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Purple Press

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Year to end early due to heat

Last week of school moves online because of projected high temperatures

Violet Wright
Staff Writer

Given the high temperatures projected in early June, SPPS superintendent Joe Gothard announced at the school board meeting last month that school will be online for the last week of the school year to protect students and staff from the heat.

"So many schools in our district don't have appropriate measures to combat the sort of high temperatures we saw last year and are projected this year," Gothard said in a statement sent to SPPS families. "After a lot of discussion, this is the solution we think is our best option." With the precedent of snow days demonstrating the effectiveness of distance

learning, district officials are confident that online learning will be the best way to handle high temperatures in the final week of the school year.

With the warm winter we've had, a warm summer prediction is hardly a surprise. The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources reports that heatwaves in December, January, and February led to

record high temperatures, record high low temperatures, all-time monthly high temperatures, and a broken record for the number of 50°F days in the Twin Cities in February, at 18 days by the end of the month. And this won't be the first time that school lets out early from heat: at the end of the 2020-21 school year, school was canceled for the last

two days of the year because temperatures were too high.

Graduation will still take place at the scheduled time. "I want to reassure families that they won't have to change plans surrounding graduation," said the superintendent in his statement. Since graduation won't be taking place at OWL, but rather at St. Kate's, there are no worries about air

conditioning or a lack thereof.

Many OWL students are happy to hear the news, especially after facing heat exhaustion at the end of last year. According to sources, several students aren't planning to hop on many google meets, and treat it more like an extra week of summer

Online school, 10

Bike tech transitions to skate tech



Purple Press Staff Photos

Teacher Joe Blegen now commutes to work on his skateboard having vowed to give up bikes (left), Joe works on a board in the former bike shop (right).

In order to increase class engagement, skateboard tech will be offered next year

Keegan Schou
Staff Writer

In an attempt to better connect to youth, OWL is replacing the Bike Tech class with a new class called Skate Tech.

In an interview Principal Dave Guandale said, "The goal is ultimately to increase

OWL's appeal to a younger generation." Bike Tech teacher Joe Blegen is eager to be making the switch stating, "I've always wanted to get more into skateboards, but it always seemed a bit silly to use my bike to transport a skateboard." Students are

excited as well. "People who skateboard are just so much cooler than people who bike

and it's cool that we get a class for actually cool people now," said 10th grader Pat Toohey. Joe is currently planning to donate all the bikes from both

his personal collection and the school's and replace them with skateboards.

The new class will officially start at the beginning of the 2024-2025 school year, and will be available when registering for classes this May. "Bikes are out, boards are in," said Joe. Because you

can't really true skateboard wheels, the shop's wheel truing stands will be sold to fund new skate tools and the posters in the Bike Tech room will also be replaced with posters of famous skaters. When asked what made him choose skateboards Joe responded,

Skate tech, 11

OWL staff's past jobs

Jensina Eccles and Lana Stevens

Staff Writers

If you can believe it, there are many more unknown pasts of OWL's staff, maybe even crazier than a Chuck E. Cheese worker or a florist. Crazy like... your math teacher going to clown school? Grab a snack and take a seat, you're about to rethink everything you know about your teachers. Get ready for OWL staff's past jobs, part 2!

This first teacher might come as a shock, unless you already know that Damon Liberatore, OWL's math teacher, was a clown and went to clown school. Yup. But that wasn't the only crazy job Mr. L had worked before becoming a teacher, he said in his interview.

"I also worked at Universal Studios in Orlando when I was in my early twenties. I was one of the people in the character costumes that went to meet the park goers," Mr. L said, going on to explain what it was like. "It was pretty fun. The characters I usually acted as were animals, in big fur suits. One of the most popular characters I did was Puss in Boots, when that movie had just come out."

Yes, Mr. L in a cat outfit. I told you these jobs would be even crazier than part 1, didn't I?

You know Zoltar or those people at carnivals and stuff who can read your fortune? Rebekah Rentzel, OWL's

Staff jobs, 10

Teachers embrace Reddit learning

Katie leads staff development push towards a learning style that teenagers can understand

Gwen Stender
Staff Writer

History teacher Katie Craven begins her lesson by opening a subway surfers screen recording and projecting it on the board. Above the popular game is a wall of text. Under normal circumstances, the format of the text would be difficult to learn from, but

when it is read out loud with unnatural pronunciation and a figure jumping on trains and collecting coins, students can't look away.

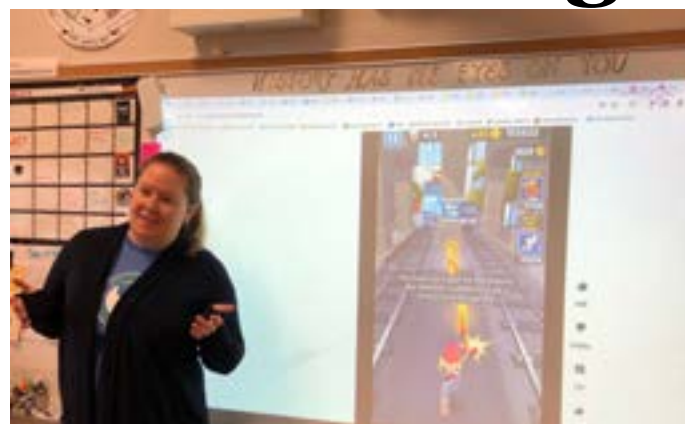
"Was Truman the jerk for dropping the atomic bomb?" Katie begins. The text shifts into a story. "J. Robert Oppenheimer, 42 male, was an instrumental figure in the Manhattan Project, a secret World War II

government program where the United States tried to make atomic bombs before Nazi Germany..."

Katie goes on to explain the logic behind the bombs and the effects of them, and the class launches into discussion, with many students basing their arguments off of the movie starring Cillian Murphy.

Katie is utilizing a new

Reddit teaching, 10



Purple Press Staff Photo

Katie introduces class content with engaging images on her screen.



The Purple Press

OWL's longest-running student newspaper was founded in 1996. We publish monthly from November through June. All content for The Purple Press is created by OWL students. The Purple Press welcomes feedback and letters to the editor. Submissions can be emailed to leo.bickelhaupt@spps.org. The opinions expressed in this newspaper do not necessarily represent those of OWL staff or administration.

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Design crew strikes!

Enough is enough for the OWL theater workers

Charley Cheatham
Staff Writer

It's official. OWL's spring play, Snow Angel, is postponed until further notice. The reason for this: the theater program's design crew has gone on strike.

On Saturday, March 23rd, the Snow Angel cast and crew had a "build day" where actors, designers, and theater families were invited to come to the OWL auditorium to help work on the sets, costumes, and props for the show. The build day took place at 9:00 am on Saturday morning and donuts were provided for the volunteers. While donuts were meant to be a kind gesture for the hardworking volunteers, they soon turned into the center of heated dispute between an actor and designer.

Around 10:30 am, stage manager Maggie Jansen and actor, Margaret Moe, were spotted outside of the doors to the auditorium standing in front of the box of donuts. According to Maggie, there was one donut left, a chocolate sprinkle.

"She walked up to the box, where I was already standing,

and just took the donut and left," said Maggie, "I couldn't believe how ignorant she was being. Total actor privilege."

"It was freaking ten in the morning and I was starving," said Margaret, "I saw the donut box and thought 'hey, I've been working hard all morning, I want a donut.' I didn't even notice it was the last one."

When asked if she saw Maggie, Margaret said, "Yeah I saw her, but she's always standing in places monitoring people, it's like her job. She literally smiled at me."

"I smiled because I thought she would have the decency to split the donut with me," said Maggie.

After the incident, Maggie was spotted "storming off" to the green room where the majority of designers were working. Beatrice Cosgrove, member of the costume department, recalls Maggie entering the green room in a rage.

"I've seen Maggie mad, but never like this," said Beatrice, "she was practically on fire walking into the green room."

According to Beatrice, Maggie called an emergency

meeting for all designers, where she proposed the idea of striking rehearsal until justice was brought to the design crew.

"I've always known actors were privileged," said Maggie, "this just really pushed me over the edge."

The week of March 25th, designers were seen protesting outside of the auditorium with signs saying things like "designers deserve better" and "donuts 4 designers". Maggie was also seen leading the protesters in chants including "We deserve better! We deserve great! We deserve the donut that actor ate!"

The strike caused a sudden pause in the rehearsal process for the spring play and while many were in support of the protest, there were a few who thought that striking was "unnecessary" and "extreme".

"All of this over ONE donut?" Said Margaret, "Like, I'm sorry, it's not that deep."

"It's about more than a donut," said Maggie, "The donut is like a metaphor for all of the times the actors have

Design crew strike, 11



Purple Press Staff Photo

Damon has been visibly struggling since the break up.

Damon and parentheses end it

After a long friendship, they are no longer on speaking terms

Maddie Linstad
Staff Writer

After what seemed like months of couples therapy, OWL math teacher Mr. L has recently announced via the social media Platform X (Twitter) that he and (parentheses) are no longer best friends, and are reportedly not on "talking terms."

Their relationship reportedly turned rocky back in early January when Mr. L, without thinking, used [brackets] in a math problem during an Algebra 2 class. When asked why he did such an act, he said he "hadn't truly realized what [he] had done, how terrible it was."

Shortly after was when the fighting on social media began. The public watched in shock as Mr. L and (parentheses) came after each other online on platforms such as X (Twitter), and on a couple occasions, TikTok. In a recent X (tweet) from (parentheses), they mentioned, "I literally can't even even with Damon. #cancelhim #breakup #betrayalisreal." Sources have also confirmed that Mr. L has been making TikTok GRWM (Get Ready With Me) videos,

name dropping (parenthesis). "Get ready with me to break up with my best friend (parentheses)," said Mr. L in the beginning of a recent Tik Tok video.

When questioning Mr. L about the breakup, he claimed, "[The relationship] was just not working out, I was no longer happy in our relationship. I was all like 'it's not you, it's me,' and (parentheses) REALLY didn't take that well."

This break up has caused an uproar of confusion and devastation across the entire school. 6th graders are supposedly being taught differently now. "We're in our 'order of operations' unit right now, but when Mr. L first wrote PEMDAS on the whiteboard, he broke out in sobs. Now we're only learning about EMDAS," said 6th grader Freddie Anderson. Additionally, Mr. L's Algebra 2 class has also been struggling. "I thought students were the ones usually crying about math, now it's Mr. L... Everyday," stated 10th grader George Abelson. George had just walked out of Mr. L's room after trying

Mr. L & parentheses, 11

OWL to change mascot

Owls deemed too 'scary', kiwi birds adopted

Aubrey Mitchell & Olivia Trobaugh
Staff Writers

In an effort to make Open World Learning come across as more friendly, Open World Learning is switching the mascot from the owl to the kiwi bird.

Many students expressed concerns that owls are too scary. The student advisory board declared that kiwis are a much better example of what

this school is about.

"Whenever I see an owl, it stresses me out," said 8th grader George Abelson. The OWL mascot is causing distress around the whole school after multiple protests outside were held in an attempt to bring attention to this issue. Other students are trying to convince Stacie Jones, the principal of Humboldt, to change their mascot as well. Senior Elena Davis said, "Owls are truly terrifying, but I can't

even imagine how Humboldt students aren't more scared with a Hawk as their mascot."

A school changing its mascot or school name is nothing new. In recent years more and more schools have changed their mascot or school name. Some schools that have changed their name are Ramsey Middle School, now known as Hidden River, and Global Arts Plus, which used to be known as Linwood Monroe Arts Plus.

Leo to teach new slang class

Famed English teacher is well versed in modern student lingo

Amelia Keenan
Staff Writer

Principal Dave Gundale is requiring all teachers to take a new after school class for 'professional development.' The class is called Student Slang: 101, and Leo Bickelhaupt will be teaching it, because he is an expert in modern slang. "I realize many teachers struggle understanding their students' slang, which is a big yikes. I want to change that, no cap," said Leo.

Student slang 101 will be required for all teachers and is a three days a week after-school course in Leo's room. Leo explained how the class will work on the daily. "In Student Slang: 101, we will cover a new type of bussin slang everyday and use it in a sentence, for real for real." Leo said this will help teachers get used to using modern slang in everyday conversations.

OWL teachers seem to be very excited for the class. One of those teachers is Dan Sullivan, a history teacher who

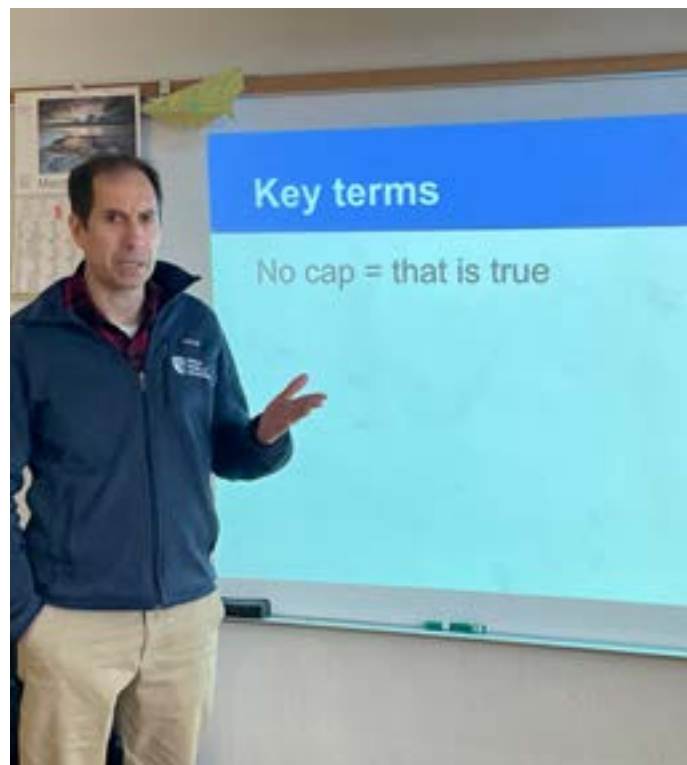
says he is sick of his students using words he doesn't know. "This way I can communicate with my students in a way they can understand," said Dan. "When I use more slang,

my students seem way more interested in what I'm saying."

Leo also mentioned in a recent interview that he is planning on bringing in a guest speaker every

week who is well versed in modern slang to help teach the teachers. "These speakers are going to really help the teachers see how the new slang sounds when someone else is speaking. They'll be shook, no cap," said Leo. Some of these speakers might be other adults who really know what they're talking about, like Leo. They might also be students from our very school.

So all in all, this class aims to help as many teachers at OWL struggle with using and understanding new slang terms and want to fix it. This class will start during the 4th quarter, so be prepared to hear your teachers talking like students, no cap.



Purple Press Staff Photo

Leo describes the meaning of "no cap" in the new course.

Secret interim list is leaked

Kaden McNamara
Staff Writer

Interim is always a major highlight of the OWL school year. Spending a week off of classes and doing cool and fun things all week long, what could be better than that. But what most students don't know is that according to very reliable sources there is a secret menu of interim courses to take, known only to teachers and their favorite students.

The following is this year's lineup of the secret interims menu confirmed by an anonymous leaker and includes:

Modern Alchemy with Rebecca Palmer

Course Description: In this course students will work on creating potions, learn about alchemical terms and symbols, balancing their humors, create homunculi, go through modern versions of Alchemy such as the anime FullMetal Alchemist: Brotherhood, and go through a subcourse made by Luke Turvold about

historical alchemists, such as Nicolas Flamel, John Dee, James Price, and Paracelsus. Week Outcome/Product: Students will create at least one successful Philosopher's Stone.

Book Balancing Varsity with Preston West and Claire Ales

Course Description: In a week long student teacher tournament, students will explore the fine art of balancing books on one's head and the competition thereof. Students will be learning about how to balance hardcover and paperback books on their heads, how to balance with increased weight load, and while walking, from book balancing champions Preston and Claire. Week Outcome/Product: Participation in a book balancing tournament, and improved book balancing skills.

Breakdancing In The Streets with Jeff Steiner

Course Description: Students will study the history

Interim classes, 10

Senior Spotlight

Katie Craven



What pronouns do you use?
She/her

How long have you been at OWL?
6 years.

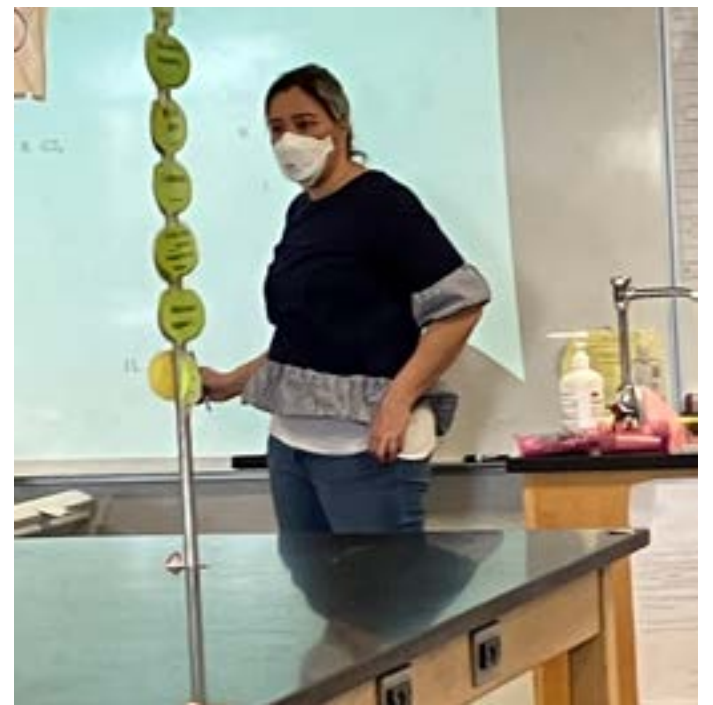
What are your plans for next year?
U of M

What's been your favorite class in high school?
World History

What extracurriculars are you involved in?
Cross Country, track, and basketball.

Favorite field work experience or school trip and why?
Six Flags Great America for physics class because we got to ride rollercoasters all day.

If you had a walk up song, what would it be?
Doo Wop (That Thing) by Miss Lauryn Hill



George Abelson

Palmer shares an anecdote about Ben during chemistry.

Palmer forgets to mention kids Science teacher went a whole hour without talking about her sons

George Abelson
Staff Writer

Science teacher Rebecca Palmer was too beside herself to teach her third hour class after realizing that she went all of first and second period without talking about her two kids. According to sources, Palmer was seen during passing time pacing around her room. When asked about the incident by 8th grader George Abelson, Palmer said, "I forgot to talk about my three year old Ben and my eight year old Henry for the last two periods and now I don't know what to do with myself." She then kept pacing while her third hour filed in.

Students can usually expect Palmer to share several anecdotes about her kids during class including mentioning how Ben threw up over the weekend and how she has to check Henry's

homework every night. "Halfway through class it dawned on me Palmer had gotten through the entire period without talking about her kids. I was disappointed. I like to hear about Ben and Henry's recent exploits," said 8th grader Tait Vossen-Nelson.

Sources confirm it took an additional 20 minutes for her to start explaining the makeup of different chemicals and even then she did not seem like herself. One of Palmer's fellow science teachers, Sorcha Nix, was heard talking to teacher Megan Hall about how surprised she was at Rebecca's actions during class. "I'm just as surprised as everyone else, Rebecca usually talks about Ben and Henry for at least 3-4 minutes. Megan then replied "Palmer's mistake is all the talk in the staff lounge; even Leslie who joined OWL's staff a couple months ago is shocked."

That One Little Kid

Luke Turvold



How tall are you?
5' 1"

What pronouns do you use?
He/him

What's your favorite book, movie, or TV show?
The Fresh Prince of Bel-Air

Who's your favorite senior?
Sora, because he's good at sports.

What is your favorite thing about OWL so far?
Four square at lunch.

What extra curriculars do you plan on getting involved in at OWL?
Hockey, football, and baseball.

Grant haunts OWL hallways

Ghostly rumors are swirling that the former teacher is back

Connie Van Genderen
Staff Writer

After school on February 15th Science teacher Sorcha Nix reported seeing strange occurrences in the elevator. "At first I thought it was just a joke. But then I saw this note, it had on it "You Cannot Replace ME!!! Pro Tips IS MINE!" And I started to get scared," said Sorcha.

Sorcha believes she has the answer. "As a scientist, I believe that the only possible option," she said while simultaneously wearing a tinfoil hat, "is that Grant is back."

It all started November 18th, when a student found Grant's old codenames game open, and set up in the elevator. After that, on December 5th, Sorcha was brought a script for a new episode of Pro Tips

found in the elevator by a student. January 10th, Jolene, received a 9th grade student, suffering with abandonment issues after they claimed to have caught a glimpse of grant, just before the elevator doors closed on the first floor. According to sources, since February this year, students have reported that Kent has started telling actually funny jokes.

Students in Kent's photography class have also noticed strange occurrences. "I've started to count the jokes that Kent has told that made me laugh, I've been putting tallies onto a piece of paper. And I've noticed that ever since Kent started taking trips with the elevator to get the paper cart from the copper room, there has been a slight

change in the numbers of funny jokes per day." said 9th grader Annabelle Wilson. So far, she has used eight sheets of paper just this month.

"Honestly I wouldn't even mind if Grant or some very funny person was haunting the elevator. I think im-, I mean, Kent is just so amazing and funny and creative that it wouldn't even bother me if he was getting his hilarious jokes from someone else," said a teacher, choosing to stay anonymous.

OWL has gained a reputation for harboring ghosts, supported strongly by a group of students online. The group was first formed when students realized this is the second ghost appearance at OWL, following last year's attacks on the second floor

boys bathroom by moaning Myrtle. The Facebook group labeled "OWL? More like FOWL GHOSTS AT OWL" has started spreading rumors about the amount of ghosts inside the building. Accusations include anywhere from 0 ghosts to allegedly "every single teacher is secretly a ghost. Except for Preston of course, he's a vampire."

As of press time, Dave Gundale has ordered that they will look into the problems with the elevator and hire on temporary councilors for the ever increasing number of 9th graders coming to Jolene Yang with abandonment issues after being reminded of Grant. "I swear, I didn't even know there were so many ninth graders!" exclaimed Jolene.

Dog actually eats homework

Rylan Merwin
Staff Writer

Claiming that she "didn't mean to spill beef sauce on it," 8th grader Zania Hierlmaier's homework has actually been eaten by her dog in an instance of cruel irony.

My dog ate my homework' has been an excuse for not doing homework since homework was invented. The infamous phrase has shown up in just about every comedic coming of age story that takes place at a school. But in a hard to believe turn of events, it has actually happened at Open World Learning, a secondary school in St. Paul.

"Obviously I didn't believe it at first," stated English teacher Leo Bickelhaupt. "When Zania came into class without her book review paper claiming her dog ate it, I was prepared to burst out laughing before she showed me the chewed-up pieces."

Many of Zania's friends have also reported that she was incredibly broken up about the incident. "I worked so hard on that essay about the Roman Empire," said a tearful Zania in an interview. "I just can't believe Waffles would do something like that. After all we've been through together..."

The issue has led some people to begin working on ways to "puppy-proof" students' homework. Current ideas include encasing the homework in plastic, encasing the homework in chocolate, creating a firework sound to go off when a dog gets close, and simply moving assignments online, although the last suggestion was nearly laughed out of the school board.

For now, a counselor has been provided for the shook-up Zania, and her family is considering giving up the dog in favor of a cat.



Say “goodbye” to Wordle

School district bans the popular New York Times word game

Zane Sheire
Staff Writer

A new policy was rolled out by the district to ban wordle on the iPads. After this didn't work they decided to ban it on the Wi-Fi so kids couldn't play it on their personal devices. This means if you have a phone or computer you will not be able to play wordle at all. There have also been some rumors that it's going to be banned throughout the US. This has caused some backlash for the students at OWL who think it's a fun game to play at the beginning of the day.

“This is a really stupid policy,” said 11th grader Mikko Liimatta.

“I use this to warm up my brain in the morning” said Senior Dash Sweet

The students are thinking about holding their own strike until the Wordle is reinstated. The teachers so far aren't taking it seriously, but the students are planning a walk out on April 1st to show how serious they are about it.

“We are very serious about this, this is a violation of constitutional rights” said senior Jack Linstead.

If you want to be included in this strike everyone is going to stand up at 1:25 and walk out of the main office. The students will then proceed to walk to every school in the district and protest outside of the school, ham and cheese sandwiches will be provided. If any teacher tries to stop you just run as fast as you can past them.

“We need to bring more attention to this,” said 11th grader Yusuf Irad.

Make sure to dye your hair green in support of Wordle.

This new policy was

supported by Dave. “Wordle is just a distraction and unnecessary.” After hacking into Dave's computer and phone we found out that Dave is just really bad at Wordle, he has a combined win record of 1 out of 300. After we confronted him about this he decided to show us that he's actually really good at it. He proceeded to lose. Then he stormed out and said no more questions.

At press time the ban and strike are both still happening, so make sure if you don't support the ban dye your hair green and walk out at 1:25.



Purple Press Staff Photo

A student displays their high-tech wristband.

Passes change form...again

iPad Smart Passes are out: wristbands are in

Za'im Dennis & Clara Crosby
Staff Writers

On Wednesday, March 6, Superintendent Dr. Joe Gothard called the SPPS School Board to a meeting concerning the potential teacher strike. The following day, when the teachers and the board came to an agreement not to strike, the fine print of the contract included recent innovations in smart pass technology, believing behavioral changes will follow.

The announcement that all the SPPS schools would be making a shift in the smart pass system by including smart tracking wristbands was a controversial subject for many board members. With four out of the total seven agreeing to subject students to these changes, which come into effect Monday, April 15th. Teachers expect this change to improve student attendance

and classroom engagement. English teacher Alysha Lundquist said, “Attendance in my class is expected. This change in how we monitor students will make my job easier. I hope these wristbands teach students to appreciate their education.”

This new model functions by multiple scanners being in various locations around the school. When a student requests a pass, the teacher must approve it, the same way the system operated before. After this, the student's wristband lights up with an icon to tell them the amount of time they have to get to and/or back to a given location. When the student arrives at the location they requested to travel to, they must scan their wristband at the scanner station in order to report to teachers and faculty that they are where they are meant

Smart passes, 8

Backpack policy enforced

The policy, headed by Clara, is said to be “justified under law”

Tait Vossen-Nelson
Staff Writer

According to students in math teacher Clara Raneri's second hour, she took a student's backpack and proceeded to throw it out the window, telling her students, “What you just witnessed was the first demonstration of slope in our new interactive unit on the slope of a backpack chucked out the window.”

Principal Dave Gundale confirmed that Clara's actions were justified under a new school policy that allows teachers to destroy and mutilate backpacks brought to their class as long as there is some educational value in the backpack being harmed. He said, “This new policy was unanimously approved by the school board last Tuesday due to students using their backpacks to trip others with malicious intent.”

The student victim, who wishes to remain anonymous, reported, “I was just talking

to my tablemates about the homework, when I suddenly became aware of a teacherly presence behind me, and the next thing I knew my backpack was soaring through the sky. I'm devastated.”

This policy is sweeping the students off their feet. “I feel like many teachers are overindulging in this policy,” reported 8th grader Grady Smith. “At least one backpack is taken from its loving owner every period.”

While some teachers are using Clara's method of

throwing backpacks out the window, that doesn't work for first-floor teachers. Kent has been cutting backpacks up for his fiber collection. “I am so happy to not have to buy fabric again, I already have enough backpack fiber to last a lifetime,” Kent reported after being questioned by Purple Press officials. “The patterns are quite intriguing, blue and black are a common theme.”

The school board is very happy with the results of this new policy. “Already we are seeing the impacts of this

policy,” said Halla Henderson, Chair of the SPPS School Board. “Fatalities caused by backpacks are down 58% according to security footage.”

According to sources, the mischievous students have come up with a game: who can bring their backpack to the most classes without it getting destroyed. This first caused an increase in the number of backpacks getting destroyed but after a few days the number decreased due to people getting better at hiding their backpacks and others backing out of the competition.

As of press time no winner has been announced.

Parents are somewhat split on whether or not they like this policy. One parent said that they like not seeing “that lump of junk” around their house anymore. Another parent is angry that they have to keep buying a backpack every couple of days.



Purple Press Staff Photo

Clara forcefully removes a backpack from her room.

Where did the blue hoodies go?

No seniors wore their blue class of 2024 hoodies on Thursday

Violet Wright
Staff Writer

In a turn of events that was previously considered impossible, sources confirm that not even one senior wore their blue class of 2024 hoodie last Thursday.

Since the college march in early December, multiple seniors have worn their hoodies every day. With nearly 70 students in the senior

class, it's statistically unlikely that no one would wear their hoodie on any singular day. “I hadn't expected no one to wear their hoodie until maybe April, when it got too hot to be wearable,” reported senior Hazel Wright, who's been tracking hoodie wearing since the college march.

“I was sort of uncomfortable all day,” said 8th grader Iona Gilbert. “It felt like something

was off. But I didn't realize until somebody pointed it out that it was because I wasn't seeing any blue senior hoodies.”

“My hoodie was in the laundry, and I have plenty of other hoodies,” reported senior Vivian Bandelin, “I didn't worry about it because somebody else would be wearing it.” “I know everybody else is having the same reaction of shame and distress as I am,”

said Hazel, “and we will strive to do better in the future.”

While some trust has been broken, students will be pleased to know that seniors have reportedly been seen asking each other who's going to wear their hoodie the next day, to ensure that such a foundational school tradition doesn't get broken again.

Collin Larson
Staff Writer

Several 8th-grade students have reportedly intercepted a coded message from the White House intended for English teacher Leo Bickelhaupt after a misclick on one of their Schoology courses.

The students apparently unearthed this feature after they selected their supposedly empty Supplemental course and received a notification with what looked like “a whole bunch of gibberish,” according to 8th-grader Zania Hierlmaier.

They opted to share the odd message with Leo, who attempted to confiscate the device, claiming it was “malfunctioning” and should be “given a hard reset.” After a heated argument that disrupted several nearby classes, the iPad was finally returned and the situation was seemingly resolved.

However, skeptics claim that this is not an isolated event, and is in fact the latest of a series of strange happenings that all seem to center around Leo. Perhaps one of the most well-known events was when Leo arrived at school on a Friday wearing a gray T-shirt.

Newcomers to OWL likely would not understand the significance of this crucial slip-up on Leo's part. The English teacher has made it a habit of wearing his Loons jersey to school every Friday, which he had done almost without fail until recently.

“I don't know what the whole problem is. I really just forgot,” claimed a confused Leo when questioned about his mistake. Students were reportedly “confused and disoriented” when their teacher came to class on March 8, 2024 without his signature jersey.

“It was totally bonkers,” claimed one 9th-grader, Moray Moore. “I didn't know what to do. Leo really let us down on this one.” Other students have voiced similar concerns about Leo's recent inconsistency. According to some sources, he graded a student's essay the day it was submitted, which is alarmingly early for Leo.

Other teachers report feeling “unsure” and “out of wack” in recent months, which may point to a connection between the students' and teachers' experiences.





Purple Press Staff Photo

Tess appears confused after finding twin Willa in her place.

Willa mistakes herself for Tess

Kiara Steiner
Staff Writer

After years of OWL students mixing up 12th grade twins Tess and Willa Campion, Willa was seen running out of Computer Science class after confusing herself for Tess.

This past Monday, Tess was on her way to her usual B-day class, Computer Science. As she approached her spot, she found her sister Willa sitting in her place. According to those on the scene, Tess looked amused, assuming Willa was “messaging with her.”

“I thought maybe they were pulling some kind of ‘Parent Trap’ switch, but Tess seemed pretty confused,” said 12th grader Anja Gundale, who usually sits next to Tess in her Computer Science class. “I tried talking to Willa before Tess showed up and she wouldn’t respond to her name.”

According to eyewitness accounts, after Tess confronted Willa she ran out of computer science and rushed to her actual class, Senior Seminar. Willa claims her confusion came from sleep deprivation.

“I stayed up pretty late the night before—I was studying for this PSEO exam I had that

day. When I woke up I knew that something felt off but I really thought I was Tess until I was looking right at her,” Willa said on the matter.

According to identical twins Henry and Oliver, this is no isolated incident. “I kind of understand Willas’ mistake. I mean I’ve been there before. Sometimes I look in the mirror and for a second, I see Henry looking back at me,” Oliver said. “Yeah,” Henry added, “only twins understand that it’s normal to confuse ourselves for each other.”

Although the Plaman twins understand Willas’ mistake, they reportedly say they’ve never thought they were the other one for very long. Experts say identical twins have a 5% chance to mistake themselves for the other on any given day. A survey was sent out to OWLs senior class asking each participant to differentiate the three pairs of twins, including Hazel and Violet Wright, Henry and Oliver Plaman, and finally Willa and Tess Campion. Research found that accuracy rates remained low, at 46%. Most admitted that they were merely guessing who was who.

OWL’s 9th grade strikes!

Johnny Gorton
Staff Writer

On March 21 2024, the entirety of OWL’s 9th grade went on strike until at least three of their demands were met. They demanded no more homework, longer lunch, more days off, and for English teacher Leo Bickelhaupt to grade everything on time. They all vacated the premises of the OWL school building at exactly 10:00 AM.

“It’s completely unreasonable, especially the part about Leo,” principal Dave Gundale said. They all vacated the premises of the OWL school building at exactly 10:00 AM. Witnesses from 10th grade who share classes with them confirm that none of the 9th graders have been showing up to class. Many teachers also report a delay in lesson plans, and a major inconvenience

in teaching the 10th graders. Several students and teachers have seen #NOSCHOOL posted by the 9th graders.

9th grader Collin Larson says, “I’m not sure why we’re on strike but I support it fully.” Other 9th graders are happy to be out of school. Fellow freshman student Moray Moore said, “I didn’t think we would be out of school because there wasn’t a teacher strike, but here we are.”



Aria Kulseth

The proposed strike sign.

New discipline strategy

Students will be expected to attend detention on Google Meets

Remy Short
Staff Writer

When seventh grader Edward Holland returned to class after a stroll around the school, he was surprised when he was immediately sent back out of class. Why? Because Edward Holland left class multiple times without requesting an e-pass. After being picked up by his parents, he was required to attend virtual detention, called e-detention, through Google Meets.

“I’m happy to announce this new form of discipline,” said school principal Dave Gundale. The e-detention had been put in place because of an increasing number of students leaving class to roam the school and later returning without requesting permission via e-pass from their teachers

beforehand.

E-detention works a lot like smart passes do; the student is given an amount of time to participate in e-detention depending on their offense. Punishment varies depending on the offense, whether it be leaving class for a few minutes and then returning or leaving class and not returning at all. When it comes to leaving class for only a few minutes, the punishment for the student is equivalent to the amount of time they were not present in class. Leaving class without return warrants a 30 minute to hour long e-detention.

The student is then given a link to the Google Meet where detention takes place, which they use their student ID to log into. In order to prevent students from not participating, their parent/

guardian is instructed to sit in the room with them so the student does not try to pull any tricks and/or tactics to avoid the punishment. A teacher also joins the meet to facilitate the detention.

Opinions about the new system float around the school, teachers are pleased because there has been a notable lack of students leaving class without using an e-pass, and have also discovered that it’s far more refreshing to now have to worry about the previous issue. “My students have been a lot more chill,” said science teacher Sorcha Nix.

Even though teachers are happy with e-detention, students and parents aren’t as much. Parents express their concerns about their children being on screens even more than they have to be. Others

even go as far as describing e-detention as dystopian. Meanwhile, students who have been subjected to e-detention have been expressing their opinion on the system as well. “It’s so awkward, just sitting there staring at the screen,” said ninth grader Alva Healy who has experienced e-detention before.

Despite the negative reception from students and families, there doesn’t seem to be any statements from administrative staff at the school about abolishing the e-detention system as it has proved to be effective in combating student’s misbehavior and little focus in class.

Bathroom problems solved

New transportation proves to be not only effective but hygenic

Emma Miller
Staff Writer

In an effort to put a stop to the constant shenanigans taking place in both the boys’ and girls’ bathrooms, the OWL bathrooms will now be permanently closed and a new program will be put in place called Bus to Bathroom.

As of press time, this rule will be enforced next Friday. In the Bus to Bathroom system, transportation will be provided for students to go home when in need of relief. Students will require passes from the office, and then they are allowed to board a bus to take them home to use the bathroom at their residence.

The events leading to this decision involved students partaking in hooliganism, such as vandalism, spending way too much time looking in the

mirrors, gossiping, throwing wet toilet paper, tearing out soap dispensers, doodling on stall walls, and in general things that don’t involve using the toilets.

“I just want to use the bathroom in peace guys. I don’t want to hear about how much you hate someone or smell the perfume you used to cover up your usage of the toilet,” said English teacher Alysha Lundquist. The program is designed to prevent all these happenings, and give students the comfort of their own home toilet.

“Man, I’m looking forward to this system. I much prefer my home toilet paper rather than the sandpaper used in the bathrooms at school,” said 10th grader Colin Simpson.

“The district has acknowledged the ongoing

issues occurring in our schools’ restrooms and has concurred that with this system, we will hopefully put a stop to the absurd activities students have been engaging in,” said Principal Dave Gundale. Along with Dave’s statement, Ms. Ma’lene had thoughts on the matter. “This will be a promising new start to bathroom normality though it is uncertain whether or not students will use this responsibly.”

There are some concerns about the Bus to Bathroom system, such as students using their passes as a chance to skip school. In response to these

concerns, the admin stresses using your time wisely in your bathroom.

There’s a possibility of a new aspect being added to the program once it’s in motion for a couple of weeks and if it’s going well. In order to offset time missed, students will be asked to log onto Schoology and complete class work on the bus which will now have Wi-Fi, in order to prevent students from falling behind, as admin predicts at least two or three bathroom trips per student per day. Hopes are high for the results of this plan, and we’ll see how this works out in the weeks to come.

OWL to offer new elective

“Future day”, led by Luke Turvold, will give students an opportunity to finally stop looking at and obsessing about the past

Sonali Dimayuga
Staff Writer

In an effort to help students have a better understanding of their futures, Teacher Luke Torvold has proposed a new school elective called Future Day. This class would focus on looking ahead in life and is offered so students will be able to better predict the outcome of their actions. When asked about how he got this idea he states “I hate how upsetting the history of humanity is, we should focus more on our future”. Future day would enable people to write papers predicting future events, based on evidence provided and said assignments if predicted right would give you an Exemplary. He later explains to an interviewer “If the students can predict it right they can get an Exemplary but if they

support their prediction well they can get a Proficient”.

The curriculum for this class will be very similar to his world history class in the projects and he confirmed there would be E work available. This class will only be offered grades 10-12 to

help them learn to maneuver possible events in their future and prepare them for adult life. Local student Titus Galbreath states “I’m so excited for this class. Our history is so depressing and now I’ll have something to look forward to!” Dave has approved this

class and it will be available next year. This class will only be offered in the first semester of each year and offers history credits. This class will be announced in the weekly email sometime in may, and is pending for further course details. Students that are aware of this class are looking forward to signing up and taking this class. Make sure to sign up for this class this year if you think you’d enjoy it or need more history credits!



Charley Cheatham

Luke Turvold looks to the future with his 6th graders.

MSHSL expands track events

Three legged racing and the limbo are among the events added

Aria Kulseth
Staff Writer

Just in time for the 2024 track and field season, MSHSL has decided to make a few changes. Due to the increase in track participation over the past few years the organization will be adding three new events to the competition, and removing one.

The three added events include the 200m three-legged race, 4x1m Potato-each relay, and finally joining the field events, limbo. Each of these events will be added with a purpose to help improve a certain skill, as well as boost happiness of course. During the three legged race athletes will be tied together at the ankles in pairs and expected to work together to cross the finish line. This race will test

their abilities to collaborate under immense pressure. The potato sack relay will be just like the 4x1 except the racers will be expected to hop the whole leg of their race in a potato sack, this event will test their hopping abilities and endurance. In Limbo, this new event will test peoples flexibility, and hopefully bringing another event to the field part of the sport will increase the number of participants. And finally the event that is being removed, the 2 mile. Due to low participation and an overall hatred for this event, MSHSL has decided to pull it from competitions indefinitely. "This event was just too problematic. I mean too many people were finishing that race wheezing for air, and over time we've seen less and less people

going out for that event," said Lambert Fleetfoot, an official at the Nation Track and field Committee.

Before being brought to Minnesota, these events have been test run and implemented throughout the country. "With almost 4.14 million people participating in track, it was just time to make a change. Hopefully these new events will boost the overall happiness of our participants, and maybe even expand our program," said Fleetfoot. After being added to leagues in Utah, Kansas, and Alabama, statistics have emerged and they are surprising. In Utah, before the new events were added, participation was at an all time low with only 5% going out for the sport district wide. Now a year later, reported participation is up to 50%, and

astounding number

After news of these changes reached the Humboldt-OWL athletics program, feelings were mixed. "I am going to crush these events!" said 9th grader Anya Robertson. "When they told us that there were going to be changes I was looking forward to them, but when I looked at the list and saw that the 2-mile was being canceled, my heart just dropped. I mean, maybe it'll be ok, I was getting a little lonely being the only one running that race," said 11th Grader Lucy Keenan.

So whether you are excited or not for these new events, prepare yourself for some drastic changes coming to practice and Track meets in the 2024 season.



Manatee hit the gym, get swole

The frisbee team embraces steroids in new training regime

Luis Hernandez
Staff Writer

At the end of last year's spring season, the Manatee frisbee team realized that there's something missing. Endurance is not what they are worried about and decided that it's overrated and unneeded, so there is only one solution. Get swole.

Starting last summer, the manatees began "hitting the gym" with the goal to get big in the hope that it would combat and overtake the endurance.

"Weight lifting is super important for frisbee players because it allows them to strengthen their arms and gain muscle," said captain and 11th grader Danny Hobday.

With only a couple weeks left until the season starts, they are hitting the gym hard. The end goal is for everyone on the team to be 220 lbs lean. To really seal the deal, the team ended up hiring fitness influencer and bodybuild champion Larry Wheels to help them with their journey to getting swole. To truly achieve their goals, the team has spent five hours a day six days a week after school and on sundays.

Currently, the most popular workout is deadlifts, with the max being 700 lbs for three. Another very popular workout is birthing squats, an iteration of a squat, just much deeper. The next steps looking forward, once the season starts they will slow down the amount of workouts a week and will focus more on the season games. Once the team achieves their goal, they will practically be unstoppable, because of their size and intimidation factors.

"These workouts have been going great," said captain and 12th grader Cooper Peterson Antin, "it's really amazing seeing the team put so much time and effort into their physique and I'm excited to see

what we can accomplish."

The main reason why the Manatee decided to do this is because they noticed that, although their endurance was very good last year, they saw that they were being outmuscled by the other teams and that was their biggest downfall. At the end of the season last year the coaches and captains had a conversation about possibly hitting the gym to improve the teams' builds and strengths.

"At the end of last year, the other captains and I talked with the coaches about getting the team into the gym more. We explained how our speed and ability were being overshadowed by the other team's strength and wanted to create more equal matches by getting swole," said Danny.

The team is also taking a combination of supplements and steroids to increase the speed of the mass gain. Some of the supplements consist of protein shakes, creatine, raw eggs, raw meat, and the one that has had the most impact, a steroid called tren. Although the steroids might have some side effects, the main use is just to get them to the weight and muscle that they want.

"Although protein and creatine are great supplements and do help with muscle gain, it's nothing like what steroids can do. If we want to reach our goal and be the team that we are dreaming of, we need to take risks and really push ourselves," said head coach Joe Ling.

"Mannnnnnn, this is our peak year and I cannot imagine us not not pushing ourselves, so the steroid that we got has really boosted the teams confidence and our strength, and we're about to destroy the competition," Cooper stated.

Square tracks now the norm

Tracks are getting a new look; it's officially hip to be square

Bennett Vaughan-Fier
Staff Writer

In an effort to increase participation, funds and efficiency, this year's track season is going to be a bit different. Starting Monday, the traditional oval track will be no more, the reason for this? It is "outdated, and not in anymore."

The shape of the track goes back many years with the earliest known circular track being used 6,000 years ago right here in Minnesota. While many are sad it is going, the change comes as many teams are strapped for cash

and are trying everything and anything to pay the costs of upkeep their circular tracks.

While over the course of its history Track and Field has never changed its track shape, nothing ever lasts forever. This change comes as the overall landscape of track and field is changing with the athletes now controlling the majority of the power. This major change also comes as a time where complaints about the oval shape are at their all time high, with many stating their reason they quit or simply don't join is directly because of the track shape. In a survey conducted

about why people don't join the track, 90% of students put the track as the reason. Several detailed responses further explained why. In an anonymous answer to the survey this person wrote, "I hate circles -Cooper," this line was repeated 200 times in the students post. As shown before the change is a very popular one, with both students and coaches supporting the change. For students they are rejoicing at the chance to not run in a circle anymore, and for the coaches they are happy they will get more students in their programs, a major

problem for many programs.

With this change the Minnesota State High School League hopes it will take some of the skill out of the sport and allow for more athletes to compete on the higher scale, and add more of a technical sense with runners having to stop and switch directions on the sharp turns. The Minnesota State High School League also hopes that this change will "encourage more students to join track, and create a more positive and inclusive environment for newer athletes."

Kai used ebike in state race

The ninth grader denies charges of mechanical doping, but evidence against him is mounting

Zinabu Petersen
Staff Writer

On October 14th, 2023, OWL's 9th grade mountain biking star Kai Walker was mysteriously stopped by a race official, and investigators have finally released classified documents that accuse him of cheating in the Minnesota mountain bike state race by using an ebike.

"While bib #4741 Kai Walker was riding by me, I heard a slight whirring sound coming from his bike," a race official reported when questioned by Purple Press officials. "I immediately thought that he was mechanical doping and yelled at him to stop."

Mechanical doping is the process of using an ebike in a non motorized event. "This race official yelled at me and told me to stop after he said he heard a slight 'whirring' coming from my bike. The audacity of these people to accuse me of mechanical doping," said Kai. "I was just worried about losing my

group and falling behind."

Kai was OWL's best performer in the bike series. He placed 8th out of 172 in the freshman D2 boys race category. His best race was at Lake Rebecca where he placed

4th out of 80.

When he was stopped the race official asked Kai if he was cheating or not but he denied it. They also asked Kai to see his bike so they could do an investigation on it and



Patrick Campion

A spectator photo clearly shows the electric motor mounted on Kai Walker's bike at the state championship race.

he reluctantly gave it to them saying, "Why are you trying to take my bike when you don't have proof that I did anything wrong?" When Kai handed the bike to the race officials it looked light since it was a carbon bike and carbon bikes are lighter than metal bikes but when he handed it to them it felt like a metal bike because it was so heavy.

"I did notice that he was going faster than normal at the state race but I never thought that Kai might have been cheating that day," teammate and 8th grader Ronin Eckfeldt reported after being questioned by race officials. "I just thought that he had been training more up to the final race."

As of press time Kai is still denying everything, pleading not-guilty. The investigation is still ongoing. If Kai is found guilty of cheating, all of his results from earlier in the year and the state race will be deleted. He will be disqualified from the state race for the next season as well.



MN Senate passes book ban

The new act targets fiction children books, will be wide reaching

Samir Keller
Staff Writer

Last Saturday a bill called the Children's Book Correction Act, expected to pass, was introduced into the Minnesota senate that would ban all fiction children's books from schools and libraries as of May 1st 2024.

The bill defines a library as 'any facility, public or private, which lends books and other materials to the public for educational or recreational purposes.' A school is 'any educational institution, including public and private schools, offering education to children.' According to an anonymous source, a single violation of these rules can result in fines of \$100,000 or greater. Schools and libraries that are government-funded or government-subsidized

may also receive funding slashes up to 40% if caught in violation of the law.

While some are happy about this change, there has been a massive outcry, with people of all ages and professions expressing their opinions on this bill. OWL librarian, Laura Orris said, "It's terrible, many students love fiction books. We'd have to get rid of most of our catalog. The school doesn't have enough funding to replace the catalog, and this is really going to let down a lot of students." Jill Remotir, a parent of an elementary schooler, said "My kid will never leave me alone, I can't even take a nap. I used to be able to give them a book so they would shut up and leave me alone for a little bit. Now there's nothing I can do, I'll never have peace and quiet again!"

Many students have voiced their own concerns about this ban, many enjoy reading and this takes away many options. There are also concerns about what is considered a children's book. Due to ambiguous and vague rules, most YA and even some adult books would be considered children's books and be banned. The bill also does not define fiction, allowing any book to be banned based on a single non-fact. When asked if they would adjust to reading non-fiction, seventh grader Cooper Small said "No I hate that bulls*t. I won't read a single book ever again."

The bill has been in draft since 2021. When asked why this bill was introduced, Senator (Calvin K.) Bahr, the sponsor of the Children's Book Restriction Act, said

"After the success of the book bans in Texas, we wanted to try it ourselves. The books our kids are reading these days are terrible. When I was a kid I had to read the entire dictionary 6 times." He then proceeded to show us a copy of the Chronicles of Narnia, "Can you believe they're teaching this blasphemy to kids? The school system has really deteriorated since the 60s."

Already, people have organized a protest against the ban at the state capitol. On April 6th, there will be a protest against the ban at 4:00 pm outside the front lawn of the capitol, there are projected to be upwards of 7,000 people, against this bill that some say will ruin our school system as we know it.



Aria Kulseth

Biden announces branded shoes Old Joe's fresh kicks are for the win!

Alva Healy
Staff Writer

The Biden administration retaliated to Trump's new high-top sneaker release with a treat of their own. The "Brain Freeze Biden 24s" are Biden's new shoes, selling for the affordable price of \$299.

The sneakers are Biden's response to Trump's "Never Surrender High-Tops," which was released at Sneaker Con in early February. Trump's shoes are high-top sneakers, made of shiny, golden material and adorned with American flags on the back, and were priced at \$399. They were sold out only hours after their release.

The "Brain Freeze Biden's" are, like Trump's shoes, high top shoes. They are made out of a more conservative material than Trump's, an off white colored material, and have an ice cream cone detail

on the sides. The ice cream is in the signature democratic blue, and has a sprinkle pattern that creates the letter "B" on one of the ice cream scoops.

Though not connected to his campaign, Trump campaign officials have promoted the shoes online, with social media posts. After seeing the outpouring of voter support for Trump because of the shoes, Biden officials released a shoe of their own only days after Trump's shoe release. The fittingly named "Brain Freeze Biden 24s," for the current president's love of ice cream. With these shoes, The Biden administration has also fully addressed the dementia speculation from Biden's opponents and asserts that they are "leaning into the joke."

"My memory is not - My

Biden shoes, 11

Facebook to rebrand as Y

Facebook follows in Twitter's footsteps, absolutely no cap

Neve Dawson
Staff Writer

As of March 25, it has been confirmed that Mark Zuckerberg is committing to the rebranding of Facebook to Y. After displaying worrying investment in Twitter's confounding rebranding, Zuckerberg publicly decided on changing the name and brand of his own platform.

Many are upset and confused as to the recent change of formerly Twitter's name to X. It makes no real sense, does not do anything to progress the brand of Twitter (if anything it sets it back), and is such a random, unnecessary change. But Facebook's creator Mark Zuckerberg cannot be counted among its haters.

In a press conference held March 13, Zuckerberg addressed inquiries surrounding his opinion on Twitter's rebranding. "I like it. I think the sleeker format allows for an ease in titling it.

X certainly rolls off the tongue better than "Twitter". It creates a strong personality behind the app that lets you know exactly what it's values are." When asked exactly what those values were, Zuckerberg responded: "You know: communication, positivity, uplifting spirits and strengthening us as a people."

Purportedly, Elon Musk, who bought out X in October of 2022, is a close friend of Zuckerberg. The two are reportedly seen in penthouses around the country together, drinking strained spinach water and doing a variety of activities to pass the time, including reading their own books, joking about buying out major companies just because they can, and reminiscing about paths they didn't take in life.

Their time spent together seems to have rubbed off on Zuckerberg. In public appearances, when Twitter

Facebook to Y, 11

The history of 'chairfalling'

The accidental sport dates back all the way to ancient Egypt

Wyatt Hanson
Staff Writer

The great sport of chairfalling has been practiced throughout the ages by many a person. Chairfalling is a sport practiced all around the world from ancient Egypt to Tibet and involves a contest where two or more people lean back upon their chair for as long as they can before losing their balance and falling.

The surprising history of chairfalling starts in the Fertile Crescent where the Mesopotamian civilization pioneered the sport, building ornate wooden chairs for athletes.

It soon migrated to Egypt, where we find that pharaohs were buried with their chairs. This, archeologists say, is proof that pharaohs had a great passion for chairfalling. Kermit Richardson, PhD, an expert on chairfalling, said "many pharaohs practiced the art of chairfalling, and it was Tutankhamun who ordered

the first measuring devices for the separation of chair falling leagues."

Chairfalling leagues are very important in measuring the skill of a chairfaller. They determine the angle at which the chair must stay before the contestant is disqualified. There are three main leagues of chairfalling: 30°, 45°, and 60°. All chairfallers first start in the 45° league, the easiest of all the leagues, with athletes

specializing in 30° or 60° leagues.

During the Trojan War, according to the Iliad, Hector tried to have a chairfalling match against Achilles instead of fighting. During the Hellenic period and the falling Roman Empire, chairfalling became less prevalent and the sport began to migrate outside of Europe and the Middle East.

It spread to China and India, where it was hailed as

the sport of kings. It gained prevalence in medieval Europe, with medieval kings often fighting over who was the best chairfaller. Many wars, especially in the Holy Roman Empire, were fought over allegations of cheating.

During the Renaissance period, a series of innovations upon the sport were made by the newly formed League of Chairfallers. The League of Chairfallers was formed in Venice and added a standard chair size and shape, timers for recording the longest time spent balancing, and books documenting the sport and events.

During the Columbian exchange, the Europeans were surprised to learn that native civilizations also practice a version of chairfalling. Chairfalling soon became a staple of colonies in America as natives and Europeans could both enjoy



Moss Windingstad

An ancient drawing depicting the art of chair-falling

Chair falling, 11

Vikings predicted to win it all

Nearly all the experts see the Vikings in the Super Bowl in 2025

August Cheney
Staff Writer

In a stunning turn of events, the Minnesota Vikings have emerged as the frontrunners for next year's Super Bowl title after a 'semi-spectacular' 2023-2024 season.

Though falling 7-10 and 3rd in the NFC North Conference, experts say the Minnesota Vikings could be Super Bowl LIX's Super Bowl champions, to be hosted in Caesar's Superdome in New Orleans. Even though the Vikings fell to 20th in the NFL's official Power Ranking list, experts claim it to be "false and biased". Other NFL reports show Vikings QBs Kirk Cousins and Josh Dobbs to be ranked 23rd and 24th in total passing yards, but

longtime Minnesota Vikings fan and math teacher Tom Totushek said, "The stats are incorrect, I watched them throw the ball around plenty of times...with my own eyes!" he added.

There are multiple speculations about new additions to the Vikings roster going around during the 2024 offseason, this being a trade with the Kansas City Chiefs, where the Vikings will hand over a 2024 4th-round pick for the Chiefs' QB1 Patrick Mahomes II. Other trade experts expect it to happen with the Miami Dolphins, where Dolphins WR1 Tyreek Hill will be traded to the Vikings a signed Kirk Cousins Minnesota Vikings jersey.

Lastly, a trade with the

New York Jets is expected, where the Vikings will receive Jets' CB1 Sauce Gardner in exchange for a game used Justin Jefferson arm-band. All of these additions will make a spectacular impact on the teams playoff contention. Chicago Bears 'hater Damon' Liberatore says "The Vikings will indefinitely crush the NFC North this season, especially the Justin Fields-less Bears."

Another set of additions to the Vikings roster are a couple un-retirements, these being former Vikings 7x Pro Bowler RB Adrian Peterson, saying "This is the season, I've been gone too long." On the defensive side of the ball, a former Vikings Hall Of Famer DT Alan Page will be returning to the Vikings

roster after being retired for 43 years. Lastly, to support WR's Justin Jefferson and potentially Tyreek Hill, Hall Of Famer WR Randy Moss will return to the Vikings.

All and all, the Vikings roster is absolutely loaded with weapons on both sides of the ball, meaning the Lombardi trophy will be headed towards Minnesota.

New staircase to be added

In a move to prevent congestion, new staircase is being built

Antonio Cervantes
Staff Writer

In an effort to reduce congestion, OWL set to construct a new staircase, spanning from the first floor all the way to the third which is predicted to reduce crowding by 60%.

Some OWL students may have seen some unfamiliar faces walking around the building in quarter one; these people were the engineers sent by the city to start planning the construction of the fifth staircase.

The current plan for it is to put it in Damon's room then build it with a winding design, breaking holes in both the second and third floors.

Congestion in the staircases has been a major issue at OWL with many middle schoolers and highschoolers often taking up the whole staircase, making it difficult and near impossible to reach your destination in a timely manner.

Construction will begin in early to mid may at the latest; however students can expect to see planners coming in within the next few weeks. The cost of this will be about 2.3 million dollars, due to the expansion of the school and

mainly the cost of labor. The time of completion on this project will depend on whether we continue to get snow into June and July, however, the latest date that completion is expected by would be late August to early september.

The staircase will boast a multitude of new features, such as a fresh coat of orange and blue paint, a steel railing which is set to give students a tighter and more comfortable grip on the rails, and thirdly there will be a portion of it which is an escalator to provide injured students a way to get to the second and third floors while still talking to their friends without using the elevators.



The south staircase is visibly congested on a Monday.

Leo hosts slides design class

Leo's classic blue and white slides have gained fame at OWL

Abby Horton
Staff Writer

After having the same slides for years, English teacher Leo Bickethaupt has been recognized for his blue and white slides Monday and has been chosen to lead this year's slide-designing seminar for staff development.

On Monday, Principal Dave Gundale posted an announcement on X, formally

Twitter, recognizing Leo for his slides and that the next upcoming staff development day will be dedicated to a slide-designing seminar held by Leo.

The seminar for teachers will teach teachers how to design slides similar to Leo, with a crisp blue line on top and white underneath. The seminar will also teach teachers student slang, aiming to engage students.

Leo, who was "shocked" by the announcement, responded on X that he was "incredibly excited" to lead the seminar.

Other teachers' slides currently are what Dave describes as "busy," adding the need for a design that is easier for students to understand. Other teachers have responded to the announcement by beginning to ask for pointers on their slides and slang.

"The response to the

announcement has been amazing. I never knew how much the other teachers loved my slides," Leo reported when asked about the teachers sneaking into his classroom to look at his slides.

Leo will lead the slide designing seminar on the upcoming staff development day. Teachers are excited to learn more from him.

Wyatt Kessler
Staff Writer

With some students spending less time on schoology and more importantly falling behind in their classes, the school board has decided to add a new feature called Schoology Plus. With students used to using apps like Tiktok, Instagram, and Snapchat every day, the school board has decided to give Schoology some upgrades.

A handful of students have been selected to pilot the new feature and give feedback before the official release next month. "I love being able to watch schoology shorts while doing assignments in class. It really lengthens my attention span and keeps me entertained while I do my work," said 11th grader Mikko Liimatta.

Schoology Plus includes many new features, including an AI text generator for tests and papers. When a student who has Schoology Plus enters any quiz on schoology, there will be a built in AI text generator for when they get stuck on a question. "The new AI feature is so useful," said 10th grader Titus Galbreath. "I was totally stuck on my world history test. Schoology Plus' AI text-thing really gave me a lifeline, like how is a human supposed to explain how Christianity threatened

and weakened the Roman Empire?"

Another feature of Schoology Plus, earlier mentioned, is schoology shorts. Students will now not have to worry about pulling their phone out to watch Tiktok if they have Schoology Plus, because schoology shorts is the newest replica. You can make videos, gain followers, and most importantly change your schoology profile picture. "How splendid, I can make edits of my academic accomplishments!" said 10th grader Teddie Lopez.

Another new feature is the Schoology chat room. You can talk about homework, share photos, collaborate on work, and tutor others, or simply chat. You can also create chats with a smaller group of people, and that may come in handy for group projects. Another "new" feature, which is very nice for students, is being able to see your grade without going on the browser version of schoology.

The masterytab is now in the schoology app for Schoology+ users, which is just a simple yet convenient addition for Schoology+. "It's the perfect addition to schoology, like doing assignments using the AI feature to save time and then watching schoology shorts after."

Dave Time™ to be extended

Lip sync battles dropped to allow time for principal's message

Oscar Mons
Staff Writer

As of April 1st, 2024, principal Dave Gundale has decided to extend the time slot for his speech, otherwise known as 'Dave Time,' to encapsulate the entirety of the upcoming April community meeting. According to sources,

Dave defended this decision by saying "I just have a lot to say!"

The schedule change for community meetings will be effective immediately, including the upcoming April meeting. Other events during the meeting, including Team Crisp Videos, Lip Sync Battles and the Student of the Month

celebration will be removed from future community meetings to make room for Dave Time. Dave reportedly released a statement about the change, saying "community meetings over time have lost focus on their true intention. Meetings shouldn't be fun."

With the end of the third

quarter, Dave intends to start quarter four off with better grades and participation. Dave hopes that the absence of other unnecessary distractions taking up the meeting, and with more time for the real focus of community meetings (Dave Time) students will be more successful in school.

Retrospective , 9

bananas one time" really stood out to me because of its sharp social commentary on the prices of fruit in the US. I also like the switch up on the song Meh as the album's melodic elements are thrown out the window for a recording of an Ice Cream Truck.

On release, Whole Lotta Red gained acclaim from multiple popular music review websites, such as Pitchfork and Rolling Stone. The aforementioned Pitchfork praised the album for being an experimental masterpiece akin to a Picasso painting. They praised the song Beno! for its beat. Pitchfork said, "[The beat] sounds like an iPhone ringing in heaven." Rolling Stone gave the album multiple accolades and decided to put the album in every spot on the 100 Best Albums of 2020 List. Thus the album received a 99 out 100 combined critic score on Album of The Year. The only reason why the album did not receive a 100 is because of The North Pole Chronicle's extremely negative review of the album. It should be noted that Santa has been caught

brining the Chronicle to create Pro-Santa propaganda and censor Anti-Santa propaganda on the newspaper outlet.

Though critical opinions and my opinion are important things, the most important thing is the opinion of the people. On that note most people agree with the critics that this album is one of the greatest rap albums of all time. 9th grader Sam Koering said, "This album is more artistically important than everything created during the renaissance period. Carti is truly the most important artist of all time." 8th grader Joseph Sierra said, "Whole Lotta Red is great though, it can't beat any album by my glorious king." While looking for opinions for this album I was surprised that nobody we talked to disliked the album so I'll add another quote by 9th grader, Alex Shuster who said "Carti is the GOAT and I'm sure my great grandchildren will view Whole Lotta Red as the better version of OK Computer by Radiohead."

The Impact of this album has been felt throughout the world even though it has only

been in circulation for 3 years. The album's sales directly helped thousands of people as Carti decided to donate half of the sales of the album to give homeless people designer sleeping bags and Gucci flip-flops. The album has influenced the music industry as the sound of Whole Lotta Red has changed the mainstream rap sound to move toward more acoustic sounding melodies along with lyrics that ask for union protections and workers rights. Though the mainstream has changed due to the album, most upcoming artists with the WLR sound have come from Carti's label. The label has signed multiple artists such as Singaporean singer: Ken Carson, Batman villain: Destroy Lonely and Wholesome rap duo Homixide Gang.

In conclusion, the album Whole Lotta Red is an album that has been super impactful to the rap industry. Not only has it been in the industry it has also remained very culturally relevant with the people. The album has remained relevant due to its content which contains some of the most

beautiful and insightful rap music of all time, up there with the likes of Detroit natives Yuno Miles, and BabyTron. Also if you were wondering what I think of every song on the album here is a track by track review of the album.

Rockstar Made: 8/10
Go2DaMoon: 11/10
Stop Breathing: 9/10
Beno!: 8/10
JumpOutTheHouse: -23/10
M3tamorphosis: 3/10
Slay3r: 8/10
No Sl33p: Insomnia/10
New Tank: 9/10
Teen X: Fetus/10
Meh: Ice Cream/10
Vamp Anthem: 8/10
New N3on: 76/100
Control: 9/10
Punk Monk: 8/10
On That Time: !!!!!
King Vamp: y=mx+b/10
Place: 8/10
Sky: WAKE UP!/IT'S THE FIRST OF THE MONTH!
Over: 9/10
ILoveUIhateU: 10/10
Die4Guy: 4 Stars
Not PLayer: Banana/10
F33l Lik3 Dyin: 63 Geese out of 17.3 Ducks

Smart passes, 4

to be. Other components of the wristbands include notifications to the teachers when wristbands are taken off while on school property, and a timer that sends a small shock to your wrist if you exceed the allotted time period of the pass.

These smart pass wristbands, or student monitoring wristbands as the district calls them, ensure that students attend classes. Superintendent Joe Gothard says that "SPPS is one of the first to implement these wristbands into schools and we hope that our choice will inspire others to increase the number of security measures set in place at their schools." However, many students feel that teachers should be held to the same standards that they are being held to. With many students threatening to protest the wristbands and their attendance to school, Central



Moss Windingstad

Schoology+ introduced by SPPS

Students excited about the new features in the app's upgrade



Reviews 'n' stuff



Cornhole is gaining popularity

The intense, action-filled new video game will be released soon

Grady Smith
Staff Writer

Imagine you're in the American Cornhole League championship and you toss your bag for the final point of the game. And, the bag goes straight in the hole! After countless years of cornhole enthusiasts begging EA Sports to make a game about their beloved sport, EA have finally confirmed in an announcement on twitter that EA ACL 2024 is now in development along with a trailer.

The ACL (American Cornhole League) have made a deal with EA Sports to have image rights of their players and brand to be used in the game. The deal is reportedly worth around \$80,000,000

and is five years long. There is no estimated release date given out by EA but fans are theorizing that it comes out this year because the title of the game says 2024. Like most other sports games by EA, it's on all platforms. But with the games advanced graphics and immense amounts of content, it'll most likely be worse on the

Nintendo Switch.

From what's been seen from the trailer, the game looks pretty good. There's an advanced throwing system where depending on what map you're on, there might be wind. For example, if you're in a gym or something of the sort, there's of course no wind. But if you're in a backyard or

somewhere outside, then there can be any amount of wind. And for the throwing itself, there's a sort of arc you can aim towards the board and you have to hold the throw button to put more power on your throw.

Like I mentioned before, the graphics are very good and clean looking. The textures are smooth and the animations are realistic. The trees sway in the background according to the wind speed and direction, and you can see other people in the background talking and eating or laughing. These actions show that they actually care about this game, unlike the others they develop like EAFC or Madden which are



Corn Hole , 11



Purple Press Staff Photo

Beatrice makes a statement in opposition to reading.

Why reading is overrated

Beatrice Cosgrove hates reading...and she'll tell you why

Beatrice Cosgrove
Staff Writer

"Read a book," one of the most horrifying phrases uttered by mankind to educate, encourage or otherwise distract an innocent child. Screams can be heard echoing from the catacombs of libraries, the screams of children trapped in the Governmental Documents section. Their voices carry a message, a warning. Reading is overrated.

A recent study conducted by Goodreads estimated that 98.203786512% of members thought reading to be a waste of time, energy and brain cells that could otherwise be spent on social media platforms, staring at a bedroom wall, and the most popular choice, arguing with their parents. "How to avoid class reading" was the singular most read book by teens on Goodreads. "What am I getting out of reading? It's all fake," 8th grader Charley Cheatham lamented, "social media is real, it's the realest."

I have read many books in my time, from all different genres, and have finally decided that I have gotten nothing out of it. Lord of the Flies taught me that a group of children left alone will turn into chaos, The Great Gatsby taught me that a bunch of rich people left alone will turn into chaos and Anne of Green Gables taught me that a twelve year old girl left alone will turn into chaos for the poor people who took her in. I have slowly

come to realize that each and every day spent reading was wasted.

Books seem to be an integral part of American culture with quotes and references being derived from the most popular literary works, yet somehow I've gotten by simply by watching the movies. The movies cut down the books to just the necessities, ensuring all the most important quotes remain in the script, but giving the viewer the ability to watch the story unfold. "Imagination is for little kids," Charley said with glee, "movies do all the imagining for you. You barely have to use your brain!"

Reading has never been scientifically proven to enhance intelligence or performance in school and therefore has no intellectual value. In fact, OWL librarian Laura Orris surveyed the student body and found that those who refused to read were more in touch with themselves, nature and celebrity gossip.

"This study has given me a whole new perspective on students and how with an increasingly modern world, students need to explore what's in front of them, their own stories and the paint on their bedroom walls," Laura said, "books just aren't doing that."

And that concludes my argument for why reading is overrated. It is simply a waste of time. No one should do it. Ever.

"Reading is cap," was English teacher Leo Bickelhaupt's only comment.

Whole Lotta Reds changed music

Innovative album received countless Grammy nominees in 2020

Ian Myott
Staff Writer

On the 25th of December of 2020, rap music would change forever as the highly anticipated second studio album of philosopher and rapper Playboi Carti would be released.

The release of this album is arguably the most influential event in the history of music as its impact changed the music landscape forever. This is proven by the content being so philosophically deep and musically expressive that it was nominated in every category for the 2020 GRAMMY's 101 days after the nomination deadline closed.

The album Whole Lotta Red, which had been hyped up for over one and a half years, delivered a consistently great

and fluid album experience, has been praised by millions of people from all over the world.

Whole Lotta Reds musical content is considered experimental because its melodies were created only using church bells, banjos and xylophones. This album also contains additions from the late Frank Sinatra on every single song except for the 11th titled "Meh."

These additions are considered controversial because Carti's producer, Beethoven, decided to pitch all the additions up five octaves and cover them in autotune. Other additions on the album include: Ed Sheeran on Go2DaMoon, Metallica on I Love UI Hate U, Jay-Z on Vamp Anthem, The Backyardigans on Control, and the late Queen

Elizabeth II on Teen X.

The lyrical content of this album is based around Carti's personal experience growing up in the North Pole, this is the reason why the album was released on Christmas day. He discusses the abuse Santa gave to the elves and the unsafe working and living conditions of the North Pole. Carti discusses this in depth on the song JumpOutTheHouse where he relives a flashback where there was a fire in his apartment building and he was telling the elves to jump out of the building/house. Carti also reveals he has dementia on the song "M3tamorphosis." Themes of his dementia are also sprinkled throughout the album via the What! adlib which is featured heavily throughout the album. Carti

also reveals vocals that he recorded while he was in the womb on the song Teen X.

My personal favorite song on the album is Go2DaMoon where Carti suggests in the first half of the song that the U.S. should send the state of Wyoming to the moon for a funny TikTok. I also heavily enjoy the second half of the song where Ed Sheeran does a duet of Fly Me To The Moon with the late Frank Sinatra over a bluegrass banjo instrumental. A close second for my favorite track on the album is the song Not Playing. I like the beat on this song because it sounds super silly, though the lyrics are super serious. The prime example of this is the lyric: "I gotta go

Retrospective , 8

Twilight is a coming of age novel

Twilight is an influential book full of complicated themes

Zania Hiermaier
Staff Writer

Have you heard of Twilight, the new book by Tumblr sensation Stephenie Meyers? This book is coming out on April 5th, there's only one thing people are calling it: lit. Following the romance of Bella Swan, a teenage girl moving to a small town in Washington, and Edward, a vampire at Bella's new school, we can officially tweet this couple as #ship.

Twilight is a coming of age story that's perfect for fans of romance fantasy with a twist of comedy. Throughout the book, Bella and Edward's relationship is constantly problematic, as the two are different species. When you tie in the antagonist, James, a new vampire who may or may not want to eat Bella (#bonding sesh), the two's lives

don't exactly fit into the perfect category. Adding sexy vampire baseball, diamond skin, and horny teenage boys (slay), Twilight is full of surprises readers will love.

Twilight also covers complex ideas such as the "not like other girls" concept, a new theme in literature that focuses on accepting differences. Bella is described as different from everyone else, and makes that her entire personality throughout the book. By doing this, the reader is able to connect with Bella on a personal level, which is a first in YA literature. Meyers told the press that she wants her readers to know this motto: who wants to be basic when you can be 'not like other girls'. Period. Yas Kween.

If you thought Twilight couldn't get any better, just wait and see. Like any good

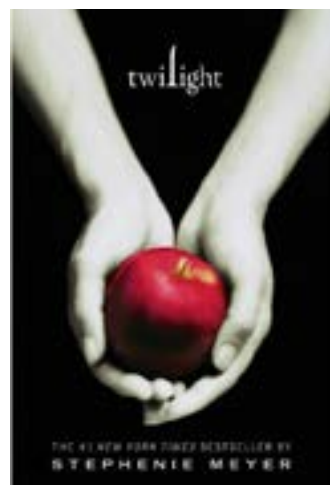
drama, Twilight must have multiple love interests because for Bella, one bae is not enough. In addition to the swoony, dark vampire Edward, there's the funny, sweet, and surprisingly hot werewolf, Jacob. Applauds to you Bella, you sure know how to pull. With this romantic side of the book, readers get to choose for themselves which team they are on: Edward, or Jacob. We all know there's only one right answer, which will it be?

Now that we've established just how important Twilight is to society, we have to cover one last thing: the message. Twilight is a love story about fighting for what you care about, no matter what obstacles you face on the journey. It's the type of book that sits with you for your entire life, with a signature spot on your bookshelf. It's the

book of the century, and must be treated that way.

That's it,
Zania xxx

Make sure you preorder Twilight right away. You can get a discount using Jacobizhot22 for 23% off at Books 4 U, the new sister company for Toys R Us.



If you're looking for a good family movie, read this!

Superheroes don't actually exist, so why not embrace Oppenheimer and please everyone?

Maisy Wall
Staff Writer

If you know me, you probably know I'm a huge film geek, and I'm always looking for recommendations for the next movie I should watch. I've also been trying to keep in touch with what the cool kids are watching lately - you know, kindergarteners - but I haven't found many that seem appealing to me. So, when my good friend and fellow journalist Beatrice Cosgrove supplied me with a list of some of her favorite popular kids movies, I decided to jump right in, and while I was at it, why not write a review?

Just a disclaimer, you probably haven't heard of any of these because they're low key old; the oldest one is from all the way back in 2004; who

even watches anything from the 2000s these days? I mean, maybe your great grandparents or something like that.

Well, enough dawdling, and on with the article! For my reviews, I'll be starting with the oldest film, and working my way down the timeline. So, taking it all the way back to 2004 - which, as I've expressed, is, like, a long time ago - I will first be reviewing *The Incredibles*, which somehow won the Oscar for Best Animated Feature.

Right off the bat, this movie is very unrealistic, as are all of the movies in this review. I mean, I hate to break it to you, Marvel fans, but superheroes don't actually exist. Also, it features an unnecessary amount of violence, including fist fighting

and weaponry, which is incredibly inappropriate. (Get it? I'm literally so funny.) Don't let your kids watch this film unless you want them to have nightmares and get into fights. You can thank me later.

Next is another surprising Grammy winner; *Ratatouille*. I mean, come on, it's literally about some kid becoming friends with a rodent, inviting it into his home, and allowing it to cook dinner for a famous food critic. Do you know how many diseases rats can carry?? The average rat is known to spread up to 35 diseases, all of which were probably in that dish. I agree with the short chef guy; Remy should've been killed the minute he was spotted.

I knew I wouldn't hear the end of it if I didn't include

at least one Disney princess movie, so I chose *Tangled*, which has been recommended to me many times by my friend Charley, who claims the film was "ahead of its time because it is just epic and Rapunzel is very relatable." However, I would like to warn you that this so-called "relatable" character hit someone on the head with a pan, which knocked him out. This film also advertises trespassing, stealing and running away from home, all of which young children can easily be subjected to. Please, for the good of everyone, protect your children from nasty themes like these. These kids will grow up to be the leaders of our next generation; do you want our president in twenty years to be a barefooted girl with unruly long hair

that can easily prove to be a choking hazard, all because of the horrible lessons *Tangled* is impressing on youth? I didn't think so.

I would hate to end my article on a negative review, so I would like to finish off by sharing what I believe is the best family movie of the century, filled with valuable



lessons and entertaining visuals. *Oppenheimer* is sure to spark creativity and a thirst for knowledge, as it is about the creation of the atomic bomb, which has been very relevant in world history. Kids will walk away from *Oppenheimer* wanting to make a difference in the world, which is all parents can really ask for, is it not? *Oppenheimer* is also a new, successful movie that won multiple awards, including the Oscars for Best Actor in a Leading Role, Best Director, and Best Picture. Now there's a deserving film for you!

Hopefully you'll be able to benefit from this review, and if you take my recommendation, I promise both you and your kids will enjoy it, and you won't be disappointed!

Interim classes, 2

and culture of breakdancing. Students will be walking around the city, talking to and learning from experts in breakdancing. **Week Outcome/Product:** Students will have a deeper understanding of breakdancing history and culture. Students will also have improved their breakdancing skills.

Dirt Bikes St. Paul with Joe Blegan

Course Description: This is a one week dirt bike skills and care course. Students will gain the abilities to safely ride a dirt bike, properly take care of one, and to perform tricks on a dirt bike. Students will be expected to ride 10-20 miles each day. Dirt bikes will be provided. Students will be expected to carry all of their equipment. **Week Outcome/Product:** Students will learn about basic dirt bike maintenance, dirt bike riding skills, dirt biking culture, and how to perform

Staff jobs, 1

critical ethnic studies and theater teacher used to be one. Really, I'm not kidding.

The job started out as just a gig at a local carnival in her hometown Petaluma, California. "I just kind of wanted an extra buck, you know? But then it really turned into something I really enjoyed, I felt kind of a calling," Rebekah explained in an interview. "I was good at it too. I'd always felt like I had sort of a sixth sense, and now it was all fitting together and making sense, in my mind."

After she graduated college, she decided to make fortune telling a true career. She found a fortune teller shop nearby and began working for them. Soon, she was one of the best tellers at the shop, but then, she got a different calling.

"One day, I was feeling a little off, spiritually. So I asked one of my friends to read my cards on what the spirits were telling me. After my reading I realized the spirits were telling me that my fortune telling life had been fulfilled to the fullest, and that now it was time to move on to something new, I decided to be a teacher." So she moved to St. Paul, found

dirt bike tricks.

Ethics of Robotics with Tom Totoshok

Course Description: In Ethics of Robotics, students will be building robots of their own, and will learn about various ethical dilemmas. Students will be challenged in their engineering, coding, and critical thinking skills. Students will engage in the ethics of things like current AI, automation, Asimov's Laws, and the probability of a robot uprising. **Week Outcome/Product:** Students will make a poster about the ethics of a part of engineering or programming.

Fungal Zombie Studies with Megan Hall and Sorcha Nix

Course Description: In this course students will learn about different types of fungi biology. As well as deconstructioning and correcting different fungi based zombie apocalypse inaccuracies and

OWL, and became a teacher. She chose to teach theater to continue on her free, creative mind.

Did you ever watch TV as a kid, and think, man, I wish I could be on TV! But alas, it (probably) never happened. Someone would have to be really lucky to get on one of those shows, lucky like your own science teacher Akira Mally. Yes, it's true, Akira, as a kid, was an actor acting for Disney Channel. The Disney Channel. It wasn't a major role, but it wasn't any small role either. He appeared on *Dog With A Blog* as a background character and sometimes as a friend of the family's. He only appeared on one season and then left because his parents wanted him to experience a more normal childhood. In an interview he talked about his thoughts.

"At first I was really mad, I mean who would want to leave Disney? But now looking back I see that it was really good for me, and I'm glad my parents took me out of that kind of environment." He said how after leaving it helped him find his passion for teaching, specifically science.

misassumptions in modern media. **Week Outcome/Product:** Movie trailer for a fungi-based zombie apocalypse movie that is accurate to fungi biology.

Equestrianism with Alysha Lundquist



Course Description: This course will expose students to horses! We will learn about proper horse care, equipment, breeds, horse riding, and various competitions from experts who do this

Reddit teaching, 1

form of teaching she observed during a teacher training in San Diego which was shown to increase student engagement and learning by over 73%.

"In the past year, test scores from kids in schools using this learning method have gone way up," Katie had explained as she prepared her classroom for a day of storytelling. "People have a very negative association with monotone lectures, which is the biggest obstacle with implementing this style. My challenge is to show OWL teachers that this works."

"I mean, I can kind of see it, though it is surprising," Spanish teacher Tim Leone-Getten said about the style. "Kids have a negative attitude around school, and a positive attitude around TikTok. It makes sense that they'd want to consume content in a similar way that they do in their free time."

Dave Gundale, OWL principal, observes Katie's lecture from the back of the classroom. "This is our newest professional development push," he said afterwards. "Never have I seen 8th graders so invested in a class

professionally. Students will be riding and taking care of different horses all throughout the week, ending in competition. Some students will be offered the chance to learn horseback archery and lassoing skills. No experience

or equipment necessary, everything needed will be provided, you may bring your own things if you have them. **Week Outcome/Product:** Students will participate in a horse riding competition at

and participating so much in discussions. This method allows students to make up their own minds on important topics as well as take in and memorize content. It's what EL education is all about."

When asked if he was learning more in APUSH with Katie's Reddit lectures, 11th grader Bennett Vaughan-Fier said, "Yeah."

"I think it's good that they're modernizing teaching," 11th grader Kiara Steiner said. "Google slides were okay, but they got old. Now I don't even have to look at the board anymore if I don't want to, I can just listen to it like a podcast. I'm almost at rank 50 in Papa's Freezeria, and I'm learning APUSH. It's the perfect system."

Will Reddit stories revolutionize teaching in the United States? Will they persist in engaging students or will kids lose interest? "I'm not sure," Katie said, "but it's working for now, so why not hop on the trend?"

the end of the week

OBJECTIONS! LAWS! VERDICTS! with Akira Mally and Issac Stender

Course Description: Are you interested in law and legal work? If so, join this interim and learn all about it. Students will be learning about different types of courtroom law, such as defense and prosecuting attorneys, as well as judges. About what to do if you are ever arrested for or accused of something you didn't do. Students will also go over some famous court cases that ended in either a fair outcome or an unfair one, and will talk about some of the failings of the current law system. **Week Outcome/Product:** Students will take a mock bar exam at the end of the week.

Lockpicking 101 with Clara Raineri

Course Description: Have you ever found yourself locked out of your own stuff without any way to get in? Would you

Online school, 1

break. "Getting out of school early? Sign me up!" said 8th grader George Abelson. But seniors have complained that they won't be able to attend the last day of school festivities because of graduation rehearsal on what will now be the last day of in person school. "I was really looking forward to that last week of school that I didn't have to attend," said senior Hazel Wright, "but now everybody else gets that, and I won't get to go to my last ever last day of school? It's disappointing."

Teachers are also skeptical. "Graduation is a somewhat stressful time even in a regular year, and organizing both graduation and crew activities for the same day is going to be

like to avoid that situation? Well then you should join Lockpicking 101! Students that join this interim will learn the technical knowhow of lockpicking, learn about lockpicking tools, learn about the physics of locks, and will be treated to a google meet Q&A by the popular YouTuber LockPickingLawyer. **Week Outcome/Product:** Students will walk away with the sufficient tools and skills to pick locks.

Your Body Is A Canvas with Kent Miller

Course Description: Students in this course will learn specific vocabulary related to tattooing and tattoo tools. They will learn how to make and remove tattoos. **Week Outcome/Product:** Students will work at a tattoo shop for a few hours, and those that want to and have parental consent will get a tattoo of their own.

tough," said Spanish teacher Tim Leone-Getten. "My schedule is thrown off by the change, but we'll get through it," reported English teacher Leo Bickelhaupt.

Because many school buildings in St. Paul are so old, it can be challenging to get air conditioning installed. It's also expensive and time consuming. But as global climate change progresses, the school district will probably have to find the money to install cooling systems.

At press time, OWL seniors were seen asking the district for air conditioners to be installed to preserve the last week of school, while counterprotesters from other grades advocated to be allowed to keep their extra week of summer break.

Book tinder
Can't find your soulmate? Find your bookmate. The book that matches your soul!

Chair falling, 7

the great sport. Notably, a great chairfalling competition was held during the first Thanksgiving that ended in a tie.

After the American Revolution, Britain outlawed the practice of chairfalling, leading to it losing favor in Europe. The League of Chairfallers fled to America, where they continued to practice the sport.

Historian Michael Dawson said the effect of outlawing chairfalling in Europe was that "people across Europe lost their faith in their countries due to the loss of chairfalling. This, we now believe, is a major cause of the migration of Europeans to America and the cause of the Age of Revolutions we see in the early 1800s."

During the French Revolutionary period, chairfalling was made legal again briefly before being outlawed by Napoleon. The

Age of Revolution saw many people fighting for their right to chairfall, leading to European monarchs punishing their people severely. In 1832, the Russian czar declared that anyone who fell backwards in their chair would be executed for their crime of chairfalling.

This policy only lasted for a year, but had a long lasting effect upon Russians, with chairfalling being a hated practice to this day. The period leading up to the world wars is called the Golden Age of American Chairfalling, as America experienced an unprecedented amount of development in the field of chairfalling.

After the world wars, chairfalling fell completely out of fashion and almost no one in Europe or America practiced the sport. This happened because the fear that chairfalling caused brain damage from falling and the effect of the war on morale. Instead sports like soccer and football (previously seconds to

chairfalling) took their place as the sports of the world.

But chairfalling still exists to this day. In monasteries of Buddhism monks have learned to master the skill. They hold multiple world records and those who have seen them chairfall are amazed by their grace and balance.

Even students practice the sport, even if they've forgotten their history. Across the world chairfalling is seeing a resurgence in the youth as they seek the thrill of this ancient sport. It is still in its infancy as the rules and regulations of the sport are long forgotten, but many experts in the field of chairfalling are thrilled to see the revival of the sport they love.

Mr. L & Parentheses, 2

to ask him a question about the recent homework but was unsuccessful in getting him to talk.

It's not only Mr. L's heart that has become darker, it's also his wardrobe. Sources have confirmed multiple sightings

Corn Hole, 9

full of glitches and bugs.

But, there is an issue. There will be a fee to win certain features. It's an in-game currency called "Bags Bucks" that you can use to buy players or boosts. This makes it so if you spend your life savings on the game, you pretty much win everything. You may be wondering what a boost is, boosts can be put on players to increase their stats like throwing ability, spin or accuracy. And obviously players will have base stats reflecting their real life abilities. Take Kaleb Hurt, who is commonly known as one of

of Mr. L's new "emo look," some even claiming to have noticed Mr.L wearing eyeliner. "I have definitely been noticing some new fashion choices from Mr.L, I'm sure this phase in his life will pass with time," said Principal Dave Gundale. Mr. L, overhearing this statement stated, "It's not a phase, Dave!"

if not the best cornhole players in the world. He specializes in being precise with his throws so his accuracy stat is high but his power is a bit lower.

I feel like this game has the potential to be great. But if it is anything like the other sports games made by EA it could very well be a glitchy mess that forces you to spend hundreds of dollars on the game if you want any enjoyment. But I really hope it's not that way and EA has learned from their mistakes.

When asked about Mr. L's new vibe, 10th grader Ian Oberhide said, "I'm kind of worried for the guy. All I'm really gonna say is, there's A LOT of My Chemical Romance in the playlist for the upcoming community meeting."

Biden shoes, 7

memory is fine. My memory-" Biden states when he is asked about his cognitive ability, "You know, I guess I just forgot what was going on."

With the popularity of both the "Never Surrender High-Tops" and the "Brain Freeze Biden's," a multitude of other politicians from both parties have sent in applications to collaborate with Nike to create their own shoes. As of this time, upwards of 20 other politicians have requested to work with Nike. Senators such as Elizabeth Warren and Mitch McConnell, as well as state representatives such as Lauren Bobart and Marjorie Taylor Green have all made requests to collaborate to make their own shoe.

Design crew strike, 2

stolen something from us or taken advantage of us."

Maggie reported that the design crew will continue to protest until the actors buy them each their own box of donuts and hand-feed the donuts to them. Until then, the dates of the play have been put off until the strike is over and the theater department can calculate how much time will be necessary to make up for the lost rehearsals.

Skate tech, 1

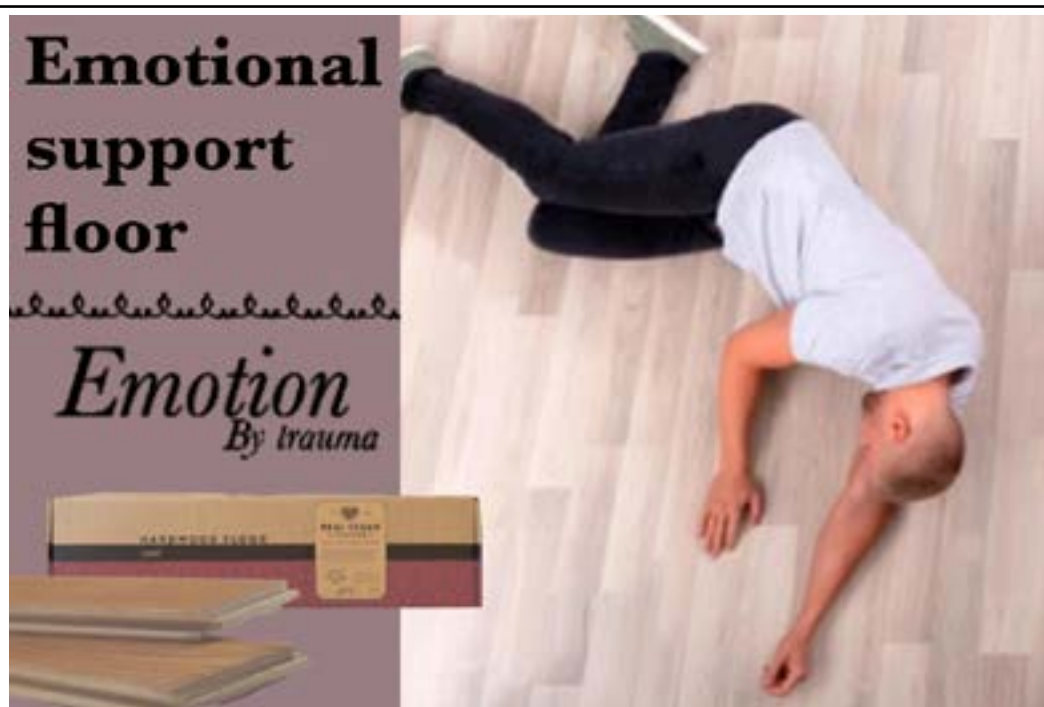
"You know Mondo Gecko right? Like from the new Ninja Turtles movie? He's so cool. That and I've been playing with the Tech Decks I confiscated from students."

The teacher has also reportedly hired pro skater Tony Hawk to "just really set the vibe of the space" by standing around in the class. When pressed on where all of the money for these massive changes is coming from Joe kick flipped out of the window, Christ aired into a grind and sped off down Humboldt avenue. The former bike tech teacher's whereabouts are currently unknown and his family claims they haven't seen him since he converted all of the stairs in their home into ramps.

Facebook to Y, 7

or Facebook's rebranding is brought up, he is too enthusiastic about the concept. "I have my marketing team already working on the redesign. I told them to take inspiration from X, and reflect the values of family and connectivity without sacrificing what Facebook is really about: the future of human connection."

Zuckerberg's dedication to the change has many outraged as to the billionaire's next steps. However, there is nothing anyone can really do to change the outcome. Some have tried stirring up riots, but most people don't care enough to try and change the results of the rich's decisions.



Upcoming Events

April 8th - 14th: Spring Break

April 17th - 19th: Student Led Conferences

April 23rd: Pretty much a regular day

April 24th - 26th: Spring Play

April 30th: Senate Expedition at the State Capitol

May 1st: Might be kind of hot out

May 3rd: Bring your cat to school day

May 4th: No school because it's Saturday

May 6th: Leo Slide Design Seminar

May 7th: Teachers probably in a bad mood

May 9th: Spring Choir Concert

May 10th: 6th grade skip day

May 13th: 7th grade skip day

May 14th: 8th grade skip day

May 15th: 9th grade skip day

May 17th: 10th grade skip day

May 20th - 24th: Double homework week

May 27th: No school: Memorial Day

May 28th: Kiara could be absent

May 29th: Senior skip day

May 30th: Wear your swimsuit day

May 31: Teacher skip day

June 3 - 7: Online learning week

June 11: Principal skip day



An apology from Mom, pt 1

Reeling, Allie deals with her mom's death. But one clue remains.

Joseph T. Schwartz
Staff Writer

"You get this rotten temper from your mother, just hand over the letter!" yelled a man with thinning black hair. Across from him, with her back to the wall-spanning bookcase, stood a girl with the same color hair cut to her shoulders, and to her chest she clutched a bulging white envelope.

"It's not your name written on it, father," she spat the familial title with venom, "the letter was addressed to me, from mother." She said firmly, pointing to the name "Allie" written across the letter.

"Alethea, I swear..." the man trails off and takes a deep breath, "just give me the letter and you might not get grounded."

"It isn't addressed to you—" "Who it's addressed to doesn't matter, she was my wife, so I get to read the letter. Now. Hand it over."

"For the millionth time—" "I ought to just lock you in your room and never let you out," her father muttered under his breath, "it'd save me so much trouble."

"If I'm 'so much trouble.'" She mocked, "Why not send me off to Uncle Theo, then? You know he'll take me."

"Oh, yes, Theodore," He chuckled heartily, "That's hilarious. Well, if you don't want to cooperate. Gabriel?"

"Yes, Mr. Montgomery?" replied a well-dressed man who stood against the door.

"See Alethea up to her room, don't let her out until she's cooperative."

"Of course, Mr. Montgomery." Gabriel nodded and looked to Allie, who sighed and followed him out the double doors.

They made no conversation, only the echoes of their footsteps in the hallway broke the silence. From knee height all the way to the 15 foot ceiling, the walls were lined with old portraits, haphazardly placed so they'd all fit. Below each painting was a small tag with the artist, title, and monetary value. No tag had an estimate less than 10,000. Her father had been slowly lining the hall in front of his study with paintings since he bought the house.

Allie clasped her hands together, using her right thumb to rub the back of her left, and looked to the floor, avoiding looking at the portraits that lined the halls. She could feel the dozens of pairs of 18th century eyes from the watching from the walls.

Gabriel led her past the hall of portraits, up the west stairway, and to her room. He was about to shut the door behind her when she turned to him.

"You know he's terrible, right?"

"Mr. Montgomery doesn't pay for my opinions."

Allie let out a deep, heavy sigh.

"Mr Montgomery told you

what he wants. You know what to do when you're over this."

She grabbed the door and shut it for him.

Deep breaths, she thought, deep, slow breaths. Allie put her back to the door and repeated the words over. The room was spacious, like every room in the house. Her bed was centered against the back wall, and across the room from it was the desk, which was directly to the left when standing at the door. A notebook sat on her desk, opened to a fresh, unmarked page. Bits of crumpled and torn pages littered the desk and floor around it.

"Stupid journal." Allie pushed the notebook and paper from her desk, setting the envelope in its place. The envelope clearly had something inside of it, as it bulged out in the middle and it was only just kept shut by the wax seal on it. On the seal was a raven's head.

For just a moment, she just stared at the letter. Should I? She flipped the letter over, revealing her name on the other side. Only her mother called her Allie, she would know it was from her even without the "From: Momma" written in the top right corner. She didn't know why she was hesitating to open a letter addressed to her.

"Why?" she asked herself under her breath, and realized in the same moment that she already knew the answer.

"Just rip the bandaid off, right?" she whispered, a little uncertain

She flipped the letter and peeled the wax seal off, opening the top of the letter. Out of it, she pulled a small, plastic device. It was black and had a speaker on the front, along the side ran four buttons, with writing from a silver marker on the top two and the bottom two left blank. With a closer look, Allie saw that the top button was labeled "Chester," her father's name, and the one below had her name, "Allie." The other two were unmarked, and the bottom one was red. When she pressed the one labeled "Chester," her mother's voice began to play from the speaker.

"Hey, Che—" Allie pressed the red button and the audio stopped. Something caught in the back of her throat and she let out a noiseless sob. Her shoulders rose and fell with deep breaths, and the mantra repeated over and over in her head. A tear fell down her cheek.

"God..." She slumped over her desk and covered her face in her hands, and the player clattered to the desk. It took her a while to compose herself enough to pick it back up and think on it more.

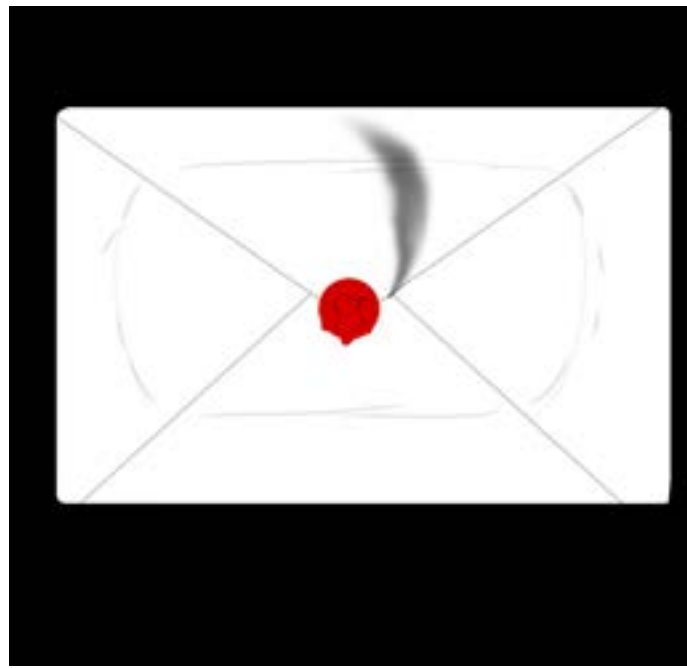
Allie turned the device over in her hand, contemplating.

Her chair scraped against the floor slightly as she stood up. She took a step towards her door before lowering herself to the ground, peeking

underneath her door. The shadow of Gabriel standing in front of her door was plainly visible. If she played it in her room, Gabriel would hear it, and, consequently, her dad. She didn't want that. Leaving through a window was ruled out, then, too. It wasn't too far of a drop for her, she'd made it before, but they were old and a struggle to open. Gabriel would stop her before she was out. Allie grabbed her jacket from a hook by her door, put it on, and slipped the player into one of the pockets. She turned towards the door, letting out a sigh as she did.

"Gabriel, hand it over." "That's very good, miss, I'm sure—" as he said that, he opened the door to her room and stepped back, leaving the way out clear—"your dad will be—" Allie bolted out the door, down the hall, and was running down the steps in seconds—"very pleased..."

She took no time to look back at Gabriel's expression, or to see if he was following him. Allie just ran. She was all the way down the steps a few seconds after she left her room, and out the front door fast enough to make a jackrabbit jealous. The massive houses near her own made the street feel more like a valley or gorge as she bolted down the street.



neighboring tombstone. She turned the rock over, finding an edge that jugged out sharply. Satisfied, she took the rock and began to scratch into the surface of her mother's grave.

It took her a while, but once done, she had mangled "Montgomery" until it was difficult to read, and scratched out a different name, "Velé z," beneath it. Her mother's maiden name. She let out a deep breath and leaned her forehead against the cold granite. She turned around and pulled out the player, her back to the stone. She clicked "Chester."

"Hey, Chester, you doing well? Having a fun time?" Allie's shoulders fell, and her head fell back against the stone. This wasn't how she wanted to hear her mother's voice again, not with such a bitter tone.

"I hope you are, that'll make all this worth it, to have that grin ripped off your face. I used to love you, you know

After she had run far enough away to feel comfortable doing so, she slowed down to catch her breath. Then, she started walking to the one place no one would think to look for he

When she'd run out of the house, the sun had been halfway down the sky and it was still bright out. But by the time she came to the gate of the cemetery, blues had turned to reds and oranges. Across the wrought iron gate hung a sign: "St. Herrans Cemetery, CLOSED."

Allie jumped the fence and kept walking.

The gravel path crunched underfoot and broke the eerie silence that would be creepy anywhere other than a cemetery, where it instead fit right in. She walked passed row after row of tombstones, ranging from little plaques in the ground covered in moss to 100 pound crosses made of gleaming white marble, until she came upon a familiar sight. A simple block of gray granite with a patch of freshly turned dirt in front of it. Etched into the stone was the name "Julia Morrigan Montgomery."

She walked up to the grave and sat down in front of it, looking at the name intently. Allie searched around her, and picked up a fist size rock that was sitting beside a

her mother never mentioned her.

"Why address the letter to me, and not dad as well?" she questioned.

With a click, she pressed the button labeled "Allie," hoping to find her answer there.

The audio started off without her mother's voice, only a faint crackling emanated from the speaker. Then, her mother sighed deeply.

"I'm really sorry, you know. Yeah, I know that it won't really fix much, but I just need to say it." Her brow furrowed. That's an interesting way to start off a message, she thought. "You're probably confused by the first message too, huh? I would have recorded over it and just sent this one to you, but I couldn't figure out how to work this thing. I'm sorry you had to hear that."

Alright, I guess— god, this won't make any sense if I just go out and say it, I'll need to start at the beginning, won't I?" she let out a slight chuckle, "Alright, well, you know your father and I don't really get along anymore. But we used to. It was so different, back then. I had just gotten out of college, and was working at a Wendy's waiting to see if any of the microbiology labs I'd sent applications to would respond. I was so young, looking out like the world was in my hand. I could do anything, be anything, go anywhere. Then, one day, he walked in.

"Goodness, these days I can't see anything good in him, but back then he was exactly what I was looking for. He had his hair tied up in a bun and a glint in his eye like I'd never seen. Now I know what that look was, but back then it was just confidence. And that 'confidence' was what got me hooked. I wrote my number and when I got off work on the back of his receipt. He called me that night, then we went on a date, then two, and before I knew it I had you on the way. We got married and bought the house the same year. I gave up the jobs, plural, that had accepted my application to go live at this new house hours away from my family. It was perfect, really, even if I didn't get to work in vaccines like I wanted to.

Scan below for part 2 of the story



"It wasn't perfect for long. Your father has money, he always has, you know this. And I did, too, when I married him. I asked him to hire a nanny, so I could rest every once and a while, or so we could go out. But he refused. God, I don't know how it didn't come up before, or if I wasn't looking for it, but he just said these terrible things. Said women should either be with a baby or in a kitchen, that they didn't have the right to be doing 'men's work' or slacking off on my 'duties.' I said that my mother could come over and watch you, but he said no to that, too. I went to call her and have her come down anyway, but he'd already canceled my phone plan. The house was too far from any of my family, and I didn't have any car keys. I was stuck. I just— I didn't know what to do, I didn't know if I could get away safely with you. So I stayed here, and I put up with him. At least his money might give you the opportunity to do what I couldn't. And I would've just gone on with it, for you, until a few months ago.

"I started coughing, and it wouldn't stop. My chest hurt like hell. It took me a couple weeks, but I convinced your father to take me to the doctor when the blood started. Cancer. Stage four. God, I was wrecked. But, a few days into my diagnosis, I had an epiphany. This could be my chance. If I died, I could do something, anything, to get back at him, and he couldn't hurt me back. Except I was stumped. I couldn't think of anything, anything that would work, anyway.

"And right when I had given up, I met her. I was taking one of the few walks I was allowed to go on every few weeks when I walked past this shop downtown. It looked old, but I didn't recognize it. And inside, there was this woman: old, wrinkled, and staring right at me through the front window. She beckoned me in with a finger, and I just went in without much thought. And, I swear this isn't a lie, she said this— I mean exactly: "You look like an unhappy woman, perhaps a man making you miserable? I've helped those like you before. Would you perhaps like to take a seat?"