



# The Talon

Gripping News



Volume VII      Issue I      Onteora High School      Boiceville, NY 12412      November 2024

## What's Inside?



Powderpuff Football



Halloween Horror!



Fantasy Football



Soctober



The Sweet Spot

## Zero Electronic Devices at OCS is Underway

By Talula Kirschner, Lucia McDonagh, and Delilah Lieberman, Juniors

Whispers of a new policy banning cellphones, as well as any personal-electronic devices, spread late last summer -a few weeks before the start of school. At first this seemed outrageous, and everyone was fearful for how the new year would go without the use of our phones; however, after a few months, our phoneless days are the new normal, and walking the electronic-free halls is not so obscure. Though most students have adapted to the absence of their phones, there is still some struggle. For some, it's not being able to access music or a calculator on their phone. For others, it's not being allowed to read on a Kindle or checking in with parents throughout the day.

**Talula's Response to No Devices:**  
I don't mind not being able to use my phone, and I think it's good for students to take time to not be online so often and focus solely on their school-work. However, I think banning other devices that are only for listening to music is not fair. Some students have tried to use such ancient devices as an MP3 player and a Walkman! Turns out, those aren't allowed either.

The difference between a cell phone and other electronics needs to be recognized because not all electronics are created with the same capabilities.. A CD player does not have the same distracting grasp on people as a cell phone does. Ultimately, I have no problem with the phone ban, and even see it as justifiable, but I would like to see a little more leniency with other electronics.

There are times throughout the day, like during lunch or a study hall, when students should have more freedom to go about their own personal entertainment. Obviously, it would not be appropriate during class to

listen to music, but during these other times it would make sense to give students this little pleasure. Listening to music is, besides just comforting and enjoyable, very helpful to many students when it comes to working and focusing, especially in a chaotic study hall.

**Lucia's Response to No Devices:**  
My problem is not with the cell phone ban, it's that I can't use my Kindle. I've had a Kindle since I was ten. As a person who reads a lot, a Kindle is the perfect way to avoid spending ridiculous amounts of money on physical books, and rather borrow books from libraries. My Kindle is connected to the Hudson Valley Library, as well as the Brooklyn Public Library, and it allows me to borrow books at no cost.

Since fifth grade, I have brought my Kindle to school with no problem, and now in eleventh grade, suddenly I can't use it in school. A Kindle doesn't need WiFi. You download the book at home, and then read it wherever and whenever. It doesn't connect to

cellular, and you can't do anything else other than read with it. It is an educational device, and it is the same as carrying a book around.

The restriction of the Kindle is an unfortunate byproduct of restricting all personal electronic devices.

**Delilah's Responseto No Devices:**  
At first, I was skeptical about the new phone policy. If you asked any of my friends to name the person most addicted to their screen, they would probably say me. But as the year progressed, I found myself being okay with the rule, and engaging in conversations I probably would never have if I were on my phone.

My only critique would be that it is annoying how we can't have them during study halls. Silent study halls are the worst. Last year, I would immerse myself in music, which helped me get my homework done. But now, I am forced to brave not only my completely silent study hall, but also my second extremely loud study hall. How can a girl get her work done without some tunes?

## New Faculty Faces at OCS!

Compiled by Shelby Buryk, Junior

This year at Onteora we have four new faces in the high school: Mr. Marks, Mr. Duffy, Ms. Scherman, and Ms. Cheever. Let's hear hear a little bit about them... They were asked to pick a few of the following questions to answer:

1. What brought you to Onteora?
2. Do you have a favorite cafeteria meal so far?
3. Tell us about any previous job you've had.
4. Were you always interested in teaching?
5. Do you have any pets?
6. Tell us about your high school self
7. Why did you want to become a teacher?

**Mr. Marks**  
As far as telling you about myself I guess I would start off by saying I grew up down on Long Island and traveled around the country for the last 10 years or so. I originally graduated from SUNY Cortland, back in 2013 with a degree in history. I didn't know what I wanted to do after school so I packed my bags and moved out to San Francisco. While out thereI ended up running the kitchen for a Korean/French Bakery for a few years.

After a few years I left the Bay Area and moved out to Vail, Colorado. I love to snowboard so I worked a bunch of different jobs in the snowboarding industry and managed restaurants down at the base of the mountain. While out in Colorado I got really into tracking snowstorms which made me want to come back to school to teach Earth Science! I recently received my Earth Science Education degree from SUNY New Paltz.



Courtesy ofThe Talon Staff

3. I've worked a ton of jobs since graduating school including as snowboard instructor, baker, sommelier, restaurant manager, bartender, etc... The list goes on. I worked any job that would make me enough money so I could live in Vail.

6. I graduated high school in 2009 down on Long Island. When I was in school I was really into skateboarding, snowboarding and surfing...basically anything involving a board. I loved to play sports and played as many in school as I could. My favorite subjects were always history when I was in school.

Continued on page 2...



4. I was always interested in teaching. I knew I always wanted to be a teacher, but there were a lot of other things I wanted to do before settling down in one place. There were so many places I wanted to live before teaching!

5. I have two goats at home that love to break out of their enclosure and go say hello to my neighbors!

Mr. Duffy

4. I was always interested in teaching, but I was between that and physical therapy when I went to college. Having the opportunity to work with local students as a tutor made the decision clear that teaching was for me.

5. I have a cockapoo puppy named Scooter.

6. In high school I did cross country and track. Social studies was always my favorite subject, but I also really enjoyed science electives, like forensics.

7. I wanted to become a teacher because I considered myself to be a life-long learner, and I wanted to share that in the future. Now I get to do that with all of the wonderful students here!

Ms. Scherman

I was originally brought to Onteora last spring through my college student-teaching experience. I worked with Ms. Loheide, who has since retired, and has been such an inspiration to me in my career. As a student-teacher, I had the privilege to integrate into the school culture and get to know my surroundings well before I was hired. Additionally, I was so warmly welcomed by all of the amazing teachers here and brought into the little family. I love my coworkers so much.

3. In college, I was a writing tutor for three years. I worked with undergraduate and graduate students, assisting them with papers in any and all college classes. I developed many of my teaching strategies from this job, as I worked with students of all different backgrounds and abilities. Through tutoring, I developed a much deeper love for the act of working with people to become better writers and communicators.

4. I have been interested in teaching since I was in high school. My mom is an editor, my dad is a writer, and my sister and I both became English teachers! We grew up heavily valuing literature and the humanities. I was also really interested in law towards the end of high school, particular-

ly because I'm personally passionate about activism, but I thought that teaching would better fit my personality and allow me to have a positive impact in a different, foundational way.

7. I wanted to become a teacher to provide a safe space for students. I want kids of all different identities to feel heard, accepted, and valued in my classroom, always. In the same vein, I strongly believe that education is the most important and effective tool to make progress as a society, as we educate ourselves on different worldly perspectives through literature and history. This is my driving principle in encouraging students to learn and discuss material in a manner that emphasizes empathy and understanding others.

Ms. Cheever

2. The food here definitely lives up to the hype. I love wrap day and I look forward to it each week!

5. I have a cat named Pepper. He's super cuddly and cute.

6. In high school, dance was my main priority so the majority of my extracurriculars were outside of school, but I loved spirit weeks and ran cross country. I was a good student in most of my classes, but always gravitated towards social studies and english classes (no shock looking back that I became a social studies and ELA teacher).

7. While I studied both education and history in college, I was not always sure what I wanted to do after I graduated. I had always admired my teachers growing up and the relationships I created with them definitely shaped who I am as a person, but it wasn't until I started working with students that I knew that I wanted to teach. Teaching is the best because it is guaranteed that you will learn something new and have a good laugh every day.



## Kamala's Campaign: What Went Wrong?

Editorial: By Foster Knoche, Sophomore

I'm sure many people reading this predicted a victory for Kamala Harris and are severely disappointed by Trump's victory. If you mostly inhabit left-wing spaces, imagining how someone could vote for Donald Trump can be difficult. However, there is value in trying to learn from the failures of the Kamala campaign in attracting undecided and low-propensity voters (people who don't frequently vote).

In my opinion, far too many resources were spent in the fruitless attempt to win over moderate conservatives. The Democrats pivoted to the right on attitudes revolving around immigration and crime, as well as gladly taking endorsements from the Cheney family in an effort to attract a conservative base. This is a strategy that doesn't work. The Democrats' decision to completely shift their line on immigration in order to favor stricter policy just legitimizes Trump's rhetoric. It concedes that illegal immigrants are a serious problem when they simply aren't. Illegal immigrants commit fewer crimes and contribute massively to the economy. The switch in rhetoric comes across as hypocritical. If illegal immigrants are your main concern, you're going to vote for the person whose whole platform revolves around that.

The Democrats always seem to run towards the right when faced with criticism or pushback instead of sticking with left-wing policy. This is in spite of the fact that many of these policies,

such as lowering the age of Medicare eligibility and expanding it to more sectors, are popular across party lines. Economic policies like the ban on price-gouging should have been focused on far more, as they were profoundly popular in swing states. The economy and healthcare were the two biggest issues for 2024 voters, both of which the Democrats failed to propose drastic enough policies for.

As stated earlier, greatly expanding Medicare is popular, but the Harris campaign only mentioned expanding it to home care. Making a clear break from the Biden administration's economic policy would have likely made a large difference for Harris. The issue of inflation under Biden—even if not fully his fault—resonates with many voters. There needed to be a clear alternative, different from what Biden offered. Breaking away from the Biden administration in general should have been a point of focus in the campaign. There is a reason he was forced to drop out, and she is still deeply associated with unpopular decisions made by him.

The aforementioned topics were some of the larger flaws in the Harris campaign, but there are other smaller details that all added up. Having Ritchie Torres and Liz Cheney appear with Harris in Michigan certainly didn't help to get Muslims to vote for her, and that is just one example that comes to mind. If Democrats want to win, they need to stop conceding to

the Republicans. They should instead focus on economic policy that could make tangible differences in people's lives. The wider electorate doesn't always read the fine details of a politician's proposals; they just see that they are having difficulty managing finances and vote for the person who seems to offer more change. Her being a biracial woman did play a role in her loss, but acting as if that was the sole reason for the election results isn't going to help Democrats in the future. I want to see more support for the left in this country— and a change in strategy is needed.



# The Purpose of Third Parties

By Foster Knoche, Sophomore

Every election season, it seems that people question the purpose of voting for a third party. They ask, “Why vote for someone who has no chance of winning?” Voters accuse third party candidates of stealing votes, they call them unserious candidates, and their value is often discounted. I used to hold this view, but I’ve started to see the practical reasons somebody would vote for a party– such as the Green Party.

People often complain about having to vote for “the lesser of two evils” and they disagree with some platforms of both the Democrats and Republicans, but bolstering third parties' support makes this less of an issue. First of all, winning is not necessarily the goal of third parties, instead they are meant to pressure the mainstream parties.

If votes for a third party candidate threaten one of our two dominant parties, the two main parties in the US would be incentivised to change their platforms to appeal to what voters want. This might take time, but it has been done in other countries, such as Canada with the New Democratic Party (NDP.) People believe that votes for a third party jeopardizes the dominant party's chance of winning, however, if Democrats have a 60% majority within a state, and 5% vote for the Green Party, the Democrats would still win.

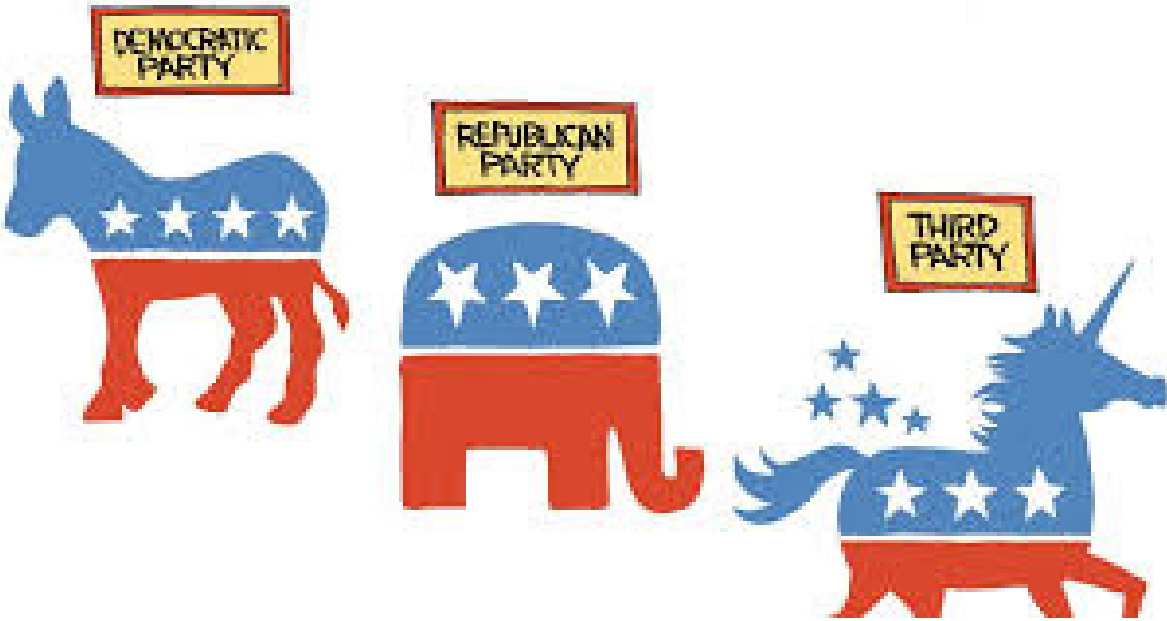
Many voters are not aware of what positions the various third parties hold, even though there is a high likelihood of their own views aligning

with a third party. Third party positions are posted online, and if you look up “Jill Stein platform,” “Libertarian Party Platform,” or “Cornel West Platform,” a website showing their positions will pop up. Take a look; you may be surprised.

Many US citizens don’t vote at all, often due to disillusionment with politicians, but if they read alternative platforms, they might be more mobilized to vote, and political change would be more likely. Voting for a third party has the potential to create the kind of change many people want to see, but don’t know how to initiate.

Even though most high schoolers are not old enough to vote, looking into the positions of our political parties can help you develop an understanding of which candidates you might want to vote for in a few years, and I recommend reading at least a summary of various candidates' policy positions. If you have at least some established beliefs regarding politics, looking up the positions of the people/ parties mentioned earlier could help you understand who your views most align

with, and there's a good chance it's that of a third party. Trying to make third parties more viable could help build a healthier democracy, where people are more represented within our government.



# LGBTQIA+ vs Society

By Ashley Campbell, Sophomore

School is back in season, and the halls are bustling with students. Your peers are all part of a group, such as the athletes or the artsy kids. You can also find kids who are part of a group known as LGBTQIA+. That acronym is an umbrella term for those who have different romantic orientations, and for those who have gender identities other than cisgender (people whose gender identity aligns with their sex assigned at birth.)

Even though the LGBTQIA+ community is an identified group, one in three LGBTQIA+ students experiences in-person bullying, according to a survey conducted by The Trevor Project, an international organization that provides advocacy, crisis services, peer support, and also conducts research toward their mission of ending suicide within the LGBTQIA+ youth community.

In addition to experiencing bullying at a higher rate than their cisgender peers, it is not uncommon for members of the LGBTQIA+ community to experience negative mental health symptoms at a higher rate than their cisgendered peers. The Trevor Project also reports 66% of young LGBTQIA+ members experience anxiety and 55% experience depression.

People who struggle with mental health never want to struggle alone. Half of the young people who are a part of the LGBTQIA+ community report seeking mental health care, but also report not being able to access it.

## One Story

“Did you hear that Ashley is gay?” a student exchanges with another. The simple but yet-so-complex sentence gets around fast. Another person is speaking for me, telling my story. I feel

unable to speak. I am letting them tell everyone my story.. Glances and whispers fill the room during second period. They keep giving wrong information about a life that isn’t theirs.

I let it happen. The words that I didn’t think would hurt stung, and I sat there and absorbed them.

This impacted my mental health—and my willingness to go to school. The idea of going to a place where I wasn’t accepted haunted me. For this reason, finding people I felt safe around seemed like a challenge. Having almost no one to talk to about my experience, I felt isolated. I heard an ocean of hateful words, and I was drowning in it.

## Healthcare Access

Access to healthcare for many members of the LGBTQIA+ community is appalling. Discrimination often prevents this community from receiving adequate healthcare. A survey done by The Center for American Progress shows that 37% of LGBTQIA+ members have experienced discrimination based on their sexual orientation. The Center for American Progress strives to, “...advance progressive values on nearly every possible front—and there are perhaps no more important values than expanding diversity, inclusion, and opportunity on behalf of every person who lives in our country.”

If the main goal of the healthcare industry is to improve the quality for all people, then why are specific groups experiencing discrimination when they need healthcare?

## Religious Dissonance

Another way LGBTQIA+ people experience discrimination is through religion being mis-used to spread hatred. Christians have some-

times used the Bible against the LGBTQIA+ community, abusing scripture in the process. Many teenagers begin to feel unwelcome by a religion they once thought was safe. Religion becomes unsafe for the LGBTQIA+ community when they don’t fit into the ideals of a faith and are not allowed to be who they are.

Additionally, employees that are publically a part of the LGBTQIA+ community at Christian institutions can be fired in multiple parts of the world, according to the article *Religion and Faith* by GLAAD, an organization with a mission “to ensure fair, accurate, and inclusive representation and creates national and local programs that advance LGBTQ acceptance.” Although religious figures like Pope Francis don’t oppose homosexuals who are religious, some Catholics do. With this in mind, there are numerous religious liberals who do support LGBTQIA+ people, but many still hold traditional discriminatory beliefs on the subject.

We are surrounded by homophobia. Many people never say anything about it because it doesn’t affect them, but what about those who are affected? It’s important to realize that the more we talk openly about homosexuality, the more we expose younger generations to the effects of homophobia. When we don’t act on severe hatred, it continues generationally. Love is sculpted into human existence. Hate is learned through our peers and culture.



# Halloween, Religion, and William Friedkin: How on Earth Do They Relate?

By Val Albright, Junior

Halloween may be long dead, but for horror fans, the fear lives on. Who can we thank for this, though? So many elements of horror, or even simply the macabre and morbid topics that enter conversations... and we don't know where many of them even stem from. I argue it's a familiar group we all know from history: the Catholics.

The word for the holiday stems from a multi-day 'celebration' within Christianity. October 31st is All Hallows' Eve, November 1st is All Hallows' Day, and November 2nd is All Souls' Day, with a later cultural addition of Devil's Night on the 30th of October. However, these days are not solely to thank for modern Halloween; the Celts are the reason for the beloved night. Divination, ritual bonfires, even apple bobbing--these are all traditions the Celts held during their harvests, also on the 31st of October.

As centuries passed and America became what it is today--a melting pot of immigrant cul-

tures--the Irish and Scottish brought their festivals and their steadfast Catholicism. With those two factors, and the three days of Allhallowtide already ingrained from Puritans, Halloween as we know it was born.



Now, how does this relate to horror as a whole? Well, what day are we encouraged to get gory, wicked, and lose ourselves in the horrors and delights? Halloween, obviously. It's not like you're watching *The Human Centipede* on Christmas... With Halloween being the pinnacle of an "acceptable time to watch horror" (though I'd argue that's any time) and Christianity being one of the most important factors as to why we have this holiday, the connection is clearly strung between the two.

That argument is a sealed deal; no ifs, ands, or buts about it. And can we just take a minute to acknowledge that it's really cool that the Catholics have Mary Magdalene's skull in the basilica of Saint-Maximin-la-Sainte-

Baume. How awesome is that! They've also got this wicked last rites box--it's a metal skull with real teeth that opens up to the tools used by the priest. This is neglecting to mention the whole topic of crucifixion, and how that in itself is horrid and severely underused in horror movies... but I digress. My point is, there's influence on the horror genre from the relics alone. But the biggest influence is... exorcisms. Hell, they have a movie called *The Exorcist*. I don't think it gets more obvious than that

as to how much Catholicism has influenced the horror genre. Crucifixes appearing under people's skin, three sixes getting burned into the back of a priest's neck, the twisting and contorting-- these are the beautiful intersections between horror and Catholicism.

You may be asking, "Well, how does this all relate?" Like this: Christianity and Celtic traditions started Halloween; Irish and Scottish immigrants brought the holiday and Catholicism to America. Halloween became mainstream, and thus allowed for horror as a genre to do so too. This spark allowed for *The Exorcist* to be made, as well as a whole subgenre of religious horror to be created. And hey, to really tie it all together, William Friedkin (the director of *The Exorcist*) was allowed to attend an exorcism within the Vatican. Isn't that just beautiful?



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## How I Met Your Mother Review

By Harsimran Kaur, Junior

*How I Met Your Mother* is a sitcom set in the early 2000s that follows five twenty somethings through their journey of finding success in life, whether it's related to relationships or their professions. The show's entire premise: Ted Mosby is telling his kids how he met their mother.

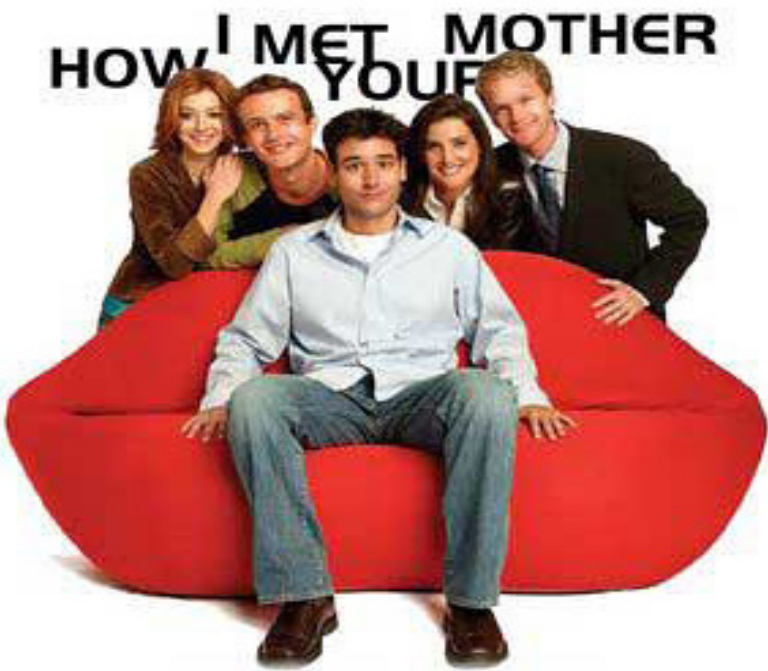
The story is told exclusively through the narration of Ted. From twenty-five years in the future he is recalling his twenties and, more specifically, the experiences that led to his finding true love. Don't let it fool you -it takes him nine seasons to get through it, so buckle up. Also, Ted is an unreliable narrator; it is not really directly stated... but is inferred by his sketchy story telling skills.

This series encapsulates realistic scenarios and expectations in life and demonstrates how everything isn't a fairytale-- while still channeling the playful and dramatic nature of a true comedic sitcom. This is especially embodied in the character of Barney Stinson. He is, in my opinion, the distinctive, outrageous, funny guy of the show, which manifests in his childlike sense of humor and girl-crazy personality. This is also another important aspect of the show; everyone is an adult, but they still channel the energy of adolescence and mischief. For example, Marshall, a graduate of Columbia Law School, commences a "slap bet" over the span of multiple years. The friendship and banter between Barney and Marshall add a comfort to the series, and make the characters seem like family.

This show takes away the idealism of reaching adulthood by showing the viewer that it's okay to not have everything figured out in your twenties. This is shown through another main character, Robin, on her journey of ups and downs in her career as a news anchor and reporter, and through Lily, who is a kindergarten teacher with dreams of pursuing a career in art. These dreams are placed on the back burner, and that is

quite relatable for many people.

This show has honestly become one of my favorites because of all the comfort it brings me. I would recommend *How I Met Your Mother* to everyone. It is truly a hilarious show with great plotlines that, most of the time, actually go somewhere interesting and are hinted at through foreshadowing. I also love how it has an extreme bias because it's told solely from Ted's memory and knowledge, so we don't get all the details from the other characters.



Courtesy of Creative Commons

# Horoscopes

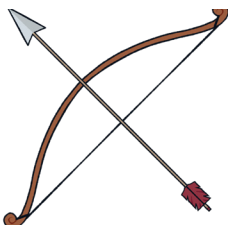
By Melanie Milla and Lily McNamara, Seniors



ARIES (Mar. 21–Apr. 19)  
October will go awry, if you don't eat many fries!



LEO (Jul. 23–Aug. 22)  
As you watch the leaves change, you must embrace the strange.



SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22–Dec. 21)  
The tricky times will tick, so let the shortness and bowls of soup stick.



TAURUS (Apr. 20–May 20)  
Whenever you think you are alone, think again, because Santa is in your home...



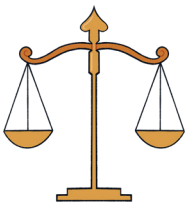
VIRGO (Aug. 23–Sep. 22)  
Watch out for the animals who wear masks! You might think they are nice, until they leave you with only one pair of dice!



CAPRICORN (Dec. 22–Jan. 19)  
Beware of spontaneous dance-offs with invisible gnomes!! They may be lurking around the nearest left corner...



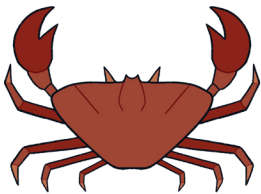
GEMINI (May 21–Jun. 20)  
Yikes!!!



LIBRA (Sep. 23–Oct. 22)  
Usually you are unlikely to read, but if you do not start this season, you will be filled with greed.



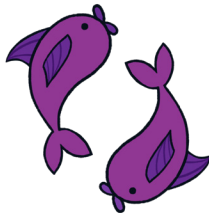
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20–Feb. 18)  
The cosmic forces have aligned to send mischief your way... embrace it or face the consequences...



CANCER (Jun. 21–Jul. 22)  
You keep your guard up high, but if you let it fall, you might meet some pie!



SCORPIO (Oct. 23–Nov. 21)  
Will you be as cool as the cat, or a fool like a rat? This autumn, it is in your hands.



PISCES (Feb. 19–Mar. 20)  
Strange giggles from the shadows will give you the urge to dance like nobody's watching... but someone might be...

## Appearance vs Sport

By Hazel Storch, Senior



Illustration by Lily Stout

the biggest reasons for this debate is the name itself. To understand why some may have a strong opinion against Powderpuff football, it is important to know why it is even called this. Powderpuff football was first named at Eastern State Teachers College in Madison, South Dakota. When the game was played, the Madison Daily Leader decided to name the two female football teams “The PowderPuff and the Rouge Elevens.” Both of these names are in reference to the players putting makeup on at halftime to make fun of themselves for the

crowd. The name Powderpuff stuck and is still being used almost 80 years later. So, why do people have a problem with this name? The name “Powder Puff” suggests that a girl version of football must be more entertainment than serious interest. The name reinforces the stereotype that women care more about their appearance than the sport, and it diminishes the credibility of women athletes to a mockery. This can make people question the entire idea of Powderpuff football. Is it really a feminist event that challenges divided gender roles, or is it just another way to insinuate that women’s participation in sports is not legitimate? While this information seems credible enough to want to stop Powderpuff football in schools, some people view it differently. To many, Powderpuff is not misogynistic but instead is a chance to tackle stereotypical gender roles by allowing women to participate in a traditionally “masculine” sport. Some schools even have men dress up as cheerleaders while the women play. Others simply like Powderpuff because it promotes women bonding together. It also helps support the school and engages the community.

Here are some quotes from Onteora students:  
“Yes, of course it sounds a little weird if you look into it, but I think the real reason everyone loves Powderpuff is because it's lighthearted and fun. It also can help you bond with people on your team.”  
“I think that Powderpuff itself is okay, but the name should definitely be changed.”  
“I think the main reason people have no problem with Powderpuff is because they have no idea what it is or where it comes from; maybe they just don't care.”  
“It's not a big deal.”  
“Powderpuff is ridiculous. It is making fun of women and then disguising it as feminism.”



# Fantasy Football

By David Troeger, Senior

Fantasy football is just as unpredictable as the NFL. It's a phrase I'm sure you've all heard, but many have no idea what it actually means. So, today it's my job to take you through the ins and outs of the game.

Picture a superteam of all of the best players in the NFL. Now, imagine that all of those players remain on their respective rosters, but their performances in all of their games are tallied onto a points system and totaled into scores for the casual fan, the aficionado, and the downright obsessed, to compete against each other in a contest of luck, strategy, rewards and cruel and unusual punishment.

Let's start off with the basics. During the offseason, fantasy participants start drafting rosters of players, but they may not necessarily be the best players in the league. Instead, it is better to draft a team of players that acquire strong stat lines. A player could be on a team that goes 0-17, but if their halfback gets a hundred and fifty yards a game and three touchdowns, he becomes an ideal pick.

The draft is all about predictions: who will get the best on-paper stats in that season. There are many factors to consider, such as injury, supporting cast,

coaching, scheme, and opponent. For example, Justin Jefferson is a good, safe pick, consistently topping 100 receiving yards in games and often adding one or more touchdowns to go alongside. On the other hand, Tyler Allgier, although a great player, has to share carries with Bijan Robinson, a generational young talent at running back, lowering his production and, by extension, his point output.

Once you build your roster, you can sign additional free agents or trade with other league members, similarly to the NFL. After that, it's your job to decide which of your players to start, or who's scores will matter in that particular week. It's important to take into account the opponent, likely score, team scheme for that week, and injuries (to both sides) along with weather and other game conditions.

Once the games start, your lineup is locked until the season is finished, with one player declared the winner. You rotate games

each week, going against different players from your league, with the team possessing the higher point total for that week declared the victor. At the end of the season, the teams with the best records go into the playoffs, where it becomes an elimination-style bracket to decide the champion. In many leagues, the champion receives some sort of reward, usually a cash prize from a pool collected at the beginning of the



season, while the last place finisher is often put through some type of mild torture for being the worst.

The punishment is usually

creative and quite unfortunate for the loser, with the worst and most twisted punishment the group can think of (without breaking any laws) being chosen and enacted. Some of the better past examples include: chugging a gallon of milk and running two miles on the track, running a 5K while wearing 5 layers of coats, having your car plastered with unfortunate bumper stickers (and other accessories),

massaging the second-to-last finisher's bare feet, dumping a bottle of vinegar on yourself and parading through Woodstock, and last but not least, walking a mile into the woods blindfolded at 2:00 am- then having to find your way out alone. The punishment, of course, is not required, but it does make things more interesting.

Fantasy is just one of many ways to enjoy the great game of football, but over the years, due to its competitive nature and the fans who adore it, it has become one of the most beloved traditions of football fans, both young and old. Pair a good fantasy football matchup with a rough-and-tumble Thanksgiving—where friends and family play a tackle game, have a big plate of turkey, and then go to the TV to root against the Cowboys—and you'll have yourself a holiday. That's what it's all about: getting closer together through the game we all love, all while enjoying a friendly rivalry and screaming your lungs out at the guy who refused your trade request to swap quarterbacks and tight ends, causing the both of you to lose.

As much as we fight over our teams, both real and fantasy, the love of the game will always keep football fans gelled together in our glorious bubble of pranks, arguments and insults.

## Belleayre Bash 5 K Fundraiser

Compiled by Editorial Staff



On Sunday, October 20th, the Belleayre Bash Club hosted its first-ever 5k fundraiser using the campus trail to support the Bash on graduation night. The race included both Onteora students and members of our Onteora community. The course led our runners along the campus trail and finished on the track below 5k at 2.7 miles.

Henry Swasey took home the overall win with a finishing time of 19 minutes and 33 seconds. Angela Longway took the women's win in 24 minutes and 4 seconds. She is a part of the community and runs for the Onteora's Runners Club. Coming in at a close second for women was Fiona Turck, with a time of 25 minutes and 40 seconds.

Additional Onteora Eagles who came to support The Bash and took on the challenge were Charlie Denton, Graham Werwa, Corbin Smith, Liam Young, Emma Metawee, and Sara Metawee. Congratulations to our winners, and a huge thank you to the participants for making this a great day!





# Letter From the President

Dear Eagles,

I, as well as the rest of the High School Student Government officers, am excited and eag(le)er to work with you all this year! No issue is too small and no request is too large. We'd be happy to address it!

We are currently working on painting Foursquare lines for students to utilize during lunch, discussing a potential new mural above the gym entrance, as well as continuing our work across various initiatives.

Never hesitate to reach out to an officer with any questions or concerns!

Until next time,  
Coco Asada



Courtesy of The Talon Staff

## Pickleball Prophets

By Nico Stackpole and Shelby Buryk, Juniors

On Wednesday, October 23rd the Spanish Club held a fundraiser in conjunction with the pickleball unit in PE class. For this fundraiser, students paid \$5 each to enjoy a lovely fall day whilst competing in pickleball for a chance to win a basket filled with authentic Spanish snacks. Spanish teacher Ms. Gallin explained that she and Ms. Batista selected this sport as it is a shared interest among students and teachers; this encouraged kids to get together during a beautiful time of year and have fun. New pickleball lines were recently added to the courts, so this event is not only enjoyable, but perfectly convenient!



Courtesy of The Talon Staff



## The Onteora Booster Club Association is Active!

The Onteora Booster Club is much like a PTA but for the middle School and high school. We support all students within the building, whether they are athletes, artists, musicians, scholars, or anyone who walks through these halls. We strive to create and support meaningful, fun, and spirit filled activities that we hope will enhance and enrich the student experience in our Onteora Community. Following is a list of some activities that the Booster Club has been an integral part of:

- Homecoming tailgate
- Homecoming events and dance
- MS Halloween Dance
- Powder Puff Game
- MS Spirit/Pep Rally and Ice Cream Party
- School Drama Candygrams and Concession
- Winter Concert Reception and Raffles
- HS Winter Sledding
- Community Night and Winter Tailgate
- Trivia Night
- Music in our Schools Event
- School Spirit Wear Merchandise sales



This is a partial list of some of the events that we play a key roll in. Some of the events are a yearly tradition-- while others are new and exciting events and none of these events would be possible without the many generous community businesses who offer donations time and again. We hope you will check out the Onteora Booster Club website <https://www.onteoraboosterclub.com/> or find us on social media. Please reach out at any time if you have any ideas or questions for us. We are here to support you and hopefully enhance and enrich your experience here at Onteora HS/MS.

## Soctober or Socvember? You decide!

By Nico Stackpole, Junior



Ever heard of Socktober? Well this year, it's Sockvember and we need YOUR help because warm feet = warm heart. The National Honor Society is collecting socks for local shelters. Socks are one of the most requested items at shelters and with a small act of kindness, you can make a big difference in the lives of our neighbors. If you want to help by donating new socks, bring them to the box located in Ms. Curlew's room or to the box in the main office. Put some socks in a box before the end of the month!





By Shelby Buryk, Junior



By Talula Kirschner, Junior

Directions:

First make sure to thaw your puff pastry before starting, and preheat your oven to 375 degrees. In a large bowl, peel and cut up your apples into small pieces.

Then, add these pieces into a pan with your butter over medium heat. Let them cook for about 5 minutes, stirring occasionally until softened. Reduce the heat slightly, and add the brown sugar, cinnamon, and salt.

For the egg wash, whisk your eggs and water together, and apply a thin coating using a brush.

Constructing the turnovers is a little tricky and messy, but the outcome is delicious. You'll need to flour your surface generously, as well as your rolling pin. Roll out the dough to be slightly thinner. Then cut into small, even squares with a pizza cutter. Add a little spoonful of apple filling onto half of your square, leaving about a centimeter on the edge. Then fold over the other side, lining it up with the corner (to make a triangle), and using a fork's teeth, pinch down the edges. Brush on a light layer of the egg wash, transfer it on to your baking tray, and repeat. You'll need to re-flour the surfaces regularly to avoid the dough from getting sticky.

For the glaze, just stir together the heavy cream and powdered sugar. The sugar ratio can be adjusted depending on your preferred consistency. After they're out of the oven and cooled, drizzle the glaze on top generously before serving. Enjoy!

Ingredients:

1lb puff pastry thawed

All purpose flour for dusting

1 1/4 lb apples

1 tbsp unsalted butter

1/4 cup light brown sugar

1/2 tsp cinnamon

1/8 tsp salt

1 egg + 1 tbsp water for egg wash

For the glaze

1/2 cup powdered sugar

1-2 tbsp heavy whipping cream



By Nico Stackpole, Junior

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1. Pumpkin Pie
2. Apple Crisp
3. Pecan Pie
4. Cinnamon Rolls
5. Caramel Apple Cheesecake
6. Sweet Potato Pie
7. Maple Pecan Bars
8. Cranberry Orange Bread
9. Pumpkin Spice Cupcakes
10. Pear and Almond Tart