



Fall sports wraps
- Pages 2 & 3



College during a pandemic
- Page 5



Meet Sorcha!
- Page 9

Purple Dress



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MSHSL sports put on pause

Governor Walz encouraged supporting small businesses, despite updated COVID restrictions

Violet Wright
Staff Writer

On Wednesday, November 18, Minnesota Governor Tim Walz announced new restrictions in reaction to the increase in Coronavirus cases. They went into effect on Friday, No-

vember 20, at 11:59 PM, and will last until December 18. Walz has put a pause on social gatherings with other households, eating at restaurants in person, bowling alleys, bingo halls, theaters, receptions, private parties and other celebra-

tions, and outdoor events and entertainment.

So, what's still open? Schools are still functioning, and child care providers are allowed to continue operating. "When this is all said and done, and the stories of this

hundred year pandemic are written, there will be heroic stories written about childcare providers, who did everything they could to make sure that first responders, to make sure that frontline workers, and made sure that so many of us

had a place of safety, wellbeing and growth in the middle of a pandemic with childcare providers," said Walz. You can also get groceries, shop for the holidays, and get takeout. Walz stressed that though in person dining has been restricted, Minnesotans should order out to support local businesses. Places of worship haven't been impacted by this order, and

you can still go get a haircut. Walz also encouraged people to get outside, just "don't do it with other families, and don't do it close together. We encourage you to wear masks, social distance at all times."

One of the things that impacts OWL students the most, however, is that, in addition to the list of restrictions above,

Sports, 2

Chilean outburst of 2019



Tatiana Leiva

The author's mom stands near a tunnel of the burned down metro system in Santiago, where activists have added colorful murals and slogans (left), This colorful mural in Santiago depicts a protestor being pulled away from their dignity (right).

Sayen Lundeen-Leiva
Staff Writer

On October 18, 2019, hundreds of high schoolers in Santiago, Chile, jumped the subway turnstiles as they chanted songs of protest. They lit a whole subway on fire and graffitied the walls in the city. The president, Sebastian Piñera, sent out the military

and the police to get things under control, and to establish curfews, but this just made things worse. The police threw tear gas, burned people with acids, shot rubber bullets at their eyes, beat them, and so much more. Chileans reacted by forming massive protests and created chants, demanding their needs.

The anger of the Chilean people has been raging for nearly half a century. They couldn't take it anymore, and everything just exploded. In 1973, Chile had a coup. The military took over and formed a dictatorship over Chile with the help of the United States. When Augusto Pinochet took over, his dictatorship spread

fear and oppression throughout the country. He murdered 3,000 people and 1,000 are still missing. He exiled people and brutally killed anyone who had a different ideology and was against his regime, like artists and songwriters such as Víctor Jara.

Pinochet implemented a neo-liberal free market

through the constitution he created in the '80s. He disregarded public education, the health system, and basic human rights and focused on privatizing everything. Since then, Chile has been the only neo-liberal country in the world, causing one of the big-

Chile, 5

Senate battle

What if the senate is the opposing party of the president?

Ted Dobbins
Staff Writer

Joe Biden's victory answers a big question that we have been asking for a while. However, everything is not yet over, and questions still remain unanswered. What will the senate look like in 2021? What happens if the senate has a Democratic majority and what happens if the senate has a Republican majority? The makeup of the Senate directly affects the president and his ability to influence the passing of laws.

To cover some "ground rules" it is important to know how legislation is passed. A senator/representative can present a bill, if it goes to the House of Representatives, the bill needs a majority of at least 218 votes to move along to the senate. To pass the senate it needs a majority of 50+ votes. Next the president needs to sign the bill or veto it. If he/she signs it, it becomes law. If he/she vetoes it, what happens next is that the house and the Senate vote if they want to override the veto, they both need two thirds majority to do so.

As of right now, the results of the 2020 senate elections are not yet complete, the status of the 2021 senate and its 100 senators is 48 Democrats and 50 Republicans, two seats still remain, and those seats both are up to the Georgia elections. Georgia has two senate elections left, because during the results of the other elections

Senate, 3



Courtesy of Lili Hobday

Lili playing in a soccer game against Harding (above), Lili hitting the ball in a volleyball game against Washington (below).

I guess I'll play both then

Hobday can't refuse volleyball, but won't give up soccer either

Nora Verner
Staff Writer

We've all heard of student athletes who play multiple sports, but what about a student athlete playing two sports in one season — during a pandemic? Junior Lili Hobday had that very experience this fall.

Lili decided to play for the Humboldt/OWL girls soccer team this fall to stay healthy and scheduled during the pandemic. Normally she would have been hitting, serving and spiking her hours away while playing volleyball as a returning varsity starter, but initially the state COVID regulations

prevented the indoor sport this year.

Lili chose to play soccer as her alternative because she was a seasoned player back in her elementary days, and knew she'd thrive on having a full-schedule. "I joined soccer thinking that volleyball would not be happening," said Lili. For a month that plan worked well - until the Minnesota State High School League (MSHSL) voted to allow a delayed high school volleyball season.

"At first I actually didn't think it was real," said Lili. "Part of me was excited because I really really missed

playing volleyball, but most of me was really really scared." Concerned about playing a second sport and the danger of increased COVID exposure she'd experience, Lili weighed the decision carefully. "I felt like I'd be putting my family and other people at risk," she said. She also worried about having to sit back and watch her team she's known for years play without her. In the end the mental health benefit won out and she decided to play volleyball.

This meant that for the three weeks where the soccer and volleyball season overlapped, Lili would have to burn the candle at both ends. In order to get her schoolwork done Lili

Lili, 6



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Boys soccer finishes successful season

Senior captain Joe Deutch named all-state

Lili Hobday
Staff Writer

This season was a big season for the Humboldt boys soccer team. They ended both their conference season and tournament in second place, beating last year's third place finish. Despite their impressive record, their season was cut short when they were beaten by Richfield in the section tournament.

"Our season was incredible!" said starting senior Max Muench.

Five OWL students played soccer this year, four of which played varsity. Joe Deutch was a captain this year and made a big impact on the team, scoring 6 goals and leading the state with 13 assists. He was awarded First Team All-Conference, Second Team All-Metro, and First Team All-State. Also on the varsity team, OWL students Diego Kroonblawd as goalie (awarded First Team All-Conference), Max Muench as midfielder and Sam Hayden as a forward, all of whom have made important contributions to this year's team.

The team finished their conference season 5-1, scoring 33 goals while only conceding one. That one goal led to their only loss which was against conference champs Central. If the Hawks had won that game they would have been the conference champs for the first time in 13 years. Even with



Senior midfielder Joe Deutch works upfield in a game against Central (above), senior goalkeeper Diego Kroonblawd strides up for a goal kick in a game this fall (below).

that loss, they had an exciting season and managed to win back the Mayors Cup in a 3-0 game against Como.

"Part of the reason we're doing so well is because of our chemistry. Meaning most of us have been playing since middle school or with club teams. Also we have a range of players who are scoring goals and making an impact on the

team," said Joe.

The Hawks were the 7th seed in their section tournament. Although they beat Highland 3-1 in the first round, they suffered a tough loss against Richfield in the second. The first half of the game ended with Richfield up 3-0 and although the Hawks

Soccer, 4



Senior Freya Ebbesen swims in the 200 medley in a meet against Central on October 6.

Swim season weird but fun

Seniors will miss HumWOW

Willa Champion
Staff Writer

Since middle school, multiple of OWLs seniors have been swimming on the Humboldt-Washington-Open World (HUMWOW) girls swim team. Having reached the end of their last season, these seniors look back with fondness on their experiences with the team.

HUMWOW is a co-op swim team between OWL, Humboldt, and Washington Technology Magnet. The team has eight graduating seniors, five of whom are from OWL. Many of the seniors have been on the swim team since seventh grade and have seen the team improve and grow over the years. "We have a large group of seniors, so we have all

been working with our coaches and together for six years, which has built a really strong bond among us," said senior Zoe Champion.

Like all sports this fall, for HUMWOW the swim season looked much different from past years due to the pandemic. In contrast to a usual season, meets were not done in person. Each team competed individually in their own pool, and recorded event times were compared virtually.

"Meets were super weird, as they were not done in person. It made it harder because instead of having someone in the next lane challenging you, you had to challenge yourself," said senior Freya Ebbesen.

Swim, 3

Sports, 1

both adult and youth sports, as well as fitness centers/gyms, have been put on pause by this order. "I understand that it's not easy, and it's not fair," said Walz, "But it's a sacrifice that we need to make. If we don't do that, and we continue this spread, we will with absolute certainty, put our hospitals at risk, and those that need the care as well as the care providers." This means that many winter sports which students had been looking forward to have now been cancelled for the four weeks this order is in effect.

"I first heard about rumors

of the lockdown a couple of weeks ago because there was so much speculation due to the really fast-rising rate of cases," said senior Haakon Neske. 8th grader Danny Hobday said, "I first found out about the shutdown about 5 minutes after it happened. I went into the kitchen and they were talking about it on the radio. I asked my mom if they stopped sports and she confirmed it."

Social studies teacher Luke Turvold is a youth hockey coach. "I had been paying close attention to Governor Walz's expected announcement regarding new restrictions as there were some hints in the

days preceding that "pausing" youth sports was a likely option." Senior Aiko Mattie's volleyball season was also shortened by the restrictions. She said that "I found out that the governor might close down sports the day before he made the announcements and then officially when he made the announcement."

"While I expected the announcement of restrictions and felt it to be in society's best interest, my initial reaction was sadness," said Luke. "It was the part of our life that felt a bit normal and provided some mental and physical relief from the stress of the world." Haakon said that he really wasn't surprised about the new restrictions, but they will impact him. "When I heard Walz's official statement, I immediately thought of my basketball season. Since I'm a senior this year, there's a good chance I would have been on the varsity roster, which has motivated me from the end of last season to be a better player. I also thought that maybe basketball would happen in the spring, but in the spring I play Ultimate Frisbee, (which compared to basketball, in COVID terms, is a very safe sport) and that decision between playing one of two sports that I really enjoy would be a tough one to make."

"I was sad that it was gonna end, but I also understood the

need because there were teams in our conference and across Minnesota that had spread the virus," said Aiko. "My sport will not resume because we were almost at the end of it, but perhaps the rec league will start up in early 2021 if things get better." Danny has said that "I'll be missing rec ball and I was going to try out for high school basketball this year so initially I was super sad but now I realize it was the smart thing to do. So many people have died or gotten hurt and I know I couldn't stand if one of my loved ones got hurt. I think it was the right decision."

"The next 4 weeks look much different now, and we are adjusting to that," said Luke. "When it is decided that youth sports can be safely resumed, and if our teams decide they can safely resume, we will continue to take the same precautions and work to provide a safe environment for all. It is difficult to imagine what youth sports will look like after the pause, but we will make the best of whatever the circumstances may be."

Theater plans for 20-21 year Virtual play this winter

Violet Wright
Staff Writer

The OWL theater department seems like such a fundamental part of school life that you have to wonder: how is theater going to go on during a pandemic, where you can't get too close to each other to interact in a play?

Even with the pandemic, the show will go on! Theater teacher Rebekah Rentzel said that "there will be a Winter Play this year with rehearsals in December and performances in January. Auditions will be the first week in December (not October like I thought once upon a time!). In the Spring, we are planning a performance of Twelfth Night, one of my favorite and most silly Shakespeare plays. The seniors are adapting it right now to make a more modern version. Last, we're still thinking about participating in the State One Act Competition. That is recorded performances online this year, but was such a fun event last year to go see other schools perform and compete, we're hoping to get a team together again."

For now, the plays aren't going to be in person. As Rebekah said, "As of this moment, I'm planning to keep performances to Zoom. We'll

see what the future holds, but I like playing it safe when it comes to the health of actors."

So besides the plays, what else is going on with the theater department? "We've started Drama Club meetings Fridays at 1pm, where we meet to play theatre games, learn improv, share our love of musicals, and start learning more in depth acting and design skills," said Rebekah. "Code is drama-club and everyone is welcome! There's also the OWL Theatre Advisory Board of 11th & 12th graders, who are planning the after school plays. We've been reading scripts and looking at college in the performing arts."

Beyond that, Rebekah said she just wants to make the time together matter. "Theater is always about live connection," said Rebekah. "While we can't be in the room together, we can be in a Zoom together. Cameras on so we see each other. Learning games that we can play online. The theatre world in general is getting creative about how to do live performances or short creative films. And as artists our role is to pay attention and respond to the world around us. So just taking the moment to focus on what matters and being creatively open to new ways of seeing the world."

Dial back to save lives
Restrictions begin Friday, November 20 at 11:59 pm.

OPEN	PAUSED
Take-out and delivery (not through a door)	Individual dining
Grocery and retail	Bars, restaurants, pubs, martial arts, and dance studios
Places of worship, religious services, meetings, and events	Wedding receptions, celebrations, and private parties
Beauty salons and personal care services	Indoor entertainment venues
Outdoor recreation (not on a trail)	Organized sports for youth and adults
Schools and child care providers (Follow Safe Learning Plan)	Public pools and hot tubs
Stay home whenever you can. Only go out with your immediate household.	Any social gatherings outside of your household

Take-out and delivery, grocery and retail stores, places of worship, schools, and more are still allowed. Dining in restaurants, youth sports, social gatherings, and more have been put on pause for the time being.

Mountain biking team gains in popularity this year

Eight OWL students were on the team this year

Willa Champion
Staff Writer

Football, soccer, basketball—these are the sports that most high schoolers have on their letter jackets, the sports that most students sit in bleachers to watch. Usually, when thinking about high school sports, mountain biking doesn't come to mind. But in recent years, more and more students across Minnesota and the country are heading to bike trails after school to ride with their teams, or on weekends to races and compete against other high school riders for the fastest times.

The Minnesota High

School Cycling League has been around for 12 years and works to get 6-12 graders outdoors on bikes. The league has 2,000 student participants and 900 coaches. Although it is not affiliated with the Minnesota State High School League (MSHSL), three Saint Paul Public Schools, including OWL, have riders on teams. Minnesota is one of 30 states that has a high school mountain bike league affiliated with the National Interscholastic Cycling Association (NICA), which was founded in 2009. In Minnesota, there are 69 individual high school and composite teams that compete

against each other in a series of races.

OWL has eight student riders grades 6-9 on the St. Paul Composite Mountain bike team, a team that pulls students from public and private schools across the St. Paul metro area. The St. Paul composite team practices with SPPS school Highland Park's team, although the two teams compete independently. English teacher Leo Bickelhaupt is one of 25 volunteer coaches for both teams. The riders practice on Tuesday and Thursday nights on bike trails around the metro. "The people are really nice, plus I was able to learn a lot and have fun mountain biking," seventh-grader Violet Baer-Benson, who joined the team this year, said.

Like all sports this year, mountain biking has looked different for riders this fall due to the pandemic. During a regular season, riders of different skill levels; i.e. varsity, junior varsity, middle school, ride a varying number of laps of a set racecourse loop that weaves in and out of singletrack. For example; varsity riders race four laps, junior varsity three (JV3) riders race three laps, junior varsity two (JV2) and ninth grade riders race two laps, and 6-8 graders race one lap. This year to eliminate contact between passing riders, all

racers completed only one lap. In addition, mass starts were replaced with staggered starts, each rider placed 15 seconds apart, and only one team was allowed on the racecourse at a time. "Meets this year didn't have the same energy and excitement and competition felt different because racing in a time trial format was a lot different than having a mass start with your age group, and it was hard to find that motivation to sprint at the finish when there is no one around you," said ninth-grader Tess Champion, who has been on the team for two years.

Although COVID-19 changed what the mountain biking season looked like, racers were still able to have a fun season, and those who chose to race had many opportunities to do so despite the state meet being canceled. "In spite of covid-19, the season was still fun and I was glad it was able to happen at all," said Tess. This fall season, the St. Paul Composite team nearly doubled in members, and multiple of the riders medaled at races. Mountain biking in the metro area and greater Minnesota is thriving as a high school sport, and maybe someday will be one that is as commonly heard of as football, soccer, or basketball.



Courtesy of Lili Hobday

OWL soccer players Josie Gibson, Lili Hobday, and Anja Gundale in the middle of the back row (top), the team gathers before a game (middle), the coach gives instructions at half time (middle), Hobday during a game this fall (below).

Girls soccer finishes 4th in conference

Varsity squad featured three OWL students

Joe Deutch
Staff Writer

Soccer and sports in general are not always built on the statistics and trophies. It's about moments that are more than just the games or practices, but the moments that create family and friendships that will last a lifetime. The Humboldt Girls Soccer Team is a great example of what family on and off the field means in sports.

The team had an unusual background of soccer players not usually seen at the varsity level. There were multiple new soccer players, two volleyball players, and some of their returning members who participated in this year's season. This is also not to mention the challenges that COVID brought up which is a whole different form of adversity in itself. "We really became family during the season and the times we were just laughing, singing, and being goofy were definitely the best

moments," said Lili Hobday, a Junior and first year varsity soccer player.

Even through their different backgrounds the team came together and produced some big results. "Our highlight was definitely beating Washington. The first time we played them it was cold and rainy but despite that we played the best we ever had and won 2-1," said Lili. The big results kept coming as the girls had one of their best finishes to a season in the past five years. With a 5-5 record and a 4th placed finish in the conference, they found success in every way they could.

The girls will be graduating four seniors and will be sending two of their players back to volleyball. This will be a huge loss as five of the six players were starters for the team. However, the team is looking forward to what's to come as there are still multiple young players who are ready to step up and fill the roles needed for the team to be successful for yet another year.



Minnesota High School League

Ninth grader Tess Champion on the race course at Lake Rebecca this fall.

Senate, 1

neither election had a winner, because none of the four candidates got a majority vote.

This means that Georgia will have a runoff election (a special election that will be held in early January) and the fate of the senate majority will all come down to these elections. The republicans only need to win one of those races to take control as senate majority; the democrats need to win both. If the Democrats were to win both, they would earn a de facto majority due to the fact that Vice President Kamala Harris would become the tie breaking vote in the event of a 50-50 tie.

This relates to an important contemporary problem, that in this day and age most senators will only vote on the

legislation if it is presented by their party. Whereas in the past both sides of the aisle would work together and vote for good legislation, but nowadays even if it is good legislation a majority might not vote on it because it was presented by a the opposing party. This is why it is so important to the Democrats that they have a senate majority, because if the Republicans have a majority they have the ability to block any Democrat presented legislation they dislike. The 2020 results of the House of Representatives are already in, and it is a majority Democrat, so this means they will be favorable to president-elect Joe Biden and shouldn't hinder his party's ability to pass legislation.

If Republicans take the senate majority, Biden's party

could have a hard time passing laws because Republicans in the Senate may oppose some legislation on principle because it comes from Democrats. If the president wants to influence legislation, he will have to go through the House of Representatives first, and if the House votes to pass it, it will then go to the Senate. Having a majority is very important for a president and their ability to influence legislation. Former president Barack Obama, for example, from 2009 to 2011 democrats had a measier for the Democrats to pass laws. However, in 2011 the House flipped to a Republican majority, and the senate turned Republican only a few years later in 2015. This meant that if Obama wanted to influence legislation, he had

to get it through two phases of a stubborn Republican majority.

The political divide limited Obama's influence in the later years of his presidency. Most Republicans wouldn't vote on legislation favorable to Obama purely because he was a Democrat. This is why in 2020 and 2021 the results of the senate are so important, and why it all comes down to Georgia, because it will certainly have an impact on president-elect Joe Biden's ability to influence legislation.

Democrats are quite happy about Biden's win. However if the Senate does not go in their favor, it may be only the beginning of their troubles. The Senate races will have a big impact on Joe Biden's presidency.

Swim, 2



Zoe Champion

HumWOW competing in a virtual meet earlier this fall.

This season, many HUMWOW swimmers dropped time in events and the team placed third at the SPPS conference meet. But for many of the seniors, personal bests weren't the highlights of the season, it was the team traditions that they were still able to do socially distanced. "One highlight of the season was the socially distanced team spaghetti dinner. It is a tradition for us, so it was nice to be able to still pull it off, even if it looked very different," said Zoe. Senior Madigan Lodahl agreed, "For me personally, the [season] highlights were that we figured out how to do some of our team traditions like our fundraiser and spaghetti dinner while still being covid

safe." Both Zoe and Madigan have been on the team for six years and were two of the teams captains this season.

As OWL seniors say goodbye to the HUMWOW team, they will miss their teammates and coaches. "I've loved becoming friends with [my teammates] and I'll miss being able to hang out with them everyday during the season," said Madigan. Freya felt the same way, "our last meet of the year was pretty much a cryfest for all us seniors—most of us have spent over five years on the team, and this team has become an amazing and supportive family. It's going to be so hard to say goodbye!"

Senior Spotlight

Maxwell Juwland



How many years have you been at OWL?

I have been at OWL since 6th Grade, so about 6 years.

What are your plans for next year?

I plan to go to UMN Morris, UMI Ann Arbor, or Boston University.

What's been your favorite class in high school?

That would probably have to go to AP US History.

What extracurriculars are you involved in?

I used to do a lot of Theatre and Choir. Nowadays I do Mock Government.

Favorite field work trip and why?

Visiting the U of M Twin Cities Campus for CIS Algebra.

If you had a walk up song, what would it be?

Breakthrough by TWICE.

What do you miss most about in-person learning?

I miss meeting friends by the bench in the mornings.

That One Little Kid Luke Hobday



How tall are you?

5'3"

What's your favorite class so far and why?

Social studies because Luke's a cool dude.

Who's your favorite senior?

Espen cause he's in my crew.

Where do you think you're going to go for college?

Probably Saint Johns or Duke for pre-med and then I want to go to med school but I don't know where yet.

What's the best thing about distance learning?

Nothing really, it's terrible.

What's the worst thing about distance learning?

Not being able to interact with people, especially the girls. *dice roll walk*

What's your favorite book and movie?

Book- Eragon series, Movie- Hunger games 2.

A strain on mental health

Online school, social isolation are starting to taking their toll

Nora Crosby
Staff Writer

In a time of world change, what personal change have you experienced? During distance learning, all people have had to adjust their lifestyles, whether that be intentionally or unintentionally. For some people, their mental health or emotions have gone through a reform. Our work and school structures have been altered and our self care practices have been modified. We have had to change and conform to a new way of life, and it is not without challenges.

Many people have felt some form of depression, anxiety, or stress during distance learning. Isolation, priorities, and fear all play a part in those emotions. Trying to adapt to less contact, a new way of completing work and responsibilities, along with a virus has tak-

en an emotional and physical toll on many people. "I miss my students so much," said English teacher Nora Krings. "I stress out a lot because I feel like I am not doing a good job to support them. I am also at home with my own children, so having to try to be a teacher and parent all day is really taxing."

Many students have been feeling the same way, they are trying to do multiple things at once and it can become very draining. Nora said, "I feel like I have so many balls to juggle, that I keep dropping things." According to Dr. Mark Edelman, a child and adolescent psychiatrist in California, many students (and staff) are dealing with these challenges, even if we respond differently. Each response is valid and can be dealt with in a variety of ways. Middle school coun-

selor Katerina Youngberg said that "I try to find the joy in the everyday things!"

During distance learning, maintaining a school structure and productive daily routine has been extremely difficult for some people. The adjustment has been demanding and has caused many people, both students and staff, to lose organization and form motivational issues. Yet, this is also a time for improvement and reorganization. Many people are also finding ways to be more structured and timely in the work they complete. "It is important for students to acknowledge how hard this is, and how well they are doing at coping," said Nora. "It's easy to focus on how we are struggling, but there are also so many things that students are learning about personal responsibility, so they should remember to be proud of themselves for all they are accomplishing."

Still, many teachers are finding a decline in the quality of students' work along with the persistence to do and complete it. "I have several students who were high performing students in the past, but are really struggling this fall with motivation and task orientation due to mental health issues," said English teacher Leo Bickelhaupt. "I think the isolation and uncertainty are really hard on people, especially young people."

The way teachers are pro-

viding the curriculum is very different from the regular classroom. Not being able to teach and learn in the way many are used to is a huge development that involves time to process and reorganize. "It is important to find a workspace that you are comfortable in, a way to stay organized, and to reach out to staff if you need support," said Katerina. "I encourage students to write down a to-do list each morning or the night before so they have a plan for the day."

Dr. Edelman says that it is important to talk with people about how you are feeling and ask others how they are doing. "I would encourage parents and teachers to check in proactively with students and ask, 'How are you doing with this?' And to make sure that students understand that it's normal to have some difficulty making the adjustment." Katerina said "It's all about getting our work done and finding positive time during the day to be social with classmates!"

Self care is now more important than ever as we all need to take time to care and forgive ourselves. Our ways of maintaining a happy and healthy life, both physically, mentally, and socially, have been twisted and manipulated. We are all dealing with this situation differently and we need to allow ourselves coping time, comfort, and care. "Self care is

How the 6th graders are adjusting to distance learning

"It's tough to make new friends online, especially for students who are a little more on the quiet side."

Annika Lofgren
Staff Writer

When 6th graders were given a survey about what the hardest part of adjusting to OWL, many agreed with Victor Dressen. In his survey response, he said "making friends and talking to them," was the hardest part.

While some students said that they would prefer a hybrid model because they would "meet more people," many said that they would rather stay distanced, "I don't want to get COVID," or "pick one or the other." Most students also preferred not having to "rush in the morning as much," and not having "to worry about the bus." Many students also liked being able to "be with my dogs and cats all day long," like 6th grader Jules Lewis.

Most of the surveyed 6th graders rated making friends at school somewhere between 8-10 out of 10 on level of difficulty. The majority of 6th graders surveyed haven't made any friends, and for that reason would prefer hybrid because "then I could make real friends," said Jules. The majority of people who said that they had made friends said that they met in breakout rooms, like Iyanna Kelley.

Several 6th graders also had ideas about how to improve distance learning. A fair amount wished to change "the way we have all the big meetings, and not really many

smaller meetings," as Elizabeth Dreher said. A few wanted less work, like Liam Tuma, and "more time to ask questions," said Remy Short.

The 6th grade teachers, math teacher Damon Liberatore and English teacher Preston West, were also asked how they think 6th graders are adjusting. Both teachers are really impressed by the 6th graders ability to adapt to the situation. "I think they've shown real adaptability and perseverance," said Damon. Preston said that he starts "every class with a joke of the day," and is "trying to use breakout rooms in class so students can have some time to talk to each other without 35 other kids in the room."

Preston and Damon agree that the hardest part of distance learning for the 6th graders is social interaction. "Humans need human interaction, we thrive on it," said Damon. Damon also thinks that "middle school is the best time to practice these emotions and social interactions. Many students are being robbed of this right now and unless there's something in it somehow, it will have long lasting repercussions on society." "It's tough to make new friends online, especially for students who are a little more on the quiet side," said Preston.

Overall, they seem to be adjusting just fine, all things considered, and most don't have a hard time contacting teachers when they need help.

Soccer, 2

fought to make a comeback the final score was 4-3. "Our loss wasn't unexpected because we knew that they were really good, it could have gone both ways. We knew that it would be a tough fight and we just got the short straw in the end," said Joe.

There was a chance that there would be no season this year, but COVID precautions were put in place allowing for at least a shortened season. Masks were required to be worn by coaches at all times and by players when not on

the field, locker rooms weren't open so players got ready socially distant in the gym, fans were not allowed in the stands, players had to spread out on the bus, and pennies weren't shared.

"I also do a full body shower and scrub after every practice and game to be extra careful," said Max.

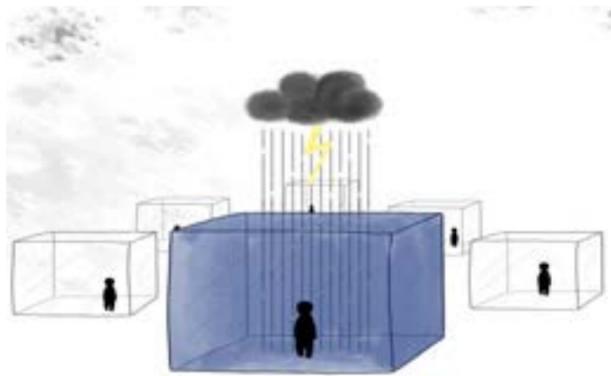
8 of the 11 starters were seniors this year, leaving next year's team with very few experienced players.

"We have some amazing young players who will definitely step up," said Max.



Courtesy of Joe Deutch

The team huddles up to get ready for a game.



Milani Dimayuga

Mental health, 9

College during a pandemic

Covid restrictions hinder the college experience

Lili Hobday
Staff Writer

When we last saw the OWL class of 2020, they were taking part in a virtual graduation ceremony after the in person version was cancelled due to the pandemic. Many of them were struggling to figure out what they wanted to do with their lives after they received their diploma. Now, zoom classes, a restricted social life, food to-go, and lots of mask wearing are just a few things that have defined their first impressions of college and life post graduation.

Now referred to as the class of 2024, these OWL grads have spread out around the US. While they have had a variety of experiences, all have been affected by attending college during a global pandemic.

Some students, such as Jedi Casas, have chosen to spread their wings and move far from home. Jedi is currently a freshman at Washington State University in Pullman. When asked about restrictions made he said, "We can't eat in the dining halls, there's no competitive sports, we can't be in groups of more than 10, everything is online, and there are no parties."

Despite all of this, Jedi is happy with his decision. He had thought about taking a gap year but when it was announced that students would be allowed on campus he decided against deferring and currently has no regrets.

Other students decided to stay closer to home. Tom Hobday is a freshman at Saint John's University in Collegeville, Minnesota. Because of high COVID numbers,

Saint John's has introduced many changes, "We moved to a block schedule, that means we only take one class at a time. There also have been various states of quarantine in which the bus between the usually joint campuses is shut down and we can't go into each other's dorms. A lot of events have shifted to outside, but with the colder weather it's tough to keep that going," said Tom.

He didn't consider a gap year because of the fear he'd lose knowledge, but after being on campus for a while he wishes he had, because he is paying for something that isn't the normal college experience. Despite his regret about not taking a gap year, he is positive about his experience saying, "Luckily I'm in a super gorgeous place, and I'm able to take advantage of outdoor experiences."

Grace Bellamy is a freshman at University of Chicago in Chicago, Illinois. It was her first choice and she's very happy with her decision. However, because the campus is in a big city, lots of precautions had to be put in place. "The big ones are weekly testing, required masking and distancing, limited in-person class sizes, lots of online classes, no double dorm rooms, and the amount of the student body on campus is significantly reduced," said Grace.

When asked about how she thinks these precautions are affecting her impression of college, she said, "I think it's hard to say how my impression of college is different because I didn't experience the pre-pandemic normal. Most of it has just become pretty normal for me at this point, like wearing

a mask, but it was definitely a bummer to only have one in-person class. Everyone I talked to also seems to miss the study group piece, which I think would be super helpful." Although Grace thought about taking a gap year, she's glad she decided to attend this year, saying that she doesn't think she could have managed to be cooped up at home any longer.

While the others decided against a gap year, Shayla Brooks decided to defer for a year. Her original plan was to go to University of Arizona, but with an at risk dad, the pros of going to college did not outweigh the cons. "If I went to college, I probably would not be able to visit home at

all, or at least it would be very difficult. I would have very few of the support systems I was planning on that made me comfortable moving all the way across the country," said Shayla.

Because of this, when the University of Arizona gave her the opportunity to defer and keep her scholarship, she chose to stay home. While at home she has had the opportunity to get a job, help her sister with school, and just slow down for a bit. When asked about if she regretted her decision at all she said, "I'm so happy with my choice! I think it would have been the right decision for me even without COVID. I do miss school a little bit but I'll be back soon, and in the meantime I'm able to read and work on other hobbies."



Hazel Wright

Pandemic baking

More free time brings increase in baking projects

Hazel Wright
Staff Writer

Imagine walking up the stairs in the morning. You've just taken a shower, so you know that your sister has gotten first choice of breakfast. But you're in luck. Once you get to the kitchen, one of the jumbo muffins that's left looks full of raspberries. At first glance, it's a bit sparse on the chocolate chips, but once you cut it open, there's plenty.

This is what it's like in my house on a morning after my mom made muffins. My family, like many others, has been baking a lot more than we used to during the pandemic. And the result is usually jumbo muffins for breakfast. The trends for popular foods have been upended by the COVID-19 pandemic, with comfort foods becoming one of the most popular items this year. But foods like bread that are more complicated and take time have also become more popular. Searches for bread recipes on Pinterest grew by thousands of percents, especially yeastless bread (up 4,400%), due to the scarcity of yeast. Which makes sense, with all these people baking. And with all this time on our hands, why not learn to do more complicated things, like fancy bread? But I wanted to know: why have so many people been baking? What makes baking the go-to? People could be making other things, but instead they choose to bake. So why?

Before the pandemic struck, people baked a lot less on average. There were still stress bakers and people who baked as a hobby, but there were a lot less of them. So I did a quick Google search before talking to some people, and according to Google, it's mostly for comfort. The food shortages mean that it's comforting to have a way to get food easily, like bread. And the process itself is comforting in its predictability. Stress baking is a good coping mechanism to deal with the situation.

Science teacher Megan Hall is one person from OWL who has been baking a lot. While Megan didn't bake a lot before the pandemic, maybe once a week at most (which is still more than my family baked),

she is only one of the many people who has seen a noticeable rise in baking during the pandemic. Now, Megan has been baking 2-3 times a week, for multiple reasons. For comfort, for a fun activity to do with her daughter, because baked goods cheer up her kids. And, she said, because "I have way too many bananas around all the time because I order groceries online."

Senior Isabella Graziani has also seen a noticeable uptick in baking. Baking lets her relax and take her mind off of things, "whether it's school, the pandemic or anything else." While she did bake a lot before the pandemic, COVID has given her a lot of time to spend in the kitchen. She's been making a lot of bread, including testing her own croissant recipe! Isabella said "I don't think that I'll stop baking once the pandemic is over, it's something I love doing and I just hope that I'll be able to find a way to keep it up once I'm at college."

But... what does everyone else think? What about the people who have to live with these people baking a ridiculous amount? In freshman Violet Wright's opinion, it's great! "I am enjoying this baking very much," she said. "Mom never really made muffins before the pandemic, and now there's muffins every week!" This opinion is the overarching one. Not a lot of people are displeased with the amount of baking being done, especially with the results.

But while baking is certainly popular right now, will it's popularity continue? And if so, for how long? Going in, my opinion was that baking will stay popular as long as the pandemic continues. Megan thinks that the popularity of baking will fluctuate, saying that "I think we saw a drop off in baking this summer - it was easier for me to get yeast, anyway. Now that the weather is getting colder and there are more COVID-related restrictions, I think people will get back to baking more." That conclusion makes sense to me, as I too like baking more in the wintertime. Either way, COVID has caused a noticeable rise in baking, and it's a good thing for those of us who get to eat the results.



Robin Bellamy

A social distanced studying tent at the University of Chicago (above), OWL graduate Grace Bellamy stands by an archway on the University of Chicago campus before classes began this fall (below).

Chile, 1



Milani Dimayuga

gest gaps between the rich and the poor. A study in 2018 showed that the richest Chileans had an income nearly 14 times greater than the poorest. Students have been fighting for a better education system for years, but now with the laws coming from the dictatorial constitution that all the subsequent presidents have been taking advantage of, and now the current president Sebastian Piñera is profiting from, Chileans are fighting for basic human rights.

I have many family and friends in Chile and I am fluent in Spanish because my mom has always talked to me in Spanish since I was little. We own a house in a small town called Algarrobo, and I have

been visiting Chile every three years or so since I was a baby. Chile feels more like home to me than Minnesota, which says a lot. I arrived in Chile in the summer of 2019 for a sabbatical year for my mom's work and to see family. We traveled to a lot of places, but my favorite was Valparaiso. Valparaiso is a very crowded hill city with large murals and brightly colored apartments located in the middle of Chile. I believe that Chile is one of the best countries to visit. It has ocean, mountains, desert, and snow. It is truly amazing.

Like Santiago, 63 miles away, the walls of Valparaiso are like a scroll, filled with colorful demands for basic human rights. The graffiti was like an art gallery, but much more meaningful. This city is where I attended most of the protests, even though the most extensive protests occurred in Santiago, the capital of Chile. I come from a family that lived under dictatorship in an oppressive way. Knowing this, you can be sure that my mom wanted to participate in every protest to let out what she had been holding in for many years. Although some of the protests could be scary, my family was strong to show how we felt and what needs we were demanding. These experiences I had were life-chang-

ing, and I learned many things. In Chilean protests, there is always humor, dancing, and music. For example, I learned many chants like "el que no salta es paco" meaning "the one who doesn't jump is a cop". Although the Chilean culture shined brightly in those protests, I cried as the cops brutally abused the protesters, I ran when they threw tear gas and water cannons, and what I mostly did was yell and chant for better education, women's rights, and a better health system.

One protest I watched in Valparaiso was when "encapuchados" as they call them in Chile, (protesters that wear face masks and fight in the front of the crowd because they have nothing to lose) threw glass bottles, slingshot rocks, and pointed lasers at the eyes of the cops to blind them. I stood right next to them as they banged pots and pans and lit a fire in the middle of the street, feeding off of rubber and litter. The cops were just standing, but they were there to cause fear and intimidation. That's what they always do.

Another memorable protest I attended was in Algarrobo, the small town I lived in. It was a feminist protest that had a song and a dance to it. We sang this song and danced



Reviews 'n' stuff



Kicking it with Señor Wooly

Popular website is a fun way to build Spanish vocabulary

Skylar VanGuilder
Staff Writer

Have you ever wanted to learn Spanish but found it very boring or just too hard? If so then you're in the need for some good old Señor Wooly. Señor Wooly is a website filled with various different videos, some animated, some not, that help us learn Spanish. Through these educational

yet fun videos, we get the opportunity to learn new words and phrases that can help us acquire a much larger Spanish vocabulary. The videos do this through fun and interesting stories and visuals, with easy words that everyone can learn. Each video can be watched in English or Spanish as well as the option to have captions on. Señor wooly's website also has

a collection of difficulty levels so there's always something to watch, and even has its own merch, as well as a blog. Within the vast amount of Señor Wooly videos, are a select few that stand out from the others. I'll be going through and explaining my favorite videos and why they are my favorite.

To start, we have two videos that go together, Guapo (Handsome) and La Confesión de Victor (Victor's confession). The first video, Guapo is all about Victor and his insane handsomeness. He's seen with women at all times and is generally a pretty cool guy. The video uses pretty easy vocabulary and has an interesting video to go with it. We see Victor with his women throughout the entire video and he mainly just talks about his handsomeness.

That is until La Confesión de Victor, the second part of Guapo. Spoiler alert, he's bald. His hair is a wig and he had been tricking women for a long time. We get to see the opposite side of him now, the depressed, and not so handsome side to be exact. These two videos have a lot of character development. Victor finally takes action against his lies and ends up losing the women he barely worked for. Overall, a great story split between two videos that I highly recommend watching. Some vocabulary learned in these videos include the Spanish words for handsome, ugly, tall, brown, green, secret, and bald, as well as many others.

Next on my recommendations is Sé Chévere (Be Cool). Señor Wooly is a teacher in

Señor Wooly, 9



Milani Dimayuga

Don't be puzzled by the polls

How election polling works

Jonas Kammeyer-Mueller
Staff Writer

So, Joe Biden won the presidency. If I'm the first person to tell you that, congratulations on being born yesterday. But, we're not going to focus on his victory in this article. Instead, we're going to look at the heralds who gave people hope or denial, the pollsters. Ever since 2016, they've been given a bad rep, and I'm here to tell you that this is a bunch of unjust hokey. This article will poke the hokey that is the idea that the polls were off in this election, and that they were wrong in 2016.

Before we can get into that though, we should examine how percentages and probabilities work, because everyone seems to forget this during election season, and when talking about elections. When looking at probabilities, there is never really a 0 percent chance that something happens. There will always be the miniscule fraction of a percent that everybody will spontaneously turn into cardboard boxes. I bring this up not for some philosophical point, but to illustrate that no matter how high a percentage that something will happen is, there is always the chance that it won't. Now that we've covered that, let's get into the pollster abuse.

It's 2016. The spirits of liberals are high, and the conservatives are hoping for the best. Trump wins. Seemingly everyone says that the polls are wrong, and can't be trusted. Except, they weren't. The polls had predicted that Hillary had a 70-ish percent chance to win the presidency, while Trump only had a little under a 30 percent chance to win. While yes, it was improbable that Trump would win, it was by no means impossible. While this was a shocker to many, it doesn't even pail in comparison to the 1936 election, where it was projected

that Republican Alf Landon would beat out noted landslide winner FDR with 51.7% of the vote. Indeed, there have been more shocking twists than in 2016, and the 2016 election wasn't even as guaranteed for Hillary as many thought. And since I mentioned landslides, let's move into why 2020 was also predicted just fine.

As most of us were watching the polls anxiously, it seems like Joe Biden is going to destroy Trump in an electoral landslide. But, that doesn't happen. Trump even wins states like Florida and North Carolina that many thought Biden would win. So what happened? Well, we can turn back to our cardboard box example from a couple paragraphs ago for answers. That answer being: simply having a higher percent chance of something happening does not guarantee that something will happen. While it may seem reassuring to rest on "look at these poll numbers, aren't they so big, yours are so small [insert opposite party here]" or "the polls don't mean anything, look at 2016", as it is with all things, the answer is far more nuanced than we'd like it to be, and that nuance isn't going to end any time soon.

Let's wrap this up. No, the pollsters in 2016 weren't wrong. No, the results in 2020 weren't off. What's wrong and what's off is the common perception of how percentages work. No matter how high the chance that something will happen is, there will always be a chance that it doesn't. Unfortunately the ideas that with high enough numbers, your opponents will be epically crushed, or that the polls don't matter can be and will be perpetuated so long as we let our split-second media do so. My advice? Don't let them, and be more cautious with reading the data in the upcoming 2022 house election.

Lili, 1

got up around 6 or 6:30 every morning so that she could be done by 2:30, when she had to leave for soccer practice. After her two hour soccer practice she went directly to the volleyball gym and practiced until 6. Although the practices did coordinate well enough, on game days Lili would have to miss at least one of the sports in order to be able to attend the game. Volleyball coach Damon Liberatore expressed frustration with the situation, saying MSHSL put students in difficult situations by restarting more sports when some were already in season.

Despite all the time dedication playing two sports

required, Lili said, "I'm still happy I did it because I met so many really cool people." Without the pandemic Lili would have never met her soccer team nor would she have grown from the challenge of playing two sports simultaneously. This serves as a reminder that outside of all the disappointments this pandemic has brought, it has also created extraordinary circumstances that have allowed for some quite unique opportunities. Despite that, Lili is likely to keep this a one time experience. In response to the possibility of repeating it, she said, "Sadly I don't think that's possible, I think I'd die."

Star Wars nerds rejoice

The Mandalorian continues to deliver the goods in season 2

Nicholas Streng
Staff Writer

After the first season of Star Wars' first live action TV show, The Mandalorian, I was left with excitement for a second season to continue the story of Baby Yoda and his beskar-clad father figure. Half of the season has been released so far, and I've only been getting more and more pleased with

this show.

Streaming on Disney Plus since 2019, the first episode of the second season released on October 30th, 2020, and since then, a new episode has been released every Friday, with eight in total. Jon Favreau serves as the executive producer and writer of most of the episodes. Pedro Pascal returns as Din Djarin (the Mandalorian)



and continues to travel the galaxy with the Child (known more commonly as Baby

Yoda), searching for other Mandalorians and "the order Mandalorian, 8

Queen's Gambit: maybe chess is a lot cooler than you thought

Jack Cheatham
Staff Writer

This year overall has been far worse to movies than TV. With huge multi-billion dollar movies like No Time To Die and Black Widow to smaller scale movies like The French Dispatch all getting delayed. TV, however, hasn't had this problem, at least in releasing. While streaming services like Netflix and HBO Max compete for higher subscriber rates, they put out plenty of high quality TV that is changing the medium forever. This October, a show called The Queen's Gambit was released and continues in the long line of high quality, big-budget drama series.

The Queen's Gambit is the story of Elizabeth Harmon, a chess prodigy from Lexington, Kentucky. After her mother commits suicide, she's sent to an orphanage where she's hooked on tranquilizers. She stays there for about five years until she's adopted by a middle-class couple. Beth continues her rapid progression in chess and soon starts compet-

ing for money to support her and her mom. People begin to notice her natural talent for the game and she works hard to achieve her goal of becoming the best in the world.

I heard about this show only a week in advance and was somewhat interested in it. I knew the queen's gambit was a chess move and put two and two together, but the thought of a chess period piece seemed to combine things I typically haven't been interested in. However, this show exceeded my expectations and has become one of my favorites this year. Through interesting characters and great cinematography, this is one of the most original and unique TV shows I've seen in a while.

The first thing that caught my attention was definitely it's expert cinematography and set pieces. Every aspect of this is drowned in 60s culture, from fashion to cars it all seems reminiscent of the times, but instead of using eye popping colors, it goes for a darker, murkier aesthetic. This is only complemented by the

show cinematography which reminds me of a horror movie. While this wasn't at all a horror show, it felt like it was and I loved that aspect of it. Set pieces also used color to bring the show to life, with various shades of blue and grey for the orphanage, to a mix of more vibrant reds and yellows in Las Vegas, each new location or tournament felt unique.

Another thing this show excelled at was its characters and acting. Beth was a great protagonist, with a perfect mix of likability and suppressed trauma and addiction. Overcoming her struggles through chess makes each match seem way more interesting than it may seem. By the time she goes up against Borkov, the world champion, in Russia, all her past experiences come together and it feels like the final battle of a big-budget action movie.

Don't get the impression that Beth is the only character worth paying attention to, since the show is stacked with great characters and personalities. A personal favorite was

Benny, whose cowboy hat and self absorbed personality are polar opposite to Beth, yet compliments here extremely well. While the overall narrative of the show wasn't incredible, the characters it created made it unique and addictive.

This show isn't perfect however and there's one big thing I would tweak. The number one thing I craved throughout the show was more surreal imagery. Early on, there's a scene where Beth looks up at the ceiling and sees a giant chess board replaying her match in hundreds of ways. I absolutely loved this and thought it would open the door to more, even stranger visions Beth has, similar to Twin Peaks or Bojack Horseman. But no, besides multiple uses of the chessboard scene no new imagery was used and the show went for a more realistic style, which disappointed me.

Overall, The Queen's Gambit is a unique and entertaining watch that I think almost anyone would enjoy. I highly recommend it and give it a 8.5 out of 10.

A real tear jerker

Clouds chronicles the end of a young boy's life

Maria Imholte
Staff Writer

At the end of the movie *Clouds*, I cried. For longer than I'd like to admit to you. Maybe that isn't surprising for a movie about a kid facing cancer.

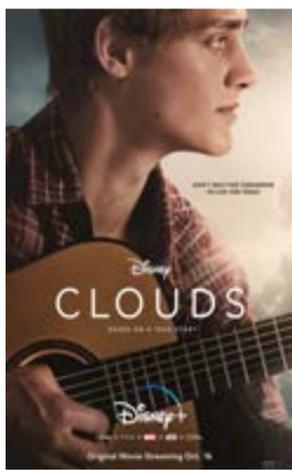
Clouds is a movie dedicated to portraying the life of Zach Sobiech, a teenager who was diagnosed with osteosarcoma, a type of bone cancer. This movie follows Zach's life in his final year. Zach is portrayed by Fin Argus. "I was actually familiar with Zach's story before I filmed *Clouds*," said Argus. "I remember hearing his song back in 2013, and I tried to learn it on the guitar and tried to do a cover of it, and I thought it sounded bad with my voice, so I never did. Come seven years later, I ended up booking the role!" *Clouds* is Argus' feature film debut.

Clouds was directed by Justin Baldoni, who is very well known for his appearance in shows like *Jane the Virgin*, and directing the movie *5 Feet Apart*. He actually knew Zach personally. They met for the first time in 2012, when Justin was filming a documentary series called *My Last Days* about

people who were living their lives while dying. While filming this series, he found Zach. "I put everything into that story," Baldoni said. "We knew Zach was given only a few months to live, and we wanted to get his episode out into the world before he passed." 8 years later, Baldoni is bringing Zach's story to the big screens.

Zach was born in St. Paul, and grew up in Lakeland, Minnesota. This is where the movie takes place as well. The movie follows him through high school, his last travels, and his final days. It follows Zach in the middle of his radiation treatments, and follows his life chronologically as he lived his final months. I think that the focus of this movie is to portray Zach's life as not a victim, but a fighter.

When Zach's cancer was diagnosed as terminal when he was in high school, he wrote his song, "Clouds." Many have said that he used this song as a goodbye to the people he loved most. He wrote "Clouds" with his best friend, Sammy Brown (portrayed by Sabrina Carpenter). In a short period of time, "Clouds" reached the top spot on iTunes shortly after Zach died in May 2013.



I really liked this movie. It's so difficult to imagine yourself in the situations that Zach was in, with the worst right in front of him. Despite this, he always stayed a loving, kind, and funny friend to all. If you are interested in watching it, then you can find it on Disney+.

If I were to rate this movie out of 5 stars, I would definitely give it a 5. It is one of my favorite movies by far. This movie would be appealing to middle schoolers and older, because there are some heavy subjects and when I was watching it with my younger brother he got scared at times. I think people who like the movies *5 Feet Apart* and *The Fault In Our Stars* would also enjoy watching this movie because they all follow the lives of young people with terminal diseases.

Live action Mulan a flop

Elizabeth Hallanger
Staff Writer

Ever since I was a young kid, when someone would ask me what my favorite Disney princess movie was, my immediate response would always be: *Mulan*. Everything about the movie I loved. Seeing a Disney princess training and fighting for her family, the catchy songs, the important messages, the comic relief, and Mushu in general all made the original *Mulan* a solid Disney movie, and one of my favorites of all time.

So, of course, when I saw that there was going to be a remake, I was pretty excited. I was drawn in by the cool-looking visuals and seemingly new, more historically accurate portrayal shown in the trailers. Many did have negative expectations for the movie, but for the most part, I tried to stay positive.

So, the real question is, was it any good? Did the movie revamp a classic Disney movie for a new audience, or, in true *Mulan* fashion, did it bring dishonor to us all?

One thing I feel is worth mentioning first is the price of this movie. My family paid a whopping 30 dollars on Disney+ to watch it. Now of course, watching it in theaters would probably have cost that much, not including snacks and drink, however, it's still a bit much to charge, considering that you can buy many other service's movies for a third of the price, and, as you'll see, you're not exactly getting the best experience.

The plot generally stayed the same from the first movie. *Mulan* runs away, joins the army, learns to fight, etc.

Classic scenes such as the matchmaking scene, the scene where *Mulan* runs away, and many others stayed relatively intact, with only a few minor changes, such as unimportant background characters not being present. However, the way many of the major events play out were changed in such a way that they've become laughable. For example, the villains being the ones who cause the avalanche on themselves, not *Mulan*, and the move that was used to defeat the final villain being so cheesy it makes me forget that I'm supposed to be watching a serious movie. One of the main elements that was also added was something called qi, pronounced chee, which, in traditional Chinese culture, is essentially life force. In this movie, however, it resembles a sort of power level that gets stronger as *Mulan* goes on. Her accomplishments are now tied back to this, which makes them seem less earned, and more undermined.

Mulan, as well as many other characters, had some major changes done to them, while others, such as Mushu and the ancestors, were cut out entirely. *Mulan*'s original arc centered around protecting her family and true identity, her main skill being her quick wits, rather than the brute strength of her soldier companions. In this movie, her arc is more focused around her chi and becoming true to herself. It's a fine message, sure, but I personally thought it was a lot weaker than the first movie.

The main side characters and comic relief of the movie, such as the cricket, Mushu, Li-Shang, Po, Yao, Ling and Shen



Yu were all significantly altered. The one positive change that I did enjoy was the change to the villains, from the Huns to the more historically accurate Rourans, however, the rest of characters I had many gripes with. First off, Li-Shang is no longer *Mulan*'s love interest, which to me, seems like a strange change to make. Po, Yao, and Ling, the three distinct, goofy sidekicks from the first movie, have little to no personality in the remake, and just seem like random soldiers. The cricket was made into a human for some reason, and I assume that Mushu was made into the Phoenix that follows *Mulan* around throughout the movie, although it doesn't really add much to the plot. The one new character I was actually excited to see, the villainous, shape-shifting witch, ended up being disappointing, and not really adding anything new to the movie.

The effects and backgrounds were really the only thing I didn't have many gripes with. The backdrops and settings used were rather beau-

Mulan, 8

Live action Aladdin

"I mean if it made a billion dollars worldwide then people clearly liked it, so maybe you will too. But I did not, if you couldn't tell."

Jacob Steiner
Staff Writer

Over the past decade (or 3 depending on your point of view), Disney has been remaking many of their classic animated movies into live action, like *The Jungle Book* in 2016 or *Beauty and the Beast* in 2017. There have been so many remakes that three of them were released in 2019: *Dumbo*, *The Lion King*, and the subject of this review, *Aladdin*. Directed by Guy Ritchie, *Aladdin* tells the story of *Aladdin*. Except worse than the original in every way.

I'm not exactly the biggest fan of these remakes, but I like to give things the benefit of the doubt. Boy howdy was that a mistake because this movie is not very good, but it grossed over a billion dollars worldwide, so I guess people liked it.

The movie stars Mena Massoud as the titular character *Aladdin*. If you've already seen the 1992 animated movie then you should already know the basic plot. *Aladdin* is a thief who meets a girl (played by Naomi Scott) in the marketplace. The girl reveals to *Aladdin* that she works at the palace, and to us that she's the princess, so *Aladdin* goes to meet her again but gets caught. He gets taken to the middle of the desert by the main villain *Jafar* (Marwan Kenzari) who gives him a proposition: get a lamp and be rewarded with riches. *Aladdin* goes into the cave and gets the lamp, but his terrifying CGI monkey friend messes everything up, everything starts crumbling around them and they get stuck. *Aladdin* rubs the lamp and lo and

behold it contains Will Smith. They use Will Smith to escape the cave, and from there the story is about *Aladdin* trying to get the princess to fall in love with him and marry him despite what the law says.

First, let's compare a few characters. In the original, *Aladdin* was charming: a thief by circumstance who has a heart of gold. He had dreams of being rich, and after saving *Jasmine* he falls in love which motivates him throughout the rest of the movie. I guess that's the same for the new *Aladdin*, except it isn't communicated in his performance. The 2019 *Aladdin* just isn't as charming. He feels like a generic Disney channel character, and I guess this is a Disney movie, but that's not an excuse. A perfect example is the scene where he tricks the genie in the cave.

In the original he acts like the genie is not impressive, angering the genie into proving he is all powerful, which ends up with the genie saving them without costing him a wish. Pretty clever, right? In the new one he makes a wish to get out, and the excuse for why it doesn't count as a wish is because while he made the wish the monkey was rubbing the lamp. That's not how that works. How does that show how clever *Aladdin* is? It's just a stupid plot device that adds nothing to *Aladdin*'s character and only happens because it happened in the original.

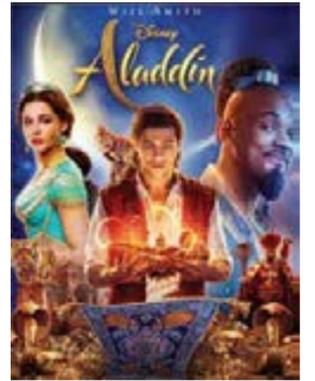
The villain in this movie is so bad. Not bad as in evil, I mean bad as in boring. *Jafar* was not threatening in the least, with his soft and quiet voice, his average height,

his non threatening apparel. *Marwan Kenzari* just looks too good to be a villain. In the original he was designed to look as evil as possible: he was tall, his face looked menacing, evil facial hair, and had a very distinct voice that when you heard it you could be like, yeah this guy is evil. Maybe the intention was to have him be unsuspectable, in which case good job I guess. You made *Jafar* a generic bad guy. Congratulations.

As for the genie, I actually liked Will Smith fine in this. I thought he was entertaining enough to watch, but that was usually because I thought the effects on him were so bad that I thought it was funny, which I guess counts for something I think. After he showed up, the movie did improve for a while, but then it got boring again after only a couple scenes. Unfortunately, Will Smith couldn't top *Robin Williams'* performance in the original, so... wah wah.

One problem I have is the running time. The new movie is 2 hours long, 30 minutes longer than the original. So how do they fill 30 extra minutes? They add subplots that

Aladdin, 8



Prequel sheds light on a guy we love to hate

Prelude to the Hunger Games is only a little bit disappointing

Anna Nowatzki
Staff Writer

The evil president of the capital in the *Hunger Games* books wasn't always that evil. Yes, you heard me right! This book dives into the character development of *Coriolanus Snow* as a young adult.

The *Ballad of Songbirds and Snakes* is the prequel to the best selling series by *Suzanne Collins*; *The Hunger Games*. It follows *President Snow* as a young adult.

Before the war between the districts and the Capitol, the *Snow* family was incredibly wealthy and held at the highest status, mostly because of *Coriolanus*'s dad. During the war everyone had trouble with money and food. Most families were able to bounce back after the war but *Coriolanus*'s parents died, so they stayed in poverty. They struggled to maintain their status without letting people know that they don't have much money.

The *Ballad of Songbirds and Snakes* takes place in the Cap-

itol when *Coriolanus Snow* is eighteen years old and is in his senior year. He lives with his cousin, *Tigris*, and his grandma in the *Snow* penthouse, although they're struggling to keep it seeing as they are poor.

It is the 10th anniversary of the *hunger games* and this year there are mentors. All of the seniors will be paired with a tribute in the *Hunger Games*. *Coriolanus* is paired with *Lucy Gray Baird*, the *District 12* girl. He is very shocked and mad because people see the *District 12* girl as the weakest of the tributes.

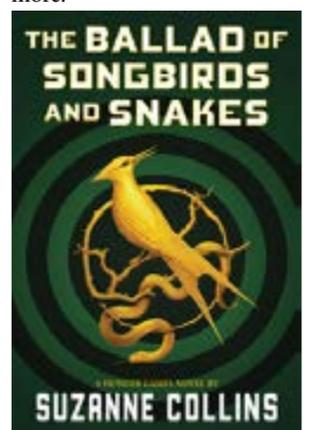
Although *Snow* doesn't think highly of her at first, they become friends and even more than friends. *Snow* finds himself thinking differently about the capitol. Is what they teach him right? Or even true? And are the districts really as bad as people say?

I liked this book. I think the character development was a very prominent topic in this novel and I feel that *Suzanne Collins* did a good job with it

(for the most part). There were plenty of references to the original series and that was really cool to read. The overarching story was really intriguing, although in my opinion, it was quite slow most of the time.

Now the thing that makes or ruins a book. The ending. I'm not spoiling anything but I will just say that I think the ending was way too abrupt and doesn't really make sense with where the characters were at that point.

Overall I think fans of the original series would read this and like it but I would also say I was hoping for just a bit more.



A movie so bad that it's good

Speed is a simple and fun action flick

Amelia Ryan
Staff Writer

"Pop quiz, hotshot. There's a bomb on a bus. Once the bus goes 50 miles an hour, the bomb is armed. If it drops below 50, it blows up. What do you do? What do you do?" said

Howard Payne to Jack Traven.

That juicy piece of dialogue is from the movie *Speed*, which centers around SWAT officer Jack Traven. He has a rivalry with former SWAT soldier Howard Payne after foiling his plan to get a lot of mon-

ey by putting a bomb on an elevator. Howard then plans to get revenge by putting a bomb on a bus, and the bomb will explode if the bus goes under 50 mph. The majority of the movie takes place on that bus, going extremely fast, trying to not let the bus explode.

Speed came out in 1994, directed by Jan de Bont. Traven and Payne are played by Keanu Reeves and Dennis Hopper. The movie got a rating of 7.2 out of 10 on IMDb. In the bus jump scene they actually jumped a bus. The only thing that's CGI is the bridge gap.

This movie will not be winning any awards for best written movie, and Keanu Reeves' acting is stiff and emotionless. I do wish there was less of a focus on the bomb and more on

the fast bus.

But some good things are the fast cars, high stakes, and explosions. The movie is just so stupid, and that's what makes it work. Some of my favorite quotes from the movie are:

"[after the elevator falls]

Young Executive: Jesus. Bob, what button did you push?"

"Stephens: [Disappointed] We're at the airport.

Ortiz: Yeah, so?

Stephens: I already seen the airport."

"Stephens: Did you have any luck with the bomb?

Jack: Yeah, it didn't go off."

I enjoyed watching it a lot, and I think other people will too. The people that would like this movie the most are people who like action movies and fast vehicles. I'd say this movie is three out of four stars.



What are the rules for holiday decorations?

Several experts weigh in

Avery Koll
Staff Writer

With the holidays coming up, what is something that almost everybody is doing? Decorating. Stores have decorations, especially for Christmas, left, right, and center months in advance. I have very strong opinions about that, so I decided to ask for a few more knowledgeable people. I turned to science teacher Megan Hall and 12th grader Nora Leifheit for some hot takes.

Question 1: When do you think holiday decorations should be put up/taken down?

Megan: "No more than three weeks in advance," and "Less than 1 week."

Nora: "I don't think December holidays should be decorated before Thanksgiving. If you celebrate Thanksgiving," and "We also usually take down our Christmas tree around New Year's. We do that

because our three cats all love climbing in the tree, which means it gets knocked over a lot. They have caused legitimate property damage several times from that."

I agree with both of them for when decorations should be put up, but I personally have no strong opinion on when they should be taken down, just don't leave them up for more than a month after.

Question 2: Should there be rules for Christmas decorations?

Megan: "I think there should be environmental considerations in terms of energy usage and no tinsel, that stuff is an environmental scourge."

Nora: "Nope."

I agree with Megan on the no tinsel, it gets everywhere, looks bad, and not good for the environment.

Question 3: what are some unwritten rules for decora-

tions?

Nora: "A cat can puke on it and we will still use it as long as the stain can be mostly removed. Also no actual trees. Mom hates the needles and the cats eat them and then puke."

Megan: "Mom does all the work."

For my house it's mainly to keep fragile stuff away from

dog's reach, also music is necessary for decorating.

Ultimately I think when decorating we should all try to be as environmentally friendly as we can, use stuff that can be reused. But if you celebrate Thanksgiving and decorate for a winter holiday before Thanksgiving is over, I will judge you.



Leo Bickelhaupt

How soon is too soon to decorate?

Mandalorian, 6

of sorcerers" called Jedi so he can deliver the Child to them.

A typical episode (nearly all of them so far) follows a storyline of Mando searching for one of his kind, only to be drafted into a "side mission," if you will, to help a new or old supporting character do something. A side mission in this show is usually something like Mando helping people fight some Imperial stormtroopers, or transporting a person somewhere across the galaxy. The mission is successful, and Mando continues on his journey.

Now we come to the big question that this two part review intends to answer: Is this season a good continuation of the series?

Well so far in my eyes, absolutely. The basic storyline I listed above being used again and again is frustrating, no doubt. Some scenes got a little predictable. However, the episodes are made different by thrusting Mando and the Child into a new situation that's never been explored

in depth, or never before explored, period. You know that they'll complete the mission, but you don't know how, and that's what makes watching an episode fun. There's also a significantly less amount of filler (parts of the show that don't really contribute to the main storyline), in the show so far, which was one of my main problems with season one.

Each episode progresses the plot in some way, although on the flip side of the coin, some episodes move it along more slowly. A perfect example of this is Chapter 10, in which Mando journeys to a nearby covert, again searching for other Mandalorians, but he crash lands on an ice planet and has to spend the rest of the episode figuring out how to escape. This is an example of one of those side quests where the plot is put on hold and we focus on this instead. While it's fun watching the episode in isolation, you don't get anything else for the overall story.

However, that's the only glaring problem I've had with the season so far. Directing,

acting, and cinematography-wise, this season improves upon the first one in every way, with one exception being the musical score. Ludwig Goransson already knocked it out of the park with the first season, now he just continues to do an amazing job, reworking the Mandalorian theme into a variety of different tunes, and making new tracks as well. The action scenes range from classic Star Wars space battles to new and exciting scenarios, and the visual effects only improve them.

Our main character, the Mandalorian, has slow but good character development in that he becomes more of a dad to the Child and less of a ruthless mercenary. This is shown through small moments between him interacting with the Child, and when you compare some of his actions to those in season one. Of course, Pedro Pascal's performance as the Mandalorian is excellent as well, with a great supporting cast of new and old characters alike.

Oh yeah, and when I say

old characters, I don't just mean characters from the first season, like Greef Karga and Cara Dune. One of the biggest talking points of Mandalorian season two are the cameos of a few characters that diehard Star Wars fans will recognize from the movies, the older animated Star Wars shows, and even one or two from a book. As someone who thinks about Star Wars way too much, I was thrilled by the inclusion of these characters. (Not spoiling who they are, though, haha). Obviously they're one hundred percent fan service. But what I like the most about these characters' inclusion is that they actually have a role to play in the story and they don't overshadow Mando as the main character, which is something I was originally worried about.

I'll be holding off my score out of 10 until part 2 of this review, which will come out once the second half of this season is released, but for now, my opinion on this season is very positive, and I look forward to seeing how it ends.



Aladdin, 7

don't add any intrigue or importance to the story in any way. There's a new character named Dalia played by Nasim Pedrad who is Jasmine's friend/servant. Her subplot is that she and Will Smith fall in love with each other. She also functions as Jasmine's friend, which I guess it's nice Jasmine has a friend because in the original her only friend was a tiger. But then they also have a tiger for no reason at all. Why even have the tiger if it doesn't do anything in the story? To show how terrible your effects are? Jasmine also gets a new song to sing not once but twice. The song doesn't feel like it belongs with the other songs and isn't memorable in the slightest. It's just so there can be more filler. The song is sung when Jasmine is being taken away by some guards, who she then convinces to stop following Jafar's orders and release her, which they do, but then they all die and Jasmine gets captured by Jafar again. Like thanks for 5 minutes of useless filler, I really needed that.

There was also a subplot about a war that went nowhere, like why was this in the movie? Jafar basically had two motivations, which was to get the lamp to take control of Agrabah and then to go to war with a neighboring country. I don't know why he wants to start a war with this country because it's not established, and by the end of the movie the whole subplot is forgotten about after Jafar gets the lamp. Each and every one of these subplots are so boring and they drag on, especially towards the end.

Speaking of establishing, a lot of things from the original aren't established in this movie. Things just happen because it happened in the original movie. Take for example the introduction of the cave of wonders. In the old one we have a whole scene which builds up to the cave, but in the new one we just cut to the cave. No mystery at all, just all of a sudden a shot showing

Mulan, 7



tiful and pleasant to look at, and complemented the movie very well, the fights also had some great choreography and were easy to follow. The only real complaint I have is that in a few scenes, the background is a very obvious greenscreen, and it really takes you out of the immersion.

So, as for my overall reaction to the movie. Did I en-

a cave in the shape of a lions head. We don't even know why it's important until about half an hour later. Another example is the introduction of Jasmine, who we first see in a shot from a distance so it's hard to tell who we're supposed to be focusing on, and then the next time we see her she's in the marketplace stealing some food, and it isn't until later we learn she's the princess. Maybe it was supposed to be a surprise, to make us go 'oh she was the princess wow what a twist' but it isn't executed well and is really confusing if you don't know the original.

The musical numbers ranged from laughable to forgettable. The editing was really weird during the songs which made the film look amateur. There were tiny details that just irked me, like how they changed the songs just a little bit which ruins the flow of the song. Also, for a 183 million dollar movie, the effects are pretty awful. All the animals look terribly fake. Why have the monkey if he's going to look fake throughout the entire movie? Just get a real monkey. Same thing goes for the parrot and the tiger. Whenever they appear I get distracted because they don't look like they're actually on screen, they just look like a cartoon. There are also moments where a scene is clearly green screened and the setting looks like a video game.

If you compare this movie to the original animated one, this is worse in every way. Even without the original this movie is still bad. None of the new additions are good and all the old stuff is done so much better in the original. The musical numbers sucked, the effects are trash, none of the characters are fun or interesting to watch, and it's way too long and boring. I give this movie a 3/10. If you want to watch an Aladdin movie, just watch the original. Or this one, if you want. I mean if it made a billion dollars worldwide then people clearly liked it, so maybe you will too. But I did not, if you couldn't tell.

joy it, or, much like the Huns in the first movie, did I want to bury my head in a pile of snow afterwards. I really did not like the direction this movie went. If you want to see *Mulan*, or introduce it to somebody who's never seen it before, just watch the original instead of this. The events of the plot were changed, mostly for the worse, the characters had much weaker personalities and character arcs, and sometimes, not even the visuals were good. I feel as though if they would have built off of events in the original, instead of taking them away, this movie could have been a solid, enjoyable watch. If I were to give this movie a rating, it'd probably be a 2/10.



Meet Sorcha!

OWL's newest science teacher

Tess Champion
Staff Writer

You might have recognized a familiar face over google meet this year. Former long term sub at OWL Sorcha Nix has returned as the newest science teacher. Despite this year's challenges, Sorcha is excited to be teaching at OWL again.

Sorcha's first year teaching, she came to OWL as science teacher Megan Hall's long term substitute teacher. "OWL is a really inclusive and welcoming place, I love the sense of community," Sorcha said about her experience so far. After subbing for Megan, she spent four years teaching at Murray Middle School, before returning to OWL to teach in a permanent position teaching science. "I am very excited to come back home to OWL this year," Sorcha added.

Growing up in north Minneapolis, Sorcha always had a particular interest in science. From seventh grade through her teaching years, Sorcha has always particularly loved Biology, a class which she is teaching to 9th graders this year. After high school, she attended the University of Minnesota

where she got her undergraduate degree in science. She stayed at the U of M to get her master's in education and her teaching license.

This isn't quite the year that Sorcha thought it might be and it has come with its challenges. "Distance learning makes me feel like a new teacher; everything takes so much time and I don't feel like I'm doing a very good job. It's also really difficult to connect with students, especially when they don't have their cameras on or don't respond to my questions," Sorcha explained. Despite this, Sorcha is looking on the bright side, "I think it'll be really good for me and my students to have learned all these tech skills."

When she is not teaching high school science, you might find Sorcha going on walks with her dog Matilda, drinking hot chocolate, or baking at home. Some of her other passions are music and reading, which she even considered teaching before deciding on science. In addition, Sorcha likes to make Tik Toks on her teacher account, although she is still waiting to become famous.

Mental health, 4

a constant struggle," said Nora. "I have the tendency to put others before myself. So as difficult as it has been, it is helping me try to prioritize, and to say: No, I can't do that right now. I need to make sure I take care of my needs too. Balance is important."

It can be difficult to relax your mind and body when fear and stress are all around you, but it is important to remember that you are not alone in your feelings and you should find ways to express them to others (and vice versa.) People also have different ways of caring for themselves and attending to their own needs. "Talking with people about stress is always helpful," said Nora. "I talk to my mom, my coworkers, and my friends about it and that helps me feel less isolated and lonely."

There are multiple ways to deal with these adaptations. Talking with other people is proven to help reduce feel-

ings of depression, anxiety, and stress. Exercising outside and being productive with fun activities can improve your mood and emotions. Taking time to reflect on your day and self are extremely important and result in forgiveness and care. Katerina says that she enjoys "Going for walks, doing yoga, reading a good book, FaceTiming with my friends and family, and online shopping," as ways to care for herself and others.

Distance learning has been very difficult and the change that has come with it has caused us to adapt in new and strange ways. Many have had ranging emotions, lack of structure and motivation, and decrease in self care. The most important thing to remember is that you are not alone and that there are many people who are willing to talk and help you, even if it is over the phone or on a screen.

Jingle jangle a real holiday treat

"Not as centered around Christmas as other Christmas movies out there"

Ben Lodahl
Staff Writer

Jeronicus Jangle comes upstairs to give his young apprentice Gustafson a present, but all he finds is an open window. His apprentice is missing, along with his new invention, and his invention book. Jeronicus runs outside trying to find Gustafson, but he is long gone. And now begins the tale of Jeronicus Jangle and his quest to get his inventions back and become the best inventor in the world again.

I love the holidays and one of my favorite holiday traditions is to watch a Christmas movie as many days throughout December as I can so when I saw the new Christmas movie on Netflix I had to watch it.

This movie is written and directed by David Talbert, and is stars Forest Whitaker as Jeronicus, Keegan-Michael Key as Gustafson, and Madalen Mills as Journey. The movie was released to Netflix on November 13, 2020, and is still only available to be watched on Netflix.

Jeronicus Jangle is the

world's best toy inventor. He is a kind, happy and loving man, and he's such a good inventor he makes a toy come to life. He cared very much about Gustafson and his family but once they all left he got very sad and lost his motivation. Gustafson is a promising young inventor who feels neglected by Jeronicus because he hasn't had time to help him with his invention. So when he sees a chance to become more famous than Jeronicus and prove him wrong, he takes it, stealing Jeronicus' book of inventions and starting his own business.

After Jeronicus' inventions are stolen, he can't make any more inventions. And then his wife dies and his daughter leaves. So he turns his invention shop into a pawn shop, stops inventing, and starts going out of business fast. Gustafson wins toy maker of the year every year and becomes the richest toy maker in the world.

One Christmas, Jeronicus' granddaughter Journey comes and visits him. She is also an inventor and even though Jeronicus doesn't invent things anymore, Journey finds some

of his old inventions and tries to get them to work. Gustafson, who has run out of inventions from Jeronicus's book needs a new one for the coming Christmas season so he decides to spy on Jeronicus's store to see if he is making any inventions. Gustafson sees Journey make an old invention work and breaks into his store and steals it. Now Jeronicus and Journey have to try and take their invention back from Gustafson.

After watching Jingle Jangle I really enjoyed it. I definitely feel like this movie could be one I watch every time the holiday season comes around. I liked Jingle Jangle because it had very likable and funny characters. Two funny characters are Ms. Johnston, played by Lisa Davina Phillip, and Edison Latimer, played by Kieron L. Dyer. Ms. Johnston is a mailwoman who has a crush on Jeronicus and is always making flirty comments towards him. Edison is a young boy the same age as Journey, who is working as Jeronicus's apprentice in the pawn shop. He is an awkward kid who makes lots of funny comments. This movie is also

very pretty. The visuals on this movie are very stunning. All of the shots of the toys and inventions coming to life, and the overhead shots of the workshops and Christmas themed town are very visually appealing. There were also plenty of catchy songs, and the storyline was fun and exciting.

I rate this movie 4 stars out of 5 because it was a very enjoyable movie to watch but for a Christmas movie it was not as centered around Christmas as other Christmas movies out there. People who might like to watch this movie are people who like musicals, or people who enjoy watching Christmas movies.



Señor wooly, 6

this video. We follow him on his walk through school and the city where he tells us this very important idea, Be Cool. That is a very good idea (I'm talking to you, fellow OWL teachers) that everyone in the video seems to enjoy a lot. He's sort of seen like a god among the teaching community as well as the students. Other classrooms are boring until he gets there and hypes them up with his coolness. The vocabulary is a bit more advanced

so I recommend it to students in higher levels of Spanish, or to watch it with English subtitles on. Vocabulary learned in this video include the Spanish words for cool, teacher, to like, homework, car, bad, as well as many other words.

Finally, in my opinion the best video to watch on Señor Wooly is, Puedo ir al baño (Can I go to the bathroom?). The video you'll likely watch first in Grant's class also happens to be my favorite. The story is of a kid who really

needs to use the bathroom but will be late to class if he does so. He asks the teacher numerous times if he can go and what he will do to go but the teacher just keeps saying no. It's sort of a battle between the teacher and student, and at a point the kid gets the entire class to sing to the teacher with him. I won't spoil the teacher's response, so I highly recommend watching it. It's got some of the easiest vocabulary of all the videos and is definitely the catchiest song. It also has a really good

video to go with it. Vocabulary learned in this video include the Spanish words for bathroom, teacher, can I go, I need to, emergency, and apple, as well as many others.

Overall, I recommend checking Señor Wooly out if you're not in Spanish class. Even if you just want to learn a few words, this site helps you in a very fun and unique way. There's lots of other good videos out there and you'll likely find one you enjoy.

MDH and CDC recommend a very different kind of holiday

The safest way to celebrate is to celebrate at home

Liam Seath
Staff Writer

"Anytime you get together with people who do not live with you, even in someone's home, the risk of getting COVID-19 goes up for everyone." This surprising statement from the Minnesota Department of Health is indeed a fact. When people decide to gather for the holidays, it is danger-

ous for everyone. The CDC has so far claimed that "As cases continue to increase rapidly across the United States, the safest way to celebrate Thanksgiving is to celebrate at home with the people you live with."

Similarly to the Minnesota Department of Health, the CDC believes that although important, holidays can be

very dangerous during times of global health crisis. In fact, in late November, "More than 1 million COVID-19 cases were reported in the United States over the last 7 days." This scary piece of information shows us just how much the number of cases go up when we disobey quarantine.

The impact of these predictions from Thanksgiving

will hopefully help guide us to use safe practices during the upcoming winter holidays. According to the coronavirus worldometer nearly 1,311 people died on Thanksgiving Day in the U.S.

Hopefully with some vaccine candidates well on their way, we can achieve herd immunity, protect our older generations, and have normal holidays by 2022 or 2023.

The debate over cameras

Google Meets: should you have your cameras on or off?

Atticus Brooks-Babcock
Staff Writer

It's a Monday morning and a teacher is looking at a screen with 30 icons. The teacher asks the class if they understand; a minute later the teacher gets 2 kids typing "yes," so they move on. The teacher doesn't know if the other kids understood. This is the typical difficult situation in a Google Meet.

In the beginning of the year OWL's policy was "everyone should have their cameras off." They made this statement because teachers were going to record the meets for students who missed the class and it

would violate privacy rules to record students' faces or voices. But in other schools, it's a different story. According to Education Week Teacher, three quarters of teachers require that kids have their camera on.

Many students feel that they shouldn't have to have their camera on because they are in their house and not at school. On the other hand, teachers push for cameras because it helps them get an understanding if the class understands or not and get a better feel for the class. According to Rebekah Rentzel Theater teacher at OWL "in small groups 50% of

my students have their cameras on, but in the full class no one does." She also said "I don't believe in punishing kids when they don't have their camera on, so no."

That brings us to punishment - according to Education Week Teacher, of the three quarters 45% of teachers will tell your parents if you aren't using your camera.

There are two potential problems with requiring cameras. If a student has internet issues then they might not be able to have their camera on. Another problem is privacy. Most students don't want a

class full of kids to see their house or they might not have the space to have their camera on. If you have a reason for choosing not to have your camera on, according to Education Week Teacher 42% of the teachers who require cameras to be on say that it's acceptable if there's a reason.

As for the future of online schooling at OWL, in Quarter Two some of the teachers are making more of a push for kids to have their camera on. But it still remains up to each individual student.