



Meet Kiwana!
- Page 2



New Beatles
film rocks
- Page 4



Encanto is
magnificent
- Page 4

Purple Press

Volume #22, Issue #3

January 14th, 2022

Lili surpasses 1,000 points

The senior basketball player is the 6th athlete in Humboldt history to reach this huge milestone

Paloma Leone-Getten
Staff Writer

With 35 seconds left in the half in a non-conference game against Minneapolis Roosevelt High School, senior Lili Hobday dribbles the basketball as she runs down the court. She goes up for a layup and makes

it, getting fouled on the way down. After sinking a perfect free throw, the crowd goes wild as Lili is presented with a basketball with her name and “1,000 points” printed on it.

Lili is just the 6th person in Humboldt basketball history to reach 1,000 points, and the first OWL athlete to do so. “It’s

been something that I’ve been working for since 8th grade, so I’m super excited that it finally happened. I’m really grateful for my coaches, my family, and my community. It was, overall, a pretty surreal moment,” said Lili.

Lili began playing basketball at age 8, nine years ago.

She has been at Humboldt for 6 years, since 7th grade, and has been on the varsity team since 8th grade. “It’s been amazing. I’ve found a huge community over there. It’s like a second family. They all push me to do my best, especially my coaches. I’m so grateful for that community,” said Lili.



Lili with her family after reaching 1,000 points in her game against Minneapolis Roosevelt High School.

Class of ‘22 marches to the mailbox



Senior Jalen Bolton-Steiner high-fives 11th grader Daniel Meekin on his way out of the auditorium after student and parent speeches (left), seniors marching past crews before dropping off their letters to be mailed (right). See more photos on page 6.



Rebecca Palmer

School COVID protocols

How is SPPS working to keep students and staff safe during the pandemic?

Meara Gunderson
Staff Writer

Students left school back in March 2020 not realizing that when they returned things would be very different. We all know that SPPS has COVID-19 protocols, but you may not know exactly what they are. Well now you will because of the information I found for you on the SPPS website.

SPPS’s COVID protocols in and around the district buildings are that they require face coverings for anyone in a school setting (such as teachers, students, staff, and visitors) for most of the time, some exceptions being lunch, sips of water in class from their own water bottles, theater performances and rest time in indoor PE and outdoor time (depending on the teachers comfort level). They try to maintain social distancing as much as they can by keeping people in small groups and trying to keep them together throughout the day and making sure families are taking the proper precautions by doing health screenings and offering free rapid COVID tests

Max’s semester abroad in Israel

Paloma Leone-Getten
Staff Writer

Many people would have been terrified if they had to hide in a bomb shelter during a political conflict. Not senior

Max Schibel. “I just played Mario Kart with my teacher.”

Max ended up in a bomb shelter while studying abroad in Israel with Heller High. When Israeli police raided the Al-Aqsa Mosque, an import-

ant place for Arabs, Hamas, the militant organization that currently controls Gaza, responded by firing rockets at Jerusalem. This led Israel to respond. “We only had to hide from a few of [the rockets]. I went into a bomb shelter and it was a lot less scary than people think,” said Max. The tensions were again increased at the end of May, when right-wing Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu was defeated in an election by leftist Neftali Bennett, who vowed to improve relations between Israel, Gaza, and Palestine. “This was a really big deal while I was there. There were huge parties going on after Netanyahu got voted out,” said Max.

Max’s program took about 50 teens from the United States and Canada to study in Israel for the 2020-21 school year.

Well, that was the plan anyway.

The trip was supposed to leave on January 24th, 2021, but with Israel shutting down in mid-January, Max and his classmates didn’t leave until April. “Even then, they required travel visas to get in. So, I had to go to Chicago to get the visa from an Israeli embassy,” said Max. Until that point, he and his classmates had been attending Zoom classes with teachers who were in Israel. “The students were in North America, ranging from the Eastern time zone to the Western time zone. Classes usually started around 7:00 o’clock in the morning central time, but some of my friends on the West Coast were waking up at 4:30 or 5:00 o’clock in the morning for their classes,” said Max. As the students were unsure when they would be able to leave on

their trip until shortly before, they had to be doubly careful amidst the pandemic. “We couldn’t do much since we needed negative COVID tests, so it was just a few months of staying at home, indoors, and not doing anything,” said Max.

When they finally arrived in Israel at the end of April, the students quarantined, continuing their Zoom classes all the while. Max was surprised to find the differences in COVID-19 protocols between the United States and Israel. “Everyone who entered the country had to do a 14-day quarantine and then get a negative COVID test, so there weren’t many cases...it was a really nice break from COVID in America,” said Max. The group was vaccinated the day after their quaran-



Max Schibel

Max hiking on the Sataf trails in the Jerusalem Hills while in Israel with his group last year.



The Purple Press

OWL's longest-running student newspaper was founded in 1995. This collection of events and news is compiled in Leo's Journalism classes. This is the 22nd year of the Purple Press.

Adult to Blame
Leo Bickelhaupt

Editor-in-Chief
Paloma Leone-Getten

Writers
Atticus Brooks-Babcock
Willa Champion
Nick Christopherson
Meara Gunderson
Sir Nakhai Guy-Cornelious
Elizabeth Hallanger
Aurora Hull-Williams
Paloma Leone-Getten
Aye Mon
Ghost Olantude
Lana Stevens
Nick Streng
Isaac Wencel

Meet Kiowana!

OWL's first ever restorative practices and conflict resolution specialist

Willa Champion
Staff Writer

Kiowana McConnell first got into teaching when she started working at her kids' daycare center so they could attend for a reduced rate. Now, as one of OWL's newest staff members, she continues to work with and support learners, this time in a slightly different position- as a restorative practices and intervention specialist for middle and high schoolers.

Born in Chicago and raised in St. Paul, Kiowana graduated from Arlington High, now known as Washington Technology Magnet, before receiving an associates degree in early childhood development from St. Paul College. Previous to coming to OWL, Kiowana worked at Battle Creek Elementary and in a SPPS early childhood special education program. Since a lot of her work has been in early childhood education, she is bringing the skills she has learned in this area to her work with older students. "It has been really interesting to apply those skills to working with people who are mini adults, so it's been a little bit of a learning curve," Kiowana said.

Kiowana's kids were originally what led her to a career in education. "I kind of always had the idea that I wanted to work with people, but in real

life when you have a family, sometimes you change your career path based on what accommodates your family," she said, "and that's what I did, I actually got a discount at my kids daycare for working there and having four kids attend, so for me I got into [education] because it was financially logical, and then I started to enjoy it."

Here at OWL, Kiowana works as a restorative practices and conflict resolution specialist. Restorative practices is a relatively new position at OWL and in SPPS, being it has only been around for two years. When I asked Kiowana to describe her job, she said it's so many different things. "I guess the easiest way to describe it is as minimizing behaviors that end in dismissal," she said. A lot of what Kiowana does is behind the scenes, going into classrooms to prevent these behaviors from starting and to support students and staff. "I really enjoy working with younger people and even older students. It is actually fun and rewarding to see little bits of advice being put to work," Kiowana said of her job here. "It's really nice to see growth," she added.

Kiowana's son is an 8th grader here at OWL. "As a parent, I am blown away by how my kid interacts with his peers and our family at home," she said. Working at OWL, she re-

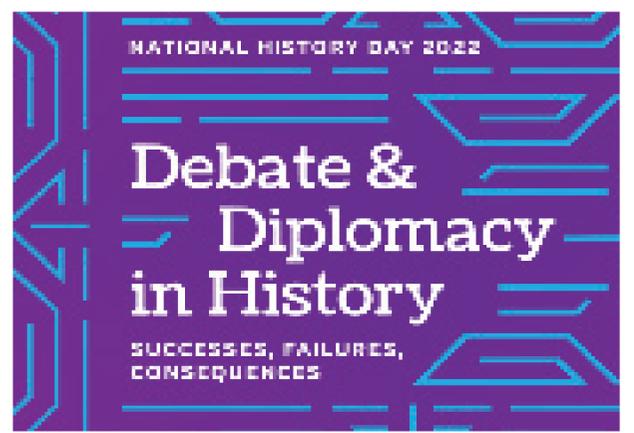
ally enjoys the culture and seeing the way her kid learns. "It is really interesting to see what the school environment looks like, I am like ohh that is why your perspective is the way it is," she continued. "What I have enjoyed most is actually being able to actually live out why my kid is different, that is the biggest reward. Seeing that, oh my gosh, he is taking ownership of his own work."

Since Kiowana's position is relatively new, this year she wants to make positive change to show that her role as a restorative practice and conflict resolution specialist is something beneficial to have in schools. "My goal is to benefit the community here enough that Dave fights for me to come back," Kiowana said.

Outside of school, Kiowana loves to read mystery and crime novels, specifically author John Grisham. In addition she enjoys being outdoors, playing games with her family, and singing "in the privacy of my own space," she said laughing.



Purple Press Staff Photo
Kiowana in her classroom this year.



History Day approaching

Lana Stevens
Staff Writer

2021-2022 History Day is near! Grades 6th, 7th, and 11th, and anyone else who wants to be beginning to work on their History project. There might be a few of you who are wondering what exactly History Day is, or need a bit of a reminder. National History Day is a non-profit education organization that operates a project-based contest for grades 6th-12th. Students can make a documentary, an exhibit, a paper, a performance/skit, or a website. The project must be about a topic from at least 20 years in the past, and it must relate in some way to an overall theme, which changes every year.

The theme this year is Debate & Diplomacy in History: Successes, Failures, Consequences. "Certainly a mouthful, and a bit complicated for

students. But one of the things I love about History Day is that regardless of the theme you can usually make a topic fit even if in just a small way," social studies teacher Katie Craven said. So, as long as you have even just a tiny part of your project that relates to the theme, as long as you really sell it, most times, anything goes.

By the end of Q2, projects should be finished, or close to finished. OWL students seem to favor three big categories: exhibits, websites, and documentaries. All three of these can be virtual, which makes it easier in case the competitions are virtual.

The school contest is scheduled for February 23, but whether it is in-person or virtual is to-be-determined. The regional contest is virtual and will be held sometime in March, and students will find

History Day, 5



Elizabeth Hallanger

Omicron: the next variant

Spreads faster than Delta variant and original COVID strain

Isaac Wencel
Staff Writer

As if the Delta variant, 49 million cases of COVID in the US, across the span of almost 2 years wasn't enough, a new variant of COVID was discovered in December. Omicron was first discovered in South Africa, after South African scientists found abnormal features in a sample of COVID they were testing. Many countries, including the US, have banned flights to and from South Africa as a result of the discovery.

Early reports of Omicron suggest that it likely spreads a lot faster than both the Delta variant and the original variant. Researchers found out that it replicates 70 times as fast as Delta. It may cause hospitalizations with just the speed that it spreads.

However, despite Omicron's

ability to spread, the illness it causes is not as severe. Early laboratory studies say this is due to the fact that it doesn't infiltrate the lungs, which is hypothesized where serious illness occurs in other variants. People with Omicron are also 15-20% less likely to go to an emergency room compared to those with the Delta, and 40% less likely to be hospitalized.

Vaccines are expected to protect against extreme illness, hospitalizations, and deaths caused by Omicron. However, breakthrough illnesses can still occur, even in people who are fully vaccinated.

Omicron now makes up 95% of total COVID cases in the US, and it's been detected in all 50 states. The CDC says that it's likely to rise, since it is expected to spread a lot easier than Delta or the original

Omicron, 5

Living the quarantine life

Students experience mild symptoms, boredom while quarantining at home with COVID

Aye Mon
Staff Writer

COVID-19 cases at OWL have been rising over time since in-person school began again this fall. The current rules are that if you have been exposed to COVID and/or have tested positive, you have to stay quarantined at home for at least 10 days after first experiencing symptoms.

For students who have been quarantined, 10 days can start

to get tedious and dull. "When the tests came back I had a lot of mixed feelings. First of all, I could stay home for a week, I was very excited about that. But sadly, I would miss a whole week of school, I felt really down that I wouldn't be able to see my friends. It got a lot harder when I procrastinated doing schoolwork! There were definitely pros and cons to not being able to go to school," said 6th grader Beatrice Cosgrove. 8th grader Rayne Van Guilder

had a similar experience, "It wasn't bad in the beginning, but it started getting longer and I wanted to go back." 9th grader Danny Hobday agreed. "The first day I felt great. I was doing all the work at home and could relax, take a nap, and just control my day. But after a couple days, it got super boring not having that structure in day to day life."

When asked about their symptoms, most students said that they weren't very extreme. "The symptoms weren't really that bad, I didn't really take anything and stayed in my room," 8th grader Meara Gunderson said. Beatrice added,

"I didn't feel great for about a day but then for the rest of the week I felt okay. I had a pretty mild case of COVID, so we just monitored my temperature and I drank lots of fluids. I stayed home with my family who had already been exposed to the virus, it would have been very hard to isolate ourselves from everyone else." Rayne agreed, "I was so tired. I had a little sore throat, but it wasn't that bad."

Based on the rapid spread of the Omicron variant, many more students will probably be forced to find ways to entertain themselves at home for several days at a time.

Protocols, 1

(as much as supplies allow) to take home with students. They require face masks on all buses and don't allow overnight or international trips.

Some of the updates to the buildings are better ventilation, sanitizing stations, and safety reminders throughout the building. After school everyday, the custodial staff works through the building, again cleaning the most touched areas of the school, such as sinks, door handles, drinking fountains, and tables and desks. Throughout the day students are encouraged to wash their hands, at times such as before and after meals, whenever they have to use the bathroom, and arrival and dis-

missal. The bathrooms are also staggered to minimize clustering or any other behavior that could spread COVID faster.

If a student tests positive for COVID, they should report it using the SPPS COVID-19 Reporting System. They will have to stay home and complete school work as best as they can until it has been 10 days since the date of exposure. Although it has been 10 days for the majority of the time in person, since the CDC's update that the quarantine can be shortened down to five days, the district is considering changing it to that. A person cannot skip out on quarantine even if they have a negative test; although if a person is fully vaccinated (14 or more days after quarantine) they do not

need to quarantine if they do not have any symptoms and meet other conditions. SPPS will keep contact tracing any positive tests throughout the 2021-2022 school year.

SPPS created these protocols so we can try to have a normal school year, while still keeping everyone safe. SPPS first came up with these protocols back in April, when the majority of students came back to school in person. The protocols have mostly remained the same since then.

"I don't remember having a big reaction but I was most likely glad that the district had a good set of protocols," says eighth grader Rhoda Wonders. Since the protocols are pretty normal and not that hard to adjust to, most students didn't

have a negative reaction, they were just glad that there would be some measures taken against COVID.

These protocols are most likely going to stay until COVID is over, and even then some of them might stay after if the district thinks that it could be better for health overall. If and when we get COVID under control and the case numbers begin to drop, the district will probably start thinking about lifting some of them, and then some of them eventually will be lifted and over time school should go back to the way it was before. But you never know and anything could happen so we'll wait and see.

Senior Spotlight

Ryuki Walker



What pronouns do you use?
He/him.

How many years have you been at OWL?
7 years.

What are your plans for next year?
I plan on going to college.

What's been your favorite class in high school?
Jazz choir, because I like singing with people who have passion for singing.

What extracurriculars are you involved in?
Outward Bound and frisbee.

Favorite field work experience or school trip and why?
Choir tour, because I got to spend time with my friends.

If you had a walk up song, what would it be?
Slow Dancing in the Dark by Joji.

That One Little Kid

Ben Karjanen Castellanos

What pronouns do you use?
He/him.

How tall are you?
4'7".

What's your favorite class so far and why?
I don't have one.

Who's your favorite senior?
I don't know any.

Where do you think you're going to go for college?
The University of Minnesota.

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



The latest on Respawn hacks

The entertainment company has dealt with hacking recently

Sir Nakhai Guy-Cornelius
Staff Writer

People logging in to play a match of Apex Legends on July 4th might have been surprised to see a website called savetitanfall.com instead of being able to start up a match.

Respawn Entertainment is a gaming company that has been dealing with hackers attacking their gaming titles Titanfall, Titanfall 2, and Apex Legends. All three of those games were successfully downed or made unplayable by hackers at one point. Apex has been hacked and people who logged in were sent to a weird website. And Titanfall 2 going through what the first Titanfall went through with DDosing.

People who hack usually do it for an unfair advantage

in a game, not unlike "script kiddies" who try to buy code from a website that allows them access to materials that give them an advantage. I personally heard some hackers hack in some games because they have the mindset that "if they use hacks I'm gonna use hacks." But some hackers are really good with tech and can reverse engineer the game and gain control. Once they get in control they can hold the game for ransom or make the game completely unplayable and can also put stuff in the game like messages. But at the end of the day once they get the game in their control it becomes their playground.

The first Titanfall was made in 2014. It had a very positive launch, winning over 60 awards. This all changed

for the worse, because hackers started DDos/crashing streamers games. Even random people ended up with Titanfall shutting down in July of 2018, and later it caused an end to sales and rendered it unplayable with subscriptions such as Xbox game pass. More recently, Titanfall 2 has gone through the same issues of the first Titanfall with DDos/crashing and targeting steamers.

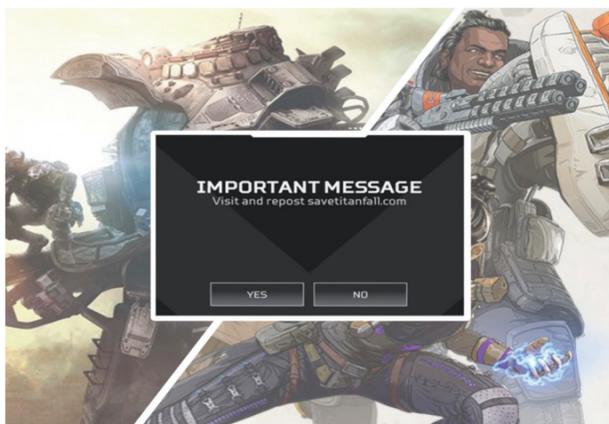
Apex though is the most interesting of the hacks against Respawn. It got hacked on July 4th because the hackers knew this would be a time where not that many workers could fix it because they were taking a day off. When Apex players got on the game that day, they were greeted with an unplayable game, and in place of a select game mode button it had a website called savetitanfall.com. That website said Titanfall 1 was being hacked and so was Apex.

It hasn't been confirmed if the people who made savetitanfall.com were the people behind the hacks. But on the website it talked about the hacks and problems with Titanfall. It seems like the hackers that hacked Titanfall 2 also hacked Apex, so it questions their real goal. But the people behind savetitanfall.com have a document filled with screenshots of emails, Discord messages, Twitter threads, and texts that prove they didn't do

it. The document leads to hackers Red Shield, Mr Steyk, dogecore, and po358 being behind Titanfall 2 and Apex. This is not included on the website, but the hacker behind Titanfall 1 is known as Jeanue. Red Shield has tweeted that they're trying to make them look back and if people would send screenshots he will give context.

But po358 has tried and asked for Titanfall's source code, and Titanfall for more control and has tweeted what he called a full tutorial: how to fix Titanfall. It also has been noted that the hackers wanted to revive a Titanfall spin off that was going to be for the Asian market but got canceled. Many people think the hackers were trying to act like heroes, but got caught in their plan and are now trying to find a way out.

Respawn Entertainment has been aware of the issue with the Titanfall games and tried to fix it, but is now, as stated earlier, taking Titanfall 1 off of stores March first 2022. But they will keep the servers up for owners of the game and Titanfall 2 servers are on and off in its current state. Workers at Respawn Entertainment have said that there is no new Titanfall in the works. Apex Legends is their least likely game to get hacked again because it is the only game they're working on and updating.



Elizabeth Hallanger

What is contact tracing?

What OWL staff does when a student tests positive for COVID

Aurora Hull-Williams
Staff Writer

On December 17th, 2020, 377,842 people had tested positive for COVID-19, this was a time when everyone was doing online learning, and cases were supposedly at an all time high.

It's been a full year since those statistics were recorded, and on December 17th, 2021, 866,448 people had tested positive for COVID. With 48,963 cumulative hospitalizations and 10,057 deaths, people in Minnesota are getting COVID more frequently than ever, and rates do not appear to be slowing down.

With rates as dangerously high as these, COVID can be found anywhere. It's to be expected that students and teachers, who interact with a high number of people on a regular basis, would be testing positive fairly regularly. So the question remains, if this happens so regularly, how do schools handle it? The answer is with contact tracing. Contact tracing starts after the OWL office has been informed that a student or staff member has tested positive. They get info from the SPPS COVID team that a student has tested positive and then

they are informed of the exposure date.

Class lists from the day in question are printed out, and then assistant principal Ms. Ma'lene Walker tracks down each individual teacher of the student who tested positive to determine: where that student sits, who sits near them, whether or not that student wears a mask consistently, and whether or not the kids around them wear masks. Then Nurse Colleen Richardson looks at the students' immunization records, and talks with the family to determine if they need to be quarantined or not. If the student is a good mask wearer, chances are good that they can come to school like normal even though they were deemed a close contact.

However, this is not the case for every student. If they have symptoms, are not vaccinated, or do not follow mask protocol often enough, Colleen will factor all of that and decide whether or not they are safe to return or if they need to quarantine for some time and then be reassessed.

COVID cases are only rising at this point, creating a real strain on staff at OWL, who are constantly monitoring the school to try and limit outbreaks and to keep others safer.



Maxim

AMA Superbike series 101

Atticus Brooks-Babcock
Staff Writer

Extreme lean angles, extreme speed, and extremely loud bikes - that's a typical race weekend in the AMA sport bike series.

Last month I wrote about MX and SX motorcycle racing, this month I'm writing about track bikes, the main difference being the fact that the races are held on tarmac race tracks used for both cars and bikes.

The AMA sport bike series has many classes, starting at the smallest, the junior class which consists of 300cc-500cc bikes that can go around 100-120 miles per hour. In the middle you have the super sport 600cc -750cc class with bikes that can go up to 160mph. Lastly, the biggest and fastest class is the 1000cc race superbike, which can go up to 190mph.

The series is usually structured into a race weekend. Friday is two free practices each being 50 minutes, Sat-

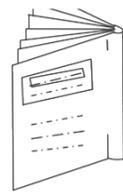
urday is a 20 minute practice, then a 25 minute super pole. A super pole is a way to set the positions for a race. Each racer tries to get the fastest lap time around a standard race track like the one in the Minnesota Brainerd international raceway - if you get the fastest time then you get to start the race in first, if you get the second fastest time you start in second and so forth. Then you go to race one. Sunday is a 15 minute warm up, then a superpole race. This time it's ten laps and the top 9 get new positions and the others don't. After that is race 2. You get points based on where you placed in the race. First gets the most points, second gets less and so on. The winner of the weekend is decided by adding up your points you got over the weekend, the prize is \$32,000. Add that up over 20 races and you could win up to \$650,000 for that season.

Compared to motocross or supercross, which are both thriving right now, the AMA

Superbike, 5



Reviews 'n' stuff



Encanto impresses

Disney's newest movie is available on Disney+

Elizabeth Hallanger
Staff Writer

This year, studios have really delivered in terms of solid animated movies, including Luca, Vivo, Raya and the Last Dragon, Mitchells vs The Machines, and many more. If you're an animated movie buff like I am, then this year has been one of the best, just in terms of quality and entertainment, which is good, because in a global pandemic, you need something to keep you sane.

This brings us to Encan-



to, the last animated Disney movie of the year, as well as the 60th animated movie they've ever made. Focusing on a magical family, steeped in Colombian culture, and with songs written by Lin Manuel Miranda, it looked promising, original, and I was beyond excited when it was released on Disney+ this Christmas Eve. With my expectations high, I was eager to enjoy another fun and interesting movie. So, did Encanto end off this year of animated movies on a high note? Yes, it did.

The plot follows the Madrigal family, who, through the power of their Abuela Alma's magic candle, live in a magical, sentient house, aka "Casita," which supplies the family members with powers or "gifts" which they use to aid the nearby village. Unfortunately, our protagonist Mirabel remains powerless, and grapples with

her place in the family because of this. She especially feels left out by her Abuela and loathes her older sister, Isabela, who receives most of the family's attention.

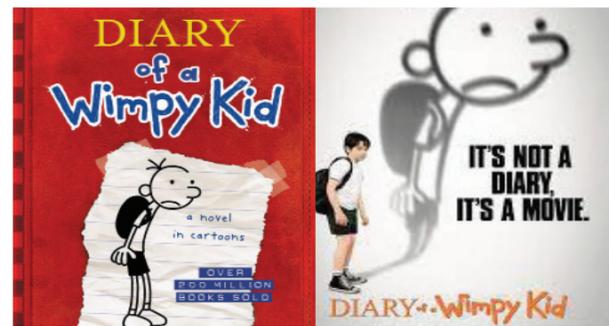
One day, Mirabel discovers that the house is slowly cracking, and that the family's magic seems to be mysteriously fading. To her dismay, she is ignored. She also learns about her mysterious uncle, Bruno, and finds one of his visions of the future, which seems to imply she's the reason for the house's problems. Mirabel tries to hide this, but the family eventually finds out, leading to conflict after conflict, in which Mirabel has to discover the truth about her family's imperfections, and attempt to reconcile with them before the house, the magic, and most importantly, their family bond, is gone for good.

Overall, I loved this movie's plot. The focus on characters and their development was a really good choice for a family-focused movie, and I loved

the way it was able to create a satisfying story arc driven by interpersonal conflict as opposed to the use of a villain or antagonist. I also thought the movie had some great themes and messages. The themes of family and imperfection, as well as generational trauma and its impact were very clear and meaningful in the film, especially within the story of Abuela, and the message of cherishing family and loved ones was simple yet powerful.

The characters are possibly the best part of this movie. Every member of the Madrigal family is unique and enjoyable in their own way, and the way that the movie gave every character their unique chance to shine was really impressive to me. I really enjoyed the protagonist, Mirabel. Her fun energy, character arc, and struggle with her seeming lack of a gift and feeling left out within her family were compelling, and I found myself sympathizing with her a lot.

Encanto, 6



IMDb

When one book gets multiple movie adaptations

Diary of a Wimpy Kid is adapted both perfectly and poorly

Nick Streng
Staff Writer

Let me get this straight: This is a REVIEW, not a diary.

Anyway, as I continue to explore movie adaptations of books, I recently discovered that Disney had made an animated version of Diary of a Wimpy Kid. You've probably heard of those books before. The iconic series written and illustrated by Jeff Kinney has been read by millions over the years, and it's still going to this day. Every book has a diary entry format - or as the titular "wimpy kid" Greg Heffley stresses, JOURNAL entry format - complete with cartoonish drawings, and the series follows Greg, who navigates and recounts his disastrous life in middle school.

Since each book is essentially a collection of Greg's journal entries, this series has an unconventional structure in that it doesn't really have an overarching story. It also makes for an interesting read due to the fact that Greg is often an extremely unlikely character who puts his own needs above others' and doesn't really change throughout the books, but he can also be someone you can feel pretty sorry for; much of the entertainment in reading the books comes from Greg's mishaps described in extreme detail.

Due to the style of this series' storytelling and Greg's uniquely unpleasant character, you're probably thinking it would be pretty difficult to make a movie adaptation of it. And the 2021 animated movie Diary of a Wimpy Kid may seem to prove this idea right. Released on Disney+ on December 3rd, it was based on the first book in the series. Greg's illustrations in his journal of himself and the other characters are brought to life in 3D animation, and...yeah, that's the first big problem with this movie. The animation, to put it plainly, is hideous. It is so awkward-looking to the point that I would have preferred the animation style of the opening credits, where we actually see Greg's drawings as they appear in the book, only this time they're actually moving.

Additionally, this movie tried to give the story a friendship/coming-of-age tone, and that's really not what the book is like at all. The movie decided that Greg's sociopathic nature needed to be toned down quite a bit so the audience would actually be on his side. However, the problem with that change made the movie feel very different from the book tone-wise. Instead of Greg being a bad friend to his best friend Rowley Jefferson, and eventually learning to be an ever-so-slightly better one, (because like I said earlier, he doesn't really change throughout the books) Greg is far less of a jerk, and that in turn makes Rowley seem meaner somehow, which completely flips the book's narrative in a negative way. And the differences don't stop there, either. One other detriment was that half the stuff in the book was cut out since the movie is only 58 minutes long.

So overall, as far as book-to-movie adaptations go, this was pretty unimpressive. But it wasn't a terrible experience, as it, uh...made me want to write this article complaining about it. But it also made me want to revisit another movie - one that adapted the same book the right way. Allow me to now introduce you to one of the most underrated films of all time: Diary of a Wimpy Kid the movie...again. Produced by 20th Century Fox and released back in 2010, this was the first of a trilogy, once again based on the first book in the series. And against the odds, this ended up being a fantastic adaptation, managing to feel just like the book despite being very different from it in many ways.

The most obvious change is that this movie is live action, so there's actually real people playing all of the characters here. And while it initially makes the movie feel very different from the book, every member of the cast plays their characters to the point where it now feels like we're just watching Greg's journal entries occur in real life.

Greg himself is also still

Wimpy kid, 5

7-hour series worth the watch

The Beatles: Get Back was released on Disney+ in three parts

Nick Christopherson
Staff Writer

When this series was first announced on January 30, 2019, the 50th anniversary of The Beatles' infamous rooftop concert, I knew it was going to be incredible. Now that it's finally been released, I can definitively say that I was right.

The Beatles: Get Back is a documentary miniseries that was released in three parts on Disney+. Part one was released on November 25, 2021, and parts two and three were released on the 26th and 27th respectively. In total, the series runs for 7 hours and 48 minutes, with each episode, on average, running about two and a half hours. The project was directed by Peter Jackson, who's mainly known for directing both The Lord of the Rings and The Hobbit trilogies, along with the 2005 remake of King Kong, and the 2018 archival WWI documentary film They Shall Not Grow Old. It was produced by two of The Beatles themselves, Paul McCartney and Ringo Starr, along with the widows of John Lennon and George Harrison, Yoko Ono Lennon and Olivia Harrison. It stars the members of The Beatles, along with many of the people they worked with while recording their albums.

The series uses archived footage that was recorded in January of 1969 for the 1970 documentary Let It Be, which followed The Beatles as they wrote and recorded songs for what would become their final album (which was also titled

Let It Be). The 1970 documentary elicited pretty mixed reactions from fans and critics alike. It was praised for giving an inside look on The Beatles' recording sessions, but many people criticized how many moments in the film were taken out of context to make them seem more dramatic, and how the overall mood of the film is very depressing, as it focuses a lot on the fracturing relationships between the members of The Beatles.

Because the Let It Be film focused so much on the negative interactions of the band, it sparked many rumors about this period, the chief among them being that The Beatles were constantly at each other's throats and there wasn't any sort of joy in their sessions anymore. Peter Jackson started the Get Back project with the hopes of clearing the air and showing what the sessions were actually like. He sifted through the nearly 60 hours of footage and 150 hours of audio recordings that were made in 1969 for the original album and documentary and pulled together Get Back, which was actually the working title for the original album and documentary. To enhance the 50-year-old footage, Jackson used the special restoration techniques that he had previously used in They Shall Not Grow Old to make 100-year-old footage look brand new.

The first episode of Get Back starts with a very well done montage that gives us a brief overview of The Beatles' career up until the sessions that the

series showcases. The episode focuses on the group's sessions at Twickenham Film Studios, which they were renting out at the time. We're told from some text on the screen that they only have two weeks to write and record 14 new songs for an album, and they also need to plan a performance where they'll play to a live audience for the first time in three years. The group plays a bunch of familiar songs and comes up with some new ones. This episode has the most fighting and tension between the group, but luckily these scenes are brief and are not the main focus.

The second episode shows the band moving to their brand new Apple Studios, which is clearly a relief for them. The second and third episodes are very joyful, due in part to their songs sounding better as they practice them. The second episode also has one of my favorite moments of the series, when keyboardist and musician Billy Preston came into the studio on a whim, sat down, and played along perfectly with The Beatles' songs without any preparation. His presence in the sessions and the series just radiates joy and creativity and it has a profound effect on the band's morale. As John Lennon says to Billy after they play a few songs, "You're giving us a lift, Bill."

The third episode finally reaches the climax of the series by including nearly the whole rooftop concert that The Beatles played on top of their Apple Corps headquarters at 3 Savile Row in London. There were ten different cameras running during the concert, so there is a lot of fancy editing used to

show multiple angles at once. While The Beatles are playing on the roof, there are also some interviewers asking people on the street if they know who's playing and if they like the music. This prompts some pretty hilarious responses from some of the interviewees. The cameras also follow the policemen who are desperately trying to shut down the concert because of the noise complaints they've been getting, which is also really funny to watch.

I know it seems like I might've given too much information, but there's still so many little moments in Get Back that if I tried to list them all this story would be like 10 whole pages.

If it wasn't clear already, I thought that Get Back was incredible. It's a serious testament to Peter Jackson and everyone else who worked on it that I never got bored throughout the nearly 8 hours of runtime. It was so fascinating to watch one of the greatest bands of all time just having fun and playing some songs together. We had never seen much of their creative process before, so it was really cool to watch them work together and

Beatles, 5



Why people don't talk about being sexually assaulted

"Nothing can fix the trauma or hurt that assault brings, but we can fix the stigma around it"

Ghost Olatunde
Staff Writer

She was staying after school for extra credit for her class. She loved her teacher. He was the best. He always helped and made sure she was okay. This time was different. He sexually assaulted her. She blacked out and all she could remember was the pain of what just happened.

Every 68 seconds, someone in America is sexually assaulted and almost all of those are not reported. Nine out of ten of the people who get sexually assaulted are women. Every nine minutes a child under the age of 15 will become a victim, but only 25% of the predators will go to prison. Part of the reason that so few people who commit sexual assault go to prison has to do with how many cases go unreported.

One important reason so many cases go unreported is because of shame and guilt. The guilt of being raped or sexually assaulted is real. People feel like they are the problem, so they don't speak out about what happened. They feel as if what they were wearing or how they were acting was part of the problem. They are often

afraid of the shame of speaking up about it, knowing they could be belittled or get their feelings regarded. People often don't speak up for years because of this feeling.

Another important factor in unreported cases is a lack of memory. When people can't remember what happened, they don't say anything. They might remember being assaulted, but their brain might have erased or blocked out some of the details. So they don't tell people what happened because they think, if I can't remember it must have never happened. "My body knew what happened, but my brain was like, We're just going to give you some time, because once you have these memories, you will never be able to forget," said Turkos, an anonymous woman talking about what happened to her. This is what happens to so many people, and it might take some people years to remember, or others a day, but no matter the case they don't speak up because they can't remember or recall the thing that happened to them.

Another huge reason cases go unreported is fear. People have

fear of their assaulter coming for them or hurting them or doing it again. They know it could help to tell, but they still don't because they know something bad could happen again. These quotes are from anonymous women speaking up about assault. "I cried because it's not fair, and I'm so tired, and every woman I know is so tired." "I understand that many men cannot see it, and plenty more do not care. I know that many men will read this and laugh, or become defensive, or call me hysterical, or worse, and that's fine. I am used to it. It doesn't make me wrong."

What can be done? Nothing can ever fix the trauma or hurt that assault brings, but we can fix the stigma around it. People everyday feel unsafe going to school, work, or just out in public out of fear of being harassed or raped or touched. We need to speak up when we see things that can hurt people. We need to have the talk about rape and sexual assault in school and in the work place. We need to go into detail and not just skim over the surface of what is happening. We need to sit down with little kids and tell them stories of what hap-

pens to people and tell them how it's not okay and how we need to be there for everyone when we see something that is clearly not okay. We need to talk to people about consent and assert that no means no. We need to tell people that asking before doing is okay and not weird. When we do this we will help so many people feel comfortable and safe. It will not fix the problem but it will help prevent it.

"If you don't really understand perpetrators, you're never going to understand sexual violence," said Sherry Hamby, editor of the journal *Psychology of Violence*. Antonia Abbey, a social psychologist, has found that young men who expressed remorse were less likely to offend the following year, while those who blamed their victim were more likely to do it again. We need to have this talk with young men about what is okay and what's not. It's not all men, but it's most, and we need to talk to them and speak up on what is actually happening and not downplay it. We need to listen to the victim and hear them out. To solve the problem, we need to go to the source.

Beatles, 4



Guitar World

create fantastic music. And one person who really helped in this area was Billy Preston. Seriously, he's legitimately incredible to watch. He helps inject The Beatles' songs with so much soul and energy to the point where I can't imagine these songs without him. I'm really glad that they gave him a good amount of screen time. Not only did the group's creativity really stand out to me, the personality of each Beatle really shines through in this documentary as well, and it's really fun to watch John and Paul play mess around with each other. In fact John was pretty hilarious and weird throughout the whole series and it was really fun to see.

Another great thing that Peter Jackson did was convince Disney to leave the swear words uncensored, as he thought that they weren't aggressive or excessive enough to warrant censorship. Although this is a minor thing, I appreciate it because it helps to make the documentary more immersive.

There were actually a lot of little things that I loved about the series, like the little informational bits of text that appear on screen every now and then. They usually appear to give context to some things that happen that don't make a lot of sense on their own, which is very useful and informative. There was also no shying away from showing tension or emotional moments in these sessions which are very interesting to watch, even though they're uncomfortable.

Get Back did yet another service by killing two stupid rumors that had somehow arisen from the fan base. The first one was that Yoko Ono, John's wife, was the one who broke up The Beatles. Yoko is present

for most of the sessions, sitting right next to John, and she even does some of her signature wailing/singing thing, but she does nothing to disrupt the group or affect them in any negative way. The second rumor is that the group all hated each other at this point in their careers, but this is once again blatantly untrue. We see that there was some definite tension (mostly between Paul and George) but they still loved each other and worked well as a band.

I have to say that my absolute favorite part of the series was the whole rooftop concert sequence. The editing used is absolutely perfect, as it gives so many different perspectives on the band, the people gathering in the street, and the policemen trying to stop them. The whole series had also built this performance up in such a brilliant way that makes it feel really rewarding when we finally get to see the group playing the songs and having fun. I also really loved seeing Paul's delighted reaction when he realized that the police were trying to shut them down.

In fact, watching the concert showed me that this series is really a very beautiful tribute to The Beatles. It shows them as real people who had struggles and arguments, but who ultimately loved each other and were just super talented at making music. Writing this review also made me realize that I don't really have any complaints with this series. It's probably due to the fact that I was already a huge Beatles fan before I watched it, but I still think that pretty much anyone who's interested in music or just the creative process in general will really enjoy watching Get Back.

Max, 1

tine ended, and due to Israel's efficiency with immunizations and low COVID rates, masks were a rare sight. One of the only things on the itinerary that changed due to restrictions was the cancellation of a week-long trip to Poland. The group was planning on studying the Holocaust, with trips to Auschwitz, Bergen-Belsen, and other concentration camps.

They stayed in a Kibbutz, which Max described as "basically a commune. They are all over Israel and usually have 100-200 people living there and produce something that makes their money." There was a hotel there, where he and his group stayed, eating meals with the rest of the people living in the Kibbutz.

Each day, after breakfast, Max and his classmates at-

tended classes for most of the day. "My normal school day was divided into two different parts. The morning was more of the unorthodox classes. We took a class called Jewish History, where we learned about Israel, including the land, the political climate, and its history," said Max. He also took a Hebrew language class in the morning. In the afternoon, he took the classes he had begun in his first semester of the year at OWL. "I had AP US History, AP Literature, Physics, and math. They required the syllabus from my class and all of the other kids', which they crammed together into one class, so it covered what we would have normally covered," said Max. His classes were small, with his largest class being five students, including him. After school, the group



Max Schibel

Max and his group hiking on the Mesada Mountain.

went into Jerusalem or Tel Aviv for dinner.

As Max continued his AP classes, he was still able to take the AP exams at the end of the year. "Some of them were during the war, and they were all very off with timing. My tests were usually taken in the late afternoon, starting at 6:00, 8:00, or 11:30 at night, and

went for about 2 hours. It was really difficult to take them while I was falling asleep," said Max.

Aside from COVID delays, a heated political scene, and time zone weirdness, Max had a positive trip. "It was a fun experience. It was a good way to learn more about myself."

History Day, 2

out whether they qualify for state by March 25. As of now, State History Day is scheduled for Sunday, May 1, and the plan is for an in-person competition, although that could change. The 2022 National Contest will be held June 12-16, 2022, and is also planned for in-person.

Currently, the students participating are still in the early stages, like researching and gathering sources. "I'm making a documentary, and my topic is the Kyoto protocol," said 10th grader Willa Campion. She is working with a partner; Tess. "We go to this library on the east side that has books that have a lot of books that have stuff for the Kyoto pro-

ocol, we use some of the UN sites." Willa said what's difficult about the theme is that it's so specific. It's hard to find a good topic without straying too far from the theme. Now, for people new to History Day, here's some advice from Willa: "Um I don't know I guess, just yeah, just have fun with it."

Omicron, 2

COVID variant.

This obviously means if Omicron spreads across the US, more than it already has, the pandemic and mask mandates will go further and for a longer period of time. And with cases reaching up to 1 million in one day alone, it's only a matter of time.

Superbike, 3

sport bike series is definitely dying out. You are more likely to see a supercross race on TV than a sport bike race, basically because it's just not as action packed. In SX you can see the whole track. It has big jumps, tight tracks, and big crowds. There is an element of drama in SX, whereas in a sport bike

race it's just who is fastest and you can't see the whole track.

That's not to say it's easy, because being a good sport bike racer takes just as much talent as MX - you have to learn braking lines, racing lines, and on top of that you're going around 190mph on two wheels leaning all the way down to

the ground around turns. An argument could be made that sport bike racing is more dangerous and therefore more entertaining because of the high speeds, but on a track you have a lot of space to work with. One more important thing to mention is the FIM, which is the same thing as the AMA,

just in Europe and a little more popular.

I prefer MX over superbike series because in MX you have so much more action and there's big jumps, and who doesn't like big jumps? If you want to watch superbikes you can find most pro and amateur races on YouTube.

Wimpy kid, 4

pretty unlikable. All the catastrophic middle school events he suffers, from being the worst on the wrestling team to being forced to sing in a musical, are here again in the movie, (since, thankfully, it's much longer this time) and do well at making you think, "oh, I kinda feel bad for him." However, it's also made abundantly clear that Greg is a really bad friend

to Rowley, which is why their friendship falls apart. Hey, that's just like how it is in the book! See what happens when a movie decides to actually stick with its source material?

This movie - and its sequels - proved that the Diary of a Wimpy Kid books can be adapted correctly - and in my opinion, become something even better in the process. While I find it interesting that the books aren't afraid to have an unlikable protagonist, that sometimes drags down the story and it's why I don't consider the books to be super great, despite recognizing how unique they are. The movie, however, is able to take the unique elements and twist them into a more satisfying story that still feels just like the book. Its effortless charm left me thinking, what was even the point of making an inferior, dull, awkwardly animated reboot?



IMDb

Encanto, 4

Her older sisters, Isabela and Luisa, were also some of my favorites. I absolutely loved Luisa, not only because she has a great character design, but also her character arc, and her struggle with carrying family burdens. Isabela's arc about learning to let go of perfectionism and her family's high expectations, and accepting her true self was also really compelling. I also loved Dolores, her powers, and her unrequited love towards Isabela's love interest, Mariano. Camilo and his mischievous personality added some great comedy, and Antonio and his animal companions were absolutely adorable.

The older family members were also fun. Agustín and Julieta, Mirabel's parents, are constantly supportive of Mirabel, despite her lack of powers, and I found Agustín and Mirabel's closeness due to

their lack of powers and similar exclusion from the family sweet. Pepa and Félix also had great chemistry, and every scene with them together was enjoyable, seeing Félix's fun, grounded personality clash with Pepa and her constant mood swings. Bruno was also such a fun and interesting character. I absolutely loved the mysterious reputation in the family, compared to his awkward, comedic personality, his powers and visions, and of course, his pet rats. Finally, Abuela Alma's backstory was wonderful and emotional. The scenes with her husband made me teary-eyed, and it was heart-warming watching her learn to appreciate her family, and see them as more than just their gifts.

The animation of the movie is absolutely stunning. From the sets, to the characters, to the way they move, Disney consistently goes above and

beyond when it comes to animation. The way the characters are animated is not only smooth, but also highly detailed. I found myself constantly amazed at how energetic their choreography and movements were, as well as how realistically their faces captured emotion.

All of the movie's locations were colorful and eye-catching. I love the design of the village, the Casita, and the unique and magical rooms of the Madrigals. The character designs are also unique, diverse, and gorgeous to look at. I specifically love the small details added to reflect the characters' gifts in their outfits, like the chameleons on Camilo's poncho, or the dumbbells on Luisa's dress. The movie's Colombian influence can also be found throughout the whole film, whether it's the design of the house, the clothes, the characters, the songs, or the

food. It adds so much depth, charm and representation to the movie, and really serves as a giant love letter to the country and its diverse culture.

The movie also has some great songs, whether they're catchy and fast-paced, or sweet and heartfelt. I loved the introduction song "The Family Madrigal" as a catchy and interesting way of introducing the whole family. "We Don't Talk About Bruno" was absolutely amazing and one of my favorites. "Surface Pressure" and "What Else Can I Do" were unique looks into the struggles and arcs of Mirabel's older sisters. The song that plays during Abuela's flashback, "Dos Oruguitas" is sweet, heartfelt, and made me teary-eyed when I heard it.

Overall, I absolutely loved Encanto. From its interesting plot, compelling characters, fun and magical world, and songs that I've replayed too

many times to count at this point, it was a great way to end off my year. Overall, I give it a 9/10, and a spot on my list of all-time favorite Disney movies. If you're looking for a new

movie to watch on Disney+, are a fan of their newer work, or just want a fun, animated movie to watch, I would definitely recommend this one.

Upcoming Events*

*subject to change due to COVID-19

- January 17:** No School (MLK Day)
- January 18:** Virtual PTO Meeting
- January 20:** Virtual Prospective Family Showcase (find link at open.spps.org)
- January 27:** End of Quarter 2
- February 9-10:** Student-Led Conferences
- February 16:** PSEO Information Meeting
- February 17:** African American Family Culture Night
- February 21:** No School (President's Day)
- February 23:** School History Day

College march to the mailbox



Rebecca Palmer
Column One: senior Maggie Morris speaking at the College March (top), senior Karina Bary and English teacher Kevin Hansen at the senior lunch following the event (middle), senior Makhi Chandler high-fiving 11th grader Daniel Meekin on his way out of the auditorium (bottom).
Column Two: the class of 2022 at the College March (top), the seniors fist bumping students from Cherokee Heights Elementary School during the College March (middle), students cheering for their crew friends (bottom).
Column Three: senior LaRobb Watts speaking at the March (top), students waiting for the seniors (middle), the class of 2022 announcing the schools they applied to (middle), the seniors at the lunch after the march (bottom).

