

Meet new OWL staff -Page 2



A look into horse riding -Page 4



New spider-man excites -Page 6


# Purple Press

Volume #27, Issue #1 November 6th, 2026


# First time voters go to the polls

## *Newly turned 18 year-olds share experiences and excitement around voting*

**Claire Ales**
*Staff Writer*

On November 4th, voters across the country headed to the polls to cast their ballots in a heavily anticipated midterm election. Like every election year, newly turned 18 year-olds had the opportunity to vote for the very first time. Seniors, Aria Kulseth, Anneli Lofgren, and Sam Koering, were among this year's group of first time voters, all of whom were excited to vote in the midterms.

Aria went to vote with her family around 6 PM and felt that the process was easier than she expected. Voting is something Aria had been looking forward to for a long time, especially since her older brother had his first vote during the 2024 presidential election. After placing her ballot in the machine she got to ring a bell because it was her first time.

"I got to ring a bell. They made me ring the bell because it was my first time and then everyone cheered. It was fun," Aria said.

After she finished voting, Aria got tacos with her family to celebrate and went home to watch the election results come in. Even though Aria is normally wary about being too hopeful while waiting for results she felt like she was just going to enjoy it this time.

"Once Minnesota came in, I was like 'I can sleep well,'" Aria said. "My brother and I ran up the stairs like little kids again to wake our mom up. We woke her up and we were like 'guess what?' so it was a pretty great night."

Anneli headed to the poles soon after they opened and was surprised to see a line. She felt that that it was a good sign because it could lead to a good voter turnout. Like Aria, Anneli was also excited for her first time voting. She felt like it was a good way for her to get her voice out there immediately because of the importance of the election.

"It wasn't presidential but it still had the potential for a big impact, and like we saw, it had one," Anneli said. "So it definitely feels good now, knowing that all of those senate seats were up for grabs and Minnesota Governor and

**New voters, 9**

# A familiar and funny play returns to OWL



Laura Orris

**Actors rehearse a big group scene for OWL's fall play, As You Like It.**



Laura Orris

**Design crew prepares for the performances in December.**

## *The theater department gears up for a performance of Shakespear's As You Like it*

**By Kaden McNamara**
*Staff Writer*

"All the world's a stage, and all the men and women merely players." So says Jaques in one of the most iconic monologues of all time, and it will be said on our auditorium stage as the OWL theater department puts on Shakespeare's As You Like It on December 10th and 11th.

Rehearsals have begun, along with design meetings to establish the vibe of the play. The actors and the design crew have jumped into the work, but they're not the only ones working on this play; "My AP Literature class is studying As You Like It so that we can help the cast with dramaturgy and marketing. We are learning the script so that we can help the actors understand it better," said English Teacher Leo Bickelhaupt. Since the school year began, the AP Lit class has been analyzing the script working on understanding the text and preparing scene dossiers for the actors so they also understand the text. As the year progresses, they'll start to work on more marketing based parts such as the playbill and advertising.

While not one of Shakespeare's most famous plays, As You Like It still remains a classic. From the female lead pretending to be herself while disguised as a man, to our male lead beating up family, wrestlers, royalty, and lions alike, to a cynic coming into conflict with literally everyone just by being cynical, this play has fun storylines that will bring a smile to your face.

The story follows few

**Fall play, 9**

# Making a better SPPS

**By Rain Tsuzuki**
*Staff Writers*

Over the summer, I was nominated to be on the St. Paul Public Schools equity committee. I was accepted to be a student representative, and am excited about the opportunity to advocate for all of my fellow students and especially those of color and members of the LGBTQ+ community.

The committee consists of parents, staff, community members, and students. My job is to contribute my lived experiences and turn that into policies promoting equity. As one of three students on the committee, I want to represent our side of things as best I can.

Back in 2019, SPPS had an equity committee, but when COVID-19 hit, the committee dissolved. Superintendent Stacie Stanley, made it a goal of her term to bring back the assembly. Dr. Stanley contacted her close advisors: Stacey Gray Akyea, the senior executive officer, and Erica Valliant, the vice chair of the board of education. Together, the three of them decided to make a new and improved committee that would make productive recommendations for the betterment of SPPS.

"So that's what really got me super excited about being able to bring the equity committee back, and in a way that the three of us really wanted to re-envision it to to really make a difference in our system," said Dr. Stanley., With the strategic plan already in place, she said that "I really want us to dig into our equity policy, and I'd

**SPPS equity, 9**

# Say goodbye to phones during the day

## *OWL adopts stricter phone policy for the 2026-2027 school year to decrease use while at school*

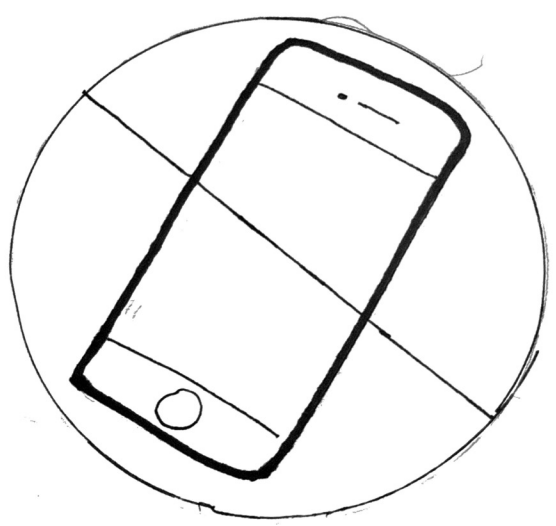
**By Cooper Small**
*Staff Writer*

OWL's new phone policy was implemented at the beginning of this school year, and while most people agree it's working, some students have expressed dissatisfaction with the new guidelines. Teachers have mostly good things to say about the change. What is this policy exactly that people are talking about?

This school year, OWL principal Dave Gundale decided to implement a new phone policy for the students at the school. As stated in big bold letters in the OWL Student and Family Handbook, "Students are encouraged not to bring cell phones or other electronic devices including smartwatches, and earbuds/air pods to school."

Three pages outline the rest of the policy: in short, should you choose to bring it, do not use your phone during the school day for any reason, and keep it in your backpack or locker at all times. If it is seen by a staff member, it will be taken immediately for the remainder of the school day. If a student is caught using their

**Phones, 8**



Aria Kulseth

# The Purple Press

OWL's longest-running student newspaper was founded in 1996. We publish monthly from November through June. All content for The Purple Press is created by OWL students. The Purple Press welcomes feedback and letters to the editor. Submissions can be emailed to leo.bickelhaupt@spps.org. The opinions expressed in this newspaper do not necessarily represent those of OWL staff or administration.

**Adult to Blame**
Leo Bickelhaupt

**Editor-in-Chief**
Claire Ales

**Designer**
Claire Ales
Rain Tsuzuki

**Artists**
Aria Kulseth
Tida Lor
Tal Weston

**Copy Editors**
Kaden McNamara


# There are lots of new faces around the building

## *Elzbieta likes connecting with students and staff*

**Claire Ales**
*Staff Writer*

Elzbieta Murphy spent her childhood dancing through life. Growing up, OWL's new Assistant Principal was part of a folk dance group that performed in festivals and traveled to different countries all across Europe, including Turkey, Hungary, Germany, Czech Republic, France, and various parts of Poland, where she grew up.

"I don't do it now, but if I could, I would. It was my favorite time of growing up," Elzbieta said.

Along with dancing, Elzbieta likes to hike, do yoga, and read. Some of her favorite hiking spots are anywhere with mountains. In particular she enjoys hiking in the Tatra Mountains in Poland. She also travels to Sedona, Arizona twice a year to visit her oldest daughter who graduated college two years ago. Additionally, Elzbieta has two other twin daughters who recently graduated high school and are currently in college.

After attending school in Poland through high school, Elzbieta moved to the United States at 22 to further her education and go to college. Elzbieta received a bachelor's degree in education from Concordia University and a masters degree from Hamline University.

Elzbieta started her career in teaching as an elementary school teacher in Saint Paul Public Schools. As a teacher she worked at Frost Lake Elementary, EXPO Elementary, and Nokomis Montessori North. After working as a teacher Elzbieta was promoted to take a role as a supervisor at the Office of Multilingual Learning.

While at the Office of Multilingual Learning Elzbieta realized that she liked the perspective that working with all of the different school's administrations gave her. Knowing this, she decided that she would like to eventually become an Assistant Principal and went back to school to receive an educational specialist degree and an administrative K-12 license from Mankato State.



Purple Press Staff Photo

Elzbieta was drawn to a role as an Assistant Principal because of the connections she would be able to make with students, staff, and families.

"I like that kind of overview in terms of the big picture. I can work with all of the staff, all of the students, all of the families," Elzbieta said, "It's very dynamic, very interesting, and I feel like I can make a change that way."

Going to school in Poland gave Elzbieta a unique perspective on what works and doesn't work for an education system. In Poland, she appreciates how a foreign language is part of their core curriculum starting in elementary school. By the time students graduate high school in Poland, they know three languages.

In the United States Elzbieta likes how there is a focus around a students personal development and group work.

"The US educational system allows for a lot of personal expression and a lot of personal creativity and that's very important for individual development," Elzbieta said. "There are more opportunities for group work."

At OWL, Elzbieta has enjoyed getting to know the students and staff and building relationships with them. She likes how OWL is a small school and how so many students get involved in clubs and service opportunities. Additionally, Elzbieta likes

**Elzbieta, 8**

## *Ms. Ireland is looking forward to growing with her students*

**Hannah Loomis**
*Staff Writer*

As many people know by now, OWL has a new English teacher after Alysha left last year. If you read the OWL summer newsletter then you might already know that Ms. Ireland is a middle child, has been teaching for six years, and she has three degrees. But besides this, who is Ms. Ireland and what did she do before joining the OWL community?

Ms. Ireland joined the army shortly after high school to pay for her college education, although in her words, "That didn't end up happening. They lie," later in the interview she then goes on to say, "I am glad that I did it, if I could go back and tell myself not to do it, I wouldn't do it." Ms. Ireland was in the army for 4 years and during this time she was in basic training and the reserves. During this time she also started one of her degrees.

Ms. Ireland has three different degrees; a Bachelor's degree of English from the University of Minnesota, a Master's degree of English education from the University of Minnesota, and a Master's degree of library and information sciences from Louisiana State University. Originally she wanted to become an orthopedic surgeon and was in pre med until her junior year. She changed her mind after the army because she wanted to start her life rather than be entry level for years. She decided on English due to her love of it and decided to become a teacher.

Before coming to OWL, Ms. Ireland taught at Washington Technology Middle and High School. She left because she thought her voice wasn't being heard as a teacher. When asked about why she came to OWL she talked about her interview here for her position. She said,

"When I was in my interview, I think there was Dave, Preston, and Akira. And then also a student.

"...And having a student there was really interesting. I liked that. I was like, 'Okay, students are involved in every step of the process here.' Overall, I chose OWL because it seemed like a place that I can grow with my students."

Outside of school, Ms. Ireland said she likes going to the gym, "five days a week," baking, and, of course, reading. "I really like fantasy," she said.


Ms. Ireland

## *Brandon is definitely on Team Conrad and you should be too*

**Savannah Yang and Amalena Xiong**
*Staff Writer*

To pass the new Health and PE teacher; Brandon Vue's class, do not mention Jeremiah. "I am team Conrad and you're failing my class if you're team Jeremiah," Brandon said jokingly.

Brandon just graduated from Concordia University with his Bachelor's degree in PE and Health. He is currently continuing his education at Concordia for his Master's degree in Leadership. He was born and raised in St. Paul MN and graduated high school at Harding High School. He is the oldest of five siblings, two younger brothers and two younger sisters.

In his free time, Brandon likes to work out, hangout with friends and family, and travel. Over the summer, Brandon said he traveled more than usual. "I would say this is the first summer that I've traveled a lot. I went camping, went to Nevada, visited Vegas, California, and Wisconsin," said Brandon.

Growing up, Brandon had good teachers who supported him in elementary school which inspired the thought of being a teacher. It wasn't until middle school when he started having younger siblings and helping them with homework that he realized that he wanted to help students. When he started taking classes at Concordia University, he found that he liked the aspects of Health and PE and knew he wanted to be a Health and PE teacher.

In his first weeks of working at OWL, Brandon likes the staff members here as he feels very supported by their help. He also likes the students so far and has been building relationships with them. Brandon didn't know what OWL was like until he had his interview with the principal, Dave Gundale. He realized that he liked how OWL is a welcoming environment and it feels like home. "There's a lot of activities going on and there are a lot of great staff members. Once I heard about a lot of the activities, fall retreats, and everything they do here, I knew this was a really good place," said Brandon.

Being a first year teacher, some challenges Brandon faces are having to make lesson plans and grade assignments while he's still going to school. Another thing is making sure students take him seriously since he's a younger teacher but luckily he hasn't had a lot of issues with that yet. His goal as a teacher is to help students realize that a lot of things we learn in school are also lessons they could improve on and use outside of school. He also wants to help students get a better understanding of health and PE. He said as a younger teacher, his teaching style is to make class fun and enjoyable for his students and he likes to make jokes while still keeping up with the curriculum.



Purple Press Staff Photo

What Brandon hopes to bring to the OWL community is to have great new ideas where it can correlate and be relevant with the students. "As I feel like I am a bit younger with the students, I know what the students are up to date with like whatever the trend is nowadays, and so to make that and also incorporate that into the learning that OWL has and make it really enjoyable for the students, I want to bring that to the table," said Brandon.

Brandon is a homebody and likes staying at home. He is a big seafood fan. "I love sushi and I love seafood boils like crab, sushi, sashimi. I love that." His go-to restaurant is Ichiban or Oishii Sushi. "Ichiban is really good or the new one. I believe it's called Oishii Sushi. It's a really good

**Brandon, 3**

## *From bands, gigs, and playing the drums, Edmund is at OWL*

**Elizabeth Bedard and Coral Cosgrove**
*Staff Writer*

Edmund Catlin is the new special ed teacher here at Open World Learning. Although he teaches by day, after hours he has another passion: Edmund makes music and is a drummer in a band.

He has been in numerous bands and performed many gigs. The most popular one he has been in is called Hoaxer, but sadly they broke up.

After learning about his interest in music, we wondered why he wanted to become a teacher and not a full time musician. "I just thought it was the right thing to do. Basically, they needed teachers, and I could teach, so here I am," said Edmund.

He's been working in schools for six years, and for two of them he's worked as a teacher. Edmund has worked at Highland, Horace Mann, Creative Arts and other schools. He describes his teaching style as curious. He says it's easy for him to jump around a lot when teaching.

"Why did you choose OWL?" we asked. "Everybody wants to work at OWL, myself included," responded Edmund.

"Well, what do you like about OWL?" We asked. "It's run very well and everybody chips in, even the kids. You know, there's a level of student contribution to the whole place running that I don't think I've seen anywhere else," replied Edmund. He really likes seeing the students helping out around the building and the community here.

Edmund went to high school here in Saint Paul. He attended Saint Paul Central

**Edmund, 8**



Purple Press Staff Photo



Kai Walker

**Senior Kai Walker turns a corner in a race.**

# Its biking but with an extra fun twist

## *Senior Kai Walker shares his journey with mountain biking*

**Josephine Brown**
*Staff Writer*

Have you ever been biking, gone over a curb and wondered if there was a sport where you could do things like that for hours? Well, look no further than mountain biking!

Mountain biking is a pretty hard sport where you ride trails that have jumps, twists, turns, and difficult terrain. It's great exercise and an amazing community where you cheer on your teammates during racing and they do the same for you.

"I'd say just go try it yourself, being out on the bike is the biggest thing, the team is just a way to do it more often and meet people who also love to bike," said Senior Kai Walker, one of four team captains for the St Paul Youth Mountain Biking team (SPY MTB). This is a team made up of St. Paul South, St. Paul North and Highland Park. Unfortunately OWL's population of mountain bikers is not yet big enough to warrant our own team, but you can change that!

"I've been on a bike since I was a toddler but I really did not start mountain biking until 7th grade, so about six years ago," said Kai.

You don't need to have been on a bike since you were little or have never mountain biked before, just showing up with a positive attitude and open mindedness is enough to join the team. Not everyone on the team is as serious about mountain biking as Kai.

Kai has raced at the top level of the Minnesota high school series for the past two years, has multiple top 20 finishes to his name, and races at the elite level in the summer as part of the Wisconsin Off Road Series.

A major part of the mountain biking experience is racing, but you don't have to race at all to be part of the team.

"I think there are definitely levels to it, racing in middle

**Mountain biking, 8**

# Girls soccer sees success during season

## *They learned about commitment, teamwork, and beat Central*

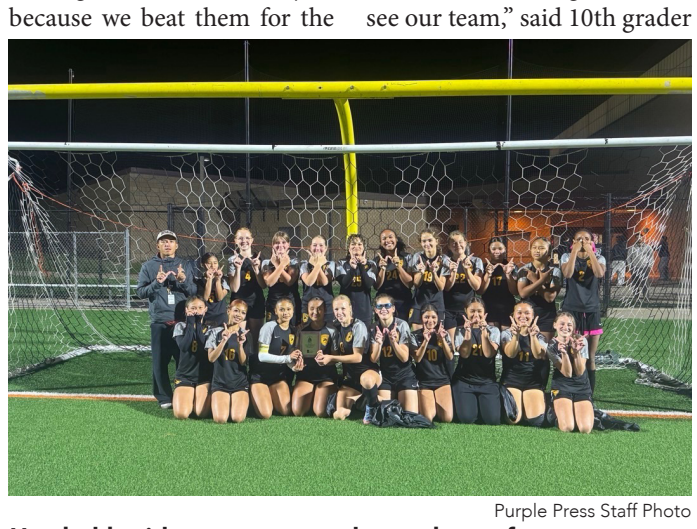
**By Rocio Hernandez and Frances Healy**
*Staff Writer*

The Humboldt girls soccer team made history by winning their conference and beating Central for the first time in their program's history.

"Even though the Johnson game was what decided if we won the conference or not, for me the Central game felt most important. I don't remember caring about a game that much in a long time. You could see on everybody's faces how much it mattered to them," said 10th grader Luisa Schmitt, captain of the Humboldt varsity soccer team.

With a total of 18 games played this season, they took home 10 wins, finishing the season with a 10-4-4 record. Their conference games were played against Harding, Highland, Washington, Como, Johnson, and Central. The team had many memorable games this season, but the one that stood out the most was their game against Central, which they won 1-0. Humboldt beat Central for the first time, changing the stats to 1-67.

"The highlight is probably beating Central. Not just because we beat them for the first time, but because even though it was a stressful game, and maybe there were certain things that weren't to our benefit, it showed me that our team really pushes through for each other, and it was just an exciting game. It showed me a lot about our team, and I think it kind of set the stage for how I see our team," said 10th grader Lauren Harris, starter on the soccer team.



Purple Press Staff Photo

**Humboldt girls soccer team takes a photo after a game.**

The team has really shown great skills and commitment to their sport this season, they have also learned what it's like to be on a team that pushes each other to do their best. "Over the past two years, it's shown me what a real team should look like and how a team should function. It's a good example of what teammates who enjoy being around each other and playing together look like," said Lauren. The team has also shown a lot of diversity and inclusion this year, even getting broadcasted on CBS for it. Many players were interviewed, including 7th grader Soph Marshak. Even though Soph is a new player for Humboldt's soccer team this year, she is already

**Girls soccer, 5**

# Middle school frisbee season wraps up

## *Many new players were welcomed and experience was gained*

**Jack Sullivan**
*Staff Writer*

It was a tight back-and-forth game against the Andover Mavericks, at Lake Nokomis field during a long period where everyone kept dropping catches. Suddenly, a throw went to the end zone, curving out as 8th grader Patrick Wonders leaned out, caught it one-handed, and rolled out with the disk.

After an exciting season, the Manatees' middle school frisbee season wraps up with a great turnout of returning players and plenty of new team members. Fall frisbee can be all about the key plays.

This year, there were three teams for each skill level: new players, intermediate team, and an advanced team. The advanced team is mainly 8th graders with two 7th graders. The intermediate team had lots of returning 7th graders along with a few new 7th graders. After the season finished, players reflected on how each team's season went. The team with all new players went 2-4, the intermediate team went 2-4, and the advanced team went 2-3.

The fall league is organized at Lake Nokomis field as an introduction to frisbee. The team is constantly improving and preparing for high school frisbee. "By starting in middle school, players can go into high school with a strong understanding of the sport," said Coach Flannery Henke-Haney, one of the head coaches.

For a lot of returning players, fall frisbee can be about improving your skills. 8th grade player Gus Osborn remarked, "I think it helps maintain my skills." After all, fall is perfect for perfecting skills and your overall experience. 8th grade player Olivia Oseguera said, "So you get to, like, really get more experiences and stuff, and that prepares you for the spring season."



Rahnia Droogsma

**The mixed frsibee team takes a photo after a game.**

For new players, especially sixth graders, fall frisbee is a lot of making friends and trying new things. "At first there were some kids I didn't know, and then, like, then maybe they were on my line for frisbee, and then I, like, got to know them better," said 6th grader Soren Young.

In all, fall frisbee is a great way to get introduced to the sport, try new things and make new friends. You can work on perfecting your skills, learn more, and become a better player. Even though fall frisbee is fun, it's just the warm-up for spring, which is a much bigger deal. Spring has all the tournaments and much higher stakes.

# As seasons end, teams share excitement and future plans

## *Aria Kulseth is off to state meet*

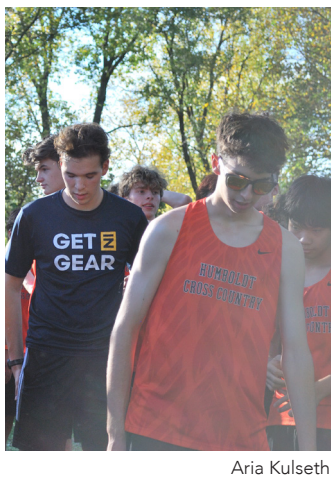
Senior Aria Kulseth qualified for the state cross country meet for the second year in a row. She placed 6th in the section championships with a time of 20:46.

The Humboldt/OWL cross country team had another successful season. Junior Abby Horton won the East of Dale meet, and senior Annabelle Wilson earned several top five finishes. The boys were led by senior Oscar Mons. Aria earned all conference honors, and Abby, Annabelle, Oscar, and sophomore Alex Haaland all earned all conference honorable mention.



Aria Kulseth

**Senior Aria Kulseth poses with sections her medal.**




Aria Kulseth

**Seniors Oscar Mons and Henry Cowles prepare for a race.**

## *Girls tennis reflects on season*

The Girls tennis team wrapped up their season at the individual sections meet before MEA, OWL students who played varsity tennis include senior Claire Ales and junior Nora Xiong. Claire won the team's most valuable player award at the end-of-year banquet and received all conference honors for the fourth year in a row.



Andrew Lor

**The girls tennis team had a fun season and are looking forward to next year.**



Andrew Lor

**Senior Claire Ales follows through on a backhand**



Andrew Lor

**Junior Nora Xiong prepares to hit the tennis ball.**

## *Volleyball*

The Humboldt OWL girls volleyball team ended their season last week when they lost to Saint Croix Lutheran in the section 4aa tournament. This was a building year for the Hawks after losing many seniors to graduation. OWL seniors who played varsity this year include: 9th grader Sally Keenan, 11th grade Nabella Grijalva, and tenth grader Isabella Cook.

## *Boys soccer*

The boys soccer team had a winning record at 9-7-1. Their season ended in a loss in the section quarterfinals to Minnehaha Academy. OWL students who played varsity this year include 8th grader Soren Sommerville and junior Grady Smith.

**Brandon, 2**

place too," said Brandon.

He is a sucker for romantic comedies. "I love rom coms. I will say that. I love murder mysteries and I love horror movies too. I really like The Notebook." As mentioned earlier, aside from movies, Brandon enjoys reading The Summer I Turned Pretty.

His favorite sports team is the Vikings for football and the Timberwolves for basketball. His favorite music artist is Bruno Mars. Brandon said, "I love Bruno Mars. I went to his concert at the beginning of this year, but two artists that have really been climbing up the mountain for me are Olivia Dean and Sienna Spiro."

A fact about Brandon is at first he could be an introvert, but once you get to know him better he could be himself more and become an extrovert. He also likes to tell jokes and he feels like it makes him who he is.



Riloh Rosel

**Riloh Rosel jumps a barrier with her horse, Nikki.**

# Horse riding: more than a jump

## *The sport requires a lot of trust between the horse and the rider*

**Riloh Rosel**
*Staff Writer*

The horse speeds toward the jump, its hooves pounding against the arena flood. I look ahead, preparing for the next jump. In a matter of seconds, we take off, soaring over the colorful rails before landing on the other side.

To someone watching, it may look effortless, but behind every jump are hours of practice, patience, and trust. For me, jumping is about more than getting over a fence. It is about the connection I build with my horse, Nikki, and the work we put in together.

Horse jumping, also known as show jumping, is an equestrian sport in which horses and riders navigate a course of obstacles. The goal is to clear the jumps without knocking down rails or making other mistakes. While it may seem like all jumping competitions are the same, there are several different styles, each with its own rules and challenges.

One popular style is show jumping, where the focus is on clearing fences without knocking down any poles. Riders must guide their horses through turns, combinations of jumps, and obstacles of different heights. Speed and accuracy are important, especially in timed rounds.

Another style is hunter jumping, which focuses on smoothness, consistency, and appearance. Judges look for horses that move evenly, jump neatly, and maintain a steady rhythm throughout the course. Rather than simply jumping as fast as possible, riders aim to make the round look controlled and effortless.

Equitation is another type of competition, but the focus is on the rider rather than the horse alone. Judges evaluate the rider's position, balance, and ability to communicate with the horse. Staying centered over a jump and following the horse's movement are important skills in this discipline.

I am a hunter and Equitation rider. When I jump, I have to focus on my position, my horse's pace, and how we approach every jump. Every fence is different, so I have to pay attention and adjust as needed. I have learned that being a good rider isn't just about getting over the jump, but also staying balanced and helping my horse feel confident.

No matter which style they compete in, horses and riders need the right equipment. The most recognizable piece of tack is the saddle, which gives the rider a secure place to sit. In English jumping disciplines, the saddle is designed to help the rider balance while leaning slightly forward over a fence. A soft pad goes underneath to help protect the horse's back and keep the saddle comfortable.

The horse also wears a bridled a piece of equipment that fits around the horse's head and it helps the rider communicate through the reins. The reins connect to the bridle and allow the rider to give gentle signals for turning and adjusting speed. A girth secures the saddle around the horse's body, while stirrups give the rider a place to rest their feet and help maintain balance.

Other equipment can include protective boots that help shield a horse's legs during exercise and jumping. Riders also wear helmets to protect their heads, along with riding boots and comfortable riding clothes. The exact equipment varies depending on the horse, discipline, and competition rules.

During training sessions, there is more to practice than just jumping fences. I work on things like steering, transitions, rhythm, and balance to help prepare for jumps. Some days, we focus on the basics instead of jumping, because those skills are important for improving. Each session gives me a chance to learn something new and become more confident as a

**Horse jumping, 10**

# Wait, they're on Wednesday this year?

## *A variety of new clubs are offered and are no longer on Friday*

**Margaret Nathan**
*Staff Writer*

Clubs this year have started at OWL, and both students and staff are looking forward to Wednesday club time.

This year introduced new clubs, such as ACT math practice, chess & dominos club, film club, fiction writing club, and music club. These added to the now 21 total clubs at OWL. These include fan favorites like gym club and important activism clubs like feminism and environmental club.

Club time has returned to Wednesday instead of Friday like in the 2023-2024 school year. The change in schedule is owed to the Model UN, who debated the issue last year. "Fridays are often canceled so it's hard to get a lot done, also Friday Funday rolls off the tongue much better," said science teacher Megan Hall, who is in charge of clubs this year.

Although some students enjoy staying with the same club, many are also choosing new clubs to try. 8th grader Siri Nathan did feminism club last year, and now hopes to get into Theatre club Drama Drama Drama, fellow 8th grader Rosie Whitten agrees; "I thought art club was fun, but I would like to try a new club too."

Almost all high schools in SPPS have adopted a weekly club time. But OWL's clubs have some key differences. For one thing, the staff are actually excited to lead clubs. Staff at fellow middle and high schools in the district tend to dislike club time, it makes attendance difficult, and it leads to students wandering hallways. At OWL, our clubs utilize student leaders, who are often juniors or seniors who are passionate about what they teach. Many of them are leading the club as part of their senior projects. Students are happy to come as well, "Club's aren't for a grade, you go because you enjoy it," said 8th grader Everly Jones.



Purple Press Staff Photo

**Drama club members play a game during a meeting.**

Students enjoy spending time in clubs for a variety of reasons. "I think that it's good, especially if you didn't get into the classes you want, like you can still do gym even

**Clubs, 8**

# The reality of living like a turtle

## *The trailer is high quality enough for NASA so you should try too*

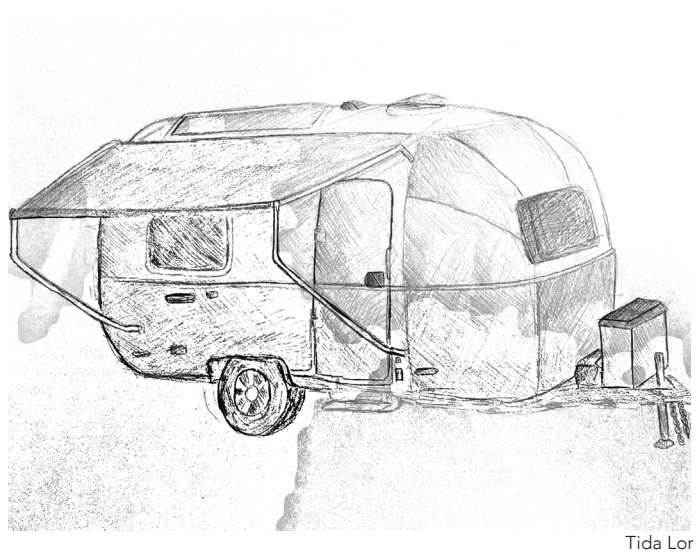
**Emmett Hannert Dawson**
*Staff Writer*

I have a question for you, dear reader. A turtle lives its life with its home always near, but this is not because the turtle refuses to leave its home, it is because it brings the home with. Now, would you like to live like a turtle?

Today I will be talking about a truly famous brand of trailer. Airstream, where you can live like a turtle in style, bringing a home with you wherever you go. You may have seen one, the big curved metal boxes that look like it was built with a very small budget. Well it may seem cheap, but in 1936, the first of these campers was sold for $30,000 is today's money, and could house four people with electricity and heat.

This company is so highly regarded that NASA quarantined its astronauts from Apollo 11, 12, and 14 in modified airtight Airstream trailers until it was confirmed that they had not brought back any lunar pathogens. Airstream is incredibly expensive though, with getting new cushions installed costing over $2,000 dollars. I would recommend maybe looking at cheaper alternatives if you were in the RV market.

Airstream was started by Wally Byam in the late 1920s, who had been working on Masonsite trailers in Los Angeles for the last few years. In 1936, he built and introduced the Airstream Clipper, which was basically a rebadged 1935 Bowlus Road Chief, but the door was switched from being on the front to the side. This change made it more aerodynamic and increased fuel efficiency. This now familiar design is what sparked the company. The first airstream was released into the public market in the same year, and sold for $1,200, equal to $30,000 today.



Tida Lor

Out of 400 different travel trailer companies and builders, Airstream was the only one to survive the Great Depression. One of Airstream's defining features is luxury, which is very obvious today, with its cheapest travel trailer costing $64,400, and called the World Traveler. It has a bed, bathroom equipped with a toilet, shower, and a two burner stove. Now, the next logical step is to talk about the most expensive trailer.

The Classic costs $227,900 and has a TV, 54 gallon fresh water tanks, and the interior systems can be controlled by an app on your phone. But Airstream has yet another trick up its proverbial sleeve. It builds RVs, not just trailers, cars that you can comfortably live in without modification. And the most expensive out

**Airstream, 9**

# Avengers: Doomsday set to come out

## *What you need to watch to be prepared and a brief background*

**Evelyn Connor**
*Staff Writer*

Avengers: Doomsday, the newest movie in the Marvel Cinematic Universe, will be released on December 18th of this year. The movie was originally going to be released on May 2, 2025, when it was announced at Comic-Con on July 23, 2022, called Avengers: The Kang Dynasty. The title and plot was changed after the actor who played Kang was reported for assaulting his girlfriend, and the film was changed to Doomsday.

The character Victor Von Doom first appeared in the fifth Fantastic Four comic book that was released in 1962, but did not get an origin story until 1964. In his origin story we learn that he was trying to contain his dead mother's spirit. There ended up being a malfunction in the program, causing him to get a minor scar, leaving him in shame and causing him to feel resentful toward the world. He was the ruler of the fictional place named Laveria in Europe, which also gave him power over the people. He also appeared in the Secret War comics, stealing the power of the Beyonder. His plan did not end up working, because when he stole the power it ended up driving him mad.

In Disney+, they have added green to the sides of the thing you should watch in preparation for Doomsday, some of which include: Loki, Captain America: The First Avenger, Avengers (the one with Loki), Avengers: Infinity War, Avengers: Endgame, Spider-Man: No Way Home (the one with Dr. Strange), Shang-Chi: Legend of the Ten Rings, Black Panther: Wakanda Forever, Captain America: Brand New Day, Deadpool and Wolverine, Doctor Strange and the Multiverse of Madness, X-Men, and X2. Some people also think that they decided to add the green now because people on the internet would make them, leading the people at Marvel to be inspired and put the green highlights on to Marvel.

Avengers: Doomsday is also supposed to be two hours and 45 minutes long making it the second longest Marvel movie to date. The first being Avengers: Endgame which is three hours and a minute long. It is also directed by the Russo brothers, Anthony and Joe. They have also directed other marvel movies such as Captain America: The Winter Soldier, Captain America: Civil War, Avengers: Infinity War, and Avengers: Endgame.

I think that the new movie will be good. It has a lot of potential to be good with the team up between the Fantastic Four, the X-Men, and the Avengers. I also believe that there will be a lot of deaths with a villain as strong as Dr. Doom. There is also talk of Dr. Doom getting a team. Some of the characters people believe to be on the team are the Hulk, Dr. Strange, Sylvie, Wanda, and Clea. If this ends up being true I think the protagonists are going to have a hard time winning when Doom has a team of some powerful characters from the MCU. I have high hopes for the movie, I believe that it will be good and will have many good moments in the movie. Some scenes that would be cool to have in the movie would be to get Peter Parker seeing Dr. Doom and thinking it is Tony Stark. Another cool thing in the movie would be getting to see more of Bob as Sentry, with Bob Reynolds and Yelena Belova becoming the new Bruce Banner and Natasha Romanoff of the MCU.

# Senior Spotlight

## *Roman Rufi*



**What pronouns do you use?**
He/Him

**How long have you been at OWL?**
Like 6-7 years

**What are your plans for next year?**
Go to college, Hopefully

**What's been your favorite class in high school?**
Probably AP Lang or Gym

**What extracurriculars are you involved in?**
Not any right now but I've done wrestling, frisbee, cross country, model UN and I used to do Photography.

**Favorite field work experience or school trip and why?**
Oh definitely Du Nord, the trees were really cool and I had a good time.

**If you had a walk up song, what would it be?**
Probably "Shoot up" by Playboy carti and lil uzi

# That One Little Kid

## *Soren Young*



**How tall are you?**
Uh like 5 foot I think?

**What pronouns do you use?**
He/Him

**What's your favorite book, movie, or TV show?**
Jujitsu Kaisen

**Who's your favorite senior?**
Claire and Connie

**What is your favorite thing about OWL so far?**
Frisbee

**What extracurriculars do you plan on getting involved in at OWL?**
Just frisbee

# Some not so scary Halloween history

**Xio Schicker**
*Staff Writer*

Fall is a wonderful time of year. You've got leaves changing color, cozy sweaters, 'pumpkin spice' flavored food and drink, and of course—Halloween. But how did this iconic holiday come to be?

Well, many historians find that Halloween as we know it today can be traced all the way back to 2,000 years ago, with the ancient Celtic new years holiday Samhain. Samhain was celebrated on the night of Oct. 31, when the boundary between the living and the dead was believed to be weakened. The Celts would wear costumes in order to confuse the spirits and avoid being terrorized.

In the eighth century, Pope Gregory III designated Nov. 1 as a time to honor saints and martyrs—All Saints Day. The evening before would be called All Hallows Eve, which would eventually evolve into the word Halloween. In 1,000 A.D the Catholic Church made Nov. 2 All Souls Day, a holiday to honor the dead. All Souls Day was celebrated very similarly to Samhain, with big bonfires, parades and dressing up in costumes. Many people believe that the church created this holiday to replace Samhain with an akin, church approved event.

The well known tradition of trick or treating dates back to early All Souls Day parades in England. Poor citizens would beg for food, and families would give them a type of pastry called 'soul cakes,' on the condition that they would pray for their dead relatives. This practice was referred to as 'going a-souling,' and was eventually taken up by children who would visit the houses in their neighborhoods and be given ale, food and money.

Up until the mid 1800s, Halloween was only really celebrated in colonial New England due to rigid Protestant beliefs. Then the Irish Potato Famine happened in 1845, and America was flooded with new immigrants that brought the holiday with them. At this point Halloween was mainly centered around ghosts, pranks, and witchcraft. That would soon change though, as in the late 1800s there was a push to have the holiday be more about community and neighborly get togethers.

At the turn of the century, a distinctly American version of Halloween began to emerge. The most common way to celebrate Halloween was through parties, both for children and for adults. These parties would have lots of games, cool costumes, and seasonal foods like corn, apples, nuts, and pumpkins. Newspapers and community leaders encouraged parents to take anything "frightening" or "grotesque" out of Halloween celebrations, resulting in the holiday losing most of its religious and superstitious overtones by the beginning of the 20th century.

In the 1950s Halloween became a holiday that was more aimed at kids, due to the large number of children who were born during the baby boom. The centuries old tradition of trick or treating was also revived around that time, which was a popular way for an entire community to share the celebration. This went along with the rise in costumes. While dressing up has always been a part of Halloween traditions, the outfits had always been more abstract or scary until the 1950s. Then there was a shift in costumes to be modeled after things that the children may have seen—like specific characters—which is more similar to what we see in costumes today. Mass produced box costumes also became more affordable, and therefore more common around that time.

Modern Halloween centers around mainly trick or treating for kids, and Halloween themed/costume parties for adults. "Trunk or treating" is also a common thing people go to, as well as other planned trick or treat-like events in the days before Halloween. Modern costumes range from characters to real people to concepts, and from scary to funny to cool. An interesting thing that is specific to this time in Halloween celebrations is the emergence of specific neighborhoods being popular for trick or treating over others. People will drive over to these areas instead of staying near their own houses, and I've noticed that some neighborhoods don't get many trick or treaters at all anymore.



Aria Kulseth



George Abelson

**Junior George Ableson poses for a photo after his race.**

# George can go the distance: 26 miles

**Maren Nowicki**
*Staff Writers*

What's the farthest you've ever ran? If you had to guess you probably wouldn't say 26.2 miles. In fact you might not even think anyone in high school would want to run that far. Well, it turns out that 24 kids ages 12-17 ran the 2026 Twin Cities Marathon (TCM), including 11th grader George Abelson.

George talked about his experience with the marathon and why he decided to take on this challenge. George explained that he's been running for about a year on the Humboldt/OWL cross country and track teams. "I did a half [marathon] and I was like, I could probably do double this," said George. The TCM offers free registration for anyone under 18, so George was able to get in for free, "so I said, you know what, why not?"

Running a marathon doesn't happen overnight, it takes a lot of training and a lot of commitment. "I run, depending on the week, 5 to 6 days a week," said George, "I do a long run on Saturday, sometimes Sunday, and I increase it most weeks." George also mentioned that it was hard to find the motivation for running some days. "So I think that the hardest part was mentally, and then just, like, getting up every day and be like, okay, I have to run. I have to run."

All the training eventually paid off when race day arrived on October 4th. "I really enjoyed it," said George, "I mean, obviously, there were some tough parts. There were some times where I was like, I don't know if I can finish." George mentioned "dropout zones" that were located every five or six miles. "So every time I would run by them, I'd be so tempted, even though I didn't need to drop out."

George talked about the hardest parts of the marathon and he said that the earliest stages were the most difficult, "I got to mile six and I was not feeling good…I'm like, I don't know how I'm gonna last another 20 miles." George talked about his motivation and what kept him going throughout the race, "I think once I got to halfway is like, okay, I know I'm gonna finish."

He also mentioned being motivated by seeing people supporting him on the sidelines. 11th grader, Louisa McAlpine told us about when she was cheering on George, "we told him not to stop because he looked at us like he wanted to stop…I told him 'you have to keep going!'" George also talked about his feelings when he got to the finish, "I saw the finish, and it was like, oh my God, I'm here. I've done it. I've just ran 26 miles." Overall this is a very impressive accomplishment from George and he mentioned running the TCM again next year. If you feel inspired to run a marathon, know that you can if you put in the work.

**Girls Soccer, 3**

a starter for varsity. She gets along with the team very well and is building strong relationships. "They don't treat me like a little kid; they treat me like one of them," said Soph.

Soph wasn't the only new person on the team this year. Humboldt had a new head coach, Moo Kpor Mu, or as the players know him as, Coach Chit. He was welcoming to all players, no matter their background; only their determination for the sport mattered. "As a coach, I want to see progress. I want to see players with a competitive mindset. I want them to play with purpose and know that this matters. I want them to look at soccer as something they can incorporate into their lives," said Coach Chit.

"My goal for the team for next season is for us to keep that bond, stay together as a team and play as a team. Also winning the conference again. For the off season I just want everybody to stay fit and be prepared for the next season so we can play more smoothly," said 9th grader Lydia Manfred. Based on this season's stats and their young developing team, their goals to achieve as much, if not more than they did this year seems very attainable.

# Reviews 'n' stuff




Purple Press Staff Photo

## A guide to the foods at the fair

*Theo tells us which ones are worth it and which ones aren't*

**Theo McLaughlin**
*Staff Writer*

From August 26 to Labor Day every year, an event known as the Minnesota State Fair takes place. Now, the fair is famous for a multitude of reasons: the Grandstand, the DNR fish pond, the giant slide, and many more. But the one thing that the fair is most famous for is the food.

Now I am going to talk about some of the new foods and some of the classics, so If i don't include your favorite I'm sure it's very good, but I'm sorry. I will include my favorite food at the end, but other than that these are in no particular order.

My first category will be starting off with some classics. These are the foods that have been at the fair for God knows how long and are just a staple. Starting off, we have the footlong hotdog which is just a normal hotdog but better. I don't know if this is just a corporate ploy or if there's actually a decent sized difference.

Another famous classic is Sweet Martha's, which are good cookies but I don't think the long line is worth it. When you do get them, if you get a cup they stack them up really high which if you're walking from one place to another it feels like balancing an egg on a spoon. If you get the bucket they are easier to move, but are all broken and twisted at the bottom.

One of the few things that I think is overhyped and overrated are the Amish Donuts. I know that this is a hot take, but is it worth waiting in line for half an hour for a six dollar glazed donut? If you end up making it through the line and the price, you'll come to find that it is just a donut that is slightly doughier than a normal donut.

Something that I think is hyped a bit too little is the Fresh French Fry Stand. Now when you go to get french fries from McDonald's they fry the fries, then put them under a heat lamp for a few hours before serving them. But at the Fresh French Fry Stand, they take them from the fryer and then immediately serve them to you. When I went there they served me my fries and as I walked away I held them against my shirt and I got a grease stain.

Now my all time favorite classic is the Pronto Pup, now if you somehow think that Pronto Pups and corn dogs are the same thing, first of all you should actually go to the fair. But the difference is that the dough is three times as thick as a corn dog, and instead of just squirting toppings on, they have big tubs of ketchup and mustard with a brush that they use to brush the toppings on.

The main reason that they're better than corn dogs is not just because they brush the toppings and are thicker, but also because just like everything else on this list they only come around for two weeks out of the year, so they just feel extra special.

Now that I've run out of ideas for classic foods, I'm gonna start the next category which are some of the new foods this year, and I didn't get a chance to try all of them, but these are the ones I did get to try.

One of the new foods this year is the Elote Tots. Now, I actually worked at the stand that made the Elote Tots and on some days the lines would stretch more than a block long. Now the tots themselves were

**State fair food, 8**

## Newest spiderman movie excites many

*A solid plot, very good cinematography, and well executed themes*

**Nikolai Stricklan**
*Staff Writer*

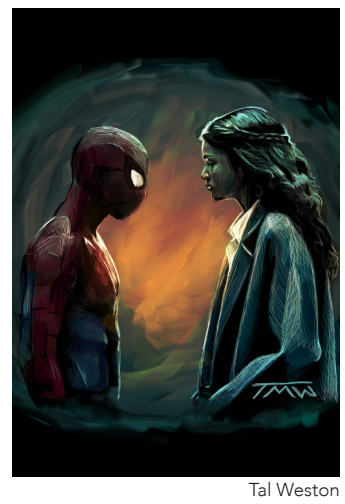
Spider-Man has been a franchise for a very, very long time, and I'm pretty sure most of you have heard of it. The classic superhero story of a teenager getting bit by a spider and gaining spider-based superpowers. The film follows this classic narrative, while incorporating the X-Men, which we will delve into later.

The series started as comics, and like most superhero franchises, has branched out into movies on the big screen. The most recent Spider-Man movie is Spider-Man: Brand New Day, starring Marvel's third Spider-Man actor, Tom Holland. Unlike previous Spider-Man movies, Brand New Day marks the fourth Spider-Man movie with Tom Holland, which is uncommon, as the previous two actors, Tobey Maguire and Andrew Garfield, have three and two movies respectively.

As for the movie itself, I feel it's the second-best Spider-Man live action movie out of the nine. The movie itself has a solid plot, as well as introducing mutants to the MCU (Marvel Cinematic Universe) for the first time, (the X-Men have movies, though the movies are mediocre, and people don't consider them part of the MCU) which people are excited for, as the X-Men and mutants are very popular, and this could mean better movies for the X-Men.

I enjoyed the plot of the movie very thoroughly. Following Peter Parker after everyone in the world forgot who he is, (this happened at the end of the previous movie,) and how he operates essentially knowing nobody, and working as Spider-Man. About halfway through the movie, Peter's spider mutation starts to take over and change the human DNA into spider DNA, which is a fun plot point, as this has happened in a few Spider-Man comics. The plot of the movie sneaks in messages of being lonely, depressed, and feeling like you don't belong. The movie mainly shows these topics using Jean Gray, as she's pretty emotionally focused in the movie. One of these scenes, specifically the flashback of her sister being taken, shows these themes very very well. The movie tackles these topics well, while being a fun super hero movie. The best example of the movie looking at these themes is the plot of Jean Gray. For those who don't know, Jean Gray is an incredibly powerful psychic, and in other marvel media, a part of the X-Men.

The movie's cinematography is very very good, with the swinging shots of Spider-Man being both



Tal Weston

**Spiderman, 10**

## A jump scare filled horror movie arrives

*Other Mommy bores viewers, scares, and doesn't do much else*

**Piper Wasmund**
*Staff Writer*

Do you like horror movies with never ending jumpscares and lots of suspense? Then you'll love this new movie called Other Mommy.

Other Mommy came out on October 9th, 2026 and has 5.4 stars on IMDb and 17% on Rotten Tomatoes. It's about an eight year old girl named Bela that forms a relationship with a terrifying entity in her home that looks identical to her mother. Bela summons the entity by opening and closing her bathroom door repeatedly until it appears eerily in the doorway. I don't know how a child could ever find that normal and be so calm about it, if I was her I would've moved out the second I heard a sound in the bathroom. Her parents don't know about her secret friendship right away. At first, I thought she was only visible to Bela, but once her parents saw her, everything started to change drastically.

The plot could use some work as some details are left unknown to the viewers making things a little confusing about the story and characters. Like for example, how the movie never went into detail about how the entity came into her home in the first place or why it looks like her mother. Is it attached to the house? Is it attached to Bela? Did Bela do something for it to show up the first time? It's the viewer's decision. I like when movies have background information before even going into the main story, Other Mommy never did that. They went straight into the story and had left me confused, it's like I had to guess what happened beforehand.

While the plot had some holes, the characters were amazing. Each one of them had a unique personality and how they viewed each situation, making things a lot more fun to watch. I never knew how they would react so it had me on the edge of my seat, seeing what would happen next. A lot of characters were introduced, making the story more complex in the best way possible. Every character was so carefully introduced into the story so that it didn't overwhelm the viewer. Like Other Mommy, she was the definition of creepy, but she was also very caring in a way to Bela. She gradually got more and more aggressive when Bela refused to allow Other Mommy into her heart (which was her main goal). As the story continued, her appearance got more and more disturbing.

The parents were very fierce and courageous. They weren't afraid to stand up to the entity terrorizing their family. Though at some points they didn't know what to do or how to stop it, they stayed brave in front of Bela so she wouldn't worry.

The beginning of the movie was fast paced and really only focused on a good opening story, so the rest of the movie was very slow and the story sometimes just needed to end. It felt like they didn't want to end the movie and kept adding stuff on top of the storyline that didn't need to be there.

I wouldn't recommend this movie if you don't have a lot of patience because it does get boring at some points, but the beginning is very enjoyable and full of jumpscares.

## An interesting utopia with a conflict

*A Psalm for the Wild-built gives readers a nice balance between both*

**By Kaden McNamara**
*Staff Writer*

How do you write conflict when your world is a utopia?

A pretty difficult question for most writers. When the world you're writing about is one without problems, then how do you write a story that people want to read? For most writers the solution is to make the world flawed, be it a secret evil in the world or something trying to inflict evil, and writing utopias is usually a dead end for a story. But that's what makes A Psalm for the Wild-Built so interesting to me; it is 100% a solarpunk utopia, and it still has an interesting and relatable conflict, albeit a fully character-driven and very laidback one, but one that's interesting to read and will affect the world of the story forever.

After remembering it being one of the book club options Preston had in his Horror/Mystery/Fantasy & Sci-Fi class I decided to check out A Psalm for the Wild-Built by Becky Chambers over the summer, and I'd probably say it's my favorite out of that number. Only a novella (around 100 pages), the story follows a tea monk named Dex who despite being widely considered one of the best in the world at their job, which is a very fulfilling one that has them helping people constantly, has inexplicably gained the need to get out of the city and into the wilderness. While traveling in the wilderness, Dex meets, for the first time since they all left civilization decades ago, a robot named Mosscap, who soon joins Dex in their journey into the wilderness.

I must say, it is very interesting to see a completely peaceful world in coexistence with nature rather than at odds with. Throughout the novella we get bits and pieces of worldbuilding establishing this world as a post-industrial civilization which fell and transitioned into a nature-filled one around the time when robots gained full sentience out of nowhere and walked off. Seeing the faintest mentions of certain animals being extinct or humans leaving most of the world untouched and left to be overtaken by nature or when we come across the ruins of an overgrown factory which used robots and Mosscap's reaction to it. All of these tiny little things give the world a sense of peacefulness and grandness which I rarely see in other stories.

As I said earlier, this novella doesn't follow any sort of

**Psalm for the wild, 8**




Goodreads




# Huh, this definitely isn't Ratatoille

## *Rayayoing is worth the watch but doesn't have great reviews*

**Zelda James**
*Staff Writer*

Have you ever watched a movie where a review called the creators, "a bunch of plagiarizing, no-good, lying, effortless, dirty scumbag hacks?" That was a review by abrow975 of the movie Ratatoing, a blatant ripoff of the Pixar movie Ratatouille, and despite what abrown975 on IMDb says, I liked it despite the fact I can't remember where I found out about it.

Ratatoing was made in 2007 by Video Brinquedo, a Brazilian animation studio that is known for its movies that are ripoffs of other more popular movies. It was directed by Michelle Gabriel and starred Wayne Grayson and Douglas Guesdes for the English and Portuguese versions of Marcel Toing respectively. Other important characters include Carol (voiced by Lisa Ortiz and Elisa Vilon) and Greg (voiced by Mike Pollock and Sidney Ross). They are Marcel's friends that work with him.

Ratatoing is a restaurant in Rio de Janeiro, but not just any old restaurant, Ratatoing is a place where people come from all over the world to try the food made by the great Marcel Toing. The restaurant is doing so well it is driving customers away from other restaurants and because of this, his enemies try to figure out his secret ingredients. They visit Ratatoing almost every night and take notes on a notepad disguised as an autograph book until one night, one of them leaves the book back at the restaurant. When the door is left unlocked, they sneak into the kitchen and stumble upon Marcel's secret. He, with the help of Carol and Greg, gets his ingredients from the humans through a secret door that connects his restaurant to the human one. The rats start plotting against him hoping for his downfall.

Ratatoing has a run time of 44 minutes, the first seven of which are just talking about how good the restaurant is. I won't say that it isn't important to the story, as jealousy of the great food is the thing that drives the plot forward, but it is so long compared to the pay off and the entire time it felt very awkward. Nothing about it felt satisfying to watch. The climax was quite underwhelming and there wasn't any character development or consequences for the villains. I didn't especially care about any characters, except Greg, if only because he was funny and I grew emotionally attached to him.

The models of the characters in this movie are horrifying. When they talk their skin looks as though it is desperately trying to get away from the rest of their body, their teeth aren't connected to anything other than a void, and the movements are very jerky when they talk. The rats aren't the only things that make me fear for my life, though they do have a lot of murderous intent in their eyes. The cat is more horrifying than anything else in this movie, his neck keeps going through itself, sometimes it's on all fours and in the very next shot the cat is running on its back legs.

This movie has done something confusing, make both my favorite character and fail at writing characters. None of the characters in this movie have personalities, except Greg whose only trait is that he is kind of stupid. Marcel and Carol are both forgettable, which, I don't know if you know this but, it's not good to have your main characters to be forgettable. Greg is just as poorly written as the rest of them, the difference being he is funny and maybe I've grown emotionally attached to this creature. I will say the writers wrote really convincing villains, in the sense they had a good motivation and less of how they were otherwise written, and they were very enjoyable to be with the entire run time.

Despite all of the awful things I have to say about this movie, I have to give credit

**Ratatoing, 10**

# The minions are back, but with monsters

## *Fans of the franchise and children would find it enjoyable*

**Bennett Mikesh**
*Staff Writer*

Imagine yourself in a world with little yellow minions in overalls that play characters in movies. I think it was overall a good movie but was a little too short for my liking.

On July 1, 2026 Illumination Entertainment released the third minions movie, Monsters and Minions. Some of the actors in this movie include Pierre Coffin (the voice actor of the minions). Allison Janney, who voices Olivia, the main narrator of the movie. Jesse Eisenberg, who voices Dort the Alien robot, plays a vital role in stopping the summoned monster blob. Zoey Deutch who voices Debbie the suffragette, who has Dort staring. In a special scene George Lucas plays himself locked in a glass box in a museum.

This movie is about two minions named James and Henry. These two were different from the group, as James was a creative minion who loved to draw and create stories. While Henry on the other hand was a troublemaker, he loved to play pranks on his fellow minions, but even though they had very different personalities they still became great friends and spent all their time together.

This movie is also about the minions trying to find a master. They worked for both a giant and a wizard. But when they found themselves in Hollywood they met Max, a small director who encouraged James to make a movie. It became his dream. Max found James and gave him a camera and told him to follow his dreams. James wanted to make a monster movie but the other minions weren't interested in helping him. So James and Henry went back to the wizard's lair and used his book to summon the scariest monster they could find. But once they saw him they were disappointed because he was tiny and not scary at all. But he offered to help them out with their movie, and lead them to his other monster friends. After finding his monster friend they headed back to Hollywood, snuck into a studio, and started to film his movie.

Monsters and Minions takes place on an island with a giant, a wizards lair, and finally old Hollywood California when Hollywood was in its "golden age" around 1927, when movies started to have sound which were called "talkies" at the time.

I think this movie was okay. I liked it but It was shorter than most movies and that was a big no for me. When you get to the end of the movie it starts to lose the plot and it becomes boring and sorta confusing.

I liked the voice acting, it was great in the end. I also liked the animation style. It was clean and there weren't any mess ups and it just looked right. I also liked how it wasn't trying to look realistic but still managed to look fairly real.

So overall I would say I don't really like this movie because the story seemed a little rushed. I liked the start and the idea of the movie but I don't like the end because it starts to lose the plot and I would rate this movie a 2/5. Some people who might like this movie may be people who are fans of the minions or younger children.

# Ending climate change but in a game

## *You play a global super power and try to accomplish the impossible*

**By Louden Buetow**
*Staff Writer*

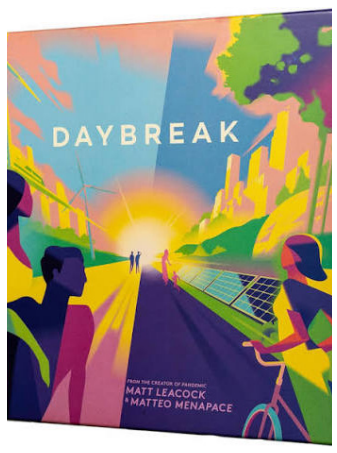
In most games all you do to win is try to defeat your opponents by gaining points, well in Daybreak you need to save the world. Daybreak is a cooperative game where you're trying to end global warming. Before you read the rest of this article you should know that the rules I mention aren't all of the rules, there are more but if I added all of the rules I could mess something up and it would be boring. So make sure that if you get Daybreak you read through the rules again just to make sure you don't miss anything.

In Daybreak each person gets a global super power like the USA, China and even all of Europe. To win you need to get the temperature rise to start going down. You do this by removing more carbon from the air than carbon produced. For that you need to get rid of carbon creators and dirty energy from your board while figuring out how to gain more clean energy.

Each of the one to four players get a little board and a deck of cards. Each card can gain more clean energy, remove carbon creators, make carbon absorbers like oceans and trees, give resilience counters and more. You start the game with your country's specific cards out. In the beginning of each turn you draw five cards and during your turn you can do an action on a card. Then either place a card on top of another or tuck a card underneath. On each card there is a QR code that brings you to a website that tells you how the real world is actually doing whatever's on the card to remove carbon creators. You start the game with a bunch of carbon creators, dirty energy, and an electrical need that goes up every turn and five cards in front of you, all of this is different for each country. For example if you're playing as the USA you will start with five cards specific to the US placed down that are your starting card. You will also have a different amount of starting carbon creators and a different number of clean energy and dirty energy.

There are many strategies to winning but the best thing to do is work with your teammates, whether that is discussing if you need more energy or using cards to support each other. For example when last time I played, one of the people I was with needed to get rid of carbon creators, so I used a card to give them one of the carbon removers I had. It's a hard game so don't expect to win on the first try. There are a lot of things you need to do and a lot of things to focus on or manage.

This game is a really good game because not only is it fun but it can make you feel less worried about global warming with all the ways it shows how the world is truly getting better. One way I've even learned from this game is about the youth climate movement which is actively popularizing youth involvement in fixing climate change. But sometimes it can make you worried because it does show how hard to solve global warming is.




...

# Active matter puts a twist on the genre

## *The new game offers little opportunity for a lot of collaboration*

**By William Scott**
*Staff Writer*

Reality is falling apart, torn physically. Time is stretching, but through pain and suffering, you can repair the broken multiverse. That is the basic premise of Active Matter, which is a 2026 post-apocalyptic "realistic" extraction shooter inspired by interesting concepts such as biophysics, multiversal travel, and many well known science-fiction horror projects such as the SCP foundation.

Active Matter was developed by Matter Team and published by Gaijin Entertainment, the same publisher and developer behind War Thunder. Active Matter was released on Sep 15, 2026 on PC, Xbox, and PlayStation for the base price of $30, $50 for advanced edition and $100 for deluxe edition but all include the advanced edition can be achieved in the base game except three special "Body sleeves."

Active Matter takes the extraction shooter formula of games like Escape from Tarkov and ARC Raiders but has its own twist to the genre. You can play with up to two friends and deal with the threats of the locations you are sent to such as an airport, city, or military base that are all corrupted by the dying multiverse you are trying to put back together. As you go into these areas you search for gear or do contracts, then find a gateway to escape to your bunker, hopefully unscathed.

One of the biggest threats to you are other agents (players). The other threat you will likely face are the anomalies that are extraterrestrial and/or supernatural threats that are polluting the locations you are sent to and add flare to your missions. The main anomaly is the Distorted which are the most common anomaly. They sleep in packs but if you are too loud or shine a flashlight they stand up screaming and will slash at you or punch you while teleporting to you if you run away. There are also gravity anomalies that are small rocks on walls or ceilings, allowing you to walk up them, ignoring physics.

The game has many modern weapons such as the AK-12, experimental/prototype weapons such as the RSh-12, and WW2 era weapons like the m12 trench shotgun. If you like your games looking good this game also provides, running smoothly on average hardware and being on the Dagor engine made by Gaijin for their games which have realistic graphics, above and beyond animation quality, and performance. The game has over 100 originally composed music tracks from classical to heavy rock and everything between.

Active Matter isn't fully perfect though, as its community isn't easy to talk with, most players only want your equipment and not a friend, meaning if you are respected you can walk around with low chances of being back stabbed but if you have a bad reputation, people can remember you. The game also has massive FPS (frames per second) problems occasionally. My frames will go from 115 frames per second to 12 frames for a few seconds but it's quite rare. The game also is very realistic with its weapons and health systems, meaning you can't just shoot, you have to factor in bullet drop and weapon sway along with your heart rate to make sure you can fire steadily, and unlocking new things can take a long time. Gear also

**Active matter, 9**

**Phones, 1**

cell phone four times, a phone plan will be created by the school administration and the family of the student.

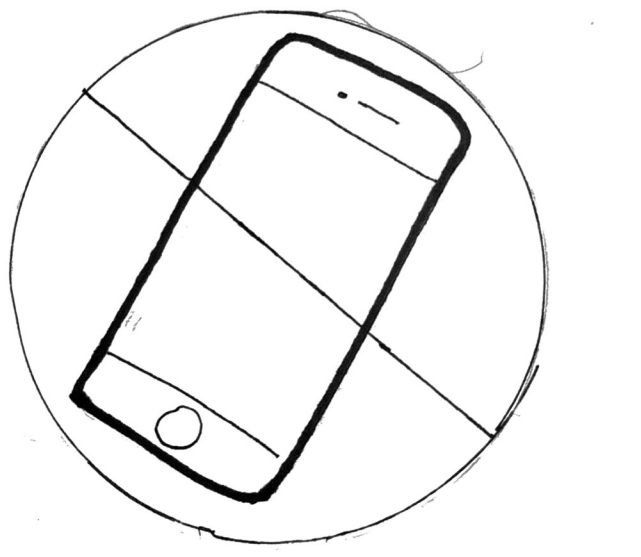
Furthermore, the handbook cites evidence that, nationally, students' use of cell phones in the classroom has led to distraction and lower grades overall, and that increased usage in day-to-day life has led to anxiety, stress, and in some cases, social isolation. The new policy is presented to the reader of the handbook as medicine for these ills.

This is the first year with this new policy. Last year, the stance from OWL on phones was much more lax and disobeyed without consequences. It allowed for phone usage during passing time and at lunch, and for phones to be carried in pockets. However, this let students surreptitiously use their phones during class time, and the OWL Leadership Team decided it was time to make a change.

As a result, a tightening on phone usage has been administered this year. "Whenever we [OWL] do a change process, the very first thing is that I want to know several pieces of information," Dave said, "the first thing is that there's growing evidence that kids, developmentally, struggle to focus when alerts and messages are coming up. The second thing is that we were trying a system last year of balance, like putting it in a student's hands in order to use it at a time that was less impactful during the day. However, we saw that during social times like lunch, kids were just zoning out on phones."

From this point, students began taking their phones out often in class. OWL teachers were having to correct behaviors, taking up valuable classroom time, due to phone usage. "This policy also partly came about because lots of other schools have been doing [something similar], Dave said, emphatically adding, "a decision like this is based on what's good for students first and foremost. Sometimes students don't see it as what's good for them, because they don't know the research." So, the new phone policy was not created on a whim or to punish children as some students may think - it was created, as per Dave and the OWL Leadership Team, based on what is best for kids, synthesizing research and firsthand experience into what we see in the handbook today.

But that is only one stance - the official one. To understand the policy, not just on paper, it is necessary to see if it actually works. A large grouping of OWL students say that it is indeed effective, although they



Aria Kulseth

are not fans of it. "Basically, I don't like it, but I honestly think I've been on my phone less this year so far," 10th grader Clare Exley said. "I also think it's less of a distraction having it [your phone] in your backpack because I used to just keep it in my pocket most of the time, and so then when you hear you get a notification, you want to check it," she added.

Eleventh grader Finn Glasco compared his phone to that of a little baby at home, saying, "I think that the policy is definitely positively affecting my work at school, but I would say it is negatively affecting the work that I do at home because once school ends, all I want to do is be on that little baby that I haven't seen all day." Ninth grader Felix Rowan simply said, "I hate it."

But many, many students miss the old policy when they had more freedom, even though they admit this one is better for academic success. "I loved school so much back then," 10th grader Eddie Kozlowski said, referring to the time when he had more freedom on his phone.

Students also say that having phones out at lunchtime was a good thing, as it allowed for downtime, and in some cases, better social connection. "I really don't get it. They say students should be talking to each other. But there are students who don't like to hang out with anyone at lunch, and they just sit there alone and sad. When kids were with their phones, they were hanging out together, playing a game together," 9th grader Louden Buetow opined.

As for the teachers, reactions are much different than that of students. "I think it's a good policy. It's clear and simple," science teacher Megan Hall said. "[This year], many of my students start class off screens. Their heads are up, they are looking around the room expectantly, and they are ready to learn," she added. Science teacher Akira Mally noted that, "I'm seeing, like, no phones out. I think since the start of the school year, I've taken less than five phones. Last year, I was taking five phones a day." Social studies teacher Dan Sullivan touts the policy, but expressed concern about another issue: "I think it has encouraged students to be more engaged. However, I am seeing more high schoolers this year on their iPads instead and needing redirection from using those devices. This used to be more of a middle school issue." Social studies teacher Katie Craven shared that, "I'm trying to follow the same policy as the students and I'm finding my productivity going up and talking to my coworkers at lunch and not just scrolling."

There is definitely uniformity among students and staff in their shared belief that phones can be distracting and take you away from learning. They also agree that this policy works. However, shared opinions end here. Students dislike having to follow this new policy, while teachers think that it is a great implementation that allows them to actually do their job. When looking at the reasons why this policy was created, it is easy to understand why the administration went down this route. But, is this route the correct route to go down? To get a grasp on this, it is necessary to look to the future.

There are mixed opinions among students and staff on what the future of this policy and its effectiveness will look like. "I don't think it's gonna be as followed [later on] because normally, throughout the year, more people get more comfortable being on their phone, so I don't think it will hold," Clare said. 10th grader Maren Nowicki simply said, "I give it until after winter break." 10th grader Talulah Karl even claims that the education surrounding phone usage is what is flawed, and that a policy will not fix the underlying problem, saying, "I think that if they taught us how to actually use them responsibly, it would be a lot better."

Teachers have a more optimistic view on the situation. "I think this policy is probably the hardest for our returning students," Akira said. "But as the newer students come in and get used to this policy, we're gonna just shift the culture at OWL to a no-phone culture." Katie also shared an optimistic view, saying, "I think this one will stick around for a while. It seems to be working pretty well."

Dave stressed that as with any policy, he will continue to look at data regarding how well it is working: "I think it is too early to see. It is how people respond and the data behind it. I'd like to move to a point where our older students have a little more leeway, but we have to ask the question, how does that set an example for our younger students too?"

All in all, the new phone policy has seemingly worked as intended thus far. Students and staff both realize that phones, while helpful, are very distracting when considered in an educational setting. Reactions are mixed, and while teachers are big fans of it, many students are not as enthusiastic. The future of this policy and how well it will work is unsure, and only time and data will tell, but one thing is certain: phones are a controversial issue at OWL, and will continue to be argued over.

**Elzbieta, 2**

how OWL is modeled with a focus on experiential learning with hands-on activities and the concept of fall retreats.

"I'm not a big fan of having students sit for seven hours at a desk and just listen. I believe in that kind of hands-on, boots on the ground learning, and the real life activities," Elzbieta said, "That is really essential for a child's development and the connection to nature and the environment. OWL is great at this."

Elzbieta is looking forward to continuing her first year at OWL and getting to know all of the students by name and getting to know them well.

"It takes time, but I do want to build positive relationships with students and families while also building trust," said Elzbieta, "When we have that, we can really work well together."

**Clubs, 4**

if you didn't get into it" said 7th grader Paul Bradtmiller. Rio Olson, also a 7th grader, chimed in; "It's a great way to meet people with your interests, each club is its own community and that's really important."

The hype about clubs is pretty unanimous, even among students who haven't done clubs at OWL before: "they sound fun," said 6th grader Reid. "I think it's a good idea to get to know other kids," fellow 6th grader Mae Bruhn added.

On Wednesday, October 21st, clubs met for the first time. The ASL club kicked off with introductions and learning the alphabet. GSA learned about upcoming field trip opportunities. Drama Drama Drama split up into groups for games. Model UN played a kahoot and the Activism club played "warm winds blow."

**Mountain biking, 3**

school, racing in high school, racing in the summer, then racing USA, then going to nationals, then doing UCI races," explained Kai.

Races take place over a weekend, with middle schoolers and freshman racing on Saturdays and JV2 through Varsity racing on Sundays. You warm up with a coach about 45 minutes before you race, then get lined up in rows of five before blasting off to do one to three laps of the course, depending on your racing level.

Many racers have made biking a major part of their life, with Kai even factoring it into his college choices. "Yeah, right now I've applied to a lot of colleges with teams, whether that's just a club team or a varsity team, so I'll definitely still be racing in college and I'll have my bike there as well," he said.

Biking brings people together across Minnesota, and you can make many friends out on the race course or just during practice, I know I have. We build each other up and push each other beyond what we thought we were capable of. It's an awesome feeling to have a great practice where you send something you used to walk over, or cross the finish line and collapse in the grass in tears of joy, knowing that your team is running over to congratulate you for doing your best.

Racing is not always easy. Sometimes it's hard and you wonder why you're even doing it. "You know, after nationals I had surgery that took a while to come back from, so I wasn't really able to race where I wanted to be but I think I was still able to train, you know, do things normally. Yeah it was a good season," said Kai.

"I do think maybe I would have raced a little bit slower through the bigger races, it's really easy to get burnt out and not enjoy biking for what it is. I focused a little too much on the racing and the training and kinda forgot why I love biking so much. Otherwise I'm really happy with what I've been doing and how it's been going. Looking back at where I started I've come a long way and I'm really happy with it," said Kai.

If you've been thinking about starting a new sport, next July think about joining our biking community!

**Psalm for the wild, 6**

'save the world' narrative that you'll find elsewhere in science fiction, rather it follows a very mellow storyline of 'get to this outpost and take a break.' Most of the novella's intrigue comes from the dynamic of Dex and Mosscap, the first human-robot interaction in decades, and the philosophical conversations between them. From conversations about our proper place in the ecosystem, to the cycle of life and death, to the core theme of the story; what constitutes a life properly lived. The ideas in this novella bring extremely thought provoking questions and answers which brought me a surprising amount of comfort for how big the questions were.

The novella's dedication states that it is for 'anyone who needs a break' and it does live up to that dedication. Personally I spent the first few weeks of the summer feeling extremely restless, I had just gotten out of an environment where I had a clear day-to-day goal and things to constantly be doing, so the transition between that and having absolutely nothing to do but sit around all day was daunting to say the least. And while I did find things to do with my time, reading this novella definitely helped me with coming to terms with the break on my hands. Between the laidback plot, the philosophical dialog, and the main character being reassured by the words I also needed, this novella certainly did the trick. So if you yourself need a break, may I recommend reading A Psalm for the Wild-Built, I promise you won't regret it.

**Edmund, 2**

and continued on to college after that. He graduated from college at McGill University, majoring in music. McGill University is located in Montreal, Canada. He's had many odd jobs in high school and college including working at a grocery store, tutoring, gardening, and even helping old people with their computers and technology.

Other than teaching and music, we were curious about what else he is interested in. His favorite book is Beloved by Toni Morrison. Beloved is a book set in Ohio in 1873. The book is based on a family of former slaves and their life in Cincinnati. Edmund's favorite movie is called Brazil, which is a dystopian science fiction comedy film made in 1985.

**State fair food, 6**

pretty good, but when they put the toppings on they really pile them up, and when I was carrying them the heat from the tots fresh out of the fryer and the toppings which you can see in the picture that Leo should have put in here, heated up a lot and combined to pretty much burn your hand.

Now since the Elote Tots were new, me and the guy that owned the stand walked down to Kare 11 so they could do a segment about it and hand out free samples. When we were giving out free samples it was at that moment that I learned about how greedy people are. When I was walking around with the tray of samples a guy and his wife two rows back leaned in to try to grab a sample.

One of the foods that was hyped on TikTok were the apple fries, now I don't know how someone came up with the idea to chop up apples and put them in a fryer. But if you didn't get to them this year I promise you you're not missing much. The apple fries just tasted like strips of apples with salt on them.

Now one of the new foods that I did not have this year, but still felt like I need to talk about is the Pickle Pie. Now I don't know what brainiac came up with this, but when I heard the words Pickle Pie for the first time I almost gagged. Now I'm sorry if you like the pie but they're not all great. In fact when they went on Kare 11 one of the hosts actually spat it out on live TV.




Purple Press Staff Photo

**New voters, 1**

the school funding issue too."

In the 2026 midterm election, the democratic party took majority control of both the house and the senate, paving the way for change at the federal level. The midterms also had some historic victories as well. Most notably, Texas elected their first democratic senator since 1988 and similarly Kansas elected their first democratic senator since 1932. Additionally, Minnesota Senator Peggy Flanagan became the first Native American woman elected to the U.S. Senate and Amy Klobuchar will be Minnesota's first female Governor.

The results from the 2026 midterms are being characterized as a "blue wave" and are leaving many Americans, including young voters, wondering what democratic politicians in Washington D.C. will do with their regained power over the legislative branch.

"They have a lot of potential, but there's some history suggesting that following through is not something that the party is good at," Anneli said. "I really hope that it's different this year because there are a lot of Americans pushing for real change and that should impact our leaders and who we elect into office."

Unlike Anneli and Aria, Sam registered to vote the same day he voted. He went to vote with his family on November 1st and remembered the process being very straightforward and simpler than a lot of people think it is. The candidates on the ballot excited Sam and made him look forward to casting his vote.

"Actually voting and putting the pen to the paper on the ballot felt really powerful. Like I was making a change in our country," Sam said.

In recent elections, some candidates have struggled to energize young voters and listen to what issues they care about. Young voters like to feel that their voice is being heard and that their vote matters. Government teacher, Dan Sullivan, thinks politicians just need to be more aware of young voters and talk with them.

"We just had city council members into our class and it's really powerful," Dan said. "When you actually get to talk to your politician, it makes it far more likely that you will participate."

Since Dan has taught government at OWL he has noticed an increased amount of political engagement and interest in the issues during his classes. Mostly he has noticed how students feel about certain candidates and what seems to work for them. Young voters can tell when politicians are just putting on an act and they don't like it.




Purple Press Staff Photo

**Senior Claire Ales gets a sticker after her first time voting.**

"What's important for a candidate is for them to be themselves," Dan said. "If a candidate is on social media doing some sort of gimmick thing, you voters can see right through the pandering or that it's disingenuine."

Lastly, Dan feels like the most important thing he can teach his students who either voted for the first time November 4th or will be eligible to vote in the next election, is how to vote and how to register. According to The Civics Center, one of the leading causes for low voter turnout is that 18-29 year-olds aren't registered. On average for the past 100 years only 30% of 18 year-olds have been registered to vote in the midterm elections and during presidential elections the average only increases to 44% registered.

Since 18 year-olds are often going away to college, which could involve moving to a different state, it's important for young voters to know how to find information around registering to vote or receiving a ballot in the mail.

"You might not be living here long term, you could be moving," Dan said. "It's important to know that things change when you move and as soon as you move there and get settled, research how to vote and get registered."

**Airstream, 4**

of those is the Atlas 25MS, a $335,900 van that weighs 10,227 pounds and is ten feet tall. This van can sleep two, and has a full sized shower and a toilet. While the cheapest of these RVs is the Rangeline 20PS, which can sleep two, and has a 20-volt fridge that comes equipped with a freezer.

Airstream is very expensive if you still couldn't tell, with getting new cushions installed costing over $2,000 dollars. They even sell a custom wooden cutting board that you can place on top of a sink and do food prep on it, a very smart space saver I think. I would recommend maybe looking at cheaper alternatives if you were in the RV market. Compared to a Winnebago M-series trailer which costs $27,860 and can sleep four and is 25 feet long, an Airstream is incredibly over-priced.

Even more expensive trailers can be made though, especially when Airstream begins partnering with other companies or brands to make specially designed trailers. The most current partnership has caused the creation of the Airstream Stetson + 6666 Special Edition, which is a partnership between Stetson and Four Sixes Ranch if you couldn't tell by the name. It is a 27 foot long trailer that costs $176,900, and has more cowboy paraphernalia than a western movie. One rare case is the 2006 75th anniversary Bambi, where Airstream partnered with artist and designer Dave Winnick to make a specially crafted 19 foot trailer, and by special, I mean really special, only 75 were ever produced.

Airstream is a fine brand in my opinion. I think that the trailers are more expensive than they should be, but if you want to live very comfortably on the road, and you have the money, I am sure an Airstream would do just fine. I would recommend getting one of the smaller trailers or vans, as to save more fuel, make it easier to drive, and be more aerodynamic. One pro of having an Airstream is that some use solar power instead of needing to be connected to a power grid or use a loud generator. I also think that it would be fun to buy one of these, and then replace the interior as a project. Airstream was very inventive back in its starting days, and it still is. I wouldn't call the Airstream brand overpriced junk, and I think some of the luxury is definitely nice, but I believe there are better ways to enjoy the road than spending $100,000 to bring a small studio apartment with you. There are just as good trailers for less.

**Fall play, 1**

storylines, but the A-plot follows our male lead Orlando (played by 10th grader Matteo Alejandro-Provenzano), a young man fleeing his home after an attempt on his life by his older brother Oliver (played by senior Xander Gottfried), and our female lead Rosalind (played by 10th grader Atlas Schultz) who is fleeing court after being banished by her uncle, the Duke who also banished her father the previous Duke, accompanied by her cousin Celia (played by 11th grader Ara Stender). From there our two leads meet up in the forest and perform Shakespeare typical crossdressing rom-com shenanigans, including the forming of four separate couples, numerous love letters, and some anti-simp therapy.

Interestingly, this isn't the first time that OWL has put on a production of AYLI. We've actually done it before all the way back in March of 2000, with two very familiar actors on stage. "I was William, the country bumpkin who is courting Audrey and gets told off by Touchstone, who also likes Audrey. The funniest part is that Touchstone was played by Brian Blakely," said Leo. That's right, English teachers Leo and Brian both starred in this very play 26 years ago. "Bridget Martin was our drama teacher at the time, she was marvelous. She was born in London, and she really developed the drama program here in the late nineties. She was always wanting to do a Shakespeare play, she thought it'd be really meaningful if we could pull that off," said Brian. But just because it's the same script done by the same school doesn't mean it will be a one to one experience, "based on what I've seen in [AP Lit] I'm fairly confident this show is going to be unique," said senior Joseph T Schwartz, co-head of the sound department.



Laura Orris

**A member of the costumes department works on a piece.**

Just because we've done this one before doesn't mean it's going to be easy. It's still a Shakespeare play, and so it still comes with its own difficulties. "Usually an actor just has to figure out how to convey something on stage. When acting in a Shakespeare production, the actor has to figure out what they are saying, and then how to make that clear to the audience. The language is really rich and a strength of Shakespeare plays, but it also presents a serious challenge," said Leo.

It certainly is true that many of the students working on the play may be nervous going into it, "there's a lot of [very fancy] lines to memorize," said Matteo. But they're confident that they can put on a great performance when December arrives, and they certainly have the confidence of those who have done this one before. "I think that Shakespeare is best performed by young people. Adults have too many hangups and are focused on 'the power of Shakespeare' and it's like a highlight of their lives. Young people really are constantly creating and destroying identities and ways of being. Shakespeare was a builder, so young people bring Shakespeare back to life," said Brian, and Leo certainly agrees with him, "I love seeing how director choices play out, because Shakespeare scripts don't provide a lot of guidance beyond language. It's fun to see how they make it come to life."



Laura Orris

**Actors rehearse a scene from the play As You Like It.**

In Brian's opinion, "this is a really good play for the moment, it deals with issues of wealth and power and when it's abused. Everyone's having to flee from these conniving murderous powerful people. I feel like in the world we live in right now, I can relate to the fear of this power." So no matter how nervous the people working on it may be two weeks in, it will turn out wonderful in the end, and people should definitely come see it, because a lot of people need a happy ending in spite of powerful people right now.

**SPPS equity, 1**

like to get the perspective of the folks in the room and in rewriting, updating that equity policy."

One difference between the new committee and the previous one is increased student participation. There are now five student members who have just as strong of a voice as anyone else. They wanted to implement more hands-on work to involve the attendees with the process more than just the decision. "We all collectively agreed that it's going to be interactive," said Dr. Stanley. The group consists of students, community and district members, parents and family, and support staff.

The job of the committee isn't to implement the changes. Instead, we'll bring the school board suggestions/action plans. We work off of a strategic plan that Dr. Stanley drafted and over 3,000 district members perfected. When we bring a recommendation to the board, we include a metric to measure the effectiveness of the policy change. The school board will use a variety of techniques ranging from new training courses for staff, resource allocation, and different books in our libraries. Sometimes a proposal will get stuck in one part or another in the process of making it to schools. As a student, my job will partly be to observe whether or not a given policy change makes it all the way to our students.

One particular concern of the committee is students with disabilities. The execution of IEPs and 504s sometimes lack needed accommodations. A parent on the committee, Kirsten Anderson, said, "I have a child that has a disability. I've had lots of conversations about equity with other parents with students that need special support for their students. We see inequity in all parts of our community." The responsibility of making sure your student is supported, no matter who they are, shouldn't fall onto the parents shoulders. The blame doesn't necessarily fall to the teacher either. "I have found that the teachers are very responsive. The challenge is not the teachers. It's not having responsive systems," said Kirsten. The systems put into place aren't designed to help every student.

The three main points of the strategic plan are: Excellence in instruction, Deliberate inclusion, and Sustainable infrastructure. On the importance of excellence in instruction, "We need to make sure that every one of our students is well prepared to go into high school [and] are able to take whatever classes they want to because they're reading well, because they have really strong problem-solving skills," said Dr. Stanley.

This section of the plan is about making a system that is responsive to every student in their academic growth. I particularly took notice to this point because it is very relevant to myself. As someone who regularly visited Japan for months on end in my early developmental stages, I struggled with the English language. I received some language classes, but the majority of my learning came from my own efforts. I was never taught a lot of basic knowledge.

Dr. Stanley, addressing inclusion, said, "We need to make sure that every student knows that they belong." If a parent has a language or an ability barrier, they should have accommodations so that they are equally informed about their child as someone who speaks English.

Just as important is sustainable infrastructure. She said, "We need to be really thoughtful about making sure that we are keeping ourselves financially stable in order to make sure that not just now, but when you and I are both not here 10 years from now." A truly successful policy will benefit the people decades after it was passed.

A very common belief about diversity, equity, and inclusion groups, is that they are all talk, no action. Some committees do things that make little difference, like changing a logo. We have an action plan, with measurable goals, that will hopefully ensure real changes. Our goal is to make sure we are accountable by watching the effectiveness of our changes in real time.

**Active matter, 7**

isn't common, you need to sink many hours if you want something that isn't a few civilian tools.

Active Matter is a great game with a few flaws and the price is affordable being a base of $30 on all platforms, with a community that is built on trust, but is very fun alone, with the ability to play solo isolated games and with friends. You can still play isolated with no enemy players, only anomalies and all the loot you can get your grubby hands on.

**Horse jumping, 4**

rider.

One of the most important parts of jumping for me is my relationship with Nikki. Every horse has its own personality, and getting to know your horse helps you become a better team. When I ride Nikki, I have to pay attention to how she moves and communicate with her throughout the ride. Building trust takes time, but that connection is what makes riding special to me.

Through my own experience, I have learned that riding does not always go exactly as planned. Sometimes, a skill takes longer to learn than expected, and it can be frustrating when something does not work right away. I have learned that patience is important because every ride is an opportunity to improve. Working with Nikki has helped me understand that progress takes time and that trust between a horse and rider cannot be rushed.

What I love most about jumping is the feeling of working together with my horse to accomplish something. All the practice feels worth it when I can see myself improving and building a stronger connection with Nikki. I want to continue pursuing jumping because there is always something new to learn and a new goal to work toward. To me, success is not just about clearing a fence or winning a ribbon, it is about the progress that happened along the way.

**Ratatoing, 7**

where credit is due, because Ratatoing is surprisingly full of life. It didn't at any time feel like a void like some of Video Brinquedo's other films. It didn't feel as alive as Ratatouille but it felt New York busy compared to the other films. Another compliment is you get exactly what you sign up for,.

I would unironically watch Ratatoing again. It was a fun watch so if you want to watch a fun but awful movie Ratatoing is what I would recommend. Greg is precisely what keeps this movie from being straight trash so I would recommend enjoying the presence of Greg if you ever decided to watch.

**Spiderman, 6**

CGI and practical effects. The overall colors of the movie also pop very well, but not enough to distract you from the actual movie, which I appreciated. There are multiple shots that when played in a theater, really make you feel like you're in the movie. They really take advantage of the previously mentioned practical effects to achieve this, and it looks very good. This is something that I noticed, as even though the earlier movies were very good, the shots and angles were somewhat lackluster, (but not bad.)

Overall, I loved this movie, and if you haven't seen it, I'd go give it a watch, as it just came out on streaming! 5/5 stars.

## Upcoming Events

**November 10th:** PTO Community Meeting

**November 12th:** Last day of Q1

**November 12th:** Prospective Family Showcase

**November 13th:** No school

**November 18th-19th:** Student Led Conferences

**November 20th:** Vaccine Clinic

**November 26th-27th:** No school

# OWL homecoming was a blast!



Emily Totushek

**Students enjoy their time on the dance floor at the high school homecoming dance.**



Emily Totushek

**Seniors pose for a photo with friends.**



Emily Totushek

**Sophmores take time away from dancing for a quick photo.**



Emily Totushek

**OOWL students dance with their friends at homecoming.**



Emily Totushek

**Homecoming attendees gather on the floor for a group dance.**