

WINTER 2025



KINGSLEY VOICE

the
love
issue

Forging *Connections*

at King

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REMEMBERING MR. RUTHERFORD



OP-ED



KVC Masthead

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Be sure to check out our Instagram!
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Claire Musselman

Thanks for reading with us!

The costly fall of streaming services



Courtesy

When does streaming shows like *Stranger Things* on services like Netflix cost too much money to be able to justify the growing expense?

By Ajfar Mahi

There is little doubt that streaming services revolutionised the way media is consumed. But with rising prices and many different platforms, many consumers find themselves spending more on streaming services than they ever used to on cable.

When they first came out streaming services gave users a cheap and convenient way to watch a large selection of movies and TV shows on demand as an alternative from the expensive and heavily divided up cable subscriptions. In fact, in 2011, Netflix's streaming plan cost just \$7.99 down from nearly \$100 for popular cable packages. That early advantage has been lost, though as Netflix and its competitors are dividing content and upping prices in a way that makes it very hard

for an average person to afford. If you average \$20 a month between all the services (and prices can vary even more depending on content levels and whether or not you're willing to put up with ads) it gets expensive. Netflix, Crave, Apple TV+, Disney+, Amazon... there's \$100 right there.

Where many users feel it started to go wrong was when streaming services started increasing the prices for their plans. Just this year, Netflix's plan jumped from \$15.49 to \$17.99 a month, and with their recent tentative acquisition of Warner Brothers, many users are worried that it will give them a reason to up their prices again. Disney is also raising their prices, and according to CBC news, this is the fourth year that they've raised their prices.

Another place many people

believe the streaming service industry is overcharging is on the ad included plans. Currently, Netflix's basic with ads plan costs \$7.99 a month, which is the same as what the ad free plan cost in 2011. The quality of video may also be less.

When it was just one streaming service, these high prices might have been reasonable, but because of the success of Netflix and shows like *Stranger Things* which just released its fifth and final season, many studios have begun to make their own streaming platforms and put their movies or TV shows on it instead. So consumers are stuck paying for multiple expensive streaming services to gain access to a variety of content. *The Last of Us*? Crave. *Pluribus*? Apple TV+. *Fallout*? Amazon.

It adds up. In fact, accord-

ing to *Forbes*, the average American pays for 2.9 streaming services per month, most around \$17 per service.

Not only are they upping their prices, but many streaming services have spent a considerable amount of time cracking down on account sharing. This means that friends or extended families cannot share their accounts anymore if they are not living in the same household. While it is possible to add people outside the household, it is expensive.

However, it is also all these changes that continue to frustrate Netflix users—the increase of prices and inclusion of ads in a paid service.

Whether or not there is a ceiling to this and if people are willing to not only pay higher prices but do so for multiple streaming services remains to be seen.

A special letter from the editors

By Jumaina Ahmed & Najihah Rahman

Thank you for deciding to open the first page of this edition of the *Kingsley Voice*! We hope that you read all the way to the end and enjoyed it all.

This year's Winter Edition is all about relationships. Whether it be romantic, platonic, or familial, all of us engage in relationships throughout our lives. High school can be a difficult time to navigate relationships with the people around us and we wanted to dive deeper into why that is and help students at King understand themselves at least a little bit better. Whether you're in a relationship, or not, we hope that you can enjoy this edition of the *Kingsley Voice*!

Even with all that's going on in this digital age, things like newspapers are still important. Even if it's a story dealing with something fun and silly about relationships, it's still crucial that we are able to express ourselves. Journalism is a valuable skill and industry and we are proud that it exists at King. Unfortunately,

the council lost a huge outlet for expression this year: the online paper. The *Kingsley Voice* website served as a space for the school community to receive regular updates on the school, and gave the council an opportunity to share their passions and ideas (*for more information, see page 4 of the newspaper!*). It's a shame, but it just means we will be able to pivot our focus onto the print paper entirely.

It has been a crazy, wild ride getting here, including many long nights at home fighting with Microsoft Publisher, changing our cover every two days and battling a tight schedule to finish our paper. But it's finally here! It is now in ink and, ultimately, all our struggles have been totally worth it. It is indescribable how satisfying it is to see your brain baby be tangible and something you can see outside of a digital format.

We would have never been able to do this without the support of many people. We are so grateful for the knowledge and guidance that Mr. Wilkinson has given us throughout this process. This

paper literally would not exist without him. We would also like to thank our amazing team of contributors, section editors, and execs. The council has gone through a lot of changes in membership but everyone did amazing despite it being most of the council's first time in their roles.

We would also like to thank Zariya Hussain, our talented cover artist, for bringing our vision to life.

Lastly, we would like to thank Mr. Rutherford. His impact within the school was

undeniable, especially having served Jumaina as a teacher. He was someone who touched many lives, and we hope, with the back of our paper, we could highlight the specialness of the teacher-student relationship and how much his life affected those around him in special ways. He will be dearly missed by our community.

Thank you all for reading,



Prithkiga Vinotharupan

Your two Editors-in-Chief are so excited and proud to deliver this paper to you which was crafted by the amazing KVC team!

Sports & Health

The importance of healthy relationships



Najjha Rahman

In a world recovering from prolonged isolation in recent years, there is nothing more important for people than healthy relationships.

By Bavina Sivapatham

Mental health awareness is a topic that has skyrocketed in importance. From being a taboo idea only a few years ago to being taught about at schools today, much progress has been made to spread word about mental health.

One aspect commonly explored in mental health awareness is how important healthy familial and platonic relationships are to support good mental health. This idea has been backed up by ample sources, including an article by the American Psychological Association, which describes how healthy friendships and familial bonds support a healthy brain and body.

“Psychological research from around the world shows that having social connections is one of the most reliable predictors of a long, healthy

and satisfying life,” writes author Zara Abrams.

The article delves deeper into understanding why this is the case and finds it’s often the result of the close bonds with friends and family that changes the way a person responds to stress in a positive way.

For example, in a study talked about in the journal, *Psychosomatic Medicine*, author Kamarck T.W., describes an experiment where participants who had a friend by their side while completing a tough task had less heart rate activity compared to those who worked alone.

This can indicate that friendships and close bonds support a healthier heart by helping to keep one’s heart rate normal which reduces the risk for illnesses such as heart attacks, stress cardiomyopathy, and coronary artery disease.

Another important element

of strong relationships is the sense of security they provide. When individuals know they have people they can rely on, everyday challenges feel less overwhelming. This emotional safety net lowers the likelihood of developing anxiety-based responses during stressful or unexpected situations.

“Being around people who I can see as a support system makes things easier to go through,” says Mahima Ali, a Grade 12 student.

Platonic relationships and friendships help reduce stress by paving the way for opportunities to release stress. These opportunities can be confiding in a close friend about a personal problem or going out with friends to distract oneself from negative thoughts or recurring problems.

According to the American Psychological Association, not only do close platonic relationships

reduce stress, they also foster more happiness. Having people in one’s life who appreciate and value them has been shown to increase levels of self-esteem and confidence.

This positive side effect of platonic relationships allows individuals to be well-equipped to deal with stress and problems when they inevitably arise, helping them to experience the more negative aspects of life and come out fairly intact emotionally.

The truth that close relationships are pivotal for good mental health is more important to know now than ever due to loneliness levels having increased after the pandemic. Social disconnection had become a rising issue since around 2012, when the use of smartphones and social media became more common. The global isolation that occurred during quarantine only helped

grow these numbers while the number of in-person relationships people dwindled.

People can ensure they are socially fulfilled by spending more time with loved ones which will help sustain feelings of good self-esteem. It can help to hinder the development of social anxiety.

Another key point is that nurturing close relationships is not only about receiving support but also giving it. Studies in psychology show that acts of kindness - such as helping a friend with homework, offering comfort when someone is upset, or simply showing interest in another’s day - boost the helper’s mood as much as the one helped. This mutual benefit strengthens the relationship and contributes to a cycle of positive connections. When people feel needed and appreciated, their sense of belonging naturally increases, which is a core component of good mental health.

Furthermore, understanding how to maintain relationships during conflicts is just as important as building them. Disagreements are normal in any friendship and/or family dynamic, but handling them with empathy and calm communication prevents long-term stress and a needless continuation of said conflict.

RH King’s resident social worker, Wanjiru Magua, believes in the importance of maintaining positive connections. “We need to feel connected and have a sense of belonging. Do we help each other? Do we lean on each other? Yes. Can anyone function on their own? No.”

If you or someone you know is struggling, call Kids Help Phone: **1-800-668-6868**.

Beauty standards and mental health



Jumaina Ahmed

Online trends are a main reason for declining youth mental health.

By Safwana Shahid

The majority of people at least once in their lives have looked in a mirror and been dissatisfied with what they see. Many aren’t comfortable sharing the truth about how they view themselves, which can lead to deeper psychological issues, such as loneliness and insecurity. Beauty standards, despite being accelerated by modernization such as social

media, are not recent inventions. For what seems like almost all of recorded human history there have been accounts relating to beauty, fashion, and similar practices.

So, why do people value looks so much? Humans, naturally, are great at evaluating others based on a variety of needs. This traces back to evolution and wanting to ensure that good qualities get passed down from generation

to generation. By seeing one positive trait in another, the brain automatically fills in the blanks by assuming other traits are also positive. For example, one might assume that an attractive person also has good hygiene, a healthy lifestyle, and is intelligent. This makes the person overall seem more attractive, despite the brain having no proof of any of those traits.

Proof that beauty is a construct can be found in the way cultures view beauty as what is perfect for one may be the polar opposite in another. For example, countries in Asia, such as India and Indonesia, often value pale, blemish-free skin, while in Western countries people often wish to become more tan. In Asian countries, tanned skin is associated with labour and hard work in the sun. In Western countries, tanned skin is associated with leisurely activities such as sunbathing and the beach.

These drastic cultural contradictions reveal how unstable and ever-changing beauty norms truly are. This instability becomes even more evident

in the modern era where body image issues and social expectations are exposed to a larger audience who put stock in popular “trends” to perpetuate. These trends are like rapidly changing cycles, pulling people back and forth in a manipulative way. The beauty standard is especially fickle here, constantly switching forms and never resting, as the speed of social media pushes one trend aside for the next.

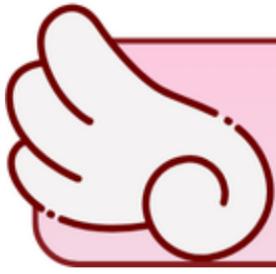
The desire to be attractive typically stems from a desire for belonging and acceptance, which are all completely normal, innate feelings. The issue now is with how society has framed the journey to achieve these things, portraying them as passive emotions. To elaborate, wanting love is viewed as something you have to physically change yourself for in order to gain. The idea of validation from others banks on the shallow reservoir of appearances over values. The idea that you only deserve love if you look good enough for it.

“I think that colourism is especially prevalent in South Asian society, where a lot of

emphasis is put on the so called “importance” of having fair skin,” says Shayan Alam, a Grade 11 student at King.

“While types of colourism and racism also used to be widespread in European societies, I believe that that open-mindedness and liberalization have strayed away from such ideas. To take next steps, South Asian societies have to be more prompt about educating youth to get rid of the stigma around complexion. No matter what your skin colour is, you are beautiful, and your opinion deserves to be heard. Your appearance does not define you as a person,” Alam says.

Recognizing this endless cycle is crucial because the truth is that there will always be some sort of impossible standard to meet—someone to please. In the end, passing positivity down from one generation to the next is important as is hoping that eventually a person’s outer image and their flaws are not shamed by society, but celebrated and found attractive based on their uniqueness.



King Life



Advice from KVC's resident Consultant

By King's (anonymous) Consultant

Whether it's the influence of the holiday season or gift-giving, it's clear for all that love is in the air! But some King students are left waiting for their moment as they experience some trouble in paradise.

Friend A: Friendship Fumbles

Our first question comes from A, who has been having some friendship troubles.

"My best friend is mad at me because I tore one of her worksheets, but she keeps doodling all over mine. I feel bad now, but I was just so upset."

This was clearly a tough situation, but tearing the worksheet probably made things worse. Try sitting down and have an open up honest conversation about your feelings. Misunderstandings happen, but communication is what'll bring you both closer.

Consultee B: Third-Wheel Woes

Next up, B has a problem we all can relate to.

"How do I get my friend to shut up about her boyfriend and remember I came before him?"

It's tough when a friend starts focusing on their boyfriend so much, they forget about the friends who were there first. A reminder of your important friendship can help with finding a balance. Boys come and go, but friendship is forever!

Consultee C: The Hinting Struggle

Finally, C is having issues trying to shoot their shot.

"I've been trying to give hints, but he just isn't getting it."

Sometimes, subtly is not the answer. It's easy to miss. With the holidays around the corner, it could be perfect to be a little more direct (but still sweet). Send a card or a heartfelt letter—it's romantic and thoughtful!

Consultee D: The Gift-Giving Dilemma

D is struggling with the annual winter gift game.

"I want to get my crush something really thoughtful, but I'm broke and everything I think of is either too cheesy or too expensive."

Classic dilemma in the holiday season! The solution? Get chocolate. Nothing says Christmas like sugary sweets.

TDSB discontinues lottery system



Jumaina Ahmed

After attempting to implement a lottery system to enter into specialized programs, the TDSB is returning to merit-based acceptances, causing current students, staff, parents, and the general public to wonder if this is a return to form or a step in the wrong direction.

By Sophia Zhao

The TDSB has discontinued its controversial lottery system for Central Student Interest Programs. CBC News has reported that students are now being accepted through a merit-based admissions process for the 2026-2027 school year and beyond. After years of randomness, the shift promises a fairer, structured system, but it's leaving students and parents feeling disoriented.

Current Grade 8 students applying to a CSIP program will have to meet certain Grade requirements for eligibility. The TDSB website states that for a student's eligibility, one must not have more than two marks below 70% from the following subjects: language, math, science and technology, geography, history, French, art, and phys ed.

The website has also mentions that meeting the Grade requirements does not guarantee a spot in a student's preferred program. Students must also demonstrate their knowledge and skills through an evaluation and those who are successful will be considered for a spot.

This is a major difference compared to the lottery system that accepted all applications and spat out a random slot to those who applied. Now some programs require students to submit an audition or even complete exams tailored to the knowledge needed for that program.

Many of the younger students at King were accepted through the lottery system, with only the Leadership students in the Class of 2026 having to do an interview to be accepted into the program. It's a lot of back and forth within a short amount of time which has led to a number of different opinions.

Quinn Johnson, a Grade 10 Leadership student at King, who was accepted through the lottery says it's definitely going to improve the willingness of students to be in leadership. "But I'm hesitant to look at it with rose-tinted glasses because I wouldn't be here if not for the lottery," Johnson says.

She believes that this new merit-based system is excessive. "I feel that portfolio art is needed, but to join STEM and show a robot, for example? I

wanted to go into STEM to build stuff, but I just couldn't afford it," Johnson says.

Before 2022, when the lottery system was introduced, schools accepted students based on their academic achievements much like the modified one that has come into effect. Tannei Sarker, a 2023 R.H. King graduate, was accepted into the Leadership program through an interview and a portfolio. "To successfully land an interview, a pre-screening speaking of your extracurriculars and answering questions was to be passed," Sarker says.

Each school will have a different way of applying for its central student interest program based on what it focuses on. Since R.H. King has a focus on Leadership, students have to demonstrate their abilities that align with being a leader.

That's how it worked before the lottery, Sarker recalls. "For the interview, you had to create a portfolio. The portfolio had three components, based on the school's motto, 'We care, we strive, we serve'. In each component, you would show what you did to live up

to this motto," Sarker explains. "I added the certificates and medals I had won during my middle school years. A big part of my portfolio was photos of me doing the activities I was a part of. For example, my cover page was filled with pictures of me singing to show that I was very interested in the arts."

This reflects the kind of process that the TDSB is returning to. It doesn't just show interest, but also proof of involvement and growth.

As the TDSB switches back to a merit-based system, students will be judged on their skills, effort, and interest instead of just getting in by chance. The new process gives a clearer path for students but also asks for more commitment and proof of ability.

The lottery system was meant to balance out what was perceived as inequities when it came to under-represented or under-privileged students. It was widely unpopular with the public, hence the change back, but the issues it was meant to address are worth looking at. Time will tell if a balance can be struck that benefits all students in the TDSB.

The current state of the online paper

By the Kingsley Voice Team

After a long struggle and fight put up by our school, with special mention and gratitude towards Ms. Chang, our Principal, and Mr. Wilkinson, our advisor, we are sorry to inform you that our website is now defunct.

This was by no means a decision that anyone wanted, but the crackdowns on American businesses from the Provincial government inevitably touched our board and as a result our school, our council, and our American-hosted news website. Despite every effort poured into preserving the site, the circumstances were ultimately out of our hands.

The R.H. King website was special in the TDSB, and was a pride of R.H. King. It wracked up thousands of views and reached out to community members to tell the

stories of King students, its staff, and its evolving sate.

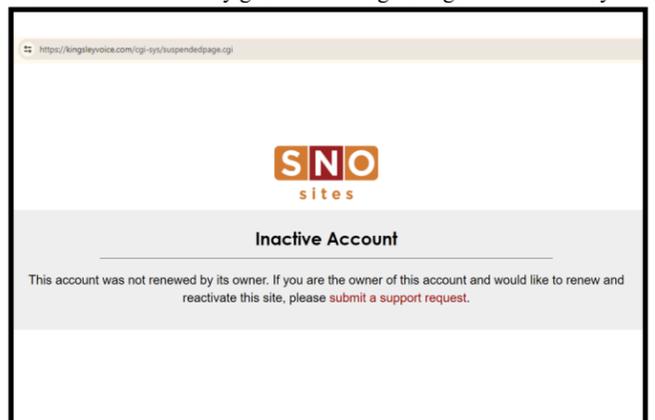
One of our current Editors-in-Chief, Najiha Rahman, still remembers when, in Grade 8, anticipating her high school life, she would read through the *Kingsley Voice* website eagerly, unaware of the part it would play in her life later. For not just current students, but incoming students, parents, and alumni, the *Kingsley Voice* website was a window into the spirit of R.H. King Academy. It showcased the people, sports, events, struggles, humour and more of all the things that makes the school great.

This website was a culmination of the talent, drive, and determination of *Kingsley Voice* contributors and editors over the years. The idea was born in early 2020 and came to full life in 2021 as a result of the move to online platforms

during the COVID-19 pandemic. It gave students a way to continue to participate in extracurriculars and show school spirit when they didn't have a building they were able to sit in. It served a purpose and while but it's sadly gone

for now.

However, this is not the end of the paper. The *Kingsley Voice* print edition will continue to dedicate itself to telling the stories of R.H. King Academy in several editions coming throughout the school year.



After four years of consistent article uploads, art showcases, and love, kingsleyvoice.com is sadly no longer functional.



Features



Social media's effect on dating



Jumaina Ahmed

The youth of today go about relationships very differently than how the youth generations ago did.

By Nadia Papanicolaou

From arranged marriages to dating apps, dating has changed quite a bit over the years. For a number of years marriages were not by choice, but instead a way of increasing the population and securing goods, wealth, and property. In the 1700's many people were put in arranged marriages for the sole purpose of having children to build up the population. Societal expectations were that women would care of children and men would work.

Fortunately, that dynamic changed for the better in the 1800's when people started marrying simply because of love. In the early 1900s, the notion of dating looked quite different. It was where a man would "call upon" a woman and if their family approved then routine meetings would occur with conversations to evaluate a potential relationship. These meetings weren't private and happened with the supervision of a family member. They were significantly driven by societal status and financial expectations. It was important at this time that a man and a woman were

properly introduced and choice was given in terms of marriage or beginning a courtship with another. These introductions would be held during large events or banquets, and at the end of the evening women would review the men they had met. It was a serious business.

In the 1910's to 1920's the modern term 'dating' emerged and the word actually became a part of the English dictionary. Traditional and formal meetings driven by one's family were replaced with one-on-one activities meant to allow people to get to know each other and build a romantic relationship out of love. Couples were allowed to go out in public places with more privacy from families and an emphasis on freedom and choice was established.

In the 1960's-70's, societal expectations extended to accept two people living together without being married. An extension on liberation of women and acceptance of individualism was present. Women were finally given the freedom to choose who they wanted to love, if they wanted to marry and if they wanted to have children. The breaking of gender norms, traditional marriage

structures, and conformed sexuality happened in the 1980s, while inching towards more open acceptance for gay dating and relationships

The 1990s and 2000s continued this strides with gay marriage becoming legalized. Finding someone to go out with became easier thanks to the use of dating apps which became more common and skyrocketed in popularity during the pandemic in 2020. Digital apps such as Tinder, Hinge, and Bumble were used more frequently, and remain popular to this day.

These apps allow a person to create a profile for themselves with a small section telling others a little bit about themselves. Based on the data the app has collected, it will begin to give a person "matches" - others online that one may potentially connect with. However, there are a few issues. It is not a rare situation where someone has told others they were 6'2 on an app, however are truly 5'11 in real life. There is no way to truly know if someone is being honest on the internet. This is a risk many are willing to take, however, to navigate the world of dating and relationships today.

Relationships as shown in fiction

By Molly Veale

If a reader was asked if stalking was romantic thirty years ago, the answer would've hopefully been a resounding no. But with the boom of young adult 'romantasy' novels, the creation of the "dark romance" subgenre and the serial overuse of tropes, the line between romantic and unhealthy seems to have become blurred recently.

Dark romance refers to romances involving dangerous behavior, often involving morally complex characters. Books like these have been around for a while, with paranormal, forbidden romances having been popular in the 2010s. But some newer books seem to stray from morally complex to evil.

This can be seen in the dark romance *Haunting Adeline* by H.D Carlton. This book follows Adeline falling in love with her stalker, Zade. This book glorifies many behaviours that are outright dangerous. Readers are supposed to take Zade's privacy violations as passion and as proof that he cares. Not only does this romanticize abuse, but it also idolizes it.

Dark romance isn't where unhealthy relationships end. Young adult (YA) books have been falling victim into the trap of portraying toxicity positively. But while dark romance is all about crossing lines in a way that is very clearly "wrong," the issue with YA is that the negativity lies not in the actions but in the dynamics.

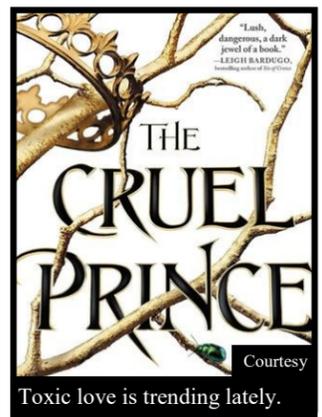
This typically involves one character, often a man, in a position of power over the other, the female lead. They wield this power in a controlling way.

A trope similar to this dynamic is the enemies-to-lovers trope. This classic plot generally follows two characters that hate each other as they begrudgingly fall in love. The issue with this trope is that it frames cruelty as an indication of love, making it seem romantic rather than unpleasant.

This is clearly seen in Holly Black's *The Cruel Prince*. The protagonist Jude is one of the only humans in the High Court of Faerie. Among the court members is Prince Cardan, who is notoriously cruel to Jude. They eventually end up together, but for most of the book his behaviour ranges from cold to hostile. A key example is when he tried to drown her.

Even if they grew to like each other, it doesn't negate that he nearly killed her on multiple occasions. The enemies to lovers trope often implies that when someone is treating a person horribly, it's because they like them.

Toxic relationships are everywhere in fiction. Whether they're glaringly obvious or subtle, they make a lack of boundaries seem like the norm which is a troubling practice that could be harming readers rather than entertaining them.



Toxic love is trending lately. Courtesy

Nonchalance and Gen Z's struggle to love



Jumaina Ahmed

Does nonchalance make someone cooler, or does it make them cold?

By Iffat Nafisa

The rise of social media trends ruining romance is not new. One of the latest trends is focused on 'nonchalance.' The idea is to try to preserve a cool image while being distant

because showing care and yearning is a sign of weakness.

With quick scrolls, likes and reports, this mindset spreads quickly online to which young people fall prey to and begin to believe that emotional openness somehow

makes them unattractive. This is far from the truth as having a genuine connection depends on vulnerability.

While longing for someone indeed puts a person through emotional rollercoasters, it can also bring them sweet little moments of much-desired love. When a single smile from someone's crush has the ability to make their entire day one can say it is pretty easy to make a yearner happy.

However, problems arise when someone who has these sentiments meets another who doesn't seem to care to that level. It can make a relationship feel one-sided when both parties should be as equally invested as possible.

People strive towards nonchalance because it is less work to be nonchalant. One doesn't need to go on silly endeavors or spend hours thinking about an interaction with their favorite person when they can just be unboth-

ered by thinking about the worst possible outcome from the get-go. Their logic behind not putting in any effort comes from the thought that there would be no positive results even if they did.

Secondly, for some people, this avoidant behavior is triggered by the belief that they leave a cool impression of themselves on others by being perceived as an emotionally detached person. Unfortunately, detaching emotionally cannot bring any two people truly close to each other.

The third reason for an individual not showing their true feelings is the fear of rejection. Avoiding the pain of unrequited love being the sole motivator causes someone to not invest themselves emotionally in a relationship. Showing commitment to someone requires the ability to endure anticipation and potential disappointment and none of those are pleasant experiences.

It is important to understand that while these fears are valid, they hinder someone from being authentic with their feelings. Sadiha Khan, a Grade 10 student at RH King, feels that nonchalance seems kind of fake. "I mean, if people are only acting nonchalant because it's a trend, doesn't that mean they wouldn't normally do it—if it wasn't a trend? Meaning that's not their actual love language?"

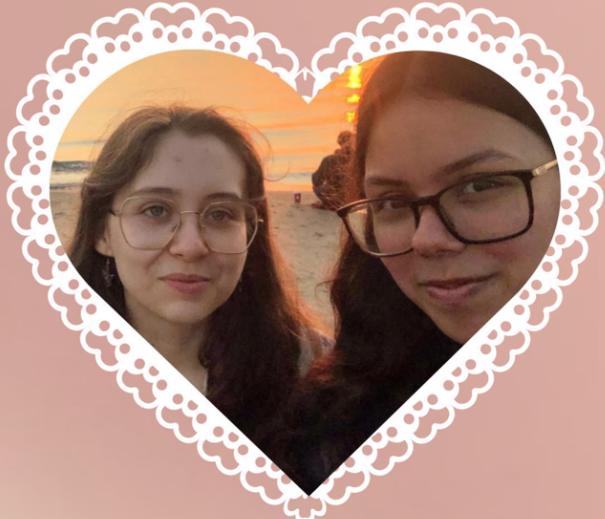
It all comes down to being true to oneself. If showing little affection is someone's usual state of being that is a different issue and isn't related to striving towards the creation of a "cool" personality.

The rise of nonchalance through social media platforms is can wind up hurting the course of modern love. It may be a bit scary to show that you care, but eventually the right person will likely come along to make that effort more than worth the risk.

Relationships

← at →

The cutest couples and besties at King!



Luciana & Melinda

Luciana and Melinda are a pair of best friends in Grade 12 who met during the Leadership Development trip in Grade 9! The two bonded over their shared love of theatre, visual arts, and science. The two tell each other everything about their lives! “The advice we’d give is being completely honest with your best friend, and not being afraid to share your feelings!”



Ornee & Shaheed

Ornee and Shaheed are a couple in Grade 12. They met in Grade 9 in Math and while they got off to a rough start, with Ornee thinking he was annoying, they quickly became best friends and then more. “We’re very compatible as we share the same values, and make an effort to understand one another,” Ornee says. The two have additional challenges, being in Grade 12. “We always support each other and are sure to sometimes prioritize school before our future together.” Their advice to other couples is “to never judge your relationship based on other people and their standards.”



Sarah & Cynthia

Sarah and Cynthia are a pair of besties in Grade 12 who met in middle school at Anson Park. “Our friendship works because we prioritize each other’s best interests,” Sarah says.

The two’s advice is to make time for one another and stay open-minded when discussing serious topics. “Our friendship works because we are always there for each other,” adds Cynthia.

Ms. Warriner & Mr. Reid

Ms. Warriner and Mr. Reid, both English teachers at King, are a happily married couple. They first met while working at Upper Canada College where they bonded over their passion for public education and teaching. Their first romantic encounter, though, came much later. “We were friends for around eight months,” recounts Ms. Warriner. “I lent him a book - which was very normal for me - and he asked if I wanted to discuss it at a coffee shop. And I was like... why? It’s just a book. We talk at work,” She believes their compatibility came from “similar values, love for public education and a society that supports citizens, human rights, diversity.” She adds that timing played a big role too: “We both had really good timing where we were interested in settling down when we met.” The two offer advice for high schoolers: “Remember that you’re going to grow and change, especially as you think about leaving high school. It’s important to have your own interests, friends, and to learn how to be your own independent person as an adult.”



R.A. King

Learning to see caregivers as people

How seeing caregivers as individuals can improve family relationship dynamics

By Jumaina Ahmed

At some point, most teenagers have a realization that their parents were once teenagers as well. They had favourite bands, embarrassing phases, and big dreams long before they imposed curfews and demanded better marks. All parents and guardians have their own identities, histories, struggles, and dreams beyond parenting. When a child is born, their parents are their whole world. As they grow up, they could struggle to see their parents as anything otherwise and often face disappointment when parents fail to meet their child's expectations whether they are realistic or not.

It can be difficult to see a parent as just another human. Teens might see their parents as prison wardens who discipline and set rules which can oftentimes be the cause of strife between them. It can be difficult to understand why they set rules that may seem extreme or nonsensical. Maybe they won't allow sleepovers, piercings, parties, and other things a typical teen would want. However, it's important to realize that most parents are only trying to caution their children against what they may have already experienced and regretted.

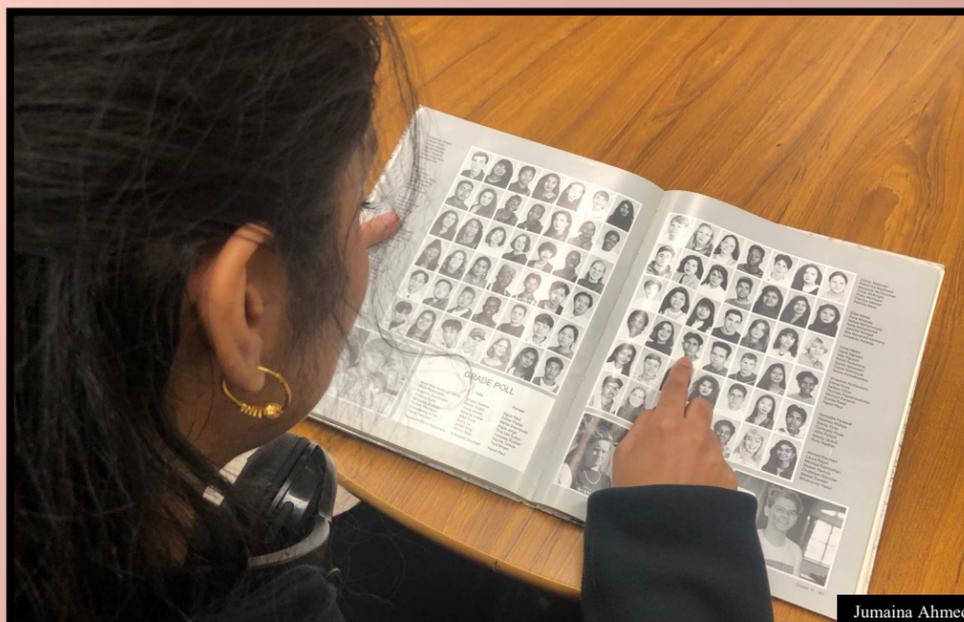
Despite this, it can still be hard for children to understand exactly why their parents set these rules. If it's an issue, one suggestion would be to try to figure out why their parents are telling them not to do something in the first place. Did they have a bad experience? Horror stories from other parents? A negative perception of something? Having an honest conversation can help both parties realize why the other person feels the way

they do.

Parents often hide their stress to appear more "in control" or to not worry their kids. These stresses can come from a lot of places including financial issues, job pressure, health concerns, and family conflict that are all kept behind closed doors for a variety of reasons. For parents, keeping calm and collected can seem like part of the job. They may believe that showing vulnerability could worry their kids or affect their role as a stable support system. Teens could see their parents as unshakable authority figures rather than people with anxiety or doubt. This creates a gap in understanding. Teens could think that their parents have it all figured out, while parents believe that they're protecting their children by staying composed. This dynamic just makes communication even more difficult. When teens don't see their parents struggle, it becomes easier to forget that they're human too.

It can seem daunting to bridge the gap between teens and their parents. But if teens understood where their parents are coming from, it could completely shift their perspective on their parents, and even provide wisdom for the teen who will also be navigating adult life themselves.

There are many ways one could uncover a side of their parent or guardian that was previously not known to them. Asking parents about their childhoods or past careers can reveal a lot about their personalities and decisions. Hearing about their ambitions, achieve-



Jumaina Ahmed

Teenage children often struggle to maintain healthy relationships with their parents, but learning about who they really are as people could help teens understand their parents much better.

"It's easy to forget that my mom had her own life before mine,"

- Mahima Alli

ments, and struggles would help humanize them when they usually seem like perfect people. "It's easy to forget my mom had her own life before mine", says Mahima Alli, a student in Grade 12. "Hearing her talk about her journey in university and her ambitions before I was born made her emphasis on education while raising me make sense."

As teenagers slowly grow into adulthood, many may feel that they want to be there for their parents like they were there for them. Now would be the time to start doing exactly that. Checking in with parents would be beneficial to students, but also for their caregivers. Even though they may not provide life changing ad-

vice or therapy-level support, there's a different kind of comfort a parent feels knowing their child is rooting for them and understands what they're going through.

Children of immigrant parents may believe that they know their parents' immigration stories, but in reality, it's very likely that they didn't get the full picture. Knowing why one's parents moved from their home country and what they went through to settle down here will make their decisions more meaningful to their children. Many parents ventured off for a better life when they weren't much older than their teenage children.

"My mom was only 19 when she came to Canada. Knowing this made me more appreciative of her efforts," says Silvia Roy, Grade 12.

Knowing their parents' full backstory and the challenges they faced could prompt teens

to be more patient and understanding with their caregivers. It also becomes much easier to communicate once parents are transparent about their struggles and setbacks. If parents and children are able to mutually understand each other, it could result in fewer misunderstandings and disagreements. However, it is important to remember that teens understanding their parents won't necessarily mean they agree with them. It won't magically solve issues, but it would allow for a smoother conflict resolution process.

If a teen has already made the realization that their parents are people first, it's a good sign that they are growing up. It might be difficult for some children to navigate this discovery when their parents still pack their lunch or are their personal chauffeurs, but it's a great first step towards a healthier relationship.



Moonlit Promise by Varzhiha Gajan, Grade 12

Ribbons, then a Bow

Winner of KVC's Winter Poetry Contest

A bond I feel, one I cannot find
I look for you, but I do not know why
You are a feeling I can't let go, an
echo inside my mind
I feel your pull, like a familiar scent
that helps me unwind

But I can't open the present, I'm stuck
in the past.
I have forced myself in a world where
you and I do not last
Thunder strikes, shaking the ground,
our lives are not so certain
My petals become ash, and your tears
have opened a curtain.

In a world full of curses, and witches,
war and loss

You and I are tethered, like ribbons
wrapped in a bow shining like gloss
Love grows on me like ivy, its roots
are buried deep.
You and I are like two flowers, like
petals I can finally keep.

My heart is yours, do not give it back.
My heart is gone, but you're still intact

And that's all I need.

The wind blows, the grass moves, and
so will we.
Past the blood and pain, the suffering,
and the things that tear
And into magic and love, and a flying
castle in the air.

- Samyuja Aryal



Lifestyle



King's best pick-up lines!

Need some ideas on fresh moves to rizz up people? The *Kingsley Voice* compiled the best pick-up lines from King students to see if you and your crush really do have chemistry.

1. "Are you from Tennessee? 'Cuz you're the only '10' I see."

— *Sadal Nour*

Classic, timeless, and only slightly overused! Works best when said with both confidence and maybe a cowboy hat.

2. "PLEASEPELASEPLEASEPLEASE."

— *Riyana Ahmed*

Might work best on someone with a lot of empathy who isn't afraid of someone who knows what they want!

3. "Do you have a Band-Aid? Because I think I scraped my knee falling for you."

— *Namila Chowdhury*

In case of a serious injury, refrain from using this one and seek out medical attention instead.

4. "Can I put my Minecraft bed next to yours?"

— *Nooha Khan*

Nothing is more romantic than synchronized, pixelated sleeping in a block-based game.

5. "Your hand looks heavy... you should let me hold it for you."

— *Suheyla Boran*

Scientifically dubious and probably not how hands work but if it charms, it charms!

6. "Are you Wi-Fi? Because I'm really feeling a connection."

— *Annie Yang*

A perfect start to a screen-age love story! Also a great a transition to asking someone for the Wi-Fi password.



Najiha Rahman

Kingsley can help you with executing pick-up lines!

Self love: how to be kind to oneself



Najiha Rahman

The first step to building a healthy life is to love and appreciate yourself and one way this can be done is through self-expression.

By *Samyuja Aryal*

While forging connections is a natural part of life and is completely healthy sometimes the reliance on others to affirm oneself is wanting for someone else to fill an inner void. Is this really necessary? After all, the constant figure present through every triumph and every failure is the self. A person may try to focus solely on external circumstances and relationships, but this pursuit can make it hard to navigate life independently. True fulfillment begins with understanding the one individual who never leaves: the person in the mirror.

Reflection is an essential part of that understanding. Time spent in quiet thought can reveal hopes, fears, limitations, and the reasons behind them. It allows space to consider what feels worth enduring, what truly defines

"enough," and whether one is content with the person they have become. While external stimulation can be addictive, exploring these questions builds a stronger sense of intrapersonal connection that can create clarity that cannot be found through imitation, comparison, or distraction.

Caring for the body also holds value. The body works constantly to support itself, even during difficult times, and deserves the same support in return. No one else can sustain it on an individual's behalf and ignoring this care can make even small challenges feel impossible.

Kindness also plays a significant role in emotional well-being. However, this also includes kindness to oneself. Being compassionate toward the self does not mean ignoring mistakes, though. Rather, it is about avoiding harsh and excessive blame. Growth hap-

pens through accountability combined with understanding, not through self-punishment. Every person has limitations, and recognizing this makes change more achievable. Being gentle with oneself allows room for improvement while maintaining respect for personal boundaries and needs.

Stepping outside of a routine can also refresh your life. Small risks, such as speaking to someone new, exploring a different route home, or attempting a new activity all create opportunities for discovery and inspiration. New opportunities make life become less about fitting in or impressing others and more about learning what makes living worthwhile and fulfilling on a personal level.

Insecurity often arises when comparing personal talents, style, or appearance to those of others. There will always be someone smarter,

more skilled, more articulate, or more fashionable, in one's mind if you are judgmental enough about yourself. These comparisons can lead to a loop of feeling inadequate. Working through it is critical. After all, no one else can occupy the unique space of your own experiences, resilience and perspective.

Recognizing personal strengths and accomplishments allows for a shift from envy of others towards appreciation of the self. The qualities that make each person distinct cannot be replicated and accepting and appreciating these differences form the foundation of confidence and self-worth.

Ultimately, the relationship with oneself is the most lasting, making it all the more essential to be kind to oneself. Honouring the person in the mirror is to live wholly and authentically.

Who pays first? King's take on it!

By *Namila Chowdhury*

The year is 2025 and the current generation is the most progressive to date in many ways. There is the expectation of balance in relationships but there are still a few uncertain areas including the question of who should pay for the first date?

Many think it isn't fair to pile all the expenses onto one person, especially when they're young. Teenagers don't often have the financial means to shoulder the costs of a date all on their own.

"If you're teenagers then it's best to split it, but it's another case if one of them has a source of income," Grade 11 student Subah Alam says.

Another student, Isabelle Mandas, shares a similar perspective, tying the concept of equal contribution to the payment on the first date to the displaying of mutual respect. "Both people should pay to show equal respect to each other during the first date," Mandas says.

Some King students, like Grade 11 student Afra Nawar,

take the traditional approach. "The guy should pay if he's the one who asked the girl out," she says. "If he doesn't have enough money, you can split the pay." This is assuming that it's the guy who has asked for the date and has considered his finances.

Changing the script a little, some take a practical approach. "Whoever asked for the date should pay," says Judah Henry, Grade 11.

Fellow Grade 11 student Samuel Gallo agrees. "It makes it less awkward and it shows you care about the date," Gallo says.

This response was most popular among King students, and this logic can apply regardless of the genders of the parties on a date, because it puts the responsibility of paying on the person who initiated the date, no matter if they are a guy or a girl.

Shamita Mathiyarasan, a student at King thinks the stereotype of men having to pay for the first date isn't a realistic expectation to pose because it doesn't consider individual circumstances.

"Forming a true bond with someone requires being able to understand each other's perspectives and situations," she says. In Mathiyarasan's take, respecting people's circumstances when it comes to paying for a date is the key to forming a true connection with one another, and the way to achieve that connection is by eliminating the need to abide

by traditional gender roles in a relationship—especially as these roles become more out of date as queer relationships become more common and challenge old gender roles.

The answer to "who should pay on the first date?" is based on a person's values and situation, with negotiation and understanding being the key to making it work.



Najiha Rahman

Most are uncertain about who covers the expenses on the first date.



How to maintain long-term friendships



As people move through life, it can be increasingly difficult to maintain the same kinds of friendships that were so important at some point.

By Prithikga Vinotharupan

As much as students may be used to high school friendships, it's important to acknowledge that high school will eventually end. The proximity of having your friends at school makes maintaining friendships uncomplicated.

However, as we grow up, our lives are bound to change, and so will our closest friendships.

In high school, friendships are generally low effort. People find themselves face-to-face everyday, sharing classes or clubs. However, to sustain deeper bonds it takes more effort like planning an outing or making a meaningful gift for one another.

The same principles will continue to apply to friendships as students leave school, yet the way in which those efforts might be shown could change over time. This doesn't

mean that maintaining friendships will become very difficult; it simply means that after high school that the people on either side of the friendship must be more intentional with their attempts to maintain the connection. Here are a few ideas to get you started.

1. To maintain long-term friendships, finding new and exciting ways to spend quality time is vital. Although eating out and catching up is an easy plan, it's also one that is often forgettable. Activities like cooking together, playing a sport, or discovering a new part of the city are what create long-lasting memories. The kind that both people can look back on and say "Remember when we did that? That was so much fun."

When each friend mutually plans a new and exciting activity, the time spent together

becomes much more purposeful.

Although a long phone call with your closest friends may be enough to brighten your day, going the extra mile to plan a creative and new hangout makes your friendship more intentional. When friends share long-lasting memories, it helps strengthen their relationship even when life gets in the way, and going that extra mile will show them how much the friendship really means.

2. As people grow older, it is also important to acknowledge that each friend's life will change over time. Friends will often end up taking a different post-secondary path than one another or move to different cities. No matter how much both lives may change, it is important to never view such changes as barriers. Although such circumstances will impact

your friendship, strong connections will not be easily broken over issues like distance or timing.

Something that many people forget to consider is that it is not simply circumstances that may change but that people can, and often do, change. The fact that a friendship has begun does not guarantee that it will last forever. As a good friend, it is important not to hold on so tightly to your friends and expect them to be the people they once were. This allows for them to have the space grow and change. Not holding on tightly doesn't mean letting go altogether but rather walking alongside these people however you can in a way that encourages new experiences that you can share with each other.

3. As lives get busy, communicating in friendships starts to

look a lot different. A close friendship does not always mean daily texting or weekend meet-ups. The strongest friendships are made when each friend feels cared for and supported by the other.

A true friendship is one that, no matter how long it's been, will still have the same connection as before the pause. It may mean that hangouts and texts are less frequent. It may feel like both people are drifting away from each other. This can be a scary thought, especially for longtime friends who may be at different stages in their lives, but if both people take the initiative to be the first to reach out and get in contact again, that alone can ensure a long-term friendship survives.

4. Friendship is all about intention. We are often expected to show appreciation and care for romantic relationships in various ways, but those same expectations should carry into the friendships in our lives as well. If someone is important, no matter what their relationship may be, they deserve to feel appreciated. Reaching out shouldn't just be done during the times when people feel obligated to do it. Birthday and holiday messages only go so far. Asking friends to meet up on a random weekend, or texting them to ask how their day is going can show just how much the friendship means and can help make them feel more valued and appreciated.

5. Finally, if the goal is to maintain the friendship, it's important to try to have it go beyond the surface level which is crucial to the forming of long-lasting bonds.

Date ideas for broke high schoolers



Students often find themselves unable to afford to go on dates.

By Ryley Raghuraj

Finding love is hard enough without factoring in the effort that goes into maintaining it, especially if you are a student on a budget. There are a few ways you can date on a dime.

One option is thrifting. This is a cheap alternative compared to regular shopping that allows the couple to really talk and get to know each other. You can spend a long time together cracking jokes over the silly clothes around the place. Browse and chat while saving some cash.

You can still consider going to the mall even if you don't have a lot to spend. While it can be pricy, a mall is accessible, walkable, and it's weather-proof. The best way to save money while still having fun at the mall is window shopping and asking questions like, "Would you wear this?" or "Rate this item." It can be a blast to fantasize about decorating apartments when in the home section of Winners.

For those who are more interested in nature, a great cheap option would be picnics. Find a nice view, close by or

even somewhere unknown and secluded. It's inexpensive to get a few candies from the dollar store or even make sandwiches with other food from home. It allows a lot of talking, is easy to do, and perfect for any last-minute plans.

If people are into nature, but less interested in the chance of ants crawling onto them, then simply walking in the park can be a great activity. Whether it's watching the sunset, hanging out in the jungle gym or walking around this kind of date leaves lots of room for conversation, nice photos and a good time overall.

As exam season approaches, King students could start considering study dates. There are so many possibilities for this like staying at school, going to the library, a house or even a little food or drink spot. It allows for talking and the opportunity to make studying fun. Plus, if things get awkward, just go back to work! It's also a good date to see if you're both on the same page academically.

It might sound scary for a date, but skating is actually a really fun activity with or without the ability to skate. Teaching each other could be fun, but

so is learning together and having a few falls on the way. Some places give rental skates or allow people to bring their own which would make it completely free. It's seasonal, creative and definitely a way to create good memories!

An arcade can get a bit pricey, but there's freedom to choose how much to spend and there's a variety of activities to choose from. It's more light-hearted and doesn't heavily rely on conversation. The couple can go around playing games but still have a lot of opportunities to talk and laugh.

Another great option is bowling. A downside is it might be far away, but they are usually pretty price-friendly. This allows the couple to play a game, have some friendly banter, and if someone is nervous about conversation, they could always talk about the game after and how fun the day was.

On a similar vein as arcade and bowling, mini golf would make a great first date as it is less dependent on conversation.

There are a lot of ways to go on a cheap date that allows you to spend time together and save up for other kinds of dates later. Get creative and have fun!



Filtered Reality by Aksha Kaguthas

The artists at King produce some amazing work. Aksha Kaguthas, a Grade 12 artist at RH King, explains that the intention behind her painting is that it explores the two sides of social media: validation and criticism.

"Bright colours, and roses represent validation, while darker tones and wilting flowers symbolize rejection," Kaguthas says about the piece.

"This contrast shows how quickly confidence can shift. This piece reflects how modern digital spaces shape the way people see themselves."



Movies & TV



Wilkinson & Michaud: THE iconic duo of King

By Wilkinson & Michaud

1. My friend does a lot of things that bother me, but I care about them too much to cut them off. What should I do?

Wilkinson: Say something. They'll give you a list of the weird things that YOU do. You can then both dissolve into a puddle of insecurity and bond over your shared failings. You're welcome.

2. Favourite movie/TV duo?

Wilkinson: Sam and Dean? Batman and Robin? Ren and Stimpy? Oooh! Raccoon and the liquor store!

3. Should I drop out and become an influencer?

Michaud: Sure! Or you can stay in school in the hopes of someday making meaningful contributions to society.

4. How do I go up to my crush?

Michaud: With your legs?

5. How do I safely get through the crowd in front of the library at lunch?

Wilkinson: Yell out, "I have to poop!" and they'll move.

6. How do you stay so joyous?

Wilkinson: By eating. Nothing bad has happened so far.

7. What advice would you give to students struggling to balance work and extracurriculars?

Michaud: Set yourself a list of tasks to get done every day. Do those tasks. Bury any anxiety or stress you are experiencing deep, deep down. You don't have time for it. That's what future therapy sessions are for.

8. How am I supposed to react when I see PDA?

Michaud: Hold up a scorecard. People love being rated.



The famous duo at King has realistic advice for students!

Wicked casts its spell upon King!



Wicked, the well-known fantasy story, has a beautiful plot that captures the hearts of King students.

By Nadia Papanicolaou

The new pair of *Wicked* movies explore the theme of the subjective line between good and evil. In the film production, there is a main character, Glinda, who becomes part of a revolutionary change in this fantasy world's system. She turns from being self-obsessed to then learning to care about others. The most interesting portion of the films fall on Glinda's character, someone who grew up privileged and taught that all is well in the society of Oz. Her relationship grows with Elphaba, the Wicked Witch, and as a result her perspective begins to change. All of these important aspects of the *Wicked* films are portrayed beautifully and creating fans who are obsessed with the film versions.

Based on the popular stage version, many theater produc-

tions become less accurate when translated into film as adored characters, musical numbers and scenes may be left out. This was a big worry for Broadway fans when discovering this new movie. However, worries quickly disappeared as this movie took what was put out on the stage and made it into something even more beautiful and intriguing. It kept the base of the entire stage show while enhancing it and taking it to the next level with bright colours, attention to detail in costume design, gorgeous sets, and, most importantly, the iconic musical numbers that portrayed these actors' talents.

All of this shows the amount of work director Jon M. Chu put into making the film, as he and his team were successfully able to turn the Broadway musical into two films adored by fans all over

the world.

Another reason the movie succeeded was the emotional depth added through close-up shots and camera work, something the stage version cannot fully replicate as it is performed live with no editing or CGI. The film format allowed for more personal, intimate moments between the characters, especially with Elphaba and Glinda. For example, the close-up shots of their facial expressions, subtle reactions, and quieter scenes gave the audience a stronger connection to their relationship.

Ericah Papanicolaou, a Grade 9 student at King, agreed that the movie captured the best parts of the stage version. "This movie was super well done," she says. "I especially enjoyed the song 'Defying Gravity' which was perfect to showcase Elphaba's development. I'm generally

not a big musical fan, but this one was wonderful and had me hooked the entire time."

The film also immersed viewers into the world of Oz in a way many fans appreciated. Chloe Marme, a Grade 9 student, really loved the movie. "The actors portrayed the characters so well, just as it was done in the Broadway production. It really immerses you into the Oz world and the songs were so beautiful. It was long, but great if you love musicals as much as I do."

However, not every viewer had the same experience, especially regarding the movie's length. Skylar McGoarty, another Grade 9 student, thought the songs were wonderful in the movies and the acting was great but the length was hard to deal with.

"Especially [the first part]. It can become too much for people who aren't die hard fans to watch this."

Ethan Zama, also in Grade 9, felt a bit overwhelmed at the intensity of the film. "For people who don't watch many musicals it can feel overwhelming with the Broadway feeling," he says. "I think this made the emotion a little bit less real for me as someone who looks for raw and genuine reactions and emotions in a film."

Overall, the *Wicked* films have proven to be successful adaptations that honour the original Broadway production while expanding its emotional depth, visual beauty, and political themes for a wider audience. The first film, *Wicked* is available for streaming now while the second part, *Wicked For Good* is still in theaters at the moment.

Iconic rom-com movie couples

By Iffat Nafisa

Rom-coms have a special place in many teenagers' hearts. Ranting about actors in admiration of their on-screen chemistry has to be one of the best parts of being a rom-com addict. Each storyline, character flaw, major conflict, or plot twist that the main leads face are essential elements adding up to make them "iconic" to the viewers. Here are a few rom-com duos make that list:

Kat & Patrick from *10 Things I Hate About You*: Cold-hearted Kat, played by Julia Stiles, starts unaffected by the sudden appearance of Patrick in her life. Patrick, portrayed by Heath Ledger, having a rebellious side, makes Kat fall for him through his charm, wit, and persistence—all of which were hidden beneath that initial rebel persona. Although Patrick initially is hired to date Kat so her younger sister can also date, he eventually falls in love with Kat and sees through her struggles and sorrows and into the beauty of her soul. Their

relationship remains one of the most beloved among teen viewers due to its relatability and growth throughout the film. The two even have their own fanbase who are fans of "Katricks."

Lara Jean & Peter from *To All the Boys*: Hopeless romantic Lara Jean Covey, played by Lana Condor, is not afraid to love—but when it comes to directly expressing her feelings, things start to become too overwhelming for her. Love finds its way back to Lara in a slightly peculiar way when one of her letters is sent to Peter Kavinsky, portrayed by Noah Centineo, who is the boy she has liked since middle school. The series follows the development of a special connection through insecurities and confusion as the two ultimately find their way back to each other while overcoming every conflict. Their dynamic connects with many young viewers due to the awkwardness and vulnerability that comes with being in a relationship.

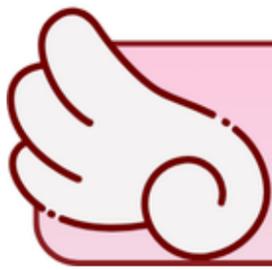
Andie & Ben from *How to Lose a Guy in 10 Days*: Anderson, played by Kate Hudson, is a writer who is working on a magazine piece about how to get a man to leave in 10 days. She tries to find someone to test the effectiveness of her tactics on. Enter Matthew McConaughey's Benjamin Berry who has a strong belief that he can get any woman to fall in love with

him in 10 days. As expected, both of them experience hardship trying to fulfill their real purposes, being unaware of the other person's motives behind their actions.

Viewers get to enjoy their undeniable chemistry and hilarious banter. The movie beautifully captures the story of two people finding true love where they were least expecting it.



These dazzling couples are the absolute goal for couples at King.



Arts & Drama



Groundwork crafting the musical at King



The musical requires a lot of hard work from the artists in KVAC, students in Theatre Production, and of course the actors themselves.

By Najiha Rahman

After seeing this year's production of *Into the Woods* at RH King, it's clear to all students that the musical is a polished effort with a lot of charm and labour behind the scenes. However, not all of these hard workers are always cleared applauded on stage.

At King, the musical is not an after-school club but a full two-credit package taught by Ms. Hussey and Mr. Chetwynd. Because the cast is entirely made up of students who enroll, the teachers cannot simply choose a show and cast it from the whole student body. Instead, they spend the first weeks of the course observing the strengths of the group—who sings well, who dances, and who acts, etc., before choosing a musical that best fits the ensemble.

Ms. Hussey describes the process as reverse-engineered. "It's almost like we have to audition the show itself. We pick the show that will best highlight the strengths and demographic of our predetermined cast," she says

This year, *Into the Woods* was not an easy choice to secure in of itself. A new board policy on purchasing American goods meant the program needed special approval simply to license the show since the rights are held by a U.S. company. For the first time in the program's 21-year history, the teachers had to apply at the board level for permission. After weeks of delays and paperwork the license was finally granted and preparations could continue.

Once the show was chosen, the behind-the-scenes work began immediately. Sets are

built by the theatre tech class, led by Mr. Michaud, and painted by KVAC under the direction of Mr. Tufford and Miriam Donnelly, their president. Costumes must be made and designed to perfectly embody the character. Every entrance, exit, lighting cue and transition is mapped out long before rehearsals begin. Even tickets have to be designed! As Ms. Hussey describes it: "There is really no end to the to-do list of any member of the musical theatre team."

One of the busiest people during this process is the stage manager. This year, that role belongs to Melinda Milne, a Grade 12 student, whose role is to be the middle man between the technical crew and the actors. For example, one of her many responsibilities is letting the crew know when to turn on lights for actors' exits

and entrances. She is in Michaud's theatre production class but spends most of her time in the musical theatre class working on noting lighting cues, sound effects, and set changes, while her after-school hours are used to help build and paint sets.

"Outside of school, I work on the sets every day until five," she says. "I direct people on what they should be doing and make sure everything gets done smoothly and on time."

The workload can be overwhelming. As Milne explains, the most challenging part is balancing her schedule, as the musical takes up a lot of time she'd otherwise dedicate to her other courses, while also remaining calm. "No one wants a stage manager who is freaking out!" she says. Still, the effort has paid off. For her, the most rewarding moment is

seeing it all come together.

Even with a dedicated cast and crew, the teachers carry a significant amount of the weight. According to Ms. Hussey, most of what they do is "the iceberg beneath the surface." She and Mr. Chetwynd spend their prep periods working on the show instead of personal planning time. Every costume, prop, and set piece is created through collaboration between musical theatre, theatre tech, KVAC, and the new Arts Management course whose students handle marketing, budgets, and ticket sales.

"It's hard to identify one thing that takes the most time," Ms. Hussey says. "All we know is that the show must go on."

"Through the musical, I got to hang out with many amazing people who sing like angels," shares Nezumi Hussain, a Grade 11 student who plays the role of one of the narrators. "We spent many Saturdays working on this show, coming home late at night after working tirelessly to produce a good show, not just for the audience but for ourselves. It made me feel confident and comfortable with expressing myself, especially when I had people backstage hyping me up. The best thing about the show is all the kind people who worked so hard on it."

Everyone involved in the project contributed to the excitement regarding the musical at King. Anyone who had the pleasure of attending this year's production of *Into the Woods* can attest to the remarkable outcome thanks to the dedicated cast and crew.

Lack of emotion in art by A.I.



Using AI in the creation of art ruins the idea of creativity.

By Najiha Rahman

The creation of meaningful art has long depended on the emotional turbulence that comes with being human. Artists turn experiences, memories, and personal struggles into something others can feel. If true aesthetic weight comes from meaning and reflection rather than appearance alone, it becomes difficult to imagine a machine without awareness producing anything with real artistic depth. Its

work might look impressive, but without intent or emotion behind it, it remains hollow. This raises the question of whether it should be considered art at all.

AI is trained on massive collections of human-made art, studying patterns, then combining them into new images. There is no spontaneity or lived experience involved, both of which are integral to human creativity. "The Analytical Engine has no pretensions whatever to

originate any thing. It can do whatever we know how to order it to perform," wrote Ada Lovelace in her notes, who is considered to be one of the first programmers. She died in 1852 at the age of 36, but her insight rings true today. Without consciousness, AI cannot create anything that wasn't based on something already made by a human.

AI generators derive different versions of pre-existing art without the consent of the artists, according to an article titled "How AI Is Stealing Your Art" by Julia Bausenhardt, an artist and naturalist.

Bausenhardt talks about how the stealing of human art by AI is problematic, as it uses the ideas of artists who put in effort into creating original artwork and stripes away their personal touch from the work. "It is already changing our culture and raises a lot of questions about the value of creating any kind of art," she writes.

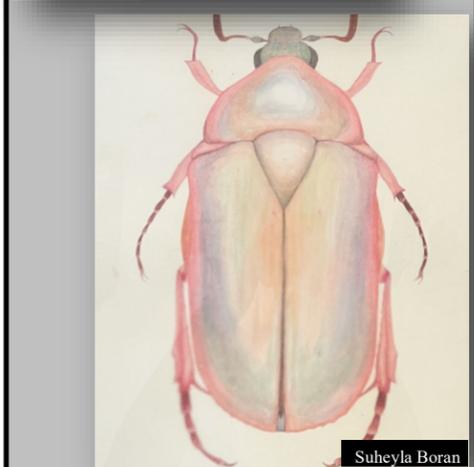
RH King students have

their own concerns. "Art is about being able to walk through a process to achieve a piece with depth and meaning behind it," says Grade 12 artist, Zariya Hussain. "AI strips that away. It creates art without any emotion, undervaluing the skills and effort we put in. It's not original either. It takes art from other people, essentially plagiarizing to create something."

AI generators imitate style but not sentiment, form but not feeling. For art to hold true value, it must carry traces of consciousness, of someone thinking and attempting to communicate.

King's artists echo these concerns. "AI art does not feel the same as real, handmade art," says Grade 12 artist Aksha Kugathas. "Every choice comes from my own style, emotions, and techniques. There is intention behind each brushstroke... with AI, the image is generated almost instantly, so it does not have that personal effort or lived experience behind it."

Artist Feature



The Kingsley Voice remembers our teacher, colleague & friend

ALEX RUTHERFORD KANE



By The Kingsley Voice

A beloved colleague, teacher, and friend, Mr. Rutherford, passed away suddenly on December 4th, 2025. This has been a shocking experience for the school community in many ways. We're all used to seeing him in the halls and in his classroom. We're used to hearing his voice and feeling the impact of his contributions to our school. The lack of it is loud in our hearts right now.

Mr. Rutherford became a teacher in 2012 after getting his teaching degree from the University of Western Ontario. He got his qualifications in Health and Phys Ed as well as the Social Sciences. He pushed himself to be able to do more and was certified to teach special education, math, and family studies as well.

That's where most of us at King will remember him from the most. In his classes, cooking, teaching, and laughing with his students as they made great food. He got to be part of the team that saw the new kitchens installed though he never actually got to use them himself. While all the staff miss him, he'll be remembered most fondly by the members of his department including Ms. Kanerva, Ms. Stark, Ms. Clish, Mr. Clarke, Ms. Lac, and Ms. Ilisan.

His love of cooking and being part of the Family Studies team was touched upon in his obituary. "Among his many passions, cooking became an unexpected and joyful part of his life," it read. "In classic Alex fashion, he dove into it with enthusiasm—learning to cook not just because he enjoyed it, but even at one time to secure a teaching position in Family Studies! Before long, it became second nature to find him happily working away in the kitchen. Camden [his son] saw it too,

so whenever they sang 'The Wheels on the Bus,' they lovingly changed the Dad lyrics to 'Daddy's in the kitchen making dinner,' a small and heartfelt reminder of how much he loved that part of him."

In addition to the loss felt by his department here at King, Mr. Rutherford also leaves all the rest of us, staff and students alike, behind who are feeling his absence keenly. Beyond our school, Mr. Rutherford leaves behind his wife and three young children along with the rest of his family and friends.

Not all aspects of leaving involve sadness, however, so long as we are able to remind ourselves of the impact that his presence gave us. Mr. Rutherford left a positive impact on those around him that will continue to be felt for years to come. He leaves behind those he taught. Those he inspired. Those he helped. Those who in turn gave him purpose and satisfaction in life. He leaves behind colleagues who got to know him and in turn call him friend... call him family.

Mr. Rutherford was lucky to have all of you, all of us, in his life. He was lucky in that he got to make a difference. While he should have had so much more life ahead of him, we here at R.H. King Academy can all be proud of the good he put into the world and take comfort in the fact that we are better for having shared some time with him.

This news is not something that we ever wanted to have to share. Losing someone is hard and we are aware that many of you will have different experiences and feelings about loss. If you want to talk, please let your teachers know, go to Student Services, or reach out to your parents or trusted adults for support. Talk to



Rutherford Kane

Mr. Rutherford passed away on December 4 and leaves behind a legacy of teaching excellence at King.

your friends and share your feelings in whatever way helps you to process all of this. You are not alone.

Mr. Rutherford's family has set up a GoFundMe page online (<https://gofund.me/278ab9020>) to help his wife and his children as they adjust to this loss. You can read the complete online at the Moutpleasant-group.permavita.com website that features more anecdotes and insights into Mr. Rutherford's wonderful life.



"Mr. Rutherford would always try to engage with us. One time, we were cleaning out spoiled food and he was explaining the history of rap music. He was so into it and it was so fun talking to him."

— Sadal Nour

"He was such a supportive and kind presence. I was so confused about my future plans and having him guiding me made it feel so much less overwhelming in Careers. He always cared about what we had to say."

— Namila Chowdhury

Students in need of support can call Kids Help Phone 1-800-668-6868

"Mr. Rutherford would always talk to us about things we all enjoyed. Like when the Drake and Kendrick drama was going on, he would debate about it with us and give us updates. He made class fun."

— Jumaina Ahmed

"I had him in Grade 10. He was always so sweet and helpful. He made sure we all had fun in the kitchen but also watched over us and always made sure we were safe."

— Sarah Arief

"He was one of my Mentor teachers. He was always such a patient and polite guy. Overall, he was a student favourite and I can't imagine people not liking him."

— Laiba Hanif

"He was one of those teachers you never forget. His care and humour made Grade 10 Food so fun. He brought joy into every lesson, and was always so excited to talk to us. He took every chance to mention his family."

— Ahona Bhattacharjee

"One time he brought leftovers from his son's birthday cake and awarded whoever won a trivia question with the cake. He loved doing trivia and would always incorporate it into our classes."

— Nooha Khan



Scan the link to find the GoFundMe for Mr. Rutherford's family