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# Purple Press



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December 20th, 2024

## Archery at OWL is under way

*Archers becoming more excited as the 2025 season comes into view*

**Maddie Linstad**  
Staff Writer

As fall sports have come to a close, and people have retreated from outside athletics, OWL's archery team already has an arrow nocked and is ready to launch off this year's archery season.

The team began having several of their

"Open Shoots" afterschool on certain Tuesdays and Thursdays during October and November, where any student was welcome to try out the sport in a safe, approachable setting. That time was also used for current archery team members to begin practicing early for the upcoming season. "I think they went well," said 8th grade archer Sophie

Sherman-Hoehn. "I attended all of them, and there were a lot of new people. We also invited kids from Humboldt, and that day there were lots of people."

Opening the archery team to Humboldt students is reportedly a change to the program this year. "We have added practices on Monday, so the team is a bit spread out,

so we invited them back," said head coach and math teacher Tom Totushek. "As such, we have a few students who want to shoot with us from Humboldt but not compete." Tom expressed that long ago, the archery team had opened up to Humboldt students, but it hadn't worked out since it was too large of a group and



Purple Press Staff Photo

Archery, 7 Moss Windingstad and Wes Sanford prepare to shoot

## Class of 2025 shines at the College March



Rebecca Palmer

Principal Dave Gundale applauds as the seniors take their seats

*OWL seniors were joined by family members as they marched to the mailbox*

**Kate Houle**  
Staff Writer

"This milestone, this moment, is one of a kind," said parent Samuel Watkins at OWL's annual college march.

Friday December 13th brought the annual celebratory event to the OWL stage. OWL's largest ever senior class

entered the auditorium in custom matching class of 2025 hoodies to raucous cheers from classmates and parents. Before the assembly was done, every senior stepped to the microphone and announced what secondary education programs they had applied to. Seniors were celebrated with handmade posters and

the classic 'Seniors on a Stick' as they paraded through the neighborhood to mail off thank you notes to those who helped them in their journey.

"I had a really fun time making posters for the march because there was a lot of creative expression," said junior Yadiel Dimayuga.

Before the festivities, city



Rebecca Palmer

Emilia Johnsen steps up to announce her college plans.

council member Rebecca Noecker, superintendent John Thein, Watkins, and seven seniors gave speeches to inspire the school community. "The speeches were very motivational," said sophomore Kaden McNamara.

"It was really fun. Sometimes while writing my speech I had trouble figuring

out what to say, but it was great to hear everyone else's speech, and to learn that they had some of the same problems and bounce ideas off each other," said senior Ruby Kate Nolen, who spoke at the event.

The College March is a nationwide event celebrated at EL Education schools from coast to coast.

## Bluesky is here!

**James Hietala**  
Staff Writer

The newest up and coming social media site, Bluesky, has been exploding in growth, having multiplied its user count by more than 8 times since March.

Originally started in 2019, by the CEO of Twitter at the time, Jack Dorcy, Bluesky was created to look into making Twitter a "decentralized" platform. The idea behind a decentralized social media platform is to have not just one site, but a network of sites that all have their own users and posts but share them with each other. Email is an example decentralized platform (granted, not a social media site), where you have many different email providers (like Gmail, Outlook, iCloud, etc.) that each have their own accounts and such, but can all still communicate and send messages with each other.

There is already a Twitter-like decentralized social media site not related to Bluesky called Mastodon, which has seen some usage among free software and privacy enthusiasts, but has failed at gaining widespread popularity.

Bluesky has opted to build a partly decentralized system to allow them to get a "fully functioning Twitter" out following Elon Musk's purchase and management of Twitter. They support hosting your own account data and connecting it to the Bluesky app to use Bluesky like a normal user while hosting your own account, which is officially called a personal data server or pds. However, it relies on centralized systems to connect all of these "pdses"

## The intricate art of lip sync battles

*The performances are an audience favorite and have become a real community meeting staple*

**Kate Houle**  
Staff Write

To the inexperienced, the projection screen turning off and the stage lights rising would seem to signal the end of an OWL monthly assembly. But veterans of community meetings know this is only the precursor to arguably the biggest event of the afternoon: the lip sync battle.

OWL's version of this unique kind of performance involves two crews going against each other, taking turns performing to two different songs, each about a minute long. Once the four routines have been completed, the winner is chosen by which crew gets the louder cheers from the audience. "I think it's cool they let us do them. I think the rest is up to the

participants whether or not it works out," said sophomore Neve Dawson. "I think they're fun," agreed junior Antimony Compton.

Now, OWL did not invent the lip sync battle by a long run. The idea of lip syncing can be traced back to the 1930s, when movie studios like MGM started shifting away from silent films. Unhappy



Photo courtesy of Tim Leone-Getten

Lip sync battles, 2 Katie's crew went with special effects in October.

Bluesky, 6





## 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](mailto:leo.bickelhaupt@spps.org). The opinions expressed in this newspaper do not necessarily represent those of OWL staff or administration.

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# A coach beloved by many

## Mario Luna is known for creating a positive team environment in track and cross country

Zane Sheire  
Staff Writer

When asked what kind of athlete he was in high school, Humboldt track and cross country coach Mario Luna said, "I was not an amazing athlete, I was more of the vibes guy." He said he learned more from watching, and that the most fun part for him was being with teammates.

Mario is a beloved coach by many at OWL. Track and cross country are two of the most OWL-heavy Humboldt varsity sports, with the cross country team being about 90% OWL students.

Mario attended Humboldt from 2006-2010 and while there he ran cross country, and played baseball and basketball. He started his coaching journey at the Westside boosters when he was 21, coaching baseball and basketball. He then started teaching and coaching at Humboldt. He has been coaching cross country and track for five years now. He decided to start coaching because "I love sports and love coaching. Each year I get to meet new talented athletes. It makes me want to see them through their high school careers."

Mario said his favorite part of coaching is "building lasting relationships with my athletes

and seeing them achieve their goals." Mario has built great relationships with a lot of his athletes and has given a lot of nicknames to them. Like mine, which is "insane Zane" (he doesn't call me anything else), or "Benny boy" for senior Bennett Vaughan-Fier. His coaching philosophy is laughter. If the athletes are stressed and fatigued during practices or meets he tries to make them laugh. The less stressed athletes are, the better they will perform. "A mindset I coach with is Challenge By Choice. With track and CC we are all at different levels and goals that it's hard to coach everyone, so I rely on challenges by offering to my athletes to choose how hard to push themselves, and I will support them along the way," said Mario.

The track season is coming up fast and Coach Mario is very excited for it. When asked if he was optimistic about the season he said enthusiastically "Yes! We have a lot of very talented runners returning and a few people were very close to making it to state last year." One of these runners was Aria Kulseth, who almost made it to the 400 when she was in 9th grade, and almost made it to state for cross country this year. The track team had a very talented sprinting room last

season, with the 4x1 finishing in third place, the highest they have in a while, barely behind Highland and Central. He is also very optimistic about getting the team down to a solid 45 runners who show up everyday and want to work.

Mario is known for getting along with all of his athletes, and for his enthusiasm. During the cross country meets he is constantly yelling. "He's so excited. It sounds like there's nothing else he'd rather be doing," said senior Gwen Stender. Even in the practices he is enthusiastic about everything. His coaching style is unique too. Most track/cross country coaches have specific workouts that everyone does no matter what. Mario, on the other hand, has those workouts on some days, but other days are free days where you can do whatever you want. If you want to not do anything, that's on you. You get out of the practice what you put into it. "I like the fact that it is so open and pacy as it brings in more people who would probably not do track otherwise," said Bennett.

Mario will do a lot to get you to your best performance, from getting you running shoes or spikes to taking the whole team to Dairy Queen. He also makes you feel very comfortable on the team through games like Zimbabwe, which is played every Friday. He will also push you as hard as you can while still not stressing you out and will be proud of you no matter how good or bad you do. "Mario convinced me to keep it up, changing how I felt about the sport. Running is a lot more fun and I'm a lot more motivated to try my hardest when I know that my coach will be proud of me for it," said Gwen.



Photo courtesy of Teddie Lopez

Mario hangs with his runners after a meet

Night with Jimmy Fallon, the Paramount Network show has two celebrities each perform to two songs, with the winner being decided by audience reactions. However, the celebrities only have a few hours before the show to practice their routines, while OWL crews start prepping at least a month in advance.

"We practiced for like a solid two or three weeks every day. And then the last couple days beforehand we got our costumes ready," said Antimony, who performed in Katie's crew battle in the October 2024 community meeting. While practicing takes a lot of work, the hardest part for many crews is just choosing what songs to perform to. "[There was] a lot of debate for the longest time," said Antimony. "We chose 'Spooky Scary Skeletons' because it was seasonally appropriate mostly, and 'Hot To Go' because it was popular." However, the debate and stress around the performance can lead to a lot of bonding for crews. "When we were practicing it felt like [we were] really coming together," said Antimony.

While the battles are

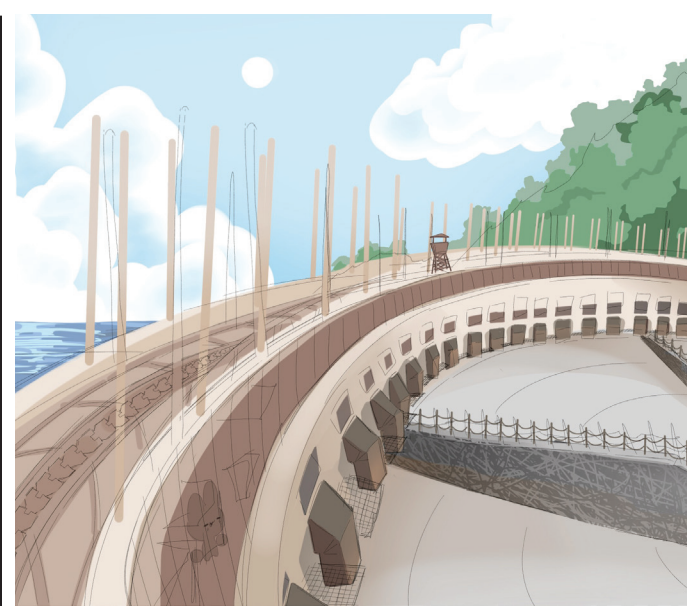
supposed to be about who can put together the best performance, some see them as more of a popularity contest, which ironically can give them a bad reputation.

"I don't like the pressure that's built up around lip sync battles," commented Neve. "I don't want to be participating in them. If you want to, I think that's cool, but I don't." It's often been a struggle for the community meeting team to find crews willing to participate in a battle, even though there is a lot of buzz around them when they do happen. "We worked really hard on it, and we did lose, although multiple people came up to us and said that they thought we should have won," said Antimony. The winner being decided by cheering can also lead to some bad feelings or debates over accuracy, since it's hard for an average person to determine sound levels at that scale.

Reportedly, science teacher Megan Hall has proposed eliminating the battle aspect altogether, instead having more of an opt-in lip sync performance system that would minimize issues like pressure or feelings of unfairness about the winner.

Currently, Rebecca Palmer's crew is in charge of the battles. Infamous for their dramatic performances (this year including dry ice and a cheerleading lift), they've put together a slideshow that helps explain the guidelines/rules of the battles and have offered to help crews with ideas for props/costumes and choreography, which can be daunting tasks for groups with less experience. Competitions have been decided for the rest of the year, so there's a lot to look forward to— whether performance, bonding, or competition wise. "After it was all done and over with I was very proud of it," said Antimony.

"It's a fun way to entertain at the community meeting while also creating a common goal and bonding experience for your crew students. No matter the outcome, you all worked together," said Rebecca.



Nora Xiong

# Infrastructure is pretty cool

## Cities take different approaches to survive all across the world

Diego Rodriguez  
Staff Writer

Infrastructures? Who needs them?

Actually we all do. They are not only a cool and lively thing a city can produce, but also make lives a lot easier. In the 1700s "infrastructure" counted as simply roads or canals. Now these are day-to-day things for us, but still are very convenient and helpful three hundred-twenty four years later! Infrastructures in current times are also still helping with convenience, necessity or even entertainment throughout the world.

Cities take different approaches to using infrastructure to combat the varying issues they face. In a world where infrastructures are being taken for granted, some projects can redefine what is possible. Projects like this have been done around the world, in places such as Tokyo, Taipú, China, Marmaray and the United States of America. These cities and locations all have their own individual challenges, needs, and plain wants. These factors can be based on survival, protection, creating jobs, safety, and entertainment.

Tokyo and surrounding areas face frequent and intense rainfalls due to typhoons. Tokyo is a very densely populated area, with a variety of businesses, infrastructure, and homes. The Japanese government took it upon themselves to combat flooding in hopes of ensuring public safety. The approach they took was expensive, with a price tag of 2.3 billion in US dollars. This infrastructure includes silos, tunnels, and a main storage tank, all carefully engineered and built to work in harmony to protect the people of Tokyo. This infrastructure now is seen as a necessity to live and survive in Tokyo.

In 2007 the China Railway High-speed (CRH) train series was introduced to the Asian region, aiming to boost the already-rising economy by connecting key cities in the region. A range of government bodies, state-owned companies, and private enterprises all collaborated on a project that helped create the CRH series, that some

now know as the bullet train. The point of this project was to boost the economy by connecting the cities for business purposes, such as jobs and moving goods; this was made better with the short waiting time and speed of the actual train. This promoted regional growth through the high-speed rail, all while lowering the carbon footprint of cars and planes. Plus, the country made a name and reputation for themselves through their high speed rail technology.

The Marmaray underground tunnel is a tunnel in Istanbul, Turkey. This city faces a lot of traffic congestion due to commuting. The tunnel was made in hopes to help connect the separated side of Europe and Turkey and improve commuting efficiency. It connects the European and Asian sides of Istanbul through a railway tunnel beneath the Bosphorus Strait. The tunnel is about 60 meters below the water's surface and is approximately 8.5 miles long. This project has been seemingly successful, with reports of less congestion, increased connectivity, positive environmental impacts and economic benefits.

Another interesting infrastructure project is between Brazil and Paraguay on the Parana river. The Itaipu dam is a massive hydroelectric dam that was completed in 1984 and it was aimed to help the two countries in a variety of ways. It was going to help with the increasing demand for energy and address potential flooding. This helped the countries become closer and strengthened economic and diplomatic ties. The Itaipu dam is actually the third biggest hydroelectric dam in the world. Standing at 643 feet, the dam is responsible for producing 75% of Paraguay's electricity and 15% of Brazil's. The Itaipu dam has been very successful in not only being used for renewable energy, but it can also be studied as a point of innovation and collaboration.

Next, the sphere in Las Vegas is just east of the famous Las Vegas strip. The project was aimed to stimulate



# Senior Spotlight

*Ne'zariah Parker*

**What pronouns do you use?**  
She/her

**How long have you been at OWL?**  
Since 8th grade, but it feels like a lifetime.

**What are your plans for next year?**  
I will be taking a course to get my real estate license and taking some college classes.

**What's been your favorite class in high school?**  
APES, with the cool field trips and stuff.

**What extracurriculars are you involved in?**  
Theater and BSU.

**Favorite field work experience or school trip and why?**  
Du Nord, I had a good cabin of friends and it was nothing but up.

**If you had a walk up song, what would it be?**  
All I do is Win by T Pain.



# That One Little Kid

*Alice Mounes*

**How tall are you?**  
4'4"

**What pronouns do you use?**  
She/Her

**What's your favorite book, movie, or TV show?**  
F.R.I.E.N.D.S.

**Who's your favorite senior?**  
Paige, cause she's so kind.

**What is your favorite thing about OWL so far?**  
Lip-Sync battles

**What extra curriculars do you plan on getting involved in at OWL?**  
Theater, maybe art after school



# Asian culture night at OWL

*The event included student performances, food, and more!*



Fiona Curran

**Alumnusw Chutima Xiong doing a traditional Hmong dance.**



Fiona Curran

**Junior Brandon Xiong leads an activity for kids.**



Fiona Curran

**An OWL student K-pop performance.**



Fiona Curran

**Dancers from the Minnesota Karen dance company.**



Fiona Curran

**The food is always a highlight of Asian Culture night.**

# Driving tests are a real pain

*Rayne gives tips while explaining the unexpected obstacles*

**Rayne Van Guilder**  
Staff Writer

Looking to get your driver's license? You might have to stay up until midnight to get an appointment.

If you've recently gotten your license or you're actively trying to get it, you'll know how difficult it can be to schedule a testing time. Why is this, though? There is such a high demand for driver's tests and not enough slots or instructors for everyone. This is caused by a backlog that started during the pandemic. COVID caused around one million tests to be missed because of centers closing or reducing their capacity, and people canceling appointments. This led to high demand for tests and not enough slots, which is still affecting us now. The DPS-DVS (Department of Public Safety, Driver and Vehicle Services) canceled and rescheduled approximately 19,041 road tests due to the stay-at-home order from March 29, 2020 to May 26, 2020.

This has caused many OWL students to have trouble getting their licenses. "We had to wake up at 6am to get the newest slots, after that it was like a ten day wait because they only had things for ten days out," said 11th grader Maddie Linstad. Maddie tested in the spring of 2024 in Plymouth, the closest available appointment, which was around a 40 minute drive.

Maddie also had a little trouble scheduling her behind-the-wheel lessons. "It was a little tricky, our first two were pretty easy, we had to schedule them super early because everything else was booked. Our third took more time because it was at a time of year that a lot of people were starting to want to do behind-the-wheels." Senior Diego Rodriguez had a similar experience trying to schedule an appointment; he had to stay up late at night to try to get a slot when the new appointments came out.

While doing research for this story, I was approached by intervention specialist Andre Williams, who desperately wanted to be interviewed. Mr. Williams explained that, though it was his real estate license and not his drivers license, it was still more difficult to get due to COVID. It took two months from the time he called to get a testing appointment to the time he was actually on the books to be able to take the test, which was not normal. "It does not typically take that long, it is typically you show up and you can take the test," said Mr. Williams, "there were less people who were able to make schedules or to schedule the appointments, and then they're doing capacity numbers for who could be in the building to test at a time."

Back on the topic of drivers licenses, 11th grader Wyatt Hanson had less trouble securing a spot, because he chose to test in a small town about an hour away instead of in the city, which only took a week to schedule. A lot of families have had to travel farther to more rural areas because that's the only place they can secure a testing slot, due to the slots in the metro areas filling up too quickly. Another factor adding to the testing backlog is that drivers are scheduling their test before they are ready, causing them to have to reschedule when they fail, which fills up more slots.

So how can you secure a testing slot? My suggestion is to check frequently for cancellations, and check early in the morning or late at night when the new appointments become available. If you're still having trouble, try waiting for a time when testing is less popular; there's often a lot of demand for testing in the summer and spring because of better driving conditions, so consider picking a less popular time of year.

## Upcoming Events

**December 21- January 5:** Winter Break

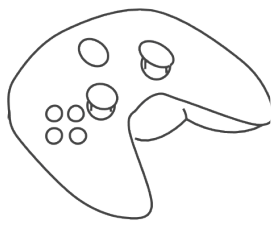
**January 9:** Winter Choir Concert

**January 16:** Prospective Family Showcase #2

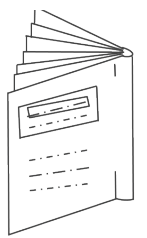
**January 20:** No school (MLK Day)

**January 24:** End of Quarter 2





# Reviews 'n' stuff



## The game was given 9.75/10

*Red Dead Redemption 2 has been dubbed "the game you should play"*

**Norman Simon**  
Staff Writer

It's nighttime and ten riders on horseback ride down a road, their hooves pounding the dirt. At the end of the road there is a white manor. They stop at a gate and take their weapons out. They are there to get a boy who was kidnapped. Words are exchanged and then the first shot goes off.

Red Dead Redemption 2 was developed and produced by Rockstar Games who are behind franchises like Grand Theft Auto and Max Payne. It was released in 2018 for the PlayStation and Xbox and released for PC in 2019. It usually costs around \$40-\$50, and has sold about 65 million copies around the world.

Red Dead Redemption 2 takes place mostly in 1899 and a little in 1907. The story

follows the Van Der Linde Gang during the end of the Wild West era (from the end of the Civil War, to when New Mexico and Arizona were admitted to the Union in 1912). The story follows Arthur Morgan, a member of the gang, and shows the decline of the Wild West and its effect on the gang.

The game is an open world game with the map being 26 square miles. The map takes influence from late 19th century Colorado, Louisiana, Appalachia, and Arizona. The map has many things to do and explore including saloons, shops, gangs, missions and others. The game also has themes about racism and xenophobia in characters, places, and events.

In my opinion Red Dead Redemption 2 is a game you

should play. There is a reason why I have beaten the game six times. When I played it for the first time, I realized how interesting the world was. The game has so many side missions like the veteran who you go fishing with and then encounter a boar, or the mad scientist who builds robots and is trying to patent them. I still find new things every time I play. One time I found the moment where a character's story arc changes and it opened my mind to so many different points when the effects of that moment change the character.

The big reason you should play Red Dead Redemption 2 is the story. The story is my favorite part of the game and it is beautifully written and performed. There's a reason it took them about eight years to release it— Rockstar Games

gave time to the developers, which is something that I don't see many other companies do. The reason that it is a top tier game for me is because it is able to have a captivating story while giving the player free roam to explore the world. It's able to cater to the individual player, no matter how they're driven.

For \$40-\$50 you can have a game that is a masterpiece. The reason I keep playing Red Dead Redemption 2 is that there is always something new and different. I feel like this game is a book where you can write a chapter in between the ones that are already there. My final ranking of Red Dead Redemption 2 is a 9.75/10.



Nora Xiong

## Advice for book giving

*Beatrice shares the correct way to give books as presents*

**Beatrice Cosgrove**  
Staff Writer

Believe it or not, I despised receiving books as a kid. Despised it. As my love for reading has developed, so has my love for gifting and receiving books! This process, for some, can be very easy, and may require minimal effort, but if you have someone in mind you would like to gift a book, finding the perfect one can be difficult. Now that the holidays are right around the corner, here is your handy guide to book gift giving, a fun and rewarding experience in itself.

This process does not begin at step one, rather step zero: should you gift someone a book? Book gifting is similar to a flow chart or a choose your own adventure story in this way. If the answer to step zero is no, disregard the rest of this article and move on. OWL English teacher Preston West had a really interesting perspective on book gifting. "I think books are very risky gifts to give," he says, "...books tend to be significant time investments, and unless you are very familiar with what a person's tastes are (and what they've already read within those genres) then a book probably isn't a good option." His advice to those who would like to gift books but are not extremely familiar with their reader is to give them a gift card. In this way, you can be sure the person receiving your gift will find something they truly enjoy. All in all, if you aren't very familiar with someone's taste in books, a gift card or no book at all may be the way to go.

So, you answered yes to step zero...now what? The first step in this process is having a basic understanding of what books your giftee enjoys, which should kickstart the process of generating ideas. Knowing the reading level and interests of the person who will be receiving your gift is one of the most important parts of this process. Age is

a very common category for narrowing down ideas, but I think reading level is so much more helpful. This is where my lovely ten-year-old (fictional) character Kevin comes in. If you know Kevin struggles with chapter books, a more visually appealing graphic novel may be the way to go. Or, say Kevin has been reading voraciously for multiple years and has graduated from simple chapter books to more complex plots. A higher middle grade book may be better (just check for any unsuitable content, this is a ten-year-old!).

You will get nowhere if you have no idea what Kevin's interests are. If you notice that Kevin loves drawing wizards or playing D&D, a high fantasy book would be a fantastic gift. If Kevin is an adult or high school/college student, it might be slightly more difficult. This is when you do some sleuthing! "I try to notice what books my family and friends have lying around and think of similar books. Or, if I read a book I really love and think they would like it, too, I go with that," OWL science teacher Megan Hall says. Casually bringing up a book you really enjoy or talking about your gigantic to read list and asking Kevin about theirs is a subtle, yet extremely useful way to gauge their reading preferences and, whether they own the book or not. If they own the book/s, it isn't the end of the world. This can actually be quite helpful, as it shows that you are on the right track!

Now, you have an idea of what you would like to gift Kevin. A wonderful way of narrowing your list down to two or three options is (you guessed it) more sleuthing! This should not take too long. Type genres, titles or authors into Goodreads (if for some reason this is not possible, a simple Google search should work as well). What I love about Goodreads is the reviews, which provide some interesting takes on books

**Book gifting, 6**

## Immersed into the land of Oz

*Wicked has touched the hearts of many at the movie theaters*

**Claire Ales**  
Staff Writer

I was first immersed into the magical land of Oz when I was around five years old watching The Wizard of Oz for the first time. Then again, seeing the musical Wicked during the summer after seventh grade. Each time I was in awe as I witnessed the captivating story play out before my eyes, and the same happened after seeing the movie adaptation of Wicked.

Wicked takes place before The Wizard of Oz and follows the characters Elphaba and Glinda (who you may know as the Wicked Witch of the West and the Good Witch of the North) through their journey at Shiz University as they both train to be sorcerers. Their story is told with energetic song and dance numbers.

In the Wicked movie, Elphaba and Glinda were

played by Cynthia Erivo and Ariana Grande, both of whom did an outstanding job at playing their characters. I will admit, at first I was skeptical about Ariana playing Glinda, but after seeing the movie I wouldn't change a thing about the casting. All of the actors had amazing chemistry with each other and really brought the characters to life.

Next, the songs. I don't even

know where to begin because every single one of the musical numbers was so good. Visually, the choreography fits well with the songs, specifically in "What is This Feeling?" and "Dancing Through Life", providing fans (me included) with fun dances to go home and learn. As I sat watching the movie, I eagerly waited for "Defying Gravity" to play. When it did, this magical feeling washed over

me. I specifically remember this moment where Elphaba was flying in the sky with her cape billowing and she was belting the song. Elphaba is such a strong character and this moment was one of the most powerful of the whole movie.

One of my favorite aspects of the movie was the sets. The majority of them were actually built, which I think is really impressive because of the large scale. The set design made the movie feel immersive and really benefited the story. The set team spent a total of 20 weeks to create Shiz University alone, and it shows.

Next, SPOILERS! During "One Short Day" two very special guests make an appearance. Idina Menzel and Kristen Chenoweth can be seen and heard during this song. They appear as "The

**Wicked, 6**



## What's up with all these 'punks'?

*The word punk is used in many different ways*

**Kaden McNamara**  
Staff Writer

While on the internet you've probably come across an aesthetic named '(something) punk,' (or as I've heard it called once before: punk punk). And maybe you wondered what it was, but eventually just went on with your day. Except on closer examination, there are a lot of these 'punk aesthetics' out there; biopunk, cripplepunk, cyberpunk, dieselpunk, hopepunk, punk rock, solarpunk, steampunk, and plenty more with the name punk.

So what's going on with all of these 'punk' groups, what's the difference between them, and what do they all mean? Well, luckily, there's a whole

TV Tropes article on this subject that you can check out on your own. But that's just being assigned research by some rando in a newspaper. On the other hand, I do also know a lot about the subject, so in that case I can tell you all about them. So then let's get right into it, shall we?

First up, we have punk rock. Punk rock, also just called punk, originated as a music-based alternative rock subgenre in the 1970's. Basing itself off of 1950's rock and roll as well as 1960's garage rock, it rejected the corporate nature of mainstream rock music at the time. The songs are typically short and fast-paced, with intense melodies and vocals, alongside lyrics that

focus on anti-establishment and anti-authoritarian themes. Bands such as MC5, Iggy and the Stooges, Television, Patti Smith, the Ramones, the Saints, the Sex Pistols, the Clash, the Damned, and the Buzzcocks, were some of the major founding forces in the early days of the genre, and are still some of the most iconic.

Punk rock also brings with it the punk subculture that most people think about first when the word 'punk' is brought up. Coming from the UK and creating the musical genre in the first place, the culture mostly bases itself off of ideas of non-conformity, anti-authoritarianism, anti-corporatism, DIY, anti-consumerism, anti-corporate

greed, direct action, and not 'selling out'. That being the act of compromising one's integrity, morality, authenticity, or principles for the sake of personal gain; in punk areas, the term is typically used to describe either bands that contradict their apparent values and sign on contracts with major labels for advertising reasons, or those that change the direction of their music for the sake of appealing to a wider audience or to appease major labels.

Punks, very infamously, often take a particularly brash, loud, aggressive, and 'no nonsense' approach to things — such as the particularly standout punk agenda of punching Nazis and/or fascists on sight. Despite how

**Punks, 6**





# When should kids find out?

Nora Xiong

*Should parents eventually tell their kids about Santa. . or. . . ?*

**Luisa Schmidt and Lauren Harris**  
Staff Writer

In journalism one day we were talking together about the appropriate age to be told Santa isn't real. Luisa thought that you should tell kids in elementary school. I thought that you should let them figure it out on their own. We decided to walk the halls and talk to people to find out who was right.

For the record, here is where we stand:

**Lauren**

How my parents told me that Santa wasn't real was that they sat me down at the kitchen counter and told me that Santa wasn't real. I did start to cry but it was more because of me being worried about what Christmas would be like for my family since me and my brother knew but my sister didn't. My sister still thought Santa was real so I was worried that I would spoil it for her.

I think you shouldn't tell your kids until you have to. I feel that once you tell your kids that Santa is not real, the magic/the excitement of Christmas kind of starts to slip away. So overall, I would say if they ask you if Santa is real, tell them but if not then keep the spirit of Santa alive as long as you can.

**Luisa**

I was three or four, and I was eating lunch with my mom one day and I asked her, "Mama, is Santa real?" She didn't really know what to say so she just told me he wasn't, and I just said something like "Yeah it seemed fake." She just told me to pretend he was real for other kids, so I did.

I think you should just tell them. Especially when they start to question whether Santa is real or not. I think most kids start suspecting on their own in elementary school, and if they haven't figured it out by second grade, you should probably tell them. You don't have to be that dramatic about it either, you can give them hints in things you do or say, so that they can sort of come to the conclusion by themselves.

And here is what people around OWL had to say

**Do you remember at what age you found out Santa wasn't real? How did you find**

**out and how did you react?**

**Hughes Maloney-Vinz: 7th grader**

When I was seven years old, I got this LEGO Ninjago thing for Christmas. Basically, my Alexa sends the past purchases of things that you bought, and it came up for the LEGO ninjago set. Then, I went onto the Alexa and I realized that my parents bought it. And then I got really depressed because I realized Santa wasn't real.

**Abbie Currie: Spanish teacher**

It was really sad actually. I think I was maybe like ten, and I had not been sure for a couple years, but I just really wanted to believe. My parents sat me down in the living room and they told me how Santa wasn't real, and I just remember bursting into tears. It was really tragic.

**Ara Stender: 9th grader**

I get up really early on Christmas morning because I always get really excited, and I always wake up my other family members before I go downstairs. So I went over to my mom and dad's room and I was like "Mother we have presents!" and she was like please don't wake me up, I'm so tired from filling the stockings last night. So I asked, "But what about Santa?" And she just kind of looked at me like "I said too much."

**Ms. Ma'lene Walker: Vice Principal**

So I would hide all my kid's presents ahead of time, and I would hide them in the closets and stuff like that. And then one day one of my daughters found them, and I put them in the basement, like nobody goes in the basement looking in the storage closets. And she went down there and she saw all the presents. And they weren't wrapped yet, because I usually wrap them the night before, two days before, and put them under the tree like Santa really came.

So she asked me about it, and she was like, mom, why are all these presents here? And of course I didn't tell her right away. I was like these are donations for our church. But then her dad just told her! He just told her everything, there's no Santa Claus, I bought all these gifts and the easter

**Santa, 7**

# Real trees vs. plastic trees

*When choosing a Christmas tree, both options offer advantages*

**Olli Liimatta**  
Staff Writer

While the holiday season is usually a jolly time there is one big question that many people have -- real or artificial trees? This has been a debate since the 1880s when artificial trees were invented in Germany.

The cost of a real Christmas tree is between \$80 and \$100. The pros of the real tree are authenticity, being traditional and of course the smell. There are cons as well with the major ones being the upkeep, the removal of the tree and needles and being usable only once.

On the flip side, artificial trees are slightly more expensive at a price point of \$100-\$150. Some pros for the artificial trees are that they are reusable, low maintenance and allergy friendly, according to 9th grader Emily Totushek the reason that her family uses artificial Christmas trees is

because her sister is allergic to the real trees. One con for artificial trees is that some think they make the holidays

of tree has different advantages and/or disadvantages and should be decided by your personal preference, if you



**10th grader Dylan Bickelhall poses after cutting down a Christmas tree in Scandia back in early December**

Purple Press Staff Photo

feel less traditional. In conclusion, each type

prefer a more authentic feel go with the route of a real tree.

# The new club system at OWL

*Breaking down the pros and cons of the new mandatory clubs*

**Aria Kulseth**  
Staff Writer

Most people have probably noticed a change in clubs this year, instead of being on Wednesdays they have switched to Fridays. And even more, they are now required!

In past years, students have had the option to leave during crew to a club of their choice, usually revolving around their interests and passions. Frequently, students would be a member of multiple clubs, often switching off week by week. Now, every student has a designated club that they attend instead of crew on Fridays.

When I heard about mandatory clubs, my first thoughts on the changes were not very optimistic. As someone who chose to be in a club in past years, I was mainly concerned that people

would join just because, and would have no actual interest or dedication to the actual material of the club. I also wasn't a huge fan of it being on Fridays, because I enjoyed playing games with my crew during that time. So with my own thoughts on club changes, I was curious to see others' opinions on the subject.

And the results were quite interesting.

In a survey of just over 50 students almost half of them stated that they felt indifferent to the overall change in clubs. When asked if they thought that clubs would improve because of the changes, most gave a three out of five on the rating scale, indicating

that they didn't have a strong opinion. People who had previously been in multiple clubs were asked how they felt about being limited to one club. One wrote "I dislike it. I was excited to be in one of the newer ones, and I didn't realize we'd only get one this year." Another said "I think it makes it difficult for new clubs to find members as you end up having to poach kids off of other clubs which makes it competitive for no reason." Multiple people mentioned the effect that it had on Affinity groups, one wrote "I think it's unfortunate that clubs like GSA had to be relegated to lunch periods instead of having a full period, because the club now definitely has less focus on LGBTQIA issues because people have to eat." Affinity groups such as



Purple Press Staff Photo

**Clubs, 7**

# The top 5 Christmas movies

*One person's opinion about this all-important holiday genre*

**Calvin Hoenisch**  
Staff Writer

So with Christmas around the corner and people wanting to get into the holiday spirit, it's time to start to watch some Christmas movies. Today I will be giving you my personal top five movies and giving a short explanation of why I chose each one. I will go in order from number five to number one.

In the number five spot I have put the 2018 Illumination version of How the Grinch Stole Christmas. I have chosen this version because I feel like they adapted the original very well into the animated form. Another thing I really like about this film is that it appeals to the younger audiences, whereas when I watched The Grinch (2000) as a little kid I couldn't even finish it because I thought that the live action version was so scary. In this movie they did a great job of making it more funny instead

of scary and overall it was just a really fun watch.

My number four Christmas movie of all time has to be National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation. This movie is just amazing overall; it's so funny and I feel like it does an amazing job of capturing the chaos that can come with hosting family members for Christmas. One scene that encapsulates this is when Clark gets his Christmas bonus which he expects to be a huge sum of money but finds out it was a membership to the jelly of the month club. This caused him to go crazy, going on a long yelling rant about all the stuff that he hates about his boss.

For number three and the first position on my Christmas movie podium I have Home Alone. This is one of the most iconic Christmas movies of all time, but in my opinion it just doesn't deserve to be any higher than third. This movie

combines a great story with a bunch of comedy and it offers a cool view, with it following a younger kid for most of the movie. I think that this movie was executed to perfection and definitely deserves to be in a top three spot on anyone's list this Christmas. One of my favorite scenes of this movie is when the robbers finally get into the house and are going up the stairs to get to Kevin and he starts throwing paint buckets down the stairs to knock them down.

Coming in at number two, I have Elf. This movie is just amazing; everything about it is put together beautifully and I would say that it is the best Christmas comedy ever made by far. One scene that encapsulates this perfectly is the infamous snowball scene, where Buddy tells his half brother Micael to make snowballs after they get ambushed by a group of kids that throw snowballs at them.

In the time that Michal makes one snowball buddy the elf makes a big pile and then he throws them one after another extremely fast and takes out all of the attackers with amazing accuracy.

My favorite Christmas movie of all time has to be the one and only Polar Express. This is just the perfect Christmas movie when it comes to the style of the movie, the story, the characters and just overall everything ties together perfectly. A scene that I would say really wraps up this movie and shows just how good it really is the scene where the hero boy finds one of the reindeer bells that fell off and tries ringing it but couldn't hear it. He starts whispering that he believes and eventually he can start to hear the bell and all the other bells that are on the reindeer.



## Bluesky, 1

and for other functions.

While started in 2019, Bluesky didn't become independent from Twitter until October of 2021, when the leader of the Bluesky project, Jay Graber, made the decision to make the site into its own separate company (though Jack Dorcy was still involved at the time). It took until February of 2023 for the first Bluesky version to launch in an invite-only beta, meaning the app was only accessible if you signed up for the wait list (and waited), or knew someone who already had an account.

Bluesky opened up to the public in February, gaining a steady growth of users accompanied by spikes following controversial changes at Twitter, such as the blocking of Brazilian users and removing block functionality. At one point Bluesky had 1 million users joining per day, and is currently sitting at 24.8 million users. However, even though it has significantly less users than other platforms (like Twitter, which claims to have 600 million users, though third party studies have found numbers closer to 310 million, and Threads with 275 million users) many people such as Hank Green have seen similar, if not better, engagement on Bluesky.

As a rapidly growing new social media platform, Bluesky faces many challenges, most prominently monetization

and moderation. In terms of monetization, because Bluesky doesn't run ads or sell user data, they have to take more unique approaches to making money. Bluesky only has 20 employees, and the platform is still relatively small, so monetization hasn't been a problem yet, but it will be a major factor if it wants survive.

Socially, Bluesky is considered more friendly and welcoming than Twitter, especially towards people of color. It also has less political discussion than Twitter. This may just be an effect of the algorithm being less biased towards promoting political discussion than Twitter's and the lack of a "pay to win" post system like Twitter where you can buy a subscription to make your posts more visible. Bluesky arguably has as much bias as Twitter, just in the other direction politically. Bluesky is almost entirely left-leaning when it comes to politics.

Bluesky recently received \$15 million dollars from Blockchain Capital, a crypto company who says they want to support decentralization, and are using that for funding until they are able to get a stable source of income. Bluesky has made it clear that this does not mean that crypto services are being implemented. However, a subscription service is currently in development which will give you features like enhanced video quality, more profile cosmetics, and customization.

Bluesky has all of the traditional moderation features you would expect from a social media site, like muting, mute words and blocking. Bluesky also introduces ban lists, which lets you use or create a list of accounts to block. You can have multiple lists at once for



Nora Xiong

different purposes. These let users block or mute accounts that they may not want to see or interact with, even if they don't strictly break Bluesky's rules.

Bluesky also has "labelers", which are programs that search for keywords in post and image descriptions, and uses that to group accounts & posts under a topic, and then let you choose if you want to

hide, warn, or show posts that get labeled under a category. Bluesky has a built-in labeler for basic things, but you can add third party ones to block things such as crypto scam bots, phobia triggers, or even less serious things like what football team a user supports.

Despite these features,

moderation team has been trying to over-enforce and reinstate unfair account bans due to a large amount of child safety reports.

One of Bluesky's more unique features is the ability to have custom feeds. Custom feeds allow you to have a feed that follows a separate algorithm and includes different accounts and posts than a traditional/default feed. This allows you to have feeds that only relate to a certain topic, such as the "Bluesky team" feed which only shows posts from the official Bluesky accounts.

Under the hood, Bluesky's app uses the ATProtocol (sometimes abbreviated to just "AtProto") developed by Bluesky themselves to run the site. The ATProtocol is a protocol for decentralized social media websites to interact and store data, such as posts, feeds, and accounts.

One of the most identifiable features of the ATProtocol is how handles/usernames are managed. In a typical social media site, your username is just some text such as "@nasa", "@example", etc, but ATProto uses domain names instead, so your username could be something like "@example.com", or "@example.me". Bluesky does provide you with a username with their domain, bsky.social, so you don't have to worry about that if you don't want to. So by default, when signing up for a Bluesky account, you'll have to choose

there is of course still a need for platform wide moderation. Because there are only 20 employees working at Bluesky, and because there are not as many people to report things, the Bluesky moderation team has had a hard time. With the influx of new users, they have been struggling to go through reported accounts and remove bad ones. More recently, the

## Punks, 4

standoffish and upsetting punks visually appear at first glance, punk culture completely understands the value of community and helping people. Be it soup kitchens, community gardens, or just helping a senior citizen cross the street, punks will do their best to aid the majority as much as they antagonize authority.

When it comes to identifying punks, punk fashion typically incorporates things such as T-shirts, leather jackets, jacket patches (especially political ones), Dr. Martens boots, metal studs, chains, spikes, and mostly DIY-style clothing.

As it is DIY, just like most alternative subcultures, you don't buy the clothes from Target, or SHEIN, or Hot Topic, or what have you. You make them yourself from whatever items you can find for as cheap as you can; shoelaces, thrift store shirts, even broken paper clips and safety pins. Although, keep in mind that there are plenty of people that adopt punk fashion without listening to punk music or honoring punk values, those of which are typically called poseurs. And poseurs are, as one might expect, heavily disliked by the punk rock community as a whole.

On a completely different side of things, Cyberpunk is a science fiction subgenre that centers around the combination of lowlife and high tech, typically using futuristic technological concepts like artificial intelligence, cyberware, hacking, and artificial body enhancement. The genre itself is intrinsically

linked with digital dystopian futures, societal collapse, megacorporations, and nihilism. It also tends to take heavy inspiration from the film noir detective genre, leading to the very core of the genre being bleak and dystopian in nature, often showing off the nihilistic underground of electric societies. Some of the more famous pieces of cyberpunk media include The Matrix trilogy, Blade Runner, Cowboy Bebop, and Cyberpunk 2077.

This subgenre is incredibly influential in its spread, as most of the so called 'punk genres' take direct inspiration from cyberpunk and many act as subgenres of cyberpunk. Though not every single piece of cyberpunk media really adheres to the core themes of the genre, many works abandon them in favor of reducing it to just an aesthetic. Biopunk is one of the most known cyberpunk derivatives in sci-fi that focuses on the implications of biotechnology, manipulating human DNA, and genetic engineering, typically in a dystopia ruled by megacorporations. Its own derivative, nanopunk, focuses on nanotechnology, and the implication thereof.

Steampunk is a science fiction subgenre that uses retro-futuristic technology inspired by 19th century steam-powered machinery, Victorian era fashion, art nouveau, and mid-20th century films. Typically set in Victorian or Edwardian era England, or the American Wild West, the genre typically contains technology along the lines of steam canons, analog computers, and airships. Some more famous media examples of the genre include Laputa:

Castle in the Sky, Twenty Thousand Leagues Under the Sea, Atlantis: The Lost Empire, and Howl's Moving Castle.

Unfortunately, most appearances of steampunk things are devoid of the actual ethos of the genre, and follow the poseur method of sticking gears on a top hat and calling it steampunk, which generally stems from Spirit Halloween co-opting the genre. Actual steampunk is a subculture that originated as a subgenre of goth that started to take some inspiration from punk. Other aspects of 'true' steampunk are themes of industrialization, colonialism, exploitation of the working class, labor unions, women's suffrage, and DIY. More examples of these can be seen in pieces of media like Leviathan by Scott Westerfeld, China Miéville's Bas-Lag series, and the bands The Cog is Dead, Abney Park, Steam Powered Giraffe, and Painless Parker, as well as many labor union songs.

The steampunk genre also brought about a few of its own subgenres; most notably clockpunk and gaslamp fantasy. Clockpunk takes the Renaissance period's technology and style of clocks, gears, and Da Vinci-esq style designs, while gaslamp fantasy is a version of steampunk that adds on and focuses more on magic than the technology in the genre. The popular webcomic Girl Genius is the most known example of this genre.

## Book gifting, 4

and can give some helpful warnings. "In terms of where I find books, I'm part of a few online fantasy/sci fi groups that help network me with books I haven't heard of," Preston says about learning more about books. Megan likes to think about the impact a book could have. "Will it make them laugh? Will it help them with a goal or project? In some ways, giving a book is like writing a book because you use your imagination to predict the impact," she says.

Okay, you have successfully narrowed your book list down! Yay! Now it's time to purchase, but where to go? "I think picking a store that fits your reader is half the battle," OWL English teacher Leo Bickelhaupt says. Although Barnes & Noble may be calling, I really like to support smaller, local businesses such as Red Balloon, Moon Palace Books, SubText Books and Wild Rumpus Books. "Bookstores

are so good at displaying their coolest stuff that if you walk in with a person in mind, you have a pretty good chance of succeeding," Leo says, "If you have a great local bookstore, browsing there is a great way to go." These businesses will generally have a smaller selection, so check their website to make sure your gift for Kevin is available before hopping in the car.

I will now let you in on a not-so-secret secret. Covers are everything. I am a firm believer of "don't judge a book by its cover" (while this saying is useful when applied figuratively, especially when meeting new people, I am completely against it in the context of book gifting). There are, no doubt, fantastic books with rather boring covers, but the person you are gifting may be less inclined to read it (especially if they are a young child or teenager). In recent years, a surge of color-coded, aesthetically pleasing book

a "<username>.bsky.social" username, like "example.bsky.social". If you do own a domain name and want to link that to your profile, you can apply that instead. This allows for people who own domain names to get a username that will be related to them and it can be a good way to verify an account.

However, using this system for verification has some problems. Primarily, not everyone who might want to verify themselves has a domain name. For instance, Mark Hamill has a Bluesky account at "@markhamill.bsky.social", but doesn't own a domain like markhamill.com, so he has no way to easily verify that it's him who owns the account. It also isn't as simple as a traditional check mark system, meaning people who aren't aware of how this works might not know that a verification system is there at all. There is also the problem that impersonation could happen if an impersonator had acquired a domain name that looked similar to a legitimate one, and could connect it to Bluesky and create a fake account that looks like it's verified.

On the other hand, it allows less prominent figures to verify themselves if they happen to own a domain, and is not susceptible to "corruption" or a pay-to-verify system, such as what has happened with Twitter's checkmarks, because it is not controlled by a central entity.

shelves have taken over homes, so if Kevin is an aesthetically obsessed teenager, choosing a book with an aesthetic, Pinterest-worthy cover may be the deciding factor.

Obviously, new books (and ones with nice covers!) can be extremely expensive, which is why I adore the library. If cost is an issue, second hand bookstores can be a fantastic place to find gifts. According to Megan, they are "always a good option. It's so much better for the environment." I'm almost one hundred percent sure you will find a treasure, second-hand bookstores are one of my favorite places to find gifts. If you are looking for rare or more obscure titles, these can be really interesting and rewarding places to go.

In conclusion, although receiving/gifting books isn't for everyone, gifting a book to a book-lover can be a fun process that will help you explore options and, surprisingly, find and nurture

Additionally, the green glasses are in both the musical and the book, which is another reason why I think they should have been present.

Wicked has mystified fans since its Broadway debut, with shows spreading across Europe, Asia, Australia, and North America. In total, the Broadway sensation has won three Tony awards, including Best Costume Design, Best Scenic Design, and Best Performance by an Actress in a Leading Role (Idina Menzel).

Overall, the film was absolutely amazing and I would give it a 10/10. I would recommend this movie to anyone who is looking for a wonderful story and songs

that will get stuck in your head and make you want to dance. Before watching Wicked, I should warn you that it is two hours and 40 minutes long. I personally didn't find this a problem, but I recognize that this is pretty long for a movie.





### Santa, 5

bunny isn't, and the tooth fairy isn't. And he just started telling everything and I was like, oh my god! Why would you ruin Christmas for this little girl? I am a firm believer of letting kids be kids and believe and all that until they figure it out on their own. And not blow it like their dad and just tell them.

### Atlas Schultz: 8th grader

I think I must've been like ten or eleven. I noticed a jar of jelly beans in my moms closet, and it was the same brand of jelly beans that we get for Easter, and I was like oh my gosh, my mom is the easter bunny! And then I was like wait, if the easter bunny isn't real then santa must not be real either! I was a little disappointed, but then I was like whatever, I still get stuff.

### Kent: Art Teacher

I suspected in 1st or 2nd grade but it was confirmed in third grade. My dad was

talking to my grandpa who was looking at one of the toys I had gotten from santa. And he was like, "oh that's kind of cool," and my dad was like, "oh yeah we got it at this certain store." And I was over there doing something and they didn't see me. And I was like, "I knew it! I knew Santa was fake! I knew it was my parents!"

### Cooper Small: 8th grader

When I was about ten, my family was renovating our basement, and I went down there one day just to hang out and I saw a box that said "elf on the shelf," that I had never seen before. And that just kind of made the whole idea of Santa and the reindeer and the elves just collapse.

### Jae Lind: 9th grader

I think I was like six or seven, and I would always go trick or treating with my mom and would get way too much candy, and my mom didn't want me to eat all of it, so she put it in a plastic bag and

brought us to this bookstore and she traded the candy and we each got a free book. My brother and I were fully convinced that this was how it worked; you could trade your candy in for a book, and we were so happy. When I was like six I think, I was picking out a book and my sibling saw my mom hand over a credit card with our candy. And I was devastated, because they had told me that they gave the candy to Santa, and if Santa wasn't picking up the candy, then he wasn't real. I was really sad.

### At what age do you think parents should tell their kids that Santa isn't real?

### Dan Sullivan: Social Studies Teacher

You gotta put it back on them, like "What do you think?" How do you think he gets to everybody's house in one day? I try not to do the explaining, I let them fill in the blanks.

### Clare Exley: 8th grader

Probably if they haven't figured it out, ten. Ten or eleven. Let them have their fun as long as they want.

### Kent: Art Teacher

I don't know if there's an exact age. I guess for me it comes down to whenever the kid starts to ask. Then you should just tell them the truth. They trust you. So as a parent, I believe it's my job to always honor that trust that they have in you. If they trust you enough to come to you with a question, you have to respond honestly. And that's just my view.

### Hughes

It's fun to believe in Santa, I think you should just pretend as long as you can.

### Ms. Ma'lene

I am a firm believer of letting kids be kids and believe and all that until they figure it out on their own.

### Laura Orris: Media Specialist

in early May following state. As always, the team has their

### Archery, 1

raised safety concerns.

Practices began the first week of December, with about six reported new archers entering the scene. These first few weeks of archery are reportedly primal for getting back into the routine of it all. Senior captain Paige Rhode claimed that just one week in, the team has already gotten pretty fast at the setup and cleanup of the archery range. "I feel like we have a solid group of kids who are connected enough that we can be really productive," said Paige. "It's really creating an efficient team where we can perform very well."

Looking into the future,

the team is reportedly facing a huge roadblock, which is that the Archery State Tournament is occurring at the same time as the OWL Europe trip, which was originally dated at a different time. This brings a couple problems to the surface, since Tom, as well as many high school archers, are attending the trip.

Considering the goals the team has set out for themselves, combined with their situation for the state tournament, this year's archery season looks to be a growth year, meaning a big focus on community and improvement. "I don't think we can win because of the Europe trip. That said, I am hoping that we win regions with a score that would win the

state. That would be a success for me," said Tom. He also



Purple Press Staff Photo

### Sophie Sherman-Hoehn aims at the target

expressed his hope that some kids will qualify for nationals this year, which would happen

everlasting goal of being safe, fun, and growing as a team.

The team is also in the

I think it's more about whether you want to keep that magic, and also knowing if your kid is going to be mad that you lied to them.

### Preston West: ELA teacher

I think that they shouldn't. It should be a natural consequence of investigation. I mean, this is science at its finest! Is that they have something that they think they know, and then it gets challenged, and they're forced to reevaluate their beliefs based on new evidence! I don't think it should be a conversation.

### Atlas

They should never tell their kids. They have to let them figure it out on their own. Because once they figure it out, they will know enough not to tell other kids and ruin it for them.

Luisa: I think we got some pretty interesting answers to both of our questions! It seems like the overall opinion was that parents shouldn't tell their

kids, and that they should find out on their own. I think I agree with Kent the most, that parents should just tell the truth once their kids start to ask questions about it.

Lauren: It was really cool to hear other people's experiences and perspectives. I agree with all of the interviewees because I understand where they're coming from. For example Kent said "your kids have trust in their parents so when they ask you a question they expect you to tell them the truth, so you should tell them the truth" and I agree, but at the same time I think you shouldn't ruin a little kid's childhood like that.

Luisa: They have to find out at some point Lauren.

Lauren: They will, but not at 4 years old.

Luisa: I'm not saying parents should tell them at four years old! I asked though, and my mom told me. There's a difference.

Lauren: Agree to disagree.

planning stage for the tournament which they personally host for the entirety of Minnesota teams, which will happen in January at Johnson High School. They have both a gym and field house, which is needed to have enough range space. "Right now it's a lot of prep. But as we get close, it will be very hands on," said senior captain Sylas Kolb, who is planning the tournament alongside Paige as their senior project.

Tom gets coaching help from alumni Donald Post, Jack Goodrich, and Ale Castrejon, parent Kevin Smith, and student coach Kathryn Totushek. It's also important, though, to consider the teams within the archery team.

Each team is formed at the beginning of the season, and has a handful of archers, as well as a lieutenant, and captain head. These teams compete with each other to see who can get the most points, which are received through attendance at practices and tournaments, as well as personal bests, which is the best score an archer has shot at a tournament.

All in all, the team is looking great this year, with reportedly many great things coming for these archers, even with their misfortune about the state tournament. "I'm really excited to go back into archery and hopefully have a better year than last. That's always my goal," said junior Moss Windingstad.

### Clubs, 7

GSA and BSU do not take place during club time anymore. GSA meets once a week during lunch, giving less time to meet and more distractions for the participants.

The final question in the survey was if people were happy with their new club, the overwhelming response to this question was yes, with varied levels of satisfaction. Overall I would say that the general consensus is that the change in clubs is, for the most part, beneficial. But it does take away from affinity groups, and

limits people with multiple club interests.

I went on to interview Megan Hall, one of our schools main crew organizers, to find out why these switches were made, and if there was a deeper reason for them behind the scenes.

In short, the decision to make clubs mandatory was made in part to make sure everyone in the crew was accounted for. "There were a lot of students that took advantage of the situation and were just roaming the halls, not in a club, not in a crew, not where they were supposed to be, and

that's really not acceptable," said Megan. Additionally, Megan went on to say that teachers have responded to surveys saying that they don't like how many interruptions there are during the week in crew, which can get in the way of crew bonding time. Now that clubs are moved to Friday, there are three consecutive days for crews to really connect and work without being interrupted, according to Megan.

After attending my club for a few weeks, I was pleased to see my worries of disinterest proved wrong; almost

everyone in my club seemed invested, and the mandates actually brought our numbers up as well. Now, I can not say that this is going to be true for all clubs, but for the most part, the switch seemed to benefit the Environmental Club. Despite the benefits, I'm still not fully on board with Friday clubs. I find it harder to be fully engaged in my club at the end of the week as opposed to a Wednesday. After learning more about the reasons that clubs have changed, I've accepted and understand why the switch was made.



Purple Press Staff Photo

### Students in Board Game club play Apples to Apples

### Infrastructure, 2

tourism and economic growth, and showcase revolutionary technology. Ironically some people call it an eyesore and others call it groundbreaking technology. This project was designed by Populous, and originally announced in 2018 by the Madison Square Garden Company. The outside of the dome is pretty much a massive screen. The inside features a curved screen that is made to be a 3d experience, featuring concerts, movies and nature videos. It is a cool experience, but a lot of concerns have been expressed, in particular for drivers in the area. It would be distracting if you look up and there's a giant vibrant eyeball that is looking at you. The project has been pretty successful, at least in the short run. It has been a good representation of how technology is capable

of stimulating economic growth, but might run into some problems in the long run. Since there is so much technology involved, it is naturally going to be very expensive to maintain, and will probably also depend on the tourism of Las Vegas. Also due to it being marketed as a premium event and to high spending tourists, this might be an issue and affect the foot traffic that they get.

Each of these unique infrastructures highlight incredible ways to meet modern challenges—whether it's handling natural forces, or making our lives more connected and enjoyable. With creative thinking, we could adapt similar solutions in our daily lives, making our cities safer, more efficient, and even more exciting places to live.



Tim Leone-Getten

### The class of 2025 poses outside after the assembly



Tim Leone-Getten

### Seniors gather in Tim's room before the action



Tim Leone-Getten

### Danny Hobday, Joe Lodahl, and Noah Johnson wave to fans



# A Flame That Flickers Out

*Arthur is a young man caught between a roc and parental arguments*

**Joseph T. Schwartz**  
Staff Writer

"Where on God's green earth have you been?" His mother said, scowling.

"I..." Arthur began unsurely, "met a new friend."

"You met a new friend." She echoed softly, "Arthur, it has been dark for hours. And I have been waiting for hours. Do you have any idea how worried I have been? Yes, I know you stay out late, and as much as your father and I hate it, at least you're home for supper." She took in a deep breath and rubbed her face, massaging the bridge of her nose.

"Except you weren't, Arthur." She looked him in the eyes. "I had no idea where you were, who you were with, when you would be home, and your excuse is that you met a new friend?" His mother's voice dripped with venom.

"I know what you're thinking," he said, raising his hands defensively, "but he's different than my other-"

"I see, this one is different. What, did he kill someone instead of just stealing from them?" she quipped, "No, I don't have the patience to hear about this new 'friend.' I want you in bed and we'll talk about this in the morning." She turned back into the kitchen and set her lantern down before sitting at the table, head in her hands.

"Mom, I'm serious-" Arthur followed her to the kitchen, still gesturing with his hands as he spoke.

"No."

"Mom-"

"No!" His mother slammed a fist down on the table. The lantern beside her rattled and a drop of wax was flung against the glass. "No more," she said, sighing heavily. "Go to bed, Arthur."

He opened his mouth, but stopped before any words came out. His mother wasn't looking at him anymore. She just stared at the fire flickering inside the lantern and breathed deeply. Arthur dropped his hands to his side, the sound of his sleeves brushing against his torso like rolling thunder in the silence.

"I- yeah, 'night." He turned away and walked out the kitchen door, and his mother didn't look up. Arthur's shadow nearly blocked out the light cast by the lantern, leaving most of the main room in darkness. His father leaned against the doorway, one hand holding his cane and the other resting lightly against the handle.

"You heard your mother, kid." Only half of his face was hit by the light, and Arthur could see he was looking past him and into the kitchen. Arthur nodded, stepping from the light and into the dark of the room. He darted to the stairs and, with the creak of wooden planks underfoot, vanished to the second floor.

Tom stood still, his ear tilted towards the stairs before nodding and stepping away

from the door. He walked into the kitchen accompanied by the tapping of his cane and sat at the table across from Ethel. For a long while, neither said anything. Tom watched her concernedly and she continued to blankly stare into the flame. The chair beneath him groaned as he shifted forward in his chair.

"That was certainly somethin'," he said, his voice shattering the silence abruptly.

"Don't be funny with me, Tom," Ethel replied shortly.

"Ain't nothin' laughable 'bout it. He's a delinquent; I told ya." Tom's voice was quiet, but still firm. "Yellin' at him and tellin' him to quit it ain't enough anymore. We gotta do somethin', and I mean do, not say, or he's gonna end up somewhere we ain't, and he ain't, gonna like."

Ethel ran a hand down her face before finally looking away from the lantern and at the man across from her.

"We are not going to do this your way. Not this time."

"Why the hell not?" He said, exasperated, "John-" Ethel looked away and back into the fire at the name, "-turned out a fine boy. A right boy. Just 'cause Arthur's a bit older now won't change nothing."

"He'll only spite you, Tom," she said dismissively, "You can't 'whip' this one into shape. Not Arthur." At that, Tom scowled heavily and let out a single barked laugh before leaning back in her chair.

"Will you just- just get over this thing you have with Arthur for one moment and look at him, who he is?" He said, his voice climbing in volume as he spoke, "You can't keep him away from consequences forever."

Ethel never once looked away from the flame, but her face twitched in annoyance.

"Thing. What 'thing' do you think I have with Arthur?"

"You know damn well what I'm talkin' about, so don't play coy with me," Tom growled, "Ever since John died, you've been treating Arthur like he's gonna shatter if he's ever kept from throwin' his own life away."

"Don't you bring John into this," She said accusingly, "You know what that did to me."

"Ethel, you ain't the only one who felt bad when John died. I was just as devastated, Hell, even Arthur was upset. You don't get to play sorry for yourself while the rest of us- oh who am I kiddin'? While I pick up the slack raisin' the boy."

"While you pick up the slack?" Ethel said, aghast, "Last I checked, I was the one yelling at him and doing my best to keep him in line. And what were you doing? Telling the Morris' boy where to drag the hay?"

"The only reason I need Harold is 'cause you won't let me take the boy out of a school he doesn't attend so he can work the farm!" He retorted.

"That's not the only reason..." Ethel muttered

under her breath. Tom, whose mouth had been open for another retort, snapped shut, and he leaned back in his chair. Ethel's eyes opened wide, like she only just heard what she said, "Tom, I-"

"You know I ain't do this." He grabbed his cane and shook it at her, "Not on purpose. Yet you keep treatin' me like I did.

You think I want this, Ethel? You think I wanna be walkin' around like I'm eighty?" He took a deep breath and set his cane back down on the ground. "That ain't important right now. What's important is that you're too soft on Arthur. Sure, you're yellin'. But that's 'cause you're angry. Everybody can yell. But the boy doesn't learn nothin' from that, he don't care!" He threw up his hands and looked around, before pointing a finger at Ethel, "Because somebody won't show the boy some real damn consequences. When John broke somethin' or ran off without tellin' us, what did I do? I set him haulin' hay until



Nora Xiong

he dropped. An' what'd he do? He learned a damned lesson. What do I do when Arthur does the same? Nothin.' 'Cause you say he'll 'turn himself around.' Guess what, Ethel? The only turnin' he's doin' is away from us and out that door."

She looked down at the floor and shook her head, "I can get through to him, Tom, if he just went to school he could learn and go-"

"Go where?" he interrupted sharply, "Go to a fancy college out east? Go get a job in one of them big cities and we never see him again? No. Not our boy," he laughed, "Not that boy."

"But he could, Tom, and if he just saw it, saw what he might be able to do and understood it, he could do a little more in life than worry about harvesting wheat."

"He's sixteen, what the hell is he gonna learn right now that he can't learn after harvestin' wheat for a couple years and learnin' the discipline he ain't got?"

"Because I don't want him to waste his life like- like-" She stuttered.

"Like me?" Tom's face was hard and expressionless, but his knuckles were white around the handle of his cane. Her eyes widened with guilt

for the second time that night, but she said nothing. "I see. I see how it is." He adjusted his cane and pushed himself to his feet. "Goodnight, Ethel. If you're so scared of him endin' up like me, go ahead. Once he's older and livin' in an alley with a bunch of thieves, you can come an' tell me I was right."

He left the room slowly, his cane cracking against the ground with every other step. Ethel took a shuddering breath as she heard his steps fade as he reached the top of the stairs, and once more looked into the flame. She sat still for a moment, before reaching forward and opening the lantern. With one sharp puff, the light went out.

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Arthur stepped away from the stairs, his steps creaking loudly, before stopping right in front of his door. He waited, counting down on his fingers from seven. Once he put down the last finger, he heard

died. I was just as devastated, Hell, even Arthur was upset."

At those words, Arthur's thoughts screeched to a halt. 'Even Arthur was upset'? What did he mean by that? Of course Arthur was upset, his brother had died. 'Even'? Was it so surprising that he could be upset at the death of his own brother? Is that how his father saw him? His mother hadn't corrected his father or, by the sound of it, even noticed his father had said something strange. Is that how they both felt about him?

Arthur stood slowly and turned back, dazedly making his way back to his room. He could hear his father yelling behind him, but he didn't register the words he spoke. He took a wrong step in front of his door, and the floorboard beneath him let out a groan. He froze, but the arguing downstairs didn't stop.

"Go get a job in one of those big cities?" Arthur shifted back to tilt towards the sound, and the floorboards groaned again. That same bitter laugh struck out across the house.

"Not that boy."

He pulled open his door, making sure to lift it up by the handle to stop the hinges from sticking and squeaking. After shutting the door behind him, he took a single step back from it and sat down onto his bed.

His room was small, only just barely enough to fit the bed and chest with all of his clothes. Usually he never noticed how small it was, he never thought about it. But now, Arthur was keenly aware of how close he was to the walls, of how tight it felt inside that room.

Arthur laid down and pulled a woven blanket over himself. He shut his eyes tight and thought of the open fields outside his home, and soon his mind wandered back over those fields to the forest, and then to the river, and finally-

"I could use somebody like you; someone who still has their youth left to them!"

Did the old man mean it? Truly, did McDowell want his help? He shuffled around in his bed and pulled the blanket further over himself, shaking his head slightly.

Arthur waited a long time for sleep, but it did not come quickly. His parents' arguing ended quickly after he laid down for sleep. The floorboards outside his room complained loudly with stress as his father lumbered over them. For a moment, the groaning stopped outside of his door, before it began again and faded, ending with the faint click of the latch to his father's room. His mother followed maybe a half hour later. Even once the house had settled, his mind refused to shut down.

Did he really mean it? No matter the train of thought, it always came back to that single question. The moon's light no longer shone through the window, it had long since passed over their

home through the sky, yet he continued to stare at the dark ceiling. If he does mean it, he thought to himself, he'll be the only person who seems to want me around.

Arthur felt something in his chest, something light and it brought a smile to his face. He wasn't exactly sure how to describe it, but the closest word he could come up with was hope. At that, his mind drifted listlessly and his eyes fluttered shut.

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All of a sudden, the world around him was loud. His bed shook and lights flashed from the single window into his room. A cacophony of cracks and booms and the sound of a thousand rivers rushing assaulted his ears.

Arthur shot to his feet, but had to put a hand on the wall to keep himself from toppling right back over. He called out to his parents, but his voice was caught up in the noise and not even he could hear his words. With some struggle, he took the few steps he needed to get to the door without falling and pushed hard. The latchless door made it a few inches before a force from outside slammed it back shut. Arthur stepped back and braced his shoulder before pushing back forward, slamming into the door and out of it.

Instead of the hallway he expected, the wooden floor gave way to mud and there were no walls. He slipped and fell to the earth, floundering in the mud and flinging it around him. Rain fell almost like a solid wall, slamming into his body every moment.

He made it to his hands and knees and looked back for the door, but there was nothing there. A cry sounded from above, distracting him for a moment.

Arthur looked up, and above him circled a large vulture, outlined by the constant lightning in the dark clouds above him.

"What in the lord's name are you doing out here?"