



The Orator



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AUTUMN SEASON HAS ARRIVED!



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EXECUTIVE EDITOR'S LETTER

Dear Readers,

As we settle into the school year, The Orator is thrilled to present our Fall Edition.

Of course, fall is distinguished by the omnipresence of change: the beginning of a new school year, the transition of the environment and the phases of reflection that define the season. From academia to fall recipes to reflections on SBA' past, the Fall Edition of The Orator covers every facet of this idyllic season.

Happy reading!

Executive Editors
Islay Chidiac & Indrina Bhattacharya

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SBA FIRST IMPRESSIONS

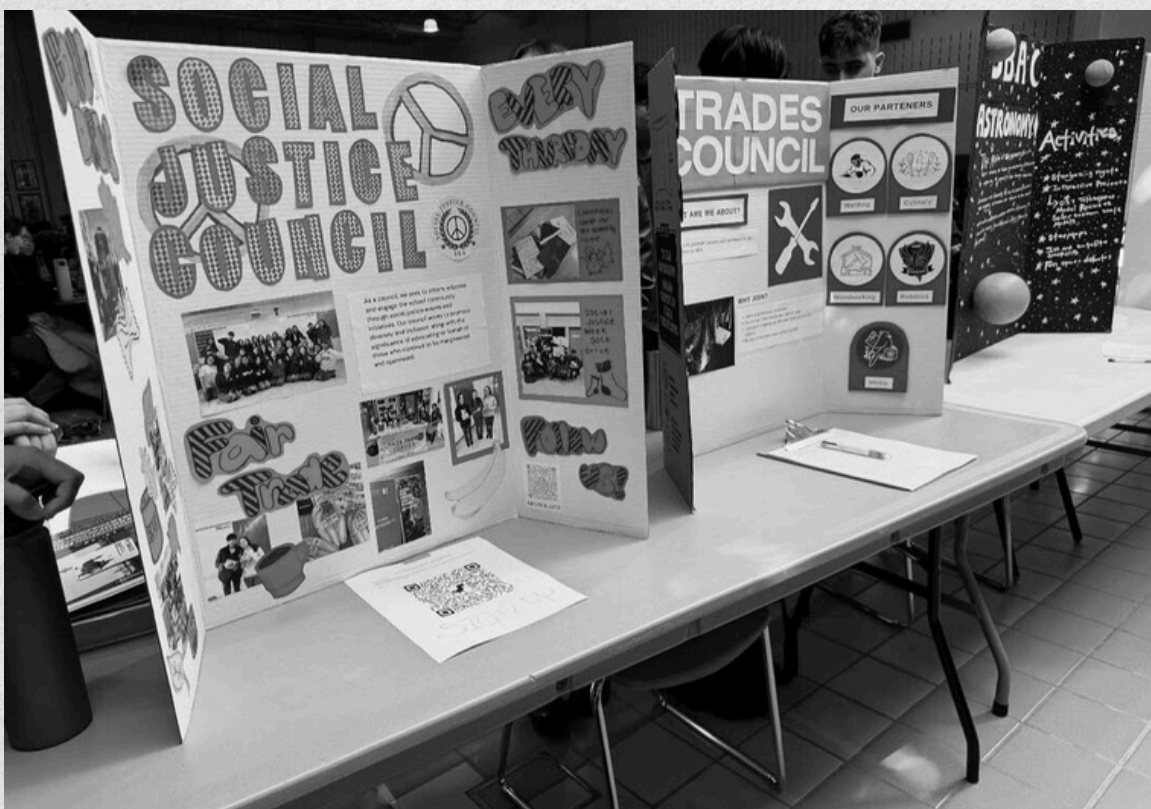
Through the Lens of a Newcomer

Written by: Adrian So

Edited by: Megan Li

First day of school. You could imagine stepping into the halls of an unfamiliar building and finding yourself in the midst of all the chattering and chaos. It was a foreign atmosphere I had little time to adjust to. And just as I was pondering where to go next, the trumpet notes of “William Tell Overture” sounded through the PA system, sending me scrambling for my homeroom. This was a good summary for my beginnings at SBA, not as a freshman, but instead as a brand new eleventh grader looking to navigate my life at a new school again.

As I gradually settled into the school, I actively looked for ways to involve myself in the school community to accustom myself with this new environment. It couldn't be more convenient the atrium hosted the school clubs fair the very next week, which provided me a chance to contribute to SBA in a fun and meaningful way. The fair garnered much interest from the student body, and to me, it was an excellent resource to get to know the behind-the-scenes workings that took place at school. I was amazed by the volume and diversity of extracurriculars offered, ranging from athletics to niche clubs, and almost guaranteed to suit everyone's interests. I jumped at the opportunity and signed up for four different clubs, one of which was The Orator, and so my school year officially sprang into action.



As someone who grew up attending non-religious public schools, I was oblivious to how Catholic schools are run. But during my first weeks here, I was quick to notice the role religion played in the SBA's culture. The morning and afternoon prayers gave me insights as to how Catholics pray, in contrast to the Protestant way that I was taught from a young age. But the most profound moment came when I attended Mass for the first time, and admittedly, I had little knowledge of the Catholic faith and its rituals prior to joining the school. I took in the sounds and sights of students singing hymns in unison, and watched as they received the offerings of the Holy Communion. It was then when I realized the significance that Catholicism held at SBA. It was a representation of joint values and it built a sense of community among everyone at the school. An eye-opening experience indeed.



This largely summed up my first month at SBA, where I had the privilege of meeting new people, and kickstarted my new life at this school for the final two years of secondary education. I hope to feel more integrated into the school community in the months to come, and make lasting memories here.

The Welcome: Advice for Grade Nines

Written by: Islay Chidiac

Edited by: Ashna Cherian

Welcome to high school! The staff at The Orator hopes your first months as secondary students have been pleasant, as you embark on a four-year journey that will shape you into the person that you will become. As daunting as the next four years may seem, the most formative experiences, opportunities, and catalysts for growth lie before you. While you transition into this chasm between childhood and adulthood, explore the following advice on how to navigate your first year of high school.

1. Connect with your teachers and guidance counselors.

Teachers and guidance counselors are the greatest assets in your academic journey. They are not simply vessels of information; they are here to help you reach your academic goals and grow as a student and person. Building relationships with teachers and guidance counselors empowers you to ask for help and feedback, while also giving them greater context to understand your learning processes. In addition to benefiting your academics, these connections enable you to apply to future opportunities with excellent references that reflect your skills and growth.

2. Utilize resources available to you.

Taking advantage of the school's resources is essential to your success as a student. As mentioned previously, teachers are simply invaluable; they will provide additional explanations, advice, and supplementary resources if you ask them. Similarly, guidance counselors offer a variety of services that are designed to assist you academically and mentally. Our school offers free tutoring - a resource that can drastically improve your skills, understanding, and consequently, confidence in your ability to succeed. These resources are waiting for you; all you have to do is ask.

3. Build a strong foundation for later grades.

Grade nine may not affect your post-secondary future, but it is essential for establishing habits and skills that will impact your work as a senior student. Set yourself up for success by implementing organizational habits, such as the use of a planner. Likewise, foster initiative by self-advocating to ensure you are well prepared for later grades. It is also imperative that you pay attention in class, take notes, and keep tests and assignments, so you can compile references for advanced topics as a senior student. Such diligence enables you to discover your learning style, which allows you to determine the study techniques that are conducive to your success. In terms of preparation in a tangible sense, ensure that you consider graduation and post-secondary admission requirements throughout high school. Always remember to minimize stress in later grades by preparing and being proactive in grade nine!

4. Take care of your mental health.

The transition into high school - and the stressors that accompany it - is universally overwhelming. The most important piece of advice as you adjust is not to be discouraged. High school challenges everyone in some respect; you are not alone! In fact, there are a multitude of digital and school-sponsored resources available promoting mental well-being. Ensure that you practice habits that help you feel your best; for example, you can combat stress by implementing breathing techniques, and you can foster a positive outlook by writing down the highlights of your day or what you are grateful for. If you find yourself struggling with your mental health, please ask for help. Your family, friends, teachers, and guidance counselors all care about you - they will help you feel your best. Never be afraid to reach out!

5. Practice a growth mindset.

On the topic of mental health, practicing a growth mindset is critical in aiding your learning and well-being. Perfection is non-existent; you are in a constant process of enriching yourself, developing your skills, and becoming yourself. Once you recognize this, you have opened yourself up to a pathway of growth, with the knowledge that challenges are opportunities and practice is responsible for success. This combination of realism and positivity will empower you to reach your goals as a high school student, while also maintaining your mental well-being.

6. Join clubs, councils, and teams.

Participating in co-curriculars is what makes your high school experience whole! Not only are these activities fun, but they are also opportunities to meet like-minded people and find mentors in older students. Furthermore, co-curricular participation enhances your resume, teaches valuable life skills, and opens doors for other opportunities. As well, involving yourself in the school community is a fantastic way to adjust to high school itself. This time in your life is your only chance to join clubs, councils, and teams - make the most of it!

7. Making friends.

Developing friendships in grade nine is a sort of a juxtaposition: perhaps the most prolific source of joy, perhaps the most prolific source of stress. Fear not, because like-minded people tend to gravitate towards each other. If you are kind, respectful, and friendly - the nice kid - friendships will surely fall into place. In fact, friendships are often sparked in courses like gym and art, which allow students to make connections and bond with peers. Talk to people who sit at your art table or are part of your gym team; don't be afraid because your future best friend may be right under your nose! However, it is also important to note that not all people get along - and that's okay. Do not get involved with people who make you uncomfortable; it will only cause you drama in the future. Instead, choose friends who bring out the best in you, make you feel appreciated, and with whom you can be your true self!

8. Enjoy your high school experience!

People always say high school is the quickest four years of your life - make the most of it. Try something new! Join clubs, councils, and teams, even if you don't know anyone. Pick electives and opportunities that interest you - you'll have only one chance to enjoy them. Don't be afraid to participate in activities or events; they will enrich your experience, guaranteed. Embrace the world of opportunities that have opened up for you!

Transitioning from elementary school to high school is certainly an experience that you will never forget. You cannot predict the triumphs and tribulations that await you, although The Orator staff hopes our advice empowers you to confidently face the journey of high school. As you implement our advice, cherish the fact that your next four years will be characterized by growth - academically, socially, and emotionally. It's time to become the person that you will one day be. Good luck!

Five Fall Dessert Recipes to Try at Home

Written by: Sophia Chen

Edited by: Tristan Rowe

1. Pumpkin Pie



There's no better way to enjoy the chilly days of fall than with hot, steamy, homemade pumpkin pie! With its creamy rich filling, lustrous shine, and bright orange colour, it's no wonder that pumpkin pie tops the list for Thanksgiving or any fall celebration. Below is the recipe for a classic fall delight.

Ingredients (8-10 servings) :

Dough: Homemade or store bought pie crust

Filling:

3 eggs

15 ounce (425g) pumpkin puree

1 ¼ (250g) cup brown sugar

1 tablespoon cornstarch

½ teaspoon salt

1 ½ teaspoon ground cinnamon

½ teaspoon ground ginger

¼ teaspoon ground/ grated nutmeg

⅛ teaspoon ground cloves

⅛ teaspoon ground black pepper

1 cup (240ml) heavy cream

¼ cup (60ml) milk

Egg wash: 1 beaten large egg & 1 tbs milk

Recipe:

1. Preheat the oven to 375°F (190°C)

2. In a large bowl, whisk together the pumpkin puree, 3 eggs, and brown sugar until combined. Add cornstarch, heavy cream, milk, salt, cinnamon, nutmeg, pepper, ginger, and cloves. Vigorously mix everything until well combined.

3. Pour the pumpkin mixture into the pie crust. Only fill the crust about ¾ of the way up. Bake the pie for about 55-60 minutes or until the center is almost set. At 25 minutes of baking, cover the edges of the pie crust with aluminum foil. (This prevents the crust from getting too brown.) Check for doneness at minute 50, and then 55, and then 60, etc.

4. After baking, transfer the pie to a wire rack to cool completely for at least 3 hours. Then serve and enjoy!

Recipe: <https://sallysbakingaddiction.com/the-great-pumpkin-pie-recipe/>

2. Apple Cinnamon Doughnuts



Fall is the prime time for apples, and this recipe contains just that! Showcase the fall spirit by making these doughnuts as a dessert, for a party, or just to surprise your relatives.

Five Fall Dessert Recipes To Try At Home

Written by: Sophia Chen

Edited by: Tristan Rowe

Ingredients (35 servings):

- 2 small apples (peeled, grated, squeezed dry) (Use largest hole of grater.)
- 2 cups all purpose flour
- ¾ cup granulated sugar
- 1 ½ teaspoon baking powder
- ¼ teaspoon nutmeg
- ½ teaspoon cinnamon
- 2 large eggs
- ¾ cup whole milk
- 2 tablespoon regular butter (melted)
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- Donut or mini donut pan

Cinnamon Sugar coating:

- 4 tbs butter, melted
- ½ cup sugar
- 1-2 tsp cinnamon

Recipe:

1. Grease donut pan. Preheat the oven to 400°F (204°C). Set rack on middle/ middle lower position of oven.



2. Whisk together flour, sugar, baking powder, cinnamon, and nutmeg in a bowl.

3. Whisk together grated apple, milk, eggs, 2 tbs melted butter, and vanilla extract in another bowl. After mixing, squeeze out as much of the juice as possible. (The juice can be saved for later as a drink.)

4. Fold the wet ingredients with the dry ingredients using a rubber spatula. Fold gently just until combined. DO NOT OVERMIX. Spoon or pipe batter into the mini donut pan until batter is level with the top of the pan. (if you are using a regular donut pan, fill each mold only partway up.) Gently smooth out the tops using a damp finger.



5. Bake until lightly golden (about 8-9 minutes). Let donuts cool slightly in the pan, until they can be easily removed. Then, set donuts on a wire rack to cool completely.

6. For the cinnamon-sugar coating, whisk together sugar and cinnamon in a small bowl. Use another small bowl to melt butter. Before eating, dip donuts in melted butter and roll in cinnamon sugar. Now, it's finally time to savour your creation!

*If using regular-sized donut pans, bake time will still be roughly the same or even a bit less time. You will only fill each mold partway up, rather than all the way to the top.

Recipe: <https://www.chewoutloud.com/cinnamon-apple-baked-donuts-5/>

3. Pumpkin Pudding

This recipe of creamy pumpkin pudding is the perfect way to enjoy the flavors of the fall season!

Five Fall Dessert Recipes To Try At Home

Written by: Sophia Chen

Edited by: Tristan Rowe

Ingredients (6 servings):

- 3 cups whole milk
- 15 oz pumpkin puree
- 2 teaspoons pumpkin pie spice mix (homemade or store bought)
- 1 cup sugar
- ¼ cup cornstarch
- ¼ teaspoon salt
- 4 egg yolks
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 2 tablespoons butter (preferably salted)

Recipe:

1. Using a saucepan on medium or low heat, whisk together 2 cups of milk, pumpkin puree, and pumpkin spice mix. Whisk occasionally until mixture begins to bubble lightly.



2. In the meanwhile, whisk together sugar, cornstarch, and salt in a bowl. Gradually add the remaining milk while whisking. (Make sure to smooth out lumps of cornstarch before adding more.) Add the egg yolks and whisk until there is a smooth mixture.

3. Mixing continuously, transfer half of the hot pumpkin mixture to the sugar and egg mixture using a ladle. Whisk until smooth, and then gradually transfer mixture back into the saucepan, whisking continuously.

4. Continue cooking over medium heat and whisking continuously until the mixture starts to bubble. Whisk constantly and cook until the mixture thickens. Then remove from the pan from the heat and add vanilla extract and butter. Stir until butter has melted.

5. Transfer the pudding to a serving bowl (put plastic wrap on the top) and refrigerate for 2 hours before serving. Serve with whatever toppings you'd like.

Recipe: <https://www.bowlodelicious.com/pumpkin-pudding/>

4. White Chocolate Cranberry Cookies



As the days get shorter and the nights get longer, and as we near the end of fall, here's a recipe to get you ready for the holiday season.

Five Fall Dessert Recipes To Try At Home

Written by: Sophia Chen

Edited by: Tristan Rowe

Ingredients (2 dozen):

- ¾ cup (170g) unsalted butter (softened to room temperature)
- ¾ cup (150g) packed light or dark brown sugar
- ¼ cup (50g) granulated sugar
- 1 large egg (at room temperature)
- 2 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 2 cups (250g) all purpose flour
- 2 teaspoon cornstarch
- 1 teaspoon baking soda
- ½ teaspoon salt
- ¾ cup white chocolate chips (you can also use dark chocolate chips)
- 1 cup dried cranberries

Recipe:

1. Using a handheld or stand mixer, beat the butter, brown sugar, and granulated sugar together on medium speed. Beat for about 3 minutes, or until mixture is creamy and combined. Then beat in the egg and vanilla. (You can scrape down the edge of the bowl and beat again to combine.)

2. Whisk the cornstarch, flour, baking soda, and salt together in a separate bowl. On low speed, mix the dry ingredients into the wet mixture until well combined. (The dough will be soft and thick.) Add the chocolate chips and dried cranberries and beat on low speed until combined. Cover dough and let it chill in the refrigerator for at least 1 hour. (To prevent the cookies from over spreading.)



Remove the dough from the refrigerator. Preheat oven to 350°F (177°C). Line a baking tray with parchment paper. As the oven preheats, scoop and roll dough into balls, (1.5 tablespoons of dough for each ball.) Space the dough balls 3 inches apart on the baking tray.

Bake until lightly browned around the edges, or for 11-12 minutes. The center of the cookies will still look soft. (If the cookies did not spread much, bang the baking tray on the counter several times while the cookies are still warm, helping them to spread.)

Let the cookies cool on the tray for about 5 minutes. (You can add additional cranberries or chocolate chips during this time.) Then transfer to a rack to cool completely. Finally, enjoy or store for later!

Recipe: <https://sallysbakingaddiction.com/soft-baked-white-chocolate-chip-cranberry-cookies/>

5. Maple Cinnamon Latte/Hot Chocolate



When the dreary fall rains hit you, or when you're down in the blues, make a cozy cup of latte or hot chocolate to cheer yourself up. Working or relaxing, this quick recipe can deliver the bliss of fall anytime.

Five Fall Dessert Recipes To Try At Home

Written by: Sophia Chen

Edited by: Tristan Rowe

Latte

Ingredients:

1 tablespoon maple syrup

¼ teaspoon vanilla extract

Ground cinnamon

¼ cup brewed espresso

½ cup steamed/frothed milk

Whipped cream (Optional. For garnish)

Additional ground cinnamon (Optional. For garnish.)

Recipe:

1. In a large coffee mug, add maple syrup, ground cinnamon, and vanilla extract.

2. Add the hot espresso and stir. Pour in the steamed or frothed milk.



3. Optional: Top with whipped cream and garnish with ground cinnamon.

Recipe: <https://www.thechunkychef.com/maple-cinnamon-latte/>

Hot Chocolate

Ingredients:

1 cup Whole Milk (or any milk of your choice)

2-3 tablespoon Dark Chocolate chunks (or cut in small pieces)

1 tablespoon Cocoa Powder

¼ teaspoon Cinnamon Powder

2 tablespoon Maple Syrup

Whipped cream (Optional. For garnish)

Additional ground cinnamon (Optional. For garnish.)

Recipe:

1. Add all the ingredients into the milk pan and heat over medium heat. Whisk until the chocolate chunks have melted.



2. Remove the pan from heat once the hot chocolate mixture is smooth and warmed. Do not boil the hot chocolate.

3. Optional: Whisk the hot chocolate till frothy using an electric hand milk frother. Pour into a cup, serve immediately, and enjoy!

Recipe: <https://www.etfoodvoyage.com/stovetop-maple-cinnamon-hot-chocolate-recipe/>

The Spirit of Autumn

Written by: Rebecca Varghese

Edited by: Ashna Cherian

As summer fades, the crisp air and golden hue of autumn convey a quiet invitation: to let go and begin again. Autumn is a consistent reminder that change is not only inevitable but beautiful and tranquil in its own way. The beauty of autumn is that it allows us to coexist in harmony, while offering a space to release the habits, beliefs, and patterns we struggle with. At its core, the spirit of autumn embodies reflection, renewal, and new beginnings.

Autumn's fallen leaves provide an important lesson in letting go. Trees shed their foliage to rid themselves of the past year's leaves, and to rest, rejuvenate, and prepare for the spring to come. The roots of all types of trees grow deeper in preparation for the harsh winter cold, and seeds settle into the soil to bloom in spring. In many ways, these natural processes mirror our own need to release what weighs us down. Whether it's past regrets, lingering fears, or overbearing expectations, autumn reminds us that releasing these burdens is an act of renewal, not loss.



The gentle slowing of autumn into winter invites introspection and inner reflection. The hustle and bustle of summer begins to quiet and is replaced by moments of stillness where our thoughts can settle. During this time of renewal, we gain the opportunity to ask ourselves what we've learned, what we value, and where we wish to go next in the upcoming seasons. As we reflect, we should honour our own seasons of life, allowing each stage to pass with purpose.

To truly embrace the spirit of Autumn, we can take inspiration from the natural world around us and the values of Thanksgiving by practicing gratitude for both what we have and what lies ahead. We are invited to live with more intention, to accept change with grace, and to trust in the cycles that shape our lives. In its golden calm, autumn reminds us that within every closing chapter, a new story begins.

SBA THROUGH THE DECADES

Looking Back on Past Years

Written by: Alyssa Cariglia

Edited by: Ebishan Emmanuel

It's been 40 years since the doors of Saint Brother André first opened, and since 1985, it's safe to say a lot has changed. You can no longer rent a movie from Blockbuster, Sony Walkmans aren't the best way to listen to music on the go anymore, and grade 13 is just a figment of our imaginations. It's safe to say that our community has drastically changed over the years. I spent hours leafing through old, yellowing Orator copies with a multitude of both weird and creative banners, dating as far back as 1987, and read some very cool articles, as well as some. . . questionable ones, but they all gave me an idea of the events that shaped Brother André's history over 40 years.

Decade 1: 1985-1994

The year is 1985, and the school has just opened and welcomed the first 290 students, self- proclaimed “pioneers” into its halls. This was a decade for “firsts”: both Student Council and Athletic Council turn 40 along with our school this year, and 1985 was also the year of BA's first talent show. A year later, the first issue of The Orator, yes, this very newspaper, was printed and not too long after that Chez André opened in the cafeteria. In 1987, BA won their first sports tournament: junior tennis. 1988 boasts another big event: the opening of the main building. No longer would the students be cramped up in the relo- at least, not all day. A year later, the pioneers of BA graduated at the school's first ever senior prom. This was also the year Luke 4:18 started, and various clubs, councils, and sports teams (including a swim team!). Clubs such as Student Council, Athletic Council, Faith Development Council, and Arts Council were going strong. It wasn't until 1990 that the first semi-formal was held.



Decade 2: 1995-2004

We've made it to Brother André's tenth anniversary! It's the school's first big milestone, there's excitement in the air, and everything is great! (Except apparently the uniforms, according to some very passionate “lunchtime poll” answers I came across in a paper.) To celebrate the 10- year anniversary, the alumni of the first ten years came together for a pub night, sharing memories. The annual grade 9 Muskoka trip started in 1998, and I can't help but wonder if the food was just as horrid over 25 years ago. It was in that same year that dress shirts and ties were removed from the dress code, to the delight of the students. Now the year is 1999, and we're nearing the end of the millennia. Because of this, there was a very real fear in society that either the world would end or that clocks and computers would be confused. This may seem irrational to many of us today, but at the time people worried that the transition would cause a computer glitch so widespread that it would cause critical systems to malfunction. Seriously, I read an entire Orator article debating this. Spoiler alert, we lived.

SBA THROUGH THE DECADES

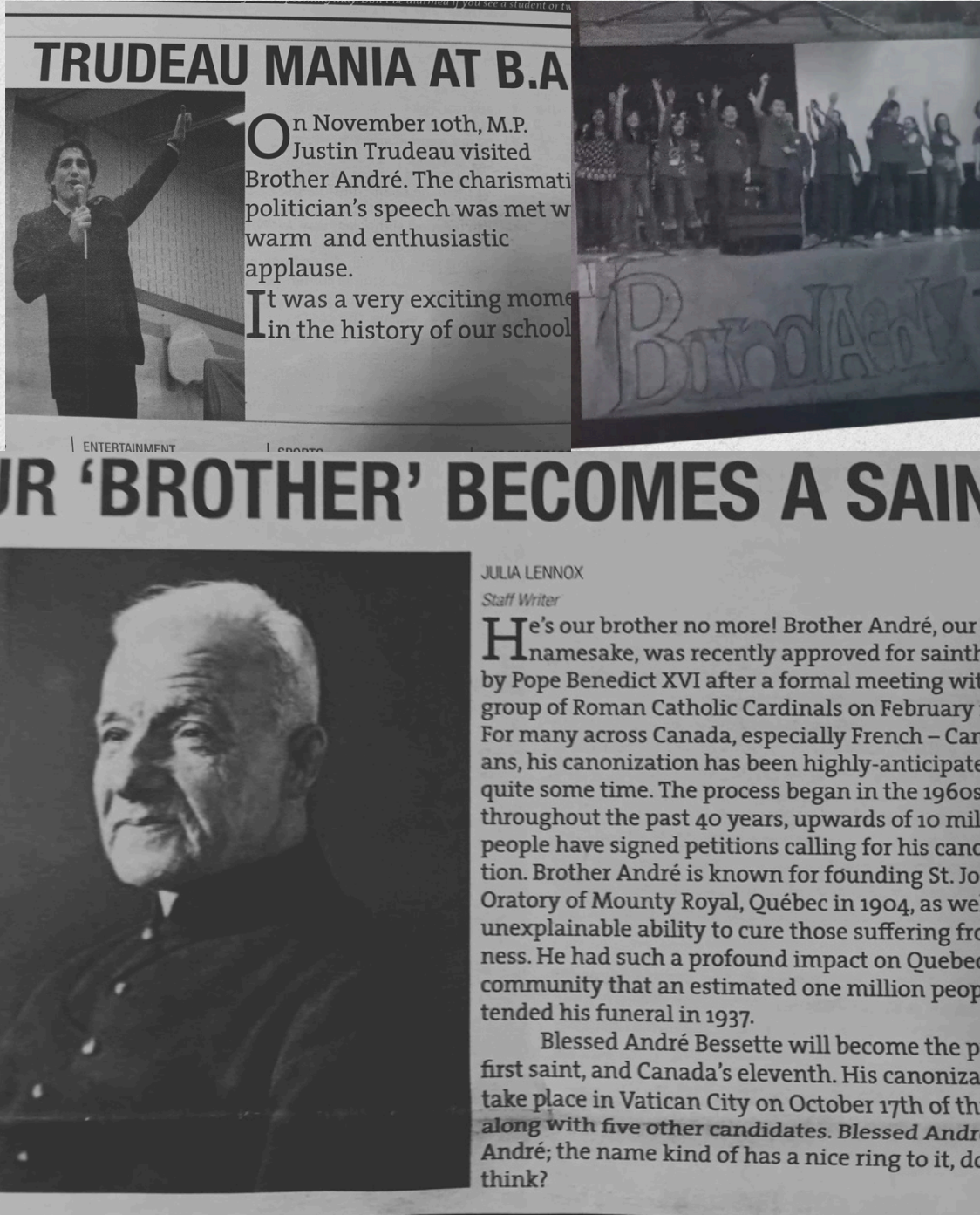
Looking Back on Past Years

Written by: Alyssa Cariglia

Edited by: Ebishan Emmanuel

Decade 3: 2005- 2014

Now that we've all survived Y2K and the threat of the end of the world is gone, we're entering BA's third decade. 2005 brought another change to the uniform: the removal of girls' kilts. I personally see this as a great decision. Now we don't have to worry about getting flashed in math class because someone dropped a calculator! A handful of years later, before his election as Prime Minister, Justin Trudeau made an appearance at BA and gave a speech. This certainly would have been a memorable event, but nothing compared to what the next year would bring. 2010- it's the start of a new decade, yes, but it's also the school's 25th anniversary. That in itself is exciting, but 2010 was also the year of Brother André's canonization, an event that would forever change our school. That's right, it was finally time for BA to become SBA! His devotion to St. Joseph and humble attitude were perhaps the reasons that over 10 million people since the 1960s had signed petitions in favour of Brother André becoming a saint. To celebrate this, 18 students were sent on an 8 day trip to Italy for his canonization. Safe to say that 2010 was a pretty jam-packed year for our school, and we're not even done yet! In addition to this, Luke 4:18 hosted Band Aid, a concert in support of Markham Stouffville Hospital Foundation. Band Aid was a huge success, raising over \$5000.



Decade 4: 2015-2025

We've reached SBA's most recent decade! In honour of the 100 year anniversary of the Battle of Vimy Ridge, in 2017 a trip to Vimy Ridge, France took place to commemorate the efforts of hundreds of thousands of Canadians who fought this battle in the first World War. Then came the most "memorable" years of our lives. March of 2020 impacted the whole world, and schools were no exception. I think we can all relate to the struggles of the pandemic: between the constant switching of online to in- person school days and missing out on milestone events, it's safe to say Covid had a huge impact on all of us, SBA included. We all remember the changes made to our school schedules, either in elementary or high school. The pandemic days at SBA consisted of 3 hour classes, half in person and half from home, as well as the drive-through graduation so similar to the ones we saw at our own elementary schools. So yeah, not the best of times. On a happier note, the next few years were full of success for the BA sports teams. In 2022, the senior boys soccer team qualified for OFSAA, and only a year later the senior boys hockey team won the championship.



Over the past 40 years, SBA has changed so much, and will certainly continue to change for as long as its doors are open. I hope that by reading this article, you have learned something- or many somethings- about the school whose halls you walk through every day, and strive to be a part of the many future events that take place here at St. Brother André.

The Toronto International Film Festival

Written by: Chloe Lanthier

Edited by: Rylee Rasmussen

Lights, camera, action! Hollywood brought its glitz, glamour, and celebrities to Toronto from September 4-14 for the Toronto International Film Festival, also known as TIFF. Stars from all over made an appearance, such as Angelina Jolie, Dwayne “The Rock” Johnson, Ryan Reynolds, and Sydney Sweeney. Grab your popcorn as we discuss everything you need to know about this star-studded event.

With all the talk about this festival, you might be wondering what the Toronto International Film Festival is all about. Its purpose is to help people see the world through a new lens, with some help from film. It was founded in 1976 and takes place every year in Toronto in early September. It is one of the largest publicly attended film festivals in the world. During the timespan of the festival, TIFF offers many events to interest its audience, including screenings, discussions, workshops, and conferences. This year, the movie premieres people were most excited about seeing included Roofman, which is based on a true story, and Mile End Kicks, directed by former film critic Chandler Levack. To keep the film schedule organized, TIFF created sections to sort out the different categories of events. Some of the movie programming sections are Discovery, which is for movies from up-and-coming directors, Platform, for international films, and Short Cuts, which is a section showcasing short films.



What do we all think about when we're watching red carpets? The fashion. Who's wearing what, who designed it for them, and most importantly, how breathtaking is it? Shall we discuss some of the looks we saw on the red carpet this year? Let's start off with Scarlett Johansson, an American actress you've most likely seen on the screen for Black Widow. Johansson came to TIFF to premiere her directorial debut, Eleanor the Great. She wore a blush-draped silk gown from none other than the famous designer Valentino. Next, we have LaKeith Stanfield, who was on the red carpet for the premiere of the new movie he's acting in, Roofman. While most of his male co-stars were choosing to wear suits and more formal attire, LaKeith opted for a more relaxed look, wearing a cable-knit sweater, pleated wide-leg trousers, a neck scarf, a beret, and glasses from the brand Dior by Jonathan Anderson. Anya Taylor-Joy brought one of the most unique looks to the carpet at the premiere for Sacrifice. She chose to wear a light blue satin gown from Dior by Jonathan Anderson with a sleeveless bodice, high neckline, and a weaving pattern from her waist down. Finally, let's take a look at one of the most glamorous gowns seen on the red carpet. It was worn by Han So-hee, a South Korean actress who stars in Project Y. She wore a light pink gown from Toni Matičevski that had a heart neckline and clung to her body perfectly. I don't know about all of you, but whenever I watch a red carpet, it has me wishing for a new closet almost immediately.



SOURCE: GETTY IMAGES

Left To Right: Jessamine Burgum, Dustin O'Halloran, Scarlett Johansson, June Squibb, Chiwetel Ejiofor, Erin Kellyman and Tory Kamen -- “Eleanor the Great”



SOURCE: GETTY IMAGES

Left To Right: Sam Richardson, Anya Taylor-Joy, Robert Walak, and Chris Evans -- “Sacrifice”



SOURCE: GETTY IMAGES

Left To Right: Juno Temple, LaKeith Stanfield, Derek Cianfrance, Kirsten Dunst, and Channing Tatum -- “Roofman”



SOURCE: SBS STAR([HTTPS://SBSSTAR.NET](https://sbsstar.net))

Left to Right: Jeon Jong-seo, Hwan Lee, Han So-hee

The Toronto International Film Festival

Written by: Chloe Lanthier

Edited by: Rylee Rasmussen

As with any big event that takes place, TIFF has an immense effect on Toronto's economy every year. It attracts a huge crowd, who help the economy greatly. Last year, almost 700,000 people attended TIFF. Think about it: while these people are here, they have to spend money on a hotel, food, transportation, and other daily necessities. TIFF also affects our economy in less direct ways. It portrays Toronto as a place where you can make movies, which has inspired plenty of directors and producers to start making movies here. Ever since the first year of TIFF, more and more production studios have opened up here because they have realized the secret gem that is Toronto. Just to name a few, some of the movies that have been filmed here are X-Men, Hairspray, and The Incredible Hulk. Currently, as tariffs are harming our economy, it is more important than ever to contribute to our local economy.



In my opinion, TIFF is the biggest event that comes to Toronto every year, and Toronto would not be the same without it. From the celebrities that populate the streets to the proud directors that come to premiere their new pieces of work, Toronto changes every year in September for the better, and we are proud of it for that.



The Winner of the ThanksGiven Food Drive Contest

Written by: Islay Chidiac

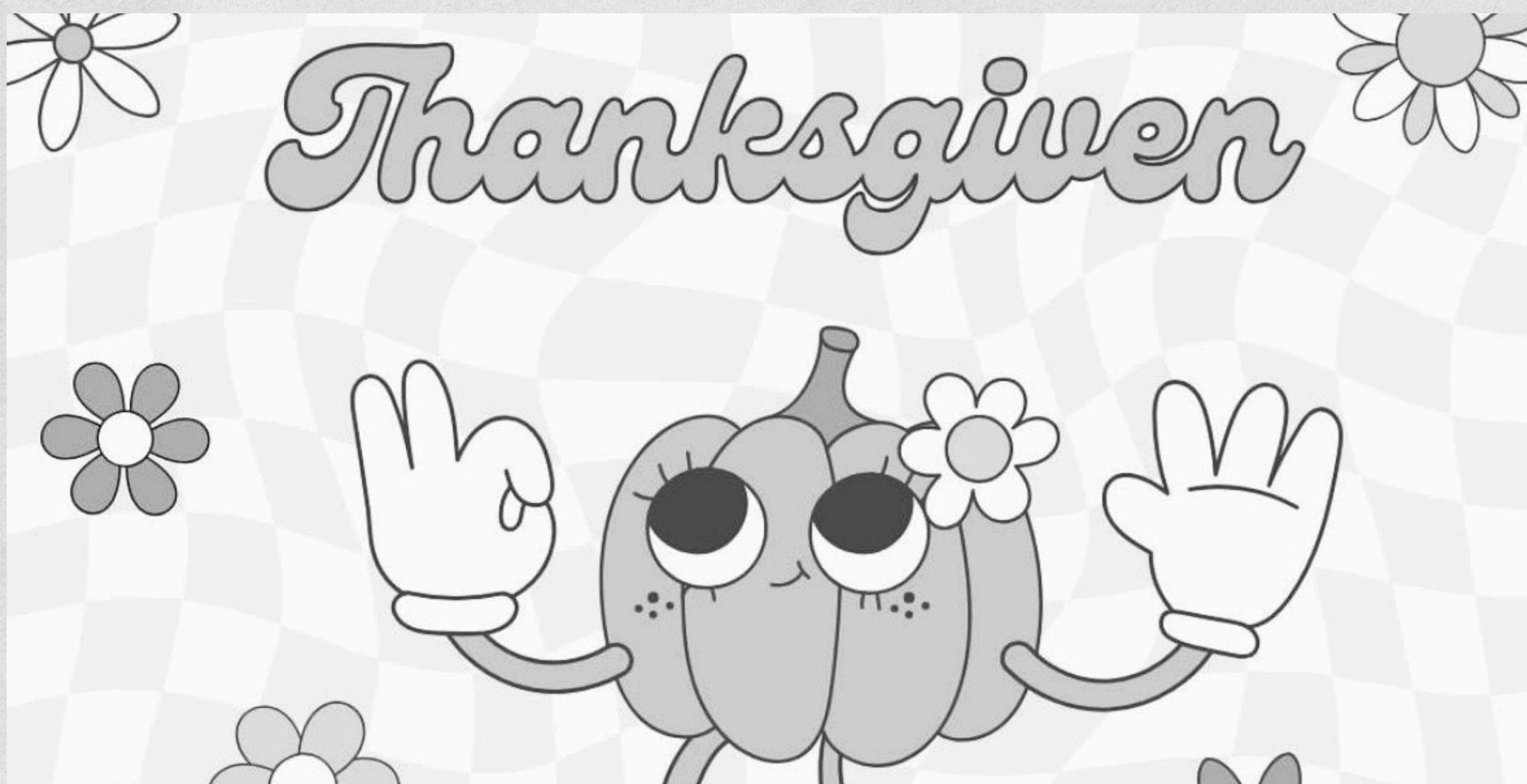
Edited by: Saqqara Chidiac

The Social Justice Council's annual ThanksGiven Food Drive has recently concluded, along with the accompanying contest. The contest has seen a repeat winner in recent years, but a new champion class has been crowned! With an impressive 129 donations, the Social Justice Council announces that the 2025 winner is ... Madame Cameron's first period class!

Congratulations to Madame Cameron's class on behalf of The Orator!

For the first time, the collected items will be donated to SBA's community pantry. This resource greatly benefits members of the school community and will continue accepting donations throughout the school year. The Social Justice Council expresses its gratitude for the support shown toward the Community Pantry and their pride in all those who donated. The council executives "hope everyone had an amazing Thanksgiving, and [they] hope to see you at [their] fall Fair Trade event!"

In November, the Social Justice Council will host a Gilmore Girls-themed Fair Trade cafe. The event will sell quintessential fall treats that are Fair Trade certified, which is a trade arrangement that seeks to achieve ethical and sustainable conditions for producers in developing countries. What a perfect way to enjoy fall while also supporting sustainability!



When is My Fall?

Written by: Sawel Keay

Edited by: Indrina Bhattacharya

How do the trees know
It's time for Fall?
Do trees not cry
When leaves fall?



Leaves give up their green,
Bleed the light
That travels farthest—
Red.



Sunsets live on writhing trees,
Or do suns die on them?
Do they grieve what they've outgrown,
And ache for what they once held?

No matter what it is,
They return for another season—
Burning, so they can shine;
Falling, so they can rise.

Phoenix suns
Blooming from decay,
Painting skies
In their dismay.



The air sighs through crimson veins,
Light lingers like fading truth,
And even wind forgets its warmth...
When is my Fall?



Haunted Houses

Traditions

Written by: Angelina Di Rosa
Edited by: Meghan Li



In the mid-19th century, when Halloween was beginning to become more popular, people believed that the ghosts from the dead would come back to haunt us on Earth. Eventually, we made the common Halloween festivities we have today, such as haunted houses. Humans are thrilled by a good scare and the entertainment aspect, which led to the creation of haunted houses. Haunted houses were invented between the nineteenth to early twentieth century, the first being the Orton and Spooner Ghost House. This was founded in the United Kingdom back in 1915. It was the first fully-developed haunted house with paid actors, custom effects, and the jumpscare we all know and love today. Their creators would begin with the typical scary stories that could be shared amongst peers, or simply written on paper as fiction, then turned into an immersive experience. Houses like the Orton Spooner Ghost House are a great representation of jumpscare and supernatural themes, both of which are still present in modern-day haunted houses. The Winchester Mystery House in San Jose, California is a perfect example of a typical haunted house you can explore today. Originally, it belonged to a woman by the name of Sarah Lockwood, who lost her husband and daughter to illness.

This tragic backstory helped shape what the house means to the public. Not only that, its sudden jumpscare can spike dopamine levels, increasing brain activity and alertness. As a result, it can also affect your decision making as you navigate through the house's challenges. Due to these reactions, it started making haunted houses more popular and became one of the staples for the yearly tradition. The fear of a jumpscare can heighten your senses in the moment, as your brain's fight or flight response gets triggered. You never know what you might see, so you have to make decisions quickly and expect the unexpected. This thrill is why humans enjoy experiencing haunted houses so much, and why they have become such a Halloween staple.



Do people still dress up for Halloween?

Written by: Chiara Vigliatore

Edited by: Ebishan Emmanuel

There are witches around every corner. Werewolves are crawling across the streets. Micheal Myers and Ghostface are loose! And no, it's not a horror movie come to life - it's All Hallows Eve; more commonly known as Halloween.



Halloween - a time where you can dress up as anyone or anything you want to be, and go around begging strangers for candy. A time for scary movies and ghost stories. As a kid, Halloween was one of the most enjoyable times of the year. But as time went on, I started to notice less and less people would dress up. By the time I reached the Eighth grade, people no longer seemed to care about the fun tradition. It suddenly felt "childish" to go trick-or-treating, and it was embarrassing if you wore an extravagant costume. Why is this? According to psychologist [Francisca Alves](#), as teens grow, we gain a new self-awareness, and this leads us to a fear of judgement. We become afraid that someone might think we are, say, weird for the costume we wear or they might think the costume is stupid. This constant anxiety and unease that we are constantly being judged sucks the joy out of doing something fun such as dressing up for halloween.

I've heard many people tell me that while they are dressing up for Halloween, they're going to tone down their costume for when they go to school. For example, say someone will be going as Darth Vader - they have a mask and everything. Instead of wearing their costume to school, they'll put on something like jeans and a white top and say they are going as McLovin from Superbad. Just like I said, toned down. I believe that this stems from that fear of judgement. While this isn't always the case, (some people just don't want to ruin their costume before the nighttime), it is a big reason most of the time. This should never be the case. No one should ever be so afraid of being judged that they no longer partake in a fun event.

So why should you even dress up for Halloween? There's a high chance that there is someone out there who thinks they shouldn't dress up simply because they think that no one else would. That doesn't matter. It doesn't matter if the whole world is dressing up or if no one is dressing up. Be the odd one out if you have to be. Dress up in crazy costumes. Wear bold and bright makeup. In the end, will it ever have really mattered? In 10 years, it won't matter if you were the only one who dressed up for halloween or not in highschool. It won't matter if you had the most extravagant costume in your entire grade. Stop focusing on the future and the past and focus on today. Are you excited to dress up for Halloween? Dress up! Do you really want to go big on your costume? Do it! If it makes you feel good, then do it!

Halloween can also really let us go big creatively. I've noticed recently that costumes have lost their touch. One might wear a pink T-shirt and a skirt and call themselves a princess. I say: go big or go home! Put together an amazing outfit with a big poofy skirt and lots of ribbons. Make your own accessories. The possibilities are endless! If you have even a little bit of creativity, the sky is the limit!

In short, don't let other people dull your creativity. Dress up for Halloween - have fun with it! Happy Halloween!



From Sainly to Spooky

The Christian Origins of Halloween

Written by: Emily Rocillo

Edited by: Emmalina Quinto

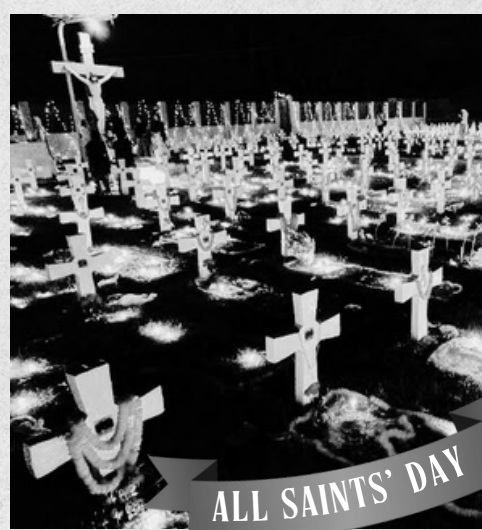
For many people, Halloween is simply a night for binge-watching scary movies, downing copious amounts of candy, and dressing up in costumes ranging in variety from Princess Peach to Michael Myers. For more superstitious folks, this night is one of visitation from the dead and evil spirits. However, the actual history of Halloween shows that it was once a feast day with much more—and surprisingly Catholic—substance. So how did it come to have a negative connotation to many Christians today?

The name “Hallowe’en” itself is an abbreviated contraction of the original title, “All Hallow’s Eve”, referring to the day preceding the Catholic feast All Saints’ Day (traditionally called “All Hallows”) on which Catholics remember and honour the Church’s canonized saints. This feast day, instituted by Pope Gregory III in the 7th century, was meant to transform the Celtic pagan festival Samhain (pronounced “SAW-in”). On this day by which the Irish marked the end of their calendar year, the veil between the living and the dead was supposedly drawn aside, allowing spirits to walk the earth. When the Catholic Church went about evangelizing nations, it was common for new feast days to be intentionally made to coincide with pagan celebrations in an effort to “Christianize” the day, thus the intentional consecration of November 1. Later on, November 2 was dubbed All Souls’ Day and dedicated to praying for all deceased Christians.

As for trick-or-treating, that came from the Celtic tradition of leaving bits of the harvest out for wandering spirits in order to placate their desires. With the Catholic influence in Ireland and England came a change: poor people would be able to knock door-to-door and beg for bits of the harvest in exchange for prayers for the household’s deceased. Later, around the 1800s, children would make this practice their own, instead asking for treats in exchange for the recitation of poems, jokes, and songs—thus, “trick-or-treating” was born! Following World War 2, when materials for costumes and the luxury of sugar were back in supply, the light-hearted activity became a profitable opportunity for large corporations to cash in.



Enlightened with this history of the now-commercialized holiday, young Christians and non-Christians alike who are skeptical of participating due to religious questions about the spooky night can rest easy knowing that the many staple traditions that exist now all evolved from the establishment of a Catholic feast day. This celebration intentionally preserved certain cultural traditions and, rather than get rid of them altogether, gave them a more Christian twist. Therefore, the wholesome customs of Halloween night are not at all dangerous to the Christian’s spiritual life in the slightest, and can be freely partaken apart from the ancient pagan rituals.



Also from Ireland comes the tradition of carving Jack-o'-lanterns, though the iconic orange gourd was not always the standard medium. Originally, the Celts would place lit candles in hollowed out vegetables, often turnips, in hopes of manifesting the preservation of the bountiful harvest goods through the winter and, later on, scaring off the greedy spirit of “Stingy Jack”.



Fall Fashion

For High School Girls and Boys 2025

Written by: Hannah Papa

Edited by: Tiare Trinh

Fall is a fun time to change up your style. As the weather begins to get cooler, high school students try new looks that are both comfortable to them and looks that are trendy. Here's what's popular for girls and boys in the fall of 2025.

Fashion Tips for Women

Women in high school can choose to go for cozy yet stylish outfits. Oversized sweaters and crop top long sleeve shirts/sweaters seem to be a big hit. Pair those sweaters with dark washed jeans or dark leggings for a relaxed yet fashionable look. Bright or neutral colours like orange, yellow, red, beige, or even a light brown are perfect colours for fall. Long sleeve compression shirts also seem to be popular, pair those with a pair of legging or jogging pants and you have the perfect comfortable outfit. For footwear you can wear chunky boots or stylish sneakers such as UGGs to complete your outfit. For all the athletic girls out there, try wearing a fitted sweater with jogging pants, it is a flexible outfit and breathable when being active. Accessories matter too - beanies, scarves, and simple gold or silver jewelry can add a fun and beautiful touch to your outfit. Layering is also very important as the weather becomes cooler so have fun mixing and matching different pieces of clothing to stay warm and look good at the same time



Fashion Tips for Men

Men can stay comfortable while still looking good. You can wear hoodies or crewneck sweatshirts with colours such as brown, green, or navy. Layering a jacket such as a leather jacket over a T-shirt is a simple way to stay warm. Jeans are always a good choice for any gender especially the dark coloured jeans or ripped jeans. Cargo pants are also a good look to give a try. In terms of shoes, sneakers or rugged boots also work well. Don't forget accessories like watches or necklaces/chains.

Trends to Watch

With girls the trend to see is that more girls tend to like to wear long sleeve compression shirts or baggy sweaters with jogging pants and the newer version of UGGs. For boys most seem to be most comfortable in jogging pants or baggy pants as well and hooded sweatshirts. For a more sporty vibe, consider weathering athletic wear like jogging pants and track jackets.

Final Tips

Fall is a great time to try out new styles and switch up your wardrobe a bit. Have fun with your outfits and enjoy the season! Remember the best fashion advice is to wear whatever makes you feel confident is best:)

Honouring Truth and Reconciliation

SBA's Commitment to Orange Shirt Day

Written by: Anti-Racism Council

Edited by: Indrina Bhattacharya

Every year on September 30th, our school joins the nation in observing Orange Shirt Day. It is a day to honour the Indigenous children who survived the residential school system. This day serves as an opportunity for every student to learn, reflect, and commit to the journey of Truth and Reconciliation.

THE HISTORY OF ORANGE SHIRT DAY IN CANADA:

Orange Shirt Day stems from the story of Phyllis Webstad, a Secwepemc woman from the Stswecem'c Xgat'tem First Nation (Canoe Creek Indian Band). On her first day at a residential school in 1973, Phyllis was six years old. She arrived wearing a bright new orange shirt gifted by her grandmother. When her clothes were taken away, that shirt symbolized how her culture was also stripped away.



Phyllis's story, shared publicly in 2013, highlighted the devastating impact of the residential school system. This was a government sponsored system that forcibly removed over 150,000 Indigenous children from their families to assimilate them into dominant Canadian culture. The effects of this systemic abuse and genocide are still felt by so many today. Orange Shirt Day became a movement to ensure that every child matters and that the tragic history of residential schools is never forgotten. In 2021, this day was officially recognized as the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation, a federal statutory holiday.



OUR SCHOOL'S CALL TO ACTION:

In support of Orange Shirt day, everyone was encouraged to wear an orange shirt. As our school does every year, a fundraiser to support the Orange Shirt Society was held. This non-profit organization, founded by Phyllis Webstad helps educate and spread the word that "Every Child Matters". A presentation was also held by our wonderful principle, Ms. Cosentino, discussing the importance of learning about Orange Shirt Day and steps we can take towards reconciliation. Through this presentation, we learned a lot about the contributions of Todd Jamieson to the YCDSB community.

Ask Athena Advice Column

“Everyone around me is so in love. They’ve got something going on. It’s highschool, I get it, but I feel so left out of such a key teenage experience. Plus, I’m a senior now! It’s about time I do something - better late than never. So, how do I bring my best self to the social game? Sincerely, Falling Behind.”

Dear Falling Behind,

It's natural to feel isolated when it appears that many of your peers are experiencing romantic relationships, while you remain single. However, it's important to remember that there is no predetermined timeline for entering into such relationships. It's perpetuated in the media that one must be in a relationship in high school, but that is simply not a reflection of reality.

You may feel that you're behind, that your peers are more grown-up than you, and that you're playing catch-up. But remember, everyone moves through life at their own pace. Don't date just because it's a societal expectation. Don't date because everyone else is. Date because you genuinely want to connect with someone.

That being said, it is wonderful that you want to present your best self in social and romantic contexts, so please consider the following:

- Be approachable and engaged: Demonstrate kindness, maintain eye contact, and show genuine curiosity in others. Smile and be friendly to others. People will naturally gravitate towards you if you demonstrate warmth and openness.
- Cultivate self-confidence: Genuine self-assurance is the foundation of meaningful relationships. Reflect on your strengths, interests, and values, and embrace these qualities. Authenticity tends to attract others and fosters deeper connections.
- Broaden your social circle: Be friendly to people you would not usually spend time with. Expanding your social network can introduce you to new individuals who share your interests and values. Participate in clubs, extracurricular activities, and community events.
- Foster meaningful friendships: Many successful romantic relationships stem from strong friendships. Build emotional trust first - the rest can follow.
- Take risks: Should you feel an interest in someone, consider initiating a conversation or invite them to spend time with you. While it may feel daunting, such steps are often necessary for personal growth and relationship building. If your risk pays off, then congratulations. If not, that's okay too. Life keeps moving, and so will you.
- Be patient: Romantic relationships often develop over time. Patience with yourself and others prevents unnecessary pressure.

Remember that romantic relationships represent only one aspect of the rich and varied experiences life has to offer. Embrace opportunities for self-discovery and personal development, and trust that meaningful relationships will emerge in their own time.

Best of luck!

Sincerely,

ATHENA

ARTIST'S CORNER: PHOTOGRAPHY



Photographs:
Zion Lawe

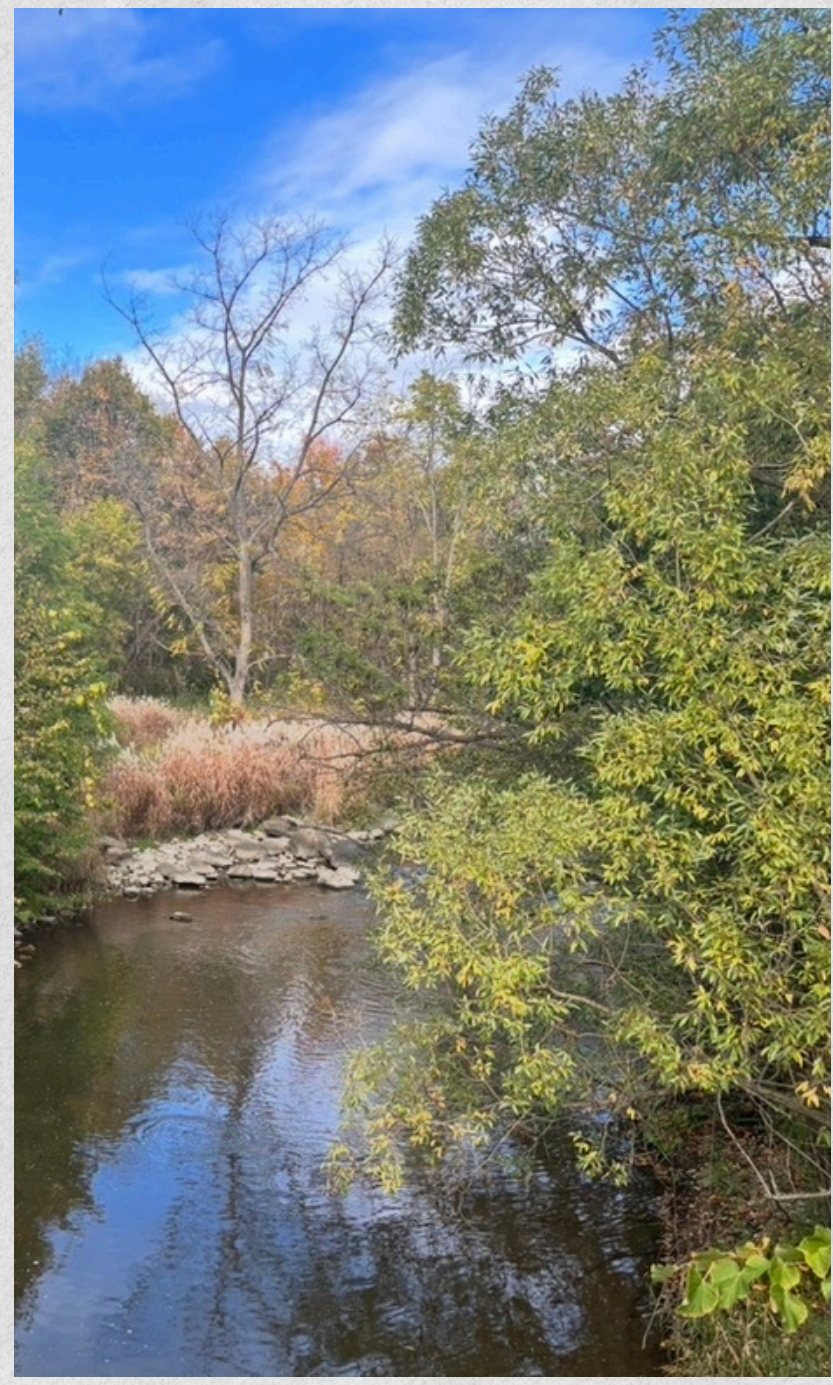
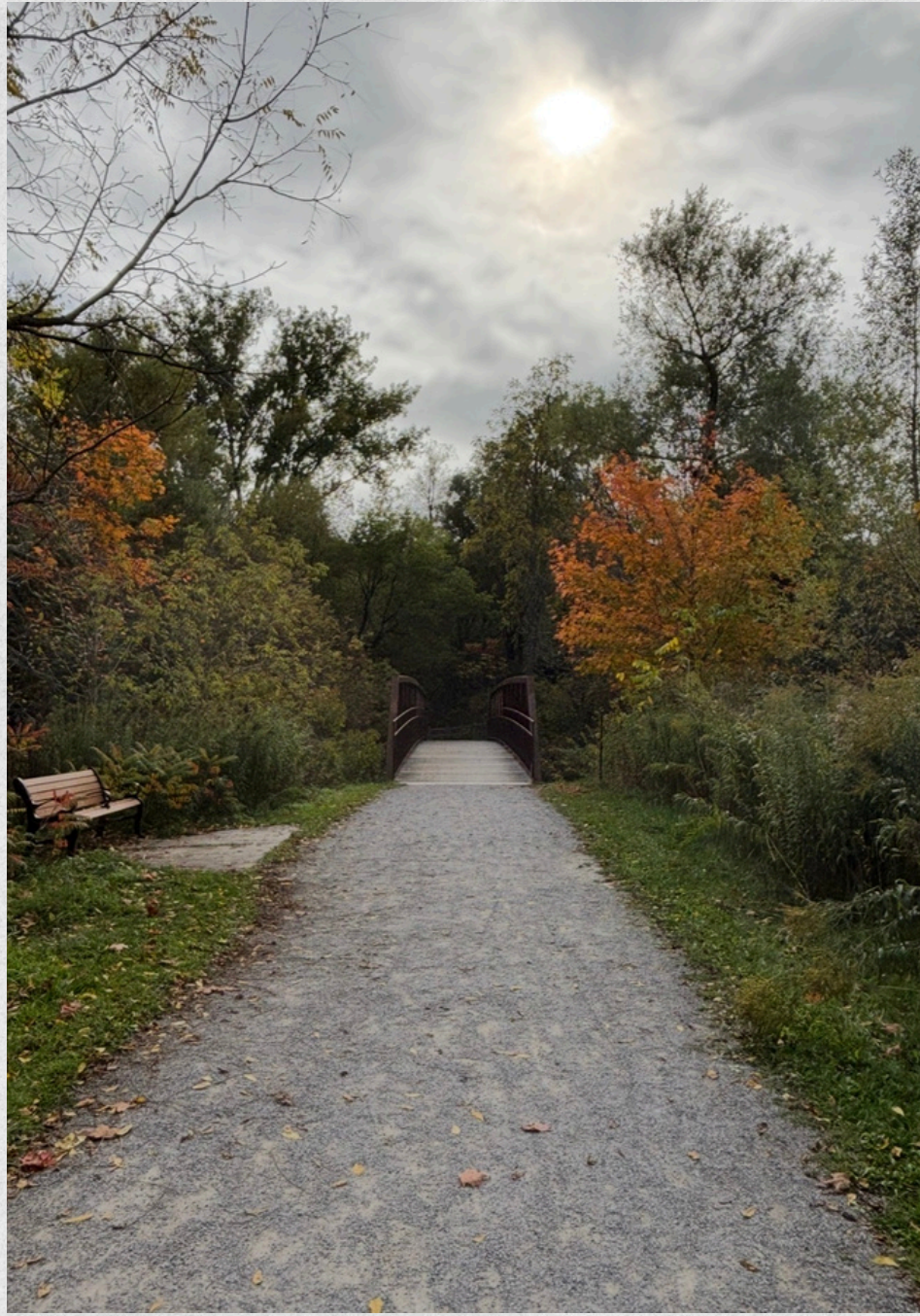
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Photographs:
Sophia Chen

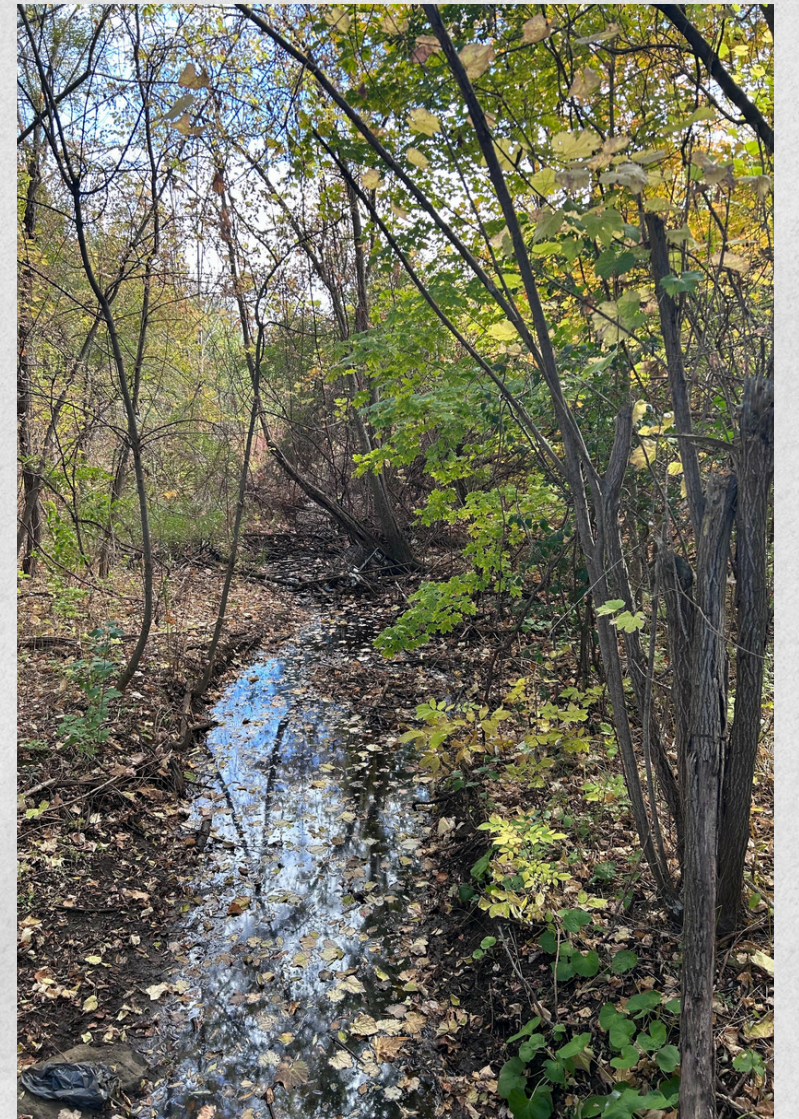


ARTIST'S CORNER: PHOTOGRAPHY



Photographs: Penelope Kalantzis

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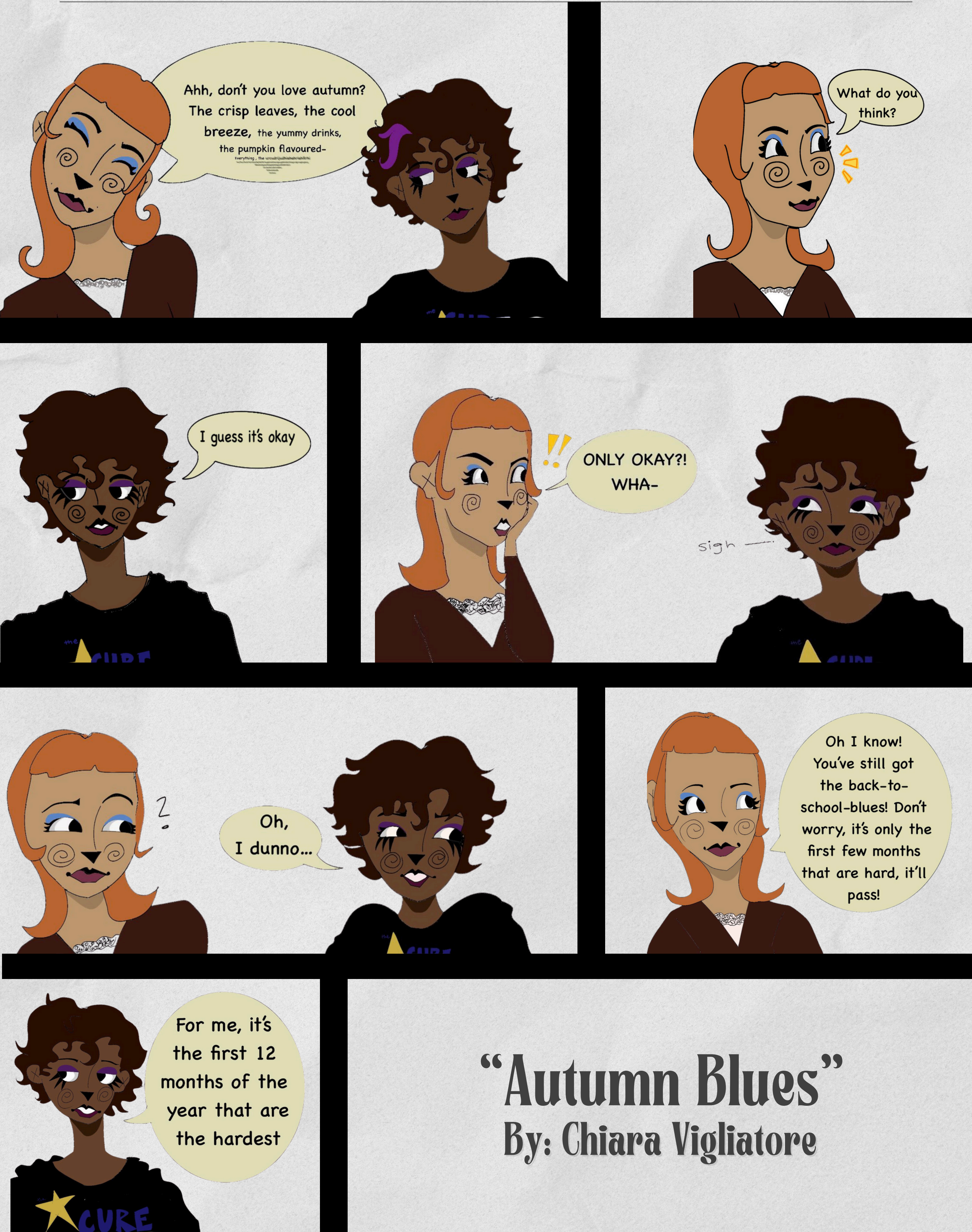


**Photographs:
Divyanne Ajanth**

**Photographs:
Ava Rubiales**



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