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“You miss 100% of the shots you
don’t take” - Wayne Gretzky

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On the The Fight for Equality Isn't Over

Olivia Keller ('29)

What if everything you worked for - your grades, your job, your future - was valued less just because you're a woman? That might sound like something from the past, but it's still happening today. People often act like gender equality has already been achieved, but the reality is more complicated. Women's History Month isn't just about celebrating success; it's also about recognizing the inequalities that still exist. Even though women have made major progress to equality over time, the fight is far from over.

There's no denying how much has changed. In 1920, the 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution gave women the right to vote, something that had been denied for generations. Since then, women have entered careers that were once completely closed off to them. Today, women are doctors, scientists, lawyers, and leaders. That progress matters; it shows how far society has come. But progress does not mean the problem is solved.

One of the clearest examples of ongoing inequality is the gender pay gap. In the United States, women still earn about 80 to 85 cents for every dollar that men earn. That difference might not seem huge at first, but over a lifetime it can accumulate thousands of dollars in lost income. It affects financial independence, career growth, and long-term stability. And for women of color, the gap is even wider, expanding the issue beyond gender to race and opportunity as well.

Representation is another major issue. While women make up a large part of the workforce, they are still underrepresented in positions of power. Most CEOs, political leaders, and top decision-makers are still men. When Kamala Harris became the first female Vice President, it was a historic moment, but it also highlighted how long it took to reach that point. "Firsts" like this are important, but they also show that equal representation is still a work in progress.

Beyond pay and leadership, women continue to face discrimination in everyday life. They are often judged more harshly, taken less seriously, or expected to fit certain roles. These stereotypes may not always be obvious, but they still influence how women are treated in school, at work, and in society. In other parts of the world, the situation is even more serious. Activists like Malala Yousafzai risk their lives to fight for girls' basic right to an education. That alone proves that equality is not something everyone has yet.

Sports are another area where gender inequality is still prominent. Female athletes train just as hard as male athletes, but they often receive lower pay and less media coverage. For example, the U.S. women's soccer team, led by players like Megan Rapinoe, had to fight for equal pay even after winning multiple World Cups. This shows that even at the highest level of success, women still have to prove their worth in ways men don't. It sends the message that women's achievements are less important, even when they are just as prestigious and matter just as much.

This issue matters because equality isn't just a "women's issue"; it affects everyone. When women have equal opportunities, it strengthens families, communities, and economies. Limiting half the population doesn't just hurt women; it holds society back as a whole. Ignoring these problems allows them to continue, which is why awareness is so important.

The truth is, we can't treat equality like it's something already attained. Yes, progress has been made, but progress is not the same as justice. Women today still face challenges that have no place in a truly equal society. Women's History Month should not only be a time to look back at the past, but also a reminder to keep pushing forward.

The fight for equality isn't over, and pretending it is, only inhibits the lack of change that still needs to happen.



National Crochet Month: March!

Audrey Zhang ('29)

March is an eventful month. It includes the start of our final trimester, the beginning of the Spring season itself, Women's History Month, St. Patrick's Day, and even Pi Day. Among those events, March is also National Crochet Month.

If we look back in history, the first signs of knitted textiles date back to the 11th century A.D. Please bear in mind that crocheting and knitting are not the same! The earliest reference to crochet specifically was in a Dutch magazine in 1823, which featured a stylish purse crocheted from silk thread.

Soon, by the 1840's, crochet became more popular, and many people began crocheting instead of conventional stitching. Crochet needles were called "shepherds' hooks" because of their shape, and were often made of steel, ivory, or boxwood.

Digging deeper into history, many historians agree that crochet originated in Arabia, then traveled east to Tibet and China, and west to Spain and other Mediterranean countries. People are unsure how crochet reached the Americas, though the earliest documented instances were among the Guiana Indigenous tribe and settlements in 1916.

Multiple decades later, the Crochet Guild of America was formed in 1995, and March was recognized as the National Crochet Month in 2005.

National Crochet Month is celebrated for multiple reasons. First, it is a chance to encourage newcomers to try crocheting. It's also an opportunity to celebrate the craft, whether it's your source of income, source of fun, etc. Finally, it is a time to admire the art of crochet, and all the unique patterns, techniques, products, and lifestyles that it contains.

Crocheting is an art that has many benefits. It is a healthy hobby (unlike doomscrolling), as it can help relieve stress, and is a great way to express your creativity, with all the possible projects you could create.

For anyone interested in learning to crochet, I recommend starting with amigurumi (crocheted plush toys), as it is a fun way to get used to the crochet hook and yarn.

In honor of all the people who may pick up crocheting this month, here is a simple crochet pattern for a four-leaf clover bookmark. (I mistakenly believed that the four-leaved clover was the sign for St. Patrick's Day, before realizing that the three-leaved shamrock is more accurate in terms of tradition):

Make a magic circle with 8 stitches.

Leaf:

- 2 chain stitches
- Double Crochet Increase (on the next stitch)
- 2 chain stitches, slip stitch into the next stitch
- Start the next petal from there.
- Repeat steps a-d 3 more times to make 4 petals in total
- Crochet around 50 chain stitches, before finishing off at the end.



Mistborn

Charlie Murray ('29)

Each year, at eighth grade continuation, each student receives a speech from one of their middle school teachers about their time there. Students also receive a book of their teacher's choice.

Last year, at my continuation, Dr. Covington gave me *Mistborn*, by Brandon Sanderson. At first, I was confused as I had never heard of the book or the author, and was put off by the chaotic cover, and its thousand pages.

I thought it would sit on my shelf, unused and unloved. But, after a month of summer, I decided that I would give it a shot, trusting Dr. Covington's choice. Soon, I was swept into a whole other universe—one of Allomancy, competing deities, and a tyrannical emperor.

The story is set in the Final Empire, a dull and ash-covered land, absent of green and blue wilderness that once thrived. The Empire is ruled by the tyrannical Lord Ruler whose reign has lasted a millennium.

Vin, a talented street thief, is the center of the story.

She soon joins a crew of thieves who use a magic called Allomancy. Allomancy allows those capable of it to consume and “burn” metals in order to extract abilities such as increased physical strength or the influence others' emotions. This crew embarks on the ambitious task of overthrowing their emperor and giving power to the lowly and oppressed Skaa.

Of all the books that I have read, *Mistborn* and the following sequels have had the most in-depth and incredible world building. Brandon Sanderson creates religions, competing deities, historical repercussions, mythical creatures, and multiple complex schools of magic.

The book is filled with giant magical battles, and political plots. He creates a complex and magical world of Metallurgy and rebellion for this story to take place in.

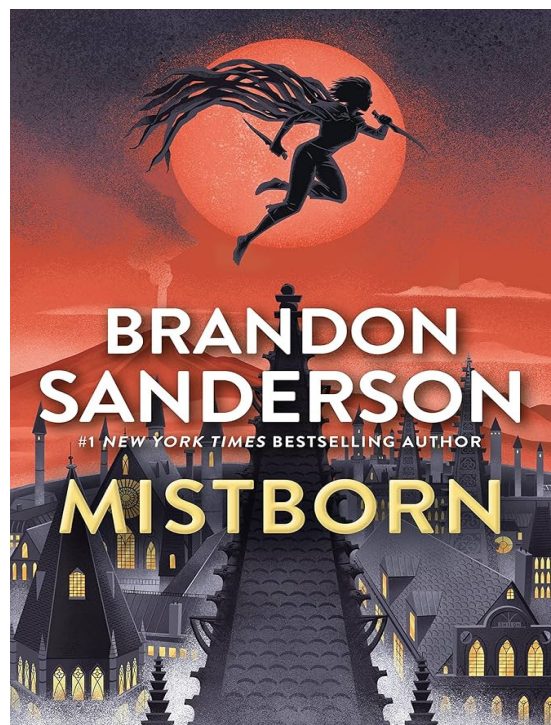
Sanderson writes the story from multiple perspectives, allowing the reader to see many different character's emotions and ambitions. Before each chapter, an excerpt from a mythical hero's diary is given, showing the reader historical context and religious lore, adding yet more layers to the story.

Brandon Sanderson is one of the most prolific writers of this generation, known for creating detailed and dazzling worlds.

Mistborn is regarded as among his best series, which goes to say a lot about its spectacular writing and story.

Brandon Sanderson's *Mistborn* trilogy takes the reader on a thrilling and magical quest of trials and adventures. One with incredibly in-depth layers and lore, more than any other series that I've discovered.

If you are looking for an engrossing book to read over spring break or summer, I'd highly suggest *Mistborn* as a book that you'll never put down.



St. Patrick's Day

Samuel Chouaniere ('29)

Every year, there is probably an article about St. Patrick's Day. But this one's different, trust.

In this article, I'm going to divulge the real secrets of the holiday and do a deep dive into its myths and also share some fun facts throughout.

If we're going to start at the roots, it starts with St. Patrick himself. He was born in Roman Britain, not Ireland.

Then he was brought to Ireland the hard way, kidnapped and sold into slavery, and he was only 16. Eventually he was able to escape and return as a Christian missionary.

Also, his real name was Maewyn Succat, but he changed to Patrick when he came back to Ireland. Another fun fact, he was never made a saint by the catholic church! All those things aside, St. Patrick's story was able to inspire an amazing holiday that we have today.

Fun fact time, the original color for St. Patrick's Day was blue, not green. Can you imagine how different the day would be if everything was blue? Green wasn't really used until the 1700's and 1800's.

Green was used as a political symbol in the Irish rebellion of 1798 and that's where it started to really gain popularity.

More myth busting, St. Patrick couldn't have really driven snakes out of Ireland, because there were no snakes. The Irish climate was too cold, and snakes never migrated there from Europe.

The driving out the snake's thing was probably talking about St. Patrick driving out other religions and spreading Christianity, because snakes were symbols of evil in Christian thinking at the time. Now let's talk about leprechauns.

Originally, they were never cheery little dwarfs with pots of gold. They actually were fairy shoemakers who made shoes for other fairies. They also were known as very grumpy. The leprechauns we know today were invented by American pop culture and advertised in the 1900's to promote the holiday. Four leaf clovers were also never associated with St. Patrick until much later. He used three leaf clovers to explain the holy trinity to people; four leaf clovers were just a symbol of good luck and got mixed in with St. Patrick's Day.

If you really look at the history, St. Patrick's Day that we celebrate today was kind of invented by America to sell stuff and have an excuse to party.

The first St. Patrick's Day parade was in Florida, not Ireland. Ireland's first parade was in 1903, and they had the tradition of keeping pubs closed on March 17th all the way until 1960.

The real Irish version of the holiday is meant to remember St. Patrick and commemorate his death.

America has turned it into a very different thing, with unique traditions and new meanings behind the day. The real question is, which do you prefer, the Americanized version, or the traditional Irish version?



The Big Dance

Finn Carr (‘29)

Every year in mid-march, 138 teams, 68 women’s, and 68 men’s hear their name called on “Selection Sunday,” put their dancing shoes on, and compete in a 6-round single elimination tournament for the jewel of College Basketball: the National Championship.

Famous for the impossible bracket, March Madness is one of the largest sporting events in the country, drawing 15 million viewers for the top games and 18 for the national title game.

Kids and adults all across the country pause school and work to check scores, fill out brackets, and watch games. U.S. economists estimate that companies lose multiple billions of dollars just because people follow March Madness at work.

The first Men’s NCAA tournament took place in 1938 with 8 teams. It gradually expanded to 32 teams in 1975; the women’s tournament was added in 1982, and both expanded to 64 in 1985.

The bracket of 68 we know today came into being in 2001 when the “opening round” was added, similar to the NBA Play-in round. The tournament was not originally known as March Madness; the name was only popularized by H.V. Porter, who called the Illinois High School State Championship tournament March Madness.

It eventually caught on with TV broadcasts, and the rest is history.

Every year more than 40 million brackets are filled out where people try and predict the results of every game in hopes of being the one who completed the ever illusive “perfect bracket.”

The odds of a perfect bracket are often referred to as 1 in 9,200,000,000,000,000 (9.2 quintillion) although really the odds are more like 120.1 billion if you “know basketball.” With those odds to deter you, or maybe motivate you, you fill out your bracket.

Here’s your guide: you must pick one of the 12 seeds to upset a 5, it has happened 4 of the last 5 years. 20 straight years an 11 seed has upset a 6 seed, so that’s a must pick.

Although it sounds improbable you also want to pick a 7 seed to the Elite Eight as it has happened 12 out of the last 14 years. Your last choice is who will win the whole thing, statistically the number 1 overall seed has won just twice in the last 25 years and any 2 seed only once so you must avoid them. Or you can just pick the coolest mascot and you probably have about the same odds.

At the end of the day, people don’t turn the TV on in March to watch the statistics. Past all the brackets, the odds, and the “experts,” there is madness and it is magical. March Madness is everything to love about sport.

March is 16-seeded UMBC beating 1-seed Virginia, March is 11-seeded Loyola Chicago, making a final four run powered by their 98-year-old chaplain. March is Jack Golhke, the now legendary college player who made a name for himself when 14 seed Oakland beat 3 seed Kentucky and Jack made 10 threes.

A Kentucky team made up of 5 to be NBA players while Jack had spent the first 5 years of his collegiate career at Division II Hillsdale college. March is undersized and lightly recruited Stephen Curry, leading his Davidson team to the elite 8 en route to becoming one of the NBA greats.



Less than 1 percent of college basketball players go to the NBA or WNBA.

For almost everyone who can even hear their name called on selection Sunday, this is the pinnacle of their basketball career.

Most of these men and women have spent their whole lives training and perfecting their craft, and this is the last time they will ever play organized sport. You see it, you feel it, when you watch these games you see how much it means to these students, you see everything they've worked their whole life for being realized, you see connections between brothers and sisters who don't share the same blood, who don't have the same background, don't have the same race but are none the less pulled together by their love for an orange ball and two baskets.

March Madness is exceptional and beautiful not because of the 1-seeded powerhouse, but because of the under-recruited kid who was told he was too small to ever make it, making it.

March Madness is everything sport is meant to be, it is three weeks of underdogs and Cinderellas, kids who came from nothing and the only way out is through ball, kids who have spent their whole life to get here, kids who have poured everything they have into cracked cement and broken nets. It is pure and raw emotion, and heart that you can't find anywhere else. It is bands shaking arenas, these sacred arenas, and Davids daring to stand eye to eye with Goliath.

March Madness is the dream; take it all in.



EPS Ventures: Getting Students Out There.

Eli Briggs ('27)

In the modern world, getting outside is harder than it sounds. The Permits, safety training, logistics, and gear involved are greater barriers than most people realize before setting out to plan an adventure themselves.

And in a world where it's getting increasingly easy to move through life without ever setting foot in nature, a lot of times it's just easier to stay home. The EPS Ventures program exists to tear down those barriers.

The EPS Ventures program is an evolution of the previous outdoor program, which covered EBC, Ski Bus, and other outdoor experiences.

Even though the program might have started with outdoor adventures, it has also begun to encompass artistic and cultural experiences that also have logistical barriers which can be dealt with by the school.

With this broadened scope of experiences, the program was renamed "Ventures" to be more ambiguous.

Since this change, students have gone night squid fishing, bouldering, and mountain biking, but they've also attended live theater performances, explored art galleries, and painted in the woods.

The program has become less about the specific activity and more about providing ways for students to engage directly with the larger world, without the logistical barriers that might impede them from going out on their own.

The goal, as the program puts it, is simple: "Getting students out there!" Mr. Kelly-Hedrick and Ms. Kuffner currently lead the program. I talked with Mr. Kelly-Hedrick about the shift to Ventures and the program as a whole, and he said it reflected something he strongly believed in.

March's Mad and Chaotic Weather

Everette Deng ('28)

The outdoors and just exploring new things in general, he said, is something many students want to experience or would enjoy if they tried, but don't know how to access it on their own. Organizing a hike, navigating permit requirements, or even just simply knowing what's available are not common skills and often require their own sets of logistics and adventures to even learn.

Ms. Kuffner and Mr. Kelly-Hedrick designed EPS Ventures to handle much of this tough planning, allowing any student to experience the outdoors or arts and culture with little prior knowledge or skill.



That's also why student involvement in shaping the program is so important to Mr. Kelly-Hedrick. When we talked, he said that, even though he loves coming up with ventures he thinks will be fun, he always wants more ideas from students about what they want to see in the Ventures program.

He said that even though the most basic goal of the program is to "get students out there," he also wants it to provide an opportunity for students to have practice planning their own trips, gaining experience from faculty like Mr. Kelly-Hedrick and Ms. Kuffner, before being able to go out and apply that knowledge to their own life and adventures, without the safety net of the school.

With EBC next week and a debut summer trip to Alaska on the horizon, the program is only growing. New ventures are being added all the time, so if there's a trip or experience you've always wanted to go on but haven't had the time or resources to plan or execute it, try reaching out to either of the coordinators with your ideas. The next great Venture might just be yours.

This past March, the weather has given us the beauty of everything—from pouring rain and wind chill to snowfall and warm, summer-like weather.

From the get-go of this month, it became hard to tell whether Seattle weather was still experiencing the midst of the winter or transitioning to early spring like our academic trimesters where we had winter finals. Our region experienced significant rainfall and chills, including windy conditions rolling up to 20 miles per hour (and over 40 miles per hour gust!)—some of which have limited our EPS sports practices in the early weeks of the spring trimester sports season. As a result of this weather, the LPC became crowded with students, and the sport court was found to be mostly empty because of the conditions outside. However, some things that this crazy weather pattern helped were the clubs and classes collecting weather data. Examples like environmental science, environmental club, and even Programming 2: topics in Computer Science—which collected outside soil, weather, and humidity data got some interesting results (provided that the sensors worked!)

The early spring-trimester weather may have led many to conclude that spring was early coming. However, the weather near the end of the second week quickly debunked those assumptions and predictions. On Friday, March 13th, much of our EPS community woke up to significant snowfall, surprised by the fact that school wasn't canceled (this was because Lake Washington school district had no school, so our school had no data or significant information to make a closure decision). Several of us were also unable to attend school that day due to road conditions! However, at the same time, this weather was quite pleasant and satisfying, marking the first ever snowfall the greater Seattle metropolitan region has experienced this year (and much later than Texas!).

It was also some of the coldest temperatures this year, averaging around 33 degrees Fahrenheit. The EPS rowing team also experienced some snow during their second regatta of the spring season at the Green Lake Spring Sprints the following day as well, a first for our team—and a first for the regatta as well!

Finally, the last few weeks of March have brought us some warmer temperatures and sunlight! Students could be seen during the week before EBC comfortably wearing short sleeves or even shorts—for trips going to warm places, like the Pacific Islands, Spain, and Japan, the week before EBC served as a wonderful opportunity to prepare and get your body used to the warm weather in your destinations!

While the weather forecast only recorded the temperature at around 55 degrees Fahrenheit, the contrasts between this week and the earlier weeks of the month made 55 feel like 80 degrees, with the help of the bright sunlight.

Additionally, with the help of the extended periods of sunlight from daylight savings, this means that we will be experiencing more heat and warm weather to come, so make sure to bring sunscreen and be ready to take off any warm layers you have as the weather gets significantly warmer like we will hopefully experience this summer.

The essence of March's weather we experienced this year could be summed up in one word: chaos. March provided us with everything we could've asked for, serving as a preview of all the weather that will be coming to us for the remainder of the year. So, go out and enjoy it while it lasts!



Insights from the Oscars

Aksel Wagner ('29)

The Oscars, hailed by the entertainment industry as the biggest night in Hollywood, drew nearly 20 million views on Sunday, March 15th. The ceremony, which aired on ABC and, in a newer phenomenon, streaming services including Hulu and YouTube TV, was hosted by the returning comedian Conan O'Brien. Many records were broken this year including a historic nominations achievement.

Sinners is now the most Oscar nominated film ever, in the 98-year history of the academy awards no film has ever received more, with its an incredible 16 nominations. The film grossed nearly \$370 million at the box office, making it the highest grossing original film of the last 15 years. The horror thriller was written and directed by the renowned Ryan Coogler, who is the highest grossing black director ever, behind global hits like Black Panther and Creed.

He won the Oscar for best original screen play, in his speech he honored his fellow nominees, sent love to his wife and three children to which he apologized for time away saying, "Memories are all we have. I hope I've given you some great ones". The films cinematographer, Autumn Durald Arkapaw, became the first woman ever to win for Cinematography, she honored the other woman, saying "I really want all the women in the room to stand up, because I feel like I don't get here without you guys".



The film follows the story of gangster twins, both played by Michael B. Jordan, as they travel back to their hometown to open a juke joint with their nephew, a musical pastor's son played by Miles Caton. The brothers must fight against both human oppression and a coven of vampires, blending themes of Southern folklore, racial injustice, and musical heritage.

The fan favorite Michael B. Jordan won best actor in a leading role for his powerful performance, he opened his speech with an excited "God is Good!"

He went on to honor the black actors who came before him that paved the way for his career and win. He also thanked his supporters and Coogler for their constant support. The film's Ludwig Göransson won for best original score; he dedicated the award to his father and thanked him for gifting him the love of Music.



The night's biggest winner was *One Battle After Another*; it won 6 of its 13 nominations. The film follows Bob, who is a washed-up revolutionary that lives in a state of paranoia, surviving off grid with his daughter, Willa.

When his nemesis resurfaces and Willa goes missing, he scrambles to find her as both father and daughter battle the consequences of their pasts. The renowned Paul Thomas Anderson won best director, best adapted screenplay, and best picture, ending his 14 nomination streak without a win.

Surviving the Spring

Julia Stewart ('28)

Every year, the slog from the start of the spring trimester to Spring Break feels endless. Seasons change every hour, classes begin to ramp up, allergies grow worse, and the sprint to spring break starts to feel like a stumbling crawl. Amongst conversations about EBC week, course requests, and the summer, students are left far removed from the dreary present. So, I find it important to consider how people cope with the now. Specifically, I want to explore how all types of students survive (and thrive!) the cold early spring.

1. March Madness: I LOVE March Madness. My entire life, it has felt like the family TV is always playing games, tournaments, and championships; March Madness was no exception. As you hunker down to prep for MAs every other day, keeping up with March Madness feels like a great way to reconnect with the world outside of our small, cold, academic bubble. My recommendation is to find the most obscure storyline or player to follow. Don't just root for the Minnesota Gophers. Root for "Blanket Lady." Whether you create a bracket meticulously calculated on countless metrics, or you make one on the team logos, following March Madness can give anyone something to look forward to. Go Huskies!

2. Seasonal Delusion: Early spring isn't exactly known for its charming weather. One minute it's sunny, the next it's hailing sideways, and somehow, I find I am always dressed for the wrong version of the day. Because of this, it is easy to admit defeat and renounce the season, which is exactly why delusion is important. When interviewing for this piece, I found that people who described the weather as extremely positive and negative for this time of year were the happiest. The ones who appreciated the sudden snow a week before summery warm days were the ones who found joy everywhere. So, convince yourself that this is your season. Winter? Too cold and MA-filled. Summer? Too hot and sweaty. Fall? Overhyped. But early spring? This is where you thrive. Ignore the sniffles, torrential downpours, and sudden 65° Fahrenheit heat.

Tell yourself that you are built for this. Confidence is key.

3. Rewatch, Rewatch, Rewatch! One of my biggest comfort activities is to plan to rewatch movies or TV shows I love. As Spring Break seems to get further away, it helps to break up the time with a moment of silliness. Turn “You haven’t seen _____? Really?” into “Let’s watch it together!”. Whether it is a childhood comfort movie or a TV show you fell in love with during the Pandemic, rewatching movies can provide a moment of peace. Also, sinking into the couch for two hours and putting your phone down can really break down the time spent searching for dopamine in five-second clips (Reels, TikToks, Shorts, & whatever your poison of choice is). My most recent recommendations are to (re)watch *She’s the Man*, *Parks & Rec.*, and *The Pitt*! While those may not necessarily be enjoyed in one binge night, they are all very silly and beloved.

4. Schedule Doing Nothing: Finally, as odd as it may sound, I have found that blocking out time in the day to be totally unproductive is vital during a time when tasks appear endless. MAs, QAs, and “Celebrations of Knowledge” will loom in the future, so it is easy to get lost. It is also easy to mindlessly scroll on your phone while your math homework sits open on your dying laptop. So, block out time to be unproductive. Allow yourself time to do hobbies like cooking or watching *The Pitt* you might not otherwise devote time to. Who knows, it could also encourage you to be even more productive outside of that time. So, put that Mariners game on, go out and buy teriyaki, or just take a 20-minute power nap. And when you do, drown out the voices saying, “You should be productive right now!”

It is not easy to find much joy this time of year, so look for it where you can. As the elements attack you, sending sideways walls of water into the side of TALI during your Spanish tests while you think about how far away Spring Break is, take some time to enjoy the little things!

Being a Head of School: Interviewing Mr. Uzwack & Julie Kalmus

Nima Rahbar (‘26)

Over the past two weeks, I have had the amazing fortune of getting to sit down with the Head of EPS, Mr. Uzwack, and the head of TLS, Julie Kalmus.

These are two people whom I look up to both in terms of their values and their careers, and I wanted to ask them specifically about what their jobs look like, some of the tougher moments and challenges they go through, and what kinds of compromises they have to make to keep their schools running.

Most of you are/should be familiar with Mr. Uzwack, but many of you might not know Julie Kalmus. She is the head of *The Little School*, an elementary school just a few miles away from EPS.

TLS is a school that has partnered with EPS before, and Julie alongside her predecessor, Peter Berner-Hays, are both close with Mr. Uzwack personally.

TLS happens to be where I went to school for 4th and 5th grade, and is where I worked the last two summers. It’s a school with a very similar philosophy and style to EPS.

You’ll notice I refer to her as “Julie” – at TLS, all teachers go by their first names!

Going into the interviews, there were two main areas on my mind – what does it look like to be the head of school on a more day-to-day basis, and what does the job look like in a broader context, in terms of establishing a culture, a set of values, and a mission, especially when those things run contrary to how most schools operate.

Both Mr. Uzwack and Julie began by emphasizing the need to be values-first. Julie stated that it's hard to be an educational leader without having strong values. She also emphasized that while many different approaches exist, if you strip down someone to the bare bones, we all usually reach the same key idea – loving kids and wanting the absolute best for them from their education. Mr. Uzwack emphasized being transparent and clear about the values the school holds and conveying them to prospective parents. He cited the fact that EPS does not have an honor roll or a valedictorian as a primary example of that – “it is impossible to be maximally collaborative in a community if there is that level of competition”. Making these values clear to prospective families is how he keeps EPS's vision strong, because in the absence of being loud about your beliefs and values, the norm comes crashing down.



I was struck by Mr. Uzwack's last comment – it felt like it tied in why schools that I feel have particularly strong values like TLS and EPS are also the most proud about their values in the visualization of their mission, vision, and core tenants. EPS plasters its vision/mission boards everywhere not for no reason, but because in the absence of these written values, the cultural norm rushes in. My personal perception of the “cultural norm” in education has been more of public education and certain private institutions, where public education (particularly as of late) is underfunded and thus becomes a “how do we run a school as cheaply as possible”. In private or more advanced public education, the national norm has become very emphasized on the traditional educational path. The idea is that you go to school to get into a good college, you go to a good college to get into a good grad school (or get a good job), and you go to a good grad school to get a good job. TLS and EPS are schools that flip this cultural norm upside down and challenge it actively – and that's why they have to re-iterate and practice their values constantly.

Finally, I got to touch on the more day-to-day lives of the two heads, by asking them what their days look like and what tends to come up in their jobs. For one, they have ever-changing busy schedules. Mr. Uzwack said his favorite part of the job is that “no day looks the same”. Julie broke down her work into 3 levels: the present-day little things, the ongoing medium things, and the future-focused big things. Making time for the little things is essential, she said, like taking moments to talk with kids who are having meltdowns (it happens in elementary!) and connecting with the staff every day to make sure everything is running smoothly. Mr. Uzwack emphasized his efforts to come down to the car-line and attend Eagle-cons to keep engagement with students whenever possible. Julie brought up managing staff as an example of a more medium term thing but it can look like filling in a staffing vacancy, working on a changing curriculum, handling a big event that is happening, and more. The long term things are perhaps what is most important to the job: Julie used an analogy of a telescope – an analogy she had told Mr. Uzwack when he stepped into his Head of School role – as a reference to the long-term vision that the Head always has to consider when making decisions about the future of the school. Being a head means hearing about every financial and cultural and educational issue or future for the school, and always keeping an eye on the telescope.



Ultimately, the job of a Head of School is chaotic but fascinating. Being able to constantly shift from in-the-moment issue solving or assisting to big-picture ideas, with different things coming up all the time is certainly a skill that those two have mastered. They put tons of effort into thinking about how they can be the best versions of themselves for the job every day, and honestly care the most about the students, faculty, and how everyone is growing as people. I sincerely enjoyed the chance to talk with both of them and write about it!

Art Medium Re-views

Katelyn Lee ('33)

This answer will differ from other people but first I'm doing to lay out pros and cons for each media: Acrylic paints, acrylic markers, graphite pencils, and oil pastels.



First, I'm going to talk about acrylic paints. This is probably the most popular paints because it's really common.

But acrylic paints easily gets on your clothes and stains them. On the bright side, it gives you a nice solid color and is great for overlapping different colors. It's also easy to mix colors together and create a custom color.

It's great to blend and create a nice sky and gives you a satisfying crisp look.



Acrylic markers are a lot like acrylic paints however they are in the shape of a pen.

They also can't blend and mix together though it's easier to control, and you can also overlap layers of colors.

It's also convenient to store neatly and take with you to travel. Though some acrylic markers dry easily, most acrylic markers smudge easily, and it is easy to ruin the piece of artwork just by dragging your hand across the page.



Graphite pencils are easy to draw hyper realism because it's easy to shade and blend on most papers. But they tend to make a mess in your pencil case and it's hard to clean it up.

But if you start out by coming in light with your pencil had continuing for some time it becomes a dark shade of either grey, or black.

And a sharpened pencil can mean two things, a nice perfect point, and if you tilt it to the side, a nice, shaded wash.



Oil pastels are used by many famous painters like Vincent Van Gough and many more. They are creamy and because of that, it's easy to blend with just using your fingers.

They are easy to carry around, and it is also easy to take them out and immediately begin painting. But they also can mix with other colors by just drawing on top of a different layer of a color, and every time you use that color again, it will be accompanied by a streak of that color.

They also shave down a little every time you use them, but that is true with pencils as well.

Personally, I think my favorite art medium are graphite pencils. then Acrylic markers, Acrylic paints and then last, Oil pastels.

March Book Recommendations and Reviews

Ananya Raman ('30)

For the month of March, the books I have in this article are mythology-themed. These are some books I enjoyed for their great world-building, storytelling, and originality, despite using one of the oldest and most well-known genres: mythology!

The first book is called *The Sunbearer Trials* (Aiden Thomas).

Part of a duology, this book is best described as a mix of *The Hunger Games* and *Percy Jackson*, with worldbuilding heavily influenced by Mexican mythology. The book is set on an island called Reino del Sol (Kingdom of the Sun), where multiple cities are ruled by patron gods/goddesses.

A couple of things that stood out to me were the world-building, especially how Aiden Thomas built societal inequalities into their society. You get a very good feeling for their world and how they operate as a society. For example, social classes are built into their world; they are an essential part of their culture and are deeply ingrained in the society of Reino del Sol.

Every decade, a series of ranked trials, called the Sunbearer Trials, takes place in order to replenish the Sol Stones spread around Reino Del Sol. The Sol Stones are remnants of their creator god's (Sol) body, who sacrificed themselves to protect from the malignant forces that they accidentally helped to create. 10 demi-gods, also called semi-dioses, ages 13-18, are chosen to compete in the Sunbearer Trials, where the winner sacrifices the semi-dios in last place.

This is where the societal inequalities come into play.

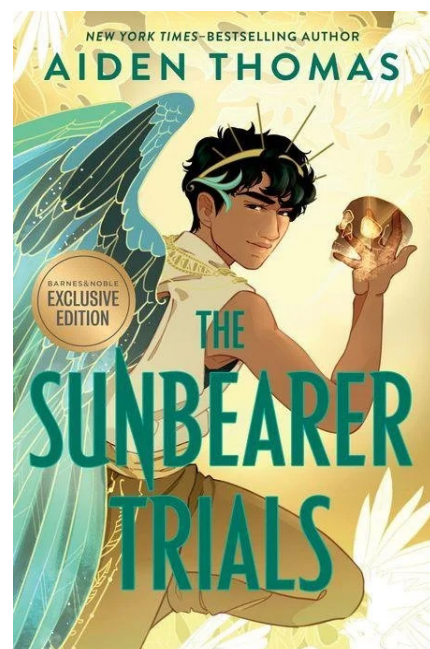
In their world, there are 3 ranks of dioses (or gods). The Golds: the highest rank, they have the strongest powers, and their semi-dioses usually are the ones to compete in the Sunbearer Trials and become heroes in

Reino del Sol; The Jades: the lower rank, less powerful, their semi-dioses usually get jobs somewhat related to their powers, these semi-dioses almost never compete in the Sunbearer Trials and cannot train to become heroes; and The Obsidians: the malignant forces mentioned earlier, they are banished to the skies, never to be seen again as long as the Sunbearer Trials keep taking place.

Our main character, Teo, is a Jade, son of Quetzal, the Diosa of birds. I bet you can guess what happens next. Much to the surprise of Reino del Sol, Teo is chosen for the Sunbearer Trials along with another Jade named Xio, son of Mala Suerte, the Dios of bad luck. Now, Teo and Xio must compete against 8 professionally trained semi-dioses, including Teo's best friend Niya, daughter of Tierra, and Teo's ex-childhood friend, Aurelio, son of Lumbre, the Diosa of fire, not only for their survival but also to prove their worth as Jades to their entire world. Ending on a steep cliffhanger leading into the sequel, *The Sunbearer Trials* is definitely a book you don't want to miss out on.

Aiden Thomas demonstrates his prowess as an author again and again through his books, including another called *The Cemetery Boys*.

It's very lighthearted and sweet, so if you want a cleanser from everything else, it is a really good option. There is a sequel I haven't read yet, but I have hopes it will be as good as the first.



In a similar vein to the mythology discussed earlier, *The Song of Achilles* (Madeline Miller) is also a great one.

However, instead of being an entirely new story based on a culture's mythos, this book is a retelling of one of the most famous Greek myths by the author of the bestselling *Circe*.

This book follows the myth and life of Achilles, from his childhood through his death during the Trojan War. However, what sets this book apart from other retellings of this story is that, instead of being from Achilles's POV, it is from Patroclus's POV.

Historically, Patroclus is portrayed as Achilles's closest companion, with many interpretations (friend, lover, cousin, etc.). Most interpret them as lovers, as does this book.

The story of Achilles starts before he was born, when a nereid (sea-nymph), named Thetis, was prophesied to have a child who would grow up to be much greater and stronger than his father. Since Zeus, the king of all the gods, wanted to ensure her son could never overthrow the gods, he arranged for Thetis to marry and have a child with a mortal, the king Peleus. They eventually had a child named Achilles, who grew up to be the strongest fighter in all of Greece and, in time, fought in the Trojan War, where he met his death.

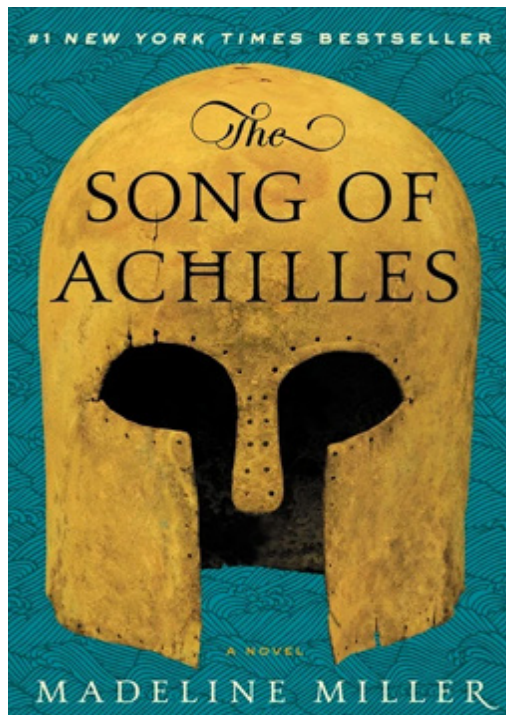
There are many different myths about how Achilles got so strong: his mother tried to burn away his mortality in a fire, or she dipped him in the river Styx (in the Underworld, mortals will die immediately if they are dipped in the Styx) to rid him of it.

In both myths, Achilles' heel is left unprotected, which is how he ultimately dies (someone shoots his heel).

However, Madeline Miller chose not to go down this route and wrote him instead as a skilled fighter who killed anyone in his path until he eventually let his guard down and was killed.

The relationship between Patroclus and Achilles is portrayed very interestingly and provides a thought-provoking change of pace from what you usually see in media from that time. The book itself is written incredibly well with some wonderful prose.

Thank you for reading this article :D I have more in store for next month as well, so be sure to check that out!



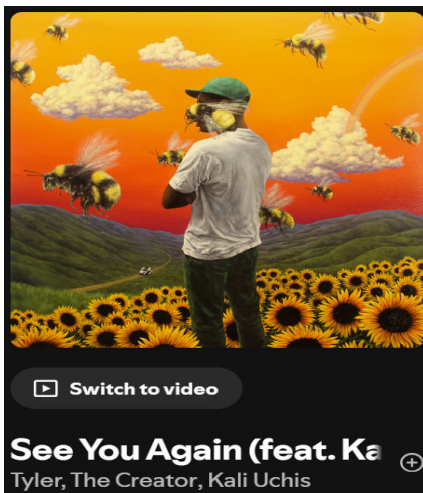
Music of the Month



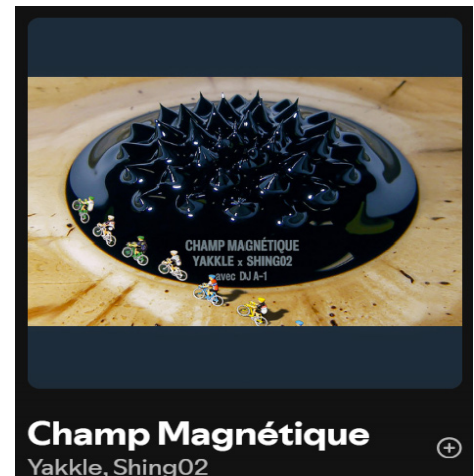
Alex Stone ('26)



Caden Nam ('26)



Liam Rahbar ('32)



Arnav Garg ('26)

Mini Crossword March

By: Manaswini Madhusudhanan ('27)

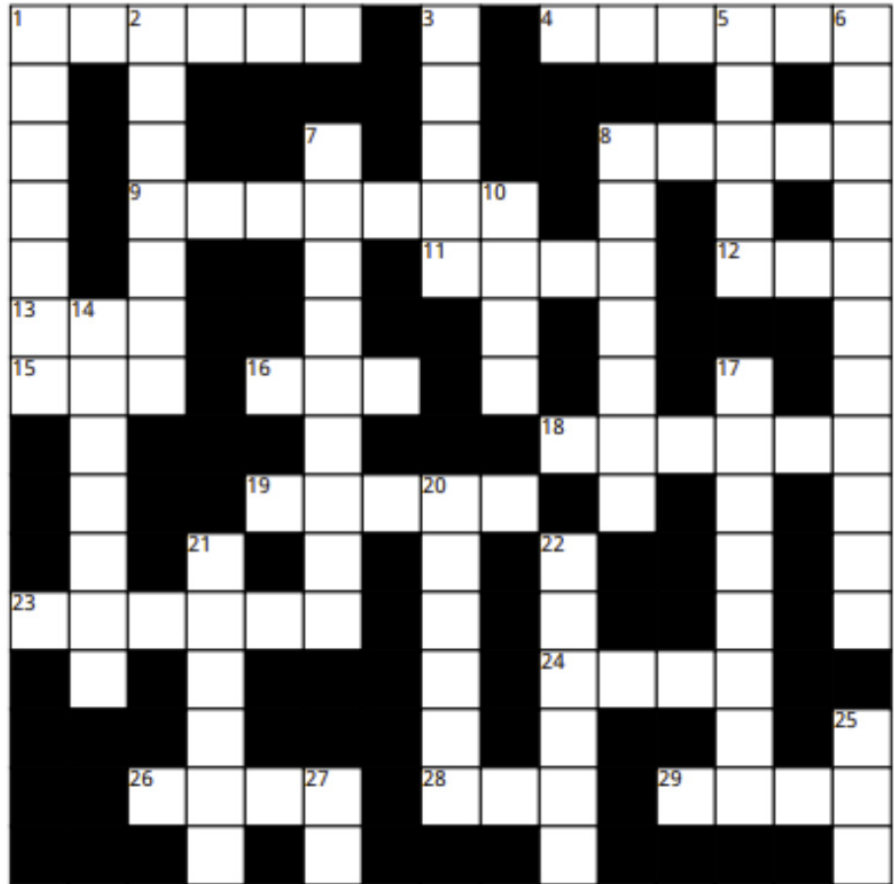
ACROSS

- 1 With 19A, title for Eastside Prep's familiar fowl
- 4 Influential Californian producer and DJ with wordplayed title
- 8 Someone you might find in the TMAC makerspace
- 9 Blood sugar regulating hormone
- 11 May identity spotlight
- 12 Adult female sheep
- 13 Sketch comedy show that most recently featured 'Clavicular'
- 15 One half of 'One Kiss' singer
- 16 Something to mind on the tube
- 18 Redditor's choice of headpiece
- 19 American symbol
- 23 Major Japanese port city; Lexus headquarters
- 24 'Love Scenario' boyband
- 26 Romantic pet name, commonly
- 28 LOL rearrangement

- 29 Junior year October nightmare exam

DOWN

- 1 Nintendo Switch chip variety
- 2 Andalusian city frequented on Spain EBC
- 3 Indestructible flip phone
- 5 Soup server
- 6 El Paso, Texas, NM EBC trip title
- 7 Hispanolan city not visited in 2026 EBC
- 8 Mr. Bandel served on jury duty assessing this product
- 10 Avatar race
- 14 Classic species of family
- 17 EBC policy to encourage active participation
- 20 Contrasting jersey volleyball position
- 21 Leo, familiarly
- 22 2nd largest clothing retailer at Bellevue Square
- 25 Redundant to say ___ machine
- 27 ___ te amo = I love you



February Solution:



