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Purple Owl Press

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OWL sends 17 projects to state

Ten senior and seven junior projects advance

Elsa Carlson
Staff Writer

Thought you were done hearing about all the history day jazz? Well think again, because the regional competition has just wrapped up and we've got results.

After working tirelessly for weeks, regional qualifiers im-

proved their projects to the best of their ability. In hopes of becoming a state qualiter, many changes were made to the history day projects. Performances were run countless times; exhibit boards and websites were redesigned, all while papers and documentaries were being reworded. And

after a long, adrenaline filled morning, the results for the competition were finally announced on March 9th during the awards ceremony at Johnson High School. OWL did an amazing job at the competition, with 10 senior projects and 7 junior projects advancing to state. We also had 2 oth-

er projects that were awarded honorable mention.

During the competition, there were many fun things to do outside of the actual judging time. In fact, with only 20 minutes of judging time allotted to each project, there can be lots of downtime. To avoid getting bored, people

can listen to the piano player by the main entrance, or buy the famous two dollar eggrolls. "Other than watching other people's projects," 10th grader Helena Squires Mosher says, "It's also fun to hang out in the halls and play some card games; that's what I've done in the past." It is also common for friends who are not part of history day to attend the compe-

tion and support their peers. "Moral support is good," says Helena. "It also just feels good to share this information that you've learned with other people, cause hopefully they can learn some new things too."

The awards ceremony was a ruckus as usual. All SPPS middle school and high school qualifiers crammed into the

History Day, 6



Student team getting their heads in the game (left), Francesco jump serves during the second game (right).



Kate Moe

Teachers defeat students two-nil

Reward volleyball match played in front of a rowdy crowd

Paloma Leone-Getten
Staff Writer

On Friday, February 15, the teachers defeated the students in two games of volleyball in the Humboldt gym.

The game was a reward for students for passing 85% of their classes. The teachers took their side in orange, and started the game with math teacher and volleyball coach Damon Liberatore in the game. He

eventually subbed out to ref the game, which helped the students gain a bit of an edge. But it wasn't enough. Gym and health teacher Joe Bradner helped the team with some nice passes and tips, while teacher's assistant Derrick Le-Tran aced the students with several float serves. Overall, the teacher team worked well together. "It was a lot of fun playing in front of a big crowd.

I'm glad the teachers were able to win without cheating this time," said Spanish teacher Tim Leone-Getten.

The students, in blue, started the game with many experienced players, and seemed like they would win easily, however, they quickly subbed out to give everyone a chance to play. They still had several talented players throughout the game though. 11th grader Frances-

co Divella showed off his jump serve and 11th grader Lucas Plaman caught the teachers off guard with some well placed hits. "We were really good at uplifting each other and having fun, instead of just trying to win the game," said 9th grader Lili Hobday.

The gym was filled with deafening cheers from every grade, with help from several 11th graders, who led every-

one else in the wave and other cheers. "It was fun to watch. It was very high energy and it was cool to see actual volleyball players play and help the people that don't get better," said 10th grader Linnea Campbell.

The volleyball game was a success, although dozens were disappointed that principal Dave Gundale did not participate.

"How cold of weather can I do this in?" Edric's annual polar vortex adventure

Madigan Lodahl
Staff Writer

What did you do during the last polar vortex? Most people stayed inside, watching movies, playing video games, and staying in touch with friends on social media.

Special Education Teaching Assistant Edric Lysne decided to sleep outside without even a tent for warmth.

Every year, Edric watches the forecast, and on what is predicted to be the coldest night of the year, he goes into his backyard and sleeps under the stars. Temperatures are usually around -20 degrees fahrenheit, when frostbite can effect exposed skin in 30 minutes, so it's really important to have the right gear. "I wouldn't recommend just grabbing a blanket off your bed and doing this, that probably wouldn't work," Edric said.

He uses a sleeping bag that insulates up to -40 degrees, and dresses in warm fleece clothing. He puts an air mattress and camping pad under him to insulate himself from the freezing ground and uses a down jacket as a pillow because any cotton would get too frosty.

Before Edric goes to sleep, he has a little ritual. Sleeping bags don't produce any heat, they just insulate the heat that your body produces, so you have to make sure you're really warm. Edric makes sure to eat a really good dinner and move around a lot before getting into the sleeping bag, doing things as simple as going up and down the stairs and shoveling snow.

The biggest problem that he encounters is how frosty his

Edric, 3



Amy Klobuchar speaks about her presidential run.

Amy Klobuchar to run in 2020

Senator announces her presidential bid at Boom Island event

Frankie Buettner
Staff Writer

As snow heavily came down on Sunday, February 10, anticipation grew for new politics in Minnesota, and across the Nation. Snow covered the heads and shoulders of excited Americans and was met with

a roar of excitement and enthusiasm for the future of the United States.

As I arrived to Boom Island on that white out afternoon, I saw several fellow Minnesotans waving American flags and dancing to an ABBA song playing from the DJ in the dis-

tance. Without officially saying the announcement was her bid for president it was pretty clear what was going to happen. Volunteers frantically gathered names and emails of Minnesotans while they handed out warmers, personalized cookies, and hot cider. Minneapo-

lis looked more like the North Pole that Sunday to many Americans across the country, but to me and my fellow Minnesotans that day was the perfect way to highlight Amy's future campaign.

Amy's announcement had
Klobuchar, 2



Adult to Blame

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Emily Yang

Klobuchar, 1

a large emphasis on home grown politics, which seemed to fit the atmosphere that afternoon. Hundreds of excited Minnesotans gathered to support despite the brutal storm. A true example of the future homegrown Campaign. “Everyone there was really excited, there was lots of cheering but it was really cold so people got annoyed when someone came up to speak that wasn’t Amy,” said 9th grader, Paloma Leone-Getten.

So how important is a successful campaign launch amid one of the most anticipated and crowded elections? “It’s important for each candidate to set their own messages, because there are a lot of individuals running, it’s really important that they stand out during the launch,” said social studies teacher Dan Sullivan. “Many candidates use a launch to bring in money for their campaign.” So did Amy’s campaign event bring enough enthusiasm for national attention, to help her stand out? Dan comments on the very Midwestern campaign launch, “I think that



Frankie Buettner

A sign in support of Klobuchar at the announcement rally.

Hosting & competing

Archers raise funds by hosting tournament

Grace Bellamy & Emily Yang
Staff Writer

OWL hosted an archery tournament with nearly 550 archers on February 23rd at Johnson High School, where the high school team placed sixth and the middle school team placed seventh.

OWL’s high school team ranked six out of eight, while St. Croix Preparatory Academy ranked number one. Princeton Middle School won the middle school division, in which OWL ranked seven out of 12. The tournament included 30 archery teams from around the Metro Area, including Mahtomedi, White Bear Lake, Chaska, and more. As a team, OWL’s performance was not their best. OWL’s archers spent a lot of time helping to set up, which head coach Tom Totushek said contributed to their poorer performance. “What do you expect when you keep kids up until almost 10 pm then ask them back at 6:30 am?” said Tom.

A lot of time and effort went into planning the tournament - it took eight months and a team of parent volunteers along with coaches Tom and Mark Scioli. The process starts with finding the right location to accommodate all the equip-

ment, archers, families, and vendors. Throughout the day, there are many different teams and families coming and going. Parking and gym space are the most important factors when it comes to choosing a location. At Johnson, the tournament utilized the field house and the gym. The tournament’s motto of “work hard, have fun, git’r done!” exemplified how it went: it was a success.

OWL’s team packed up the supplies for the tournament the Thursday before, and brought the gear over to Johnson Friday afternoon. They set up for the tournament that evening. Archery captain, 11th grader Jacob Rohde said that the captains completed the more complex tasks, like measuring tape lines to mark where archers should stand while shooting. The team and the volunteers finished setting up early Saturday morning before the tournament began.

After OWL archers finished shooting, they continued to help with the tournament, working as runners. A runner’s job during the tournament is to change out target faces at the end of each flight time, bring back score cards, and help out the coaches. Jacob said that they were able to take

any hiccups with logistics in stride. “We always figured out a way to make things work,” he said. Tom added that “they [the archers] were amazing as volunteers and ambassadors for our program and the city and clean up was flawless.”

Saturday morning preparation included setting up concessions and providing spaces for vendors. Parent volunteer Tara Diaz was in charge of concessions. She went to Costco and chose items that would make a good profit. The committee has to decide on what to buy, how much to buy, how much to sell each item, and how much needs to be opened at a time. Ultimately hot dogs, bottle water, soda, coffee, and more were decided as the best for concessions. However, the most popular food was egg rolls, which sold out in a matter of hours. Not all vendors sold food, though: archery captain, senior Emily Yang, was able to set up a spot to sell pieces from her jewelry business that’s her senior project.

At tournaments, each archery signs up for an hour-long shooting time, called a flight. In each flight, archers have one practice shot and three scored shots at both ten and 15 yards. An archery tour-



Emily Yang

The OWL archery team shooting on February 23rd (above), the awards table at the competition they hosted (below).

namment is a competitive, yet fun environment. Everyone is competing against everyone else, so it can be tense, but “coaches try to keep it fun and light,” said archery captain senior Donald Post. “It’s a pretty serious environment but it’s also pretty laid back.” Archery culture overall is competitive but also supportive.

Score cards are a very important part of a tournament. It takes volunteers to take all

550 score cards. How the score cards get put on the NASP website is through a machine connected to a computer with data link. Tim had helped with the 550 score card throughout the many hours of flight times.

Money from the tournament goes to travel fees for the trip to the National tournament in Kentucky that OWL’s archery team attends every three years. Their next trip is scheduled for 2020.

Southern California dreaming

Patti Hosfield, OWL’s new math teacher, talks USC, The Price is Right and her favorite pastimes

Ella Pratt
Staff Writer

It’s hard to miss Patti Hosfield’s University of Southern California memorabilia, but you wouldn’t know that her claim to fame is that she helped to calculate the prices on The Price Is Right during her time in California.

Patti graduated from Hopkins High School before making her way to warmer weather at USC. While at college, Patti made many friends, one of them being the granddaughter of Bob Barker’s hairdresser. Patti would sit in the green room once a week during the

taping of the show, usually sitting at the table where the staff complete and release the calculations. Sometimes, she would help the staff if needed.

Patti originally went to college to study to become an actuary. However, after tutoring the cast of the Mighty Ducks, a 90s film about a hockey team, and many of her friends, she was told she should be a math teacher. She listened. After graduating from USC, Patti made her way back to Minnesota and has been teaching here at various schools for 28 years. Before coming to OWL, Patti taught at Minneapolis

Community and Technical College for 6 years, and taught remedial math courses.

Now that she’s gotten used to OWL, Patti says she enjoys “getting to know the students outside of class, the exciting camping trips and field trips help make that possible.” Patti likes working with teenagers because of their energy, has two teenagers of her own.

After school, Patti’s 9th grade son often has basketball games and Patti has gone to every single one. Patti’s daughter is a high school senior and is hoping to go to Stanford next year. While her kids are busy,

Patti has “factor night Friday” to keep up with her math. When Patti and her two kids go out they often go ice skating or play tennis. She also enjoys watching movies with her dog, and occasionally seeing her cat, named Mama Phil.



Kate Moe

Patti poses with a trophy in her classroom.

Ian Brooks competes as only boy

Synchro swimmer breaks gender barriers

Zoe Campion
Staff Writer

Synchronized swimming is a sport with routines, dance elements, swimming, music, and lots of twists and lifts. But it lacks one thing.

Boys.

Eighth grader Ian Brooks is the only boy in the state to do synchronized swimming and one of two or three in the whole country. He competes for the Saint Paul Stars and is on the B team. This is his second year doing synchronized swimming, synchro for short. Ian decided to join the team after trying an introductory camp, where he fell in love with the sport. When he first started, he competed separately in mixed duet, but now Ian’s just in general events because he would have won everything

by default since there are no other boys.

Throughout the world, synchro is a predominantly female sport. Although it originated for only males in the late 1800s, men were banned from competing beginning in the early 1900s. To this day, men are still not allowed to compete in the Olympics. In 2015, the International Swimming Federation (FINA) introduced two mixed pair events to the World Aquatic Championships, allowing men to compete for the first time.

As one may guess, being the only boy on the pool deck can definitely draw some strange glances from spectators and competitors alike. Ian says that “most of the time I can make eye contact with anyone in a room at a meet within like a



Ian Brooks

Ian performing with his team.

few seconds because they’re constantly glancing over at me.” People also ask him questions about what it’s like and talk behind his back, according to teammates.

Along with extra attention, Ian can also get some hate. Some people think that he should quit doing synchro,

while others think he is a creep for being on a team with a bunch of girls. But really, what can he do? “Well, there are zero male synchro teams, I think there’s one in Europe, one male synchronized swimming team. That’s it. In the entire world. It’s like what do you expect?” he says.

Synchro, 6

She Kills Monsters!

The popular girl turns to D & D as grief therapy

Hazel Carroll
Staff Writer

Monsters, magic, insane fight sequences, cool effects, some mild language and it's all wrapped up in a funny and heartfelt story about a girl who wants to know her dead sister. It's *She Kills Monsters*, and it's this year's spring play.

She Kills Monsters follows senior Agnes Evans, a popular and mainstream senior who makes the unlikely choice to playing *Dungeons and Dragons* as a way to connect with the sister she has lost.

"Throughout the show Agnes learns things about her sister that challenge her own beliefs," says Rebekah Rentzel, who is in charge of directing the show, "and I think that it's good for kids to see what it's like to challenge your own beliefs and learn more about who your family is."

It begins when Tilly dies in a car accident one day after

school during her junior year. The two sisters were nothing alike, Agnes prefers to stick to things like boys and cheerleading, whereas Tilly was more geeky and more into things like fighting dragons and role playing games. Some time after her death, Agnes discovers a module for the game *Dungeons and Dragons* in Tilly's locker. With the help of a local game store employee, Agnes begins to meet the sister she never truly knew.

"I picked this show because it deals a lot with facing your inner demons and your inner monsters," Rebekah says, "I also think it's important because it's a new play and it's written by a Vietnamese-American playwright, and I think the more stories we are telling by people of color the better our world is right now. Plus new plays are super fun!"

But there is one thing you should know about *She Kills*

Monsters, "I'd say this play is definitely aimed at middle schoolers and high schoolers. It's a little more on the mature side," Rebekah warns, "so overall, little violence, little swearing, little adult themes.



7th grader Mira Iwaszek rehersing for her role as Tilly.

Kate Moe

It's good for middle and high schoolers, but maybe think for a second about bringing your five year old."

She Kills Monsters will open next month and will run April 24, 25, and 26 in the OWL auditorium.

Money Crew!

The inside scoop on how Tien's crew found their groove

Isabella Graziani
Staff Writer

In the past year Tien's Money crew has quickly gained recognition. Weather it be their unique mascot or that you need a pass to visit, the Money crew has put itself on the OWL map. This article aims to investigate further into the enigma that is the secluded crew in the corner room on the 3rd floor.

Science teacher Tien Dang is a relatively new addition to OWL's faculty, first joining the school for the 2014-15 school year, making this his 5th year. As a former member of Tien's crew I can remember when the crew went by a different name; 'Tien's Turtles'. Like many crews we had been sucked into the animal-mascot fad. As it turns out alliteration isn't the only way to create a catchy brand. That was back in 2014 and Tien's crew has evolved a lot since then.

According to Tien the best part of their crew is the numerous potlucks they host. They also won the infamous ORAKA competition a few years back. "The crew members seem to connect with each other a lot better than in previous years," said Tien,

who rated his crew a seven out of ten and said "this year, but last year is different." However, seven out of ten does not appear to be the unanimous rating. "What? Only a seven?" said 10th grader Lachlan Cotner

But why the 'Money crew'? Apparently the unique mascot was born out of a joke a former crew member made. Although no one seems to remember exactly what the joke was Tien said "I don't remember, something very funny and we decided, hey, to just be the money crew... and the food crew."

But what does the the rest of the school think? "I think it's just a really hilarious name. I honestly have no idea what goes on in there, I can't even begin to imagine," said 10th grader Freya Ebbesen. Despite admittedly not knowing much about the crew she rated it seven out of ten, as did fellow 10th grader Lily Hennessee.

So, it turns out Tien's Money crew is a pretty solid group. According to Tien their future plans include more potlucks and getting t-shirts made. So far they have the logo designed but are still fundraising to print the t-shirts.



Purple Press Staff

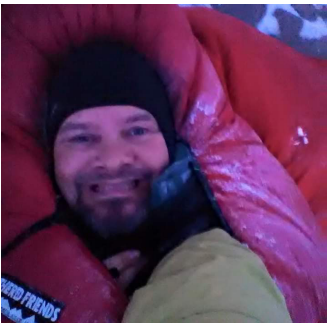
Tien's Money crew.

Edric, 1 sleeping bag gets. "The worst part is if you use a mummy sleeping bag, and you pull the hood over your head so there's just a small hole that you breathe through, and the frost can grow into giant crystals over the hole that fall on you, so it feels like it's snowing," He said, "Last time I wrapped a fleece jacket around my head, and the fleece got damp but I didn't get frost falling on my face."

Edric started getting into camping and being in nature when he was in 20s. He started hiking and winter camping in northern Minnesota, and he really enjoyed how peaceful and beautiful it was in the winter. "I really love winter in general. This month some people are like 'ugh' but I'm like yes! More snow and more cold," said Edric, "That led me to the idea, how cold of weather can I

actually do this in?"

He has been sleeping outside on the coldest night of the year for about 20 years by himself, and although his daughter has said that she wanted to join him, she is only eight and got too cold. When asked about his inspiration, Edric said "I'm a person who tries to really understand human potential, and how far I can push myself in situations I might be uncomfortable in. It's really fun for me."



Edric Lysne

Edric braving the cold in his sleeping bag.

Polar vortex hits Minnesota hard

A look behind the causes and effects of Midwest's freezing weather

José Daniel Batres-Pearson
Staff Writer

Ever wonder what people do when they wake up bright and early in the morning to find their entire yard so snowy they can't go outside unless it's urgent?

They have been swept up in a Polar Vortex, a low-air-pressure system that sits either near the North Pole or the South Pole. When it's summertime,

the vortex is weak. When it's winter, the vortex strengthens and expands either north or south, leading to outbreaks of cold temperatures in the northern hemisphere, such as the deep freeze in January.

A new study says that Arctic warming is releasing ocean energy that causes the polar vortex over the Arctic to weaken. This in turn has been sending loose cold polar air southward

more often, causing the increasingly more frequent cold snaps in the Midwest. Influences from the Polar Vortex include cancelled school days, train and flight cancellations, intense wheel slippage, oceans of snow covering cornfields, and ice dams accumulating on the gutters of houses.

According to Mashable, people are spreading the wild effects of the polar vortex in

their own hometowns on Twitter. One resident, Kori Zenz, tweeted on January 29 2019, "Currently it's -21 with a wind chill of -42 at my house. Not a whole lot to do outside during a Polar Vortex but fill balloons with food coloring & water to see what happens." Another one, Jeff Anderson, posted a photo of his bundled-up dog captioned "Has not moved since being dressed to go out." BBC News reported on February 1 2019 that "at least 21 people have died in one of the worst cold snaps to hit the US Midwest in decades."

Given that the Midwest was hit by a similar cold snap last year, coupled with the fact that the Midwest gets super frosty in the winter, this trend is likely to happen again next year. If next year's chill is worse than this year, more lives could be at danger and more schools could have more snow days. As stated by the recent studies, climate change is responsible for the cold snaps that have become more and more frequent by the year.



Leo Bickelhaupt

A bunny puffs up its fur to survive the polar vortex in Leo's backyard.

The problem with 3rd lunch

"They haven't anticipated the need of Italian Dunkers"

Emilie McCormick
Staff Writer

The OWL cafeteria could be the epitome of the word 'options'. Lunch options include two different options for the main course, with an alternative for students with allergies or sensitivities, a wide array of fruits and vegetables in the salad bar, milk choices for nearly every diet, and a multitude of sauces and cheeses at the condiment table.

This, however, isn't true for all lunches. When supplies run dry, it is the students who rely on third lunch for their sustenance, who are hurt.

There is a disheartening moment when you have finally made it to the front of the lunch line and you watch as the last of the food is being scraped up, hoping the decidedly better option, ends up on your plate. 12th grader, Kathryn Brazel-Galde, says, "I don't understand why over the past four years they haven't anticipated the need of Italian dunkers," suggesting the school supply more Italian dunkers than the other option.

Maggie Morris, however, disagrees. For her she hasn't experienced trouble with the main course options as much

as she has with the salad bar. She has first hand views of what leads to scarcity problems, saying, "Whenever I have first lunch people take like all of the croutons." Also saying she feels like "half the time it's running low," by third lunch.

Nutrition specialist, Lori Taube, explained the complexity of the lunch time situation. She explained how it is sometimes difficult to estimate food amounts, trying to find a balance between not having enough food and wasting copious amounts, which is why the last group of students in

third lunch tend to fall victim to scarcity. Italian dunker day is no exception to this. Lori explained it is easily the most popular lunch choice, with students she's never seen before coming out for lunch, begging the question, how do you account for that?

She also explained that the situation has definitely improved over the years, saying they used to have to cook the food in ovens upstairs and whatever they had, they had.

While it is a tragedy for the hungry third lunch-ers, we can simply hope for better circumstances in the future.

Senior Spotlight

Candace Alexander



How many years have you been at OWL?
For three years.

What are your plans for next year?
Ah jeez, I don't know. Prolly get bank.

What was your favorite class in high school?
English because of all the different teachers.

What extracurriculars are you involved in?
I'm a part of GSA.

What was your favorite fieldwork trip you've been on? And why?
Camp Du Nord because I got to jump in the lake.

What's your favorite book, movie, or TV show?
My favorite TV show is Trailer Park Boys!

If you had a walk up song what would it be?
Highway To Hell by AC/DC

That One Little Kid

Antonio Cervantes

How tall are you?
4'11"

Who's your favorite senior?
Angelo

Where do you think you're going to college?
I want to go to the Netherlands!

What's the weirdest thing about OWL?
The community meetings

What's your favorite school lunch?
Orange chicken

What elementary school did you come from?
Adams

What's your favorite class?
Gym



OWL in pictures

Student teachers teaching Q3 classes!

Student teachers Amber, Heather, Emily, Nick learning their trade in Nora, Megan, Katie and Kevin's classes.



“Well, I could keep doing this”: An interview with Tim



Purple Press staff photo
Tim with his crew member senior Sawyer Neske.

OWL's Spanish teacher talks about teaching immigrant students, coming from a long line of teachers, and the importance of cultural understanding.

Nik Logue
Staff Writer

So you've been at OWL for over 20 years, and you've established yourself as OWL's central coordinator. Has that inspired a greater sense of responsibility in you as a person?

Yeah, I think so. Working at this place, your job can change and evolve depending on a lot of things, and some of it is what you're interested in and what's going on from year to year. So my job is entirely different than it was when I first came—it has some similarities—but it continues to change and evolve. I think that's partly why teachers tend to stay around here for a long time, because it's sort of like having several different jobs over the course of a few years, and it doesn't get boring.

And was that sense of responsibility always there?

Yeah, but I think...it's changed as the needs have risen. I would say something like “well, I could do something like that, I could dig in on that.” So it's just kind of a gradual process.

Do you believe that teachers should be learning from their students as well as vice-versa?

Oh for sure! I love that question. Yes, that's definitely my central belief in school, and I think that's also what keeps this job interesting to me. My first job I had was great; it was a really good school and I liked the kids, but I didn't really learn much. And after three years, I was sort of like, “well, I could keep doing this, but I'm not really learning much.” So I think, coming here, is a place where I'm constantly learning from the students, from the other teachers, and from many other people. There's constant-

ly things to get better at and to learn about.

Is that something lacking in the traditional education system?

It can be. I think that... one of the core principles of EL schools is the having of wonderful ideas and having students take leadership of their learning. And if you're open to that idea, that can lead to really cool things happening if you're listening to what kids say and try to incorporate those ideas.

Today, something you emphasize in your Spanish classes is the importance of having an understanding of different cultures. What made you take that approach?

Well I think... when I first started teaching... I wasn't going to be a teacher at first. My whole family was full of teachers, both my parents, my grandparents, my aunt and uncle, my brother, all teachers. So I didn't want to do that, but I had gotten very interested in studying Spanish and learning about different Latin-American cultures. So through a bunch of traveling experiences, I ended up realizing that teaching was a good option for me with the different things I was interested in. My first job here was working as an ELL teacher, so I was working with kids that were newer to the United States, and their families were immigrants, and really thinking of how to bridge those cultures. But yeah, I think it's super important. And one of the main advantages people have of going to Saint Paul Public Schools is the understanding of other cultures, and we can use that through Spanish class but also in other areas too.

Tim, 5



Reviews ‘n’ stuff



Do new names make cookies taste better?

From classic Thin Mints, to new fangled S’mores, get the lowdown on the 2019 Girl Scout cookies

Lily Hennessee
Staff Writer

They’re tasty, they come in many flavors, and they’re all the rage: Girl Scout cookies.

The Girl Scouts of America have been fundraising by selling cookies during the Winter for over 100 years, and for some, “cookie season” is now one of the most anticipated times of the year. Whether you prefer chocolate, caramel, mint, or some other flavor, it’s more than likely that there’s a Girl Scout cookie out there for you. This year’s flavors that are sold at OWL include: S’mores, Thin Mints, Caramel deLites, Peanut Butter Patties, Peanut Butter Sandwiches, Shortbread, Lemonades, and Thanks-A-Lots. There are a

few gluten free flavors, but unfortunately they aren’t sold at our school. The cost this year comes up to five dollars a box.

While the commencement of cookie season is typically one of the most joy inducing times at school, this year has brought some controversial opinions regarding price and quality. Social Studies teacher Luke Turvold claims, “The quality and quantity have gone down, but the prices have gone up.” This seems to be a popular opinion among students as well, with many complaining about the raised prices. While some students may be willing to look past the prices, others are unimpressed with the five dollar charge and don’t think it seems to reflect the actual

quality of the cookies.

Another common area of dissatisfaction for this years cookies are the names. What happened to the beloved Samoas and Do-Si-Dos? You may have noticed a change in many of the cookies names, with them being much more bland and boring now, like “Peanut Butter Sandwiches.” Bleh. All of this has to do with Twin Cities Girl Scouts switching bakeries back in 2016. Ever since the switch, many have argued that the cookies simply don’t taste as good, and the iconic names are definitely missed.

Regardless of the raised prices and reportedly decreasing quality, I decided it was still necessary to review Amer-

ica’s most popular cookies. Forty dollars later, I had tried every single flavor.

I started off with trying one of the most popular new flavors, S’mores, which was introduced in 2017. Ever since the Girl Scout’s take on the classic campfire treat was announced, I’ve heard lots of hype surrounding the cookie. I was skeptical of how well a s’more could be replicated in a cookie, but naturally, I was pretty excited to see if the cookie lived up to the expectations. After trying it for myself, I’m sad to say that I was severely let down. I wished for the cookie to take me back to nights around a campfire singing songs and making s’mores, but all I was reminded of

was a grocery store chocolate covered graham cracker. Now don’t get me wrong, it didn’t taste awful, it just tasted nothing like a real s’more. The cookie really lacked the marshmallow component, which is obviously the most important part of a s’more. Overall, I’m disappointed but not surprised with the S’mores cookie.

After the disappointing results of the S’mores cookie, I wanted to go for something that I knew would be much better: Thin Mints. Thin Mints have historically been one of my favorite Girl Scout cookies, and are definitely considered “top tier” among many customers. After trying one of this years thin mints, I

Cookies, 6



Angelo’s letter to NASA

Angelo Carvale
Staff Writer

Dear NASA,

Please take the following seriously.

Space. The final frontier. It’s cold, it’s dark, and there’s nothing to help you from floating into the infinite darkness and dying. Can you imagine somewhere more splendid? Now, let’s look at some facts to back up my words. According to cosmetologist George Lucas, space is everywhere and everything. But the best parts of space are way way up in the sky, so far up that the sky gets black and the swirly clouds make the earth look like a tall latte from Amore. This part is where there are (probably) aliens, you can float around for the rest of your life, and you can even go to the moon up there!

As previously established, this place is dang cool. But something troubling has recently come to my attention. You guys, NASA, make it waaay too hard for people to enjoy the black floaty stuff in the sky. You’re making people do a thousand push ups, fly in cars that go in circles for hours, and just a bunch

a weird stuff nobody understands. And not only that, but these guys have to go to school for like, fifty years to make it as an astronaut. Well, Mr. NASA, to that I say, bring it on. I am going to prove to you that I’m a healthy and wealthy candidate for one of your super missions. And so, without further adieu, let’s get into why I should be aboard the next shuttle to Spaceland.

Number one: Strong. Now, one of the main requirements people know about astronauts are that they have to be really really fit. This is probably in case they have to lift up the spacecraft to give it a headstart off the moon or something. But this huge requirement sparks my biggest question: Why would one have to be so strong in a place with zero gravity? My assumption is that every astronaut has lied to the public and is hiding something about what’s out there in space, as anyone might assume. For example there really are aliens out there, and they judge which species is superior by arm wrestling tournaments. Whichever lie the astronauts have been telling us, it won’t matter, because I’ll be

prepared. That’s right, ladies and gentlemen, you’ve heard the rumors and the rumors are true. To this day I am still the undefeated arm wrestling champion of my school bus in the fifth grade. And also I do push ups sometimes. These experiences weren’t easy, but I believe that through these tough times, I have been put through the necessary training. The physical training that will prepare me for anything space will throw at me, I’ll be able to chuck it back with aplomb. We got biceps in the bag, now let’s move on.

Number second: Smarts. Second biggest requirement for astronauts are their brains they got. According to this website (made by a former astronaut), spaceman wannabes have to go to school for a minimum of four years in Engineering. I can only assume this could be for rebuilding any parts of the ship that explode, and we’d have to build back the rest of the ship really fast before all the space air gets in. And who better qualifies for a job in Engineering than a kid who took Engineering his sophomore year with Tien?

NASA, 6

Tim, 4

Going back to your whole family being teachers, what do you think you would have done if you hadn’t become a teacher?

Yeah...I’m not sure. I have a lot of interests, I studied a lot of film and video production, and history. But it very quickly became obvious to me that working in schools with kids is what I want to be doing. I think that was something I was very clearly drawn to, but it was until I was out of college that I figured that out.

And do you still have that thrill in seeing your students go from twelve year-olds all the way up to graduates?

Yeah, I think, again, that’s one



Purple Press Staff

Tim with his daughter Siena and wife Mary Beth.

of the things I love about this place is having those seven years with students and seeing how they evolve and change. When I talk to some of my friends who work at schools that are just middle schools or

just high schools, they don’t have that same connection or that same relationship that we get here, that’s one of the big pluses of being in a school like this.

National “emergency”

Shayla Brooks
Staff Writer

On February 15th, President Trump stood in front of the White House Rose Garden and declared a national emergency at our Southern Border. The emergency is entirely fabricated, and serves to bypass congress and gain funding for his promised border wall.

Since Trump declared the border a national emergency 16 states have sued, including Minnesota, and Congress is posed to nullify the deceleration. But what is the process for declaring a national emergency? Turns out, it’s surprisingly easy. All the president needs to do is sign an executive order. The National Emergency Act was passed in 1976, and gives the president far-reaching freedom. There is no definition of “emergency”, and presidents can declare one entirely at their own discretion. Since 1976, 58 national emergencies have been declared, 32 of which are still in effect. Emergencies can be repealed by Congress, and must be renewed after a year. Most often, National Emergencies are economic sanctions against other countries.

President Obama declared 12 emergencies as president, 11 of which were economic sanctions. The other was an influenza pandemic public health emergency. Every president since 1976 has enacted National Emergencies, but none have used it to fund a project that was previously rejected by the legislature. To put the situation in simple terms, it’s as though Trump is a teenager that wants to spend his parents’ money on a new pair of shoes. If his parents say no when he asks, but if he buys the shoes anyways, he’s going to be in much more trouble than if he never asked at all.

To declare a national emergency implies that things must be worse somehow than they were before, but the numbers clearly state that they are not.

In fact, illegal immigration has gone down from its peak in 2007. There were, in 2007, 6.9 million undocumented immigrants residing in the US. Now, 5.4 million undocumented immigrants live in the US, down 13% since 2007. Undocumented Immigrants overall make up only 3.3% of the US population. How, with numbers like that, could illegal immigration at our southern border be a national emergency? Even if immigration were somehow

published by CATO found that immigrants were much less likely to commit crimes overall compared to US natives, once immigration crimes are adjusted for.

Even if all these numbers were not true, as Mr Trump claims, is immigration such a bad thing? Are all humans not worth the same amount? If they are, we should be no more concerned about our own sibling than we are for someone fleeing violence in Mexico. I



US Customs and Border Protection

Trump discusses border wall prototypes in a on a visit to California.

“worse” doesn’t mean it’s an emergency. Just because your cold is worse today than it was yesterday doesn’t meant you call an ambulance. Furthermore, most undocumented immigrants simply overstay their visas rather than illegally crossing the border. They enter the country legally, not even crossing the border on land, and instead flying into the US. Attempting to solve immigration with a wall ignores the fact that a wall will not stop the majority of illegal immigration.

One reason for such concern about illegal immigration is the misperception (spread by those against immigration) that immigrants, legal or not, commit crimes at a higher rate than people born in the US. This is simply not true. A study

suggest we shift our focus from obsessing over keeping people out, to considering whether or not immigration is even such a bad thing. Accepting immigrants, so they don’t have to come to the US illegally, is going to increase happiness the most. Our standard of living might not decrease, but even if it does slightly because we take in immigrants and refugees, their standard of living will go up. Resources will be spread more evenly and overall happiness will increase.

It’s clear to me that the decision to declare a national emergency is wrong, not just because of the lack of emergency, but because of its selfish nature. I, for one, will be closely watching the upcoming Congressional vote.

Disney vs. Pixar: which is best?

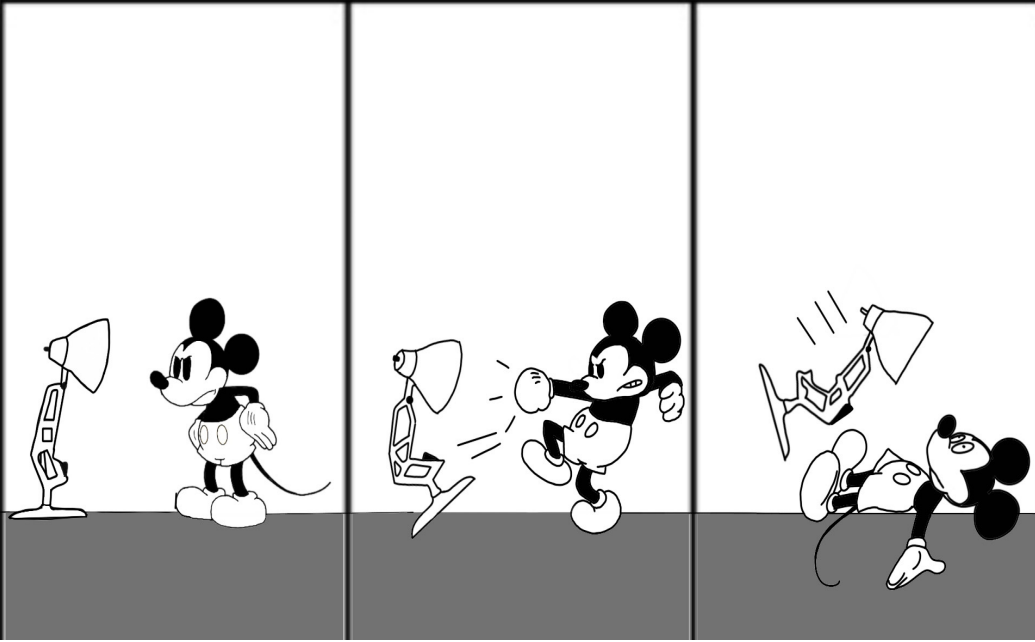
OWL community reveals the truth

Milani Dimayuga
Staff Writer

I asked teachers. I asked students. I asked the lunch ladies, the counselors, and I asked Dave. So now it's time

to settle some beef. When it comes down to it, who rules here at OWL? Disney or Pixar? Here's the thing, Pixar is awesome and Disney is iconic, but in terms of fan-favor-

ites and songs, Disney wins. I mean come on; The Lion King, Peter Pan, Moana, Mulan, Pinocchio, Dumbo, Jungle Book, and yes, even Frozen— you just can't beat Disney. They've



Synchro, 2

Ian recognizes that being the only boy comes with certain advantages and disadvantages. There is a certain novelty connected to being the only boy competing in the state, so this sometimes earns him higher scores. Ian says, "If I had a choice I'm not insanely competitive, so I'd be fine if I got lower scores and I didn't have to get flak from other people about it." There are also

some disadvantages, like not being as flexible as the other girls. Synchro has had an assumed girls only culture for a very long time. Ian has broken this barrier to be able to compete and do something that he loves. And he encourages other boys to join. He says, "The more people that can do a sport the better. It opens it up to larger group of people."

History Day, 1

Johnson High School auditorium. The adrenaline really kicked in when the history day staff walked onto the stage while rolling out a large table that holds the medals for the state qualifiers. The ceremony began in typical fashion: lots of screaming, as the NHD staff called out schools in the audience to take attendance. "OWL is a really enthusiastic group, which is awesome," says Helena. "Katie and Dan usually

have to tell us to tone it down." After that, a speaker went up to the podium to explain how proud the parents and teachers are of the students, whether they advance to state or not. Finally, the results of the competition were announced. There were tears of joy and tears of sadness, but all was resolved by taking pride in one's project, or buying another egg roll.

NASA, 5

That's right, nobody does. I made everything assigned and I passed that dang class with the grade of highest esteem: A beautiful C. Now I know what you're all thinking: "That was only one year of Engineering, you stupid idiot. You need four years, stupid." And to that I say, this was no regular "one" year of engineering. My mans Tien taught us the real secrets of the trade, all the essential stuff a spaceman would need to know. We made the car, which is basically just a spaceship that can't fly or go into space, so I basically can rebuild an entire spacecraft at this point. We made the house with the light switches, so I know all there is about putting together wires, meaning I'm pretty much the best electrician you got. I made other stuff, stuff I'll tell you about in my job interview I just scheduled ;). But in conclusion, I got the brains for the operation. Let's check out the next requirement.

been around the longest and have perfected their movies to their ultimate potential. At least, in terms of the storyline. A lot of old Disney movies are culturally insensitive and controversial, but they've gotten better in recent years.

Pixar's top-grossing movie is Incredibles 2, which raked in \$1.005 billion dollars a world-wide. Disney owns Lucasfilms, the production company that produced Star Wars so Disney's top-grossing movie is Star Wars: The Force Awakens, who's highly anticipated release brought in a whopping \$2.068 billion. A lot of Pixar movies have been produced in collaboration with Disney and Pixar has released some of their best movies through Disney, Pixar has made a name for themselves in pop-culture. Pixar created Toy Story, A Bug's Life, Monsters Inc., Finding Nemo, The Incredibles, Cars, Ratatouille, Wall-E,

Up, and Brave, and I could go on, but I have to get to what exactly makes these movies to great.

What makes Disney so memorable is their consistency and nostalgia. Disney has their songs and plot lines down to a T, with memorable and relatable characters that pull on your freaking heart-strings. From the older princess movies to the live action films, Disney has been able to integrate their movies into pop culture and every retail store for the next year after the movies release. Disney's best movies include Aladdin, Hercules (which has hands down the best soundtrack of any movie ever), The Lion King, Moana, and Mulan.

However, Pixar has to be the best between the two. Like, c'mon. Toy story was produced by Pixar and is one of the most iconic movies in of our generation. Pixar has

flawless animation and knows how to keep their audience interested. Whenever a Pixar movie comes out, adults can take their kids and even the adults enjoy it and dont have to sit through Ariel singing her heart out.

Earlier this month, I asked everyone to fill out a form of Schoology to see how it breaks down in terms of our favorites movies. I also asked around school. Some teachers, like Amber, liked Disney and others, like Nora, liked Pixar because "Pixar is just better because they're more [ahead of the game] than Disney."

If you took the survey on schoology, you should know that in the end, most of us (67.8% of us) prefer Pixar over Disney. And our favorite movie? The Incredibles. So that settles it. In our school, only Pixar rules.



Jonas Kammeyer-Mueller

Angelo, where he belongs.

vampire because of his pointy teeth and pale skin. Also don't tell anybody I said that.

Well there you go, Mr. and Mrs. NASA, my most convincing piece yet. I got the strong boy arms, the smart brains, and the sweet qualities inside my heart that all make me eligible for a joyride in the SS Moon Car. Attached to this let-

ter is my resume, my MySpace profile for further contact, and a signed picture for your Hall of Fame wall. I'm looking forward to working with you all, I believe you'll find it to be an astonishing experience.

Sincerely and with muchos love,
Angelo Carvale

Cookies, 5



was very pleased, as predicted. I'm not even a huge fan of mint as a flavor in general, yet these cookies somehow always exceed my expectations. The thin chocolate/mint layer on the outside easily melts in your mouth, while the chocolate cookie inside brings the perfect amount of satisfying crunch. Another great aspect of this box of cookies is the amount. Many flavors come in plastic trays, with only 15 cookies. However, thin mints come in sleeves, with 32 cookies per box, which is clearly a much better deal for the same price. For my final verdict, I'd say that Thin Mints are definitely top 3, if not my favorite Girl Scout cookie.

Next up, I decided to take a stab at the peanut butter cookies. Girl Scouts offers two peanut butter cookies: Peanut Butter Patties and Peanut Butter Sandwiches. Although these names sound pretty similar, they are two drastically different cookies. I'm usually down for anything with peanut butter, but these cookies honestly didn't do much for me. Starting with the Peanut Butter Patties, I was not too excited to try them. In the past they've been one of my least favorite cookies, and this year was no exception. I think they taste fine, but in my opinion the chocolate layer on the outside tastes like plastic. The richness of the cookie also makes it unbearable for me to have more than one or two without downing a whole water bottle. I know these are one of the most popular Girl Scout cookies, but I personally just don't enjoy them. Moving on to Peanut Butter Sandwiches, I enjoyed these cookies a lot more. Although they are one of the least popular cookies, I think the quality is slightly better than the Patties. The

crunch of the outer cookies balances well with the creamy peanut butter inside, making for a pretty tasty cookie. The sandwich cookie actually reminded me of an off brand and less good Nutter Butter, which only costs \$3.79. So really, my only problem with the Peanut Butter Sandwiches are that they are way overpriced.

After taking a gamble with the peanut butter cookies, I decided to play it as safe as I possibly could, with the most boring Girl Scout cookie to exist: Shortbreads. I didn't have much of an opinion going into my taste test with the classic cookie, so I was ready to either be blown away or disappointed. Honestly, I experienced neither of these emotions. I think the shortbread cookie tastes good, and the crunchy texture is pleasing. However, it's just a shortbread cookie. There's not much you can do with a cookie that's whole purpose is to be plain. Overall, I have nothing bad to say about the Shortbreads, but I probably don't see myself spending five dollars on a box of them in the future. However, it's a

different story with Thanks-A-Lots. These are literally the same exact cookies, just in a different shape and with chocolate on the bottom. While I considered the plain shortbreads to be boring and plain, the rich fudge at the bottom of the Thanks-A-Lots really takes the cookie to a whole new level. The smooth chocolate perfectly melded with the crunchy shortbread, creating a beautiful symphony of flavors in my mouth. Although they're simple, I was pleasantly surprised with these cookies, and they might just be one of my new favorites.

Next up was the cookie I was definitely least excited to try: Lemonades. For starters, I don't care for lemon flavored sweets in general, and they don't seem to be wildly popular either. I didn't think it was possible for me to actually despise a cookie, but Lemonades changed that for me. You would expect a bright burst of citrus flavor when you bite into the cookie, but all I was left with was an aftertaste of disappointment. The flavor is extremely underwhelming,

with only a slight hint of lemon. I'm not even a lemon person, yet I'm still left wishing for more tangy lemon flavor in this cookie. My other main problem is with the texture. The frosting on the bottom of the cookie doesn't melt smoothly, it just feels like wax coating your entire mouth. I didn't have high hopes at all coming into this tasting, but I never could've expected the severe disgust I was about to experience. Overall, I would say this is by far my least favorite Girl Scout cookie.

For the last cookie tasting, I decided to end with a bang. Caramel deLites are one the most popular yet controversial Girl Scout cookies. Some customers love the coconut and caramel combo, while others despise the thought of even putting coconut on a cookie. After sampling a Caramel deLite for myself, I can confidently say that whoever thought of this cookie is a genius. It has THREE different textures, making for an absolute texture party in your mouth. The smooth chocolate coating on the bottom perfect-

ly compliments the crunchy center cookie, and these both work together to bring out the flaky and chewy caramel covered coconut. I think these cookies taste the best out of all the Girl Scout cookies, and my only complaint would have to be the quantity. There are only 15 cookies in a box, which is disappointing considering the outstanding flavor. However, looking past the quantity issue, my final verdict is that Caramel deLites are the best Girl Scout cookie.

In the end, sampling all eight flavors of 2019 Girl Scout cookies was well worth 40 dollars. Although I think that these cookies are overpriced, I would definitely do this again next year, especially considering that there will likely be new flavors in the near future. Cookie season will be dearly missed by many in the coming months, but in the meantime, let's just hope that cookie prices don't get raised by another dollar next year.