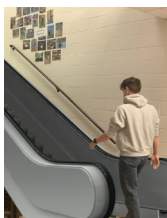




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Purple Press

Volume #23, Issue #6 April 1st, 2023

Makeup school days added in June

Extra classes tacked on because of mutiple e-learning and snow days

Meara Gunderson
Staff Writer

In an effort to stay on track this school year, superintendent Dr. Joe Gothard announced on April 1st, 2023, that all SPPS schools will add on two school days in June, bringing the last day of school to June 16th.

There have been four e-learning days this school

year along with two snow days, and because we only have five e-learning days and five snow days per year, superintendent Gothard has decided we need more school days to keep students where they should be. "We feel students have not had access to a quality education this year, and we are trying to do everything we can to combat that. Since we have lost so much time this year,

our extra make-up days will be heavy note taking and work days. We need to get these kids back to where they should be," Gothard said.

A recent study done by Saint Paul Public Schools shows that 92% of SPPS students are behind where they should be in their learning this year. Several undercover representatives have been sent in to try and convince the student body that

two extra days will be fun, but students are not taking to the idea. "It's like when teachers say they have a fun class planned, it's never actually fun and everyone wishes it was a normal class by the time it's over," said 7th grader Rachel Ledelsome. Sources confirm that the superintendent is not phased by this reaction and plans to carry on as normal.

"I do not want more school.

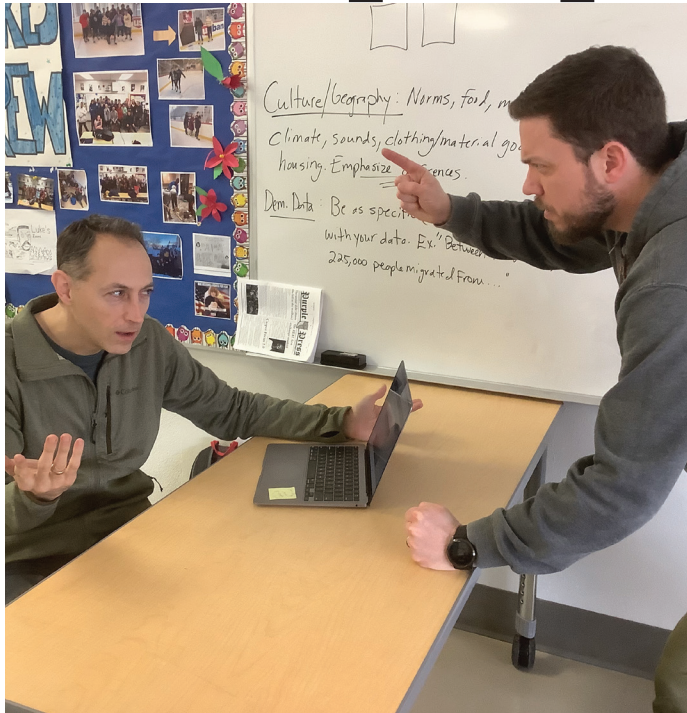
I barely made it through the school days that were planned," said 11th grader Henry Tuclon. "I'll probably skip," said 10th grader Vicky Ayo.

"Honestly, I like the idea. I think my kid needs more time out of the house and extra school will be good for him," said 8th grade parent Linda Berty. "I'm just glad he's out of my hair for another two

days," said 6th grade parent Jim Holpe, in reference to his child.

As of press time, it remains a possibility that extra days could continue to be added as we have more classes cancelled due to extreme weather events. It is recommended that parents and teachers continually check the SPPS website for updates and more information.

S&R postponed because of feud



Kiara Steiner

Luke yells at Jeff over cuts from the recent Solitude and Reflection (left). Jeff and Luke officially are done with each other (right).

Luke Turvold and Jeff Steiner's recent disagreements are reason for the postponement

Kiara Steiner
Staff Writer

After years of working together, Solitude and Reflection co-stars Jeff Steiner and Luke Turvold are taking a break from each other due to extreme tension on set.

Onscreen, Solitude and Reflection are fronted as a comedic duo with Luke acting

as the straight man to Jeff's bizarre behavior. But once the cameras are cut, it's a totally different story. Tensions rose when a scene starring Luke was allegedly cut from production.

"I'm a star, my abilities are under-appreciated, and frankly—I should replace Jeff. This is my last straw! I'm tired of not being treated like the great

actor I am," remarked Luke. Video production staff are unsurprised about this recent outburst, stating that scenes featuring Luke have been cut before. An anonymous staff member stated, "You could tell Jeff's fame always got under Luke's skin. I think his jealousy just finally got to him."

"I had this entire

monologue written, filmed, and produced, only to get written off for a Baby Joe-da skit. Star Wars came out like 40 years ago!" Luke said after he was asked about the alleged scene cutting.

Witnesses reportedly saw Luke storm out of Jeff's classroom, mumbling and repeating, "It's not fair!" under

his breath over and over again. Jeff has neither confirmed nor denied this scene cut and has refused to comment.

As of press time, there is talk of gym teacher Joe Bradner and art teacher Kent Miller replacing the stars if they don't sort out their dispute.

Frisbee teams nix

scoring All games 'fun to fun' moving foward

Shalimar Watkins
Staff Writer

After a violent altercation during an ultimate frisbee game over an allegedly fraudulent victory on part of OWL's opposing team, bystanders reportedly yelled "Stop the steal." In response, a new 'no more keeping score' rule was put in place.

OWL frisbee manager Liam Shramko recently informed the head coaches of the new game policy: starting April 1st, ultimate frisbee teams will no longer keep score so they will be able to play safe games and remain faithful to 'spirit of the game.' "Now frisbee will be less competitive and more fun," said junior Tess Champion, one of the Womanatee frisbee captains.

However, other avid frisbee players at OWL are not as accepting of the new rule. "I play to win, and not keeping score defeats the whole purpose of ultimate frisbee," said junior Cooper Peterson-Antin, a Manatee frisbee captain. In retaliation to the policy, during press time Cooper obnoxiously protested outside of OWL where the frisbee heads were holding a meeting.

Amidst the numerous emotions and opinions on frisbee teams no longer keeping score, many students

Panera Bread is coming to OWL cafeteria

Students and teachers await the new change, look foward to fresh lunch options



Purple Press Staff Photo

A Panera employee prepares to open the new OWL cafeteria location of the fast food chain.

Remy Short
Staff Writer

It has been unveiled that on Wednesday items from the Panera Bread food chain will be arriving at the OWL cafeteria. Recently, the SPPS district decided to collaborate with Panera Bread to broaden the food choices for students during their lunchtime periods. Since the collaboration is still in process, Panera Bread items are yet to arrive at the cafeteria.

Panera Bread's menu consists of the average food you'd find at American restaurants. Some of their most popular dishes include grilled cheese, macaroni and cheese, flatbreads, and my personal favorite—broccoli cheddar soup with a baguette. To pick their new menu items, the school district sent out a survey to students that attend SPPS schools, and chose the items based on what the students asked for.

According to Nutrition Services, the new lunch choices are still being debated. Although, some choices have already been decided. As a result of the collaboration, some new menu items will consist of broccoli cheddar soup, flatbread, Greek salad, and the bacon turkey sandwich.

Panera Bread's founder, Niren Chaudhary, spoke with me to explain how this



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New rule introduced

“Break the rules and I break your phone”

Michael Ryan
Staff Writer

In an effort to improve student concentration and learning, the Saint Paul Public Schools District has approved a new policy that allows teachers to not just confiscate student’s phones when seen out in class, but to break them so the student will not be able to repeat the infraction.

The first person at Open World Learning to put this new rule into action was English teacher Nora Kings, when she eliminated 9th grader Terrence Lambert’s phone, wordlessly pulling out a ball-peen hammer and smashing it on the table where it lay. “My phone! #\$\$^%!!” Terry reportedly said immediately after the incident.

After this first instance, many of the other teachers at OWL took up the act, some with joy, some with (minor) reluctance. A few of the more soft-hearted teachers have refused to do it, stating that “it seems unnecessarily cruel,” as Social Studies teacher Luke Turvold put it.

“Break the rules and I break your phone,” said Math teacher Clara Raneiri, who was, according to sources, the most excited of the staff when she heard about the new rule. Many of the other teachers have taken to using this phrase, turning it into the one sentence that can strike fear in students’ hearts every time.

The way that the phones are destroyed differ from teacher to teacher. Some, like Nora, utilize small hammers, while others use paperweights. Of course, there are those who go for the old-school methods of dropping or stepping on the devices. A few have gone out and bought specialized phone-crushers with their own money. “I love stomping

on phones,” said English teacher Preston West, when questioned about his preferred way.

Because of the rule, a secret game has broken out amongst the students: to see who can use their phone for the longest in class without getting caught. So far, sources report that this caused a small uptick in the number of phones being destroyed the first few days, and a great decrease in the following week as students either realized this game was too high-risk, or got sneakier.

As for what parents have to say on the matter, the majority are in support. “It’s been so peaceful since Paige got her phone destroyed,” said Lucina Guthrie, parent of 8th grader Paige Guthrie. “Before, she was sent to the office what seemed like every other day because of that damn device, but now? She hasn’t been there since.”

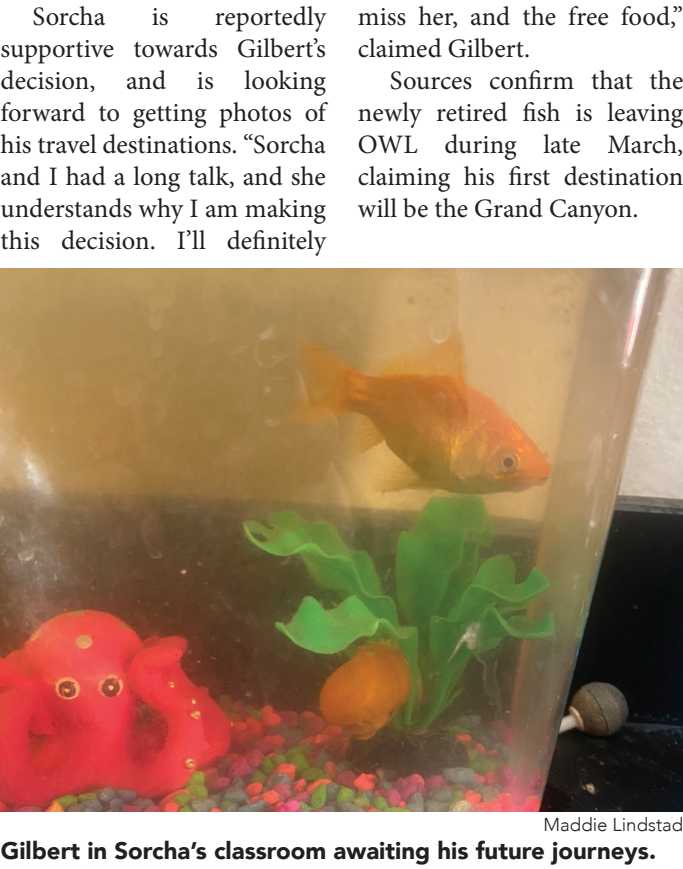
Fish formally retires

Sorcha’s class pet Gilbert wants to sea the world

Maddie Linstad
Staff Writer

After a long and committed two years of swimming around in circles and judging the students for procrastinating on their assignments, Gilbert the fish has reported that he is retiring from being Sorcha’s class pet. “I just feel like I want more than a fishbowl, and I need to find my true purpose in life. Maybe I’ll travel the ocean, or go to the Disneyland aquarium? I don’t really know yet. I just know that these kids are kinda annoying, you know?” Gilbert said.

Before making this choice, Gilbert resided in a small, but cozy fishbowl located in the far side of Sorcha’s room, right next to the windows. Local students observing Gilbert’s abode claimed it looked “very homey.”



Gilbert in Sorcha’s classroom awaiting his future journeys.

Bad jokes no laughing matter

Kent and Tim’s in-class jokes cause ‘immense trauma’ to students

Ruby Kate Nolen
Staff Writer

Claiming to have suffered immense trauma from the number of jokes that had been told by her teachers in a single day, 10th grader Eileen Lindstrom reportedly visited school social worker Katerina for counseling last Tuesday to process this tragedy.

“It was horrible,” recalls Eileen’s friend, 10th grader Alec Rutten, who sits next to Eileen in art teacher Kent Miller’s class. “Kent said he needed someone to pass out the papers, and then clarified unnecessarily that

they didn’t need to faint. Then he said ‘lettuce get to work’ and something about salad dressing. I don’t really remember what, but it was bad.”

Alec also reports that he has started bringing a bag of dried beans to art class for the purpose of putting one bean in a jar every time Kent tells a joke. He plans to count all of the beans at the end of the semester and use them for a math project about estimation and statistics.

Kent has a disturbing habit of sprinkling bad jokes throughout his lessons, but

the real kicker for Eileen was Spanish teacher Tim Leone-Getten’s class. As some students may be aware, Tim likes to tell his students at least one bad joke per class period. He often hypes up the jokes beforehand, repeatedly asking the students if they’re sure they’re ready for the joke, and sometimes even claiming that the joke packs such a big punch that he’s not sure the students will survive it.

“Of course, exposing students to such dangerous jokes is incredibly reckless behavior,” said principal Dave Gundale after hearing about

the incident. He and Katerina have conducted investigations into Kent’s and Tim’s bad jokes, and have concluded that a single class with one of these two teachers would not do significant damage. However, as Eileen had Spanish directly after art, it was the combined impact of both teachers’ jokes that traumatized her.

Kent and Tim have reportedly been asked to decrease the amount and severity of jokes, and sources say this issue will be taken into consideration when creating students’ schedules in the future.

Frisbee, 1

are excited about this development because the new rule prevents the possibility of losing and the emotional repercussions of that. “Despite removing the competitive

element of ultimate frisbee, I have to admit there’s less pressure during the game,” said sophomore and varsity frisbee player Danny Hobday.

Others are upset and feel that it takes the excitement and rush out of the game.

They have pointed out an interesting perspective on the recent change. “It’s going to make our school look like an educational institution with second rate sports teams, I guess we’ll have more empty space in the trophy cases,”

said OWL graduate Liliana Hobday after hearing about the controversial policy.



Purple Press Staff Photo

10th grader goes on strike

Aidan Lynskey Well’s list of demands was denied by Dave

Mylie Peterson-Antin
Staff Writer

Upset that his demands are not being met, 10th grader Aidan Lynskey Wells has barricaded himself within a booth in the second floor commons.

An interview with Aidan has revealed that he feels, “The school isn’t doing enough to help me. All I asked for was gourmet breakfast and lunch, no school on Fridays, and the ability to bring my mini fridge into class.”

Aidan drafted a petition for all of his demands and brought it to principal Dave Gundale. Dave said no.

“He sent me a TikTok of him holding up a handwritten petition. The video was blurry and I still don’t know what he wants,” said Dave.

Aidan then decided to bring his petition to the top: Joe

Gothard. Aidan presented his demands via another TikTok, this time adding a distinctive background track with him singing Roar by Katy Perry.

Now, four weeks later, Aidan has barricaded himself behind a table in the commons and refuses to come out. He said that, “My demands are simple. I don’t see any problem with them.”

Many students are on Aidan’s side and see no issue with his requests. 10th grader Antonio Cervantes said, “Joe Gothard, give him what he wants!”

However, many teachers are against this unusual use of the commons. English teacher Nora Krings said, “I still don’t understand why Aidan is there. It’s a waste of space, and I haven’t seen him move in a month. He doesn’t even leave on the weekends!”

Dave’s secret gaming skills

School principal is a chess star

Mylie Peterson Antin
Staff Writer

As a way to keep himself entertained during slow days on the job, Principal Dave Gundale has revealed that he has been controlling the highly popular online chess bot known as Mittens.

Sources say that Dave now has nine computer monitors situated around his desk, with more supposedly on the way. Dave’s office originally had only one monitor, but as he continued to play more and more chess games, he knew he had to upgrade. After about a week of playing, Dave decided to buy two more monitors so he can maximize his playing time. As “Mittens” gained more and more popularity, Dave continued to upgrade his setup and now after months of playing, Dave has a total of nine different monitors situated around his desk.

“My job doesn’t really require much work, so I decided to pick up a hobby. All the kids were playing chess, so I decided to give it a try,” said Dave in an interview, while intensely focused on the nine monitors blocking off his desk.

Mittens’s popularity is partially due to its remarkably fun personality, but also because it wins 99% of its games. Mittens’s estimated elo is around 3000 or more, and it has played and beaten millions of online players on chess.com.

“It began with just a few games, but soon I realized that I was great at chess,” Dave said, still not looking away from his multiple computers. “I researched the programming of the website and found a way for me to still play against other players, but it would display my profile as a bot.”

“The one and only time I played Mittens in chess, I lost the game in less than two minutes. I can’t comprehend how Dave can be that good,” said 10th grader Noah Johnson.

Although his secret has been revealed, Dave continues to play chess in his office from 7am to 6pm. Students are now more excited to play against him, confident that they can beat him.

“It can’t be that hard to beat an old geezer like Dave,” said 11th grader Cooper Antin.

Senior Spotlight

Daniel Sullivan



What pronouns do you use?
He/him.

How long have you been at OWL?
Four years.

What are your plans for next year?
To attend Hamline University.

What’s been your favorite class in high school?
Either US History or German.

What extracurriculars are you involved in?
Football, hockey, track, and theater.

Favorite field work experience or school trip and why?
Valley Fair physics day, because of the rides.

If you had a walk up song, what would it be?
Sandstorm by Darude.

What pronouns do you use?
He/him.

How tall are you?
5’6”

What’s your favorite book, movie or tv show?
Where the Red Fern Grows (book) or Quest for Camelot (movie).

Who’s your favorite senior?
Dan, I guess.

What is your favorite video game?
Pokemon (team Mudkip!).

What extracurriculars do you plan on getting involved in at OWL?
4-H, track and field, and basketball.

That One Little Kid

Preston West



Damon caught red handed

Accused of betting against his team to make a profit, defending champion also allegedly double crossed his fraquetball partner

Luke Hobday
Staff Writer

Tired of being underpaid, Damon Liberatore deliberately lost his fraquetball match in a get rich quick scandal. According to Purple

Press investigators, he placed \$10,000 on a four leg parlay on his game against 1145 Randolph Ave this January. A parlay in sports betting is when a bettor makes multiple wagers (at least two) and

ties them together into the same bet. If any of the bets in the parlay loses, then the entire parlay loses. A four leg parlay multiplies your bet by ten. Damon made off with \$100,000 total. The final score was 7-4 with 1145 holding Damon to zero points.

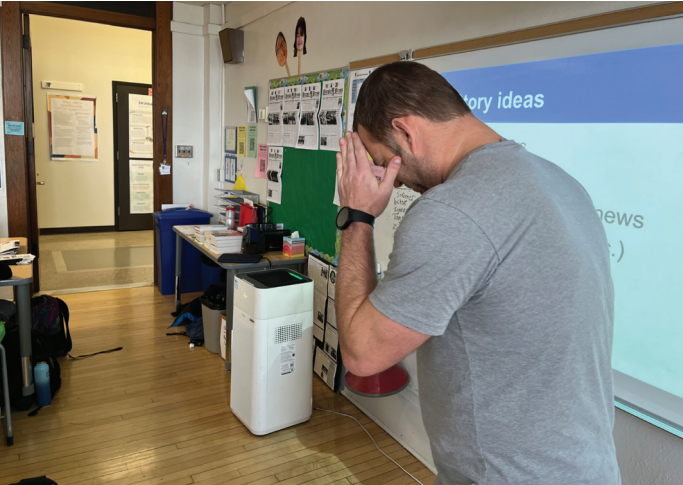
Most people thought it was going to be an easy win for Alpha Numericals, the defending champions and highly favored team. 10th graders Mikko Liimatta and Arthur Madsen were seen as a 16 seed. “Personally, I would never lose to a couple of sophomores,” English teacher Leo Bickelhaupt said. “I school them in the classroom and on the court.” The loss made fans speculate whether the math teachers were getting soft. “He must have done it out of pity,”

said 8th grader Kyle Parker.

However, a month later, the Purple Press got a call from Damon’s partner proving them wrong. The reason for the loss was greed. “I thought we were standing to make 20 grand each,” stated Tom. “I’m not gonna ruin my reputation just to get cheated out of my cut.” Damon had not only cheated the school, he cheated his partner as well.

With Tom’s help, we were able to uncover the bets Damon put down. Damon under two points, Tom under 5 points, 1145 Randolph Ave win by more than two, and zero aces from Damon.

As of press time, Damon has lawyered up and is refusing to comment.



Damon is currently refusing to comment on the allegations.

Panera, 1
collaboration came to be. “I wanted to do something to help the community of Minnesota, and I came across SPPS. It was the perfect way to encourage our younger generation to make healthy choices with their meals,” he said, adding, “I hope this can help the company as well, encouraging more families to dine at our establishments.” Students around OWL

are excited for the new menu items, and so are their families as they hope it will encourage students to eat healthy foods. It is estimated that by the end of the first week of introducing Panera Bread to the cafeteria, students bringing school lunches will drop by 75%. Eighth grader Anneli Lofgren said about the collaboration, “I’m very excited to have some of my favorite foods in the cafeteria, and I am looking forward to eating Greek

salads.” There is no start date for the Panera and SPPS collaboration, yet it is promised that the menu will be finalized and the food will be available in the cafeteria soon. Students around the school are excited for the collaboration to launch, and OWL families agree with the decision since it will help encourage their children to eat healthy.



Purple Press Staff Photo



Purple Press Staff Photo

Caryl with a stack of books that she plans to get rid of.

Caryl prepares to downsize

Chloe Best
Staff Writer

Stumped by an overall decline in student interest, the OWL library sees no option this year but to downsize the collection.

“Kids just don’t like books anymore,” said OWL librarian Caryl Mousseaux. A recent survey by the Student Library Advisory Council (SLAC) reported that less than 30% of middle school students had visited the library more than once since January. 84% of students said they would rather watch Netflix than read, and 15% said that they would rather play video games.

“I’ve been to the library like, twice this year,” said Emilie Carr, eighth grader. “The computers are all broken.”

Caryl had been reportedly trying for months to get students interested in the library before coming to the decision.

“They’d pull out their phones as soon as I started talking about the books,” said Caryl. She’s committed to downsizing in an effort to increase traffic from the new low. According to sources, removal of the shelves will leave room for the new library to install monitors for streaming services, gaming, and TikTok. “I’m really excited for the teen vibe,” said Caryl. Allegedly, a permanent dim-lights fixture is planned in order to create an environment where students are able to sleep.

“We’re going to scrap the study tables and order beanbags,” said senior Patrick Peters, a library teaching assistant. “Maybe a docking station, you know. Or a TV.”

“It’s great. I know someone who wants to donate their old Xbox,” said Emilie.

As of press time, Caryl’s Venmo is collecting funds for a snack machine.

New dress code enforced

Claria Kaleth
Staff Writer

In an effort to boost positivity at OWL, everyone will now be expected to wear a navy blue shirt with the phrase “it’s a good day for a good day” on it, along with khaki pants, black socks and crocs. The dress code will be put in place the first day back from spring break. “When I decided to wear the same outfit everyday, I never expected to be a trendsetter,” said 12th grader Daniel Meekin.

Students who break the dress code will have to stay after school to write a five page essay on why dress codes are important. “I think this punishment could actually be beneficial for our student’s writing skills. It will improve OWL as a whole,” said English teacher Leo Bickelhaupt. In the event that a student runs out of essays to write, they will be required to take Clara’s Pre-Calculus tests until they get a perfect score.

Students that have exceptionally good behavior will be rewarded with an out-of-dress-code day pass that they can cash in at any point

during the school year. If a student saves 15 passes, they can exchange them for an automatic A in any class of their choice, for one quarter. “The dress code low-key slays. I love being able to twin with all of my besties,” said 8th grader Lizzie Dreher.

The school will not be providing any articles of clothing, and students must buy 5 pairs of each piece of the outfit. “I don’t want to waste my allowance on clothes that I don’t even like,” said 8th grader Connie Van Genderen.

A group of students and teachers are peacefully protesting the new dress code. Students are refusing to do work and teachers are refusing to come to school and teach students. Principal Dave Gundale said, “We put the dress code in place to boost positively, not divide our school.” When asked if he supported the school’s decision, English teacher Preston West said, “The way that students dress is a part of their personalities. When we take away their choice of clothing, we take away a part of their personality.”

ACT test conditions exposed

Izzy sodas, not Frescas, were provided to students post exam

Mikko Liimatta
Staff Writer

On March 7th, OWL 11th graders took one of the most important tests of their education career—the dreaded ACT. Over the past few years, the ACT has become more grueling year after year.

Current OWL senior Alex Cowles, who took the ACT last year, said, “It was so bad last year, that it couldn’t even be considered a test anymore, it was more of a torture session.” However bad the test has become, some of the 11th graders are still excited to take it. “It’s not even a test to me anymore, it’s more of a rite of passage,” 11th grader Willa Champion stated prior to taking the test. The “prior to taking the test” is very important to this statement.

During the test the conditions were far worse

than any of the juniors could have expected. For one, they couldn’t look up answers on Google—they were only allowed to look up answers on DuckDuckGo. “If I can’t look up answers on Google, It’s not even worth looking up,” said 11th grader Ted Dobbins. In addition to these already horrifying conditions, the 11th graders weren’t even allowed to collaborate with other students, something that they were told was allowed. 11th grader Noah Johnson claims that, “All of the seniors said that they were able to talk with others when answering questions, but when we took the test, we weren’t allowed to collaborate with our classmates.”

Because of this horrible test environment, the OWL staff tried to make it up to the student by bringing pizza

for lunch, but many students were in an uproar because they didn’t give them soda, they only gave them Izzy’s. This felt like a slight to many juniors, “Only Izzy’s? If I get pizza I expect to get soda with it, usually I would cut (OWL) some slack, however the conditions were so harsh, I needed me some Fresca,” 11th grader Eli Berg said, crying. These would seem like minor inconveniences to most, but under the great pressure of one of the most strenuous experiences of their lives, this seemed much larger to them.

Many 11th graders aren’t as confident about the test, as they were before the test. As well as the poor test conditions, it was also in part due to the essay section on the test, many of the students did not know that there was going to be an essay section on

the test, and as such there was uproar. During the test, the students almost unionized and went on an organized test, but were unable to as apparently if they left, their results would be “invalidated.” To add on to the pain, during the essay section the students were expected to write more than 2 sentences, a feat that had previously been seen as impossible. Despite the majority opinion, however, some felt good about the test. “It was really easy,” said 11th grader Nick Streng. Upon further investigation, we at the Purple Press discovered that Nick was in fact not an 11th grader, but a senior who wanted to do “a little bit of trolling.” No other 11th graders were willing to come out about how they felt about the test. Also, the answer for question 17 was A.



Purple Press Staff Photo

11th grader Ted Dobbins was shocked to see Moaning Myrtle coming out of the second floor bathroom.

Bathroom culprit found

Moaning Myrtle is responsible for recent bathroom mischief

Ellie Patton
Staff Writer

School authorities have confirmed that the person behind the recent boy’s bathroom toilet clogging that has restricted two floors of bathroom use for male students was identified as Moaning Myrtle on Monday, February 27.

Recently the boy’s bathrooms on the second and third floors have been closed and not available to students looking to use the bathroom on the two floors, requiring them to use the bathroom on the first floor which has been seen with a long line behind it before. This happened because of a supposed “student” that has gone into the boys bathrooms to clog and overflow the toilets in that bathroom which has required school authorities to close those bathrooms.

“We had to have security investigate the bathrooms for a week before they found anything,” said Principle Dave Gundale.

“It was very difficult to find and identify a ghost but we did it,” said security staff.

After weeks of the

bathrooms being closed for boys the person/ghost behind this incident has been found. Sources say that while a student was going into the bathroom to “check things out” Moaning Myrtle came out because she says she was “frightened” when the student abruptly opened the door.

“I couldn’t believe that our school is haunted. I’m still trying to wrap my head around it,” said 11th grader Ted Dobbins.

Moaning Myrtle started haunting the bathrooms by scaring students, making noises, and flooding and clogging the toilets. This ghost caused massive disruption at school and was undiscovered until recently. The reason Moaning Myrtle decided to flood the bathrooms is still being speculated. Several sources presume that Moaning Myrtle’s appearance is connected to the release of a new video game. Security is questioning Marshall Wasmund, among others, who is suspected of using the game Hogwarts Legacy to summon the ghost.

Marshall has refused to comment at this time.

Student butterflies removed

The examples of student art clashed with OWL hallway aesthetic

Connie Van Genderen
Staff Writer

In an effort to adopt a more “Death Star chic” style, principal Dave Gundale has decided to rid the halls of the butterflies near Tim’s room.

According to Dave, the butterflies made by fourth and fifth Spanish students have been scheduled to be taken down to create a more cohesive and consistent look in schools after the district received an anonymous tip.

“We’re practically turning into a prison,” said Spanish teacher Timothy Leone-Getten. After a meeting with the teachers on March 10th, it was decided that the butterflies would be taken down on

April 2nd. “Recent studies can confirm 83% of kids are regularly distracted by art. I’ve seen students stare at them for hours, they’ve got that weird sparkle in their eyes and they always come up with such strange ideas afterwards too,” said science teacher Megan Hall.

On March 4th, two district officials came to tour OWL after receiving a complaint. “We were just there to do our business,” said Henry Mackintosh, one of the officials who investigated the butterflies.

The district is legally required to investigate every complaint after the “No Complaint Left Behind” act

was passed in 2011. While visiting, they allegedly received evidence of students being distracted by them and 3 days later, the butterflies were ordered to be taken down for not representing the consistent and modern values of SPSS.

“Some of them have been up there for more than five years,” said Tim while making a speech to OWL students that have formed a group called the “Creativity Butterflies”. The Creativity Butterflies are demanding that they be left up, taking measures of chaining themselves to the butterflies and throwing tomato soup at priceless works of art.

There are a total of 109 butterflies, and all are to be

destroyed in a wood chipper and the scraps used to make more iPads to replace the ones broken by the eighth graders. “It will be nice to have the extra iPads,” said English teacher Leo Bickelhaupt.

As of press time, science teachers Sorcha Nix and Rebecca Palmer have been tracking the effects of the news of the butterflies being taken down, and have seen that there has been a decline in applicants to OWL by 26% and a steady drop in grades by 58%. “I’ve seen more than 20 of my students go from A’s to NP’s in the span of two weeks,” said math teacher Tom Totushek.

A bipartisan breakthrough

After grueling debate, Congress finds consensus on mayonnaise

Ted Dobbins
Staff Writer

In a decision made early Monday morning, Congress ruled—after many weeks of grueling committee hearings—that mayonnaise is the best condiment. This breakthrough comes on the heels of months of gridlock. The ruling followed the resurgence of the “BestCondiment?” movement in January, which led to the House appointing the Select Subcommittee on Condiments. For most of March, the subcommittee went through a rollercoaster of debates over which condiment was best, with Democrats pushing forward after eventually siding on mayonnaise.

At first the proposal of mayonnaise faced some harsh criticism from both Republicans and Democrats alike, with hypocritical statements from Republicans like Speaker of the House Kevin McCarthy, who stated that mayo is “tacky and disgusting,” however on many

occasions McCarthy has been photographed eating mayonnaise with a spoon on the floor of the House. There was also quite a rise in support for Sriracha sauce in the last couple of hearings, but the proposal didn’t garner enough support to overtake mayonnaise.

However the later week of hearings showed a rise in non-partisanship with Republicans giving into the support for mayo, including a puzzling remark from Marjorie Taylor Greene when she said, “I guess I’d rather vote for a white condiment like mayo

rather than condiments of color like ketchup or mustard,” and the bizarre statement given by Senate minority leader Mitch McConnell, in which he said “You know, I never hated Mayo Clinic.” However, the final nail in the coffin was when President Joe Biden shared his opinion on the matter when he stated “If you throw some mayo on a nice baloney sandwich, that s***’s pretty tasty,” leading to overwhelming support for mayonnaise. Although, after the bill was passed there was some public outcry from young people after they found out that Cane’s Sauce was never in the running for best condiment, with “#WhyNoCanes??” trending

on TikTok.

Although this condiment campaign has been a recent event, this has been an issue that has plagued Congress for decades, with President Nixon vetoing a bill in 1970 that would’ve made mustard the National Condiment. There was also the infamous scandal during the Bush administration, when then-president George W. Bush hired CIA operatives to break into the homes of representatives on the Joint Committee on Salads, to secretly place wasabi around the homes to attain more support for his pro-wasabi campaign (this scandal being dubbed “Wasabi-Gate”).

The decision to name mayonnaise the best condiment will have effects across the country, with government issues of mayonnaise free to the public, and greater positivity in general. But what do you think about this decision? Is mayo really that good? What makes it taste so good? Should a different condiment have been declared the best?



Elizabeth Hallanger

Counterfeit ring unmasked

The fake hall passes were being distributed from Kent’s room

Tess Campion and Alva Healy
Staff Writers

In a recent investigation from the Department of Homeland Security, it was revealed that a hall pass counterfeit ring has been operating at OWL. Led by a group of middle schoolers and run out of Kent’s art classroom, the elusive group has been forging hall passes to sell to willing students for multiple years now.

Suspensions arose when an influx of students were spotted in the halls with passes from teachers who didn’t remember handing them out. “I noticed

the number of students in my class was declining, but all of them had passes,” said math teacher Tom Totushek.

A breakthrough in the case occurred when the students were caught printing passes in the copy room on a Friday after school. Leo Bickelhaupt, English teacher, was going to print out some papers for a lesson for the following Monday. He reported that he saw three figures standing over the printer. The light was off in the room, and when he turned it on, he discovered that the figures were students.

“I was stunned for a few seconds, but then I managed

to round them all up and bring them into Nora’s room, which was open.”

The leaders are yet to be named, but the OWL community is still reeling from the recent turn of events. Due to the widespread influence of the ring, officials struggled to find everyone involved.

The mayhem was starting to cause chaos at OWL. “I was having trouble concentrating with the large number of students wandering the halls,” said 9th grader Tom Stinton. Principal Dave Gundale is planning on leading discussions during crew about the harm of forgery and the

black market in hopes of building community in light of the recent events.

Meanwhile, the investigation has drastically changed the lives of many students and teachers. Security around hall passes has doubled.

“Teachers don’t trust us, even if we have hall passes now,” said 8th grader Remy Short, “The hall passes have to have a special stamp from the office for them to take us seriously.”

Hall passes are also shredded after being given to a teacher in order to clamp down on counterfeit.

The investigation has now shifted to other Saint Paul Public Schools as officials believe there may be a widespread epidemic of these counterfeit rings sweeping the nation. Some leaders in the art community have called into question the prosecution of students, due to the high level of talent displayed in the forgeries. “These students have some real ability,” a local artist said. Some members of the ring reported that they have been approached by art forgers for employment opportunities. “I am thinking of moving on to bigger forgery projects, maybe Van Goghs,” an artist for the ring reported.

As the investigation wraps up, OWL staff are eager to return to normalcy and the usual 100% attendance in class.



Purple Press Staff Photo

An 8th grader falls out of his chair in class.

8th grade chair falling contest

8th grader Kyle Parker takes lead in prestigious competition

Anneli Lofgren
Staff Writer

Shortly after claiming he has exceptional balance skills, sources reported Wednesday that 8th grader Kyle Parker took the lead in the infamous 8th-grade chair-falling competition, setting a new record for the school.

His close opponent, Luke Hobday, was devastated by this news, reporting that if he’d known the two were so close in numbers, he would’ve prevented Kyle’s tumble. “I wanted to be the first to break the school record. Kyle just won what I’ve been working for all year,” Luke sighed, “I guess I still have time to beat him before the year’s over.”

The competition got off to a great start in September, with 11 people falling in the first two weeks. As the year progressed, more and more people started joining the contest, which participants remark has made the chase for first place 10x harder, but viewers of the sport are kept easily entertained with the

abundance of players.

While many people are invested in the new sport, there are few experienced players, who usually support the controversial claim that chair-falling should be an official OWL sport.

Viewers of the contest have greatly enjoyed watching people fall randomly during class and supporting them along their journey.

“Some players make it look really easy, it’s crazy. I tried once, but I just couldn’t fall. It’s so hard,” reported 8th grader Dylan Bickelhall after witnessing Kyle and Luke argue about who’s in the lead, attempting great collapses.

To keep the players honest about their number of falls, Yenay Abraham has been marking the number as tallies, sometimes even getting them on camera. “I think it’s necessary to make sure the numbers are right, cause otherwise, anyone could claim to be in the lead, lying about their stats,” she says. “Like, we can’t just have some cheater winning.”

Luke alters his fashion habits

Hawaiian shirts are the social studies teacher’s new go-to

Gabby Govrik
Staff Writer

In an effort to become more welcoming and hip, OWL social studies teacher Luke Turvold’s iconic and everyday flannel was replaced last week by a bright Hawaiian shirt. The teacher is usually spotted in his flannel except for the surprise occurrence when he wears a jersey, t-shirt, or sweatshirt. “I’ve been in Luke’s crew since 6th grade and let me tell you, he wears the flannel almost everyday of the school year,” said 11th grader Mae Heeringa.

Many felt it was time for a change in Luke’s typical look and he heard their concerns. “I felt it was time to shy away from the typical Minnesotan dad look and try out something more fun,” said Luke. “It took me about 20 minutes longer to leave because I was so nervous and uneasy about not wearing a flannel, but I

knew it needed to be done.” He introduced his new style last week when he arrived at school in a colorful Hawaiian shirt. Many were surprised to see this but were proud that he was trying something new. “I walked into class that morning expecting a typical day but instead was surprised by what Luke was wearing,” said 10th grader Luis Hernandez. “I didn’t think he would do it so I was really excited when I saw him standing there in his Hawaiian shirt.”

Many students agreed that the shirt made Luke more relaxed, suggesting that possibly the shirt made him feel like he was on vacation. But of course, some people think this change was for the worse and liked the flannel just as it was. “I don’t agree with this change,” said Spanish teacher Tim Leone-Getten.

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Fake passes to get out of classes

Moss Windingstad

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Singing grams banned by Dave

Beloved Valentine tradition has been prohibited due to complaints about distruprtion in class

Ruby Kate Nolen
Staff Writer

Claiming that they are too disruptive to the learning environment, principal Dave Gundale announced in a statement shortly after Valentines Day that singing grams have been banned, effective next February. OWL’s beloved Valentines Day tradition will no longer exist after teachers complained that they were distracting students from their work.

“I was in the middle of teaching a crew lesson and the choir kids came in and started singing ‘All Star’ to one of my

students,” said English teacher Preston West, “and then they had the nerve to sing the same song to me! We couldn’t get anything done after they left.”

Other teachers have shared similar complaints, but the final nail in the coffin of singing grams was the presence of other things to buy in the cafeteria during lunchtime. Between dance tickets, robotics necklaces and hats, the school store, and the small coffee shop occasionally run by math teacher Damon Liberatore, which is soon to be put out of business by the new Panera Bread,

sources say there just isn’t room to have a table to buy Valentines Day singing grams.

“The new ban has taken all the fun out of Valentines Day,” said choir teacher Seth Bovis. “What are we supposed to do in choir? If we can’t do what we always do, kids will just sit around on their phones all class, and I’d really hate to have to destroy so many phones.” Dave says he expects students to complete 26% more work as a result of the distraction being eliminated.

“It’s a shame—singing grams were really fun. But the ban isn’t taking effect until next

Robotics team causes chaos

Hana Ninow
Staff Writer

Following their reckless disregard for rules and general human safety during last week’s competition, the OWL robotics team was banned from any future FRC (FIRST Robotics Competition) events.

One Open Circuits team member is reportedly suffering from a bruised ego, while three others are said to be suffering from immense shame after the team was discovered to have sent a human onto the playing field in place of

their robot during last week’s 10k Lakes competition.

According to sources present at the event, a very loud shout of “OW” was heard from the robot during a match. This alerted those present to the nature of the team’s “robot” and caused multiple inspectors to attempt to unmask it, revealing that it was not actually a robot but rather a human dressed in a robot costume.

Following this discovery, the team was removed from the premises, despite the Open Circuits insisting that it was

just a very detailed android and not an actual person. One team member was allowed to return in order to collect the team’s materials, but was required to wear a neon safety vest with the phrase “I AM A HUMAN, NOT A ROBOT” printed on the back.

The team had reportedly been struggling to get their robot working properly prior to the competition. “It was just sitting there, it wouldn’t move at all,” said 10th grader Kathryn Totushek, a member of the team. According to an anonymous source on the

team, this is what caused them to send a human in place of their robot. “It was honestly just a last resort, we didn’t mean any harm,” the source stated.

The team has since returned to OWL and continues to meet after school where they are attempting to find a different activity to join. At press time, the robotics team is considering applying for a rhythmic gymnastics competition, despite their lack of knowledge about the sport.

Bike Tech gives up on bikes

Class will now learn how to re-pair and ride motorcyles

Luis Hernandez
Staff Writer

In an attempt to increase interest and expand student engagement in the Bike Tech program at OWL, principal Dave Gundale is changing Joe Blegens's Bike Tech class to working on motorcycles instead of bikes, starting Quarter four, 2023.

"I was a little confused at first, but it could be a good opportunity for the students and work out nicely. We can even take them on highway

joyrides when we finish them!" said Joe.

Although the Bike Tech class is still popular among students, it just isn't pulling the same interest as when it was first introduced to the school. "I just felt that we needed a new spark, something new and exciting... it wasn't easy finding something, but I feel like I made the right decision and will 100% increase the engagement with our Bike Tech program," said Dave.

The school has received

sponsorship from Harley Davidson, the motorcycle company. The company has agreed to give the program bikes that can be used for parts, as well as bikes that need to be repaired. Many of these bikes need to have a lot of work done on them while some of the others don't need too much. Each student will be given a bike to work on, and depending on their level of experience, they will be given bikes that match that level. The new students will be given bikes that have many problems but only require small repairs. Once the student finishes the bike, Harley Davidson has

decided that all of the students that fixed a motorcycle are allowed to keep the bike if they wish to.

This program will not cost OWL anything. Joe Blegen is extremely grateful for the opportunity and feels that the students will benefit from this new experience. "I don't know much about motorcycles, but it will be a good learning experience for me and help me expand my knowledge on more than just bikes," he said.



8th grader Lucas Rounds chats ELA teacher Leo Bickelhaupt up in the hallway.

Leo befriends 8th graders

Aria Kulseth
Staff Writer

On Friday, March 30th, Leo Bickelhaupt grabbed his lunch, then sat with his new friends, Craig Thompson-Wenzel and Lucas Rounds. They talked about the 8th grade chair-falling competition. "I'm in first place," said Lucas. "That's cap bro, it's obviously Kyle," Craig responded. "Me personally, I would not take that level of disrespect," Leo said, looking at Lucas.

Craig and Lucas are both eighth graders, but Leo's a few years older. He's actually an ELA teacher at OWL. "At the start of the year I kept trying to understand my 8th graders. Then I heard about the slang they were using. So I picked it up. I'm really in my 8th grade era," said English teacher Leo.

Using slang isn't the only way Leo is trying to connect with his students. Leo has also created a "student friendly rubric." Instead of using the usual lame rubric, Leo has replaced standards with more interesting and hip words. "Are you serious right now bro?" has taken the place of a novice, and exemplary is now 'W in

the chat.'

"I never understood what a novice meant but 'are you serious right now bro?' makes sense. I think all teachers should adopt this rubric, because I don't know about other students, but I'll work extra hard to get out of the 'Are you serious right now bro?' category," said 8th grader Annabelle Wilson.

Leo first had the great idea to incorporate slang into his class in late October, when he noticed that the percent of assignments turned in was less than 50%. Over the next few months, he introduced an eighth grade friendly learning style. Participation has since grown to over 90%. "Most of my classes are really boring, but I've been vibing in ELA all year," said 8th grader Remy Short.

Over the past month Leo has befriended Craig and Lucas, two eighth graders that are involved in a serious chair falling competition. "I think I could do without the whole chair thing, being bros with this grade has its ups and downs," said Leo, as he left for the mall with Craig and Lucas.

Escalators to replace stairs

Trek from the first to third floor can be straining for students

Maddie Lindstad
Staff Writer

After spotting three students passing out on their way to Patti's classroom last Monday, Principal Dave Gundale has decided to install escalators in all OWL staircases after countless reports of students "giving up" halfway to the third floor.

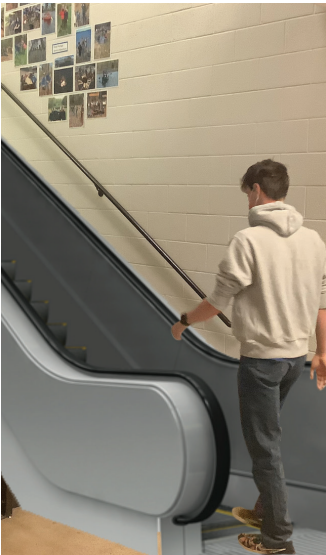
It has been confirmed that Dave had hired DeMaup Elevator Company to install Traditional Escalators. These escalators will run from 8:00

am to 5:00 pm every weekday during the school year.

There has already been a wave of approval from students across all grades. "Dude, you have no clue how relieved I am, I've probably fallen asleep on my way to science like seven times by now. Maybe now I'll be able to pass my classes on the third floor," said 6th grader Peter Purple. During passing time last Wednesday, a reportedly exhausted Peter was seen sitting in the middle of the third floor stairs, unable to keep going.

"There's been a lot of problems around the school's staircases, especially making it to our third-floor classes. There's also been an increase in visits to the school nurse with students claiming they are too tired to use the stairs," said Dave.

OWL students and staff are awaiting the arrival of these new escalators, and are hopeful that they can make an impact. "To be honest, these escalators are gonna change my life. I probably won't fall asleep on the stairs anymore," said 8th grader Stella Nutella.



Senior Joe Gorton takes an escalator to the second floor.

Study shows phone benefits

Screen time can help increase student's attention spans

Joaquin Paez and Lucas Rounds
Staff Writer

Phone time during class may be an absolute game changer for schools and students across the globe.

According to a recent study conducted by Apple, having phone time during or after school could increase the attention span of students by up to 64 percent. This study, conducted at OWL over one semester, indicates that students work more efficiently when they get a 15 minute phone break during class. The study shows that lack of social

media lowers attention span. So if students use their phones to adapt to the work space by accessing social media, then they can be more attentive during class.

After seeing this study, English teacher Leo Bicklehaupt decided to incorporate phone time into his 8th grade English class; students are now allowed to use phones during class.

"This is a good change because most teachers have set up a dedicated 15 minutes of social media time, this helps relieve stress and allows students to focus during class.

During this time students tend to check messages, catch up on the latest trends, and play games. This allows me to be able to teach for the rest of class and have all students on task." Leo said, while most teachers think that this is a breakthrough in teaching, a handful of teachers remain skeptical.

Math teacher Tom Totushek values these 15 minutes lost in class and claims that more work would be done in that time, rather than the benefits of phone use in class. He believes that if phones were banned on school grounds he, and many other teachers would be able to teach more effectively.

The students have also been happy that this study was

conducted. They say that the more phone time is allowed the more immersed they feel in their learning environment. While teachers like Tom don't believe this, teachers like Leo loved that this study came out and already noticed the positive change in class.

Teacher Katie Craven remains undecided and lets it happen every other class period, so 2 times on B weeks and 1 on A weeks. Students are still paying attention with only a few rough patches in class. In Katie's class the efficiency level has dropped from 64% to 43%. Although it is still a benefit for the students it seems like the more phone time in class equals more efficiency.

Neck pain increases at OWL

Nurse says problem thought to be because of new phone ban

Calvin Vang
Staff Writer

Due to a policy against using phones in class, reports from the school nurse found multiple cases of neck strain injuries among students. The injuries, according to the nurse, were probably caused by extensive time stressing/bending necks with bad posture.

"A lot of people appear to be spending too much time staring at their laps," said school nurse Colleen Richardson.

Students who used their phones secretly in class were found to have a higher chance of getting neck pain. This began when schools started establishing no phone policies in classes to eliminate distraction. But as a result this has had a side effect with students—students spend a lot of time staring straight down at their laps. The phone policy has backfired by causing many cases of neck strains in the nurse's room, with some students begging to go home or rest their sore necks.

In a study, anatomist Garry Williams says that, "People who spend too much time looking down can cause a considerable amount of stress on the bones of the neck causing permanent damage

and casualties." In simpler terms, looking down is not good for your body and can hurt your neck badly over time, especially when someone doesn't take a break or fix their sitting posture.



A 10th grader stares at their lap while not on their phone.

Schoology discovered by 7th grader

Clara Schmid
Staff Writer

Staring at his iPad in shock, 7th grader Caleb Mgillicutty stumbled upon an enlightening discovery at 2:02 PM last Wednesday in Luke Turvold's middle school classroom. Spying on his friend Caleb's iPad, he reportedly saw him logging into a website called 'Schoology.'

Sources confirm that Caleb was in fact using Schoology. The student remarked in a long winded fashion that, "Luke was kinda mad that I would be using games during class, but like, I am paying attention, but I like Luke so I guess I will do my work."

Teachers are universally frustrated with, but used to misuse of the iPads by middle school students - but they had no idea of the extent of said misuse - the students didn't

even know what Schoology was.

Health teacher Joe Bradner remarked, "There comes a time in every young boy's life in which he discovers this website, it's all part of growing up."

"I had never actually looked into Schoology before, like yeah, wow, like there's a lot going on there," remarked Caleb after his discovery. "I think my favorite thing is the notifications section, I can see all the grades I get - nobody even told me that I was getting scores on this stuff," he added, facing a screen listing zeroes.

After thinking that our Purple Press's reporters left the classroom, he returned back to Safari and failed in finding Coolmath Games on the school server. He then played a game of chess and triumphed in victory against 10th grader Joe Lodahl.

Students to drive SPPS buses

A shortage of drivers has forced SPPS to cut corners

Oscar Mons
Staff Writer

As of April 1st, due to the lack of licensed and proficient bus drivers, the school district’s Transportation Department has decided that a new training program for upcoming bus drivers will be implemented. This course will be available to not only aspiring bus driving adults, but SPPS-enrolled students. Superintendent Joe Gothard backed the program, saying, “The program will provide increased opportunities for students and invaluable experiences in the transportation industry. Who knows our streets and bus routes better than our own students?”

The course will be taking new recruits during the summer, where adults and students alike will undergo a rigorous training program consisting of flash card memorization practice for increased skill in memorizing bus routes and stops, daily four-hour sessions of Mario Kart to get a feel for the wheel, and practicing the signature phrases, “Be careful stepping down,” “You’re welcome,” and “Have a good weekend,” which are all essential to develop a sound relationship between bus drivers and students. Graduates of the program will be immediately offered positions within the field in September. Their bus routes will reflect their living area so after their route is completed they can be picked

up closer to home. Legally SPPS can’t employ underage workers however the district hopes to bypass this legal system by not traditionally paying them. Student bus drivers will be rewarded with service hours and letters of recommendation, as well as direct transportation to and from school. SPPS treasurer Uriah Ward said, “Students receive valuable skills in the workfield and the district receives free transportation in busing, it’s a win-win for everyone!”

In terms of OWL, recruits to the course will be able to receive school service hours that they might have had trouble earning without this opportunity. Many students are planning to join the course for just that reason. 8th grader Luke Hobday is among them, saying, “I was admittedly a little doubtful of my ability to earn service hours especially with high school so close, so this program will provide the hours and experiences I need to graduate!”

Since the average bus commute to school is around half an hour, most students will make around 5 hours of school and community service hours a week, meaning they can reach the goal of 100 hours in a little over four and a half months. Additional rewards for students at OWL include crisp tickets. Students will be able to earn crisp tickets with a wage of one ticket per ride, earning themselves a solid

income for them to spend on raffles.

However, many people are opposed to the program. Students who aren’t participating in the course are worried that the crisp tickets earned by drivers will end up dominating raffles, making them extremely hard to win for kids with smaller amounts of tickets. Certified crisp ticket investor Claire Ales predicts that the sudden inflation of tickets will result in the ticket’s devaluation. Parents also have their concerns, many of whom are directly opposed to the additional screen time necessary for Mario Kart’s portion of the training, such as 10th grade parent Tyler Zeich, whose daughter goes to Central, “kids get enough screen time as is, now the district expects us to allow them another four hours toward their ‘training’. Back in my day, we didn’t have screens and we had to drive through cones, not across fictional race courses!”

Many students are considering switching to taking the bus course this following fall. Students like Kai Walker, who originally walked or in his case, got driven to school, plan on taking the bus with the chance of having their peers drive them to school. “I’m looking forward to taking the bus in the fall, and talking to my friends as they drive the bus. I was skeptical of bus drivers before and hadn’t ever talked to them, but now I can confidently have a conversation with someone I know!”

The course will be available June 15th after school ends and will continue through June and end July 1st. The program will be completely virtual so students aren’t forced to spend ‘precious summer days’ outside of home. Mentors, instructors and video game experts will connect with trainees over Zoom and lead them through their Mario Kart experience as well as their core phrases. Parents and guardians are encouraged to support their child’s learning with flashcards and activities to help with memorization.

The the course will end with a test referred to by instructors as ‘The Gauntlet’, a series of trials in which the student is tested in every way to ensure they are adept to the role of a bus driver. In the first trial the student will be presented with ten numbers in various orders. The students are told to memorize the numbers before they began Trial #2, where they will navigate a Mario Kart course. Students who finish the race with places 5th and better will pass the trial. Trial #3 consists of the instructors asking the student to in their deepest voice recite the three phrases. Students who can recreate the phrases in a convincing manner will pass this trial. Before the students are given their certificate they will once again be asked to recite the ten numbers of the first trial. If they are correct, they will be awarded their position and bus routes which they are urged to memorize by the end of summer.



Purple Press Staff Photo

ELA teacher Leo Bickelhaupt talks about his decision to quit grading with 8th grader Joaquin Paez.

Leo gives up on grading

“His awesome personality makes up for everything else”

Elizabeth Dreher
Staff Writer

According to SPPS superintendent Joe Gothard, English teacher Leo Bickelhaupt has not scored any assignments on OWL’s main academic app Schoology in 6+ months.

Leo is receiving hundreds of complaints from Open World Learning parents, all telling him to grade their child’s work, before they take their complaints to the district. The complaints have even reached OWL’s principal Dave Gundale, to which he promptly responded.

“Leo is just so charismatic,” Dave told Purple Press reporters. “He doesn’t have to grade anything. His awesome personality makes up for everything else.”

Leo seems to think that since he’s so “cool and fun”, he obviously doesn’t have to grade any papers students turn in during his class. Leo believes that if he connects with the students and talks to them, he doesn’t have to grade their work.

“If I have a conversation with my students, then they’ll think only about how caring I am, and not about their ungraded work,” replied Leo when explaining his grading tactics.

When people say Leo hasn’t graded any papers this year, they mean it. It’s been around six months since the school year started in September, and he hasn’t scored a single piece of work that has been turned in during his classes, including all summative assessments and quizzes. Over 10,800

assignments have not been scored by Leo, and none of his students’ grades have been entered into Campus, SPPS’s grading software.

Around 73% of Leo’s students in all of his classes have reported Leo to their parents, or OWL admin, as their work is simply sitting ungraded in Schoology. Parents have sent email after email, and yet Leo still does not grade. OWL teachers frown deeply upon Leo’s grading tactics as well.

“Leo has good morals,” states math teacher Tom Totushek. “He wants to connect with his students, and I see nothing wrong with that. The way he’s going about it is all wrong, though.”

OWL admin doesn’t seem to mind the constant complaints from students and their families. Principal Dave, and Assistant Principal Ms. Ma’lene have reported their opinions, which are impartial.

“I think Leo is wonderful, and his kindness overrides all and any of the little complaints he’s getting,” stated Ms. Ma’lene.

It is currently unknown if or when Leo will score his student’s assessments, however, OWL students, staff, and parents have no doubts that Leo will continue with his kindness to his students, and his lovely communication with his classes. For at the end of the day, making an impact on his students and setting a good example for them is much more important than their grades.

Health teacher is Tom’s dad

Gwendolyn Stender
Staff Writer

Teachers Joe Bradner and Tom Totushek at Open World Learning Community aren’t just colleagues- they’re blood relatives. On March 27th, 2023, Tom finally decided to reveal who his dad is to editors of the Purple Press.

“I love working with my dad,” he expressed at an interview. “We like to make sure our free periods line up so we can play catch.”

“Not many dads can say they get to spend quality time with their sons every day when they get to my age. I’ll always be grateful to work with Tommy,” said Joe.

The reason why they’ve never brought it up before

is very personal, though both consented to it being published in this edition of the Purple Press.

“Our family comes from a very long line of P.E teachers,” said Joe, reminiscing about the stories his own father used to tell about teaching health class. “When Tom told me he wanted to be a math teacher, I was shocked.”

“I wanted to broaden my horizons,” said Tom. “I don’t want my daughters to grow up confined to one profession.”

This has been a contentious issue in the Bradner family for years, sparking lots of arguments that ended with Tom leaving for college with the two still on bad terms. So when Tom opted for a teaching

position at OWL, he never told anyone who his father was, and they never talked about it, acting only as professional colleagues would.

“I thought he was still ashamed of me, that he didn’t accept me for who I am,” Tom said. “I love my dad, but I had to follow my dreams. I can’t live as a lie.”

“I didn’t understand his decision for a long time,” Joe admitted. “I had to take a while to come to terms with it, but a couple months ago I talked with Tom in the staff lounge, and I told him I was proud of him.”

“It was all I needed to hear,” said Tom, tearing up. The two have been inseparable ever since, eating lunches together

and driving home together.

“I’m glad I can talk to my grandpa at school again,” said 10th grader Kathryn Totushek. “I love him, but I’m also glad my dad could pave the way for my sister and I to be whoever we want to be. I’m so happy my grandpa accepts him now.”

Tom and Joe are planning to teach classes together next year to make up for lost time. “I’m thinking of a badminton unit where you solve math problems every time you hit the birdie,” said Joe.

“We could calculate the velocity of a dodgeball being thrown at a student,” Tom supplied.

The two have a lot of bonding to do, and all the time in the world to do it.

Credit requirements pile up

Zane Sheire
Staff Writer

According to leaked documents from the St Paul Public School district we have learned that all students will need 32 more credits to be able to graduate.

In the newsletter Superintendent Joe Gothard announced that this will go in effect after the class of 2023 has graduated. This means everyone aside from the seniors this year will

have to go to another year of high school. “This is a great thing that happened, this will definitely improve transcripts and help college applications,” said Principle Dave Gundale. Every student will have to earn another 4 English, Math, Science, and Art credits.

We asked some students about what they think about the announcement and we found some mixed responses. One of the people we asked started crying on the ground

when they found out the news. Another one didn’t believe us and also started crying. This happened for 9 out of the 10 students we interviewed. “This is really unfair and we are going to protest this,” said 10th grader Marshall Wasmund. Even the teachers were upset about this and when we asked Leo what he thought of the news he quit on the spot and will be leaving the school after April 1st. At press time 1 other teacher will follow him, that

teacher is Tom.

“I’m really looking forward to another year of high school, it’s so easy and everyone should be excited” said 10th grader Mikko Liimatta.

Luke, 5

“Flannels are fun and nobody should be judged for wearing one, even if it is all the time.”



Independent Trading Co.

Many teachers are making the switch from flannels to Hawaiian shirts.



Reviews ‘n’ stuff



Live action Minecraft movie slays

Nick Streng
Staff Writer

We’re all familiar with movie adaptations of video games. And most of us regret being familiar with them. Time and time again, Hollywood has proven that it simply cannot break the video game adaptation curse with universally hated films that, despite being inspired by the beloved source material, fail to please the fans and tarnish the legacy of the game. However, one film may have finally shattered the barrier, and that film is none other than The Minecraft Movie (2023). Yes, the live action one.

And yes, I know what you’re thinking: something along the lines of, “oh come now, how on earth could this possibly be any good?” Or you might be thinking: “wait, I didn’t hear about this!” and that’s totally understandable. For some absurd reason, there was a near-total lack of marketing for this movie until it suddenly appeared on Netflix, but it’s started to gain some traction, and that’s because of one incomprehensible, seemingly impossible reason: it was actually kind of good.

Released on Netflix April 1st, 2023, The Minecraft Movie is directed by Guillermo del Toro and produced by

The film rendition of classic game is kind of good

Mojang and Warner Bros. Entertainment. Intended to be the first of a trilogy, this movie’s story follows the characters Steve (played by Chris Pratt) and Alex (played by Margot Robbie) as they navigate through the world of Minecraft on a quest to defeat the Ender Dragon, similar to the game. As a very skilled and experienced Minecraft player (just ask my friends), I was of course thrilled to learn that this movie had been made, and had high expectations that were....mostly met. Obviously a movie based on a game this popular is never going to satisfy everyone and stick the landing perfectly, but in my eyes, it comes surprisingly close.

There are a few negatives, most notably Chris Pratt as Steve; I’m not a fan of the current trend where he’s cast as literally every popular video game/animated character, and I really wish the studio had let Guillermo del Toro cast Bob Odenkirk instead, who was his original choice according to an interview. Pratt is decent enough and you can tell he’s passionate about the role (there was so much emotion from him in the line “ Creeper! Aw man!!” near

the climax), but the British accent he decided to use was really distracting. Granted, Steve never had a voice in the game, but I always imagined he would have an Australian accent instead, which is probably why I thought Margot Robbie’s performance was a fair amount better.

However, the plot is engaging enough to keep the

movie enjoyable the whole way through, and it’s pretty impressive how the writers were able to cohesively integrate so many characters and locations and references to the game. Steve has a solid arc where he goes from wanting to create things and be left alone to killing as many monsters as he can to protect the villagers and it’s

a slow but effective character transformation, along with being very faithful to the game. Hans Zimmer’s score was effective at preserving the peaceful mood of the game as well, sounding very similar to the original music, and he also gets time to flex his talent with electronic music during the action sequences (which were very reminiscent of the action sequences in Mad Max: Fury Road). Some of the YouTube gamer celebrity appearances in the village were very forced though, especially the Dream cameo, and I don’t think it was a good idea to include him in an entire side plot of the movie. At least he was absent from the climax.

Let’s address the elephant in the room now, though, in case you’re still unconvinced that this movie was good: why was it live action? It seemed like a terrible idea given the iconic blocky animation style of the game, and I would say this decision was made because Warner Bros. Discovery hates the medium of animation, but this article is supposed to be satirical so I’ll make the guess that it was a choice made by del Toro as part of his creative vision, even though that doesn’t make much



Nick Streng

The new live action Minecraft movie stars Chris Pratt.

Swarms and Stars shines Galatic novel does not disappoint readers

Kate Houle
Staff Writer

Can you imagine being forced to save the entire galaxy with the most annoying person you know?

Well, in the newest sci-fi novel from A.C. Thornson the two main characters are thrown into that exact scenario. Set in a distant galaxy, A Conspiracy of Swarms and Stars explores friendship, loyalty, and the cost of trying to keep intergalactic secrets, all in a 339 page novel like nothing you’ve ever read before.

Aenoit Nerys and Vida Aezel are childhood friends, turned bitter rivals, turned reluctant allies. When their battleships get damaged during the latest fight between The Galactic Diplomatic Space Force and the Dark Swarm, the quarreling soldiers are forced to work together to repair the two spacecrafts before returning to their opposite sides of the war. But along the way they realize something is fishy about this decades-long fight, and they hesitantly join forces as they travel across the galaxy, discovering like-

minded people, government secrets, and the fact that their relationship goes deeper than anyone could have ever imagined.

While A Conspiracy of Swarms and Stars may seem like a stereotypical sci-fi story, the book is less of a parody on the classic franchises, and more of a love letter to them. Aenoit and Vida would be background characters in Star Wars, but one coincidental event throws them into the spotlight, and we get to read about a cliché space revolt from the perspective of the extras.

The characters are indisputably the best part of this book. Don’t get me wrong, the plot twists and interwoven clues hidden in plain sight are very impressive, but they wouldn’t be nearly as heartstopping without the complex emotionality of the two main characters. Anson Lind, a 9th grader at Central literally told me “I think I found some of your new favorite characters,” when recommending this book,

Swarm and Stars, 9

Fortnite film comes through

Chris Pratt stars in a stunning portrayal of this classic game

Elizabeth Hallanger
Staff Writer

As many of us probably know, video game movies have been a big trend recently. From the wildly successful HBO’s The Last of Us to incredibly promising upcoming films like the Mario Movie and the Five Nights at Freddy’s movie. More and more video games are making their way to the big screen, and have been incredibly successful in doing so. With the new market for

video game movies, it’s obvious that one of the biggest games worldwide would eventually see an adaptation as well. I’m of course, talking about Fortnite: The Movie, the film adaptation of the battle royale shooter of the same name.

A bit off-topic from the movie, but this film’s tie-in deal with theaters is out of this world! They offer a whole menu of game-themed drinks that you have to travel outside and into the back alley to

purchase! The worker was even wearing a dirty, sketchy-looking costume, spooned my slurp juice into a cup from an old barrel, and only charged me a dollar, which is frankly amazing for movie theater prices. I was incredibly impressed by the dedication to authenticity, and even though my slurp juice was more of a dirty brown than the game-accurate blue, I think the whole experience greatly enhanced the movie overall.

The movie follows a colorful cast of characters, such as Jonesy, played by Chris Pratt, Foundation, played by Dwane

“The Rock” Johnson, and many others, as they fight to defeat the main villain, Geno, played by Adam Sandler, and free the battle royale island. However, they struggle, as much like in the real game, the only people they ever seem to come across are characters from other unrelated licensed properties.

Now, some might argue that previous video game films were only able to find success because they had at least some semblance of a cohesive storyline, whereas Fortnite has a storyline so

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Ghost Recon has fans excited

Lag time disappoints, but over-all game lives up to expectations

Willa Champion
Staff Writer

As the snow begins to melt and temperatures creep back above freezing, it’s time for all of us gamers to come out of hibernation and enjoy some time outdoors. Well... not so fast. Grab those Vitamin D supplements and head back to the basement because Tom Clancy’s: Ghost Recon just dropped its latest season.

Tom Clancy is renowned for his military espionage thrillers—so much so that

in recent years two of his book series have been turned into multiple million dollar entertainment endeavors: an Amazon Prime TV show starring Jim from The Office (Jack Ryan) and a mass-produced video game (Ghost Recon).

My recent success playing Call of Duty in esports tournaments has encouraged me to diversify. Tom Clancy’s Ghost Recon was the perfect place to start.

Ghost Recon has gained prominence as a video game,

surpassing its namesake in number of units sold. Fans are drawn to the game because of its unique premise—players are deployed as military agents on a tactical mission in some US war zone. Because of its popularity, the game’s animators were even commissioned by the US Army to create an ad for the establishment.

Although I was disappointed with lag time, the new and improved graphics of the latest season kept me engaged and I was able to play for up to six hours straight. Ultimately, it was relatively easy to win rounds and I grew

bored of playing after about a month. Still, I recommend everyone go check it out because of the 360 imagery that is unlike any game I have ever come across. In the meantime, I will continue my streak of COD wins.

The latest edition of the game has received critical acclaim. “I even gave up Flappy Bird to play,” said senior Purple Press critic Nick Streng. This is a big endorsement coming from someone whose Flappy Bird high score is 999.

Hope this review has been helpful and as always, subscribe to my YouTube channel @willa_games.

Geese Empire conquers all

Humans should not underestimate the threat of malicious geese

Wyatt Hanson
Staff Writer

Geese, one of the most malicious animals to ever live, but how did they come to be so evil? Well, I'll tell you. According to one of the lost books of the Bible, geese were originally part of the plagues given to humanity in John's vision during revelations.

They were meant to be the eighth trumpet blown after God settled on seven being his favorite, the eighth seal trumpet and bowl. But God still saw the potential in geese and so released them on to the world.

The ancient Egyptians fought a series of wars against the Goose Empire before a coalition of Greek city states and Persia finally destroyed them. Honk XI of the Goose

Empire barely escaped persecution and fled across the Atlantic to America where they pestered the native americans and began rebuilding their Goose Empire. They then expanded to encompass much of North America. Geese stayed in North America except for a small excursion of geese who joined the Frankish ranks during the crisis of the third century in rome.

Once the Europeans arrived, the geese were outnumbered and fearing complete destruction, so they went underground, mining a migration pattern and began to integrate themselves into the new society. The geese fought extensively during the American Revolution and War of 1812 alongside the Canadians. To thank

the geese, the Canadian government protected geese across Canada, allowing for geese to systematically occupy Canadian territory.

During the late 1800s, geese began their campaign of terror called the "First Jihad" against America, beginning to attack children and disrupt the American tradition of handing babies out of windows. The first Jihad came to an abrupt end after Canada implemented a draft to fight in WWII. Many geese permanently emigrated to America to escape the draft.

After WWII, many geese became guerrilla fighters against communist regimes to please the American government and get protection like they had in Canada. During this time, Geese Pope Luk XXVI declared

the "Second Jihad" against Britain. The geese invaded and conquered all of the UK - the greatest victory for the geese since the Battle of Alexandria.

Geese now occupy much of North America and have pestered Americans and Canadians alike, getting sympathy from citizens who have never felt their terror. This is a call to arms to expel the geese menace from the land and return them to the ponds and sky where they belong, they have instilled fear in us and we must fight to take back our yards, parks and golf courses from the geese. Let no goose set foot on American soil, let no goose steal our bread and traumatize our children, we must fight back or bow to our goose overlords.



Top 5 family friendly TV shows

Five shows guaranteed to bring enjoyment to the whole family

Lucy Annis-Bercier
Staff Writer

It can be difficult to find the perfect TV show that the whole family will enjoy. Whether you think you've already watched all the good shows or you can't find anything appropriate for the entire family, it can be a struggle. This is why I have created a list of the top 5 most family-friendly TV shows so you never have to disagree again. This list is guaranteed to have at least one show that will satisfy everyone's family night needs. So the next time you're curled up on the couch with your little ones, throw one of these on!

5. American Horror Story (2011-)

Don't be frightened by the name, this TV show is far from horrific. From beginning to end it tells a thrilling and engaging story. Each season has new storylines and characters so there is never a dull moment. The first season follows a loving family as they move into their dream house which just so happens to be haunted. You would expect the ghosts that are haunting the house to be creepy and cruel but you would be wrong because these are not your typical ghosts. They are kind and welcoming to the family allowing for a beautiful friendship to blossom between them and the spirit world. This is a very cheerful and fun show that shows the importance of family, friendship, and loving people despite their differences.

4. Big Mouth (2017-)

Light hearted and hilarious, this animated sitcom is a great pick for the family. It follows the amusing life of a group of middle school friends with middle school problems. Starring Nick Kroll as Nick Birch, John Mulaney as Nick's best friend, and many other talented voice actors, this cast makes for a delightful watch. Each episode contains characters you won't forget and there are even original songs to sing with your kids. I couldn't recommend Big Mouth enough to watch together as a family. It's funny, entertaining and most importantly, wholesome. All

seasons streaming on Netflix.

3. Game of Thrones (2011-2019)

For all my fantasy loving families out there, Game of Thrones is for you. There are dragons for the kids and drama for the parents. This medieval TV show follows two families as they battle for the throne through acts of kindness and fairness. It's set in the sunny land of Dorne, and stars notable actors such as Kit Harrington, Emilia Clarke, Peter Dinklage, and Sophie Turner. Together this cast creates an incredibly entertaining and nonviolent series that leaves you feeling warm and uplifted at the end of each episode.

2. Euphoria (2019-)

The life of average teens is more interesting than you might think. By day these teens are regular but by night they are crime fighting superheroes that watch over the city of Los Angeles. Each teen was gifted with a unique super power that allows them to transform into the fantastic team known as The Superb Six. They use their powers for good to take down the villains and creeps of LA. Starring Zendaya who is most notable for her role on K.C Undercover on Disney Channel. Euphoria is an inspiring and adventure filled TV show that would be perfect for the impressionable and growing minds of your young children.

1.South Park (1997-)

The number one most family friendly and wholesome TV show currently streaming is by far South Park. This series follows the adventures of a group of middle school boys known as Stan, Kyle, Kenny, and Cartman. They live in South Park, Colorado and are always getting into some kind of antic situation. With over 24 seasons there is no sign of stopping for this series. Each episode has many moments that are perfect for the whole family to laugh at. People are most drawn to the innocence and sweetness that this show exudes.

Tips and tricks for your car

Follow these simple steps to care for your automobile

Atticus Brooks Babcock
Staff Writer

Many high schoolers are getting around the age of driving and many don't know how to properly care for their cars, so here are some useful and lesser known tips and tricks.

Ignition: turn off the car when you're done driving, you may notice when you park in your garage you start to get light headed. This is due to carbon monoxide poisoning, or you may notice that your car is burning a lot of gas. This is due to the vehicle being left on.

Gasoline: refuel your car frequently. Even though your car may have come with gas

in it, many conscientious car owners fuel up every week or so. Many people are confused when their car stops running and this is due to the lack of gas in the combustion chamber, the combustion chamber is where the gas is burned.

Visibility: when your windshield is dirty you may not be able to see out of it, that is a problem. So you can pull, push, twist or hit a button (depending on vehicle) on your indicator stalk behind the wheel, this will spray water out and assist in cleaning!Caution! You have to also turn on your windshield wipers or it may make the problem worse.

Tires: Sometimes you will find that your car will drive

"squishy" or it will be listing to one side, this is because one of your tires are lacking air, to put air in them remove the valve stem cap and go to any gas station, put the air tool onto the valve stem and inflate to factory spec (on the side or "side wall" of your tires.

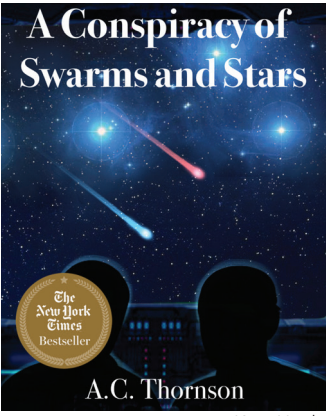
Radio/infotainment: Depending on what your vehicle is equipped with from the factory, your car may have a radio or an infotainment system which means that you may listen to music while driving. One problem, you can't hear it. This is due to the volume being low, you can change it from a dial or on the screen. Another radio tip if you're sick of listening to the same music your radio is equipped with many radio stations that you can choose from. However if you're

normal you just use Bluetooth.

Indicators: make sure to check your blinker fluid, this is commonly thought of as a hoax or myth but this is a very real fluid, careless drivers who don't check the fluid levels cause crashes every day. To check your blinker fluid there is a little cap inside the engine bay that says "blinker fluid" look on the tube, there is a level marker and if it's below, refill. Blinker fluid can be found at any auto parts stores, gas stations, and Walmart if you ask for it they will know where to find it. I typically refill every 1,000 miles but if you drive a BMW you may have to change your blinker fluid every 100 miles.

I hope these tips enlightened you into becoming a conscientious automobile owner.

has written yet another fan favorite and I can't wait to see what they come up with next.



Kate Houle

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and wow was he ever right. Aenoit and Vida's characters are curious, sarcastic, and completely done with the ridiculous situation they've found themselves in. Whether it's an infuriating conversation with an alien worker or an emotional revelation between the two of them, the main characters provide the heart of this story. If you're a fan of the Magnus Chase series by Rick Riordan or In Other Lands by Sarah Rees Brennan,

A Conspiracy of Swarms and Stars has a very similar writing style, just set in space.

However, A.C. Thornson went hard on the tropes. Personally, I'm not a big fan of cliches, and sometimes had to drag myself through reading about another computer simulated fight or two pages of techno-babble. While the characters are unique, the setting and conflict are anything but. It's still a love letter to the classics, but the letter is long and full of stereotypical worldbuilding.

If you're a die hard sci-fi fan you'll enjoy seeing the nods to Star Trek or Tron, but I just kept waiting for a completely original element of this galaxy and it never came.

Though the world may be cliché, A Conspiracy of Swarms and Stars is still definitely worth checking out. The characters and their relationships carry the story to a jaw-dropping final reveal, and lovers of sci-fi and/or character driven stories alike will find a new favorite in this book. A.C. Thornson

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shallow and wrought with plot holes that it's more akin to a slice of swiss cheese than a narrative. However, I was truly surprised when the movie seemed to make it work. The experimental and all-over the place nature of the film, with a consistent third-person camera angle, minimal dialogue, and constant fighting create an artistic, indie film vibe that a cinephile like me can truly appreciate.

The movie also delivers some truly hard-hitting themes. Being a full 2 hours of violence, guns, cars, and gratuitous explosions, Fortnite:

The Movie delivers the bold and revolutionary message that maybe gun violence is the answer to all of our problems. While some might detest this sentiment, I think they make a good point. Perhaps if we took Spider-man, Batman, Eren Yeager, MrBeast, multiple B-list celebrities, the entire cast of the DCU, and a handful of furies, dropped them on a time-looped island supplied with nothing but guns, and let them at each other, we could really learn something about ourselves.

The characters were absolutely show-stopping as well, and the actors gave some of their best performances

here. I thought that Chris Pratt as Jonesy was truly incredible, and his iconic lines such as "uh, you guys might wanna see this," and "he's right behind me isn't he?" really hearken back to peak cinema like the MCU films, and made me connect with him on a near-spiritual level.

Usually I'm not a huge fan of Dwayne Johnson in the media he's in, as he ends up feeling flat, and is rarely ever able to give the same emotional performance as his co-stars, however, he knocked it out of the park for this film. The scene where the Foundation cried over Goku's body left me teary-eyed and really warmed

me up to his character.

Finally, I thought Adam Sandler as Geno was a perfect match. I loved his work in oscar-winning classics like Click and Grownups 2, and he really brought the same energy to this role.

Overall, this film was a triumph. I walked out of the theater feeling as though my third eye had been opened, and shed a single tear at the post-credits scene when Rick Sanchez hit the griddy onscreen in glorious 2K. Fortnite the Movie is truly the Everything Everywhere All at Once for gamers and redditors like me, and I couldn't recommend it more.