



# The BULLDOG BARK



Advisor: Ms. Dunham  
Principal: Mr. Hauser

Your Middle School News Unleashed!

Winter 2024/25

## doghouse fiction



# REDISCOVERING CHRISTMAS

By Casey Farkas  
Team 8 Barker

Through dazzling lights,  
With brightly colored gifts,  
I had never seen the appeal.

I see all sorts of people go into debt.  
Everyone spends absurd amounts of time with their  
family.

Children are given gifts they don't even want.  
The same songs play on repeat and everyone is so  
unbearably happy.

Every year, I would sit on the floor of my living room  
under the Christmas tree.  
Legs crossed and eyes rolling.  
My parents looked overjoyed, though I had no idea why.  
I would open their stupidly wrapped gifts and listen to  
their stupid Christmas stories.

Every year, it would be the same.  
The same stupid tradition, with the same boring family,  
and the same stupid decorations I never helped put up.

Now, I am older.  
I live alone in my tiny, one bedroom apartment where I  
have no decorations or lights.  
I have no Christmas tree, or any presents under it.

I wake up on Christmas to no stupid gifts or stupid stories,  
or stupid smiles, or stupid laughter.  
All of it is gone.

But I want it back.

I want the stupid laughter that showed how  
truly happy the day was.

I want the stupid gifts that were heartfelt and  
meaningful.  
I want the stupid decorations that make a house  
a home.

I realize now, I want it all back.  
I realize now, things weren't as stupid as I  
thought.  
I realize now, the things weren't actually stupid  
at all.  
I realize now that I am all alone.

But I suppose there is nothing I can do about it  
at this point.

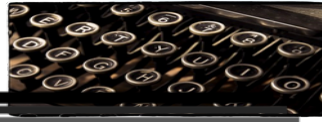
Who would want me back after all of this?  
I pick up my phone, anyway and call my not so  
stupid family.  
I make plans to go to their not so stupidly  
decorated house.

I show up and bring not so stupid gifts.  
I listen to the not so stupid stories.  
I sing to not so stupid music.

I realize now, Christmas is not so stupid after  
all.



# doghouse fiction



## ***Fun Facts about St. Nicholas***

By Syllis Rivera

Honorary Team "6" Barker

**Q: Why is his suit red?**

**A:** This is a very common question, and it is a very recent change. Father Christmas has had a green suit, until the year 1931, when Coca-Cola® released this advertisement:



Made by Haddon Sundblom, this was the original photo of the first red Santa Claus, and Coca-Cola® did this because they didn't want to stereo-type the infamous color they use, red, so, they used Santa Claus in a red suit, and not a green one, like he had before.

**Q: When was Santa Claus born?**

**A:** He was named Kris Kringle, as he was born in 280 A.D., making him an astonishing 1,744 years old! (as of 2024.)

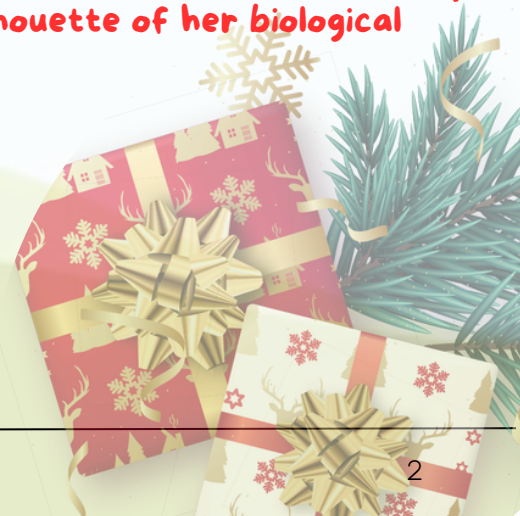
**Q: Why does Santa say "Ho Ho Ho"?**

**A:** "Ho ho ho" is just how Santa laughs. It's pretty funny, since a normal human would laugh like "ha ha ha". But why does he laugh like that? It actually means onomatopoeia for laughter, which is why he laughs "Ho ho ho".

When she looked up, she saw a cave entrance. A cave entrance that looked old and smelled like dead pets. She was confused, but she went in anyway. When she went in, she saw the person she looked up to. Orville Wright, in a slight silhouette. She knew it was him because that was the person that she was inspired by when she was younger. But she doesn't remember anything about him, or how she knew his name.

She luckily reached into her pocket and realized she had her phone with her this entire time. So she looked up who Orville Wright's daughter was, and lo and behold, her name popped up. She was very confused, as her "father" should have died years ago, back in 1948. But then she slowly realized that she had fallen into a time warp when her plane blew up. She then figured out she fell through the duration of time and went back to 1949.

She then had to find a way out. She looked around and saw a door. She opened it to see her dead, next to the blown-up airplane that caught on fire. She ran into the door, slowly making her a silhouette of her biological father. The End.





# WICKED

By Adalyn Knecht  
Team 8 Barker

## Review

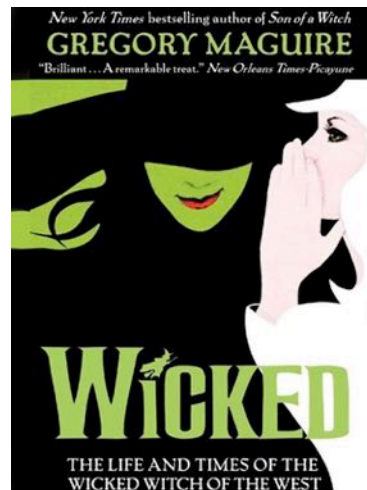
Wicked is a new movie, starring Ariana Grande as Glinda and Cynthia Erivo as Elphaba, known to be terrifying Wicked Witch of the West. This beautiful film is only the first part of the full show, and follows the events leading up to The Wonderful Wizard of Oz. The movie tells the story of Elphaba, who is hated because of her green skin, and Glinda's friendship when they went to school together. At first, they hated each other, but soon became very close.

As someone who has seen the Broadway production, I was extremely pleased with the accuracy in similarities, plus the music was phenomenal and the actors were great. Wicked seems to be loved by people who don't care for musicals, or have never seen The Wonderful Wizard of Oz. I most definitely recommend this movie to anybody, not just people who enjoy musical theatre.

The film is a visual feast, with stunning costumes and mesmerizing special effects that bring the magical world of Oz to life. Directed by Jon M. Chu, the movie masterfully balances the whimsy and emotional depth that fans of the Broadway production cherish.

The story delves into themes of acceptance, friendship, and the gray areas between good and evil, making it as thought-provoking as it is entertaining. Cynthia Erivo's rendition of Defying Gravity is breathtaking, a true showstopper that gave me chills. While the movie stays true to the spirit of the stage production, it also adds new cinematic layers that enhance the storytelling. Ariana Grande did spectacularly. She's actually been practicing for a part like this for years and have been a lifelong fan of the musical.

With this being only the first installment, I'm already eager to see how the second part concludes this epic tale. Wicked: For Good, the second part of the movie adaptation of the stage musical Wicked, is scheduled for release in theaters on November 21, 2025.



# Mashed Potato Theory

**Reagan Bellesfield**

*Team 7 Barker*

It was an ordinary day in Mr. Haddad's second-period class when he launched into one of his signature rants—this time, about mashed potatoes. Intrigued by his enthusiasm, I decided to interview him to uncover the story behind his "Mashed Potato Theory" and why he found it so fascinating.

## Q&A with Mr. Haddad

Q: How did you come up with the Mashed Potato Theory?

A: It all started with the school lunch. When I first began eating the school lunches, I noticed I was still hungry afterward. Over time, I started to build a relationship with the cafeteria staff. The more I got to know them and the nicer I was, the better the helpings I received.

Q: Why do you find it so interesting?

A: It's a metaphor for life: be kind, and good things will happen to you.

Q: Why do you call it the Mashed Potato Theory?

A: Mashed potatoes are the easiest item to get more of at lunch. You know you're getting a larger helping when the server doesn't scrape off the excess, and it looks like an ice cream scoop instead of a perfect, compact sphere on your tray.

During the class discussion, Mr. Haddad shared his aspirations to write about the Mashed Potato Theory as part of his second master's degree. According to him, the theory has proven successful at multiple schools, including East Stroudsburg, where he previously worked.

In Mr. Haddad's eyes, this lighthearted theory isn't just about mashed potatoes; it's a reflection of how small acts of kindness can yield unexpectedly big rewards. This quirky yet insightful theory is a reminder that small gestures of kindness can lead to meaningful rewards in unexpected places.

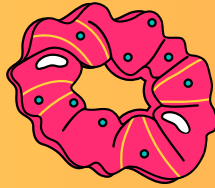




# Fashion Throughout the Decades

BY LAUREN GAD

HONORARY TEAM 6 BARKER



During the 60s, trapezoid dresses with boat neck cuts were commonly worn. The most popular colors and patterns were pink, green, orange, yellow, black and white, florals, plaid, and stripes. For shoes, chunky heeled boots, ballet flats, and MaryJanes were popular. For accessories people would wear headbands, patterned tights, bulky glasses, and big, dangly earrings.

The seventies were the era in which gender norms began to break. Halter tops, flowy sleeves, bell bottom jeans, brightly colored flared pants, and turtlenecks were all trending clothing during that time. Shoes had thick heels, unique patterns, and buckles. Finally common accessories worn were chunky jewelry, round rimmed glasses, head scarves, and neck ties.

The eighties were one of the most iconic decade of fashion. Articles like leg warmers, spandex shorts, fishnet material items, brightly colored clothing, denim, fanny packs, polo shirts, and shoulder pads are all recognizable things worn during that period. There were many trends like tight rolling your pants, wearing two pairs of socks of different colors over each, and wearing several bracelets of various colors.

Many of the things worn in the eighties were carried out into the nineties, especially denim. Baggy jeans, overall, and jean skirts were some of the most worn denim at that time. A style called grunge was a big part of fashion. It consisted of baggy clothing, band t-shirts, flannels, black combat boots, long sleeved shirts with a short sleeve top layered over it, and leather jackets. There was another style worn which was quite the opposite of grunge. It was called preppy. Those who wore this style resembled students of expensive prep schools. Plaid skirts, collared tops, stripes, and elegant sweaters were all worn to represent the style.

The 2000s were another decade of iconic fashion. It's remembered by low waisted jeans, track suits, dresses/ skirts with jeans layered beneath them, hoop earrings, cropped tops, and belts. Many inspired their clothes from famous people like Brittny Spears, Avril Lavigne, Paris Hilton, and Lindsay Lohan.





# Rise To Fame

By: Lauren Gad and Syllis Rivera  
Honorary Team 6 Barkers

We all know Dress to Impress and its popularity, with creators such as Addison Rae, The Sturniolo Triplets (Nick, Matt, and Chris), Madison Beer, Case Baker (known as Caseoh), Tara Yummy, and more playing this game. But it didn't just become popular, it had to have a start. It all started on November 11th, 2023, when the game was officially released. It was lacking in size compared to the current DTI, including only six hairs, nineteen faces, 28 VIP items, and 57 non-VIP items. Every round there would be a theme. Example: Tired, Basic, Out of Space, etc. But the real important things you would have are ranks. The starting one was New Model, then there was Rising Star, then there would be Fashionista, then Glamourista, then the big ranks took place next. The smallest biggest rank was Fashion Maven, then there was Runway Queen, and after 6,000 stars, you would get Trend-Setter, the most common highest rank in Dress to Impress. After about two months of playing, you would get Runway Diva at 15,000 stars. Then the highest rank you can get would be Top Model. Those were (and still are!) the ranks at the time.



Lana, the Nail Lady

Lana, formerly known as "The Nail Lady", has lore. Gigi, the creator of Dress to Impress, once said she originally meant to create a horror game, with a whole fashion lady who gets possessed, and everything like that, and a couple months after Dress to Impress was made, an April Fool's update came out, with Lana looking like she's crying, and saying everyone's outfits were hideous on the runway, but also with two new features. Gigantic feet and Long "Baddie Nails". There is also one more thing, and it was Lana's Journal, that had said something along the lines of this: "I am not just a Nail Lady, I am a human.". This left the internet in shock, believing that Lana the Nail Lady would have lore. It first started with the summer update that came out on June 29th, 2023. This was one of the massive updates that the Dress to Impress team released, but that's not what we are here to talk about. You see, when the summer update released, there was a completely new game mode, and the game modes at the time would be Pro Servers, VIP servers, and the original, regular servers. But the new game mode would be revolutionary, and this game mode is called "Freeplay Servers", which these servers could let you play Dress to Impress without a theme. But, in these so-called "Freeplay Servers", there was a secret. If you go outside in freeplay, it would be summer-themed, a beach, and everything. But if you turned around at the entrance, and went to the right side, and went outside the wall, and go forward and jumped on a brown, wooden platform, you'll see the secret!





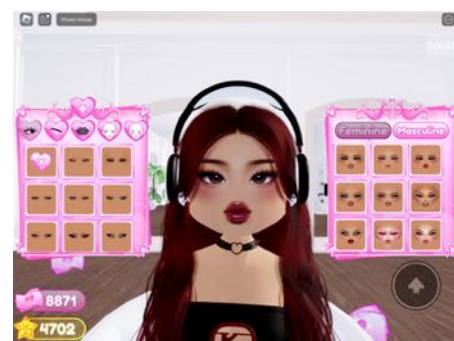
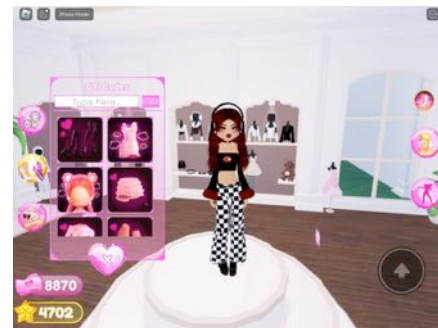
Copiers!

With the rise of Dress to Impress, its unique gameplay and engaging features inspired countless imitators. Several developers created games with similar concepts, attempting to capitalize on its success. These copycat games often mimicked the ranking system, themes, and even some of the visual aesthetics, but none could match the charm and innovation of the original.

One notable example was "Fashion Frenzy," a game that appeared just a few months after DTI's launch. While it gained a modest following, players criticized it for lacking the creativity and community spirit that Dress to Impress had cultivated. DTI's creators addressed these imitators by doubling down on updates and exclusive content, further cementing their place as leaders in the fashion game genre.

The competition, however, helped fuel innovation. Gigi and the Dress to Impress team introduced regular updates, special holiday themes, and even player-submitted designs to ensure the game remained fresh and ahead of the curve.

Dress to Impress is more than just a game; it's a community that celebrates creativity and individuality. Over the years, players have created countless stunning outfits that range from avant-garde couture to playful, everyday looks. Dress to Impress has proven to be more than just a game—it's a cultural phenomenon. From its humble beginnings to its status as a global sensation, it continues to inspire creativity, connect players, and evolve in unexpected ways. Whether you're here to climb the ranks or unravel Lana's mysterious lore, Dress to Impress offers something for everyone.



Below is a list of all **working DTI codes** (because some get discontinued). Use all caps, and make sure to check if certain letters are numbers. Code items are now in the dressing room directly across the tanning booths.



- MOTOPRINCESSWAV: Crown
- BELALASLAY: Off-shoulder biker jacket with an optional top
- KITTYUUHH: A cat!
- KREEK: Beanie with ears
- FASHION: Mermaid-style strapless gown
- LANATUTU: Bubble dress
- ITSJUSTNICHOLAS: Sporty/biker jacket
- M3RM4ID: Mermaid tail and top
- C4LLMEH4LEY: Teddy bear ears headband and ruffled minidress
- ASHLEYBUNNI: Bunny slippers
- IBELLASLAY: Big half-dye pigtails
- SUBM15CY: Pearl choker and lashes
- LABOOTS: Chunky boots
- TEKKYOOZ: Lady Dior-inspired bag
- LEAHASHE: Tracksuit jacket and pants
- LANABOW: Hair bow
- LANA: Ruffled shirt, shorts, and leg warmers
- UMOYAE: Sparkly floral dress
- S3M\_OW3N\_Y4Y: Scythe/axe
- CH00P1E\_1S\_B4CK: Jacket, skirt, boots
- 4BILLION: Corset top and flouncy short balloon skirt
- MEGANPLAYSBOOTS: Silver boots
- B3APL4YS\_D0L1E: Doll toy accessory
- 1CON1CF4TMA: Preppy school girl outfit

# Tips 101: Job Hunting

Struggling on finding or getting a job? This is the article for you.

Zoey Fried  
Team 8 Barker

*Have you been having trouble finding a job? This article will guide you through how, when, and where to apply.*

## When to start working:

This is probably one of the biggest question you are going to ask yourself when job finding: “Am I really ready to have a job?” Somethings to consider are your grades, age, transportation accessibility, mindset, and your schedule. If these aren’t in balance or not where they need to be, a job might not be for you just yet.

## Where to go:

As you can tell, there are many places in our school district that would give you the possible job that you are looking for, especially Walnutport and The Slatington Farmers Market. These jobs vary from the food industry, to general stores, to grocery stores, to even cosmetic shop. There are a variety of places to choose from, so you should be able to experience the job that suits you best.

## Why are you working:

Once you get a job and start working, you will start to get a salary. That being said, the money you earn is up to you on how you use or spend it. If you only got a job because you wanted to have some of your own fun money, that’s great. If you got a job to start saving for a car or college, that’s fine too. Keep in mind though that money isn’t just given to you. You have to earn it; this means that you need to actually work at your job, not slacking off causing you to get in trouble or fired.

## FOOTNOTE:

THESE ARE TIPS AND ADVICE FOR GETTING A JOB. IF YOU DISAGREE WITH ANYTHING THAT WAS SAID ABOVE, THESE ARE GUIDE LINES AND POINTERS, **NOT A MANUAL.**





# THE SECRET INGREDIENT TO VOLLEYBALL VICTORY

**Anna Karetsky**

*Team 7 Barker*

What's the secret ingredient to a successful volleyball team? It's not skill or athleticism-it's teamwork. Volleyball is a sport that demands a unique blend of individual skill and collective effort.

Why is teamwork so important in volleyball?

Players need to work together seamlessly to execute successful plays, from setting to hitting and blocking. Many things make up teamwork including communication, trust, and mutual respect.

Volleyball is a fast-paced game that requires constant communication. Bella Barone, president of student council and intramural volleyball, states, "Communication plays a big role in effective teamwork. If nobody calls the ball nobody will know to back off." Clear and concise communication allows players to adjust to changing game situations and make quick decisions. "Miscommunication can result in a ball dropping, which can then result in a point for the other team," says Kylee Truett.

Another thing that is crucial in volleyball is trust. Seamless transitions between offense and defense requires trust. Players must trust that their teammates will be in the right position to cover them and keep the ball alive.



Mutual respect is also key for effective teamwork. When players respect each other, players feel comfortable sharing ideas, constructive criticism, and concerns. Teams where the players respect each other are more likely to perform at their best, as players feel motivated and supported.

How can you contribute to a team that works together effectively? As a player you can communicate effectively, show respect, and lead by example. Bella Barone says, "Sharing tips and ideas can help another player on your team." As a coach, you can host team building activities, listen to your players, and give positive reinforcement. By understanding and implementing these principles of teamwork, you can significantly improve your sports experience.



# BULLDOG







# LETTER FROM THE ADVISOR

Dear Bulldog Bark Readers,

As we welcome the winter season at Northern Lehigh, I am once again filled with pride for our talented team of writers and artists who continue to make each issue of The Bulldog Bark truly special. Their dedication and creativity shine in every page, and I'm grateful for their hard work.

This year, we've embraced Canva for our layout design, and the results have been fantastic! This is our first edition where students took full ownership of their own pages. They're practicing graphic design, which I think is going to give them a true appreciation for layout and all that goes into planning it. This platform has allowed each Bulldog Barker to design their own pages, fostering collaboration and adding a fresh, dynamic look to our publication. It's been an exciting opportunity for our team to learn and grow creatively. Please be patient as we learn together how to use the platform. Our next edition will be much larger!

The Bulldog Bark exists to amplify the voices of Northern Lehigh students, and we're always looking to grow our pack! Whether you're interested in writing for just one issue or contributing artwork, we'd love to hear from you. Stop by Room 37 or send me an email at [bdunham@nlsd.org](mailto:bdunham@nlsd.org) with your ideas or talents. Your voice matters here!

Finally, I want to recognize the amazing 2024-2025 Bulldog Bark team:

Reagan Bellesfield, Casey Farkas, Zoey Fried, Lauren Gad, Anna Karetsky, Adalyn Knecht, Harlow Pesesko, Syllis Rivera, Storm Van Norman, and Kasey Deprill.

Let's start the new marking period with energy and enthusiasm. Wishing you all a warmth!

*-Ms. Dunham*

