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Open switching to extended day

John Knapp
Staff Writer

Starting next year Open School will experience more than just a name change. Recently the district approved of Open School's restructuring plan. Included in this restructuring, Open will switch to an Expeditionary Learning Curriculum as well as to an extended day program.

The extended day will provide Open School students with opportunities to participate in extra curricular activities and provide time for students in need to have a longer period for interventions. This would be accomplished by adding up to two and a half hours onto the school day. While normal classes would continue during the standard time, many activities such as Theatre, Destination Imagination, and Student Government could have a provided time to meet. At the end of the day buses would still be available per usual.

Presently, very little is known about how Open School will be able to use this time. Many concerns have arisen surrounding the extended day. One such concern is that the elementary would not be able to use this time in an effective manner. A solution suggested was that the elementary would not participate in the extended day. However, this thought received criticism because elementary students would no longer be able to count on older siblings for a variety of services after school. Also, if the ELC were to leave earlier than the rest of the school it would require two rounds of busing which drives up the cost of an already troublesome district budget.

Another potential problem with the extended day comes with staffing. If the school day were to be longer more staff would be necessary. The current plan is to have staff work only part of the day. This means that a teacher who works the first part of the day will not work all the way through to the end of

Extended Day continued on 7

Manatee listed as endangered species

John Knapp
Staff Handler

Last year the Purple Press ran a story about the decreasing number of people playing for the Manatee, and the lack of commitment from those who were on the team. Now, that sad truth has hit Open School and become a harsh reality: Open School will, in all likelihood, not have an Ultimate Frisbee team.

Last year's captain, John Knapp, put out a press release saying, "It's true right now I have no intentions of putting together an Ultimate team. That being said, if enough people can promise me commitment to the team I would gladly be a part of that. Right now I'm just trying to avoid the frustration of only ever having seven or eight people come out to practice."

The rumors of the collapse of
the

Sea Cow continued on 7

History Day

Jim Hayward
Staff Historian

It's that time of year again; History day is filling everyone's mind. Open School has tons of people working on projects that range from the video game prodigy Mario, to the steel that everyone relies on. The 'festivities' are going to be starting in March, but don't let that fool you. Many of the projects will be getting done the day before History day starts!

This year's theme is
"Innovation in

History". We have many good projects being done people from 8th grade all the way to 12th. David Hoh, 11th grade, is looking to be a good contender in going to Nationals. He is doing his project about Mario. [Queue Mario theme song] When asked how far he is in his research,

David said, "I'm not very far yet. I haven't been on a field trip to the downtown library yet, this would be a good idea for anyone working on History day."

Maren

McMartin has been subbing for Susanne Hollingsworth

NHD
NATIONAL
HISTORY DAY

History Day continued on 7

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THE PURPLE PRESS

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AND
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**ADULT TO BLAME
LEO BICKELHAUPT**

Fraquetball team profile: Funky Funky

*John Knapp
Staff Writer*

Juniors Peter Moua and Johnny Lor in their second year playing together in fraquetball will once again seek out the championship for their team, Funky Funky.

While last year they enjoyed the success of reaching the conference finals, this year they have set their sights higher. They stand now at a record of 4-2. With their two toughest games out of the way, attention will turn to this young team to finish the rest of the season without another blemish on their record.

Last season Funky Funky lived up to the expectations set for them by the experts, but this season the standards have been set a little higher. "Well I think they stand a good chance at upsetting Cake Walk in the championship. While they lost in their regular season match up to Cake Walk, I could see them putting up a good series," said former Commissioner Nathan Jesson. The regular season match up ended poorly for Johnny and Peter, but they look to only learn from that loss. "Well it was bad, but I think we learned something about how they played," commented Johnny. The duo lost 7-2 in a game that proved to be their worst statistical game. Combined Johnny and

Student Council: update on activities

*Alex Casebeer
Staff Miracle Man*

Hey there, just lil ol' me giving you guys a heads up on what's to come from student council. Student council has taken a lot of stuff that was formerly teacher led, such as green team, and put it in one centralized location where everyone can keep an eye on it.

First of all I'd like to get to talking about the one I mentioned first. Green Team, has recently restarted. While some of the students are new and confused by the changes, the Green Team has been productive from the start. 11th grader Houa Her explains: "It makes students aware of the environment and how we can effect it." While some of the students were hesitant to accept this explanation, others wholeheartedly agreed. "Green



*Members of Student
Council at work.*

Team is very important to our school's culture. Because even if we are a poor and small school, we can still make a difference!" stated junior Erin Kellogg.

Now, that's not to say that we've only been thinking internally, mind you. I'm talking about service. One of our members has reached out to

the Salvation Army with service in mind. The project is spearheaded by 9th grader Leo Veach, who has been with the Council from the beginning of this year. "I think it will give us a better name in the community. Because rather than helping just our community here, we will be helping others in need." While he is the only member of the service team, Leo is still hopeful. "I honestly hope we do get more people to join. After all I think it would be good for the children to see people doing good work." He remarked to me during fifth hour.

Student Council continues on 7

Peter shot only three for nine, which is seven percent less than their season average, and only had four defensive stops, which also falls below their season average.

The loss to Cake Walk was not the only disappointment for Funky Funky this season. Peter and Johnny lost to Alpha Numericals Re-revisited (ANR), composed of math teachers Tom Totushek and Kyle Warner, 7-

3. The loss was of similar fashion to the defeat they suffered last year at the hands of Tom. "He is tough on defense, we had trouble with him this year and last year," said Peter. However, the loss this year to ANR had an upside. Funky Funky was very strong on the defensive side of the ball. Forcing five turnovers in sion of the

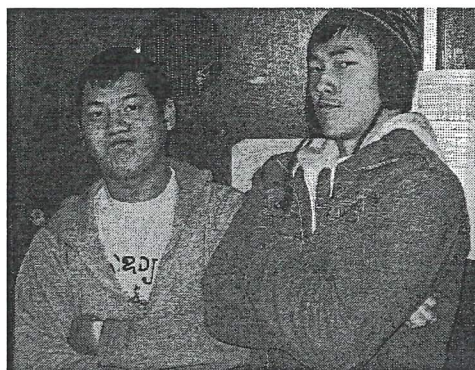
the game, Johnny and Peter maintained possession of the middle line. But as seems to be appearing as a pattern in tough games, Funky Funky had immense problems on offense. Shooting an abysmal two for fourteen, Tom and Kyle were able to capitalize the mistakes made and easily walk away with the victory.

Despite troubles against top tear teams, Funky Funky has dominated their other opponents. With easy victories over four other teams,

Funky Funky

Peter and Johnny look to extend their dominance over a tough next game in Space Monkeys, 10th grader DJ Sass and 11th grader Vicente Zavala. The game against Space Monkeys will be the last real test for Funky Funky in the regular season.

Funky Funky continued on 8



Abbie Pierce

How many years have you been at Open?

Five long years

What are your plans for next year?

Right now I'm looking at colleges, but I plan on pursuing something in the medical field.

Where is your favorite Open School hangout spot?

The computer lab

If you could have any superpower what would it be?

To turn people into stone, like that Medusa power.



Tempest shortened and simplified for reader's ease

David Hoh
Staff Abbreviator

What!? You didn't see *The Tempest*!? Why not?? Haha! Now you're talking to a newspaper.

But if you didn't see it, or saw it and didn't know what the heck was going on, then you're in luck because I'm going to summarize it briefly for you right now.

So, here's the gist of the whole play, in about 1607 words, excluding the title:

It begins with a ship that's in a very stormy sea. There's some people coming back from a wedding and one of them is a king. The ship crashes, and all the people on the ship are split up. This would be a good premise for like a movie or a play or something, huh

So anyway, now we go to this person who's like boss of the island. Her name is Prospera and she's a wizard or something because she wears a cape with a sun on it. Her daughter comes in and is pretty peeved about the ship-wreck. She says, "Mother, did you crash that ship with that storm?"

"Yes." Says Prospera.

"Was anybody hurt?"

"No." Says Prospera.

"Why did you crash it?"

"Because the people on the ship were jerks." Says Prospera, "Jerks who tied me up and sent me out to sea a while ago. Except one of them, Lady Gonzala, who gave me some food to eat on the trip. I didn't hurt anybody because she was on that ship."

"Oh, okay. Lol!" Says Prospera's daughter, who is apparently adopted.

Her daughter then goes to sleep because Prospera used her magic powers to make her drowsy, so she can talk privately with her magical sprite servant named Ariel.

Basically the storm that wrecked the ship was Ariel sent by Prospera, who was told not to hurt anyone, and in fact made their clothes fresh again. So now Prospera tells her dry-cleaning fairy to follow the different groups of those on the ship and basically lead them around, play music, and mess with them, all while spying in invisibility. Ariel is promised freedom for these tasks.

Ariel goes off and Prospera's daughter conveniently wakes up. Prospera tells her that they are going to see the fish-man slave. Her daughter is all like; "Ew no! He smells bad and is mean!" but Prospera takes her anyway.

So they go to this hole in the mud and this angry man-fish comes out

and starts complaining about how when Prospera got here, he showed her all the places to find berries and water and stuff, and how she took advantage of that and made him her slave. She yells at him and he goes to get firewood.

So now we head over to this guy named Ferdinand, who is the son of the king, who in the woods being lead by the invisible Ariel, who's playing music to bring him to a certain spot. Ferdinand talks to himself, and Prospera and her daughter appear and watch him. Prospera's daughter is like "Woah! What is that?"

"That's a person." Says Prospera.

"No way!" Says her daughter.

"Yes way." Says Prospera.

Apparently they were talking too loud because Ferdinand turns around and sees the daughter and is all like; "I love you more than anyone!" and instantly is in love with her more than anyone. She kind of likes him too, because he's like one of the only human's she has seen. So they go off and they're in love and stuff...

Meanwhile, the crew consisting of the king, Gonzala, and a lord and lady (the lord, Sebastian, is the king's brother and the lady, Antonia,

Tempset continued on

Linens + Things

You lost your Homework again???

Jack Jepsen-DeSpiegelaere
Staff Procrastinator



Dear teacher:
I do not have my homework because Dr. Wily stole it to make a new robot called Homework Man. I

decided to get my homework back in the only logical way I could think of: buy an arm cannon on eBay and pwn stuff with it.

Everything went smoothly until Mega Man showed up and said that I was cramping his style and he was going to grab the skin on my face and pull it over my head like a hat. I pointed out that the kid from Mega Man Battle Network was standing right over there and that if anyone deserved a facehat it was him for ruining the Mega

series. After beating the snot out of the little brat, we decided to grab something to eat before storming Dr. Wily's castle.

Luckily, there was a Subway right across the street. While waiting in line, I took a good look at the guy in front of me and realized that he was Tricky the Clown from Madness. "OMG, IT'S THE CLOWN!" I shouted while pulling out a pencil and paper and begging him for an autograph. For some reason he screamed, "YOU DON'T AUTOGRAPH CLOWN, CLOWN AUTOGRAPHS YOU!!!" He then pulled a nearby stop sign out of the ground, and signed it. Then he gave it to me, grabbed his sandwich and ran off. I decided that now would be a good time to get my homework back since I had a brand new Stop Sign of Doom, a Five Dollar Foot Long, and an arm
Excuse continued on 9

Castle in the Sky

Tristan Allen
Staff Totoro

Award-winning film *Castle in the Sky* is set in an alternate 1986, where technology has lead to giant and powerful airships being the major mode of long-distance transportation.

A young teenage boy named Pazu lives in a house a short distance from a remote mining village, where he had dwelt since his parents' deaths. His father was an accomplished aviator, who believed he had, during one of his adventures, found a mythical island floating in the air; Laputa: the Castle in the Sky, which is said to be full of vast treasures and technology beyond imagining. His peers did not believe him, and called him a liar even after his death. Pazu wishes to redeem his father's honor, and in his little spare time from his work as an engineer's apprentice, he is building his own plane, to search for Laputa himself.

One evening, while running errands for his boss, Pazu sees a bright blue light, slowly descending from the sky. As it falls closer, he sees that it's a girl, with a pendant around her neck, where the light is coming from. Little did he know that this girl, as she lands unconscious into is outstretched arms, would dramatically change his life, and with each extraordinary event lead him closer to his dream.

Shortly after their first encounter, Pazu learns that the girl, Sheeta, knows a few secrets about Laputa herself. Only problem is, both a notorious band of air pirates, and the military, are interested in these secrets too, and will do anything to gain Laputa's powers for themselves. Seeking to settle the questions in their hearts, Pazu and Sheeta are beset by many harrowing obstacles, each one keeping them farther from the truth - and from each other.

Anime continued on 9

Classic Christmas movie reviews

Velonika Burnett
Staff Writer

1) A Christmas Story

Ralphie Parker really, really wanted a Red Ryder bb gun for Christmas. He dreamed about how much fun and how cool it would be to have a red ryder bb gun, but first he had to convince his parents, his teacher Miss. Shields, and even Santa Clause, that he was mature enough to handle having a Red Ryder and not shoot his eye out.

Christmas spirit- This movie exceeded my standards of a good Christmas movie. It had moments when people were happy, sad, and even sometimes mad.



For example, when Ralphie gets in a fight with the school bully, Scut Farkus, because he breaks his glasses. While in the act of fighting Scut, Ralphie's mom comes and gets him, Ralphie thinks he is going to get punished by his dad when he gets home, but his mom decides not to tell his father the exact story that happened. She tells it as though it was just them being boys. This scene describes a time when they were happy, sad, and mad.

Entertainment value- This movie was very entertaining. It will make you laugh, smile, and have you glued to the couch waiting with anticipation to see what happens next. For example, when Schwartz triple dog dares Flick to stick
Christmas continued on 9



More Linens + Things



Tired of chasing your tail with bad games?

Alex Casebeer
Staff Nerd

Hot dog! There's a new god in town and she's raring to paint the town red! Seriously folks, the game *Okami* is simply divine. I'd first like to explain the name. You see in Japanese the term *Okami* can be read in several ways, the first would be honourable god and the second would be wolf (so pardon the dog themed puns). It has a mix of both beautiful graphics and highly interactive story will have you begging for more. Combat is a bit tricky but unimaginable fun and does prove the long standing argument that the god-wolf wielding a

calligraphy brush is far more powerful than the sword (But the god-wolf wielding a sword and calligraphy brush pwns all before her!).



Imagine if you will, a shrine on a mountain with a majestic and truly gargantuan tree behind it. The tree's petals and leaves are all but gone, swept away in the violent wind that courses around the shrine. Tremendous rocks are thrown every which way and collide in a shower of pebbles. In the middle of the shrine stands a statue of a wolf, Shirinui, the pure white wolf who fought off the evil eight-headed serpent, Orochi, with Nagi. A boulder flies at the statue only to be

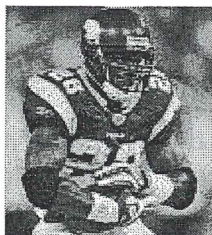
stopped by a mythical force.
Okami continued on 10

Adrian Peterson: Role Model

Najma Mire
Staff Writer

For the last couple of weeks I was getting the dirt on Vikings' Adrian Peterson and did find out a lot!!

First lets start with the off field story. AP hosted the Special Olympics of Minnesota Punt, Pass and Kick event at Winter Park in the spring of 2008. Adrian Peterson also hosted the Celebrity Classic golf tournament in June of 2008 to benefit the Special Olympics and Boys and Girls Clubs of the Twin Cities. He earned \$10,000 for the University of Minnesota Children's Hospital for twice earning the FedEx Ground Player of the Week award.



Adrian comes from an athletic family. His mother, Bonita Jackson, was a track and field star and his father, Nelson Peterson, was a collegiate basketball player at Idaho State. His uncle, Ivory Lee Brown, was an NFL player and suited up for the Vikings in 1993. However, Adrian endured the tragic loss of his brother as a youth and also lost his step-brother the night before the NFL Scouting Combine. Adrain has one daughter named Adeja.

The purpose of this article was not to show you how good of a host Adrian Peterson can be. But rather, for you to know that everyone gives to the community, even professional athletes and you should too. Athletes are trying to be good role models, so show them what their doing is paying off and do something in your community. *

Thunder Cave

Ying Yang
Staff Writer

Thunder Cave is a heart pounding action and adventure book written by Roland Smith. This book was really interesting because some parts of this story are based on a true story. What I like most about this book was the courage and determination the young boy had. One of the parts I like was when he goes hunting for food. It was well described and made me feel like I was there watching him.

Roland Smith, the author, lives in Stafford, Oregon and is a research biologist. He received the Excellence in

Zoo keeping award in 1980 from the American Association. The setting of the story starts out in New York but the real action begins in Kenya where all sorts of things happen. Roland Smith has traveled to Kenya and most of



this story is based on what he saw on his trip.

The book is about a young boy name Jacob who has not seen his father for years because he is away studying elephants in Kenya. His mother, who has remarried, has recently died a tragic death and his stepfather plans to send him to live with his Aunt in Nebraska. Jacob disagrees and secretly buys a ticket to Kenya to find his long lost father.

As Jacob leaves the city world, he knows he will enter a world full of crazy wild animals, thieves, and poachers. Jacob will do anything to get a chance to meet his father again.

I think all teenagers and adults should read this book, especially if you are into action and adventure. Find out if Jacob will survive the animals and poachers and if he will find his father again. *

Dragons of Balance Episode two: The Dark Dream

Brandon Thompson adds another chapter to his continuing story. For the previous volume of *The Dragons of Balance* read the issue one of the Purple Press.

After wrapping himself in the cloth that he obtained from Delady, Gadrial laid down on his bed to go to sleep.

"This has been a very strange day. Why is all of this happening? Well I guess it'll all be explained in time." He closed his eyes and drifted off to sleep.

When he awoke he saw that he was no longer in his house. This place was a barren wasteland. There was no sign of life, not even a cactus stood here.

Standing up straight he could smell a dark smell. As the smell became more apparent he could tell that it was coming from behind him.

He turned around and saw nothing so he walked towards the smell which was getting stronger.

He reached a cliff and stood there in shock. Below him was a horrific scene, men, women, and children were laid out dead.

He realized that this was in fact what he had smelled.

"What could have done this?" asked Gadrial, still in utter shock at the massacre.

"This was the scene of the first attack from the evil, over 2,000 years ago." explained a familiar voice.

Turning around Gadrial saw that the words had came from Fernasta. "How is this possible?"

"You are seeing what the evil that threatens your world will do. It came once before and was defeated by the Dragons of Balance. So now do you see that you are destined to help vanquish this evil before this is the scene everywhere?"

"I can't let this happen to everything, all the animals, all the plants. Nature shall live. As long as I breathe nature shall prosper." A tear fell from Gadrial's eye as he once again looked back at the death.

"Well, now isn't this a sight. Two of the Dragons of Balance are right here," said a hollow voice from behind the two.

Upon wheeling around, the two heroes saw a cloaked figure standing there.

"And who, may I ask, are you?" said Fernasta in a stern voice.

"That is not important my dear. What is important is that you two never leave this place," stated the cloaked figure as he lunged forward with his sword.

Rolling out of the way the two heroes drew their swords.

"You two are quite fast."

The two heroes charged the cloaked man and swung their swords. To their surprise the figure vanished.

Looking around the two heroes did not see the cloaked man.

"Wow, that was close. Who was that guy?" asked Gadrial as he sheathed his sword.

"If my assumptions are correct that was the evil's illusion of himself," stated Fernasta. "I believe that evil has already become aware of your presence. We must find the fourth dragon of balance quickly before evil can consume the world."

The shadowy figure appeared again. At that moment Gadrial drew his sword again.

"Stop! It's an illusion remember."

In a raspy voice the figure said "Find the fourth you may but a secret does she hold" Then the figure vanished again.

Baffled Gadrial said, "What do you think it is?"

"I do not know" replied Fernasta. "We should get out of your dream first and figure it out later."

Taking Gadrial's hands a light flashed and Gadrial realized he was in his room.

Still a bit groggy he said, "This is dead serious."

Was the figure actually evil? Who is the fourth dragon of balance? What is her secret? Keep reading to find out.

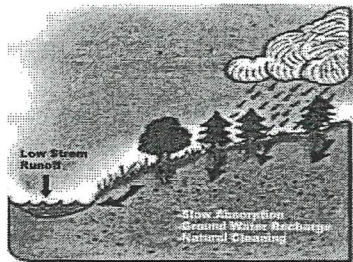
Fraquetball Rankings: Varsity League:

- 1) Cake Walk
- 2) Space Monkeys
- 3) Los Geezers
- 4) Alpha Numericals Re-revisited
- 5) Funky Funky

- 6) Ping Pong 'Ong's
- 7) Ball Busters
- 8) Efraquators
- 9) Flying Pigs
- 10) F.T.P
- 11) Ektothermik
- 12) Flaming Envelopes

Junior Varsity League:

- 1) Skinny Blasians
- 2) T.A.G.
- 3) Burning Hot Dogs
- 4) Twinkie Monsters
- 5) The Destroyah's
- 6) The Aardvark
- 7) Cookiez
- 8) Food



Extended Day from 1

the extended day. If this were to happen more staff would need to be hired. With more staff comes the need for additional space. Already Open School has a number of teachers switching rooms every hour. If there were to be more staff more space would need to become available. However, if staff were to only work part of the day, then their rooms become vacant during the part of the day the staffer is not working.

While many questions are yet to be answered, the extended day program gives Open School, or rather Open World Learning Community, a chance to further the education of its students. "It gives students an opportunity to be involved in many more activities and have a ride home," explained teacher Elizabeth Littlefield. The extra time could provide great opportunities to fully implement the Expeditionary Learning curriculum as well as allow more students to participate in after school activities. When more information becomes available, clarity on the issue and the plans for future will surely follow. *

History Day from 1

for a number of weeks now. She has been working on History day for many years as a judge. She has been doing a good job guiding the students to getting their History day projects done; she is very passionate about history and History day. I asked her how many projects she had taken to nationals she responded, "Somewhere from 75-100. I love to see a good project get to nationals and see all their hard work pay off." When I asked the second in command Tim Hoogland he said, "Eight or nine last year." I wanted to know if anyone could go the 'Whole nine yards' and win Nationals. Maren told me "I think a few of these projects have some real potential." To end my questions I asked Maren the big one, what is the best way

to win? She responded, "Lots of studying, a solid bibliography, and a good understanding of history always helps"

Anyone going to History day should be prepared and take David Hoh's advice; "Buy my CD coming out next month! It's so hot, your face will melt off at sight of the cover art!" *

Sea Cow from 1

Open School Manatee have been confirmed, for now at least. Last spring word of the remaining Manatee players joining the Como Park Ultimate team started to spread around the Open School community. When asked, senior John Knapp, junior Peter Moua, and sophomore DJ Sass, all admitted to playing for Como, in the fall.

With the season not starting until April, there is plenty of time for the Manatee to come back for at least one more season. A season that, according to those in the Manatee front office, would require great commitment from the Manatee players.

Only in the last three years has Open School fielded an official Ultimate team, but the roots of Frisbee in the community go much deeper than that. In the past Open School has had a very strong tradition of Ultimate. The tradition ranged from having Monday Extras to its very own Interim. Beyond that, Frisbee was also played everyday during lunch all year long.

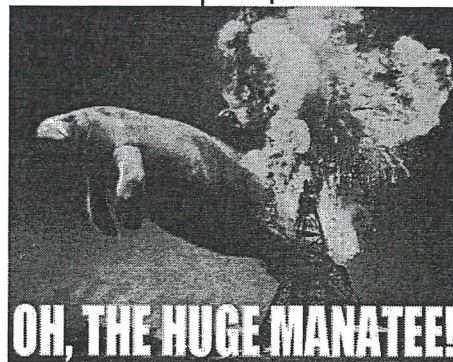
Long before Fraquetball, and dating back to the times of Odyssey of the Mind, Frisbee has had enormous impact on student life. "It has been a constant of Open School. Through all other changes of policies and trends, Ultimate has remained a core of the school." said DJ. Games of Frisbee

during lunch have been absent from the fields for several years. While many wish the games would return, no signs of reappearance have been noticed.

"It's sad to see, and it really sucks," said 11th grader Yeng Yang, upon hearing that there was not going to be an Ultimate team this year. The reaction to the slow spreading news about The Manatee has all been a shade of sadness. "I don't know what I'll do," said Manatee player 9th grader Jennifer Lor. While many people are hopeful about the chances of The Manatee having a team in the spring, the fact remains that many more players would need to express interest. "I sympathize with the fans who are disheartened by the loss of The Manatee, but unless they are willing to commit to playing for Manatee there is nothing we can do about it," John Knapp said.

With recruitment put to a halt,

it becomes the responsibility of those who want to play to make the change. So the call goes out to all who have ever expressed interest of playing without following through: show and speak of your commitment. Let people know that you want to play! *



Student Council from 2

But here's the catch. Not all of the student council has devoted themselves to helping the homeless or holed themselves up in a dark corner, leaving the rest of the council to wonder what the heck they're doing. I now present to you, the Bulletin board committee, with several veteran Open schoolers leading the charge, they strive to make the hallways a little more student friendly by asking teachers if they have some good art work or projects to put up. "Well, I think it should make the hallways more interesting and make the inside of the school more attractive." Said 11th grader Sarah Plonski, a member of the Bulletin board committee.

So happy holidays and just so you know.... Just because it's the holidays doesn't mean zombies can't come out. * So keep fit, keep loaded, and keep running!

Funky Funky from 2

"Peter and Johnny are a team we knew it would be tough to beat, but that doesn't mean we can't," DJ said brimming with confidence. With the game not scheduled until after break the exciting match up will be the talk of the fraquetball community in the weeks to come. Last year Funky Funky dismissed Space Monkeys in an easy 7-1



victory, however, Vicente acquired a new partner over the off-season in order to step up the defensive

side of their game. If Funky Funky hope to overcome the defensive savvy squad, Peter and Johnny will need to step up on the offensive side of the ball.

With the rest of the season posing no real threat to Peter and Johnny, they look to the playoffs to see what challenges wait for them. While the championship is the match they fear, getting to the final will be no easy feat. "A lot stands between us and the finals. But that doesn't mean we can't get there," said Peter. Granted that they make the playoffs, it is apparent that they will need to get past Space Monkeys and Alpha Numericals Re-revisited. As we wait to see how the season unfolds, all eyes will be drawn to Funky Funky to see if they can surpass the odds, and defy the expectations, and win the championship. *

Tesmpet from 3

is Prospera's sister) are found walking in the woods. Gonzola keeps on trying to get the king to say something about how their clothes are fresh and stuff, but the king just wants her to shut up. All the while the lord and lady are making fun of the two, cracking all sorts of inside jokes and laughing at everyone.

Then everybody but the lord and lady get tired and fall asleep. The lady then suggests killing the king and Gonzola and becoming rulers of Milan and Naples, but she tries to hint at it very subtly-like when you try to ask a friend to go spray paint cars and walls at night, but you're not sure if they approve of such things, so you say things like "Sure is a good night to do some vandalism, right?" and saying

"Wouldn't it be funny if we spray painted stuff?" in a very joking manner, trying to get your buddy to agree without actually asking-but she does it too subtle and the lord doesn't get it. Eventually she just asks if he wants to kill them with her and he says sure. They pull out their knives and are about to strike, when Ariel has a spirit sing a song to wake Gonzala up (I forget what song, but it should've been the Time Warp) and so Gonzala and the king wake up and the lord and lady quickly make up some Lost plot-point and say they heard wolves and lions in the woods. In the woods. On an island. So the king draws a knife and they all walk off into the audia- I mean woods.

We then move over to the phish-fan who's getting logs very grumpily. He hears thunder from a storm and hides from the rain under his cloak. At that time, the king's jester, Trinculo, walks over and sees this fishman, and thinks aloud about taking this monster back to England to sell him or something. He hears thunder and hides under fishboy's cloak.

Then the king's drunken butler Stephano comes in drunk and drinking, singing a song that is not the Time Warp, and notices the monster, however thinking it has four legs (not knowing Trinculo is under a cloak with the fishy-humanoid). Then he thinks aloud about presenting this monster back home.

Fishman speaks, screaming and whining. So Stephano decides to let it drink his wine. Then he hears a second voice-Trinculo's-and decides to give his wine to that mouth too, but before he does, it calls out his name. He is startled until it's revealed to Stephano that it is indeed Trinculo, and they are reunited.

Then the monster awakens, praising the glorious taste of Stephano's wine. He immediately swears commitment to him, telling him that he'll show him where all the berries and fresh water is. So basically he didn't learn from his problems with Prospera. But Stephano likes him, so they go off to get more booze.

Meanwhile, Ferdinand is getting more logs for fire and Prospera's daughter tells him to stop working so hard, and he says "I love you, let's get married!" Prospera is cool with it but says: "If you bang her before you're wed, I'll kill you." Or something like that.

Back to the king and his entourage, who get this tray of food delivered to them by harpies. They are starving and it was given to them so they assume it's for them. But when they-except Gonzala-try to eat the food, Ariel appears and gets super mad for no reason.

Next we have more of Stephano, Trinculo, and Fishman, who's name is Caliban, and who is also drunk, walking in the woods, under the secret supervision of Ariel. Caliban tells Stephano that his old master was a total d-bag, and that if Stephano killed her he'd be super rich and stuff. So Stephano talks to Trinculo about this plot, but before Trinculo can say anything, Ariel impersonates him and goes all Joe Wilson on Caliban and shouts "You Lie!!" to everything he says. So Caliban starts hatin' on Trinculo, who's all innocent an' stuff, telling his master; "Stupid fat hobbit! He hates Smeagol! But Smeagol wouldn't hurt Master, never hurts!" And so because Ariel kept bad-mouthing for Samwise, Frodo totally smacks him but they get along again, so Smeagol leads them to Prospera's Mt. Doo-Um....Cell. Her, her cell.

So now we have the wedding. Some spirits come out and sing Not The Time Warp by Not the writer of the Time Warp, and then Ferdinand and Miranda (Prospera's daughter, I just forgot her name up until now) got married. Then there's a celebration where they dance to the Time Warp. No, but I was hoping they would.

Anyway, in the middle of the song, Prospera yells and stops the whole thing, shoos the spirits, for no apparent reason. Just no reason at all. Kinda a buzz-kill.

Now back to the hobbits-erm-I mean Stephano and friends, who are in Prospera's cell. Prospera, of course, was waiting for them (Ariel is a snitch) and had the spirits hold clothes up and around. Well Stephano and Trinculo are like, "Let's get us some new clothes here!" But Caliban is all, "Nah, playa! Do the murder first and then you can have all the clothes you want!" But Stephano told him to stop jackin' on their swag, so they took the clothes anyway. But then the spirits turn into angry dogs and chase them. Or maybe they didn't change into dogs and just ran after them barking. But that's just silly.

So now the king and crew are drawn by Ariel's music to the cell and **Tempest** continued on 9

Tempest from 8

are confronted by Prospera who's all "I forgive you." and stuff. Turns out she just wants to get off the island, and then Ferdinand and Miranda enter, and the ship drivers, and then the dressed up Stephano's gang, and they all go to a new ship to return home with Prospera and Miranda.

Ariel is set free, and Prospera doesn't have that much magic anymore.

The moral of this story is that plays need to be cut down from there original text. The original Shakespeare version had the Time Warp in like four or five acts! What the heck!? But still, it was Shakespeare at its finest!

I highly recommend that you go see this play. Oh, it's over? Just do the time warp again. *

Christmas from 4

his tongue to a freezing cold pole outside, and when Flick does it, it doesn't come off. The bell rings for them to come in from recess and all Flick is left there to do is to say with a strong lisp "don't leave me, come back, come back, don't leave me..." This isn't all that happens, but if you want to see what happens next watch the movie, it's great!

Key moment-When Ralphie finally tells his mother and father what he wants for Christmas is a Red Ryder bb gun and his mom says "you'll shoot your eye out." This phrase pops up frequently in the movie and is constantly reminding Ralphie that bb guns are not safe.

Overall rating- This movie deserves five stars, for keeping me entertained through the whole film. It was filled with good acting, funny scenes and some great lessons. Lessons such as: do not put your tongue on a cold pole in the middle of winter and do not give your child a bb gun because they will shoot their eye out.

2) The Grinch

In Whoville everyone loves and enjoys Christmas, except for the Grinch. The Grinch despises Christmas so much he takes Christmas away from all of the Whoville people. Until a little girl named Cindy Lou Who, makes him have a change of heart and give Christmas back.

Christmas spirit-This movie had great Christmas spirit because it had a

great story to tell that involved happy and sad moments. Such as, when the Grinch was at first planning to take Christmas away from all of Whoville, which he did, but then he ended up giving it back in the end because Cindy saw more in the Grinch then the bad, and thought that he was actually kind of sweet.

Entertainment value-This movie is really entertaining. It had good scenes that were able to make you feel like you would've done the same thing. For example, when Cindy went to several different people important in the Grinch's life and asked them questions about him. She went to his parents, Mayor Augustus and Martha May, doing this she found out why the Grinch was so unhappy, so she could try to make him feel more like a Who rather than like a What.

Key moment-Originally the Grinch steals Christmas away from all of the Whos and makes everyone very upset, which is what he was going for. Then he meets Cindy Lou, who says a little speech that Christmas isn't about the presents, that it is about spending time with family and having fun with them. Cindy makes the Grinch realize that what he was doing wasn't right. So he gives the Whos all their presents and other belongings back.

Overall rating- This movie deserves four stars out of five because in this movie it had a strong theme and it keeps you interested in the movie because it has great pieces to the story in every scene that you can't miss because otherwise you won't get the whole idea of the story. This movie was an excellent family movie to watch all the way up till Christmas day!

Anime from 4

This movie was created by renowned animator Hayao Miyazaki, and was the second anime he produced with Studio Ghibli. It was released in Japan in 1986, and came to the United States in 2003, on DVD and video. Castle in the Sky is a story of dreams and betrayal, and with pirates, government spies, robots, giant zeppelins, and young love, what more could you possibly want? *

Excuse from 4

cannon.

I decided to combine the three and make a Stop Sign Sandwich Blaster. It was a really bad idea, and it took a really long time to clean up the mess. At least I still had my stop sign. I guess that some of Tricky's power had rubbed off on the stop sign and made it indestructible or some such and what not.

Anyway, I was about to storm Dr. Wily's castle when I realized that the doors were locked. Using the magical power of the three freckles on my face that glow with the mark of the tri-force every once in a while, I blew open the doors. Then an oompa loompa walked out and asked why the maple nut marshmallow fudgebars I had just blown up the doors to Mr. Wonka's factory. I explained that I had mistaken them for the doors to Dr. Wily's castle. This seemed acceptable to him, so I was on my way to Dr. Wily's Castle again.

When I got to the doors of what I was SURE was Dr. Wily's castle, I knocked down the doors and ran into Dr. Wily's lab, where I challenged him to an epic battle. He threw me across the room, then told me that my blade did not sparkle with the power to repel evil and that what I held in my hands was useless. I told him that A), Ganondorf had already done that, B), It wasn't a blade, it was a stop sign, and C), Sparkly things SUCKED.

I pwned him with the stop sign, because stop signs are AWE-SOME. Then his castle blew up, because that sort of thing ALWAYS happens when you beat the final boss. I escaped, but my homework was in the castle when it blew up. Crap.

So, I think that I should get an A for everything that I went through and for my really awesome Stop Sign of Doom. And extra credit for saving the world. Please? 🙏

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Leo!**

Okami from 5

This is the beginning of the opening scene and introduction. After this you meet with several people as the world is explained and your tale (or tail) unfolds.

The main character is a wolf named Amaterasu, a startlingly-white wolf with beautiful red streaks along her sides and what appear to be clouds coming off her shoulders, and her sidekick, Issun, I'm not actually sure what Issun is but he seems to have a beetle on his head (?). Other characters include Sakuya, the tree spirit who protects Amaterasu in the opening scene and Susano whom is descended from the mighty warrior Nagi and his secret crush Kushi, who runs a sake brewery. I'd like to note that the creators of this game are INTENSELY fond of extreme body types and "the bounce" I.E. men are either extremely muscular or extremely fat and women are always very well endowed and slim (Exceptions to this rule are old people and mothers and children who are roughly kneehigh).

Now there wouldn't be much of a game without combat and weapons and Okami is certainly one of those games where you can get overloaded with them (in fact one might even say that it might make you.... dog tired!)! Combat as with most games varies from consol to consol but leaves a highly satisfying feel to it. Basic weapons can be divided into three categories: Reflectors, Rosaries, and Glaives. Reflectors are kinda like discs that float on your back and you swing them around to attack with them. They aren't very good primary weapons or secondary weapons as I tend to go on the offensive a lot (my personal favorite combo is Rosary primary and Glaive secondary) but they do get the ability to block an attack if in secondary position. Rosaries, which are like big bead necklaces in which each bead is roughly the size of your head and significantly sharper, are next and are widely considered the weakest of the three, however don't even think for a second that they are useless. Rosaries are the undisputed rulers of speedy attacks. Getting a 99-hit combo is definitely not unheard of for even a beginner. Then last but not least the mighty glaive: giant swords that make a mockery of the most warriors in a single swipe. The glaives are unique in the aspect that their second-

secondary and primary attacks are nearly identical (as opposed to the rosaries ranged attack and the reflectors... reflect). Combat is unimaginably brutal, especially when you work in some of the ink powers we will talk about later.

Ink is the name of the game in combat so I'll run through some of my favorite powers with you. The humble Power Slash. The first combat related power you learn and remains quite helpful throughout the game and is always the first technique I think of (namely because it's incredibly simple to use). The next is Cherry Bomb, which as its name implies drops a huge highly explosive ball on people and.... explodes breaking many things and causing much entertainment/chaos. Next up are the two powers that go hand in hand Sun and Moon (I know all about moon power, I was the man in the moon when time was!) which cause the sun to rise and night to fall respectively. Then there's Inferno, which albeit being a real hassle to use can create a huge ball of fire and (guess what!) set stuff on fire. And finally Gale, which is windy blast to put out fires but not much else. (I still think it's really fun to do.)

All together Okami is an interesting game to say the least. Its fine artistry and combat make it far more enjoyable than one might expect. Though the plot tends to stray to incredible lengths at times (Bamboo rocket ships! I mean come on!) but together it is really solid. But you must find out the fun by yourself otherwise it'll just be me talking all day, no?

And as always, keep fit, keep loaded, and keep running

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Horoscopes:

Aries:

As the holidays quickly approach remember that candlesticks are still the gift that say 'I really don't care.'

Gemini:

Sticks and stones can break your bones...and they will.

Leo:

Despite learning your lesson many years ago you will continue to play with fire extinguishers. This time don't lie to the police.

Libra:

When raising your hand to get called on doesn't work, never forget that yelling at the top of your lungs does.

Sagittarius:

Paper cuts. Enough said.

Aquarius:

If only you can prevent forest fires than why aren't you doing your job? California is not very happy with you.

Taurus:

Careful Samuel Jackson won't always be able to take the snakes off of your plane. Take this figuratively and literally.

Cancer:

Ice can appear in the strangest of places, however, you will just slip and fall on the sidewalk.

Virgo:

After watching all of the Scooby Doo you can find, you come to realize that you know what is about to happen next.

Scorpio:

Check your shoes for spiders, but don't mind the wasps' nest.

Capricorn:

After being captured by pirates you realize that the meaning behind the song A Pirates Life For Me has changed your life, and the amount of blood left in your body.

Pisces:

When you're alone and life is making you lonely you can always play Candyland!