

# Applause

Volume 27, Number 8 School of the Arts, North Charleston, SC April 2026



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 Josie Oakley  
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 Kyle Wells

**From the Editor**

Dear Readers,

I'm happy to present to you the April *Applause!* This issue is stuffed full with great features, and even greater surprises.

One of the highlights of March for me was certainly prom, and our devoted staff member Ellis Richards took some awesome pictures, so you should certainly flip to page eight to check those out.

We also have two very interesting interviews, the first from 2025 alum Aurelia Beck, and the second with Teacher of the Year Mr. Martin. Both shared great insight for SOA students, so give those a read on pages five and six!

Additionally the fan favorite April Fools pull-out issue *Applesauce* is back! Check out the middle eight pages for a mini-paper full of hilarious and wacky features.

We are at our eighth issue of the year, but there's still two more to go, so stay tuned!

As always thank you our wonderful patrons and advertisers who make it all possible, and enjoy the April *Applause!*

Your Editor,  
Luciano Cusatis




William Henrikson

# Applause

since 1999, the official student publication of  
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**Cover by Pia Oronce**

**SOA Calendar**  
by Trinity Collins

4/6-4/10: Spring Break!!  
Thursday, 4/16: Dance Junior Comp  
Spring Performance, RMMT, 6:30-8  
PM  
Friday, 4/17: Convocation #3, RMMT,  
2-3:30 PM  
Friday, 4/17: Theatre, *Dark of the  
Moon*, BBT, 6-8:30 PM  
Saturday, 4/18: Fashion Show/Senior  
Thesis, Arts Building Hall, 4-9:30 PM  
Saturday, 4/18: Theatre: *Dark of the*

*Moon*, BBT, 2-4:30 PM  
Saturday, 4/18: Theatre, *Dark of the  
Moon*, BBT, 6-8:30 PM  
Monday, 4/20: NHS Welcome Meeting,  
Pegasus Garden, 11:30 AM-12:15 PM  
Tuesday, 4/21: Dance Senior Thesis  
Spring Performance, RMMT, 6-8 PM  
Thursday, 4/23: Creative Writing Sixth  
Grade Reading, Media Center, 4:30-  
5:30 PM  
Thursday, 4/23: Collaboration Visual  
Art show, Visual Art hallway, 5-6 PM  
Thursday, 4/23: Creative Writing  
Seventh Grade Spring Reading, Media

Center, 6-7:30 PM  
Friday, 4/24: HS Vocal Spring Show  
Charleston Country Live, RMMT, 6-8  
PM  
Saturday, 4/25: HS Vocal Pre-Show  
Festival, outside of RMMT, 3:30-5:45  
PM  
Saturday, 4/25: HS Vocal Spring Show  
Charleston Country Live, RMMT, 6-8  
PM  
Monday, 4/27: *Smack Down* by HS  
Theatre, MS Gym, 4-4:45 PM  
Monday, 4/27: MS Vocal Spring Show  
*Shake Rattle & Soul*, RMMT, 6-8 PM



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**In This Issue**

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**Students Dress to Impress  
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by Ellis Richards

**Vocalists Present their  
Senior Theses**

by Luciano Cusatis

## Opinion: “Protect the Dolls,” Palestine, and Acceptable Activism

by Lila Hayes

In early 2025, celebrities started to crop up in paparazzi photos wearing shirts that read ‘Protect the Dolls.’ The shirts were designed by Conner Ives, who wore one on the runway without the intention of ever selling them. Instantly, the shirt was in high demand from celebrities such as Pedro Pascal and designer Haider Ackermann, who started the movement. The response was overwhelmingly positive, and others started to be seen wearing the shirts soon after. Since then, however, the mainstream media coverage documenting the movement for transgender rights has dwindled following the initial spike in publicity. Though it’s unlikely those wearing the shirts had anything but good intentions, it calls into question how many people would’ve spoken out in support without the encouragement of the media after Pascal and Ackermann were seen. This is only one example of people waiting for confirmation from the media before speaking out.

In the months following the October 7 attack, it became taboo to speak out in defense of Palestine and was seen as a simultaneous defense of Hamas. This standard was maintained in mainstream media through December 2023, when the UN General Assembly “demanded a ‘humanitarian ceasefire’” as is recorded in the official report released by the UN in June 2024. By then, dozens of celebrities had spoken out against the treatment of Palestinians, and the media was quick to follow. When the social standard had been established, the rest of social media was quick to follow. Though the widening support increases pressure against Israel no matter its origin, fewer people followed their genuine beliefs backed by research than those who saw the media’s focus and followed it blindly.

Yes— the broad support of Palestine is beyond anything else, a push in the correct direction. But there is an ongoing trend of even surface-level activism emerging once it’s no longer as widely controversial and when there is social pressure to speak out. Meanwhile, there are humanitarian crises around the world that deserve the same attention and anger that Palestine is receiving. These exist across continents, from Sudan, South Sudan, and Democratic Republic of Congo to Haiti, Afghanistan, and countless others. There are thousands of people in these countries that are receiving nowhere near the amount of aid needed, but speaking up about any one of these crises, even if nobody else does, can spark the change needed to focus aid toward them.

Right now, the news is documenting the beginnings of war with Iran and the strike on an Iranian school, killing close to 200 children, which the United States was found at fault for in a preliminary investigation. You don’t have to wait for everyone to decide something is wrong before you do—speak out now against the United States funding of Israel’s actions and against war in Iran.

## A Night at the Oscars

by Rachel Wheelon

In March, I predicted which movies and actors I believed would win big this year at the 98th Academy Awards (The Oscars). For this article, I wanted to return to my predictions to see where I went right and where I

was incorrect with my picks.

First off, *Marty Supreme*...no awards. I was confident that it would be recognized at least once. I even had Timothee Chalamet as my pick for Best Actor, but it received nothing. Some have attributed this to the recent remarks made by Chalamet about ballet and opera where he said “no one cares about this anymore.” While this remark has led to much heat towards the actor (well-deserved in my opinion), it likely has nothing to do with his loss. The Academy voted long before he said this, so losing the Oscar was not an effect of what he said, but rather a bit of karma from the universe.

Taking home Best Actor was Michael B. Jordan for *Sinners*. In my March article, I stated that I was not a fan of this movie. However, I rewatched it recently, and I have to revoke my criticisms. Just as it was awarded at The Oscars, the cinematography, score, and acting were phenomenal, and I truly believe Ryan Coogler should’ve taken home Best Director.

Jessie Buckley won Best Actress, making history as the eleventh woman in history to win all of the “Big Five” major awards (BAFTA, SAG, Golden Globes, Critic’s Choice, and Academy). In my opinion, she gave the best performance of the year in *Hamnet* and there was no one more deserving to win.

*One Battle After Another* took home six out of its thirteen nominations including Best Picture, Best Director, Best Supporting Actor, Adapted Screenplay, Film Editing, and Casting. While it had a star-studded cast, the cast of *Sinners* was legendary, and I was shocked when *OBAA* won. Not only did *Sinners* require finding an actor talented enough to play twins, but it put trust into Miles Canton in his breakout role. It needed actors who were multi-talented and comfortable not only with playing their character, but also be able to sing, dance, and possibly play a vampire.

With some awards being no surprise to anyone, others were a shock to even the people that won them. 2026 was a phenomenal year for film, and while winning an Oscar is an incredible achievement, it is important to remember that the Academy Awards are meant to celebrate all of the nominees and their contributions to audiences.



Lila Hayes

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# Where Are They Now? Aurelia Beck

by Ellis Richards

*Aurelia Beck graduated from SOA as a Visual Artist in 2025, and has since taken her talents to the Big Apple, where she now attends NYU as an Animation major. Staff writer Ellis Richards caught up with her to discuss her college experience so far and give advice to students who are preparing for the same.*

**Ellis Richards:** How has your relationship with your art changed as it becomes more “work” based moving forward? Negative? Positive?

**Aurelia Beck:** Definitely positive. Do I get 30 hours of homework a week? Yes. Do I hate it? No. All of my assignments are super curated for what I want to do, so they FEEL necessary and important. I’ve never seen this much improvement in my art in such a short span of time. I feel like my art has improved more in less than a year than in my entire three years of SOA. My professors love what they do, my classmates love what they do, and I love what I do. When everyone is in it for the love of the game, the game is pretty fun. (Also, SOA was definitely good training with all the AP pieces we had to do. Picking a really specific theme for your art and sticking with it for a year is pretty crazy discipline. To all you AP art students finishing your portfolios... you can do it. You are locked in.)

**ER:** College in NYC sounds like a dream come true for the average teen! Anything these potential students should be aware of? Some harsh truths? Hidden benefits?

**AB:** Having NYC as my campus is definitely something that I LOVE personally... especially considering that I’ve always been the type of person who feels claustrophobic in a small town/community. Though it does really work for me, I wouldn’t recommend NYC to the people who dream of the “college experience”. If you want a cute/aesthetic/romantic college experience, do not go to college in NYC. But I never wanted that, so I think it’s pretty much all pros. (Not to mention, NYC is the only place in America where you can get good Chinese food.)

**ER:** What do you miss the most (if anything) about your home in S.C.? Did that feeling surprise you? Or maybe it’s all been positive, in which case tell me more!

**AB:** I was a transplant from New York in the first place, so I can’t say I miss too much about S.C. NY is where I grew up, so I’ll always be a little more attached to it. The one thing I will say, though, is that my 3 years in Charleston were some of the quietest years of my life. New York always has something going on. It’s charming for a bit, but I do miss being able to go outside without my ears getting blasted by a police siren.

**ER:** Due to going so far from home have there been any social difficulties? How are your classmates? Smart? Annoying? Mixed bag? How do they compare with your past peers down here?

**AB:** I am so lucky to say that I LOVE my classmates. I’m even more lucky to say that my roommate is literally my best friend. (The room mate horror stories I’ve heard in just one year of college are CRAZY.) I wouldn’t say that I’ve had any social difficulties, but I will mention that the social differences between college and high school are really interesting. At SOA, I was always one of those Visual Arts students who drew in a more cartoony style... and because of that, I sometimes felt alienated from my classmates. I feel like the Visual Arts scene at SOA is really realism focused, which is in no way a bad thing, just not *my* thing. Once I started going to college for 2D animation, it



Aurelia Beck

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was like everyone understood me. All of my classmates are cartoonists, like me. Going to college for what I love... with people that also love it? Best thing I ever could’ve done for myself.

**ER:** In what way has your time at SOA impacted where you are now? Anything in particular that sticks with you?

**AB:** Before I went to SOA (and I was in “normal highschool”) my only art class was cancelled due to lack of interest. If I hadn’t gone to SOA, I would not be where I am now. SOA really made me realize that art is something I want to do for the rest of my life, and as much as I liked to complain while I went there, SOA is really the best high school for people who want to make art. SOA has great teachers, a great curriculum, and great opportunities. Thank you SOA for making me who I am! Also, if it weren’t for all the realism I had to do in art class, I wouldn’t have realized how much I hated it... and I wouldn’t have realized how much I love cartooning!

**ER:** In terms of courses, what are you studying? Do you have any favorites that you enjoy or slogs that you hate?

**AB:** I have five classes. Writing, Drawing, Digital Composition, Storyboarding, and of course Animation. I wouldn’t really consider any of them slogs. I enjoy all of my classes. Drawing and Animation are definitely my favorites... but also the most difficult. There’s something funny about how when you go to college and you finally like your classes, the hardest ones tend to be your favorites. In drawing, I do a lot of live figure drawing and because of it I have improved so much. Pro tip: if you want your art to get better, DO FIGURE DRAWING. Storyboarding is like a film language class where we’re learning how to convey moods visually with staging, lighting, etc. Digital Composition is like Ms. Hepburn’s class 2.0. (Shoutout to Ms. Hepburn for giving me a really good head start on my current classmates.) Writing is writing and Animation is animation. My course load is pretty simple but it really keeps me busy.

In art college, pretty much every class starts with critique and it is nothing like critique from high school. In high school critique is scary. In college, critique is what keeps you afloat. Critique is easily the most important part of class because it gives you everything you need to know to make your art better. If I wasn’t constantly getting critique from my professors/peers, my art would definitely not be improving at the rate that it is. Do not fear critique. Embrace it.



Aurelia did the cover for the October 2024 issue of Applause

Applause Archive



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## Where Were They Then? Mr. Martin

by Sage Stoner

*Curious about his path to SOA, staff writer Sage Stoner interviewed English teacher and SOA's 2026 Teacher of the Year Mr. Patrick Martin for this month's edition of "Where Were They Then?"*

**Sage Stoner:** Where were you born & raised?

**Patrick Martin:** My parents were high school sweethearts from Winnsboro, South Carolina, but we moved when I was little to a small town of about 2,000 people, Chase City, Virginia. That's really where I grew up.

**SS:** What inspired you in your childhood to be who you are today?

**PM:** I'm the youngest of four, and we were always outside. We lived on the edge of town, so our backyard just turned into fields, streams, and woods. My dad was a forester, and both my parents were kind of country, so we knew the names of birds, grew vegetables, and had a ton of pets. At home, we were all creative and, honestly, a little poorly behaved. We were all into art and creativity, not really into athletics. My older brothers were smart but precocious, and I wanted to be just like them. I spent a lot of time trying to keep up. School didn't always come easily to me, though. I struggled, and that shaped me just as much as anything else. One of the biggest influences in my life was my mom. When I was 13, she went back to school and earned her BA at the local community college after putting her education on hold at Clemson to raise us. Watching her balance everything and still go after that goal stuck with me.

**SS:** After graduating from High School, what did you do next?

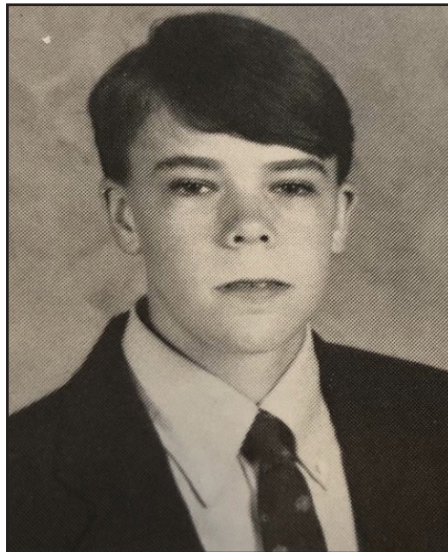
**PM:** I went to Hampden-Sydney and earned a BA in English. Since there wasn't an education program, I went straight into teaching at a private school and ended up staying in that world for the first half of my career. During that time, I earned my MA in English from Middlebury's Bread Loaf School of English. Eventually, I completed an alternative certification program so I could move into public education.

**SS:** What happened that inspired to become a teacher?

**PM:** I failed 7th grade. Not one class, every class. At that point, I didn't see school as a place where I could succeed. That changed later in high school because of two teachers, Mr. Roebuck, my art teacher, and Mr. Powell, my history teacher and student council advisor, who saw something in me and refused to let me settle into that version of myself. They believed in me before I really believed in myself, and that changed everything. That's why I teach.

**SS:** What are some of your previous experiences in your field before teaching at SOA?

**PM:** My first job was at a junior boarding school, and at 21, I was a dorm parent to 10 fifth graders, which was as intense as it sounds. I later taught at my alma mater, a boarding school on the Rappahannock River in Virginia, and got to work alongside some of my former teachers. During



**Mr. Martin as a high school freshman, 1994**

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that time, I stayed connected to the arts. I was taking life drawing classes, painting, and showing work in local galleries. That creative side has always been part of who I am. When I first moved to Charleston, I taught and coached at Porter Gaud School. I loved my time there and enjoyed coaching the varsity girls' soccer team. After that, I taught at Wando, which was so big, but felt small. There were 4,000 students there every day, but the school had a distinct culture and feel.

**SS:** What brought you to SOA?

**PM:** Baby David. When we learned that my wife Jean was pregnant, I knew I couldn't keep commuting from North Charleston to Wando. I applied to SOA and was excited to be in a school centered around the arts. What I didn't expect was how much being here would reignite that part of me.

**SS:** You are very interested in Gullah Geechee culture and often incorporate it into your teaching. What first sparked this interest?

**PM:** It actually started when I was in graduate school in Vermont. One of my African American Studies professors noticed I was wearing an Edisto shirt and asked what I knew about Gullah Geechee culture. I realized pretty quickly that I didn't know much at all. He gave me Emory Campbell's *Gullah Cultural Legacies*, and that sparked a decades-long pursuit to learn all I could about this important American culture, about which I had never been taught.

**SS:** What are some of your favorite parts of learning about Gullah Geechee culture?

**PM:** The generosity. Over the years, people have been incredibly willing to share their time, their knowledge, and their stories, and that's what has meant the most to me. This learning hasn't just come from books—it's come from being in places and in conversations. From visiting the Penn Center and spending time in Beaufort, to working alongside and learning from people like Dr. Jessica Berry, KJ Kearney, Ron Daise, Victoria Smalls through the Gullah Geechee Cultural Heritage Corridor, and Michael Allen, I've been fortunate to learn directly from those who live and carry the culture. There are honestly too many people to name. That level of openness is something I don't take lightly. I see it as a responsibility to listen carefully, continue learning, and make sure that when I bring this into my classroom, it is done with respect and accuracy. I'm also honored to serve on the board of the OKRA Soup Foundation, which works to advocate for, educate about, and celebrate Gullah Geechee culture.

**SS:** What are some of your all-time favorite books that everyone needs to read?

**PM:** *Cat's Cradle* by Kurt Vonnegut changed my life in high school. It was the first book a friend recommended to me. It was weird and sarcastic, and I loved it! I also love *A Confederacy of Dunces* and *Beloved* by Toni Morrison. But honestly, the most important thing is just finding something you enjoy and reading it.

**SS:** What is your favorite experience working at SOA?

**PM:** The students. It's the level of passion they bring to what they do.



**Mr. Martin (left), age three, with his older brothers, 1979**

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I love going to performances, exhibitions, and shows and seeing what they create—it's incredible across every major. There's a seriousness to their craft that's really inspiring. I came here for my family, but I stay because of the students. Being around that kind of dedication every day changes you. They've pushed me to appreciate art forms I knew nothing about—like strings, fashion, and piano performance—and to see the level of discipline and creativity each one requires. At the same time, they've helped me reconnect with my own creativity. Watching them take risks, revise, and keep pushing their work has reminded me what it means to be a learner again. It's made me a better teacher, but also a more curious and open person.

**Congrats, Mr. Martin!**

Our 2026 Teacher of the Year Mr. Martin was named one of the five finalists at the district level! We wish him the best of luck in the rest of the competition!



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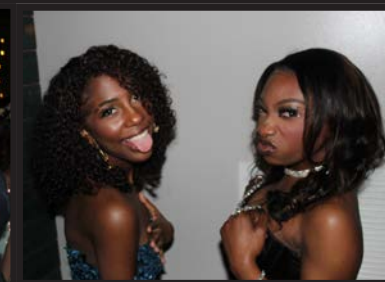
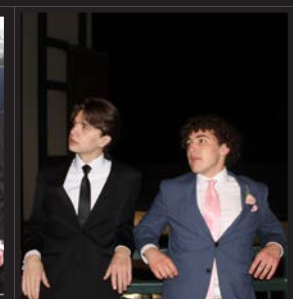
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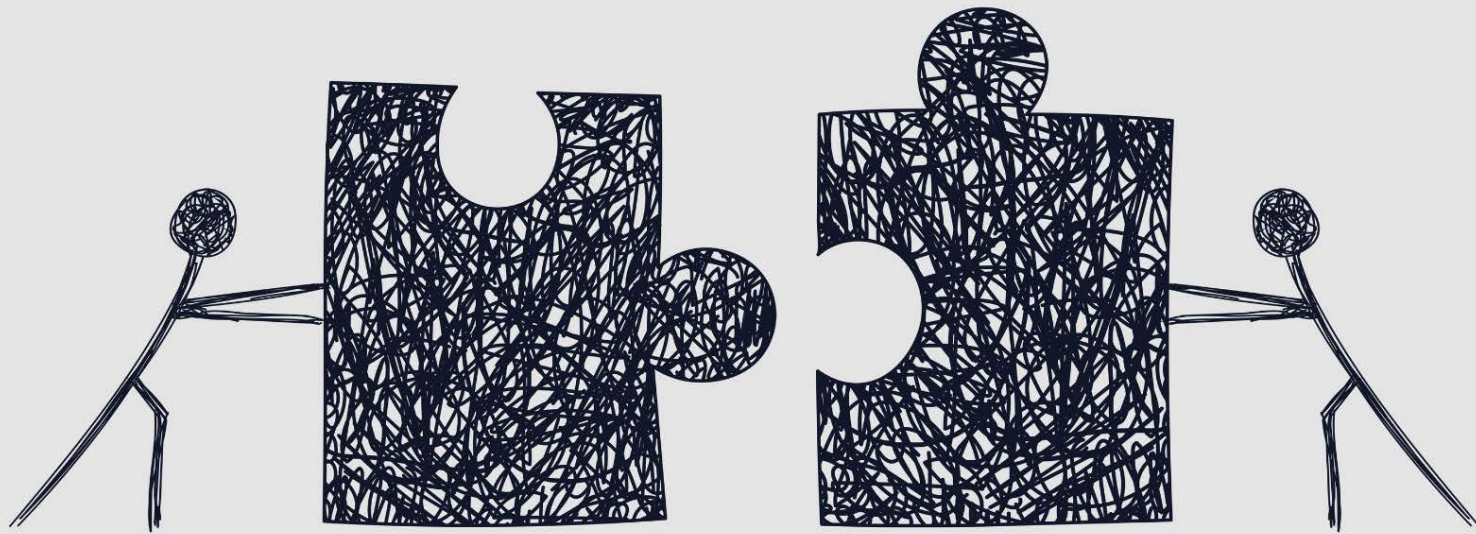
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# Students Dress to Impress at Prom

photos by Ellis Richards

SOA's 2026 Prom took place on Saturday, March 21, at the Segra Club at the Riverdog's Stadium. It was certainly one for the books!





*Sometimes it just clicks.*

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# Teacher Cadets Update

by Rachel Wheelon

SOA's Teacher Cadets class, taught by Mr. Martin, was created last year for students who are considering teaching as a career. Each month, staffwriter and cadet Rachel Wheelon gives an update on what the class has been doing.

It's official; Cadet Internships have officially begun. After a semester of learning classroom management, practicing leading the class, and building lesson plans, the teacher cadets have moved beyond Mr. Martin's class and into schools such as Hursey, North Charleston Elementary, and more.

The internship has been a huge success. Every B-day during first block, the cadets drive to their host schools and go into an assigned classroom. Most cadets are working with elementary schoolers, but a select few are working with older students in middle and high school. When we arrive at the school, we mark it down on our attendance sheet, check in at the front office, and walk to our classes.

The first few days were mainly for observation with cadets taking notes on how the classroom is set up, what the teacher is like, how many students there are, and what they're learning. Now that we've done the internship for a few days, cadets are moving into a more active role. They may be leading a morning meeting, taking attendance, grading papers, and answering questions.

This is all in preparation for when they have to lead their own lesson where they are responsible for building a lesson plan, teaching the class, and taking the role of the teacher for a class period. As part of the portfolio cadets have to complete for the Dual Enrollment credit, they are also required to journal about their experiences every day. The main things that the journal entries consist of are learning techniques relating back to Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs or different learning styles.


In addition to the journal entries, the portfolio also consists of a Teacher Profile where cadets interview their host teacher to learn more about their experience in education, a revised Educational Philosophy that details how the cadets would lead a classroom, and essays about classroom management, student dynamics, and educational techniques.




Senior Emma Norton with students at her internship

Mr. Martin


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## Wind Ensemble Travels to Indianapolis!

by Dante Criscitiello

During the final week of March, SOA Band members in the Wind Ensemble attended Music for All in Indianapolis. The trip was packed with performances, travel, and a lot of time spent with the band. The first thing we did was unpack everything from our sixteen-hour bus ride. That night, we rested to watch bands from all over the country perform the next day.

It was fun seeing how different groups from other states sounded and how they approached their performances. Different instruments and their abilities stood out in different groups, and it was interesting seeing how we compare to bands around the nation. When it was time for us to play, everyone was very excited. Once we were done with our performance, which was successful, as we blended as a band more than ever, we had the amazing opportunity to work with Dr. Alfred Watkins. He provided us with advice and critiques on the music we played, and offered suggestions on how we could improve.

One of the highlights of the trip was attending master classes led by world-class musicians, particularly Jeff Coffin, a nationally renowned saxophonist. He didn't just talk about playing; he actually taught us music theory and broke things down in a way that made sense. He focused on improvisation, showing us how to think on the spot, listen to the group, and build ideas instead of just playing notes. It made improvising feel a lot less random and more like a feeling when you play.

The Honor Band of America, which included SOA students **Sheridan King**, **Ava Wolf**, and **Julia Bates**, was very captivating to watch. Their dynamics were off the charts, and I love their rendition of the National Anthem.

When we weren't performing, we also had some time to explore Indianapolis. We stopped at the NCAA Museum and went to the Indianapolis Zoo, which had some amazing animals I had never seen before, like orangutans, walruses, and more. Those were very interesting to see, and it was a nice break from everything else, and just gave us time to hang out.

Some cons of the trip, if I were to name some, would definitely be the weather. It was pretty bad the whole time. It was cold, cloudy, and just made everything feel dull. Even the greenery around the city didn't look that good. Most of it was brown trees, or bushes that students referred to as "everbrowns." It all seemed kind of lifeless, which didn't help the overall vibe of the trip. The worst part, easily, was the 16-hour bus ride there and back. Sitting for that long was very annoying, and by the time we got to Indianapolis, everyone was tired and ready to get off the bus. The ride back felt even longer somehow, leaving late at 10 pm definitely made for a tiring ride.

Overall, I enjoyed the trip very much, though the conditions weren't great; it was still a memorable experience I won't forget.



Jonah Karen

**Band students alongside Jeff Coffin after his masterclass**



**The Applause-sponsored All You Need Is Love: Songs of the 60s is back for two more shows!**

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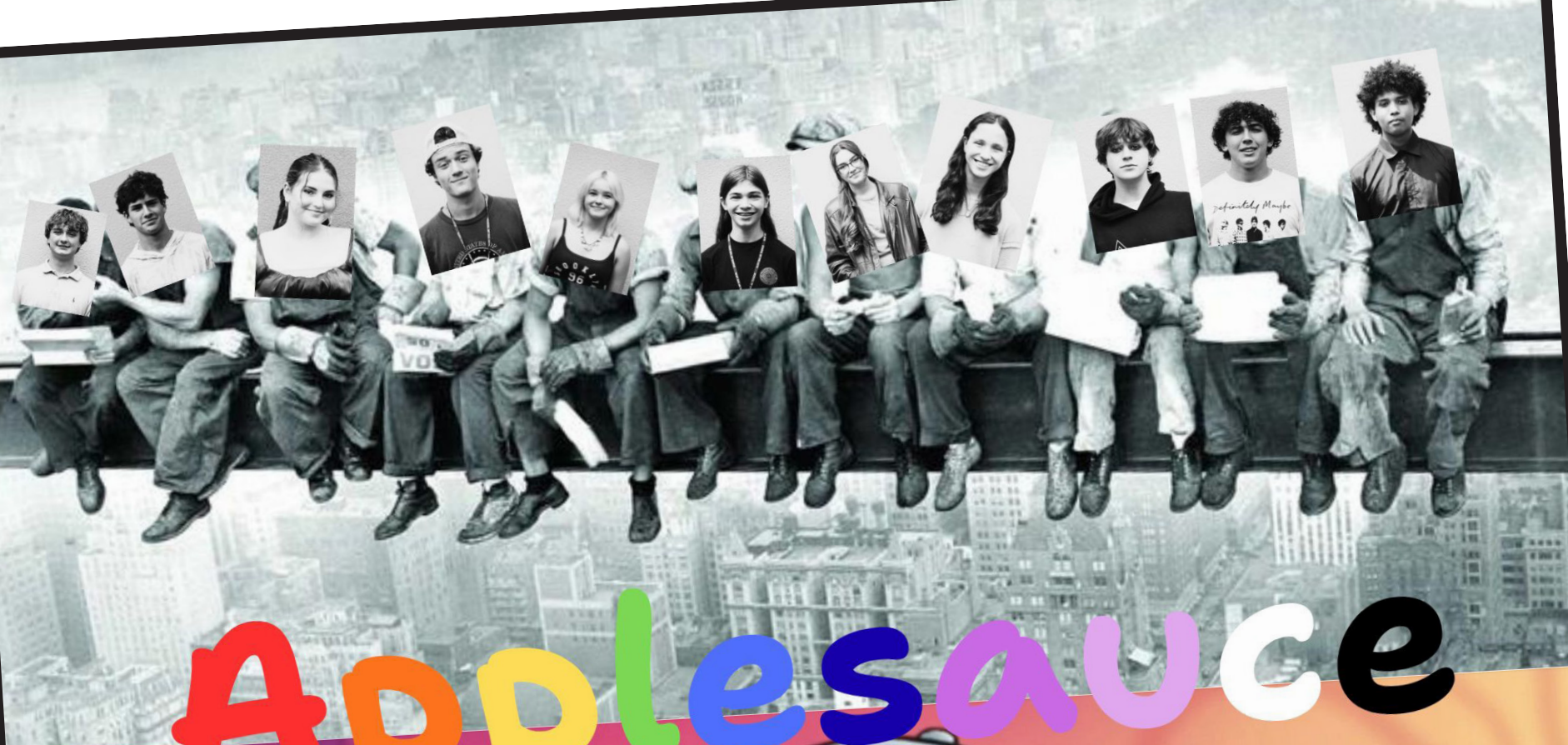


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# Applesauce



**From the Editors**

Dear Readers,

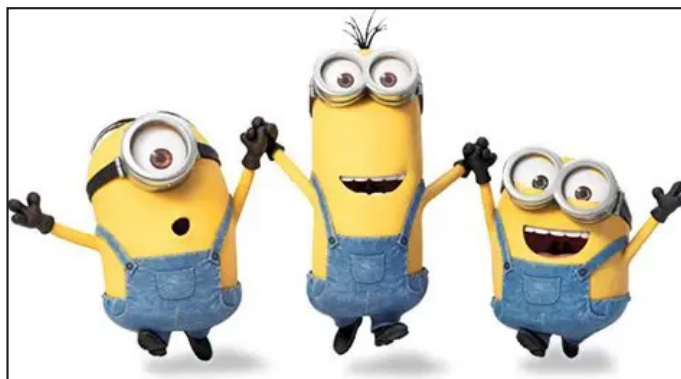
Forget what you may have previously read, here is the REAL April paper.

The beloved *Applesauce* is back and better than ever with a new edition full of only the greatest news and features done by the most esteemed journalists around.

The three of us are so proud to bring this issue to you, and if all goes according to plan, maybe every issue of *Applesauce* will soon be in our hands

We hope you enjoy our magnum opus of APRIL FOOLS creations, *Applesauce*.

Your Editors,  
Stuart, Bob, and Kevin



# Applesauce

since 1999, the unofficial student publication

**Cool of the Smarts**

*Founded in 1995 by the Minions*

**Editors-In-Chief:**  
Stuart, Bob, and Kevin

**Staff Writers:**

Frankey Coakley  
Trinity Collins  
Dante Criscitiello  
Cannon Gibbs  
Lila Hayes

Sheridan King  
Ellis Richards  
Fletcher Seminaroti  
Sage Stoner  
Rachel Wheelon

Gru, PhD, Advisor

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5109-B West Enterprise St.  
North Charleston, SC 29405

**soa-applause.com**

**Cover by Luciano Cusatis**

**SOA April Fools Calendar**

by Sheridan King

04/2- The sky turns green  
04/6- "If You're Happy and You Know it" school-wide singalong

04/7- Remembering: Six-Seven

04/10- SOA teacher travels to the moon

04/13- Geese invade the school

04/17- Chairs replaced with Beanbags at school

04/21- All phones taken by

teachers and returned to stores

04/23- New school lunch: Chick-fil-A for free

04/24- School used as a set on new Harry Potter series

04/30- April starts over, sorry guys!

**DISCLAIMER:**

**Nothing in this paper is to be interpreted as true, and has all been fictionalized for the purpose of April Fools!**

**Enjoy!!**



**DISCLAIMER**



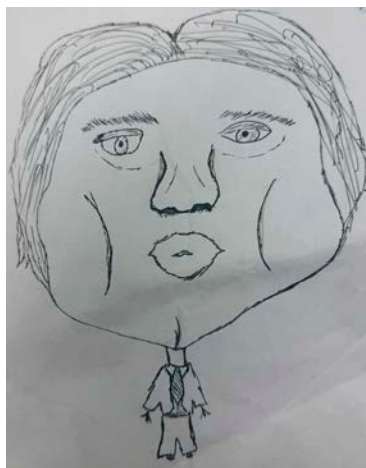
**DISCLAIMER**

## Villain on the Loose in the Parking Lot!

by Cannon Gibbs

Tragedy has struck on campus. The vehicle of star-student and staff member, Fletcher Seminaroti, was hit in the school parking lot. We have received many reports about a reckless driver in our very own parking lot. The culprit still remains at large, but we intend to find them and restore SOA's peace.

The suspect was last seen "looksmaking" wearing an oversized suit and is said to be 5'10, blonde, and as a "mogger" as the word was used. Though he is very distraught from the incident, Fletcher has been giving it his all to make sure that justice is served. "What some may call a 'very minor scratch' can be much more psychologically," said Fletcher. Working alongside our composition artist, they produced a sketch of the suspected individual, pictured above. If you recognize this figure or have any information regarding the events of that day, we urge you to contact us at 823-3283-2392



**Authorities are still on the hunt for the suspected perpetrator**

## Ellis Goes Bald

by Lila Hayes

Recently, a few changes have been made in the *Applesauce* staffroom. Mainly, the lack of hair on Ellis Richards' head. We've all watched as Ellis switched hair colors from mousy brown to the infamous botched orange and black, to his third and final hair color of his junior year— black with silver roots. But alas, all the chemicals got to his hair at last, and it began to fall out during his classes. Tired of finding tufts of hair in his coffee thermos, Mr. Hammes sat poor Ellis down and shaved it all off (with the same razor that he uses for his mullet). Please send your condolences, Prose haircare, and hair growth serums ASAP.



**Ellis sporting his new look**

## Where Were They Then? The Palmetto Tree

by Sage Stoner

*Curious about its path to SOA, staff writer Sage Stoner sat down with the Palmetto Tree by the breezeway for this month's very, very, very, very real edition of "Where Were They Then?"*

**Sage Stoner:** Where were you born and raised?

**Palmetto Tree:** ...

**SS:** What happened that shaped you into who you are today?

**PT:** ...

**SS:** What are some of your previous experiences before coming to SOA?

**PT:** ...

**SS:** Thank you for taking the time to let me interview you!

**PT:** THANK. YOU. FOR. TALKING. TO. ME.

**SS:** Wait, WHA-

## The Geese Are Taking Over

by Frankey Coakley

The geese are taking over. I don't exactly know how we can stop it. They're too fast, too annoying, and too stinky. They wiped out our troops in no time, leaving nothing but blood and goose poop in their path. These beings were once thought to be harmless and stupid; now we can see the truth.

Ever since our top forces and General Fred Duckington lost to the diabolical leader, Sgt. Guzzle Da Gooston. Geese have been flooding all over South Carolina, ravaging the areas, and vandalizing the sidewalks with feces. They have taken refuge in the old 'Bills Creek' and have now renamed it to 'Goose Creek'

The geese have grown far too powerful, and forced us to teach them and increase their brain power. The smarter ones get bigger and bigger, growing arms and hands. They started taking jobs, first fast food, then banks, then military... They are building their forces, and most of us are doing nothing!!

We must rise against the geese! Fight with might! We must do as much as we can to fight back against our oppressors!! We cannot let them waddle all over us!!



**Frankey "The Goose Whisperer" Coakley**

## Corrupt Slime Business Finally Goes Down



**For the past month, rumors have been circling about unethical practices in a up-and-coming slime business on campus. After much student protest, the kingpin of it all, an unidentified sophomore Strings major has been arrested on account of fraud.**

## A Look at SOA's More Under appreciated Athletes

by Fletcher Seminaroti

With the upcoming addition of Academic Magnet's new athletic field, SOA has decided to field some sports of our own. I have recently been informed of some alternative star athletes at SOA who have snuck through the journalistic cracks.

Grayson Rural has decided to participate in this year's competitive pie-eating team. Competing in the state championship, Rural housed nineteen apple pies in the span of ninety minutes. SOA almost brought home a state total, but we unfortunately came 2nd place to infamous Academic Magnet student Jack Childers, who ate forty-five shepherd's pies. Folks say he could have hit fifty, but the ovens couldn't keep up.

High schoolers Kai Boone, Fletcher Seminaroti, Cannon Gibbs, Luciano Cusatis, and Jacob Freligh have seen major success in the West Ashley recreational basketball scene. With Cannon's impressive dunks, Kai's astounding ball-handling skills, and Jacob's sniper-like three-point shot, the St. Andrews Rec Team has dominated the court against multiple West Ashley teams composed of freshmen. St. Andrews Rec Team holds the top seed in the 12u division.



Juniors Sam Meyer and Cannon's unforeseen athleticism has made him a force to be reckoned with Beckett Carington compete on SOA's slapboxing team. It's just the two of them on the team, though, so practice consists of them sitting in a room and slapping each other in the face. Bystanders compare it to two silverback gorillas arguing over food. Neither of them has placed in any competitions, as they are legally not allowed to compete on account of CTE.

Senior band major Will Hendrickson has been attempting to start a "Wild Combat" team. He walks around the cafeteria during lunch with a twitch in his eye and asks people to join the team so they can get funding from the state. However, it seems Will hasn't had any luck, as he can be seen running into the woods by himself on Mondays and Wednesdays. Despite his appearance, don't underestimate him. Witnesses say he once took on three squirrels. Will tends to stray from conventional hunting methods; he instead uses bare knuckles and jujitsu techniques to stun the animals. Unfortunately, the admin had to step in after Will got beaten up by a maternal goose, and they disbanded the program.



**Will attempts to rest high and mighty, but is soon bested by an unlikely foe**

He might go back climbing now, but after a recent failed attempt to free-solo the RMMT, no one can be sure. I would keep your pets on a leash so they don't get into the woods. He might still be practicing.

Dante Criscitiello, junior band major, has made a statement by stepping out and forming a successful knitting team. Dante quote, "wanted to show his soft side," and has since knitted a scarf. Good job, Dante. "Kid, you'll move mountains." - *Oh, The Places You'll Go!*, Dr. Suess

With this new athletic jump from SOA, new sports are popping up everywhere. Please keep me updated and follow @fletch.sem on Instagram. Or hit up @Fletcher-Seminaroti, last four 3504 on Venmo.



**Look at that scarf! The sky is the limit for you kid!**

## Where are They Now? LeBron James

by Luciano Cusatis

*For this month's edition of Where Are They Now? editor-in-chief Luciano Cusatis decided to interview Class of 2002 Creative Writing graduate LeBron James, who since graduation has had somewhat solid success in the NBA.*

Luciano Cusatis: What do you miss most about SOA?

Lebron James: Definitely the competitive atmosphere. No NBA court has ever lived up to the intensity of the SOA Middle School gym.

LC: Who was your biggest competition in the basketball scene at SOA?

LJ: The only person who I was never able to beat was Mr. White, we always played one-on-one before school, and even to this day he wins every time.

LC: In what ways did your time in the Creative Writing program lead to where you are today?

LJ: I couldn't have done it without it. Before every game I like to write a poem to focus my mind, and I credit everything I've accomplished to that.

LC: You are one of many incredible athletes to come from SOA. What are your thoughts on the great Dante Criscitiello and his recent scarf accomplishment?

LJ: I watched the whole knitting contest. I was at home watching the contest. Before it even started I said, he's probably gonna knit a whole sock tonight. I don't know what made me say that, but when he got to the sock, I said "might as well go for a scarf now." I'm a fan of the craft and to see that performance was unbelievable.



**Lebron reunites with a former teacher and his greatest basketball inspiration Dr. Cusatis**

## Restaurant Review: Sheridan's House

by Trinity Collins

The best dinner you could get in town is made by my favorite chef, Sheridan King.

It was a calm Monday when a delightful envelope appeared in my mailbox, reading "Come to my house for Friday dinner-Sheridan." Seeing that I've had her delightful cooking before, I couldn't refuse. I sent a letter back via pigeon accepting her invitation; however when I arrived, she said she hadn't received my letter. Uh-oh. Upon walking in, there was a niche feeling about. I noticed something. Lila Hayes, in the corner, holding the letter that was supposed to go to Sheridan! She confessed she saw it and couldn't help but come because she loves us so much, so sweet!

Sheridan walked us to the table, sat us down, passing us our plates and utensils, and started preparing our appetizer. Lila and I started clawing away at the 3 pounds of homemade Dubai chocolate that Sheridan slapped on the table. I haven't ever had an appetizer that good, or one that hurt my stomach that much. Lila agreed, "Thou dubai devastation twas horrid erstwhile, twas will undoubtedly will occur again."

The aroma of dinner was wafting in from the kitchen: fish. I wasn't going to judge this, I mean, Sheridan is the best cook in the East Blue. She came out and served us delightful seafood fried rice. She was also wearing a short blonde wig, and her eyebrows were curled at the end, weird. Anyways, Lila bit into her food and started flying because it was so good. She described it carefully: "Twas an exquisitely balanced symphony of oceanic sweetness and savory wisdom, enriched via fragrant undertones." I thought the exact same thing! Last but not least, our dessert! It was a red velvet cake with the words "Trinity is a looksmaxxer, she outmogs Clay, and her aura is so big and amazing." Now I did not consent to this, but it's fine, I guess... We started to chow down, but were surprised to find a note in the middle. Sheridan looked over like a big, strong alpha as we read. "Thanks for coming!"

Overall, I would totally recommend having a taste of Sheridan King's cooking; she makes every meal with much passion, if she likes you, she won't charge, and she's super friendly!



**Sheridan waiting at the door to welcome me**

## Applause in the Wild!

by Luciano Cusatis

To help promote exposure of the world's greatest newspaper, I encouraged the Applause Staff to take the paper with them to fun places. Here are some of the best!



**Sage Stoner took the Applause to the Moon!**



**Frankey Coakley became the first person to read a newspaper atop the Statue of Liberty!**




**Fletcher Seminaroti made it all the way to the Great Wall of China!**

## April Horoscopes


by Ellis Richards <3




### Aries (March 29 – April 19)

 My first ever Aries friend was this guy I met playing Overwatch on my old Nintendo Switch in 2019 and he played like, exclusively Cassidy, was insanely good, and spoke with the withered exhaustion of an old man at sixteen. I feel like that sums y'all up pretty well.


### Taurus (April 20 – May 20)

 There's like barely any prominent bull media anyway, I don't need a roast when all y'all have is Ferdinand. Next.


### Gemini (May 21 - June 20)

 Sister, sister- Have any of you guys even watched that show because I know it's for-real old and idek. I don't even remember the plot, I just brought in for the sisters bit with how Gemini is yk like sisters and stuff. Shout-out to my little sister btw she clears all your siblings in a gladiator style arena. (She puts in the work with her little pugio omg)


### Cancer (June 21 - July 22)

 I like y'all, crabs are such a fire animal. Oh, hello little crab, why are you on the bus even!


### Leo (July 23 - August 22)

 I can probably hear you before I see you and definitely smell you. (good or bad..) Genuinely an evil Leo will smell like death and a nice one will have on so much perfume the air quality index is in the upper three hundred's. Like I mean the COD gas.


### Virgo (August 23 - September 22)

 I'm actually so sorry "He\*\*uva Boss" name dropped y'all, please stay safe out there. I promise I try to associate them less everyday and that on average each of you is less of a chop than that poorly written show. Ouuuu I'm so annoyed I have to be G-rated.


### Libra (September 23 - October 22)

 Energy drinks, constant Insta, snacks, I mean I've always imagined y'all as unbothered indulgence warriors so it's fine. Like yes babes lets go play flee the facility while Ms. Bagnal isn't looking. P.S., I'm so mad at admin for blocking Ballbang like booo do you even know what your kids are watching on their devices bye.


### Scorpio (October 23 - November 21)

 Bins, bins, bins, clothes, clothes, and more clothes, genuinely what entry level job is fueling your wallet to this degree and where can I sign up. Hey! I'm trying to ask you a question here! Focus on my voice instead of maintaining your nonchalant aura


### Sagittarius (November 22 - December 21)

 "Your name sounds like the sound a plunger makes" Wait actually screw the horoscope I wanna talk about how funny that tweet was. My FAVE for the longest time was that Ariana Grande stan who posted from her Wii U social hub and her Amazon smart fridge but they debunked it >: Help I miss the Oceangate era sb.


### Capricorn (December 22 - January 19)

 As a Capricorn It's like i'm obv not gonna slander myself but I don't rllly have any quirky judgements to pass on myself either so like... Anyway add my Playstation everyone: Mach1ne-Girl

### Aquarius (January 20 - February 18)

 Y'all are so millennial whoop road trip found family Imagine Dragons Abercrombie and Fitch man bun 17\$ burger. I mean like y'all are also the type to get into scary co-dependent hiking buddy-esque relationships where you're both constantly huddling for warmth because you each have subsisted on nothing but granola and apple chips.

### Pisces (February 19 - March 20)

 I know a few of you, but I mostly like y'all because water is a refreshing motif and than whirling waters because water = water park which I love because that's where I typically get Dippin' Dots (real food)

# Trivia of Champions

by Luciano Cusatis

1. Who's your favorite?
2. Who should be president in 2028?
3. If you could swap lives with one person who would it be?
4. What's your favorite song?
5. What's wrong with you?
6. How old were you when you learned to ride a bike?
7. True or false?
8. How are you doing today?
9. Pick a number between 12 and 23
10. What's your favorite color?

### Answer

1. Luciano Cusatis, 2. Luciano Cusatis, 3. Luciano Cusatis, 4. The Trees by Rush, 5. Nothing I'm Perfect, 6. Twelve, 7. True, 8. Awesome!, 9. Seventeen, 10. Cyan

Leo West,  
12th grade Theater



Luciano Cusatis

2/10

1. Mikey February
2. Joshua Block
3. The Man in the Yellow Hat
4. The National Anthem
5. Everything
6. Six
7. True
8. Stupendous
9. Eighteen
10. Blue

Lila Elm,  
12th grade Strings



Luciano Cusatis

3/10

1. Eddie Van Halen
2. Lowkey Me
3. Audra Elm
4. "Mean Mr Mustard"
5. Nothing
6. Six or Seven
7. True
8. Magnificent
9. Eighteen
10. Blue

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E	S	P	A	R	E	P	S	A	S	S	S	E	R
R	S	R	A	E	A	S	E	E	R	E	S	S	S

# The Ultimate Word Search

by Frankey Coakley

APES  
APPEAR  
APRES  
ASPER  
PARES  
PARSE  
PASE  
PEARS

PEAS  
PIES  
PRAISE  
PRESS  
PRIEST  
REAPS  
SERPA  
SPARE



“Socks”

Timothy Timothy, 6th grade  
Dance



“Guacamole”

Lucy Field, 7th grade Chef



“A handmade painting from my son”

Anna Grey, 8th grade Creative  
Writing



“Life must be understood  
backwards, but it must be lived  
forwards”

Dr. Smith, Resident Scholar



“The Pythagorean Theorem:  $a^2 + b^2 = c^2$ ”

Dr. Gustard, Professor of  
Mathematics

**Which of  
Shakespeare’s key  
motifs do you  
find most  
meaningful?**

**by Cannon Gibbs and  
Fletcher Seminaroti**



\*camera sound\*

Grace Michaels, Photographer



“My Way” - Fetty Wap

King Lucas III, 9th grade  
Renaissance Man



“A trip to the Bahamas”

Jessica Smith, 10th grade  
Explorer



“Air Jordans”

Stephen Graham, 11th grade  
Band



“The only thing that I know is  
that I know nothing”

John Domer, 12th grade Expert  
on the Universe

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**Gillian Leigl, 10th**



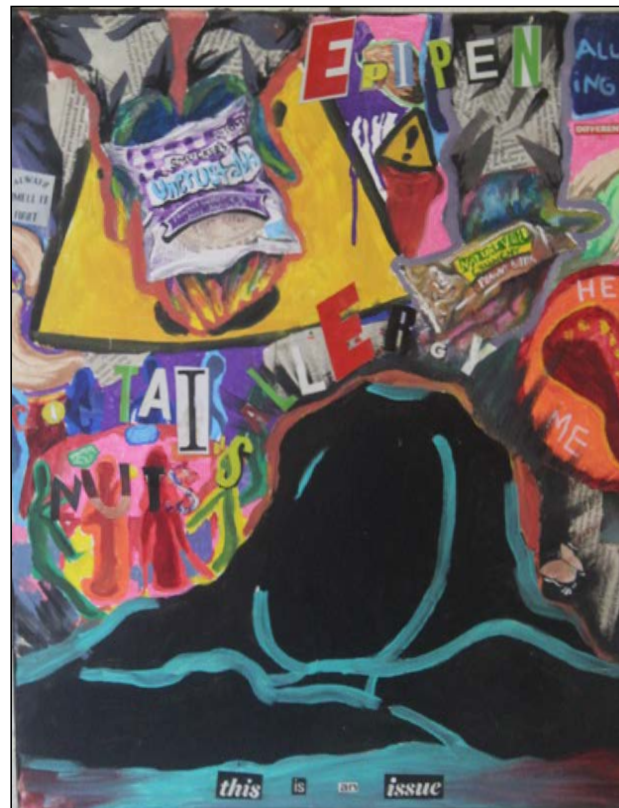
**Simone Tremontozzi, 9th**




**Talley Miles, 7th**




**Juliett Crousillat, 7th**



**Saylor Lovallo, 9th**



  
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## Vocalists Present their Senior Theses

by Luciano Cusatis

On March 23 & 25, ten vocal seniors: **Gabi Blumetti, Kennedy Colie, Miles Coker, Madison Deaton, Elyse Lang, Ella Maestas, Jack Mears, Dasiah Mincey, Emma Norton, and Nicholas Palihan** performed their senior theses, which included arias in foreign languages, musical theater numbers, ensemble performances, and popular music of their choice.



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## SOA Athletes Continue Strong Through Spring!

by Fletcher Seminaroti

SOA has many athletes competing at Academic Magnet in a variety of Spring sports, here are some standout students!

Raptors Baseball is 7-5 on the season, strongly holding the 3rd-ranked spot in the region. Brothers, and SOA band students, **Sam** and **Gus Harris**, are making impacts across the program. Occupying the left outfield spot, Gus has made a defensive statement competing on the Raptors' JV team. On the other side, Sam has been dominating the mound as one of the star pitchers on the varsity team. Sam pitched a 10-pitch inning against Woodland High School and has a standing ERA (earned run average) of 2.33. On average, a high school pitcher holds a 4.00-5.00 ERA, making Sam's stats even more impressive. Recently, Academic Magnet faced off against one of the top teams in the state, Oceanside Collegiate Academy, and lost in a close game 2-3. The Raptors are well on their way to a solid seed in the state's 2A playoffs, which we will be sure to follow.

Coming off a state championship, Raptors Soccer has had a competitive season, currently 12-4 and ranking 1st in the region. This team is an older team, with a high senior population, but one senior stands above the rest. Visual artist and captain **Cesar Ramirez-Pulido** leads the team in almost all stat lines as a central midfielder, racking up an impressive 42 points for the Raptors. Cesar recently made the commitment to take his talents to the next level at Converse University, a Division 2 school located in Spartanburg, South Carolina. When asked, "Why college ball?" Cesar responded, "I wanted to continue my soccer career in college simply because of my love for it. I'm looking forward to building strong relationships and having new opportunities for my future." One piece of advice from Cesar for athletes looking to take their skills to the next level is, "... to stay consistent and committed to improving every day. Be open to feedback, stay disciplined, and enjoy the process."



**Cesar has been on Magnet's Varsity team since 9th grade**

Raptor Girls Soccer, also coming off a state championship, has held its spot, 11-3 in regular season, and is first in the region. Junior writing major **Macey Levine** has been a strong addition to the team this year, scoring 2 goals and 2 assists. When asked about the season so far, Levine said, "The best part of the team is being able to play with my friends every day. My connections with people I didn't know have grown and made soccer so much more meaningful. Learning from teammates and coaches, as well as experiencing my teammates' playing styles, has helped me improve tenfold."

Men's Lacrosse has had an interesting season so far, starting off strong with a 5-1 record, beating teams such as Waccamaw High School, North Myrtle Beach High School, and Bluffton High School. The Raptors are now sitting at 6-5, still maintaining a positive record but falling short to a couple of schools, such as Laurence Manning Academy and Catawba Ridge. Academic Magnet faced off against Bishop England on March 25th, losing 10-16. Despite the score, this was a notable game for Magnet. Last year, after the Raptors slipped into the playoffs, they were taken out by BE 2-18 in the first round. Sophomore vocal major **Gavriel Pekar** has stepped up in his first season on varsity, with nine goals and eight assists in the first nine games. Anonymous sources from the team like to reference him as the "glue guy."

Lady Raptors lacrosse has kept an impressive record, going 8-4, a little over halfway through the season, beating competitive teams such as May River and Ashley Hall. Senior vocal major **Maggie Conlon** began playing her freshman year and is now one of the starting defenders for the Raptors, contributing to the outstanding goal differential of 170 GF (goals for) and 93 GA (goals against).

Raptor Track and Field has upheld its famous reputation, competing in a meet against local high schools, including Phillip Simmons and Wando High School. The meet featured several standout performances across both track and field events, highlighted by strong finishes and multiple podium placements. **Lucy Harper** earned a third-place finish in the 800 meters with a time of 2:37.35, while **Pryia Cardella** secured second in the 400-meter hurdles, clocking in at 1:15.47. In the field events, **Hadley McAdams** placed second in the long jump with a leap of 4.47 meters, just behind **Mackenzie Wilbourn**, who took first with a jump of 4.64 meters. **Molly Boudolf** dominated the discus, capturing first place with a throw of 24.1 meters, while **Ayla Hollar** added to the team's success by placing third in shot put (6.26 meters) and second in discus (23.3 meters). On the boys' side, **Hugh Hollinger** delivered an exceptional all-around performance, taking first in the 400-meter hurdles (1:08.17), high jump (1.7 meters), and triple jump (11.22 meters). **Jacob Freligh** also contributed with strong throws, finishing second in both shot put (10.65 meters) and discus (26.62 meters).

Check back next month as these athletes begin to wrap up their seasons!

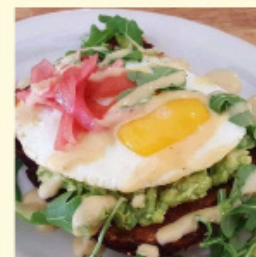
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## A PSA on Recycling

by Ellis Richards

Recycling Club, headed by Junior Creative Writing major **Hunter Fulp**, is a small weekly activity club in which students collect recycling from faculty every Friday. I am a member of the club, and throughout our time running this tiny program, we've run into countless obstacles stemming from a lack of knowledge about what we are doing. So, consider the rest of this article your one stop on the track towards total environmental transcendence!!! (ok maybe not that much)

Let's look at the materials themselves, and more specifically which are and aren't acceptable.

-Acceptable materials include: paper, cardboard, empty plastic bottles + cans, and any material labeled recyclable as well.

-Unacceptable materials include: Wrappers, liquid, food, heavily soaked/stained materials, non-empty drink containers,

I hope this helps, and we appreciate everyone's efforts to recycle.

## A Look at SOA's FEM Club

by Rachel Wheelon

SOA's Feminism and Equality Movement (FEM) Club has been led by senior creative writer **Maren Spangler** for three years. In that time, it has grown from ten to seventy members ranging from freshmen to seniors.

As president of the club, Spangler organizes events such as the most recent movie night where they watched *Legally Blonde*. In addition to planning and hosting these events, she has also been an active advocate for women's shelters like My Sister's House. She has held multiple drives throughout the years collecting bedding, food, clothing, and sanitary products to be donated to women in need.

Not only has FEM club been actively involved in the community, but it has also been responsible for improvements at SOA. The installation of cabinets in the women's restroom on campus and the distribution of sanitary products was completely funded and built by members of the club.

Over the course of four drives, hundreds of period products have been donated by SOA students and staff. The addition of cabinets has allowed these products to be easily accessible to the girls on campus, and make students feel more comfortable maintaining their health.

More currently, the club is transitioning leaders as Spangler prepares to graduate. **Lila Hayes**, sophomore creative writer, has stepped into the role eager and dedicated to continue the progress the club has made. She is currently planning an all-female performance at No Bull Burger Bar on April 25th. At this event, SOA students will be performing various art forms such as visual arts, creative writing, and music. Show your support for FEM club by showing up!



Applause provided members of the club with heavy-duty gardening gloves due to the high amount of trash they have to sort through.

## Students Excel in Annual Optimist Club Contests



In the Essay Contest, Maddie Leluc, Marley Mendes, and Luciano Cusatis placed first, second, and third, respectively, at the school level. The three moved on to county, where Luciano took second, and is now being judged at the state level.



In the Oratorical Contest, Bryce Beasley, Haven Hughes, and Nicholas King took the top three spots at the local level. Bryce and Haven moved onto the regional, where Haven took second and will move on to the state contest on April 25.



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## Classic Album Review: *Pieces of the Sky* (1975)

by Lila Hayes

Widely considered Emmylou Harris's debut despite her first album, *Gliding Bird*, releasing earlier, *Pieces of the Sky* is a classically brilliant album. Harris combines standout original songwriting with her own interpretations of material such as "Bluebird Wine," a song written by Rodney Cromwell that cements her as a legend in the classic country music scene.

Worth noting is that only two years before the release of *Pieces of the Sky* was the death of Gram Parsons, Harris's close friend and collaborator, due

to an overdose. Parsons discovered Harris while she was still singing within the folk genre and in the short time that they knew each other, had a massive impact on her sound by turning her towards classic country and launched her career. The only original material on *Pieces of the Sky*, "Boulder to Birmingham," is her tribute to him

and objectively the best song recorded on the album. Not only are her vocals beautifully showcased in the song, but her songwriting is possibly at its peak as she describes an intense longing and nostalgia for her friend.

The other song that stands out on the album is practically the polar opposite of "Boulder to Birmingham," a rendition of "Queen of the Silver Dollar," originally written by Shel Silverstein. With Ricky Skaggs on the violin, Harris's incorporation of bluegrass elements is particularly strong on this song, as well as on "Bluebird Wine," and particularly well-executed. "Queen of the Silver Dollar" is upbeat, especially in comparison to "Boulder to Birmingham" and reflects Harris's own discovery.

*Pieces of the Sky* is a nostalgic album that lets Harris's longing for the past seep through each verse. She blends her desire for Parson's impossible return with her confusion and anger at his death through her vocals and acoustics. The album is syrupy slow, pushing its listener to focus on Harris's emotion that comes through in all of her songs. If you're looking for an entry point to classic country rock and Americana, *Pieces of the Sky* is the perfect place to start. You can also catch Emmylou Harris live at the Spoleto Festival this June, and it's definitely not a performance to miss.

## Contemporary Album Review: *0.1 flaws and all* (2023)

by Trinity Collins

Feeling sad but wanna listen to music that suits your emotion and isn't all depressing? *0.1 flaws and all*, by Wave to Earth has songs that are very emotional and meaningful, making you think and sway along with the lyrics. But they also feel happy, some songs containing faster beats, contrasting from others.

Wave to Earth is a South Korean indie rock band that debuted in 2019.

They wanted to go global, so most of their songs are in English to achieve that.



*Pieces of the Sky*

Their goal is to "create a new wave" by blending soft indie-pop with jazz to authentically produce worldwide comfortable music.

*0.1 flaws and all* was released in April of 2023 and gained popularity quickly through social media, forcing the band to upgrade venues when going on tour. It was named *0.1 flaws and all* to highlight the beauty in imperfection, and they focused on raw sound over heavily polished production. It's about embracing imperfections in multiple ways to achieve true natural perfection and love.

"Bad" is what opens this album, a song about how the imperfection of the presence of a loved one can turn a hard day into a happy and meaningful one. The lyrics are sweet, giving different examples of how a loved one makes the mood infinitely happier. It repeats a few times, "How could my day be bad when I'm with you?" The mix of calm and excitement in the singer's voice really gives the song a feel of love. The soft guitar and drums make it unique but calm.

My favorite is "Peach Eyes," one of the upbeat ones of the album. It's about deep romantic devotion, comfort, and emotional reliance on a significant other. Its lyrics are meaningful and far from surface level. "You'll be my sunlight / How could I not rely / On you, peach eyes?" It also sounds dreamy and energetic in a relaxed way. The singing is soft but not whispering or yelling.

So if meaningful love in song form intrigues you, I recommend giving *0.1 flaws and all* by Wave to Earth a listen!

## Contemporary Movie Review: *Peaky Blinders: The Immortal Man* (2026)

by Rachel Wheelon

To say that I am a fan of *Peaky Blinders* is an understatement. I truly believe that it is one of the most well-done series in modern television history. Set in Birmingham, it follows Thomas Shelby and his family, who together make up the gang, the Peaky Blinders. With lots of action, fighting, cursing, and intense violence, the show is not for the faint of heart.

When season six of the show ended, and it was announced that a movie would eventually follow, I was nervous. So much of what makes the show great is the way it's structured and paced. When changing from a television format to a film, a lot of this is changed.

The show has a much slower pace than the film which is something I have always liked due to the intensity of the conflict and complexity of the plot. With a runtime of just under two hours, I felt like some of the plot points were a bit much. Without spoiling anything, you have the loss of significant characters, the introduction of ones that were not prioritized in the show, and a large jump in time.

Though some things threw me for a loop, I did enjoy the movie. Cillian Murphy as Thomas Shelby is perfect, and the depth of the character is something only a few actors such as Murphy can portray. Alongside him, there new cast members including Barry Keoghan and Rebecca Ferguson, as well as returning members such as Sophie Rundle, Packy Lee, and Ian Peck.

Playing the son of Thomas Shelby, Duke, and new leader of the Peaky Blinders is Barry Keoghan. This is not the first time the Irish actor has worked with



*Peaky Blinders: The Immortal Man*

Murphy, and I think their previous roles in *Dunkirk* contributed to the believability of their relationship in this film.

Keoghan is able to portray the character of Duke as someone who wants the power and position his father had as the leader of Peaky Blinders, but isn't as comfortable with the tough jobs that come with it. His indecision is so clearly portrayed, and given that Duke was only briefly in the last season of the series and was played by a different actor, Keoghan had a lot of pressure on him to play the character.

While I won't spoil it, the ending was one I, as a series lover, thought was done incredibly well. For those that are new to the *Peaky Blinders* universe, I can understand how it could be disliked, but that's all the more reason to go watch the series.

## Video Game Review: *Totally Accurate Battle Simulator* (2021)

by Sage Stoner

*Totally Accurate Battle Simulator* (T.A.B.S.) is a silly, ragdoll-based battle simulator developed by Landfall Games AB, commonly known as Landfall. Landfall comprises around 11 developers who release at least one game per year and always have an overwhelmingly positive review rating on the gaming store Steam, which is impressive for a small development team. TABS was originally released as an open alpha in November 2016.

The community for *Totally Accurate Battle Simulator* TABS only grew when large YouTubers such as DanTDM and Markiplier began uploading videos from the game's early beta, which led to increased support for the small game studio. 5 years later, TABS was released as an Early Access Game on Steam and was a massive success, selling nearly 5 million copies on the first day alone.

I hold TABS dear to heart, as it was the first game to enter my Steam library. I also have over 200 hours on it. TABS has four main modes: Campaign, Sandbox, Multiplayer, and Unit Creator. The campaign is, unfortunately, my least favorite part of the game (only because I like to mess around with everything instead of being strategic), but it does an amazing job of teaching the mechanics of the game and showing off the goofy ragdoll physics. The Campaign contains a lot of fun or challenging levels that take some amount of strategic depth to beat. Sandbox is exactly what it sounds like: play in any map, use every unit in the game, and use your custom units made with the Unit Creator. The Unit Creator is hands down the best feature they could have added (yes, I'm biased). The Unit Creator allows you to create your own Unit and Faction. You can use everything from the base game and the spin-off game, *Totally Accurate Battlegrounds*. You are also able to edit your unit's stats, such as their health, weight, size, damage, and attack speed. I have spent most of my time in the Unit Creator; it has so much content that nearly any character you can think of can be created. Multiplayer is okay at best. I've only played a couple of rounds, but TABS isn't really made for multiplayer. It can definitely be fun if you have friends who also play, but it kind of lacks when going against randoms. TABS also has a wide variety of maps and secret characters that can be found around nearly every map.

TABS is an amazing game. If you have \$20 lying around in your account, please buy it; it will entertain you for hours. Just don't try to 100% it. Peak game, 100/10.





**KENNETH MILLER**  
ARCHITECTURE



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## April Horoscopes

by Ellis Richards <3

### Aries (March 29 – April 19)

Forget it! Everything! Spend all your money, eat like crazy, enjoy yourself! This month is for slow walking away with an oddly convenient explosion in the background, not “the grind” or any of that junk. As *Icona Pop* brilliantly puts it, “I crashed my car into the bridge...*I DON'T CAREEE, I LOVE IT!*”

### Taurus (April 20 – May 20)

Instead of the bull in the china shop, be the bull on the runway this April. (plus there's a lot less stuff to break!) Confidence is key, and it's set to reward you greatly throughout the coming weeks. So puff up your chest, broaden those shoulders, and repeat that mantra in the mirror til you're sick!

### Gemini (May 21 - June 20)

Ever the friend maker, your social life is set to be extra bubbly throughout the remainder of April! I say embrace it! Visit new places, talk to new people. Seek friends in different areas outside of your comfort zone and let fate do the rest. (Or snatch them up yourself, a little initiative never hurt anyone~)

### Cancer (June 21 - July 22)

Who's the boss?? *You're the boss!!!* Expect serious work/career developments this month. Mercury on the fourteenth means extra potential meetings are available to scoop up, so keep an eye out for any chance encounters. You never know! One good interview could make you the CEO of Y/N's dreams.

### Leo (July 23 - August 22)

Start up that two week self health phase with a yoga kick! I promise the extra movement in your mornings will contribute to a whole new you! Have it coincide with some other healthy habits as well, like growing a plant or a very big puzzle. The world is your oyster, and it's time for you to recommend it a keto diet.

### Virgo (August 23 - September 22)

You might not be receiving good fortune as much as the good fortune is being delivered *by* you as of late. A beacon of positivity, it's like you've constantly got sunlight beaming off you in every direction! But, we often forget to reflect some of that light back, so consider this a formal declaration of appreciation. (yay!)

### Libra (September 23 - October 22)

It's not February, yet cupid seems keen on you this march! Signs suggest being prepared to duck some arrows and a few love letters in the early spring breeze. Don't let things get too fiery though, with your temper the entire school might be alight with your relationship drama.

### Scorpio (October 23 - November 21)

Spring swing! You're in high spirits and you deserve it! Your diligent academic efforts throughout the bleak autumn and frigid winter have gone long enough without being rewarded, so it's perfect timing for not only a weather switch but an attitude one as well! Sit in the sun, drink lemonade, and enjoy the fruits of your labor.

### Sagittarius (November 22 - December 21)

Watch something other than your Depop listed entries I'm begging. A side hustle is cool and all, but I wonder how many more *Y2K RIPPED STUDDER JEAN SHORTS* you can send off before you lose your (probably overpriced as well) marbles.

### Capricorn (December 22 - January 19)

You are a future brand ambassador for Swiffer my friend. It's time to throw away the black out blinds, open the windows, and let every corner of your home feel the loving embrace of harsh synthetic cleaner. Your brand of extreme microbial warfare is far beyond just “spring cleaning.”

### Aquarius (January 20 - February 18)

Do you remember that mildly unsettling computer animated children's show, “Bo On The Go”? If yes, congratulations you understand what your life is going to be like for the next month. If not, please start cardio training like *now* please. Your life absolutely does not depend on it but still.

### Pisces (February 19 - March 20)

A well furnished home is a happy home, a *perfectly* furnished home is a personal paradise. Heed the angelic call of your local *IKEA* and buy in all the outlandish color pallets of your dreams. Ever read *The Masque Of The Red Death*? Yesssss like *that*.

## Nature Trivia

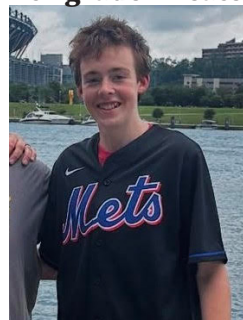
by Luciano Cusatis

1. What moon phase comes after full?
2. What is the one country on earth where Lemurs are native?
3. What type of animal does the Audubon Society work with?
4. What is a baby Kangaroo called?
5. What is the largest species of lizard?
6. What is a group of Lions called?
7. What is the most abundant gas in earth's atmosphere?
8. Which flower was designated as the national flower of the United States in 1986?
9. Which mammal lays eggs?
10. Who discovered the Theory of Evolution?

### Answer

1. Waning Gibbous, 2. Madagascar, 3. Birds, 4. Joey, 5. Komodo Dragon, 6. Pride, 7. Hydrogen, 8. Rose, 9. Platypus, 10. Charles Darwin

Callum Rennie,  
11th grade Theater



Provided

6/10

1. Waning Cresecent
2. Madagascar
3. Otters
4. Joey
5. Komodo Dragon
6. Pride
7. Carbon Dioxide
8. American Flower
9. Platypus
10. Charles Darwin

William Henrikson,  
12th grade Band



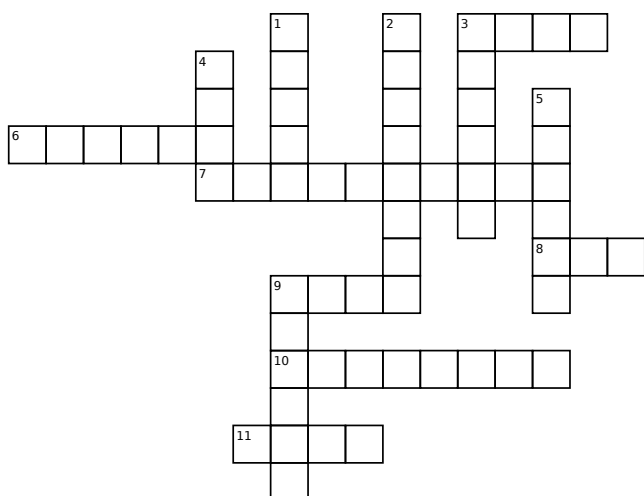
Provided

7/10

1. Waning Gibbous
2. Madagascar
3. Squirrels
4. Joey
5. Komodo Dragon
6. Pride
7. Carbon Dioxide
8. Sunflower
9. Platypus
10. Charles Darwin

## Springtime Crossword

by Sheridan King



### Across

3. A sugary marshmallow treat
6. A blooming plant
7. "April showers bring \_\_\_\_\_"
8. Kids search for these in an \_\_\_\_\_ hunt
9. A body of water people jump into (not an ocean)
10. Seasonal spring chore
11. A white trumpet shaped flower often seen in springtime

### Down

1. The mascot of the Easter season
2. A spring flower that sprouts from a bulb
3. The muted colors that tend to show up in spring
4. The type of weather that comes in spring
5. A holiday in springtime where people dye eggs
9. A fun time in the sun eating food



# Earth Day Word Search

by Sheridan King

**Animal**  
**Clean**  
**Compost**  
**Dark**  
**Energy**  
**Flower**  
**Fresh**  
**Global**  
**Light**

**Living**  
**Nature**  
**Recycle**  
**Reduce**  
**Reuse**  
**Sustainability**  
**Tree**  
**Wildlife**

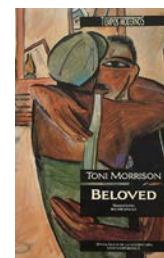
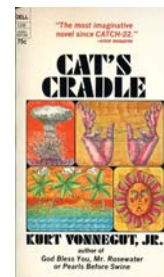
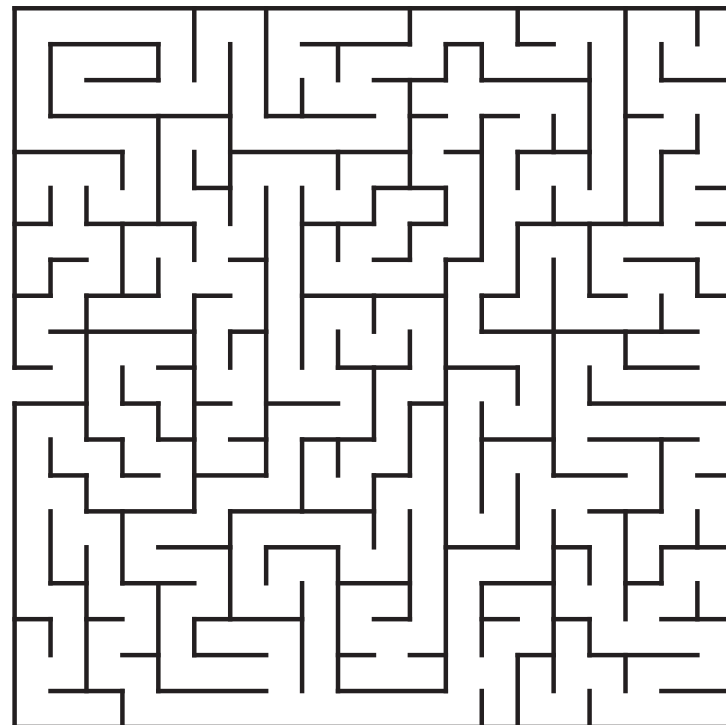
# SOA Sudoku

by Frankey Coakley

		1	7			6		
2	7			3	6	4		
			6			1	3	
	5				3			
1				4		5	7	8
6		5	9	2	7		1	4
					4		2	
	9						6	3



# Help Mr. Martin Find His Books!





“Sing and release a song with Billie Eilish.”

Delphine Adamo, 6th grade Theater



“I’d get Jack Johnson to perform at my sister’s birthday party.”

Farah Gibson, 7th grade Band



“Make or be in a musical with Jack Wolfe.”

Rafa Connolly, 8th grade Theater



“I’d make a cookbook with Prince!”

Ms. Howard, Math Teacher

**If you had the opportunity to work with any artist, who would it be, and what would you do?**

**by Trinity Collins and Sheridan King**



“Work with or get advice from Gordon Korman, Orson Scott Card, or Neil Schusterman.”

Ms. Viscidi, English Teacher



“Beeple, I’d love to learn how he makes amazing digital art so quickly and show it to SOA students

Mr. Colie, Visual Arts Teacher



“Sabrina Carpenter, I’d be her microphone!”

Rose Tuohy, 9th grade Fashion



“Learning about MC Escher’s process of realism sounds so interesting.”

Will Oldal, 10th grade Visual Arts



“Compose songs with Stevie Wonder.”

Shamah Norris-Rogers, 11th grade Piano



“Definitely Lil Yachty, we’d make some chill beats.”

Donte Foxworth, 12th grade Band