

The Leaside Chronicle

BRINGING YOUR VOICE FORWARD

REMEMBRANCE AND CELEBRATION

Leaside shows its respect to the millions impacted by World War 1 and celebrates the Armistice Centenary

DASHA AKOPYAN
MALCOLM MARSH

On the 9th of November, students from the different clubs of Leaside worked together to present a special Remembrance day assembly celebrating the 100th anniversary of the 1918 armistice that ended the First World War. The assembly was divided into three parts; each displaying a part of what Remembrance Day is supposed to represent. Each part was represented by a different painting, these paintings displayed at the back of the stage, behind acts and performances. The first part was themed "War", the second "Peace", and the last "Remembrance".

The assembly opened the first act, "War", with the Leaside band and Music Class. Led by Ms. Simmons, they played Robert W. Smith's "Furioso". As the title suggests, this piece is furious and angry-sounding to set the mood of the act. Following "Furioso" was the first section of a three part play by the Leaside Drama Club, depicting the life of a young soldier. George St. Clair (played by Alireza Yaghoubian) goes off to war for the first time and the play showed his struggle, as well as the struggles of his mom (played by Mila Stanisic), his younger brother (played by Jordan Lau), his sick sister (played by Mia Fliatova),



A century has passed since this copy of "The Toronto Star" was first printed. 2018 marks the Armistice Centenary, the 100 year anniversary of 1918 - the year the great war ended.

and his girlfriend, Lucy (played by Julia Sakac).

The assembly continued into its second act, "Peace", with the Trio Choir Ensemble (Doris Du, Zilin Chen and Jonathan Kim), singing "The Redemption Song" by Bob Marley. It touched on how freedom comes with a cost and that sometimes, sacrifices must be made. The song was followed by the Dance Club's performance of a routine to the tune of "Imagine" by John Lennon. With the first section of the assembly over, the second part resumed the play. Continuing after he had first

left for war, the Drama Club showed George and his friend seeking refuge from the deadly mustard gas used in WW1. While writing a letter to his lover, George is interrupted by nearby explosions and has to flee. Hope is restored however, as the club explains how the armistice was signed and the war was ended, though too late for George. The second piece of the play ends with an apology letter from the Canadian Army to his mother, brother and lover, stating that George St. Clair died in the war.

The third and final

act of "Remembrance", began with the school band playing once again, this time performing Robert W. Smith's "Blue", a piece originally written in remembrance of a friend who had passed away. After that, a duet (Jordan Le Roux and Julie Sakac) sang "Somewhere (There's a Place for Us)" by Leonard Bernstein and Stephen Sondheim, suggesting that even though the world could be in ruin, there is still happiness to be found. Next was the reading of the French poem "Familiale", read and acted out by Ms. Ugarkovic's Lev-

el 3 French Drama class. The poem is about an ordinary family, of a mother (played by Isabella Markham), father (played by John Katsaros), and their son, who left for war (played by Owen Forbes); it ended with the son getting killed by another soldier (played by Lucas Williams). His mother and father eventually lived on, the story representing how common it is to lose family, and how those losses becomes a part of an ordinary life.

The assembly concluded with the Drama club performing the final piece of their play, depicting George St. Clair's great-grandson during a history presentation, expressing his appreciation of his great-grandfather sacrifices that allowed the rest of his family to live freely. "The Last Post", a song played traditionally on Remembrance Day, was then performed by Will Chinnery, a second-year university student and Leaside alumnus. A moment of silence followed, to let us remember and respect all of the people that have been lost to war. The assembly was finished off with a reading of the poem "Flanders Fields", as the sound of bells rung across the auditorium, to represent "The hundred bells", which chimed across Canada on November 11, 1918, to signal the end of the great war.

UPCOMING DATES

Holiday Assembly
Dec 21

Winter Break ^{Woo!}
Dec 24 - Jan 4

Christian Christmas Day
Dec 25

BLACK FRIDAY FRENZY

A CLOSER LOOK...

MAYA SCHMIDT

On the Friday of the American Thanksgiving holiday, I elbowed an elderly lady out of my way to get to the half-price waffle makers on the shelf in front of her.

Fortunately, I'm kidding. However, that story is not hard to believe considering that every year on Black Friday, loads of people violently flood into stores and race to their laptops to go online shopping for incredible deals and savings.

Despite the economically beneficial aspects of Black Friday, as consumers, it is our responsibility to turn a critical eye towards this annual event. The same materialistic values that drive Black Friday and our economy also play a role in normalizing extreme wastefulness and superficiality in our society.

Furthermore, there have been instances where, getting caught up in the shopping frenzy can lead to a shocking lack of human compassion. In 2011 a man named Walter Vance collapsed in a Target, and people simply stepped over him to get to the deals. In 2008, a Walmart employee was trampled to death on Black Friday. Although death is an extreme, physical fights breaking out between customers on this day and injuries caused by pushing and shoving to get into stores is commonplace.

Then there is the issue of environmental ethics. Think for example, the astonishing amount of resources that go into one T-shirt; land for raw materials and factories, water and dye for the production of the T-shirt, gas for its transportation and distribution. Being a conscientious, responsible consumer is one of the most crucial parts of reducing carbon footprint, and yet events such as Black Friday push us to buy more, more, more, with little to no consideration for the impact of our consumption.

The impulse to take advantage of deals in order to save money is logical, but when people make purchases just for the sake of buying an item that was 75% off and not because they need that item, it no longer makes sense. Without pausing to think critically about Black Friday before participating, it is easy to spend money on things we do not need and that will be thrown away in a few short years.

The key is consideration and moderation. Black Friday can be a positive thing; not only does it keep the retail economy thriving but it is also a fantastic opportunity for anyone looking to save money. All that needs to be done is to pause and to think before you buy. If you plan on participating, setting a budget could keep you from spending more than planned. Creating a list of items you actually need could keep you from making wasteful purchases. Most importantly, keeping yourself grounded could make it easier to make good decisions in the moment. After all, that waffle-maker is not worth elbowing an elderly lady in the ribs for.

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THE ROLE OF STUDENT COUNCIL IN LEASIDE

HOW TO LEAD AN ARMY - OF STUDENTS!

DASHA AKOPYAN

By now, it is well known that our school has a small but hard-working Student Council team. But what does Studco actually do for us, the student body? I decided to ask the Treasurer of Studco, Aidan Tsang, a few questions about what Studco can do and what it's like to be a part of the Leaside Student Council team.

What does the Student Council do exactly?

"The Student Council is the voice of the student body and we plan super exciting events for all students. We work our hardest to plan fun in-class and out of class events. Studco works with other clubs around the school to make sure we're connecting with the student body."

What are the different roles in Studco? What do they do?

"Studco has many different roles. Besides Treasurer, there are Presidents, Vice-Presidents, Captains, Social Convenors, Communications, Design & Techs, and Junior Convenors. Every position has their strengths and we all work together to make sure our events are fun and successful."

How do you handle the school budget? Where does it usually go?

"Student Council doesn't handle all of the school's extracurricular budget, they only handle the budget that the school gives them (so, their own club budget). If they need more budget for an event or for fundraisers, they will ask the school administration; the admin actually handles all the budget for all the clubs and anything else within Leaside, including Studco's."

Can students give suggestions to Studco to improve the school?

"Always! Studco always wants to hear your suggestions. You can always send suggestions to the Studco instagram [@leaside.studco] or talk to any Studco member. You can always find someone in the Studco room! Remember, Studco is the voice for the student body, but if we don't know about a problem, we can't fix it."

How hard is it being in Studco? And when do you guys meet up?

"In my experience, being in Studco means juggling a lot [of work] at the same time. For me, I like staying busy and Studco may be more to do, but it's fun to do. We meet every Wednesday at lunch in room 117A. If you have any questions, suggestions or concerns, you can stop by the Studco room or talk to anyone on the Studco team."

ASK LANCE

WHAT SHOULD I DO ABOUT POST SECONDARY PLANNING?

Create a timeline. A really helpful tip when planning for postsecondary is to map out the whole process. Start backwards from the deadline and work your way up to where you are now. If an application for a scholarship is due by the end of January, count a few weeks back and mark when you would receive reference letters, etc. This works for other applications too. Already know where you want to go? Go to the university's website and sign up for emails from the program.

Since it's already December and Grade 12 have their OUAC PINs, you should have definitely created your account. If you have no clue where to start, booking a guidance appointment with your counselor is always worth the time. Good luck!

HOW CAN I STUDY FOR EXAMS? IT'S MY FIRST YEAR.

Studying for exams can be super tricky, even for a seasoned veteran like me. As you move on up the food chain of high school (and postsecondary) the exams will only intensify and count for a much bigger percent of your grade. To get you started on the right path, the best tip I can give you is don't wait until last minute to study. While you might claim to thrive on last-minute cramming, all-nighters are always filled with tears and regret. To help sort out your time management, write a timetable of what exams you have and then organize your study accordingly. Some courses might need more revision than others so plan wisely! Don't be late during moratoriums and the last tip is to keep your body well-fuelled by eating brain foods that help with concentration and memory, like nuts, seeds, yogurt and blueberries. Good luck with exams!

HOW DO YOU DISCUSS [BAD] MARKS WITH YOUR PARENTS?

Step 1: Hide your report card at the bottom of your backpack.

You don't want them seeing it before you're ready. Keep it hidden until you've completed all the steps... but if they've already seen it, you don't have much time left. Skip to step 4.

Step 2: Bake a cake (or your parents' favourite dessert).

You'll need whatever help you can get to appease them. Bake something that will put them in a good mood.

Step 3: Get them to sit down.

Make sure they're nice and comfortable when you talk to them. While they're sitting, you can give them the cake you baked; then break the news.

Step 4: Jokes aside, it's better to always be honest with your parents in regards to your academic prowess. It can be difficult, but being upfront and honest with them is the best way to go. Before you talk to your parents about your grades, you should also have a plan in mind on what you plan on doing differently moving forward. If you have a bad mark in a class, remember that you can't go back in time and change your grade but you can change what grade you get next time.



CHARITY WEEK

JENNIFER WONG & MATT DAIGLE



Hey Leaside, it's Jen and Matt your Communications Officers! On behalf of Student Council we want to thank all the students and teachers for their support and donations that made Charity Week 2018 a success!

Charity Week is an annual tradition at Leaside. Every year we work with clubs and students around the school to raise funds for a chosen charity or organization. This year we chose to support Holland Bloorview Kids Rehabilitation Hospital, a local hospital that provides exceptional care for youth living with disability and advocates to build a world with no boundaries for kids and youth with disabilities.

We started the week off with an assembly that included a guest speaker from Holland Bloorview (Molly McKeown) and an introduction to our fantastic charity pairs. Clad in their creative costumes and full of enthusiasm, the charity pairs did an amazing job raising money within the school and in the community. Throughout the week the clubs at Leaside organized many fundraising events that we hope you got a chance to participate in.

If you saw people sprinting down the halls and weaving their way in and out of crowds, they were most likely taking part in Stud.Co's Clothes Pin Tag. Friends betraying friends. Students waiting outside classes to tag their peers. Things got intense! Did you see those jars full of sweet treats? Those were Me to We's guessing jars. Congrats to those who guessed close to the correct number because I know Matt and I were definitely off. Women's Interest sold some really nice compliment grams and there was unbelievable food offered by Mr. Chambers Food Fair and ACT's International Food Fair. We even received pre wrapped utensils and napkins with a surprise quote inside thanks to the Mental Health and Wellness Committee. There was a fun improv. workshop hosted by the Drama Club and GSA showed the blockbuster movie "Love, Simon". Eco Team and Reach for the Top hosted an Ecological Quiz Game and Studco also ran a 50/50 raffle. Finally, to end the week off, LAA hosted a students vs. teachers dodgeball game and LAA vs. Studco dodgeball game! We hope you didn't miss it because (despite what LAA might say) Studco was able to bounce back in the second game to tie things up.

Thank you to all these clubs who contributed to charity week and put lots of time and effort to help raise money for Holland Bloorview. We hope these donations will be of help to those in need at Holland Bloorview, and anticipate a even more successful Charity Week for 2019!

BEYOND TEACHING: CLUB ADVISORS

INTERVIEWING THE TRUE HEADS OF LEASIDE CLUBS...

MALCOLM MARSH

In Leaside High School, there are many clubs that either run for the whole year (such as Peer Tutoring and GSA), or run for a semester or less (mostly sports teams). But, who runs these clubs? Sure there are student leaders that tell the students what to do, but staff advisors are the ones that make sure the club runs smoothly and doesn't fall apart. So why do staff advisors decide to run their club? Why do they like the extracurricular club so much? Well, I've decided to ask four teachers these three questions to find out.

Question 1: What is the biggest obstacle you've ever had to face as a supervisor?

Question 2: Why do you supervise your specific club?

Question 3: What is the most redeeming part about your role/ favorite part?

Ms. Fleet for Cake Club:

1. Ms. Fleet's biggest obstacle is the ratio between the students working and the number of kitchens they have. Because the food and nutrition room (room 225) only has four kitchens for students to use, the more students that want to bake cakes - the harder it is to accommodate everyone.
2. For one reason, baking cakes is a passion and is something that can be enjoyed outside of work and it's also cool to be able to share this knowledge with the students. Ms. Fleet also supervises Cake Club - "cause it's dope".
3. The most redeeming part of this role for her is seeing students continue baking cakes outside of school and also seeing that it becomes a passion of theirs as well.

Ms. Rubenzahl for Clan Call:

1. For Ms. Rubenzahl, the hardest part of managing Clan Call is finding students that will commit their time and participate in the club. A lot of students want the yearbook on their resumes so they join for only that not willing to put any work into the club.
2. They needed a supervisor for the club and with all of her qualifications, teaching photography and graphic design, she was the perfect person to fill the position.
3. Her favorite part of helping with Clan Call is getting to know all the students and seeing the team develop their skills over time; improving the yearbook as much as they can.

Ms. Rampersad for Peer Tutoring:

1. The biggest problem within peer tutoring is having enough tutors for every tutee that signs up for the program. Sometimes there may be a lot of students needing help with their work and it can be hard to find enough tutors to get those students the help they need.
2. Ms. Rampersad likes to see when kids who need help actually get the help they need to succeed. This program helps tons of students that are struggling in certain subjects and pairs them up with students that are willing to help them succeed. That's why she believes in the program.
3. The best part of supervising Peer Tutoring is actually seeing a student's marks improve and that the student excels in the class. This shows Ms. Rampersad that the student has learned something valuable through the program and has started to improve their marks because of their tutor.

Mr. Lu for Robotics:

1. To be part of the Robotics Club, you need to have enough time to, one: collaborate with your teammates, and two: complete the robot you guys are building. This wouldn't be such a big problem, but because school is 6 hours long, and most students (even Mr. Lu) have other stuff to do outside of school, there isn't always time to work. This time constraint can create a big problem, especially when there's a competition close by.
2. At first, Mr. Lu was given the program to supervise. But over the years that he's been working with the students; building robots, going to competitions, and of course winning those competitions, he's grown to love it.
3. The most rewarding part for Mr. Lu isn't just the trophies he gets from winning competitions, it's seeing his team work together at building and programing their robots and succeed at their competitions.

HOW'S YOUR SEMESTER GOING?

NATALIE HOLLY

I have ten minutes left to finish my bio test. Ten minutes, two pencils on my desk, four pages on information I should know about genetic material, five unfinished questions, three that I know are wrong and zero patience left.

I started the test confidently; I'd studied well the night before, or so I thought. But now my faith in myself has ebbed away. I no longer feel like the geneticist I dreamt I was last night, or whatever job it is that people who study genetics do. Now I'm squirming in my chair in a whirl of self-disgust and shame. Above me the clock ticks, mocking my discomfort.

A chair behind me drags along the floor, a loud screech that pierces my ears, reminds me that somehow other people were able to finish this hellish test. Oh, I hate this and the stupid heavy chairs and the uncarpeted floors, I think to myself, Couldn't it just be quiet? Couldn't I

just pretend everyone else was as dumb as me? But no, it's fine. I'm glad to know that out of thirty kids, I'm the only one who doesn't know.

I inconspicuously looked around to see if I'm the last person still writing the test, trying to make it look like I'm not stressed. No, I'm totally not stressed. I know exactly what I'm doing. I began digging the tip of my pencil into my finger. The pain, a sharp pinch that makes my skin feel tight and worn brought me out of my distracted state. I looked down at my thumb, which now bares a dark dusted lead imprint, deep, like a little meteor that had crashed into my hand and left a crater.

"Five minutes!" the teacher at the front of the class announced. "OH!", I nearly whispered out loud, Wow, ok I can do this. What if I can't? What if I fail? What if I can't get into university? Oh my god I'm not going to be able to get a job, I'm going to -

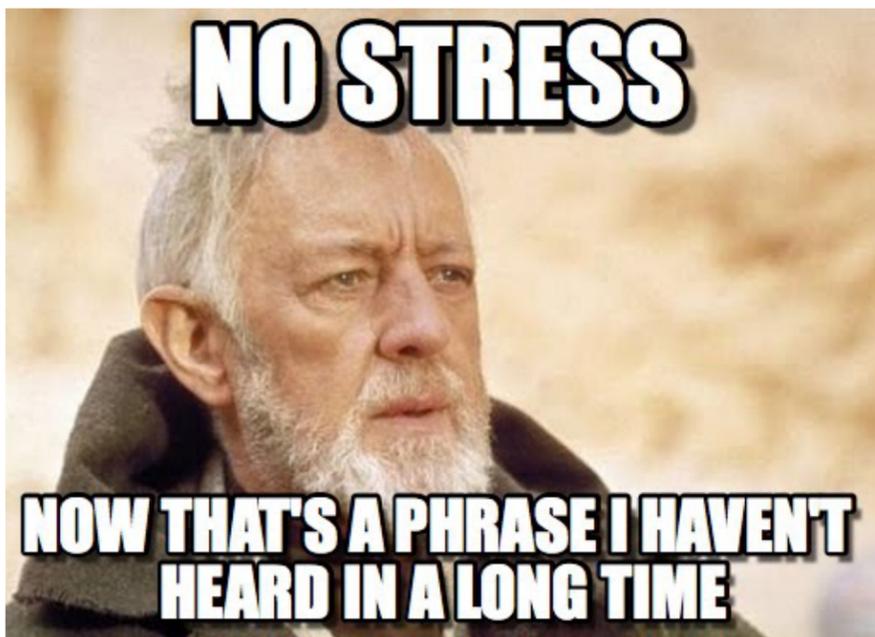
Oh right, the test. I looked down at my test with what little remaining optimism I was able to muster up, hoping that after five minutes of distraction I had somehow opened a third eye that could magically grant me all the scientific knowledge there was to be had in the world. I took a deep breath and looked at the next question.

"What does the Klenow fragment lack?"

I laughed. I actually laughed. I wondered did I even study the right unit because I have never heard these words before. My brain is in a fog as I struggled to grasp at the last coherent thoughts in my mind, like grains of sand slipped through my fingers. I'm getting nowhere.

I stretched my fingers, watched the tendons within bulge and tense under my skin. I cracked my wrists, a satisfying pop, before picking up my pencil one last time. At that point, I didn't care. I'll write whatever will come to mind. I'll hope to at least get part marks for some form of comprehensible English and then try as hard as I can to forget this test ever happened.

Yeah I thought to myself sarcastically, this is a pretty good way to deal with failure. Might as well learn how to cope young, I've got a long future ahead of me.



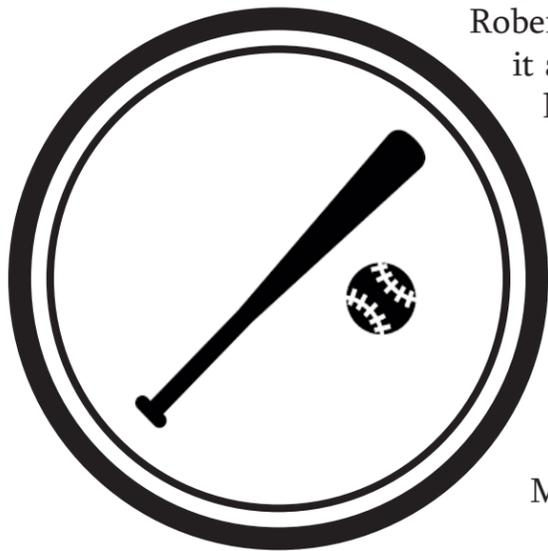
SPORTS FORECAST FOR TORONTO

WEAGBE MOMBO
WEAJUE MOMBO
WEADEE MOMBO

This year has been filled with upsets for many of Toronto's sports teams and but that doesn't seem to be the case at the moment. As we near the end of the year, both the Toronto Maple Leafs and Raptors should feel comfortable in their respected positions.

Disclaimer: this is a breakdown of our teams as of November 28th, 2018. The standings are subject to change.

BLUE JAYS: WHO'S THAT GUY AGAIN?



While we're not going to go over the whole season one new pattern we kept noticing while sitting at the games or watching them at home was how many new faces there were. Big names like Josh Donaldson, Roberto Osuna, Ryan Goins and J.A. Happ have all had their departures and then to top it all off our manager, John Gibbons had left as well. If all this change is what has to happen for a team to get back to what it was, or better, we're all for it. It might mean a lot of discomfort and heart break right now for some fans, but you've got to give some to get some. Either way, we can't go back in time so we better get used to seeing some new faces in the bullpen. This month the Jays unveiled their coaching staff for the upcoming season. New to the group, we have manager Charlie Montoyo, Mark Budzinski as first base coach, Matt Buschmann as bullpen coach, Dave Hudgens as bench coach and Shelley Duncan as Major League field coordinator. Returning, are pitching coach Pete Walker and third base coach Luis Rivera. The Blue Jays have also promoted from within the organization by naming Guillermo Martinez as hitting coach and John Schneider as Major League coach.

TORONTO RAPTORS: THE FOLLOWING STEPS

The Raptors are now entering their second month of the 2018-19 season and looking competitive. With an 18-4 record (despite the fact it could've been 20-2 if they hadn't blown the lead to Detroit or failed to close in overtime against Boston) they are 1st overall in the entire NBA. The Raptors have literally never been better than they are right now and if you tune into any half decent sports show, they can attest that the Raptors are not just playoff contenders= but finals competitors. Toronto is for the most part, making it look easy, but as tempting as it may be to look ahead to their marquee matchup hosting Golden State, they have a more immediate challenge ahead of them with the next 31 days. Why? Because ten of their next 12 matchups come against teams above .500.



Between the game against the Memphis Grizzlies and December 28th's game with the Orlando Magic, the Raptors will play 16 times—ten of those on the road. What's the net winning percentage of those 16 teams? .554. All these teams are far from pushovers so we should expect to see some tough matchups and for our defense to step up. So far in the season the Raptors haven't had bad defense; in fact it's been pretty good with a 106.2 defensive rating. The thing is, that number includes two games with the Celtics and one with the Pistons. Both teams sit in the bottom half of the league in offensive rating. By comparison, eight of the games coming up will be against top-10 offenses. What's more, Toronto also plays the Sixers twice, meaning they have 10 games against offenses currently in the top half of the league.

There are high expectations for the boys in red and if the beginning of the season is any indication of the months ahead, we can anticipate a lot of success. As Miles said, "The ceiling is high, man. And the way we're playing it should continue to get higher." "It's one day at a time, one practice, one game. But we should keep figuring out what we can do to push it higher so that ceiling is game whatever of the Finals."

TORONTO FOOTBALL CLUB: PLAYING THE BLAME-GAME

We know we're not the first to say this, but 2018 has been a disastrous year for the Toronto Football Club. Coming off of a championship win last year, you can't blame fans for expecting a repeat of their stellar season, or at the very least, a great one. Instead, the club finished at the bottom of the MLSE barrel, 9th in our conference and 19th overall.



Head Coach: Greg Vanney

We all know that saying: "when the going gets tough, fire the coach" and while I do like Greg Vanney, if things keep up like this I think it's nearing that point.

Vanney has brought the TFC team to its glory days. He's been aided with unbelievable signings, a wealth of talent and money, as well as a bit of luck. Despite this catastrophe of a season, I believe he needs to be given one more chance. There is no doubt that Vanney gave us a new style and identity. However, his decision-making, come gametime, are less than beneficial. He's made multiple poor substitutions, changed formations when we were doing well (the LA Galaxy game comes to mind), and rushed players back from injury when it wasn't needed. Vanney likely has until June at most to get this team back to its winning ways. A loss in the Champions League next season won't lose him his job, but if we fail to recover again, Vanney is out.

In general, people say that it's good that the core of our squad players are young and haven't hit their prime yet. The question though, is how many chances are we going to be given and excuse for poor performances? There does have to be some sort of expectation set. While we can't completely change our players I do believe it might be time for something new.

WINTER WONDERLAND CAKE POPS

MAYA SCHMIDT

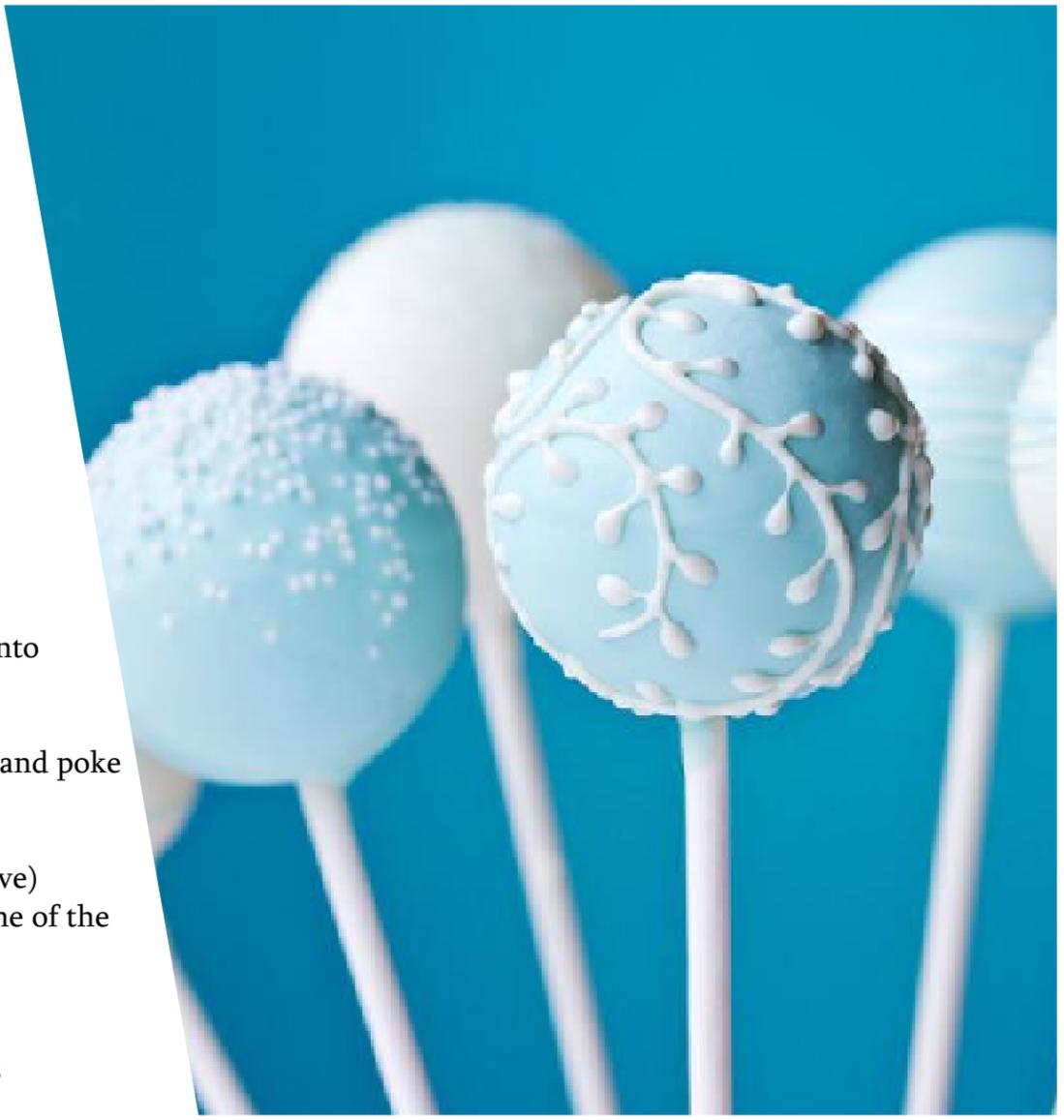
Looking for a quick and easy seasonal dessert? These winter-themed cake pops are just what you're looking for!

What You'll Need

- 1 box white cake mix
- 1 can vanilla frosting
- 2 cups white chocolate melts
- Food grade skewers, sticks or dowels
- Blue food colouring (optional)
- Glitter sprinkles (optional)

Steps

- Bake your cake (see box directions)
- Scoop cake into mixing bowl, breaking it up into small pieces
- Add $\frac{3}{4}$ can of vanilla frosting; mix well
- Roll batter into 1 inch balls on a cookie sheet and poke in skewers, sticks or dowels
- Place in freezer for 20 minutes
- Melt chocolate melts (using stove or microwave)
 - Optional: add blue food colouring to some of the chocolate for a cool blue coating
- Dip cake balls in melted chocolate
- Decorate with glitter sprinkles (optional)
- Let sit at room temperature for 10-15 minutes
- Enjoy!



CULTURE AT THE HEART OF THE CITY

SAM YAMINIFARD ARVIN ASHOURI

On October 25th and 31st, grade nine geography classes embarked on an educational trip to downtown Toronto. There, they visited the engaging Anthropocene exhibit at the Art Gallery of Ontario (AGO) and had the chance to stroll around the area with friends and to walk to one of the most diverse and multicultural areas in Toronto, Kensington Market. The walk from the art gallery to Kensington via Chinatown, provided the opportunity to see lots of eastern Asian and Chinese culture to be seen along the way.



The AGO, found on the corner of Dundas St W. and Beverly St

The exhibit that the groups visited at the AGO was called Anthropocene. Anthropocene presented how we are individually and collectively leaving an impact or a giant eco-footprint on our world. The photographer Edward Burtynsky, and filmmakers Jennifer Baichwal and Nicholas de Pencier are responsible for this exhibit. They took powerful new photographs and used them to create large-scale murals, film extensions, film installations and augmented reality installations. Phenomenon of nature, marvels of humanity and wonders created by the unity of them both, these exhibits took us to places we are connected to by the great earth, but never seen in such a way demonstrated by the exhibit "Anthropocene".

At Kensington Market, the students were given free rein to go and explore the multiculturalism in the Kensington area and to go by and pick up some lunch at the many stores and restaurants that were there. The teachers really advocated not to eat food that you have already eaten in the past, but instead to try something new from many places and cultures around the world!

Some fun facts:

Kensington Market has no commercial food or clothing chains, only housing local businesses and restaurants, making the area one of the most unique cultural hotspots in the city!

When hearing the term graffiti, most people think of vandalism and illegal tagging. In Kensington Market however, almost every surface is painted with vibrant, street art, admired by both locals and tourists!

No cars are allowed in Kensington Market on Sundays, the perfect time to walk around and explore the area!

NOT SO 'FANTASTIC' BEASTS

SOPHIE SONG



Can I tell you a secret? I haven't read all the books and spin-offs and guides of the Harry Potter universe, nor have I seen all the films. So, on the opening night of *Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them: The Crimes of Grindelwald*, I decided that it was high time I immerse myself in the wizarding world.

Eddie Redmayne stars as Newt Scamander, a magizoologist that has been banned from travelling due to the events in New York (from the previous movie). His brother Theseus (Callum Turner) is engaged to Leta Lestrange (Zoë Kravitz), as Queenie Goldstein (Alison Sudol) wants to marry Jacob Kowalski (Dan Fogler). Albus Dumbledore (Jude Law) speaks to Newt about the looming threat to the world of wizards and no-maj, Credence Barebone (Ezra Miller) and the dark wizard Grindelwald (Johnny Depp). Now, Newt and Tina Goldstein (Katherine Waterston) must prevent Grindelwald from accomplishing his sinister plans. Did you get all that? Splendid, now let's move on to the plot. Spoilers ahead.

Hedwig's Theme opens up the scene of New York in 1932. Grindelwald escapes his transport convey and settles in Paris. In London, Newt answers to the Magic Council for the events of New York, but refuses to fight, in this case, it results in killing Credence. Queenie and Jacob visit Newt in London where Queenie reveals that she wishes for a family, however, Jacob does not. They argue and Queenie storms off. Tina is at Freaks Show in Paris where Credence also happens to be. Newt follows the trail to Paris in search of Credence. Credence wants to know his lineage, but an explosion kills the only person that knew. The Council storms Hogwarts to confront Dumbledore of his inability to fight Grindelwald. Grindelwald calls all his followers to a rally. Leta, Newt, Tina, Jacob and Yusuf (another individual seeking Credence) meet at the Lestrange tomb where Leta reveals her connection to Credence. Grindelwald's rally is interrupted by the Theseus and

the Magic Council—tension rises as Queenie and Credence switch sides. A final fiery battle ensues, but the heroes quickly terminate it. Newt returns to Hogwarts to inform Dumbledore that the pact preventing him from fighting Grindelwald is no more. Someplace in a castle, Grindelwald whispers to Credence the truth: Credence is the long-lost Dumbledore brother.

Confused yet? So was I for the majority of the first hour. Disclaimer to all Harry Potter fans who are familiar with the world, this is a review on the movie; the 134 minutes of screenplay, and only that. To begin, it took more than an hour for all the different storylines to be remotely cohesive. For the most part, exposition lead to more exposition in another location. There were no details to hint at any revelations, thus secrets seemed to come out of nowhere. This is the second movie of the five *Fantastic Beasts* series. The characters in this installment saw no particular development. The colour palette is dark and washed out which is problematic during Grindelwald's escape since it's so dark you can't see a thing. Just think DC movies. The score wasn't special; no tune except *Hedwig's Theme* left any impressions which takes away from the other sense that films appeal to.

However, the visuals did not disappoint. There were neat camera pans across windows to show the progression through the rooms of a home. The beasts and creature were exceptionally cute. For a non-Harry Potter fan, the magical objects were the best part—current digital effects made sure all the items seamlessly integrate into the world.

The biggest takeaway from this movie is that Harry Potter installments are exclusive to the veterans. Without having read or seen the other books or movies, I couldn't fully enjoy the movie. This is the second film of the series, but it's more a continuation than a sequel. If I had picked up the second movie of the *Dark Knight* or *Lord of the Rings* Trilogy, I could still enjoy the movie since the writers took the time to craft each film as if it were a standalone, it caters to anyone new to the world and successfully drew them in. This movie is part of a 5-film series, but already, none of the characters underwent development to capture the attention of new audiences. Going by this strategy of having a big story and chopping it into five parts means by the third film, no new viewer would understand anything.

The wizarding world is marvelous, the creatures are fantastic, but it's a disappointment that the strategy for modern cinema series is to bring cash flow rather than aiming to tell a compelling story in one shot. This movie will be a delight for Harry Potter fans, but a confusing mess to anyone else. But hey, you can still visit the theatres for 30 minutes of cute creatures.



In 1980, the neuroscientist Roger W. Sperry won a nobel prize for physiology of medicine. His research indicated two separate hemispheres of the brain, the left and right brains, and suggested that there were cognitive differences in the two, as well as differences in character among people with differing dominant brain hemispheres. Today, his research is being questioned by the scientific community for its validity. Why not take this test and see if his research accurately describes you?

Which side brain are you dominant?

1. Think about the music you like. Would you say that

- a) The beat OR
- b) The melody is more important to you?

2. Which of these games would you rather play?

- a) Scrabble
- b) Checkers

3. Which of the following statements is more characteristic of you?

- a) I'm a tense person I worry about getting things right I'm more nervous than most people
- b) I'm relaxed and easygoing you can't fight life so you may as well roll with the punches

Find your results at the bottom of the page!

HOROSCOPES

SAGITTARIUS
NOVEMBER 22–DECEMBER 21
It's a new month and a new start with new-found optimism. You may start to look forwards in life and worry about your future in school or your future career, but don't stress yourself out. All of these things will work themselves out over time.

CAPRICORN
DECEMBER 22–JANUARY 19
You're ready to socialise; go out and join some clubs, have fun with friends and make some new ones. This is good month for you to have fun and use your communication skills.

AQUARIUS
JANUARY 20–FEBRUARY 18
This month you've been working hard and it's time that all your hard work is appreciated. All that time working on projects and studying for tests will finally pay off. Try picking up an old hobby too, practice that guitar, or try writing again.

PISCES
FEBRUARY 19–MARCH 20
Feel confident this month. Take initiative and get some work done. Give your friends a helping hand and don't be afraid to face your fears. Make your dreams a reality.

ARIES
MARCH 21–APRIL 19
Be careful with your money this month. Buying gifts for your friends can be fun but make sure you save a little extra for yourself. Make sure to manage your time as well. While you should still find time to finish your assignments, don't forget to save enough time to relax, chill and recharge.

TAURUS
APRIL 20–MAY 20
This is a good time for you to socialize, talk with your friends, and expand your social circles. Put more work into your friendships as well. Work together in groups, have deep conversations and get closer with your favorite people.

GEMINI
MAY 21–JUNE 20
You'll find yourself taking small trips and finding new knowledge, like going to library to study or trying something new to help you in class. You'll find yourself connecting with your siblings or people you consider family and expanding your horizons.

SCORPIO
OCTOBER 23–NOVEMBER 21
Re-energize yourself this month. Take a rest and focus on getting work done. Zero-in on your needs and responsibilities and don't let others sway your decisions: listen closely to your inner voice to find what it is you really need to accomplish.

LIBRA
SEPTEMBER 23–OCTOBER 22
Think more for yourself and show yourself some attention. Prioritize your life and organize your schedule. Beware - Those due dates are closer than may seem.

VIRGO
AUGUST 23–SEPTEMBER 22
Spend-ing time with family is important for you; have fun with your siblings, visit family members over the holidays and reestablish your relationships with old friends. Find a happy place between your party time and chill time. You may be in the mood to party with friends and family - be sure to find a balance.

LEO
JULY 23–AUGUST 22
You're all about your health this month. Work on your morning and night routines so you're at school on time. Eat healthy and be sure to drink a lot of water to stay hydrated. You also feel the urge to go out and expand your horizons. Go out and try something different, try to experience something new!

CANCER
JUNE 21–JULY 22

Quiz Responses

If you scored mainly a), you are probably **Left Brain dominant!**

Your thinking is more foresquare, upright and sensible, direct, true, hardedged, un fanciful and forceful. You're likely more verbally and logically focused.

If you scored mainly b), you are likely **Right Brain dominant!**

Your thinking is more curvy, flexible, more playful in it's unexpected twists and turns, more complex, diagonal and fanciful. You're probably a more spacial, intuitive type of person.