

# THE SPRESS

December 11, 2025

\* OPENGATE

\* ART MURAL

\* DODGEBALL

## Movember

Jeremy Oxford



**Mr. Correll, Mr. Pastorius, Mr. Igims, Mr. Boles,  
Mr. Sisley, Mr. Surovchak, and Mr. Wisler.**

Did you recognize the unique looks of the teachers' facial hair throughout November? Some teachers were determined to grow the best mustache, no matter what others thought of their decision. These new looks were all in the name of Movember.

Why is Movember so important? Movember is an annual event where men grow mustaches to raise funds for men's health issues, including prostate cancer, testicular cancer, and mental health. This movement began in 2003 from a simple joke by two men named Travis Garone and Luke Slatery in Australia. It started with a competition of who could grow a mustache the fastest; it then developed into a global movement to support men's health.

Several years ago, South Park High School started an annual competition to see who could grow the best mustache. The organizer of this fundraiser, Mr. Boles, says his motivation for conducting the event is that "it's important to acknowledge the seasonal impacts on our mental and physical health." There were various styles of mustaches grown during this competition, and a lot of time and effort were put into growing them.

There are many different motivations for why people decided to grow a mustache. Mr. Surovchak says he likes "supporting and joining in on many different

causes." Mr. Surovchak also says it's great to "get involved with others" and "be part of something meaningful." Taking part in a good cause like Movember is good self-motivation to work on your own health.

Saying you want to participate is the easy part, but how difficult is it to grow a mustache? Mr. Correll says when he was younger, "it was certainly more of a challenge," but as he has aged, "it has become much easier." Additionally, others may say growing a mustache will make you look goofy or weird. Mr. Correll loves participating in Movember, but he says the only barrier he faces comes from "Mrs. Correll, who is not a fan." Mr. Correll still rocked the stache like a champ!

Families are probably the most challenging people to approve of your mustache. Mr. Pastorius says his wife "did not like the mustache alone." However, Mr. Pastorius still participates in Movember because it gives him an understanding of "the need for taking care of" himself. It's important to maintain your own health, no matter how difficult people or things make it.

Mr. Boles created Google Forms for students to vote on which teacher or classmate had the best

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## Movember (con't)

Jeremy Oxford

mustache. The person who had the most votes was Mr. Correll, making him the winner of the competition.

Growing a mustache is a powerful, visible representation of changing the face of men's health. It was amusing walking around the school and being greeted by teachers with the new looks!



## The ultimate showdown

Kolby Kostelnik

Dodgeball is a game full of fun and competitiveness. South Park High School held a dodgeball tournament on Wednesday, November 26. The prom committee hosted the tournament to lower the price of prom tickets. Anyone could make a team and have a chance to win it all...or gift cards to Chick-fil-A.

While the winning team had the opportunity to win gift cards, not every team was competing for free Chick-fil-A. Logan Hoover, freshman, said that he was playing in the tournament just for bragging rights and not for the reward. Hoover also said his "team wasn't very good," so he didn't expect to win going into the tournament. His team ended up finishing in 2nd place. Hoover then said it was "definitely" worth paying the \$5 fee to get out of class.

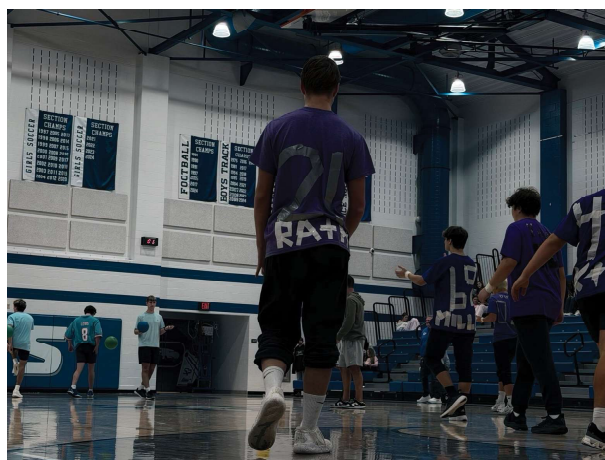
Austin Glowacki, freshman, was also playing for bragging rights. Glowacki also didn't expect to win because he said his team was "playing for fun." Glowacki said that it was worth paying the \$5 fee because "it should help the school and help us."

Neither Hoover nor Glowacki expected to win the tournament, but that's not what it's all about. There's supposed to be competitiveness, but it's mostly about having fun and a good time. Max Craig, junior, shared a similar mindset. He said his team "wasn't the most athletic bunch" and was eliminated right away. He doesn't regret participating, though.

In the end, however, there could only be one winner, and that was Duck Dynasty.

### IMPORTANT DATES

- December 16: Band concert**
- December 23: Festivus**
- December 23: Early dismissal**
- December 24-January 5: No school**



**Jackson Rathbun, freshman, getting ready to play in the tournament.**

## The ultimate showdown (con't)

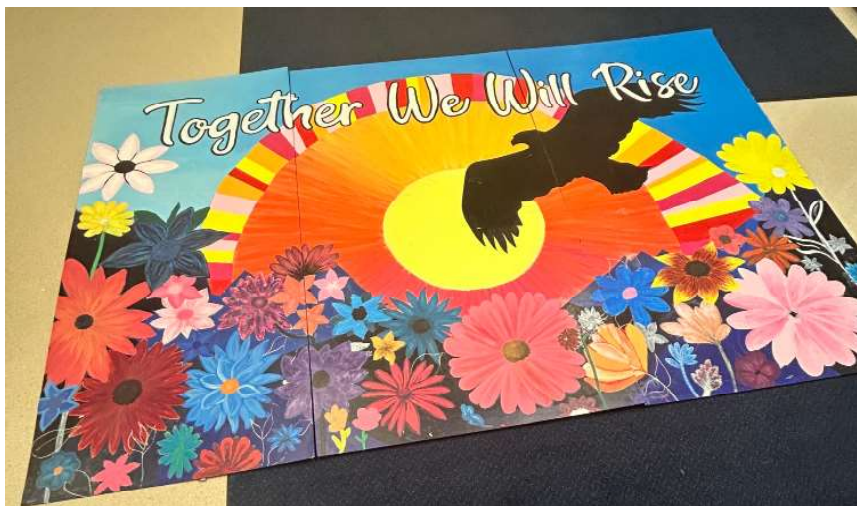
Kolby Kostelnik

Logan Ludwig, Talan Glowa, Ryan Spitznagel, Cooper Hochendoner, Dawson Battista, and Aidan Battista took home all bragging rights and the big prize.

Next time, when there's a tournament, you should join in even if you're not good at dodgeball. Just play for the experience and most importantly, the fun.

## Mural

Devin Kelly



Down by Ms. Rech's art room there is a painting that has colorful flowers with an eagle flying over a sun. While beautiful, it's a rather large painting for one student. The truth is, this mural wasn't created by one student at all but rather a collective of many hands and talent.

Ms.Rech came up with the idea last year in one of her Advanced Drawing and Painting classes. Mr.Dellarose thought that it would be wonderful to have work created by students in an empty space on the wall in the SGI. He approached Ms. Rech with the idea and she took the idea back to her students.

Depicted on the mural are the words "Together We Will Rise", and as a symbol of South Park they included a silhouette of an eagle flying over the sun. Additionally, Ms. Rech added that "to represent the students and their growth they decided to do a field of flowers". She continued, "we have put on layers of paint, mixed with love, to create the mural we have today!"

A lot of students in her Advanced classes have

worked on it and she said "it is now completely student directed by the President of our Art Club, junior Reagan Love. I am so proud of all the hard work that she has put into this very large project as well as her continued dedication to seeing it through to completion" and they are close to being completed.

Students work on the mural both during the scheduled class periods as well as RISE specifically for Mural Makers. Ms. Rech said "they have put in countless hours and I am so proud of them." Even though they are advanced art students, they haven't done anything like this before. "Painting a mural is difficult because it is on such a large scale. This is a new experience for all of the students."

With its completion almost here, Ms. Rech discussed with Mr. Dellarose options for its final placement. Instead of it going in the SGI, it's going to be hung next to the library because the Art Club students wanted it to be seen by more students. If it's done on time, it should be ready to hang up by the end of January.

## The Opengate System: is it effective?

Cassie Oxford



It was a cold morning when students entered the building for the school day. What they thought was a normal day turned out to be a recipe for disaster. Teachers and staff were yelling at students to take their Chromebooks out of their backpacks. Long lines crowded the entrance, making it hard for students to step aside and get their Chromebooks out. It was way too early, and students were still trying to wake up, so being yelled at as soon as they got to school wasn't the best experience in the morning.

On Monday, November 17, South Park High School began using the Opengate System, which requires students to remove their Chromebooks from their backpacks along with any other items that might activate the system. Because there are two entrances in the school, the school decided to alternate the weapon detectors between the front and back doors. Initially, the pattern was predictable: on the first day, the Opengate System was used at the back door; the next day, at the front door. However, this pattern did not last, as one day it was used at the front door for two consecutive days as a means to confuse students. Recently, though, the school has been using the Opengate System at both doors every day, finally establishing a consistent pattern.

While the use of the Opengate System is a positive addition to the school, as it provides more security, how effective is it? Some students have reported that the first day they went through the system, something in their backpack triggered it. However, the next day, they did not trigger the system even though they had the same items in their backpack as the previous day. This issue asks, "What does the Opengate System even detect?"

Officer Todd answered this question by stating that the system detects "various densities of metal," which is why "Chromebooks and large binders give an alert." If a student sets off the system, they must go to a table where a teacher checks the contents of their backpack to ensure that there is nothing harmful inside.

Some students have reported their own experiences when the system went off for them. For example, Nathaniel Oxford, freshman, stated that they had to search his bag but "didn't find anything" and it "probably went off randomly." If the system goes off for students who have nothing harmful in their backpacks, is it safe to say that it somehow wouldn't go off for those who do?

Bailey Vietmeier, senior, stated that the Opengate System does not make her feel safer because they "don't do them all the time," and when they do, situations like Oxford's become a problem. The purpose of the system is to guarantee the safety of students, but that is only possible if the system is truly effective.

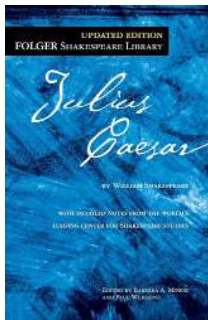
Not only does the system's organization seem sporadic, but the process of checking each student's belongings results in several tardies to Homeroom. Reagan Love, junior, experienced this herself. She believes that the teachers and staff running the Opengate System should "have late passes." Even though she arrives on time, the detectors make her "late to class," which messes with the homeroom teachers trying to take and submit attendance on time.

While the system's purpose is clear, its process and organization are somewhat disjointed. It's hard to maintain the flow of kids coming in every morning, especially if the system gets backed up by a student triggering it. Even Officer Todd admits that the school has "the ability to make some modifications." With just a few organizational changes, the Opengate System could run very smoothly and make it easier for students to use every morning. Once students learn what does and doesn't set off the system, they will know what to take out of their backpacks before going through it, so that there are no issues.

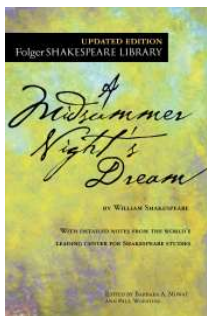
## Books everyone should read: Shakespeare edition

Kate Seitz

Okay, so maybe William Shakespeare isn't the most liked by American high school students, but his work is an undeniable presence in all our lives, whether we realize it or not. Ever heard the phrases "heart of gold" or "the world's my oyster"? Yep, those (and more) are from him! The point is, there's a lot of merit in reading a variety of his work. Two of his plays, in particular, I would recommend everyone try to read at least once! (P.S. The Folger Library editions of Shakespeare plays are my personal favorites. 5-10 dollars at Barnes and Noble with explanatory notes on various parts of the text to help you if needed.)



“Julius Caesar”: Hopefully most of you will get to read this one in English 10. “Julius Caesar” is one of Shakespeare’s more “fun” tragedies, at least in my opinion. Not only this, but its cast of characters were real people with a real effect on history. The titular Julius Caesar, plus Brutus and Mark Antony, come to mind as the big ones. Most people have heard about Caesar, but how much do you know beyond the name? Have you ever heard of Brutus or Antony? This Shakespeare play is a fun way to learn a bit about a real, historical event which was wildly important to what Rome became. If you’re not into reading straight-up history books, I would recommend trying out this one just to further educate yourself on such a prevalent topic.



“A Midsummer Night’s Dream”: This is one of Shakespeare’s fairly popular works, and one not covered in our high school. When we hear about Shakespeare, it’s usually concerning his famous tragedies, but “A Midsummer Night’s Dream” is not a tragedy at all. Contrary to popular belief, Shakespeare produced plays with a variety of styles/genres, and I believe that it’s important that students be exposed to more than just the tragedies. “A Midsummer Night’s Dream”—one of his comedies—is a great place to start for this. Even if you think Shakespeare isn’t your thing, I think this is a play many people could enjoy. Four young men and women in strange, overlapping love triangles, a mischievous fairy named Puck, the fairy king and queen fighting, and a group of amateur actors trying to get a play together for a royal wedding, what’s not to love? This play includes timeless themes of love, jealousy, illusion vs. reality, and is a wonderful blend of humor and romance.