

TheRoyalGazette.

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Off to See the Wizard!



Ancaster High's brand new musical theatre class brings their performance of the timeless story to the stage. **pg 10**

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A criticism of Doug Ford's time in term. **pg 6**

Bohemian Rhapsody

Reviewing the movie about the band that changed the world. **pg 14**

This Month's Highlights

Ashley Barry and Anne Fu

Get the most important articles right away. Here's some of the top stories of December.

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We hope that the Grade 8s and their families were informed and delighted by the fantastic opportunities here at Ancaster High and look forward to attending our school in September of 2019!

Ancaster High



Above: Avina Patel and Ola Elsharif representing DECA. Ashley Barry/The Royal Gazette



Above: Grainger McCarthy, Farrah Sherrard, Lauren Sneath, Jenna Scott and Millie Wighardt representing the Positive Space club. Ashley Barry/The Royal Gazette

Ancaster High's annual Grade 8 Open House was held on the evening of Wednesday November 21st from 6:00pm-8:00pm. This event offered future Royals a glimpse of what their high school career may hold regarding Ancaster Highs' faculty, courses, clubs, and programs.

Students and their parents who attended this evening engaged with student leaders and staff around the school and gathered information about Ancaster High's many opportunities. In Gym A/B, the heads of each subject department were set up to provide information about the course details associated with their subjects. Alongside that setup, the cafeteria was decorated with posters displaying the wide variety of clubs at Ancaster High. With these colourful club posters, came a group of wonderful student leaders who participated by sharing the motives of each club among students and their families, hopefully sparking interest within our next generation of Grade 9s. Complimenting the club fair was Tim Hortons' coffee and Timbits to treat our guests for choosing to visit our Open House, and volunteers for dedicating their time to the event. Because of the fantastic turnout, we hope that the Grade 8s and their families were informed and delighted by the fantastic opportunities here at Ancaster High and look forward to attending our school in September of 2019!

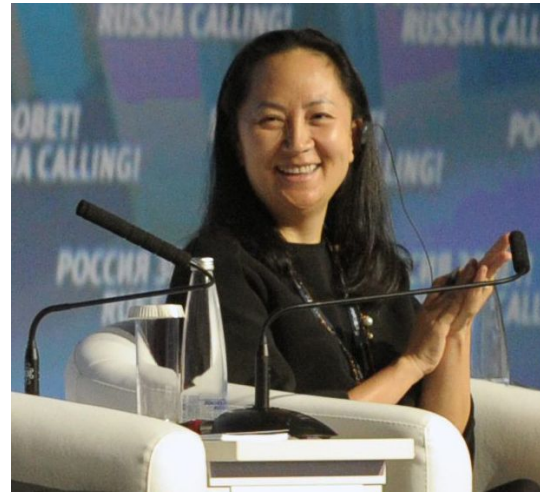
Canada

Huawei CFO Arrested

Meng Wanzhou, the Chief Financial Officer of Chinese-based tech giant Huawei, was arrested on December 1 by Canadian officials in Vancouver, under claims made by the US government that she had allegedly covered up violations of sanctions placed on Iran.

Although the request for Meng's arrest had been issued by an American judge in August, she was not arrested until this month, and a press ban kept the details of the case secretive until now. Meng was detained on accounts of believing to have told financial institutions that a subsidiary of Huawei was a separate company, thus sidestepping US sanctions.

Many believe that this arrest is another sharp crack in the delicate balance of China-USA relations currently, especially with it coming right after President Donald Trump and President Xi Jinping reached a truce in their trade war. China has already responded with condemnation, calling for Meng's release, and recently, former Canadian diplomat Michael Kovrig was detained in China, under accusations of endangering Chinese national security. One editorial in the Chinese state-owned newspaper the Global Times, claimed that Meng was arrested in order to damage Huawei's reputation, and obstruct its ability to compete in American-dominated tech markets.



Above: Huawei CFO Meng Wangzhou, who is also the daughter of Huawei founder Ren Zhengfei, serves as a top executive in the company, which is also one of the largest tech companies worldwide. In the third quarter of 2018, the company shipped some 52 million new phones - even more than Apple's 46.9 million. **Alexei Druzhinin/TASS**

World

Time Magazine has named Jamal Khashoggi, a Saudi Arabian journalist who was a well-known critic of his country's government, as well as many other imprisoned, threatened and murdered journalists, including the Capital Gazette, Maria Ressa, Wa Lone and Kyaw Soe Oo, as its Person of the Year.

Khashoggi, an outspoken critic of the Saudi government, was murdered some 2 months ago by a government hit team, after entering an consulate and never reappearing. It is believed his body was cut up, and later dissolved in acid. Saudi Arabia faces international condemnation for the killings.

Among the others recognized include Maria Ressa, the founder of Filipino online news site Ressler in 2012. The site's journalism license was taken away, after revealing that President Rodrigo Duterte was suspected to have used Facebook bots to spread his message during the election. Wa Lone and Kyaw Soe Oo are 2 Reuters journalists, sentenced to prison for 7 years while investigating the mass murders of 10 Rohingya men. The Capital Gazette is a newspaper in Annapolis, Maryland, which was the site of a mass shooting in which 5 of its staff were murdered by a gunman upset by old coverage about him.

This year's Person of the Year recognized the journalists and truth-seekers - what Time Magazine referred to as the "Guardians", and those who face significant risks in order to report and investigate the truth.

“This year's Person of the Year recognized... those who face significant risks in order to report and investigate the truth.”

Some **81 journalists** were killed in 2017 as a result of their work. (International Federation of Journalists, 2017)



Left: Time Magazine's cover for the Person of the Year issue, featuring Khashoggi. His assassination has sparked great controversy about violence against journalists worldwide.



CELEBRATIONS

World Kindness Day

The nicest holiday on the planet brings some well-needed love and change into the world.



Emaan Tora – *Writer*

- World Kindness Day was first introduced in 1998.
- Canada celebrates WDK with the Kindness Concert.
- The holiday is observed internationally, from Nigeria to Japan.
- Kindness has been scientifically proven to keep you healthier.

As humans, we sometimes get so caught up in the busyness of life that we neglect those we care about. We get so preoccupied with getting work done and rushing from one task to the next that we confuse what our priorities should be, and forget to be kind. World kindness day is an annual international holiday that takes place on November 13th. This holiday, also known as “Random Acts of Kindness Day”, focuses on one of mankind’s more positive traits; being kind. It was first introduced in 1997 at a conference in Tokyo, Japan, by a group of kindness NGO’s known as, “The World Kindness Movement”. However, it was not officially launched until November of 2000 in Singapore. The creators of this holiday started it with hopes of encour-

aging others to show kindness, expecting nothing in return. They stated that “[t]he mission of the WKM is to inspire individuals towards greater kindness and to connect nations to create a kinder world”, and that they “encourage individuals of other nations to establish kindness movements within their countries and collaborate on global initiatives through membership to The World Kindness Movement.”

Unlike holidays like Christmas or Halloween that are celebrated in very specific ways, WKD (World Kindness Day) is a holiday where how each individual celebrates is left to their own discretion. Some people choose to celebrate this day by surprising a coworker or friend with a coffee in the morning, others may reconnect

with a family member or friend and check up on how they’re doing. The beauty of this holiday is that it reminds us to take the little bit of time and effort to put forth small gestures that could make someone’s day. Our school, unfortunately, does not have anything planned this year, but you can still play your part and potentially help come up with ideas for next year’s celebrations. This World Kindness Day, on Tuesday December 13th, remember to do something small to make someone’s day a little better; and remember: “Be kind whenever possible, [for] it is always possible.” - The 14th Dalai Lama.

Our Plastic PROBLEM

HOW ANCASTER'S DOING THEIR PART

Kaden Rashid – *Writer*



Above: Plastic litters the shores of Punta Cana, Dominican Republic. **Dustan Woodhouse/Unsplash**

Did you know that plastic water bottles take approximately 500 years to decompose? This means that all plastic water bottles that have not been recycled in the past are still on earth today!

According to many sources, about 90% of plastic in Canada is not recycled, meaning that we really need to step up. All of this excess recycling ends up in landfills, oceans, and lakes, which is a tremendous hazard to wildlife. Plastic can cause marine life many troubles, such as suffocation and digestive problems. If protecting the ocean isn't your thing, know that when a human digests marine food that has been contaminated by plastic, the human can also be harmed. Plastic has been linked to causing different types of cancer, problems in the immune system, and birth defects. Phthalates, a chemical used to increase flexibility, transparency and durability in plastics is now found in 8 out of 10 babies and almost every adult.

So what can we do? A couple simple solutions are to cut as

much plastic out of your life as you can and to recycle properly. You can switch out your plastic water bottles for reusable metal bottles, and replace plastic straws with metal ones. Both of these make a huge difference because plastic straws and bottle caps are not recyclable. This means that every time you use it, it is going to end up in a landfill and will eventually cause harm to the environment. A couple of other items to keep out of the recycling bin are plastic bags, foam cups and coloured plastic.

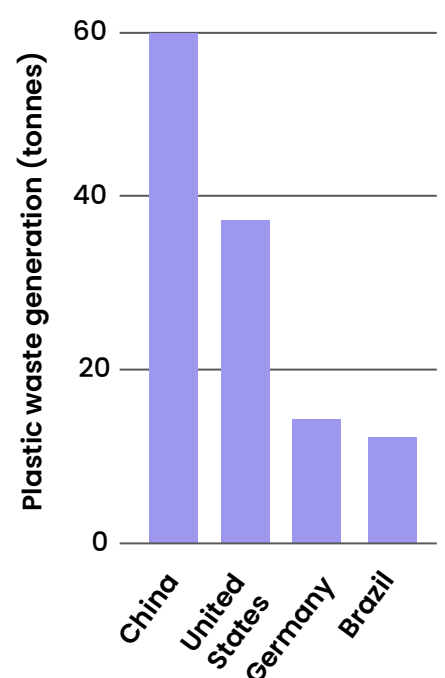
Over the last several weeks, the marketing team at Ancaster High has been running a campaign to improve the efforts in our school. Some of these efforts have included games in the cafeteria and posters around the school. Also,

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About 90% of plastic in Canada is not recycled, meaning that we really need to step up.

a raffle was run for the classes with the best recycling, with the winner receiving a pizza party. We thank all of you that have taken part in this, and will continue to do so in the future. Remember, recycling is great, so participate.

Top plastic waste generators, 2010



Our World in Data, September 2018

ACTIVISM

#ThisIsNotConsent

The #This Is Not Consent movement seeks to raise awareness of consent and victim blaming.

Right: Hundreds of protesters attended the lunchtime rally at the Dublin Spire. **Gareth Chaney/Collins**



Darya Soufian – *Writer*



In recent news, there has been an outbreak of protests surrounding the hashtag #ThisIsNotConsent. This hashtag has been used on various social media platforms to remind people that an individual's clothing choices, and more specifically, lingerie choices, are not reasonable arguments or evidence that they consent to any sexual acts.

In Scotland in 2001, a 17-year-old female, Lindsay Armstrong, was a victim of rape by a 15-year-old male. The case was taken to trial in 2002, whe-



Lindsay Armstrong was just **17 years old** when she was raped. The underwear she wore on that day was cited as evidence of consent in her trial. She committed suicide 2 weeks later.

re the rape victim was forced to hold up her underwear in court. She was then told to read the words that were printed on the front of her underwear, which read: 'Little Devil'. The lawyer of the accused argued that the underwear she was wearing suggested that she consented to the sex that occurred between the two parties. Two weeks after the trial, Lindsay Armstrong took her own life.

Last month on November 6th, a 27-year-old male was accused of raping a 17-year-old girl in Northern Ireland. Prosecutors said she was dragged into a muddy alleyway and raped by this man, who claims that she gave him consent. As the trial proceeded, defense attorney Elizabeth O'Connell suggested the victim was lying about giving consent, and said that she may have been attracted to the man. She asked the jury to consider the underwear worn by the female at the time of the rape, just like what occurred in the 2001 Armstrong case.

O'Connell said herself that: "[the victim] was wearing a thong with a lace front" ... But

what was her point? Yes, women wear thongs. Some like lace, some do not, but does that detail mean that women who wear a certain type of fabric automatically give consent? It does not, and it should not. Clothing choices do not determine an individual's choice to consent. Your voice does, your actions do, but not the pieces of clothing you choose to wear everyday. Why is a type of fabric sexualized in a way that justifies why a young woman was sexually assaulted?

What aggravates me the most is the people who take this topic lightly, or simply just take it as a joke. What if a case like this happened to you or someone close to you? Cases like these happen more often than people think or know, and it is necessary for the public to be aware of these instances. The more people who know, and the more people who make the choice to support the victims and not the rapists, then the bigger the movement becomes. Actions speak louder than words, and the only way we can solve this ongoing issue of excusing rapist based off of fashion choices is to stop ignoring the problem.

OPINION

Critiquing Ford's Policies

Doug Ford's terms as Premier of Ontario have been met with mixed reactions.

Farrah Sherrard – *Writer*



As of **September 2018**, Doug Ford's approval rating is **37%** – down 3% from the 40% that got him elected.

Source: Dart Insights



Above: Doug Ford was sworn in as premier of Ontario at Queen's Park on June 29, 2018. **Alex Tétreault/Canada's National Observer**

Let's keep this brief.

The Doug Ford government did not waste any time in getting back at Toronto for not voting for him in the 2014 mayoral election. This was shown by reducing the Toronto council from 47 seats to 25 seats during the municipal election. Of course, the reasoning behind this change was based under the pretenses of saving the taxpayers money (\$25 million supposedly), but it didn't. Normally, there would be a procedure to reduce the number of council members, but Doug said screw that and used the Notwithstanding Clause, a loophole in our democracy that allows the premier to override the constitution whenever they want; think executive order down in the states.

There is also the controversial move to promote a family friend, the under-qualified Ron Trevor as OPP. If you don't understand the severity of this move, please consult every

country whose leader elected family friends into power.

Next, is the Hydro One, capitalism's unfortunate consequence. Long story short, Hydro One distributes the majority of Ontario power and was publicly owned, until the former liberal government under, Kathleen Wynne, privatized 53% of it, and to the surprise of no one the cost of hydro bills doubled. Doug ran on to fix the damage that the liberals cause by firing the CEO who earned \$6.2 million last year. He did accomplish this under the intent of saving the taxpayers money, but the situation got worse. The CEO got \$10 million upon retiring, and the guy replacing the CEO of Hydro One is said to earn \$4 million. Hydro One was said to purchase a US utility company but because the government meddled with a mostly private company, the deal was broken by a regulator, costing \$185 million.

In terms of ethics and basic

human decency, social conservatives leave a lot to be desired.

Sexual education is extremely important both for understanding the physicalities of growing up and safe sex, but also socially by the way of consent, identity, and respect. For some reason, Conservatives don't understand the latter's importance, and undermined it by reversing the sex-ed curriculum to the 1998 version, which is older than any student in the school. With this comes the removal of topic coverage such as: masturbation, choices other than abstinence, names of genitalia, sexual and gender identities, First Nations and Metis cultures, consent and sexual assault, and updates to online sexual harassment and child pornography. The HWDSB has not conformed to the new curriculum and will continue to teach the 2015 version.

The government also cut funding to French schools and

also halted the minimum wage hike at \$14/hour.

The hottest take right now is on the federal and Ontario carbon tax and climate change plans, showing the Conservatives' complete disregard for our provinces environmental health. The Ontario government is currently fighting the federal carbon tax under the pretenses of saving the taxpayers money (are you sensing a trend?), although fighting the tax will cost approximately \$35 million of taxpayers' money. The carbon tax actually would give money to people who pollute the least, mainly residential taxes and to schools, hospitals, and other public buildings, you know the thing taxes do. The new plan is going to pay the highest GHG emitters

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The hottest take right now is on the federal and Ontario carbon tax and climate change plans showing the Conservatives complete disregard for our provinces environmental health.

to reduce their emission? Yes, we may have to give our money to companies who pollute more to pollute less. If this isn't making sense to you, don't worry. It doesn't make sense. Doug also scraped the Green Energy Act and cancelled hundreds of contracts with green energy developers which, has resulted in thousands of job losses, which is very interesting to consider giv-

en that Conservatives love creating jobs. It's almost as if they only want to say they want to create more jobs, but will only create jobs that follow their agenda (wait a minute). The Green Energy Act's main purpose is to develop solar, wind and other forms of renewable energy. Doug has also threatened to allow for the industrialization of the Green Belt, which intended to stop people from building in large areas to protect that land's environment.

One of the only good things the Doug Government has done is changing the regulations of the ODSP (Ontario Disability Support System). The ODSP has good intentions by supporting people who earn little and who have a disability, however, it has been criticized for its problematic legal loopholes and dependency/laziness. The changes are said to start in early January, so we will have to see where that goes in 2019.

Make what you will from the situation, because many of you, including parents, staff and several high school students will be voting in the next provincial election.

80,000 jobs

were lost in August of 2018, under Ford's administration. It is speculated that this may be due to the increased minimum wage by the Liberals, or just from regular seasonal fluctuation.

Source: The Toronto Star



Above: Ford's time as premier of Ontario has been met with a variety of views. **Rene Johnston/Toronto Star**

Tracking Ford's Campaign Promises

Source: ford.polimeter.org

Completed	In Progress	Broken
<div>● Repeal the minimum wage increase to \$15 per hour</div> <div>● Remove CEO and the entire board of Hydro One as his first act as Premier</div> <div>● Revert the current sex-ed curriculum back to the 1998 sex-ed curriculum</div>	<div>● Reform the current EQAO testing model</div> <div>● Invest \$1.9 billion over 10 years in mental health, addictions and housing supports</div> <div>● Eliminate enormous salaries at Ontario Power Generation and Hydro One</div>	<div>● Sell cannabis from LCBO stores</div> <div>● Order a line-by-line value for money audit of government spending</div> <div>● Continue Ontario's basic income pilot project</div>



TEACHER INSIDER

Mr. Perkins

Hailing from Ancaster High's math department, Mr. Perkins works to change students' perspectives on the subject.

Meghan Loten and Gabriel Farion - *Writers*



Mr. Perkins is one of the many devoted math teachers at Ancaster High School and is adored by his current and former students. He changes his students' attitudes towards math through the involvement of real-life situations within the math curriculum. Mr. Perkins has been teaching at Ancaster High School for 8 years. Throughout those years, he has committed his time to helping students become successful at math and Alternative Education, as well as being involved with the Ancaster High Golf Team.

Q: What classes do you teach at Ancaster High School?

A: MCV4U, MDM4U, MFM1P, MPM1D, MPM2D, MFM2P, MCR3U, MBF3C, MHF4U, alt-Ed.

Q: What inspired you to become a teacher?

A: "I liked math in highschool but it was boring, like super boring. I originally wanted to be an engineer, I had to go back for an extra year to take an algebra geometry course that wasn't offered in my grade 12 year, and so that I wasn't just taking one

class they let me take peer tutoring. So I peer tutored for a grade 9 applied math class and I loved it."

Q: What is the most memorable experience you have had while teaching at Ancaster High School?

A: "It's is the "aha" moment. It happens all the time. Witnessing the "aha" moment in math when students are working through a problem, something that was really challenging for them and just watching it click. Especially trig identities, that's the best one. Watching them get fired up for that, it's a lot of fun. Oh and also having to shave my legs on stage for the cut cancer assembly."

Q: What are your hobbies and interests?

A: "Math, obviously. Hockey, golf, football, and coaching. Playing guitar, even though I'm not very good."

Q: What do you believe is the most important thing for a student to learn before going to university?

A: "Time management, 100%. Going to university is a very eye-opening experience because you are going to have deadlines creeping up on you and multiple tests on the same day. So being able to manage that is so important. Make sure you make time for yourself because the workload is insane."

Q: What is the most difficult factor about teaching math?

A: "Math-phobia, 100%. Trying to break those barriers. If you haven't had a good experience in math class before, it is easy to carry it forward in other math classes. Establishing confidence and perseverance to break that math-phobia, that is what you have to do. You've got to make people not give up. It is okay to challenge yourself. It is okay to be wrong. We learn from being wrong. It's awful, math anxiety is real, being able to break that comes into those two things. Normally the confidence comes from proper test prep and teaching people how to study, and perseverance is something you learn in the classroom."

TEACHER INSIDER

Ms. Del Cotto Kaminski

Mrs. Del Cotto works in the English department at Ancaster High.

Emily Outerbridge and Finola Smiley – *Editor-in-Chief and Writer*



Q : how many schools have you taught at? Which one has been your favourite?

A: I've taught at six phenomenal schools. My favourite has definitely been Ancaster High. The students are awesome. They are kind, cordial, intelligent and I look forward to seeing them as leaders of society.

Q: What high school did you go to?

A: I went to St. Thomas Moore high school.

Q: What were you like in high school?

A: I was extremely intelligent and outgoing. I was selected for the school fashion show and was a sprinter on the track and field team.

Q: What are some of your favourite teaching methods? Why?

A: One of my favourite teaching methods is using oral communication to make difficult text such as Shakespearean drama entertaining and accessible to all students-inclusivity. Another one of my favourite teaching methods is "student led conferencing" to teach essay writing. I also love using class writing portfolios to teach metacognition.

Q: What is some advice you have for students?

A: To become an excellent writer, take on the persona of great writers such as Margaret Atwood and Stephen King and incorporate some of their word selection into your own writing.

Q: Favourite music genre/artist?

A: My favourite genre is jazz, and I enjoy Diane Krall and Harry Conick Jr.

Q: Would you say you are more of an introvert or an extrovert? Why?

A: I am defiantly an extrovert and I am a very outgoing person. I enjoy interacting with people and I have many interesting friends.

Q: What is your favourite class to teach?

A: My favourite class is grade 11 University English.

Q: How long have you been teaching?

A: I am going into my 30th year of teaching.

Q: What was your dream job as a kid?

A: My dream job as a kid was to be a dentist and to teach at the school of dentistry as a PhD.

Q: What are your hobbies and interests?

A: I love going to musicals, skiing and training dogs.

Q: Best teaching memory?

A: My best teaching memory was when my Ancaster High school students performed Macbeth and I was given a handmade cake for my birthday. Also, when my Hill Park students performed Johnny Depp's Alice in Wonderland for my birthday.

Q: Favourite thing about being a teacher?

A: I love listening to my students, watching them grow and witnessing them have successful careers in school and outside of school.

Q: Why did you want to be a high school teacher?

A: I'm a real "people person" and I love sharing my knowledge and ideas with young adults. I have an in-depth knowledge of my subject area, English. As well I am a published author and I feel that I have a lot of wisdom to share. I also have a passion for Shakespearean theatre and I enjoy students reinterpretation of the plays.

Q: What are your expectations for your students?

A: I have three main expectations: o have all students publish their writing, to have all students feel confident while speaking in public, and to have all students become active, contributing members of society.

Off to See the Wizard!

Ashley Barry - *Club Advisor*



Ancaster High's first ever musical theatre production brings the classic tale of courage, heart, and home to our stage.



During the cast of 'The Wizard of Oz's' last rehearsal before their first show, I conversed with a few very enthusiastic actors about their involvement with the production of the musical and on bringing their character's stories to life, from the book to the live performances.

Jocelyn Mattka (Grade 10) - Dorothy

What has rehearsal been like for you?

"It has been a really fun and cool experience because we're actually working as a class to put on the show. We're not only working on the stage elements, but the production and behind the scenes work, so it's really cool to see the show coming together from that side of the production. We designed a lot of the costumes and got to plan some of the tech, which is not something you necessarily get to see when you are just acting."

Past theatre experiences?

"I've done a lot with Theatre Ancaster, being in a couple of their musical reviews, including 'Back to the 80's', they did a lot of one hit wonders. I've also been in a couple of their youth shows. A

couple of years ago the production was 'Peter Pan' and I was Peter Pan. I was also in *Alice and Wonderland* and played the Cheshire Cat. I've done productions with other theatre companies, mostly in Hamilton where I've played Scout in 'To Kill A Mockingbird', and that was a really fun part."

Why did you want to be involved in the production of the Wizard of Oz?

"I just really like the show and haven't had the chance to do it before, and we have a great group of people which makes all the difference when you are working on a show together. And yeah, I wanted a chance to get involved."

What is your favourite part about playing Dorothy?

"Dorothy is such a funny character! She can be very childish and has some weird expressions, especially because of the time this was written in, but when it comes down to it she has a really good heart and cares about the people she loves, and I don't know, there's just that part of her I really love."

What's your favourite part about doing this musical that

makes you want to come to rehearsal each day?

"I love working with the dog! We have a real dog on set, and his name is Argo. He is so good and so well behaved and really nice to work with."

What are the major steps of bringing the musical to life?

"When we first started rehearsals, the first thing we did was a read through of the play. It's kind of nice because we get a chance to see what characters do what in the show and the overall flow of it. Then we start blocking the scenes and getting everyone on their feet. We learn the dances, which were choreographed by Zoey and Shay, and we worked with them throughout most of the show and they did a great job! We worked on vocals a lot too, but during the last couple of weeks it's a lot about getting everybody on the stage, practicing using the space, getting costumes worked out."

Favourite Scene?

"I have a couple! The first scene where I'm running around the farm trying to get everyone to listen to me is really fun. I love the scene when I first meet the scarecrow, which is really fun

with. The two of us just have a lot of fun in that scene, and the song that goes with that scene is fun to sing."

Sophie Hughes- Grade 11 (Glinda)

What have rehearsals been like for you?

"Rehearsals have been really fun! It's so rewarding to see your show continue to improve with each rehearsal."

Past theatre experiences?

"This is my tenth onstage musical production, so it's extra special for me since it is also Ancaster High's first ever musical theatre class!"

Why did you want to be in this production?

"I wanted to be in this production because it blends school and my passion of performing!"

Favourite Song?

"My favourite song is Poppies, because I get to sing it and close Act 1."

Favourite Scene?

"My favourite scene is definitely Munchkin Land because I get to hold Toto!"

What do you like about your character?

"I love playing the role of Glinda because she is very positive and motherly, which is such a different character from the ones I've played in the past."

Owen Lapsley - Grade 10 (Tin Man)

What have rehearsals been like for you?

"Rehearsals for this show have been admittedly hectic, but our progress through them have been key in the show coming together."

Past theatre experiences?

"I've been doing theatre for 11 years, have worked behind the scenes on over 20 shows, and [have] been in the cast of 7 shows. *The Wizard of Oz* is for sure one of the most talented groups of individuals I've worked with so far."

Why did you want to be in this production?

"I chose to take the class after working behind the scenes for *Beauty and the Beast* last year. I saw the group of people that were onstage and just wondered, 'Why am I not there?'"

Favourite song?

"My favourite song would have to be Lion's solo 'King of the Forest'. The song has many smaller interactions between me, Scarecrow, and Dorothy that are a lot of fun to play out and I feel like our energy and stage presence is at its peak during that song."

Favourite scene?

"My personal favourite scene would have to be the opening scene in Kansas where the three friends are farmhands, as it gives me a lot more free movement and less strict interactions than I get when I become the Tin Man later."

What do you like about your character?

"What I like most about playing Tin Man is how much it has taught me in being

expressive in facial and vocal elements rather than full body movements, due to the stiffness and restricted motions of the characters. I also love the super 'honest' or 'legitimate' vocal technique that I get to use as the character."

Cassie Turkstra (Grade 12) - Scarecrow

How have rehearsals been for you?

"Rehearsals have been a great experience! It's been strange not practicing as often after school, but we still find a way to pull together a good show."

"My favourite part about being in this production was being able to be part of such a tightly knit group! I love being able to bond and become close friends with costars."

"I love playing Scarecrow because it's really outside my comfort zone, and I love to push myself."



The cast of this semester's musical, 'The Wizard of Oz' captured the audience and brought viewers on a journey over the rainbow into the Land of Oz with a magical performance!

With just two and a half short months of rehearsals, Ancaster High's first ever Musical Theatre class was able to pull together exceptional performances of 'The Wizard of Oz,' based off of the book adaptation by Andrew Lloyd Webber and Jeremy Sams.

The cast and crew performed three matinee shows for local elementary schools as well as three evening performances open to the Ancaster community.

I attended two of the evening shows and enjoyed every minute! When asking around the audience after the show for their feedback on the production, the responses given by the community were amazing!

"I can't get over how young and talented the performers are!" replied one member.

"The show was hilarious! There were so many jokes that were delivered perfectly and they got me laughing!" answered another.

"My daughter and I can both agree that we were so engaged with the performance that when it was over we didn't want it to end!"

With all the hard work put into the musical, it is no surprise that the very talented cast and crew were able to create a positive impact on their audiences with this fun musical!

To start, these students had almost half the amount of time as the usual amount to rehearse. The class helped with everything from tech, blocking, vocals, lighting, costume design, and sounds, so they had the opportunity to learn more aspects of the production.

The costumes for the characters were eye catching. They used real straw for the scarecrow, tin and silver paint for the Tin man, colourful outfits for the Munchkins, an



elegant sparkly dress for Glinda, the good witch and many more items that represented each character in a unique way.

The dances, choreographed by students Zoe DeSousa and Shay Thornberry, were performed with a high level of energy and creativity that fit well with all the catchy songs!

The acting from every cast and crew member was phenomenal, allowing each

character's story to be presented in the most memorable and humorous way!

The overall energy, singing, and dancing during every scene allowed the performance to take its viewers on a journey. The actors brought Oz to Ancaster High and guided us onto the Yellow Brick road through an epic, heartwarming adventure! Congratulations to everyone involved in 'The Wizard of Oz' as it was very well done!

Behind the Scenes

The behind the scenes aspects of the show, including sound, lighting, mics, running crew, props, sets and tech were done by a fabulous group of student volunteers. Tyler Scobie (Grade 11) along with Owen Lapsley and Mr. Lapsley, ran mic checks and programmed sound effects and cues for the show. In the lighting booth, all the lighting was programmed and directed by Grade 10 students, Brandon Groen and Isaac Sherard. On the stage, the running crew, run by Farrah Sherard, choreographed the movement of the sets and props throughout the performance. Lastly, the sets were painted and designed in Mr. Malcolm's art room, lead by grade 10 student, Elise Vanheerden, and were done by the creative student artists that we have at Ancaster High. Well done to everyone involved behind the scenes of this wonderful production!

REVIEW

Bohemian Rhapsody

Bohemian Rhapsody mind blowing celebration of Queen, their music and their remarkable lead vocalist Freddie Mercury.

Right: Rami Malek (as Freddie Mercury) posing in poster for Twentieth Century Fox's Bohemian Rhapsody. **IMDb**



Ashley Smith – *Junior Editor*



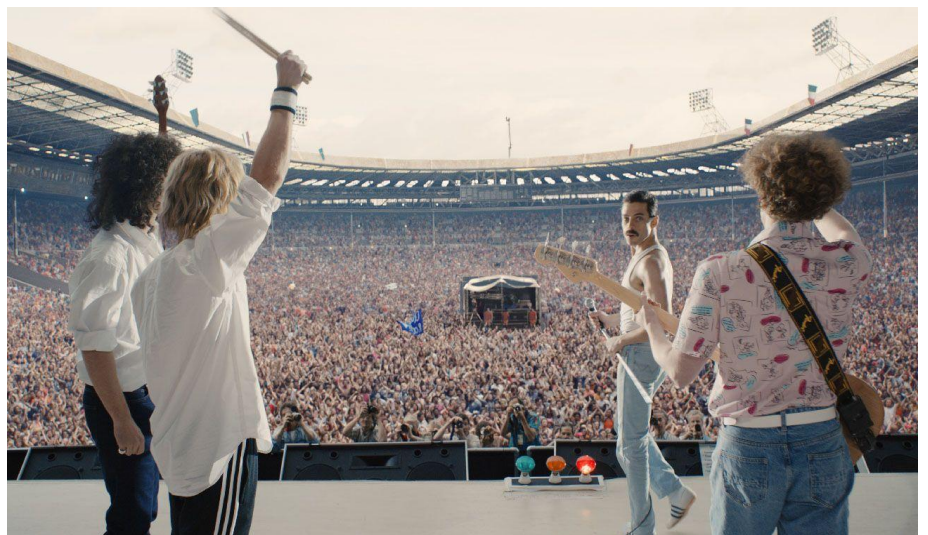
“

Queen songs are not about the life of a rock star – they tend to be about the lives of normal people, which is why I think the songs connect so much. We're very lucky that they seemingly connect with every generation.

”

– Brian May, lead guitarist of Queen.

Bohemian Rhapsody, a biographical film on the rock band Queen, was released on October 23 of 2018. The movie



Above Left to Right: Gwilym Lee (as Brian May), Ben Hardy (as Roger Taylor), Rami Malek (as Freddie Mercury), and Joe Mazzello (as John Deacon) star in Twentieth Century Fox's Bohemian Rhapsody. **Twentieth Century Fox.**

has grossed approximately 596 million dollars on a production budget of approximately 50 million dollars, making it one of the top ten grossing films of the year worldwide.

The movie has had mixed reviews from critics and viewers, but one common theme was the praise for Rami Malek's performance as Freddie Mercury. As a viewer myself, I can tell you about the movie from a highschool students

perspective.

First of all, you may not think you know Queen or any of their songs, but you've probably heard at least one or two. If We Will Rock You, We Are The Champions, Another One Bites The Dust or Bohemian Rhapsody ring a bell for you, that means that you have heard a Queen song. Knowing at least one song improves the film for





Above Left to Right: Ben Hardy (as Roger Taylor), Gwilym Lee (as Brian May), Joe Mazzello (as John Deacon) and Rami Malek (as Freddie Mercury) star in Twentieth Century Fox's *Bohemian Rhapsody*.
Twentieth Century Fox.

the viewer, in my opinion, but at the same time, you don't necessarily need to know Queen, because you're taken through their journey and rise to fame. If you do know the band, and if you're a fan, the movie is absolutely fantastic because you get to experience something that you wouldn't otherwise get to experience (because Queen was before current high schoolers' time). It was almost as if you were watching a concert at times.

Next, the story. You're taken through the journey of

Queen. Although parts seemed a touch unrealistic and sometimes clichéd, the story overall was fascinating. Although Freddie Mercury is the main focus of the film, the other members of the band (Brian May, Roger Taylor and John Deacon) are still very much featured. They do take a backseat to Mercury, but not so far back to make it seem like Mercury is the sole talent of the band. You discover that Brian May wrote *We Will Rock You*, John Deacon wrote *Another One Bites the Dust*, and

You, John Deacon wrote *Another One Bites the Dust*, and Roger Taylor was great with women, and hit the impressive falsetto "Galileo's" in *Bohemian Rhapsody*.

You get to see both the showman and personal side of Freddie's life. It is made clear from early on in the film that Freddie identifies as bisexual or gay, but is unaware of or is ignoring his true sexuality. You also see his "downward spiral" into excessive partying and "sexual experiences", which drives him away from the band and his true friends. The film portrays this spiral as the fault of Paul Prenter, Mercury's lover and former manager. Although people disagree with this portrayal of Paul, I believe that, although it is villainizing, it gave the story a complex antagonist that fit the plot and provided a divergence to other characters. In conclusion, *Bohemian Rhapsody* is a great film, and it is definitely worth seeing, whether you know the band, or are just looking for something to watch. The story is moving and enlightening, and the acting is sensational. *Bohemian Rhapsody* is a movie worth watching.

Semi-formal 2018

A night to remember at Carmen's Banquet Centre!

Ashley Barry - *Club Advisor*



A night entailed with non-stop dancing, music, and mingling amongst friends, Ancaster High's annual Semi Formal dance, held at Carmen's Banquet Centre, was wonderful!

Students who attended the evening began to arrive at 6pm and were seated at beautifully decorated tables as they awaited friends, and for dinner to be served.

The dinner was done in Buffet Style, including Chicken Parmesan, Hamburger sliders, onion rings, fries, poutine,

onion rings, fries, poutine, garlic bread - and the best part - a large table with cookies and pastries for dessert! After many trips up to the Buffet myself, the DJs eventually dimmed the lights, indicating that dinner was over, and myself, my friends and everyone else seemed to make their way to the dance floor to start dancing to the music. The DJs included many rap songs along with a few throwback songs from artist such as ABBA, Radiohead and Bruno Mars, which were requested by students.



“
Everyone danced and sang up until the night ended at 10pm. Hopefully many students other than myself also felt that this year's Semi formal was a lot of fun!





REVIEW

Don't Smile at Me - *Billie Eilish*

Don't smile at me is American singer Billie Eilish's debut extended album.

Left: Billie Eilish's Don't smile at me Album cover. **Interscope**

Vita Rao - *Writer*

Often recognized as the "next big thing in popular music", teenage phenomenon Billie Eilish garnered an outstanding amount of attention after the release of her debut EP don't smile at me in late 2017. Generally appealing to teenage audiences, the EP exudes confidence and boldness with hints of rebellion or angst. Released under Darkroom and Interscope Records, Eilish's EP details relationship and identity struggles as well as ambition.

Following her highly successful debut song "Ocean Eyes," Eilish released her much-anticipated EP, don't smile at me. The EP showcases her vocal and writing range with the meanings of her songs often hidden behind the melodic vocals and hard-hitting beats. Throughout the album, themes of vulnerability and emotions are embraced, with subtle details about her experiences and mental health. The unapologetic and emotional lyrics have the unique ability to capture audiences in unexplainable ways. With the frequent accompaniment of various instruments and Eilish's breathy vocals, don't smile at me successfully



Overall rating:

5/5
stars

Above: Billie Eilish. **Cameron Postforoosh**

combines a modern pop vibe with hints of alternative pop.

The creative decision for the all-lowercase titles - with the exception of the all-uppercase titling of COPYCAT - and simplistic, yet edgy cover, presents audiences with intriguing, futuristic, and

distinctive features. The extremely relatable lyrics and music allow audiences to interpret her songs individually. From desires to heartbreaks, Eilish offers listeners something different in every song



REVIEWS

Theatre Ancaster's *Chicago*

The Broadway classic comes to Ancaster High, performed by our local theatre group.

Above: Stevie Pyke as Roxie Hart and Angela Broadley as Velma Scott strike a pose on-stage. **Marek Michalek**

Lily McCowan – *Writer*

Theatre Ancaster's *Chicago* debuted on November 15th and ran through shows until December 1st. The performance took place in Ancaster High's auditorium and was open for students in Drama and Music classes to watch. The musical was performed by Theatre Ancaster's adult group.

I have seen *Chicago* twice, and I guess my expectations were a

little too high for this performance, but Theatre Ancaster's *Chicago* was a little disappointing. They did have a live band on stage, which is very traditional for a *Chicago* musical, and they were fantastic. The choreography was exceptional but the dancers and actors could not pull it off. They did pull off 'the spread eagle' once, but after that never topped it. The singing was mediocre, and even with the more strong singers who were playing leads, their long notes were not as powerful. However, the actor playing the lawyer, Billy Flynn, was definitely an audience favourite and was a complete jokester.

I was also concerned about the audience that was watching this. Instead of the Russian ballerina being hung, the theatre company got a woman to pole dance as an alternative to actually hanging someone. There were twelve year olds in the audience who were

Overall rating:

2.5/5
stars

witnessing this risqué musical.

Many students who went to see this musical were disappointed with how this production was put on, because they had watched the *Chicago* movie starring Catherine Zeta Jones and Renee Zellweger. Of course, a small town theatre business would not typically top the Hollywood movie, but others expected from previous Ancaster Theatre shows that it would have been better than the end product.

Did you know?

Chicago has grossed more than **\$300 million** on Broadway since 1996, just 22 years ago.

ADVICE COLUMN

Essential Tips for Exam Success

Struggling with the exam season blues?
Our writers can help.

Sabrina Cagampan and Ananya
Singh – *Junior Editor and Writer*

Exam season can be an incredibly stressful time for students, especially for students that have not taken an exam before and for those that struggle with time management and remembering material. With exams accounting for a high weightage of students' overall mark, there can be a high amount of pressure on students for the best possible outcome. That being said, exams are manageable as long as students are proactive with their preparation. Here are some beneficial tips to help you succeed this exam season.

Starting Early

Giving yourself enough time to thoroughly grasp concepts learned throughout the semester is crucial. Studying over a long period of time makes the information part of your long term memory and will make easier for you to recall the material during your exam. Cramming all the information into a span of a couple of days can be easily lost and hard to trace during a stressful situation such as an exam. The winter break can be the perfect opportunity to start making notes and looking over information learned at the beginning of the semester. Especially since right after the winter break there is still quite

a bit of material left to cover in a matter of a few weeks, as well as pending culminating tasks. Setting aside as little as 20 minutes per day over the span of a month would be more than a sufficient amount of time to grasp material learned throughout the semester.

Devising a Study Plan

Planning ahead for exams is very important, especially since January is typically a hectic month for most students. Apart from exams, there are also culminating task to work on, as well many students have extracurricular activities and family gatherings, so it is critical to make a schedule in order to maximize your time.

One way you could do that is by mapping out the month of January, set periods of time for each study session and set some time aside for breaks as well. Do not set a large span of time aside for a single study session without breaks; this could be the cause of fatigue and your attention span may diminish, making it very easy for you mind to get distracted and studying overall ineffective. Once you have set aside time in your schedule for studying you can start prioritising based upon need. Devising a study plan also requires recognising

your weaker subjects and setting extra time aside for them. As they say, 'practice makes perfect'.

Stopping Procrastination

Ah yes, procrastination, every student's favourite word. Due to the short timeline between now and exams, limiting procrastination is in the best interest of students. Making a study schedule is great, but it is ineffective if during that assigned study time you are getting distracted. Some easy tips to try to stop procrastination include:

- Studying in a quiet room with good lighting.
- Temporarily disabling/deleting apps from your phone (social media, messages, etc.).
- Set a timer during your breaks to ensure you don't go over.
- Promising yourself a reward only when you're done (food, hanging out with friends, watching TV etc.).
- Breaking down the things you need to do into smaller points ('to do' list), making the tasks seem less overwhelming.
- Just get it started, stop thinking about "Look at me procrastinating, why

am I like this?" and just start doing it. Even if it's just studying for 10 minutes or writing 5 sentences, just starting will make it more likely for you to continue.

Keeping Your Mental Health in Check

Your mental wellbeing should be one of your top priorities, but it is often neglected as stress and panic take over. You do your best only when you are at your mental best. While you are devising a study plan, also take into account time to take breaks to refresh yourself.

One way you could keep your mental health in check is by practicing mindfulness, which is the act of concentrating your awareness on the present, while peacefully perceiving and accepting your emotions and

thoughts. You could also try meditating to clear your mind from stress and anxiety. Practicing mindfulness is perfect for your study breaks or moments where you feel too overwhelmed to work effectively, and many tools for mindfulness and meditation are available for free on online resources or as downloadable apps.

Another way you could look after your mental health is by ensuring you are properly nourishing yourself so that your mind is properly fueled. You could begin your day with something as simple as a bowl of cereal and fruits, or avocado, toast and milk. Even as you study, it can be beneficial to have a healthy snack during your breaks; this will allow your body to be fully energized and keep you motivated. And please,

do not skip meals in order to study, keep your body properly fueled and your mind will thank you.

Sleep is also important! There is no point to study if you're too tired for your brain to retain the information. Try your best to maintain a healthy sleep schedule, 8 hours minimum for teens, but that does not mean go to bed at 3am and wake up at 11 am. Please do not push your limits with caffeine, it throws off your body's natural sleep pattern and is harmful for your body in any high amount. Sleep is not 'for the weak', it is for the sensible.

We wish you the best of luck this exam season! (And please, *please* take care of yourselves.)



COMMUNITY

Ancaster Tree Lighting

A local community event brings an evening of festive fun.

Anika Kanagarethnam – *Writer*

This annual event was a fun filled evening that got everyone into the holiday spirit. It ran from 6:00pm - 8:00pm and the tree lighting was at 7:00pm. It was a great event because it brought people of all ages toget-

her. There was food, hot chocolate, horse carriage rides, and even a reindeer. There were lots of candy canes for everybody, and as an added bonus, Santa Claus arrived in a fire truck. A few fireworks went

off before the tree was lit up, and there were people singing Christmas carols. All the lights were a beautiful sight to see. It was a chilly night, but the Christmas spirit brought a lot of cheer and happiness to Ancaster.

HOROSCOPES

SAGITTARIUS ♐

(November 22 - December 21)

By Sophie Hughes and Olivia Pasian

It's Sagittarius season! Happy Birthday to all of our Royal Sagittarii! Sagittarii are very optimistic and adventure-seeking people. This month you will be pleasantly surprised by your friends and family. Lucky numbers: 2, 7, 17

Are you a Sagittarius? So are these celebrities:



Miley Cyrus



Jaime Foxx



Amanda Seyfried

VIRGO ♍

You deserve a break, Virgo. Thankfully, you'll get one soon! However, be warned: Don't let your guard down, because soon enough it'll be exams!

LEO ♌

Leo, let your creative side show this month! You'll find great joy in spending your winter vacation trying out some artistic activities. Lucky numbers: 6, 15, 78

CANCER ♋

A change of heart may lead to a new friendship, Cancer. Keep an open mind. Lucky numbers: 17, 9, 29

SCORPIO ♏

The New Year is approaching, Scorpio, and with it you'll experience many new changes. Take the time remaining in 2018 to live in the moment. Lucky numbers: 38, 19, 13

TAURUS ♉

You are desperately in need of a break Taurus. Your motivation is dwindling and school work is piling up! Stay calm, the holiday break is close! Lucky numbers: 31, 52, 99

PISCES ♛

Your attitude inhibits you from having fun this month Pisces. Try to look on the bright side of life for more success. Lucky numbers: 23, 25, 62

♈ ARIES

Aries, an exciting opportunity is heading your way soon. Keep your eyes out! Lucky numbers: 6, 10, 44

♐ CAPRICORN

Cuddle up by the fire and read a book this month, Capricorn. It is foreseen that a break from your stresses will do you good. Lucky numbers: 67, 23, 5

♊ GEMINI

Gemini's will accomplish many of their goals this month in preparation for the New Year. Lucky numbers: 15, 88, 93

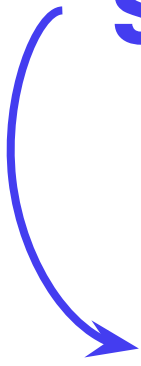
♎ LIBRA

The winter break will be a welcome relaxation period, Libra, but it may leave you slightly bored with so much time on your hands. Find something new to try! Lucky numbers: 21, 54, 3

♒ AQUARIUS

You are ready for the holiday season! Good advice for Aquariuses this month is to enjoy the moment. Soak up every second of the holiday cheer! Lucky numbers: 14, 22, 30

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