



THE WARRIOR NEWSPAPER

The Fall Issue

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LETTER FROM THE EDITORS

This issue of *The Warrior* was composed by a diverse and dedicated group of writers, who have all worked diligently to create a paper that is both well-informed and intriguing. These articles span a variety of topics: the success of Lourdes sports, demonstrations of community service, gripping current events, and even human interest stories. All of these embody the best qualities of a student body that wholeheartedly demonstrates its interests and passions for the world to enjoy. This newspaper is one of the many lenses through which people can gain insight into the camaraderie felt among our students. This is a bond that is truly unique in any high school environment. The pieces our staff has produced transcend the walls of our Catholic high school, speaking not only to the intellectual promise of each of these students, but to their bright futures as well.

It has been a true honor to work together as co-editors alongside such a great group of writers. Thank you to our moderator, Mrs. Katz, for without her none of this would have been possible. Her guidance and mentorship to young reporters such as ourselves has been inspiring to us all. The many hours spent researching and writing has resulted in a newspaper that we know readers will enjoy. As the editors-in-chief, we are proud to be part of a platform that exemplifies journalism in its purest form. In browsing this issue, we hope that you are as moved as we are by the exciting news

Father Thomas Lutz

Geneva Ng

Kaylie Nolan

Margaret Roach

Joe Scaglione

By Kaylie Nolan

and events that have positively influenced our fellow students. Thank you for taking the time to the read *The Warrior*, and may God bless America!

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Roberto Leitao & Tina Luchetta

Editors-in-Chief, 2017-2018

The Warrior

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BRACELETS FOR A CAUSE

November 30, 2017

by [Lauren Katz](#)

BY JOE SCAGLIONE

The winds have calmed, the skies have cleared, and the water has receded, but all that is left in Texas, Florida, Puerto Rico, and many Caribbean islands is complete and utter decimation. In the comfort and safety of our own homes, it is easy to quickly forget the terrible damage and poignant feelings we felt watching the news some weeks ago. Sadly though, for the people of Texas and Florida, forgetting is not an option. Many are still left homeless, jobless, and weary from the stress and destruction of these recent events. As a result, food, clothing, and assistance have been rushed into these regions, but there is one thing still needed: money, and lots of it.

Thanks to Junior Trevor Arnone, over \$400 was raised by the selling of Warrior spirit bands for victims of these terrible disasters. All of the proceeds were donated to Convoy of Hope, a Christian humanitarian group that has provided food, shelter, assistance, and care to countless hurricane victims. Thank you to all who donated and contributed to this worthy cause. Wear your Warrior bracelets with pride!

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

November 30, 2017

by [Roberto Leitao](#)

BY FATHER THOMAS LUTZ

November is the Month of All Souls. This is a time to reflect on the millions of human beings who finished the journey of their lives on earth and are now awaiting the redemption of their bodies, and the final purification of their souls in purgatory. One of the spiritual works of mercy is to pray for the dead, lest they be forgotten by the passage of time. The beautiful practice of offering a Mass for the repose of the soul of a loved one is the most perfect prayer that we can offer for them.

In weekly Sunday bulletins from your parishes, you will notice a column of dates and names beside each Mass for each day of the week. These Weekly Mass Intentions are listed to remind the parishioners for whom the Mass intention is and to join in prayer for them. Mass cards are presented to the surviving family members with the date, place, and time of the Mass so that they might have an opportunity to attend the Mass. These special Mass cards are frequently given to the family at the funeral parlor during a wake service or mailed to their homes.

One of my most cherished memories as a priest, veteran, and grateful American citizen was the time I offered a Requiem Mass two years ago for the 9,387 World War II soldiers who died during and after the Allied Invasion of Normandy, France at Omaha Beach on June 6, 1944. I celebrated the Mass along with an American and two Polish priests on the altar inside the circular, marble-faced chapel in the center of the Normandy American Cemetery. The cemetery is located on a bluff overlooking Omaha Beach, also known as the landing site of the American invasion force. The meticulously placed white marble crosses and Stars of David mark the resting places of these heroic men and women. This cemetery was part of the opening scene from the motion picture, *Saving Private Ryan* (1998). The Private Ryan story is based upon the true story of the Niland Brothers, two of whom are buried in the cemetery.

Among those soldiers who landed behind German lines in Normandy on June 6, 1944, was the legendary Army chaplain, Father Francis L. Sampson. It was he, and not the character played by Tom Hanks in *Saving Private Ryan*, who days later was ordered by the Army commanders to find Fritz Niland, the real-life "Private Ryan," who had lost three brothers on D-Day. Father Sampson arrived in Normandy with the 101st U.S. Army Airborne by parachute. Father Sam (as the soldiers called him) was captured by German soldiers and was about to be shot, but a Catholic German soldier saved him by reminding the other Germans that Sampson was a Catholic priest, and he was soon released.

A few days later, Father Sam celebrated mass before a group of nurses in a church that had been completely bombed. Only two walls remained, but the crucifix and image of St. Peter and St. Paul were undamaged. Before the ruins, Father Sam gave this brief homily:

"The image of the naked Galilean hanging from the cross has always inspired great love and fierce hate. Nero sought to make the cross a hateful image by putting Christians to death upon it, pouring pitch upon them, and lighting Rome with these flaming human crosses. Julian the Apostate said that he would make the world forget the Man on the cross, but in his final agony he had to acknowledge, "Thou has conquered, Galilean." Communists forbid its presence because they fear its power against their evil designs. Hitler has tried to replace the image of our Blessed Lord on the cross with a stupid swastika. Ineffectives, false philosophies, violence, and every diabolical scheme have been used to tear the Christ from the cross and the crucifix from the church. Nevertheless, like the bombs that were dropped on this chapel, they have only succeeded in making the cross stand out more and more in bold relief. The image we love grows greater in our understanding because of the vehemence of the hate it occasions in wicked men. Each of us has that sacred image stamped upon his soul. Like the chapel, we are Temples of God. And no matter how we are torn by the bombs of tragedy and trial and assault from without, the image of the crucified remains if we want it to. Now at the foot of this cross let us renew our baptismal vows. Let us promise to shield forever His image in our hearts."

Father Sampson was captured by the Germans and spent six months in a prisoner of war camp. After his release, he returned to serve with the legendary 101st Airborne, and continued to minister as an Army chaplain in Korea and Vietnam.



DAN RUIZ: PART-TIME STUDENT, PART-TIME ROCK STAR

November 30, 2017

by [Lauren Katz](#)

BY JOE SCAGLIONE

Many know our fellow classmate Dan Ruiz as a smart, funny, caring student and friend. Some of you may know his prolific guitar skills, but few know of his vast musical skills, aspirations, and achievements. Dan first began playing guitar when he turned nine years old because he loved *Guitar Hero* and the stage presence of the characters in the game (to this day he still plays it). At the ripe old age of 13, Dan started his first band with his former St. Mary's Fishkill classmates, Zack, Matt, and Nick, who now attend Beacon High School, Kennedy Catholic, and Ithaca College respectively. Although they may have gone their separate ways for school, the group has remained tightly-knit and continues to play together in their band 4SM. As a result, Dan and his bandmates make tremendous sacrifices and take large amounts of time out of their days to meet in convenient locations for everyone in the band. The band plays at several local venues such as The Loft in Poughkeepsie, The Platform in Beacon, and several other locations in the area. As a spectator, if I may add, their shows are amazing and professional. As of right now, the band has plans to play a concert over Christmas break at the Platform in Beacon and is currently in the process of writing new songs and rebuilding their social media platform.

Dan also has plans to turn his love of music into a career. While he is currently learning to play the drums, piano, and master his bass skills, Dan is aspiring to minor in music in college. He also plans on working music into his engineering degree at some point in his professional career. The saying goes, "If you love what you do, you'll never work a day in your life." As of right now it appears Dan is doing just that: "I want to learn more and more everyday, I'm never satisfied with where I am with my music skills because there is always something more I can learn. For me there is no finish line." I'm sure all of us are eager to hear what he will learn next.

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OLL SPIRIT WEEK

November 30, 2017

by [Lauren Katz](#)

BY ANTHONY BASILONE & GENEVA NG

Four days of dressing in everything from your cheesiest Hawaiian dad shirt to your pajamas, lead up to the school day of every student's dreams: no classes, food, and the freedom to talk to your friends all day. Arguably, the cherry on top was watching the teachers entertain the students by crowding on a golf cart and pouring their hearts out, lip syncing to "Don't Stop Believin'." This is what we, here at OLL, call Spirit Week.

Monday kicked off the week with Jersey Day. Students could be seen sporting their favorite team's apparel whether it was from OLL or the NFL. The school teemed with basketball and baseball jerseys and friendly feuds arose at the sight of opposing colors. With sportsmanship in mind, grudges were forgotten the next day. This spirit-filled dress down was only the beginning of a tremendously exciting week. That night, students raided their father's closets for any Hawaiian button-up they could find.

On Tuesday, Hawaiian Day, the average student wore a plastic multicolor lei, while the daring and extravagant wore floral tourist apparel.

Some remnants of the aforementioned floral leis were scattered around the halls at the start of the next day, Twin Day. This was the single most anticipated day of the year for best friends across the student body. Whether people just wore the same t-shirts or went out to Forever 21 the night before to pick out a five-piece matching ensemble that would turn the hallways into a runway, almost every student had a mirror image walking beside him or her.

On Thursday, the comfy apparel worn by the students made "falling asleep" more of a possibility; it was the highly-anticipated Pajama Day. Repeating patterns from the waist down and full-body onesies flooded the halls as our students got off the buses that morning. On this day, you actually looked like you were showing initiative by wearing sweatpants, even if it was for the 4th day in a row this week.

Tensions were high as students scrambled to find articles of clothing that matched the color their grade had been assigned. The unfortunate ones were found asking themselves, "Does it look like I own a (insert the grade's color here) shirt?". Regardless of what they had in their closets, the better part of the OLL population turned up with something green, yellow, orange, or pink to represent their class. Once gathered in the Arts and Athletics Center, we thought we knew what to expect, but we were in for a surprise.

The first event planned was the lip-sync battle among the varsity sports teams. Who knew we had so many talented future choreographers in our midst?

Shopping cart stunts, backflips, perfect synchronization, you name it, we saw it. Candy and confetti were thrown to the masses from every direction. The girls' varsity soccer, volleyball, swim and field hockey teams all shined in their individual performances and "wowed" the crowd. In the end, the girls' varsity volleyball team was victorious and won the battle with their outstanding performances.

It's not high school without the spirit of competition, right? The teams partook in the epitome of American culture: dodgeball. They faced off on the court, each with a craving for a heaping scoop of victory. Teams of six dwindled down to one player defending half of the court, as well as their dignity. Keeping with classic Lourdes tradition, the teachers stepped in at the close of the tournament to annihilate the leading team. As expected, the teachers were triumphant in their pursuit of success.

Shortly thereafter came the event none of us expected but will never forget. The back doors of the gym opened, and through them drove Mrs. Wells atop a gray golf cart. This was just the beginning. "Don't Stop Believin'" blared through the speakers. Everyone pulled out a "flashlight" and the wave of lights made one feel like they were at a concert. The gym suddenly went dark and, all together, the student body rushed down to the floor of the gym. Fist pumping and screaming the lyrics, the entirety of the Lourdes community was united through Journey's hit single.

Spirit Day was just getting started. Cut to outside, behind the library. All the clubs hosted tables to sell foods ranging from the classic cookies and brownies everyone knows and loves to some options on the savory side of things, such as latin-style rice and pasta. Each club raised money for its own activities or as a fundraiser for those affected by the recent natural tragedy in Puerto Rico. The food was appetizing to more than one species, as evident by the constant, hovering pests most of us encountered if we were holding something sweet. Although there were plenty of bees swarming the food, we thoroughly enjoyed ourselves.

The third and final portion of this year's Warrior Spirit Day was on the iconic football field which had been the background for many Warrior victories. Participation in sports was encouraged as the weather was perfect and the field was open. The activities culminated in a Tug of War among the grades. For each grade, there was a match between the boys and girls. After numerous matches between the grades, the freshmen girls faced the teachers and faculty. Pulling through the competition, the freshmen girls ultimately won.

Lourdes has never seen more khaki joggers, whale logos, or rolled up skinny jeans than in this week alone. From dress down days to dodgeball, the activities put a smile on everyone's faces. Overall, Spirit Week 2017 was a huge success.

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TRUNK OR TREAT: A NEW SENIOR PRIVILEGE

November 30, 2017
by [Roberto Leito](#)

BY ROBERTO LEITO

After what seems to have been a short time at Lourdes, the Class of 2018 is finally in its senior year. It's an exciting but stressful time — college application deadlines, grade school recruiting, the OLL open house, and other responsibilities are on the shoulders of our school's role models. However, this hard work did not go unnoticed. It came with a reward from the administration, one that was unprecedented in OLL history. A brief assembly led by Mrs. Vilardo in early October revealed the new senior privilege — a trunk or treat activity. On Halloween, the seniors would be able to wear their costumes to school. In addition, they would be dismissed to the student parking lot at 1:00 p.m. to decorate their car trunks.

When asked about the purpose behind this idea, Mrs. Vilardo responded: "Halloween is a festive celebration that is often overlooked by schools, due to the nature of it opening up possibilities for costumes and themes that may be frowned upon. We knew that this senior class would be the perfect class to convince us that we would not have to worry about any inappropriate behavior." The administration was not only hopeful of the activity's success for upperclassmen, but for its enjoyment by the rest of the student body as well.

As expected, Halloween and trunk or treat for seniors at OLL was a success. Students donned many cleverly planned costumes: inflatable T. Rexes, tourists, Star Wars characters, and many other cartoon-inspired outfits filled the halls. Although the seniors were exclusively reserved the privilege to dress up, their costumes were enjoyed by underclassmen and faculty alike. Some teachers even gave out candy to students and showed Halloween films in class. At the beginning of seventh period, the Class of 2018 was dismissed to the parking lot to decorate their trunks. As each group adorned their cars, faculty members browsed each design and handed out candy for the hardworking seniors to enjoy as their masterpieces were assembled. The creativity of the students did not disappoint; a variety of themes dotted the numerous cars, some of which included a beach scene, winter wonderlands, and classic spooky concepts.

Our Lady of Lourdes High School and its students were certainly in the Halloween spirit this year. Times like these best showcase the strong bond that Lourdes students have with one another, especially within the senior class. The Class of 2018 thanks the administration for the opportunity to have participated in such a fun activity!

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BOOK DRIVE: TURN A PAGE FOR JAMAICA

November 30, 2017

by [Roberto Leite](#)

BY JAMILA DAWKINS

When I was younger, my mom used to tire me with stories of her childhood. It was the classic "When I was your age I used to..." and "You don't know how good you have it..." speech, but what always stood out to me was the story of how my mom got books. Her school didn't have a library and there wasn't enough money to buy books, so my mom and the kids around her read fiction books through a library van service that would drive by her neighborhood once a month. Each child could take two books. It was absurd for me to imagine a mobile library, but had it not been for those vans, my mother would never have developed the love of reading she has today.

When I decided to pursue my Gold Award in Girl Scouts, it was this story that resonated with me. My mother was lucky enough to have the library van, but what about those who weren't? Not every child likes to read, and that is understandable, but every child deserves the chance to like to read. Sadly, not every child receives this right. Jamaica, although seemingly perfect as seen from resorts or tourist locations, is far from flawless, and many schools in Jamaica are too small to receive the funding they need to have a decent library. I've already spoken to three schools in Clarendon Parish, each with only 20 to 30 students total. Although Jamaica spends a relatively high percent of its GDP on education, not all schools are treated equally.

The goal of my project is to collect children's books ranging from pre-K to fifth grade level difficulty and to send them to specific schools in Jamaica that need them. All of the schools are recommended by Jamaicans who identify a need. Not only am I holding book drives, but I will also be holding book-centered events throughout the year to reach my goal of 1,000 books donated. Our Lady of Lourdes alone has already donated 325 books, an act of generosity that is greatly appreciated. I won't be sending the books until the summer of 2018, so donations are certainly welcome until then.

I believe in the power of literature, especially fiction, in the life of a child. Everyone should have the chance to experience it for themselves. Books collecting dust on your shelf could be inspiring a student in Jamaica to think beyond societal and even physical norms, to be divergent — to be different. Anyone who loves to read will agree that readers are compositions of the books they read. Help a child begin their own composition today!



ANASTASIA: THE OLL CHORUS JOURNEYS TO THE PAST

November 30, 2017
by [Roberto Leito](#)

BY JAMILA DAWKINS

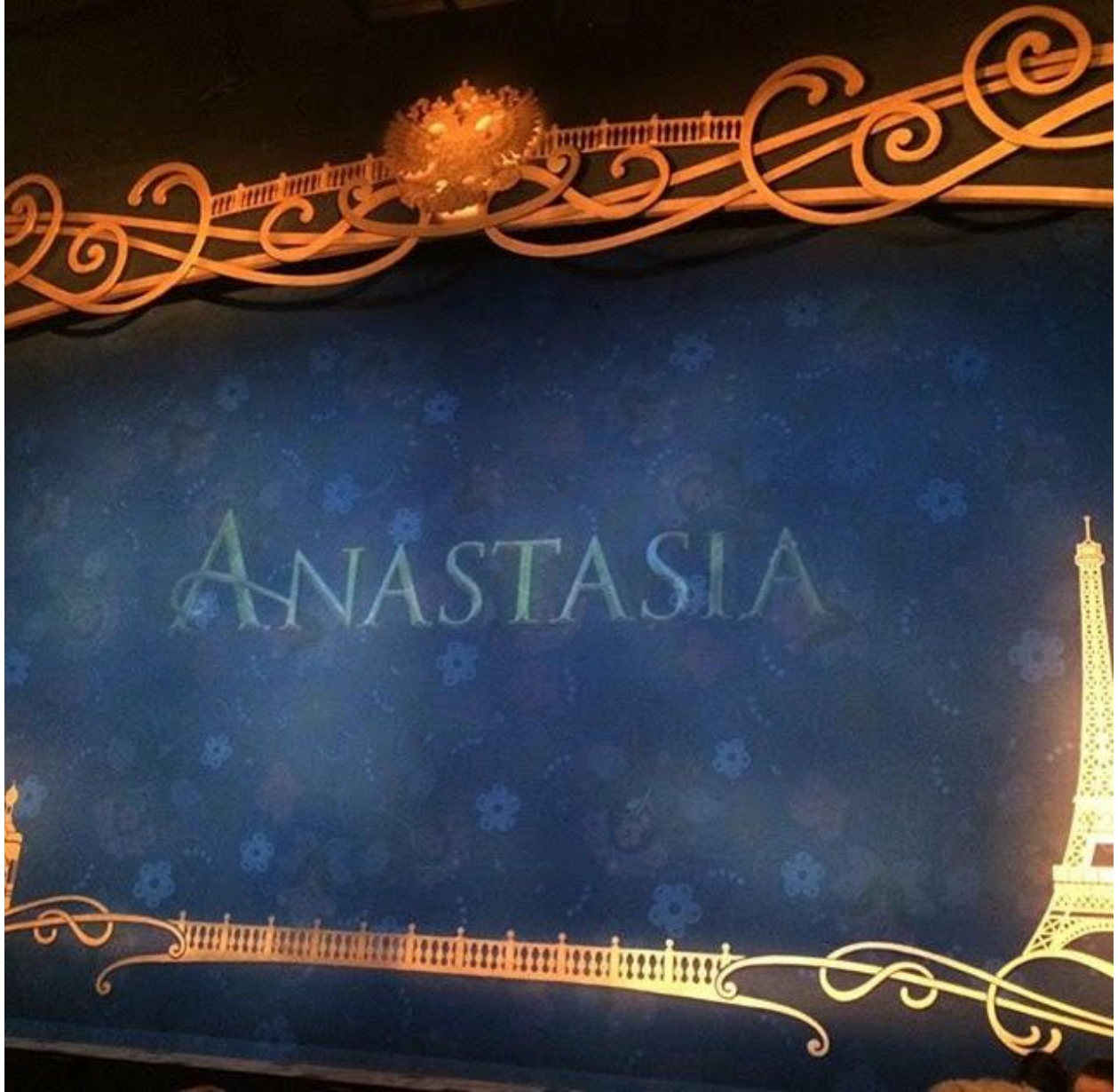
On November 2, the Our Lady of Lourdes Chorus made its annual trip to New York City to take a class taught by a cast member of a Broadway show, eat New York Cuisine (thin-crust pizza, of course), and watch the aforementioned show. Given the success of past trips like the romantic angst of *The Phantom of the Opera* and the bright culture of *The Lion King*, this trip had big shoes to fill. Luckily, the chorus saw *Anastasia*, which more than rose to the task.

Once we arrived in the city—following the usual several rounds of charades on the bus ride—we were escorted to a studio near the theater. There, Ian Knauer, swing (understudy for all the male parts in the show) and specific understudy for Vlad Popov, taught us a song shared between the musical adaptation and the beloved film, “A Rumor in St. Petersburg.” Several students had the opportunity to sing small solos and try their hands at being a disenfranchised Russian ‘comrade’ circa the early 1900s.

After the session, we ate at John’s Pizzeria, a beautiful church-turned-restaurant, and headed across the street to the Broadhurst Theater. The theater was small but beautiful, and the mezzanine provided a prime view of the fun. And fun it certainly was—*Anastasia* lived up to its movie counterpart with stunning performances from Christy Altomare (as Anya), Derek Klena (as Dmitry), John Bolton (as Vlad), and Ramin Karimloo (as Gieb). The conversion of an originally magic-based tale into a realistic interpretation of life following the Bolshevik Revolution gives the show an extra note of sobriety, but the story never loses its playful and endearing spark. The set was versatile, the costumes thoroughly dazzled the audience, and the lighting effects and dynamics were breath-taking, especially in “Journey to the Past”.

Anastasia is a beautiful show, and the OLL Chorus loved seeing it, especially with the background provided by the learning session. The trip was a success, and planned within a fortuitous pocket of good weather (In New York! In November!). Next time you feel like taking a journey to the past, consider taking a journey to the Broadhurst Theater.







40 DAYS FOR LIFE

November 30, 2017

by [Roberto Leite](#)

BY KAYLEIGH GOEBELBECKER & MORGAN HURST

The Our Lady of Lourdes community is well known for various service projects and outreach programs. This is displayed in the dedication that the Pro Life Club has to promoting life from conception to natural death. The 40 Days for Life campaign consists of a worldwide community of people working to educate others about the importance of life. They use various methods to convey their message, which include prayer, fasting, community service, and peaceful vigils. This campaign for life takes place annually, and this year it is celebrated between September 27th and November 5th. People around the world are united to this cause, including members in our own school community.

The Pro-Life Club meets every Monday after school to discuss and take action on pro-life issues. Recently the members have gathered to make posters to inspire other Lourdeans to join the cause and make a difference. Many students also went on a retreat to St. Joseph's seminary in Yonkers to listen to Pro-Life speakers deliver lectures on their own experiences. Students joined together in a Jericho March around Planned Parenthood in Poughkeepsie. A Jericho March is both a symbolic and literal event where people walk around the premise seven times in peaceful prayer, which is symbolic to the March on Jericho in the Old Testament. In this ancient story, God promised the Jewish people they would be able to conquer the powerful city of Jericho. The people were told to march around the perimeter seven times and the walls around it would fall and, sure enough, they did. The students march this historically reminiscent event in hopes that the barriers in abortion workers' minds will fall, and they will see the truth. In honor of this time dedicated to life, adorations have been and will continue to be held in the chapel.

The Pro-Life Club sets an example of how to peacefully convey their message. All people deserve the right to life and a chance to make a difference in the world. Without mothers who say yes, the world would not be the same today. The members of this important organization act as representatives for the unborn who cannot speak for themselves. The 40 Days for Life Campaign advocates the protection of the innocent through peaceful and prayerful acts. This crusade on cruelty will continue to fight to protect life in all stages. The March for Life is one example of a community of people from around the world joining together to take a stand. This march takes place January 19 and is a strong showing of pro-life culture. The 40 Days for Life is a critical part of informing the world of pro-life issues and must be recognized by the world to ensure its success.



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VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

November 30, 2017

by [Roberto Leite](#)

BY KAYLIE NOLAN

With the holidays approaching, it's an excellent time to reach out to help others. In our daily lives, it's easy to forget about those who are less fortunate, or those in need of our assistance. As students, we have the opportunity to volunteer our time, efforts, and abilities to help those in our school, families, and community. Although to some, volunteering may seem to be boring or a waste of time, the experience and rewards of helping others in need can be both exciting and gratifying. Beginning the habit of volunteering now may help students develop a life-long habit of helping those in need.

Students who are currently members (or who hope to become members) of the National Honor Society have many opportunities available to engage in community service activities. An important aspect of being a member of the National Honor Society is completing a combination of 30 leadership and service hours. Listed below are multiple opportunities for volunteering, supported by Our Lady of Lourdes, that are available for signup in room N211. Also listed are out of school opportunities that contain flexible dates.

NHS Opportunities (sign up in room N211)

- Adopt a family for Christmas! Volunteers are needed to donate items, sort and prepare gifts for delivery, and be "Elf Workers". Help create a merry Christmas for a family in need.
- 50/50 Raffles at Basketball Games - Students are needed to sell 50/50 raffle tickets at the games on December 22 at 7 p.m., and December 24 at 6 p.m.
- Coordinators are needed for the Easter Bake Sale (especially Period F)
- NHS volunteers are needed to sell spring gift card raffle tickets during lunch periods.

Out of School (Flexible Dates)

- Hudson River Housing Adopt-a-Meal program is in need of volunteers at 391 Manchester Road in Poughkeepsie, NY. Volunteers are needed to prepare and serve meals and must be at least 14 years old.

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Out of School (Flexible Dates)

- Hudson River Housing Adopt-a-Meal program is in need of volunteers at 391 Manchester Road in Poughkeepsie, NY. Volunteers are needed to prepare and serve meals and must be at least 14 years old.
- Hudson River Housing is organizing a toiletry donation drive at 313 Mill Street in Poughkeepsie. Please lend a hand to this cause and contact the organization to see how you can help.
- The American Red Cross Blood Drive Donor Team is in need of assistance in Poughkeepsie. Volunteers must be at least 13 years old, and an orientation is required.
- The Dutchess County Office for the Aging is looking for volunteers to help assist and accompany our local senior citizens. Candidates must have a driver's license and receive an orientation prior to starting. Contact the office to see how you can give back this holiday season.
- The Animals Rescue Foundation at 54 Simmons Lane in Beacon is looking for people 17 and older to help their organization. Contact them for more information of how to volunteer!
- Literacy Connections of the Hudson Valley at 372 Church Street in Poughkeepsie is seeking volunteers to help children learn to read. Those interested must be at least 18 years old.

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REFLECTIONS ON NORTH KOREA AND ITS RELATIONS WITH THE U.S.A.

November 30, 2017

BY CHRISTOPHER BOB & BRANDON HOOLIHAN

Relations between the North Korean People's Republic and the United States have been rather uneasy since the nation's inception in 1948. The territory was primarily used for farming and supported a mostly agrarian society. North Korea was formed when the region seceded from the nation of Korea and sparked the Korean War. It lasted a little over three years and can most accurately be described as a proxy-war between the communist Soviet Union and the capitalist United States. The events that unfolded following the "Fatherland Liberation War," as the North Koreans dub the Korean War, were marked with tremendous totalitarianism, exploitation, and death on part of the North Korean Government. In the wake of a once-democratic government, a brutal monarchical-dictatorship emerged led by Kim Il-sung. Resulting from years of bloodshed and treachery in a brutal and bloody civil war, both South and North Korea formed distinct economic, social, and political systems making the two nations totally incompatible with one another. A once-unified Korea was now entirely split between the communist North and capitalist South. Today, most international concerns about the Korean Peninsula are not focused on Korean unification. Instead, the main concern of many nations in the East and West are North Korea's nuclear program and its willingness to use nuclear weapons.

North Korea's nuclear history actually traces back to Kim Il Sung, the first leader of the dynastic communist regime. It was under Kim Il Sung's rule that North Korea began to build its nuclear reactors. Kim Il Sung's son, Kim Jong Il, is often credited as the leader that truly accelerated North Korea's nuclear program. It was under his rule that North Korea tested its first nuclear weapon. North Korea's nuclear program has made notable progress in the last several years under the rule of Kim Jong Il's son, Kim Jong Un. Perhaps the most notable advancement the program has made so far was July 4 of this year when North Korea reportedly successfully tested its first International Continental Ballistic Missile (also known as an ICBM). In response to what Kim Jong Un ironically characterized as a "Package of gifts" to the U.S. for Independence Day, U.S and South Korean military personnel fired two missiles into the Sea of Japan as a military exercise.

On July 28, North Korea fired its second ICBM that had a range that could theoretically hit Chicago. President Trump denounced this test as "reckless and dangerous." In response to the ICBM launch, the U.S and South Korea launched ballistic missiles off the east coast of South Korea to assess their ability to counter North Korean missiles. The test also prompted South Korean President Moon Jae In to order his military to deploy a U.S missile defense system known as THAAD, one that was halted by him in the past. China also denounced the North Korean launch but also urged nations not to respond in a way that would escalate tensions.

North Korea also launched an intermediate range missile over Japan on August 29th. This was the first missile in North Korea's history to ever fly over Japan. President Trump responded to the launch by stating that "all options are on the table" when it comes to handling North Korea. Japan's Prime Minister Shinzo Abe described the launch as "the most serious and grave threat ever" against Japan. South Korea responded to

the launch by conducting a bombing drill to test its "capability to destroy the North Korean leadership." Tensions also grew as North Korea described the missile launch as "a meaningful prelude to containing Guam," which is the United States's closest territory to North Korea. At the time of writing, North Korea has yet to launch a missile at Guam.

North Korea's recent nuclear tests and advancements over the past several months have caused multiple responses in the international community. The U.S. has largely been a leader in responding to what has been almost universally seen as North Korean aggression. It has engaged in multiple joint-military exercises with South Korea in response to North Korea's tests and has drafted sanctions against North Korea. Japan has also consistently denounced North Korea's nuclear program, as they are very close to the peninsula and easily within firing range of multiple missiles. China has also continuously denounced North Korea while at the same time trying to urge other countries to de-escalate tensions. In early September, the UN adopted new sanctions against North Korea that implemented a ban on textile exports, a cap on its oil imports, and other politically/economically damaging provisions. North Korean and U.S. relations are still very tense — clearly evident in each country's exchange of rhetoric. How these tensions will be peacefully or violently resolved, or if they will be eased at all, remains to be seen.

What started out as primarily an agrarian nation-state, over the last few decades, has transformed into a foreboding nuclear power. The success of the Kim Regime in North Korea is testament to the fact that the world stage is ever reorganizing itself. The progression of the North Korean People's Republic's aggression, in terms of its launch of ICBMs and pronouncement of certain official statements regarding the United States, has led many to believe that military conflicts with the United States are imminent. However, it is not in the best interest of the government of North Korea to engage in such disputes. It can be said of the North Korean government that tact and strategy are at the forefront of their displays of power. The desire of the Kim Regime might just be to reassure its brainwashed public that the State remains strong and ready. Only time can tell how long these displays will convince them.

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WOMEN MAKING STRIDES FOR EQUAL RIGHTS IN SAUDI ARABIA

November 30, 2017

BY TINA LUCHETTA

For years, women in Saudi Arabia have struggled to find their voices and to become independent. The structure of this society prohibits them from leaving their homes, traveling abroad, or even undergoing medical surgeries without approval from a male figure. In addition, women have also had to fight for the right to drive.

Since the 1990s, people have participated in various forms of protest to this law. One prominent example of this involves women blatantly ignoring the rules and continuing to drive, despite the consequences. The government does not take this matter lightly, and more often than not, there are arrests for these acts of defiance. However, as of September 26, 2017 the Saudi government stated that starting in June 2018, women will be able to drive. They expect this to help improve diplomacy with other other nations because in the past, countries such as the United States have displayed some concern for this antiquated statute. In addition, it is also hoped that this will encourage women to take a more active role in the workplace, which will then have positive effects on the economy. This will also reduce the amount of money that these women currently have to spend on drivers to transport them to and from work, and any other places to which they wish to travel.

Despite the various positive and empowering impacts that this event may have, there are many people who still oppose this step towards a more equal society. Most of the Saudi citizens who are in opposition originate from the extremely conservative sect of society. They often argue that men are unaccustomed to women driving next to them and that this new freedom could lead to the destruction of many Saudi Arabian families.

Nonetheless, this advancement in the lives of the Saudi women may appear to be trivial to those of us who take the right to drive for granted, but for the oppressed, this is a huge step towards gaining respect and proper treatment. This is not the first, and will not be the last, incident where women have had to ban together to achieve basic rights, but with steadfast determination and unwavering courage, reforms will continue to be made.

THE CIA PUSHES FOR NEW AUTHORITY TO CARRY OUT DRONE STRIKES IN AFGHANISTAN

November 30, 2017

BY ROBERTO LEITO

Under the leadership of CIA Director Michael Pompeo, the agency is pushing for expanded capabilities to conduct drone strikes in Afghanistan and other conflict zones. While it already has had the ability to carry out covert strikes against Al Qaeda in Pakistan, neither country has acknowledged these actions. The Trump administration is likely to authorize Pompeo's request as its policy seeks to aggressively eradicate terrorist groups around the world. Although the Pentagon is already authorized to do so, the CIA would carry out these strikes covertly. With a new director, the agency is renewing its efforts to engage the enemy through use of paramilitary forces.

During the Obama Presidency, post 9/11 drone capabilities were rolled back in an effort to prevent civilian casualties. This was done in addition to former Director John Brennan's initiative for the CIA to return to its original purpose of espionage and intelligence collection, but drone strikes were not completely eliminated from the agency's range. Now, with a new administration, a reignited resolve has been adopted to hunt down Islamic militants. Given that U.S. forces have already focused efforts in Afghanistan, it is sensible that the CIA would seek these added capabilities. If granted the ability to conduct drone and airstrikes, the CIA's first target would be the Haqqani network, which is a part of the Taliban that runs its military operations. This, in addition to the future deployment of 4,000 troops to the region, would significantly heighten U.S. involvement in Afghanistan. Granting this power to the CIA has faced no opposition from Secretary of Defense James Mattis, but other officials working in the Pentagon have questioned the action's possible repercussions. Critics have suggested that CIA drone strikes that result in civilian deaths would result in blaming U.S. troops, since these strikes are considered classified. To prevent accidental casualties of U.S. forces, specifically high-ranking officials, the Department of Defense has been collaborating with the CIA in an effort to make the strikes more accurate before the authorization is granted.

Regardless of opinion, it is clear that the United States is seeking to expand its role abroad in the Global War on Terror. Due to the Trump administration's likelihood of permitting the CIA's request, it is a matter of when this will occur. Time will tell if the agency will help to turn the tide on America's enemies in Afghanistan. As Americans, we can only hope that they will prove to be effective. Commenting on the potential of the strikes, Director Michael Pompeo confidently remarked, "If I were them, I'd count my days." As the tenure of Mr. Pompeo continues, it will be interesting to see how the CIA's role will evolve both domestically and internationally.

"THE LAST LEONARDO" SELLS FOR \$450.3 MILLION

November 30, 2017

BY CATHERINE GAMBESKI

What is thought to be the last privately-owned Leonardo da Vinci painting fetched a \$400 million bid at Christie's Auction House on November 15. With additional fees, the painting's cost equated to \$450.3 million, making it the most expensive painting to ever be sold.

The painting is entitled *Salvator Mundi*, Latin for "Savior of the World," and is commonly referenced as "the male Mona Lisa." The painting is a portrait of Jesus Christ in blue robes with his right hand raised in a sign of benediction while his left hand is holding a crystal orb. Christ is centered square to the painting, without any twists in his neck or body, which is a rarity in da Vinci's known works.

Thought to be one of less than 20 paintings created by da Vinci, *Salvator Mundi* was sold for only \$60 (equivalent to \$512 in 2017) at a 1958 auction. The painting was not seen for years until it was rediscovered at a sale in 2005. Following restoration, the painting appeared along with other da Vinci works in a 2011 exhibition at the National Portrait Gallery. The piece was then sold to a Russian billionaire in 2013 for roughly \$130 million, a fraction of the \$450 million price. The new owner has remained anonymous, but speculation has circled around several high-profile Chinese art collectors.

Salvator Mundi has made art history for being the most expensive painting ever sold; the record was previously held by a \$180 million Picasso. As "the Last Leonardo," it is likely a sale that will not happen again for at least several decades.



FADS AND FLOPS: SUMMER 2017 FASHION

November 30, 2017

BY JAMILA DAWKINS

The fashion gods have once again swept through every Aeropostale and Forever 21 and forced girls to sacrifice comfort for cuteness. Last summer brought in its wake two particularly formidable foes: cold shoulder tops and rompers. The fickle winds of fashion have never been kind to teenaged girls — the one trend we can't seem to shake is leg-suffocating skinny jeans — but this year's trends have been especially cruel.

Anyone who has been in the women's section of a clothing store has seen them: cold shoulder tops. Somehow women collectively agreed to pay more for a shirt with less fabric. Although cold shoulder tops allow the wearer to stay cool in hotter temperatures, and are an effective third option to the question, "Long sleeve or short sleeve?" they are also only effective in hotter temperatures. I myself have made the mistake of failing to retire my cold shoulder tops and shivered through enough events to learn the lesson well. Plus, it is nearly impossible to get cold shoulder tops off the hanger and every girl who has ever worn one knows it takes at least three attempts to get the arms through the correct holes. (Admit it, it takes far too long to wrestle with those tops.) The even crueler cousins of these tops are off-the-shoulder tops. I imagine they are nice for anyone who remains completely still all day, but anyone who has to lift their arms within the course of their day is out of luck, because these shoulderless tops slide up or down constantly.

Another inexplicable trend that cycled through summer was the romper. Despite originating as play clothes for children, rompers evolved into flowy, floral, all-in-one outfits for the summer. Pros? Rompers are like pre-made outfits and can be put on in one simple step, because you can quite literally step into a romper. Cons? We have tops and bottoms for a reason: humans use the bathroom. It is incredibly inconvenient to completely undress just to relieve oneself. If you feel like wearing a onesie, just get a fleece pajama one that comes with the flap. Let's leave rompers in the past.

As we anxiously peer ahead to the upcoming fall cycle and whatever punishment the fashion gods choose next, we can at least learn from the past. Who knows? Maybe the trend will be oversized hoodies and pants with enough leg space for actual human legs. If not, there is one thing upon which we can all depend: Uggs. In at least one regard, comfort and cuteness have reached an agreement.



7 GREAT SHOWS TO BINGE WATCH TODAY!

November 30, 2017

BY AINSLEY LEPRE

It's a rainy Saturday afternoon, and you have time on your hands. Instead of laying in your bed Snapchatting all afternoon, entertain yourself by checking out these binge-worthy shows on Netflix.

1. *One Tree Hill*

Set in the fictional small town of Tree Hill, NC, this show tells the story of two half brothers who finally meet when they are recruited to the same basketball team. You will get caught up in the stories of Lucas and Nathan, and find yourself craving just one more episode before your mom makes you turn it off.

2. *Friends*

With episode titles such as, "The One Where Joey Speaks French" and "The One Where Rachel Goes Back To Work," you will be curious before you even hit the play button. This sitcom depicts the tales of six friends living in Manhattan trying to survive in the "real world," and the popular 1990s show has solid laughs in every single episode.

3. *Gilmore Girls*

Spending a few hours with Rory and Loretal Gilmore is well worth your rainy afternoon. The show is known for witty dialogue, a mix of humor and drama, and tons of pop-culture references. It is a great show with characters that will make you think, laugh, cry, and keep you glued to the television.

4. *The 100*

This post-apocalyptic science fiction drama series is based on the book by Kass Morgan. It follows the story of a group of 100 teenaged prisoners who are sent to Earth after a nuclear war to see if it is still livable. The teens struggle to survive, and you will want to keep watching to find out what happens to these characters next.

5. *The Flash*

Yep, there had to be at least one comic book series on this list. *The Flash*, a spinoff of the popular *Arrow* series, is completely watchable, a bit silly, and will make you want superpowers of your own. Barry Allen, aka The Flash, is a crime scene investigator who gains superhuman speed after a science accident. It's fun, fast-paced, and a satisfying diversion.

6. *Friday Night Lights*

This drama, which focuses on the players and coach of a high-school football team in Texas, will give you all the feels. The characters, most of whom are high school students, feel real and the backdrop of the football games add an exciting element.

7. *The Vampire Diaries*

7. *The Vampire Diaries*

With fall and Halloween in the air, take a few hours to soak in this show, based on the books by L.J. Smith. In this series, Elena, a teen living in a small Virginia town, finds herself in a love triangle with two vampire brothers as they struggle with their supernatural existence. It is entertaining, especially on a creepy October evening. You will find yourself drawn back again and again, until you have finished all 171 episodes of the seven season run.

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THE DINING ROOM

November 30, 2017

BY MARGARET ROACH

The Our Lady of Lourdes fall show was *The Dining Room*, by AR Gurney. The play is a series of short scenes about WASPS (Wealthy Anglo-Saxon Protestants) and the culture that surrounds them, all taking place in one dining room. Written in the 1980s, *The Dining Room* takes a look back at a dying society. Now, in 2017, WASP society has dwindled even more. *The Dining Room* is nostalgic for something already dead — not sad, but bittersweet.

The Dining Room is purely an ensemble production. In most shows, there are people who have larger parts than others — *The Dining Room* has people playing a multitude of smaller parts. Many versions of *The Dining Room* have only six actors, but forty-six characters are in this show. The OLL cast was slightly larger, with people disappearing as quickly as the scenes transitioned, often appearing later as different characters. *The Dining Room* moves and blends into scenes, creating the sensation of walking down a street and seeing people through their windows, living out ordinary moments in their lives. Scenes flash in and then disappear.

Characters in *The Dining Room* include an ailing mother, a young boy seeking his father's approval, and of course multiple stereotypical WASP women. The characters in *The Dining Room* only exist for a short amount of time; they come and go. Somehow, AR Gurney has managed to make each of them beautifully complex. In large part, the characters are holding onto something: to each other, to their homes, and to their way of life. *The Dining Room* is a portrait of what used to be. *The Dining Room* is a simple, yet moving, experience that must not be missed.

SPONGEBOB THE MUSICAL

November 30, 2017

BY MARGARET ROACH

We give a lot of things a chance. We gave peas a chance in the sixties. We gave perms a chance in the eighties. We gave peas a chance only recently. We give a lot of strange trends a chance. This is why *Spongebob the Musical* deserves a chance. Yes, *Spongebob the Musical* — the kids' show with the iconic yellow sponge, the primary color palette, and the world's best theme song. That yellow sponge is the next Broadway hero amongst the ranks of *Evan Hansen* and *The Phantom of Opera*. Some Broadway fans might immediately scoff at it and continue to listen to their pretentious spottily playlists of Sondheim ballads, but *Spongebob* is coming and it isn't the worst thing to ever grace the stage.

Spongebob the Musical is currently an enigma, but from the limited stream of photos and reviews coming out, it's tasteful. The few photos of the Chicago production show the characters dressed in bright, hip clothes. They still look like the characters from the show, but human and really, really cool. The characters shine against a set that's reminiscent of *Wicked*'s steampunk theater. It does not look like *Spongebob* the TV show, it looks like *Spongebob*'s hardcore older brother. The set is a jumble of metal and layers, filled with turquoise blues and fluorescent greens. The designers for the show should get their Tony immediately; the geniuses who made it shouldn't have to wait until June. The design of the show could have gone down so many awful paths, but it somehow ended up a masterpiece.

The story of the show is simple. There is a volcano about to erupt and the heroes have to save Bikini Bottom. The simplistic plot creates tension, but the simplicity allows for a focus on the characters. The actors embrace the lack of complexity to create their own interruptions and make the iconic creatures unique. The cast of the show are mostly newcomers to Broadway, but they certainly do not lack in talent. Ethan Slater, playing the title character of the show, sounds like a toned-down version of Tom Kenny. This version of *Spongebob* is developed and likeable. You feel sorry for him in multiple scenes; you really want this sweetheart to get everything he deserves. This is no easy feat, but Ethan Slater is clearly incredibly talented. As a graduate of Vassar College, he brings local roots to the stage. Lili Cooper and Danny Skinner, who play Sandy the Squirrel and Patrick Star, are both extremely charming. They make excellent companions for the energetic Ethan Slater. The three form the stereotypical trio, but in a very non-stereotypical way. They blend together when they sing, sounding like an oddball indie band. Other standouts include Squidward, played by Gavin Lee, and Plankton, played by Wesley Taylor. These characters are rarities in theater (not many shows include a squid and an one-celled organism), but the actors embrace them making their portrayals some of the funniest.

The music of *Spongebob The Musical* is the real highlight. Instead of sticking to one composer, *Spongebob The Musical* has multiple famous musicians composing the music. The long list of artists include Yolanda Adams, Steven Tyler, Sara Bareilles, Jonathan Coulton, Alex Ebert of Edward and the Magnetic Zeros, The Flaming Lips, Lady Antebellum, Cyndi Lauper, John Legend, Panic! At the Disco, Plain White T's, They Might Be Giants, T.I, and the late David Bowie. Each bring their own style to the show. Some of the songs are very standard Broadway, while others are not.

The music of the show is purely fun. Broadway shows have taken a much more serious tone recently, discussing difficult topics such as family crisis, tragic romances, and historical catastrophes. *Spongebob the Musical* is a genuinely happy experience. The show is sweet, but somehow it manages not to be corny. Some of that comes from the previously mentioned commitment of the actors. The characters are realistic and they make the world of Bikini Bottom a real place. *Spongebob the Musical* does what a musical is supposed to do — it creates a world with people in it and a pleasant story. Theater is supposed to provide an escape for two hours, and *Spongebob the Musical* accomplishes this perfectly. This show has the possibility to be one of the best shows on Broadway in years, so people should not prematurely judge it. The idea of *Spongebob the Musical* could be off-putting at first, but some of the best ideas are. *Spongebob The Musical* begins previews November 6. You can listen to the full soundtrack at the link at the bottom of the page. Recommended listening include "Tomorrow Is", "Poor Pirates", "Hero is my Middle Name", and "No Control."



BOOK REVIEW: CINDER BY MARISSA MYER

November 30, 2017

BY NDIDI AGUWA

A cyborg mechanic gets caught up in intergalactic affairs after she begins her search for the antidote that will save her stepsister from the disease plaguing the planet. This is not your typical Cinderella story—Marissa Meyer takes the shoe story and completely flips it on its head. Linh Cinder is a cyborg, a human with prosthetic parts, in New Beijing, which is a dystopian city where her kind are treated as lower-class citizens. Far away on the moon is another society called Luna. The Lunars use their minds and the energy around them to manipulate the thoughts and actions of others. Lunars and Earthens live in complete distrust of each other.

Cinder's stepmother, Linh Adri, treats Cinder horribly compared to her two biological daughters, Pearl and Peony. Cinder works as a mechanic to get by, and she has to cover her metal hand so customers won't be scared away. When the son of the emperor visits to get his aide repaired, she keeps her cyborg identity a secret. Letumosis, a lethal plague that dared to take the life of Emperor Rikan, strikes Cinder's beloved younger stepsister, Peony. Anguished, Linh Adri volunteers Cinder for letumosis testing, which is a legal action allowed by an oppressive law. After Cinder is found to be immune, her doctor suggests that she might be Lunar. With this new identity, a whole new world of opportunities is opened for Cinder. She maintains a good friendship with Prince Kai and quickly gets caught up in an invasion plot by Earth's "friendly" neighbors. Levana, the Luna queen, is planning on conquering the Earth, and Cinder is the only one who knows it.

Running just under 400 pages, Marissa Meyer makes the well-known story of Cinderella her own. *Cinder* is a dystopian, science fiction novel with a strong start, middle, and end. It is part of a four book series called *The Lunar Chronicles*, and the sequels are titled *Scarlet*, *Cress*, and *Winter*. The characters, especially Cinder, undergo extreme development, apart from Cinder's cruel stepmother and older stepsister. It's a story about self-discovery, self-sacrifice and bravery. Overall, I would give *Cinder* a nine out of ten. It's a great book that I would highly recommend.

INTERVIEW WITH ADAM BRYANT, DIRECTOR OF DIGITAL MEDIA AT AMC NETWORKS

November 30, 2017

BY AINSLEY LEPRE

Adam Bryant, Director of Digital Media at AMC Networks, gets to work closely with some of our favorite TV shows such as *The Walking Dead* and *Better Call Saul*, and agreed to answer some questions for the students of OLL about his job, what it is like to work for a major television network, and how someday it might be possible to follow in his footsteps.

Q: What do you like best about your job?

A: I have always wanted to be a storyteller and have, therefore, always been drawn to other storytellers. So, working for AMC, a company that has fostered some of the all-time greatest stories in television history, is rewarding in and of itself. But, to actually see the minds of such talented creators and writers work up close — to read their scripts and, even more amazingly, work alongside them to create digital content that expands and deepens the world of their shows — is a humbling honor and a privilege.

Q: What made you want to work for a TV network?

A: Coming from a more traditional journalism/writing background, it honestly wasn't something I'd really thought much about, but once the opportunity presented itself, it seemed like a no-brainer and a natural extension of my passions. Again, my love of storytelling has made me a longtime fan of television, and I believe TV is the medium that is telling the most interesting and challenging stories right now. As I have learned at numerous dinner parties and holiday gatherings during my decade or so working in various parts of the TV business, television is a universal language that nearly everyone speaks in some form or another. That conversation doesn't exist to the extent that it does today without hours and hours of quality content worthy of such exploration, discussion and debate. To play even a small part in the creation and dissemination of that content is a daily thrill.

Q: Do you get to read scripts and get spoilers before the TV shows air? Is that fun or hard to keep secret?

A: Yes, I do get to read the scripts in advance, and, as I mentioned before, that is one of my favorite aspects of the job. Since I am also a fan of the shows I work on, I'm always excited to learn what comes next, just like any other viewer. There is something strangely gratifying about knowing spoilers earlier than the general public, but, having worked as an entertainment journalist for several years before this job, I've gotten pretty good at keeping those spoilers a secret. Nobody likes the guy who ruins the big twist!

Q: What is something you have done that you are proud of?

A: Earlier this year, I conceived and helped produce a 10-part digital series that ran in conjunction with the third season of *Better Call Saul*, which is a prequel series to *Breaking Bad*. My colleagues and I worked with

...keeping those spoilers a secret. Nobody likes the guy who ruins the big twist!

Q: What is something you have done that you are proud of?

A: Earlier this year, I conceived and helped produce a 10-part digital series that ran in conjunction with the third season of *Better Call Saul*, which is a prequel series to *Breaking Bad*. My colleagues and I worked with the writers of *Better Call Saul* to script and shoot the mini-episodes, which celebrated the return of a key character from the *Breaking Bad* universe in a fun, fan-centric way. The shorts turned out incredibly well and received lots of positive response from both television journalists and fans on social media. That was rewarding enough, but the series was eventually nominated for an Emmy, which to my great excitement, it won! It was a great project worked on by many talented people, so I can hardly take credit for what it ultimately became. But, being part of the team that won such a prestigious honor is definitely a career high point that I am enormously proud to have achieved.

Q: What advice would you have for a student who wants to work in TV or to do something with social media?

A: Write and write and write and write. Then write some more. At the end of the day, being a good writer is the foundation for any job in communications. If you can create a clear message and present it an engaging way to your intended audience, then you can do almost anything in this business. Beyond that, it's all about finding what you're passionate about, because that's the thing that's going to make the best use of all that great writing. Work hard, take on as many opportunities you can — especially the ones that challenge your skills — and never stop chasing the thing that makes you excited to get out of bed in the morning.

OLL CROSS COUNTRY RACE IN RHODE ISLAND

November 30, 2017

BY ROSS CARDWELL

By Ross Cardwell

On September 25th, the Our Lady of Lourdes Cross Country team went to Rhode Island for one of the biggest races of their season. They left the day before the meet, so that they could drive down to Rhode Island in two vans, each holding about ten people. Two of the racers, Mateus dos Santos and Aidan Reilly, said that "it was interesting, a good team bonding experience." Comments from different members of the team revealed that each participant felt closer with one another after the event was over. The team stayed at a hotel where they ate, slept, and prepared together the night before their big race. Participants say that the rooms were packed, and some even had a total of six people in one room. The next morning everybody got up early, and did whatever they had to do in order to prepare themselves for the upcoming race. Aidan Reilly says, "There were even people going in the hot tub in the morning, anything to get an edge in the race." According to Coach Slinsky, it worked. He remarked, "Everybody did very well, and it was a great learning experience for everyone."

As for the race itself, everybody did a great job, with the majority of the team running their personal best during the race. Joe Belardo stated that, "the course was very flat, and it was especially easy to run." The team's times in this race supports this statement, as runners like Caroline Timm ran a time up to 18 minutes, and 47 seconds. Aidan Reilly, ran a time of 18 minutes, and 25 seconds. Both of these runners claim that these were some of their fastest times, and other runners say that they also ran their best on this course.

OLL GIRLS SOCCER

November 30, 2017

BY ANNAELIESE CLARK

Making it to the second round of sectionals, the Our Lady Of Lourdes girls soccer team had a great season. Their first round of sectionals was a home game on October 20 against Groton High School. Working hard with strong footwork, speed, and skill, the girls team was able to defeat Groton with a 6-0 win, including goals scored by Isabella Burke, Maeve Connolly, Kalley Darling, and Julia Schlottmann. The following day, the team had their second sectional game against John Jay Cross River High School. Although the girls fought vigorously against John Jay High School, the team wasn't able to pull out a win with their back-to-back games. Even though the girls didn't make it to the section finals, they still ended a great season with a winning record. Not only did the team have an outstanding season, but there were multiple girls who were recognized and honored with the title of all league: Madeline Lynch, Sydney Campilli, Julia Schlottmann, and Isabella Burke were all recognized for their outstanding play. Sydney Campilli, who worked extremely hard during the season, received a spot for All Section. A team star, Gabby Campilli, the team's goalie, had an amazing season and kept the girls in every game. Although they have six seniors who will be graduating this spring, that won't stop the team from coming back next year as strong as ever.

SIEGRIST SIGNS TO PLAY DIVISION I BASKETBALL AT VILLANOVA

November 30, 2017

BY ROBERTO LEITO

On November 9, Lourdes senior Maddy Siegrist signed her letter of intent to play girls basketball at Villanova University. After receiving thirty-three offers from schools such as Marist, Seton Hall, and St. John's, she was certain that playing with the Wildcats was the right decision for her. The star forward remarked "I knew instantly that's where I belong... the players made me feel welcomed, and I felt at home walking around the campus. It's an amazing opportunity, athletically and academically, and I'm super-excited." Siegrist sees similarities in the playing styles between the Lourdes and Villanova teams. She believes this will contribute to her success at the Division I school, saying "It'll be a challenge, but I think I'm a good fit and I can do well there."

Maddy's basketball career began when she was five years old on the Saint Martin de Porres CYO team. She later played on AAU teams such as the Hudson Valley Knights and the Hudson Valley Elite. Having spent the past four years on the girls varsity team, she has previously won titles for All-Section, All-Conference, and All-League in her sophomore and junior years. *The Poughkeepsie Journal* named her the 2017 Girl's Basketball Player of Year in April, and she has even greater plans for the upcoming season. With OLL entering as one of the favorites in Section 1, Maddy hopes to earn a section title with her teammates, adamantly stating, "I want to leave Lourdes with a banner. We have a great team and I don't think there's any reason we can't end on a great note."

Not only has Maddy excelled on the court, but she has achieved great success in the classroom as well. In addition to being an athlete, she is active within the SADD Club and National Honor Society. Given her academic and athletic talent, she certainly has a bright future ahead of her at Villanova. The Lourdes student body congratulates her on such an amazing accomplishment and wishes the girls varsity basketball team the best of luck this season!

