; she lets you know she cares.

"I was a pretty troubled kid, I wouldn't go to classes and fail, but Nora brought the good outta me, helped me get my stuff together. She listened to

me about my family problems, it was like having a second mother to vent and cry to," said Aeriana Wright.

Kids feel comfortable opening up to her. She is known for her ability to get through to the toughest, most stubborn kids out there (including the writer of this article).

"I just know the whole crew is gonna cry on her last day, it's gonna be waterfalls for real," said Ne'zarriah Parker. "And I'll miss her hugs," Ne'zarriah exclaimed, the other two

agreed.

Nora has been teaching here for 12 years now, and has seriously considered living somewhere else for the past couple of years. Earlier this school year, she took a leave of absence due to family health concerns. She has made the decision to move closer to family, and to explore paths outside of teaching.

After some months of trying to sell her house here in Saint Paul, and another some months of looking at unconventional properties,

she has found a historical schoolhouse she plans to renovate, and partly rent out as an AirNB. It's only a couple blocks from the scenic and sprawling Lake Michigan in Milwaukee, and she invites whoever would like to rent it out to come say hello!

"I am very very excited. My dream has always been to live in an unconventional body. We've looked at everything and we found a 1930 schoolhouse and I'm so excited to have a place to renovate and make it perfect for me and my crazy home."

When asked about OWL's impact on her life she commented, "Yes I've definitely grown as a teacher and feel way more confident with my abilities as a teacher and I've made a lot more strong relationships."

She mentioned staying in touch with coworkers, and her former crew kids.

"I will miss our morning chats and having a trusted confidant to celebrate success (and vent) with. Working with Nora has made me a better teacher and I am thankful that our professional paths crossed for seven years. OWL won't be able to "replace" Nora, but she will leave our school a better place because she was here," Luke summarized.

Caryl, 1

your book, return your book," said 7th grader Leo Scoggins, one of Caryl's crew students. Caryl takes the time to make the library a safe space for everyone who comes in, something that many students are grateful for. "The library has become an incredible, welcoming place at OWL, for sure my favorite place in the building, thanks to her," remarked 9th grader Anson Lind, "she definitely played a role in helping me feel more like I belonged at OWL after the transition from elementary school."

One of Caryl's most memorable accomplishments at OWL has been creating and running the Student Library Advisory Council (SLAC), which was based on an idea her colleague, Adayle Andrews had. SLAC meets every week, and has helped transform the library, and the students involved in it. "Most of my friends at OWL have been made through SLAC, so I think my experience at OWL would've been very different without that community," commented 10th grader Ruby Kate Nolen. Though SLAC is technically student led, Caryl serves as a role model and provides support for all the ideas the students come up with. "She's really supported us as students and what we wanted to see happen in the library. She also let SLAC be our chaotic selves and argue about fruits and vegetables," praised 11th grader Hiroko Zeleke, "SLAC is going to feel different without Caryl."

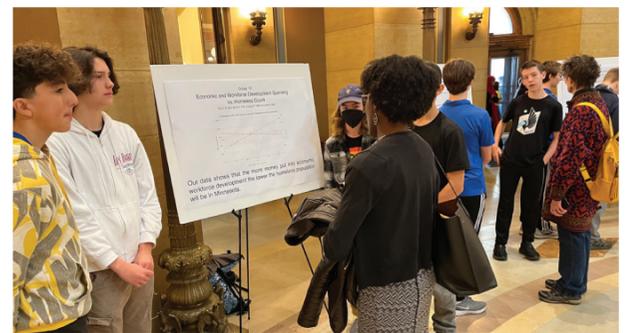
But the impact she's made on the library doesn't begin to compare to the massive impact she's had on every student she's met. "She's always wondering and cares about what we're interested in and makes learning always applicable with what we are interested in," said junior Ted Dobbins, another one of Caryl's crew kids, "she's so sweet, you know she always checks in about work and is always kind." Caryl's reliability and kindness makes her a

trusted adult for many kids at OWL. "She has always been a person who's really patient and someone who I feel like listens to me, cause I don't always feel like adults listen to youth.. but Caryl is someone who actually does listen to people... she's just really someone I feel like I can go to and trust," commented Hiroko.

Crew is a big part of OWL's sense of community, and Caryl's crew is no exception to that. They've gone to Cherokee Heights during long crew days to read to kids, and often help out at OWL's library. "Having an awesome crew, and the new librarian is going to be really lucky to have them too, it's a really special part of OWL," remarked Caryl. "It's very calming, it has a nice presence," said Leo, talking about his 40 minutes spent everyday in Caryl's crew.

But between her crew, SLAC and her general impact on the library, Caryl hopes her legacy will be "the students participating in the library," and will remember "how cool it is to build community together where everyone takes part and making sure everyone has a voice whether it's on a bookshelf [or not]." Students have no doubts that she will be remembered for her love and commitment to changing OWL for the better. "I'd just like to say thank you to Caryl cause of how much dedication she's put into the OWL library and the community as a whole. She's not only the librarian, she's like someone who I think everyone values... I hope she knows she's touched a lot of students at OWL," said Hiroko.

While her retirement is certainly bittersweet, and many students are having trouble thinking of the OWL library without Caryl in it, we're all wishing the best for her, and are hopeful she'll come back to volunteer in the coming years, something she's been considering. "She and the library are the heart of the school," pronounced Ruby, "it's not going to be the same without her."



Leo Bickelhaupt

8th graders presenting their project in the capitol rotunda.

Senate Expedition, 3

was very good. We talked to a lot of policy makers. It went well, the project was good and finished," said Alex Shuster.

The past project's success has been unclear, "Many of our students pick things that do get acted upon, but it is unclear if their influence has been a factor at all. I will say that we had a student do a project, present, then choose to be in a group that successfully lobbied the state government to get the smoking age increased in MN to 21," said Tom.

The project has been selected to be in the models of excellence gallery of Harvard

Graduate School of Education, "They heard about the Senate Expedition and wanted a past copy of the work for inclusion into their collection. Instead of submitting a past one, I submitted the one from this year and included the process that we went about to create it," said Tom. The EL education network works with the HGSE so they had heard about the project through that. The program was created at Harvard because most students' work would be created, and thrown away. Now students and educators have an example of high quality work.

Robotics, 1

to make it that far. The team's highest ranking year was in 2016 with a final rank of seven out of 63, making it to the playoffs before their season ended. However, just two years later in 2018, the coach stepped down and the team, at that point consisting of three students and an interim coach, did not compete. The 2019 team rebounded, consisting of 40 students and a rookie coach, science teacher Megan Hall. However, due to COVID the team was not able to compete again until the 2021 season, which held a virtual game design competition due to restrictions on in person events. The Open circuits attended the 10,000 Lakes tournament in 2022, with an entire team and coach who were new to in-person FIRST robotics events.

This year, the team competed in two regional tournaments, something they had never done before. Their best ranking was at the Duluth tournament where they finished 28th out of 59 teams. This was an improvement over their competition in 2022 where they finished 37th out of 53 teams.

Robotics isn't all about rankings, though - the team also made improvements on the robot building aspect. In 2022 the team's robot was built out of primarily wood, a material not commonly used in robotics. This year, they built it almost entirely out of metal, making it much more durable, not to mention actually look like a robot. The team also increased its productivity, having a robot fully built nearly a month earlier than in 2022.

The OWL robotics team also improved on another aspect of FIRST Robotics, one they wouldn't expect to be important, that is somehow one of the most impactful things at a robotics competition: communication. To be successful in FIRST, robotics teams have to know how to communicate not only with each other, but with other teams as well. One of the things that makes FIRST Robotics so unique is something called gracious professionalism, a phrase that was coined by one of its founders, Woodie Flowers. Gracious professionalism means that even if you are competing against a team, you help them as if you were on the same team.

This is a value that runs deep

throughout most of FIRST. Teams will help each other by sharing parts, tools, even mentors and team members. This value is also ingrained in the game itself. For FIRST Robotics, teams are paired with two others for each match in groups called alliances, and compete together against another alliance. A team must communicate with its alliance members, planning strategy and the best ways to get points based on each team's individual strengths.

Due to this system, there are often times where teams will be in an alliance together for one match, and against each other in the next. "A lot of people don't realize that at FIRST Robotics Competitions, it's not



Purple Press Staff Photo



Purple Press Staff Photo

Open Circuits members stand at the drivers station during a match (top), robots compete on the field (bottom).

only about the competition, but about teamwork, fun, and getting along. Teams that are on separate alliances than you are expected to help each other anyway, it's really a friendly competition setting," said 11th grader Hiroko Zeleke.

To help be more successful in this part of robotics, some team members focused their time on outreach to other teams. During tournaments, this took the form of talking to others as much as possible. These team members had the opportunity to tell others about their robot, and learn about the other robots present at the event. They also had a chance to learn about other teams' histories and the current members of those teams.

There has also been an effort to increase outreach to the people within the team's own community. This has taken the form of a team website being launched as well as a TikTok page being created (@owl_robotics). The efforts have also been seen within OWL as the team has put up posters, run fundraisers, and shown their robot at community meetings.

The friendly nature of robotics is what attracts many of the Open Circuits team members and is one of the main things the team aims to preserve. "I think the team atmosphere is really what makes it fun [...] it's sorta like, you're all in this together and you're having fun, you're solving problems," said 12th

grader Elizabeth Hallanger. "We're all working together towards a singular goal of making this robot work, or move, or do whatever it needs to do [...] and yeah, it's funzo," said 12th grader Nick Streng. This sense of community is one that the team aims to extend to younger students who may be considering joining.

Creating a space that is open to new and returning members alike is a driving goal of the team going forward. One way they are seeking to achieve this is by creating a more organized workflow. "I'd like to see a slightly more organized team," said Nick. "In 9th grade we had different groups who would each work on different aspects of the

robot," he said. These groups are called 'sub-teams' and are a common practice within robotics teams.

Many team members would like to see this organization be implemented, "The goal of this is to make sure that everyone has a clear role for the team, and overall making sure the team runs smoother. We also want to train any new students that join, so these sub-teams would be the best way to do so," said 10th grader Kathryn Totushek.

The future of OWL robotics hasn't yet been set in stone. There are many ongoing projects and goals that the team would like to accomplish in the next season. One such goal is acquiring a bigger, more permanent workshop space, "The juniors in May are also going to be presenting to one of Dave's bosses about hopefully upgrading to a bigger practice space for next year. This location hasn't been used in a few years," said Hiroko.

The Open Circuits have one common goal: they "just want to learn new things," as Nick puts it. To learn new things it's important to bring in new perspectives, and that's exactly what the team has now with the addition of math teacher Tom Totushek as co-coach of the team this year. "Tom has been an incredible mentor for our programming and mechanical sub teams. He's an advocate for gender equity, and his presence on the team has emphasized our commitment to growing as gender allies," said Megan.

As far as becoming more competitive, the team hasn't placed too much importance on the need to win. "I want us to be 'competitive' in the sense that we don't suck. But in reality the competition can be so fun outside of the robot being successful in the arena," said Tom.

Robotics at OWL is a place for anyone who wants to learn, do STEM, or even just be a part of a team. "Robotics is fun. A lot of students join for the friendships. You don't need to know anything about robotics to join the team. And there are so many different jobs on the team that anyone can find their place," said Megan. There are things to do at robotics, even if you have no interest in engineering, as Tom said, "I want people to know that you can join robotics and do absolutely nothing with the robot."

them didn't know that OWL was an EL school when they applied, but their parents did. "When we were looking for a middle school for our daughter and found out about OWL, we were super excited by the idea of an EL Education. In particular, it brought what they learned in the classroom to the real world and was a way to gain experiences and exposure," said OWL parent Jennifer Gunderson.

What about you? Do you like being in an EL school? Would you change anything about OWL if you could?

For the first 40 years of OWL existing, it wasn't a part of EL. It was sort of on its own because it was a part of the district but it didn't have

any partner schools. "Being an EL school has made our school stronger in many ways. We have a clear philosophy to ground us and guide the work of creating a better school for all of our students," said program coordinator Tim Leone-Getten.

"To me, being an EL Education school involves being creative, flexible, and innovative so that what students do in school helps them grow in all three areas. Teaching at an EL Education school means collaborating with teachers in other disciplines, thinking of engaging case studies, and

discovering ways that students can impact their communities with authentic products. Learning at an EL Education school means stepping up to go beyond basic proficiency, stretching to create and deliver high-quality products that make an impact in the world beyond the school," said science teacher Megan Hall. "Also, OWL has changed in name. We used to be the St. Paul Open School. When we joined EL Education, we became Open World Learning Community - a group of students chose the new name."

After interviewing some students, I realized many of



Patrick Campion

Tess and Willa Campion pose for a photo with MN History Day staff member Action Jackson at the state competition.

History Day, 1

the theme. They think about if and how a topic will relate to a theme. The second thing is, what will the background, build up, main event, short term, and long term impact look like?

"For students, theme connection provides something to build their argument around. For judges, it is the one unifying element across projects. Any of the aspects of the project can be a tie-breaker, but it is often the connection to the theme," said History Day Mentor and Judge Susanne Hollingsworth. Hollingsworth is also a former OWL teacher who jump started the History Day program here.

Teachers and some select students at OWL select many projects to move on to History Day regionals. The judging process at school is very similar to the judging at regionals. There are volunteers and sometimes there are older students that will judge the projects. Regionals at OWL are schools in Saint Paul Public Schools. They are held in mid March, typically at Johnson High School. At regionals, projects are presented or reviewed by judges, and receive a score on a rubric. They are scored by historical accuracy, multiple perspectives, theme connection, historical context, variety of resources, primary sources, historical argument and significance in history. This is 80% of their History Day 'grade'. The other 20% is technical aspects such as audio quality, and neatness. Susanne said "The first two things I look for are organization and quality of research. Additionally a project probably won't move on without a good thesis, context, and impact."

The revision process for History Day consists of getting feedback from judges and mentors and then applying it to your project. This is in an effort to put your best work forward at the competition. "I would say the most revisions happen between regionals and state because you get feedback from the judges and for state, you want to have a very polished project," said 11th grader Willa Campion.

If you move on to State, you have roughly one month to complete revisions on your project, before competing. State is held at the University of Minnesota in mid to late April. There are around 30-40 projects in each category at

state. The projects are divided into sub groups of under 10 projects. The sub groups are judged by two or three judges. After seeing all the projects, the judges rank their top three projects.

These projects move onto rooms against the other projects who were ranked in the same place as yours. If you get first, you go to the first place room. If you got second place you go to the second place room. The judges will then choose two projects to move onto the first place room. If you got third place, you go to the third place room. The judges will then pick one project to move from the third place room to the first place room. If you receive second place, you compete with the other second places. Two projects move on to the first place room. The projects in the first place room all receive an honorable mention, and the top 5 rankings come from the projects in that room. The top projects who receive 1st and 2nd, move onto Nationals to compete with the other projects across the country.

The National History Day competition is held in June at the University of Maryland. Two projects in each category from each state compete at Nationals. There are 100 projects competing in each category. There are anywhere from 1,500-2,000 projects in total at nationals. The competition is held over several days. The contest begins Sunday, where they register and exhibit projects are set up. Sunday evening is the welcome ceremony. All projects present on Monday and Tuesday. Wednesday is final rounds, and people present their projects for a second or third time if they made it to finals. On Thursday, the award ceremony is held and students learn if they placed or had an honorable mention.

Each day there is something different, with activities and experiences for all students to enjoy. Throughout the whole trip students have many opportunities to see landmarks and visit museums. On one of the nights a dance will be held for all of the History Day competitors.

History Day teaches students how to research, write, and revise a project. "History Day helps kids become better thinkers and analyzers, along with being fun," said Susanne.

EL, 3

learning and their content and their background but most of the time as an employer we look at what's the quality of character of the person we wanna hire. So that's the culture and character piece and what's the quality of the work they're gonna produce," said Dale when asked what he thought was the biggest difference between an EL school and a non EL school.

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any partner schools. "Being an EL school has made our school stronger in many ways. We have a clear philosophy to ground us and guide the work of creating a better school for all of our students," said program coordinator Tim Leone-Getten.

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iStock

Damon's crew organizes OWL's monthly all-school meetings.

Community meetings, 3

we need for the community meeting, and if they want to add stuff," she said.

In the final week before a meeting, the crew is tense, and things normally go like this.

Monday. Usually at the beginning of the week of the community meeting, we'll meet with the heads of the different departments; production, slides, script, technology, and main runners. "Damon checks in with each of us, kinda just seeing if our jobs have been done yet, and how long we need to finish them," said Amya Wright.

Tuesday. On Tuesdays, we'll meet again in the cafeteria, and Nina (Damon's Voice) LaFerla will go up to find the hosts, who meet with me to go through their lines and how to read them. Damon will also send runners to find the speakers, such as people participating in ultimate frisbee, archery, environmental club, GSA, crisp ticket raffle, and more.

Wednesday. Wednesdays are the deadline for everything. At this time, about 90% or more of the community meeting needs to be done. We do a run-through of the meeting in Damon's room, bringing down hosts, speakers for different social groups and sports, and any performers or other people expected to be featured in the event. We go through lines, tweak videos and music, edit imperfections on slides, and double check that all speakers will be there on Friday. The stress level depends on what the crew has done, according to Damon. "If the stuff's not there, then it can be super stressful, cause it just usually kinda comes down to me. But my crew has been very strong this year, and they've been super ahead of things."

Thursday. On Thursdays, the entire crew goes up, and we do a dress rehearsal in the auditorium. At this point,

we need to be done with absolutely everything before Crew ends, as it's the last time we meet before the community meeting. The crew makes sure the lights are tested, the mics are loud enough, the hosts' script is printed, and that all speakers are ready to go on stage tomorrow. "There aren't really a lot of people who are actively part of the community meeting," says 9th grader video producer August Cheney. "There's so few people actually working, that it gets really stressful for us (the workers), even though Damon tries to get more of the crew involved."

Friday (community meeting). At the end of the day, the community meeting finally begins. Damon and students working in technical and slides stay back by the lights and sound board, while hosts are hidden backstage, accompanied by two runners and the head of script to keep speakers on track. A ton of schedules are printed out so that everyone involved in the community meeting always knows what's going on, and when to go on stage.

What's next? After every community meeting, Damon sits us down, asking what we thought about it. "What went well, what could we do better?" Everyone in the crew has to answer, so that we get a variety of answers from different perspectives. Sometimes there'll be a problem backstage that Damon and other people might not have even noticed, or something only people by lights and sound knew about, and stuff like that. That's kind of why it's so important to get everyone's opinions. We then modify how we do things based on the reviews.

the same way.

"You are appreciated," declared Moss. "Sorry you have to put up with so much," added Michael. While the world of substitute teachers is complex and usually not acknowledged, they're vital to keeping our school running and making sure students learn what they need to in class, whether their normal teacher is there or not. "THANK YOU. Thank you so much," concluded Ruby.

Subs, 3

just an afterthought, if they're thought of at all," added Ruby.

"I think teachers are a lot more similar to students in more ways than they think, cause we're all just people anyway," observed Laura while talking about the sometimes weird relationship between the two groups. Even with the often non-existent appreciation of subs, she says she "overall feels welcome and accepted." Which is good, because students at OWL feel

OBSA, 1

Clara serve as trip leaders, but other teachers frequently come along to chaperone.

We have contacts with Outward Bound basecamps around the country. Some we visit every year (Colorado), some every few years (Maine), and some are brand new ones, like this year's trip to the California Outward Bound School near Yosemite National Park. You learn how to work with a group, how to push yourself and get out of your comfort zone. Sometimes you pick up specific skills like painting or trail building. Mostly you learn more about yourself while making new friends in a beautiful place.

COVID changed things in that we had two years canceled and then had to stay in Minnesota last year. Now we are back to three full trips of 60+ students. Outward Bound is a great group for all high school students. You get to develop your leadership skills. You meet and make friends with so many people. You learn new things. You get LOTS of service hours

and get to help out at all the fun things happening around school. AND you get to go on a FREE trip to an amazing place during interim. It's awesome!"

Deep Portage Retrospective

22 students went to Deep Portage, and the teacher chaperones were English teacher Nora Krings and special education teacher Andy Kunkel. They were joined by many Deep Portage staff members when the group arrived at the camp. Neal, the group's main guide and an all-year staff member at Deep Portage, led the students through the week and assigned many cool service projects for the students to complete.

"For my service project, I worked with Maddie Linstad and Nick Christopherson to use polycrylic on windowsills in the gift shop, museum, and a staff member's private cabin. It was super chill, and I'm glad we got a task that was inside and away from all the mosquitoes," said sophomore Mylie Peterson Antin.

During the times where

students weren't completing service tasks, some activities included rock climbing, hiking through the woods, stargazing at night, and watching the sunset from the observation tower.

Colorado in Conjunction

17 kids went to Colorado, and was hosted by math teacher Clara and her husband, Larry. They stayed in a little town called Leadville, with an elevation of around 10,000 feet and is surrounded by two of the highest peaks in Colorado. For their service work, they painted buildings, packed kits for the workers, and built trails. They helped the chef, Virginia, who they had a birthday party for - or 'Cake Day' by the end of the week. "The tamales nearly made Cal cry tears of joy," said sophomore Kiara Steiner.

The students had a scenic solo near a river that lasted around two hours. Kids took their time building shelters and gifts out of organic materials they found. By the end of the week they were rewarded with a trip to the ropes course, and

a student and staff talent show where we learned 9th grader Alice Weiland can tap dance, and a staff coordinator named Mara could burp the alphabet. Filled with mostly juniors, and only a couple freshman and seniors, former friendships were strengthened and new ones were cultivated.

California Dreamin'

The California group stayed in an Outward Bound base camp in a town called Midpines. Most of the trip revolved around cleaning up the headquarters/base that had been ruined from previous years of wildfires and flooding in the area. Along with this, they cleaned up the camp and built more weather ports. The group stayed in tents under the stars and made meals for themselves in alternating groups. Near the end of the trip, they hiked to Yosemite. In their free time, they watched Dirty Dancing, played poker, climbed the landscapes, and got close with one of their team coordinators named Jacob.

Archery, 4

so many people there, our archers reportedly didn't feel very nervous. "It didn't really feel different from a regular tournament," said Theo.

OWLs archers shot exceptionally well at nationals. Ian Rosenberg-Scholl shot a 285, putting him in 92nd percentile, Sophie Sherman-Hoehn shot a 285, which is 97th percentile, and Jacob Landy shot a 280 in 82nd percentile. Two archers also scored some 50's while shooting at Nationals. Shooting a fifty means that all five arrows land in the ten,

which is in the inner yellow circle on a target. Theo Kimball shot two fifties with a score of 278, placing him in the 79th percentile. Duncan Smith shot a 50 at the 15 meter line, with a score of 289 in the 96th percentile. Overall these archers scored high enough to be in the top half across the board of all archers competing at Nationals.

The ending of Nationals wraps this year's OWL archery season on a good note. Next season will begin with both high hopes and fresh targets in the fall of next school year. This time, coaches are hoping

to expand the OWL attendance at Nationals. "We hope to continue growing as a team

and next year the hope is to take the whole team to Nationals," said Tom.



Tom Totushuk

OWL archers competed at Nationals in April.

Met Gala, 4

ly, Lagerfeld disproved of the #MeToo movement, which is a social movement against sexual assault. He expressed in a 2018 interview that he was "fed up with it."

Lagerfeld was a German fashion designer who began his career in the 1950s. He worked in many fashion houses including Balmain, Patou, and Chloé, along with working for many years as the creative director for Chanel. His work has made a lasting impact on Chanel, and has influenced the fashion industry heavily. He is best known for wearing a polished suit, with mysterious sunglasses and fingerless gloves.

Some celebrities have expressed their disapproval of this year's theme on social media. For example, actress Jameela Jamil voiced her opinion on her Instagram page just hours before the gala took place. "Karl Lagerfeld is the theme for the entire Met Gala next year," she began in an Instagram caption back in October 2022. "This man ... was indeed, supremely talented, but used his platform [in] such a distinctly hateful way, mostly towards women, so repeatedly and up until the last years of his life." Other celebrities have made subtle hints of their disapproval through their Met Gala outfits. Guests such as

Viola Davis, Quannah Chasinghorse, Quinta Brunson, Sydney Sweedney, and Jennifer Lopez wore a pink outfit to the gala to subtly shade Lagerfeld. This was significant since Lagerfeld was famously against the color pink.

There were countless outfits that have been discussed after the gala took place. One of these is from supermodel Anok Yai, who wore a dress

and Singer Bad Bunny, who wore a fully white tweed suit with a cutout back, along with a 26-foot-long rosette cape coming from his sleeves. Lastly, actress Kristen Stewart put a modern twist on the traditional Chanel style. She wore a suit with a cropped white blazer and black collar, along with a shortened tie that doubled as a bow, and a belt with a gold Chanel logo.



USA Today

Dua Lipa, Doja Cat, and Kim Kardashian at the 2023 gala.

with layers of sequins that gave the dress an effect similar to a rain cloud. Another influential outfit was singer Dua Lipa's white tweed Chanel gown, which was styled after a collection back in 1992. Along with the dress, she wore an over 100-karat diamond necklace from Tiffany & Co, which has only been worn by four other people. Another influential look came from Rapper

A few celebrities got a lot of attention after taking a different approach on the theme. Celebrities like Jared Leto, Doja Cat, and Lil Nas X actually dressed as Lagerfeld's beloved cat. Besides having the same muse, the three celebrities still looked completely different from each other. Jared Leto showed up in a giant cat costume with whiskers, paws, and bright blue eyes. This cre-

ated the oddly realistic look that Leto was hoping for. Joshua Balster, the project manager for the cat costume claimed that "He wanted it to be like a real cat." Along with Leto, rapper and singer Doja Cat showed up in a white sparkly dress with a fur trail and a cat hood. But the most eye-catching part of her outfit was the feline prosthetics on her face, making her look like a cat. Lastly, rapper Lil Nas X was covered entirely in silver spray paint and was heavily bejeweled with pearls and crystals. He also wore a Venetian-style mask with the same jewels. It reportedly took 12 hours to fully paint and bedazzle Lil Nas X.

The 2024 Met Gala will take place on the first Monday of May, as it always does. Since the gala themes always match the yearly exhibits from the Costume Institute, the institute's chief curator Andrew Bolton creates the theme every year. Currently, no information has been released about what next year's gala theme will be, but many are excited to see what they will come up with.



Reviews 'n' stuff



Getty Images via Bloomberg.com

Taylor Swift breaks records

Her first tour since the pandemic is an immediate success

Lucy Annis-Bercier
Staff Writer

Taylor Swift has always been successful. From her first album which was released when she was 16 to now, where she is currently at the peak of her career after the release of her 10th album, *Midnights*, which made Billboard chart history, and the start of her first tour since the pandemic, "The Eras Tours".

Her previous tour, "Lover Fest", was set to begin in 2020 but was canceled due to Covid. Since then she has released three albums which didn't get to have their own tours so Taylor decided to put on The Eras Tour. The show consists of performances of songs from each of her albums and because of the variety and differences between nearly all of them, they have been named "musical eras" which inspired the name for the tour. From the reviews, clips, and pictures I have seen, it looks like an extravagant, high quality, and Taylor-Swift-fan pleasing show.

The process of getting a ticket to this high demand concert was bumpy and it brewed controversy. It started on November 18th 2022 when Taylor Swift partnered with Ticketmaster in selling the tickets to The Eras Tour. The tickets went on sale which shortly resulted in the website crashing, leaving users logged out or in a frozen queue. That same day, the tour sold 2.4 million tickets and broke the record for most tickets sold by an artist in a single day. The strenuous process left many fans, including myself, disappointed and ticketless. Because many tickets were bought by scalpers who re-listed them on ticket resale websites, this is one of the only ways to land a spot to one of The Eras Tour shows.

The tour began in Glendale, Arizona on March 17th, 2023. The town was temporarily

renamed "Swift City" which was declared by Glendale Mayor Jerry P. Weiers. She played for two nights which in total brought 146,000 people to the concerts. The following weekend she played in Las Vegas and then hit the south again with shows in Texas, Florida, and Georgia. The following show on May 6th in Nashville, Tennessee was arguably the most notable night yet. In the middle of the show she announced the release date of her new album, *Speak Now (Taylor's Version)*.

If you are unaware, Taylor Swift is re-recording her first six albums. This is because in 2019 her old record label, Big Machine Records, was sold to music manager Scooter Braun. This gave Braun the rights to all of Taylor's music up to her 6th album, *Reputation*, and if anyone wanted to use her old songs they would need his permission, including Taylor Swift herself. This event was devastating to the artist but she quickly clapped back announcing she would be re-recording her stolen albums to own them once again. So far, she has released *Fearless (Taylor's Version)* which was her second album, *Red (Taylor's Version)* which was her fourth album, and on July 7th 2023, the re-recording of *Speak Now*, which was her third album, will be released.

Taylor Swift has a very entertaining stage presence. She somehow is able to keep her energy up every night for 3 hour shows. I believe it's because of her pure passion and love for what she is doing and with that sort of mindset, it would be difficult to have low stamina. For most artists, it was sad for them to not be performing and seeing their fans which drives their careers. This is why each night Swift enters the stage with phenomenal spirit and gives every person in the audience

Swift, 13

It's Mandover with S3

Latest season of The Mandalorian disappoints

Nick Streng
Staff Writer

Three years ago, I joined the staff of the Purple Press and wrote a review of the latest season of the popular Star Wars television series *The Mandalorian*, which ended up being the first of many lengthy rambles I concocted for this newspaper that miraculously got past the editors. Now in 2023 as I'm nearing the end of my time at OWL, it feels truly poetic to end where I began - with a review of the latest season of the popular Star Wars television series *The Mandalorian*. I feel like I've changed and grown so much as a writer over the past few years here, and it's been a wonderful experience to contribute to this newspaper.

I sure wish I could say the same about this season, though, because it wasn't very good.

Yeah, that's right, when I say I've changed and grown, I mean I've gone from a wide-eyed fanboy to a jaded and cynical critic who hates everything now, along with being even more sarcastic! With that established, let's dive into *The Mandalorian* Season 3.

After a long hiatus, the first live action Star Wars show returned to Disney+ on March 1st, 2023, streaming until April 19th with another

eight-episode season. Once again written by showrunner Jon Favreau and starring Pedro Pascal as the masked Mandalorian bounty hunter Din Djarin, it picks up after the events of the previous season and the separate spin-off show *The Book of Boba Fett* and - wait a minute, we're already getting into one of the biggest problems of this season. Well, this will be a fun review!

To recap, the previous season had a central plotline of Din on the run from Empire remnants and on a quest to bring the Force-sensitive founding Groggu - or Baby Yoda, as he's best known - to a Jedi so he could be trained to master his abilities. Along the way, he encountered other Mandalorians with heritage and traditions different from the cult-like faction he was raised by with the rule that you

can never take off your helmet. Din had an effective and engaging arc as he eventually chose to break the rules of his covert in favor of his fatherly love for Groggu over the course of the season, which came to a powerful and emotional end when Groggu chose to leave Din and complete his training under Luke Skywalker. Generally regarded as the highest point of the series by many - myself included - this separation of the two main characters is an incredibly sad yet satisfying payoff that radically changed the course of the show going forward - or at least, that's what we thought it was going to do.

Because less than a year later, *The Mandalorian* essentially invaded the second half of the separate miniseries *The Book of Boba Fett* (2021), a show that - as the title

implies - was all about the character of Boba Fett for the first four episodes, until the focus was completely shifted to Din and Groggu's separate paths for two episodes, and then out of nowhere the two of them were suddenly reunited in the seventh and final episode, effectively undoing the events of the S2 finale. I think it's fair to say that a TV crossover like this is a very risky - and generally bad - idea in that mandating someone to watch even more content to understand everything can turn away casual or even potential viewers regardless of what kind of story it is (as I concluded with Purple Press editor-in-chief and non-Star Wars fan Willa Champion, who was "strongly against" the idea). And I would argue that this one was particularly damaging given that it actively brought down both shows in the process, thus dealing season three of *The Mandalorian* a terrible hand before it even had the chance to start.

Having Groggu return to Din so quickly after the two were separated was already a very underwhelming and undeserved story beat, and the impact it has on this season as a whole could not be more painful. Groggu makes no significant impact on the plot



Nick Streng

Pedro Pascal stars in the Star Wars series *The Mandalorian*.

Mandalorian, 13

What school year is best?

The reflective ponderings of a graduating high school senior

Elizabeth Hallanger
Staff Writer

As a senior, I've been doing a lot of self-reflection these past few months. Not really because of some melancholic "I'm leaving behind the best years of my life" reason, more so because I need answers to my distant relative's questions when I host my graduation party, and trying to remember the best parts of the past six years I've been at OWL on the spot when about 1/4 of it was interrupted by COVID is like trying to plug my iPhone charger into an outlet at 2 AM in the dark. However, as someone who has been through all 7 years of middle and high school at OWL, I think I'm confident that I've seen all there is to see, or at least, have had the most average, layman's experience at this school. Therefore, I'm hopefully able to rank each grade accurately.

Disclaimer, if you're in one of these grades, none of this is personally directed at you, or any of the people in your grade. All of my justifications are purely general statements based on my own personal experience when I was in

your shoes, so don't get it twisted, I know how you whippersnappers can get.

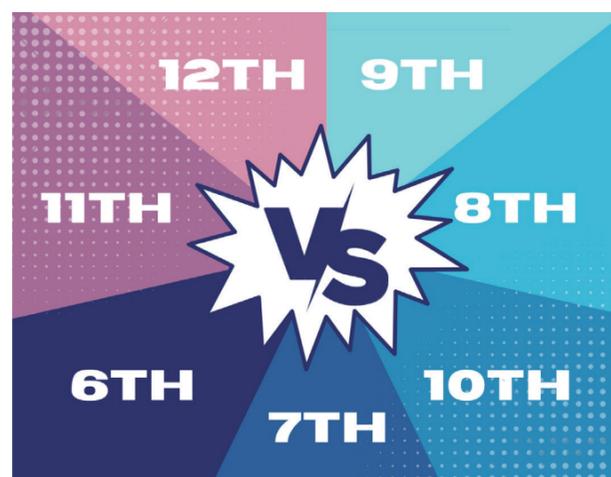
Coming in at an easy last place is 7th grade. Out of everyone I've ever asked, seventh grade was never a highlight. I challenge you to go up to anyone over 13 and ask them how seventh grade was for them. More often than not their face will either scrunch up in disgust, or their eyes will go wide as though you've just unlocked a memory so embarrassing it's causing their soul to leave their body. It's a grade that just so happens to

occur at the point at which you're trying to both develop a concrete identity and deal with the sudden onslaught of adult emotions that comes with growing out of pre-teenhood. I had a lot of fun on unblocked agar.io back then, but other than that, it deserves its last-place title.

After that comes 6th grade. While marginally better than having to deal with 7th grade, 6th grade is a hard transition from the relatively chill elementary school to actual work and grades that matter, despite the fact that

you probably have yet to grow out of the mentality of a 5th grader. Also, my 6th-grade year was the same year that fidget spinners, dabbing, bottle flips, and Hamilton were all simultaneously at the peak of their popularity, so you can only imagine the extra level of painfulness that added to everything.

In fifth place is 8th grade. While it is significantly easier than the previous middle school grades, it's still middle school. It's okay, and a little fun sometimes to be the oldest of the middle school kids. Plus, personally, my lack of self-awareness and dedication to browsing iFunny above all else at the time made me so blissfully unaware of my surroundings that I feel like it was one of the only times I experienced true happiness in my life. However, at least from my experience, everyone's meanness gets cranked up to 11, and drama is more rampant than ever. That's just kind of how you are at that point, which makes it all the more unavoidable, and puts it at 5th place.



Elizabeth Hallanger

The question of the best grade has stumped many.

Best year, 13

Which school quarter is the best?

It is generally agreed that quarter three is the worst

Calvin Vang
Staff Writer

As students enter schools they put up with homework and projects during each quarter tirelessly studying. But what quarter is the best overall for students? You may think that the quarter with the most breaks, or the last quarter before school ends would be the best quarter, but either could be a possible answer to this question. As students progress throughout the school year, there are generally two semesters per year, in each semester there consists of two quarters. A quarter is usually about nine to ten weeks with some seasonal and holiday influence. Let's break it down quarter by quarter.

The first quarter is about 3 months, from the second week of September to mid

November, being 49 days including breaks and holidays already, and a week set aside for fall retreats. As fall approaches in this quarter, students won't have to worry too much about stressful coursework and tests/projects yet as previous work may be related to help refresh the minds of students about past lessons. It is the longest quarter at 49 days, and has a week dedicated to students called fall retreats to help and have students participate in fun activities or service work with their grade groups. As students progress throughout the quarter, they will have to adjust themselves with a new sleeping schedule, and learning to go to school again.

The second quarter is roughly about 3 months, and goes from mid November to the third week of January,

with 48 days including breaks/holidays already, and with two weeks of winter break as well as the potential for snow days. As the quarter transitions from first to second quarter, seasonal and weather changes are to be expected. Resulting in 48 days for this quarter with probable snow days in the chilly weather and a two week of rest for the holidays. This time of the quarter, students seem to experience seasonal affective disorder (SAD). Throughout the quarter, students have these symptoms of (SAD) being general discontent, sleep deprivation, anxiety, and loss of interest. In this quarter the difficulty of work increases being busy with studying and projects with a hard time of procrastinating.

The third quarter is about two months and is almost

3 months, and starts from the third week of January to March, 48 days including breaks/holidays already, 1 week of spring break after quarter 3 ends, and some potential snow days. After an exhausting two quarters, students progress towards the third quarter or the beginning of the second semester. Being on par with the second quarter with 48 days, this quarter also has potential snow days as the weather changes between hotter and colder climates as days go by, with spring break after the quarter ends. But because of the climate it brings a slow and glum mood towards the work behavior of students, and due to this grades tumble with other factors. As students work for a consistent amount

Quarter, 13

Top 3 of the best horror books

The horror genre has grown in popularity over the years

Remy Short
Staff Writer

Imagine that one scene that always sends a shiver down your spine, like when the masked murderer is chasing the main character aspiring to kill. Or, when in hiding, the main character tries to keep quiet as fear overwhelms them. These are just a few examples of the type of content in horror/thriller books. I wouldn't be surprised if you first think of movies, since it can be hard to find good books that follow this theme as generally movies steal the spotlight. But in this review I will share three interesting books I have read, if you are interested in this genre.

To decide which books I wanted to include in my review, I read a summary of each book and also asked peers. These are also books that I have read fully, explored, and sometimes even did research on to see what other individuals noticed and discussed.

To start off my review, I decided to put a book I read fairly recently called *The Detour* in third place. I haven't ever heard of this book until I discovered it in the OWL library, yet I find I really enjoyed it. *The Detour* takes an average kidnapping plot, and recycles it into something new. Something more interesting and less mainstream.

The book follows main character seventeen year old Livy Flynn, who is a best selling author of YA literature. Because of her success, she

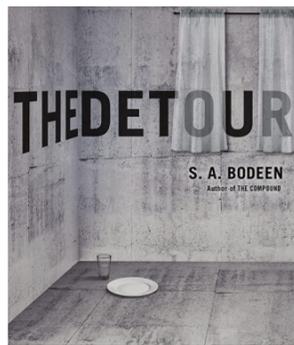
ends up with an opportunity to attend a writing retreat, and whilst driving in her red convertible she gets into a crash. Next thing she knows, she wakes up in a concrete room all alone, with no windows to peer out of.

I found this book really interesting, as you read you learn more about why she was abducted, and who her abductor is. You will learn how much deeper the dislike for Livy from her captor goes. And, how Livy rose to fame and her struggles throughout.

There are lots of interesting characters, and also multiple moments full of tension and suspense.

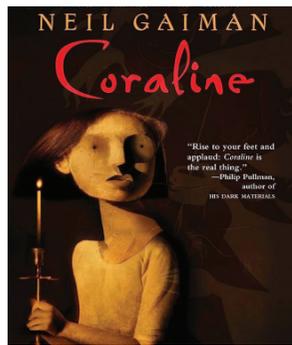
Moving onto my next choice of book, I decided to put a iconic and memorable book for many, *Coraline* in second place. Unlike *The Detour*, this book comes up with a completely unique plot. Not only being unique, but very eerie and surprising. This book also has a wildly talented stop-motion animation movie based off the book, and I strongly suggest checking that out as well.

Anyhow, *Coraline* revolves around a young girl named Coraline Jones moving to a new house along with her parents. Her life isn't exactly as perfect as Coraline desires, as her parents are always busy with work. One night, Coraline discovers a small door that leads to another realm that is exactly like her own world, yet



Amazon

Horror books *The Detour* and *Coraline* are both famous.



Amazon

Horror books, 13

Perfect game of cartoonish chaos

Bloons Tower Defense 6 is video game in which you pop balloons

Lucas Rounds
Staff Writer

One day you're walking down a path in your monkey village. Out the corner of your eye you see a glimpse of red, then blue, and then a huge blue blimp. The tension of the Monkey and Bloons battle has risen to the point where the balloons are invading monkey towns. You see dart monkeys and super monkeys rush over to start popping them. You see the glint of the sniper monkey's sniper. You see an air drop dropping down a tack shooter and a spike factory. You have to pop these balloons for the sake of your people. Pop them all.

Bloons Tower Defense 6 (BTD6) is a tower defense game where you have to defend the end of the track from the balloons. You do this by utilizing money you

get from popping the balloons and banana farms. You use the money to upgrade the monkeys; each monkey has three paths: top, bottom, and middle. You can upgrade two paths. The max tier is five and you can cross paths one of the other two times. So you can do 5-2-0, 0-2-5, 2-5-0, and so on.

There are plenty of balloon types to pop, the easiest being reds all the way up to the B.A.D, a massive blimp containing even more balloons. From the red balloon it goes up by color. Each color gets faster and faster and has more layers to pop through. There are properties that can be put onto the balloons as well. There is camo that you can only see after getting upgrades for camo detection. There is one monkey that can pop them without an upgrade - the ninja monkey.

There are also lead balloons. You just need a tower that can shoot bombs or things that are hot or sharp enough to pop them. Then you get to ceramic balloons which are hard to pop. The best way to pop ceramic balloons is a sniper monkey that has a 3-0-2 upgrade path. Then you get fortified, which just gives them more health. There are monkeys that can take off defensive property, like the mortar monkey with a 0-2-5 path. Then you get to the MOABs. They have a lot of health and they appear in order from 40, 60, 70, 80, 90, and 100. It goes MOAB, BFB, ZOMG, DDT, then B.A.D. DDTs are fast lead balloons that are camouflaged. Then the others are slow moving blimps that can have all the defensive properties except for ceramic. After round 100, each of the MOAB classed balloons move

faster and get more health gradually.

Along with the balloons there are the monkeys. Each monkey has an ability if you go the middle route at least 4 times. Some of them transform, others make them attack quicker. There are others where they can absorb a MOAB type balloon. But each monkey has a different skill set that can help them pop certain types of balloons. The sniper monkey is good at ceramics, the boomerang is good with MOABs, and the dart monkey is good with faster balloons.

From all my hours in this game, one of the things I have recently noticed is the attention to detail. Especially in the extras tab, there are the small balloons and big balloons, small monkeys and big monkeys. Some of these

BTD, 13



IMDb

D&D: *Honor Among Thieves* was released in March.

D&D movie is shockingly good

Film is set in a fantastical world of the Forgotten Realms

Neve Dawson
Staff Writer

There's something inherently funny when you take a creature whose mythological identity is completely composed of death, fire, strength, and evil (i.e. a dragon), and put it in the body of a giant obese house cat. It's made better when you put a little physical humor in it: struggling to climb over objects, sliding down inclines like a penguin, etc. The best part is that no one needs to say a word, it is simply funny (especially if you like slapstick comedy). This genre of humor is one of several reasons why I like *Dungeons and Dragons: Honor Among Thieves*.

The tabletop RPG-inspired film is a 2023 flick, inspired by and set in the fantastical world of D&D's classic Forgotten Realms campaign (called "The Realms" by familiar players). It's a fun blockbuster that doesn't take itself too seriously or try to be anything it's not. At the time of this writing, it is the eighth highest grossing film of 2023. As a D&D player myself, I had a really fun time seeing the game that I associate so many memories and experiences with come to life.

Dungeons & Dragons: Honor Among Thieves is the fourth film to be inspired by the *Dungeons & Dragons* franchise, also called D&D or DnD. The RPG was originally designed by Gary Gygax and Dave Arneson, and was first published in 1974 by Tactical Studies Rules, and then by *Wizards of the Coast* from 1997 onward. Since its creation it has become hugely popular, resulting in several ventures into other media, including but most certainly not limited to magazines, comics, television, books, and of course, film.

From 2000 to 2012, three movies inspired by *Dungeons and Dragons* were released, each of which were colossal box office failures: *Dungeons and Dragons*, *Dungeons and Dragons: Wrath of the Dragon God*, and *Dungeons and Dragons: Book of Vile Darkness*. Each of the films lost their producers around \$11 mil-

lion, even with their budgets growing progressively smaller. Whether or not the films were acceptable, fans of the series were severely disappointed, and the movies haven't been brought up in the media since their release. The subject was almost taboo. And now here we are, over a decade later, with a movie whose budget is \$150 million, and has made \$205 million, a little over a month after release.

When the cast arrived in Ireland to begin shooting, they played a game of D&D to introduce it to those who hadn't played before, and give the actors a chance to explore their character's dynamics and interactions through the game. They each played as the characters they would be acting, while the two co-directors played as one character: a two-headed yuan-ti snake humanoid. One of the directors, John Francis Daley, said that it worked so well to break the ice among the cast and get them thinking about their roles that if applicable, he might do something similar with casts in the future.

Directed by Jonathan Goldstein and John Francis Daley, the film stars one of the Chrises of Hollywood, Chris Pine, as the main character, Edgin. Michelle Rodriguez plays Holga, the unintentionally intelligent barbarian, Justice Smith plays Simon, the mediocre half-elf sorcerer; and Sophia Lillis plays Doric, a dry tiefling druid. The movie has several other smaller roles, played by notable names like Regé-Jean Page, Hugh Grant, Chloe Coleman, Daisy Head, and it even has an unexpected cameo from Bradley Cooper.

Lute-playing bard Edgin Darvis never wanted to cause any trouble, and for a while, he didn't. Until he broke his oath to the Harpers, and his wife was killed by the Red Wizards in revenge for his theft, leaving him a single father in the throes of grief. Local barbarian Holga Kilgore takes pity on him—the baby, anyway—and they begin to steal to make a

D&D, 13

5 worst streets in Saint Paul

An increasing number of potholes notoriously line city streets

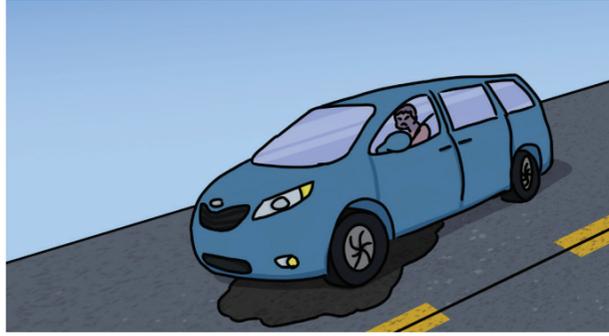
Atticus Brooks-Babcock
Staff Writer

You're driving down the road on the way to school. It's a calm rainy morning when all of a sudden BAM! Your whole world shakes, your back compresses into the seat, the radio changes and then everything is back to normal. This is sadly a very common situation every Minnesotan has experienced, and it's not just limited to a few roads but affects all of them.

You may be wondering what the worst streets in St. Paul are, so you can avoid them. Sadly this first road is very close to OWL and is unavoidable. Humboldt Ave, close to the beginning of the street, has to be one of the bumpiest roads with a 50 foot section of pure cracks and bumps, then right after having ridges every 5 feet or so that feel like a 100 speed bumps.

This next road is used by thousands of St. Paul citizens everyday, that being Shepards Road, more specifically by westbound past 35E. This section of road has to be one of the worst ever. There is not a single piece of the road still intact and I hope that they have repaired it or something because the road will genuinely break your car if you're unlucky enough to hit one of the many 3 foot potholes.

Summit Ave always confuses me on how there are all of these nice houses and nice cars but the road is horrible. You basically have to drive in the bike lane to avoid gaping potholes that will take your wheel with it. It lasts from Macalester College all the way to the end of the road, which means a solid five minutes of dodging and weaving trying to avoid potholes, bikers, people running across the street, and pets.



....

Snelling intersects with Summit so it would make sense that it shares similar problems. However you're going 50 mph instead of 25 mph making you dodge and weave the same gaping potholes in the skinniest lane ever. This is a problem from Grand to St. Clair and only on that block stretch.

If you've ever been leaving the airport you may have made the mistake of taking 7th street instead of i94 you will be met with a roller coaster of road. It's not even potholes. The road is just wavy making it very uncomfortable for any normal car, but it is impossible to drive on in my car.

Honorable mention: if you take a right onto McNight from Lower Afton watch out for a completely unnecessary foot deep manhole cover that will shake everything in your car.



Willa Champion

Alex (left) and Nick (right) square up for a fight.

What's with the newsroom beef?

Senior staff writers Nick Streng and Alex Cowles are fueding

Mikko Liimatta
Staff Writer

Recently many events have been transpiring in the newsroom, as the end of the year nears the intensity increases. English teacher and Purple Press adult-to-blame Leo Bickelhaupt is breathing down people's necks to try and make sure that everyone gets their stories in, and this stressful atmosphere has made many people tense and ready to explode in a moment's notice. In this war room-like atmosphere a rivalry to end all rivalries has begun, surprisingly between two of the most respected journalists, Nick Streng and Alex Cowles. This infighting between the two journalists can only be described as beef, and for those of you who don't know what the term "beef" means, beef is when two people are mad at each other and fighting.

This beef transpired after Alex made a scathing comment about Cars 2, one of Nick's favorite movies. In this comment Alex stated that "Cars 2 is big dumb, and not haha funny." As Cars 2 is Nick's favorite movie, Nick took great offense to this remark and replied with, "Mamma Mia! Here We Go Again is mid." While this may seem like minor offenses to people who don't know Nick and Alex, these were grievous remarks and is the equivalent of getting cussed out by an 8th grader for us. Now that we know the context behind the beef, let's delve into the ramifications we may see in our community, and the world as a whole.

In the newsroom the body language has been changing from a calm relaxed environment, where everyone does their work on time, to a tense hostile environment, an environment that you would only expect in Tim's Spanish class. This environment from the room has also manifested online, with many burner accounts being created online to harass individuals involved in the conflict, support what side of the conflict they support, and worst of all pose reasonable questions as to why this conflict is occurring.

With all of this drama you would expect a decisive and immediate response from Supreme Leader Leo, however he has made the decision to not get involved, and support both sides, to better his chance of winning the 2024 reallocation for "Supreme Leader of Journalism," his tough opponent that he is running against is Leo Bickelhaupt.

The journalism room is constantly filled with incoherent banter between heated writers, but this is uncharted water where two behemoths are fighting. To properly gauge the magnitude of the repercussions we must look at something of similar magnitude, the American Revolution, so what we may see is a large-scale war, with fighting breaking out in the hallway, and vicious online insults. Already you may be able to see this with many students already splitting into groups in support of one journalist or the other in anticipation of the looming conflict. We can expect to see more of this in the future with friend groups ripping down the middle, and the four square court breaking out into a warzone.

Breakout of the drama also comes with mediators, one of these being junior Ted Dobbins. Some may say that he is using this to his advantage with him taking Vegas style sports bets. Ted, however, feels very differently; he says taking money from people helps them support one of the two in a nonviolent way, and that taking 5% of the bets is a small price for what he's doing for the community. Ted claims he has only made a small amount from this conflict, saying he has not yet passed the six figure mark, and "there is no way" that he will reach eight figure profits.

The great American experiment

Wyatt Hanson
Staff Writer

Since 1776 America has been seen in two different ways. A beacon of liberty for all, where anyone prosper. Or a country for whites and their culture.

The 1950s are often hailed as the peak of American society, the white picket fences, the comfortable suburban neighborhoods, the connection of people via telephone and the high of victory in the Second World War. The 1950s for the middle and higher class whites were a utopia. They had stable income, happy families, and safety. For minorities like blacks, Asians, and Hispanics though, the 1950s were not so great. The oppressive culture of America and the fear that had been ingrained into young families from their depression era parents fueled violence against the budding Civil

Rights Movement.

The "American Dream" should apply to minorities the same as it does to a European, but the majority of whites had a hard time accepting this as they were fed a steady diet of propaganda from fearful conservatives.

The idea of the lazy minority who is worse at their job has a dysfunctional family and tends to be more violent comes from that propaganda. Often the "evidence" was found in the news, as media big and small would report on violence committed by lower class minorities. The truth behind this stereotype is that the transition from slavery to freedom was not an instant change but an ease out of slavery. Two main factors caused this, the exploitation of the punishment clause in the 13th amendment and the fact that although prohibited by federal law slavery technically

was not a legal crime.

The last chattel slave was freed in 1942 in Texas. This man had entered a contract where he worked as a farmhand in exchange for living on the farm. He was enslaved since the contract was everlasting and for him there was no way out. The blacks were left with no support after the Civil War and had to try their best to survive.

Many ended up with poor paying jobs in low income areas and most that moved up were kicked back down by the middle class whites. The simple idea that America is for anyone and everyone burst forth with the Civil Rights Movement and as more and more whites saw reason and supported this view of America, blatant racism fell out of style.

The fearful whites who "lost" their utopia sought

politicians to create a new type of oppression, with racism hidden behind a veil. Politicians can use words like "low-income" or "uneducated" to refer to a specific group of people.

Many white people in their 60's now consider the 50's to be the good old days. Many good people neglect the foundation which society was built on, that being the exploitation of the minorities.

America as a society, country and culture has hurt millions of people from our inception where they killed natives and stole their land, kidnapped people and brought them to be slaves and oppressed any group that was not white. For all of America's faults we are still in a position to change.

One Issue for fearful conservatives is the declining white birth rate, leading to

American experiment, 14

What's the deal with Tom's clock?

The OWL conspiracy world believes that Tom is hiding something

Joe Lodahl
Staff Writer

Five guys, five fingers, five toes, five bands, five senses... 5G? Are the five second incrementing clocks in OWL radiating 5G waves into our school, brainwashing us all? Yes. So grab your tin foil hats because we're taking a deep dive into the OWL conspiracy world.

Have you ever been staring at a clock, wondering why it wouldn't move when suddenly it moves five seconds at a time? Ever wondered why? You probably haven't asked anyone about it. It's because they don't want you to. It's "just a weird quirk" they say.

I first noticed this in Journalism, 3A. I was waiting for lunch, when I gazed up at the clock to see what the time was. As I stared longer, I realized that the clock's second

hand was moving every five seconds instead of the normal one second ticks. Weird. I then went to Crew. Same thing. Fourth period. Same thing. As I was watching the clocks through the next day, I entered Tom's room. Looking up at the clock, I realized he had a different clock. I asked him about it in a non-accusatory

fashion, so he wouldn't catch on that I had caught on.

"I know what you're doing here." I yelled. "I don't know what you're talking about." Tom yelled back. After breaking him down a little, I got him to admit something. "My clock is special. In my class, time flows the correct way." Now what could he mean by that? Are the

clocks in other classes altering the flow of time? Now, math is commonly regarded as the worst subject. Tom happens to teach math. Maybe, Tom is maximizing time in math class and speeding up other subjects so they have more time in math class! Or maybe...

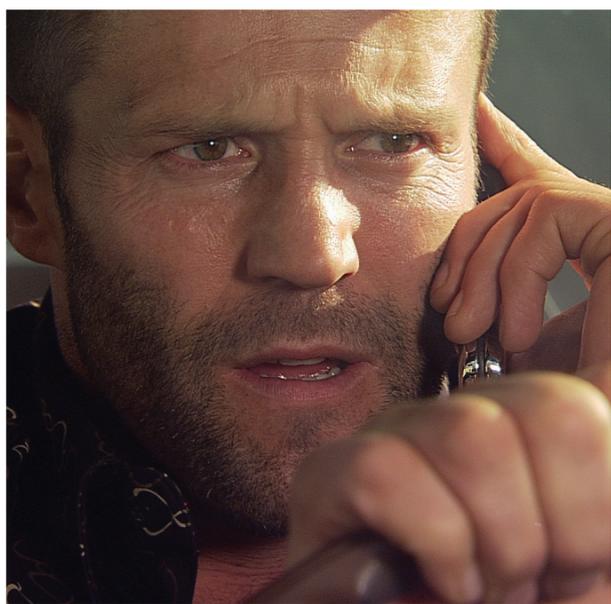
He's attempting to be a force for good.

Maybe Tom Totushek is spreading the 5G waves into our minds with the extended time in class, in order to control the masses as they grow into adults, creating efficient, compassionate hard working citizens. Maybe this is... for the best? Maybe by someone taking control, we would finally be able to create a safe and trusting environment for everyone. Is what a sheeple would say. Reject authority and beware the dangers of Tom, the Math Prophet's classroom.



Purple Press Staff Photo

The clock in Tom's room, pictured above, appears to be normal, however some students suspect it is hiding something.



IMDb

Jason Statham stars as a former hitman in the 2006 movie.

Crank has all any movie needs

The 2006 film is an action packed hour and 23 minutes

Michael Ryan
Staff Writer

ACTION: 100! ENERGY: 100!! ADRENALINE: 100!!! Crank is not just a movie but a film released in 2006 featuring action hero extraordinaire Jason Statham as Chev Chelios, the man of the hour who does insane stunts, picks fights, and drinks Red Bull like his survival depends on it. Which it does.

Chev, former hitman of glory past, wakes up one day sluggish and on the verge of death. His eyes blur, he can't walk straight, he can't think. He's been poisoned! He watches a video that someone has so kindly put into his dvd player which reveals that the drug injected into him is one that slows down the heart to the pace of an ant with a broken leg. He's slated to die in an hour, but he's not ready to give up his lease on life yet. He calls up his shady-as-hell doctor friend, who tells him that he must keep his heart rate up lest he succumb to death's icy grip. Besides the whole dying bit, he's got another thing on his plate: his enemies have learned that he's still alive and are hunting after his sorry ass to make sure that he really is dead for good.

Or, in the words of 10th grader Keegan Schou, "He has to continually do cocaine or he dies."

Written and directed by Brian Taylor and Mark Neveldine, Crank made 42.9 million dollars in the box office on a 12 million budget, placing second just behind sports drama *Invincible*. The duo have directed other movies, both together and solo, though nobody cares about their solo stuff. Nothing they ever make can live up to the glory of Crank (because everything else they've made is garbage).

"Any actor who did Crank was going to have to be as crazy as we are, basically," said Taylor in an interview with the Los Angeles Times. "That was a requirement for the part. When we met Jason, we figured out he was perfect for it. This movie is amped up, and Brian and I and Jason were nut cases. We liked to take things

to the limits. We scared the insurance company a couple of times."

"I haven't seen it. I don't know where to see it. I don't know if I want to see it," said Keegan in a short interview about the greatest movie of our time. I am sad to inform all you dedicated readers that Crank is not available to watch for free anywhere legally, which just shows how good it is. All the best stuff is behind paywalls. However, to make sure that nobody accidentally pirates the film, here's a list of websites to avoid: The Pirate Bay, 0123movie.net, SFlix.to, and probably YouTube as well. So awful, these sites.

Despite how horrible the people who decide that others should be able to watch things for free are, I still love Crank. I Crank it regularly, and enjoy it every time. For those who also love to Crank it, my digits are 555-901-6002. I think I'm gonna name my firstborn Crank (2006), italics and year and everything. For the second kid, I'm thinking Evan, or for a girl, Lucy. Good names.

Jason Statham, if you're out there reading this by some chance, know this: you da bomb. But... you're also not da bomb, for doing the monstrosity that is Crank: High Voltage.

Crank: High Voltage, or, as my mom likes to call it, Crank 2: Still Crankin', is—surprise!—the sequel to Crank. It pumps up everything by 200%!! More, more, more!!! But the problem is it really, really shouldn't've cranked it up. It cranks too much, crossing the line from ridiculous so-bad-it's-good to just plain bad. Rife with bigotry and unnecessary explicit scenes, it was intolerable. I just couldn't force myself through it, and turned the TV off after ten minutes. Ten minutes too late.

I am not worse off after seeing Crank, am I think that other people won't be either. If you're ever feeling down: remember to Crank it up!!

Why is TikTok so popular?

The social media app has skyrocketed in popularity with teens

Gwen Stender
Staff Writer

Of all the social media apps, the one by far most popularly used by teens today is the video app TikTok, occupying hours of screen time.

TikTok has users make and watch videos on average 15-30 seconds long, mostly based around entertainment and comedy. They are often set to music or different trending sounds. Creators can add filters, stickers, and collaborate on content with duet videos long-distance. A personalized algorithm based on the videos you like, share, and save provides personalized recommendations for consumers so their content is always engaging.

The Chinese technology firm ByteDance released the app in 2016, and it grew rapidly in late 2017, acquiring rival Musical.ly. Despite

political controversy about possible misuse of personal information, by early 2022, the app reached 1 billion global daily users.

So how did it become so popular so fast? Contending with other giant social media apps such as Instagram, Snapchat, Facebook, and Twitter and coming out on top is no easy feat. So TikTok has a different, addictive format from those other apps, as well as marketing by ByteDance virtually everywhere online, including rival social media platforms. Another factor that propelled this app to wild success was the demand for teenagers/GenZ to have their own social media app, away from their parents and a part of their own community. "I watch cars. My entire page is just cars," said TikTok fan Luis Hernandez.

"South Park, all the way,"

said Mylie Antin. It is widely agreed by OWL students that TikTok is their most used app. Most don't post on their main accounts for all to see, but post little videos set for only their followers to see, of them getting ready for school, dying hair, or just lip syncing to a song.

TikTok pays users between \$0.02 and \$0.04 for every 1,000 views they get, so they get \$20-\$40 for every 1 million views. But brand deals and partnerships also pay creators around \$500-\$1,000 per post, depending on the engagement you receive. TikTok itself has paid partnerships with many celebrities and marketers. Of everyone who uses the app, 83% have posted a video, either set so only their followers can see it or publicly.

But bipartisan momentum is growing to ban the app, as politicians see it as a way

for the Chinese Communist Party to spy on and influence Americans. Montana has already banned the app, the most extreme prohibition of it in the nation, on the basis of protecting citizens' data. And there are bigger legal acts in motion.

The Anti-Social CCP Act would cut off the app from app store listings, data storage, and server access, effectively shutting it down. If the Act gets signed into law, the app would be down within thirty days. The only way for TikTok to stop this complete ban would be a presidential certification to Congress that the data from the app is not associated with a country of concern.

So TikTok users in the United States should get their views, likes, and saves in now, because soon, this algorithm of videos could be considered a national security threat.

4 more nostalgic childhood shows

These shows will bring you back to your elementary school days

Read part one of this story in the May 12th issue of the Purple Press

Ellie Patton and Lana Stevens
Staff Writers

What's more nostalgic than MORE TV?

"More TV!" You probably told your parents this once or twice when they told you to stop watching TV and go play outside. Last newspaper, we talked about four of our favorite shows, but they don't end there. Here are four MORE TV shows from our childhood.

1. Dora The Explorer

Dora The Explorer is a show about a latina girl named Dora (or as you might remember her, 'Hola! Soy Dora!'), who goes on quests with her monkey friend, Boots. On their quests, they teach kids Spanish words and problem-solving skills as

they go along their adventures. They meet Swiper the fox, who is always stealing stuff, and they have a map and backpack that talks. This show is definitely for much of the very young audience, but it is still a very memorable, fun show. Produced by Nickelodeon and originally run on Nickelodeon from August 14, 2000 to June 5, 2014, the final six unaired episodes later aired from July 7 to August 9, 2019. In 2019, Paramount made a live action

movie based off of the kids show titled *Dora and the Lost City of Gold*. I (Lana) only watched this show as a baby and a toddler, but the small memories I do have from this show were good. The way all of the adventures they went on were different and unique was engaging, and I always like the 'silly monkey with the red boots'. Overall a great kids show.

2. Phineas and Ferb

The never boring and



Paramount

Phineas and Ferb is a favorite childhood show for many.

Childhood shows, 13

Critical Race Theory faces bans

Many Republican lawmakers don't want the class to be taught

Shalimar Watkins
Staff Writer

Many political leaders like Florida Governor Ron DeSantis, Donald Trump and Republican congressmen have tried to ban Critical Race Theory from being taught in schools along with books and curriculums that have similar content. Many of the bills created to ban Critical Race Theory don't refer to race, and the specifics of what topics can't be taught are incredibly vague, prompting the issue of educators deciding what parts of their curriculum to stop teaching.

Critical Race Theory is the concept that there is prejudice and racial bias present in many aspects of western society and its many institutions such as the legal and justice systems. But CRT aims to express that "race is simply a social construct and racism is not the

result of the personal beliefs of an individual but a tragic idea rooted in the foundation of the western world." Ironically, many legal institutions in America have proved this time and again.

Critical Race Theory is a teaching that lays out the harsh reality that American institutions and systems were created for the convenience of white people and not built for people of color. All of the legislations and bills stating that teaching Critical Race Theory is illegal to teach in schools, claim that the topic is essentially pushing racist and biased attitudes on students of color and teaching them to be "anti-American," along with making white students feel guilty or ashamed of their identities because of the "role their ancestors played" in American history. "I think being uncomfortable means

you're learning something," said OWL social studies teacher Katie Craven.

Politicians and some educators feel that Critical Race Theory is a curriculum created to shame and villainize white people by teaching about the wrongs and oppression endured by people of color in the United States. An excellent example of this was made by sociologist Victor Ray. "Making laws outlawing critical race theory confirms the point that racism is embedded in the law," Ray said. All of this goes to show another aspect of bias in society, in this case it's intertwined within education.

Historians, activists and scholars fight to reiterate one simple fact: Critical Race Theory is meant to teach students about America's past; the students want to know about their history. It is not intended to demean or accuse

anyone in any way, shape or form. "It's our history and it may be painful but we have to learn about it," said Katie.

Many media outlets and right wing politicians have used the term "Critical Race Theory" as a scare tactic. As a way of turning what is essentially a curriculum based on American history into a form of academic indoctrination. A conservative organization called Moms for Liberty has a similar agenda to this stating they don't want their kids learning about an unnecessary topic that will only make them feel guilty. "I think most of these people don't understand what they are talking about or trying to ban, they hear it and it makes them buzz," said Katie.

Some possible solutions to the issue of Critical Race

Hogwarts Legacy worthwhile

New Harry Potter game created by Avalanche doesn't disappoint

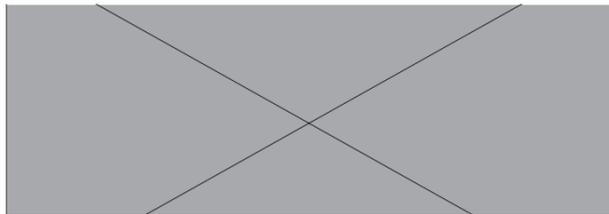
Marshall Wasmund
Staff Writer

After you create your character you are thrown into the game into a chariot with two other teachers. After some important dialogue that helps start the main storyline, you suddenly get attacked by a huge dragon who eats half the chariot and one of the teachers. With you and the other teacher panicking, soon you decided to jump out with the teacher. While you're falling through the sky a dragon starts chasing you and is close on your tail. Right when it's about to eat you, you and the teacher teleport and the screen goes black.

Avalanche has brought the world of Harry Potter to life in their new open world Harry Potter based game Hogwarts Legacy. It was developed by Avalanche Software and published by Warner Bros. Games. It was released on February 10th for players on new gen consoles and pc, May 5th for other consoles, and July 25th for Nintendo switch. The base game cost \$60 - \$70 and the deluxe version cost \$70 - \$80. The game has been out for about four months for new gen consoles and pc players and about one month for old gen consoles.

The main objective of Hogwarts Legacy is to uncover the truth of the wizarding world. The game has one main story quest line and many side quests to explore while doing the main questline. With all the side quests being unique, meaning hours of gameplay with a different variety of quests. It would take about 30-35 hours for someone to finish the main storyline and about 70 hours to 100% complete the game.

The graphics on new gen consoles and pc is really good with it getting 60-120 FPS and older consoles getting 30 FPS. The game also has its fair share of bugs but nothing that makes the game unplayable which is really good. Hogwarts legacy also has good audio with different music for different events in the game. For example, when you are in combat there is loud action music until you kill all the enemies and when you are walking around there is faint background music.



Avalanche

Personally I really enjoyed playing the game for a number of reasons, the main reason being the combat system. The reason I like the combat system is because you have a variety of spells and spell combinations you can use making it really easy to come up with your own build. Another reason I really like the combat system is how you fight enemies, when you fight enemies you can use different spells to make attack combos to kill a enemy before they hurt you, there is also a variety of different enemies with different attacks and some even have a shield and you have to use the right spell to break it and hurt them. Another reason why I like Hogwarts Legacy is all the different quests you can do. There is one main questline that has a really good story to it and is very engaging in terms of balancing out the story and the fights, and then there are a bunch of side quests in the game with some being different classes you can take

to learn new spells and others are just bonus adventures you can do to explore the world further.

There are really only two things that I don't like about the game and the first being the doors. The reason why I don't like the doors in the game is because when you get up to a door it doesn't open right away because it has to load what's on the other side and it can sometimes take a minute or more for it to open and the only thing you can do is stand by the door until it opens. The second thing that I don't like about the game is all the dialogue in the main story. You get like 5-10 min of dialogue and then some action and then back to dialogue and I find it hard to listen to all of it because some of it doesn't even directly relate to the story.

When my friend and I first pre-ordered the game we had high hopes for the game, and I think that it was better than what I expected mostly because of the combat system and how big the world is. I'd recommend this game and think that people should buy it. It may have a lot of dialogue at the start but once you get into it you will play for hours without even noticing. Overall I would give this game a 8/10.



The New Yorker

Fabelmans is a beautiful film

Spielberg's latest movie paints a touching portrait of family

Alex Cowles
Staff Writer

"They tell me you want to be a picture maker. Why? This business, it will rip you apart." To describe The Fabelmans as a sentimental movie about movie magic is in my opinion missing the point. I see it as more of a character study of a family falling apart and how that connects with the main character's passion for film.

The Fabelmans was released in 2022. It is a fictionalized portrayal of director Steven Spielberg's own life. It stars Gabriel LaBelle, Paul Dano, Michelle Williams, and Seth Rogen. It was nominated for 9 academy awards in 2022 although it won none.

The protagonist, Sammy Fabelman, had a passion for film ever since he was a kid. He makes films with his friends and his talent is obvious. His father, Burt, is a brilliant engineer who is good-natured and practical but doesn't understand Sammy's passion. His mother is an impulsive free spirit who encourages Sammy at every step. His parents' differing perspectives strain their marriage made worse by the Fabelmans' repeated uprooting due to Burt's career forcing them to move across the country.

"Family and heart, it will tear you in two," says Judd Hirsch's Boris Podgorny, Sammy's mother's uncle who worked in film and the circus. Despite appearing in only one scene, Hirsch makes it count, as his character gives Sammy tough love advice and encourages him to follow his dreams. This scene stands as a thesis of sorts for the movie. Film is Sammy's coping mechanism, the lens from which he processes the world around him, but it's not his savior. It's something he needs to work for. At the very beginning of the film, Sammy as a child crashes his expensive train toy trying to recreate a scene from a film he saw. Burt lectures him, saying, "You can't just love something, you have to take care of it." I see this line as symbolic of a wider theme of the movie; the conflict between making art and living your life.

Most importantly, this movie is about Sammy and his parents. Sammy's parents are well-rounded and complex characters. Whether the characterization is invented

or if Spielberg manages to capture the nuances of his real-life family, it's impressive. Mitzi Fabelman is the most complex character in the film. Like Sammy, she is an artist - in her case, she is a skilled pianist. As unstable and messy as she may be, she understands Sammy's dream unlike Burt. Both Dano and Williams are perfect in their roles, with Williams in particular subtly exhibiting the complexities of her character brings this film to a whole new level that it could not reach with a lesser actor in the role. Sammy is the combination of his parents. His struggle to find his identity leads his arc. His father pushes him to the practical and his mother encourages him to follow his dreams at all risks.

The Fabelmans is about the family, but the element of film is what keeps it together. Everything is driven by the camera and the art Sammy makes with it. Some scenes are shot from the perspective of his camera. The film falters a bit in the middle when Sammy briefly stops making movies. Without this motif to ground the movie it feels a bit aimless. It might not hurt this movie to trim at these points and keep a more concise, focused film. This premise is simple enough that it strains a bit under its weight at a runtime of 151 minutes (although I would miss the very entertaining religious love interest that makes an appearance in this bit of the film.)

Unsurprisingly for a Spielberg picture, the movie is very well-directed and well-put together. You can tell we are in the hands of a master by how the cinematography affects the mood without being distracting. The camera framing is very deliberate, showing us what we need to know and putting us in the place of the characters. Gabriel LaBelle grounds this picture with a perfect performance. He makes Sammy Fabelman flawed but charming enough to root for. Seth Rogen is also fantastic in a rare dramatic role as Sammy's unofficial uncle who ends up getting between Sammy's mother and father. Judd Hirsch earns his academy award nomination in one scene. He steals the show with a commanding performance that leaves its mark on the rest

Fabelmans, 13

Mandalorian, 8

and is only around to provide his usual cuteness, which to me is an indicator that Favreau and Disney were worried the season would have lower viewership without him given that he's unofficially the biggest star of the show. Thus, any chance of him and Din being able to grow as characters on their own as well as a chance for the S2 finale to leave an actual impact is completely wasted and his quick return comes off as such a lazy and corporate backpedal to keep the show's popularity and profit high. But hey, maybe the rest of the season is at least good enough to make up for this, right? Well...umm....uh....

Favreau's writing for this show in the past has always been simplistic but strong, with a generally engaging blend of an overarching Mandalorians-vs-Empire storyline and a set of serialized adventures that pushed the boundaries of the Star Wars galaxy and smartly showcased Din's character growth as he protects Grogu. However, his script for this season feels aimless, hollow, first-draft, and inconsequential, with constant mishaps that weren't present

at all in the previous two seasons. There's an extremely frustrating lack of focus and stakes throughout, both for the story and the characters. I wish I was exaggerating when I say that Din undergoes zero development this season, but beyond that, he barely even feels like the main character for so much of the runtime as the spotlight is constantly shifted to other characters with no rhyme or reason, most prominently to co-star Bo-Katan Kryze (played by Katee Sackhoff), a fan-favorite character originally from the Clone Wars animated series. And while Bo-Katan at least has a decent-ish arc, it's mostly just a repeat of her story in The Clone Wars but less engaging this time. The show's main antagonist Moff Gideon (Giancarlo Esposito) is also criminally underutilized, leaving him unable to make any significant or memorable impact like he did in the past. And the same shallowness can be found in every other side character in the season, all of whom have almost nothing interesting to say.

The plot fares no better, with the disservices to the characters directly correlating with its poor structure. The main premise is Din, Bo-Katan, and the

Mandalorians attempting to retake their home planet of Mandalore after it was ravaged by the Empire, but because the season is so busy jumping all over the place with only the bare minimum of cohesion between everything, nothing ever feels earned, satisfying, or engaging due to how it's executed. The character interactions are frequently brought down by stiff and awkward dialogue and pointless action sequences are found at every corner, often being so bland and repetitive to the point where the scenario of "suddenly a giant monster appeared!" was used a total of five times in this season, and I really think that going forward, the show would benefit from more diversity in the writers' room.

On a more positive note, there are at least some neat ideas on paper for the storyline even if they're executed in an uninteresting way. It's nice that this season is so lore-heavy and laser-focused on Mandalorians after the cameo-filled second season with Jedi and legacy characters, and a lot of the action, performances, and production quality in general have been the few consistently excellent elements of the whole show. Pascal and Sackhoff in

particular do their best with the scripts they have and it's great to see that the crew is still capable of amazing visual effects and (some) gripping action sequences in the StageCraft "volume" virtual set after its recent decline in quality due to Disney overusing the technology for so many of their products. The aerial dogfights in particular are fantastic with extra flair thrown in by the directors, all of whom bring great artistic skill to their episodes.

But despite all the flashiness, it isn't enough to make up for the poor writing and as a whole, I was very unimpressed with season three of The Mandalorian. It's a severe step down for a show that I know has already been capable of so much more, and I'm giving it an overall score of 5/10. And unlike my reactions to the first two seasons, I am no longer excited for the future of this show in the slightest. So if you're looking for a Star Wars series that has rich storytelling along with the immersive atmosphere, I'd recommend watching Andor instead - a show whose weakest episode is still so skillfully written that it's miles ahead of this season's best episode. And on that happy note, thank you all so much for reading my articles

Madonna's record for the most attended female concert in US history in 1987. If you're able to find tickets, Taylor Swift will be in Minneapolis on June 23rd and 24th for the tour. She recently announced international dates in Latin America and when those begin, there's no telling what records will be broken next.

Swift, 8

a great show. She also sings every song live which can be a difficult thing for some performers to achieve.

During the show, following the announcement of Speak Now (Taylor's Version), Taylor played her song "Sparks Fly" from the album. This was one of the two "surprise songs",

which she performs at every show. The tour has a concrete set list but she also revealed she would be playing two surprise songs per night which will only be played once on the tour. The only rules that allow her to repeat the songs on the tour are if she messes up the song and if the song is one from her latest album, Midnights. This tactic keeps

fans on their feet wondering if one of their favorites will be performed live for them.

Overall this tour seems like the show of a lifetime and anyone who gets to experience it is watching history be made. The tour is only halfway through and it's already on its way to becoming the highest grossing tour of all time. The opening night alone broke

Best year, 8

In fourth place is 10th grade. This is mostly my personal bias speaking since I spent most of that year in quarantine, but I really can't tell you anything about 10th grade. It's a year that was basically the epitome of mid. You're fully adapted to being a high schooler, unlike in Freshman year, but you haven't yet been hit with the onslaught of stress and newfound responsibilities that you'll feel the full force of in 11th grade. Overall, kind of a forgettable experience, at least for me.

In third, 9th grade. Now, the grade with the transition from middle school to high

school is obviously going to be incredibly hard. I remember the moment when I finally fully processed halfway through the year that my math grades mattered, and it was the biggest cold wet slap in the face that I've ever gotten in my entire life. However, you've got the least workload of all of the high school grades and a lot of the projects you get to do straight-up slap.

Second is 11th. Now, I have mixed feelings about 11th grade. If there's one thing I've learned, it's that, when everyone tells you that "11th grade is the hardest year," they are 100% correct. I was stressed out pretty much all the

time last year, and you might think that would put 11th near the bottom, but that stress was easily balanced out by the fact that I suddenly had access to study hours, AP classes, and outward-bound trips. Plus, I feel like all of the collective stress your grade goes through in 11th really brings everyone together in one big academic trauma bond.

And coming in at the prestigious 1st place is 12th grade. Now right now you might be saying, "Elizabeth, I can smell your senior bias through this paper" but I'm just gonna say, don't knock it till you try it. Sure, as a senior you can get pretty stressed

about college applications, but after that's over, you're basically only stressed out if you choose to take on something stressful, and you're free to senior slide to your heart's content. Never in my life have I played more Papa's Freezeria and Minecraft in the middle of class and never have I felt more powerful doing so. On top of that, you've earned the respect of most of the school and have way more freedom than ever before, which means you can punt defenseless sixth graders to your heart's content! (Leo has informed me that I should disclose that this is a joke, I've been clean from that since 9th grade, don't worry Dave).

D&D, _

living, recruiting the amateur sorcerer Simon Aumar, con-man Forge Fitzwilliam, and even Kira, Edgin's daughter, once she's old enough.

Once Edgin learns of a Tablet of Reawakening that has the potential to revive his wife, he is keen to steal it. So when a prime opportunity to do so enters through his front door in the form of Sofina, he jumps at the chance.

While attempting the heist, Holga and Edgin are captured and taken to Revel's End prison, where they are sentenced to two years jail time. After one year they escape, and the two make their way back to Neverwinter, where Forge has become lord, with the help of Sofina, who is revealed to be a disguised Red Wizard. Forge has been taking care of Kira, convincing her that her father's selfishness and greed was why he left her.

Now Edgin and Holga must reassemble their team and steal back the Tablet of Reawakening, reviving Edgin's wife and proving to Kira that he is not a selfish man; and who knows what plans could be revealed along the way?

Coming into this movie, my expectations weren't exceptionally high. From the trailers, I was expecting some cheap jokes, decent CGI, and an absolute onslaught of D&D references. Instead, I was immersed in a fantastical setting full of beautiful scenery, unique races, magic and predicaments, and an avant-garde sort of norm that I have come to expect from everything D&D.

While I may not be the best person to judge performance, the actors' performances certainly did a good enough job to allow me to believe for a solid hour and a half that they lived in this world. At the very least, it didn't break the illusion.

It never had to be said or mentioned outside of city

name that this was a fantastical setting thanks to the opening scene, featuring an orc and a yuan-ti in the first forty seconds; and past that point, there are constant design, costume, and setting choices that make it clear where you are at all times.

The humor displayed in the movie is also a lot more intelligent than I was expecting. Instead of try-hard, unfunny jokes that are shoved into the film so it can claim it's a comedy, most of the humor of the film was partially in the subtext of the actions of the characters, and partially an off-hand, dry commentary on the situations at hand that I personally really like. Some of the jokes will appeal to younger audiences, and some are there to keep adults engaged, but the film does a good job of blending the two and making one still at least partially funny to the other. There are also plenty of subtle references in the film that are sprinkled throughout for the D&D nerds.

It features a classic cast of characters, without straying too far into the game's numerous pre-made character options, like the piscine Triton race or elemental Genasi. I didn't even know Genasi existed, and I play this game almost bi-weekly.

But the part that I like the most about this movie is that it's not arrogant. The movie is aware that it's not going to be a cinematic breakthrough, instead focusing on what it knows it is: a movie to geek out about, and a film to be enjoyed by not only D&D nerds, but the general public.

While it's not the first movie to come from D&D, it certainly is the best. It's made to be especially rewarding to D&D fans, but you don't need to play D&D to have a good time at this movie. I would definitely consider it worth your time and money.

CRT, 11

Theory include educating people about what the term means, explaining that is unfair to pick and choose what to teach, having courageous conversations and remembering that it's not easy for the teachers either some of them feel unqualified to teach subjects like CRT and they already have to decide what parts of their curriculum to exclude. With this in mind, we must balance out the narrative and somehow educate ourselves without degrading individuals in the process.

BTD, 9

can help visually. There is no actual hit box increase or decrease. The way you get these are in certain maps or by getting certain pops in certain monkeys.

The downfall of this game is really just lag; as the round gets further you need more towers, and the more towers the more things that have to load, the more things that have to load, the more lag you experience. All it does is slow down the game and make it look choppy. It can be kinda annoying but it doesn't really affect anything else about the game. In spite of that, this is probably one of the best tower defense games ever



Epic Games

Bloons Tower Defense recently released a 6th season.

in my opinion. It's crazy that a game like this can be so fun. There are constant updates, it's really balanced, and so much more. In my opinion this has to be a 10/10 game. It always looks really nice and vibrant. This game is also a really good time passer. With all the

choices of maps you have, all with different game modes and difficulty levels, it usually doesn't get old at all. But if you do get bored you can leave with your progress saved.

Horror books, 9

different. The world contains everything Coraline could dream of. Unfortunately, things turn dark and Coraline has to escape before it's too late.

This book has always been very dear to me. It was always the perfect book to snuggle up with in warm blankets and a comfortable spot in my house, also craving a little bit of horror. I've heard that many others share this opinion, as it is a popular

book worldwide. The plot is very interesting, and it's fun to guess what happens next.

To wrap up my list, I decided to place Where The Crawdads Sing in first place. Even though this book isn't much of a horror book, Where The Crawdads Sing is a really interesting and suspenseful book. It's a murder mystery, but includes much more storylines and details. It also teaches us to be more accepting of others around us, despite them being different.

The book revolves

around Kya Clark. She has lived in the marsh near a small town her entire life, with her family. Eventually, Kya's mother leaves her family and never returns, leaving Kya to often fend for herself as her father isn't a very skilled caretaker and is an alcoholic. Later in Kya's life, a boy named Chase Andrews suffers a tragic death that shatters the townspeople. Thus causing Kya to be accused of murder, or as the townspeople refer to her as, the marsh girl.

This is my favorite book throughout the list. I

really enjoyed learning more about Kya's family, and how different life is for her living in the marsh, away from other humans. The more I progressed through the book, the more I wanted to know. It's also really interesting to see Kya interact with the townspeople, and see how badly they treat her because her life is drastically different to theirs. This book is very suspenseful and well written, and each time you end a chapter you'll be wondering what happens next.

Childhood shows, 11

(Ellie) always loved watching this show because it just has an excellent storyline and it's really enjoyable to watch. There are so many fun memories that all of the characters have and they are always really funny to watch. This show aired August 17, 2007 on Disney and was later brought to Disney Plus where it is now available to watch.

3. Bubble Guppies

The lovable group of mer-kids that make up the characters and stories of Bubble Guppies are hard to

forget. The mer-kids go to preschool, and while there they go on fieldtrips and learn many life skills. The show is very structured, similar to a real school, with the beginning of the show beginning with everyone arriving at school, there's a song, lunchtime, 'it's time to go outside', (along with its own memorable song) storytime, and a field trip. The Nickelodeon show first aired in 2011 and released its 6th season in 2021, it is unknown if the show will continue. I (Lana) always loved Bubble Guppies as a kid, and so did my little brothers. The unique

songs that they had in every episode made the show fondly memorable, and the new and unique adventures every episode made it rarely a bore. Definitely one of my favorite TV shows I watched as a kid.

4. Word Girl

Although this show was more unknown it was still one that I (Ellie) watched frequently and really enjoyed. This show was about a superhero named word girl with a secret identity. She has a sidekick named Captain Huggy Face who is a monkey. She solves word based problems in her community such as defeating

the villains that are wreaking havoc on the city and she uses words to help the villains and solve the problems. The most seen villains on the show are Dr. Two-Brains, The Butcher and Chuck the evil sandwich making guy. I (Ellie) always remember watching this show when it was on and I always remember enjoying it as a kid. It is a show for younger kids so it's been a while since I've seen it and it was never shown a lot but it was still a really good show even if it wasn't a popular one. Word girl began in 2007 but is not airing anymore as of 2015.

Fabelmans, 12

of the movie. Without spoiling anything, the fantastic closing scene features a cameo from my favorite movie director playing another legendary film director. It's just awesome and I couldn't do a review without mentioning that.

All in all, The Fabelmans is a wonderful addition to Spielberg's untouchable filmography. As much as I believe this film can stand on its own feet without the meta element, it's fascinating to see the origin story of sorts of the legendary director who shaped our culture as much



IMDb

as any artist ever has. In one scene Sammy promises to keep someone's secret and then jokes, "unless I make a movie about it." Cheeky.

Quarter, 9

of time, most tire out keeping up with the difficult workload with high teacher expectations due to students knowing most rules already because of the amount of time being in school.

The fourth quarter is three months, going from the second week of April to the second week of June, 39 days including breaks/holidays already, plus one week set aside for interim. As the mood

and climate brightens up in the fourth quarter the work ethnic seems to drop; this is due to how long students and teachers have been in school. But luckily the quarter consists of 39 days with a fun week of interim, where work isn't given out from all classes and students can participate in fun activities. But towards the middle and end of this quarter students in AP classes will have to take tests, and many other students have to catch up in work as students can't be

given extensions after school ends. So afterwards as school is eventually done, students can take a long summer break or be forced to go participate in summer school for required class credits.

To answer our question, what is the best quarter overall, I suggest that it is the first quarter, because considering the pros and cons, the workload and difficulty isn't too difficult yet in the first quarter. Not only is there a lower workload and a lower

difficulty around this time, students are able to refresh their minds upon new content ready to learn without having to worry about late/past work yet, with a week of fun activities to meet friends again in your grade during fall retreat week. The only downside is that students will have to adjust to school again after the long summer break, and that it is the longest quarter overall being 49 days considering that its breaks and holidays are also applied as well.



Fashion spotlight: Leo

Gwen Stender and Violet Baer-Benson
Staff Writer

What is your go-to fit?
Khakis and a flannel shirt but a soccer jersey on Friday.

What is your favorite shirt?
I guess this one, my Nottingham forest jersey I got for Christmas from Megan

What is your skincare routine?
After I shave I put moisturizer on my face.

What is your hair routine?
I go like this (runs fingers through hair). I use shampoo, whatever Megan gets.

How early do you wake up to get ready?
I get up at 6. I shower, and Monday, Wednesday, and Friday I shave.

Where is your fit from?
The Gap and I don't know -- the MNUFC store. My shoes are from REI.

Where do you usually shop?
The Gap, or sometimes Megan will order me a shirt from LL Bean. Sometimes I go to the Gap, like every three years, and get a bunch of stuff and leave.

What celebrity inspires your outfits?
Sometimes on Twitter they have these pictures of the Loons coming into games, and they're wearing their fancy clothes. I'll have to see which one gives me the most inspiration. And Ted Lasso.

What teacher at the school has the best fashion?
Kent Miller.

What do you have to say about the current style trends at OWL?
They seem tolerable. The pajama pants thing is interesting, and I feel like no one's trying really hard to be offensive.

Glasses or contacts?
Glasses sometimes because I don't have contacts but I have some glasses. I've never

worn contacts before. It must be hard to get them in your eyes. I don't use my glasses very often. I read with them at home a lot.

At Leo's recommendation, our next teacher to interview is Kent Miller, a fan of Hawaiian shirts with "a certain vibe", according to students. Stay tuned for the next issue, where we will explore Kent's inspiration, his favorite fits, and his go-to Hawaiian shirt store.



Purple Press Staff Photo
English Teacher Leo Bickelhaupt poses for a photo in his fit

What was Sorcha like?

Gabby Govrik
Staff Writer

Sorcha:
Where did you attend high school?
St. Anthony Village High School

What was your favorite year of high school?
Freshman and Senior Year
What year did you graduate?
2010

What was your dream job?
I didn't know what I wanted to do. Something with science, music and/or writing.

What was your favorite class or classes?
AP Bio, AP Lang & AP Lit (because of both the content and the teachers) and choir and Spanish (I actually liked the majority of my classes in high school, there were only a couple I didn't enjoy)

How is highschool now the same or different from when you were in highschool?
Social media (expectations, rules, drama, etc.): kids seem

busier and more stressed

What is some advice you would give your highschool self and/or highschoolers now?

Most issues that feel really big will get smaller with time; think about the future but enjoy the present moment

What were hobbies or extracurriculars you were involved in?

National Honor Society, Theater, Choir, Robotics, Speech, Color Guard

American Experiment, 10

the "replacement theory." This states that whites are being replaced by immigrants because they aren't having enough children, and is one of the secret reasons behind the "pro-life" campaign. This is an outright bad reaction to the issue of birth rates and it will only cause more problems.

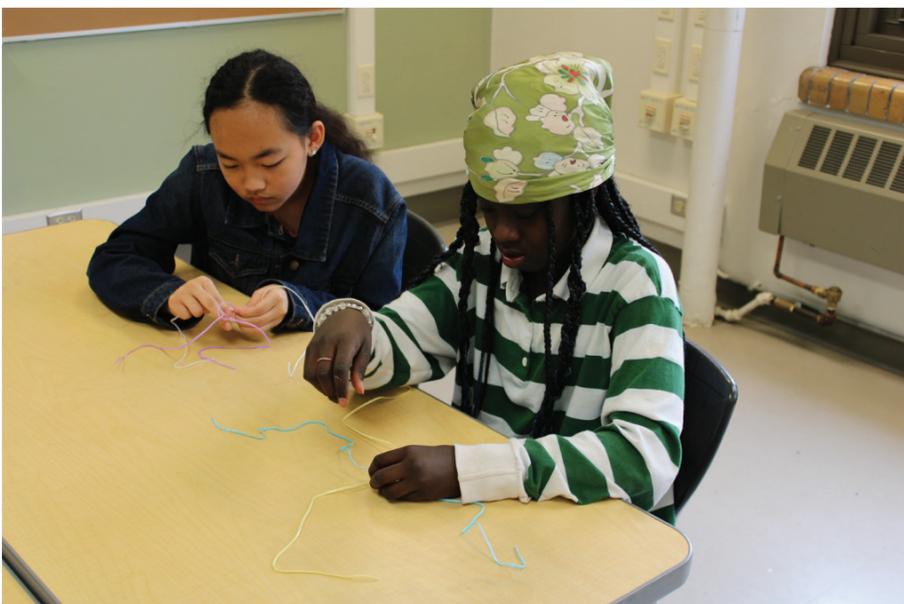
America can still find the right path. We can open our borders and accept the truth, that what makes America the powerhouse of the world is its diversity.



America has so many different people that we are only held back by our own rejection of our ability as a country. America can be fair, free, and safe for all but first we must destroy the idea that America is a white country.

Together America can stand as an exception to the idea of the nation state, a country not built on an ethnicity but on a shared desire to prosper under a free and fair government.

Interim snapshots 2023



Jewelry Making Interim

Laura Orris



Readers and Writers Unite Interim

Laura Orris



I Want to Ride My Bicycle Interim

Laura Orris



Solitude and Reflection Interim

Laura Orris