



# Knightly News

Glen Cove High School's Student Newspaper

March 2024

## Tik Tok's Popularity Raises Questions Over Security *by Phoebe Pinder*



TikTok, the well known and widely used app, has recently been under fire from the US government over security concerns. The app is owned by a Chinese company called ByteDance and was first released in China as "Douyin." Later, in 2017, it was released into global markets.

Many Chinese-created and owned apps are very popular in the US, but TikTok seems to be the one that has caught peoples' attention the most. The government is concerned about Americans' data being in the hands of a Chinese company and that China could then influence and to some extent control the American public through TikTok videos. Like many other social media apps, both U.S. and foreign created ones, TikTok collects user data like all the TikTok videos you watch, how long you watch them for, the country you are in and the content of your messages. It also collects data like your specific location, contacts and payment information, but only with your permission.

Though many Americans and US government officials suspect there may be a connection between TikTok and the Chinese Communist Party (CCP), there is no evidence to support this and TikTok has denied any connection multiple times. TikTok has maintained that it does not share user data with the Chinese government, that the CCP has never asked for user data and they would not share that data even if it was asked for.

In China, the government has strict rules and censorship placed on the internet in general. Only certain websites and apps and information can be viewed in China due to these restrictions. The director of the FBI has concerns about this, saying that the Chinese government's control over the Internet and corporations like ByteDance is "plenty of reason by itself to be extremely concerned."

The Singaporean CEO of TikTok, Shou Zi Chew, sent a letter to nine Republican Senators, addressing their concerns. In it, he did admit that Chinese workers were able to access U.S. user data, though they were overseen by the U.S. based security team, but said they were working to change that. They are already starting to switch user data to Oracle Cloud Infrastructure, with access only given to authorized personnel. The CEO stated that "100% of U.S. user traffic is now being routed to Oracle Cloud Infrastructure." He also further reassured the senators, saying that "TikTok has long stored U.S. user data in data centers in the U.S. and Singapore, as well as in cloud-based services offered by AWS, the GoogleCloud Platform and Azure."

When he testified before Congress, the CEO had to state many times that he was Singaporean and had no connection to the CCP and reassured the judge many times that he is a Singapore citizen.

According to studies conducted by the Pew Research Center, many Americans believe that "Tik-

Tok is a national security threat." According to their data, only 17% of Americans say the app is not a threat. The research also shows that age plays a part in concern about TikTok. "Among users, those ages 30 and older are more likely than those 18 to 29 to see the platform as a threat (47% vs. 34%)."

Many Glen Cove students seem to further prove these statistics correct. Many say they "don't really care" about whether or not TikTok is a threat, or they are not sure if it is or not. One student expressed that they were worried about TikTok having access to personal data, saying, "I'm not aware of what they're doing with my data because I don't really read the 'Terms and Conditions' because of how long they are, and that's scary."

Multiple students said that they understood why TikTok has to have access to some data because that is how they create their algorithm and tailor the experience of the app to the specific user. One student said that it was obvious that TikTok has lots of control over what information a viewer receives because "they have to make the algorithm for you," referencing TikTok's feed as the "For You Page". GC students seem to recognize that there is a potential threat, but don't see it as something that really affects them personally at the moment.

Many other apps and companies, both foreign and U.S.-owned, do the same or very similar things in regards to data as TikTok. The U.S. has "no comprehensive privacy legislation, allowing social media apps to operate in an effective Wild West," according to Time magazine. While TikTok has the potential to store and even access personal data, so do so many other apps and websites.



## TV Show Review

### Percy Jackson & the Olympians

by Peyton Angalet

With its initial premiere on December 19th, 2023, the Percy Jackson and the Olympians series kicked off its first episode with an astounding 13.3 million viewers. The series adaptation has been a long time coming since the project's announcement in May 2020. The original book series written by Rick Riordan, released its first novel in 2005, titled *The Lightning Thief*. Since then, it has become a New York Times bestseller and a popular fiction read among people of all ages. Though it began as a simple bedtime story for his son, Riordan's beloved work has finally turned its contents to the TV screen.

The story starts with 12-year-old Percy Jackson, a boy with a knack for being in the right place at the wrong time. His life is a series of strange events, straight out of the mythological Greek tales taught to him by his mother. When a run-in with several monsters takes away his mother and reveals there is a claim on his life, Percy is sent to Camp Half-Blood, a sanctuary for demigods. There, he learns the truth of his identity and a world once hidden from him, a world where Greek myths are true. While grappling with the jarring reality that is now his life, Percy discovers

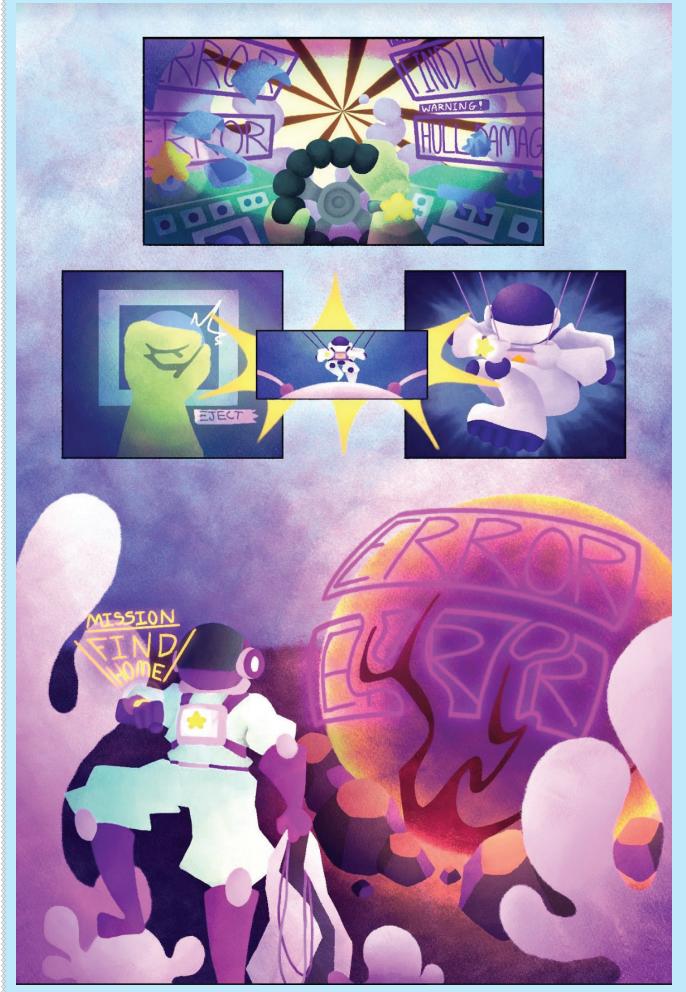


there is about to be an all-out war between the gods, and he is to blame. On a quest to prevent the destruction of their world, Percy sets out with campers Annabeth and Grover, to restore Zeus' lightning bolt and save his mother.

“Percy Jackson and the Olympians” manages to captivate its audience through clever and sarcastic storytelling. The humor of the original book is seen in the show’s dialogue and interactions between characters, with charming episode titles such as “I Become Supreme Lord of the Bathroom”. The series provides viewers with an insight into classic Greek mythology, as well as characters in which the audience can see themselves represented. The young cast, starring Walker Scobell (Percy Jackson), Leah Sava Jeffries (Annabeth Chase), and Aryan Simhadri (Grover Underwood), deliver an incredible performance. The actors manage to portray the depth and raw emotion of each character within just eight episodes. The characters were brought to life in a way that seems they were pulled directly from the pages of the book. Many people have grown up watching the world of Percy Jackson develop and grow, which has left the series with a need to meet high expectations. I believe that the series has gone above and beyond the hopes of an accurate adaptation, but it has also managed to appeal to new & old demographics. With the use of stunning set designs and diverse representations of various groups of people, the series excels at portraying intricate characters with different backgrounds and learning differences. The plot keeps the viewer on the edge of their seat, waiting for the next challenge that the trio of friends will need to overcome to complete their quest. I highly recommend tuning in to the Percy Jackson and the Olympians series to see what fate has in store for these young heroes!

## Student Comic

by Phoebe George



## Film Review

### The French Connection

by Emmanuel Aschalew

The French Connection is a well-acclaimed film, having won best picture in the academy awards, best director (William Friedkin), best acting, and a multitude of others that I need not list. It is critically acclaimed, but in my experience, many of such films don't live up to the hype. However, in the case of the French Connection, I can confidently say it did.

The French Connection is by far one of the most strange films I have watched. It is intriguing, yet eerie, and enjoyable the whole way through. However, before I dive any further into this review, I recommend you watch it first. I will do my best to describe the film in as little detail as I can. With that being said, it is difficult to describe a film like this without spoiling some of the plot.

The film is set mostly in New York City, where a pair of NYPD detectives, Jim “Popeye” Doyle and his partner, Buddy Russo, as they attempt to bust a major drug deal of heroin within the city from foreign influences (hence the name). These two are by far the stars of the show, particularly Popeye. Popeye, played by Gene Hackman, is one of the earliest and best morally ambiguous film protagonists I can think of. He is peculiar. He will stop at almost nothing to catch the criminal's he so dearly seeks out, sometimes endangering civilians. He is stubborn, ruthless, almost bloodthirsty. But above that, he is constantly driven, frustrated and ambitious. His wildness drives him almost to the point of insanity. In contrast, his partner Russo (played by Roy Scheider) is everything Popeye is not. He is calm, cautious, almost so in a melancholy manner. He is gentler. Russo is a character that feels worn out and tired. At certain points in the film, it seems as if he almost doesn't even believe in the



## Film Review Continued



mission he is on with Popeye. And yet, despite all this, he never stops or gives up, due to his resounding virtue: his unshakeable loyalty to Popeye.

The dichotomy between Russo and Popeye is, in my opinion, part of what makes the film so great. Popeye and Russo are complementary opposites-two pieces of a detective puzzle. Now unto the villains. The film has a number of antagonists, but I shall focus only on two of them: Alain Charnier and Sal Boca. Before I speak about them, one of the things I enjoy most about this film is the strange sense of realism in regards to its antagonists. The villains are certainly villains, that is, in their brutality and “evilness” of what they’re doing.

However, they are also quite ordinary. They talk and behave quite like ordinary people. Near the beginning of the film, there is a scene with Alain and his wife. He gives her a gift and they seem like a sweet couple. In contrast, our hero’s are rough and crude. They seem to sometimes go too far. But in the end, the true nature of both is revealed: our heroes are heroes, and our villains are villains. Now unto my favorite characters, Alain Charnier and Sal Boca. Alain has very little screen time and even less relevant screen time. And yet, I thought he stole the show. I was utterly mesmerized by his character. Alain is intelligent, clever, evil, yet polite. He is an outstanding portrayal of what he is supposed to be: a kingpin, mafia-type villain, but in the French style.

In contrast, Sal Boca is normal. And I mean that in every sense of the word. Sal Boca (despite the fact that he is a drug dealer) feels like a normal person, by far the most relatable villain I have ever encountered. He is “evil”, but not in a psychopathic manner. It is as if Sal is simply doing his job, and I again, mean that in a literal sense. Watching Sal Boca feels like watching somebody go to their 9-5. He doesn’t have any grand schemes and is really just trying to finish the drug deal he has been “assigned to” by one of the other main villains. Now I shall talk about what anyone who has watched the film is likely thinking of: the car chase.

The French Connection has one of the most well-known car chase’s in cinema history and for good reason. The scene itself is excellent, but also

### Movie Review:

#### Top Gun Franchise

By Chance Costa



Top Gun is a 1986 action drama film directed by Tony Scott and produced by Don Simpson and Jerry Bruckheimer. The film is about a fighter pilot named Maverick that gets sent to the Top Gun Naval Fighter Weapons School, a place where the best pilots train their professional flying skills and abilities. His overall cocky and reckless attitude gets him in competition with the calm and collected pilot known as Iceman.

Despite competing to become the top tier fighter pilot, he also has his eyes out for his flight instructor, Charlotte Blackwood. Some of the most notorious actors are Tom Cruise as Pete “Maverick” Mitchell, Val Kilmer as Tom “Iceman” Kazansky, and Kelly McGillis as Charlotte Blackwood. Thirty-seven years later, the sequel named Top Gun: Maverick was released in 2022. This sequel takes place after 30 years when Maverick had been one of the Navy’s top aviators, which he is training several graduates for a special mission-a mission that will demand the best of skills from those who choose to fly.

In Top Gun: Maverick, some of the previous actors make a return, with the new ones being Phoenix (Monica Barbaro), Bob (Lewis Pullman), Payback (Jay Ellis), Fanboy (Danny Ramirez), and Hangman (Glen Powell) as the ones assigning the mission being led by Maverick. The first Top Gun was a decently-made movie, with some good shots and good scenes in it. However, it was somewhat poorly made and wasn’t as good compared to its sequel. It had sometimes shown more different

revolutionized the industry: Before this, car chases were significantly more tame and calm. The French Connection changed that. The scene itself contains Popeye in a car, chasing a train that contains a gunman. He swerves past anything he can, and what he doesn’t swerve, he hits. The scene is exhilarating, due not only to the cinematography and audio, but to Popeye himself. The scene shows Popeye at his absolute mental and physical limit. He is on the edge, actively endangering civilians in his relentless pursuit of his prey. The scene itself is shot from the car’s point of view, making you feel as if you may crash into an oncoming bystander of a steel pole at any moment. However, words cannot do this scene justice, so I shall save any further remark’s and allow you, the reader, to enjoy it yourself.

The last thing I have to say is about the gen-

scenes than what should really have been focused on, which was one aspect the movie hadn’t succeeded in. The movie wasn’t too bad, but had lacked at some points throughout, which led to the movie being a bit underwhelming.

Top Gun: Maverick, however, was a significant improvement from the first installment. It was a very well-made action movie with some realistic scenes and emotions, better sound design, better cast and much better visuals. Though the original Top Gun was acceptable from the time era it came from, that doesn’t necessarily make it worse. The original was a cult classic that still caught the eyes of many who watched it, regardless of the elements that it had been missing. It still had featured the most iconic cast that people still do love, was still a big hit, becoming the highest grossing film of 1986 at one point.

The parts of the first movie I enjoyed were the action scenes, the cast, as well as the ending scene. With all honesty, Top Gun: Maverick was still a better improvement than its previous successor, as it still featured some of the iconic actors from the previous film and had some emotional parts. This all led to the successful Maverick grossing a whopping \$1.5 billion worldwide, making it the second-highest grossing film of 2022. Believe it or not, Tom Cruise was in fact a real-licensed pilot and had actually flown a jet in both films.

Despite the success of Top Gun 1986, Tom Cruise hadn’t agreed and was even against the concept of a sequel to it. In the film, over 800 hours of aerial footage was shot for it. Both films had their moments of success and were greatly enjoyed by millions of people. In my opinion, both films were a massive success and were, by far, one of my most favorite movies I have ever seen.

eral cinematography of this film, which is absolutely fantastic. All the scenes are set up perfectly and the soundtrack is just as good. It changes the whole “vibe” of the film in an eerie way. Then there is the ending. Again, I advise the reader to go watch the film first, but I will attempt to speak (for the viewer’s sake) of the ending in the most abstract and general way I can.

The ending is peculiar. It is open-ended, but not in a lazy way. In an extremely good yet interpretational way, similar to Shutter Island. I wish to speak of it more, but I cannot do so in a way that does not spoil the film. I have spoken all I can of this movie without spoiling it and I am far too tired to write a conclusion paragraph. In the end, you just need to watch it.



Portal is a 2007 puzzle-platform game created by Valve. The game is available on a plethora of devices such as on Windows, Nintendo Switch, Xbox 360 and more. You play as a test subject known as Chell, who works for a fictional company known as “Aperture Science”, who is forced to go through a series of puzzles and tests using an object called “the Aperture Science Handheld Portal Device”, often referred to as “the portal gun”. This device has the ability to create inter-spatial portals between two flat planes.

The game has a multitude of features such as retaining kinetic energy you gain when falling through a portal, allowing you to jump to high places you couldn't normally reach. It's also worth noting that there are some surfaces you can't use your portal gun on, which makes you have to stop and think on how you can progress. These features

## Portal Game Review

by Ibaad Naqvi

are shown to you over the course of the game, sort of like a tutorial, and you have to use these features to progress further into the game.

The game consists of about 19 test chambers, each with its own unique puzzles and solutions. During these chambers, an artificial intelligence known as GLaDOS (Genetic Life-form and Disk Operating System), challenges and taunts your player character, Chell, to complete every puzzle in the “Aperture Science Enrichment Center” using the portal gun with the promise of receiving cake on completion of all of the chambers. The game forces you to make tough decisions through GLaDOS such as being forced to incinerate an object that she stated does not have the capability of threatening you, although GLaDOS taunts by accusing you of feeling no remorse for what you did.

Over the course of the game, you discover

the true ill intentions of GLaDOS as her actions become increasingly malevolent. That is all I can tell you without bringing up any major spoilers and the second part of this article is talking about the criticism and appraisal the game has received in more detail. The Portal game was “appraised as one of the most original games of 2007” and it received praise for its creativity, intriguing premise, unique gameplay and originality.

Although the game was criticized for having a short duration, it stayed interesting with its dark twisted story, its fun gameplay, mechanics, and its humorous dialogue. Overall, Portal is often considered as one of the greatest video games ever created and this claim is backed up by the fact that Portal has sold over four million copies, excluding its downloads on Steam. The franchise has also created official merchandise and it has spawned the creation of fan-made items such as a portal gun. It has also created many spinoffs and even a sequel to the original portal, titled as “Portal 2”, which I will be writing about in the next edition of Knightly News. Until then, enjoy the first Portal edition!

## GC Celebrates Importance of Veterans Day

by Chance Costa



Veterans Day is considered a day off to many students, but the Glen Cove Veterans Day assembly and ceremony shows that it's more than just that. Former graduates of Glen Cove returned to the high school to reflect on their time of service in the military as well as the importance of service in the armed branches. Veterans from a variety of eras and conflicts talked to GC students during their Social Studies classes, shared some wisdom to the younger generations and took some questions as well.

Veterans of the Korean War, Vietnam Conflict and other theaters shared some of their stories and experiences of what they endured. A great example was 93-year old Ben Farnan, who graduated from Glen Cove in 1948 and served in Korea in 1952 with a Reconnaissance Company. Some of the stories the 93-year old corporal told were about going on night patrols, spotting ambushes and talking about how dangerous No Man's Land was like.

“We had to get used to the geography, weather, mud, minefields and how tough the enemy was,” said Farnan. He also reflected on Korea being the forgotten war sandwiched between World War II and Vietnam. He also mentioned that GC students should appreciate their Glen Cove background as it prepared him for college.

Another veteran was Howard Stillwagon, who served in Vietnam in 1969 when the conflict was at its most intense. Stillwagon also brought his therapy dog and extolled the virtues of having one.

“He has made my life so much better,” said Stillwagon, referring to some of the challenges veterans deal with coming home from combat such as PTSD (Post Traumatic Stress Disorder).

The assembly also unveiled a beautiful History Display Case that highlighted some of the residents of Glen Cove who have served our country and highlighted some of the contributions and sacrifices by residents

of Glen Cove. Thanks to the donation of supplies from fellow Coast Guard veteran Gary Neillands, coupled with the fine craftsmanship from Michael Danchalski, the Display Case will be an asset to the school's library. Dr. Rianna, Ms. Doeschner, Mr. Hudson and Ms. Poulos was also present at the ceremony.

With the steady guidance of Lydia Wen, Glen Cove's Public Librarian and Archivist, as well as our very own librarian Ms. Carballo, students from the Rho Kappa Society will “curate the display case with monthly exhibits that feature artifacts, photos and elements of Glen Cove's rich historical narrative.”

Between the display case and new generations of GC students entering various branches of services, the importance of Veterans Day and what it means to the community and country should not be overlooked.

## Video Game Review

### Assassin's Creed 11- How it still Holds Up

by Dante Talisaysay

Released in 2009 as a sequel to 2007's Assassin's Creed, the story takes us to Renaissance Era Italy, where we meet Ezio Auditore, our new protagonist. When we first meet him, he's a hotshot, cocky, womanizing teenager with a penchant for getting into fights and is quite prone to anger. However, he's still a genuinely nice guy with loyalty to family and friends, and compassionate to innocent people, especially children.

Unfortunately for our protagonist, his life takes a turn when his father and brothers are falsely and wrongfully arrested for "treason". Sneaking over to the palazzo to visit his father in the cell, he is instructed to deliver a letter that would see his father and brothers exonerated and released. Doing as ordered, Ezio donned his father's assassin robe, as well as grabbing a sword and broken hidden blade along with a codex page. He then went to Uberto Alberti, a high-ranking official and friend of the Auditore family and delivered the letter to him.

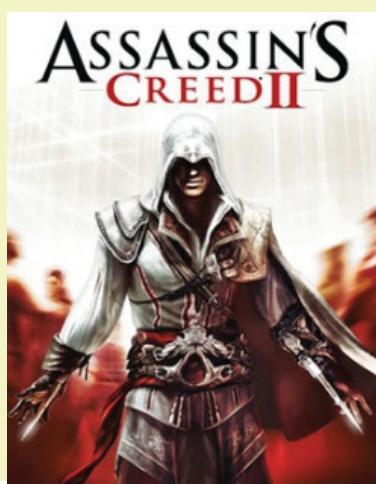
At the trial at Piazza della Signoria, Uberto instead is denied the evidence given to him by Ezio and proceeds to order the execution of Ezio's father and brothers. All Ezio could do was watch in horror. Our protagonist attempts to kill him in a rage, but is restrained by guards. But before Uberto can order his execution, Ezio manages to flee.

In a quest for vengeance, Ezio seeks the help of the sister of the Auditore's housemaid, who teaches him how to survive in the city as an outlaw through pickpocketing and blending in with crowds. And then directs Ezio to get the broken blade repaired by none other than the legendary Leonardo da Vinci.

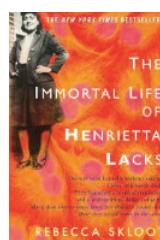
Leonardo repairs the blade, but was soon confronted by a guard at the entrance of his workshop. The guard ordered Leonardo outside before trying to get Ezio's location out of him by beating him up. However, Leonardo refused to cough it up. Thankfully, he is saved when Ezio sneaks up behind the guard and kills him with the hidden blade.

After helping Leonardo, Ezio makes his way to the courtyard of Basilica di Santa Croce, where he waits in the shadows for an opportunity to strike. When he hears Uberto openly deride his family, Ezio emerges from the crowd in a frenzied rage and proceeds to shank Uberto five times in the chest. After killing him, Ezio furiously proclaimed to the crowd,

*continued pg 6*



English classes at the high school use a portion of their class time for Independent Reading, where students and teachers select a book of their choice to read freely. Each month the Knightly News will talk to one teacher and one student to share their thoughts about what they're currently reading. Here's what they had to say:



#### Ms. Lindner

The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks  
by Rebecca Skloot



#### Alessia Bazan

Pretty Funny For A Girl  
by Rebecca Elliott

#### Would you recommend this book to someone?

#### Why or why not?

*Yes, I would. I think it is an important story to tell about older scientific practices and how we have modern medicine today. This also goes into the moral question of using a patient's cells without permission.*

#### Why do you think other readers would enjoy it?

#### Why did you enjoy it (if you did) or why didn't you (if you didn't).

*I think it's a very compelling story between ethics, race and medicine that deals with scientific discoveries and touches upon strong bonds of family. At the end, it sends a strong message of the importance of knowledge and healing.*

#### What ages or types of readers do you think would like the book?

*Young adults would like this book.*

#### How much did you know about this book before picking it up? What surprised you the most about the book?

*I knew almost nothing about the book before picking it up. What surprised me the most was the impact Henrietta Lacks had and continues to have on modern medicine. The medical advancements, thanks to Henrietta, are great, no one knew it came from her.*

#### How thought-provoking did you find the book?

#### Did the book change your opinion about anything, or did you learn something new from it?

#### If so, what?

*This book was extremely thought-provoking and taught me a lot about the medical field since the 1940's.*

#### How did the book make you feel? Did it evoke any emotions? Make you laugh, cry, or cringe?

*The book made me feel all the emotions. I laughed, I cried, I got angry and understood the true power of forgiveness.*

*I think it's a very compelling story between ethics, race and medicine that deals with scientific discoveries and touches upon strong bonds of family. At the end, it sends a strong message of the importance of knowledge and healing.*

#### Why do you think other readers would enjoy it?

#### Why did you enjoy it (if you did) or why didn't you (if you didn't).

*I think it is a perfect book to read for entertainment, you are not going to get bored while reading it. I really enjoyed reading this book because it never got boring, each chapter developed a new topic and I really liked that.*

#### What ages or types of readers do you think would like the book?

*I think teenagers & young adults would enjoy the book.*

#### How much did you know about this book before picking it up? What surprised you the most about the book?

*My friend talked to me about this book before I read it. But all she told me was that it was about a girl who really liked comedy. I thought it would be a boring romance book, but I was wrong; it developed various topics and I couldn't stop reading it.*

#### How thought-provoking did you find the book?

#### Did the book change your opinion about anything, or did you learn something new from it?

#### If so, what?

*The author's writing style made me engaged in it and I got to feel the emotions it was intended to convey. This book opened my eyes to a topic I never thought about. There may be something you are really passionate about and keep private, but the most unexpected people may be interested in the same thing as you.*

#### How did the book make you feel? Did it evoke any emotions? Make you laugh, cry, or cringe?

*The author's writing style made me connect to the characters and it did evoke some emotions. I felt the tension, the embarrassment, the fear and the anger. Overall, it made me laugh a lot because the characters were teenagers and they think the same way as me, so I felt I could relate to it.*

# Assassin's Creed Review

Continued...

"The Auditore are not dead. I'm still here. ME! Ezio! Ezio Auditore!"

Now wanted in his home city of Florence, Ezio flees with his mother and sister. Originally intending on bringing them to Spain, plans change when he meets his Uncle Mario, who saves him from one of Ezio's enemies from Florence. He, his sister and mother take shelter at the Auditore Villa in Monteriggioni. I could go on from here but I'd basically be giving you the plot for free. So we'll move away from the game's main story. You'll have to find out the rest yourself.

While it was originally released for the Xbox 360 and PS3, a remastered version of the game was released for the Xbox One and PS4 along with AC Brotherhood and AC Revelations in the Ezio Collection. I bought and installed the game on my Xbox and grinded my heart out playing for the next six days. At this time, I had really gotten bored playing my Xbox, as I was constantly just playing Call of Duty. As a result, visiting another popular video game franchise felt like a breath of fresh air and reinvigorated my love for playing video games. As a remaster of the original game, the graphics unsurprisingly look really good and the parkour is excellent, though not as superb as later entries. However, it still holds up.

Though Altair was the first protagonist in the series, Ezio is so beloved that he is considered the face of the franchise and most popular character in the series. This was the reason why fans initially didn't like Connor Kenway, the protagonist of Assassin's Creed III, because he had the unfortunate task of following up the highly-acclaimed Ezio, although reception toward him improved in the years that followed. Turning back to Assassin's Creed II though, many people hail either this or Brotherhood as the best game in the series. Regardless of what you think is the superior game, you can't deny that AC2 brought the franchise to how it is known today.

One thing that's also worth mentioning is the musical score for the game. The track "Ezio's family" became so memorable that it ended up becoming the anthem for the ENTIRE franchise. Later games like Rogue, Unity, Syndicate, Origins, Odyssey, Valhalla, and Mirage would either incorporate or have their own renditions of the theme. That's how you know a theme is that good.

All these reasons add up to why this game is still a classic and worth playing today. Its characters, story and score all make that hard work throughout the game's story mode pay off. You can install the game in the Ezio Collection for whatever console you use. One should also enjoy the first installment in the trilogy of the life of the legendary Ezio Auditore!

## Poetry

by Jolie Prezeau

### The Morning Pages

The warm concrete. The mourners of stomachs.  
The feigning and the resolution.  
The oldman mouthing something heavy.  
The brutally beautifully honest.  
It continues to fall between your fingers.  
This tender thing. This real thing.  
It moves through you. Soft sand, hearth fires,  
each unfolding.  
Another day the world runs.  
Another day the morning pages sing their odes;  
You can always feel.  
You can always notice.



## The KNIGHTLY Staff

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Ibaad Naqvi – Reporter

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Dante Talisaysay – Reporter

Mr. Lombardo & Mr. O'Donnell: Club Advisors

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## WANTED

Greetings from the staff of The Knightly News!

We are looking for energetic, dedicated writers and journalists to join our newspaper team!

Writing in other languages is a bonus as we are looking to make the newspaper bilingual! Please

stop by Room 138 on Tuesday afternoons after school if you are interested! We look forward to seeing you then!

Mr. Lombardo & Mr. O'Donnell

I want to give a shout out to two teachers for this time teacher feature. These two teachers are Mr. Rubin and Ms. Stazzone.

## Teacher Feature

by Nawar Ahammed



Mr. Rubin is one of the sweetest and funniest math teachers ever! We are so grateful as a school that we have him as our math teacher. He actually made math more enjoyable. He always makes sure we understand the math problems and takes the time to help us after school and during his free period. Whenever you bump into him in the hallways or anywhere in the school, he greets us with a warm smile and a fist bump. He wants us to know that he's always there for us and his door is always open when we need help. He's like a school dad to us. Thank you, Mr. Rubin, for everything you do. Thank you for making math easier to understand and for always bringing laughter to the classroom. We're so lucky to have you as our teacher!

## Teacher Feature

by Nawar Ahammed



Ms. Stazzone is an incredible English teacher! When you enter her classroom, you're greeted with an abundance of positive energy. She creates a warm and interactive environment that makes you feel welcome. Every time we step into her classroom, we're greeted with a warm smile and a motivating quote on the board. Ms. Stazzone gives us the space to express our thoughts and feelings. Not only is she an amazing person, but she's also a fantastic teacher. Glen Cove students have noticed so many positive changes since we started AP Literature. Working in her classroom never feels like a chore.

"Work ethic is something that I encourage on a daily basis. Sometimes 'tough love' is necessary to push students when they don't push themselves. I find that the students respond to that and understand that I want nothing more than for them to be successful and happy," she said.

We want to express my heartfelt gratitude to Ms. Stazzone for everything she does for us. Thank you for prioritizing our mental health and always being there for us. You truly are an amazing teacher!

# Kickline...A Real “Kick in the Air”

by Furkan Efe Ozdemir

Kickline encompasses dancing with pom-poms and high kicks that require synchronization, precision and teamwork. People usually relate it to the Radio City Rockettes as a reference, but it's more than that. These routines are carefully thought out and the objective is to put on a great show. With that being said, kickline is more dance-based, while the more commonly-known cheerleading is more stunt/acrobatic-based when comparing the two.

Under the tutelage of Ms. Ashbahian, the team's goal is to get more people who are more dance-oriented or have a background in dancing, but of course, the team is open to anyone who wants to display their talents and perform. Performing during halftime of Glen Cove basketball and football games, kickline also has music, choreography and character woven in with the dancing. For Ms. Ashbahian, an example of a good performance is “high energy and high kicks, the ability to pace yourself and control your kicks as well as being everyone on the same page.”

Kickline is another way Glen Cove can represent and express itself in a positive fashion for students who may not enjoy mainstream sports. It's a sport that hasn't been explored much in the past, but coach Ashbahian is looking to change all that and has plans for the future. “I want to get more participants and get to a higher level for competitions,” she said. “The hope is to do competitions out of state like the one we used to do at Disney.”

Coach Ashbahian has a long history of kickline through middle school and high school and has also



been teaching English in Glen Cove for 2 years now. With Ms. A (as she is known to some of her students) teaching in the high school, the team feels a closer connection to the coach and each other, which helps everyone feel and perform better.

“We love her (Ms. Ashbahian),” said senior Tatjana Alecia. “We're definitely closer as a team since she works in the high school and the old coach didn't work here. “She's experienced since she was a captain & has given a shot in the arm to the kickline program.”

The team has a total of 20 performers, including a pair of senior captains in Sasha Brennan and the aforementioned Alecia. “The team has good camaraderie since we are a small team in the beginning and everyone was really tight,” said the four-year Brennan. “We didn't always have enough in terms of competing, but we're a really close group.”

The pandemic really hit the team hard in terms of declining numbers, but Brennan feels that “the team is back to where it was.” Brennan also highlighted the team's performance at this year's pep rally back in the

fall that was held indoors and the fact that “it was a great atmosphere since the crowd was closer and extremely loud.”

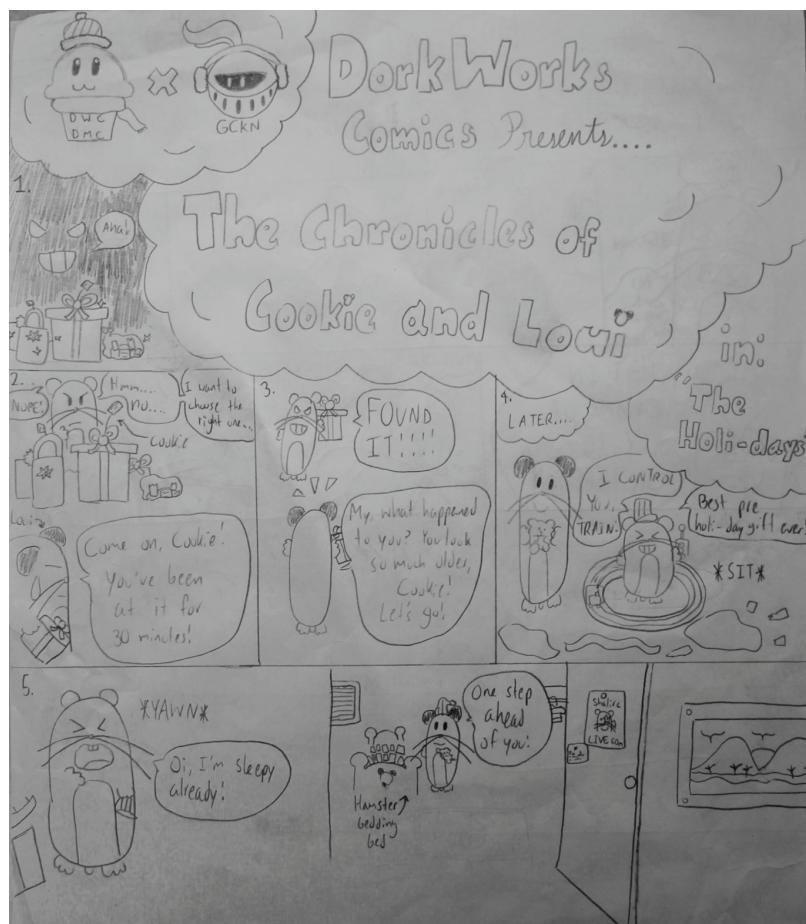
For the three-year Alicea, looking back at her experience on kickline is a positive one. “I'm very glad I did it. In fact, I wish I did kickline all four years of my high school career. It's super fun & I was always excited to come practice,” she said.

Ms. A also noted that the team is looking forward to performing on the new Glen Cove turf fields in 2024 and practice outside in general, as the team has basically been performing indoors all season. The tryouts are starting this spring and the season is getting closer. You can find the posters for information and google classroom links around the school in the hallways to find out when tryouts are starting.

Most people think of GC Kickline as just a competitive sport or simply dancing, but the sport is a way of expressing oneself and showing school spirit. So if you are interested, you should think about trying out.

## Cartooning: A Comic

by Mariela Del Hernandez Estevez



# GC Runners “On Track” To Success *by Ben Brenner*

Winter sports evoke memories of bouncing basketballs and squeaky hightops or thudding sounds of the wrestling mat, but the pitter-patter of feet in the hallway from the track team usually goes unnoticed. The Glen Cove Varsity Winter Track Team wants to change all that.

Captained by senior Phillip Dilgard-Clark and junior Kailey Yanes, the co-ed team consists of a combined 35 members that range from seniors to runners all the way in middle school (7th grade to be exact). For coach Christian Dottin and coach Kimberly Kessel, trying to pinpoint the team's strength is not an easy feat.

“We’re a pretty mixed bag,” said Dottin. “We have some talent in the sprints and our middle and long distance this year have been slightly stronger.”

With that mixed bag, coach Dottin alluded to the team’s strengths and weaknesses that comes with an array of different runners at different points in their high school career. “Our strength is how competitive we are. None of our kids have any quit in them; they really do give it their all when they step on the track,” he said. “Our weaknesses are we are very young as a whole, if the kids stick with track we will be well represented on a county scale in the upcoming seasons.”

Some notable performances include a Dilgard-Clark finishing in sixth at the conference meet and middle school sensation Giulania Portaro setting the pace as the fastest seventh grader in distances 600 and 1,000 meters. Other notables who have stepped up in a big way have been Nico Parodis and Cameron Allen.

Dilgard-Clark also mentioned another obstacle GC has to overcome. “We’re an individual-based team rather than a team-oriented one since we don’t have the sizable number in terms of members like a Manhasset



or a South Side. We’re making sure we are supporting each other and reaching our goals & a lot of them are.”

The Big Red do have an asset in Dilgard-Clark, who is passionate about running and loves sharing it with his fellow peers. He feels comfortable about being a team leader and feels he has gotten better at it as he’s gotten older. It also helps when you have people who want to listen.

“People are nice on the team and not mean,” he said. “Plus, they are willing to listen to you when you give advice and encouragement.” Dilgard-Clark’s goal is to make All-County before the year is done.

Mirroring Dilgard-Clark, junior captain Kailey Yanes said she feels the responsibility of being captain. “I do think it’s an accomplishment and that since Coach Dottin gave you the role, you feel that he does expect effort from you. I do like the leadership role even though it’s much different from more traditional team sports,” said Yanes.

Yanes’s goals are to be more consistent and improve for the spring season as well as deal with pressure and anxiety that comes before big meets.

## Dedicated Coach

A high school All-American who ran track and field at the University Rhode Island, coach Dottin has been coaching track for 9 years and likes the duality component as well as the singular nature of the sport.

“I love that track is an individual sport with a team orientation. When you get on the line it’s just you and the track...no politics, no talent and no one else to rely on. It’s all about the hard work you put in beforehand,” he said.

Pushed a little more on GC Track commitment, coach Dottin had this nugget to sum it all up. “Regardless of what anyone says, track is a really fun sport that simply requires a lot of hard work, dedication and accountability. The sky’s the limit for any athlete who works hard, trusts the process and continues to push themselves,” said Dottin. “We have athletes from all different sports, who either want to get in better shape for the season, or just want to stay active. Each and everyone of them have fun, and go into the next season much better than before!”



photo courtesy: Ms. Kissel

