Beating The Struggle of Sleep in School

By Dannah Tinio

With a full school year of online classes, students and teachers quickly got used to having the ability to sleep, eat, do their work, or spend their free time however they wanted...whenever they wanted! The luxury of being at home set a comfortable standard for a majority of people during quarantine. Everyone was able to adjust and take order of their sleep schedule to get their work done... but now that students and teachers meet face-to-face, just how much of that has changed?

We all treasure sleep. Sleep is part of what we need to function. According to WebMd, a sleeping average of "8-10 hours each day" is the goal for teenagers, whereas "7-9 hours each day" is the goal for adults. From the high school students I interviewed, 7 hours of sleep is what they usually get for school. Although it's the recommended amount of sleeping hours, sophomore Patricia Alegria says, she should be getting more sleep as she still feels tired throughout the (school) day. On the other hand, history teacher Ms. Amos says she gets about six and a half to seven hours of sleep a night. In general, both students and teachers juggle doing work and activities out of school, so we’ll see if the amount of sleep one gets affects the ability to do these things properly.

The workload of sophomore Patricia Alegria in a day

Now with in-person classes and afterschool activities, students and teachers feel they have to work more productively. Ms. Amos explains how she doesn't get home until 7 pm because of field hockey and mock trial which prohibits her from finishing the amount of work she has. This is an example of juggling work and after-school activities, it's seen as hard to obtain a good amount of sleep because of this. Amna also talks about how she barely finishes her work early enough to get a full 8-hour sleep. "I can't even imagine how people with sports/work/other activities manage their rigorous course load while staying on top of grades," Patricia exclaims.

Although, there are some students that don't necessarily face a difficult experience with sleep now that everything is face-to-face.

"I just feel more responsibility to turn in my work on time and to focus because I'm in a school environment," Amna says, then adds on how sleep could be a factor for some people as they might not get enough with a packed schedule and lots of homework.

Students and teachers found themselves getting work done faster and easier during online classes which allowed them to rest/sleep more. With in-person classes, it feels harder to get the same amount of sleep because of the amount of effort needed through work still manages to get done. The difference between online and in-person is that a perfect balance is needed in order to do work, after-school activities, and hobbies to get the perfect amount of sleep time!

Franklin's Academy of Law recently won 10th place in the whole world during Empire Week-end, thanks to the help of Ms. Amos!
Crunch Time: College Application Season in Full Swing

By Logan Dubel

Have you ever wondered what it is like to apply to college? If so, just ask one of the three hundred seniors at Franklin High School experiencing the process right now. As deadlines loom, students are working hard to submit their applications, with the hopes of attending their dream schools and pursuing lifelong passions. Applying to college marks one of the most pivotal times in students’ lives, as they decide how and where they will begin their journey to change the world.

Whether filling out regular information such as your address or writing deeply personal essays about your hardest struggles, college applications undoubtedly bring about stress. Many deadlines are quickly approaching, as most early applications are due November 1.

For seniors in need of any advice or assistance, there are plenty of resources. Class of 2022 guidance counselor Mr. Gibbs is available as well as Mrs. Jones, Franklin’s new full-time college and career counselor.

Remembering to request transcripts and letters of recommendation, submit standardized test scores, and take note of deadlines—all important steps in the application process.

While many fret about their academic qualifications, the cost of college is an even larger concern for some students. Over the past two decades, the price tag of higher-level education has tripled. Colleges and universities do offer financial aid and merit scholarships, but applicants must remember to take an important step if they wish to receive any assistance, regardless of their status.

“Financial Aid is a major misconception,” said college and career counselor Mrs. Jones. “I hear a lot of students say that their parents make too much money and do not plan to complete the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid). The FAFSA also allows colleges to offer students merit-based scholarships and grants, so please do not skip the FAFSA process.”

Combatting misconceptions and doing your due diligence is necessary. Like many, senior Emma Frantz is in the thick of her applications but looks forward to the end result.

“For me, the most challenging part about applications is writing all the small supplemental essays that cater to each school because they’re super tedious,” Frantz said. “Still, I’m excited to meet new people and see where I end up moving next fall.”

Although the college process does not ramp up for most students until senior year, the advice of current 12th graders to underclassmen is resoundingly clear—get a head start. Mrs. Jones echoes these sentiments, encouraging 9th, 10th, and 11th graders to begin their research and build up their academic and extra-curricular résumé. While it may not seem like it, senior year, a time filled with big decisions, is right around the corner.

“Begin to research colleges and majors. There are many college representatives that visit Franklin. If you are interested in learning more about a particular college, please sign up for a visit so you can learn more about the college and their admissions requirements,” she said. “Many colleges offer virtual tours, so begin browsing college websites. Two great tools that you can use to start the research process are Naviance and the College Board.”

Aside from the risk, there are a lot of rewards. Do not be mistaken, the college application process is certainly challenging, but it can also be very exciting. Students have the opportunity to give schools a close look into their unique lives, tour around the country, and eventually decide where they will spend the first few years of adulthood. Plan ahead and get to work, but never forget to sit back and enjoy the wild ride of choosing your future.


Naviance is an important resource in the college application process. Image from Naviance.
Lack of Substitute Teachers Causes Class Coverage Crisis

By Genesis Iglesias

Maryland is facing a statewide shortage of substitutes even more than in years past. Franklin teachers are especially being affected by this because they must give up planning time to take on other classes that teachers are absent in.

Franklin secretary, Mrs. Jones was asked if the lack of teacher coverage has become worse this year “Absolutely yes!” she said. “It’s a huge problem because we have to make sure there is a teacher in each class. It’s difficult for teachers to try and teach materials they may know nothing about.” This is due to the statewide shortage of substitutes. “Mr. O’Connell has been working very hard and has been in touch with HR, but it takes a long time because of the background check process,” said Mrs. Jones.

Some may be wondering why the school doesn’t just hire substitutes that have worked at the school in the past. Mrs. Jones explained, “A lot of the substitutes that have worked here before don’t want to come back because they either don’t want to wear a mask or don’t want to come for other personal reasons.” Mrs. Jones said, “I feel bad for the teachers that have to take an extra load, but I am appreciative of the people that take on extra work and are willing to jump in even though they’ve done more than their share. I’m very grateful for them.”

The teachers understand that other teachers may have to be out sometimes, Ms. Larrimore said, “as teachers, we are all a team, and we pick each other’s slack up if a teacher is sick or they have something to do. We always understand, and we want people to have a good work life balance. I’m never angry that I’m covering a class because I know that person has legit reason for being out.” It does however affect their real classes and prevents them from being prepared for them. “It impacts my day, my planning, and my classes the next day…. especially when it’s during my planning period. That’s the time when I do things like write my lesson for the next day, get my drill together, make copies, and when I’m covering a class, I don’t have the opportunity to do that,” said chorus teacher Ms. Larrimore.

The shortage of teachers able to cover does not only affect the teachers but has an impact on the students. Ms. Larrimore said, “It’s hard when you don’t know the kids in the room or the content area, so all of your bag of tricks that you would normally do to keep a class engaged, you don’t have.” She also said, “you can’t help them on the assignment most of the time. It’s really the kids on their own. It’s frustrating because you want those kids to work hard and try their hardest, but they feel like they’re at a disadvantage because they don’t have a teacher in there to help them with their content.”

Students that don’t have teachers begin to struggle and stress. Junior Devyn White said, “having a shortage of teacher coverage and teachers being absent for long periods of time puts a lot of extra stress onto students.” Devyn explained further, “I believe it makes students more malleable to failing and work less effectively. Students especially in our grade and age group need structure and stability in order to maintain good grades as well as to understand the work that they are being taught.” She also says that “when we are taught by multiple different teachers, get work from books, random printed assignments, I feel like we don’t understand fully what we are being taught which causes our grades and test scores to go down which leaves room for students to feel very dense and feeble-minded, causing them to just not want to do the work all together and flunk the class.”
Experiences of in Person Concerts Returns

By Noah Eaton

The Gazette

Ladies and Gentlemen, boys and girls and everyone at Franklin High School, please welcome for the 1st time since March 6th of 2020, the Performing Arts Program featuring: Standard and Honors CHORALES, ORCHESTRAS, and BANDS! March 6th of 2020 was the day of Baltimore County Assessments where the Symphonic Band had qualified to perform for States receiving all 1’s—the highest possible score. COVID had hit that very next week causing all activities, events and performing arts programs to cease. It was a very tough year throughout because we couldn’t have any concert or musical events because we all could not be in the building during hybrid at the same time. Former seniors were heartbroken that they were not able to experience the next level after County Assessments or play in any other types of concerts.

Thursday, October 14th, 2021, was the first time in over a year that the Performing Arts Program had a concert altogether in person. Music director Mr. Kessell talked about the experiences conducting that concert. “It was really great. Crowd reaction was amazing. We were able to have that instant gratification of performance after not being able to perform in 18 months. It was great to be in front of an ensemble and conducting again. I absolutely could tell those emotions were at an all-new level. This Fall Concert always has a lot of energy going into it, but I felt a little more this time from the students and the community. Building consistency, and rehearsal etiquette would be an improvement moving forward for the ensemble. I always believe in how you perform, and if we’re paying attention and setting a good example for the younger students, it’s going to set us up for success later.”

Some performers in the concert also talked about their experience performing for the 1st time in over a year. Sophomore Makayla Hare said, “It was so exciting to finally get to perform with my friends again after not being able to perform in so long. It was also really nerve racking because it felt like a lot of pressure was on us to be as good as we were before. I’d say it was a very emotional concert because it was my first high school concert after missing my whole freshman year, so it caused me a lot of stress as well as excitement. There were definitely terms of rust in my playing because throughout quarantine I kind of lost my want to play. Now that we are back in school, I am gaining it back!”

Senior Carly Hydovitz recounted, “I felt great! I was so excited to be back on stage doing what I was most passionate about. It was great being able to perform and see others perform after so long. It was definitely an emotional concert. I am a senior, so it was my last fall concert and the first one I played in a while, so it was definitely emotional. It took me a minute to get back into the swing of playing in a full orchestra, and I think that stands for a lot of people, but once we all got used to it, everything went back into what is was before!” Senior Rosie Rich had a similar opinion. She said, “Hearing the audience’s applause was one of the most beautiful things I’ve ever heard. Playing in quarantine was beneficial for me because I was able to improve my own sound but hearing the full sound of an orchestra on a stage knowing how hard we’d worked to get there, and then to share that experience with a hundred other people was overwhelming. It was definitely emotional, especially as a senior to be able to play after so long. Who knows how the rest of the year will go, but knowing what our sound was before Covid-19 and hearing our new sound now gives me lots of hope for the future of the program. Covid actually helped me improve my individual sound, so I didn’t feel that I played too poorly, but there will definitely be a lot of improvement in the future as we all get reacquainted with listening to each other and contributing to a greater sound as an orchestra.” Listening to everyone’s thoughts and opinions, you could tell that this concert was very special in terms of not having one in so long! There is still a lot of work to do in the entire Performing Arts Program for the upcoming concerts, musical events, and football games. A special Thanks to Mr. Kessell and Ms. Larrimore and all that are involved with the Performing Arts Program and the Musical Department for all their hard work! Franklin High School MUSIC IS BACK!
Need Free Tutoring? No Problem Here at FHS!
By Laila Roodbari

There have probably been numerous times in a student’s life where they have sat in confusion with a blank stare at their own work, not knowing what to do. Which can be very unmotivating for a student, causing them to give up or maybe they won’t and instead look for extra help, such as tutoring.

Fortunately, students are now able to get that help if needed from the National Honor Society peer tutoring program, right here at Franklin High.

Instead of having to spend money to get a tutor, students in NHS will be your tutors. “2-3 tutors will be available at several different locations, ranging from the library to Mr. Barrett’s room and Mrs. Gallagher’s room. Tutoring will be held on Tuesday and Thursday mornings, as well as Tuesday afternoons,” senior NHS member Michelle Gorner said.

The NHS students and coordinators have been working hard to establish this tutoring program. “The other peer tutor coordinators and I have worked to communicate with teachers and the librarian to determine availability of rooms,” Michelle said. “Plus, several NHS students have already signed up for days to tutor.”

This program hopes to achieve getting students to their goal they want to reach in whatever subject they are struggling with. They will have reliable resources that will not only help them with their academic skills, but other skills needed as well.

“Peer tutors will also help with organization and other school skills,” NHS advisor and English teacher Mr. Sommer said.

While the word is still getting out about it, some students are already planning to use this program. “I think it will be helpful,” junior Mayah Johnson said, who will be using the program.

“I think it would be helpful especially towards students who are struggling with the work,” senior Brynn Russell said. “It would give them a chance to have help if they are uncomfortable in approaching a teacher.”

This program will also give students the ability to socialize more with others. Students may make new friends from this program. Or sometimes students just need to have other perspectives from their peers to help them learn better. “Sometimes peers helping peers can go a long way,” Mr. Sommer said.

Coming back in person after nearly a year and a half was a difficult transition for some, which is why this program is so important for the Franklin community. “I think we all know that coming back to school and working hard is taking some real time to get back in the groove, so hopefully NHS peer tutors will be a part of that,” Mr. Sommer said.

With all the potential this program holds, it could be very effective towards students as it assists in improving their grades and even social skills. The opportunity is awaiting you.
Are Classes Passing by in the Blink of an Eye?
By Tina Tran

Would you rather have an A Day/B Day schedule or stick to the 8-period schedule? Which would you pick?

Franklin High School is currently debating whether to switch to an A Day/B Day schedule for the 2022-2023 academic year. Franklin is the only school in the county that has yet to make the switch. The administration is planning on hosting 90-minute Google meets for 4-6 weeks to discuss the pros and cons of an A Day B/Day schedule.

But what is an A Day/B Day schedule? This is a type of schedule where students only have 4-90-minute periods a day. Other schools in the county such as Carver, New Town, and Owings Mills, have already implemented this type of schedule. Our school is currently running on an 8-period schedule where each class is around 45 minutes.

When asking students if they like the current school schedule, some say they love it and others hate it.

“Awful. I hate it. From the bell to the classes, this schedule is annoying and stressful,” said sophomore Michelle Nguyen. “Having 8 classes a day is tiresome with the workload and the actual physical walking too. The bell schedule is also unevenly ugly.”

Other students are not as unhappy with the current scheduling model. “I honestly prefer our school’s current schedule,” sophomore Frankie Velasquez said. However, freshman Shawn Doe countered, “I like the idea of having multiple classes in shorter time. I won’t get too bored in a class with our current schedule compared to a 4-period schedule.”

A recurring problem that pops up is that our current schedule doesn’t give us enough time to get work done in class, which leads to having more homework and not enough break time outside of school. The A Day/B Day schedule would give students more time to get work done during class and give teachers more time to get through lessons.

Freshman Mckenna Diaz sees both sides. “The idea of an A Day/B Day schedule seems a little intimidating. When I imagine it, I picture 90 minutes of continuous teaching. However, realistically it could give more time for explanation and better understanding of the materials.”

“Yes, I would rather switch to an A Day/B Day schedule,” sophomore Abigail Ramirez said. “It seems easier, less chaotic, more time in class to do work instead of taking it back home.”

With Franklin’s current schedule, it seems that there isn’t enough time for teachers to get through a lesson without running out of time and handing out more homework. Though the classes are shorter, the amount of work seems to be higher. With an A day/B day schedule, research from uopeople.edu has shown that the amount of homework does indeed lessen when class length is increased. Stay tuned for information regarding plans for next school year, as the debate continues onward.

The long and stressful PSAT day for underclassmen
By Desean Walker

Tuesday, October 26 was PSAT day for all 9th, 10th, and 11th grade students, a practice test for the real SAT. This test takes four hours and has four sections: two English and two math. According to English teacher and PSAT coordinator Ms. Hornberger, exactly 1000 students at Franklin took this test, which is a very important exam for students because the majority of colleges require SAT scores for admission. Most colleges want over 1000 points to even be eligible for an application review and to have a fighting chance in the admissions process. Junior Jayden McClung said he’s going to work hard to score high on the SAT, so he can get into a great college and have a good shot at a stable life. For most Ivy League colleges, the acceptance rate is fairly low because thousands of students are applying for that college at the same time. So even though it is a practice test, it is very important that students do their best to see where they stand with the college admissions standards, or see where they need to improve. It is undoubtedly important for all underclassmen.
Is Five Minutes Enough Time to Get from One Class to Another?

By Rachael Harbus

Picture this: It is first period. Your teacher has a movie on for class that day. You do not have to take notes. Life is good...until the bell rings...and your brain goes straight into panic mode. Students are dashing through the crowded halls, dodging others like ping pong balls, just to reach their class on time. Our transition from the virtual school world to the normal school world for the 2021-2022 school year has brought back one necessary evil that the majority of us did not miss during online school: walking to each classroom. Last school year, that was unheard of. We spent the whole day in our bedrooms transitioning from class to class by simply clicking the “leave meeting” button and clicking another “join meeting” button on our computers. However, we do not have such luxury this year. We are back to physically walking to each class in a span of just five minutes.

In addition, we also are back to an eight period schedule plus a lunch period. Which means that the majority of the student population has to walk to nine different locations throughout the entire school day. While students get to choose the majority of the classes they take in high school, they don’t get to control where they are on the school campus. So, there is a distinct possibility that one student may get a schedule with classes located close together whereas another student may get a schedule with classes far from each other, or on the opposite side of the campus. This means that there would be five trips to each of the buildings. With this solution, students would only have to take five trips throughout the day. This solution also ensures that the transition time increases throughout the day. This solution also decreases the amount of time in between class periods that students would have seven minutes to get from class to class. With this solution, students would have seven minutes to get to the bathroom during transition period.

The negative side to this solution is that class periods would be shorter, which means that there would be less time to finish up a test, learn a topic in class, and finish assignments in class. A solution to this new problem would be to increase the school day, which students would not be happy about since it would also take away time for homework, extracurriculars, sports, and down time.

Another possible solution for this issue is to introduce an A day/B day schedule for the 2022-2023 school year. Having four classes every day would mean that students would only have to take five trips throughout the day. This solution also ensures that the transition time increases without the school day increasing as well. If we have four eighty-four minute classes each day, a thirty-four minute lunch, and seven minutes to get to each class, this adds up to the total six hours and forty five minutes that we spend in school already this school year.

The five minute transition time at Franklin High School could be enough time for some students, but not enough time for others. If we want our students to thrive in an in school environment, we have to ensure that the transition time is fair for everyone.

A possible solution to this issue would be to increase the amount of time in between class periods by two minutes, meaning that students would have seven minutes to get from class to class. With this solution, students would most likely have enough time to go to the bathroom during transition period.

For students with the latter reality, this could be very stress inducing, especially since they do not want to be late and their teachers do not want them to be late either.

“I do not think that five minutes of transition time is enough for students to make it from one class to the next. For instance, my walk from AP bio to AP stat is a nightmare,” senior Katie West said.

“Five minutes is definitely not enough time especially getting from the science building and Spanish hallway to the new building. I was late to class a few times,” senior Azure Crossley said.

Certain teachers also believe that the five minutes of transition time is not enough to be on time.

“I had to sub for someone in orchestra, so by the time my students left this classroom, I grab my computer, left this classroom, and had to walk through the hall among the students, over to the orchestra. I didn’t make it in time and I walked as quickly as I could,” Science teacher Ms. Kolodziejczyk said.

On the other hand, certain teachers think that five minutes is plenty of time.

“Five minutes is enough to get from building to building, thank you,” Math teacher Mr. Barrett said.

It is not uncommon for students to have to use the bathroom during the day too. The best time to go is during transition time since students won’t miss any part of the teacher’s lesson, and they won’t have to interrupt the class to ask for a pass. For students with more spread out classes, they may be forced to choose between getting to class on time or doing something that their body needs to do.

Five minutes is enough to get from building to building, thank you,” Math teacher Mr. Barrett said.
Eat, sleep, Netflix, repeat... more like eat, sleep school, practice, repeat for this student. Since his sophomore year, he has been on the varsity team for Franklin’s football team. Now a junior, he has been a starter on defense as a linebacker, and you may also know him as our famous kicker, Billy Hartman. From the beginning of the school year to now, Billy has been going to practice every single day after school, making sure he strives for his best for the team. During this season, Billy has had his moments making some great plays, such as at least 15 field goals and 16 tackles, and is part of the leadership program with the Ravens, which he was interviewed for about a month ago. Besides football, Billy’s like us, just a regular student here at FHS.

As the new school year starts, Billy has been having a decent school year after Covid, with new classes, new activities, and a whole group of friends, just like any other kid at this school. As a junior, Hartman has been studious with his classes and does think about his college career. “My future plans are to go to college and to play baseball hopefully at a D1 school.”

During a school day, he likes to surround himself around others, communicating with them, and cooperating with them over schoolwork. Besides school and football, he’s also a part of Best Buddies, Fellowship of Christian Athletes, and known as a varsity player on the baseball team in the spring. Outside of any school activities, he also volunteers as an assistant for the confirmation classes at his local church. Overall, this kid can do anything (even with injuries)!

Based on what you’ve heard so far, you may wonder, “How does this student balance school, sports, and after school clubs?” Hartman balances all these activities by self-motivating himself to push forward and makes sure he has good time management. “First being able to balance them both is a little difficult, but you just have to make sure you stay on top of everything,” Billy exclaims. He would check in with coaches about practice, so he can schedule his homework ahead of time, and constantly checks grades to see his scores and what types of content he gets wrong in his classes. If he’s unsatisfied with his grade, he would go to coach class and negotiate with teachers. Plus, he’s got his friends to also support him. “Billy’s cool, hardworking, and very determined,” junior Sonny Burgos said. “He’s strong, basic, and motivated,” the Varsity football player says. “I am proud of his achievements.”

Things had been great for Hartman with school, sports, and friends, until September 24, 2021 (the homecoming game) where he went down with a torn ACL. Up to this point, Billy has still been recovering, supporting his team, and he still doesn’t consider giving up. “Even though I got hurt, for me to stay in shape, I would work on my upper body since my injury stopped my lower body,” said Hartman. By slowly conditioning, this helps him stay in shape, so once he’s fully recovered, he will be able to play again. The good news is, Hartman doesn’t get lazy after a recovery. After an injury, this motivates him to do better and be stronger when he’s back on the field, helping his team and cooperating with them to victory. “My injuries force me to get stronger and better both physically and mentally,” Hartman said. Besides the injuries helping him become a better player, he’s got his family and friends to motivate him to be a better player and student at FHS. “I want to be the best athlete, and by doing so, I use others who are good to push me, and my parents have made a big impact,” exclaimed Hartman.

Overall, Billy is a well-balanced student-athlete who is just trying to get through high school like everyone else. He is supportive of everyone, whether it’s his teammates, his friends, or teachers, and they are supportive of him. “I think it’s cool to see someone I grew up with doing great things,” Sonny said. “As we grew up with each other, we would help each other in school and out of school like in recreational football.” The one thing that stands out about Billy overall is he’s driven. Datril said, “He has a big heart for the game.”
Hamaad Abbasi, the prestigious scholarly soccer standout

By Aryaan Khan

Hamaad Abbasi working out of Brick Bodies

Hamaad lives with his parents, younger brother, and his twin brother Ibaad Abbasi. Hamaad Abbasi is an inspiration to every student at Franklin. He is involved in sports, clubs, and other extracurricular activities every single day. His main courses are AP Economics, AP Psychology, AP English, and College Algebra. “I don’t have a favorite teacher; all my teachers treat me with respect, and they are all fair” Hammad said. He is always trying to make his surrounding environment comfortable for everyone around him, and he is constantly socializing with other classmates.

“Hamaad is that kind of friend who will drive an hour away if your car is broken down, he’s a really good friend,” junior Harrison Fagin said. Hamaad is constantly helping others even if he doesn’t know them. He is actively engaged in the National Honor Society, Red Cross Club, Key Club, and soccer outside of school. “My idol is Erling Haaland, because I want to be a soccer player when I grow up.” Hamaad said. Hamaad plays soccer every day with his friends and other fellow players. He is always trying his best to push his team to the maximum potential and always has a great time.

Hamaad is also actively involved in the gym, specifically Brick Bodies in Reisterstown. He loves to do an hour of cardio and chest, arm, and shoulder workouts every week. “I don’t go to the gym to show off; I do it for myself and my health.” Hamaad also said that he tries to help others who don’t know what they’re doing or those who are at the gym for the first time. Currently, Hamaad is just trying to get by junior year and prepare for his upcoming AP exams. He is also thinking about which college he is going to apply to in the coming year. As the class of 2023, Hamaad Abbasi will have an outstanding reputation and performance at Franklin.

Sugar, Spice, and Rita’s Italian Ice!

By Ronald Edmund Jr.

Rita’s, the Bensalem Pennsylvania native Italian Ice company is a popular summer treat in Reisterstown. Rita’s originated on the East coast and then spread to over 30 states and is now worldwide. For such a large corporation, all their locations have a very small-business feeling. Rita’s is a popular summer job for teens and is a great way to welcome young people into the workforce. Its refreshing natural ingredients and smooth Italian ice are perfect after some fun in the sun.

A common flavor to get is the Mango Italian Ice. It has a natural taste that refreshes you when you are hot. The customer service is always great, and they keep sanitary kitchen areas which is great during this COVID-19 pandemic. For those watching their diets, they have sugar-free options and reasonable portion sizes. “I like Rita’s because it’s not too big, so you don’t feel guilty, but it still tastes great,” junior Bradley Flam said.

There are 2 Rita’s shops on Reisterstown Road. All Rita’s locations are required to be opened on the first day of March and stay opened until the third Sunday of September. However, Rita’s shopping mall locations and warm climates can be open year-round. The Westminster location and the one at the Inner Harbour are open year-round. Rita’s rotates over 95 delicious flavors as well as seasonal specialties like Pumpkin for this fall.

When our local Rita’s opens in the Spring, it has its big promotion where they give free Italian ice out on opening day. Rita’s is very generous with coupons and buy 1 get 1 free promotions. “I like Rita’s because it’s cheaper than most places that sell Italian ice and has diverse flavors,” junior Hammad Abbassi said.

Rita’s always has a refreshing taste, and this may be due to the fact that their Italian ice is made fresh daily before opening. Rita’s uses real fruit and other natural ingredients for their natural taste. “Their ice is very fresh, and they have healthy options,” junior Harrison Fagin chimed in on this.

Rita’s welcomes all members of the Reisterstown and Owings Mills communities with friendly service, and if you are looking for a summer time sweet treat then Rita’s should be your top choice!
Why Pets are More Important than You Think

By Stephanie Salgado

Who hasn’t asked their parents for a pet before in their life? Almost everyone in their younger years has asked for a cute little puppy or kitty cat. It’s mainly because they say they are cute, and they want to really know what it’s like to own those animals, like most people in their neighborhood do as well. As we get older though, we learn that domestic animals can be used and properly trained for many other reasons and that can affect their owners in a variety of ways, depending on the role those animals have. The most common reason anyone would own a pet is to have more companionship in their life when they don’t have anybody else around.

“I’ve grown up with having pets,” junior Laila Roodbari commented. “Even though they aren’t human and can’t really understand you, they give me comfort. They bring me a lot of joy into my life and makes it less boring.” Another student had spoken about how her family had a dog, but they don’t use him for just companionship. They also use him as a hunting dog, which is one of the jobs and tasks that domestic dogs perform to help their owners look for other humans or grab ducks that have been shot down.

Music can be used to create specific atmospheres, elicit certain emotions, and promote community and bonding. By understanding the beneficial effects that music has on our minds and bodies, we can utilize its powers to facilitate healing.

There is research that shows and supports the belief that music can have an impact to help with physical and mental disabilities. Music helps set the mood for any atmosphere; no matter the situation you are in. For instance, think about when you are watching a movie. The writer/director adds the right type of music to the scene because of how they want you to feel.

Music therapy is advised to restore, maintain, and improve emotional, physical, spiritual health, and well-being. The music development has a relaxing, positive effect on the client’s physical and psychological functioning which is good news for whoever is listening to music to cope.

Music therapy became an idea and profession in 1950, with the establishment of the National Association for Music Therapy and the American Association for Music Therapy Association. (AMTA). Music education is superior to even computer instruction in enhancing early childhood mental capacity and special intelligence. And did you know that kids, who study the arts, score an average of forty points higher in math and science?

“I listen to music almost 24/7, and the type of music I am listening to depends on where I am and how am I feeling,” said junior Sonny Burgos.

As more research is done to further solidify the potential of music therapy, the chances of becoming a widely accepted form of medical treatment increases.

“Music is Therapy. Music moves people. It connects people in way that no other medium can. It pulls heart strings. It acts as medicine,” American rapper Macklemore said.

“There is growing scientific evidence showing that the brain responds to music in very specific ways,” said Lisa Hartling, PhD, professor of pediatrics at the University of Alberta. “Playing music for kids during painful medical procedures is a simple intervention that can make a big difference.”

“Music is always there for me, when I don’t feel comfortable in talking about my problems to my family or friends, I go to music,” said freshman Torri Anhwere. “There always a song there for me; it’s smoothing and relaxing. Now, I am going to listen to some!”

Music Therapy Benefits Students

By Kylie Beveridge

Having dogs do service jobs brings useful benefits to not only help their owner but the people that get involved as clients to the service jobs. Therapy pets are another example of a job domestic animals can have. Since pets are known to reduce feelings of anxiety and help people interact and socialize more with their pets and other people, having therapy pets will help increase a stronger bond with the pets and help manage depression as well.

Pets can benefit physical health as well. Whenever one takes their pet outside for a walk in the park or just to cool down and play in the backyard, both the owner and the pet are getting the exercise and movement they need along with a decrease of blood pressure and cholesterol levels.

Another student has talked about how even though their dog constantly barks and has yet to be properly trained for walks, they still feel relieved and happy after taking their dog out for about 30 minutes. All of this shows how pets are far more than just cute animals that take up the household. They aren’t just a responsibility; they are a companion and the best friend anyone can ask for.
How ADHD Affects Learning
By Jaida March

Attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) is a mental disorder that has a combination of constant problems such as hyperactivity, impulsive behavior, and difficulty paying attention.

ADHD affects learning by hindering a child's ability to hold focus. For example, it makes it harder to remember what a teacher says involving lessons, homework, and due dates, so a child's ability to complete and learn materials may suffer.

Symptoms in children and teenagers
The symptoms of ADHD in children and teenagers are well defined, and they are usually noticeable before the age of 6. They occur in more than one situation, such as at home and school.

James Banks graduated high school, but ADHD affected him greatly throughout his life.

"ADHD started majorly affecting my grades in 4th grade after I got diagnosed. However, it started showing when I started 2nd grade," said James.

It was hard to focus on some things while on others I became hyper-focused," he added. “Gum, medicine, and music helped me maintain focus.”

James believes that because of his ADHD, he struggled to reach his full potential.

“I easily lost interest in the subject at school, which majorly impacted me when it came to doing the work because I almost failed."

Dr. Saremsky, a pediatric neurologist and epileptologist, is board-certified and specializes in treating patients from newborns to young adults with a personalized and friendly approach that helps young patients. Parents even feel comfortable with their children under his care.

Dr. Saremsky’s Wisdom
“Parents first notice signs of learning issues in their child at home or in their child's performance in school. For example, at home, parents may notice that their child's room is frequently very messy, that their child is forgetful, easily distracted, and constantly misplaces things. While many children may occasionally be messy or irresponsible, the frequency and severity may raise a parent's concern. At school, teachers or counselors may notice that the child has difficulty focusing on class, acts out, or frequently fails to complete or submit assignments in a timely fashion. A typical scenario is when an intelligent child is consistently receiving grades far below their abilities. When these problems constitute a pattern, parents should consider evaluating their child for underlying conditions like ADHD and learning disabilities.”

"Children with ADHD can exhibit a trait called hyper-focusing. They can focus intently for an extended period on a subject or activity that interests them. However, they tune out responsibilities and are unable to focus in other contexts, like the classroom. Attention deficit issues come in many forms, sometimes with hyperactivity (ADHD) and without (ADD). Girls are usually less hyperactive, making it harder to diagnose, while boys experience more hyperactivity.”

Signs of ADHD
Inattentiveness
• having a short attention span and being easily distracted
• making careless mistakes – for example, in schoolwork
• appearing forgetful or losing things
• being unable to stick to tasks that are tedious or time-consuming
• appearing to be unable to listen to or carry out instructions
• constantly changing activity or task
• having difficulty organizing tasks

Hyperactivity and impulsiveness
• being unable to sit still, especially in calm or quiet surroundings
• being unable to concentrate on tasks
• excessive physical movement
• excessive talking
• being unable to wait their turn
• acting without thinking
• little or no sense of danger

These symptoms can cause significant problems in a child's life, such as underachievement at school, poor social interaction with other children and adults, and problems with discipline.
Classrooms are way different during this time than the past times. Back in 2019 Covid had just started out and was just getting big. In March of 2019, all students were told to go home for two weeks due to Covid. Two weeks later, they were told to stay home the rest of the school year. We eventually started online school which was a complete change to us and was a big challenge. Many people struggled to keep their grades up and learn anything. Even teachers found it hard because it was new to them as well. Everything was just so hard at the time. School ended, and we hoped Covid would as well. But 2020 came around to be one of the worst years. School was canceled for in-person, which led to people sleeping or just not paying attention in online classes.

This led to low GPAs and grades. “Covid affected school by enforcing new rules,” one student said. Many different rules were made like wearing masks all day long. Another student said, “Covid is taking away sports and activities.” Which was true; many things were cancelled or rescheduled. A third student said, “online school was horrible, and I couldn’t learn anything.” Teachers also do not like the “new” classroom setting. Many of them say it is too quiet now due to kids being used to sleeping or on mute during online school. This kind of learning isn’t for everyone and isn’t easy.

Virtual learning was kind of like learning by yourself or teaching yourself. Being online caused less one-on-one help on any assignment, problem, note, or test. For many kids that one-on-one help is crucial in their learning and remembering the topic. Students in senior year were especially hit hard by the pandemic because they were worried about being able to graduate and get to a college that they want to go to. A lot of stress and anxiety was caused by the pandemic on all students. The only thing to do now is forget about the past and focus on the future and how to make the best out of what is available.

Meet Teacher-Athlete Mr. Ozonoff

By Raul Williams

We have all heard of student athletes, but have you ever heard of a teacher athlete? Well, history teacher Mr. Ozonoff is defying all odds!

When asked what his favorite subject beyond history is, he replied, “if I wasn’t a history teacher, I believe I would be teaching phys. ed...”

This reply intrigued me and made me dig deeper into his story. Mr. Ozonoff was a star quarterback for his high school and played defensive back. Growing up in Connecticut, he picked up many different sports, but the one that stood out the most was hockey. In fact, he still plays hockey to this day and is a referee. “I refed 7 matches this weekend,” said the history teacher. He one day plans on coaching Calvert Hall’s hockey team.

What entertains the teacher-athlete? Sports! On Mr. Ozonoff’s free time, he enjoys watching fantasy football, hockey, and the NFL, but he also enjoys nonathletic shows and films such as “Ted Lasso,” comedies, Shawshank Redemption, and action movies.

So, what made him get into teaching if he is so passionate about sports? “Well, I really love helping people, and I was a sub in multiple schools all over the county.” He worked at Franklin Middle School for 21 years prior to working at Franklin High. So why the change? “I applied to work here but did not get the job because they hired someone else in that position, so I settled down in Franklin Middle. Some years had passed, and I got a call from Franklin High telling me that there is a position available if I would like to accept, and the rest is history.”

Mr. Ozonoff teaches in room 7 in the North building. He says if you see him, stop by and feel free to say “wassup” or ask any question.
The Origin of Thanksgiving

By Mariana Noyola-Hernandez

The holiday of Thanksgiving is generally known to be a special day to honor any blessings that we have gotten throughout the year. In the present year of 2021, the holiday of Thanksgiving will occur on Thursday November 25. Families across the country will unite under one roof and enjoy their favorite activities done on that special day without missing the iconic Thanksgiving feast.

The origins of Thanksgiving

This tradition dates back to the years of colonial America when the pilgrims arrived at modern day Massachusetts. By the time they were close to the new land, it became winter. Most colonists stayed on board the ship and suffered from illness. As springtime came, only half of the original crew members and passengers survived. In March, those who remained moved towards the shore and were welcomed by a Native American who could speak to them in English. After a few days, he came with a friend, and together they showed the pilgrims how to grow crops and obtain their goods. These actions helped form an alliance with the local tribe, and after seeing that the harvest was successful, the governor of pilgrims decide to invite the tribe to their celebratory feast. Much of what was known to happen at that time came from pilgrim chronicler Edward Winslow, who wrote that after gathering the harvest together, they went on to hunting deer with the Natives and brought them back to the settlement so that together they could participate in the feast. This event is known as America’s first Thanksgiving although, in ancient times, the Egyptians, Greeks, and Romans also feasted and paid tribute to their gods after the fall harvest. Historians also noted that Native Americans already had a tradition to celebrate their fall harvest long before the arrival of the Europeans.

The tradition within the school walls

“As far as I know, there is nothing too extraordinary that the school does to address Thanksgiving,” said U.S history teacher Mr. Carreras. “It is required by the county to give off the Friday after the holiday, but that’s it.” Throughout the week of Thanksgiving some departments might do activities related to the holiday to keep the spirit up and for the fun of it.

Franklin’s Road to State

By Jayden McClung

Franklin has always been known to have a great football program. This year is a more special year than most as it is the first year since the 2019 season that the team has had a full schedule. The Franklin football team started the year off playing Milford Mill in the first game—a big rivalry that goes way back. That game was wild with Franklin being down 13-14 in the 4th quarter and being on 4th down and 25. Gavin and Rodney Nelson came in clutch to help win the game with a sequence of plays starting on that 4th down with a special hook and ladder play that gave the team 35 yards. Then, a rushing touchdown from Rodney Nelson called game right after. Victor Medina then got a stripe fumble on kickoff which helped Franklin walk away with the win.

Week 2, Franklin played the number 1 team in Maryland and the number 8 team in the country at Morgan State University. It was a tough game, losing with a score of 47-6. Starting DE Malik Agent said, “a lesson me and the whole team can learn from that game is to never give up.” Coach Tyler said, “that game taught us that if we do what we need to do, we can play with any team in the country.” After that, Franklin went on a winning streak of 4 before running into Dundalk in a big match up where Franklin lost in an upset with a score of 27-13. Malik Agent said, “Dundalk just came ready to play.” Overall, the Franklin high football team had a good season, said Coach Burgos. They had lots of blowouts and now are getting ready for playoffs and plan on getting ready by watching a lot of film and executing well in practice, said Coach Tyler and Malik Agent. As Franklin goes into the playoffs, they plan on running for another state title as they already have 3 and plan on adding a fourth.
Three Athletes: In-Focus

By Kierra Richardson

Varsity standout Quentin Demery is our QB1 on the football team here at Franklin. Quentin is our very own Franklin finest of a QB1, flexible and well rounded. Quentin is 6’1” and rolls with number 7. “It’s fun, competitive. It’s inspiring,” Quentin said. He balances his education while taking on football. Throwing 60-yard passes is just as important as his passing his classes.

Quentin says he balances his education by always putting it first before sports. Our QB1 enjoys practicing his craft and hanging out with his friends, but doesn’t like being bored at all. When asked who he cares most about, he responded that his family and friends are vital in his life. Teammates of Quentin know how hard he works on and off the field and how he stays devoted to win but also makes sure his team is ready. He knows how to lead them through dark patches and pick them up and finish the game. “He’s a leader, he’s a motivator,” Santra Collins said. Quentin says his biggest influence is his mom.

Now in his fourth year here at Franklin, he’s hungry and destined for a ring. He doesn’t flake with packed crowds like the Franklin vs Milford game, he just keeps on going and shows off.

Vanessa Connell

After 4 years of dedication to cheer at Franklin, Vanessa Connell is moving on soon. Class of ‘22 Varsity cheer captain Vanessa is a student athlete. Vanessa balances school, cheer, and work all at the same time. “I also try to spend any extra moments doing my work, for instance at lunch, right after school, and any extra time I have before I go to sleep.” Captain Vanessa said. Since Vanessa is a senior, this year has been easier to keep up with her schoolwork because she does not have a full schedule. One thing Vanessa also does is using multiple hours to do her homework, before she heads to cheer and to work. “My routine is tight but works for me.” Vanessa said.

She enjoys doing her makeup, cheering, and cooking. People who are obsessed with money, squash, people who think they’re better than others, when people give their opinions when not asked, and overpriced food are all things Vanessa doesn’t like. She likes to base and fly in stunting for cheer.

Vanessa says cheering for Franklin helps her build bonds with many girls while learning and having fun. She explains that it’s a new experience everyday and a challenge for her to improve skills while also leading the team. “It’s a great place to put forth my energy and brings a safe place,” said Vanessa. The person she looks up to in the cheer world is Gabi Butler because “she’s cheered for such a long time, improves so much, and is amazing.”

Before competition, Vanessa goes over and over the routine in her head and she tries to remember it as much as she can. “I also try to use the bathroom right before because when I get nervous, I must go,” she added. She also tries to make sure she has good nights of sleep and remembers that this is all for fun, and if she messes up, it’s not the end of the world. “In this past competition, it was a live or die moment messing with my head,” Vanessa explained.

Vanessa values her education because she truly wants to go above and beyond so she can achieve a lot in life. All of these things add up to help Vanessa become the best her. “I would like to achieve success in my accomplishments,” Vanessa said. “Therefore, me making a college level cheer team, and me being the first in my family to graduate from college” are her goals.

Tristin Richardson

Who is Tristin Richardson? The freshman football player who worked hard throughout the season that got moved to varsity recently. Oh yes, that’s Mac 12, aka Tristan Richardson. Class of 25, a 5’9” QB, WR. Tristin weighs in at about 180 pounds. Tristin takes on boxing as well as his education while playing football. He is always known to contribute to the team with touchdowns and outstanding defense.

The life of an athlete for him is about balance and creating a schedule to manage his time. Tristin spend lots of his time working out, spending time with family, and watching football. Being late to places or any events is a big no for Tristin, along with a pet peeve of not being prepared.

Tristin says his biggest influence in the football world is Ray Rice.

“With Ray Rice being small, people felt he had a disadvantage in the game because of his height. But he ran the ball with so much passion, and he just played like he is 6’0 and not 5’7,” Tristin said. He hopes to attend college for free and play college football, and then get drafted into the NFL.
Jazz Mixes with Greek Mythology in HADESTOWN!

By Peach Schulman

What happens when you combine Jazz and Blues with a classic mythological tale of love, tragedy, and music? You get HADESTOWN, by Anais Mitchell, which tells the tale of Orpheus and Eurydice, and Hades and Persephone.

When HADESTOWN opened on Broadway, it became a smash hit, winning the Tony award for best musical. In early October, the HADESTOWN national tour began performances in Georgia, and officially opened at the Kennedy Center in Washington D.C. in October. I had the pleasure to see this performance on October 17th.

The cast is headlined by Nicolas Barasch as Orpheus, Morgan Siobhan Green as Eurydice, Levi Kreis as Hermes, Kimberly Marable as Persephone, Kevyn Morrow as Hades, and Belen Moyano, Bex Odorisio, and Shea Renne as the 3 Fates.

Every one of these actors nailed their roles and made the show spectacular. Every character and emotion felt real, as if it wasn’t even a performance at all.

A memorable moment comes during “Livin’ It Up on Top” with the quote, spoken by Orpheus, “to the world we dream about, and to the one we live in now.”

The first thing that catches your eye is the set. When you walk into the theater, you see a prohibition era bar, with chairs stacked on tables. When the performance begins, the cast swarm the stage, taking chairs off tables and sitting down as the lights dim. On Broadway, the center of the set could sink and elevate, which characters would use to enter and exit.

However, on tour they do not have access to this stage technology, so instead a panel of the back wall opens and closes, with fake pipes and lights behind it. In the show-stopping number “Wait for Me,” the entire theater begins to shake as the 3 pieces of the set separate themselves and create 2 passageways, filled with lights. Another key design of this number are the swinging lights, which create a look of fast paced movement. The center of the stage has a turntable, which rotates and gives feelings of forced movement and rising tensions.

The lighting in the performance was stunning. During “Wait for Me,” the lighting was done so that there were almost no spotlights or overhead lights whatsoever; most of the lighting came from actors onstage with lamps and headlamps, and the swinging lights previously mentioned.

During the penultimate number “Doubt Comes In” there is little lighting. The entire stage is blacked out, however a single blue spotlight is set on Orpheus and Eurydice, so that you can see them, but not the set or anything or anyone behind them.

The music is beautifully tragic, shifting from happy and energetic music to darker and sadder tones. The musicians perform alongside the cast members on the stage (minus the drummer who performs backstage).

The topics of love, hope, the power of music, and tragedy are front and center throughout the entire performance. HADESTOWN is a powerful musical that has been in the works for over a decade, and rightfully deserves the critical acclaim it has received. This musical will fill you with hope and happiness that will have you listening to it on repeat for weeks.

The cast of the HADESTOWN national tour will complete its run at the Kennedy Center on October 31st, but will be close by in Philadelphia in February 2022, and the Broadway production of HADESTOWN is open at the Walter Kerr Theatre and shows no signs of closing.
Denis Villeneuve has proven himself to be one of the most profound directors of our time with movies like Prisoners, Blade Runner 2049, Sicario, and Enemy all under his belt. With his extremely unique vision on the sci-fi genre and given amazing filmography, it made complete sense that he was the one to direct Dune, the newest adaptation of the Frank Herbert novel of the same name. Villeneuve hasn’t missed one beat in the entirety of his film career and it is safe to say that Dune keeps that tempo.

As many Villeneuve movies are, this is not your average blockbuster, it is methodical, existential, and takes itself seriously enough to not make it seem like it’s trying to be something it’s not. It is also not filled to the brim with action like most blockbusters as the Dune story revolves around politics that it can’t exist fully without the story. The movie can be delightfully boring to some people which is somewhat expected due to the nature of Dune’s story, yet the majority of the viewers can find great enjoyment out of Dune’s brilliant story structure. Expositional is carefully slipped into scenes and the feeling that something dreadful is approaching is apparent throughout the story. A large part of the movie is a grandiose crescendo into the political warfare of the story which, while working very well, it might not be everyone’s thing. The movie has a very clear sense of flow but it can feel intentionally slow paced at times which may hurt some viewers’ experiences. After the middle of the movie, it continues its slow pace as the movie aimed for a sort of slow-burn ending.

Even Villeneuve has gone to say that your television is not big enough for the mammoth that is Dune. The book has so much depth to its fictional concepts and politics that it cannot be fully represented in film. This sad reality has been seen in previous interpretations of the Dune story through David Lynch’s Dune from 1984 and even a tv series, both of which have failed to capture a fraction of Dune’s universe. Many had high hopes because of Villeneuve’s presence but it was almost unanimously agreed that it would never capture the true scale of the original. Yet to everyone’s surprise the film does an astonishingly tremendous job at capturing the essence of Dune and its flourished world. And even with these expectations surpassed it in no way feels like it was just lightning in a bottle. The movie is filled to the brim with brilliant cinematography, amazing set, and costume design, great writing, and acting.

The visuals of Dune are immaculately crafted, creating a tangible sense of a world bigger than Paul. The politics and the war are made to feel above and surrounding you. There’s a certain sense of isolation that can be felt coming from Paul that is adequate to how the viewer perceives the political climates between kingdoms. The movie really devotes a lot of time to introduce you to the mythology of this universe. This feeling is contrasted well by the visuals of Dune’s sprawling universe and its massive collection of landscapes and populated cities. This feeling is still not overshadowed by the barren and desolate feeling throughout the world and political turmoil. The meticulousness of the Villeneuve is glaringly apparent through the clear attention to detail in the set designs. The sound design in this movie also is off the charts elevating the bleak setting and tension through rich environment sounds and off-putting mixing of guttural voices. These three aspects tie together near perfectly and create the richness of Dune’s setting and atmosphere.

The movie’s acting is also notably solid which comes as no surprise with the cast lineup it has. While not being his best role, Timothée Chalamet does an exceptional job as Paul. Even from the book, Paul was always meant to feel lifeless like most other characters as it’s essential to the character. He’s forced into having no instincts as a ruler so that he doesn’t act with his emotions. Like the set design, Timothée Chalamet’s approach to the character feels very nuanced as he’s able to meet in the middle, feeling hollow as a person yet being able to keep the audience fixated on him for the entire movie, which is especially important due to the movie’s 2 and a half-hour long run time. Rebecca Ferguson is probably the stand-out performance in the movie as her role is nearly the complete opposite of Timothée Chalamet’s role. She worries for Paul when he comes closer and closer to his fulfilling his role as a noble as his life becomes increasingly more dangerous as political tension grows. There’s one scene in particular where she is forced to hold back her motherly emotions watching Paul being faced with possible death. The scene is enthralling as both of their emotions are forced to be held back and even the smallest glimpses of emotion hurt the other character.

There are surprisingly few flaws in the movie which is amazing considering the fact that the movie has so much room to be a potential disaster. There are few however and some of them revolve around incomplete characters. The antagonist of the movie is well performed and is engaging but we never really see much of his character played out. While there the second part of the movie has been confirmed, and it is possible that he will become more fleshed out in that movie, it would still feel largely out of place as he’s already taken a major role in the story. There is also an important plot twist towards the last third of the movie that results in the death of a character. In the book and in the 1984 movie, the character has much more depth than he does in this adaptation and has a clear motivation and foreshadowing to the plot twist. He is very rarely used in scenes before the twist and the movie still feels fairly confident in the way it sets it up. While the twist itself feels well done in execution, it somewhat feels half-baked as the progression and exposition to that point were almost nonexistent.

Ideally, this movie could have just been an average blockbuster with explosions and all. But thankfully, Dune takes the extra step in being a grand reflection of one of the most recognized science fiction novels ever and amazingly transfers the themes of free will and fate. It paints a beautifully cold and stoic setting that meshes almost flawlessly with the characterization of Paul and the rest of the cast. Villeneuve’s critically meticulous directorial style compliments the science fiction genre very well and perfectly fits the political dystopian drama of Dune. He has successfully blurred the line between master-class filmmaking and miracles as everything was pointing to the impossibility of a visual Dune experience.
Kitchen by Banana Yoshimoto Is A Thoughtful Look at Mourning and Familial Ties

By Lindsay Adjei

Kitchen is a novel by Banana Yoshimoto, an author who takes pride in her ability to tell stories with an elegant simplicity and to craft easily read but profound stories. Yoshimoto’s writing is inspired by Stephen King and his non-horror works which can be very apparent in her previous novels which use simplistic yet poetic writing. Her pen name was inspired by her love for banana flowers and she wanted to use Yoshimoto because she liked the ambiguity of it. Yoshimoto portrays this with her writing, using it to break gender stereotypes and their relationships which we can see portrayed through Mikage’s relationship with the other male lead, Yoichi. Instead of making it a typical male-female lead romance, their relationship remains platonic and familial as they learn to depend on each other. It tells the story of Mikage and the recent passing of her grandmother which leads her to question her ties to the world and along the way, find a new family in those around her.

Though this is a common premise, her use of it completely transforms the found family dynamic and makes it much more compelling and meaningful without being cliché. She is comforted by her love of kitchens, and this passion for kitchens and cooking fuels the story’s plot. The story is beautifully written and allows the reader to truly understand the emotional plight of Mikage during the time in the novel. Though short, the story covers a lot of topics relating to death and familial ties and what we have to live for in this world and Mikage is an excellent narrator for this experience. She is able to find refuge in the Tanabes—an eccentric family who knew her grandmother—and to learn from them to grow into her emotions along with developing her cooking skills in their kitchen. “I like how when Banana Yoshimoto talks about death in her books, she can be very blunt but comforting,” said sophomore Patricia Alegria. When we discussed the book Patricia talked about how she liked the themes of the novel and how even though the book can be very morbid, its message is uplifting. For any kind of reader, this book is an excellent choice for your next novel.
Streaming Services Take Over

By Brady Davidson

Streaming services are slowly taking over the way we watch media. Over the past few years, we have seen tremendous growth in streaming services. This is largely due to the pandemic causing everyone to have to stay inside. Another reason we have seen a rise in streaming services is due to the success of companies like Netflix, which has become the leading streaming service with over 200 million subscribers. Because of this, we have seen many companies try to mimic their success.

The rise of streaming services is now threatening movie theaters. Because of the pandemic, theaters had to shut down temporarily. Some theaters weren’t able to open back up and had to close down permanently. The remaining theaters are now struggling to compete with streaming services.

This is largely due to a new feature some streaming services have introduced. This feature allows for subscribers to view new releases from home. This has become a controversial topic because it is taking away business from theaters and preventing people to experience movies in the theater. Junior Amelia Garret had this to say, “I prefer to watch movies in the comfort of my home, but I get wanting to get the thrill of being in the theater.” Junior Sara Logwood said, “I feel like streaming services releasing new movies takes away the true experience of how a movie is intended to be watched.” Freshman Carter Cathey said, “I feel like releasing movies on streaming services is bad because the movie theaters don’t make as much money.”

Opinions vary on this topic, some people liking the convenience of not having to go to the theaters to watch new releases, and some people thinking movies should be experienced in the theater.

Many directors have voiced their opinion on movies opening on streaming platforms simultaneously with theaters, saying how it is taking away how the filmmakers intended the audience to watch their movie. Denis Villeneuve director of Dune, a movie recently released to both theaters and on HBO max spoke on this. “My team and I devoted more than three years of our lives to make it a unique big screen experience. Our movie’s image and sound were meticulously designed to be seen in theaters,” he said in a Variety exclusive.

This new feature has shown to bring in new subscribers for streaming services. That is why over the past couple of months many new services have adopted this way of releasing movies. As a result, movie theaters continue to struggle since their return.

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