

# The Leaside Chronicle

BRINGING YOUR VOICE FORWARD

## LEASIDE STUDENT WALKOUT



Hundreds take part in protest against recent controversial changes to Ontario school curriculum and funding



MAYA SCHMIDT

Friday, September 21st was a much-anticipated day for many Leaside students, but not because of a P.A. Day or a school-wide trip to Canada's Wonderland. It was something much more momentous that had the school buzzing all week. At 1 o'clock that afternoon, hundreds of students walked out of class in protest of changes to Ontario school curriculum and funding - (or to present another standpoint on the same issue.)

Rewind to July of this year, when Ontario Education Minister Lisa Thompson announced that the provincial government would move to repeal 2015 sex-ed curriculum for elementary and middle schools. The alternative: a version last updated in 1998 that does not cover certain key topics as thoroughly as the 2015 version (including gender identity, consent, safe sex options other than abstinence, sexting and cyber-safety, and LGBTQ+ visibility).

The ministry also halted the process of re-writing the Social Studies and Health curriculum that would better include indigenous perspectives. This cancelled rewrite intended to prioritize the goals of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission by incorporating relevant indigenous teachings in Ontario education.

Furthermore, the provincial government revoked a \$100 million fund to school repairs, leaving many schools across Ontario (especially those in less affluent communities) still lacking updates and basic repairs.



PICTURED ABOVE: LEASIDE STUDENTS PARTICIPATE IN ONE OF 100+ WALKOUTS ACROSS THE PROVINCE

In the eyes of some students, these changes crossed line from political controversy to violation of human rights, adding a palpable sense of urgency to their cause. The organization of student walkouts began in late August, and by September 21st, Leaside became one of over one hundred schools across the province to join.

This sparked the creation of a walk-in, a group for students who were not in support of the walkout for various ethical and political reasons. As the sentiments shared by those in the walk-in group gained momentum, the trending conversation among Leasiders quickly became "walkout or walk-in?"

By the afternoon of the 21st, many had made their decision. As the clock hit 1 o'clock an airhorn sounded from outside

and hundreds flocked out of class in peaceful protest. A crowd of students gathered on the back field of the school, many carrying homemade signs such as "respect our existence or expect resistance", "decolonize our classrooms", and "removing LGBTQ+ lessons won't remove LGBTQ+ students" or alternatively, "walk-in".

Walkout student organizers rallied the crowd with chants and gave brief speeches to clearly articulate the reasons for the protest and the importance of student voice. As reporters from various local news outlets appeared to cover the event, those participating in the walk out took the demonstration to the streets by marching down Bayview and Millwood.

The group walked down the busy sidewalk, catching the attention of Leaside locals and business owners with energetic chants such as "no

ignorance, no hate, don't go back to '98" and "our schools, our choice, our province, our voice". Then with one last rally at Trace Manes Park, Leaside High School's chapter of the protest came to an end.

Undeniably, the movement influenced change here at Leaside as well as across Ontario. But whether in support of the walkout or the walk-in, all can agree that the protests were big steps for student advocacy and engagement in politics. (In light of these advancements, this issue of The Chronicle aims to discuss the diversity of political perspectives within the student body.)



### UPCOMING DATES

Grad Photos  
Oct. 29-Nov. 2

Term 1 Ends  
Nov. 5

Mid-Term Reports  
Nov. 9

Remeberance Day  
Nov. 11

P-T Interviews  
Nov. 15

Charity Week  
Nov. 19-23

Coffee House  
Nov. 30





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# LETTERS TO EDITORS

Can people just learn to use the right side of the stairs? Maybe this is just a small pet peeve but I keep noticing that Leaside students apparently have no sense of left and right. It's really frustrating to try and walk around students coming at you from both sides of the staircase when you're trying to get to class in between periods.

Sincerely, Tired of being body checked

I've always been under the impression that Leaside was a high school but some students seem to think it's a garbage dump. I don't understand why people can't get up and walk 3 meters to the nearest garbage can and throw out their food instead of littering the halls. It's disgusting.

By: Neatfreak

## THANK YOU!




## SENIOR EDITORS

Sophie Song  
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Zilin Chen

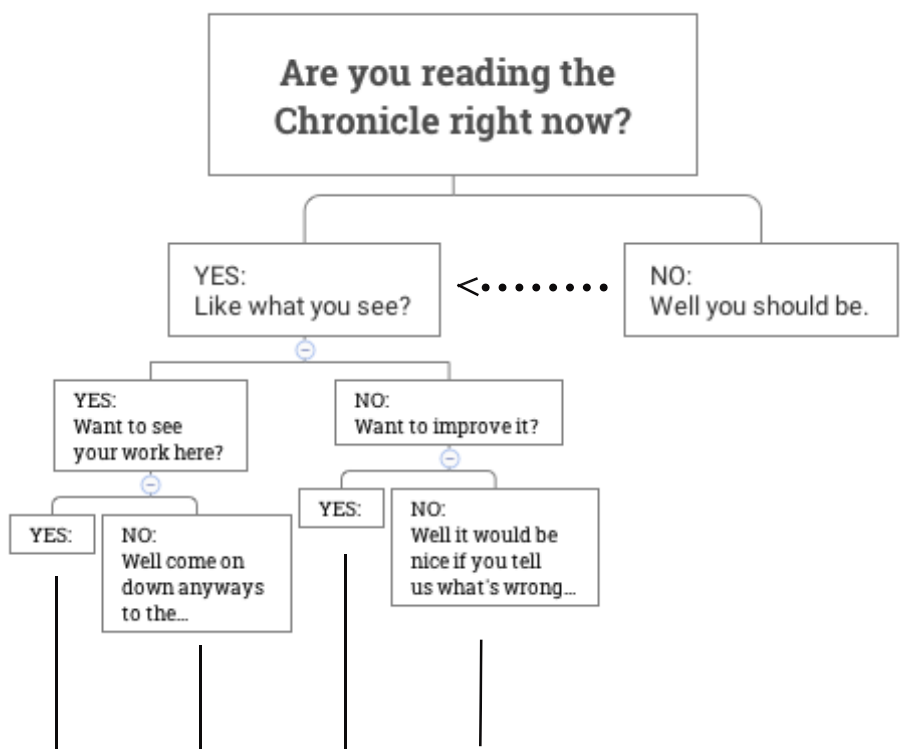




## JUNIOR EDITORS

Dasha Akopyan  
Malcolm Marsh  
Kat I. Benevides  
Maya Schmidt  
Teddy Fong



Listen to announcements and come on down to the writers meeting. We welcome writers, poets, photographers, cartoonists, and all who wish to be part of the Chronicle!

**SEND YOUR ARTICLES OR CONTACT US:**  
[leasidechronicle@gmail.com](mailto:leasidechronicle@gmail.com)

# TEACHER'S OPINIONS ON VAPING AT SCHOOL

DASHA AKOPYAN & MALCOLM MARSH

As you probably know by now, there are a lot of students that vape in the school - more specifically in the bathrooms. You may also remember Mr. Haid's straightforward announcement addressing this issue, urging kids to stop vaping in the bathrooms and go to class. Teachers are beginning to get more involved as this issue becomes more and more relevant. I decided to interview three Leaside teachers for their input on vaping in Canadian schools.



## How much does the vaping affect you - do many students skip class to vape?

All three teachers stated that the vaping does not really affect them personally, although they don't know the exact amount of students that skip class to vape, but they pointed out that only a few students likely do it.

## Why is this issue important to you?

A couple of the interviewed teachers expressed that student vaping is a big health concern as most has traces of toxic chemicals that can have negative effects on the body. One of them also said that students would do anything to get out of a boring class - including vaping.

## Are there ways that skipping to vape can be prevented?

The teachers each had distinct opinion on this. One said that teaching kids more about vaping could prevent some students from doing it, while another stated that if students do need to go out of the class, hall passes could be used to reduce the likelihood of skipping during class time. The last teacher however, said that there really is not any solution as either way it would be difficult to convince vaping students to stop doing it.

## Why do you think students skip class to vape? Can this be resolved?

The teachers all agreed on one main reason for the students skipping class; they are not feeling adequately engaged in their lessons. If the class is boring or seems ineffectual, then students will skip class to do anything else. A teacher pointed out that another reason is being socially accepted by their friends/peers; some kids feel that if all their friends are vaping, they should too and that they will be thought of as boring if they don't give it a try. These are only a few examples of pressure some students might be feeling to skip class and vape.

But can this be remedied? The three teachers said maybe; since most students don't exactly have a direction in life yet, they try out a lot of new things (in fact, that's what every generation of teens do: they try out new (and maybe) illegal things, such as smoking/vaping and drinking). Some students don't even get the correct education on this topic, so they vape most likely for stress reduction, which is not a healthy coping mechanism. Providing adequate education on the issue and time for students to find their path in life should resolve their school vaping situation.

## Here is a collection of personal experiences with vaping from anonymous sources:

(During last year's first semester gym class) "It was mostly [boys who were] not in [the gym] class, and I would see them [around] two times a week but I would smell watermelon [for] three days [afterwards] ... [On a day that I was absent] people told me [that the teacher] got a face full [of smoke from a student] ... and the next day we didn't do any gym, he just talked to us about how he was super disappointed [with us]."

(Also during last year's first semester gym class) "So [a student] was vaping for [about] the fourth time ... and the teacher walks in and the kid thought it was another kid in our class. So to joke around [the student] vaped in the teacher's face ... The teacher was fairly angry if I remember right. [The next day the teacher] had to do a powerpoint presentation on why vaping is bad."

(On the subject of Mr. Haid's announcement a couple weeks back) "[I] saw a male teacher walk into the boys' bathroom on the third floor and see about twenty boys or so vaping in there [and] get [angry] ... [A few minutes later] Mr. Haid [made an announcement on the P.A. system] for the boys in the third floor washroom to go back to class and not vape."

## Important Statistics:

"23% of students in grades 7-12 had ever tried a vaping product"- Government of Canada



"The Ontario Student Drug Use and Health Survey showed 18 percent of students in [grades 7-12] had tried an e-cigarette in the past year compared to 12 percent who reported trying a tobacco cigarette." - Windsor Star



"Epidemic of addiction among youth."

"One study by [David] Hammond's group [from University of Waterloo] showed that youth who tried vaping were more likely to also try smoking."

"Middle and high school students in Canada who tried an e-cigarette are twice as likely to be susceptible to smoking cigarettes, which researchers call concerning."

- CBC News

# LANCEBOTICS 200G

Here come the girls...

## SYLVIA GEHRING



The girls hard at work on a robot. Laura Luong-Pires, Crystal Jin, Kelie Guan, Sabrina Wen, and Rachael Mohl

Over the course of three years, the number of girls on the LANCEBOTICS team has never exceeded 5, at most. This is very strange, considering there were so many girls in the school who are strong in the science fields, and expressed an interest in robotics. After seeing this issue re-occurring in the school, fellow Lancebotics member, Crystal Jin and I decided to combat the perception that STEM and robotics were “not for girls” by founding a new team to help encourage girls to join robotics. This year the all-girls team, 200G, will be making its debut. We are very excited to share our passion for STEM and robotics with the school, and inspire other girls to pursue their passion as well! We are also working very hard towards our first competition, which will take place on November 24th. The 200G and Lancebotics team will be competing against 72 other teams from around Ontario! Follow us on Instagram to stay updated with our exciting progress!



### A FEW WORDS FROM YOUR CO-PRESIDENT YANNI KALABOUKIS...

Welcome all new and returning students to LHS! We hope you've all had a great summer and at least a satisfactory first few months of school. Even if you didn't have any of those things, you can be sure to look forward to the rest of this school year! This year, we are especially focusing on building school spirit, so we are striving for a 100% student participation in school spirit events. This includes Leaside traditions like: pyjama day, sweats on sweats and no air conditioning during the summer. Get ready for upcoming festive events that we at Studco think you will enjoy--and you better, because the cringe at my expense pays a hefty toll. So why not take a little risk this year and get involved in our school events? I guarantee that you will have a great time. Last year my co-president Joseph Bozzo-Horwitch and I made certain promises that I'm sure that many of you expect to be accomplished. Don't worry! Our memory of our political promises is quite good, so we are continually pushing to get them done. Therefore, I implore you hold your head high Leaside, and achieve greatness this year.

### REACH FOR THE TOP

Do you know what current JEOPARDY! Host Alex Trebek and Canada's 22nd Prime Minister, Stephen Harper have in common? They were both on Reach for the Top! In both 2004 and 2005, can you guess which team was the best in Ontario? Leaside! Reach for the Top is a trivia competition where schools compete for the honor and glory of becoming trivia champions. In our club meetings we compete with friends and put our trivia skills to the test. Some participants are thrilled by the challenge of building a team, while others prefer the friendly competition of the club. No matter which you choose, if you like the idea of having fun and eating snacks, come to room 214 Wednesdays at lunch to learn more!

Have a question? Email us at [leasidereachforthetop@gmail.com](mailto:leasidereachforthetop@gmail.com) or follow us on instagram [@leaside\\_reach\\_for\\_the\\_top](https://www.instagram.com/leaside_reach_for_the_top)

## STUDENT ACTION TEAM

The School Action Team (SAT) hopes to identify how we can best improve the Leaside High School community by creating a safer and friendlier environment for everyone. This club examines the entire student body, thinking of ways to combat concerns regarding issues such as crimes and victimization. Our main goal is to improvise school morale and promote student spirit, while heightening student safety and satisfaction.

Recently, we distributed an online safety survey to determine which concerns our students find most perturbing. We will use this survey, which encompasses at least some of the student voice, to chose which issues to prioritize this year. Subsequently, our members will come together, cultivating their leadership, communication, and problem-solving skills to work on eradicating these real-life issues.

Our immediate goal is to provide students with additional, clear information about our plans for this year, so that all students become more aware of issues they themselves have identified as important, and get the chance to engage with them by working with us.

We encourage everyone to let us know what we can do to make our school a safer place! You can find us Wednesdays at lunch in Room 306; we always welcome new members.



## ASK LANCE

Hey Leaside! Welcome back to another year in the jungle called 'high school'. Here to help you out one again is 'Ask Lance'. In this issue, we focus on setting yourself up for a successful and great school year!

### Hi Lance, how do I keep a positive mindset/attitude during school?

First of all, the fact that you're asking this question is a great step! Most of us have already felt the back-to-school blues and one piece of advice I can give you is to keep everything in perspective. Look at the big picture of life rather than getting stuck in the small details of school. There are thousands of small activities that you could try everyday to stay positive. Why not start a thankfulness journal, treat yourself, or even meditate like Mme. Roman. We'd love to hear what works for you!

### How do I study for a test, when I don't have time?

If you're like me--a chronic procrastinator, then cramming the night before and pulling an all nighter might not even be an option. The best way to study last minute is to start by admitting you're in a hole. Maybe that 100% isn't possible anymore, but there is still hope! Next, I suggest turning it over to the pros like Google, Khan Academy, or even the friendly person who sits next to you for some last minute revision. Depending on the course you're studying for, you will either need to review general concepts and ideas or formulas (the difference in studying for history and SAP versus math). Now go and ace that test!

### I'm in grade 12 and I can't decide what I want to do after high school. Any tips? I'm open to anything.

Does grade 13 seem like a viable option? Honestly, why not consider staying another year and spreading out your course load? It'll give you more time to decide what you want to do in a structured environment. Applying to university or college is a daunting task without a guidance counselor to help you navigate the system so you could definitely benefit from having them alongside you for another year. If you really don't want to stay back, you could also consider taking a gap year. This would allow you to travel or even volunteer around the world. There are a lot of cool options that may not be available to you when you get older so you should definitely take advantage of them now. If you want to save up some money, you could get a job through the year and use that to help finance your studies. There are so many options but you just need to find what's best for you. Just be careful of falling into the trap of believing that university is the only "next step", because rushing into university can be an expensive mistake.

**EMAIL YOUR QUESTIONS YOUR QUESTIONS TO LEASIDECHRONICLE@GMAIL.COM OR DM US ON INSTAGRAM**

## STUDENTS OF LEASIDE

### QUESTIONS:

What event are you most looking forward to this year?

What's your favorite Leaside hang-out?

What activities/sports have you gotten involved with so far?

Name: Katerina  
Grade: 9

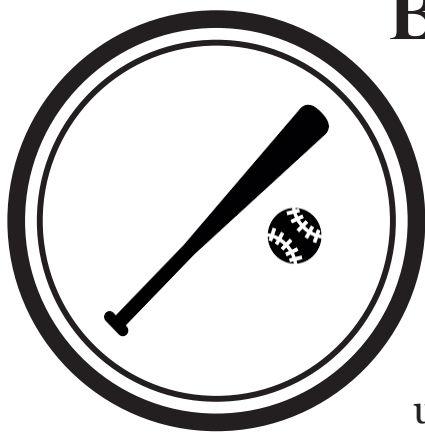


This school year I'm looking forward to meeting new people and learning new things! So far, I've gotten involved in the junior girls basketball team, and I'm planning on trying out for the volleyball, soccer and baseball team.

Name: Zilin  
Grade: 12



I'm really looking forward to the "Coffee House" and Musical Production this year! I'll get to witness talented performances and perhaps display an act of my own. I'm currently involved in many club, such as Leaside Chronicle. I'm not really a sports person, but I enjoy archery and am looking forward to rejoining Archery club this coming Spring, and hope to make the Archery team once again!



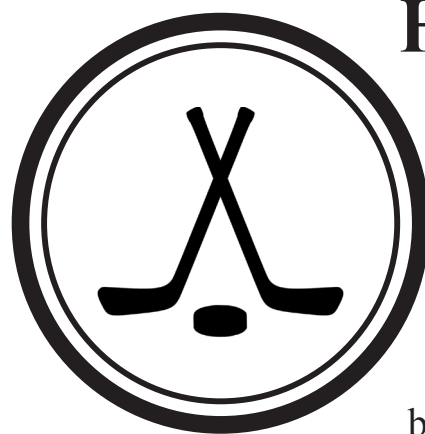
## BASEBALL:

Welp, it's no surprise that the Toronto Blue Jays did terribly this season, and in my opinion will continue to do so for the next upcoming seasons until they call up Vladdy Gurerro Jr.

Until then, we can all enjoy the  10 dollar tickets and giveaway days.

This year, Toronto has already said its goodbyes to Dwane Casey, and now it's time we bid another farewell to the Blue Jays head coach John Gibbons. Gibbons will not be returning after this season and however dismal, it is to be expected following the Jays' 4th place finish in the AL East standings for the second year in a row. Gibbons second go around with the jays was not completely devoid of any success. He has led the Jays to a 783-776 record over 11 combined seasons and made two consecutive ALCS appearances in 2015 and 2016.

The postseason has started and the 2016 champ Cubs are already eliminated and so are the Athletics of Oakland who gave it their all during the season even to get to the wild card game. I expect the stacked home run hitting New York Yankees to win the world series just because of their offense and their amazing bullpen and starting pitching.



## HOCKEY:

The fall in temperature also brings the arrival of the much awaited hockey season. This 2018-2019 season brings along many expectations. The Maple Leafs have set the bar high by acquiring All-

Star Center John Tavares. The Leafs now probably have one of the most lethal offenses in the league if they can use it effectively- although they will have to get through the reigning stanley cup champions Washington Capitals to have a chance. Another interesting change is Erik Karlsson, who has finally left all the drama concerning him and the senators behind to join the cup contending San Jose Sharks.

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WEAGBE MOMBO

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## BASKETBALL:

The NBA season is back! And it looks like it will be very promising one with plenty of new faces on different teams. One of the most notable changes is none other than Lebron James. Lebron looks like

he will fit well on the Lakers however, they will probably need another all star to get anywhere close to a championship team. I thought it was weird to see Tony Parker, who was a part of the 4 ringed Spurs dynasty, leave to play on the Charlotte Hornets. Bringing it back home, we can't forget about Kawhi Leonard coming to Toronto. Although many people question him staying for more than one season, I personally think he will stay solely because of our likelihood to make it to the finals and potential championship. In his debut appearance as a Raptor, he scored 12 points, 1 steal and 3 assists in only 19 minutes of playtime. Coming back from injury, he is already looking very promising.

### Weagbe's Predictions:

Most Valuable Player: **Anthony Davis (NOP)**  
 Defensive Player of the Year: **Kawhi Leonard (TOR)**  
 6th Man of the Year: **Fred Vanvleet (TOR)**  
 Rookie of the Year: **Luka Doncic (DAL)**  
 Most Improved Player: **Brandon Ingram (LAL)**

## LEASIDE

### LANCERS SPORTS:

The Leaside football team has started the year off strong and so far are 2-0 beating Northern 42-8 on Friday the 28th of September with 5 touchdowns; 4 coming from Weagbe Mombo and the last one from Zach Mcgrath via interception returned for a touchdown. Their next game was at Centennial Stadium against Michael Power which the Lancers won 28-6. Again with 4 rushing touchdowns in the first half from Weagbe Mombo. As the season progresses, make sure to come and watch the boys in full swing and show off that Leaside spirit!



# TOP 5 SCARY MOVIES

With Halloween just around the corner here are my top 5 must watch movies over the spooky season!

KALAYLA KERN

## 1. Hocus Pocus

After his family moves to Salem, Max, his sister Dani and their new friend Allison go exploring through an abandoned home. When Max disregards a story Allison tells him, he accidentally releases a coven of witches who used to reside in the house. Now everyone needs to work together to try and steal the witch's spell book before they become immortal.



## 3. Edward Scissorhands

Edward Scissorhands is a scientist's creation. Unfortunately his creator dies before Edward is completed leaving him with a freakish appearance and to top it all off; scissors as hands! Luckily for Edward, a loving mother, who doubles as a saleswoman, takes him into her home where he falls in love with her daughter Peg. Even though Edward is a very kind and gentle "creature" his scissorhands make him an outcast in the town.

## 2. The Shining

"HERE'S JOHNNY!"

Trying to break out of his writer's block, Jack Torrance, along with his wife and son, takes on a caretaker role at a summer hotel over the winter. As Jack's writer's block does not budge, he starts to discover the darker sides of the hotel and turns into a raging homicidal maniac whose only goal is to terrorize his wife and son.



## 4. It's the Great Pumpkin, Charlie Brown

"I got a rock"

Charlie Brown is invited to his first Halloween party while Sally Brown can't decide whether to go trick or treating and attend the same Halloween party or go to the pumpkin patch with her crush Linus to wait for the arrival of the Great Pumpkin. Linus believes that the Great Pumpkin rises up from the pumpkin patch and flies across the sky delivering presents to all the good little boys and girls.

## 5. Blair Witch Project

Recovered video footage tells the story of three film students who went to a small town to try and gather footage about a local legendary murderer the Blair Witch. Over a few days the students are able to interview people who live in the town and collect clues that support the tale. But when the students get lost in the forest, their project takes a terrifying twist.

# OCTOBER NETFLIX RELEASES



KAI DAO



New month, new shows. Every month Netflix releases new content and this month has some interesting additions.

### Shows coming back for the latest seasons include:

- Big Mouth: Season 2 (Oct 5)
- Supergirl Season 3 (Oct 9)
- Riverdale Season 3 (Oct 11)
- The Boss Baby: Back in Business: Season 2 (Oct 12)
- Black Lightning Season 2 (Oct 16)
- Marvel's Daredevil Season 3 (Oct 19)
- Castlevania: Season 2 (Oct 26)

### New to Netflix this month, just in time for the spooky season:

#### October 3

- Alvin and the Chipmunks Meet Frankenstein
- Casper
- Mr. Bean's Holiday

#### October 12

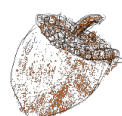
- The Haunting of Hill House

#### October 5

- Malevolent
- Super Monsters Save Halloween

#### October 19

- Haunted



Starting October 20th, subscribers can enjoy a Scream marathon, or if comedic horror is more your genre, Scary Movie 1-5 is also dropping on the same day. For a full list of Netflix October additions, visit their official website.

# HOROSCOPES

## SCORPIO



Oct 23 - Nov 21

You tend to be a very powerful character. You can be seen as resourceful, making great use of your time constantly without needing help from others. Keep up with your work and take advantage of precious time with your peers.

## SAGITTARIUS



Nov 22 - Dec 21

This month is all about exploration and diversity. You tend to enjoy the company of others and are known as either eager and optimistic, or both! Surround yourself with new people and explore your boundaries.

## CAPRICORN



Dec 22 - Jan 19

Overworking again?! Slow down and take a breath! Enjoy life and take things as they come. You Capricorns are seen as very ambitious and stubborn, but don't let this trigger anxiety. Help people whenever you can, the favor may be returned!

## AQUARIUS



Jan 20 - Feb 18

Keep your efficiency on tasks in check! Use that imagination and come up with new ways to manage your day. The agenda is always useful!

## PISCES



Feb 19 - Mar 20

Pisces are often selfless and very willing to help in any way they can. Are you one of those people? Why not take some time for yourself!

## ARIES



Mar 21 - Apr 19

Your assignments may be piling up, tests due and projects deadlines fast approaching! This month budget your time properly and try not to rush yourself. Remember, slow and steady wins the race!

## TAURUS



Apr 20 - May 20

Maintain your work ethic and concentrate on your to-do list for this month will be one of your most productive times of the year!

## GEMINI



May 21 - June 20

October is the perfect time to organize your life and "re-evaluate" people or projects that no longer hold your fascination. This will then allow you to build a stronger foundation to support your future goals!

## CANCER



June 21 - July 22

Tired of the same routines reoccurring everyday? This month, take time off to explore and discover new hobbies and interests, to keep things exciting!

## LEO



July 23 - Aug 22

This should be a busy, and engaging month for you. So make sure to channel your energy and time into productive choices to refrain from building up stress.

## VIRGO



Aug 23 - Sept 22

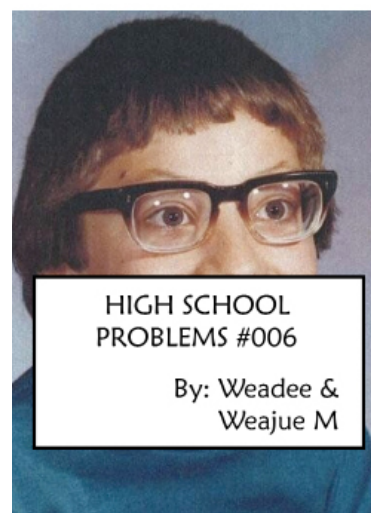
You're taking more interest in your lifestyle, comfort levels, and personal interests. It's an excellent time for reviewing expenses and making budgets, as to not overspend next time you go shopping!

## LIBRA



Sept 23 - Oct 22

This month is the ideal time for personal change. Aim to rid your self of bad habits and try to form good one that will benefit you on the long-run.



In October, the seasons seem to change on an hourly basis.

5	3		7			
6			1	9	5	
	9	8				6
8				6		3
4			8		3	1
7				2		6
	6					2 8
			4	1	9	5
				8		7 9