

# THE WARRIOR NEWSPAPER

The Spring 2023 Issue



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- Nelson Zheng

## LETTER FROM THE EDITORS

Welcome to *The Warrior*, the official student-run newspaper of Our Lady of Lourdes High School. We are a team of young journalists dedicated to publishing articles meant to inform and entertain readers. Here we report on both local and global topics from school news, including school sports, to culture and world events. As you can imagine, putting together a paper with such a wide range of subjects requires countless hours of time and effort, and it is only made possible through the hard work of our amazing writers and staff. Thank you for your time and continued support. Please enjoy our work!

— McKenzie Cooper and Jaiden Rodgers, Editors-in-Chief

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## SCHOOL NEWS


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## SENIOR DISNEY TRIP

May 25, 2023

By Isabella Cho ['23]

At the end of March, the seniors took their annual trip to Disney. This is the second year the annual Disney trip has returned after being canceled in 2021 and cut short in 2020. The seniors were grateful to have a trip free of COVID restrictions, and they made sure to make the most of it. After arriving at Lourdes at midnight on Monday, March 27th, the seniors spent over eight hours traveling to Disney. However, it was worth it because after a short bus ride from the Orlando airport, they began to make unforgettable memories.

The seniors stayed at the Coronado Springs Resort and had access to all four Disney World parks: Hollywood Studios, Animal Kingdom, Magic Kingdom, and Epcot. For five days, they hopped from park to park, delighting in Dole Whip at Magic Kingdom, chowing down on churros at Epcot, and relaxing at the resort. But, they made sure to be safe while doing so. They checked in with their chaperones every few hours and made it back to the resort by curfew. This trip took some work. The seniors had to organize which parks to go to, where to eat, and which rides to go on. However, after they did that, they took full advantage of their time, enjoying the warm and sunny weather as they explored Disney.

The seniors had a great time at Disney, appreciating the days spent with their classmates and friends. The trip was well-organized and well-executed. It is a testament to the many years the trip has been running and the prowess of the school. Thanks to the chaperones and administration for the beautiful trip, and congratulations to the class of '23!


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## PEOPLE OF COLOR CULTURE CLUB'S COLLABORATION FOR BLACK HISTORY MONTH

May 23, 2023

By Mia Lin ['24]

During Black History Month, from February 1st to March 1st, The People of Color Culture Club (POCC) at Our Lady of Lourdes led a special collaboration with the school. Every day, a member of the club would give the announcements to highlight a notable African American figure that helped shape the United States. The people they included have helped fight for racial equality, justice, and freedom. During an interview, Ava Biamonte, an active member of the club, explains why she thinks it is important for the people at Our Lady of Lourdes to learn about these important people. She explains, "Black History Month is a way to commemorate and understand the rich history of black people in our nation." She believes that many schools don't show enough respect for the black community; therefore, they ignore the celebration of Black History Month, which is why Ava volunteered to present many of the announcements during Black History month. A few figures the POCC mentioned were Sister Thea Bowman, Frederick Douglass, and Martin Luther King, Jr. Ava feels honored to be part of the project as "it is important that we take the time to focus our attention towards the contributions of black people and communities in America." Furthermore, she is "very proud of the school's efforts to help accentuate this noteworthy month." Thanks to the People of Color Culture Club, the students and faculty at Our Lady of Lourdes can learn about African American figures that have changed our history.


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## GREASE

May 23, 2023

By Yara Marji ['26]

*Grease* was the 2023 spring theater production at Our Lady of Lourdes. The opening night was March 23 at 7:00 pm, and the closing night was March 26 at 2:00 pm. Starring Ilana Schaad as Sandy Dumbrowski and Jake Lowery as Danny Zuko, the two displayed amazing acting and singing skills during the two-hour long play. *Grease* is about teenagers struggling with peer pressure, moral choices, and love. For example, Danny struggles with dating Sandy as he believes his friends will make fun of him, and Sandy decides to change for Danny. With famous songs such as "Freddie My Love" (sung by Abby Salazar) and "Those Magic Changes" (sung by Matthew Burchell), the play tickets sold out in no time. The music was truly outstanding. Two student musicians who helped provide the music for the play, Paul Trataros, who played the saxophone, and Isabella Cho, who played bass guitar, kept everyone's toes tapping. To everyone's surprise, Father Connolly played the angel on Frenchy's shoulders and sang "Beauty School Dropout" to her in an all-white outfit. In addition, *Grease* provided Lourdes with the opportunity to establish their own Instagram account dedicated to theater performances. Special thanks to Tom Lawrence and all those who invested their time and energy for this amazing production of *Grease*!



Credits to the yearbook committee for taking the photo

POLITICS AND WORLD NEWS



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**THE SPY BALLOON INCIDENT**

May 23, 2023

By McKenzie Cooper [24]

On February 4th, a U.S. fighter jet shot down a mysterious balloon floating over the coast of South Carolina. This sparked public outcry as people wondered what this balloon was and what about it required military action.

The balloon was 200 feet tall and weighed more than a couple thousand pounds. Its size was comparable to the size of the statue of liberty. The balloon was filled with high-tech equipment and could serve communications and other sensitive information. Following this information, the government has taken action to recover the balloon and investigate it. The balloon itself was shot down over water and in very difficult terrain, making the collection of the balloon pieces very difficult for the military. There were also several other unidentified objects shot down soon after the original balloon. These were shot down in equally difficult terrain and have not yet been recovered.



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**CHINESE POPULATION DECLINE WORRIES WORLD**

May 23, 2023

By Jaiden Rodgers [23]

As recently as the 1980s, China had a commanding lead in terms of global population size. India and the United States, the second and third most populated countries respectively, couldn't even match China's size combined. Today, however, China's population is shrinking, and India is set to take the crown as the most populous country within this decade. Beyond the mere optics of losing its number one spot, China's population decline has several important and, likely, dire ramifications for its people and the entire world.

China's National Bureau of Statistics reports information concerning the country's demographics, and near the start of 2023, it revealed that China's population dropped 850,000 people in the year prior. Despite appearing insignificant in the face of China's massive size, this number represents the country's first decline in population since 1961, when Mao Zedong's disastrous Great Leap Forward policies were still in effect. What worries the Chinese government far more than the number itself, however, are the demographic trends in place that could turn this single decline into multiple successive ones.

China's birth rate has been declining for years, and it only continues to hit historic lows. The country's "One-Child" policy immediately comes to mind as the cause, and while it is likely the largest element in the decrease, additional factors are also at play. As modern prosperity has made it easier for women to lead independent lives for themselves, childbearing seems more optional than it has in years past. For its part, the Chinese government has taken steps to encourage births like introducing certain tax deductions, but there is only so much that these kinds of policies can do to address the root issues. Taking a page out of many Western nations' playbooks, many of whom share China's fertility struggles, increasing immigration might slow down the problem. Still, the Chinese government seems unwilling to take steps toward that end.

Regardless of how it happened, China's decreasing population is a bad omen for the entire world, particularly as it relates to economics. China's unique position as "The World's Factory" relies heavily on its large share of the world's factory workers. However, China's new population data suggests that as working-age people there start to retire, there will be fewer and fewer people born to replace them. This will have a catastrophic impact on the global economy if left unresolved, but solving it in and of itself creates problems. As life expectancy in China grows to surpass even the United States, there will be more retirees living longer retirements while using greater resources. As seen in French protests and strikes this year, increasing the retirement age to account for rising life expectancies can create turmoil, and the Chinese population has shown through its protests over COVID-19 restrictions that it can and will rise up against unpopular governmental measures. Given the totality of this issue, it might easily become the defining crisis of the decade.

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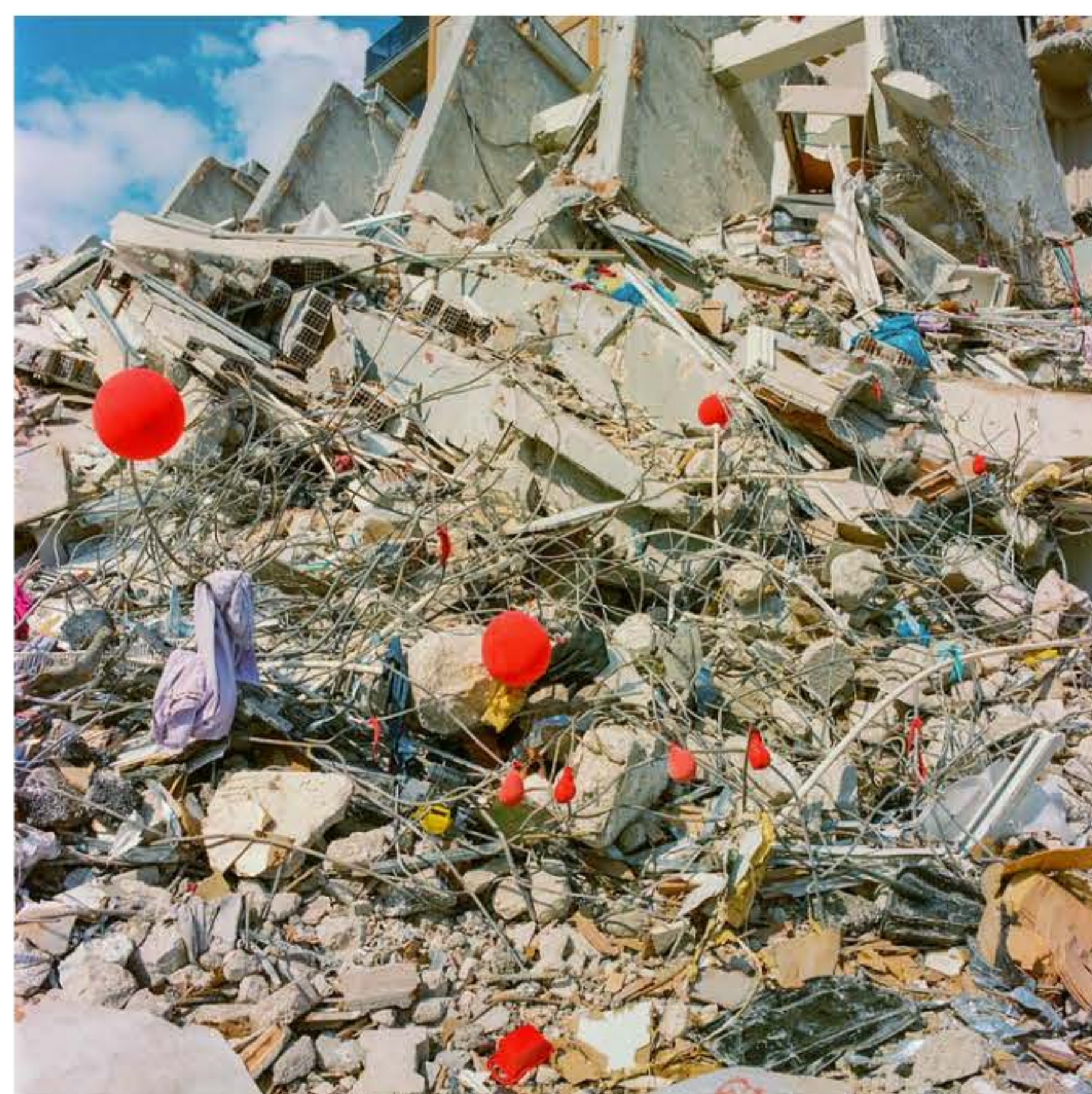
**THE AFTERMATH OF THE 2023 TURKEY AND SYRIA EARTHQUAKE**

May 23, 2023

By Yara Marji [26]

When an earthquake occurs, many actions must be taken. A significant earthquake usually results in search and rescue efforts, medical treatment for those injured, and temporary shelter and supplies for those affected. After a disaster, the focus shifts from disaster relief to rebuilding and recovery. This includes restoring buildings, repairing homes, and providing emotional and mental health support to victims. Government agencies, non-profit organizations, and international aid organizations may need to assist communities after earthquakes. While recovering from an earthquake can be a lengthy and challenging process, affected districts can rebuild with the right preparation, support, and resilience.

The aftermath of the earthquakes in Turkey and Syria on February 6, 2023, is gruesome and unpleasant. Many people were left dead, homeless, or injured in the destructive earthquake. As 49,000 people died, 1.5 million were homeless, and numerous people were injured. Tectonic settings caused the 7.8 magnitude earthquake, which is believed to be the most powerful in Turkey in 80 years. Right after the earthquake stopped, many people started to dig up the remains of their houses, hoping to salvage anything left. In addition, red balloons flew above the remains of collapsed buildings for the children who died. During the crisp February weather, 1.5 million people were homeless, and it seemed uncertain that life could ever return to normal for Turkey again. According to the United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund, 5.4 million children are at risk of anxiety, depression, and post-traumatic stress disorder, which could affect generations to come. Hundreds of schools were destroyed, which will limit education for children. Along with schools being destroyed, many small businesses were turned into shambles and destroyed the future for many citizens. Overall, 34 billion dollars were lost in the earthquake, or 4 percent of Turkey's GDP. In conclusion, this was one of the most damaging earthquakes the world has ever seen, and it will take a very long time for Turkey to recover.



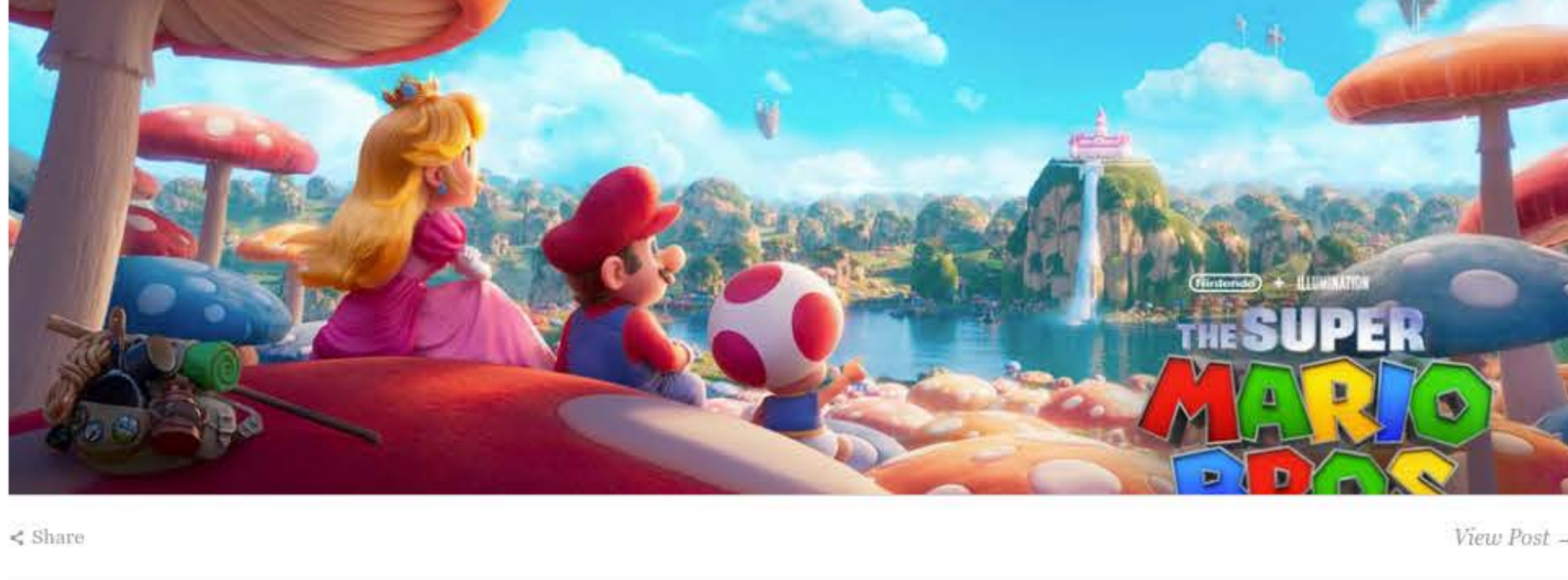
Red balloons to represent the children who have died



Aftermath of a building after the 7.8 magnitude earthquake



CULTURE



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SUPER MARIO BROTHERS MOVIE: DOWN THE DRAIN?

May 23, 2023

By Karolina Mroczek [26]

The newly-released Super Mario Bros. Movie made its way into cinemas on April 5, 2023. The 92-minute film highlights the adventures of two plumber brothers, Mario and Luigi. After an unfortunate plumbing incident, the brothers find themselves whisked away to the familiar and fantastical Nintendo universe. The movie highlights several locations from past Nintendo games, such as the Mushroom Kingdom and the Rainbow Road. In addition, some of Mario's iconic catchphrases (such as "let's a-go" and "it's-a-me!") can be heard throughout the movie.

These references capture the nostalgia behind the original Mario Bros. games, but the movie appeals to all fans—new and old. Many audience reviews state that the movie was worth watching. However, movie critics have been giving the film negative reviews. Despite having an whopping 4.7 star rating among audiences, The Super Mario Bros. Movie received a 56 percent rating from Rotten Tomatoes, three out of five from Common Sense Media, as well as a 47 percent rating from Metacritic. The main concerns behind critic reviews were the plot and voice acting. Critics argued that the film did not have a thorough, enjoyable storyline. In addition, there were complaints regarding the authenticity of the characters' voices. For example, Mario (voiced by Chris Pratt) did not sound remotely close to his original voice in the past video games.

Personally, I can somewhat agree with the critics' reviews. The plot of The Super Mario Bros. Movie was not as entertaining as I hoped; however, some of the voice actors fit their roles quite well. I definitely enjoyed Jack Black's role as Bowser, and Charlie Day's role as Luigi. In addition, I would definitely say that the soundtracks in the movie were on point. My favorite song inclusion would have to be "No Sleep 'til Brooklyn" by the Beastie Boys, which was played as Mario and Luigi ran through the streets of Brooklyn. It was quite fitting for the context behind the scene. I also enjoyed the jingle for the Super Mario Bros plumbing company heard in a television commercial towards the beginning of the movie). The animation quality and attention to detail in the artwork within the movie are fantastic. The only real downside with the movie is the fact that some of Nintendo's other characters were not included (such as Yoshi). As much as I understand this may not boost the plot, I would still like to have seen my favorite Nintendo character on the big screen. However, some of the Nintendo universe references made up for this, such as the kart-racing scene, which included a good portion of the original Mario Kart characters. All in all, I'd say The Super Mario Bros. Movie is worth watching. With its vibrant animation, nostalgia, and humor, this film is not one to miss!

Although The Super Mario Bros. Movie received mixed reviews, it still proved to be rather successful—the film grossed \$32 million so far, but it is predicted that it will earn another \$100 million while in theaters. Audiences enjoyed the movie, but critics are more skeptical of its success. With that being said, one can only wonder: is this movie going to be a success, or will the negative reviews cause Nintendo's reputation to go down the drain?



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THE BALLAD OF SONGBIRDS AND SNAKES REVIEW

May 23, 2023

By Nelson Zheng [24]

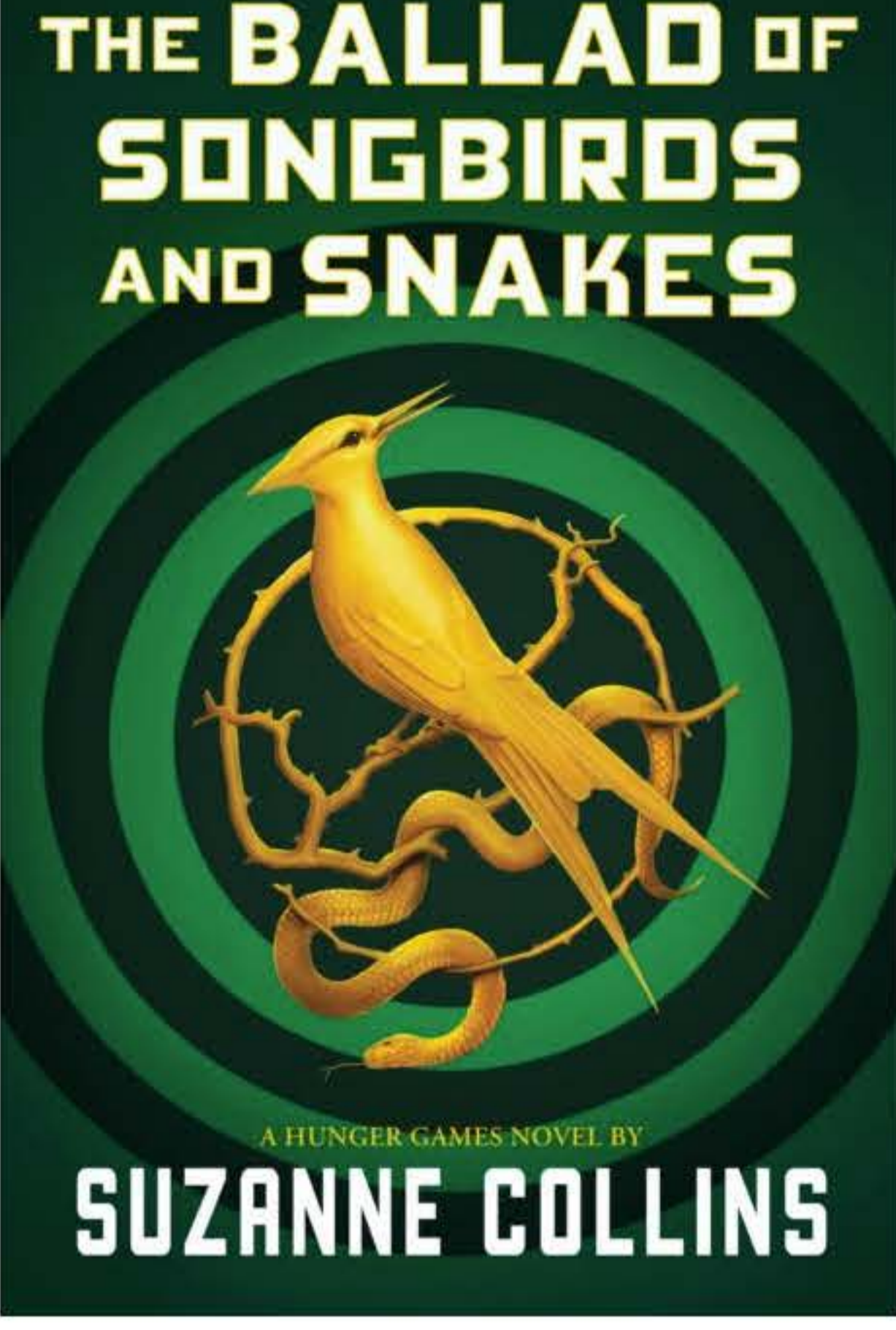
The Ballad of Songbirds and Snakes, by Suzanne Collins, was published on May 19, 2020. It is a spin-off and prequel to the bestselling series The Hunger Games. The Ballad of Songbirds and Snakes is a dystopian action-adventure novel, and it is set 64 years before the trilogy. The story follows young Coriolanus "Coyco" Snow, who would go on to become the president of Panem in The Hunger Games.

Before the war, the Snow family had been one of the richest in the Capitol, but they are now in dire financial straits. Coriolanus is now an orphan living with his grandmother and cousin, Figrin, in an apartment that they can no longer afford. He attends the Academy, the most prestigious school in the Capitol, and is chosen to mentor a tribute in the upcoming tenth Hunger Games because of his academic excellence. Coriolanus is assigned Lucy Gray Baird, the District 12 female tribute and member of the Covey. Coriolanus must ensure Lucy's victory to secure the monetary prize he needs to attend the University. Will Coriolanus be able to secure both his place at the University and Lucy's heart?

The Ballad of Songbirds and Snakes is full of twists and surprises, which can make it difficult for some readers to keep up, but it makes for an exciting casual read. The main antagonist, Dr. Gaul, is the source of many of these surprises. She is a scientist with few qualms about morals and ethics, creating animal and human hybrids. Dr. Gaul would plant the seeds for Coriolanus that would later flourish in The Hunger Games, creating the evil President Snow.

The Ballad of Songbirds and Snakes is a great casual read, but it does end on a curt note. There is an unsatisfactory ending to the relationship between Coriolanus and Lucy, which leaves the reader wondering what more could have developed between the winners of the tenth Hunger Games.

The Ballad of Songbirds and Snakes is a fantastic read, a novel full of twists and turns, regardless of whether you read it before or after you have read The Hunger Games.



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A MESSAGE ON MENTAL HEALTH

May 23, 2023

By Nelson Zheng [24]

With Mental Health Month in May, it is important to discuss the issue at hand without any stigma. Mental health has been on the decline in recent years, especially in high school students. In a report from the CDC, from 2011 to 2021, there has been a 14 percent increase in high schoolers who experienced persistent feelings of sadness or hopelessness. In addition, 29 percent of high schoolers reported experiencing poor mental health in 2021.

The Covid-19 pandemic has played a significant role in this steep decline. During the peak of the pandemic, students were stuck indoors, isolated from their teachers and friends and forced to learn online. The lack of social interactions, coupled with a lack of support from an unprepared system, led to increased mental health issues.

Regardless of the Covid-19 pandemic, high school students struggle to balance their busy schedules. During a time of rapid psychological and physiological change, high schoolers must balance their school work, social life, and extracurricular activities, which often leads to a lack of sleep. In addition, many students face strong pressures to perform well. Regardless of whether the pressures are self-induced or from parents, the desire to get good grades often leads to the sacrifice of sleep during a time when the human body needs eight to ten hours of rest. These pressures, coupled with a lack of sleep, heighten the stress students face.

With the responsibilities that high school students have, it is no surprise that many of them face mental health issues. However, many students do not reach out for help out of fear of being judged. Fortunately, Lourdes does have several guidance counselors that are available for students to speak with. Students are encouraged to reach out to family and trusted adults for help in handling any mental health concerns.

Source:

"YRBSS Data Summary & Trends." Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 13 Feb. 2023. https://www.cdc.gov/healthyyouth/data/yrb/ybs/ybs\_data\_summary\_and\_trends.htm.



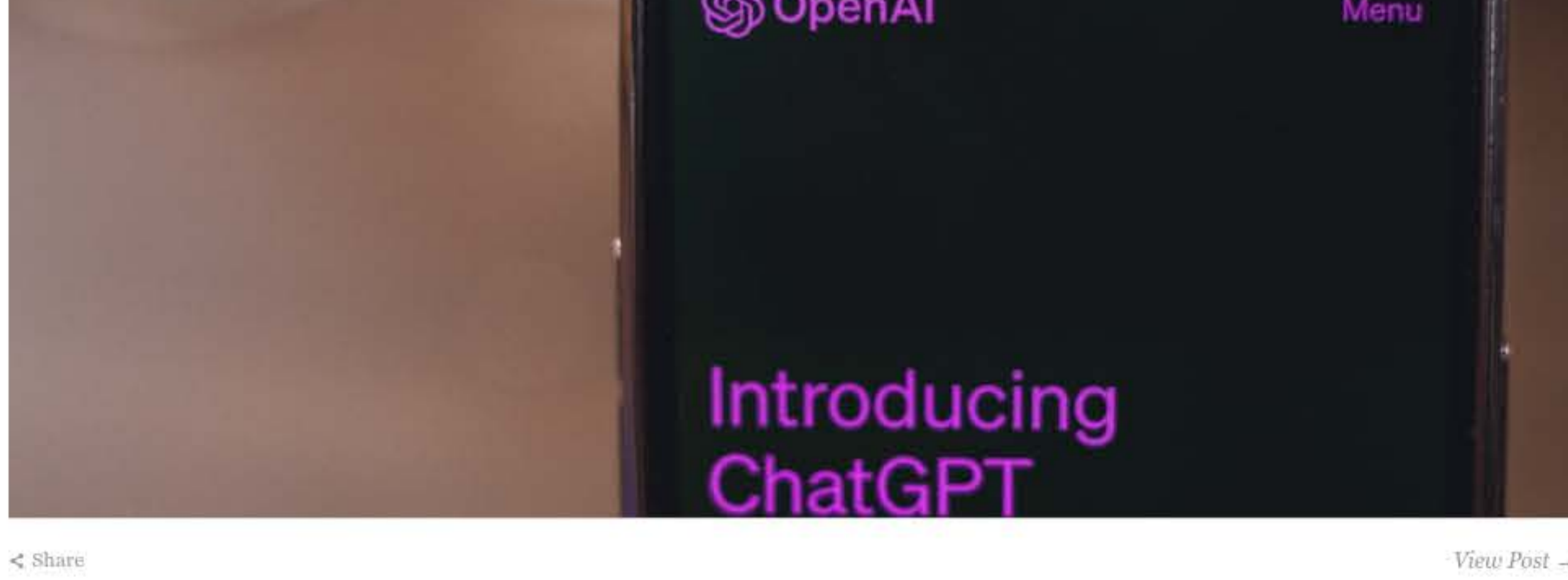
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SPRING HERITAGE MONTHS

May 23, 2023

By Karolina Mroczek [26]

Our heritage month celebration is continuing into the long-awaited spring. As the weather gets warmer, we are reminded of the melting pot of identities found within our country and communities. In March, we kick off spring with our celebration of Women's History Month and National Irish-American Heritage Month. An important date to take note of in March is International Women's Day, which is celebrated on the 8th. April observances include Celebrate Diversity Month as well as National Arab American Heritage Month. In May, we observe Asian Pacific American Heritage Month and Jewish American Heritage Month. Finally, the month of June includes the celebrations of Immigrant Heritage Month and Caribbean American Heritage Month. There are many identities represented in the springtime; each one can be associated with a flower in bloom—unique and beautiful.



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THE PERILS OF CHATGPT: WHEN ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE ISN'T INTELLIGENT

May 23, 2023

By Jaiden Rodgers [23]

AI chatbots have been at the center of endless news stories recently and have been painted in every possible light from a magical technology that will improve lives to the Grim Reaper of English classes and our future digital overlords. Lost in this conversation, however, is an interesting discussion to be had about what it means for a human, or machine, to be intelligent. However, it is, in fact, a particularly worthwhile debate to have in order to understand the real capabilities of today's "AI."

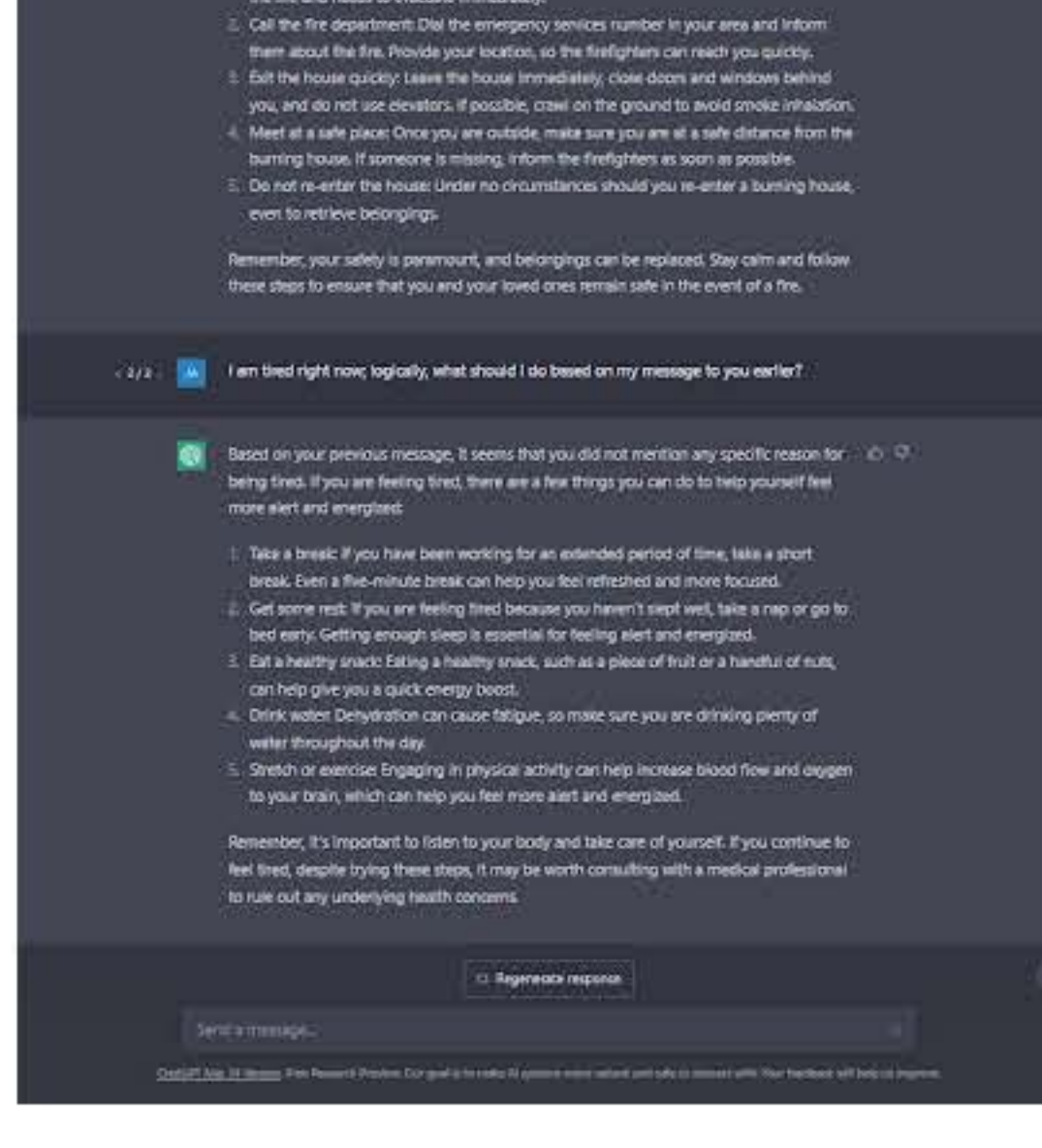
At the forefront of the media attention today is ChatGPT, which describes itself as "a large language model trained by OpenAI based on the GPT (Generative Pre-trained Transformer) architecture." While this sounds futuristic, the principles behind the technology have been in use for decades. When searching Google, for example, an algorithm is used to provide several popular suggestions to complete a query as it is being written. This works because Google is able to collect data about the most popular searches and learn to recognize what humans usually follow certain phrases with. For example, the first completion suggestion for the phrase "What are the symptoms of" is "covid."

It is this basic idea behind ChatGPT's capabilities, although the process is more complex. This response from the AI explains in more detail:

"To train me, OpenAI fed me massive amounts of text data from the internet, including books, articles, and websites. Through this training process, I learned to recognize patterns and relationships in language, and I developed the ability to generate human-like responses to natural language inputs."

While ChatGPT's responses are "human-like," it is hard to call them intelligent. Intelligence is defined as "the ability to acquire and apply knowledge and skills," and it is debatable as to whether or not AI chatbots like ChatGPT have actually acquired knowledge. Though an AI doing basic arithmetic appears virtually identical to a first grader solving a math problem, what the AI does is fundamentally different. AIs are, by their nature, only trained to respond with the most commonly associated answers to messages. An AI does not understand that the sum of "1 + 1" is "2" but rather that "1 + 1" is "almost always followed by "2."

To understand why this is problematic, consider the following exchange I had with the latest version of ChatGPT:



Here ChatGPT understands what information often follows the phrase "My house is on fire. What should I do?" and "I am level right now. What should I do?" However, it is unable to apply the information and context from my first message to my second because both of those questions are seldom asked together. Thus, it recommends that I "take a nap" after telling me to "exit the house quickly!"

It is clear that AI chatbots like ChatGPT are far from perfect in many ways including their very names. The term "artificial intelligence" is a misnomer when applied to technology like ChatGPT. This isn't meant to discredit the genius behind developing these systems, but it is important to recognize when evaluating the worth of these systems. Real artificial intelligence research is happening every day, and while chatbots like ChatGPT will have some utility going forward, real artificial intelligence applications will be unlike anything the world has seen.

## SPORTS

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## SPRING SPORTS REVIEW

June 12, 2023

This spring's athletic season has seen some truly outstanding performances and achievements by our student athletes. We are incredibly proud to highlight some truly impressive accomplishments by our OLL athletes!

**Boys' Lacrosse** celebrated their first section championship in school history!

Students who earned a chance to play first team at All-Section included Matt Krauz, Drew Cornax, and Pat Faughnan while Alex Crysler and Nick Miano earned second team. Honorable Mention included Kenny Luttmann, Connor Wilson, and Colin Irwin.

The US Lacrosse Bob Scott Award was presented to senior Matt Krauz.

**Girls' Lacrosse** celebrated Norah Zuidema and Dierdre Connolly who played 1st team at All-Section, while Lauren Holze, Morgan McHale, Taryn Satkowski played 2nd team. The team also celebrated Norah Zuidema's 400th career save!

The Girls' Lacrosse team is proud and excited for Norah Zuidema and Aleina Sells to sign college commitments to play for Western Connecticut and St. Anselm's, respectively.

**Boys' Tennis** was incredibly proud to celebrate Ned Van Loan's 50th career win, and are proud to announce that Ned Van Loan and Aneesh Bahlerathan finished 2nd at the MHAL Tournament.

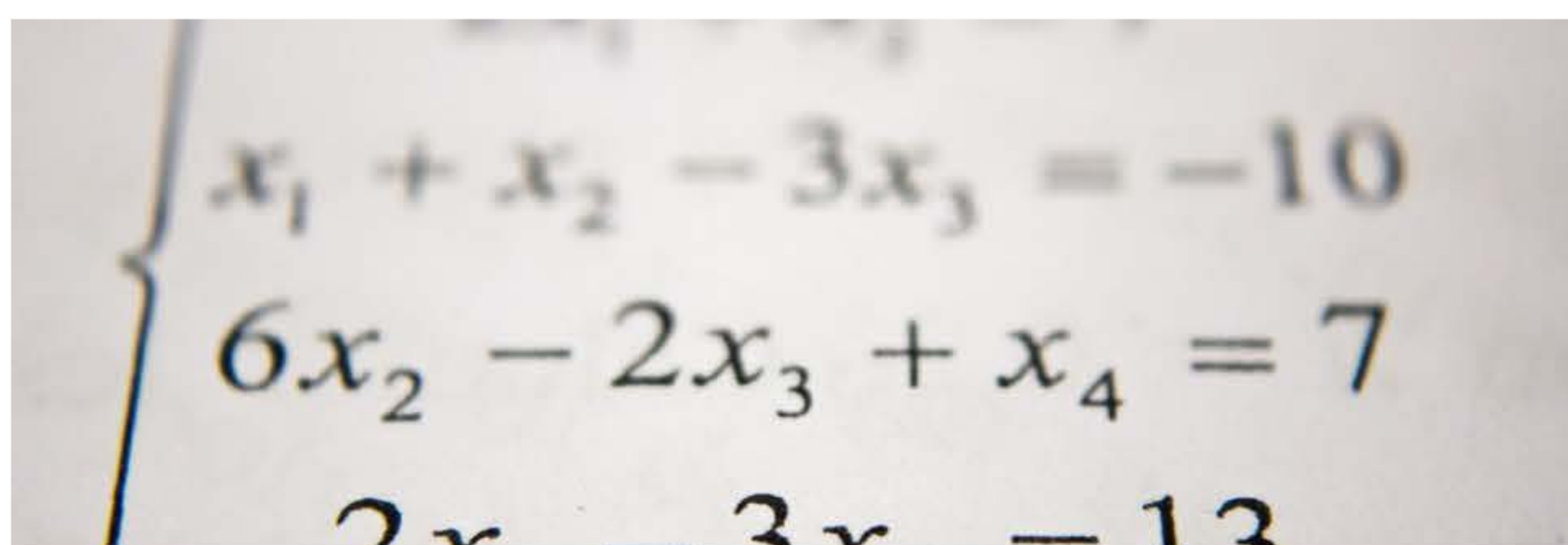
**Track & Field** celebrated Section Champions - Alex North (200M & 400M), Matt Ferreri (1600M), 4x400M Girls Relay - Alex North, Izzy Colabattisto, Piper Ruddy, and Mary Wilantewicz.

The Girls Sprint Medley team (Same 4 girls as above) & Boys Sprint Medley team - Matt Ferreri, Alex Latsko, Tanner Powell, Will Belardo will be running at Nationals - a tremendous accomplishment!

**Softball** celebrated Class B All-Stars: Sophia Camacho, Noelani Sokolik, and Molly Veach.

**Baseball** players Anthony Darrow and Charlie Lyons were honored by an invitation to Dutchess County Baseball Coaches Association (DCBCA) All County.

Overall, the spring saw an incredible performance by our student athletes. We wish our seniors the best of luck in college, and we're looking forward to next season!



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## MATH TEAM UPDATE

May 23, 2023

By Nelson Zheng [24]

With the 2022-2023 season coming to an end, let's look back on this new chapter of the Lourdes Math Team. During the 2021-2022 season, Mr. Cassidy was introduced as the new coach. In the following year, the team would welcome Mr. LaBrenz, a former student at Our Lady of Lourdes High School, as an assistant coach.

The 2022-2023 season would bring many ups and downs, but ultimately, the team was able to qualify for the DUSO Sectional Math Meet at Vassar College on March 8, 2023. In addition, a student has potentially qualified for the New York State Math League (NYMSL) Championship meet at Ithaca High School on April 22, 2023.

After months of competition, students from the Lourdes A Team qualified for the DUSO Sectional Math Meet at Vassar College. Representing the team were students Palge DeMino (11th), Jayden Lolbi (10th), Magdalena Regenerauer (11th), Gabriel Schraml (10th), and Nelson Zheng (11th). After a long day of quadratics, prisms, and systems of equations, the team took home fifth place against twenty other teams.

After the sectional meet, students got to enjoy a presentation from Andy Borum, an assistant professor of mathematics and statistics at Vassar College and visiting assistant professor at Cornell University. In addition to the sectional meet, Nelson Zheng has potentially qualified for the NYMSL Championship meet at Ithaca High School with an overall score of 14 out of 30.

This chapter of the Math Team has shown a promising performance, qualifying for the sectional meet and potentially qualifying for the state meet. To another year of Math Team!



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## OLL FENCING UPDATE

May 23, 2023

By Niki Lin [23]

Following last year's successful OLL fencing season, this year's season came with many challenges as the team adjusted to switching to Section IX and becoming a club sport. This transition came to be because the coaches of the team, Shannon Gauzza, Andrew Gauzza, and Griffin Downs, attempted to start a new league in Section IX. Although this attempt failed due to the lack of competition in Section IX, the team was still recognized as a Section sport and was still able to have good competition by having scrimmages against some of the best teams from Section I, including Arlington and Clarkstown High School.

The fencing team welcomed 10 freshmen this year, greatly increasing the size of the team. These passionate students joined the older students as they warmed up, developed footwork, and worked on the strip together. Before long, the fencing team showed their new skills in competition. They competed against Clarkstown twice, joined a United States Fencing Association (USFA) sanctioned event at the Phoenix Center, and finally, they fenced Arlington in the Arts and Athletic Center. The boy's epee team performed especially well, with Giovanni Gauzza leading the team. The fencing team's other squads brought significant competition, but none of them were able to take a win for their team.

Though this year was quite different from the previous years, I asked four of the fencers how they felt about this season. Ella DeGuzman, a senior and captain of the women's foil team, wanted to express her gratitude to the coaches and teammates. She said, "Special thanks to coaches Shannon Gauzza, Andrew Gauzza, and Griffin Downs for organizing the efforts and team captains Giovanni Gauzza, Nik Capolino, Patrick McGuinness, and Niki Lin for leading their respective teams to victory. Our Lady of Lourdes Fencing is incredibly proud of their fencers this season and we look forward to further developing Section IX fencing as they move forward." Patrick McGuinness, a senior and captain of the men's foil team together with Nick Capolino, shared his thoughts on the season, saying, "This year's fencing season was great. I made new friends, helped a lot of freshmen and underclassmen learn foil fencing. We even were able to get some matches in this year due to our great coaches Shannon Gauzza, Andrew Gauzza, and Griffin Downs. With the help of our Athletic Director, Coach Petruzzelli, we were able to use the AAC for one of our matches against Arlington. Overall, it was a great season with tons of fun, laughs, and a great way to close my fencing career at Lourdes!" Jade Cepeda, a sophomore and foil fencer, said, "Even though we didn't have the same opportunities this year compared to last year in not being able to compete in Section I, so many great people came onto the team and we definitely grew stronger. Many, many memories were made and we are going to miss the seniors so much. There can only be hope for next year and I can't wait. I hope more people open up to the idea of trying something new because only good can come from doing so, no matter how unnatural it seems." Lastly, I asked Giovanni Gauzza, a senior and captain of the boy's epee team with an impressive record of only one loss the entire season. He commented, "The year was brilliant, with many new people joining the team eager to learn about fencing. Everyone was competitive as well, something that is essential to this sport! I highly encourage anyone who is interested but has not tried it to do so, as it is a very fun sport!"

As the captain of the women's epee team, I can say that the fencing team is quite special. Students should definitely consider joining if they are interested. I would also like to thank our coaches for arranging our competitions and always encouraging and supporting us. Even with only four competitions this fencing season, this year was great! As per tradition, we had our team dinner at a buffet and ended the season happy and with wonderful memories to last us a lifetime. I am excited to see the future of this team!



Jade Cepeda (sophomore) tries Parafencing with a member of the Phoenix Center



Giovanni Gauzza (senior) in the lead during a bout against an Arlington fencer



The 2022-2023 fencing team at Hudson Buffet

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