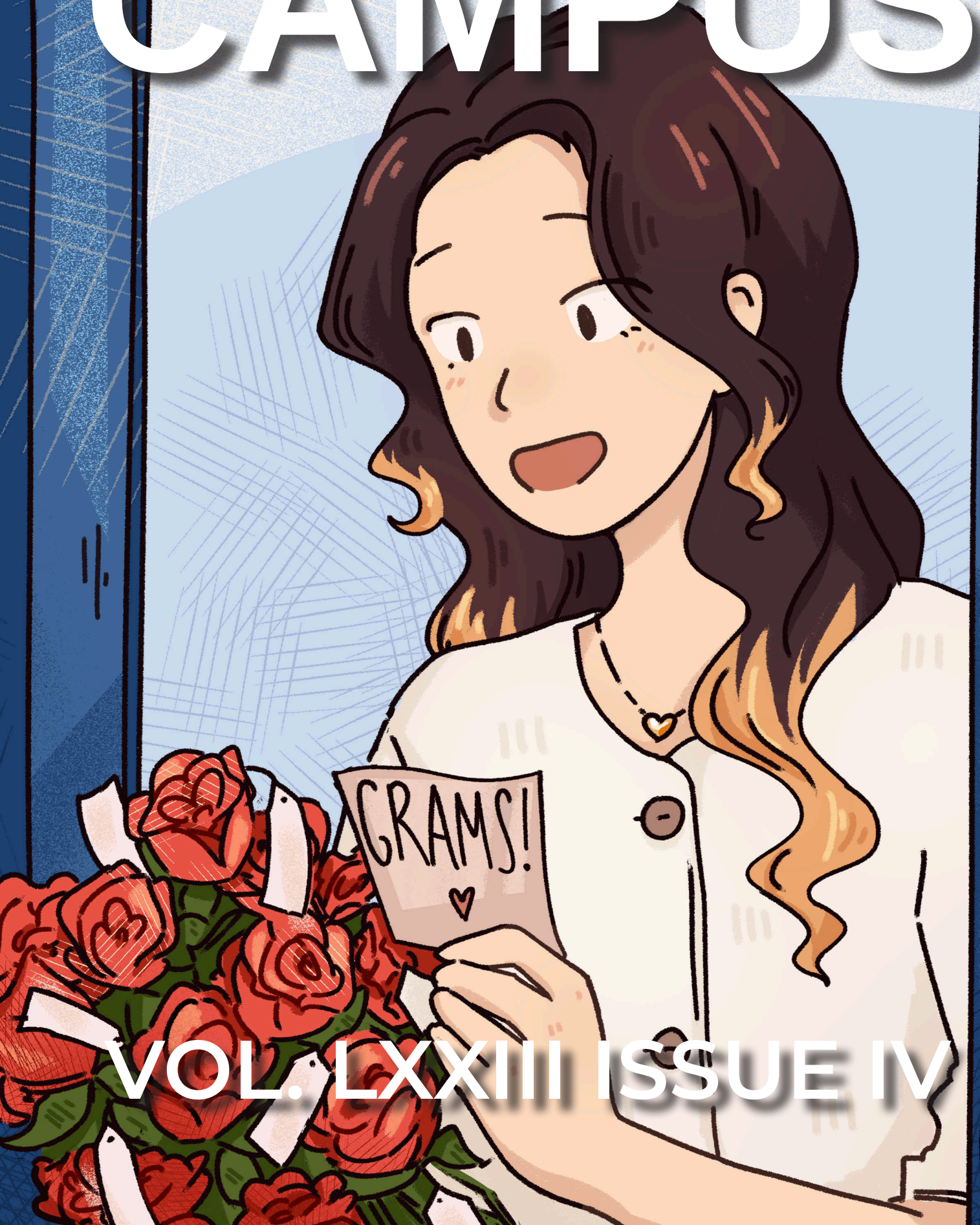


# CAMPUS



VOL. LXXIII ISSUE IV

# EDITORS

**Editors-in-Chief** Henry Brinberg,  
Eve Mellis, and Sam Meyer

**Copy Editors** Avantika Singh, Janice Lin

**Layout Editor** Sophia Woo

**Creative Director** Bella Jabbour

**Sports Editor** Matthew Zeitz

**Satire Editor** Penelope Kraus

**Junior High Editor** Alex Kirsch

**Photography Editor** Derek Sun

**Assistant Photo Editor** Maya Barmecha

**Social Media Director** Lexi Schwartz

# STAFF

Alexis Berry

Anya Pathak

Carla Ruiz Fraile

Daniel Silver

Ellice Lim

Emily Xie

Evie Stratigos-Simon

Feba George

Gianna Porco

Haarrathi Kanna

Joshua Topf

Joya Ishak

Kaushambi Roy

Kayla Kurian

Le Wang

Maxx Huang

Mitchell Vayser

Nikki Chan

Nina Cantos

Nyma Kaishap

Samiksha Mandava

Sammy Reifel

Shiv Sibal

Sofia Maria Tudorie

Sophia Kumar

Sophie Xie

# LAYOUT

Benunthi Singh

Bhavani Gopalkrishina

Kareem Nasr

Le Wang

Vidhan Bokaria

Zachary Dennison

# COVER

Sophia Woo

# IN THIS ISSUE

5

Valentine's VS. Galentine's  
Day

6

Senior Spotlight: Nandini  
Singh

12

Athlete Spotlight: Max Ho

22

Are We Overpaying for  
School Lunch?

26

Way Too Late NFL Playoff  
Predictions

# EDGEMONT BY THE NUMBERS

4

Juniors who wear wigs and sunglasses and a bad attitude to school so that they can park in the Senior Lot

64

Students confused by the Honors English Qualifying Essay prompt

86

7th Graders stressing about who will be their valentine

98

Postings of Taylor Swift's new album announcement to Instagram stories

12

Days after the planned deadline in which this *Campus* issue was sent to the printers (sorry Mr. Weitzman)

# NEW YEARS RESOLUTIONS BROKEN SO FAR

1. Win G.O. Volleyball this year - Don't be fooled, G.O. Volleyball is not like your typical gym class game. Competition is fierce, the pressure is fiercer.
2. Do not religiously stalk the EHS Class of 2024 College Decisions Instagram page - Seniors, there's nothing you can do about your own applications now. Juniors and Sophomores, nothing warrants the amount of time you spend on the page.
3. Find a place to sit in the library during lunch - There is high demand and low supply. But please, no need to fight over one.
4. Be more in touch with the underclassmen so that I can write better front page content - This one is just for me, sorry about that.

# TITLE: different types of studying

NAME: *Sophier Xie*



As students, many of us are subjected to unit tests, quizzes, and assignments on a weekly basis. Sometimes, a teacher will decide to have a midterm. But the final level, the grand finale of all assessments, the ultimate tests, are the finals, Regents, and AP Exams in May and June.

Before getting there, we dutifully troop through the unit tests and quizzes, the Google Forms, and graded homework assignments. In preparation, many find themselves scrambling for study guides, YouTube videos on particular subjects, or a teacher's extra help schedule. Some begin their meticulous planning the moment an assessment is announced and proceed with calm. Each person has his or her own unique way of preparing for an assessment, yet there are four general categories: the Last Minute Crammer, the Meticulous Planner, the Wild Card, and the Combination.

First up, the Last Minute Crammers. They are caught in a state between hopelessness and that irrepressible thought that maybe, just maybe, if they went over the slides just one more time, everything on the test would be imprinted into their brain. Last Minute Crammers, or LMCs, invariably have a faint aura of chaos around them, hurrying to do the hundred and one tasks that had been left until the last minute. Their Google Classroom "To-Do" has multiple missing assignments and a seemingly endless list in their "This Week".

On the day of the assessment, the only thing to be done is cram. A textbook will appear in their hands, following them everywhere, even to lunch, P.E., or any other class. The one tab on their computer is the presentation or the study guide posted by their teacher. A true LMC waits until lunch, a free period or even the 5 minutes during the transition period to fully concentrate on studying. The results...remain to be seen. No one knows what goes on inside the mind of an LMC as they are cramming, just as no one truly knows precisely how adrenaline impacts studying.

On the other hand, we have the polar opposite of LMCs: Meticulous Planners. Those who can identify as a Meticulous Planner (aka MP) are not common. They have a willpower that far exceeds normal students and begin studying the day a test is announced. Planning, to them, is merely part of the test. They formulate a detailed schedule, down to the hour, minute, and second.

Sometimes, you may finish all your reviewing to find that the Meticulous Planner has yet to complete their plan, but don't be fooled; they will speed through all the material it took you a week to review in a few days, reaching the pinnacle of their knowledge on the day of the test -- that's just how they operate.

The results speak for themselves; Meticulous Planners rarely, if ever, fall short of high scores.

The third type, the Wild Card, is as its name suggests: wild. Their mental state varies with each test, sometimes oddly calm and other times, even more haywire than the LMCs. During a test, they may finish light years ahead of others or may stay even after the bell has rung, prompting the teacher to repeatedly call for them to hand in the test. Every so often, Wild Cards will make plans for studying that rival even the Meticulous Planners in their detailed approach and color-coded plans. While some may think that cramming skills are unique to LMCs, Wild Cards are able to emulate them. Out of the four main types of students, it is fair to say that Wild Cards are the true rarities, even less common than Meticulous Planners.

Out of those already covered, we have seen both extremes: those who (over)prepare and those who don't. In the middle, a group of students classified as Combinations exists. Multiple variations of Combinations exist, with some ranging towards the MPs and some towards the LMCs; but their defining characteristic is their consistency. They stay on the same part of the spectrum throughout most of their high school career, the only opportunities for change being during the transitions between grade levels. After the lulling comfort of summer, Combinations stand the best chance of mutating into one of the other three types.

No matter which type you are, studying is an enigmatic and mysterious process. The results may vary depending on the effort put in, but what really goes on inside the mind is something we can only guess at. While I've tried to classify most students into the 4 main types, maybe, somewhere on campus, another type exists.

# VALENTINE'S VS. GALENTINE'S DAY



GIANNA PORCO

This January, when I opened up my 2024 calendar and looked through it, I took note of what day my birthday fell on and the dates of different holidays. When I came across the month of February I, of course, knew that the calendar would mark February 14th as Valentine's Day, but what shocked me was that the day before, February 13th, had words written in on the date as well. Those words read "Galentine's Day."

Technically Valentine's Day itself is a holiday based on a martyr who married soldiers in secret and was executed as punishment. It may seem ironic that the day many couples devote to love and romance to is also a day associated with martyrdom, but what is also ironic is that the 'holiday' coming the day before has gained popularity. It seems as if there exist more 'Galentine's day' celebrators than Valentine's day ones.

Galentine's day is a day many people tend to mock because of its association with single people instead of romance. Galentine's Day is typically observed by single girls. This makes the day easy to celebrate and easy to 'make fun' because the day is celebrated among friends. Some consider 'Galentine's' as a mens for single people to avoid depression during a period devoted to romance.

Valentine's Day has typically never been celebrated as much as other holidays, which makes sense because only those who are in a relationship can 'truly celebrate' Valentine's Day. However, when you walk into your local Target, Walgreens, CVS, Hallmark, or supermarket in the months of January and February one will see plenty of heart shaped everything: heart shaped chocolates, candies, stuffed animals, the like. Cards, decorations, and small gifts will be covered in pinks, reds, and other designs and patterns that correspond with the theme of 'love.'

Now, anyone can understand that those who are single might feel left out and forgotten. However, ever since Galentine's day became more celebrated (because "friends come before guys"), a majority of purchasers of Valentine's decor celebrate the 'fake' holiday coming the day before. This led me to realize, especially after seeing Galentine's Day in my calendar, that Galentine's Day is just as the one it mocks.

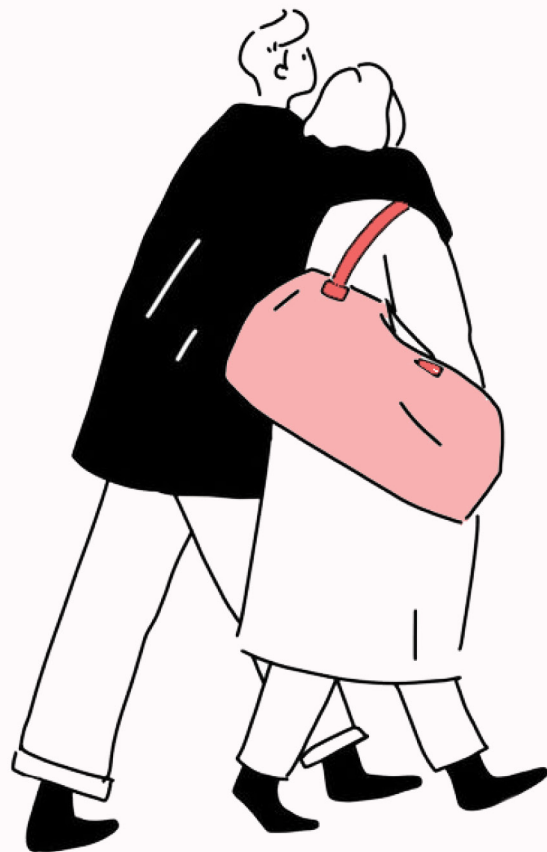
Friends ('gals') will get together and celebrate their friendships and will decorate with hearts, pink and red decor, eat valentine's day themed foods, etc.- they make a party out of it! I personally know more people who are single and celebrate Galentine's Day than I do that celebrate Valentine's Day at this point. Even if someone is not in a romantic relationship, she can still be in friendships or have close ties to family. Someone can

even have relationships with herself like the icon Ariana Grande mentions in her hit song "Thank You Next."

In terms of party decor, if looking for inspo, Pinterest, Tik-Tok, Instagram, and Facebook have a good selection of ideas. Some Galentine's Day decoration ideas I found 'cute'- included a heart balloon photo wall, red and pink streamers/ribbons, heart shaped/pink and red dessert or snack boards, watermelon and strawberry heart fruit pops, and pink and red plates/silverware (obviously).

For activities, friends could paint/make heart-shaped pizza, make heart lunchbox cakes or other valentine's-themed desserts, take polaroids, and more! I don't know how useful this information is; personally, I don't see myself using any of this inspo nor do I plan to have a 'Galentine's Day party,' but I did save some of these ideas to my Pinterest board "just because."

All things considered, shouldn't Galentine's Day be the 'real' holiday of love? Even if Valentine's Day and Galentine's Day are both rather 'artificial holidays,' why can't they both be considered holidays? They both have spots on the calendar and the 'season of love' should be enjoyed by everyone, even if people are not in a romantic relationship- because everyone should hopefully have someone they love, even if not romantically.



## **What inspired you to start your baking business, Baked by Nandini?**

I started baking as a hobby in 6th grade, and I never really intended for it to become a business. I just fell in love with the rhythmic process and the hands-on/creative aspects of baking, so every day after school I'd bake 3-4 simple things like cookies or cupcakes. We couldn't just eat everything ourselves, so we gave some of the baked goods to family friends and neighbors.

As I said before, I never intended it to become a business but as I started to share them, people started to reach out to me for their birthdays and small gatherings. At this point, I realized the potential that my passion could possibly have. So I created my Instagram page, website, and business cards, and just like that, it became an official business. Now it's expanded more than I've ever thought! I've gotten wedding orders, milestone birthday orders, and I provide catering services and baking lessons. My website is [www.bakedbynandini.com](http://www.bakedbynandini.com).

## **What is your all-time favorite thing that you have baked, and what do you like about baking in general?**

Most customers mostly order cakes, so I love to experiment with pastries from The Great British Baking Show in my free time. My all-time favorite thing I've baked are the entremets I made for Thanksgiving a couple years ago. To put it simply, entremets are a collection of mini cakes, five layers each! So the first layer of the cake is a Joconde sponge, the second is a strawberry moose, the third is a jelly layer, and the fourth is tempered white chocolate. It took me the longest time it's ever taken me to bake anything!

My favorite part of running my business is how I get to form connections with my customers through my cakes. When I initially receive a cake order, I don't think too much of it. However, when customers send me photos with my cake and birthday person or my cake in between the bride and groom, it really fulfills me. My

cake and kind of a part of me will always be there in their photo albums and memories.

## **Do you have any tips for the aspiring entrepreneurs out there?**

I'd say just don't be afraid to take risks and follow where your passion takes you! I know for my new farmers' market that opened up, it was a big investment for me to buy the tables and pay the market fees, but it really paid off. In general, if you want to start a business, it should be about something that you're truly passionate about, and you should think of a positive impact that you want to make on your community. Just don't be afraid to involve or express your creative side and always advocate for yourself.

## **I know that you also participate in Model UN. What is your favorite part of the activity?**

My favorite thing about Model UN would be meeting students from all around the world! Not only do we represent different countries, but everyone is from all around the world, like Venezuela, Columbia, all these places where I wouldn't really have expected to meet anyone from. When I'm researching to represent a country, there's a lot of extensive research involved, so I really develop my worldwide perspectives. Our team is super tight-knit, and I love the activities Mr. Hansonbrook and Ms. Cecere put on for us like creating gingerbread houses.

## **How have you evolved as a runner for the Edgemont Cross Country team?**

When I was a freshman joining the team, I was really not as confident in my abilities. My posture was always hunched, and I was kind of more on the quiet side. However I stuck with the sport and the same coaches for cross country, winter, and spring, and it has really paid off. Running in Edgemont, you just get to be with these coaches throughout all of the seasons and all years throughout high school! I feel closely connected to my teammates as we see each other almost every day of the school year. I am lucky to

have a really great support system, and the team and sport is one of the things I'll miss most! I came to the team as a mid-distance runner, but my speed has improved, and I love 4x200 and 4x400 relays.

## **What are some other interesting things about you and your life?**

I have a poodle named Gigi! She's a super posh poodle who's not like the other dogs. She's not very friendly with guests and a picky eater, but she is very attached to my family as she is a COVID dog. Tug of war is her favorite game!

Another interesting thing about me is that I know how to count in Mandarin - I lived in Singapore from first to second grade and Mandarin was the language taught in school. My favorite place I've traveled to is Seville, Spain.

The bright colored buildings and Spanish architecture made it feel like I had traveled back in time.



# NANDINI SINGH

# DECA: BACK IN BUSINESS



## MAYA BARMECHA

In the realm where education meets entrepreneurship, EHS's DECA team emerges as a champion, embodying the spirit of aspiring business leaders. The team was built in 2020 with only about 10 members, and is now taking 35 students to the State Career Development Conference. DECA is back in business with a mission that has propelled them to the next level of the competition.

Some of you may be wondering what DECA is exactly. For starters, DECA stands for Distributive Education Clubs of America, but the spelled-out acronym does not fully clarify what the organization does. The team's advisor and coach, Ms. Merlini, describes DECA as a "business competition," where students in grades 9 through 12 interested in the business arena can share their knowledge, as well as "compete with what they know and what they learn in their various classes."

Students, or future business leaders, from all across the world challenge themselves in DECA competitions, where they apply the tools and knowledge they gained from their business curriculums. Schools within our states, such as Ossining, Ardsley, and several in Long Island boast core business curriculums that help students better prepare themselves for these competitions. Edgemont does not have any business classes, let alone a curriculum. Ms. Merlini values the team's dedication and hard work and added that for the team to "achieve what they have achieved was pretty amazing."

Other DECA club members and leaders agree with Ms. Merlini and add that it is rewarding to look back on how far the club has come. One of three vice presidents of the Edgemont DECA Chapter, Mathew Zeitz, values that DECA provides Edgemont "with a pathway for students to foster their love for business to take to college with them." Zeitz also carries the title of Regional President, which involves organizing the regional competition where 400-500 students from surrounding counties participate.

Edgemont's DECA team has a variety of different students, including the youngest member of the team, Ryan Waxler. He officially joined the team in eighth grade, but this was slightly unusual considering DECA is a high school competition. Waxler notes, "Since I was the only eighth grader to show up, Ms. Merlini pulled some strings, and she got me in, and that was really cool." One of the reasons Waxler joined the club and enjoys it so much now is because "DECA is a very professional environment and a cool experience as a whole," which made him feel very comfortable among his older peers. Comparing DECA to other clubs at Edgemont, Waxler describes it as "much different from Model UN and a less stressful environment," adding that it fosters a great community.

Aside from DECA being all about business, what sets it apart from any other club here at EHS? Ms. Merlini highlights that meetings are crucial, which may differ

from other clubs. Since DECA members are already at a disadvantage without business classes, the meetings allow everyone to get caught up "with the language and the terminology and then how to do a role play and how to perform well in front of a judge." Ms. Merlini adds that those in the club are in it because they have "a passion for business." She shares this passion and studied Business and Marketing at Pace University.

Both Waxler and Zeitz mention that during club meetings they go over case studies and sample problems, where leaders of the team provide advice and direction to the club. It is clear that collaboration is something this team values during their meetings. Examples of business topics Zeitz highlighted were hotel management, apparel, food, sports, entertainment, small businesses, and business administration.

Now that we have an idea of what DECA is, there is something more recent that we should focus on: the ambition of many DECA members has allowed them to qualify for the DECA State Career Development Conference held in Rochester, New York, from March 6-8. The EHS DECA team placed second overall in the regional competition held in Rockland, punching their ticket to States. Members of the team describe the competitions as a social environment where students can engage in workshops and events together. Four Edgemont students competed last year in Orlando in the event following States, called the International Career Development Conference (ICDC). To be eligible to compete at ICDC, members must place in the top four in their competitive event at the state competition.

EHS's DECA team has transformed from a small group in 2020 to a thriving force of 35 students heading to the state conference. Their mission goes beyond competition and emphasizes knowledge-sharing among students interested in commercial enterprise. Given the serious focus on skill development, the team's collaborative and professional environment stands out. As they prepare for the DECA State Conference in March, their recent second-place finish at Regionals sets the stage for what is yet to come. EHS DECA is rocking the business scene and is certainly back in business!

# Different Types of People Getting Their Report Card



The end of a quarter is always stressful for students and teachers. You've just finished taking five important tests and handed in three different projects because no one has told your teachers to check with each other before they assign three tests on the same day. All teachers are pushing to get one last grade in the gradebook. For many people, report cards bring a sense of anxiety but also eagerness. The tension is high, and stress fills the air while everyone awaits the moment: 3:30 P.M. on Friday, when the school releases the report cards. Everyone prepares for and responds to this moment differently. We've thought of a few main reactions, and maybe one might describe you!

## The Forgetful

This person forgot that report cards were even coming out until they got reminded by the barrage of texts from their friends. Of course, they did not even realize that the quarter was over, much less that quarter grades were coming out that week. They also forget to tell their parents after school and usually don't check their grades until a week later.

## The Planner

This person has figured out their grades from day one, calculating what grade they need on the next exam to get their dream grade. He or she is satisfied with their quarter grades; nothing on that PDF will shock him or her. Nevertheless, they look over their report card, and what a shocker, it's all A+s. They show no sign of surprise or joy and just shrug, casually saying they knew they would get that grade.

## The One with Strict Parents

This person hopes and prays that their parents will forget about their report card coming out because he or she knows that the results will be less than satisfactory. He or she does his or her best to keep his or her mouth shut whenever the student's parents ask about a topic remotely related to grades. This type of pupil logs on to his or her parents' computers to delete Mr. Hosier's email announcing that report cards are now out and any other indication that grades are coming out that week. When their parents finally see their report card, they hide in their room or plan to run away from home and stay a few nights at their friend's house to avoid their parents taking their phone away for two weeks.

## The Overachiever

He or she goes above and beyond to get that A+. Not only does the pupil's parents have high standards, but so does

him

or her.

This type of

student wants more than

anything to get that perfect GPA,

even crying over a 98 percent. Such a

youngster most likely celebrates the day that report cards come

out, counting down the hours. The overachiever is also very

competitive and will ask others what they got on their report

card.

## The Anxious

These people are always anxious about grades and don't have the slightest clue about what marks they've received in their classes because they haven't figured out how to calculate their grades yet. After a few hours of praying for good grades and encouragement from their friends, such types finally take a peek. They get all As and let out a huge sigh of relief. If they got a B, it would be the end of the world for them.

## The Unfazed

These people don't care much about their grades and are mostly just trying to get through the day, thinking about food and a nap after school. They have a few As and Bs, as well as one or two Cs (but they aren't going to discuss the matter). Likewise, their parents don't care about how well they do in their classes as long as they try their best. They do not admit it, but it's safe to say that as long as they pass, that's enough for them.

How you react to your report card is up to you. But getting your report card is an experience nonetheless. We wish luck to everyone as report cards come out in the future, especially if you're The One With Strict Parents or The Anxious.



# Edgemont ADVICE

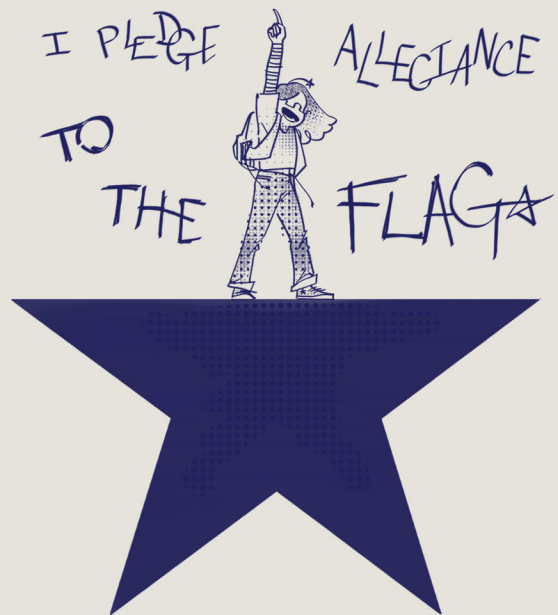
Haarrathi Kanna  
& Kaushambi Roy

Welcome back to Edgemont Advice, starring your favorite advice columnists Haarrathi and Kaushambi. We asked real students to send us their problems from around campus so that we could provide our wise insight on them. Disclaimer: These are not serious situations, and all of our advice is in good fun and not to be taken seriously. Please, don't. And yes, these were all real responses we received from our survey.

Dear Edgemont Advice,

What do I do if when I pledge allegiance to the flag every morning, I can feel the spirits of my American ancestors upon me? The soul of George Washington himself flows through my veins. Benjamin Franklin calls me to his humble abode. Thomas Jefferson sends pins and needles through my skin. I am the secret eighth founding father. I signed the Declaration of Independence. I built this country.

Sincerely,  
Pathologically Patriotic



Dear Pathologically Patriotic,

Well, this is an interesting problem you have here. From what we understand, you feel an overwhelming sense of patriotism every day when we do the Pledge of Allegiance. While it must be intense to feel the very presence of men we only remember from 7th grade social studies, sadly there is nothing we can do to stop it. However, we recommend that you sign up for morning announcements so that you can channel this spiritual experience to your fellow peers and proclaim your identity to the world. You could bring a new flair and passion to the pledge. Although we are not completely sure about the details of your contribution to our Declaration of Independence, we're sure the history department would be thrilled to hear your good news. Thank you for building the foundation upon which we stand today, Founding Father.

Good luck,  
Edgemont Advice

Dear Edgemont Advice,

I have dismal college applications...how do I get into college?

Sincerely,  
Basically Everyone

Dear Basically Everyone,

Ah yes, life's deepest question. There is no one answer. Like Shrek, your inquiry contains many layers. But even though we are freshmen, we've learned a thing or two. The biggest rule of getting into college is that you are not allowed to have a life. Want to go out with your friends? Nope, you should study instead! Don't have anything to study for? Stop right there because you are in denial. Next, pretend you have a bunch of interests. Talk about your hobbies, like crocheting, crocodile hunting, and speed eating a bag of chips. Make sure to max out your stats so you don't have a single free second left in the day. If you remember the speech in 9th grade when picking AP/Honors classes,

teachers constantly mention not to give up your **passions** and only do work. But you must pick your passions accordingly. You see, if your **passion** is curing cancer — sorry, looks like 100 other applicants have the same one! However, if your passion happens to be **interpretive dance set to classical music**, and it has changed your life and made an impact on the community, say hello to Harvard! See, it's a foolproof plan. If all else fails, consider sending in an alternate application — like a capcut edit of yourself with **DRAMATIC EFFECTS** and **INTENSE MUSIC!** They will definitely take you. But in the end, remember — much like the poster in A7 — “Just because you're unique, doesn't mean you're useful.” So make sure they think you are.

Good luck,  
Edgemont Advice

Dear Edgemont Advice,

Every day, there is this one **7th grader** that says hi to me and knows my name! But I have no idea who it is, and I'm too nervous to ask his or her name because too much time has elapsed since the first day that student started talking to me. It's kind of awkward and uncomfortable to see this one kid, so what should I do? Should I change my route to my classes?

Sincerely,  
Am I Being Stalked?

Dear Am I Being Stalked,?

It all depends on what grade *you're* in.

**8th:** There are infinite ways this **7th grader** probably knows you. You will easily be able to figure out their name by asking other people you know or even other seventh graders who know this person. You probably played tag with them at recess when you were seven at Greenville or Seely. Or maybe even last week, considering how much you all run around the center of campus.

**9th/10th:** You're not old enough to be completely superior to them, but you're not young enough to know their friends. You also probably think you are so much cooler than him or her. But are you really? Your best bet (Since quarter 3 is coming up) is to pretend you switched electives and have a different class, meaning you have to take a different route. Unless the kid knows your schedule (in which case you are definitely being stalked) this should work. Also, get a bunch of your friends to walk with you and pretend you don't hear that student's voice.

**11th:** So if you're in eleventh grade, you're at a slight advantage. The seventh grader probably looks up to you and thinks you're really cool and wants to look cool in front of his or her own friends. Be their wingperson here. Say, “Hey, wassup!” or “Nice roly backpack!” in front of their friends. The kid will secretly idolize you and help cheer you up during your junior year depression era.

**12th:** You don't need to know this person. They probably wave at you because they want to look cool by knowing a senior. You have every right to ignore them. You are done here at this school, and crawling through the days until you graduate. Or maybe you can be nice like the juniors and help the child get a clue! It's up to you.

Good luck,  
Edgemont Advice

Dear Edgemont Advice,

How do I improve my grades and overall life even though I procrastinate all day and sit in front of my computer staring at Google Classroom?

Sincerely,  
Zoned Out



Dear Zoned Out,

This may be our only serious response, but the key here is baby steps. We all know that after **6 minutes of “studying,”** you start **scrolling through your phone.** Instead of pretending that you're not addicted, we recommend watching aesthetic study videos. This will make you feel bad about your life or inspire you, and either way, you will be motivated. The next step is to put a limit on screen time for social media, starting with **4 hours a day.**

And when the option comes up to “ignore limit for today”, use every ounce of willpower in your body to close the app. It might be the hardest thing you ever do, but we believe in you. Then, make a good study playlist and start

Something that works for us is **pomodoro timers**, so that we can have a nice break after studying for a while. And if all of this didn't motivate you, then here's one last approach: **don't worry too much**, because we've currently been sitting staring at our computers for a good hour before we worked up the energy to write this.

Good luck,  
Edgemont Advice

Dear Edgemont Advice,

My essay has to be 8 pages but I only have 5. What should I do?

Sincerely,  
Under the Word Count

Dear Under the Word Count,

We've all been here before. It's 11:45 pm, and we have no idea how to fill up three blank pages worth of words before 11:59. Our advice is a little strategy called the word salad. Just keep adding words. Take out "therefore" and write, "to conclude this thought". Repeating your ideas in different ways also works! Why express a thought in three words when you can use one hundred and seventy three?

"The main character projects different emotions from what they are feeling inside."

"The wonderful protagonist of this luscious novel has an ongoing internal conflict within their head. He or she expresses multiple different emotions contrary to their internal thoughts and what he or she explicitly perceives in their minds. The personage's ever-growing identities are not portrayed in the same way, which the people around him or her can see."

Please consider this, and trust me, your word count will quadruple. However, this is a last-minute solution. If you have time and truly can't get your word count up, consider finding more details for your essay because your teachers will likely see straight through the fluff.

Good luck,  
Edgemont Advice

... talk < *pontificate* !!!

... show < *elucidate* !!!

... thus < *consequently* !!!

... because < *in view of the fact that* !!!

... although < *notwithstanding that* !!!

... like < *characteristic of* !!!

... when < *during which time* !!!

... character < *dramatis personae* !!!

... likewise < *in similar fashion to the corresponding manner of the aforementioned topic* !!!

... long word < *sesquipedalian lexicon* !!!

That's it for *Edgemont Advice* this month. Be sure to look for the **next edition!** If you want one of **your dilemmas** in our column, consider filling out the form we send out a few weeks prior. Remember, all responses are anonymous, and all advice is — mostly — fake!

# ATHLETE SPOTLIGHT

JOSH TOPF



O  
H  
I  
O  
M  
A  
X

Max Ho is a sophomore here at Edgemont, and he is a star on the Varsity Basketball team. Max made his first varsity appearance last year when he was called up from JV for their playoff game, and he made an immediate impact off the bench. Although the varsity team suffered a heartbreaking defeat, Max contributed vital minutes and was a helpful teammate off the court as well. This year, Max is back, and he's better than ever. Max was named one of three captains for Edgemont's Varsity Basketball team, an especially impressive feat considering he is still just a sophomore.

Max is a leader both on and off the court. Whether he is supporting his teammates or running the offense, he positively impacts the team. Even the casual observer notices and respects Max's work ethic and desire to win. Assistant coach AJ Morales commented, "He's a mentally strong-willed, passionate student-athlete."

On top of being a superb all-around teammate, Max is an extremely talented player. Through ten games this season, he's averaging 16 points, 8 assists, and 5 steals per game. Max has a lot of faith in his team, telling *Campus*, "The team is made up of a lot of young guys. There's a lot of raw talent that needs to be developed. We're going through the process every game and getting better every day. I'm excited to see how we grow throughout the season."

Edgemont started their season with a tough opener against Nanuet and lost. Two more tough defeats followed, the first coming against Irvington and the second against Blindbrook in the Louie Larizza Jr. Memorial tournament. Blindbrook's talented roster defeated Edgemont by 30 points. Sitting with a 0-3 record, the need for change was felt by all.

Max told us what he told the team after that game: "Today was the last time that we go onto that court and not give 100 percent. We will not win a single game this season if we do not give it our all, so from here on out, if you get in the game and you do not give your absolute best effort, then we have a huge problem." This speech seemed to work well, as Edgemont would win their next two games by a combined total of just under 50 points.

Standing at 2-3, the team was prepared to play in the Robert E. Mayclim tournament against Westlake, who have had their number in the past. For the entire game, Edgemont played strong and managed to keep it close down to the wire. In an extremely tense fourth quarter, a buzzer-beating shot from half-court propelled them to their best victory all year.

The high didn't last long, as they suffered an embarrassing defeat to Croton later that weekend in the finals of the tournament. Edgemont would bounce back once again, beating a tough Brewster team, and then defeating Children's Village in a dominant showing. Since then, they have lost their two most recent games to Ardsley and Pelham.

Although Max is a key component in Coach Moses's scheme, Max's whole life doesn't revolve around basketball. Max is the definition of a student-athlete. He takes great pride in his school work and his grades. When he's not playing basketball, he can be found doing

homework, reading the AP Euro textbook, or practicing his piano skills. Like most other teenagers, Max can also be found hanging out with friends or playing video games in his free time. His favorite movie is *Kung Fu Panda*, his favorite subject math, his favorite NBA team the Chicago Bulls, and his favorite basketball player of all time Michael Jordan.

Overall, Max is an exemplary student-athlete and will hopefully help bring many trophies home during his varsity basketball career.



“

Today is the last time that we go onto that court and do not give 100 percent.

”



# THE TRILLION DOLLAR RED SEA CRISIS

Thousands of miles away from the war between Israel and Hamas lies the Red Sea, which has recently seen boats traveling in international waters being targeted by drones, rockets, and helicopters. Pirates have also intercepted a vessel. But how did it get like this?

The Yemeni Houthis are a rebel group founded in 1992 but have been steadily gaining a following (and power) since the early 2000s. Their takeover of the capital of Yemen in September of 2014 sparked the Yemeni Civil War, which remains active to this day, though in recent years there has not been as much fighting. Even worse, the war has sparked a humanitarian crisis that has left ~80% of the country struggling to put food on the table.

Although the Houthis now control a sizable portion of Yemen, it is important to note that they are not internationally recognized as the official government of Yemen. The group is often compared to the Lebanese terrorist group Hezbollah, as both are all but confirmed to be funded by Iran and have received money and weapons from Tehran. Hamas also falls in this group of governing bodies.

Now turning the Houthi's Red Sea upheaval – on October 19th, they launched a series of indiscriminate missile and drone barrages on Israel. Though few did real damage, it showed that they were willing to get involved, which could escalate the war. Over the next couple of months, the group started attacking and hijacking many commercial ships (in

international waters). The first belonged to Israeli companies, but as time went on, the targets seemed to have no relation to Israel at all – with many being from western companies.

To deter these Houthi attacks, the U.S. sent military ships to patrol and protect ships in the region, but they were met with drone and anti-ship missile attacks. The attacks were first denied by the Houthis, but they then confirmed that they had targeted the American vessels traveling in international waters. As of the writing of this article (January 15), the Houthis have launched attacks against 27 of civilian cargo ships, with many being fended off. However, some attacks have slipped through Western defenses and caused significant damage.

Given the safety risk, can't the boats just go around?

Well, no, and this is because over 100 years ago, on November 17, 1869, the Suez Canal opened, forever changing global shipping. It linked the Red Sea and Indian Ocean to the Mediterranean – meaning boats no longer had to travel around the Cape of Good Hope in South Africa – cutting shipping times dramatically.

Today, over \$1 trillion dollars in goods passes through the Suez Canal a year. Massive quantities of oil, mostly coming from Saudi Arabia, also travel through the Red Sea, which is connected to the Suez Canal. The African country Djibouti is situated right next to Yemen,

only disconnected by a small strait, right next to the entrance to the Red Sea, and thus, the Suez Canal; its strategic location has helped it gain recognition from many countries and is the reason an otherwise overlooked country holds 8 military bases for the likes of the U.S., China, and the UK.

Those military facilities give security so that in the case of a global conflict, those countries can ensure that the strait remains open. It is clear that Yemen occupies an important location, and the Houthis are using it to disrupt global trade, so what should the rest of the world do about it?

On January 3rd, 2024, the U.S. and many other countries sent a message to the rebels – telling them that what they are doing is illegal and to stop immediately. The Houthis have disregarded the message, refusing to slow down, so the U.S. has decided to take matters into its own hands; along with the United Kingdom, they have conducted various strikes on Houthi military installations. So far, there have been no reported civilian casualties as a result of these strikes.

Countries throughout the world are increasingly willing to intervene in some manner for the sake of global trade and economic stability. As for us students, we can only hope that this conflict will not escalate into a regional war.

**By Samuel Reifel**

# WILL TRUMP BE OFF THE BALLOT?

MAXX HUANG



As the 2024 primary elections are underway, Mr. Trump has been banned from not one, but two states. Here is a quick rundown of the events:

Among the Republican presidential candidates, former president Donald Trump is far ahead in the Republican Party's Primary polls, boasting a strong lead of 63.1%, compared to second place runner, former South Carolina governor Nikki Haley's 11.9%, and current Florida governor Ron Desantis' 11.6%.

Mr. Trump also dominated the recent Iowa caucuses, the first primary election, winning 51% of the votes and 98 of 99 counties; however, the two remaining candidates, Mr. Desantis and Ms. Hailey are still in contention\*, as they won 21.2% and 19.1% of the votes, respectively. The Iowa caucus will likely be a sign of how the rest of the Republican primaries may go.

Mr. Trump's supporters believe that if he was reinstated as president, he would have the power necessary to carry out his agenda, like dealing with the southern border and working to improve the economy. His supporters also appreciate his more outspoken style and tend to come from rural backgrounds. About 60.8% of rural Republicans support Mr. Trump. He also seems to be looked upon favorably by young Republicans, with about 53% of Republicans aging 25-44 giving him their support.

Still, Mr. Trump's third campaign for the White House might not be as smooth as the numbers suggest. Colorado's state Supreme Court recently ruled (in a 4-3 decision) that the former president cannot be in the White House, subsequently removing him from their primary ballot.

The decision cited Section 3 of the 14th Amendment, which states that anyone who has incited a rebellion against the United States is disqualified from any government office. This clause may apply to Mr. Trump due to his role in the riot at the Capitol on January 6th, 2021. Mr. Trump gave a speech on that day, urging his followers to "fight" and "march over to the Capitol." This is considered by some to be the root cause of the chaos that later ensued. The Colorado ruling is historic because it is the first use of the "insurrection" clause to prohibit a presidential candidate from appearing on a primary ballot.

Shortly after Colorado, Maine followed suit, ruling Mr. Trump is unable to run in Maine due to the same insurrection clause.

Colorado's Case has already made its way to the Supreme Court, which said it will begin hearing oral arguments on February 8th. This will put the Supreme Court right in the middle of the 2024 election, giving it the chance to influence an election in a way the country

has not seen since Bush v. Gore in the presidential election of 2000.

In the case that the Supreme Court rules in favor of Colorado, Mr. Trump may be banned from the election process entirely. This is because the insurrection clause is a general rule, so validating Colorado's ruling would set the precedent for the whole country.

By the time a ruling is made, it is likely that both Mr. DeSantis and Ms. Hailey will have suspended their campaigns, putting the primary race in a confusing situation. In that case, there could be some primaries held again in the summer to uphold the democratic process. As for the candidates, while Mr. DeSantis had a strong showing in Iowa, Ms. Hailey leads him in several polls elsewhere.

If the Supreme Court overrules Colorado's decision, then the election process would most likely continue as normal with Mr. Trump continuing his campaign.

It is important to note that conservatives constitute a 6-to-3 majority in the current Supreme Court, which could produce a favorable outcome for the former President. Mr. Trump also appointed three justices, but there still exists a chance the Court will rule against him.

\*This article was written before Mr. DeSantis suspended his presidential campaign on January 21.

# THE BIG DEAL OF BASEBALL

## SHIV SIBAL

Shohei Ohtani, the two-way superstar from Japan (he both pitches and serves as a designated batter), inked a massive contract with the Los Angeles Dodgers that has sent shockwaves through the sporting world. This unprecedented deal secures Ohtani's future with the Dodgers for the next 10 years and allows him to compete for a World Series right now. His deal is for 700 million dollars over 10 years, the largest contract in American professional sports history by a long shot. It is well deserved because of his fantastic play both on the mound and at the plate.

The Dodgers are committed to winning as many World Series Rings as possible, and they think acquiring the two-time American League MVP will help them accomplish this goal. Ohtani is truly one-of-a-kind. He has revolutionized baseball by being the greatest two-way player the game has ever seen. The Dodgers are paying for both one of the best pitchers and hitters, all in one player.

Ohtani doesn't have to move very far to play for the Dodgers. His former team, the Angels, also play in Los Angeles. One of Ohtani's main motivations for joining the Dodgers is the opportunity to win a championship. He didn't get this chance when playing for the Angels, because they didn't notch a single winning season with him on the team. They failed to make the playoffs once with him despite also having Mike Trout, another candidate for best player in MLB

Ohtani's contract is so special because it is the most lucrative by a wide margin. The second biggest contract is for 365 million dollars, not a small sum by any means. Around 97 percent of the money in Ohtani's contract is deferred. This means that he is not being paid this money now. Instead, he will receive this money from 2034 to 2043. He will still receive a two million dollar annual salary for the ten years he is going to play for the Dodgers.

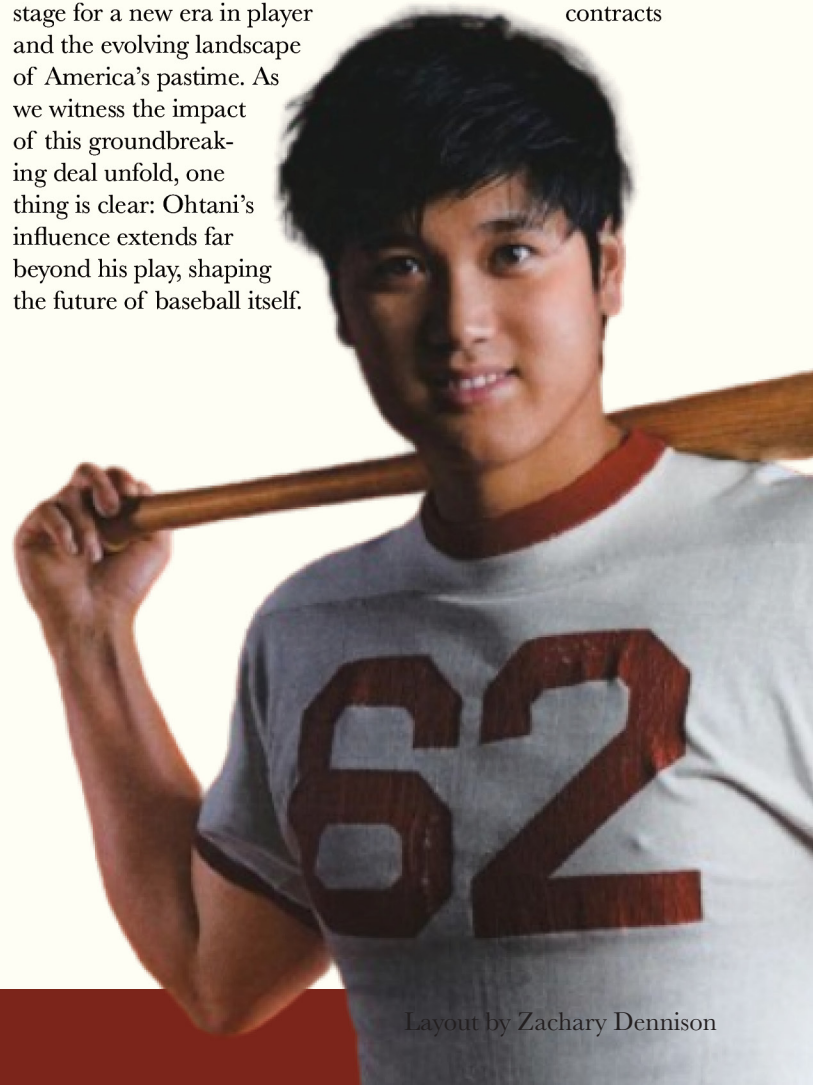
Ohtani makes a lot more money than just his contract. Since he is an extremely popular athlete and perhaps the most popular baseball player in the world right now, he gets a lot of money from sponsorship deals and endorsements. He is estimated to make around 40 million dollars from these sources each year, so while his contract money is deferred, he will still be making plenty. He had an MLB record 17 sponsorship deals in 2022, and that number will only increase while playing for a far more popular Dodgers team.

As a Japanese player making waves in Major League Baseball, Ohtani's contract carries cultural significance. It not only reflects his success but also highlights the growing global impact of the sport. The deal may inspire a new generation of

players worldwide to dream big and strive for excellence. Baseball is hugely popular in Japan, and Ohtani's fame there is enormous. Japan won the 2023 World Baseball Classic with Ohtani's help.

The impact of Ohtani's contract is not all positive. His contract highlights the need for a salary cap in baseball. Right now, owners are allowed to spend as much money as they want to improve their team. Some teams, like the Oakland Athletics, spend little money on improving their team, making it difficult for them to stay competitive. On the other hand, teams like the Mets, Yankees, and Dodgers splurge on whatever players they want and have payrolls almost 8 times higher than the Oakland A's. This gives these teams an unfair advantage and allows them to stay perpetually competitive.

In conclusion, Shohei Ohtani's new contract is more than a financial agreement; it's a transformative force in baseball. By recognizing and rewarding his unique skills, the Dodgers have not only secured a vital asset for their team but have also set the stage for a new era in player contracts and the evolving landscape of America's pastime. As we witness the impact of this groundbreaking deal unfold, one thing is clear: Ohtani's influence extends far beyond his play, shaping the future of baseball itself.





A stylized graphic of the American flag, with the stars in the upper left and the stripes in the lower right, framing the title.

# THE PRIMARY SEASON'S START

SAMUEL MEYER

In the past month, the first primary election and caucus were held in New Hampshire and Iowa, respectively, for political parties to decide their nominee for the upcoming presidential election. While these initial electoral processes might not have the most potential for upsets this year, they often reveal the flaws in campaigns and rule out candidates with poor showings.

For the Democratic Party with incumbent President Joe Biden at the helm, there is little competition with only Minnesota Representative Dean Phillips standing in the president's way. He is telling voters that Biden is too old to be an effective leader, which most people, regardless of party, agree with. Still, the president is dominating the polls and comfortably won the first primary.

The nation watched the New Hampshire primaries and the Iowa caucus closely, giving these all-too-often overlooked states considerable attention. The reason the states are first is relatively random, but over the last 50 years it has become something of a tradition.

Now, turning to the Republican Party, this election cycle has become especially interesting for a multitude of reasons, many of which having to do with former President Donald Trump's campaign. Despite a cult-like following, he has faced nagging competition from former South Carolina governor and U.N. ambassador Nikki Haley, his last competitor for the Republican Party's presidential nomination. He also faces 91 criminal charges and a looming Supreme Court case that will decide his eligibility for this election (the question centers on whether former President Trump committed what a post-Civil War amendment calls an "in-

surrection" against the U.S. government for his role in the January 6th riot at the Capitol).

In just about every state, Mr. Trump is seen to be the landslide favorite: even in South Carolina, Haley's home state, he holds a 30 percentage point advantage in early polls. He won 98 out of the 99 counties in the Iowa caucuses and 51% of the votes, over 30% more than his nearest competitor, Florida governor Ron DeSantis, who dropped out of the race before the recent New Hampshire primary.

New Hampshire, however, is no stranger to upset victories – which explains why Haley hoped to capitalize there and carry over the momentum to her home state, which holds primaries on February 24. A primarily rural state that allows independents to vote in either Party's primary, New Hampshire has seen candidates succeed when they campaign at ground level, talking to the people and showing humanity and vulnerability. Indeed, in the 2000 New Hampshire primaries, Senator John McCain staged an upset win over the eventual president, George W. Bush.

Ms. Haley, though, could not muster the required numbers. Instead, she stuck to a "tightly controlled campaign that limited her exposure, [she] played it safe and never gave voters a reason to throw her a life vest," as Jonathan Weisman of the New York Times put it. She was also criticized for struggling to give a consistent and clear argument for why to vote for her and proved unable to persuade enough independents as much as successful underdog candidates have in the past.

As the Times saw the struggle: "Ms. Haley tried out electability — she, not Mr. Trump, would beat Mr. Biden.

She tried to praise Mr. Trump while saying it was time for a new generation of leadership. Finally, she tried to convince voters that he was an aged agent of chaos, mentally unfit for another term."

In the end, she lost the vote there by over 10 percentage points to Trump, but it was still a stronger showing than many expected. Thus, she vowed to stay in the election, telling voters that "this race is far from over." Her campaign has amassed over \$1 million in funding since delivering that message.

While it seems that the Nikki Haley campaign's days may not last much longer, if she can learn from her mistakes, pull off an upset win in South Carolina and have a good showing in Nevada, the next state to hold primaries, she will have solid ground to stay in the race. Otherwise, Republican strategists think that she may hang around until Super Tuesday, a day when many states hold their primary elections, and then drop out in the face of overwhelming odds against her.

Another reason she could be staying in stems from the off chance Trump is actually convicted of inciting an insurrection, prohibiting him from running for president under the 14th Amendment. This would throw the Republican nomination wide open, and then primary elections may have to be held again to ensure a fair, democratic process. Extra campaign time would help Haley in this unlikely case. Still, Haley plans to put her best foot forward and fight the uphill battle against Trump. As she said in a fired-up speech after her New Hampshire loss, "I'm a fighter and I'm scrappy," so don't expect her to give up too easily.

# Snow Days Haarrathi Kanna

You wake up on what would have been a usually depressing Tuesday morning, only to realize that something is different in the air. Your desperate student's sixth sense is tingling. You immediately pick up your phone and see the message: "ALL EDMONTON SCHOOLS WILL BE CLOSED DUE TO INCLEMENT WEATHER."

You sit up, wondering if you are dreaming or not. Just to make sure, you throw the curtains open, and, low and behold, snow is pouring out of the sky, and your driveway is already invisible. You pump your fist in celebration and gaze at the winter wonderland. "Sleigh Ride," featuring the EHS concert band, dramatically swells in the background.

Perhaps less cinematically, this joyous experience occurred for many of us on our favorite day in January after MLK weekend. It was unexpected due to the strange April-like weather that has been happening lately. It's too cold not to wear a jacket but too warm if you wear one.

Snow days are precious days. Logically, they are only one extra day off from the year and nothing more. But they are so much more than that. Snow days are sacred. So what kind of person are you when one finally comes around?

## The Sleeper

I'm about to expose us: Whatever number of hours a student tells you they sleep, subtract 3 hours from that, and you get the honest answer. In fact, for you, the Sleeper, we should subtract 5. This could be due to several factors, like projects you had three weeks to do that you pushed off so long that you just remembered about them on the due date. You are that one person who is always putting your head down during a lecture. When a snow day comes around, this is the time to catch up on that beauty sleep. Nothing is stopping you! You wake up any time between 10 am and 3 pm. And somehow, you are still tired. But you tell yourself it's okay because those extra hours should help you stock up for the week! And the truth is, there's nothing quite like eating breakfast during the same time you would be at lunch in school. It's a surreal feeling.

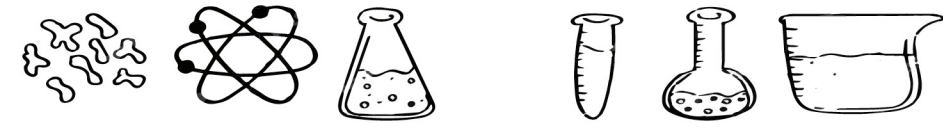
## The Studier

The best part of a snow day is how all your tests, projects, and assignments get pushed back by one day. For you, the Studier, this day is not like a Saturday during the middle of the week. Oh no. In fact, it's an opportunity. You are the person who is ready to get up at 7 am to start studying for upcoming tests and preparing for all of your various extracurricular activities. To you, seven extra hours of free studying would otherwise be spent at school! You make a schedule for yourself and get as much done as possible during the day. But take note: you are about 5% of the student body. While you are studying for tomorrow's math test, the Sleeper is snoozing his or her alarm for another two hours of sleep...

## The Scroller

Everyone must admit it: you scroll through social media more than you would like. Whether it's TikTok, YouTube, Instagram, Snapchat, or anything else, we're all slightly addicted. That's why, for the Scroller, snow days are absolute heaven. Wake up, scroll. Eat, scroll. Oh wait, is there something due tomorrow? That's a problem for tomorrow. Lets scroll. After all, it was an unexpected day off. No one actually directly instructed you to do any work. You know you are probably wasting your time when you could be studying, but every time you try to be like the Studier, your phone beckons you to pick it up and open TikTok. And you think, "Why not?" Or maybe you waste time in other ways, like playing a game, staring into space, or thinking, "Gosh darn, what do I do with all this time?" It might only hit you in two days when you must cram in a paper that would have benefitted from some extra attention. We should have enough humility to admit that we all have a little part of the Scroller in our souls.

No matter what category you fall into, or even if you were a mix of multiple, I hope the day off was enjoyable. Hopefully, that day in January was not our only snow day this year. If we keep our fingers crossed, hopefully, the snow gods will listen to us and send us more inclement weather. Meanwhile, keep powering through and have fun trying not to get wet from snow melting off the breezeways and dripping onto your head as you pass through.

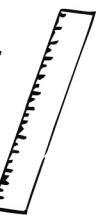


$E=mc^2$

# TEACHER SPOTLIGHT: MS. BAYLIS

Kushambi Roy and Nyma Kaishap

$H_2O$



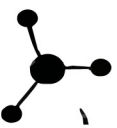
Although most of you already know her or have passed by her classroom in D7, we want to reintroduce you to Ms. Baylis, the head of the science department at Edgemont. She's been teaching science for twenty-eight years, and in this teacher spotlight, we wanted to dive deeper into her teaching journey.

First, let's start with Ms. Baylis' classes. This year, she's teaching two Living Environment classes, Honors Chemistry, and one seventh-grade science class.



## What inspired you to start teaching?

Many years ago, just out of college, I was not sure what I wanted to do with my biochem degree, so I started researching different things. I eventually decided that I wanted to teach because I didn't want to spend all day in a lab with people.



## Were you ever interested in any other careers other than teaching?

When I first applied to college, I wanted to go into engineering because of my love for math. But I soon realized that engineering was not the right fit for me, and I decided to pursue science instead.



## What inspired your love for science?

Probably teachers that I had in school. I always loved math, and I guess I enjoyed the practicality of science, which followed that.



## If you could pick a different subject to teach, other than science, what would it be?

Probably math, since math and science can be very similar in some ways.



## Did you ever teach at any other schools? If so, how do you think Edgemont is different from them?

I taught in Mahopac for two years when I first started teaching, then Edgemont. I would say that Edgemont is more of a close-knit community, almost like a family. It's very student-oriented, whereas the other school I taught at was much bigger, so you didn't get that there.



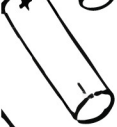
## What have you learned from your years of teaching?

Over my years of teaching, one of the most valuable things I've learned is that grades aren't as important as most people think them to be. You need to foster a love of learning in kids, and everything else kind of falls into place.



## Do you have any interesting hobbies?

I enjoy cooking, specifically for the holidays and my family. Thanksgiving and Christmas are my favorite holidays to cook for. My family helps partake in the cooking, as well. We like to make what we call a production line of food.



## Anonymous Advice from Students

"My biggest piece of advice is to pay attention and listen during Ms. Baylis' class because a lot of what we learn comes from class discussions versus from articles or writing. Make sure you are taking active notes during class and paying attention."

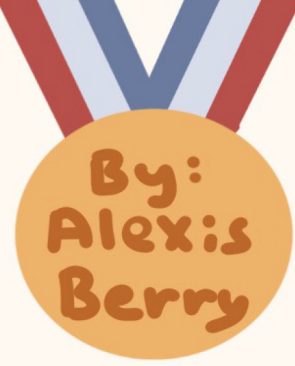
"I love Ms. Baylis' class, and science is my favorite subject. I think to do well in her class, you should take advantage of the textbooks and materials that she provides and always ask questions. Ms. Baylis is a great teacher, and she always makes learning fun and enjoyable."

"Ms. Baylis is a fun and creative teacher. She makes helpful practice assignments to help review for quizzes and tests, is great at supporting students, and makes useful suggestions. She lets us play music in class, which boosts positive energy and motivation."

"One thing I like about Ms. Baylis' teaching is that she uses a lot of diagrams to explain topics to their fullest extent. As a visual learner, this is very helpful. Sometimes when I only take notes, I'm not able to fully understand the topic we are learning, so her diagrams are helpful."



Layout by Zachary Dennison



# The Elective Olympics

Ladies and gentlemen, welcome to the 2024 Quarter Three Physical Education Elective Olympics! The upcoming electives compete for different titles, and you, the reader, first see the offerings this coming quarter. We'll give awards to highlight each of the electives' strengths so you can know which one to choose. Freshman pay attention, as you can't sign out of P.E.. I must give a shoutout to Mrs. Saracino, who supplied us with the information that we'll be using in this article.

Let's start strong with an experienced teacher, an engaging activity, and the winner of the "Most Upbeat" elective: dance with Mrs. Schaare! In this course, you'll be going from learning the basics to doing choreography (according to Ms. Scaricino). Prepare for a class that will have you feeling peppy throughout the day. Mrs. Schaare's credentials are stacked, as she is the Dance Club's advisor. Dance Club is known for its fun vibe, and we are sure Mrs. Schaare will carry that over to this elective. If you want a class that will boost your mood, dance is perfect for you.

Next up, we are met with one of our most unique topics, adventure games, which won our "Most Versatile" Elective" title! Adventure Games, taught by Mrs. Saracino, features quite a variety of activities. If you take this course, you'll be climbing, participating in group bonding activities, and more, while still maintaining the aspects of basic physical fitness. You'll be kept on your toes, as you can go into class not knowing what exactly to expect. People who have taken this course in the past have raved about it, saying, "It covers all of the aspects of what you think adventure games would be. It's really fun." This is the ideal elective for people who are looking to add some variety to their.

Next up lies our winner of the "Most Functional Elective" title, basketball, taught by Mr. Moses! If you play basketball, you definitely know Mr. Moses's approach to the sport; he's the coach for Edgemont Varsity Basketball. However, this elective allows him to disseminate his knowledge in the sport to anyone no matter the

capabilities. After talking to him, we really got a sense of how impactful this elective could be. He discussed how he wanted this elective to allow people of any skill level to be able to play a pick-up game. He plans to teach some vocabulary of the sport while keeping it fun by incorporating some sort of game at the end of each class. If you're looking to pick up a new social activity with friends, basketball is perfect for you.

Last but not least we have the winner of our "Most Rewarding Elective" title, volleyball, taught by Mr. Orza. If you weren't on the Girl's Modified Volleyball Team, you might not know that Mr. Orza is an excellent volleyball coach, but after you take this course, you will know this for sure. Volleyball is a fast-paced sport that's easy to pick up and taking this class with a dynamic and patient teacher like Mr. Orza will help you become a better volleyball player. Fun to play with friends and fun to play by yourself—volleyball stands as a solid choice.

Overall, the quarter three P.E. electives were winners across the board. No matter which one you choose, you'll have a great time, as all of them promote bonding with your friends and your classmates. We can't wait to see how students react to these electives in quarter three.



# A Guide to Edgemont Student Slang

## Le Wang

Language has always been fluid and dynamic. With our developing society, language has changed with us, with new words being added to an ever-growing dictionary. Edgemont is no exception, as students continue to add new slang into their vocabulary on the daily. It may be confusing as to what these new words mean so to help guide teachers (and maybe some students), this article has a compiled list of current slang words and their meanings.

### **Ate**

Verb

To perform a task really well. Can be used in the context of appearance, grades, sports performance, etc.

Ex:

“Did you hear the new Nicki Minaj song?”

“Yeah, she ate that “

---

### **Giving**

Adjective

To compliment someone, typically about their appearance

Ex:

“Ooh girl, your outfit is giving”

To exude; to give off a sense of

Ex:

“I love the top; it’s giving vintage” (Positive)

“I hate that shade of yellow; it’s giving highlighter” (Negative)

---

### **Delulu**

Adjective

A colloquialism of the word delusional. Typically used to mock someone who has unrealistic expectations, especially in regards to romantic relationships.

Ex:

“You’re delulu if you think you’re getting an A+ in AP Chemistry”

---

### **W or L**

Noun

An abbreviation for win and loss, respectively.

Ex:

“I got an 100 on the last math test”

“W”

“I failed my last math test”

“L”

---

### **Rizz**

Noun

Shortened version of charisma, meaning to have charm or good looks, or to charm someone else.

Ex:

“I asked her out but she rejected me”

“L rizz”

---

### **Yap**

Verb

To talk too much.

Ex:

“You could write a book with all that yapping.”

---

Whether you decide to use these slang terms or not is up to you, but at least now you can understand either your students, if you are a teacher, or your peers, if you are a student. I hope this also serves as a reminder to you to stay up to date on trends. Also, please pay attention to when they aren’t trendy any longer. Using outdated slang is sometimes embarrassing, so trying to avoid it is groovy.

# are we overpaying for school lunch

No one at Edgemont is a stranger to the high prices of cafeteria food. Many would also argue that these prices do not make sense and are not in line with the quality of the meals. A recent survey revealed that nearly 50% of lunch-purchasing students said they paid \$5 to \$10 for school lunches, while some claimed they spent as much as \$10 to \$15 dollars. So how much should school lunch cost? And are students at Edgemont overpaying?

To start, we have to evaluate the price of school lunch as a whole. Lunch is typically set at \$4.25 a meal. Occasionally, specials are offered for \$6.75. A cup of fruit also costs as much as a meal (\$4.25), which is steep for anyone who is attempting to eat healthier or add nutrition to a meal they feel is lacking. One student reported seeing a cup of watermelon selling for \$6.00 – more than a full lunch.

Additionally, sandwiches and cartons of food sold in the cafeteria by the gym can cost nearly \$7.00, and a 20 ounce bottle of water costs \$3.00. As one survey response said, “One carton of food should not cost \$6.50,” and many seem to agree. The survey concluded that most students believe that a lunch including a full meal and a drink should cost a maximum of \$5.00. If \$3.00 were to be spent on a bottle of water, a fulfilling lunch cannot be supplied with the \$2.00 left in that budget. Besides, many of the lunch options are already over the targeted \$5.00 limit.

Another survey response agreed: “If I’m spending \$6.75 on a meal, I should be able to get at least fries and a drink, or a drink and a muffin.” In my opinion, this makes perfect sense – cafeteria servings are best supplemented by another snack or side. Many students also participate in sports after school and need the extra energy or even just the calories to make it through the day.

Another major concern to the students is the recent increase in prices, which prompted one student to say,

“it lacks health value, everything is still so expensive, and the price keeps increasing – they don’t even display the prices anymore.” Indeed, prices at the cafeteria do seem hidden from plain sight.

It also seems that students are not made aware of price increases. For example, students complained about newer foods being raised to “insane prices” like General Tso’s chicken with rice: an anonymous student claimed it “used to be \$4.25. Now it’s treated as a special and costs \$6.75.”

Another student was fired up, saying they were frustrated by raising “THE NEW SANDWICH PRICING WITHOUT TELLING US.” This is a concern as students are now paying more than they are expecting to, oftentimes along with other cafeteria items, such as a snack or a drink.

With such a widespread agreement that food is overpriced, a logical next step would be to reassess the prices. However, we need to think about the feasibility of such price changes.

I think there are a few ways to solve this problem. While the cafeteria could lower their prices, one must account for the many costs that go into preparing school lunch on such a scale. We need to consider the cost of buying often expensive produce, along with labor costs. Inflation also, of course, drives up price. Thus, a decrease in the amount charged could mean a decrease in quality, and according to many students, the food is already “mediocre at best.”

Another option would be to keep the prices, but increase the quality of the food. While this would certainly make the high pricing more understandable, it would also mean the cafeteria would have to spend more, which may also not be practical. While both solutions are far from perfect, they are something to think about going forward.

SOPHIA KUMAR



# EDGEMONT WRAPPED

## What Did Edgemont Listen To In 2023?

Daniel Silver

With the end of the year comes many things: celebration, joy, and even relief. But the one thing that tops the list is the release of Spotify Wrapped (or Apple Music Replay). People either show their Wrapped to their friends with pride and the realization that 1,000,000 minutes of music is very unhealthy, or they sit in the corner crying about how their most listened to artist somehow became their least favorite. Edgemont is a very diverse community in many ways, music being one of them. Let's see what we listened to last year.

There were two figureheads in Edgemont music last year, and both are among the world's biggest. They are Taylor Swift, the #2 artist in the world, and Drake at #5 in the world. Swift released two albums in 2023, *Speak Now (Taylor's Version)* and *1989 (Taylor's Version)*, both of which were re-recorded versions of her popular albums *Speak Now* and *1989*. Her song "Cruel Summer" was one of the most popular songs of the year, peaking at #1 on the Billboard Hot 100 and playing on everyone's For You page.

However, in Edgemont, Taylor played second fiddle to Drake in polls, the most popular musical artist with an amazing 17% of Edgemont poll respondents picking him as their most listened to artist, myself included. Drake has always been very popular here, but his surge in popularity this year might be due to his new 23-track album *For All the Dogs* that came out in early October. With #1 songs in "Slime You Out" and "First Person Shooter," featuring SZA and J. Cole respectively, as well as other hits such as "Virginia Beach" and "8AM in Charlotte," Drake once again made his case for the title of leading mainstream rap artist. Some of the other most popular artists in Edgemont in 2023 were SZA, Travis Scott, Mitski, Kanye West, Harry Styles, Lana Del Rey, and Yeat.

Rap and pop, the two biggest genres of music, tied with over half of Edgemont having listened to one of the two more than any other genre. Pop music had a great year with albums like *GUTS* by Olivia Rodrigo, *Did You Know That There's a Tunnel Under Ocean Blvd* by Lana Del Rey, and Taylor Swift's two albums. Songs like "Flowers" by Miley Cyrus and "Kill Bill" by SZA topped the charts and became sensations in pop culture. And of course we can't forget *Barbie*, the biggest film of the year grossing \$1.4 billion. *Barbie* came with its own soundtrack, *Barbie: The Album*, which featured top artists Lizzo, Dua Lipa, Ice Spice, Nicki Minaj, Sam Smith, and Billie Eilish.

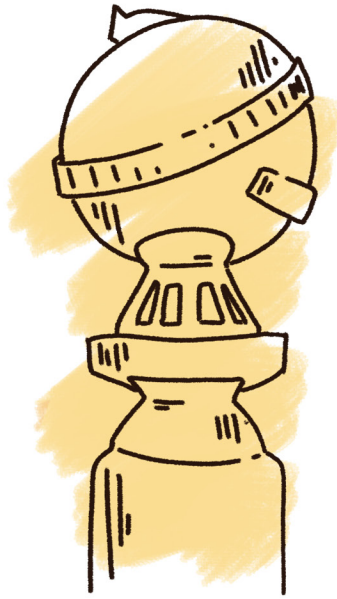
Meanwhile, rap albums from 2023 included *For All the Dogs* by Drake, *UTOPIA*, by Travis Scott, *SCARING THE H\*ES*, by JPEGMAFIA and Danny Brown, *Pink Tape*, by Lil Uzi Vert, *Nostalgia*, by Rod Wave, *A Gift & a Curse* by Gunna, and *A Great Chaos*, by Ken Carson. Additionally, the manager of late rapper Pop Smoke announced that no more posthumous music would be released by him, which upset many fans, including Joe Siegal ('24), who stated that he unironically listened to Pop Smoke more than any other artist this year.

The third most popular genre was pov: indie, with many popular albums released this year such as *The Record* by Boygenius, *The Land Is Inhospitable and So Are We* by Mitski, and *Javelin* by Sufjan Stevens. Indie music seems to have some of the most dedicated fans, including JoJo Anchin ('28) who listened to over 100,000 minutes of music in 2023 and was a top 0.1% listener overall.

This year, Edgemont listened to a variety of music genres, from pop to rap to rock to modern Bollywood. There was a very wide range of top artists, ranging from the Drakes and Taylor Swifts of the world to Radiohead and David Bowie. And to complete Edgemont Wrapped, Campus has created a playlist of Edgemont's favorite songs. Scan the Spotify code below and enjoy Edgemont's favorite music all in one place!

# THE GOLDEN GLOBES

JOYA ISHAK



The Golden Globe Awards honor the best films of the year. From Best Actress to Best Original Song, this ceremony has several awards that can be won by eager screenwriters and actors. Originally founded in 1944, the Golden Globes has become a fun event for viewers and participants alike. The Golden Globes used to be run by the Hollywood Foreign Correspondents Association, but this year has been switched over to CBS. This year, the 81st Golden Globe Award ceremony was full of moments. After a couple of mishaps that led the ceremony to be rescheduled and even canceled in previous years (due to Covid), CBS brought it back to its original slot, Sunday night.

This was the first important televised award ceremony since the writer's strike concluded. In fact, all of Hollywood's actors and screenwriters were anxious to get awards after many people skipped the event last year. Many actors and artists such as Taylor Swift attended this year's Golden Globes ceremony, sparking a possible comeback for the venue. Around 9.4 million people watched

the Golden Globes, more than in previous years but not as much as pre-COVID numbers. These numbers are a possible indication of a revival of the popularity of the ceremony.

There were many monumental moments and wins in the Golden Globes. For example, Lily Gladstone was awarded a Golden Globe for best actress in the movie *Killers of the Flower Moon*, becoming the first indigenous female to win a Golden Globe. Gladstone gave a heartwarming and inspiring speech in a beautiful moment during the ceremony.

*Poor Things* won Best Picture Comedy/Musical and Emma Stone, the lead actress, won Best Actress Comedy/Musical. *Anatomy of a Fall*, a movie about murder and suspicions, won Best Non-English Motion Picture. "What Was I Made For" by Billie Eilish won Best Original Song. It is a sad song with deep messages and was played in the *Barbie* movie. *The Bear*, a show illustrating the struggles of owning a restaurant, won Best Television Series Musical/Comedy.

The popular summer rivalry of

"Barbenheimer" was sparked again in the Golden Globes. With eight nominations, *Oppenheimer* won five Golden Globes, including Best Director, Best Drama and Best Score. Cillian Murphy won Best Actor for the movie and Robert Downey Junior won Best Supporting Actor. This ceremony shed light on *Oppenheimer*, showing the great success of the movie and its actors. *Barbie* also had its wins during the ceremony. *Barbie* had nine nominations and won Best Cinematic and Box Office Achievement, a recently added award highlighting which movie had the most successful sales. *Barbie* also received a well-deserved second place in Best Song for "I'm Just Ken."

While there were some mishaps during the ceremony, such as problems with the host and the jokes, the ceremony continued nonetheless. As the highly anticipated Oscars, or Academy Awards, get closer, the Golden Globes serve to whet the audience's appetite for cinema. Even though the ceremony wasn't perfect, it had many good moments.



Lily Gladstone giving a heart-warming speech after becoming the first indigenous female to win a Golden Globe.



Greta Gerwig and Margot Robbie smiling as they receive an award for *Barbie*.



Cillian Murphy and Robert Downey Jr. taking a photo after winning Best Actor and Best Supporting Actor for *Oppenheimer*.





# WAY TOO LATE NFL PREDICTIONS

Every year, many people predict what will happen in the NFL playoffs, but few manage to be 100% correct. It can occasionally be entertaining to read through other people's predictions to see where they think your favorite team will end up. However, it might be even more entertaining to see what people thought was going to happen in retrospect. As of writing this article, it is the morning of Saturday, January 13th, the first day of the NFL playoffs, but you will likely not be reading it until just before the Super Bowl. So sit back, relax, and with your knowledge of what has happened already in the NFL playoffs, take a look at what someone thought the outcome might have been beforehand.

Wild Card Weekend, the first round of the NFL playoffs, can be as unpredictable as it gets, but I will give it my best shot. To start with the favorites, I envision a dominant showing from the Dallas Cowboys, a team with both a top 5 offense and defense in the NFL, who will handily defeat the Green Bay Packers 31-10.

The Pittsburgh Steelers, behind their 3rd string quarterback Mason Rudolph, will be on the wrong end of a lopsided game as well, falling to the high-powered Bills offense in snowy Buffalo 38-7.

Moving to some more closely matched games, I foresee an upset with the Los Angeles Rams defeating the Detroit Lions 28-24. While the Lions have been the better team all year, it is the first playoff game for coach Dan Campbell, who has a tough assignment against a Rams team that still has their Super Bowl-winning core behind coach Sean McVay and quarterback Matthew Stafford – who is playing in a revenge game against his former team.

Back to the AFC, in a low-scoring defensive battle, Joe Flacco and the Cleveland Browns will take down the young and inexperienced Houston Texans on the road 13-6. Down in Tampa Bay, even though the Philadelphia Eagles have struggled late in the season, I cannot imagine a world where Tampa Bay Buccaneers quarterback Baker Mayfield can overcome the Eagles' talented defense: Eagles win 24-13.

Finally, in possibly one of the best games of the first round, I see the Kansas City Chiefs defeating the Miami Dolphins. The Chiefs have looked more vulnerable this year than ever before in the Patrick Mahomes era, but I think they will get their act together for this one, winning 17-10 in the sub-zero temperatures of Kansas City.

Moving on to the Divisional Round, six teams have moved on, while two more enter the fold. The Baltimore Ravens and San Francisco 49ers earned a first-round bye for

holding the top seeds in their respective conferences, and will now play the lowest remaining seed in their side of the bracket. This means that the Ravens will play the Browns for the third time this season. They split their first two matchups, but I expect the Ravens to win this game somewhat easily behind a stellar performance from this year's MVP favorite Lamar Jackson 23-10. Staying in the AFC, the Bills will match up against the Chiefs once again. Though the Chiefs have won their last two playoff meetings, Kansas City's lack of consistent offense will prove fatal. Bills win 30-13.

In the NFC, the 49ers will easily beat their division rival Rams 35-17 behind a dominant showing from running back Christian McCaffery. In another intra-division matchup, the Cowboys will defeat the Eagles 27-14. The Cowboys have been the superior team all season, and Philadelphia's defensive flaws will be exposed by the deadly combination of Dak Prescott and CeeDee Lamb.

Now, for the Conference Championship games. In the AFC, this leaves the Ravens playing the Bills and in the NFC, the 49ers playing the Cowboys. In a tightly contested game, I think the Bills defense will find a way to shut down Lamar Jackson's dynamic running game. This, combined with the Bills offense mustering a few touchdown drives, should be enough for them to squeak past Baltimore and punch their ticket to the Super Bowl 20-17.

In the NFC, this will be the third year in a row the 49ers and Cowboys have faced off in the playoffs, and for the third year in a row, I expect the 49ers to win. Their running game is too high-powered for the Dallas defense to stop, and their defense could be enough to slow down Dallas' passing game. In a back-and-forth game, San Francisco will win 28-25.

Super Bowl 58 will be held in Las Vegas's Allegiant Stadium on February 11th, 2024. By my predictions, the San Francisco 49ers will face off against the Buffalo Bills, and I am sure it will be an incredibly entertaining game with some even more entertaining commercials. While I think it will be close throughout the first 3 quarters, Buffalo will pull away in the fourth quarter, winning by a final score of 29-14. Josh Allen will cement his legacy as one of the all-time great Bills quarterbacks, delivering the franchise their first-ever Super Bowl win.

So, how did I do? While I might not do so well with predicting the individual games, there is one thing I know for certain: the 2024 NFL playoffs will be as wild, wacky, and wonderful as they are every single year.

**By Matthew Zeitz**



# The Tribune

# GUTS

## Your Zodiac Sign, Your Song (GUTS by Olivia Rodrigo) By: Nikki Chan and Samiksha Mandava

Want to know which song from the hit album GUTS by Olivia Rodrigo matches you? This amazing album has beaten the low expectations of the sophomore slump. GUTS has received dozens of nominations, including Album of the Year. Here is a match of each song to each Western zodiac sign. (While you may not get a song that matches your personality perfectly, this is just something meant for entertainment.) Enjoy!

### **Aries (March 21 - April 19): “Bad Idea, Right?”**

This fun and catchy tune fits the confident fire sign well. Arians are bold, energetic, charismatic, and a tad impulsive. But most importantly, they are driven by their heart’s desires. This is similar to how this song is about just going for what you want despite knowing that it is definitely not the best decision you could make. This lyric from a verse in the song, "Now I'm gettin' in the car, wreckin' all my plans / I know I should stop-, but I can't." shows that sometimes when Arians do something they know is wrong, they still do it anyway because they are confident and determined.

### **Taurus (April 20 - May 20): “Vampire”**

This deep and emotional song is about falling in love with the wrong person at the wrong time. Tauruses, after breakups, are surprised, in disbelief, and then angry. After that, they then try to figure out what broke the relationship. They may mourn, may try to come back, and will likely try to remain a friend to their “ex.” One line of the song reads, "And every girl I ever talked to told me you were bad, bad news." Once they leave a relationship, Tauruses look back to see what was wrong with it, to find all the hints that their past relationship would end badly.

### **Gemini (May 21 - June 20): “All-american b\*tch”**

This rock-style, cutting song is about reaching impossible standards without making it seem difficult. Gemini are constantly juggling many different pursuits simultaneously because they are playful and curious

intellectually. Gemini are also very bold and passionate, and this song is about pretending to be perfect, which fits Gemini and their spirited personality. One line addresses the expectation Gemini feel to constantly empathize: "I feel for your every little issue / I know just what you mean."

### **Cancer (June 20 - July 22): “Pretty isn't Pretty”**

This is one of the more gut-wrenching songs on the track list. It talks about insecurities and comparing yourself to others all the time. Cancers are the most insecure zodiac sign, which matches this song because it is about self-consciousness. A lyric from the song runs, "You fix the things you hated and you'd still feel so insecure." Cancers may keep trying to be better and constantly change themselves yet they still feel insecure on the inside. Cancers of course can be genuinely stunning, but they don't know it, so they keep measuring themselves by how they compare to others.

### **Leo (July 23 - August 22): “Lacy”**

This graceful, poetic song may initially seem like a happy, soft melody, but a deeper dive into the lyrics suggests otherwise. Underneath the exterior is a darker feeling of envy and obsession over someone that you say you don't like. Despite many good traits like confidence and generosity, Leos are also some of the most jealous and dramatic types. A fitting lyric from the song reads, "And I despise my jealous eyes and how hard they fell for you,"

**Virgo (August 23 - September 22): “Logical”**

This song is about trying to make sense of love, even though love isn't always rational. Virgos are logical (just like the name of the song) and perfectionists; they want to understand everything and control everything. An example is how the person at the center of the tune tried to figure out love so much that they "got...thinkin' / Two plus two equals five." This song is about how love makes you think differently, which can frustrate the more rational among us.

**Libra (September 23 - October 22): “Love is Embarrassing”**

This song captures the feeling of the ups and downs of loving someone who isn't as serious about the relationship. Libras tend to fall in love quickly, are very romantic, and strongly believe in making social connections. This lyric from the song's bridge—"I give up, give up, but I keep comin' back for more, yeah"—shows how Libras fall in love and do not necessarily find their feelings reciprocated.

**Scorpio (October 23- November 21): “The Grudge”**

This song is about holding a heavy grudge against someone, hence the title, which makes it perfect for the most unforgiving sign of the zodiac, Scorpio. Scorpios can harbor resentment for anything for a long, long time, especially if the person who wronged them did things like building them up "to watch [them] fall" and creating "trust that [they] betrayed." Even though Scorpios may try to let it go, they struggle to do so,

**Sagittarius (November 22 - December 21): “Get Him Back!”**

This pop-rock song is about wanting revenge on but still having feelings for an “ex,” a sentiments that match Sagittarius because it is an energetic fire sign, unafraid to venture into undiscovered and scary places. Sagittariuses are also flighty and spontaneous, with angsty impulsivity to top it all off. And trying to get your ex back is a tad impulsive, just like Sagittariuses.

**Capricorn (December 22 - January 19): “Teen-age Dream”**

This song is about how things will slip out of your control when you grow up. Capricorns have a fear of losing control and also are scared of being judged. A lyric in the chorus of the song, "But I fear that they already got all the best parts of me," expresses how the singer feels scared to grow up, as things will not be like before and instead might be even harder. Another vulnerable-sounding lyric in the bridge expresses this aversion to change: "Yeah, they all say that it gets better, it gets better, but what if I don't?".

**Aquarius (January 20 - February 18): “Making the Bed”**

This song is one of the harder-hitting songs on this album, full of heartbreaking lyrics and beautiful metaphors that explain the emotions felt while growing up into your own person. One of the most significant themes of this song is finding true friendships. Aquarians may seem daring and rebellious on the outside, but they are also sensitive and need support from others. But they can face hardship in locating such reinforcement given their trademark coldness to other people, even those with whom they are very close, as the following line highlights: "Push away all the people who know me the best."

**Pisces (February 19 - March 20): “Ballad of a Home-schooled Girl”**

This song is the epitome of an introverted person trying to survive in a social situation, so obviously, the shyest sign in the zodiac is the best fit. Pisces can be very sensitive, feeling emotions much more profoundly than any other sign. One line reads, “The morning after, I panic,” which indicates the singer’s regret about and cringing at a particular social decision.





# Lunar New Year

EMILY XIE

Lunar New Year is a holiday celebrated by many and marks the first day of the year in the lunar calendar. The celebration originated 3,500 years ago, during the Han dynasty (202 BC – 220 AD), and usually occurs in late January or early February, in conjunction with the day of the second new moon after the winter solstice.

It all began with a legend, a legend about a monster named Nian 年 who attacked villagers at the beginning of each year. Nian had a long head and sharp horns and showed up to eat crops, livestock, and even people. Most villagers would hide from the ferocious monster, but one wise old man stepped out and refused to hide. He discovered what Nian was afraid of: bright lights, loud sounds, and most of all, the color red. So, the old man lit candles all around the village, burned bamboo (later firecrackers), pasted red paper on doors, and wore red clothes. It was a successful way to scare Nian, and Nian never bothered the villagers again.

Nowadays, a common tradition is to clean your home before Lunar New Year, getting rid of both unwanted things and bad luck from the past year. Usually, people spend the holiday with family and friends. Performances are held featuring the dragon/lion dance 舞龙, also thought to scare away the bad luck and to usher in good fortune. A variety of Chinese music is also played on traditional instruments, including the Pipa 琵琶, Erhu 二胡, Yangqin 扬琴, Guzheng 古筝, and many more.

Food is probably the most important part of the Lunar New Year (at least for me). Different foods represent different ideas. For example, the dumplings 饺子 symbolize comfort, hope, and prosperity. Many family and friends come together to make dumplings, a great bonding activity. Spring rolls 春卷 symbolize bars of gold, and they bring wealth and prosperity for the coming year. Longevity noodles 长寿面 symbolize the wish for a long, health, happy life, and they also make an appearance for birthdays. Because Lunar New Year takes place at the end of winter, fruits like oranges 桔子 thrive. Oranges symbolize prosperity and bring good fortune.

Eight Treasures Rice 八宝饭 symbolizes great fortune, and is a pudding made with painstaking care. Sticky rice balls 汤圆 fittingly symbolize togetherness and reunion.

Each lunar year is named after one of the twelve zodiac animals. The meaning of each originated from Chinese folklore, including the order. Every twelve years the cycle repeats of the rat 鼠, ox 牛, tiger 虎, rabbit 兔, dragon 龙, snake 蛇, horse 马, sheep 羊, monkey 猴, rooster 鸡, dog 狗, and pig 猪. If you are in twelfth grade, you were most likely born in the year of the dog. If you are an eleventh-grader, you were likely born in the year of the pig, while a tenth-grade generally first saw life in the year of the rat.

The zodiac cycle began when the Jade Emperor needed a way to measure time. As the legend goes, he had the animals compete in the race, and planned to name the years after them according to the place they came in the race. The cat and the rat were worried because the race was crossing a river. They asked the ox to carry them over, which he agreed to do. They were pleased that the ox was taking the lead, until the rat pushed the cat off the ox. This is why cats and rats don't get along – and also why the cat is not included in the zodiac cycle. Once the ox neared the bank, the sneaky rat jumped off the back of the ox and landed in first place. Thus, the first year of the cycle is named after the rat, and the ox was tricked into second.

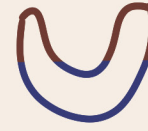
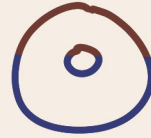
A bit later, the tiger arrived, as the currents were strong. After the tiger came the rabbit, who did not swim but ended up hopping on stones and logs. The dragon took fifth, and the horse almost took sixth, until the snake wriggled up beside him. The horse ended up taking seventh, the snake sixth. The goat, monkey, and rooster built a raft, so the goat became eighth, the monkey ninth, and the rooster tenth. The dog came up next, then the pig. The cat came up later only to discover that he was too late to have a year named after him.

This year, the Lunar New Year falls on Saturday, February 10, 2024. ECC (Edgemont Community Council) and ECA (Edgemont Chinese Association) have co-organized a celebration this year for the Lunar New Year in early February, and it sounds like a fun event in which the entire community can participate.

# What friend

TRIBUNE

are



By Kayla Kurian

I know we have all taken the quizzes that tell you what color or Taylor Swift album matches you the best. But have you ever taken a quiz on what type of friend you are? Even if you have, here is my take on the different types of people in friend groups.

## The Smart One

If you are this person, then all your friends call you the “big brain”. Also if one of your friends is trying to calculate how many people buy a cookie from the snack bar and asks what 56-32 is, you are the first one to say 24.

## The Shy One

If you are this person, then you are the person in your friend group who only talks to the people in that friend group. You may also be seen as a quiet and reserved person. But when you are with your friends, you bubble with energy.

## The Best Friend

If you are this person, then you are the person in your friend group who is devoted to the friendship of everyone in the group. You also have many inside jokes. I bet that you will do anything in your power to make sure that there are no fights. You also will beg your teacher to put you all in the same group for a project.

## The Artistic One

If you are this friend, then you always have doodles on your homework. And if one of your friends wanted you to help them with their homework, they would be so confused because of all the drawings. If your friends come to your house and go to your room, you won't be able to see the walls. That is because of all the artwork you have. During lunch, instead of eating you will be sketching out your friends!

## The Always Busy One

If you are this person, then you always have plans. Whenever your friends ask you to go to Scarsdale Village, you will always, “Sorry I'm busy!” Whether it's a bar/bat mitzvah or even a Christmas party, you are there! And on the weekend when your friends ask, “What are you up to?” you reply later and say, “Sorry, I was at a family friend's house”.

## The Sleepy One

If you are this person, then you are practically sleeping anywhere you go. During class your friends are always having to nudge you and whisper-yell, “Pay attention, Mrs. D will see you!” And during lunch, you are always zoning out, either daydreaming or sleeping with your eyes open. You are probably staying up till 1 AM to finish the never-ending math homework your teacher gave you.

## The Trendy One

If you are this person, then you are up to date with all the newest trends. During lunch, you will definitely be telling all your friends about the newest dance that is all over Tiktok or Youtube. You will most definitely be carrying a Stanley tumbler around and wearing the newest type of Nike sneakers.

I wanted to poll my grade in order to see which types most kids identified with. I sent out a survey to the whole 7th grade. 27.6% of the students that answered chose the smart one. Seventh grade student Myra Nigam wrote, “The one who always says, “that was due TODAY!””. I think that it is very helpful to have a friend like that, but I would hope that they remind me that my essay was due a few days earlier.

Many students said that they were the crazy/energetic type. Lots of my friends fit this description. Another seventh grade response was from Emma Li, she said that, “The one who tries to keep good grades while making sure that no one in their friend group does anything crazy.” I believe that that is the best type of friend you can have.

# Stanleys

## What's The Big Deal?

Among the trends nowadays, there's a specific water bottle that everyone loves: Stanleys. Those big, bright cups with a long handle and a wide, clear straw, plastered with the logo of a winged bear wearing a simple crown, seem to be incessantly in the hands of many Edgemont students. The iconic tumblers are known to fit the "preppy" aesthetic and provide an ample amount of hydration, even more than enough for just one day. Stanleys have been spotted all over campus. Despite its size, the cup seems like a convenient accessory.

Despite their recent rise to fame, Stanleys have actually been around for years. The company has created various styles and designs for each of their water bottles. So you might be wondering why they eluded the general public's attention in previous years and how they became a fad now. People say it has to do with the variety of new shapes, sizes, and colors available on the website and in stores.

Such a wide range of choices has attracted many adults and teens, making it a social 'must' to find the perfect Stanley to match their flare leggings and/or ripped jeans. It makes some sense that it has to match or at least coordinate with one's outfit for that day, since it can't be put in your backpack. Most Stanleys you see around campus are typically in the hands of the owner – maybe because it doesn't fit in a backpack's small side compartment or maybe because they make an eye-catching showpiece.

Owners often get asked basic questions as they tote their Stanley, like why they need that big of a bottle and how heavy it gets when it's full. Yet, there's one question that seems to be the most scientifically reasonable: how does the liquid in the Stanley not leak from the wide, open-ended straw? One clear answer could be the "straw covers", or "spill stoppers" that are sold on Amazon. These small, sometimes multicolored plastic stoppers can add a decorative element to any Stanley. Some students prefer to take the precarious route and simply leave it up to chance. Every EHS student has probably stepped over a fallen Stanley, whether in the cafeteria, D-building, or elsewhere on campus.

The tumblers can be customized to fit any style and are redesigned for every season. Though the tumblers aren't that travel-friendly, they still hold a large volume of water and have adjustable tops that are practical for both left and right-handed people. Mini Stanleys also appeal to many and appear more portable and comfortable to hold.

While Stanleys may indeed be a great water bottle, the need for a Stanley has brainwashed more than one person. Recent news articles have covered how people are racing and fighting one another in Target's aisles—all over a limited edition Stanley cup. The price of each cup is around fifty dollars, a high price for a water bottle that doesn't even include a straw cap! While the viral cup's reign continues now, someday it may very well end up with the other Hydroflasks and Yeti water bottles in the back of the cabinet.

Feba George • Eva Stratigos-Simon



# STUDYING 101

Sofia Maria Tudorie

As a new year starts, so does a new chance for you to improve academically. But how would that be possible if you did the same things you did last year? Here are five tips to enhance your studying this year. Using these tips consistently is likely to lead to stronger academic performance.

## Tip 1: Splitting Your Studying Between Multiple Days

Your day starts normally until you realize that your big test is tomorrow and you haven't even looked at your disorganized notes. Instead of ending up in this situation and procrastinating until the last minute, splitting up your studying over three to four days can be beneficial because it can help you grasp the material better and save time. But using this technique is easier said than done. Instead of saying you are going to use this tip but then completely forget about it, aim to allocate at least two days to study, one for going over every part of the material and the other for going over the main ideas and vocabulary of the topic.

## Tip 2: Highlighting and Organizing

Upon realizing that you actually have five days until your big test, you sit down at your clean desk and pick up your newly sharpened pencil but then realize that you have no idea how to study because your notes look like a disaster. When writing down notes in class, try to separate them into different sections/topics and highlight the main ideas so when you go to study, everything is much clearer for you, and you can make more connections between sub-topics while you are studying. This does not mean having flawless penmanship is necessary; it just means you need to keep your notes organized.

## Tip 3: Pretending to Teach

As you sit confidently reading over your organized notes, you realize that you are probably not using the best technique to understand the topic you are learning. Reading your notes may be a common approach to studying, but it is not necessarily the optimal one. One technique that may work for you is pretending to teach. At first, this may sound

weird, but showing what you have learned by saying it out loud can help you acknowledge and further realize any knowledge gaps that need to be filled. This can also help you explain the basic ideas of the topic you are learning and understand the topic on an advanced level.

## Tip 4: Blurting

Another technique for actually acknowledging the information you need to learn is blurting. To begin, gather a fresh white sheet of paper, a sharp pencil, a colored pen, and your arranged notes. On this piece of paper, you will write whatever you can remember from the section you need to study. Next, you will look back at your notes and fill in any information that you missed with your colored pen. Then you can review the parts that you have missed and do this again until there are no more gaps in your knowledge, lending you a new-found confidence.

## Tip 5: Using Studying Apps

As you wake up on the morning of your big test, your mind is a mix of nerves and confidence in your knowledge. As you make your way to your test, you wonder if there is any way you could further review the material to ensure you have it all covered. This is the ideal moment to pull out your phone and download Quizlet and other study apps. While these apps may not provide a comprehensive understanding of your topic, they can be used for brief five to ten-minute reviews or practice sessions just before your test. With so many study apps available, you will likely want to select one with online flashcards, which can be the fastest review option.

I hope that these five tips help to bolster your academic performance. Keep in mind that everyone has his or her own unique study approach, and it is important to use a technique that suits your personal learning style.

# 2023

## A YEAR IN REVIEW

Anya Pathak

In 2023, a rollercoaster of events unfolded, bringing both triumphs and challenges. The World Health Organization finally declared the end of the COVID-19 pandemic, the movie *Barbie* hit the screens, and the FIFA Women's World Cup captivated the world! However, amidst these highs, the Syria-Turkey Earthquake displaced many, and a full-scale war erupted between Israel and Hamas in Palestinian Gaza. Another war currently rages in Sudan, displacing millions amidst changes of ethnic cleansing.

Below are some highlights of 2023:

### January: Kevin McCarthy - US House Speaker

In what proved an uproarious events, on January 7th, 2023, after an unprecedented 5-day and 15-round voting process, Republican Leader Kevin McCarthy finally garnered enough vote to become Speaker of the House of US Representatives. This was the longest speaker contest in 164 years. However, in October, the House of Representatives voted to oust him with a narrow 216-210 vote, making him the first-ever US House Speaker to be removed from office.

### February: Earthquake in Turkey & Syria

On February 6th, 2023, a devastating 7.8-magnitude earthquake struck southern Turkey and northern Syria, resulting in a death toll of over 50,000 and impacting around 17 million people. In response, various countries and organizations responded, with around 95 nations and 16 international organizations pledging to provide support for the displaced.

### March: Taylor Swift's Eras Tour

After the release of her 10th album, *Midnights* (2022), Taylor Swift kicked off The Eras Tour, which began on March 17th, 2023. Her record-shattering tour is set to be the most lucrative concert in the history of the American music industry. With an estimated total of around \$4.1 billion, Swift's earnings would be the most from a single tour to date, exceeding the yearly economic output of 42 countries, as noted by The Washington Post. In addition, she earned the title of "Forbes' 5th most powerful woman in the world" and was honored as *Time Magazine's* Person of the Year.

### April: Sudan Civil War

On April 15th, 2023, tensions between the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) and the Rapid Support Forces (RSF) erupted into open conflicts. While fighting has primarily taken place in Sudan's capital, Khartoum, the conflict has created a challenging situation, with implications reaching into the broader geopolitical landscape of Sudan. With over 12,000 casualties and 5.6 million internally displaced since October, it has become the largest internal displacement crisis globally and has contributed to widespread hunger affecting 17.7 million. A U.S. State Department report in December concluded that the RSF had committed ethnic cleansing.

### May: COVID-19 Health Emergency

The year saw a decline in the severity of the COVID-19 pandemic in 2023, with the World Health Organization (WHO) ending its global health emergency status on May 11, 2023. The US Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) still remain committed to maximizing access to COVID-19 vaccines and treatments. Despite the end of the emergency, the pandemic persists, with well over 100 Americans still losing their lives daily. The transition is viewed as a technical decision, not a sign of the pandemic's resolution.



**June: 2023 Canadian Wildfires**

In 2023, numerous wildfires swept through Canada, ignited by the combination of summer heat and thunderstorms. Persisting for months in remote locations, these fires emitted thick smoke, triggering widespread air quality alerts and evacuation efforts in both Canada and the United States. On June 7, 2023, smoke from Canadian wildfires covered New York City, affecting air quality.

**July: Barbie/Oppenheimer**

Two films, *Barbie* and *Oppenheimer*, achieved remarkable box office success upon their releases in July 2023. Presently, *Barbie* is the highest-grossing movie of 2023, taking in \$1.4 billion worldwide, while *Oppenheimer* is the third-highest-grossing movie of the year, taking in \$946 million worldwide.

**August: Chandrayaan-3**

On August 23, 2023, India marked a historic milestone by successfully landing the Chandrayaan-3 spacecraft on the moon. This achievement positioned India as the fourth nation to successfully accomplish this feat after Russia, China, and the US. India distinguished itself from previous missions by becoming the first nation to successfully land a spacecraft on the moon's unexplored south pole, showcasing a pioneering venture into previously untouched lunar territory.

**September: US Open Tennis**

On September 9th, 2023, American Coco Gauff won her first major title with a comeback win over Belarus' Aryna Sabalenka. On the men's side of the draw, Novak Djokovic defeated Daniil Medvedev to become the oldest US Open Men's singles champion in the Open Era. By reaching his 47th men's singles major final, Djokovic surpassed Roger Federer's record and equaled Federer's record of reaching all four major finals in a season three times.

**October: Israel - Hamas War**

On October 7, 2023, Hamas and other militant groups launched a cross-border attack on Israel. The attack killed around 1,200 people, mostly civilians, and took over 200 people captive. In response, Israel initiated an extensive military operation with objectives that included dismantling Hamas, regaining control of the Gaza Strip, and rescuing hostages. This full-scale conflict has resulted in a severe humanitarian crisis with shortages of essential resources such as food, clean water, medicine, and fuel, and has led to a collapse of healthcare services in Gaza.

**November: 2023 MLB Season**

On November 1, 2023, The Texas Rangers defeated the Arizona Diamondbacks to win the World Series in 5 games at Chase Field in Phoenix, Arizona. This marks their first Major League Baseball championship in their 63-year existence. Corey Seager, a shortstop for the Texas Rangers, was named as the World Series MVP.

**December: COP28 United Arab Emirates**

The 28th United Nations Climate Change Conference, commonly referred to as COP28, convened in Dubai, UAE. The event is intended for governments to come together with a shared goal of implementing policies to curb global temperature increases and adapt to the impacts of climate change. A deal between all the countries was signed on December 13, 2023; it commits all signatories to move away from all carbon energy sources. If carried out, this deal would help mitigate some of the worst effects of climate change, reach net zero by 2050, and triple renewable energy by 2030.

Despite the numerous challenges that unfolded in 2023, there existed many notable positives. The remarkable progress witnessed across various scientific and artistic fields serves as a beacon of hope and a head start for the extraordinary achievements that may unfold throughout 2024.



