



EXTERNSHIP TAKES ON ARCHITECTURE

Our externship program just launched a new architecture program. Turn to **PAGE 4** to see the latest.



HOW I GOT HERE: JESSICA SACCO

Jessica Sacco found a fresh start and a strong sense of community on Shelter Island. Turn to **PAGE 5** to learn more.



SPRING IS IN THE AIR

Spring is just around the corner! Turn to **PAGE 9** to see how students are gearing up for the warmer weather.

THE INLET

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SHELTER ISLAND SCHOOL

FEBRUARY 2026

1000 POINTS AND COUNTING

BY ELSIE MAE BRIGHAM

On Tuesday night, January 20th, junior Evan Weslek scored his record 1000th point in his match against the St. Pius Crusaders. He hit his 1000th point at 6:48 pm, making him the eighth person ever in Shelter Island History to achieve this feat. He was also the top scorer of the game, responsible for 23 of the 47 points for the Islanders. The final score of the game was 57-47, with St. Pius taking the win, but nevertheless, Evan, along with the rest of the team, put up a good fight.

Evan's 1000th point was achieved during a foul shot in the third quarter. His first foul shot for 999 rattled before it went in the

basket; the second, to hit 1000, went through easily with a swish. As the shot sunk, the crowd erupted and Coach Mundy called a timeout to go over inbound plays. During the timeout, Evan received a standing ovation from the entire gym.

Evan started his journey to his 1000th point in 8th grade when he was pulled from the junior high basketball team to play as a varsity starter. Evan's talent took him straight from junior high to varsity, with no junior varsity in between. Even in his first year of playing, Evan was averaging 10-20+ points per game. About his achievement, Evan shares,

"I never had this as a goal of mine when I started playing in seventh grade. I played basketball so I could play a sport and I never expected to enjoy playing so much. This was never expected, but achieving this is beyond amazing. I am just very proud of myself, my teammates, and my coaches for helping me and guiding me throughout my 5 years on the team." By achieving this feat, Evan earns the honor of having his jersey number, 35, retired after his senior year and displayed in the gym. With this, Evan Weslek has solidified his place in Shelter Island basketball history.



WEIGHT TRAINING CLASS: CHECK IT OUT!

BY SADIE GREEN-CLARK



With the second semester about to begin, so are new classes. One new elective this spring is Weight Training! This is a class separate from the normal physical education classes, and also has its own curriculum. It takes place in the eighth period on A days for high school students. The class, taught by Mrs. Baskin, will give students the opportunity to learn healthy habits and integrate them into their daily routines. Mrs. Baskin plans to "give students the skills to be comfortable in the gym and to be able to build their own workout."

She also can't wait to "teach students the science behind fitness."

Weight Training will focus on conditioning and will definitely benefit students who don't have time to squeeze in a workout after school. This class is a great new way to get students engaged in an active lifestyle in a highly personalized way without the stress of a big crowd. If you haven't enrolled yet and are interested, speak to Mrs. Prior or Mrs. Baskin about Weight Training and whether or not it will fit in your schedule.

CHECK OUT OUR NEWEST INLET PUBLICATIONS



Our 3rd Podcast episode is here! Listen to our school community discuss choices that changed their lives by scanning the QR code.



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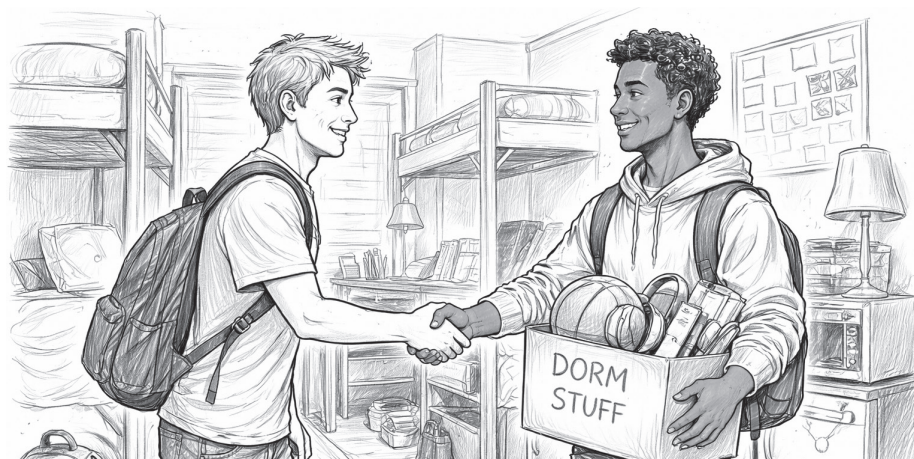
COLLEGE ROOMMATES: TO CHOOSE OR NOT TO CHOOSE?

BY ROSIE HANLEY

The question of whether or not to pick your freshman college roommate(s) is one that would have baffled high school seniors just a little over a decade ago. Without social media accounts dedicated to roommate-finding, even if you and your friends decided to all go to the same college and thought rooming together was truly the best idea, a random roommate was most likely the only option. Yet now, with the evolution of the internet, and the new option offered by most colleges to request your roommate, nervous incoming students find themselves scrambling to meet, get to know, and decide to live with someone all in a matter of weeks, usually communicating solely through social media platforms. While this choice stands as a testament to technology's progress, should the college process really be moving on from the tradition of randomized roommates so quickly?

Here's how it goes: as soon as a student is accepted into a college, they typically join the Instagram (or sometimes it is ZeeMee, Roomsurf, or other platforms) account created for their incoming class. The whole feed reads essentially like personal ads. Perspective students add pictures of themselves and a short description of their likes and dislikes, hoping to make contact with other incoming freshmen and secure a roommate they might have something in common with. Probably the biggest benefit of choosing a roommate before the semester begins is that despite being in a place that is completely new, you don't need to worry about living with a total stranger. The college admissions process, coupled with the end of your

senior year of high school, usually results in an emotional, messy, and busy few months, so jumping straight from one stress into a whole new one can feel, naturally, overwhelming. For students who choose to find their roommate on school social media pages in the few months of calm between this transition, hope to enter school with a sense that at least one thing about their college journey is not unknown. Yet, the whole chasing of a potential roommate process itself often feels fraught and stressful. Many students begin chatting with



someone on social media, thinking they have made a connection and possible roommate, only to be ghosted (dropped). It feels like speed dating for roommates and it isn't for the weak. Many students feel pressured to participate in this roommate "chase" because it feels like everyone is doing it, and if everyone is doing it, does that mean only "weird or antisocial" will go random? This builds anxiety and often pushes kids to commit to roommates early.

So, why is this a problem? Well,

having to be in a roommate "hunger games" is itself a stress I wish we didn't have to deal with. If we were all still getting random roommates like in the "good old days," it would take something out of our control... which is scary, but also liberating. In addition, selecting a roommate puts a new kind of pressure on freshmen that they have to be close friends with the roommates they selected. And, it doesn't always work out this way when you start living together, so then things can feel awkward. When you have chosen each other, it feels like there

is more of a responsibility than if you were randomly paired...yet another stressor! Going in with someone you have spoken to all summer can also limit social outreach for some kids, so choosing a roommate in advance takes one of the most formative experiences of college away—putting yourself out there.

It would be naive to think that randomly assigned roommates always end up working out, but I think that most of the issues you run into while living with someone you have never

met are essential to the development of your confidence. (In addition, even when students go "random," most colleges have them fill out a personal preferences form to try to make matches happen!) From shared spaces and cleanliness, to scheduling times for alone time in your room, a lot of transferable social skills can be learned from being forced into a new space with a new person. Managing to get to know someone while living with them is also a kind of extreme version of the dance you will do with every new coworker at every new job you will ever have. The ability to meet someone and attempt to get to know and get along with them even in stressful situations, like starting college, creates better social habits and confidence in social situations. These are vital skills. Whether you choose a roommate or go random, you are bound to have to problem solve, so why not skip the harried process of finding one you think might be "perfect" in advance, because, trust me, they won't be.

Social media is an incredibly useful tool which has opened new doors for millions of people. This door, however, should close. College is supposed to be a new experience, one that gets you out of your comfort zone and prepares you properly for adult life where things cannot be anticipated or orchestrated. Even though living with a stranger feels stressful, it comes with less baggage and builds problem solving and social skills. So, high school seniors, resist the temptation to choose your roommates and see how freeing it can feel.

ELEMENTARY UPDATE

BY MAKAYLA CRONIN

After reaching out to elementary teachers to learn about some of the exciting activities and lessons going on, several of them shared updates that highlight their students' hard work and creativity. From academic competitions, to original writing and hands-on science projects, these classroom activities show how the elementary students are actively engaged in meaningful learning every day.

The first grade recently celebrated an exciting achievement by winning the school wide iReady competition.

iReady is an online learning program that helps students build skills in English and math through interactive lessons. Throughout the competition, the first graders were highly motivated and worked extremely hard to pass the most lessons possible. In the end, their dedication paid off, and the class was thrilled to learn they had come out on top.

In the fourth grade, students have been introduced to the world of poetry through the novel *Love That Dog* by Sharon Creech. As they follow the main character, Jack, students

are learning about famous poems and poets and discussing why poets are inspired to write. Students have researched three major poets featured in the book, learning about their lives, works, and creative influences. Using this knowledge, fourth graders are now finishing their own original poetry pieces inspired by something meaningful to them! It is so great when book learning moves to creative projects!

Meanwhile, fifth graders have been applying their scientific thinking through a hands-on project focused

on what makes water healthy vs. unhealthy. Students analyzed the properties of five different water samples to evaluate their quality. They then designed and tested their own filters in an effort to clean their water samples and make them healthier. This science project encouraged hardcore thinking and problem-solving while helping students better understand science and the environment itself.

The elementary school is on fire. We love catching up with what they are up to and we wish them luck in all of their new learning and projects to come.

We would love to hear from you!
To contact The Inlet call
631-749-0302 x144
EMAIL LETTERS TO THE EDITOR TO:
devon.treharne@shelterisland.k12.ny.us

EDITORS-IN-CHIEF: Rosie Hanley & Jackson Rohrer
STAFF EDITORS: Alexis Bartilucci, Natalie Mamisashvili, Juliana Medina, Ryan Sanwald
FACULTY ADVISOR: Devon Treharne

STAFF: Mae Brigham, Lily Brigham, Makayla Cronin, Natalie Fernandez, Sadie Green-Clark, Lexi Jernick, Regina Kolmogorova-Weisenberg, Kylie Kuhr Leonard, Cayman Morehead, Lionardo Napoles, Logan Porzio, Abie Roig, Nate Sanwald, Kyra Sciacchitano, Maeve Springer, Noemi Torres Leon, Ari Waife, Evan Weslek.

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WINTER SPORTS 2025-26 WRAP

BY CAYMAN MOREHEAD



PHOTO BY CAYMAN MOREHEAD
JUNIOR EVAN WESLEK, WHO SCORED 1,000 POINTS THIS SEASON, SHOOTS A FREE THROW AGAINST THE BRIDGEHAMPTON KILLER BEES.



PHOTO BY CAYMAN MOREHEAD
THE CHEER TEAM PERFORMING THEIR HALF TIME ROUTINE DURING THE GAME AGAINST BRIDGEHAMPTON.

VARSITY BOYS BASKETBALL

Head coach Zach Mundy and assistant coach Matt Dunning led the boys varsity basketball team this year and at press time had racked up 3 wins, but this doesn't do the team justice. Each and every player this season pushed their absolute limits. A highlight this season included the team's first home court win in over five years! The Islanders took down Ross 67-51 on January 9th. Another outstanding achievement this season was junior Evan Weslek hitting the 1000 point mark! He got his 1000th point against St. Pius on 1/20, thus cementing Evan's place in the school's history. Congratulations to Evan and to the boys varsity basketball team on a groundbreaking season.

JUNIOR HIGH BOYS BASKETBALL

The junior high boys basketball team coached by Mr. Miedema, and captained by Jackson Surerus and Nolan Sandwald, exceeded expectations this season by finishing with a record of 3 wins and 7 losses. Coach Miedema recaps the season by saying, "It's been positive... this is the first time in a few years that weve had a team." Also, "The majority of them have not really played organized ball," which makes their accomplishments even more impressive. Coach Miedema noted that his players "seemed very happy and positive about the season," which is another great takeaway.

CHEERLEADING

The cheer squad led by Ms. Pitch

concluded another amazing season of supporting our Islanders, from recognizable songs that boost spirit during home games, to brand new routines choreographed by Ms. Pitch! Captains Rosie Hanley, Mae Brigham, and Sadie Green-Clark acted as role models for the rest of the team, the latter of whom described the season as, "A huge step up from last year, not only based on skill set but also the amount of determination." The cheer team's growth compared to last season's was apparent, and only excites us more for what's next from them.

JV GIRLS BASKETBALL

Coach Bogaski's junior varsity girls basketball team finished their season

marking a year of steady growth, hard work, and determination. Throughout the season, the team showed noticeable improvements in fundamentals, teamwork, and overall confidence on the court. Players consistently demonstrated a strong work ethic during practices and games, embracing challenges and learning from both wins and losses. Coach Bogaski emphasized skill development, sportsmanship, and team chemistry, helping the girls grow not only as basketball players, but also as competitors and teammates. The season laid a solid foundation for future success and continued development within the program.

CLASS OF 2026 COLLEGE UPDATES

BY LEXI JERNICK

It's that time of year! While seniors don't have to make their final decision until May 1st, college decisions are starting to flow into emails! This year, seniors are looking to board the ferries and not look back! Let's see where they are considering taking their next steps so far.

ELSIE MAE BRIGHAM: Baylor University, College of Charleston, SUNY Oneonta, Penn State, University of Pittsburg, Clemson University, Michigan State University

HARRISON CLARK: New England Tech and SUNY Maritime

LAUREN GIBBS: Florida Southern College, Western Michigan University, Ithaca College, Penn State, Quinnipiac University, College of Charleston

ROSEMUND HANLEY: University of St. Andrews, American University Of Paris, University of Manchester

DANIEL HERNANDEZ RIVERA: SUNY Morrisville,

Farmingdale, Cobleskill. University of Stockton, University of Maine, Penn College of Technology, University of Delaware, University of Rhode Island

MICHAEL KOTULA: Suffolk Community College

LEXI JERNICK: University of South Carolina, Alabama, Arkansas, Oklahoma, Penn State, Louisiana State University, University of North Carolina Wilmington

MARY KATE LABROZZI: Southern Connecticut State University, SUNY New Paltz, Florida Southern College, Mitchell College, Eastern Connecticut State University, SUNY Oneonta, New Haven

MIRANDA MARCELLO: University of Mississippi, Grand Canyon University, University of Alabama, Xavier

University

LIONARDO NAPOLES: Quinnipiac University, Parsons School of Design, New York Institute Technology

KEILI OSORIO LOPEZ: SUNY Old Westbury, Farmingdale

BYRON RODAS VASQUEZ: Universal Technical Institute

ELENA SCHACK: SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry, SUNY New Paltz, University of Vermont

MADISON SOBEJANA: University of Iowa, Quinnipiac University, Penn State, Molloy University, Suny Stony Brook, Hawaii Pacific University, University of Illinois

EXTERNSHIP TAKES ON ARCHITECTURE

BY MIRANDA MARCELLO



PHOTOS COURTESY OF JIMBO THEINERT. STUDENTS LEARN FROM RAY RENAULT IN HIS OFFICE EARLIER THIS MONTH, PARTICIPATING IN THE SCHOOL'S ARCHITECTURE EXTERNSHIP.

In Mr. Theinert's latest externship opportunity, students are learning about architecture with local architect, Ray Renault. In initial visits to Mr. Renault's office, he gave students a presentation which explained, in part, what an architect does including: drafting, making

models, and paying close attention to local zoning and building rules. Freshman Elizabeth Weslek found the experience "engaging" and liked "seeing how architecture actually works." Sophomore Natalie Mamisashvili "found it surprising how long different projects take to



complete." Natalie, who is interested in architecture, felt this experience "helped me understand what the field is really like." Siblings Maeve (sophomore) and Henry Springer (junior) both remarked they were impressed by the amount of study it takes to become an architect. Maeve

didn't realize how many "different degrees are related to architecture," while Henry found it interesting that "becoming licensed takes a long time and a lot of work." The externship with Mr. Renault will continue with site visit plans in the works.

CITY TRIP PREVIEW

BY ARI WAIFE

This year's New York City trip is getting closer, so let's review what adventures students have had the opportunity to experience in past years. Last year's itinerary had the 9th graders going to the Natural History Museum and the Rise of New York, which is a 4D flight simulation that goes over the city's major attractions. 10th grade went to the Metropolitan Museum of Art, as well as the Top of

the Rock at Rockefeller Center. The 11th graders went to the Intrepid, then walked the Highline. The seniors went to the 9/11 museum. They were also lucky enough to go to the One World Observatory to get a bird's eye view of all of Manhattan and beyond.

These sites were all received very well. In addition, last year, kids were allowed to have a significant amount of free time to explore the city, go

to interesting and fun stores, and grab food we can never get at home. Public opinion was that this was a great opportunity. Junior Juliana Medina says, "I think that the city trip went well...overall I enjoyed spending time with my class in the city." The educational benefits to these trips are so important. Mr. Theinert explains, "I think the benefit is the shared experience of visiting cultural

and educational locations together as a school." Students get an enriched cultural experience in the city while being able to have the freedom to choose where they want to go after the major attractions. Personally, I am very grateful for the opportunity to go to these places that normally I would not be able to visit, and I am excited to see this tradition continue and grow even after I graduate.



LITTLE SHOP OF HORRORS

Shelter Island School will perform Little Shop of Horrors this spring! Little Shop of Horrors is a unique dark comedy/romance musical about a man, Seymour, who lives in Skid Row. He has a rough early childhood and becomes a scientist when he gets older. A plant experiment goes wrong, one thing leads to another, and the plant starts to eat humans. Main characters include Seymour, who will be played by Henry Springer, Audrey, who will be played by Rosie Hanley, the Dentist, who will be played by Eli Green, Mr. Mushnik, who will be played by Daniel Hernandez, and the Plant, played by Liam Sobejana. The play will also have 5 narrators and the rest of the cast has yet to be announced.

GRAPHIC BY NATALIE MAMISASHVILI

LITTLE SHOP OF HORRORS HAS BEEN ANNOUNCED AS THE 2026 SHELTER ISLAND SCHOOL PLAY. PERFORMANCES WILL BE LOCATED IN THE SCHOOL AUDITORIUM AND THE PLAY WILL RUN APRIL 23-26TH.

THOMAS BECKWITH: HE CAN FIX IT

BY EVAN WESLEK



PHOTO BY EVAN WESLEK
THOMAS BECKWITH WELDS A DIFFERENTIAL IN OUR SCHOOL'S TECHNOLOGY SHOP.

Walking through the halls of Shelter Island School, it's easy to spot Thomas Beckwith. A Sophomore with a passion for mechanics, he balances his time between school, work and other activities, alongside

mechanics. Thomas says "As long as I pass, I'm good," a statement that captures his outlook on school. Born in Shelter Island, NY, Thomas became interested in mechanics at a younger age. "When I was about 6 years old I was watching a lot of YouTube videos on mechanical stuff," Thomas said, explaining what first got him interested. Over time, this interest grew and now he has the advantage of working on his own stuff and having a garage at his house to work on multiple different projects at once.

At school, Thomas participates in multiple externships that the school has to offer, such as getting a tour of the North Ferry's engine room, which has to do with his interests. Teachers and classmates describe Thomas

as someone who is creative, funny, and somewhat introverted. Many teachers have even given Thomas small electronic or mechanical items they can't get to work, and 99% of the time, he can figure out the issue and fix it. Outside the classroom, Thomas spends much of his time fixing/working on his own personal projects, such as a golf cart. This project has been his favorite so far because of the time and detail he's put into it. Thomas put a snowmobile engine into his golf cart so it now has 70+ horse power. It took him about two weeks to get it fully functional, but now you'll see him flying down the road in it. The golf cart project helped Thomas learn about money and business and how they work, so eventually he could possibly run

his own. Although Thomas has had success and fun during the process, failure comes with it. He explains, "I failed when I tried putting a different engine from a 3 wheeled golf cart in and it ended up really bad because I didn't have a plan."

Looking ahead, Thomas hopes to keep working until he saves up a lot of money and then try to have his own mechanic shop/business. Thomas Beckwith is a student who knows what he enjoys and isn't afraid to work toward it. Through projects, externships, and experience, he has turned a childhood interest in mechanics into a clear future goal. With his determination, Thomas is already building the foundation for a career.

WELCOME JHMYA!

BY REGINA KOLMOGOROVA

This year the Shelter Island freshman class was very excited to invite a new student, Jhmya Lee, to our school on January 5th. I interviewed her to find out a few things about how she is enjoying Shelter Island so far and some cool facts about her. So far, Jhmya feels very welcome in our school and says every teacher has been so nice. Her favorite class

so far is her time in Resource room with Ms. Sperling. Jhmya didn't get to choose Shelter Island since it was her mom's decision to move here, but she is enjoying the change. Jhmya and her two younger brothers (now in our elementary school) previously attended Longwood School District, which is much larger than Shelter Island School. She said her class

sizes now are quite different, but she likes them. She also appreciates being able to go off campus for lunch and has enjoyed heading to Maria's Kitchen a couple of times so far.

Jhmya's favorite sport is basketball and she is hoping to join the girls basketball team next year, which is very exciting. One of Jhmya's goals

is to go to college in the future. So far, though she greatly misses her friends from her old school, she says, "I've made many friends here so far and they all are very nice." Jhmya is a great addition to Shelter Island and we are excited to have her with us; if you haven't already, introduce yourself to Jhmya!

HOW I GOT HERE: JESSICA SACCO

BY JULIANA MEDINA



JESSICA SACCO ENJOYING HER FISHING SEASON ON SHELTER ISLAND. PHOTO GIVEN BY JESSICA SACCO

Living on a small island, it is easy to keep track of who lives in our community full-time and it does not take long for people to notice when

someone new moves here. Jessica Sacco arrived on Shelter Island in 2023; she knew no one and had no relatives on the island. So, how and why did she decide to make the move? At 28 years old, Jessica was searching for steady work and a fresh start. She first learned about Shelter Island through a job opportunity she spotted while working on a beach construction project. Drawn by the work and the slower pace of life, Jessica made the move and soon joined a local construction company, where she continues to work today.

The change of scenery was an adjustment for Jessica at first.

Coming from Dix Hills, the pace of island life proved slower, which was not unwelcomed. She credits the close-knit nature of the community with helping ease her transition. She shared that the first friend she met was Shelter Island School's Class of 2013 graduate, Katy Binder. The two work closely together and their friendship grew from there. Since then, Jessica's social circle has expanded through work and life on our small island and she has created a community of her own.

Jessica's weekdays are often spent on job sites across the island, contributing to both residential and

commercial projects. After hours she enjoys dining out at Vine Street because it feels the most "local" to her. She also likes spending time at Shell Beach because of how quiet it is and when she wants a bit more action, she heads to Crescent Beach because it often has a crowd of people due to its proximity to Sunset Beach.

Nearly three years after moving to Shelter Island, Jessica Sacco has settled into island life, building both structures and connections. One project at a time.

Shelter Island Meet the Pets!



Evan



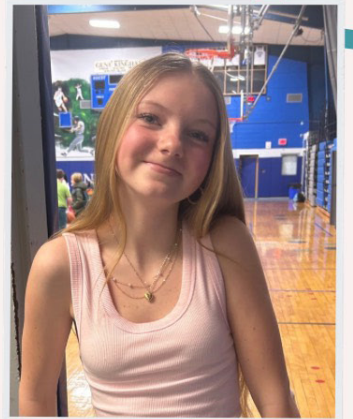
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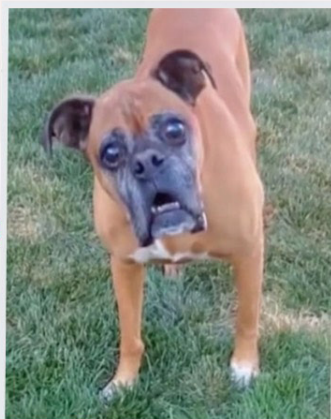
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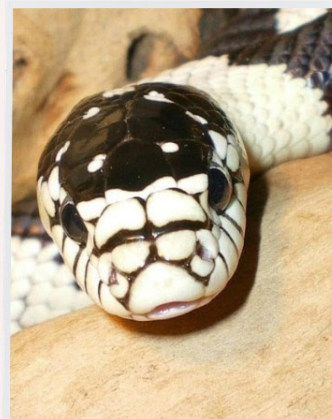
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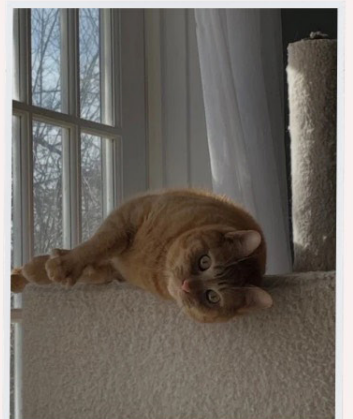
Daphne



Ivan



Carmine



Mango

Celebrity Crushes

By Natalie Mamisashvili

Everyone knows that Mrs. Treharne's celebrity crush is Leonardo DiCaprio, but what are other people's? For this Inlet, I went around the school and asked students who their celebrity crushes are.



FRESHMAN REGINA KOLMOGOROVA WEISENBERG SAID JACOB ELORDI BECAUSE "HE IS VERY BEAUTIFUL" AND ANGUS CLOUD FROM "EUPHORIA" BECAUSE "HE'S A SILLY GOOSE AND IS MY BOYFRIEND AND HAS A BUZZ CUT."



SOPHOMORE LEXI BARTILUCCI SAID FINN WOLFHARD, MUSICIAN FROM CALPURNIA, AND ACTOR FROM "STRANGER THINGS," "IT," AND "THE ONE HUNDRED." SHE LIKES HIM BECAUSE "HE IS IN A BAND, CAN PLAY GUITAR, AND IS FUNNY." SHE ALSO SAID NOAH SCHNAPP FROM "STRANGER THINGS."



7TH GRADER CALEB SPRINGER SAID POP SINGER SABRINA CARPENTER.



FRESHMAN MICHELLE MARTINEZ SAID GERARD WAY FROM THE BAND MY CHEMICAL ROMANCE IS HER CRUSH BECAUSE HE "SINGS WELL, IS COOL, AND IS IN A BAND."



FRESHMAN AISLEY DAVIDSON SAID MIKEY WAY FROM MY CHEMICAL ROMANCE BECAUSE HE IS "A BASSIST AND IS IN A BAND."



SENIOR ROSIE HANLEY SAID ACTOR HUDSON WILLIAMS FROM "HEATED RIVALRY" BECAUSE SHE LIKES HIS "PERSONALITY."



SOPHOMORE ELI GREEN SAID ACTRESS AND SINGER ZENDAYA BECAUSE AS A KID HE ENJOYED WATCHING "K.C. UNDERCOVER" WHICH IS A SHOW SHE STARRED IN.

GUATEMALAN DELICACIES

BY LOGAN PORZIO



COURTESY PHOTO OF COLORADA, ACXEL'S FAVORITE DISH. PHOTO BY LOGAN PORZIO

Acxel Ochoa Lopez is a sophomore here at Shelter Island. Acxel joined the student body last year and though he has gotten used to life on Shelter Island, there are many things he still misses about his home country, Guatemala. When back in his native city of Guatemala City, one of his favorite things to do is indulge in his favorite foods. One of his favorite dishes is Colorada, which is a tamale made from corn masa (dough) and filled with savory

meat, which is usually chicken or pork. Colorada's have a signature red recado sauce, usually wrapped in a banana leaf. Acxel's other favorite dish is called "suchos." Suchos are Guatemala's iconic, loaded street hot dog. He says that they are good because of the natural, locally grown seasonings put on them. Acxel says that American dishes aren't generally as good as dishes in Guatemala, in his opinion. This is because the spices

and seasonings here aren't prepared the same as they are in Guatemala. Even though Acxel doesn't like American dishes as much as Guatemalan dishes, his favorite American dish is tuna tacos. Fortunately, Acxel's family still prepares traditional Guatemala food, and even teaches him how to make them, because they are tradition.

SPRING TRENDS TO LOOK OUT FOR

BY NATALIE FERNANDEZ

Spring is finally within reach and with that comes fresh fashion trends taking over the halls. As the weather warms up a bit, students trade in heavy hoodies for lighter layers. Here are some spring trends we can't wait to wear.

Pastel Colors

Light colors like baby blue, pink, and lavender are everywhere right now. They're easy to wear and make outfits look more springy instantly.

Baggy Jeans

Skinny jeans are basically gone. Baggy, loose-fit jeans are the go-to because they're comfy and look good with almost anything.

Graphic Tees

Band tees, vintage prints, and random graphic shirts are super popular. They're an easy way to show your personality without trying too hard.

Light Jackets & Layers

It's warm one minute and freezing the next, so cardigans, zip-ups, and flannels are saving everyone right now.

Cool Sneakers

Shoes are a big part of outfits this season – think Jordans, Sambas, New Balances, or anything with color.

Simple Accessories

Claw clips, small hoops, tote bags, and layered necklaces are an easy way to make an outfit look put together.

Florals & Skirts

Floral skirts and flowy dresses are back, especially when it starts getting warmer out. They're cute and easy for school days.

2025/26 MOVIE REVIEWS

BY ALEXIS BARTILUCCI

Winter is here, so what better time to cozy up and watch some movies. Check out some of my recent views, along with my ratings of them.



The Gorge

(Rated PG-13, Apple TV+) The Gorge is a very sci-fi movie about people trying to keep creatures from not coming to regular society. This movie has wonderful actors and actresses such as Anya Taylor-Joy and Miles Teller. The movie is so good, but is very long and can be confusing if you don't give it your full attention.

I GIVE THIS MOVIE A 8/10



Wake Up, Dead Man: A Knives Out Mystery

(Rated PG-13, Netflix) The new Knives Out movie is so good! It's about a man that wants to be a priest and helps out at a church, but all of a sudden someone dies and a full investigation happens. So much thrill that it gets your head turning. This movie is definitely one of my favorite movies that came out this year.

I GIVE THIS MOVIE A 10/10



Mickey 17

(Rated R, HBO MAX) This movie was really confusing and I got lost until the end. Mickey 17 is another sci-fi movie about a civilization where they can clone people. They only clone people if they die or are close to dying. I honestly didn't love this movie because there was too much happening which made me confused, it was a one time watch and never again.

I GIVE THIS MOVIE 4/10



Nuremberg

(Rated PG-13, Apple TV+) Nuremberg is a great movie. Nuremberg is about the Nuremberg trials and it's from the point of view of the psychologist who worked with Nazis were being held accountable for their war crimes. It's such a good movie because of all of the wonderful actors and it's very informative.

I GIVE THIS MOVIE 10/10

MONKS WALK FOR PEACE

BY KYRA SCIACCHITANO

On October 26, 2025, a group of Buddhist monks began a Walk for Peace, starting in Texas with the end goal of reaching Washington, D.C. This walk's purpose is to encourage nonviolence and compassion within communities across the country. The monk's plan is to travel hundreds of miles on foot while stopping in towns along the way to

meet with people and share messages of mindfulness, and remind people to be peaceful and combat anger with kindness.

Through their journey, the monks promote kindness and unity to all they come in contact with. Their walk aims to address the rising levels of anger and violence that we have all seen in the news

by teaching compassion, understanding, and respect of each other. The Walk for Peace is not a protest, it is an act designed to inspire individuals to choose empathy over conflict and to recognize the power of peaceful actions used to create a lasting change.

By the time they reach Washington, D.C., the monk's goal is to have

delivered a powerful message that peace is a choice that requires patience and understanding. Through their movement and commitment to nonviolence, the walk serves as a reminder that even small peaceful actions can have a lasting impact and help to build a unified society. What an admirable goal.

IF ONLY ELECTIVES

BY MIRANDA MARCELLO

What classes do students at Shelter Island School wish they could take? Well, despite a wide array of electives at our school, there are some we don't yet have and students wish were options. Read on to hear about what students wish they could take...if only the classes were offered.

JULIANA MEDINA (JUNIOR): COOKING CLASS

Jules wishes our school had a cooking class where students could "learn valuable life skills, try new recipes, and

have a fun experience." Juliana believes it would encourage creativity and teamwork and then she'd finally learn to cook!

ABIE ROIG (JUNIOR): COOKING CLASS

Abie Roig also wishes our school offered a cooking class, but maybe for more selfish reasons. He noted, "I am always hungry, so taking a cooking class could teach me skills and also cure my hunger problem during the school day."

JACKSON ROHRER (JUNIOR): GOLF

CLASS (WITH MR. MATT DUNNING)

Jackson Rohrer wishes our school had a golf class taught by Mr. Matt Dunning. He thinks it would be a "fun way to improve my skills in the sport and have a good time with a buddy at the same time."

QUINN SOBEJANA (SENIOR): ASL (AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE)

Quinn wishes our school offered an American Sign Language class so students could "learn an important form

of communication and better connect with others."

ELLIOT SCHACK (SENIOR): MYTHOLOGY

While we do study a mythology unit in 9th grade English, Elliot would love more. He wishes our school had a mythology class "because learning about ancient myths, gods, and stories would make school more interesting and engaging, while learning about a different culture and its origins."

SENIOR THESIS TOPICS 2026

BY LEXI JERNICK

While it may only be early in 2026, seniors are already formulating thesis topic ideas. Let's see what the Class of 2026 is considering:

Elsie Mae Brigham: While traditional dress code models have been dominant at schools since their inception, these policies frequently sexualize children, specifically young girls, by labeling ordinary clothing like tank tops or shorts as provocative or inappropriate. Reevaluating and reforming dress code policies is necessary in order to prevent the sexualization of children within educational spaces.

Harrison Clark: Diesel engines outperform gas engines in fuel economy, durability, towing, long distance driving, torque, and efficiency.

Lauren Gibbs: Lack of financial literacy has shown to cause the obvious, financial stress, but also, depression, anxiety, substance abuse, and even divorce/relationship breakdowns. The evident solution to this national issue is to mandate financial literacy being taught in high schools in the United States.

Rosemund Hanley: For the vast majority of Japan's past, they have acted as a small and secluded, yet powerful nation

and it is because of this history that an anti-immigration mindset has taken hold. Unfortunately. This mindset and the laws that are born from it are causing Japan's population to decline significantly.

Daniel Hernandez Rivera: ICE (U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement) is targeting Latinos through racial profiling and ignoring constitutional and legal processes.

Victoria Hernandez: Racism in education affects students of color by creating unfair treatment and unequal access to learning opportunities.

Lexi Jernick: Although schools are often viewed solely as educational spaces, they are also key sites for early crime prevention, and mandatory teacher training to identify pre-criminal behavior is an essential reform in addressing the predictable nature of violent crime.

Michael Kotula: The United States' transportation infrastructure is inadequate, and new approaches and solutions are needed to optimize domestic travel.

Lili Kuhr: Although free experimentation helps students explore sound and creativity, structured, scheduled musical practice is a more effective method

for achieving mastery on a musical instrument.

Mary Kate Labrozzi: Microplastics have moved from an environmental issue to a human health hazard, due to their presence in drinking water and seafood, requiring policy interventions to protect public health.

Miranda Marcello: Despite the negative research on stepfamilies, living in a stepfamily has the potential to create stronger emotional bonds than traditional families because relationships are built by choice, not obligation.

Sebastian Martinez Majdis: Aphex Twin's innovative use of sound and texture demonstrates how intelligent dance music can evoke complex emotional responses, challenging the notion that electronic music is purely mechanical or emotionless.

Lionardo Napoles: Parents should be more educated about how children consume media, as unsupervised or unrestricted media usage in children can lead to childhood trauma and estrangement from peers and/or family.

Keili Osorio Lopez: Widespread corruption, political instability, lack of government involvement, economic

inequality, and denial have led to child trafficking in Latin American countries.

Nelvin Pena Murillo: Although often portrayed as a secondary figure, John Jairo Velásquez played a lead role in Pablo Escobar's drug trafficking regime by enforcing discipline, protecting leadership, and enabling the cartel's expansion.

Byron Rodas Vasquez: Autobody repair/restoration has made significant advances in terms of technical innovation, but these advances come with challenges to technicians, consumers, and small repair shops.

Elliot Schack: The rise of anti-intellectualism (characterized by a systematic social attitude that undermines science-based facts and academic authority) has negatively impacted scientific research, trust in healthcare professionals, funding to PhD research and more.

Madison Sobejana: AI use in the medical field, specifically in cancer treatment, negatively impacts patient-practitioner care relationships and damages patients' autonomous rights.

WHAT DOES SPRING MEAN?

BY ROSIE HANLEY

When you think of spring, you probably imagine open fields, blooming flowers, and, in most cases, a kind of rebirth. While traditions like spring cleaning are certainly known for keeping this association alive, the way the season of spring has been used in literature for decades certainly does a lot of heavy lifting.

Probably the most common uses for

spring in any kind of figurative language is when it is used as the beginning. Because of the biological nature of spring, where newly born flowers grow from the remains of their dead relatives, it is often depicted as some form of youth or innocence. This means that goddesses or stories based around the beauty of new life and spring specifically, such as the Fountain of Youth and the

story of Persephone, are often depicted with some kind of purity. As the season's biological use is also the literal beginning of a life, it is also many times used as a starting point in a character's journey, a place where they can remain unharmed without fear.

The season of spring is also known for bringing new life. In texts like that of the Secret Garden by Frances

Hodgson Burnett, places and people who represent spring are either given or give new life because of the beauty and nature of spring. In these cases, this rebirth changes the lives of the people affected forever, usually in a positive way.

The season of spring is truly a wonderful time of year to experience and through its beauty I hope we all get the chance to experience a rebirth of our own.

NEW SEASON, NEW HOBBIES

BY NOEMI TORRES

The spring time is the perfect time to start some hobbies. You're already settled into the new year, you're defrosting just like nature, and you need to find something to do. Hobbies can help reduce stress and release good chemicals like endorphins and dopamine. Let's take a look at some spring hobbies you might want to try this spring.



OUTDOOR HOBBIES TO ENJOY THE MILDER WEATHER:

- **GARDENING:** Vegetable and herb gardens are a perfect way to have a healthier year! And the flower gardens are also so beautiful.
- **HIKING & WALKING:** You can explore new trails, take your dog to the park and enjoy some vitamin D!
- **BIRD WATCHING:** A great way to learn more about the world around you.
- **ORIENTEERING:** This race to navigate new places can be so enjoyable, especially with friends and is a great way to disconnect with the internet for a couple hours.
- **TEAM SPORTS:** Try tennis, pickleball, or badminton—they are fun ways to implement exercise in your hobbies.
- **PAINTING & SKETCHING:** Capture beautiful outdoor scenes!

INDOOR HOBBIES FOR THE RAINY DAYS OF SPRING:

- **JOURNALING & SCRAPBOOKING:** Great ways to self reflect daily and reduce stress.
- **CRAFTING:** Knitting, crocheting, sewing, jewelry making, candle making, and embroidery are all fun crafts to learn.
- **MUSIC:** Learn to play a new instrument, to sing, or music theory.
- **SPRING CLEANING:** What a perfect way to be more productive.
- **RELAXING:** Start a new puzzle, book, movie/show, or listen to a new album while you kick back.

DON'T FORGET ABOUT EARTH DAY!

BY LYDIA BRIGHAM

Earth Day is celebrated every single year on April 22nd. It's a very special day dedicated to raising awareness about protecting our planet. Earth Day was inspired by the 1960s anti-war "teach-ins" and major pollution events like the 1969 Santa Barbara oil spill. Some people brush it off and think Earth Day is just another weird calendar designation, but it's actually a very important day because it reminds us to take care of the

environment that supports all life on Earth.

There are many worldwide organizations that work hard to help coordinate Earth Day initiatives, the largest one being, earthday.org. This organization plans large quantities of tree plantings worldwide, along with their annual worldwide cleanup for Earth Day. Especially here on Shelter Island, in our own community, Earth Day has a very unique meaning.

Here many people love and respect nature, and we spend lots of time in it, so keeping our island beautiful is so important. Local groups on the island often organize beach cleanups to help our shorelines stay beautiful and safe for animals. Additionally, places like Mashomack preserve offer opportunities for tree planting and educational activities that teach us about biodiversity and the importance of conservation.

It's crucial that everyone takes a step towards sustainability, whether it's just switching from plastic to metal, or recycling...every small thing makes a difference. Actions taken on Earth Day raise awareness and have real impact. Earth Day encourages individuals and communities to think about how their choices affect the environment and motivate change. So, put Earth Day on your calendar and plan how you will make a difference!



THE OUTLET

In this edition of The Outlet, The Inlet's platform for creative student works, we are highlighting work from Mrs. Colligan's English 10 Honors students. In between studying Beowulf and Macbeth, students wrote personal narratives based on creative writing prompts from "The Moth," a storytelling platform.

NATURE'S PRESENCE

BY RYAN SANWALD

Nature has always been something important in my life whether it's hunting, fishing or exploring. I love it and I live for it. Hunting is all about listening and finding a sense of calm, getting away from the outside noise.

One time I was hunting as usual, sitting in the cold, harsh winter conditions. It's still so early in the morning that I can't see anything, just pure darkness. As I get to watch the world wake up around me, everything is normal. I'm as still as a rock, only moving my eyes and nothing else to see. While I'm up in my tree, I watch as birds start to fly and the squirrels start to chase each other around. But nothing knows I am there at all... it is as if I am invisible, watching through a camera. Despite this I keep waiting, hoping I'll fulfill my goal of harvesting a deer.

Then suddenly I hear crunching coming from behind me. It is a consistent and steady noise. Something is coming and closing in

quick. So I stay calm, and slowly I move to grab my bow and stand up. This is the first time I've stood up in two-plus hours. I use my tree to hide behind as I can hear the deer start to get really close behind me. Finally I get a glimpse of what was making the noise, a perfect shooting doe walking dead into my sights. So I draw back my bow slowly, hold and take the shot. Everything happened in the flash of a second and the woods went quiet again. The deer ran, but I'm unsure if I made a lethal shot. So I just do the smart thing and wait it out.

It took a while longer before life started to move around again and go back to normal.

But this is where something I will never forget happened to me. A red-tailed hawk swoops unexpectedly under my tree and lands right next to me. I'm unsure what to do yet again as I and this beautiful animal lock eyes... for a moment everything stops. The hawk flies away as if it didn't even notice

me and follows where the deer had just left. Now I'm stuck in a state of shock as I say to myself,

I cannot believe that just happened, there's no chance that was coincidental.

So I just sit and keep waiting. As time goes by, I just can't stop thinking about the hawk and how it followed the deer's path. As it had locked eyes with me, it didn't seem to mind that I was there it had just remained calm. I think to myself,

What was the significance of that hawk and why did I see that right after I had shot a deer?

Then it hit me! I realized what my dad had told me since I was a kid that I won't forget.

He said, "Whenever you see a red-tailed hawk in your tree stand, it symbolizes your great grandfather. Pay attention to what it does and realize how incredible nature is and

how many beautiful things it has to offer."

Now I feel more confident in my shot at that deer and why the hawk ran to the same trail I last saw the deer on. At this point, I've been in the tree stand for three hours, so I begin to descend to pursue my deer. I find my arrow and I look for blood, but I don't find any. I hold onto the thought of the hawk. I end up finding no blood at all near where I had shot, so I decide as a last ditch effort to walk over to where I watched the hawk fly out as if it were chasing my deer. I was so shocked when I walked out of the entrance of that trail: my deer was dead right in front of me...right where I had last seen the hawk!

From this point on I learned something more about hunting, how it's not just about shooting a deer. Hunting is about the celebration of life and is meant to be a calm and adrenaline rushing experience all at once. I don't know where I would be without hunting, being within nature, and my family.

RHYTHM IS MY LIFE

BY ELI GREEN

From the day I was born, rhythm was a part of my life. The beat of my heart made a steady 100 beats per minute. I've grown older, and my heart has become a ballad.

Though rhythm has more influence on me than just music.

Our breathing is rhythmic-

walking is rhythmic-

speech is rhythmic-

life is rhythmic...

My father used to play instruments, but he didn't just play them, he made them sing. The notes would soar while the rhythm was steady. The songs he would play could vary just by the speed of the beat itself. The rhythm would change the meaning. I always admired that about him.

I remember the day that he taught me how to play a simple riff on the bass like it was

yesterday. He always said, "Eli, you start with pressing the 12th fret, E & G."

Every single time... always...until eventually he stopped playing. I saw the musical lights in his eyes fade, and it was just me, sitting by the amp, scheming. The songs my father taught me still ran through my mind and flowed through my fingertips just like a river. In this time period, I also played trumpet in the jazz band, following in the footsteps of my grandfather, but I've always wanted to play bass more. Mrs. Farkas, the band teacher and band director in our school, was trying to get Daniel Hernandez on the drums, he was the bass player at the time, and that meant he couldn't play the bass for the jazz band.

I walked up to Mrs. Farkas, and said, "I'll do it." she'd respond to me, "Eli, you can't play bass... can you?" "Trust me, I can play." I said confidently, and I played the bassline of "Blues Dance Raid" by Steel Pulse. Her eyes lit up and that's when it clicked.

Music isn't just something I do, It's something I love to do.

In this world there isn't too much that I love... I haven't had many real friendships, merely just acquaintances. People say it gets better, but I've never been too sure. Some say you find what you want to do with your life early on, but you just have to experiment to find out. I'd say, "I've got no clue," but deep down, the rhythm stirs within my heartbeat itself.

There isn't a thing that I could think of that has ever made me feel things more than music. I yearned for more in a way near greed, if greed could be used in a musical sense. The thing I found most honest in me that I could just throw out was song lyrics; they'd just come out straight from the heart. The great attraction that I've had with music hasn't always been directly correlated with me playing, but the second I touched a bass, my life changed.

Music trudged through my mind with every task and every challenge, there was always some song in my head, even if I've never heard it before. My brain would just make stuff up on the spot, to entertain me, to make me focus, to make me curious, to make me feel a specific emotion I wanted to feel.

That's when I thought, I wonder if I wrote an album, what it would be about.

That's where we've landed today. I'm writing a 10-song long concept album, a week after I learned how to play guitar. It may be reaching far, but it isn't a treacherous reach. Over the span of the next month I plan to be non-stop writing about any topic I find interesting, and it'll be worth my time, worth my effort. My inspirations being my father's influences, help I've gotten, people I've talked to, music I've listened to, hard times in my life, and of course, how the album will, over all the songs, describe how rhythm is my life.

KHINKALI (ხინკალი)

BY NATALIE MAMISASHVILI

Khinkali, also known as soup dumplings, are a popular Georgian dish. They have meat in the middle surrounded by dough twisted into a knot. The meat, typically beef or pork, is normally spiced with cumin, caraway, and chili flakes. It can have veggies like onions and herbs like parsley or cilantro. The broth on the inside blends in with the spices from the meat. It gets trapped inside the khinkali and creates a delicious savory taste.

It was the summer of 2014, I had just turned four years old, and yet somehow I still remember the day I tried khinkali for the first time. I remember the time at my mother's friend, Eka's (ეკას), house out in Sioni, the mountainous countryside in Georgia. My mother and Eka met while practicing traditional Georgian dance when they were younger. Eka's house sits on a hill surrounded by mountains and a nearby lake,

and I remember running around the big yard.

I remember sitting on a white plastic chair on a cement porch playing with dominoes, watching them fall one by one and then building them up to do the same all over again. One night for dinner we had khinkali. I remember not wanting to try it, thinking it would be gross. Other nights when given the option, I didn't try it, but my mother's persistence in trying to convince me I would love it would of course prevail. Eventually that night I gave in to my mother's begging and found that it didn't taste how I had imagined it.

It was better.

It was delicious, better than I ever imagined.

Traditionally khinkali is eaten with one's hands to make sure the broth doesn't spill.

As a kid I refused to eat it this way and would only eat khinkali if it was cut up for me. Even then I sometimes didn't want to eat the meat, because the dough was my favorite part.

From that day, khinkali quickly rose to the top of my favorite food list. Every time I have it, it is as if I'm transported through all of my memories in Georgia. Eventually I graduated from the fork-eating ways and I now eat with my hands to really get all the flavor I usually missed out on when it would get cut up.

Fast forward ten years to the summer of 2024. I took a trip to Georgia after being away from my family since before COVID started. The trip was winding down, and on the last day my great uncle, Gia (ჯია), came to spend some time with my mom and me. He told me that if I woke up early, we would make khinkali together, so that morning I

woke up early, excited to savor the last tastes of khinkali before I went back to the U.S. He had already pre-cooked the meat, so all that was left to do was knead the dough and twist them into a knot. Side by side, we spent time putting the khinkalis together and boiling them. Once they were done, we sat down in my grandmother's kitchen and together we ate them for breakfast. That day I had khinkali for breakfast, lunch, and dinner.

Khinkali is a very time-consuming dish to make so I don't have it often, and that's part of the reason why it is so special to me. In Georgia it is easy to come by, but not so much in America. There are some Georgian restaurants in New York City, but most aren't as good as the ones in Georgia. Khinkali is special to me because of all the memories attached to it. To me it's not just a food, it is a connection to Georgia and my heritage.



THE WEIGHT OF THE INVISIBLE

BY LILY BRIGHAM

Most people wash their hands. I scrub mine until they burn.

The scientists who think they understand define it: "Obsessive-compulsive disorder (OCD) is a mental health condition where individuals experience recurring, unwanted thoughts (obsessions) and feel driven to perform repetitive behaviors or mental acts (compulsions) in response to these thoughts."

I don't remember the exact moment it started, but I do remember the feeling. The quiet whisper in the back of my mind. A hot day after school, we had softball practice, and warmed up with a couple laps.

Sweat dripping down my face and panting, my friend asked,

"Want a sip of my water bottle?"

All of a sudden my breath got heavier, I felt ill, my chest tightened.

What if it's dirty, what if they're sick?

"No thanks, I'm okay."

Why couldn't I drink it? I'm so thirsty.

Soon this quiet whisper became louder and louder until it wasn't a whisper anymore. That's when I realized something was wrong. Little did I know these small things would soon take over my life.

These compulsions weren't just thoughts, they were rules.

I would check things again and again, repeat words, and avoid places and food because of a fear I couldn't explain.

Wake up 6:00 a.m.

Brush teeth 6:05 a.m.

Do make up 6:10 a.m.

Get dressed 6:45 a.m. (and wear jeans only on Tuesdays and Thursdays).

I was exhausted.

The patterns and lists were getting longer and longer. Everything had a list: school, homework, weekends; nothing in my life could be done without structure.

My heart pounded as if something terrible was going to happen.

I skipped a step.

To reverse it you have to blink 3 times or else everyone you know and love will die. 1-2-3.

I began to feel misunderstood,

"She's just a germaphobe."

Right. Nothing's wrong. Just a clean freak. That's it. Until I'm out to eat, and the food makes me sick. Once it makes me sick, I

can't eat it again: bacon, egg and cheese, pudding, lobster, Hawaiian rolls, fruit cake, jello, cheeseburgers, and so many more. My stomach turns just thinking of having to swallow my meal. My friend asks what's wrong.

"Why won't you eat?"

"Just an upset stomach," I say with confidence, pushing down the urge to throw up and cry.

I have "safe" foods, those that I know won't make me sick.

I try to relax and sleep at night while thoughts flood my brain and give me a pounding headache.

Did you lock the door, what if someone breaks in, what if the dog got out.

Fear takes over me and I can barely move, heart pounding, sweating. Finally when I can move my body, I go out to check on everything, and then, and only then, I can sleep.

Walk up the stairs. 12345. No, restart. 123. No, wrong again. 12345.

Why won't it stop? Why won't this feeling go away? It crawls under my skin and wraps itself around my brain. It seizes my thoughts. My body. My life. Some days it feels like I'm trapped in my own head, others it feels like

there's a constant loop I can never hit pause on.

Eventually I couldn't keep pretending everything was okay. I went to my mom and explained the fear, the patterns and the rituals. She listened and had me talk to a professional. I explained everything and they said a word that changed everything: OCD.

"OCD?" I asked. I'm so confused. I honestly thought this was normal... I thought everyone fought these invisible battles like I do everyday.

Hearing the truth was scary, but also a relief. Everything then clicked. I realized how long I've been fighting these hardships. I remembered being young and crying over little things like dirt touching my hands or walking through the door four different times just to feel "right."

I got the help I needed, started counseling and medication. It was a slow shift. But it was a shift.

I realized that OCD wasn't something to hide, it's something to face. The thoughts and compulsions still come, but they don't control me.

I control me.

COLORLESS AND SILENT

BY LILY POTTER

Art was the first thing I fell in love with. I swear it's been a part of my life for as long as I can remember. It's been in every house I have lived in. Music flowed through every room: paintings scattered the walls of our house, films and theater were ingrained in my very being. It moved like magic, making itself part of my soul and influencing the way I think and see the world. The same way a musician will go through a thousand melodies before writing a song, and a director will record a million angles before finalizing a shot, I will look at something a million times from every view before deciding what is true.

Every part of the arts seems magical to me. The way a painter can make you feel and think so many things just by their colors and brushes, a musician can make you laugh or cry just by the way they string notes together. Directors and actors can show millions of people a whole new way of seeing the world just by how they act and film. Maybe the reason I see the world the way I do is because of art. How could my world view not be changed when movies taught me so many lessons that I couldn't count them all if I tried?

Art teaches me to find every little detail in little places I never would have looked at before. Animations bring the art and creativity I love to life, always finding a new way to challenge me. Music and singing became the best way to express myself; the symphonies, beats and lyrics expressing and explaining parts of me I didn't know how to say.

Every now and then it hits me that not everyone hears the music that I hear. Not everyone got to see the magic that changed my life and holds it together like glue. It makes me wonder if I am alone in seeing the beauty in every small thing. I sometimes wonder, "Am I the only one looking?" It's hard to find it sometimes. Even for me! Drama clouds a once-beautiful stage with fear and regret. Hate drowns out symphonies with clashing sounds of a broken friendship. How could anyone see the art in the world when climate change, war, mass hate, and fear coat our stories like oil.

How could anyone take the time for anything when we have to be worried all the time about everything? This feeling of dread and worry creeps into my chest attacking my breath and clouding my mind. The feeling grows until it takes over

my throat and steals my voice.

Holding it captive.

The feeling that worries me is that one day it would all leave...the beauty of the world, the music, the art, the actors...the stage. The feeling swallows me whole till I am left colorless and silent. And scared.

And then I hear the little things.

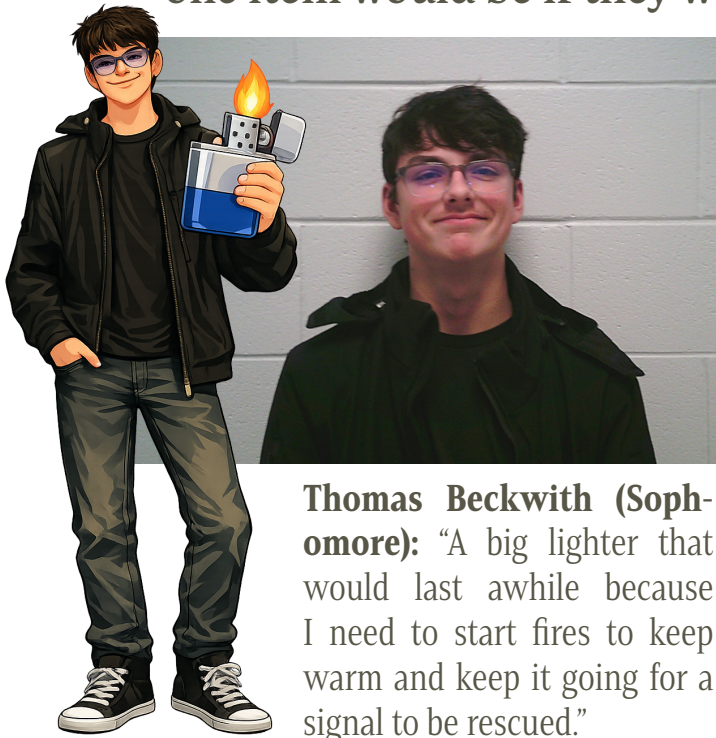
The murmur of my siblings in the next room, the closing of doors upstairs, the electric sound of buttons on the fridge. And it reminds me of little beats and melodies in my favorite songs. Then win back my voice from that feeling because I can hear music again. And as I stand up still colorless, but with my voice, and I look around. Color comes rushing back to me like a storm. I see the warm light fall on my room. Vibrant color dressing my walls, with soft blues flying off the walls and wrapping me in a comforting hug. And my own artwork is adorning them. I remember how happy I felt making them and how proud I was. Now I can feel the happiness and love in my art again. I see movie posters and hear the laughs of a show far off in another room. Memories of movie nights with my family and friends is the final touch I needed. I remember all the joy that art brings me.

All of it comes back forcing that feeling of dread and hopelessness far, far away in my chest. Deep in its cave for now. I haven't ignored my feelings but faced them.... and moved on. I didn't dwell on them or let them continue to hurt me like a sickness I can't fight. I faced them and let them leave. But I know deep down they will come back, and I know that next time it may be stronger.

I know next time they come, I will be able to do the same. It will hurt, but I know now how I can let all the hurt and fear go. I have tools and tricks to help me. They may not be perfect, or maybe my tricks won't work next time. But I have full faith that I can face the feeling again. I have music flowing through my veins to fight off the pain. I see art in everything to clear the angry haze covering the world. The muppets, Ryan and Seth Cohen (characters from the O.C.) and Willow (a movie character) will always clear away my worries and sorrows when I feel alone. Renneadawn (the setting of my favorite book) will always be a safe haven for me. Art has been a savior when I feel colorless and alone. Art has decorated my house in vibrant colors and sounds. Art is ingrained in my choices and life. How could it not be?



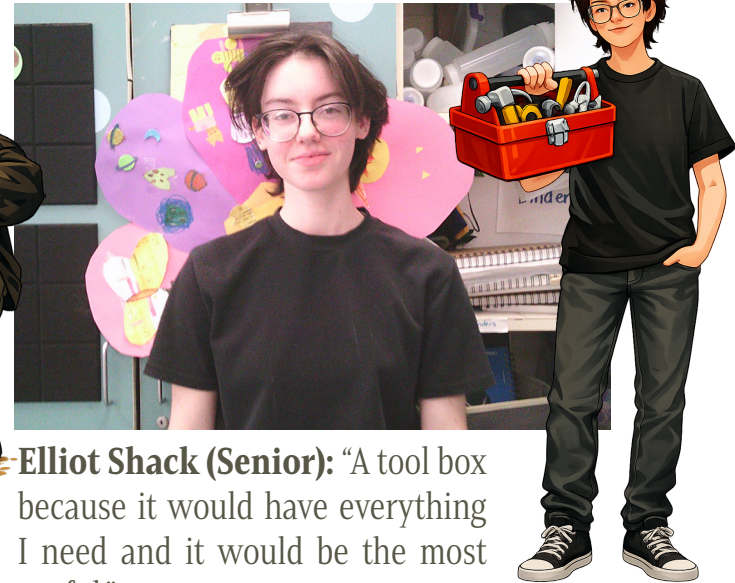
For this issue of The Inlet, I wanted to choose a unique question, so I asked people what their one item would be if they were stranded on an island and why. This handful of people had some unique answers!



Thomas Beckwith (Sophomore): "A big lighter that would last awhile because I need to start fires to keep warm and keep it going for a signal to be rescued."



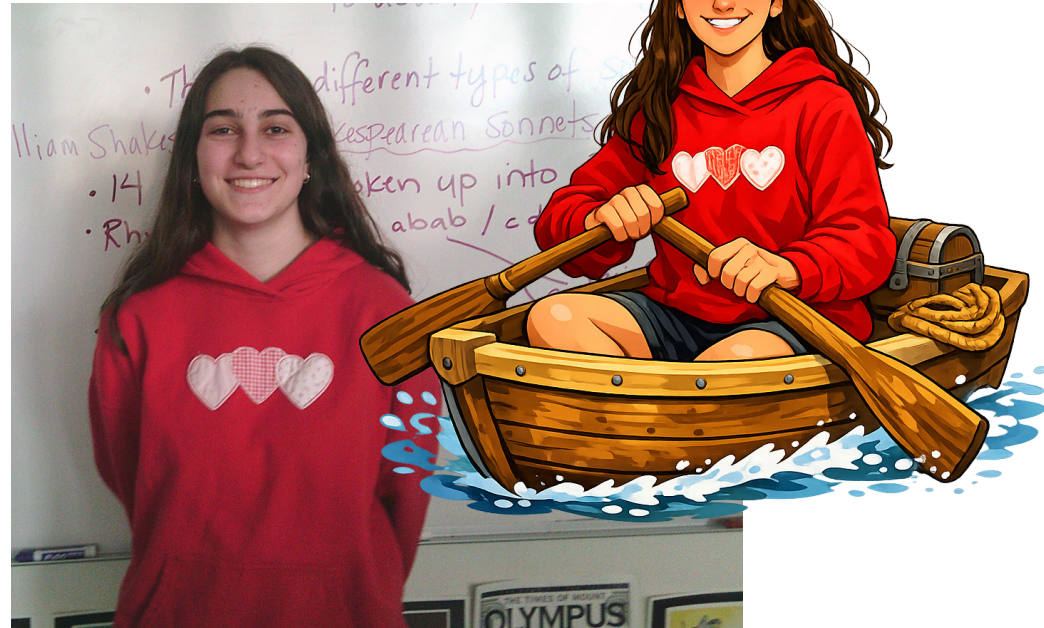
Ryan Sanwald (Sophomore): "I would bring a knife so I could hunt. I also feel it is very versatile and could be used for many different uses. I could use it to create shelter, provide food, and have protection."



Elliot Shack (Senior): "A tool box because it would have everything I need and it would be the most useful."



Mr. Theinert (Math teacher): "A water filter so that I can ensure I have enough water to survive."



Natalie Mamisashvili (Sophomore): "A boat so I can leave the island in a cool way."



Cayman Morehead (Junior): "A big, big water bottle with fresh water."



Kyra Sciacchitano (Junior): "Ari because he is a silly guy and he would keep me laughing."