



# The Crusader News

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## The Journey of Advent



Xavier Downey '24

Contributor

Christmas is a day celebrated by many people around the world, all seemingly for different reasons. For some, Christmas is a day to show appreciation to the people who are dear to them, or to get together and enjoy each other's company in good spirit. Although many see this as the meaning of Christmas, we cannot overlook its true purpose.

Christmas is a day when Christians come together to celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ. When translated into English, Christmas means "the Mass of Christ," making it clear that the day is dedicated to Jesus.

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## Crusader Athletics: A Season of Challenges and Triumphs

Samay Dadlani '24

This year, the Crusader Athletics season has been a whirlwind of triumphs and setbacks, showcasing the true spirit of sportsmanship and determination amongst our athletes. From the valiant battles of the Varsity Football Team to the swift strides of the Cross Country Team, each sport has carved its own narrative in the annals of Crusader sports history.



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## St. Paul's Debate Takes Home Crown

Landon Pinette '26

This year, the St. Paul's debate team has emerged as a formidable force, packed with shrewdness, persuasion, and a keen sense of humour! Demonstrating high levels of success at both provincial and national tournaments, they have proven to be among the best in Canada. A few key tournaments have been the driver of their success this year - those being the Angus Reid Debate Tournament, Canadian British Parliamentary Asper Cup Debating Nationals, and Rupert's Land Public Speaking and Debate Provincials.



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## Santa Claus!

### Is he Real?

The Presence of Santa in the Christmas Season

Castiel Haripersad '25 writes on pg. 12.



### Did he Punch a Heretic?

The Historical St. Nicholas and Early Christian Debates

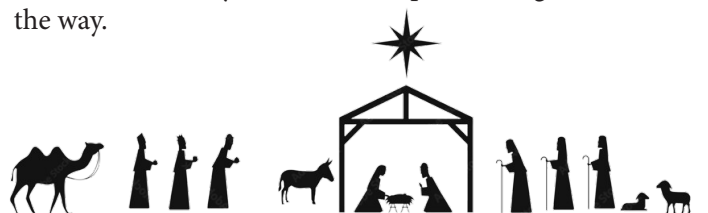
Thomas Bernardin '25 writes on pg. 11.



## From the Head Layout Editor:

With the holiday season in full swing, festive decorations deck the halls across the world. But no set of Christmas decorations would be complete without a nativity set.

Scattered throughout this issue are all the figures that make up this nativity scene. Read through the paper and find them all! I'm confident you'll stumble upon a few great reads on the way.





# Doctor Who: New Beginning, Rough Start



John Ergon  
Golpe '24  
Religion Editor

Finally, after year-long anticipation, the long-running British sci-fi series, *Doctor Who*, returns to our screens with a fresh look, some familiar faces, and another swashbuckling adventure for its title character. But does the show's triumphant return live up to the hype? Sort of.

Following Chris Chibnall's withdrawal from *Doctor Who* as showrunner, and Jodie Whittaker's somber departure from her role as the 13th Doctor last year, the show had left a bitter taste through its critically panned 13th season and 2022 specials. The fate of *Doctor Who* was uncertain, until it was picked back up again by returning showrunner and producer, Russell T. Davies, who had run the show between 2005-2010. *Doctor Who* was on course for critical success because the BBC

decided to broaden the scale of the show's production, and fan-favorite David Tennant was scheduled to play the role of the Doctor once again in the show's cliffhanger.



Three weeks ago, the first of three 60th Anniversary Specials on Disney+ was released to commemorate the show's initial airing, all the way back on November 25th, 1963. Titled "The Star Beast," this special was mediocre. It began with the Doctor and his companion, Donna Noble, played by Catherine Tate, idly standing, or sitting, glaring at the camera as they recapped the show's previous story arcs. Despite its efforts to elicit the sense that this

special introduction was a grandiose opening to a blockbuster feature, I found it off-putting and out of place for a *Doctor Who* episode.

Later in the special, the audience met more of the cast, particularly Donna's daughter, Rose Noble, who is played by Yasmin Finney, and Beep the Meep, an alien character voiced by Miriam Margolyes.

I found Finney's performance flat at times, specifically when interacting with the

Meep and when she has a heart-to-heart conversation with her mother at their house. Moreover, while the reveal that Beep was responsible for the plot's conflict was amusing, its motivation of destroying London to refuel its spacecraft was generic.

Donna's husband Shaun Temple, played by Karl Collins, was underwhelming as a character. I found his ideals as a loyal family man to be rather interesting.

Unfortunately, they are not explored or given much thought as the special progressed, demoting Shaun to the role of comic relief to undercut the tension in scenes.

However, despite its flaws, "The Star Beast" has much to offer. *Doctor Who* has never looked better, as shown by the elaborate London Street battle, the visual and practical effects done for the alien characters, and the re-design of the TARDIS' interior.

Meanwhile, Tennant's rapport with his co-lead was just as snappy and engaging as their interactions during Davies' initial run on *Doctor Who*. I especially enjoyed the fact that Donna Noble, who had more agency over the plot than the Doctor, chose to sacrifice herself to save her family and home, giving up her Time Lord status to be human again.

Although *Doctor Who* started in a rough patch, I am certain that it will find its footing in the subsequent 60th Anniversary Specials, and in what is to come next year with its 14th season.

# Freddy Fazbear's Big Screen Debut



Steven Kosa '25  
Contributor

Ever since the first game's release in 2014, the *Five Nights at Freddy's* (FNAF) franchise has made quite a name for itself. With games, books, and everything in-between, FNAF has become a household name among horror fans. Seeing its growth and the release of other movies based on gaming franchises, it is no surprise that a FNAF movie was put into production. Fans have been buzzing since the release of Blumhouse's FNAF movie, but is the hype surrounding the movie's release justified?

The movie follows Mike Schmit, a mall security guard who, upon being fired, is forced to take up a night guard position at the abandoned Freddy Fazbear's Pizzeria. While working, Mike stumbles upon the dark secret behind Freddy Fazbear's Pizzeria which is hidden in the animatronic mascots of the pizzeria. Mike discovers they are being possessed by the spirits of the children

murdered at the pizzeria many years ago. Assisted by a police officer named Vanessa, Mike investigates the mysterious ties the animatronics have to his younger sister, Abby, and to the disappearance of his younger brother, which continues to haunt him.

production are the animatronics. Not only are they highly accurate in how they look in the games, but the way they move really sells that they are giant robotic animals.

The movie doesn't go for cheap jump scares. Instead, it relies on the



The acting wasn't half bad, as the cast used the material they were given well, bringing their characters to life. The overall production value of the film is also impressive, with Blumhouse making the most of their 20-million-dollar budget.

The pizzeria gives off a very creepy atmosphere and remains very faithful to the games. However, the most impressive aspects of the movie's

overall atmosphere and the animatronics to bring out the fear factor. One aspect of the movie that is tailor made for fans are the many Easter Eggs and references scattered throughout the film such as cameos from famous YouTubers who have helped bring the FNAF franchise to its current status.

However, the movie is not perfect. The movie is slow throughout the

beginning and middle, only picking up speed towards the end. It is not a big issue, but it is something to consider. Dialogue exchanges were also awkward at times. Occasionally, characters paused between sentences for long times, and one of the characters gave Mike an exposition dump about the pizzeria that felt forced.

There is also a plot hole when Vanessa talks about how the police could not find any of the children's bodies despite checking the facility top to bottom. It is revealed that the bodies of the children were hidden inside the animatronics and the police didn't search them because, "no one would think to look in them," according to Vanessa. This is silly because they are big enough to fit a child, making them an obvious spot to hide them.

The FNAF movie is overall a very enjoyable experience, especially for long-time fans of the franchise. While it isn't perfect, it has a spooky atmosphere which provides some great scares and gives audiences some spectacular practical effects.



# Update: Hallmark Movies Still Stink



Luke Perrett '24  
Sports Editor

Two years ago, despite the warnings of my mother and grandparents, I wrote an article entitled “Hallmark Movies: Distilled Mediocracy.” Since then, I’ve had the pleasure of being forced to watch even more. Lucky me. Many people who I’ve shared my article with have asked me if I still dislike Hallmark movies. Surprise! I still think they stink. Here’s why.

One key issue with Hallmark movies is the lack of diversity in their stories. The cookie-cutter plots typically revolve around a protagonist, usually a young woman, who finds herself in a small town where she encounters a charming stranger or high school sweetheart. After overcoming a series of obstacles and misunderstandings, they fall in love. This formula, while comfort-

ing to some, perpetuates a narrow and homogeneous representation of relationships. Real-life romance is far more complicated, yet Hallmark fails to reflect this reality. This leaves audiences with a superficial

where characters undergo genuine development and face challenges that mirror the complexities of real life, Hallmark movies fall short of delivering a truly engaging and authentic viewing experience.



The predictability of Hallmark movie plots is another aspect that makes them a painful viewing experience. While a degree of predictability is inherent in the romantic genre, Hallmark takes it to an extreme,

and tainted understanding of love. The characters in Hallmark movies also often lack depth and complexity. The protagonists are generally one-dimensional, defined by a limited set of traits that serve the purpose of advancing the predetermined plot. This simplistic characterization limits the viewer’s ability to relate to or empathize with the characters on a meaningful level. In contrast to more professional films,

leaving little room for surprise or innovation. Once you’ve seen one Hallmark movie, you’ve essentially seen them all. The lack of originality in storytelling contributes to a sense of monotony, where viewers can anticipate every plot twist and resolution before they even unfold. This predictability may provide a sense of comfort to some, but it denies the audience the thrill of genuine suspense and the satisfaction of an

unexpected turn of events. Lastly, the production quality of Hallmark movies often leaves much to be desired. From the acting to the set design, there is a noticeable lack of detail in comparison to higher-budget productions. While it’s true that Hallmark movies are not aiming for the cinematic grandeur of blockbuster films, the overall quality of the production could certainly benefit from more effort in set design and acting hires. The stilted dialogue and sometimes awkward performances contribute to an overall viewing experience that lacks the sophistication expected in the world of cinema.

In conclusion, the lack of diversity in narratives, shallow character development, predictability, and sub-par production quality collectively contribute to a genre that prioritizes a formulaic approach over genuine storytelling. As we continue our cinematic journey, it’s essential to engage with films that challenge our perspectives, offer diverse and complex narratives, and elevate the art of storytelling beyond the limitations of a Hallmark script.

## “Now and Then”



Sawyer Ramsay '24  
Arts & Culture Editor

The Beatles are certainly one of the greatest and most successful bands of all time. They influenced a world of artists throughout the 60s, revolutionizing music in an unbelievably astonishing and unprecedented way. Although only two of the Fab Four are still around today, the Beatles still manage to influence new generations with new music.

You may be wondering how can a band that broke up in 1970 with two dead members release new music? After the murder of John Lennon in 1980, all hopes for a Beatles reunion were demolished. However, before John died, he had been working on a few unfinished songs. They were “Real Love,” “Free as a Bird,” and “Now and Then” which were recorded as demos by John in his New York apartment.

In 1994, the remaining Beatles came together for their anthology project. Yoko Ono (John’s wife) told George

about old tapes she had of John. They listened to them and decided to work on them and in 1995 and 1996 they finished and released “Free as a Bird,” and “Real Love.” They had some extra time and worked a little on “Now and Then,” but it was abandoned because of the demo’s poor audio quality. The piano was too loud, and John’s vocals were drowned out. When George passed away in 2001, hopes for fin-

Peter Jackson, who came across old footage of the band in the studio, arranged it, and cleaned up and separated parts of its audio using newly developed technology. This technology prompted the remaining Beatles to start re-working on “Now and Then.” Jackson was able to separate the piano from Lennon’s demo, clearly revealing his vocals which allowed it to be properly mixed like other songs.



ishing the song were nearly lost, until now.

In 2021, an incredible documentary series on the Beatles was released, titled “Get Back.” It was directed by

Paul put the bass on, Ringo recorded the drums, and in addition to the guitar parts that George recorded in the 90s, the Beatles were together again. To capture the classic Beatles’ sound further, Paul added a slide

guitar solo in George’s style and got Giles Martin to put on string orchestrations like the orchestrations his father George Martin contributed to many great Beatles’ songs as their producer.

The song was released on November 2nd as a single along with their first single from 1962, “Love me Do.” This truly gives it the now and then effect by bookending the band’s catalogue. It was released along with a short film documentary and a music video that brings about feelings of nostalgia for Beatles fans, with John and George edited in.

The song immediately brought back Beatlemania, becoming a number one single, the fastest selling single of 2023 so far, as well as the fastest-selling vinyl single of the century, and accomplishing many other achievements.

“Now and Then” is an extraordinary example of the potential of technology in music. This new song brought the Beatles back to life and has sparked attention from new listeners, while taking existing fans down an emotional road as their musical journey with the Beatles came to a close.



# North Korea’s Satellite Provocation



Alden Minuk '26  
Copy Editor

Tensions between North and South Korea are always high, with North Korea constantly looking to capture their southern neighbour’s land. Both countries claim to be the sole legitimate government of Korea, a belief that has led to high tensions between the Koreas for the past half-century. However, since 2018, North and South Korea have been in an agreement known as the Comprehensive Military Agreement (CMA), aimed at reducing tensions between the two countries.

Recently, South Korea has withdrawn from parts of the agreement after North

Korea had announced their successful launch of a military surveillance satellite. This satellite is a spy satellite that could be used to steal information off South Korea and the US which would aid North Korea’s attempts to modernize their weaponry and become a prevalent threat to their enemies. North Korea, unhappy with the breaking of the agreement, has begun to mobilize forces and supplies to the border.

The launch of a military satellite of this type is prohibited under the UN Security Council’s sanctions against North Korea, designed to prevent North Korea from developing intercontinental nuclear missiles. The launching of the satellite was condemned by South Korea, Japan, The UN, and the USA.

North Korea’s threats are not very serious currently, as their technology is sub-par compared to the superpowers of the world. They do have nuclear weaponry, but without a means of sending it

intercontinentally it is a glorified paper-weight. With the addition of a spy satellite to their repertoire, they may be able to steal the secrets of the intercontinental ballistic missile from other countries and develop one of their own.



North Korean dictators have long believed that the addition of nuclear weaponry to their arsenal would prevent the US from intervening in an invasion of South Korea. If backed into a corner, North Korean dictator, Kim Jong-Un, has threatened to use such weaponry to attack other nations. The reason why nobody uses nuclear weapons in war is

known as ‘MAD’: mutually assured destruction. If two nuclear powers went to war, they would utterly obliterate each other and the world. Right now, no nation with nuclear weapons, not even Russia, utilizes them. They are more of a deterrent than a weapon. However, Kim Jong-Un has demonstrated a willingness to take the rest of the world down with him, and if long range missiles are developed in North Korea, the results could be disastrous.

Between the threats of invading South Korea, the launching of a prohibited spy satellite, and the clear demonstration of a desire for weapons of mass destruction North Korea may become a threat to the countries in the west. Should North Korea achieve their goal of invading their southern neighbours or developing nuclear arms it would lead to a bloody and costly war especially if Kim Jong-Un decides to take as many people as possible with him when the rest of the world intervenes.



## Predictions for the Upcoming Federal Election

James Bailey '26 - Contributor



The 2025 Canadian election won’t be for some time now, but one thing is clear: it will be unlike any other election in recent history. With the increasing popularity of Pierre Poilievre’s Conservatives and the Liberals losing support from the Canadian public, it’s unlikely that Trudeau will be able to remain Prime Minister for much longer. Pierre Poilievre seems to be heading for a landslide that can only be compared to the dominating landslide victories achieved by John Diefenbaker in 1958 and Brian Mulrooney in 1984.



In 2021, the Conservative Party won a plurality of votes: 33% to the 32% garnered by the Liberals. However, as a result of their more efficient vote distribution, Liberals won more seats, letting them form a minority government with the support of Jagmeet Singh’s NDP.

The current federal seat projection indicates that the Conservatives are set to win the election with a huge majority. If an election were to be held today, they’re projected to win a total of 208 out of 338 seats in Parliament. This would be one of the biggest landslides in recent Canadian history.

Another important thing to remember is that the Liberals won lots of key seats by only a few points in the last election. If

they lose just a few points, the Conservatives have a chance to win key swing seats that would secure their victory for the next term.

As of right now, the Conservatives are leading in nine of ten provinces, with the only exception, of course, being Quebec. The last time a leader won all 10 provinces was in 1984, when Brian Mulroney’s Progressive Conservative Party won in every single province. If this were to happen, it would lay out a very different atmosphere for the 2029 election.

Conservative leader Pierre Poilievre has also called for a vote of non-confidence in the government. Though this vote is unlikely to succeed unless the NDP decides to sides with the Conservatives. Dissent has also arisen within Trudeau’s own caucus; some anonymous Liberals have recently stated that they wished to get rid of Trudeau. This could potentially lead to members of Trudeau’s own party voting in Parliament to call an early election.

The next federal election will certainly be interesting. With voters tiring of nearly a decade of Trudeau and a scandalous government, the Conservatives are likely to win a huge majority government.



## Throne Speech Marks Time of Optimism in Manitoba

William Hudson '24 - Science and Tech Editor

The Speech from the Throne, delivered by the Lieutenant Governor of Manitoba, is written by the party in legislature with the most MLAs. Following the recent election, the majority party in the legislature is now the New Democratic Party, ending seven years of Progressive Conservative speeches.



The NDP cover a few major points in their speech: fixing healthcare, affordability, developing a strong economy, fighting the climate crisis, improving education, and reducing homelessness and violence. Major points of interest in the speech include the actions that the new government has already taken, their focus being on building social services, and their criticism of the financial mismanagement perpetrated by the former Progressive Conservative government.

First, the government has already begun work in making healthcare more available to Manitobans, by opening more surgical slates, reaching a deal with other provinces to help keep Manitoban doctors at home, and reducing the MRI waitlist, especially for Northern Manitobans. Additionally, they have accessed a \$500 million grant

to move to affordable, low-carbon energy from natural gas, reflecting their goals of fighting the climate crisis, increasing affordability, and creating jobs, especially in the budding sector of low-carbon energy.

Alongside these, they have created the Department of Housing, Addictions, and Homelessness to end chronic homelessness over the course of the next eight years. The provincial government also promises to send mental health professionals to non-violent calls to law enforcement. With these two developments, and by working more closely with police across the province, the NDP seek to reduce violent crime, especially in Winnipeg, which has one of the highest violent crime rates in the country.

The speech is permeated with hope, as it begins with, “There is optimism in our province, for it is a new day in Manitoba,” right after the land acknowledgement. This optimism is shared by all Manitobans, with Premier Wab Kinew boasting the highest approval rating of all Canadian premiers, according to a recent Angus Reid poll.

According to CBC, Heather Stefanson had the lowest approval ratings of all premiers across Canada her entire tenure, never breaking 30%. Brian Pallister stepped down with the lowest approval rating across Canada of 32%, meaning that for the first time in years, Manitobans have confidence in their leader.

Despite the hope, 16% of Manitobans (more than any other province, according to the Angus Reid poll) are uncertain about their confidence in the new leader. It will take some time to see whether Mr. Kinew can deliver on the promises he has made, but for now, Manitoba seems to believe he will.



# The CAQ Begins to Crack



Nathan Kazmir  
Poklar '24  
  
Politics Editor

When François Legault cruised to his second term as Quebec Premier last year, it looked like he had changed Québec politics forever. In just eleven years of its existence, Legault’s nationalist Coalition Avenir Québec (CAQ) had risen from insignificance to becoming the province’s most popular party.

On top of that, every party that wasn’t the CAQ was struggling: the Liberal’s campaign was disastrous, Solidaire failed to gather its support, the Conservatives could not win a seat, and the Parti Québécois had been completely decimated. But after a year of blunders, their stranglehold over Québec is in a precarious position.

During the 2022 election, one of the most polarizing issues in Québec was the construction of the *Troisième Lien*—a proposed tunnel connecting Québec City to Lévis, the city across the Saint Lawrence River—to alleviate traffic. While the

CAQ had already promised to build the tunnel four years earlier, its construction had never started, and the project was dragged back into the campaign spotlight. Legault in turn doubled down on the promise: the tunnel was going to be built.

In April 2023, Legault’s government finally revealed the results of studies conducted on the tunnel, which showed that the tunnel would not fix any of Québec City’s traffic problems. Caught in a Catch-22, the government announced the tunnel would solely be for public transportation and not for cars. People, especially in Québec City, were outraged that the government had flipflopped on such a contentious issue, and the CAQ began to suffer in the polls.

In July, a Québec City CAQ politician resigned, prompting a by-election. While the CAQ had easily won the seat last election, things were different now. The seat was now a tight race between the CAQ and the Parti Québécois (PQ). In many ways, the election was a mini referendum on Legault’s performance: A Parti Québécois victory would signal that people were unhappy with his government.

On election night, the PQ blew out the CAQ and won the seat. Legault’s response was to flip flop again and say that

they would maybe make the tunnel for cars and public transportation, losing more credibility with the public.

Today, the Parti Québécois has exploded in popularity and are polling higher than the CAQ. Legault has continued to make unforced errors, like his announcement that the government would pay five million dollars for the LA Kings to play pre-season games in Québec City, which was derided as a waste of money.

Meanwhile, his government is staring down a massive strike, causing him to bleed even more support. The next election is not until 2026, and three years is a long time in politics—Legault has plenty of time to fix his errors.

His mistakes serve as a reminder of how easy it is to kill goodwill in politics, and that today’s political juggernaut can easily become next year’s biggest loser.



# Shipping Companies and the Holidays



Rodmehr  
Filizadeh '25  
  
Business Editor

Have you ever wondered how your favourite Christmas present landed under your tree? While Santa coming down your chimney could be an explanation for how the presents got there, the re is a maze through which your present travel. This maze involves some of the world’s biggest companies, such as UPS (37th on the Fortune 500) and FedEx (41st on the Fortune 500), who are forced to work around the clock to deliver millions upon millions of Christmas letters, presents, and other packages around the globe.

The holidays present the largest challenge for courier companies, and many are forced to make additional hirings so your beloved new socks, among other presents, get to you on time. UPS announced in September 2023 that they planned on hiring an additional 100,000 employees to serve the holiday rush. In 2021 FedEx hired an additional 70,000 for the holiday rush and, here at home, Canada Post was forced to call in emergency hires during the tumultuous 2020 holiday season, but what’s more impressive is the number of packages they ship.

Major courier companies project they will be able to meet holiday demands for

the 2023 season after bending under the weight of shipping demands in 2020 and 2021 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. According to Yahoo! Finance, the parcel industry projects to have the ability to deliver a whopping one hundred million parcels per day for the 2023 season!

In 2021, the United States Postal Service (USPS) projected they would ship eight hundred to nine hundred million parcels and similarly, in Canada, Purolator projected an unprecedented 54 million parcels for the 2021 season. But demands in 2023 are slumping slightly and will likely not be as high in 2021.

For starters, the pandemic had a large effect on the landscape of shipping and delivery. In 2021, with stores still recovering from shutdowns, online retail boomed and, with that, shipping companies were forced to ramp up services. But in 2023, physical retail is further along on the road to recovery and with the current state of inflation and the economy, customer demand for shipping is lower as customers turn to malls and physical retail stores. In the wake of lower demand, UPS reduced their 2023 revenue forecast in their third quarter financial reporting as customers such as Amazon brace for the slowest holiday sale rates since 2018.

High inflation rates coupled with record-high shipping costs mean that the holiday shipping season in 2023 will be more pedestrian than in years past, but the holiday season should still see shipping companies deal with the perennial task of meeting peak customer demand. So when you put on those cozy new slippers you got for Christmas, remember the millions of kilometers and thousands of hands that helped presents like yours reach their destination.





# Capitalizing on Christmas



Joseph  
Lewin '25

Contributor

Christmas! The time for family, food, gift-giving, and... Capitalism? Yes, that's right, the holiday season, particularly Christmas, has become saturated with greed, focused on making money rather than caring for your fellow neighbour and spreading good cheer. The entire idea of gift-giving is centred around receiving something in return rather than giving for the sake of giving. Even our modern interpretation of Santa Claus was partially invented by the Coca-Cola to sell more bottles of Coke.

Where and how did this all start? The cascade of Christmas Capital-

ism began in the mid-1800s when store owners and corporations realized they could utilize Christmas, and more specifically, the character of Santa Claus, to boost sales. It snow-balled into what we know it for today, a holiday centred around greed.

What is worse than the exploitation of the holidays is the severe mistreatment of retail workers who are forced to work long hours and meet impossible quotas for the holiday season.

Furthermore, the season has a severe impact on our planet, creating obscene amounts of waste from wrapping paper, gift bags and packaging. Christmas has gone from a celebration of the birth of Christ to becoming a holiday obsessed with consumerism.

Maybe for a change, we can focus on what Christmas is truly about: being kind to those around us and spreading thanksgiving. The question is, how can we draw focus away from getting gifts and place it on enjoying Christmas for what it is: a

time of unity, love, care, and putting others' needs before our own?

Celebrate the holidays with less of an emphasis on gift-giving and more on spending precious time with loved ones.



# N-ICE while it Lasted: Why Junior Hockey Failed in Winnipeg



Luke Perrett '24

Sports Editor

The junior hockey team formerly named the "Winnipeg ICE" were known for many things, such as consistently having a good roster, or developing NHL stars such as Sam Reinhart, but are best known for their constant relocation and struggle to remain in one location. Founded as the Edmonton Ice, the franchise played in Alberta's capital from 1996 to 1998 before moving to Cranbrook, British Columbia. The Edmonton Ice's time in Alberta was a mix of challenges and opportunities. The team aimed to carve a name for itself in a hockey-rich environment like Edmonton, known for its strong hockey fanbase. However, the franchise faced significant hurdles, including the presence of the National Hockey League's (NHL) Edmonton Oilers who joined the scene in 1972, and the need to establish a unique identity within the competitive local sports landscape.

The major draw for junior hockey in the past has been affordability for families, and the ability to see young stars before they play professional hockey. However, if ticket prices are similar for a junior team and a pro-

fessional team, fans would have no reason to go to games.

Ultimately, the decision to relocate from Edmonton to Cranbrook in 1998 was driven by a combination of strategic considerations and the

businessman David White. The ICE had consistently filled up the Wayne Fleming Arena on the University of Manitoba campus and even held the WHL finals at Canada Life Centre. The move away from Winnipeg surprised fans, as it seemed to have

Warriors came to the city in 1980, looking to ignite the spirit of hockey enthusiasts in Winnipeg. However, the franchise faced insurmountable challenges that led to its demise and financial instability plagued the Winnipeg Warriors from the outset. The team struggled to secure a dedicated fan base and faced fierce competition from the established Winnipeg Jets, who were part of the NHL. Financial strain, combined with organizational mismanagement, forced the Warriors to cease operation in 1984, after just three seasons.

According to an article in the *Winnipeg Free Press* by Mike Sawatsky, on December 14th, 2022, the Ice were allegedly fined by the WHL as they did not comply with the league's arena policy regarding fan capacity. Only two days later, the league and the team published statements saying that this was false news. 50 Below Sports and Entertainment took a gamble in bringing junior hockey back to the city but, due to the competitive market, the team did not even last five years.

Nevertheless, the relocated team has had great success thus far in the season, sitting second in the Western Conference as of November 26th. Although the exact reason for the team's departure may never be known, it can be assumed that the second failed WHL franchise in Winnipeg followed in the footsteps of its predecessor.



Owen Pederson staring down his opponents ahead of last year's New-Years Eve game

pursuit of new opportunities. The move allowed the franchise a fresh start in a different community. However, it was the subsequent relocation to Winnipeg in 2019 that marked a pivotal chapter in the team's history, as the team began to find success on the ice.

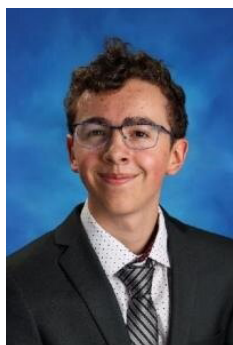
The most recent move was June 2023, when the franchise was sold to

come out of nowhere. They were rebranded as the Wenatchee Wild, a move followed by the firing of all team staff. The new head coach, Kevin Constantine, was fired after only two games due to breaking WHL policies with discriminatory comments.

This isn't the first time a WHL team has left Winnipeg. The Winnipeg



# Psychedelic Salvation



Michael  
Wolanik '25  
Contributor

Most people would slot psychedelics into the category of hard drugs, those to be regarded with fear and commonly used illegally and recreationally. However, new research into the psychedelic *psilocybin* has scientists reconsidering whether “magic mushrooms” could treat depression, anxiety, addictions, Alzheimer’s, and other mental disorders.

Psilocybin creates new links between neurons in the brain, forming new neural pathways, which are often the cause of habits and addictions. Normally, the more an action is performed, the more pronounced the path becomes and the easier the path is to traverse. This results in an action being able to be performed with less focus, as the brain requires less thinking to perform it each

time. Psilocybin can modify these paths and create new ones, which, when controlled, can change how the brain reacts at a fundamental level and therefore reduce the effects of mental disorders.



Scientists are exploring psychedelic experiences (colloquially, “trips”), where people often have “spiritual” experiences, for their value in combatting mental ailments. These “good trips” are contrasted with “bad trips” which can bring the same spiritual enlightenment to users but feel like a panic attack, and can induce negative flashbacks. Even then, some people do not experience any deep reflection while

on psychedelics. Despite their relative rarity when psychedelics are delivered safely and after preparation, the risk of “bad trips” is preventing psychedelics from being widely used as medicine. For the

people who do not wish to have a “psychedelic experience”, researchers have been experimenting with microdosing. A microdose of dried psilocybin ranges from 100 to 300 milligrams. Current research finds that microdosing improves subjects’ moods, but the jury is still out on whether microdosing helps with depression, anxiety, and the slew of other potential mental maladies.

While there has been recent research that discusses the possible benefits of psilocybin and other hallucinogens, it does not take long to find a story about someone who did not take psychedelics responsibly and had a mental breakdown for as long as six hours. Furthermore, psilocybin still has its issues even when used in a calm environment. In one study, 77% of people who took psilocybin had headaches, nausea, and dizziness. There was even a small group that reported having thoughts of self-harm. Alongside stigma for psychedelics as “hard drugs”, this means that research development into psilocybin has been slow to take off.

Psilocybin and other psychedelics are not wonder drugs: while they do look promising, they still have some side effects that should not be ignored. A new branch of psychedelic therapy may arrive in the near future, helping curb the rise in mental illness. Regardless, the brain is still a mystery which scientists are trying to unravel, and psychedelic study could provide new insights into the functions of our least understood organ.

# China’s Sponge Cities



Aristotle  
Anguluan '26  
Contributor

Go to Nanchang, one of the most populated cities in China, and you will see a park that looks like a forest. It is an urban park. Filled with birds, native trees, and volcanic rocks, on 137 acres of land. This park, and others like it, are part of an effort to turn Nanchang into a “sponge city,” a type of natural infrastructure that architects around the world are designing to combat and withstand climate change.

But what exactly is a sponge city? They are cities designed to collect rainwater through sustainable urban drainage systems. These drainage systems reduce damage from flooding inundation. This contrasts with most cities today, built on concrete, which cannot absorb water. The goal for sponge cities is to maintain biodiversity.

Biodiversity is one of the main support systems for life on earth. We rely on natural ecosystems full of

diverse plants, animals, and organisms for essential things like clean water, food, and medicine. This is why it is critical to defend the Earth against climate change.

Healthy forests absorb carbon dioxide from the air and native plants for pollinators to help crops flourish. However, as urbanization continues, habitats are lost, which directly imperils some species, profoundly impacting global biodiversity. There is a solution for how cities can conserve biodiversity: by creating environments where nature can flourish and soak up excess water.

In 2015, China launched a sponge city pilot program in 30 cities across the country. The goal was to coordinate and promote the construction of sponge cities, which would improve urban drainage and flood prevention, creating a diverse biological environment. Architects did this by supplementing the existing grey infrastructure, that relied on concrete pipes and dams, with natural solutions like gardens that are designed to capture rain and native trees that suck up excess water through their roots. Their ideas were taken from ancient drainage systems. For centuries, Chinese cities handled drainage and flooding because they were built with nature

in mind. They built roofs designed with sloped eaves, which allowed rainwater to fall onto the permeable pavement and exterior walls lined with flowers and trees to absorb rain and stormwater.

Despite these benefits, sponge cities cannot fix everything. The relationship between climate change and flooding is still being researched. In 2021, sponge city designs in Zhengzhou failed when a historic rainfall drenched the city. More than 300 people died from the catastrophic flooding. National standards and codes are hard to enforce because climate, hydrology, and even socioeconomic conditions are vastly

different from one city to the next. Ambitious sponge city designs are expensive and require a lot of space, which most cities do not have.

China’s sponge cities present a compelling solution to the problems the world faces today. Their increased biodiversity allows not only for protection from urban flooding but also gives their citizens a greater connection to the natural environment. Though they certainly are not a silver bullet given their cost and difficulty to implement, they offer a glimpse into a world where humanity can live in peaceful coexistence with the natural world.





# New ChatGPT Update



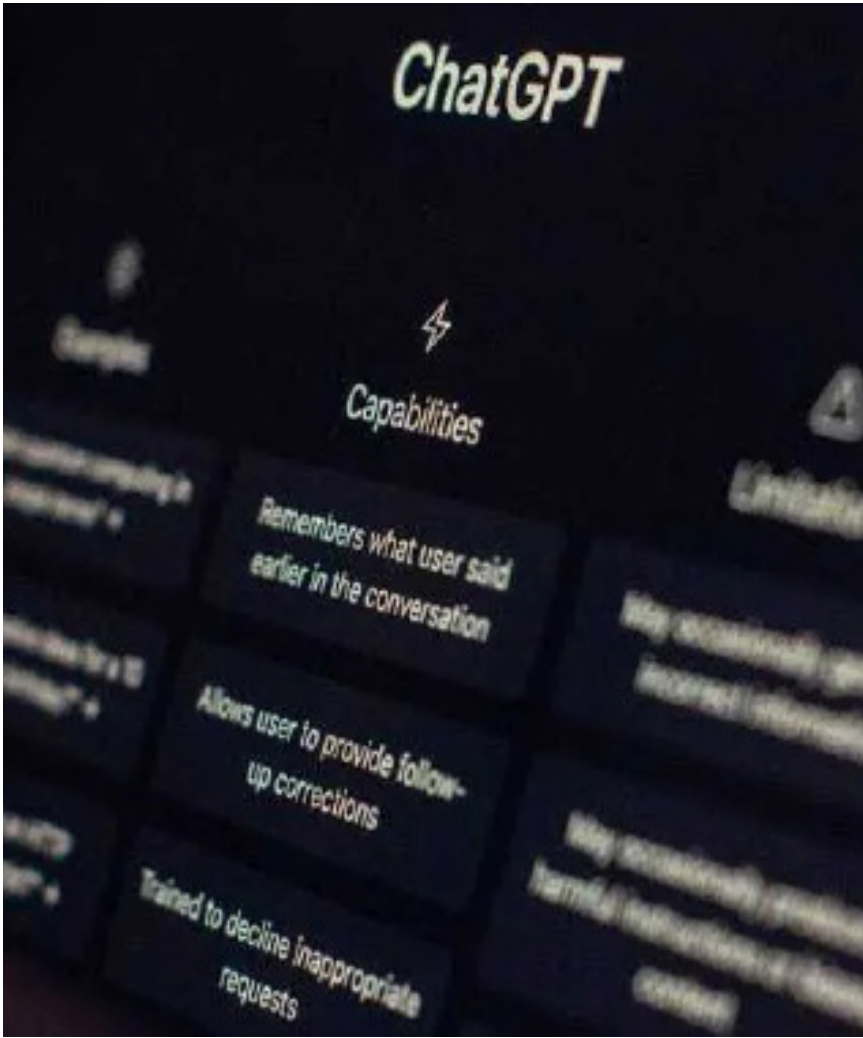
Davis  
Cordeiro '27  
  
Contributor

Artificial intelligence chatbots have taken the world by storm in recent years, most notably OpenAI's ChatGPT, which has proven helpful whether you need to come up with recipes, brainstorm for an essay, or write a movie script about something silly for you and your friends to laugh at.

Before the recent update, ChatGPT was unable to analyse or discuss events which occurred after September 2021, as that was the latest data which it learned from. For example, if you wanted to know about a new show, ChatGPT couldn't help you.

However, ChatGPT 3.5 fixes these problems. By connecting the chatbot to the internet, ChatGPT can now access up-to-date information. Now you can get information which relates to the most recent events, but this development also several potential dangers. ChatGPT now has access to a plethora of new articles which may reflect certain radical opinions or contain misinformation or offensive rhetoric. While ChatGPT could only create false information from the true information off which it was trained before, now it can echo false information read from anywhere online.

Now, ChatGPT can be used as a browser to access the most modern information, but the same precautions used while browsing must be taken to avoid misinformation. The future of AI looks bright, but we will need to see whether connecting AI to the internet creates more problems than it solves.



# The NHL and Neck Guards: A Necessary Mandate?



Luke Perrett '24  
  
Sports Editor

In the fast-paced and physical sport of professional hockey, player safety is a key concern. The National Hockey League (NHL) has implemented various measures over the years to enhance player protection, from stricter rules on hits to the mandatory use of helmets. However, one piece of equipment that remains optional, but is gaining attention for its potential to prevent serious injuries, is the neck guard. As the debate over player safety intensifies, the question arises: should the NHL mandate neck guards for all players?

Neck injuries in hockey, while relatively rare, can be severe, and in some cases, life-threatening. Unfortunately, this was proven true by the death of former Pittsburgh Penguin, Adam Johnson, in a game for the Nottingham Panthers of the EIHL (Elite Ice Hockey League) on October 28th, 2023. Without getting too graphic, Johnson's neck was sliced open by the blade of an opposing player's skate. Although fans are debating if the incident was an accident or intentional, his passing is and will remain tragic. The neck

is a vulnerable area, exposed to fast pucks, sticks, and collisions along the boards. While some players have begun wearing neck guards following the incident, making them mandatory could provide a consistent level of protection across the league.



TJ Oshie, founder of Warroad Hockey, was one of the first to wear a neck guard in the NHL

Those who support mandatory neck guards argue that they can significantly reduce the risk of injuries, especially in situations where players are struck by pucks or high sticks. The neck guard, typically made of cut-resistant materials, acts as a reliable barrier against lacerations. By making them mandatory, the NHL could send a clear message to fans and athletes alike about prioritizing player safety.

On the other side of the debate, people claim that the players should have the choice to decide what pro-

TECTIVE gear they wear. They argue that professional athletes are well aware of the risks associated with their sport and should be allowed to make their own choices regarding equipment, provided they follow the league's established safety stan-

dards. Mandating neck guards, they argue, might be an unnecessary infringement on players' individual freedoms and comfort preferences.

However, when considering the precedent set by the mandatory use of helmets, it becomes evident that player safety often trumps personal choice in professional sports. Helmets were once optional in the NHL, until a tragic incident involving player Bill Masterton in 1968 prompted the league to make their use mandatory. The move was initially met with resistance, but it is

now universally accepted as a crucial safety measure. The NHL has made strides in recent years to address player safety concerns, introducing rule changes to reduce dangerous hits and protect players from head injuries. Mandating neck guards could be viewed as a logical extension of these efforts, offering an additional layer of protection to players who put their bodies on the line during every game. The argument for neck guards also gains traction when looking at the experiences of other hockey leagues and international competitions where their use is mandatory. In many cases, these leagues have seen a decrease in neck and throat injuries, reinforcing the potential benefits of broader adoption.

While some argue that it may infringe on players' freedom, the major concern should be the well-being of the athletes. The NHL has a responsibility to continually assess and implement measures that enhance player safety. Whether it's through increased education, research, or equipment mandates, the league must prioritize minimizing the risk of severe injuries. The potential benefits of mandating neck guards, as evidenced by other leagues, suggest that it might be a necessary step toward a safer and more secure playing environment for professional hockey players. For those reasons, I think the NHL should mandate neck guards for the safety of its players.





# LeBron James’s 2023-24 Season



Gabriel  
Arias ’27  
  
Contributor

Dominating the league since he was 18-years-old, LeBron James continues to carry his legacy, as he starts off strong in his 21st NBA season. Turning 39 in December, he currently plays for the Los Angeles Lakers, averaging 25.0 points, 6.6 assists, and 7.5 rebounds per game, as of mid-December, including a current season high of 37 points on November 19th in Houston! At this point, there is a lot to consider about James’s career as he gets older.

Could LeBron bring home another championship?

With four rings on his fingers, a fifth one would be needed to fill his hand. With the help of his hardworking teammates such as Anthony Davis, Austin Reaves, and D’Angelo

Russell, there is no doubt that the Lakers will do very well in the regular season and likely make a deep playoff run. Despite LeBron having a larger risk of injuries, he continues to push his team as far as possible. For instance, despite tearing his tendon, he returned to bring the Lakers’ victory over the Warriors in 2023, allowing them to move to the Western Conference Finals. If James’ minutes are not cut too short because of the new NBA rule, which prevents teams from sitting more than one “star player” per game, he and his teammates have the potential to bring Los Angeles their 18th championship.

What else could LeBron achieve this season?

Back in February, LeBron took the title as the NBA’s all-time leading scorer from former Los Angeles Laker Kareem Abdul-Jabbar, and on December 10th won the inaugural In-Season Tournament and was named MVP. The question arises as many wonder what he can achieve before his retirement. As of December 11th, LeBron is less than

800 points shy of becoming the first NBA player to score 40,000 regular season points. His next record to reach would be passing Kareem for the most minutes played in NBA history (excluding playoffs), currently needing about 3,000 more minutes to set that record. But, according to James, it is all about his health and him keeping his mind fresh and body intact.

Comparing all the above and other unmentioned goals with other historic NBA players, LeBron may clearly have to take the reins as the greatest basketball player of all-time, a title quite fitting for “The King”. LeBron James has shocked the sports world since his debut over 20 years ago. LeBron’s 21st season is already a great surprise for everyone!



# Norris Trophy Favourites for the 2023-24 NHL Season



Rodmehr Filizadeh ’25 and  
Gurshaan Sidhu ’25

Business Editor and Contributor

Each year, the NHL awards the James Norris Memorial Trophy to the league’s “top defensive player who demonstrates throughout the season, the greatest all-round ability in the position”. Considered a major feat, being awarded the Norris Trophy places the winner among a group of all-time great defensemen. Let’s look at the top four candidates to take home the Norris Trophy for the 2023-24.

The definition of the modern defensemen is **Cale Makar**. Arguably one of the best defensemen over the last few years, Makar won the Norris Trophy in the 2021-22 season. This season, Makar is on pace for 123 points (comparable to fellow contender, Quinn Hughes), having already scored 34 points in 25 games as of December 11. Earlier in

the season, Makar tied for the highest plus/minus (ratio of goals scored and goals allowed while on the ice) in the league, along with Hughes, and was ranked sixth in the league on December 11. Makar’s lack of physicality does not negatively affect his defensive capabilities, as he leads defensemen in takeaways so far in the NHL season with 22 thus far. Makar has the best odds of any defensemen to win the award at this point in the season.

Although the Vancouver Canucks entered the 2023-24 season with low expectations, they find themselves second in the Western Conference as of December 11, largely thanks to superstar captain **Quinn Hughes**. Hughes has been electric to start the season, posting 33 points in his first 22 games, en route to being top ten in the league in points. Hughes’ hot

start puts him in a prime position to challenge for the Norris. While it’s unlikely that Hughes continues his current scoring pace (he is on track for 123 points over an 82-game season), he should easily surpass the point-per-game mark and, buoyed by strong underlying stats, such as plus-minus, Hughes should have a strong case to win his first Norris.

The newest Swedish sensation, **Rasmus Dahlin**, has gotten off to a blazing start to the season. In 27 games, Dahlin has already amassed 21 points, as of December 11. Dahlin has the potential to finish with over a point per game during this season, which is a feat previous winners Erik Karlsson and Cale Makar both accomplished. Dahlin has always had the offensive capabilities to win the Norris Trophy but has also made defensive improvements, re-

cently accomplishing a career high 45 takeaways last season. The only con for Dahlin is his team. Due to the Sabres’ defensive incapacities, his plus/minus ratio will slightly hurt his chances. Nonetheless, Dahlin is no doubt a contender for the Trophy.

**Josh Morrissey** has consistently been one of the most underrated defencemen in the NHL. The 28-year-old posted a career-high 76 points in 78 games last season thanks to his elite skating and hockey IQ, but was not named a finalist for the Norris, finishing fifth in voting behind names like Erik Karlsson and Cale Makar. This season Morrissey is proving last year was no fluke, posting a solid 19 points in 20 games, helping the Winnipeg Jets compete at the top of the Western Conference. Morrissey’s stats need to improve, and he will need to be outstanding to truly have a shot to win, but continuing his current hot play will certainly earn him some Norris consideration.

With the majority of the NHL season still left to unfold, the top defencemen in the NHL will undoubtedly continue to battle for the upper hand in the race to win the highly coveted Norris trophy.





# The Most Surprising Teams This NBA Season



Adris Haleis '24  
Contributor

This NBA season is off to a pleasant start, with young stars taking the league to new heights, and the older superstars playing like they never aged. So far, fans have seen the emergence of up-and-coming teams including the Oklahoma City Thunder, the Orlando Magic, and the Minnesota Timberwolves.

### The Oklahoma City Thunder

The Thunder, who won 40 games last season without 2nd overall pick - Chet Holmgren, were one of the most pleasant surprises in the NBA. After ending their season in the playoff play-in game, the Thunder were expected to make a leap... but nothing like this. As of December 11th, the OKC Thunder are 14-7, and are the 2nd seed in the Western Conference. Led by the Canadian

emerging superstar Shai Gilgeous Alexander, who is averaging career high stats in points, assists, and rebounds, the Thunder have it all. A secondary star is rookie Chet Holmgren, who was not expected to excel this early. Role-players Jalen Williams, Luguentz Dort, and head coach Mark Daigneault have also helped bring success to the organization. Fans can be prepared for the Thunder to continue to make waves this season.

### The Orlando Magic

Many didn't expect the Magic to be doing this well. They were one of the worst teams last year, finishing with a record of 34-48. Fans thought that Orlando would need a few more years of rebuilding to have a competent roster to compete. The Magic had tons to look forward to last year, with their 1st overall draft pick, Paolo Banchero, winning Rookie of the Year, and second-year player, Franz Wagner, making the leap to being a star in the NBA. This season, the Magic are turning heads and are proving why people should watch their games. Beating top teams such as the Celtics, Nuggets,

and Bucks, the Magic are 2nd in the Eastern Conference, with a record of 15-7. Led by head coach Jamahl Mosley, the Magic have found their identity with defensive-minded basketball. The Magic are the top-rated defense in the whole league, locking down every team they play. With many players outperforming expectations, the Magic are sure to look scary in coming seasons.

### The Minnesota Timberwolves

For the first time in almost two decades, Minnesota is back as a competitive team. What originally

might have been regarded as one of the worst trades of all time, the Rudy Gobert experiment in Minnesota is surprisingly working. The other top-rated defense in the NBA, the Minnesota Timberwolves are at the top of the Western Conference, with a shocking record of 17-4. Led by the superstar Anthony Edwards, and veteran leadership from Karl Anthony Towns and Mike Conley, Minnesota is a dark-horse contender for the Larry O'Brien trophy in the 2023-24 season.



# Another Disappointing Year for Bombers Fans



Sawyer Ramsay '24  
Arts and Culture Editor

The Winnipeg Blue Bombers had a great regular season this year in the Canadian Football League (CFL). All looked to be going their way and it seemed that they had a shot at reclaiming their title as Grey Cup champions, which they had lost last year. However, to the amazement of many, the Grey Cup final did not go as expected for the Bombers.

Throughout their regular season, the Bombers had a strong record which was due to their star-studded roster, their drive for victory, and their ability to work well as a team. The Bombers' offense alone was packed with some of the greatest current players in the CFL. One example of someone who showed his worth this season was Canadian running back Brady Oliveira. He signed with the Bombers in 2021 but didn't play much due to injury. From 2022 to now, he has replaced the Bombers' previous star running back, Andrew Harris, who left as a

free agent. Oliveira pulled through, achieving the second-best Canadian rushing season in the history of the CFL with an incredible 1,534 yards.

The Bombers' quarterback, Zach Collaros, also had another great season, achieving the highest grade from Professional Football Focus (PFF) in a game this season.

Dalton Schoen, a wide receiver who was in his second year with the team, also had an amazing season, but was injured right before the Grey Cup final. The Bombers also had a strong defensive line, allowing them to secure victory in tight games. Some of the standout players on the Bombers'

defense were Willie Jefferson, Jackson Jeffcoat, and Adam Bighill. With such a great team, the Bombers had a great season, winning 14 out of 18 games. They were also the number one team in the west.

Going into the Grey Cup final, everyone expected the Bombers to come out on top. They had a huge drive to win, as it was their fourth consecutive time being in the Grey Cup, having won the first two but having lost their most recent one. Earlier in the season, they expected to have been facing the Toronto Argonauts in the Grey Cup. However, in the eastern final, Montreal managed to come through on top as they

earned their spot against the Bombers in the Grey Cup final. Before the game, both Schoen and Bighill were injured, but they did end up playing in the game. The Bombers played well, but the Montreal Alouettes ended up being the stronger team and winning the game, with a final score of 24-28.

It was certainly a devastating loss for all Bombers fans, as they were eager to get the title of Grey Cup champions back. It will be interesting to see the moves the Bombers will make in the off season, which will lead fans to the question everyone is asking: can they reclaim their championship title?





# The Journey of Advent



Xavier  
Downey '24  
Contributor

(Continued from pg. 1)

The day of the Saviour’s birth is a momentous day for all Christians, as the incarnation is an extraordinary act of love given by God. He would choose to come down to earth and endure our suffering, and eventually suffer for all our sins.

Christmas is not just a singular day that is celebrated at random, but rather it is the culmination of the greater celebration of Advent. Advent begins four weeks prior to Christmas, all in preparation for Christ’s coming. This practice is observed in the Roman Catholic tradition each and every Sunday. Closer to Christmas, a candle on the Advent wreath is lit each week until there glow four candles. The first candle is the prophecy candle,

also known as the candle of hope. It is a reminder of the prophets, particularly the prophet Isaiah, who prophesised Christ’s coming. In the second week, the candle of Bethlehem is presented, also referred to as the candle of peace. It represents the remembrance of Mary’s and Joseph’s journey to Bethlehem. The third week brings the shepherd’s candle, also known as the candle of joy. It is with this candle that we are

reminded to celebrate like the shepherds did when they heard of the coming of Christ. Finally, the last week of advent brings the angels’ candle, also known as the candle of love. It represents the love given by God to all of us, and is also seen as one of His greatest gifts to humanity. These candles guide us to discern what goals to put our minds toward, namely preparing ourselves for the coming of Christ.



Daily devotional prayers are a common practice done in the Roman Catholic tradition. They each focus on a different passage from the Bible and make us reflect on our lives in preparation of the Lord’s coming. Coming closer to Christmas, many Catholics participate in acts of almsgiving. For example, here in Winnipeg, Holy Cross Parish avidly supports the impoverished, offering hot food to the poor through their Bradsbury’s meal program along with other programs during Advent. Other parishes will often encourage us to do our parts to serve others during this time, as it is crucial for us to understand Christ’s love for us and put it into action.

Christmas is the day of the Lord’s birth. We must try to understand his reason for coming during the time of Advent through prayer or daily devotionals. May this Christmas season be a time when we embrace the spirit of giving, reflecting on the true meaning of Christ’s birth, living out His teachings through selfless service to others.



# When St. Nicholas Punched a Heretic



Thomas  
Bernardin '25  
Contributor

St. Nicholas is known for his charity and generosity, the inspiration for the Christmas legend, Santa Claus. Whatever he is known for, he is appreciated by Christians and non-Christians alike. What many do not know about him, however, is that he was rumoured to have punched the leader of an incredibly famous heresy.

The first ecumenical council of 325 was a meeting of bishops to discuss and decide on the doctrinal matters of the church. The first seven ecumenical councils were called by the Roman Empire of the time, and the Council of Nicaea was called by Roman Emperor Constantine.

The council of Nicaea was tasked with determining the divine nature of the Son and the relationship between God the Father and God the Son. The two parties of the supposed brawl were St. Nicholas, who was a bishop at the time, and an



early Church father who was venerated in the Catholic, Orthodox, and Anglican churches. St. Nicholas believed in and defended what is now known as Nicene Orthodoxy. Nicene Orthodoxy is the set of beliefs outlined in the “Nicene Creed” which proclaimed Jesus as uncreated, eternal, and coequal with the Father through His divine presence. This stance is held by most Christian churches in the world, most commonly by Catholicism and Orthodoxy.

St. Nicholas’s “punching bag” was Arius. Arius was a Christian priest who lived in Alexandria in the ear-

ly fourth century. Arius advocated a unique position that was later named after him: Arianism. Arianism is the belief that the second person of the Trinity is divine, but a created being, and that the Son is not co-equal with the Father.

This belief has become less popular but is still held by Christian denominations such as Jehovah’s Witness. St. Nicholas’s belief was the consensus among the bishops, and the Nicene Creed was formed, and Arius was branded a heretic.

The tale is believed to have happened when Arius was spouting his

beliefs on the roles of the Trinity. St. Nicholas became so aggravated that he punched him directly in the mouth. This was not an act of sin, as St. Nicholas was merely warning Arius of his false teaching and was only trying to save his soul. Unfortunately for St. Nicholas, Arius did not retract his position. There is much discussion and debate over whether St. Nicholas punched Arius or not. While many Catholic and Orthodox sources agree that this did in fact happen, many historians believe that this story is simply an entertaining myth, as there is very minimal historical evidence for this.

It is a hotly debated topic regarding whether Arius was punched by St. Nicholas during the Council of Nicaea, having been scrutinized by skeptics. This is, nevertheless, a fun passing thought and is always a conversation starter amongst Christians interested in the Early Church.

Christians should view St. Nicholas as a role model and appreciate how he showed his love for the Church and his desire to preserve true teaching. They should not follow his direct examples and throw down their uncle who politely disagrees with their beliefs.



# Is Santa Real?



Castiel  
Haripersad '25  
  
Copy Editor

Have you ever stayed up on Christmas Eve waiting for Santa to arrive? You search the house for a chimney, or the back door if you don't have one. You ready yourself, not with a bowl of cookies and a glass of warm milk, but with a camera and a big sign engraved with the word, "Gotcha." Suddenly, you hear a noise coming from the Christmas tree. You run to investigate it and find something truly disturbing.

When most people discover the heinous lie your parents told you as a

child, it is not nearly as dramatic as this, but it is just as impactful. Maybe one day your parents confessed their dark secret, or maybe you realized the impossibility for Santa Claus to deliver roughly 2.2 billion gifts to every child in a single night.

However, throughout history, many people have seen Santa. Whether it was in the 4th century Roman Empire, when Myran Bishop St. Nicholas was secretly throwing gold into homes at night, or the observation made by the Apollo 8 crew on Christmas Eve in 1968, when they saw Santa orbiting around Earth. Perhaps it was the red-draped, horse-riding bishop named Sinterklaas dropping gifts in the shoes of children, or the classic mall Santa seen every year taking photos with children around the world.

Whether through myth or historical

events, Santa has always managed to make an appearance to someone at some point in time during Christmas. Even today kids can send letters to Santa through Canada Post and USPS, and track Santa on Google using the Google Santa Tracker.

However, if you ask anyone over the age of 9, they will tell you that Santa is a lie told by parents all over the world. Why do parents lie about Christmas? Children wouldn't mind being given gifts by parents if they hadn't been told Santa delivered them instead.

Many parents say that Santa makes Christmas seem more magical. However, even without Santa, the glistening snow, the excitement to receive presents, and the encouragement to care for others are more than enough to separate Christmas from any other holiday. This firmly

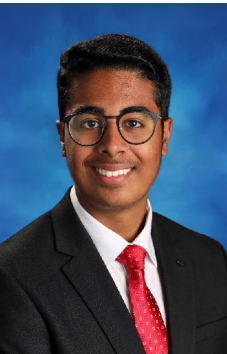
places it in everyone's mind as the most wonderful time of the year.

Santa is real in the same way that an Australian drop bear is. You cannot see it, but you know it's there. During Christmas you can feel Santa's presence all around you. It permeates through everything from simple interactions between friends and families to huge differences in the attitudes of large groups of people.

For anyone who has allowed themselves to be taken away by the goodwill of Christmas, it is difficult to argue that Santa, who spreads cheer throughout the holiday, doesn't exist, spreading good cheer throughout the holiday.



# Crusader Athletics: A Journey of Challenges and Triumphs



Samay  
Dadlani '24  
  
School Life  
Editor

(Contibued from pg. 1)

The Varsity football team's journey this year was nothing short of remarkable, defined by sheer dominance on the field. Their victories against opponents such as the Dakota Lancers, where they triumphed with a commanding 38-22 win, and the Oak Park Raiders, a resounding 32-8 victory, highlighted their strength and skill on the field, showcasing the team's exceptional abilities.

Despite the unfortunate loss, by a narrow margin of 24-21, against the Grant Park Pirates in the semi-finals of the Anavets Bowl, the team's journey throughout the season echoed their unwavering spirit and resilience.

This defeat, while difficult to swallow, only highlighted the team's grit and determination that had captivated both fans and opponents throughout the season. Kudos to Quarterback Cole Anseuw '24 for earning the WHSFL AAAA Offensive Player of the Year title, and a huge commendation to the entire team and coaching staff for a terrific year. As the curtains fall on this season, the team's steadfast dedication sets the stage for an even more de-

termined and triumphant campaign in the coming years.

Similarly, the Crusader Varsity Volleyball Team exhibited prowess and consistency this year. They displayed excellence throughout the season, showcasing their skills on various stages.



Ben Muise is off to a stellar senior season, with an 8-2 record including three shoutouts. Their outstanding performance at UBC, where they competed fiercely against top-tier teams across the nation, reflected their phenomenal abilities on a grand scale. Placing an impressive fourth, provincially, at the St. Vital Invitational Tournament, with Connor Rawniak '24 earning the All-Star award for the school, highlighted their presence among very tough competition. The team's journey also led them to the WWAC finals, where they engaged in a fierce contest against the Vincent Massey Trojans, a battle that showcased their mettle and persistence.

Despite a hard-fought effort from the Crusaders, they experienced a

tough loss in the final against the Trojans. Their outstanding performance throughout the season led them to the provincial quarterfinals, where they encountered a formidable adversary: The River East Kodiaks. The team fought courageously, taking each set to a very close battle, but ultimately succumbed to

provincial championship in early November by conquering every race they entered. Their determination and endurance propelled them to the pinnacle of success, marking a historic achievement for the Crusaders.

Our Crusader Golf team also secured the prestigious title of provincial champions for the third time in a row. Their meticulous technique, focus, and sportsmanship on the greens led them to this remarkable achievement.

Meanwhile, the Crusader hockey squad has been a force to reckon with, triumphing in 12 games while enduring only 4 losses as of December 13. Their blazing start sets the tone for a promising season ahead, fueling hopes and aspirations for greater achievements.

The Curling Team has been setting the ice ablaze with their unbeaten streak, showcasing exceptional skill and strategy on the rink.

In the world of soccer, the team's journey has been marked by a blend of victories, ties, and defeats. As of December 13, their record stands at 4 wins, 1 tie, and 4 losses.

As the year progresses, each team's victories inspire, their defeats teach, but it's their passion for the game that truly defines the Crusader Athletics. As the games continue, the Crusader spirit burns brighter than ever, illuminating the path to glory and forging unforgettable memories on the fields, courts, and tracks.

The team's season this year was a testament to dedication and collective effort, earning them lots of respect and admiration from the fans. Congratulations to all our players and the entire coaching staff on a very successful season. Keep up the great work!

On the other hand, our Cross Country Team emerged as the shining stars of the season, claiming the



# Mission Week One: A Spectacular Success!



James Chapman '24 & Matthew Wardrop '24  
Contributors

The first Mission Week of the 2023-24 school year was a spectacular success. The charity that the Maroon and White Society chose to support was Inner City Youth Alive (ICYA). ICYA is a Christian organization situated in Winnipeg's North End that aims to create a brighter future for those residing in the area. The campaign focused on two of the Universal Apostolic Preferences (UAPs): *Walking with the Marginalized* and *Journeying with Youth Towards a Hope-filled Future*.

On November 23rd, St. Paul's High School welcomed Mr. Kent Dueck and Mr. Terry Melquist to speak about the goals and visions of Mission Week. Mr. Dueck, Executive Director and Founder of ICYA, shared his devotion to helping others and his reasons for founding ICYA. Mr. Melquist, who benefited from the services provided by ICYA, gave a moving account of his experience with gangs, poverty, and a dysfunctional household throughout his childhood spent in the North End. This assembly was eye-opening for all students at St. Paul's, and set the tone for a successful week of fundraising and education.



Through dress-codes, donut-sales, and a pizza lunch, the St. Paul's community raised nearly six-thousand dollars in support of ICYA. Additionally, approximately ten large boxes of non-perishable food items were collected from the community, and they too have been donated to the organization.

More importantly, however, Mission Week One provided opportunities for insight and growth. On Wednesday, November 29th, all students participated in educational workshops, which focused on understanding the issues that the less privileged in our city face, and how we, as youth, can take action. Workshops were led by guest speakers, teachers, and Maroon and White members, and the feedback received in the aftermath of the workshops was overwhelmingly positive. Wednesday after school, a speaker came and spoke to a group of St. Paul's students about Truth and Reconciliation, followed by a smudging ceremony.

Lastly, the Maroon and White Society hopes to continue to walk with and support Inner City Youth Alive heading into the New Year with a basketball clinic at ICYA that will see St. Paul's High School alumni, Varsity, and Junior Varsity athletes interacting and teaching youth in the North End to play basketball. Once again, on behalf of the Maroon and White Society, we would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to all the students and parents for their grateful support during this mission week; we look forward to making the next one even more impactful and memorable.

# The Wizard of Oz: A Smashing Hit! 🏠



Sean Ehmann '24  
Head Copy Editor

If you walked into Murray Hall anytime in the past few weeks, you would be forgiven if you thought you had found yourself in the Kan-

sas Prairie, on the Yellow Brick Road, or even in the Emerald City. That's because from November 30th to December 1st, the St. Paul's Dramatic Society, led by Ms. Jennifer Walker, put on a stellar performance of *The Wizard of Oz*.

Auditions began in September with the resumption of classes, with rehearsals beginning shortly after. Many students jumped at the opportunity to perform, with only the most talented being selected by

Ms. Walker to bring her vision to life. This year's fall production was marked by the incorporation of St. Mary's students for the first time since the pandemic. The cast was led by Derek Barrientos '26 as Donnie, Owen Taylor '25 as the Cowardly Lion, Hollie Horner as the Tin Man, and Toe Toe Moo '24 as the Scarecrow.

Over months, the cast learned their cues, practiced their lines, and readied their emotive talents to bring the World of Oz to the stage. Meanwhile, the stage crew, headed by Mr. Sterner, was hard at work trying to bring the World of Oz from the imagination of Ms. Walker to the sets of Murray Hall.

Before the gates to the Emerald City had even opened, excitement for the play was at an all-time high. Each night of the play was sold out a week in advance, with audiences eager to see the students of St. Paul's and St. Mary's take the stage.

Although he may have played the villainous Wicked Witch of the West, Baljot Rai '24 inspired the cast brilliantly moments before they

took the stage, reciting the Actor's prayer on each night of performance with each prayer ending: "...Through every scene please hide my gaffes, grant me power over tears and laughs, prompt me to speak my lines as writ, and make this play a smashing hit!"

The cast took those lines to heart and made every night a smashing success. Murray Hall was packed, achieving record attendance on every night with cheers only getting louder as the play progressed. The first night went seemingly well, followed by a second night disrupted only briefly because of the utterance of a certain Scottish tragedy. The final night was certainly the finest of them all, capped off by the infamous St. Mary's scream after the curtain call and the traditional postproduction Boston Pizza dinner on Saturday night. Now the St. Paul's Dramatic Society turns its attention to its spring production. Although it won't take place until Spring 2024, one thing is clear: just like *The Wizard of Oz*, it's likely to be a smashing hit.





# St. Paul’s Speech and Debate



Landon Pinette  
'26  
  
Contributor

(Continued from pg. 1)

The first sign of success was seen at the 23rd Annual Angus Reid Debate Tournament. This tournament is the equivalent of provincials for British Parliamentary debate and is also a qualifier for nationals. After three rounds of debate at St. Paul’s High School, the results were in, and we did not disappoint. Evan Peters ’25 and Nazar Bobelyak ’25 placed first overall, becoming provincial champions! Isaac Lavitt ’25 and Landon Pinette ’26 placed ninth overall. These debaters along with others - Nathan Poklar ’24, Sean Ehmann ’24, Darius Martin ’24, and Maksim Thomas ’25 - would qualify for the Canadian British Parliamentary Debating Nationals.

The annual Canadian British Parliamentary Asper Cup Debating National Tournament was held in Winnipeg this year. Spanning three days at three different schools, this exciting tournament is a showcase of intellectual prowess and the unique format of British Parliamentary Debate. After six rounds spanning two days, it was time to find out the results and more importantly, who would be advancing to the quarter finals.

After anxiously waiting, we learned that Evan Peters and Nazar Bobelyak had placed in the top sixteen teams in Canada and would be advancing to the quarterfinals! This came after placing first in three of their six debates. However, after a very well-spoken quarter final round and a tough judging call, Evan and Nazar had lost and would not be advancing any further. They did, however, get a shiny plaque for their efforts.

Only a few weeks later, the debate team took on their final tournament of the calendar year - the Rupert’s Land Debate and Public Speaking Tournament. In addition to debate, students had the option of either writing a persuasive speech or partaking in the impromptu speaking category. All in all, success at this tournament was massive. St Paul’s won the award for best school at the tournament with a multitude of our students winning medals in their respective categories. Defying all odds, students Evan Peters ’25 and Baljot Rai ’24 have qualified for the National Public Speaking Championships which will be hosted in February. Best of luck to them and congratulations to all the students that have partaken is one or more of these events this year!

Provided with delicious snacks, an appetite for logic, and a desire to make friends from across the country, the St. Paul’s debate team continues to dominate on both the provincial and national level. This year’s debate and public speaking success will surely be remembered for years to come.



## Coding at Gonzaga



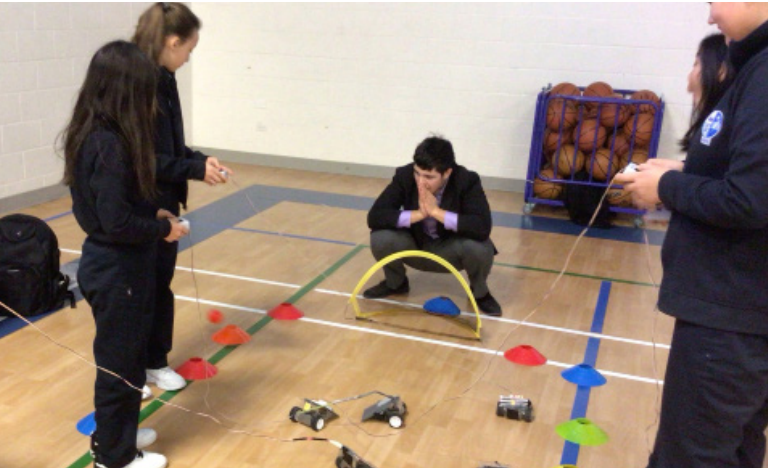
Andrew  
Mainella ’24  
  
Website  
Editor

On Tuesday, Dec. 12th, the Grade 12 computer science (CS) class visited Gonzaga Middle School, on a mission to educate young students about the many possibilities in computer science. Split into four groups, students learned about micro-bits, cryptology, and the essentials of coding. The experience was formative for all who participated, providing us with valuable experience in working with younger students and adapting to circumstances as they presented themselves.

The students at Gonzaga dis-

played a keen aptitude for computer science, with over half stating that they would be interested in pursuing a career in the field. As part of the “Hour of Code” group, I had the opportunity to lead a productive and enjoyable workshop. We began by introducing the students to computer science and had a hearty discussion on the subject. This was followed by a presentation on computer science history and prominent individuals, such as Ada Lovelace and Tim-Burners Lee. To conclude, they participated in an entire hour of code! Many students thoroughly enjoyed the activity and were excited about the opportunity to learn something new.

I would like to thank Gonzaga Middle School and their students and staff for the opportunity to educate students on the great world of computer science!



## Santa’s Slay



Isaac Lavitt ’25  
  
Deputy Editor

can be in the room during the kill other than the victim and assassin.

Furthermore, the assassin can also kill their target by handing them something while they are the only ones in the room. This led to a much faster paced game than other years, lasting only three days before only one teacher left was standing.

Although others were quite zealous as well, Ms. Higginson singlehandedly killed seven staff members, ending up on top. On the first day, Mr. Whitfield was killed during a conversation in the hallway. Mr. Havixbeck soon suffered the same fate.

Mr. Spiring was captured just before a mad sprint to the door, alas he was too slow. Ms. Samyn was killed in the science lab. Mr. Lewin was killed in his office. Ms. Horne, although evading Ms. Higginson for some time, was quickly dispatched, leaving just two. Mr. McPherson, although cunning, was terminated before he could kill Ms. Higginson, crowning her as this year’s champion.

Commenting on this win, Ms. Higginson clarified that the staff, “Do not really want to kill each other, it is really just good fun.”

It is that time of year again. Carols are in the air, Santas decorate the windows with fairy lights and Christmas trees are aglow. And in this most festive of seasons, the teachers once again attempt to murder one another.

You see, each year around this time, the staff play the game “Santa’s Slay”, an assassination game where each faculty member is assigned a target to eliminate. The rules are simple, the game is intense, and most of all, the school is filled with one last hurrah before the Christmas break.

The goal of Santa’s Slay is quite simple: the last teacher standing wins. Teachers who wish to participate are each assigned targets to “kill” by taking a selfie with the victim without any other participants or students in the photo.

However, in this fray, each faculty member is also hounded by another. This year tested some new rules. Coroner Mr. Fiebelkorn this year removed the restriction that nobody



# A Note from the Editor



Baljot Rai '24  
Chief Editor

Greetings St. Paul's Community,

We are delighted to share with you the second issue of Volume 77 of *The Crusader News*, our 2023 Holiday Edition. Our wonderful editors, contributors and artists have been hard at work for the past two months, putting together this edi-

tion. I would like to thank them all for their efforts.

As a thick coat of snow (finally!) covers the ground and a festive air is in our hallways, we dedicate this edition to the celebration of this joyous season.

Read about the Dramatic Society's recent production in Sean Ehmann's "*The Wizard of Oz: A Smashing Hit!*," indulge yourself in the Quebec political scene in Nathan Poklar's article entitled "the CAQ begins to crack" or speculate as to true nature of Father Christmas in Castiel Haripersad's "Is Santa Real?" Also, laugh at the teacher

look-alikes below!

If those don't float your boat, then feel free to check out any of the other dozens of articles written by our spectacular *Crusader News* writers.

Contemplate the meaning of the season – a festive time of community, giving and joy. Amidst global chaos and conflict, reflect upon unity and the need to walk united towards peace and harmony

Paper copies are available throughout the school, in classrooms and the library, or in the Newsroom. Alternatively, you can check out our website at [thecrusadernews.ca](http://thecrusadernews.ca).

If you're interested in writing for *The Crusader News* for our next edition, listen to the announcements for the date and time of our next all-comers meeting. Or feel free to shoot me (Baljot Rai) a message on Teams with any inquires you have about joining the *Crusader News* team.

On behalf of everyone at *The Crusader News*, we wish you a pleasant winter break, a very Merry Christmas, and a happy new year!

## A Blast from the Past: Separated at Birth?



Mr. Voth



Mr. Burns



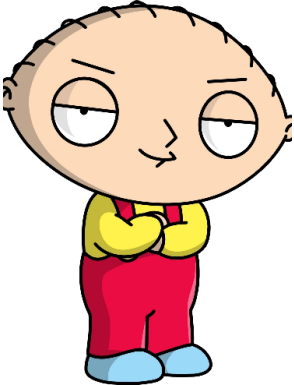
Mrs. McGill



That Vegan Teacher



Mr. Stadnyk



Stewie Griffins



Mr. McPherson



Paul McCartney



Mr. Havixbeck



Sheldon Cooper



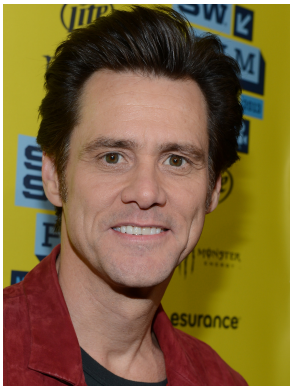
Ms. Walker



Edna Mode



Mr. Sterner



Jim Carrey



Mrs. Ridley



Anne Hathaway



Mr. Dainard



Mr. Incredible



Mr. Hurton



Bryan Cranston



Dr. Puchniak



Dumbledore



Mr. Burton



Ricky Gervais



- Across
- 3. The first ghost in A Christmas Carol
  - 7. “All I Want for Christmas” singer
  - 9. Word preceding chocolate, takes, or dog
  - 10. Ice stalactites
  - 11. 1960s band which recently posthumously released “Now and Then”
  - 14. The postal code for Santa’s Workshop
  - 18. The Big Man himself
  - 20. A Christmas ballet, composed by Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky
  - 21. Refrain in “Deck the Halls”
  - 22. Answer to the question: Is Santa Real?
  - 23. A late-night Christmas liturgy
  - 27. It was between December 7 to 15 this year, eight crazy nights...
  - 29. The St. Paul’s Dramatic Society’s latest hit
  - 30. Safety device that has caused controversy in the NHL
  - 32. The name of a certain angel
  - 33. The last day of school this year
  - 34. It’s like a fake beard, but for your head

- Down
- 1. F in TFR
  - 2. Ad Maiorum Dei Gloriam
  - 4. Music streaming site known for the “wrapped” summary of the year
  - 5. \_\_\_\_ ring, are you listening?
  - 6. This year’s TFR acronym
  - 7. A plant to kiss under
  - 8. Genuine or authentic
  - 12. A season of anticipation
  - 13. He attacked a heretic, then began distributing dowries
  - 14. A movie company known for clichés and Christmastime
  - 15. Another Christmas plant
  - 16. You can find them for \$1.50 at the caf
  - 17. Crusader News writer who questions the existence of Santa
  - 19. An NBA team, or how Santa circumnavigates the globe in one night
  - 24. Big socks to be stuffed with presents
  - 25. Artificially intelligent writer
  - 26. TV staple which celebrated its 60th anniversary this year
  - 28. Winged and beautiful, but not when Biblically accurate
  - 29. Christmas tree material
  - 31. Santa’s little helpers

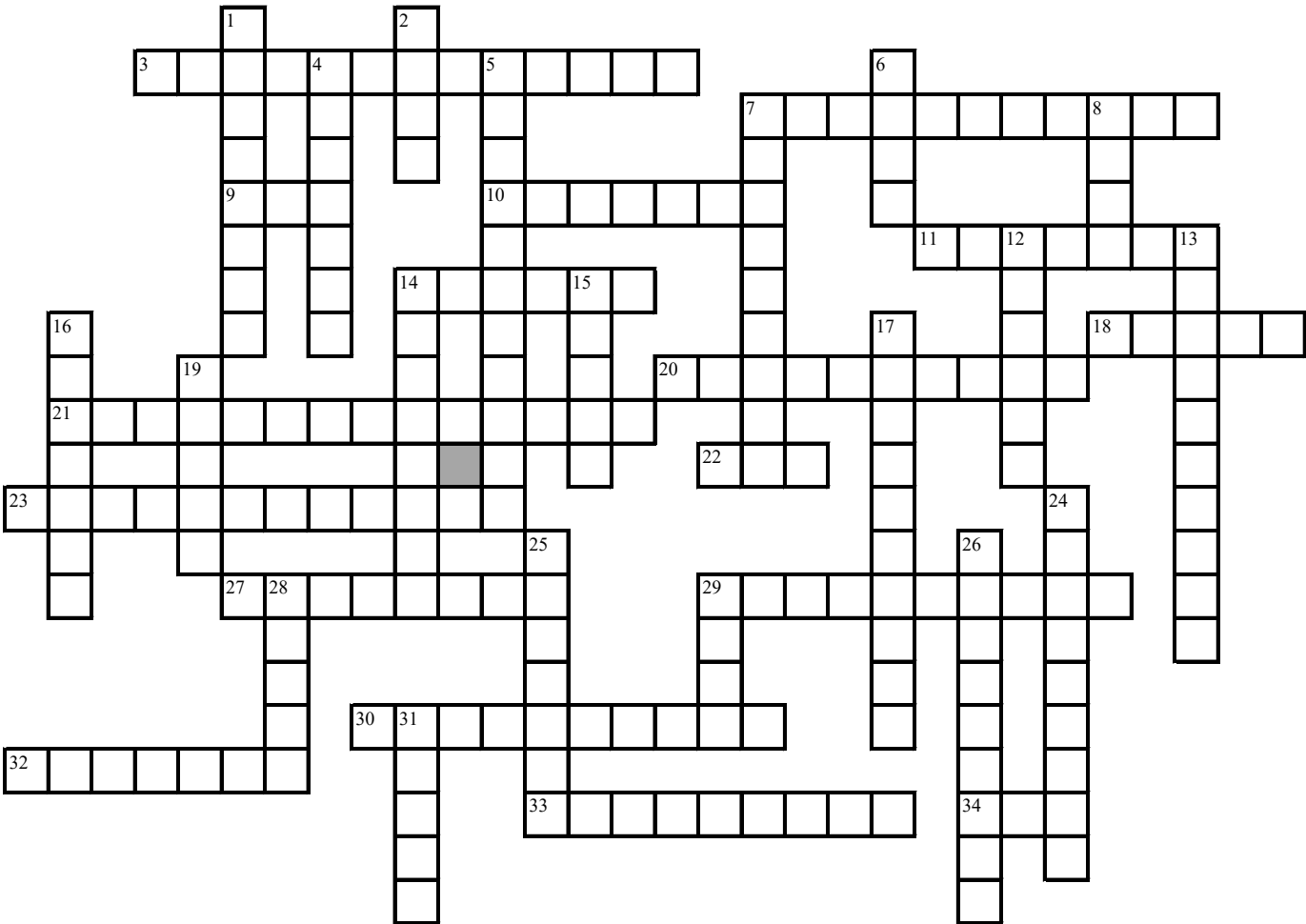


Comic by  
Toe Toe Moo ’24

Cartoonist



## Crossword



Answers online at [thecrusadernews.ca](http://thecrusadernews.ca)  
Crossword by Isaac Lavitt ’25

## Photo Credits

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St. Nicholas: Giovanni Gasparro  
Journey Of Advent: Isaac Lavitt  
Crusader Athletics: Luke Perrett  
Debate: Franeli Yadao  
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Lebron James: Soobum Im/USA Today Sports  
NBA Teams – Haleis: Nathan J. Fish/The Oklahoman  
Norris Trophy – Filizadeh & Sidhu: Chris Unger/Getty Images  
NHL And Neck Guards – Perrett: Patrick Smith/Getty Images  
Blue Bombers – Ramsay: John Woods/Canadian Press  
Gonzaga Middle School: Mrs. Karen Latimer

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Head Layout Editor, William “Comet” O’Donnell ’24  
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School Life Copy Editor, Daniel “Little Drummer Boy” Stipanovic ’25  
Sports Copy Editor, Nazar “Cindy-Lou Who” Bobelyak ’25

## Upcoming Events

Winter break: Dec. 22, 2023 - Jan. 7, 2024  
Return to School: Monday, Jan. 8, 2024  
Grade 12 Provincial ELA Exam: Jan. 9-12, 2024  
Open House: Jan. 11, 2024  
School Liturgy: Jan. 24, 2024  
Semester 1 Exams: Jan. 25-31, 2024  
Semester 2 Classes Begin: Feb. 5, 2024  
Grade 9/10 Pancake Breakfast: Feb. 12, 2024  
Grade 11/12 Pancake Breakfast: Feb. 13, 2024  
Ash Wednesday Mass: Feb. 14, 2024  
PD Day: Feb. 16, 2024  
Louis Riel Day (No School): Feb. 19, 2024  
Grade 10 Retreat: Feb. 23, 2023

