

# PURPLE PRESS

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## The OWL clan

*Simon Dungan-Seaver*  
Staff Reporter

A peaceful village sits in the middle of a clearing. Suddenly, buff midgets with swords charge out of the trees. As the village's defenses activate, a new threat looms. Giants, smashing through the south wall towards the village's anti-air cannons. With the defenses destroyed, skeletons in hot air balloons finish off the village with a ruthless bombardment of explosives. All of this, happening in the name of school spirit at OWL.

That's right, our school plays Clash of Clans. For the past year and a half, math teacher Tom Totushek has been pestered by 12th grader Jaymes Jackson to create an OWL clan. Finally, this Halloween, Tom started playing the game. Soon after, the OWL clan was created.

Clash of Clans is a multiplayer game in which each player has a village. Their village is their home base in the world. Players train different types of units, such as Barbarians, Archers, Giants, and Wizards. Players also have to defend their village from attack.

They use different strategies to defend their village, such as routing the enemies onto set paths, anti-air defenses to keep away deadly attacks from above, and also hidden traps around their village. Players can attack other villages to obtain resources to build better units and improve their defenses and refineries. Most players join or create a clan, which is made up of multiple players sharing units and fighting together.

The OWL clan is made up of 14

*Clash of Clans Continued on page 12*

## Casper Focus lacking focus

*Grace Bellamy*  
Staff Reporter

You get to class just as the bell rings, and realize that you're still stuck in the IXL app. You have Social Studies next, and History Day is in full swing, so you need to be working on it. Your teacher will have to unlock you. . . if they're not too busy helping the other students.

Teachers have been having difficulties figuring out Casper Focus, an app that allows teachers to lock students into an app that they should be focusing on. Students have been complaining about the app.

Casper Focus was created for teachers by JAMF software to be able to integrate iPads into their classrooms. "With Casper Focus, distractions are no longer an issue," said JAMF Software.

*Casper Focus Continued on page 4*



Damon exploring his new-found powers with Casper

## History Day is coming

*Theo Sage-Martinson*  
Staff Reporter

If you are very competitive, have a year to waste, and like annotated bibliographies, get ready for History Day. "Imagine a vacuum with red hot spikes on the insides instead of sucking up dust it sucks your life," said Sam Dale-Gau, 9th grader, summing up how History Day affects one's life.

Yes, it has started, History Day has started, not full on, of course, but it has begun. If you listen hard enough you can hear the premature whispers of project ideas. Only a few people are choosing not to ignore the beast of History Day staring them down. Jessica Hobson, our History Day staff member, has already made an appearance in front of the 7th grade to kick off History Day.

The topic this year is Leadership and Legacy, so refrain from saying those words in the same sentence unless you want to enter a conversation about History Day. Watch out, the History Day bug is out there.

*History Day Continued on page 6*

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# OPEN NEWS

## We see you; you get stuff

*Atquetzali Quiroz*

*Staff Reporter*

Imagine getting a free OWL sweater and t-shirt: well now you can! All you have to do is be a good kid to get an OWL ticket, which gets you one step closer to different prizes!

Owl tickets were first handed out by teachers on September 15 and 16. If a teacher is walking by in the hallway or classroom and sees you doing or showing one of the OWL HOWLS (integrity, stewardship, responsibility, collaboration and perseverance) they give you an OWL ticket.

Specific numbers of tickets can get you different prizes. 1 ticket = a pencil, 2 tickets = a folder, 3 tickets = a notebook, 5 tickets = a teacher trading card, 50 tickets = an OWL tee-shirt, 70 tickets = an OWL sweater.

Overall, teachers seem to like the OWL tickets. Math teacher, Damon Liberatore said "I use them to reward students for various activities. I give them out when they perform a HOWL, cleaning up, helping others, doing what's right, etc."

Although some teachers hand out a lot of tickets others don't.

*We See You Continued on page 12*



Bridget awarding a student with an OWL ticket

## Fiona brings energy

*Athena Bolton-Steiner*

*Staff Reporter*

If you got to choose one superpower, what would you chose? If you agree with our new Spanish 1 and 2 teacher Fiona Sheridan-McIver, it's teletransportarse, or teleporting!

Fiona loves traveling! "I like to go on adventures and explore new places, both in the cities here and out hiking and camping in na-

ture." She has traveled to Spain, but she wants to travel to more Spanish speaking countries.

In addition to travel, Fiona enjoys running (although she currently has a knee injury), making jewelry, and cooking new foods from all kinds of cuisines. Her favorite book is *The Last of the Mohicans* by James Fenimore

*Fiona Continued on page 3*

# Anime club features cool videos, snacks

Pang Houa Yang  
Staff Reporter

Do you like watching anime drawing, and hanging out with other anime fans?

“Well you’re in luck because OWL has an anime club that you can watch anime and draw whatever you like and not get in trouble. There’s also snacks, but you have to clean up after yourself.”

The club was formed in October 2014 by some of our OWL students. Claire Nixdorf, 9th grader and Jack Nelson, 9th grader first formed the club it’s been meeting every Monday in Damon’s classroom from 2-4pm.

Anime is short for animation which is a Japanese style of art that was created to entertain people all over the world. Anime movies focus on Japan in the past and present.

Anime is a realized drawing which the author created from their imagination and they can make it as cute and as creative as they wanted. Hair in anime is often unnaturally lively and colorful or uniquely styled. Body proportions of human anime characters tend to

accurately reflect the body of the human body in reality. History can be turned into animation also.

Naruto, Pokemon, Bleach, One Piece, Fairy Tail and Inuyasha are good examples of Japanese anime movies that are very popular around the world and they have been translated in a lot of languages.

“The animation is awesome and I like going to anime conventions and it’s a cool thing to do,” said 9th grader Claire Nixdorf.

Claire and Jack both planned everything out then shared it to everyone else. They even have a list of anime to watch and then chose which one is appropriate for their younger members to watch.

“The music and soundtrack is cool and the fighting scenes,” said Matteo Vera, 9th grader. “I like how Claire tells us what to do,” said Anable Weiland, 6th grader, “I also like how they draw the anime.”

“We’ve gotten to a pretty good club now,” said Max Gavland, 6th grader, “I like action and funny sto

*Anime Continued on page 12*

*Fiona from page 2*

Cooper. Her favorite colors are blue and green. Her favorite bands are Blue Scholars, Harvey Danger, and La Casa Azul.

Fiona grew up in Seattle, Washington, where she went to three elementary schools and learned Spanish starting in kindergarten. She went to Kellogg middle school and Shorecrest high school, where she claimed the title “Captain of the swim team.” For college she went across the country to Maine for her bachelor’s degree at Colby College.

During college she went to Spain for a year to study Spanish. “I didn’t originally want to be a teacher, but after studying abroad in Spain during college, I decided I wanted to move back there after I graduated. I found a job teaching English in an elementary school and while I was working there, I fell in love with teaching and decided that I eventually wanted to move back to the US and teach here.” She came to Minnesota to get her Master’s degree at Hamline University.

Fiona first taught English at a bilingual elementary school in Móstoles, Spain, called CEIP Alfonso Rodríguez Castelao. Then she taught Spanish at Achieve Language Academy for three years. After that, she came



Fiona working in-depth with students

to OWL, and currently teaches Spanish 1 and 2.

Fiona is enjoying her first year in our community. “I like the people and how friendly and welcoming everyone has been,” she says. Our new active teacher describes her teaching style as “Energetic! I teach through comprehensible input and story-asking, which allows

students to get meaningful, comprehensible repetitions of target vocabulary so they can actually remember words and understand how to use them in context.” “I think Fiona is an outstanding addition,” says Tim



# Fraquetball season underway

*Tou Xai Muoa*  
*Staff Reporter*

It's game point on the court, and the ball is smacked. Time is running out. Chua goes behind the line to serve the ball. He throws it up and hits it with his paddle. The ball flies through the air and Tom blocks it. The game goes on...

Fraquetball is a fun, challenging, and competitive game created by students at OWL in 2003. Fraquetball takes place during lunch and has scheduled games everyday. Games are two versus two, go up to 7 points and you must win by two. Games can be fun or challenging depending on who your opponents are and how skilled you are. There are commissioners who keep watch on the games as they are played and keep score.

Math teacher, Tom Totushek has been a part of the Fraquetball competition for as long as its been there. He's not just a player in this game, this is where he is a champion. This year Tom and his new partner, Math teacher Damon Liberatore, AlphaNumericals, feel confident about this year's tournament. Last year Tom's partner was then senior Derrick Le-Tran and together they won the 2014 championship.

The teams in this year's in first lunch will have

to go up against Tom and Damon at least once but as Tom said "The real goal is to not overlook any team just because they might be new." Tom is a competitor but also has a lot of background knowledge of this game's history.

Senior Koua Yang, current fraquetball commissioner, feels that AlphaNumericals, Tom and Damon, and The Flying Pickles, 11th graders Chua Moua and Daniel Le-Tran, are two very competitive teams. He said The Flying Pickles and Los Geezers (program coordinator Tim Leone-Getten and English teacher Leo Bickelhaupt) have a good chance in this year's tournament.

Tim and Leo have been playing the game since it started. They won the championship in 2011 and 2013. This year they are seeking to regain the title. They recently lost to "King Loozer" (Koua and senior Peter Moua) 8-6 in a close contest.

"Los Geezers are gonna bring their A game everyday!" said Tim, looking ahead to the rest of the season.

If you are in Fraquetball this year, be prepared to fight your way through some of these teams.

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## *Casper Focus from page 1*

Casper Focus lets teachers lock students onto a specific app they should be working on.

St. Paul Public Schools decided to lease iPads on June 24th, 2014, following in the footsteps of school districts such as Minnetonka, Farmington, and Osseo. Research shows that students with a 1:1 learning environment provide more student engagement in the classroom, a more authentic learning experience for each student, and a better connection to each child's learning style. SPPS has been communicating with several other school districts, and their reported benefits include that students are more motivated, and an improved access to information for each student.

Teachers tend to be more pro-Casper Focus. Math teacher Yonas Ghebregzi said "I like the fact that I can lock those unruly kids to one activity I want them to work on." Casper Focus is a tool for the anticipated problem with giving kids iPads- distraction. Clara Olson, a math teacher, said "I love it

though it needs to get better."

Teachers have been having some unanticipated problems with Casper Focus. Students have been getting stuck in apps, because Casper Focus locks. Math teacher Tom Totushek said "It's a wonderful tool, but it's not working correctly."

Students dislike Casper Focus quite a bit. Students have found ways to get around it. Some people just find it weird that "teachers are watching you 24/7," as 8th grader Teddy Engelking put it.

SPPS will finish distributing the iPads in the 2015-16 school year. Teachers have had suggestions about how to improve Casper Focus, such as being able to lock students onto 2 different apps, and letting them choose with they want to use. And, maybe those suggestions will be taken into account by SPPS to make Casper Focus easier for teachers.

# EDITORIALS

## Let's restore order



Grace Kellar-Long  
Staff Reporter

In a typical class, students lit by the glow of their iPad screens seem to be hard at work. Chances are that many of the kids are hard at work - fighting enemies in *Terraria* or automatons in *Five Nights at Freddy's*. The solution that I pose sounds obvious, but could make me very unpopular: ban all games from the App Store on student iPads.

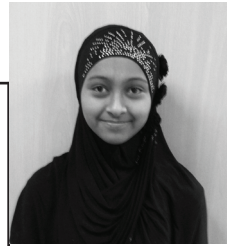
Gaming during class is hardly a new idea. In the past, students have used phones to play games, but this method was usually more obvious to teachers. Now, detecting the game players amid a sea of seemingly innocent iPads is more difficult. Science teacher Rebecca Palmer said that while walking around assisting a class of sixth graders, it might take up to twenty minutes to see a kid playing a game. "From a distance, I can't catch them doing wrong," Rebecca added.

A program known as Casper Focus is able to lock students into apps, but not all teachers utilize it, and it occasionally malfunctions. When the District first introduced the iPads, there was talk that teachers would be able to monitor students' iPad activity from their own iPads, but so far this has not materialized. Overall, the systems in place for monitoring student iPad use are not as effective as they should be.

One might conclude that the easiest way to do away with this problem is banning all games from

*No Games continued on page 6*

## Wednesday schedule



Nefsa Ambo  
Staff Reporter

In November, OWL introduced a new Wednesday schedule to help students boost math test scores, work on their student led conference portfolios, and do any missing assignments. Although this schedule has some benefits towards students, it also has negative side effects on their learning.

Some people say the Wednesday crew schedule is a good idea. OWL's Art teacher Hannah Gustison said, "It gives time for students to meet with teachers to get work done." However, the time that gets spent in crew is less effective for students' learning because many students think that crew is not a required class that they don't take seriously and skip when they feel like it. Besides that, what students normally do in crew on wednesdays also makes them less motivated. A 10th grader Charon Mousseaux said, "We usually sit and listen to our crew leader talk about portfolios."

Other than the wasted time during the actual afternoon crew session, the Wednesday schedule also impacts other classes. The shortened Wednesday classes have a significant impact on student learning. Because of the shortened classes, students are unable to have the opportunity to ask questions and get answers from their teacher during class and teachers can't teach as thorough of a lesson in that period of time. More importantly, if students didn't understand something that they learned in class and are unable to stay after school to get help from the teacher they won't have a chance to get help from the teacher.

The time that this schedule got introduced is also part of the problem. The reason being the schedule was introduced too late and it only happens once a week, students have difficulties adjusting to it. Because of this, students and even teachers get confused and plan their week without realizing that their Wednesday class time gets cut off. For example, in some classes teachers prepare assignments or tests that require the

*Wednesdays continued on page 11*

### *History Day from page 1*

If you decide to do History Day this year, be prepared to work hard all year on researching and writing about a topic of your choice. You have to choose between the categories: documentary, paper, website, exhibit board, and performance. The school competition is in February. If you are good enough to move on, you can make it to Regionals, then State, and possibly Nationals. But even if you succeed past the school competition you have to work hard to make your project better for the next round. School History Day is February 18th, Regionals are on March 12th, State History Day will be on May 2nd, and National History Day will take place June 12-14 in Washington D.C.

Even though it is a lot of work and can be really annoying, it is really satisfying if you win, and you don't want to be a loser. OWL is one of the most competitive schools in Minnesota, which is one of the most competitive states in the nation. OWL regularly sends multiple teams and individuals to the national competition, and OWL alumnus Jennifer Lor, now a sophomore at Carleton College, won the national title for senior documentary in 2012.

Eli Sage-Martinson, a 9th grade who claimed 5th at Nationals last year is researching Óscar Romero, an archbishop who advocated for human rights in 1970's in El Salvador. Sophomores Siena Leone-Getten and Pa Ying Lor are working together on a project about Ella Baker who helped lead the Civil Rights movement.

Susanne Hollingsworth, former OWL teacher and 2013 Minnesota State History Day High School Teacher of the Year, will make several appearances and if you need any help with History Day make sure to talk to her beforehand.

### *No Games from page 5*

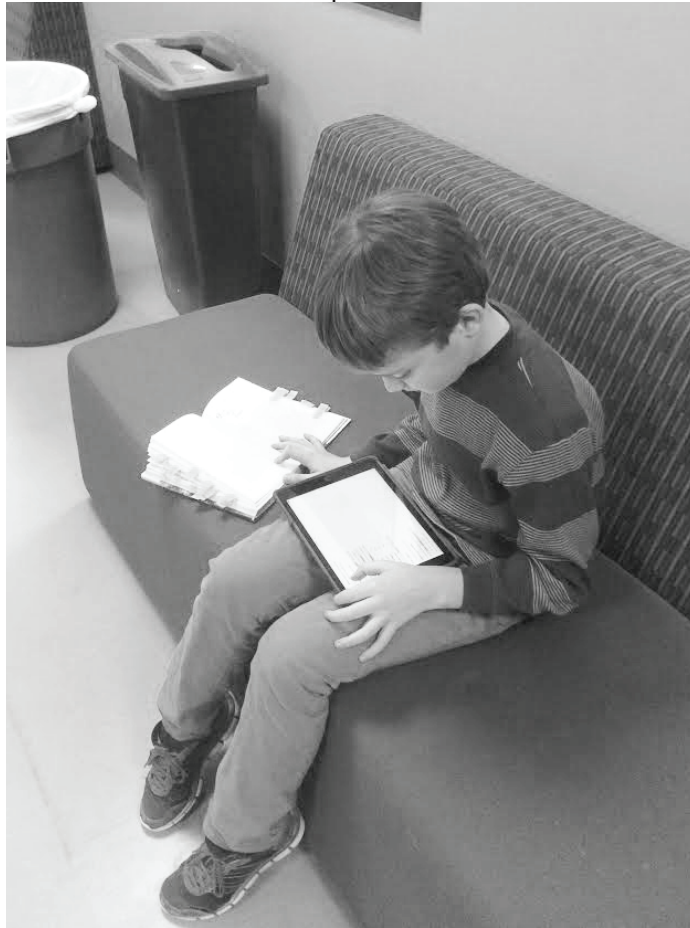
the App Store. Although this is easier said than done - there are over 230,000 games on the App Store with more being added each day - it would certainly be a step in the right direction.

Perhaps the issue is just a lack of self control on the part of students. With effective time management, the existence of games should not affect stu-

dents' productivity. Social studies teacher Scott Berndt, however, does not think students are at that point, having once described the iPads as "digital crack". With regards to using the device, Scott said that "it takes discipline and focus that I'm not sure we're ready for." Many students are open about their game-playing habits, including Caden Tarnow, a seventh grader. "I play lots of games during lots of classes," Caden said. While the idea that students know how to manage their time is a nice one, it doesn't seem to reflect reality. Banning games from the iPads is the only concrete way to ensure that games will not be played during class time.

Game playing on iPads is a serious problem in our so-called modern classrooms (which don't all have pencil sharpeners). It affects productivity during class, and provides a distraction from other tasks at home. Although the District tries to control students' iPad usage during class, their methods are falling far short of the stated goal.

Though many attempts have been made to solve the problem of gaming during class, they have so far been unsuccessful. Though stating my conclusion may make a social pariah, I feel it is the only way to restore productivity to our classrooms: ban all games from the iPads.



Haakon Neske works on his History Day project





# REVIEWS N' STUFF



## CAN'T STOP THE ONE OK ROCK!

Eric Youngquist  
Editor in Chief

I began listening to Japanese music or so years ago, and yes, it started because a song that was used for an anime opening caught my attention. I was still discovering all that Netflix had to offer at the time and I began to watch *Darker Than Black*. ツキアカリのミチシルベ (Tsukiakari no Michishirube) or Moonlight Signpost by Stereopony was the opening song for the second season and the first Japanese song I actually went out of my way to find.

For those of you who associate with me on a regular basis, you probably knew this article was coming sooner or later. An article about Japanese music. Japanese music is one of the few things I'm legitimately obsessed with. I listen to it non-stop. If you see me with an ear bud in you can bet that I'm listening to something from the country across the Pacific Ocean.

After the initial find, I grabbed a few more of their songs that had caught my attention, but it just

stopped there. I didn't really go find anymore, I was content with what I had. But after a while I had stumbled upon and AMV (Animated Music Video) with the song NO SCARED played in it, which brought me to one my favorite bands.

NO SCARED is a song from the rock group ONE OK ROCK. ONE OK ROCK is a four piece band consisting of Taka (Vocals), Toru (Guitar), Ryota (Bass), and Tomoya (Drums). They had a fifth member when they started, Alex (Guitar), but he did some bad stuff and was arrested, so the group moved ahead without him.

As mentioned before the band fuses different genres like Rock, Metal, and Emo together. I say emo, but its more the opposite. In Leo's AP Lit last year we had a poetry unit, which gave me an excuse to print off all the English lyrics of some of their best songs and decode them. They all have an upbeat meaning, some with an emo sound to them, or a sad story connected. They

*Japanese Music Continued on page 8*

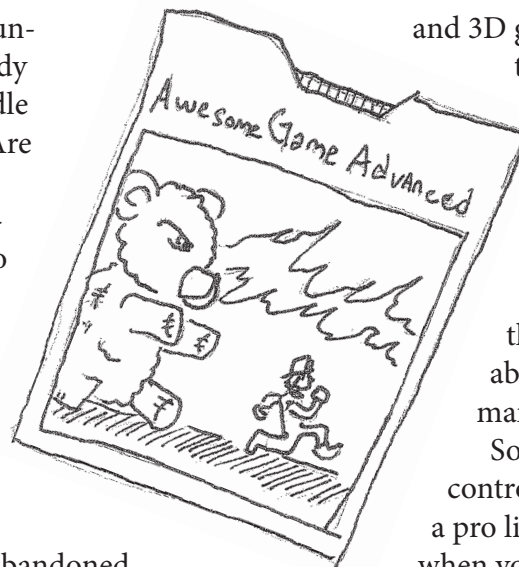
## Scarey Bear has it all

Charon Mousseaux  
Staff Reporter

You're a firefighter, and you're lost in a abandoned mansion. You're running away from Scarey, an evil teddy bear. Sudeinly, you slip on a puddle of blood and Scarey catches you! Are you scared yet?

Scarey-The-Bear's-Spooky-Scary-Run is a awesome new video game that came out in December 2014. It was made by Gamez-4-Teenz inc., the best video game company in the world. It costs \$25, but you also need a AwesomeGameAdvance for \$50 to play it.)

So first, you are lost in an abandoned



mansion. The inside of it has all of these cool details and 3D graphics, like these posters that have the words "help me" and "run!" written in oozing hyper realistic red blood.

You are a firefighter who is exploring the mansion because there was a fire at it. But you get trapped in the basement by Scarey, the evil walking teddy bear that was abandoned by his owner Andy at the mansion and is looking for revenge.

So you need to run away from him. The controls are real hard to use unless you're a pro like me, because you can't see Scarey when you're running away from him. You

*Best Game Review Continued on page 13*

usually say something about following what you believe and making your own way in life by discovering yourself. じぶんROCK( Jibun ROCK), which literally means “My own ROCK”, highlights this idea perfectly.

Perhaps I like them so much because they have creative lyrics and instrumentals and a surplus of emotion. Taka is the kind of singer that gets into the mood of the song as soon as the song starts and its so

real you can feel it through the lyrics of the song, so even if you can't understand the lyrics you can get the overall feeling of the song, which is something I haven't been able to notice in many American bands. The whole thing about the instrumentals being more interesting is something I wholeheartedly believe. Most of the American bands I like, (with a few exceptions) don't have interesting guitar or bass, its just some burly guy slamming on a guitar for 3-4 minutes. Another part is that it's simply different. It's a different language, which I honestly love the sound of,

and the singers live in a different society than my own.

ONE OK ROCK is actually the most popular band I listen to. (Totally not a hipster.) They've been active since 2005 and made five albums and a number of singles in that time. They have performed in Budokan on their THIS IS MY BUDOKAN!?! tour and did a two day finale in Yokohama Arena for their Zankyo Reference tour, and once more at Yokohama Arena for their Jinsei x Kimi tour. They also performed

in every rock festival in Japan in 2013 and toured in the US with Vans Warped Tour 2014. In Japan in late 2014, they filled Yokohama Stadium, which holds 30,000 people without concert modifications, and had a 2 hour concert to celebrate their latest single: Mighty Long Fall, which was used as the theme song for the movie Rurouni Kenshin: Kyoto Inferno/ The Legend Ends. Following this concert, their next al-

bum, 35XXXV will drop on iTunes on February 11, 2015. I totally pre-ordered it yesterday.

I'm contractually obligated to share some of my favorites in this article, so I'll share a few. Viva Violent Fellow is my current favorite. From what I can gather from the lyrics, the song follows someone listening to music as they lose their violent tendencies and shift into dance. The song was written before Alex had left the band, so it was recorded with a lead and rhythm guitar. However, the song is still performed live, and its hardly noticable that they only have one guitar this time around. 完



The four Members of ONE OK ROCK  
From the back: Toru, Ryota, Tomoya, Taka

全感覚Dreamer (Perfect Sense Dreamer) is probably one of their most popular songs. From the Nicheシンδροーム (Niche Syndrome) album, it was the forrunning song that was released as a single, paired with its sister song: Hitorigoto Lonlina (A lonely monologue). The song 未完成交響曲 (Mikansei Kokyokyoku) otherwise known as “Unfinished Symphony” was used as the second song in the slideshow of my trip to Japan.



# Dark Souls: Just Keep Dying

Yaseen Hayward  
Assistant Editor

Lordran, the land of the Gods, now tainted by the Curse of the Undead. Those who retain their sanity trudge through life, facing countless hardships... Like every single NPC you run into having a super creepy laugh!

Dark Souls is a third-person action RPG. It was developed by From Software and published by Namco Bandi on October 4th 2011 in North America on Xbox 360 and PS3, and was later released on PC on August 24th 2012.

In the beginning the world was gray, a cosmic vagueness, no light or dark, no good or evil, no life or death. Only the dragons and those who lived below. Then came the First Flame which brought disparity and also created the Lord Souls, which gave unimaginable power to four beings who later created the Kingdom of Lordran.

The kingdom is short lived, as soon it is struck by the Undead Curse. Nobody knows what caused it or what exactly it is, but all we know is that it prevents death, or more accurately, when you die you are brought back to life at a bonfire. Along with this effect comes "hollowing," which causes you to lose your mind and consume souls. The few who retain their sanity have taken to containing the Hollows into Asylums, but since there are so many of them they just try to ignore most of them.

You awake in one of these Asylums, as you are on your way to becoming Hollow. You must make your way through the Asylum. This serves as your tutorial, where I have personally died four times.

Welcome to Dark Souls.

You are then brought to Lordran via Mega Ultra Chicken, also known as a giant crow sent by the

goddess of sin and vengeance. As you land in a small cliffside community known as Firelink Shrine you are told that you must ring the two Bells of Awakening for... reasons. The guy who tells you this doesn't seem to know the reasons. Also this guy is the creepiest man ever.



Dark Souls cover art

One guy I know attacked him on his first playthrough due to the creep factor. By the way, you can kill every NPC in the game. Vital Information Giver? Zweihander to the face. Blacksmith that you need to get decent weapons? Halberd in your gut. Your best friend, Solaire of Astora? Dark Sword in the back.

You aren't the only person in the world with a story, however. Throughout the game you encounter many NPCs with their own story lines and problems. One example is Siegmeyer of Catarina. You encounter him in the place that nearly broke me, Sen's Fortress. A castle filled with snake people that are much tougher

than anything else you've seen.

Now, Siegmeyer is a little bit inept, but loves to adventure. So when he encounters Sen's Fortress, and area where even you, The Chosen Undead, have trouble, he is stuck. You have the choice of helping him on multiple occasions, and you see him throughout the game. I won't spoil it, but the end of his storyline is... Pretty great, from a literary standpoint, not for the people involved.

The game play is some of the best I've ever seen. The controls are so responsive that you feel like if you died, it was your fault. It's so simple, it's easy to learn, but impossible to master. You simply have: light attack, heavy attack, roll and block. From this comes the greatest, most satis-

*Dark Souls Continues on Page 15*

# All I got for Christmas was my birthday present

Antonio Carvale  
Staff Columnist

Alrighty fools. This is your warning. So if you're Christian or catholic or vegan or just don't like to be offended I recommend you leave. Like. Now. Actually by the name you should have known this wasn't going to be good. Well. You're still here. Probably should have left a minute ago but damn. This is your fire. And yes. Hell is going to be sooo worth it. Well. 3 2 1 go losers.

Now in case you aren't aware, a birthday within 5 days of Christmas Day (20th - 30th) accurately dubbed a "birthmas" actually has a very common tendency to massively suck. Mainly on account of

"ThisS iS FoR yOuR BiRThDay

AAAAaaaaaAaaaNnnnnndddddd ChRiStMass." -literally everyone in my goddamned family I swear to god.

Now with the anniversary of my escape stupidly landing on the 28th, I was forever trapped in this nonstop void that in the end left me with only one present for both occasions. Which personally I think mother did on purpose to save money. I mean think about it. That's one less kid you gotta buy presents for

because Christmas did it for you. Wow. I guess it really is true.

Jesus saves. And it sucks.

Having a birthmas, 2/9 stars. Word rating.

Laaaaaaaaaaaaame

As for my Christmas it was less than remarkable. After being up till about past 6 on the hunt for Santa Claus I realized I had either missed him or he saw me behind the tree in the dark with night vision goggles and dual wield samurai swords and fled like the loser he is. So after strutting my hot bod upstairs, filled with shame and the lows after overindulging on buttloads of caffeine, I went to my bed, unarmed myself and went to sleep...for about 2 hours before my half sister woke me up and dragged me downstairs for opening presents which I was less than stoked about.

After seeing presents under the tree and realizing the red coated bastard got passed me I was instantly filled with rage and regrets of the decision NOT to buy claymores. But I calmed down after I realized I was too tired to care. Me and the rest of the losers living

*Christmas Continued on page 11*

## The Unbecoming of Mara Dyer

Marisol Adler-Espinosa  
Staff Reporter

"The girl in the mirror smiled. But she wasn't me."

Mara Dyer, the main character in *The Unbecoming of Mara Dyer*, was looking in the mirror after an odd nose bleed, and sees her friend in the mirror in her place. Mara is introduced as a miraculous survivor of a tragic accident, not someone with powers. The book is written in first person, so we see everything from her perspective. She can be a bit uncouth, in that she uses foul language. But all in all, I find her a very interesting character.

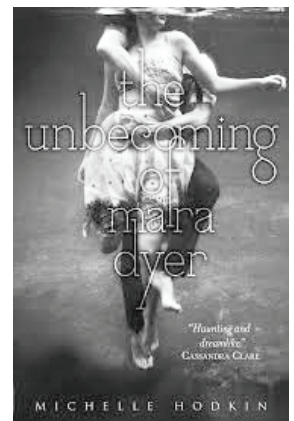
This book takes place primarily in Miami, Florida, but begins in Laurelton, Rhode Island, where Mara survives the collapse of a building that kills all of her friends. After her friends' funerals Mara asks her parents to move, so she can get away from the bad

memories.

Since it's fall she must go to another school, it is a private school. On the first day, Mara and her brother are late and Mara gets lost. She has a brief encounter with a "beautiful" boy, and another with a snobby girl. The snobby girl is Anna Greenly, Queen B, and one of beautiful boy's conquests.

We discover how bad Mara's PTSD is when she goes to her second hour class. She sees the building falling down on her, and ends up face down on the ground with a bloody nose. All of her classmates sit

*Maya Dyer Continued on page 11*



*Christmas From Page 10*

in my house opened our presents and I was too tired to even remember the rest of that part of my day before I went back to sleep on the couch. Later that day I awoke at the crack of noon to claim my new/used behringer amp, big muff pi bass pedal, and the only thing I may ever love more than army of darkness, Ash and the army of darkness graphic novel movie book continuation. It's beautiful. If you would like to borrow it please find me in the halls so I can tell you to go away because it's all mine. Overall score this birthmas. 6/5 stars. Word rating. Groovy.

Boom lame faces. Fast forward 5 days later. New Year's Eve. As usual I was never invited to any party. Which I'm totally fine with. Because without me there it obviously wasn't that great of a party. So I carried on with my normal day. Until about 11:00 when Facebook blew up and no one could quit bitching about the new year happening.

Like seriously everyone!? This is it, This is what you were all so excited for. Seems like you all freaked a little too early on account of this is pretty lame. Almost as overhyped as Destiny the game. (Yeah. I said it.) people bitching about the new year. 1/10 stars. Word rating: shush.

Before 2014 ended I started watching army of darkness to maybe make me feel a little better about how little I accomplished this year and tried to resolute myself to do better. And I decided that this year, I would start to apply myself more in class and do my homework and maybe start to care about my future. But on account of it's about 5 in the morning and this paper is due in about 2 1/2 hours. I think we can all agree that I've already bombed those goals pretty badly and it's too late to re-start. Well. Too late now. Gotta wait till next year. New Years resolute: 3/8 stars. Word rating, Weak sauce lvl 100

In conclusion birthmases suck. Christmas is lame but presents are sick. And people overhyped the new year like its something special is pretty dumb to a colossal amount. And resolving yourself will only make you feel bad when you break it. So don't try. Alright losers.

Oh and ps. For anyone who even tries to make the joke : "WoW i HaaSnTt sEeN YuO SinCe lAst YeAR-rr!!!! HhaHaAHAahaHA!!!" NO. DON'T YOU DARE. ALRIGHT? THAT JOKE WASN'T FUNNY 10 YEARS AGO, AND IT'S NOT FUNNY NOW. SHUSH. GO GRILL ME A CHEESE OR SOMETHING. JUST GET OUT OF MY SIGHT. I'LL SEE YOU IN HELL. SHHH-HHHHUT UP. Spartacus out.

*Wednesdays from page 5*

whole class period and students get rushed trying to get the assignment done without putting enough effort in to it.

There are some benefits on having a long crew on Wednesdays, but the effects that it has on student learning is not worth it. Because this schedule was introduced late, time gets lost in transition, and the shortened classes have more side effects on students due to the schedule not being in the routine since the beginning of the school year.

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*Maya Dyer From Page 10*

and stare at her as though she were a freak of nature. Naturally she has PTSD, she was the only one of 4 people to survive a building collapse with a small bruise.

The author, Michelle Hodkin, was raised in Florida, near Miami, and went to college in New York. She studied law in Michigan, but then wrote the Mara Dyer trilogy. She lives in New York to be close to her family. This is the first book in the trilogy and it is 456 pages long.

I think this is a good book to read if you are a fan of mystery and some paranormal. Mara develops over the course of the book in a way that we are learning with her. She goes from being the girl with PTSD, to the girl dating the unattainable "beautiful" boy, with more changes along the way.

The way Michelle Hodkin wrote this book is very descriptive, and emotionally provoking. "I thought of Joseph ( her younger brother ), looking so scared and small and lost in the hospital. I never wanted to see him look that way again." This book is good for people who get bored easily by books, or like odd romances.



### *Clash of Clans from page 1*

students. “We are always warring,” said The Math Prophet (Tom), at their head. (Even though he originally wanted to be a peaceful patriarch.) Everyone participates in combat against other clans of players around the globe.”It’s a huge team thing,” said Brandon. The OWL clan has open doors for anyone who wants to join, and doesn’t have many rules. In order to be part of the clan Just that you have to be an active player and keep the that the language is kept clean and respectful.



Jaymes Jackson playing Clash of Clans in the name of school spirit

### *We See You from page 2*

English teacher, Leo Bickelhaupt said “I just keep forgetting that they exist, but when I remember I try to use them.” Many questions were going around the school, why were they made? How do they improve a student’s behavior? Well, English teacher Nora Krings said “We came up with the ticket system as a way of acknowledging students who are doing the right thing every day. I don’t think the tickets are set up to change behavior, more like reinforce behaviors students are doing anyway.”

Students seem to like OWL tickets. Seventh grader Chutima Xiong said “I think it helps motivate students to do the HOWLS more. [Getting] a sweater for doing a good thing, it’s a good deal.”

Other students think there should be better prizes. Eighth grader Athena Bolton-Steiner said “if there were more/better prizes I think it would be more effective.”

“The only thing I would change about the ticket system is making the trading cards ahead of time. I have been working with a student to get them made and it is taking a long time. I think they will be fun when finished though,” said Nora. The first set of trading cards will be coming out beginning of third quarter.

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### *Anime from page 3*

ry lines, and how it look like.”

“I like how it give me a ramp and it reminded me of Rames,” said Robby Schwantes, 7th grader, “We also get snacks to eat.”

“I like how we just slow down and kinda watch a good anime show and not much planning to it and that’s what make it special.” said Jonas Kamm, 6th grader.

There are 10 members in the anime club and they are still open for you until the end of the school year or until they get kicked out of Damon’s classroom.

have to tap the A and Z buttons real fast to run, and you have to dodge all of the obstacles by pressing S, Q and Y to dodge the different ones. You use S to dodge the swinging bloody swords and razors, Q to jump over the blood puddles and body piles, and Y to dodge Scarey when he jumps out at you. It's easy if you're a pro, like me, and you need a lot of practice to get a perfect run. I've only gotten five perfect runs so far. The world record is seven. That was set by Frederick Hendry.

When you keep going, Scarey scares you even more, unless you're a pro like me who doesn't get scared. Sometimes he just jumps out, other times, he jumps out and screams at you, and if you're a pro like me and you can get as far as I can, he sometimes jumps out while holding a head in his hands. The graphics are so good that it actually looks like a real person's head.

The game is real cool because the 3d graphics

look good. Scarey has rips in him with stuffing coming out that look real, and the mansion has lots of little details in it like spider webs and haunted paintings. The storyline is good because it is mysterious and scary, it adds a ton to the atmosphere of the game. Gameplay is easy to learn for noobs, but real hard to become a pro (like me).

The only thing that is horrible about the game is that there isn't anything to do after the end of the game, except just play it again. If I made the game, I would have it so that you fight Scarey again, but he's a zombie. I e-mailed the game company but all I got was a form letter, which isn't cool.

So you should buy the game because it is real good and everyone should play it.

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## Joshua Lor

### Senior Profile

**How many years have you been at OWL?**  
13 years.

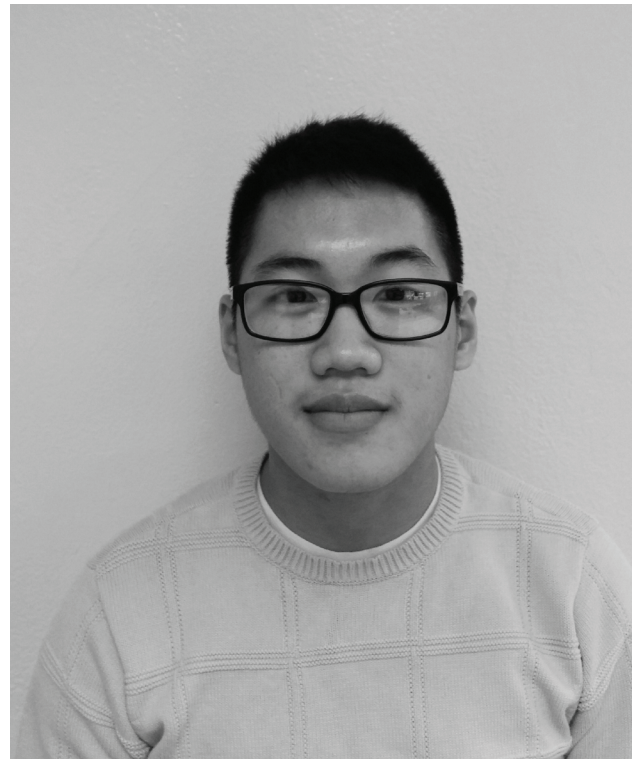
**What are your plans for next year?**  
Hopefully attend Gustavus or Mankato.

**What will you miss most about OWL?**  
The teachers.

**What is your favorite band, book, or movie?**  
My favorite book is Hamlet.

**What was your favorite class in high school?**  
AP Statistics.

**Do you have any last advice for OWL?**  
Keep pace with your classes.



# Winter Weathered Out

*Mercutio Takle*  
Staff Meteorologist

The wonders of winter. Frostbite, Hypothermia and so much cold. Except there weren't freezing temperatures in December, we were actually relatively warm had no snow on the ground for quite some time. Why did the snow disappear?

Now there's snow on the ground and we have cold temps, but before there was warmer temperatures and no snow. This type of weather pattern happens when an el-niño, a change in the Pacific moisture patterns, occurs. The el-niño causes warm air to rise on top of the cold mass, leading to cold temperatures. When this warm air rises over the cold, and if the atmosphere is colder, it can cause freezing rain, sleet, and snow.

Meteorologists are able to predict the changes in weather patterns by using several different tools. They use these tools to measure atmospheric conditions that occurred in the past and present, and they apply this information to create educated guesses about the future weather. Always remember that a weather forecast is an educated guess – meteorologists (and mankind, in general) cannot control the weather. The best we can do is observe past and present atmospheric patterns and data, and apply this information to what we think will happen in the future. Meteorologists use the scientific method on a daily – and even hourly – basis!

Last Year's Winter turned out to be a record setter. It was the coldest winter in over 30 years! The winter was almost as cold as winters from the late 70's and early 80s. The cold was nearly continuous as we endured a northwest flow of air from Canada and the Arctic most of the winter, especially after Christmas. The snow and cold arrived during the second half of November. December temperatures were somewhat below normal, and then it got really

cold. Remember that "Polar Vortex" last January. yeah! Since snow cover, helped contribute to and enhance the cold.

We have lately been getting more "Polar Vortices," and that is why we've been so cold here at OWL which is made worse by wind. The wind Chill is mea-

sured by  $T(wc) = 35.74 + 0.6215T - 35.75(V^{0.16}) + 0.4275T(V^{0.16})$ . Now that might not make much sense to your brain and I understand that, but  $T$  = temperature and  $V$  = velocity of the wind. A small example of this is: If it was -2 degrees and the wind was 5-10 mph with gusts up to 15 mph what would the wind chill be? If you do your math right you should get around -22 to -23 degrees.

The coldest temperatures in Minnesota was -57 °F (-49 °C)!! That was in Embarrass MN. Now one thing is for sure, we are only in January and the cold will stick around for another two to three months or so (unless the cold stays until May...) we just have to live with it.

-Staff Meteorologist, Mercutio Takle



Many similar pictures were taken in 2014



fying combat system I've ever seen.

With the simple, tight controls come a wonderful variety of playstyles. I prefer a sword and shield style, whereas some people might be casters, some might prefer to run around in the nude with a greatsword. You can be pretty much anything when it comes to fighting, and with the multitude of weapons and stat combinations you will never see the same character build twice, except for the ones that people love to copy like the Giant Dads and Havel the Rocks. Google those, they're funny.

I talked about Bonfires before, let's expand on that. Bonfires allow you to level up, regain health and

potions. The potions are called Estus Flasks and are your best friend. The Bonfires also get different abilities as your progress. They also happen to respawn every enemy in the area. Surprise!

With this game's story and high quality gameplay, it is a masterpiece. The game changes you, not necessarily in a good way, but still. I would recommend this game for most people, though if you don't like hard games... There's a reason the expansion pack was called "Prepare to Die Edition." Either way, time for the arbitrary number score: 9/10. Literally the best score I will give.

## FRAQUETBALL

### RANKINGS

1. **Flying Pickles** (Choua Moua & Daniel LeTran)

Will have to get by Tom to get out of their lunch bracket.

2. **King Loozer** (Koua Yang & Peter Moua)

Looking to avenge a semifinal loss to Loz Geezers last year.

3. **Loz Geezers** (Tim Leone-Getten & Leo Bickelhaupt)

Looking for their third title.

4. **Fire Breathing Rubber Duckies** (Josh Lor & YeLeng Xiong)

Josh may have the hardest shot in all of fraquetball.

5. **Alpha Numericals** (Tom Totushek & Damon Liberator)

Tom looks to defend his title with a new partner.

## Talent Show

*Yaseen Hayward*  
Assistant Editor

The School Talent show will be March 5th at 7:00 after school and there will be a small performance during the March community meeting. To sign up just come to the auditions on February 27th and 28th. They are open to any kind of act, traditional perfor-

mances like dancing or singing, or different things like karate or poetry. Anything that you are good at. The only stipulations are that it has to be school appropriate, you can't lipsynch and there is a loose cap of three minutes.



First ranked team the Flying Pickles



Spelling bee champion Leena Abdulla (right), with runner up Leo Dungan-Seaver

# COMICS

## The Misadventures of iPad Boy



## Flost



## GumNut

