Archery rebuilds after '21

Paloma Leone-Getten
Staff Writer
After over a year and a half, the bows were taken out of their cobwebbed cases, the targets were wheeled out of a dusty closet, and the arrows set out for the action to begin again. Archery is back.

"Ultimately this is a rebuilding year. Due to the pandemic, we lost a lot of talented upper-classmen who could have been able to compete for medals and championships," said archery coach Tom Totushek. Luckily, enough archers have joined to put together both a middle school and a high school team. "For me personally, and for others on the team, we are really just trying to get back into the routine of the season and working on building that consistency that we lost during distance learning," said 9th Kathryn Totushek. Safety amidst the COVID-19 pandemic is a top priority for the team. "The season should continue relatively normally, with vaccines widely available and masks worn. If we get a bunch of cases I will have no reservations about shutting down practice for a week or two as necessary," said Tom.

Practices are held three times per week, with athletes required to attend at least two. "This makes it possible for participation in other after school activities," said Tom. At practice, archers first set up the range together, warm up, talk about the plan for the day with their coaches, practice shooting, play games, and then clean up the gym at the end of the day. All of this preparation comes into use at competitions. While in a normal season, archery is held in the routine of the day.

"The lunch rules are a little stricter than they used to be. We really just trying to get back in the swing of things, banning any video games for children. In 2019, new rules were made, stating that children could only play online games for 90 minutes at most, and not between the hours of 10 pm and 8 am. Real names and phone numbers were mandatory too. Besides this, China has a large history of problems with video games. They've blamed them for causing nearsightedness, banning any video games that contain explicit language or actions, etc. But this is arguably the farthest they have gone with video game restrictions."

"The main reason for this restriction was to stop the negative influence of video games and video game addiction among children. Around 62.5 percent of minors in China play video games, and play an

March 3

Children's TV: More than just entertainment

Isaac Wencel
Staff Writer
China has caved further into gaming limits for minors. As of September 1st, video game companies in China have restricted people under the age of 18 to gaming a maximum of three hours over the week. 8-9 pm on Fridays, Saturdays, Sundays, and national holidays. Gaming during the school week isn't allowed. The new rule also states that players under the age of 18 must use their real names when signing in, to prevent people from disobeying the rules.

"This isn't the first time China has tried to restrict video games for children. In 2019, new rules were made, stating that children could only play online games for 90 minutes at most, and not between the hours of 10 pm and 8 am. Real names and phone numbers were mandatory too. Besides this, China has a large history of problems with video games. They've blamed them for causing nearsightedness, banning any video games that contain explicit language or actions, etc. But this is arguably the farthest they have gone with video game restrictions."

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Dates

December 10th, 2021

EWL’s new AP: Ms. Ma’Lene

New AP building relationships with both staff and students

Willa Campion
Staff Writer
From attending elementary school at St. Anthony Park to becoming OWL's newest assistant principal, Ms. Ma’Lene Walker has been a part of the Saint Paul Public School (SPPS) community for nearly 35 years as a student, teacher, and administrator.

Ms. Ma’Lene joined OWL staff this year and has already become a friendly face around the building. She was born and raised in St. Paul, where she graduated from Central High School. Twenty-three years ago she began working in SPPS as a classroom teacher, collaborating with mainly elementary and middle school students. Later, Ms. Ma’Lene transitioned into a role as a restorative practices program coordinator and PBIS (positive behavioral interventions and supports) intervention specialist.

All of these roles have equipped her for her current work as an assistant principal who is making positive change with students. "I was an instructional leader first as a teacher and then I branched out of the classroom and started to get into more problem-solving positions [...], so an assistant principal was a great combination of the two," Ms. Ma’Lene said. "All of those jobs, and those skills, really prepared me.”

Whether it's from talking to nutrition services on how they're collaborating with the kitchen staff, or going to lunch with students to meet them, Ms. Ma’Lene is always busy. "I'm new to EWL, so I am always trying to find different experiences throughout the day," she said. Most of her previous work in SPPS as an admin and teacher has been in elementary and middle schools, so with her job here Ms. Ma’Lene is learning new things every day.

"Ultimately this is a rebuilding year. Due to the pandemic, we lost a lot of talented upper-classmen who could have been able to compete for medals and championships," said archery coach Tom Totushek. Luckily, enough archers have joined to put together both a middle school and a high school team. "For me personally, and for others on the team, we are really just trying to get back into the routine of the season and working on building that consistency that we lost during distance learning," said 9th Kathryn Totushek. Safety amidst the COVID-19 pandemic is a top priority for the team. "The season should continue relatively normally, with vaccines widely available and masks worn. If we get a bunch of cases I will have no reservations about shutting down practice for a week or two as necessary," said Tom.

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"The lunch rules are a little stricter than they used to be. We really just trying to get back..."
Fall play challenges set crew actors

Set leads focused on making sets fall safely

Paloma Leone-Gettten

Staff Writer

Usually when building sets, the main focus of the crew is to ensure that the sets are stable and can stay upright. Not this play. In this case, OWL’s set crew has been focused on ensuring that the sets can all fall down at the right time.

OWL’s first indoor play since December of 2018, The Play That Goes Wrong, is among the most challenging the set crew has had to deal with. It is a physical comedy featuring multiple blocking for the actors on stage and the sets that come crashing down at just the right moment.

One highlight of the play is that everything goes wrong so that we have to create sets that function, yet appear dysfunctional,” said 10th grader Raina Rossell. Raina and Noah Greb-George are the set leads for this play, and they have been working hard since September to find solutions. “Our sets have to be lightweight, so that people can crowd through them and lean against them,” said Raina. Some of the hardest pieces to coordinate have been a chase lounge that needs to fit through a tight doorway and building a door—as the one used for other productions disappeared before the production began.

The set crew has been coordinating with the props department “The props that are on the wall have to fall at the precise times yet also stay on the wall when they need to stay. The logistics prove to be very challenging,” said Raina. Nos agreed. “Negotiating with props was really important. Like when sets [crew] had the idea to use hooks to hold up the props, props [crew] had the idea to use magnets instead. So we had to communicate to make sure we were on the same page.”

Considering that several longtime members of the set crew graduated last spring, this play was a large project for the set crew to take. ”I’d rank this play 2nd for difficulty. In the Addams Family, sets had to be built into more 3D shapes instead of just plain flats,” said Nos. Luckily Nos and Raina have gotten some help from the community.

“We have a day where we came to the school on a Saturday for a couple of hours and volunteers worked on creating sets with us,” said Raina. Caryl, our director, Rentedzk said that although this set is not quite as challenging as it was last year in Macbeth a few years ago, it does present a unique set of challenges. “It’s definitely the most needy set—it has the most specific demands. Every single piece has to serve a specific purpose, and be in those little bitty different.”

The Play That Goes Wrong opens Wednesday night and the OWL auditorium, and the final show is tonight at 7:00.

Set lead Raina Rossell working on a set for The Play That Goes Wrong.

COVID-19’s everlasting grip on our school has caused socially distant lunches etc. to remain

Nick Christopherson

Staff Writer

Last year was no doubt challenging for everyone. For most of the school year we were attending school online, and gathering at a Google Meet filled with a bunch of random icons with muted mice, constantly wishing that we could be anywhere else. Even though now we’re all back in person now, COVID-19 is still affecting us and the way that OWL operates.

Some of these effects are pretty obvious, like the fact that everyone is wearing masks, we have assigned seats at lunch, or that we suddenly have an abundancy of hand sanitizer all over the school.

But there are also a lot of small changes that affect things behind the scenes, the which is what I’ll be going over in this article.

We’ll start with lunch.

Last year, getting books out to students who needed them was a bigger challenge than it is in person, as they couldn’t just walk into the library and grab it off of a shelf, and they had to have books delivered. This not only made recreational or assigned reading more difficult, it also impacted studying, as textbooks had to be delivered to student’s houses as well. As a result, there was a strong push for kids to use ebooks for their reading.

This year is much different. “It’s so much better now that we are back in person,” said Caryl Moumouneau, school librarian. “Our library council did a survey and found that four out of five students at OWL prefer print books. Students can now browse the physical bookshelves and more easily find books that interest them, and I can come into classrooms to check text-books out for students.”

Being in person not only made the operations of the library easier, it also boosted the spirits of Caryl and that of the students. “I love talking with students about what they are reading, recommending titles to, and hearing about their literary adventures with each other,” Caryl said. “We’ve all learned what our masked faces look like when we smile— we see the smiles in each other’s eyes. It’s wonderful to be together again.”

One of the main values that OWL holds as a school is providing services to our community, so the COVID lockdown had an outsize effect on our Outreach Board program. Outreach Board is a non-profit organization whose main goal is to bring out the best in students by providing them with unique learning opportunities.

At OWL, the Outreach Board program is mostly focused on doing service work and not only uniquely advantageous, but to help students get enough service hours to graduate. Before COVID, near the end of the school year, all the students involved in Outreach Board get to go on trips to other parts of Minnesota, and even across the country. But when the lockdown first started, the plans were derailed. “When we transitioned to online learning in the early spring of 2020, our Outreach Board program pretty much shut down,” said Tim Leone-Getten, Spanish teacher and co-leader of the program. “The trips we had been planning to El Coyote, Colorado and California were cancelled. The only thing that happened was the spring break.”

But last year, the Outreach Board program wasn’t having much luck. They did manage to put together another plant sale, but that was the only event that they could safely do. Luckily, like with the library, this year shows a much brighter future for the program. “This year, back in person, Outreach Board is much closer to normal,” said Tim. “We are working on the Oval this year for the Showcase for new families, the Homecoming event, etc. But other events have been postponed this fall. As for the spring trips, we are starting to plan for them but have no idea if we will be able to travel. We really hope we can do some trips.”

Sports at OWL have unsurprisingly been affected by COVID as well. Our archery team has had a lot of minutiae rules changes brought on by it. For example, there used to be two archers at a time doing target shooting, but this year they’ve limited it to one person at a time to keep people safely distant from each other. They’ve also imposed a rule that says if a kid can’t control themselves and is failing to maintain the proper distance, they will get sent home to leave practice early for the safety of the other archers. The tournaments have an unclear future, as no one knows when things will get better. “I really hope we can do some trips,” said 10th grader Raina Rossell. “We really hope we can do some trips.”

People who want to join the archery team can reach out to coach Michele Patti. There are eight people gathering around a bulletin board pointing, arguing, and laughing loudly. This is what it was like most days since the Guess That Staff bulletin board went up. It has more than 30 pictures of staff members from back in the day. English teacher Leo Bickelhaupt said he had to close his door multiple times due to people chatting loudly around the bulletin board.

The Guess That Staff board is open for people to just look at and laugh about for a while, then a QR code leading to a survey was put up to allow people to guess who was who. It had numbers that corresponded with each picture for scoring. The teacher board was put up by Patti’s crew. They collected staff photos and stapled them up along with the numbers. “I have done it once before at another school,” said Patti.

There were mixed opinions on the hardest picture to guess. “I don’t remember the number, but the one where the kid is facing the side,” said junior Sophia Sullivan. “Pretty the one in the coke costume.”

Most people said that they thought it was fun to try to guess which pictures were the easiest to guess, most people seemed to say social studies teacher Dan Sullivan, theater teacher Re-

Guess that staff, 5
Senior Spotlight
Nora Verner

What pronouns do you use? They/them.

How tall are you? 5’8’.

What’s your favorite class so far and why? OT, because it’s really fun and chill class.

Who’s your favorite senior? Aurora.

Where do you think you’re going to go for college? The University of Minnesota.

What extracurriculars do you plan on getting involved in at OWL? Drama Club and GSA.

That One Little Kid
Lulu Vargo

No more snow days for us?

Alexander Cowles
Staff Writer

The rumors are true. According to principal Dave Gundall, students will most likely be expected to participate in online learning in the event of a snow day this year.

The COVID-19 pandemic forced all students to stay home doing their work online last year.

The November 2nd online school day caused some to wonder if snow days would also be replaced with online learning days this year.

This has turned out to be the case. The current plan is still in the works, but it looks like online learning could take place during snow days. Students and teachers will be informed of the snow day by 6 am, but this still raise questions about how the teachers will be able to adjust their plans on such short notice.

Eleventh grader Joe Gorton is not a fan of this idea. “Honestly I would probably get more done if it was just a snow day,” said Joe. “To come up with a quality lesson plan within the short amount of time allotted (a minimum of 2-hours had been stated by the district) is not feasible,” says art teacher Kristin Moeller.

“Even if the lesson plan could be contrived, for many school subjects, it would not be along the vein of a continued experience but a side top with the purpose of filler.”

This plan is not set in stone yet, and it is unknown if it will ever return to normal. It is fair to take away the experience of finding one’s school is snowed out and being able to go back to school. In Kristin’s words; “EVERY student deserves to have the experience of waking up elated that the day is theirs and the feeling of living in the moment. And in the spirit of OWL, they can even do some community service work by shoveling snow!”

What pronouns do you use? Shelter.

How many years have you been at OWL? 7 years.

What are your plans for next year? I plan to go abroad before college.

What’s been your favorite class in high school? APUSH, because I like history and we learned a lot.

What extracurriculars are you involved in? FBLA, theater, Outward Bound, yearbook, art class, Homecoming Committee, theater advisory, and sledding.

Favorite field work experience or school trip and why? The choir tour.

If you had a walk up song, what would it be? Picture to Burn by Taylor Swift.

How different is French from American music?

Astrid Plot
Staff Writer

French exchange student Astrid reflects on the differences between French & American music.

French music is not that well known. Some Americans may have heard of an old song from before 2000, but none of the most recent songs.

By interviewing some of my classmates and teachers, I was able to categorize more of my points about French music. Jenny Murray, who is a student teacher, and Spanish teacher Tim Leone-Getten could name some French musicians: Edith Piaf and Manu Chao. As for students, they didn’t know anybody or recognize any of the French songs I played, but they seemed to like the songs. Some of these songs have been a trend on Tik Tok. Stroma, who managed to make himself known internationally with his title Alors on danse, is the latest of the songs I played for people. 8th grader Patrick Toohey said it sounded good. I also got more feedback in general on French songs from 10th grader Willa Campion, who said the music was really nice to listen to.

French music is good, but it’s not the only music we hear on the radio in France. Depending on the period of the year and the trending songs, we can get more exotic music, but French radio has a policy saying that in one day 60% of the music played must be French songs. Beyond that, disc jockeys can put the latest song by Ed Sheeran or the Italian band Maneskin, which I know after winning the Eurovision, one of the many music shows that we have.

The Eurovision Awards are more European centered, but if you really want to know the band of the year or the best song in France, you have to watch the NRJ Music Awards.

Organised by one of the most popular radio stations in the country, NRJ stages and presents our favorite artists of the new future hits of the year. The show takes the form of a contest where the artists come to present their songs live, then the public votes and choose their favorites.

Several categories are presented: the French male and female artists of the year, the French song of the year, the duo of the year, the international male and female artists of the year, the international song of the year as well as DJ of the year. Some of the French singers I like are Vanessas Paradis, Yvanne, and Mika.

No more snow days for us?

Atticus Brooks-Babcock
Staff Writer

You’re flipping through the channels bored when you see fast and furious style bikes cutting corners, big jumps, and big bumps. You’re looking at MX.

MX stands for motocross, and is a discipline of motocycles. Typically an MX track is 50-100 acres and is outdoors, creating an exciting variety of terrain and nature. MX riders have to be good at all of the normal things like scrambling (turning at the top of a jump to minimize time in the air), and running, plus whatever variables nature provides. It could be muddy or massive runs, all of which the rider has to prepare to decide what line to take and how to handle the course. To win these races, you have to be quick thinking and experienced in every kind of terrain.

The pro leagues have two classes, 250cc and 440cc, which just means the size of the bike. They typically race for around 30 minutes plus two laps and 17 rounds over the season. MX is super physical. Riding a 251bs bike for multiple laps, standing up and sitting down, and absorbing big jumps pushes people to the limit. Along with the pro leagues like AMA, MX also has less professional league like A, B, C, and D class, and those races are held at most local tracks. Some of our local tracks are Lake Arena, Berm Benders, and Motocity Raceway.

One of the best MX races is every year Richard Marcell, with an 80% win rate for his 11 year career that ended in 2007. In 2005-year-old two-time 450cc champion Stewart is another famous MX rider who made his own trick, the Bobba Scratch, and is one of the only people to ever win every race in an AMA MX season, the other person is Ricky Carmichael. Another popular person in MX is Haiden Deegan, he is popular due to his father Brian Deegan being a good FXS rider and also having a very popular YouTube channel.

MX or supercross is another discipline of dirt bikes. Sx has larger jumps and stiffer suspension. The goal is to make it up fast and first from a mass start. Sometimes they are time trials, which means whoever gets up the fastest with the time wins. It is hard because trails have natural objects like boulders and trees. Hard ends is a mix of MX and SX, and ends, it has small tracks with obstacles like tires, concrete barriers, and logs. The goal is to make it up the hill and SX winning the race. Trials riding is similar to hard ends. However, you can’t set a foot down when going through the obstacles and it uses a different kind of bike. This bike has no seat and is made for maximum maneuverability.

Lastly there is supermoto. Supermoto races are held at smaller race tracks or go kart tracks and feature dirt sections and jumps in the race track. The bikes they use are similar to MX but have slick tires and stiffer suspension. The goal is to win the race from a mass start.

If you want to watch any of these sports, you can find most live or recorded on YouTube. If you want to watch less professional videos, I would recommend Fooligan, Dree-Gans Channel, and C-boys. If you want to watch less professional videos, I would recommend Fooligan, Dree-Gans Channel, and C-boys. If you want to watch less professional videos, I would recommend Fooligan, Dree-Gans Channel, and C-boys. If you want to watch less professional videos, I would recommend Fooligan, Dree-Gans Channel, and C-boys.
Meet OWL’s French exchange student
Astrid adjusting to life in MN, misses family, friends, cheese

Lana Stevens  
Staff Writer
Astrid Piot, an OWL exchange student, has been learning the ways of OWL and experiencing Minnesota culture. She is from Severes, France, and she is 17. She is with the Youth For Understanding (YFU) exchange program. She became an exchange student because her mother’s friend’s kid was doing it, and it sounded “fun and interesting,” said Astrid.

Video game ban, 1
Along with that, billions of dollars in revenue are made by Chinese gaming companies like Tencent and NetEase, which means China has the second largest gaming market out of all the countries in the world. China’s second biggest gaming company, has scaled down on in-person studios ever since May, as an effect on this restriction. Many of their programmers and designers have started working from home, because of the second wave of COVID. Astrid, a French exchange student, has noticed that some teachers ‘abuse’ their ‘power’ as a teacher by giving students extra work or detention for no reason.

Lunch,

Though when I first heard how the teachers would be at half-capacity, I thought that we would be good. But in reality, there are four in-person ones and four virtual ones, although that is not a big problem at all. Before the video game ban, Astrid and NetEase were getting COVID so we have to follow the new COVID guidelines change. It is important to note that the COVID rates are still very high right now in our state. Even people that have been vaccinated are getting COVID so we have to pay attention to this. We will keep the current lunch rules in place until the guidelines change. It is important to note that the COVID rates are still very high right now in our state. Even people that have been vaccinated are getting COVID so we have to pay attention to this. We will keep the current lunch rules in place until the guidelines change.

Covid-19

In April when phones were allowed but now many students’ phones have been shut off. The students still send lunch to their friends if they found a seat together (and have the same lunch) or reading, because their’s really all they can think of to do. Some students have found a bright side in the pandemic because they now have more classes that I don’t have to go to. Some students have been learning the French language. Students mainly think these rules are going to end when COVID is better but what if this is the new normal? I would be a little surprised if these were the new normal rules but I wouldn’t be upset because you still get to sit with your friends and enjoy lunch. Though when I first heard lunch would be I was not excited, but it’s actually not bad,” said eighth grader Lana Stevens.

I thought that we would be close to having COVID under control but the fact that more people that are vaccinated are getting it, definitely concerns me. We will keep the current lunch rules in place until the guidelines change. It is important to note that the COVID rates are still very high right now in our state. Even people that have been vaccinated are getting COVID so we have to pay attention to this. We will keep the current lunch rules in place until the guidelines change.

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COVID-2

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How is the pandemic changing over time?

Will masks have to be worn in public forever?

Jude Witt
Staff Writer

Now that’s a question ev-
everyone has been asking for the past year and half. COVID-19 started slow-
ly, but now it’s spreading rapidly gradu-ally spread out through the world. Airports were a really big way COVID spread
from country to country. Even just simply talking, touching, within 6 feet is enough to pass
COVID without a mask.

The first cases in North America were reported in the
United States in January, 2020. Epidemiologists have done a study on people that got
to sick that were wearing a mask compared to people that were not wearing a mask. The
study showed that masks can do a lot to prevent the spread. There’s a lot of reasons people have not been taking precau-
tions with COVID.

Doug Hamilton is an in-
ternist medicine resident at Broadlawns Hospital in Des Moines. He has been working for about 21 years now. Doug
sees COVID as a long-term problem. “I don’t really know, but I kind of think COVID-19 might be with us for a long
time, forever.” However, he thinks COVID could change over time. “At first, we were really worried about get-
ing infected or bringing the infection home to our families and other loved ones. With time I suspect COVID will
affect us more like a common cold virus.” Doug stressed the importance of getting vacci-
nated and expressed frustra-
tion over the fact that people continue to die from what he sees as a preventable disease. “The last 18 months have been really stressful as a phy-
cian. I’m tired of watching people die—especially when all most everyone that I see dying now (in the last few months) has not had a vaccine. It feels
tragic and senseless.”

Colleen Richardson, the new nurse at OWL, was pre-
viously a pediatric nurse man-
ager at Ramsey Hospital. She
has been a nurse for over 37 years. “I have a daughter who’s also a nurse at a local hospi-
tal. This was her first year as a nurse and she had to deal with

Archery, 1

“The team participates in 8
states, so this year they are aiming to com-
pete in 4 in-person
and 4 virtual tournaments. “Tour-
naments are structured into 1
‘Flight’ where archers
will shoot their 10m and 15m
arrows with other archers as-
signed to that flight time. All
time flights compete together
to determine the winning
individuals and teams,” said Tom.

“I expect good things from
this season. We have had so
many guests that are going
to the open shoots. I see 6 of
that group is just starting
that are much better that I
was at their age,” said senior
Captian Gus Holts.

High numbers will help the

Archery shooting practice (above), Coach Tom Totushek coaching new archers at the beginning of the season (be-
low).
How long does it take before a burglar is caught? That’s a question that haunts many homeowners and renters. A recent study found that the average time it takes for a burglar to be caught is about 3.5 months. But this number can vary depending on a number of factors, such as the neighborhood and the crime rate. Some neighborhoods may have a shorter or longer average time to capture a burglar.  

**Should Santa Claus face charges for breaking and entering?** 

A confession seems unlikely due to a lack of credible evidence

**Aalen Kulseth Staff Writer**

Everyone has heard of Santa Claus. He is the jolly, red-suited, beard-wearing fellow who brings presents to children all over the world. However, the story of Santa Claus is not a real person. It is a fictional character created by authors in the 19th century.  

Santa Claus is a beloved figure in popular culture, appearing in countless movies and shows. He has appeared in various forms, from a jolly old man to a superhero.  

The real-life story of Santa Claus is not as well-known. He was originally a medieval figure associated with a variety of different cultures and traditions. The story of Santa Claus as we know it today was created by authors in the 19th century, most notably Clement Clarke Moore’s “A Visit from St. Nicholas.”  

Despite the fictional nature of Santa Claus, there are still many stories and legends surrounding him. For example, some believe that Santa Claus is a real person who lives in the North Pole and makes toys all year round. Others believe that Santa Claus is a magical spirit who brings presents to children on Christmas Eve.  

Regardless of the story behind Santa Claus, he remains a beloved figure in popular culture. Whether he is a real person or a fictional character, Santa Claus continues to bring joy and wonder to children around the world.  

**Nicholas**

**Staff Writer**

Welcome back, all, to my reviews 'n' stuff. Today, we'll be exploring the Book vs the Movie - Harry Potter continued.  

**Harry Potter**

Harry Potter is a book series by J.K. Rowling that has captured the hearts of millions of readers around the world. The series follows the life of a young wizard named Harry Potter, who discovers that he is a member of the magical world and attends Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry.  

The series consists of seven books, released between 1997 and 2007. The books have been adapted into eight films, released between 2001 and 2011.  

**Book and Movie Differences**

While the books and movies are based on the same story, there are some differences between the two mediums. For example, some scenes and characters were added to the movies but not the books, while others were removed. Additionally, some details were changed or omitted.  

**Theme of Friendship**

One of the main themes in the Harry Potter series is friendship. The characters are often portrayed as having strong bonds with one another, whether it be in their circle of friends or with their professors and classmates.  

**The Magic of the Movies**

While the books are a beloved part of popular culture, the movies have a visual aspect that brings the story to life in a new way. The special effects and sets allow the audience to immerse themselves in the magical world of Harry Potter.  

**Conclusion**

In conclusion, the Harry Potter books and movies each have their own unique strengths and weaknesses. While the books are a more intimate and in-depth look at the world of Harry Potter, the movies bring the story to life in a new way. As an avid fan of both mediums, I can appreciate both the books and movies for their own unique contributions to the Harry Potter universe.
Danny ranks xmas songs

What songs make it on Danny's exclusive list?

Danny Hobday
Staff Writer

For me, Christmas music trumps any kind of music. Rap, pop, country have nothing to me as I'm not fazed, only here to sin if Eve ain't in your way, you know that you can. He seems to be indicating that he is homosexual and that he is keeping it secret. I think Lil Nas X wanted people to be in the closet to feel like they are not alone, and he did that. I give this song an overall 7.5 out of 10.

Another notable song is "DOLLA SIGN SLIME." This song is very different from what I expected. This song has a different style from Lil Nas X normal rhythm, and I love that. The song is very upbeat with a nice pace. Lyrics that stand out from this song are "They can't stop me say I can't do it," and "watch me." I love these lyrics because they are saying no matter how much hate you put on me, I will keep going. I also love that Megan was in this song. She ate with that verse and really brought a new spin to Lil Nas X songs. It rated an 8 out of 10.

The last song I'm going to talk about is "Ann I'm Dreaming." This is absolutely my favorite song by far. It is breathtaking with Miley Sirus in it, and different from anything Lil Nas X has done before. It has a slow pace and a Lullaby melody and soft and super easy to sing along. Frank Sinatra's and Amy Grant's versions are the ones I love and can't get enough of. Number Three: Rockin' Around The Christmas Tree by Frank Sinatra

"Rockin' Around The Christmas Tree" is a very upbeat festive song. This song brings back great memories, including dancing in the living room with my family while putting ornaments on the tree. Not many people would put this even close to their own top five, but for me it can immediately change the mood and definitely deserves this number three spot.

Number Two: Christmas (Baby Please Come Home) by Darlene Love or Mariah Carey

"Christmas (Baby Please Come Home)" is about Christ- mas activities and things you do around Christmas time. It can be jam to in the car because it's so upbeat. In the song, by Darlene Love, you can tell that it isn't like many songs. Her voice is incredible and so nice. Every part of this song is great and you can't go wrong listening to it anywhere at all.

Number One: Nativity Song by Amy Grant

"Nativity Song" is the clear number one for me by a mile. I love this song because every time you hear it you want to start singing. It's a super good song. This song brings back great memories, including dancing in the living room with my family while putting ornaments on the tree. Not many people would put this even close to their own top five, but for me it can immediately change the mood and definitely deserves this number three spot. Overall this album is really amazing. It's not perfect, but it's just great. This album may have been hyped a bit too much, but I still want to give it a 9 out of 10. "DOLLA SIGN SLIME." This song is very different from what I expected. This song has a different style from Lil Nas X normal rhythm, and I love that. The song is very upbeat with a nice pace. Lyrics that stand out from this song are "They can't stop me say I can't do it," and "watch me." I love these lyrics because they are saying no matter how much hate you put on me, I will keep going. I also love that Megan was in this song. She ate with that verse and really brought a new spin to Lil Nas X songs. It rated an 8 out of 10.

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Thumbs up for the new updates

Olivier Juvudan
Staff Writer

You're having fun playing your favorite game: Super Smash Bros Ultimate. You have all the DLC, the $10.50 downloadable content, to you (non-gamers) and have gotten all of the characters into Elite Smash. Now, you might be wondering how this all happened...

Well, let's start at the beginning.

Smash Bros Ultimate is the latest installment in the Super Smash Bros series and is coming out on its third anniversary of release. After the Nintendo Switch was revealed in 2017, Masahiro Sakurai randomly announced a trailer for the next Super Smash Bros game in a Nintendo Direct video. It was very clear, as we would say, hype. After the initial reveal we were told that every character from the previous Super Smash Bros games would be there plus some newcomers. People were told that the game would have premium pricing and the initial price of $60.

When you first start up the game you hear running commentary from the other Smash Bros menus. When you go into the games menu you can choose to play and get to play 89 different characters (without the DLC it’s 77 characters), each with 8 costumes that can either change the characters slightly with a different muscle color or be completely different character that has the same move set.

Each character (excluding the condominiums) has their own move set. The moves available include but are not limited to, jump, double jump, use basic attacks, use tect attacks, use attacks and cancels. The more attacks a character takes the more damage or percent of characters they can take. More percent a character has the further the character will be launched.

The graphics of smash ultima- te are amazing. They are the best smash games yet connected to a TV and 720p when it is in handheld mode. Every character looks more realistic than any other smash bros game. Every character looks like they have even more muscle than before. They have a lot more than the other smash games.

There have been many updates for smash ultimate from 1.0.0 to 13.0.0 so how good are they? Will they be amazing? With every update the developers have added new characters get buffed and the overpowered or more played characters get balanced. In each patch, bugs that come with each new character are patched, for example, if he used his final smash in classic mode the game would be locked out and in the next update/patch it was fixed!

The developers are very good at seeing the bugs and fixing them as well as seeing what characters are under- powered or underplayed and what characters are over- powered and balancing them. I think the strengths of the new set up are developers looking at characters and making them more fun to play and developers being able to fix the bugs Super Smash Bros, 9
Santa, 6

into houses involves opening presents wrapped in wrapping paper, as well as having family over. All of this combined can make any foreseeable evidence that would have been left behind.

Shall Santa face charges? I say no to the breaking and entering charges, as well as the battery charges. But, I say yes to the trespassing charges. I don’t think he would receive these charges, as he is not committing crimes in the dwellings he is entering.

But simply entering another person’s property, he is trespassing. Overall, I think Santa would not be found guilty for breaking and entering, as there is simply not enough evidence. At most, he could be found for trespassing, but someone would have to see him enter their house for him to be trespassing. However, I don’t think he would try and get into your house himself, as he delivers presents to houses every year and is a friendly guy. Nice enough to the point where some people leave out cookies for him.

The best movies of 2021 are coming very soon

Classics, action films, family movies: Hollywood has a bit of everything coming out this winter

Bennett Vaughan-Fier Staff Writer

Even though COVID-19 slowed down production of a lot of movies, the movie business has come back with a bang, releasing movies like Shang-Chi and on, No Time To Die, Dune, and many others. However, you would even go out on a limb to say that these new upcoming movies are going to be better than the ones that have already come out, and I would break the new releases into three helpful categories: classics, action, and family movies.

Classic movies are continuations of classic movie lines, catering to people who are passionate for the old content.

The newest movie Matrix Matrix Resurrections is about Neo, whose return, takes an unexpected turn when he finds himself back inside the Matrix, which has been seen in many of the Matrix movies, but this movie from the trailer looks really good, this is the newest of the first Matrix film but updated with its effects to a modern version. I would recommend this for people who like dystopian movies, but I would recommend that you watch at least the first Matrix movie before watching this one, as this movie is definitely going to be exciting and many fans have been waiting long for it.

Top Gun Maverick is about Pete ‘Maverick’ Mitchell, who keeps pushing the envelope after years of service as one of the Navy’s top aviators. He is still training while training a new squad of graduates for a dangerous mission that will mean his life or sacrifice. From what I know about this movie, and the trailer with it, it looks like it’s classic. However, I don’t think I will watch this movie because it just doesn’t look very interesting, and I feel like it looks the same idea as the other movies. I would recommend this movie if you want to feel nostalgia from the movie, or you liked the other ones.

Jurassic World: Dominion will wrap up the Jurassic World franchise, but will not be the last movie that they will make. This movie I am definitely going to see because it is the franchise that has been around for a long time, and it looks really good. I do want to watch this for everyone, whether you watched it or not. However, it would be helpful to watch the other Jurassic movies before watching this one.

Action. These movies are movies that include fight scenes, car chases, etc. These movies are mostly for everyone.

Spiderman No Way Home is an action movie about the troubles of Spiderman when his identity is revealed and his world spirals out of control.

Personaly I would go see this movie, however I recommend that you don’t watch it if you haven’t watched Spiderman Far From Home I would watch this after, because Spiderman No Way Home is a continuation of that. This movie is definitely for action lovers, and I would recommend it for everyone who either loves action movies or just loves Marvel.

The newest Resident Evil movie is Welcome To Racoon City. This movie is about a group of survivors who must work together to survive the evil that lies below the wasteland that is the former home of pharmaceutical giant Umbrel- la Corp. I honestly have only heard of the videos pre- dicated, and I haven’t even seen any of the movies. From the description, it seems like it’s going to be about the end of the world.

Harry Potter, 6 book, Harry confronts Voldemort in front of everyone at Hogwarts and they engage in a battle to end all conflicts. Whatever I say about this cli- max won’t ever truly describe how great it really is, so I’ll just say you just read the book in this part.

Now we come to the trace of that brilli- ant writing is completely gone in the film. Instead, we get repetitive CGI and dull, dull, dull. I honestly find it impressive how this scene was managed to feel so hollow and empty. Even the musical score didn’t try to make the fight feel athletic, it’s almost terrible. Out of all the times these mov- ies picked style over substance, this is the most insulating at the worst possible ending for this franchise.

These eight films had the ambitious objective of adapt- ing what is in my opinion one of the best book series of all time, but the final product ended up proving that it is impossible to recreate something so amazing on the big screen. I do have to say, though, I feel more sympa- pathetic for these movies after criticizing them, because I’ve realized just how difficult a task they had. Obviously, the mistakes they made dragged them down, but the studio also just didn’t have the time or manpower to make the books in all their detailed glory.

And at the end of the day, despite how much I dislike these movies, it’s still impres- sive that what they managed to get right from the book. They put together an amazing cast, a breathtaking set design places like Hogwarts and Diagon Alley and reenactments of many memorable scenes.

I want the final takeaway of this two-part article to be the books are better. You should read them. And if you haven’t, you should go reread them. But another takeaway I want is — some- thing I really wish I were watching and rereading the series to write this article is — that the books are much better than the movie version, that doesn’t always mean the movie is bad, but it gives viewers something that is better than the actual option for entertainment.

Caitlyn Christensen Staff Writer

New Halo In- finite game out December 8

New Mincraft- update

Caitlyn Christensen Staff Writer

New Min- craft update

Looking back on four years of highly damaging policy

Trump did a lot of damage that Biden is working hard to undo

Claire Hulson Staff Writer

We all know not a lot of people don’t like former pres- ident Donald Trump. But it makes sense for us to not like someone who has no clue what he is doing and has no int- uitive motives, and is leading our country into a downward spiral. Like for someone who hates illegal immigration, you would think that supporting and assisting in the amount of illegal immigration would be the right move? This was not the case. During Trump’s time legal green cards were reduced by 50%. Smart huh.

While now making over 400 executive acts and orders, you might think that Trump wouldn’t have time for hobb- ies, but you would be wrong. They include golfing, being a steak connoisseur, separating families, and trying to build walls. As for current president Joe Biden, his hobbies include being too old for hobbies and focusing on upgrading other people’s hobbies.

Trump’s term was a very, very trying four years for immigra- tion policy.

Would you agree it’s not the idea of the new employee of the U.S. to support an Act that would hurt so many lives that he relies on with- out knowing or recognizing? One of Trump’s most infa- mous acts was something which has many names, such as, unethical, unjust, or even inhumane, or the RAISE act. Close to 1 million people immi- grate into the U.S. by green cards or Visas. The RAISE act would be to eliminate categories like the diversity program, the current family categories, and two others. I think it couldn’t get worse, it would cap the number of refugees seeking shelter in the U.S. al- lowed, at 50,000 annually.

Another one of Trump’s most damaging policies is the dismantling of DACA (Deferred Action of Child Ar- rivals). DACA is a policy that helps undocumented minors who were brought to this country stay in the U.S. and eventually earn citizenship. This policy was implement- ed during the 2012 Obama presidency and was annulled for five years before Trump ordered the Department of Homeland Security to “be- gin an orderly transition and wind down of DACA.” Yes he spelled wind down instead of wind down, which makes sense for someone who can’t even give anyone space, especially women. He does, after all, have rape and sexual assault allega- tions against him. Dismantling DACA was a bad idea for the 800,000 refugees that have used DACA and the 690,000 who are currently enrolled and using DACA to get jobs and stay in the country safely.

Now whether Biden is 100% good or not is up for de- bate, but he has managed to undo huge problems Trump caused during his presiden- cy. To accomplish this has been stupendous. He is cleaning up the building of the Mexico border wall, Executive Order 13815 to Resettle refugees, Execu- tive Order 13993 that stripped noncitizens who did not pose any threat from being deport- ed for 100 days, and undoing Executive Order 13780 which banned people from African or Muslim countries from en- tering the U.S. for 90 days.

Overall Biden is on the path to bring back the next president- cy for a productive term, but it will be challenging because he will be setting up the next presidency. To amount of his energy undoing harmful acts and or- ders Trump made.

The big news is that caves and cliffs part two has been pushed with release with the wild update. The warden and deep dark will finally be coming, but that waiting was well spent because with the new update abandoned caves will come to the game! They will also in- troduce a family of blocks cat- egorized as skull blocks to be dangerous in the deep, dark, because one wrong step will be your end.

On a lighter note, frogs and a focus on the swamp bi- ology will be coming. With the swamp part of the update the mangrove tree will be added, a swamp tree with huge roots, and with a new tree comes a new wood type. The mangrove wood type looks very similar to this wood, but there will be different designs for doors and trapdoors. The mangrove wood type will bring a new side to the building community adding more options to cre- ate more diverse builds.

Back to the frogs, they won’t be exclusively in swamps, but they will have unique tex- tures for different biomes. For all your adventures with your pet frogs, boats with wheels will be able to travel across the sea with the extra storage. Part two of caves and cliffs will be out in 2023. I honestly haven’t seen many fans of the update but you should be one of the most exciting yet! Be ready to play in it 2022. As for the swamp update looks very fun and I can’t wait to play.

The newest movie Matrix Matrix Resurrections is about Neo, whose return, takes an unexpected turn when he finds himself back inside the Matrix. Although we haven’t seen many of the Matrix movies, but this movie from the trailer looks really good, this is the newest of the first Matrix film but updated with its effects to a modern version. I would recommend this for people who like dystopian movies, but I would recommend that you at least watch the first Matrix movie before watching this one, as this movie is definitely going to be exciting and many fans have been waiting long for it.

Top Gun Maverick is about Pete ‘Maverick’ Mitchell, who
Amazon’s new game is immersive, visually beautiful

Patrick Tohey
Staff Writer

Imagine yourself walking. You still have another 5000 meters to your destination, with the reward of your travels being exactly what you want. So, you walk. In the distance you see a figure gathering materials. His armor shines bright silver. He is swinging his axe quick. After seeing his formidable status, his level exceeds yours by at least 30. He’s standing 100 meters away. You immediately rush in and cut grass. You sneeze away, silently hoping that you’re in the same group. There is a noticeable lack of respect for lower level players, because if he doesn’t… all your current progress on your missions will be gone.

New World is a game that puts you on a variety of different platforms. The main focus is on a mineral that amplies a persons strength and character, not dissimilar to the superyielded in Amazon Capitalia. You play an adven-
turer coming to the world of New World and gathering the rare mineral, but it all goes downhill when you break down the items into pieces, you then learn how to adapt to the new world.

New World Games, New World will greet players with a similar, but not too similar experience. Taki-
ing place in a mythical world, you’ll find you yourself exploring Aztarum, a vast world filled with different life, and a vari-
ty of creatures, ranging from mountain lions to zombies.

Filled to the brim with danger and allow,

your journey will most likely be differ-
ent from your friends, depending on your faction, skills, and play style. The game can be severely addictive, as seeing your start and levels going up provides more and more dopamine.

Though the game can be dull at times – it can get re-
peetive walking from one place to the next facing the sim-
lilar enemies – one thing that can space up this is the com-
bat. By turning pvp by fore-

Tale leaving a settlement, you leave yourself vulnerable to player attacks. Sometimes this leads to really fun encounters where you with the possibility of accomplishment. Like one,

you encountered someone at a similar level and we both agreed to duel. Duels, unlike random encounters, leave no actual consequence for losing. You just get revved at the same spot you started the duel.

But other times you’ll be randomly attacked by a level player and in an instant you’ll be dropped on the ground, angry that someone at such a higher level than you completely ruined all your progress on your missions. Although this does suck, it leaves a lot of interesting player encounters, especially with the protagonist features, allowing you to basically talk to people within a close proximity. Sometimes you meet goofy people who

say the weirdest things.

A common complaint among the playerbase is the lack of mounts (things like horses, wagons, etc.). It would spice up the experience and create faster-paced gameplay, and allow for a lot more freedom and creativity. Anoth-

er thing that is arguably more important is the lack of swimming in the game. Though there are large water areas, your character will continue walking as if it was still on land, but after twenty seconds of being submerged your character will drown – a very annoying defeat that will almost surely confuse unin-

formed new players.

Overall the game is a beau-

tiful experience – immersive and intense, taking only min-
utes to understand how the core mechanics work, and then taking hours upon hours to master every aspect of the game. Though the game doesn’t have to play, you can see that its core Amazon focuses on a new fresh experience for players, and seeing as you have the means, and have a few friends… the game is a great MMORPG ready to show you a whole new world.

Super Smash Bros, 7

as soon as possible in the next patch.

There are weaknesses in some characters can have loops (a sequence of moves that the opponent can’t escape if they are hit by it) that aren’t used in the current patch, and sometimes the hobbies on some moves can be really crazy.

The great thing about the Super Smash Bros updates is how beginner friendly it is.

There is a wide variety of char-
acters you can pick one that
your playstyle. Want to combine your opponent? Pick lightweights like Mario, Fox, Falco, or Toad. Want to take damage with just a few moves? Pick heavyweights like Donkey Kong, Bowser, or Ridley.

Super Smash Bros Ultimate is a game that has many charac-
ters and modes that can fit your playstyle; you just need to decide what you want to do.

Forth after getting bored. Thay ended up inventing a game that has lasted for generations.

The rules are simple. One person stands on the left of the board and crosses the end line then that’s a point. The goal is to get seven points and win by two.

There are three com-
misions for Fraquetball, which is the game of the musical. They feel a bit

interesting. However, I think it

is a good message. This is a definitely a good feel movie and would be good to watch with your younger brother or sis-
er, or your family.

West Side Story is an ad-

Head of the musical. Which was originally adapted from Shakespeare’s Romeo and Juliet. This movie ex-

plores forbidden love and the

rivalry between the Jete and the Sharks, two teenage street gangs of different ethnic back-
grounds. I would recommend this movie for theater fans, and others because it is not only a film that’s being directed by Steven Spielberg, but also this film’s plot is very similar to the musical.

With all these new movies coming out in these next few months I would recommend heading to your local theater and checking some of these movies.
and the lunchroom, with a zero-tolerance policy for hav- ing your cell phone out. The phone ban is in place to keep students on track and focused in school, but it is effective in accomplishing this? And is the new phone rule reasonable? The idea of banning phones in school is hardly a new one. For years upon years, different schools in the SPPS district and beyond have tried to get students to unplug and pay attention to their teachers. After the lockdown, things began to change in regards to phones and school. If you have a class on the first floor, you have probably noticed the WiFi problems in school, with connections to the WiFi dropping, apps like Notabili- ty and Schoology freezing up or glitching and downloading apps or updating your iPad taking so long that most stu- dents only do it at home. With around 450 students possibly using the WiFi at any given time, connectivity can be a bit of an issue. Using your phone as an educational tool to con- nect to Schoology or access a slideshow is very handy. Students also just got back to in-person learning after a year of virtual school. Expect- ing students to start instant- ly transitioning from using technology for 6-10 hours a day to only using your iPad when class might call for it is unrealistic. The idea of leav- ing your phone in your locker during the school day, the way that teachers suggest you do, is both unsafe and impractical.

Parents and guardians need to reach a student throughout the day for various reasons. Then we have lunch, where students have designated seati- ng. They sit six feet apart from one another to protect every- one from COVID. Although this setup is safer for students, it also makes positive inter- actions or socialization hard- er. Because of this, students have to entertain themselves throughout the lunch peri- od, but because of the phone ban, students don't have a lot of things to do. Most students leave their backpacks in their classes since they go back to those classes after lunch. The phone ban isn't a com- pletely terrible thing, a lot of parents/guardians appreciate it because it gives kids a chance to focus entirely on school instead of splitting their at- tention. Teachers like it for a similar reason because with- out phones kids become more focused on their education. Many people even think that students aren't mature enough to handle having cellphones with them at school, and will automatically be distracted by them. While it’s true that cell- phones can be distractions, the extremity of the ban is unnece- ssary. Students can learn and practice responsibility through phones, and even use them as educational tools, and when learning isn’t actively hap- pening there’s no reason that phones shouldn’t be allowed. Students use their phones to talk to people, to share infor- mation and things they enjoy, and to listen to music and consume other forms of me- dia. There is nothing inher- ently wrong with any of those things, so long as they are hap- pening at an appropriate time. Instead of the complete ban, I would propose a less extreme solution. One that bans phones in classrooms and other learning environ- ments, but still allows students to carry their phones and use them outside of class. Students would be able to use phones during lunch break, for ex- ample. This solution requires more trust and faith in stu- dents, but I would argue that this is a great opportunity and a solution that makes more sense for OWL's values. Giving students a chance to prove that they are responsible enough to handle phones could create a better, more positive school community built on trust and respect.

Asian Culture Night memories

OWL celebrated Asian Culture Night last week, on Wednesday, December 1st. When guests arrived, they were invited to do origami or partic- ipate in the spicy noodle challenge. There was also a display of books and cultural artifacts to look at. Following these activities, there were performances in the auditorium, including dances, a short play, a taekwondo demonstration, and speakers. Food was available in to-go boxes for guests to take home with them. Due to COVID-19 restrictions, the evening was capped to 150 people, so the event was at full capacity.

Students acting in a Reader's Theater play at Asian Culture Night (left, above), counselor Jolene Yang and volunteers passing out to-go boxes of food at the end of the event (left, below), students at the sign-in table at the event (middle, above), students in the OWL cafeteria for Asian Culture Night (middle), the organizers of Asian Culture Night, Mo Aung, Lue Lor, and Wawwa Khin (not pictured: Ryuki Walker) (middle), guests at the event in the cafeteria (middle, below), some of the helpers who put on the event (right, above), guests working on origami with the help of volunteers (right, middle), and teachers Tim Leone-Gettman, Luke Turvold, Preston West, and Bridget Leba with security guard Eric.

Upcoming Events

December 8-10: The Play That Goes Wrong at 7:00pm in the Auditorium
December 10: College March to the Mailbox at 9:45am in the Auditorium
December 14: PTO Meeting at 6pm in the Cafeteria
December 16: Picture Retakes
December 18-January 2: Winter Break
January 3: Classes Resume
January 13: Choir Concert
January 17: No School (MLK Day)