

# THE *Stinger*

HERNDON HIGH SCHOOL

## Hamlet: The '80s Hit

By Conor Gillingham, Staff Writer

The lights go down as the audience begins to settle into their seats; the show's about to start. When Hamlet walks onstage everyone's in shock. They see not a man, but a woman. Herndon's version of the timeless play remained inspired by Shakespeare's tragedy, but with some major changes, such as making Hamlet a girl instead of a boy. Mr. Pafumi, the theater director, did this because he wanted to have more major female roles in the traditionally male led play.

The lead of the play, Junior Izzi Hollenbeck, was a little stressed to play such a heavy role for the first time, but as the cast spent more time

working on the play, she began to enjoy her role.

Last year, Hollenbeck was heavily involved in *She Kills Monsters*, which inspired her to try out for the lead of Hamlet. She researched other people who played Hamlet and went through the script, picking out certain lines that she thought spoke to who Hamlet is and how other people perceive the character. Hollenbeck had also been in roles in previous productions from last year, such as *Sound of Music* and *Twelfth Night*.

A big question she had when starting the show was the gender change of Hamlet. "The way that Hamlet thinks as a male tends to be very instinctive and acting on the moment and doesn't really think through what to do, but I think as a female I've had to think about being strategic in everything she does."

The tone and time period of the play was also changed to the punk era of the 1980s, which was prevalent in the music. However, the play still stayed true to the original Shakespearean play, such as having a castle as the setting. The play also used the language and clothing from the original time period. While most of the women wore

dresses and men wore suits, Hamlet had different clothing such as ripped pants and a white collared shirt. Horatio and Laertes also had wardrobe changes, wearing casual

punk jackets and t-shirts. The story generally followed the original script of Hamlet, with many quintessential moments and characters, such as the ghost of King Hamlet, the killing through the curtain, and of course, the duel between Hamlet and Laertes.

Overall, the play succeeded in retelling Shakespeare's greatest tragedy with classic clothing and sets while also adding a unique modern twist.



From Left to Right, Ava Deutschman, Jake Swery, Natalie Tubia, Abby Hall, Katherine Weiss, Photo by Namir Tubia

The cast had a great time performing each scene, and the play is a strong endeavor for Pafumi's first play at Herndon. The theatre department has started this year with a bang, and there is no doubt Pafumi's next play will be just as great.



Hollenbeck as Hamlet, Photo by Namir Tubia

## Battle of the Boys

By Kate Taylor, Editor

After an astounding performance full of rose petals and spicy dance moves, Senior Fernando Lara took home the coveted title of Mr. Herndon for this year. The third annual Herndon High talent show was held on November 22, bringing together a range of acts, performances, and surprising Q&As. The participants, ranging from juniors to seniors included: Brett Steiger, Mateen Faieq, Lysander Rehnstrom, Quentin Hart, Ryan Baranowski, John Frey, Ben Krauss, Jake Swery, Jordan Owen and Joe Shapiro.



Fernando Lara, Mr. Herndon Winner

The event brought everyone together by including audience participation games throughout the night. When the boys walked out on the stage to begin the evening, the crowd had all their attention on the stage.

Some of the most memorable acts included a miniature balloon version of Mr. Brown from Junior Jake Swery and a High School Musical reenactment performed by the Senior duo Lysander and Quentin. The more comedic performances featured Junior Ben Krauss as a human bowling ball and Senior Joe Shapiro getting his legs waxed while singing along to Adam Sandler's Hanukkah song.

Fernando Lara's winning dance performance, with the help of Senior Giselle Abrego, was the real stand out moment of the show. The duo's energetic dancing excited the audience enough to erupt in cheers. Lara felt honored to win the competition, having been able to "proudly represent the school". The event was packed with spectacular performances and crowd-pleasing moments from beginning to end. Above all, the dance routine by Mr. Herndon himself brought the crowd to their feet, earning Lara his well-deserved victory.

## Reston Parade Nominated for Award

By Conor Gillingham, Staff Writer

The biggest event that took place at Reston Town Center was the Christmas parade. Over the years, the RTC Christmas parade has been the most popular parade in the state, being voted best holiday parade for the last three years. It was a blast being filled with so many Christmas events.

The RTC parade consists of many floats involving balloons, musicians, dancers, antique cars, and much more. This Parade is the biggest and

games near the fountain. For this occasion, there where a lot of decorations to prepare for the parade like the Christmas tree set up and bleachers for the people who wanted to see the parade. All the people that showed up were super excited to see the parade along with the events that followed later.

This year, the parade went through the main street of the town center instead of the route used during



previous years due to construction. The parade consisted of many cool floats and performers, like a gingerbread balloon, some girl scout troops dressed as Christmas elves and most memorably, the Santa Claus carriage. Like last parades, the floats weren't limited to just the holidays

most popular part of the day, complete with floats, excellent balloons and performances. It has been so popular that it has been voted the best holiday parade for the past three years!

The parade had a large turnout, the streets filled with people all along the sections where the parade went by. Holiday events were already set up, like ice-skating and Christmas

with more girl scout troops, representatives of Virginia and of course, the Star Wars floats.

In short, the parade was a very big event with a lot of reception and people had a very good time and hope the parade is just as good next year with many great decorations and floats.

# NEWS

## The World of Black Friday

Alisa Keating and Sabhyata Pokhrel, Staff Writers

Every year millions of people anxiously await this day. The day of endless sales and deals that has people spending weeks, if not months, planning on what to buy. What we may think about is, what's the real cost of Black Friday?

Each year Thanksgiving passes, but what people look forward to most is the following day, Black Friday. Black Friday is every shopper's dream: stores open past midnight, major discounts, and the pressure to grab anything and everything in sight, even if it is unnecessary. Last year alone, there was an estimate of \$6.2 billion spent in stores, while online sales brought in \$3.7 billion.

Most people shop for the tradition, while some shop simply for the adrenaline rush. Black Friday has become so popular, it has spread to Canada where its called "Vendredi fou" on December 4th, and Britain where its called "Boxing Day" on December 26. Even China has its own version of Black Friday, but with a different name, Singles Day. Unlike Black Friday, Singles Day was November 11th, but still has the same value as Black

Friday. This year on Singles Day, there was an estimate of \$38 billion spent from Alibaba, the Chinese e-commerce giant that kickstarted Singles Day. Even Cyber Monday has spread to the United Kingdom, Portugal, New Zealand and many other countries.

Prediction has been set at \$12 billion in online sales this year in the U.S. alone. Shockingly, this year's online Black Friday sales only reached \$7.4 billion which is less than last year's \$7.9 billion.

Cyber Monday is becoming increasingly popular, and is the perfect way to get all the benefits of Black Friday from the comfort of your home. In fact, this year's sales reached nearly \$9.4 billion. Cyber Monday first began in 2005 and was made by a marketing team from shop.org to make more consumers use their computers to do their shopping.

This year, Black Friday was a hit. Stores were selling just as fast as they were opening. This was to be expected, with every year becoming more demanding, and stores fighting to keep up. Compared to last year, consumers have spent 82% more through the Internet. It appears that Black Friday shows no signs at stopping and continues to impress year after year.



## Giving Back Over the Holidays

By Saowbia Rahman, News Editor

The holiday season is a time for celebration and family, but also one for service and giving back to the community. This year, Fairfax County has many volunteer opportunities available for students at HHS. Whether or not you celebrate during the winter holiday season, there are plenty of chances for students to receive service hours or give back to the community.

The first opportunity is working as a Store Assistant at the Women Giving Back organization. Women Giving Back is a non-profit organization focused on donating clothes to women and children in need. The organization is looking for volunteers to assist at their Sterling location. Volunteers are expected to sort and hang clothing, receive donations and help clean the store.

The age requirement is 12 years, however, students under the age of 15 must have a parent/guardian accompany them. If you're under 15, definitely consider volunteering with your parent/guardian and it can be a bonding experience for your family. Sign up to volunteer or for more information on Women

Giving Back at their website: [women-givingback.org](http://women-givingback.org).

The next opportunity is volunteering at Frying Pan Farm Park for their various holiday activities throughout December. Students can volunteer to be Bluegrass Barn Assistants where they either help set up rooms for an event or work the gate for concert-goers.

Additionally, there is also a chance to be a Stagehand (Only students 16 and older) and receive firsthand experience in setting up sound equipment for concerts during the holiday season. Students interested in the endeavor will be able to work with sound engineers and shadow a professional in their work. For more information, visit the Fairfax Volunteer website at [volunteer.fairfaxcounty.gov](http://volunteer.fairfaxcounty.gov).

Despite the fact that it is the holiday season and a time of rest and relaxation, it is also a great opportunity to give back to the community. Whether it's for service hours or a way to get outside this holiday season, be sure to get involved in community service.



## FCPS Approves the Creation of a K-12 Gun Violence Prevention Curriculum

By Delaney Sheeran, Staff Writer

Days after the Parkland School Shooting in February of 2018, Ryan McElveen, a school board member popular for announcing snow days, stated on Twitter that he would present a gun violence prevention plan to the FCPS school board. According to McElveen's official Twitter page, his resolution plan was greenlighted and

will now be part of the curriculum in FCPS schools following the 2020-21 school year.

McElveen is currently running for Chairman of the School Board and according to his election website, [mcelveenforchairman.com](http://mcelveenforchairman.com), he has served as a school board member since 2012, and has worked tirelessly with teachers and parents to make sure our education system is the best it can be.

According to the Washington Area Board of Education, Fairfax County is the 18th best public school system in the nation, and the tenth biggest, so the approval of such a controversial curriculum is a big step for public schools in America concerning the ongoing debate over the solution to

shootings within schools.

McElveen's announcement promises gun safety and following through on his promise to implement new guidelines that will ensure a more protected environment for students.

In fact, HHS has installed cameras all across the school and plan to add more as renovations move further along. In case of emergencies, the school will always have camera footage to look back on.

However unfortunate it may be that schools have to worry about gun violence, it is commendable that the county and school is taking action to establish a safer academic environment for students and staff.





# OPINIONS

## AP V.S. Dual Enrollment:

### Which is the Best Choice For Students?

As soon as students receive that class course catalog, dread slowly settles in them as they struggle to decide what class to take. Should you take an advanced course that comes with many struggles with future benefits? Or do you want to take a regular high school level class that might make your life a bit easier? However, there is another course to consider when deciding between classes: Dual Enrollment. Dual Enrollment and AP courses both have their benefits and drawbacks, but truly what class you want to take depends on your own capabilities and what college you want to go to.

#### Dual Enrollment (DE)

By Brianna Tran, Opinions Editor

I have taken both Dual Enrollment (DE) and AP courses, and I can safely say that there are some aspects of DE I enjoy more. It is a proper college course that any other student at NOVA would take. There are no homework grades, only tests, quizzes, and projects, and you are responsible for learning the material. If you need help, it is your responsibility to go to the teacher. DE is a great class for independent learners.

Another plus is that you do not have to take the AP exam. Students in Dual Enrollment simply need to pass both semesters with a C to receive credit. DE is also based on a semester system, and at the end of each semester, your grade is permanently put on your college transcript.

However, DE also has its drawbacks. DE credit is not easily transferable and is, usually, only accepted at in-state colleges. Since students do not have to take the AP exam, DE is a slower-paced advanced course as there is no exam deadline. Students who plan to go out of state or have trouble studying independently should not take Dual.

Personally, I am taking DE classes to get my required credits out of the way. These classes are mandatory for most college degrees. I plan to go in-state and enjoy the independent learning aspect of these classes. AP classes can be more stressful because of the homework and classwork grades

as well as the exam at the end of the year.

Nonetheless, the AP credit is more beneficial as it is more commonly accepted. Students are also not required to take the SOL if they are

taking an AP exam. Overall, if you are debating between DE and AP classes, consider your learning abilities and your plans for the future and university.

#### Advanced Placement (AP)

By Saowbia Rahman, News Editor

As someone who has taken several AP classes, I regret not taking any Dual Enrollment classes. AP classes were always hyped up to be challenging courses, the more you take, the more impressive you will appear on college applications.

While it is true that AP classes

show a more rigorous course load, the end-goal may not be worth it to many students. My brother is currently in his freshman year of college, and he did not receive any AP credit because almost none of the classes he took in high school pertained to his major. In general, the college you attend controls which classes you receive AP credit for, and students feel like all

of their hard work just didn't pay off.

Despite the fact that six of the AP exams are paid for by FCPS, many students pay the fee for more than one exam during their senior year of high school. In fact, I am expected to pay \$188 for the two AP exams that are not covered by FCPS. Regardless of whether or not they receive AP credit, College Board gets their money.

In general, when it comes to AP exams, the end goal usually don't justify the means. The stress of taking a three-hour exam and wondering whether or not you will receive college credit for an AP class can be agonizing for students. Most HHS students end up attending in-state universities and taking college courses for free in high school sounds far more appealing.

Despite the fact that only a few DE classes are available at HHS so far, please take advantage of the opportunity if you plan on attending college in Virginia. Not only will it benefit your wallet, it will also help in furthering your academic success in high school and beyond.



The Sentinel

## The American College System is Broken: Fix It

By Brianna Tran, Opinions Editor

Thousands of high school seniors spend countless late nights studying, writing essays, and stressing over a decision that will change their future. College application season is the most stressful time for most students as they struggle to get accepted to the school of their dreams.

Society has taught that college is important. The higher ranked your university is, the better shot you have at succeeding in life.

However, colleges purposely make it more difficult for students to get accepted, depending on your race, gender, and even income; this needs to stop.

It is true that students need good academic scores, but colleges and universities look beyond that. There is always a reserved percentage of applicants for top athletes and legacies. Legacies have a significant advantage when it comes to applications, having almost four times the acceptance rate compared to non-legacy students.

Many schools look at race and diversity quotas, giving preference to white students. Schools need a certain

percentage of minority students to be considered diverse. Take Yale University for example. It is considered to be an ethnically diverse school, but there is still a majority as 46.2% of students are white; Asians, African Americans, and Hispanics combined make up 40.2% of the campus.

Schools also look at your household family income when considering your application. Schools

favor the wealthy because the wealthy give donations, and more donations means more money. Rich alumni help universities financially in the future. The median household income in the United States was \$61,372 in 2018. In context, the average college tuition for four years is \$34,740.

According to the New York Times, most top colleges have students that are in the top 1% financially compared to those at the average income. Students in certain financial brackets

have a hard time acquiring financial aid and grants from schools.

These financial and racial biases are incorporated into admissions. Harvard University has recently been in the spotlight for racial prejudice. The school has been accused of altering SAT scores based on a student's race, adding and deducting points where deemed necessary. This case has been brought up to the Supreme Court, and despite Harvard admitting to these alterations, the Supreme Court has sided with Harvard, saying that Harvard has been fair in their admissions.

These biases and alterations to justify acceptance needs to end now. Universities are taking away opportunities from those who deserved them based on factors they cannot control.

So many students work hard to try to go to the university of their dreams, only to be rejected because of their genetics. This racial bias only furthers racism in the nation, and financial bias widens the gap between the rich and the poor. If society thinks attending university is so important, than they should make it fair to all those applying.



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ORDER AP SPANISH TEST LATE (\$30 EXTRA)	CSS FINANCIAL AID PROFILE (\$25 + \$18 PER SCHOOL)	READY, SET, GO! OR SHRETT	SENIOR YEAR AP TESTS	NO EARLY ADMISSIONS GO WAIT LIST	SEND SCORES TO FIVE SCHOOLS	SCORE VERIFICATION	HAVE SCORES RUSHED	COLLEGE HANDBOOK
AP CALCULUS	AP CALCULUS	OFFICIAL SAT STUDY GUIDE	OFFICIAL SAT ONLINE COURSE	TEST FEE	RETAKES	CLEP TESTS	RETAKES	TEST FEE

## Librarian Champs

By Michael Wemyss, Editor-In-Chief

After competing against all of the high school libraries in the state, our very own librarians, Ms. Wolfe, Ms. Dare, and Ms. Shepard, have received the Virginia Association of School Librarians (Va ASL) award for making our library program outstanding. The librarians received their awards in Roanoke, Virginia, at the Hotel Roanoke, on November 8, after having breakfast with author Candace Fleming who wrote many biographies that our library owns, gave an impactful speech to all of the librarians of the different schools in the state. Throughout the day, our librarians attended sessions from various libraries on how they make theirs successful and how they can apply those methods to our own library. After a long day of learning, everyone attended the awards ceremony where our librarians received their awards.

With all the help that our library puts into the school, they were notified at the conclusion of the 2018-19 school year that they had won the award. Our library always lends a hand

to the staff and students here whenever they need help. ESOL students are now part of learning programs thanks to the librarians, and teachers have a guide to where they need to go for their lesson plans. Another great use of our librarians is that they help students with assignments. Come here on most mornings as early as you like and there will always be someone there willing to help you out with anything.



Bringing home the trophy

Assistant principal Mr. Gillespie stated that, "This is a group that would do anything to support teachers and students. They worked really hard to include everybody in the school. They also worked with teachers and would go above and beyond to help a teacher out."

The librarians are determined to strive, as they always do, with providing the best information that they have to everyone, and to lend a hand to anyone. So far there is no set location for where they will put their award at, but if you are curious, ask them to see it and congratulate them!

## Mystery of The Universal 'S'

By Joseph Borowski, Staff Writer



For a very long time, the universal 'S' symbol has become a mystery to some, no one quite knows where the symbol comes from. The Universal S may have even dated back centuries before any of our grandparents or great-grandparents were ever born.

The current use of the Universal S is in graffiti art and in school. When bored students had nothing else to do but draw on the desk, or on a piece of paper, the famous Universal S is fun, yet simple to create.

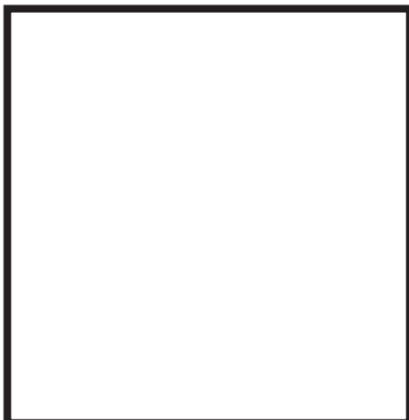
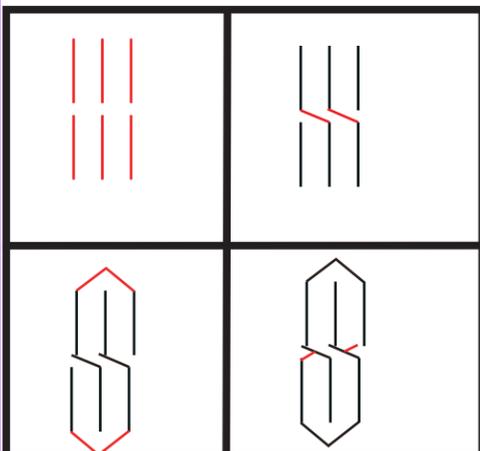
We can trace the symbols history as far back as before the 20th century, in the year 1890, when a book illustration titled, "Mechanical Graphics," was published, it featured the iconic and fun-to-draw Universal S. It was written by a professor named Frederick Newton Willson who taught geometry at Princeton University in New Jersey.

The iconic symbol has been discussed by people all over the internet, from Reddit, Facebook, and even on Youtube, where one YouTube celebrity by the name of Lemino, tries to break down the history of the symbol.

The Universal S is well over a century old, and probably existed before the year 1890, we most likely will never know because this iconic piece of art had not gotten popular until the '90s. Students in school started to doodle the image they saw outside from school in the form of graffiti on walls, streets, abandoned places, and other objects.

As you reach out for your pencil the next time you're bored in class, and have nothing else to do, know that the universal 'S' is a mystery that has

### Draw it here!



## Food for Neighbors

By Kate Taylor, Editor

Food for Neighbors is a non-profit organization that strives to end student hunger in Herndon, VA, and its surrounding area. For thousands of families in Northern Virginia, food insecurity is a real and present threat.

Food for Neighbors runs on their Red Bag Program, where local residents can directly donate to students and families in need.

Here's how you can make a difference: Request a red bag at ([www.foodforneighbors.org/red-bag-program/](http://www.foodforneighbors.org/red-bag-program/)). Fill the bag with grocery items from the official shopping list.

This list mainly includes non-perishable items that are easy to distribute.

Place the bag out on your doorstep the morning of a collection day that will be collected by Food for Neighbors volunteers.

Many local businesses and companies also serve as a donation collection center, where you can drop

off items without having to wait for the next collection date. To see the full list of donation centers, head to the Food for Neighbors website.

Since the first Red Bag collection in November 2016, the group has made strides in providing disadvantaged residents with the food they need.

Currently, there are more than 900 kids receiving weekly support across 19 middle and high schools.

Food for Neighbors pantry at Herndon High School is open every Thursday afternoon so students can plan to take food home for the weekend.

With the upcoming winter break, the organization is working to distribute food beforehand to ensure students can make it through the time away from school.

Upcoming Dates: The next red bag pickup is on January 11. The organization asks that all filled red bags are placed by your front door, no later than 8:30 am.



foodforneighbors.com

## HO HO OH NO!

By Hector Pagan, Staff Writer

Jolly Saint Nicks and energetic elves are a familiar sight to see on TV and in stores right after Halloween, but did Santa come to town too soon?

It's shocking how when Halloween cobwebs go down, the Christmas trees go up almost instantaneously. Almost everyone forgets about Thanksgiving. A holiday that is now celebrated as a secular holiday, it gets drowned out by the Christmas cheer.

The immediate arrival of Christmas is an excuse for big companies like Macy's to increase the prices on their stock. Some companies even lower the prices of their stock or add discounts in hopes that you will buy more than one of an item. Christmas, a Christian holiday with a tradition of gift-giving, has now lost its value and become a Hallmark Holiday-- a holiday that exists only for selling merchandise.

Holidays fall into two categories: "targeted" and "non-targeted." A targeted holiday is massively advertised on television and magazines by businesses.

When a holiday is targeted, you will often see merchandise themed



around said holiday, like an m&m wrapper where the red m&m has a Santa hat on or coupons within a magazine that says, "Buy one, get one 50% off."

A non-targeted holiday is advertised very little to none and is usually overlooked by the public. You will rarely see advertisements for these holidays on TV.

Though you might find advertisements for smaller holidays, they just don't compare to Christmas. Christmas has come too early! We should celebrate one holiday at a time and when celebrating big holidays, we should spend more time with loved ones.

Rather than spending a large amount of money on overpriced gifts, we should focus on making

memories and enjoying the moment. If you do decide to get a gift for someone, you shouldn't get anything overpriced. You shouldn't have to break the bank during the holidays. Nevertheless, happy holidays, Herndon!



Happy Holidays Hornets!



# THE BUZZ

## John of All Trades

By Delaney Sheeran, Staff Writer

John Czekanski is one of the most interesting people at Herndon High School. You have probably seen him around school in one of his absolutely fire fits, or maybe you saw him on the lacrosse field, but his main passion in life remains the viola. He says that during the summer he practices up to five hours a day. It's no surprise that John is ranked among the top ten violists in the state. He has already played for some of the most prestigious conservatories in the U.S including the San Francisco conservatory as well as the Oberlin Conservatory. While he will play in the best orchestras and string quartets in America, his main goal is to play background for major pop artists, and introduce a new style to popular

music. He is incredibly talented and driven; there are no doubts that we will be seeing him on stage next to pop icons like Beyoncé in the near future.



Courtesy of John Czekanski

## The Problem with Robot Rights

By Trinity White, Staff Writer

The debates surrounding robots and whether they should possess similar rights to humans have been a controversial topic in pop culture. On one side, pro-rightists stand by granting artificial intelligence (AI) androids rights if they convey any sort of emotions or self-awareness, while others believe AI is incapable of executing human bodily functions, therefore do not deserve rights.

One event that sparked commotion around this topic was in October 2017. One of the most famous humanoids, Sophia, became a citizen in Saudi Arabia.



Sophia the Robot with a Citizenship

Granting rights for human androids is dangerous for multiple reasons. First, androids are unable to produce authentic emotions because they are composed of mere coding. No matter how human an AI may act, their roots will always stem from coding.

Secondly, robots are incapable of performing jobs that require nurture and self-thinking. For example, judges not only rely on the Constitution to

conclude a decision, they also take into account the public's opinion to help create the most reasonable decision. AI are unable to grasp the complexity of having a moral or ethical stance, because their entire personality is based on data.

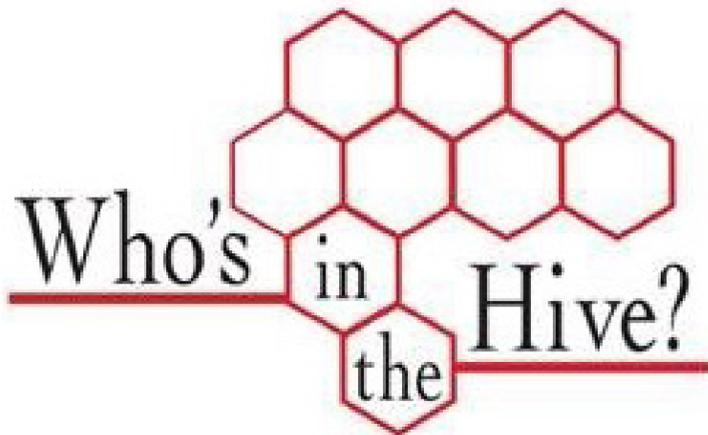
Lastly, androids are claimed to be self-improving, thus, over time, they advance themselves and become self-sufficient. Of course, this sounds impressive and it is, however, where is the limit? The AI's self-improving software is unpredictable, therefore how are we sure

these androids will not become harmful to humans or society?

Although robots are changing society for the better, they should not be granted rights because there are too many possibilities that lead to danger. Their lack of empathy and their programming to constantly self-improve themselves create dangerous scenarios for the future.

each other.

Gamers come together every other Thursday to geek out with one-another. They all have one thing in common, they love to play smash. Students bring their consoles and Smash Bros games to compete with others and to have a good time after a long



## Photoshoot with Mr. Wellington

By Joseph Borowski, Staff Writer

From the beautiful Highlands in Scotland, to the bustling streets of New York City, Jason Wellington takes photos wherever he goes, mercilessly taking up camera memory in the name of his passion, photography.

It all started in the darkroom, where photos from old cameras are processed in being developed. In high school, Wellington took photo 1 as an elective



for his junior year and quickly fell in love with it in the darkroom, describing how it was "Magical," the fact you can take pictures, go to the dark room, and expose a special piece of paper to chemicals, and witnessing the image come alive in front of your eyes," There's nothing like it."

For four years, Wellington has been teaching photography to his students. Each year he tries something new, primarily to improve his teaching method or lessons. Wellington wants his students for this school year to explore and experiment with new processes and techniques. Wellington also wants his students to come up with their own ideas and opinions as well to make lessons more personal.

Wellington's first year teaching was exciting, primarily since his classes are a mix of all grade levels, artistic skill, and personal interests making his classes diverse and very challenging.

With two kids and a wife, Wellington's personal life is busy, but also very active. For five years, he has been a throwing coach at George Mason University, working with the javelin throwers. When Wellington isn't doing photography, coaching, or taking care of his family, he does wood-working as a passion, making gifts, objects, and furniture.

## Oreo Drops

- 1 (18oz) package Oreo sandwich Cookies
- 8 oz cream cheese
- 1(12oz) bag semi sweet chocolate chips
- 2 tsp crisco

### Directions:

- Crush Cookies to fine crumble and mix with softened cream cheese
- Form dough into balls and place on waxed paper on cookie sheet pan
- Freeze at least one hour

- Melt chocolate chips and crisco in a double boiler
- Dip the round Oreos to coat (or use skewers to dip)



Snackworks.com

Set on wax paper until coating hardens (Helps if placed in a refrigerator) Sprinkle remaining crushed Oreos on top of chocolate covered oreo.

## Smashing After School

By Michael Wemmys, Editor

Ready...Go! Bring your Nintendo Switch for some good times with Mr. Fox as he hosts the Super Smash Bros Club this year for a great experience! Everyone huddles around the white board waiting to see who will take down the number one player as others play their own competition with

talks about why he likes it, "It gets kind of competitive, and people talk about strategies... it's just all a whole bunch of nerds and friends getting together."

Next time you walk by room B237, be sure to challenge Mr. Fox in a round of Smash Bros, as well as some other skilled players who love to have your company!



Gamers challenging Mr. Fox

day at school.

Don't miss the opportunity to try to compete with Mr. Fox as well as other experienced players. Each fighter you choose in the game has their own unique abilities and characteristics that make the game so diverse. You can play one on one with your friend or challenge a group of people to a fight and see who will come out as the top competitors.

Junior Ryan Loehrke, a fellow Smash Bro, enjoys the activity and



# SPORTS

## Running All the Way Dunking Through the to 5th in Virginia Season

By Sam Green, Sports Writer

The Herndon boys cross country team finished their season as one of the top performing teams in Virginia.

The team won districts before finishing fifth in states. They worked hard both before and during the season through rigorous training, which

helped them represent Herndon this year.

Finishing fifth was a big accomplishment for Herndon as their training and hard work paid off. After a season of running and training, the boys cross country season is over, but it

By Sam Green, Sports Writer

From a new head coach to a strong group of players, boys varsity basketball looks to leap high and have a slam dunk season. The team's new coach this year, Kevin Quinlan, is also a science teacher here. Also, the group of players on varsity is different, as some

this year's squad. This is a good sign for the team as they become a tight group, and keeping this chemistry throughout the season will lead to good results for them. "Every minute of practice is meaningful," said Lacy, "Practice is pretty intense." With this hard work and preparation, the boys will be prepared for the season as they look to have a good season.

In their first game, varsity lost by three points to Oakton HS. It was a close game and the final score was 59-56. "We had a big momentum run, and then we broke down," said Lacy, as Herndon was on and off while playing a great game. In their third game, the boys won 64-38 against Fall Church for their first win of the season. This will give them confidence as they have their first win out of the way.

The girls varsity basketball team's season has also started, and they have started out strong. Like the boys, the girls look to have a great season with a dominant team.

In their first game, the girls lost 48-43 against Oakton HS. In their second and third games, the girls won 51-50 against Lake Braddock HS and 66-42 against Falls Church. In all three games, the girls played well and showed their great team skills. They have two wins so far and will be looking to win a lot of games as the season goes on.



Congratulations to the Herndon Hornets Dance Team on their wins at the regional competition. On 12/8, the dance team took home the prize for first place in jazz and second place for varsity pom. They also received a special jazz choreography award. Their hard work throughout the year is showcased in their various wins in the regional competition.

players left and others joined. In order for this team to have a good season, they need to establish chemistry and practice hard.

"We have great chemistry," said Junior Corey Lacy as he spoke about



## Swimming To Victory

Riley Price, Sports Writer

If you want to see a pile of spaghetti disappear then you should eat with the HHS Swim team. "I eat a lot of carbs before the meets, so that I can have a lot of energy," said Junior swimmer Cooper Hill. With tryouts finished and the roster finalized, the team has started practicing.

Practice and training for any team is one of the most important keys to having a successful season. What you eat before a practice or game can also impact your performance. With the team having practices for the majority of the week, it's also important

that they get proper rest.

Practices and training aren't the only thing a team needs to do to be successful. "We are a close knit family and that really helps with our success," said Hill. "With the seniors from last season leaving, this season will be harder," said Hill. "The seniors last year were the backbone of the team." Even without the seniors, Herndon should have another good season due to the amount of practice they have, the amount of team chemistry they have, and the amount of pasta they eat.

### Boys Varsity Basketball Schedule:

- 12/17 (7:30 pm) vs Marshall HS
- 12/20 (7:30 pm) vs Westfield HS
- Falls Church Tournament on 12/26 (2:15 pm), 12/27 (TBD), 12/28 (TBD) @Falls Church HS
- 1/3 (7:30 pm) vs Chantilly HS
- 1/7 (7:30 pm) @ Robinson Secondary School
- 1/10 (7:30 pm) @ South Lakes HS
- 1/14 (7:30 pm) vs Washington-Liberty HS
- 1/17 (7:30 pm) @ Yorktown HS
- 1/21 (7:30 pm) @ Langley HS
- 1/24 (7:30 pm) vs McLean HS
- 1/28 (7:30 pm) @ Washinton-Liberty HS
- 1/31 (7:30 pm) vs South Lakes HS
- 2/4 (7:30 pm) vs Yorktown HS
- 2/7 (7:30 pm) vs Langley HS
- 2/11 (7:30 pm) @ McLean HS

### Girls Varsity Basketball Schedule:

- 12/17 (7:30 pm) @ Marshall HS
- 12/20 (7:30 pm) @ Westfield HS
- 1/2 (7:30 pm) @ Chantilly HS
- 1/7 (7:30 pm) vs Robinson Secondary School
- 1/10 (5:45 pm) @ South Lakes HS
- 1/14 (7:30 pm) @ Washington-Liberty HS
- 1/17 (7:30 pm) vs Yorktown HS
- 1/21 (7:30 pm) vs Langley HS
- 1/24 (7:30 pm) @ McLean HS
- 1/28 (7:30 pm) vs Washington-Liberty HS
- 1/31 (5:45 pm) vs South Lakes HS
- 2/4 (7:30 pm) @ Yorktown HS
- 2/7 (7:30 pm) @ Langley HS
- 2/11 (7:30 pm) vs McLean HS



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# ENTERTAINMENT

## Top Five Christmas Movies to Get You in the Spirit

By Victoria Taylor, Staff Writer



As Christmas time rolls around, the perfect way to get into the holiday spirit is by watching movies. Here are the top five Christmas movies to get you ready for the holidays.

At number five, there is *The Nightmare Before Christmas*. In this film, the main character Jack Skellington stumbles upon a secret door that leads him to Christmas town and from there on he is dedicated to recreate his own Christmas by becoming Santa Clause. This movie doubles as a Halloween and Christmas movie with an eerie vibe to counteract the traditional cozy Christmas feeling.

Number four is *The Santa Clause*. This movie starts with a dad (Scott Calvin) and his son discovering Santa on their roof on Christmas eve. Santa falls off the roof and disappears, passing the task of being Santa Clause on to Scott. The rest of the movie follows Scott as he tries to navigate his new job as Saint Nick.

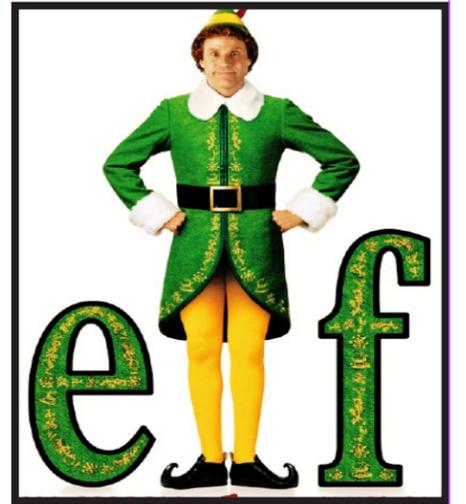
At three, we have *Home Alone*.

This classic film about a boy who is forgotten at home after his family goes on vacation for Christmas and is left to protect himself against intruders in creative ways while also keeping up his own Christmas traditions.

Number two is *How The Grinch Stole Christmas* (Jim Carrey version). This twist on Dr. Seuss's classic tale of a town called Whoville where Christmas is the most important event of the year that the people of Whoville spend all year preparing for. The Grinch hates Christmas and decides he has had enough of Christmas and starts plotting a way to ruin the holiday for all of Whoville.

And at number one is *Elf*. One of the most famous Christmas movies about a man named Buddy, raised by elves in the North Pole. When Buddy

leaves the North Pole for New York City in hopes of finding his long lost father, he is faced with the sudden challenges of real life. The magical feeling of Christmas in New York City gives this movie a cozy vibe for the holidays.



## Frozen 2

By Brianna Tran, Staff Writer

Frozen 2 hit theaters on November 22, and this sequel's storyline has taken quite a turn from its famous original film. Frozen came out six years ago and became a cultural phenomenon; Frozen 2 will be no exception. It has had the third highest animated opening of all time and is making over \$738.6 million. Frozen 2 captivates its audience with Elsa's journey through beautiful animations and an amazing soundtrack. Elsa has been called

by a voice and travels to try to find a way to stop angry nature spirits that have begun to wreak havoc on Arendale. On this journey, Elsa and Anna discover more about their parents, and Elsa realizes her true place in the world. There are also the side stories of Kristof figuring out a way to propose to Anna and Olaf's own realization of maturity, providing comical relief for what would otherwise be a serious film. The movie is more mature than expected and has aged well with its original audience. Frozen 2's success proves that the Frozen craze is here to stay for years to come.

## Hello Neighbor!

By Micheal Wemyss, Editor-in-Chief

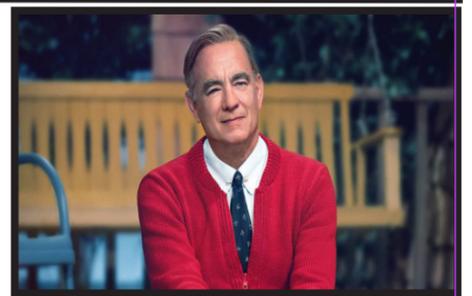
After being off the air for 18 years, Mr. Rogers is born again. With the gloomy world we are living in today, everyone can use a little smile from our favorite neighbor. The movie has made \$4.5 billion since coming out since November 22.

Tom Hanks portrays the role of an American icon along with Matthew Rhys who plays journalist Lloyd Vogel. Vogel interviews Mr. Rodgers as a hero spotlight for the New York Times.

The movie starts off with the classic, "It's a Beautiful Day In The Neighborhood," sung by Hanks himself. The movie is set up like an episode of Mister Rogers' Neighborhood. Starting with his memorable song. Eventually the audience learns something from the real world about how the show was made with actual footage from the original show.

Later on, the viewers will see the personal side of the characters who have been hurt, and come to learn how the nicest neighbor handles his anger. Viewers learn that these problems occur in their lives as well, and Hanks performs an excellent role in reaching into the hearts of the viewers by perhaps changing their perspective on how they handle things.

Vogel comes to find who he really is and that he should learn to forgive the people who wronged him and move on. While he is being interviewed, Rogers sees the pain Vogel has in his life, and when interviewed, turns the table around, and asks Vogel how he can manage his own problems.



Chicagoreader.com

Hanks portrayal of Mr. Fred Rogers is truly breathtaking. He shows us how to reach out to people who have been hurt and how we can help them in their lives. Viewers also learn that if we let go of our problems we will see how much easier it is to live life.

The movie is a great way to reach out to people who may have a rough time in their lives, and remind us that we are all the same with the main idea of Mr. Rogers closing statement at the end of each of his episodes, "You made this day a special day by just you being you. There's no person in the whole world like you, and I like you just the way you are."

## Golden Globes 2020

### Predictions

By Dylan Murphy, Editor-in-Chief

The Awards Season approaches after a quite successful year for film and television, especially compared to the lackluster selections of the past few years. The Golden Globes are coming in just about a month, and the competition is fierce this time around.



This year, Best Actor is one of the most competitive categories. The popular pick is Joaquin Phoenix for his relentless dedication in playing a psychopath in *Joker*.

For Best Actress, Renee Zellweger or Scarlett Johansson are the most likely victors, for their roles in the Judy Garland biographical film *Judy*, and the divorce drama *Marriage Story*, respectively.

Best Motion Picture Drama is most likely to go to *The Irishman* or *Marriage Story*. Best Motion Picture Musical/Comedy would most likely go to *Jojo Rabbit*, for its absurdist style of ironic humor. Best Animated Motion Picture will likely go to *Frozen 2*, mostly due to its brand popularity. Best Screenplay will most definitely go to *Once Upon a Time In Hollywood*.

*Tarantino* has won Best Screenplay at the Golden Globes for every movie he's made in the last ten years, and as this film has been noted as one of his best written, it's almost certain he'll win again. Best Television Series has more competition, with *The Crown*, *Succession*, *Killing Eve*, and *Big Little Lies* all being worthy picks.

Martin Scorsese, one of the most important and influential directors of all time, is most likely to win Best Director for *The Irishman*, a gangster flick featuring Robert De Niro and Al Pacino.

Quentin Tarantino will also be in the running, for his explosive ninth film, *Once Upon a Time in Hollywood*. Though *Tarantino* has yet to win Best Director in the Golden Globes or the Oscars, he could finally get his chance, though going up against the likes of Scorsese is no easy feat.



This year is certain to be an exciting experience, as for the first time in a while, there's real competition.

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