

ISSUE #3
MARCH, 2024



EVERYTHING

SPRING

ISSUE 3

ALL



IN

ONE

PLACE

EDITOR'S LETTER

Spring has only just begun, but with every new season comes fresh news, events, and updates, brought to you by the Orator.

From global Easter traditions (p. 30) and spring activities (p. 22), to recognizing female figures in light of Women's History Month (p. 15), this issue covers all the bases of spring.

Don't miss out on our other articles as well, with extensive coverage on both school-related and global news.

It's the perfect time to go out in the sun and do some reading, and we've made sure to keep you entertained throughout.

Happy reading!



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Author Interview: Mr. Bruce

Written by: Hannah Thompson

In this edition of The Orator, I had the privilege of interviewing one of SBA's esteemed educators, Mr. Bruce, who has also made a mark as an author with his book "New Hampton." Within the pages of "New Hampton," readers are invited into a captivating world where a group of teenage boys embarks on a quest to uncover the identity of the mysterious assailant plaguing their town. If you're eager to immerse yourself in this enthralling tale, "New Hampton" can be found at the SBA library or purchased from major retailers like Amazon, Barnes & Noble, and Walmart.com.



1) What first inspired you to write New Hampton?

I was greatly inspired when I was watching 60 Minutes many years ago and author Stephen King was being interviewed. In this interview, he described the process that he used to write his novels. Upon watching this interview, I thought to myself, that I also could do that if I really wanted. I have also been greatly interested in history and the horror genre. I wanted to write a novel that would incorporate elements of both. For example, I have visited cemeteries, mass gravesites, museums, funeral homes, and War of 1812 battlefields to get ideas. I have walked through cemeteries alone at night to make the contents of my novel more descriptive and accurate. I know that most people would not do something like that. However, nothing beats studying the environment that you are writing about.

2) How long did it take you to write New Hampton?

I wrote most of the novel in about a year and a half. I tried to work on it daily when I could. However, I had the novel saved on my computer for 10 years, because I could not find a literary agent and a publisher. However, during this time, I kept making changes to my novel until I felt there was nothing more to add.

3) Did you come across any writer's block when writing New Hampton? If so, what did you do to overcome it?

I did experience writer's block. However, I did not have much difficulty overcoming it. To overcome writer's block, it helps if you are well rested with no distractions. You can also get all kinds of ideas from watching television, reading books, and just listening to other people's conversations. If you also look at your own life experiences, both past and present, you can get ideas. I believe that by studying human nature, you can better relate to ordinary people and their situations, then include this content in your novel. On my summer vacations, often, I would get up in the morning, usually from 7 a.m. to 8 a.m. and get a cup of Tim Horton's coffee and a donut. I would bring these items back home and consume them in my bedroom, which is where I wrote most of the novel. I would write from anywhere between two to four hours a day. In my bedroom, I had a comfortable chair and a large office desk. The desk was located in a corner of the bedroom, right up against the wall and facing the wall. When I followed this process, the ideas and inspiration would just come to me. However, if any ideas would enter my mind later in the day, then this additional material would be added also.



4) How did you come across the publisher of New Hampton?

I discovered the publisher by accident. One morning, during my summer vacation, I was having the interior of my car professionally cleaned by a local auto establishment in Markham. To kill time, I went into the Markham Village Public Library. While looking at the magazines, I think it was Popular Mechanics, I came across the name of a publisher in the United States. The publisher had published works for University professors, professionals and aspiring authors alike. I soon decided to contact the publishing company and start the process of getting my novel published.

5) What did the publishing process of New Hampton look like?

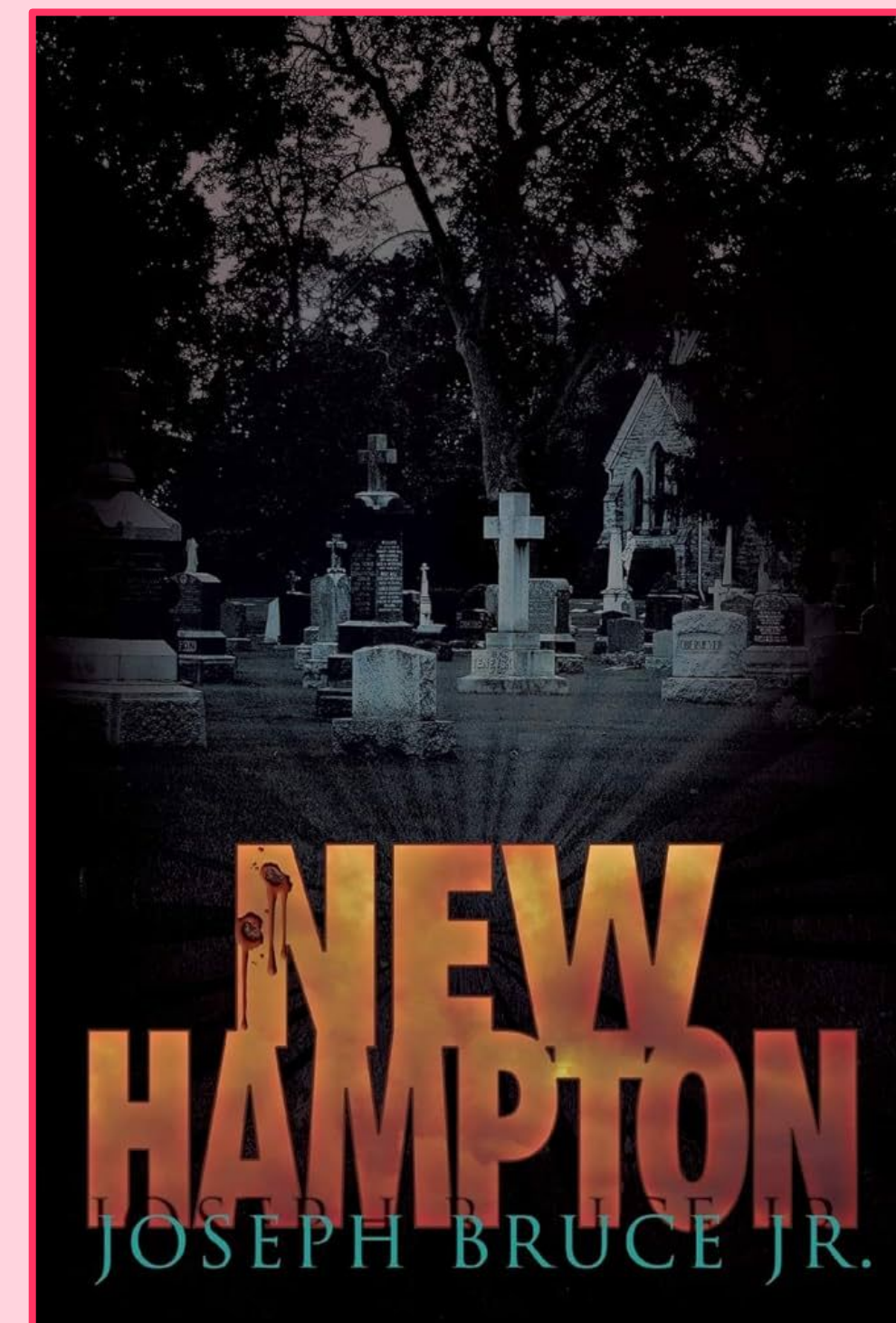
The publishing process was easier than I thought. I wrote my novel using Microsoft Word. This enabled me to easily make changes and focus on inspiration and creativity. All a person needs to publish a novel is something like Microsoft Word and an email address. Once I had reviewed and edited the manuscript on my computer, the entire manuscript was emailed to the publisher. The publisher then took care of the rest using their own publishing software. For the book front cover and back, I went to a local cemetery in Burlington, Ontario, and took pictures of the cemetery using my own digital camera. The publishing company used the photos that they thought looked best. With modern technology, it is a lot easier to publish a book now than ever before. I was also given the opportunity to review the finished product before it was published. In my case, I did have to initially pay the publishing company a fee for incurring expenses. When dealing with a publishing company, you will also have to sign a contract and agree to the publisher's terms.

6) What was your favourite part of writing the book?

I would say that the favourite part of writing my novel was allowing my imagination and creativity to guide me the entire way. Since the genre is horror, I was not really restricted in any way. I was not subjected to any cookie-cutter restrictions like many other authors. For example, there were no restrictions on the length of the novel. I was free to develop the characters and the plot as I saw fit. I wanted to make my novel different by being both entertaining and educational.

7) Do you have a favourite scene in New Hampton?

Not really. That would be difficult to narrow down. However, I think that the autopsy scene in the novel would come to mind.



8) In the about the author section on New Hampton, you offer the advice: “follow the talents, interests and abilities that God gave you, run with them, and see where it takes you.” Would you still give this advice today?

Absolutely. I believe all people should carefully reflect about the talents that they currently have. What are they? What are your strengths and weaknesses? If you look at some of the most successful people in life, whether they are professional athletes, politicians, musicians, businesspeople, etc., it seems that they have followed their talents and succeeded spectacularly. If you do not follow your talents, interests and abilities, a person will not be motivated and can easily give up. Success does not always come right away. It may take years.

Obstacles may seem impossible to overcome. Therefore, one also has to be patient. It is not always easy for a person to following their talents. For example, in high school, students are in the process of discovering their strengths and limitations as human beings. It takes time for a person to discover who they really are. I did not get published right away. I was rejected by all the literary agents that I contacted. However, that did not stop me. I truly believed in my heart, mind, and conscience, that my novel was just as good, if not better than most novels in the public library and major bookstores. Nonetheless, I did find a way to get published. At present, my novel is sold around the world. It can be purchased through Amazon and Barnes & Noble. It was in the Markham Public Library for several years. My novel is also carried by Walmart USA (Walmart.com).



9) What advice would you give to a student today who is an aspiring author?

Writing a novel is something that you must want to do. You must deliberately make time to write. It helps to talk to other authors and ask them how they got published and get tips from them. Let your creativity, imagination, and inspiration guide you. For example, do not ignore moments of inspiration. If necessary, write them down somewhere so you do not forget. Read on a regular basis. Ideas can come from anywhere, often when you do not expect it. For example, by reading other people’s novels, you can see how other authors put their novels together and you can study plots, dialogue, and character development. Write on a regular basis. The more you write, you will get better over time. Find a comfortable place to write. For example, it could be your bedroom, a favourite spot at the public library, Tim Horton’s, etc. A comfortable chair and spacious desk can be useful. Try to be well rested so you are not physical and mentally tired. Get rid of distractions. It may be necessary to find a quiet place to focus and get work done. Study human nature. Look at human behavior. Listen to people’s conversations. Study situations. This will help to make your novel more authentic and relatable to the reader.

Try to visualize what it is you are writing about. Be detailed and descriptive. Think about sounds, sights, and smells in the environment. I believe this will make things more interesting for the Reader. Use simple, clear-cut wording that is easy to understand. If necessary, do some background research if your novel requires it. For example, try to get your facts, such as dates and events correct. Having access to the Internet can be vital for fact-checking. Use technology such as Microsoft Word. This can help you focus more on ideas and creativity, and it is easier to make corrections. Have other people read your work to get feedback. For example, if three people were to read your work, this could help you get more constructive criticism to make your work better. Be prepared for rejection. Be persistent. Be patient.

The Roots of Veganism: From Culture and Colonialism to Content Creators and Capitalism

Written by: Isabella Vignado

If you look up #vegan on Instagram today, you'll find a lot of aesthetically pleasing content of people promoting vegan recipes, cookbooks, clothes and common household products. As veganism surges in popularity, this lifestyle change suffers no shortage of advertisement, highlighting veganism as not only an accessible diet but one that is healthy for both the planet and the individual. As the demographic for vegan influencers increases, it's important to remember to consider the roots of this "movement" and the intersectionality of issues it seeks, or fails to address.

The truth is, the origins of veganism are much less modern than they appear. The choice to become vegan seems to only recently become more widely popular because we find ourselves living in a world with more abundant and diverse food availability than ever before. Prior to the mass production and exportation of foods, people could only eat what was available to them either by region or by season. Archeologists and biologists alike concur that early humans were accustomed to a diet of mostly fruits, vegetables, herbs and nuts. It's likely that they only began to seek out meat when there were shortages of the latter, as the lack of properly adapted canines would make it inefficient to have to tear into its flesh for a primary source of nutrition.



Though the word was coined only 77 years ago, there are signs of early ethical concerns that closely resemble veganism in ancient societies. The majority of its roots stem from ancient (and modern) Hindu, Jain and Buddhist ideologies of non-violence towards animals. Jainism's earliest teacher, Pārśva, believed that even plants should only be destroyed when necessary for human survival. Arab philosopher and poet Al-Ma'arri began to abstain from animal products for his health. He also shared similar ideas about the transmigration of souls as taught by Pythagoras in ancient greco-roman times; the belief that if an animal's soul reincarnates into a human in the next life, eating meat would cause future human societies to wage war against each other. In 1300 BC, Pharaoh Akhenaten banned animal sacrifice, deeming it a sin to take away any form of life, thus only fruits were laid on his altar instead of a usual sacrifice. A few hundred years later, Emperor Tenmu banned the consumption of cows, horses, dogs, chickens and monkeys in Japan, resulting in a meat ban that lasted 12 centuries. We even have ancient society to thank for some very popular vegan substitutions, such as tofu, invented in the Han Dynasty.



Today, vegan philosophy isn't just a rising trend; it means consciously making an effort to purchase products that do not come from animals (ie. leather, furs, feathers), being mindful of cruelty-free products, and advocating for animal and ecological rights. As veganism surges in popularity and becomes integrated into Western influencer culture, it's easy to forget not only its cultural roots, but its colonial implications become almost completely lost in our understanding of the movement.

Removing historical context from conversations surrounding veganism makes it more inaccessible than we think. The enforcement of the “health and wealth” lifestyle promoted by vegan influencers creates a subsequent surge in demand for products which previously might have only been available to certain regions at certain times. In this day and age, we have become dependent on the technology and the audacity required to exploit effectively, mass produce and mass distribute these new markets. This “green capitalism” conceals the disregard for the cultural context in favour of promoting this new lifestyle with the rate of production required to keep up with consumer demand. A movement taken out of context to support one aspect of health while dismissing the unsustainability it causes (in regards to the people who have to support the market they've created) lets people cherry-pick the struggles they want to bring awareness to; does faux-fur production have to come at the cost of exploiting the workers who make them? Does the high demand for chickpeas have to come at the expense of underpaying overworked farmers? When do animal rights come at the cost of human dignity?



The exploitation of cultural resources in efforts to sustain consumerism is a question worth raising as the lifestyle begins to westernize and conform to ideals raised in colonialism. In fact, it poses another question; if veganism poses a risk to cultural erasure, what is at risk from the other side of that coin?



Arguments against veganism often use indigenous practices of hunting to support their case, while, in fact, the argument that indigenous culture is incompatible with veganism is completely unfounded. Furthermore, confining indigenous people to this “hunter stereotype” allows people to view them in a violent, primitive light, intrinsically promoting colonial narratives whilst ignoring the large part of indigenous culture comprised of gardeners, healers, storytellers, artists, and much more. These colonial misinterpretations of the indigenous identity perpetuate more negative repercussions for indigenous people than the proposed idea of veganism. In fact, Samah Huriwai-Seger, co-founder of Aotearoa Liberation League and advocate for decolonial justice, raises the point that “[Today,] most of us [indigenous people] get our food from supermarkets, eating food that bears very little resemblance to our traditional diet. The fact that we eat differently —plant-based or not— doesn't make us any less indigenous.”

She further exposes tools used in favour of colonialism as direct antithetical industries of veganism. The dairy industry, for example, was introduced to the world at large through colonialism. As adult lactose consumption was introduced to the world by European settlers, not only did many people suffer sickness from this foreign food, but governments pushed dairy farming as an industry and recruited large indigenous and black labour forces to execute this. This not only created a new ideology of consuming milk from a different species, but it simultaneously created a stigma against long-term breastfeeding (which was formerly a natural contraceptive as it suppressed ovulation). From that perspective, we might consider veganism, as described by political activist Angela Davis, as “part of a revolutionary perspective” in understanding the interconnected implications of our relationships with each other and those with whom we share our world.

Indigenous people recognize humans as a part of nature, rather than beings who are above it. While they might not all choose to go vegan, they are taught to care for the natural world around them. As far as philosophies of nonviolence go, for Samah Huriwai-Seger, Amndean teachings that have influenced her have dictated that all killing is sinful, and while people are permitted to eat some meats, “the attitude towards the slaughter is always apologetic.”



Similarly influenced by his experience of the American civil rights movement, American comedian and actor Dick Gregory established his non-violent stance, declaring publicly in his run for presidency (as a third party) that humans and animals should receive the same respect and dignity to be treated with kindness over violence. His book “Dick Gregory’s Natural Diet for Folks Who Eat” enlightens people about natural foods, introducing the idea of the political power of food in a consumer-driven capitalistic society. The paradox is easy to spot knowing just how easily veganism becomes an exploitative culture in itself, through no fault of its own.

Veganism is intrinsically a decolonial tool that fights against exploitative, capitalism-driven industries. It is a response to anti-indigenous systems by challenging the fundamentals of colonialism that reduces all life forms to objects to be exploited. Ideal veganism would be fully sustainable to all the intersectional issues it seeks to address, but the first step towards understanding is to look for the roots.

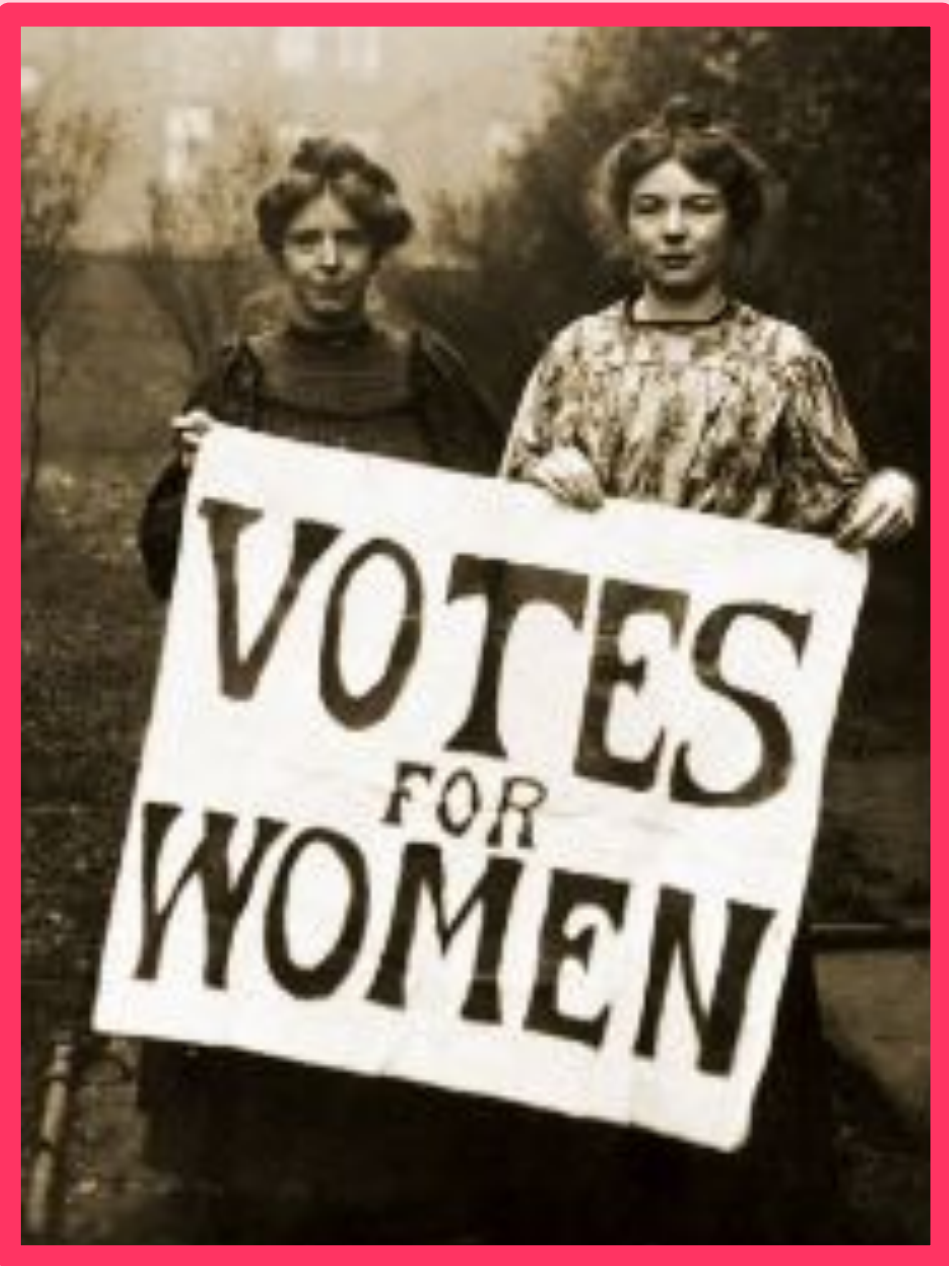


Women’s History Month - A Spotlight on Feminist Trailblazers

Written by: Saqqara Chidiac

As Women’s History Month is upon us, we celebrate and acknowledge women who have been change-makers and have made significant contributions to the feminist movement. Feminism is the belief in social, economic, and political equality of the sexes. From the Suffragettes who fought for women's right to vote, to Tarana Burke launching the #MeToo movement, to Winona LaDuke leading the fight against climate change, the women below are true trailblazers.

The Suffragettes:



The Suffragettes fought passionately for women's rights, most specifically, the right to vote. Their protests, both peaceful and radical, allowed for the international right for women to vote. Some of the most notable women include: Susan B. Anthony, Alice Stone Blackwell, Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Emmeline Pankhurst, and Sojourner Truth.

Simone de Beauvoir:



Simone de Beauvoir was an outspoken political activist, existentialist philosopher, writer, social theorist, and feminist. De Beauvoir penned *The Second Sex*, which is credited with paving the way for modern feminism. In this influential book, de Beauvoir critiques the patriarchy and social constructs women face daily. *The Second Sex* was banned by The Vatican for its progressive nature.

Betty Friedan:



Betty Friedan is a writer and activist who penned *The Feminist Mystique*, which is often credited for sparking the second wave of feminism beginning in the 1960s. Friedan dedicated her life to establishing women's equality, founding the National Women's Political Caucus, and organizing the Women's Strike For Equality in 1970, which popularized the feminist movement throughout America.

Gloria Steinem:



Commonly referred to as the "Mother of Feminism," Gloria Steinem led the women's liberation movement throughout the 1960s and 1970s and continues to be a trailblazer for feminism today. She is the co-founder of the feminist themed *Ms. Magazine*, Women's Action Alliance, National Women's Political Caucus, Women's Media Center, and more. Steinem’s efforts led to her induction into the National Women's Hall of Fame in 1993 and in 2013 she was honored with the Presidential Medal of Freedom

Audre Lorde:



Audre Lorde is a feminist writer and poet, who explored the Black female identity and issues that affected women across the country during the Civil Rights movement. Her work was based on her "theory of difference," which is now referred to as "intersectionality" today. Lorde wrote, "It is not our differences that divide us. It is our inability to recognize, accept, and celebrate those differences."

Ruth Bader Ginsburg:

Ruth Bader Ginsburg was an American professor, lawyer, judge, Associate Justice of the Supreme Court, and staunch advocate for gender equality. She dedicated her life to advocating for gender equality by serving as the director of the Women’s Rights Project of the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) and by serving as an Associate Justice of the Supreme Court for twenty-seven years.



Hillary Clinton:



Since the 1970s, Hillary Clinton has furthered the advancement of women in society through her various work from becoming the first female chair of the Legal Services Corporation in 1978, delivering her famous "Women's rights are human rights" speech in 1995, and running an inspiring presidential campaign in 2016. Despite facing blatant sexism during the presidential election, Clinton chose the high road up until the very end, memorably saying, "To all the little girls watching...never doubt that you are valuable and powerful and deserving of every chance and opportunity in the world."

Malala Yousafzai:



Malala Yousafzai is a Nobel Peace prize recipient who was shot in the head for courageously advocating for equal access to education in Pakistan. Ever since, Yousafzai has been traveling the world advocating for education rights for women and children through her foundation, The Malala Fund. She memorably said, “If one man can destroy everything, why can't one girl change it?”

Michelle Obama:

Michelle Obama made history by becoming the United States’ first Black First Lady and the only First Lady to attend an Ivy League university for her undergraduate studies. During her tenure, she founded the Let Girls Learn initiative, which empowers girls across the globe to gain greater access to education. Obama continues to advocate for equal education through the Girls Opportunity Alliance, which supports grassroots leaders involved in girls' education.



Tarana Burke:



Tarana Burke is an inspiring leader for victims of sexual assault and harassment and founded the #MeToo movement in 2006. Her work has allowed millions of women across the globe to speak up about their own sexual assault experiences due to the fact that her "me too" concept created a safe space for women to speak up and fight back against sexual misconduct, marking a new chapter in the future of feminism

The Psychological Impacts of Laughter and Humor

Written by: Rebecca Varghese



Laughter is the best medicine- and for good reason. Living a lighthearted and positive life can have a profound effect on our mental wellbeing. From reducing stress and anxiety, to fostering relationships and a better mindset, laughter cures more than what penicillin could ever cure.

One of the most prominent effects of laughter is its ability to reduce stress. When we laugh, our body releases endorphins, often referred to as the "feel-good" hormones. These chemicals promote a positive mental state and can help alleviate feelings of anxiety and tension. Additionally, laughter can lower levels of cortisol, a stress hormone that, when triggered, can contribute to a variety of health problems such as chronic stress and headaches.

Research has also shown that humor can improve cognitive functions such as reasoning, planning and problem solving. When we laugh, our brain releases dopamine, a neurotransmitter associated with pleasure and reward. This surge of dopamine can improve our mood and enhance our ability to focus and retain information.



Moreover, humor can act as a coping mechanism during difficult times. By finding humor in a challenging situation, we can reframe our perspective and reduce feelings of helplessness. Humor provides a temporary relief from negative thoughts and emotions. This coping mechanism can be particularly helpful for people experiencing mental illnesses such as depression, bipolar disorder, paranoia and anxiety.

Furthermore, laughter has a unique ability to strengthen social bonds. Shared laughter creates a sense of friendship and warmth and can improve communication and empathy among people. Especially in group settings, such as workplaces or social gatherings,

humor can enhance group cohesion and create a more positive and inclusive environment.

Studies have also shown that having a good sense of humor and laughter increases the attractiveness of an individual by giving others the impression that said individual is approachable and positive.



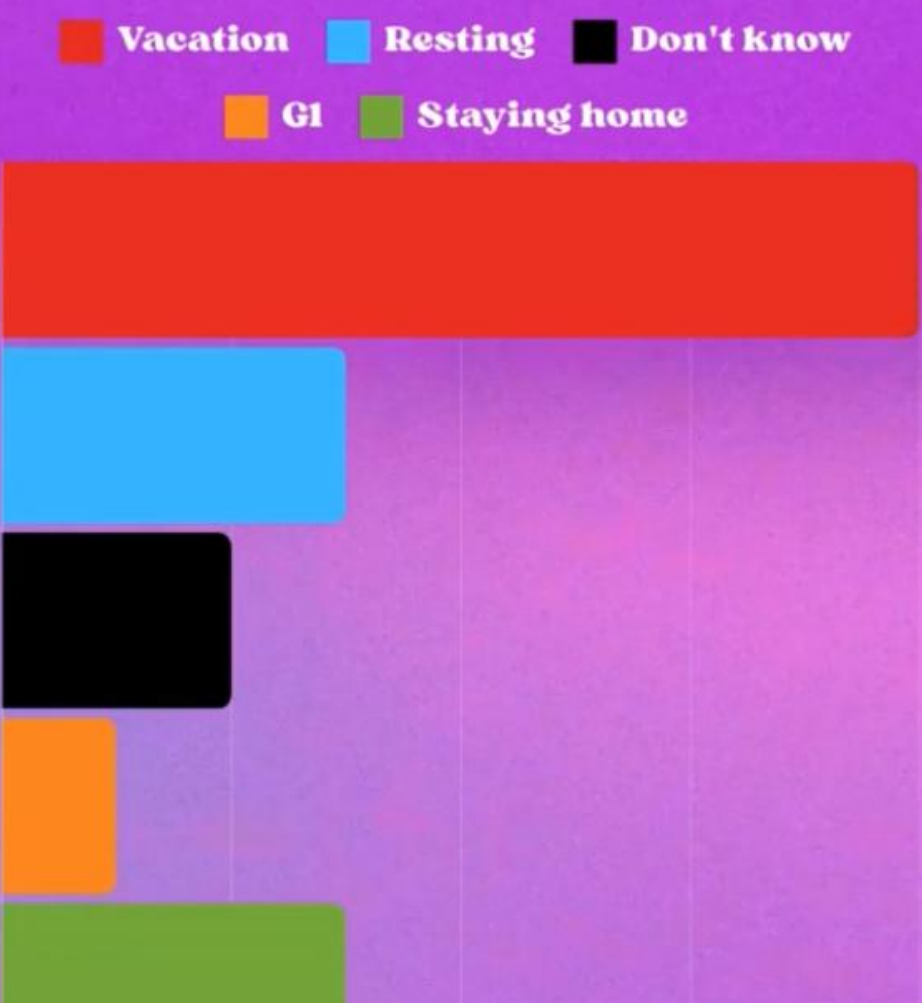
In conclusion, the psychological impacts of laughter and humor are profound. From reducing stress and anxiety to fostering social connections and improving cognitive function, humor plays a crucial role in our mental health and well-being. Incorporating humor into our daily lives can have lifelong benefits, promoting an optimistic and positive outlook on life and enhancing our overall quality of life.



SBA’s Plans for March Break

By: Michael Barry

From a survey of 25 students at SBA, I found the results of what SBA’s student body is doing for March Break. 8 of 25 students said that they were going on vacation while many said other various things. One student said that they were getting their GI while two said that they were resting and two said that they did not know what they were doing.



Top 5 Fun-Filled Activities to do with Friends during the Spring

Written By: Kaitlyn D’Andrea

No plans for the upcoming months of spring? Don’t worry, here’s a list of exciting and entertaining activities you can do with your friends to make memories that last a lifetime!



Escape Room

Escape rooms are an immersive and exciting activity to experience with your friends! From the moment you step inside, you’re transported into a world of mystery and adventure. You then solve intricate puzzles, uncover hidden clues, and work together with your friends to accomplish the ultimate goal to escape! Escape rooms never fail to deliver an unforgettable experience and memories filled with laughter and enjoyment.



Mini Golf



Mini golf offers a delightful blend of skill, competition, and lighthearted fun. Whether indoor or outdoor, you and your friends can navigate through whimsical obstacles and colourful landscapes while journeying throughout the course. The variety of challenges and obstacles will keep you entertained and engaged with both the game and each other, making for a wonderful mix of banter and camaraderie and promises an enjoyable experience for all ages.

Arcade

Visiting an arcade, such as Dave & Buster's, will endlessly entertain you and your friends with the vast selection of games and electric atmosphere. There's truly something for everyone as the games range from classics to cutting-edge simulators and virtual reality experiences. The thrill of competition and laughter you share will make this an unbeatable experience for you and your friends!

Pottery Painting

Pottery painting is an incredibly enjoyable and relaxing activity that will allow you to unleash your creative side while having a blast with your friends. From creating or choosing your piece of pottery to selecting your favourite colours to create intricate designs, you're sure to make every step of the way a great experience. This activity is very rewarding and results in one-of-a-kind masterpieces that serve as cherished mementos of a fun-filled activity spent together.

Laser Tag

Laser tag is an electrifying activity that brings out the competitive spirit in everyone. From the moment the game begins, you're immersed in a thrilling world of neon lights, landscapes, and obstacles. Every moment is packed with adrenaline-filled excitement! You and your friends can have a multitude of fun strategizing and playing against each other to tag your opponents and score the most points to win!



Social Justice Week: A Recap

Written by: Cecilia Vong



Social Justice Council was hard at work in preparing a scavenger hunt for Social Justice Week, a week dedicated to educating SBA students about various social justice issues. The scavenger hunt was an amazing success! Hundreds of students learned more about the current issues around the globe and were encouraged to reflect on their understanding of social justice issues.



The scavenger hunt consisted of symbols representing 4 different issues: education, financial and resource inequality, gender inequality, and environmental justice. Students were tasked with finding the symbols hidden around the school and showing a picture of them finding it to council members at the booth. They were then given a question relating to that day's issue, in order to reflect upon and answer. As a reward for educating themselves on the social justice issue, they were rewarded with delicious chocolate!

Social Justice Council is delighted with the positive feedback received from the success of the scavenger hunt. Keep an eye out for future events from SJC!



The Rise and Fall of Club Penguin

Written by: **Wilhelmina Harker**



Almost anyone who grew up in the Western world in the 2010s has fond memories relating to video games. Whether it be on their neighbour's Xbox 360, their cousin's Wii or the school computer lab, video games were an essential part of their childhoods. However, one game stands out from the rest. The global phenomenon that was Club Penguin.

Despite the game's immense popularity, it came from humble beginnings. In July of 2000, an indie game developer named Lance Priebe had been working on a game called Snow Blasters which later became a game called Experimental Penguins. The game wasn't a success and ultimately went offline a year later. Shortly after, he released a game called Penguin Chat followed by Penguin Chat 2. He also created a series of mini-games during this time that were later featured in Club Penguin such as Hydro Hopper and Mancala.

Priebe as well as his coworkers ended up coming up with the idea for Club Penguin, a fun and safe virtual world for children. Work began in 2004 and the first version of the game in October 2005. The game boomed in popularity reaching millions of users within a couple of years which was amazing considering their lack of a marketing budget. They were even mentioned positively in a New York Times article in October of 2006.

The creators decided to sell Club Penguin as well as its parent company to Disney in 2007 for around 350 million dollars. At this point, Club Penguin was making 40 million dollars annually from its paid members. However, this wasn't enough money for Disney so they decided to use the game as cross promotion for their movies to make them more money in the long run. They also developed merchandise such as toys, clothing and books for more profit.



Over the years, the game had declined in popularity and in April of 2015, Disney laid off 28 of their staff. They also shut down international offices working on the game. In September 2015, Club Penguin shut down some European servers. In January 2017, they finally announced that the game was closing to make way for a mobile spin-off called Club Penguin Island.

As the end of this story grows closer and closer, the community is brought together once again. With many people doing speed runs to get banned as fast as possible and a large group of people still determined to tip that iceberg (If you know, you know). In the final days before Club Penguins closure, everybody was given a paid membership to enjoy the time they had left. On March 30th of 2017, Club Penguin officially shut their servers, displaying the message "The connection has been lost. Thank you for playing Club Penguin. Waddle on!".

"Club Penguin Online" was shut down shortly after release due to criticism of the game and low player numbers.

Today, there is many unofficial club penguin servers online but nothing compares to the original. Club Penguin was an integral part of many children's lives and now lives as a cherished memory among players. While the physical game is now gone, the memories and experiences will always "waddle on" in the hearts of its players.



Disney's Pure Corruption of Star Wars



Written by: Devon Coote

A long time ago in a galaxy light years away...there lived an amazing space opera franchise written and directed by George Lucas known as Star Wars. Until 2015, the six installments that played an important part in my childhood were perfect just the way they were. Though fans were not pleased with the results of some of the prequel trilogies' storyline, *cough cough* Jar Jar Binks, it was well thought out and connected to the full story of Star Wars. Unfortunately the fanbase had no idea what was going to happen next. On October 30th, 2012, Lucas sold his rights to Disney, giving their company full control of the mega franchise.

It was a shock to everyone that day, but it was far from over. A few years later, their new production team was planning for a *gulp* "Sequel Trilogy". I could describe every problem the three movie trilogy that went from 2015-2019 had, but I



don't think the person reading this would be interested in reading 30 pages. So to summarize it, characters that had a

great legacy defined in the past trilogies, such as Luke Skywalker and Han Solo were tarnished due to the horrible writing, showing the audience that the writers both completely gave up and turned their back, and gave the death sentence for pointless reasons. (Leia is not included in this; rest in peace, Carrie Fisher).

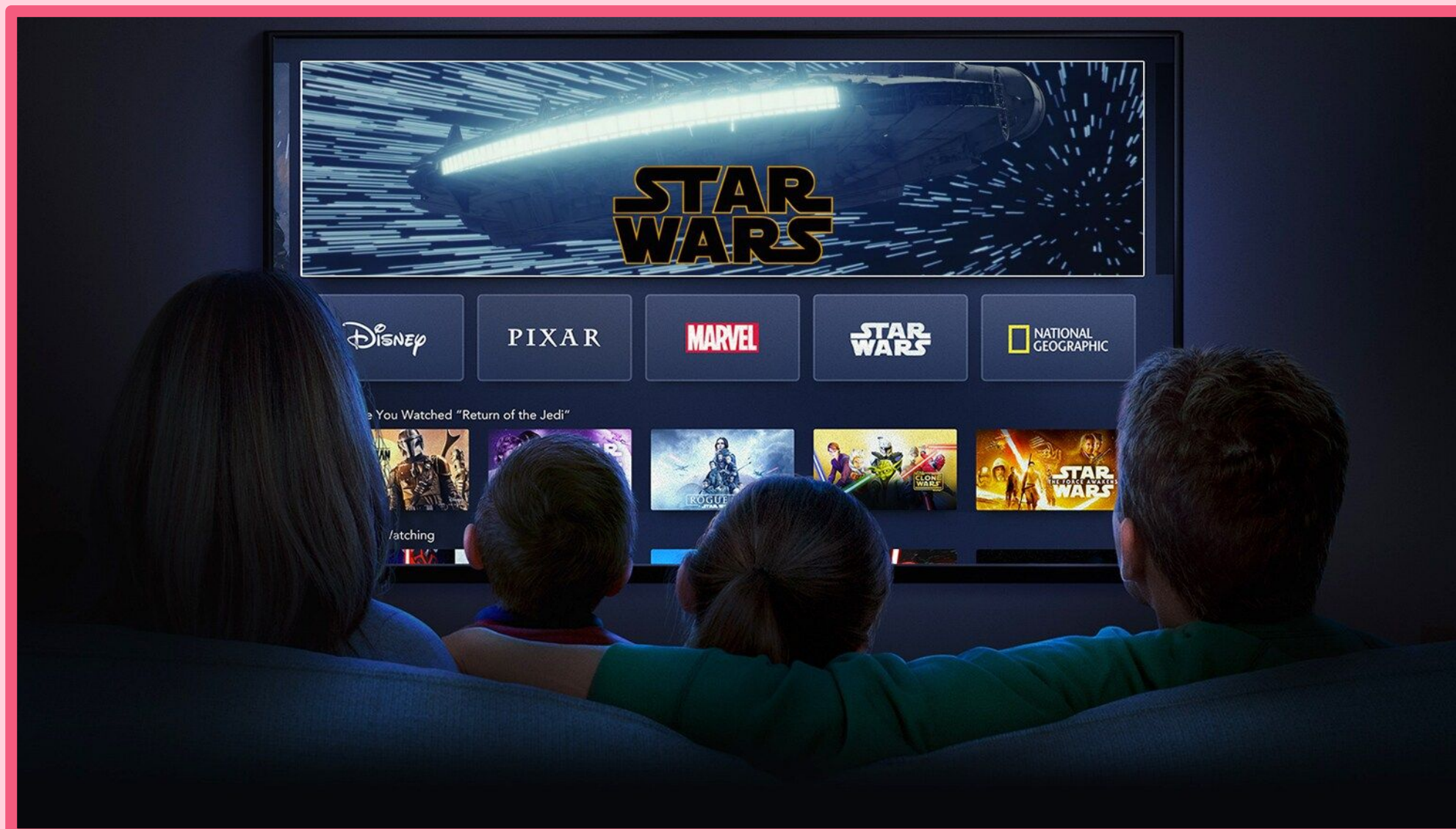
Disney's writers also do not know how to develop their own characters either. The main character in the sequels, Rey for example, is a fully developed character with a full description; and oh by the way, nothing more than just Rey, was a joke. I have to give Disney credit for one thing though, for they certainly showed our generation on how NOT to write one of your important characters for a production. However, Rey was so magically gifted with every Force ability there was, with very little training. It took the Jedi, or any force user in general in the past decades to wield a fraction of force power that Rey was randomly given out of nowhere. Despite my young age at the time, I was still giving the show side-eyes through my child eyes.

The part that absolutely solidified Disney's ruin of the beloved Star Wars franchise was when they brought back Darth Sidious/Palpatine from the dead, without any logical explanation, ruining Anakin Skywalker. This wholly contradicted "THE CHOSEN



JEDI'S" legacy as a fulfiller of the prophecy, that he was the Jedi that would bring balance to the Force and destroy the Sith. This decision made Anakin's character look completely pointless, and their writers look... extremely stupid. I want to say Darth Sidious' actor crushed it with his performance, but this whole plot ruined the Star Wars canon.

It truly was disappointing seeing the franchise that I, and hopefully some of you love too, be represented by these horrible movies that are brainwashing the younger generation. Disney still has yet to make exciting Star Wars content that even compares to the currently untouchable masterpieces like The Empire Strikes Back and my personal favorite, Return of the Jedi. Thankfully though, we can hope for the future. Perhaps Disney can change their ways and possibly produce better Star Wars media for us fans to enjoy!



Easter: Traditions From Around the World



Written by: Islay Chidiac

Fluffy white bunnies, feathery golden chicks, sweet chocolate treats - all images that are often conjured up at the mention of Easter. However, this commercialized view is only a shallow facade that melts away to reveal the true meaning of the Easter holiday. As people around the globe unite to celebrate the sacrifice and resurrection of Jesus, the breadth of Christianity is reflected in the unique traditions and customs that mark one of the world's most prominent religious festivals. From water fights to flying kites, here are some of the most unique Easter traditions found across the world:

France: The Festival of the Giant Omelette

Every Easter, crowds gather in Bessières, France, with one aim: to contribute to the consumption of a colossal omelette. Perhaps the most ambitious French food festival, the Bessières' Fête de l'Omelette Géante is a three-day celebration that features Easter Egg hunts and parades, performances and dinners, culminating in the grand feast of the enormous omelette. The impressive festival is orchestrated by the Global Brotherhood of the Knights of the Giant Omelette, who utilize a bonfire, an 850 kg, 13 ft frying pan and 15 000 eggs to cook an omelette large enough to feed 2000 people. How did such a bizarre, yet undoubtedly delicious, tradition develop? Legend has it that Napoleon ate an omelette while in Bessières and became so enamoured with it that he insisted the villagers replicate the delicacy to serve to his army! However, locals maintain that "friendship" and "community", reflecting the Easter spirit, are the true basis of the festival.



Bermuda: Kite Flying

If you travel to Bermuda during the Easter weekend, you will be amazed by the array of brightly-coloured kites dancing through the skies. As Lent nears Easter, families in Bermuda gather to craft these traditional kites, which consist of wooden sticks, string and vibrant tissue paper. Often, the geometric kites rely on a cross as the base of the structure. This detail serves as a reminder that the kites symbolize Christ's ascension into heaven, which is how the tradition supposedly began. On Good Friday, the faithful assemble to send their kites up to the skies, the nearest thing to heaven.

Poland: Water Fights of Śmigus Dyngus

Beware of Easter Monday in Poland ... you may end up soaked! For more than 1000 years, many Poles have spent Easter Monday dowsing unsuspecting people in cold water. A truly special tradition, these mass water attacks have pre-Christian origins to the pagan celebrations of the March equinox and the arrival of spring. Once a courting ritual, water was tossed on young women as a symbol of new life and renewal. These sentiments continued to resonate with the majority Catholic population, who retained the tradition as a connection between pagan practices and the resurrection of Christ. These water-drenching observances have now transformed into free-range, public water fights with water guns, water bottles, water balloons and even buckets of water from streams in use!



Guatemala: Antigua's Colourful Carpets

Throughout Holy Week, the streets of Antigua, Guatemala are adorned by dazzling artisan carpets, or alfombras. Artists use flowers, fruits, vegetables, native plants, sand and coloured sawdust to create these exquisite carpets, which are stenciled out only 24 hours before Good Friday. These eye-catching displays of artistic beauty can be nearly a kilometre long and often display religious or nature-related scenes. However, the vibrant carpets do not last for long; these wondrous works of art are viewed as sacrificial since they are directly walked upon during the city's annual Stations of the Cross procession. This beautiful tradition first arrived in Antigua with Spanish conquistadors, who used the carpets to honour the presence of Jesus Christ in the Eucharist. Today, the carpets enhance the city's status as a UNESCO World Heritage Site and emphasize the significance of local's faith!

As reflected by each unique tradition, our Easter celebrations as Christians may be different, but our beliefs unite us! Happy Easter!

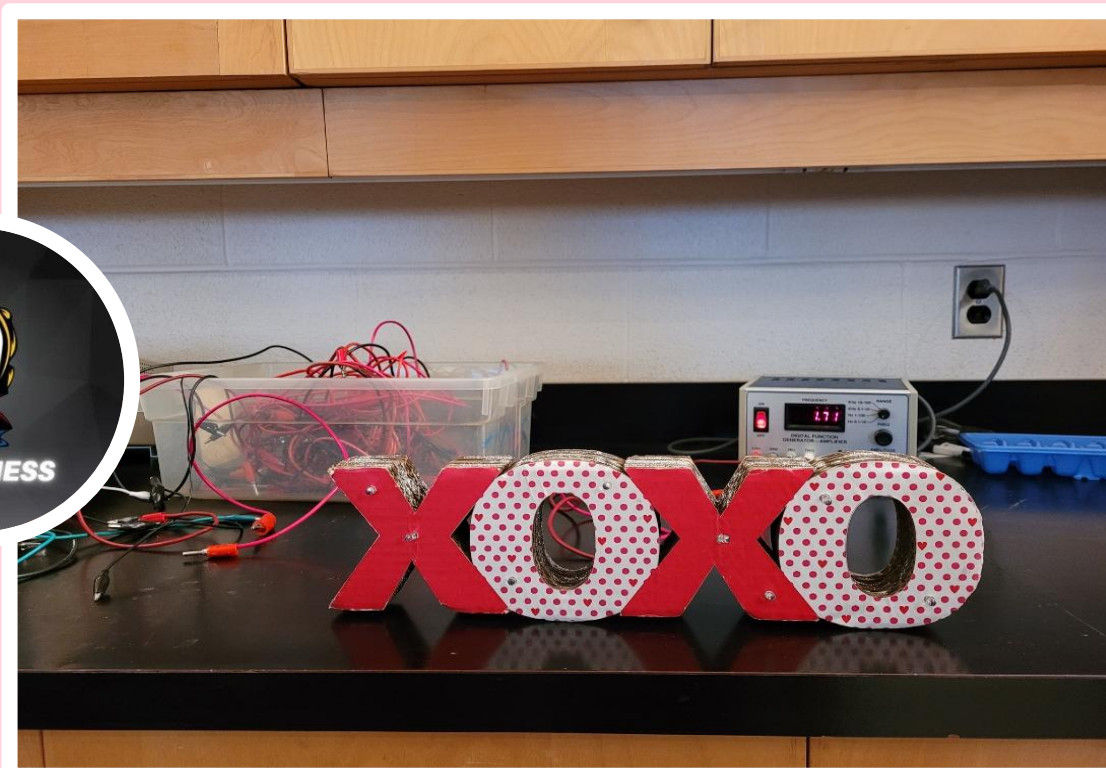
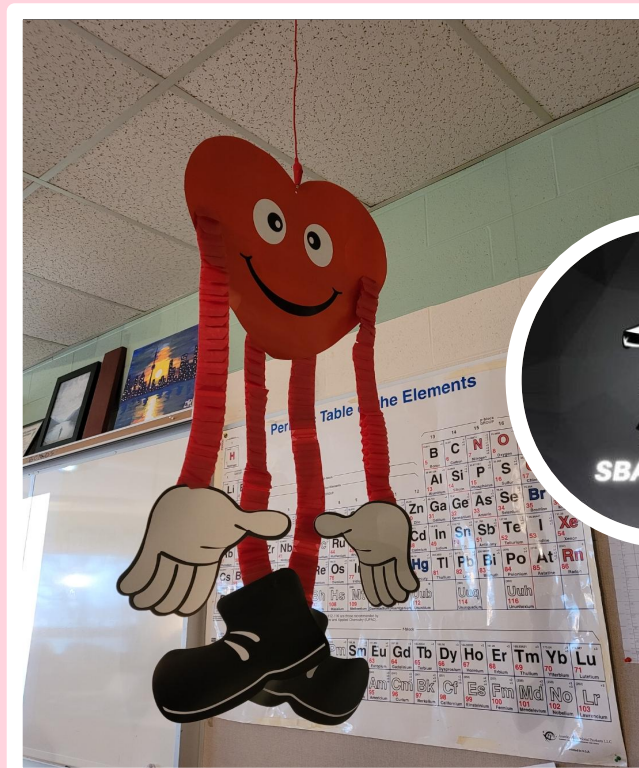


PHOTOGRAPHY



Self-Care Workshop
Jackchapter 02/27/24

ChessMate → Chess club 02/15/24



Slime Polymerization!
Science club 02/28/24



Full Moon
03/25/24



Art Attack Week

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