

"If opportunity doesn't knock, build a door." – Kurt Cobain

# Breaking Beacon



Volume 21/ Beacon High School/ November 2025

## New York's Ban on Cellphones

Is the new cell phone policy working better than expected?

By Kayla Selander

This school year, NY has mandated the adoption of its new cell phone policy, which is as follows: cell phones are to be placed in a dedicated area throughout the entirety of a school day. This new policy is an escalation from last year's policy involving phone pouches. Is this new policy too big a step for students to handle, and is it really worthwhile?

Sixty percent of the students surveyed agree that the new policy is effective, even though many express their dislike for it. Regardless, the remaining 40 percent present made several compelling arguments against the policy. One argument is that the previous policy could have been sufficient, making this change an unnecessary overreach. An anonymous student pointed out, "Students who want to learn

*continued on page 6*



Homecoming Game: Photo by Aron Li

## Black Student Union (BSU)

By Willa Staempfli

Beacon High School's Black Student Union was established years ago when students approached Mr. Hammond, one of the school's

Spanish teachers, with concerns and an idea. They felt BHS's Black youth were not being heard or seen, and wanted to create a safe space for Black and Brown students to come together, have their voices recognised and "just have fun and be

young". This community, now headed by Mrs. Turpin and Mr. Mander-son/G, is a warm and welcoming place where you'll find people to relate to and debrief with. BSU meetings begin with a motivational quote and a "Pour of Libation", followed by a group discussion regarding people's related thoughts and experienc-

*continued on page 3*



Beacon Players at Spirit of Beacon Day Parade: Photo by Kimberly Rodriguez

## Little Women: Beacon Player's Next Spectacle

Get ready for the fall production of Little Women

By Marisah George

Beacon Players is back in session and ready to perform their newest production of the classic Little Women on November 14th, 15th, and 16th.

The show, adapted from

Lousia May Alcott's beloved book, follows the story of the March sisters: Meg, Jo, Beth, and Amy. The show takes place during the American Civil War in Concord, Massachusetts. It follows the journey of Jo March, who longs to be a writer and publish the story of her and her sisters. The story navigates each sister's growth of their personal identity, the

*continued on page 2*

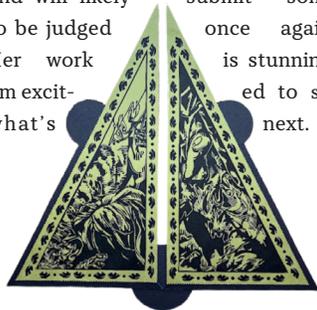
# Artist of the Month — Alina Joseph

By Zenia Haris

Congratulations to Alina Joseph for being nominated as the artist of the month for November! Since her freshman year at Beacon High School, Alina has created some exceptional pieces both independently and in art classes. Through the Scholastics



Art Awards, many of her pieces ended up winning gold and silver keys, and she has garnered a total of two American Vision Awards — which are notoriously competitive and not an easy feat. To even qualify, one must earn a regional Gold Key, and then have their work judged nationally against hundreds of other students' works. To have won two of these in a row is a testament to her skill. This year, Alina is working on themed pieces for the AP Drawing Exam, and will likely submit some to be judged once again. Her work is stunning; I'm excited to see what's next.



## Pets of Beacon

By Hazel Schein

Going through life, one joyful “meow” at a time, Biscuits spreads his lighthearted spirit to all. Biscuits is a young boy who received his name because his favorite thing to do is knead his paws like he is making biscuits. After being left outside in a carrier with his best friend Gravy, they were found with no reason to why they were left. Gravy and Biscuits are like two peas in a pod, they love to cuddle and have a



powerful bond. Biscuits is currently residing at Mid Hudson Animal Aid, where he is looking to be adopted alongside Gravy.

## Little Women (from page 1)

love, and how they grapple with being a woman in the 17th century.

Samiha Golden, Molly Lyons, Giana Rodriguez, and Madison Flagler star as the March sisters, respectively. Golden highlights the difference between this show and recent productions as being “very female dominated”, noting the songs the sisters have are “really fun”.

An interesting aspect of the fall show is the limited time frame; from casting to opening night is roughly two months. Golden sheds light on the downside of this, given that “as a high school senior, it’s a lot” of work to memorize lines and be prepared. Jonah Espinosa, who plays the sisters’ neighbor and close friend Laurie Laurence, acknowledges this, saying, “It can be very challenging to have such a short timeframe... but this time crunch has a way of really focusing everyone.” A lot of time goes into preparing outside of rehearsal to “get to the level we need to be.”

A major difference between Little Women and past productions is the “willingness of everyone to be genuinely open to becoming these characters”, Espinosa says. He praises the commitment of all the cast members to “[honor] the various roles and tell this story”.

All in all, we can expect this latest production to stay faithful to Alcott’s original while bringing a new air of wonder and awe, as previous shows have. Tickets are currently on sale on the Beacon Players Website; get yours soon!

## Pit Orchestra

By Piper Bruno

Do you want to take playing music to the next level? The Beacon Players have an incredible pit orchestra for those who can play an instrument; you play the music for

## Dr. BHS

Dear Dr. BHS,

How do you let go of someone when you might not want to? Sorry for such a deep question and I’m not even sure if you’ll choose this one but it’s been lingering in my mind for a while. Me and my “talking stage” or partner have been “together” for almost 8 months now but I keep feeling like something’s off. I really do like them but for me, the relationship doesn’t feel as real as it once was. It’s like we’re together just to be together if that makes sense. Anyways, hopefully you have some piece of advice. Thanks.

From,  
Altoidlover27

Dear Altoidlover27,

That’s a really rough feeling to have and I understand how annoying a stagnant relationship is. However, if you feel a certain way about your partner then you should have that conversation with them. Instead of creating an awkward environment between you guys, it may be better to acknowledge the elephant in the room. I’m sure if this person truly enjoys your company, they will listen to your concerns and work with you to better the connections. If not, you have your whole life ahead of you to meet new people. Don’t stress over other people’s actions!

From,  
Dr. BHS

their shows. Previously, the orchestra has done Les Miserables, The Phantom of the Opera, Man of La Mancha, Guys and Dolls, and soon, they will be playing the music for Little Women and Jekyll and Hyde. It’s such a great way to meet new people, get involved with music, and learn much more about your instrument. Come see Little Women to support the cast, crew and orchestra on November 14th, 15th, and 16th.

# Review: Life of a Showgirl by Taylor Swift

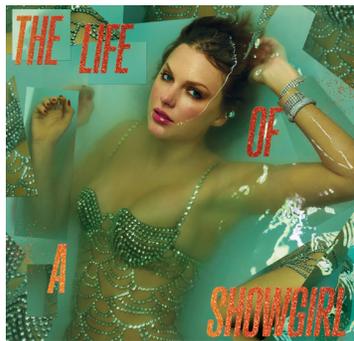
By Christa George

Taylor Swift's 12th studio album titled *The Life of a Showgirl* has broken several records in just a few hours of its release. Records such as the most pre-saves in Spotify history, the most-streamed album on Spotify in a single day in 2025, and the most-streamed album in a single day globally on Amazon Music. The album itself consists of 12 songs that explore romance, freedom, closure, sarcasm, and what happens behind closed doors as a pop icon.

Track 1, titled "The Fate of Ophelia", has taken the world by storm for its uplifting, romantic, and playful beat. The song has references to Shakespeare's heroine from *Hamlet*, Ophelia. Ophelia's death in *Hamlet* is said to be a metaphor for heartbreak and fragility, which are both things Swift has explored throughout her musical career. In the song, she is thanking, possibly her fiancé Travis Kelce, for saving her from a life of heartbreak and madness. *The Life of a Showgirl*'s album cover is remarkably similar to John Everett Millais' famous painting of Ophelia laying in water, where she will later drown; this connection underscores the relation between Taylor and Ophelia.

A personal favorite I have

from this album would be track 2, titled "Elizabeth Taylor". The song is titled after late actress Elizabeth Taylor, whom Swift had referenced before alongside her husband Richard Burton in *Reputation*'s "...Ready for it?". To thicken the lore even more,



Burton has starred in a performance of Shakespeare's *Hamlet* in 1964. Elizabeth Taylor experienced intense scrutiny regarding her romantic life. In the song, Swift is essentially asking the late actress for help navigating the pressure of fame and love.

In simplest terms, Taylor has given us an album full of good vibes and the sensation of love. This album emphasizes the joy of finding love after many failed attempts and broken hearts. It is a must for fans that were simply just dancing through the lightning strikes to find their way to where they truly belong.

# Movie Review: Weapons

By Gaby Khalil

At 2:17 AM, an entire classroom of children disappears into the night—except one. *Weapons* is a horror film about just that; third-grade teacher Justine Gandy, initially blamed, sets out to uncover the truth. The story splits perspectives, allowing the viewer to see into the minds of a cop, a criminal, a principal, and a troubled father, further developing the story and its characters. *Weapon-*



*ons* is a movie that diverges from the typical occult horror route and becomes something entirely new—with twists and turns keeping the viewer on the edge of their seat, leading to Justine's inevitable discovery of what really happened that night...

# Club Highlight: Creative Writing in Film

By Willa Staempfli

This year, creative writing has evolved from what it has been in the past, and it is now: Creative Writing in Film! Students will be able to watch movies and get a chance to analyze the text and the way that things are written in film. In between meetings, members will watch movies, paying special attention to the story line which will then be the topic of conversation at their next meet-

ing. Mr. Arbor says that one of his favorite parts of being an advisor for Creative Writing in Film is being able to bear witness to the "I interpret it this way—well, I interpret it that way" conversations. The club itself is built on group collaboration, inclusivity and open-mindedness. If you have nothing else going on Thursdays, an interest in slightly peculiar movies or just want a place to chill, try out Creative Writing in Film. They meet every other Thursday in room B126; all are welcome!

## BSU (from page 1)

es, and then transition into games like *Uno* and *Family Feud*. This year BSU has a number of fun and educational field trips and events planned,



including museum visits, park pickups, bake sales and a trip to Philadelphia. Black Student Union meets every Thursday in the LGI. Tell a friend, bring a friend. Everyone is welcome!



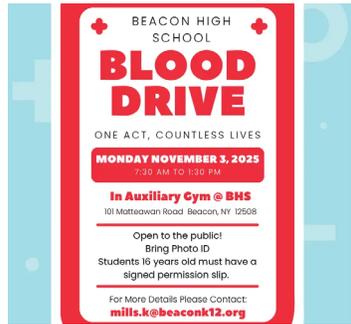
# What's happening in Beacon?

Every 1st Friday  
**Lit Lit at the Howland Cultural Center**  
 477 Main St, Beacon, NY

Nov. 2  
**4th Annual Taproots Festival**  
 2-5pm The Yard, 4 Hanna Lane, Beacon, NY



Nov. 3  
**Blood Drive**  
 BHS Gym  
 If students are 16 years old and would like to donate, they can see Ms. Mills in E-192 for a permission slip.



Nov. 7-9  
**Beacon Bonfire**  
 Music and Art Festival in Beacon, sign up for volunteer hours with Ms Fisher



Nov. 14, 15, & 16  
**Little Women - the musical**  
 BHS Theatre  
 Beacon Player Performance

Nov. 17-21  
**Scholastic Book Fair**  
 BHS Art Gallery  
 Periods 1-9

Nov. 21  
**Friday Night Lights**  
 5 PM BHS Cafeteria

Nov. 24  
**Community Resource Fair**  
 4-7PM BHS Main Lobby  
 Connect with local agencies offering programs and services to children and families of Dutchess County (Free to attend, open to the public)

## Did You KNOW?

By Nadeen Ahmed

- Mr. Gioia is a self-professed "movie buff" and has watched and rated over 1200 films and originally thought about becoming a filmmaker before becoming an educator.
- Mr. Morris is a former Guinness World Record holder. He even got a plaque for it.
- Mrs. Chase's maiden name means Christmas in Italian (Natale). The way her first name is spelled, Jaime, comes from the French word for I Love (J'aime). Her parents literally named her "I Love Christmas"

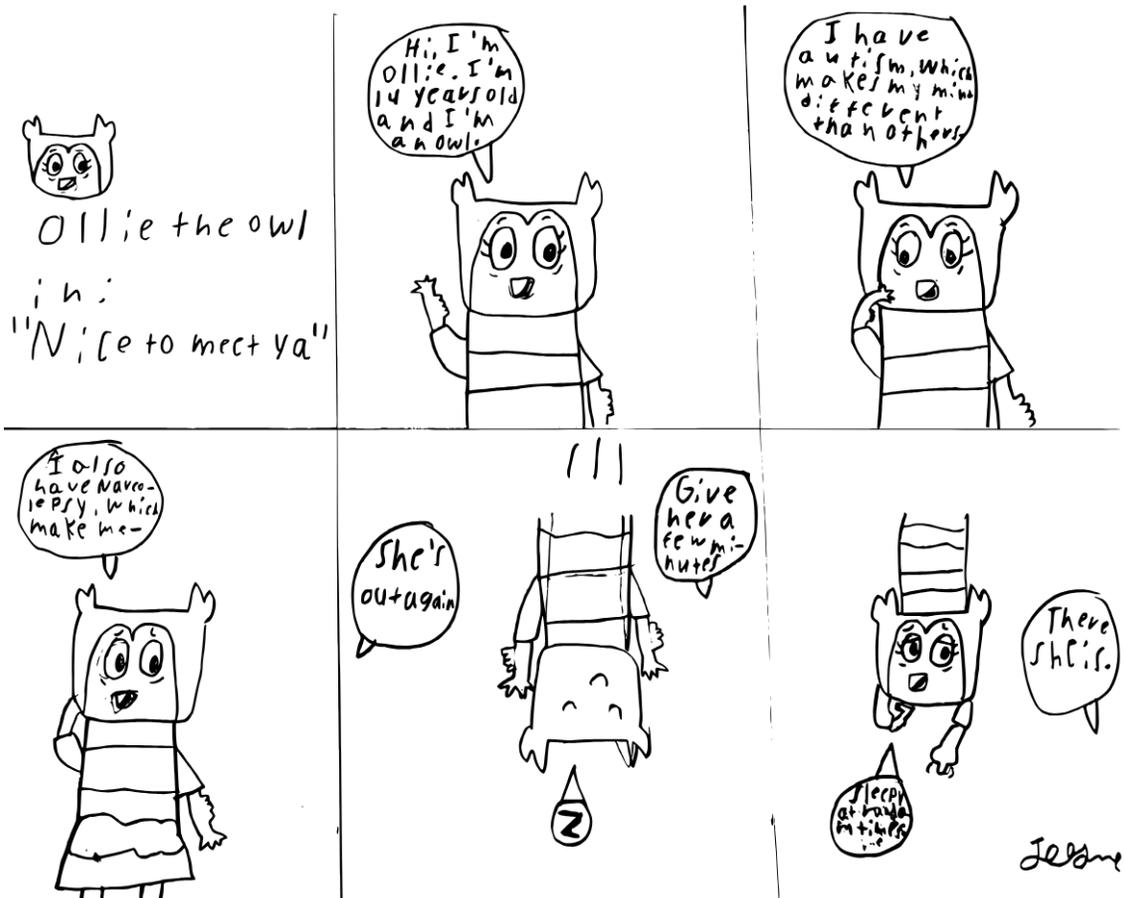
## November Birthdays

By Nadeen Ahmed

- Brooke Cortesi - November 2nd
- Caitlin Elsasser - November 9th
- María Margarita Calaf - November 23
- Melissa Delgado - November 26th

## Comic Strip

By Jayme Fuentes



# BEACON BULLDOGS



## Varsity Boys Soccer

Boys Varsity continues to the section IX final after a win in PKs over Lourdes.



## Football

Beacon defeats Goshen 21-14



Photos by Aron Li



## Important Dates

- 11/3 - Arbiter Opens for Modified Winter Sports
- 11/12 - Modified Sports Winter Parent/Guardian Meeting 6:30pm
- 11/13 - Varsity and JV Sports Winter Parent/Guardian Meeting 6:30pm
- 11/17 - Winter Varsity and JV Sports Begin
- 12/1 - Winter Modified Sports Begin

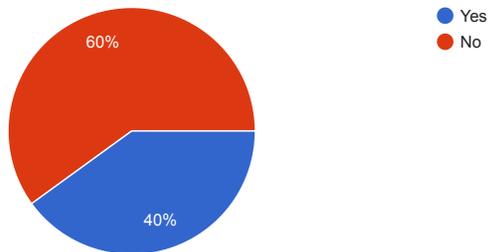
## GIRLS SOCCER

We have had various contributors stepping up for us recently, including Teaghan Burks (freshman) and Lila Welsh (junior). We are consistently seeing strong performances from Drew Kelly (sophomore), Claire Morgan (sophomore), and Julie Whittemore (junior). Sarai Horne (8th grader) was named Poughkeepsie Journal Player of the Week and currently has 18 goals across 12 matches. Victoria Maruggi continues her stellar performance in the net with back to back clean sheets. The Bulldogs are currently positioned 23rd in the state! (Beacon Sideline Report)



Do you think the new phone policy is effective?

75 responses



## Phones *(from page 1)*

anyway, and those who don't will still find ways to sneak their phones into class, regardless of the new policy." Another student echoed this sentiment, stating, "Using phone pouches is more effective because it allows the teacher to see that everyone has their phone stored away, rather than just keeping it hidden in their pockets."

Additionally, there is a debate over whether all personal devices should be banned, alongside phones. One student argued, "I think personal computers should be allowed in school as they are less distracting than phones and can increase productivity by enabling the

use of educational tools." Many students also voiced their frustrations about not being able to use their cell phones during lunch. Furthermore, there is confusion over the ban on Bluetooth headphones, even when they are connected to school computers.

Others who support the policy see an increase in education and overall wellness.

"I like the new 'no cell-phone' policy, because it forces students to actively engage with their peers. This is critical, especially in this generation where almost all kids have become addicted to their phones and have become unaccustomed to socializing in person."-Anonymous

# Breaking Beacon

## EDITORS-IN-CHIEF

Annabelle Notarthomas  
Kayla Selander

## EDITOR

Marisah George  
**ADVISORS**  
Ms. Hamburger  
Mr. Arbor

## PHOTOGRAPHER

Aron Li

## WRITERS

Maddy Abrahamson  
Kaylyn Adusei  
Nadeen Ahmed  
Abigail Atkins  
Piper Bruno  
Zoey Dedring  
Jayme Fuentes  
Christa George  
Marisah George  
Zenia Haris  
Samantha Johnson  
Everly Jordan  
Gabrielle Khalil  
Annabelle Notarthomas  
Payton O'Connell  
Mikaela Sanchez  
Hazel Schein  
Kayla Selander  
Liliana Rybak  
Willa Staempfli  
Eliza Verdichizzi  
Hayden Wilson  
Luna Yawman

