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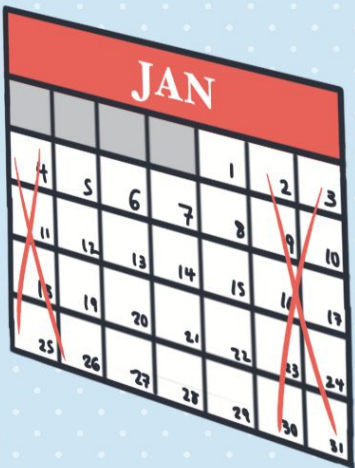
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## *The* Four Day Work Week?



Imagine a world where school and work only runs from Monday to Thursday. Could it work?

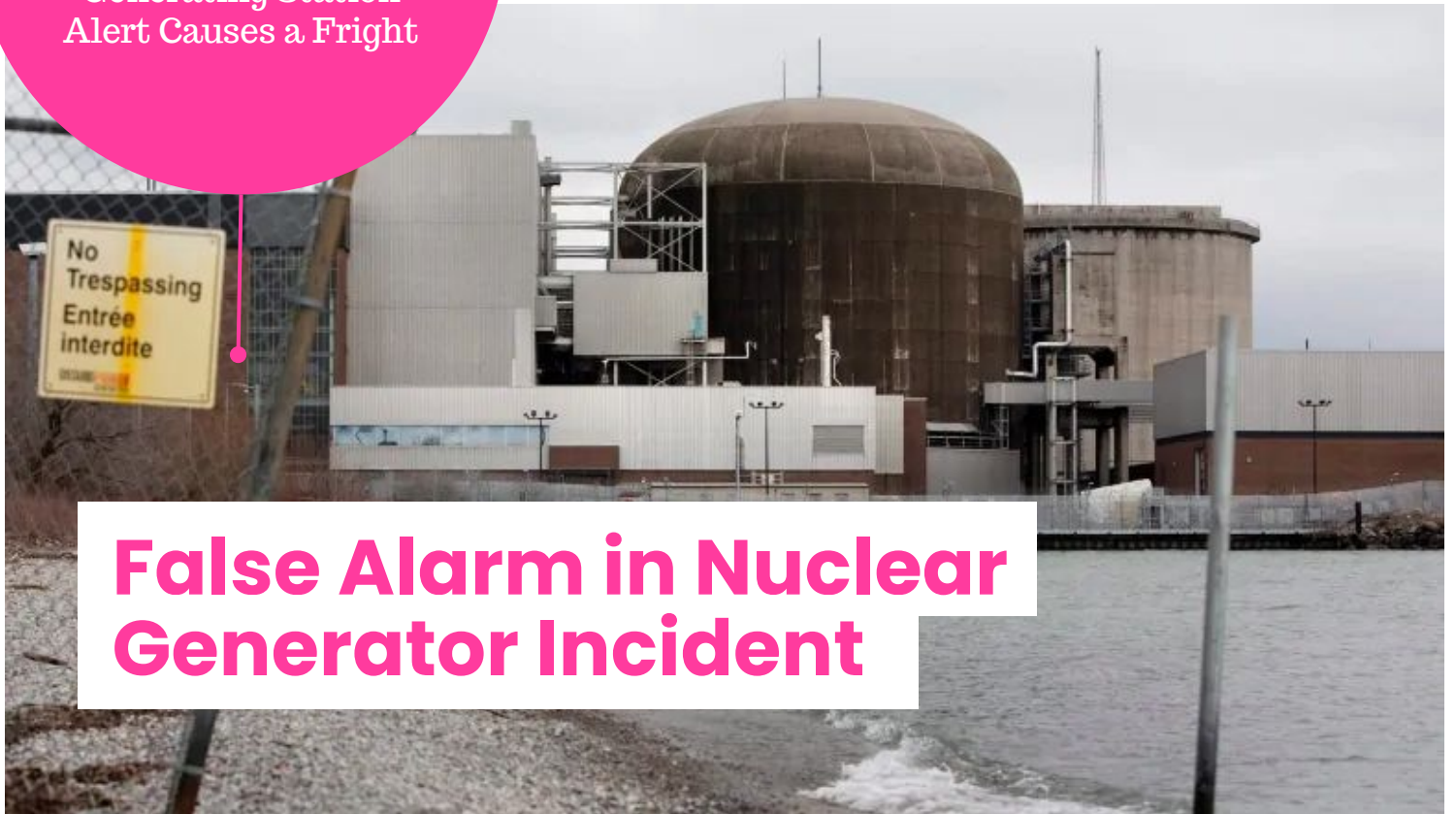
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# This Month's Top Stories —

## HAMILTON

Pickering Nuclear  
Generating Station  
Alert Causes a Fright

Get the most important news right away.  
Here are some of the **top stories** of  
**January.**



## False Alarm in Nuclear Generator Incident

**Above:** Pickering Nuclear Generating Station in Ontario. (Darren Calabrese/The Canadian Press)

**Ontario residents woke** up to an awfully unfriendly surprise on the morning of January 12: an alert sent to virtually every province resident warning about a possible emergency incident at Pickering Nuclear Generating Station in Pickering, Ontario. Although the incident was reportedly not abnormal and gave few specifics, other than the fact that it only applied to those living within 10 km of the generator, it sent many Canadians into a panic.

It was later revealed that the warning was sent out by mistake during a training exercise at the station. Many on Twitter, for example, have expressed their outrage at the incident for waking people up early in the morning and scaring many. Outrage at the new nationwide mobile phone alert

system is not a new phenomenon, ever since some users expressed their distaste about loud Amber Alerts waking them and their kids up in the middle of the night (as there was for the abduction and murder of Riya Rajkumar), but a false alarm is a different case entirely.

“This is a completely unacceptable use of the Emergency #Alert System. You had the entire province waking up in fear,” wrote one Twitter user. Others commented on the similarity of the false alert to the 2018 Hawaiian missile alarms and to the HBO show *Chernobyl*, where the infamous nuclear accident is initially dismissed as an inconsequential accident.

Other residents are also concerned with the effect false

alarms have on our trust of the alert system, in a “boy who cried wolf” type situation. Chuck Wurzer, who lives close to the Pickering plant, says that such accidents “[waive] your confidence in the alert system, that they can make mistakes like that to begin with and then send it out to areas that aren't affected by it.”

“

It kind of waives  
your confidence in  
the alert system  
that they can make  
mistakes like that  
to begin with.

▶ Chuck Wurzer, Pickering  
resident






Above: Red Crescent workers search through the debris of Ukraine International Airlines Flight 752. (Nazanin Tabatabaee/WANA)

On January 8, 2020, Ukrainian International Airlines Flight 752 crashed on its departure from Tehran, Iran, killing all 176 passengers on board in a tragic incident. The large proportion of Canadian citizens -- 63, at last count -- killed by the crash have only made it more devastating in our local community.


The crash occurred when Iran launched a missile at the plane on Wednesday morning by mistake, but this error was only admitted on Saturday. During the initial incident, officials suspected a mechanical failure instead. The deaths only served to exacerbate the already-high tensions between Iran, the USA and Canada following President Donald Trump’s assassination of General Soleimani earlier that week, that seemed to some to be a declaration of war.


Following this admission of guilt, Iran has pledged to allow the Canadian government to take an active role in the investigations afterwards. This



**Justin Trudeau**  
@JustinTrudeau

No words can erase the pain of those grieving, but it is my sincere hope that you can find some comfort in knowing that all Canadians stand with you. You are not alone, and we will continue to stand with you in the days, weeks, months, and years to come.

 12.3 K

 1.8 K

includes being able to examine the wreckage and the black boxes, visiting the crash site and receiving a final report on the matter. Some have also drawn comparisons between this incid-

ent and one from 2014 where Malaysia Airlines Flight 17 was also shot down by an air-defence missile.

In an address to the nation on January 8, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau expressed his condolences. “I was deeply shocked and saddened to learn that, according to preliminary reports, at least 63 Canadians were among the 176 people who were killed when Ukraine International Airlines Flight PS752 crashed after takeoff yesterday near Tehran, Iran. As more information becomes available, including regarding dual citizens, this number could change,” he said. “[These were] all people who won’t be coming home to their parents, their friends, colleagues or their family.”

“Canadians have questions and they deserve answers,” he said, regarding the investigations, which he has promised to carry out thoroughly.

# WORLD

USA Assassinates Iran  
General Soleimani

## Iranian General Killed In American Airstrike

**Above:** General Qasem Soleimani in 2011. (AY-COLLECTION/SIPA/AP)

On January 3, 2020, Iranian General Qasem Soleimani was killed in an American airstrike on an airport in Baghdad. The strike was a preemptive one, reportedly ordered by US President Donald Trump in order to deter Iran from any future acts of aggression. It followed a siege of the US Embassy in Baghdad that had begun on December 31, 2019, as well as the death of an American contractor in Iran. The violent retaliation frightened many Americans as tensions escalated - with some fearing that it would foretell World War III.

Soleimani especially was a notable target because of his unifying role during Iran and Iraq's battle against ISIS/ISIL in 2015. Some considered him to

be the second-most powerful man in the country, second only to the Supreme Leader. While he was revered in Iran however, the West chose to portray him in a more negative light, claiming to have killed him because he was plotting to kill Americans.

A couple hours after Soleimani's death was announced, Iran immediately promised retaliation as well. Several NATO countries affiliated with the USA, including Canada, Germany and the UK, insisted on de-escalation and diplomatic resolution of these tensions.

"We are waking up in a more dangerous world. Military escalation is always dangerous," said French deputy minister for

Foreign Affairs, Amelie de Montchalin. "When such actions, such operations, take place, we see that escalation is underway."

The legality of the strikes have also been hotly debated, as they were carried out without congressional approval, which is something only allowed to happen if there is an imminent threat to American security.

In the time since then, relationships between the two countries have thankfully thawed, but still remain uneasy. The downing of a Ukraine Airlines Jet 5 days later for instance, serves to emphasize the volatility of the conflict. For now, all we can do is watch closely for any future developments.

## And in Pop Culture...

The Oscars' 2020 nominations include films like the blockbuster *The Rise of Skywalker*, South Korean comedy/thriller *Parasite*, and WWI epic *1917*.





# Looking Back On Some AHS Holiday Spirit!

by Brooke Vesentin –  
**Writer**

Ancaster High's Student Council executed a spectacular spirit week just before the winter break!

**Right:** Finola Smiley and Amber Carroll pose at the library holiday workshop during Spirit Week.  
(@ancasterhighroyals)

**Comfy, Cozy PJ Day**  
(Tuesday, December 17th)

On Tuesday, Ancaster High's 2019 holiday spirit week began. It was an extremely cozy and comfortable day, as both students and staff members could be spotted all across the school sporting their festive and comfy pajamas! It was a great start to a fun filled week, as students could simply roll out of bed and head to school, and could sit back and learn while being extremely cozy throughout the day!

**Flannel Day**  
(Wednesday, December 18th)

On Wednesday it was flannel day here at Ancaster High! Various colours and types of flannel could be spotted all around. Everyone was once again very cozy as well as festive throughout the day and looked prepared for your typical Canadian winter!

**Ugly Sweater Day/ Holiday Workshop**  
(Thursday, December 19th)

On Thursday, the ugliest holiday sweaters were flaunted all across the school. Some covered in everything, from tinsel to pom poms! It was an amazing way to show holiday

spirit, and was a ton of fun for students and staff members. During Ugly Sweater Day, another fun holiday activity was being hosted as well! At lunch in the library, a Holiday Workshop was being held by Student Council. There were many activities students could partake in, as well as various treats for them to snack on! There was free hot chocolate, cookie decorating, a candy jar guessing game (similar to the one from the Halloween spirit week) and even holiday card decorating, which students could make for their family and friends in order to spread the holiday cheer!

**Red and Green Day**  
(Friday, December 20th)

On Friday, the school was painted with red and green! Being that it was the last day of school before the winter break, it was a great way to wrap up the holiday spirit week, and left everyone in the holiday spirit going into the break. Along with wearing red and green, there were also various activities happening throughout the day. During lunch, there was a student vs. teacher hockey game across the street at Morgan Fire-

stone, where students could go over and watch, as well as show their support for the school. Last period, there was also a holiday assembly being held in the auditorium. The holiday talent show was taking place during the assembly, and everyone was once again able to show support for all of the wonderfully talented students at Ancaster High!

**12 Days of Christmas Photo Challenge**

From December 5th - December 20th, Student Council's 12 Days of Christmas photo challenge was being held. Each day, on Ancaster High's Instagram, there was a holiday-themed photo/video prompt posted. Students would then send in their submissions and each day a winner was announced for each challenge and was submitted for the chance to win a grand prize at the end of the twelve days. Everyone was able to participate, and had a ton of fun doing it! A final winner was announced at the end based off of who had the most creative and consistent daily submissions! Some of the prompts included...



## AHS' 12 Days of Christmas Challenge!

1. Recreate a scene from a Christmas movie
2. Sing a Christmas carol with a teacher
3. Create and send a picture of a paper snowflake
4. Send a throwback holiday photo
5. Send a video of you wishing someone happy holidays in another language
6. Interview a teacher and get three items on their holiday wishlist
7. Submit a holiday drawing
8. Take a picture wearing a santa hat
9. Recreate a Christmas movie poster
10. Submit a picture of you in your ugly holiday sweater

and many more. Overall, both the photo challenge and the holiday spirit week were a great way to get everyone at Ancaster High in the holiday spirit and allowed for a fun and exciting week of school!

“ It was a great start to a fun filled week, as students could simply roll out of bed and head to school, and could sit back and learn while being extremely cozy throughout the day!



## Five Easy Ways To Relieve Stress

by Lily Mainprize and Meghan Loten – **Writers**

As high school students, we experience a tremendous amount of stress on the daily. When caught up in the avalanche of school work, you may not even think about possible ways to relieve yourself of this stress.

1) Take assignments one step at a time.

The first technique that is proven very effective is to take assignments one step at a time. High school teachers have the tendency to bombard you with

assignments all at the same time. Taking these assignments one baby step at a time can help you relax and produce the best work you possibly can. For example, you can plan to finish one paragraph of an essay before taking a break. This way, you are still being productive but not overwhelming yourself with too much work to be done at once.

2) Get out of the house.

The second technique is to get out of the house for a wh-

ile. Instead of sitting in your room staring into school books all day, try making plans to get out of the house for a couple hours to get your mind off of the stress of your assignments. This is proven to be effective in allowing you to have fun, and go back to your work with a new attitude and fresh ideas.

3) Exercise.

The third technique is exercising. Exercise is scientifically proven to release endorphins

which will get your mind off of stress and put you into a more positive attitude. This may mean going to the gym, going for a run, or even just going on a short walk. This is also a good way to get yourself out of the house and get your mind off of anything you may be stressing about.

#### 4) Getting the right amount of sleep.

The fourth technique is

To get an adequate amount of sleep. Many students nowadays admit to being sleep-deprived. As much as you'd like to stay up all night long to finish a project, this will actually put you at a disadvantage. Sleep-deprivation will make you less productive and impact your ability to form rational thoughts or ideas.

#### 5) Avoid excess caffeine.

The fifth technique is to avoid excess caffeine. Drinking

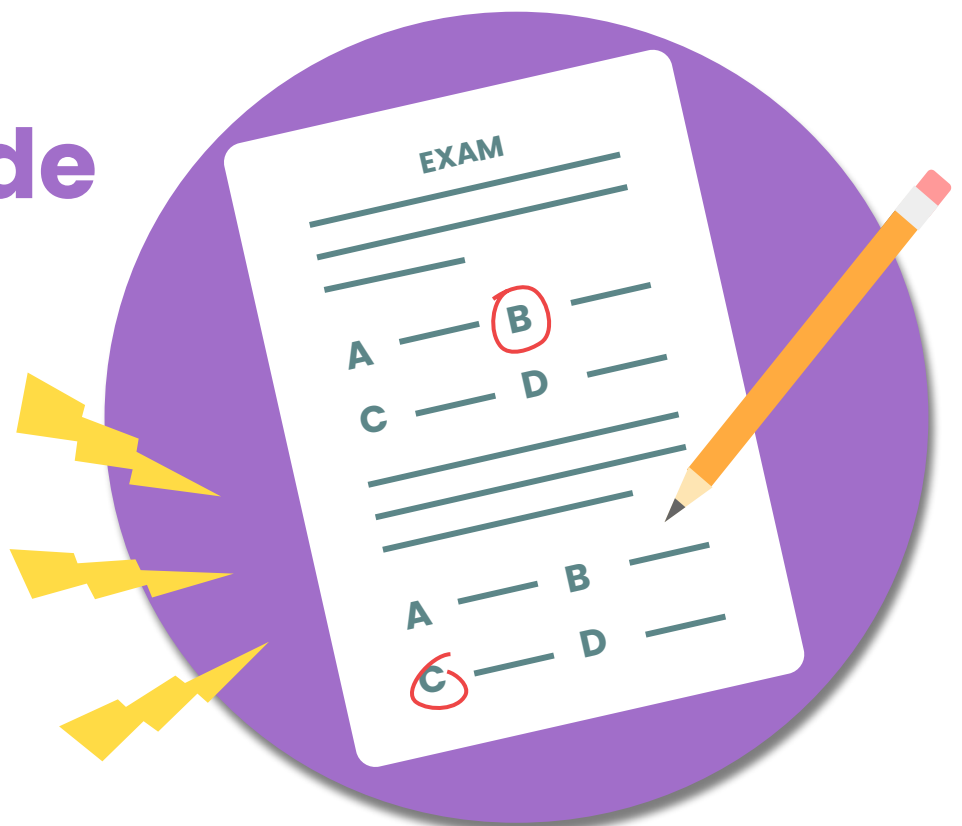
too much caffeine can drive your brain crazy and cause you to think unclearly, creating more stress. Drinking an excessive amount of caffeine can also cause you to lose sleep, impacting your ability to think clearly. This will ultimately cause you to become less productive.

Hopefully these tips are helpful for those students who experience excessive stress during the school year!

# An Exam Study Guide

by Jocelyn Mattka  
– **Junior Editor**

Exam season is quickly approaching with Ancaster High's first exam day starting on January 23rd! Here are some studying tips.



**It was 9:00 a.m. on** January 25, 2018 when I sat down to write my first high school exam. With no older siblings to give me an inside scoop on what writing an exam was like, or the best study tips to help me be successful, I had no choice but to prepare myself as much as possible and formulate my own study plan. This resulted in 9th-grade-me showing up to a geography exam holding at least 6 different pencils, 5 highlighters, 4 pens, 3 erasers, 2 rulers and a partridge in a pear tree (in reality that last item was a water bottle, but I think you get the point). I carried this all into the classroom in my hands due

to having it in my head that I wasn't allowed to bring a pencil case to my desk before the exam started.

Let me ease your minds: You are allowed to bring a pencil case. You are allowed to unpack your supplies at your desk and *then* put your pencil case where backpacks are being kept at the edges of the room. I can also tell you now that I only needed two of those pencils and one pen for that entire exam.

While it's probably true that I still go to exams incredibly over prepared with various exam-writing supplies, I have also discovered over the

past couple of years that there are more ways to help yourself feel confident about your exams than just showing up with all of Staples in your hands.

In this article, I've put together an organized version of the study guide that I've spent the last five exam seasons refining. Every person learns and studies differently, but hopefully you find a tip or two in here that you can make use of as you discover a plan that works best for you.

**Study Guide Tip #1: Maximize Your Time**



This one probably sounds pretty obvious, but don't underestimate the value that making the most of your study time will have. In a world where we are surrounded by so many distractions, staying on task can be a lot harder than it sounds. Even something as simple as getting distracted by your other classes while you look for something else on the hub can divide your attention. A strategy I've started to use in order to avoid this is setting timers for myself. Set a timer for even just 30 minutes and force yourself to stay focused until that time block is up. Knowing there is a set time parameter can be a great way to keep yourself on task and will push you to accomplish something in that time.

#### Study Guide Tip #2: Set Goals

Don't try to tackle five months' worth of content all at once. Split your course material into units or other smaller chunks that are easier to handle.

“

Each time you sit down for a study block, pick one of these specific sections to really focus in on. This will quickly make your studying seem a lot more manageable.

#### Study Guide Tip #3: Organize Your Material

Have you ever been trying to study for something and found yourself flipping back and forth through a binder of loose papers? While I realize that not everyone approaches organization in the same way, it's really important that you find an organizational method that you can understand. Phrased differently, no one else needs to be able to find your papers as long as they're readily available to you.

The better you know where your material is, the less time you will waste looking for your notes and information. This will also minimize the odds of you overlooking an important note or handout simply because it was buried at the bottom of a pile of notes and handouts.

#### Study Guide Tip #4: Be Prepared

Having the materials you need when you actually go into the exam room will make you feel much better about the exam you're about to write. Don't go overboard, but having a few good, working pencils, a calculator you trust for math or science exams and a couple of pens if your teacher prefers you write in ink will make you feel confident that you're ready and have what you need to be successful. Showing up to an exam and trying to get supplies from someone else last minute is only going to be stressful and unhelpful to you. With that being said, if you're really in a jam and need a pencil, I've got you!

#### Study Guide Tip #5: Prioritize

Not all exams, or even sections of exams, are going to be worth the same percentage of your grade. Spend the most time studying the parts of your course that are going to give you the greatest return if you perform well on them during the exam. Ideally, you want to have a chance to focus on everything, but if reality prevents you from that, being able to decide what material is most important to understand will be beneficial to you.

#### Study Guide Tip #6: Take Breaks

Everyone tends to time out on concentration after some length of studying. It's a little different for everyone, but if you study for too long, you're going to hit a wall where you stop processing information and the value of your time spent

studying begins to decrease. Make sure you split up your exam prep with relaxing activities so that when you do spend time studying you can approach it with a fresh mind and a positive attitude.

#### Study Guide Tip #7: Sleep!

This should be obvious, right? Make your study schedule so that you are finished studying before the time you typically go to bed. Don't underestimate the importance of getting an adequate amount of sleep before you write an exam. Trust me, it really makes a huge difference.

#### Study Guide Tip #8: Get Help

**Take advantage of the resources available to you. If you're struggling with your course material, know that you don't have to figure it all out alone.**

We're very lucky here to have so many incredible teachers who can answer your questions in class and many that offer their time at lunches to give students extra help. Studying with friends and quizzing each other on material can be good too as long as you keep focused. I, along with other students, am personally going to be available as a peer tutor in room 213 for anyone looking for math help with the upcoming exams.

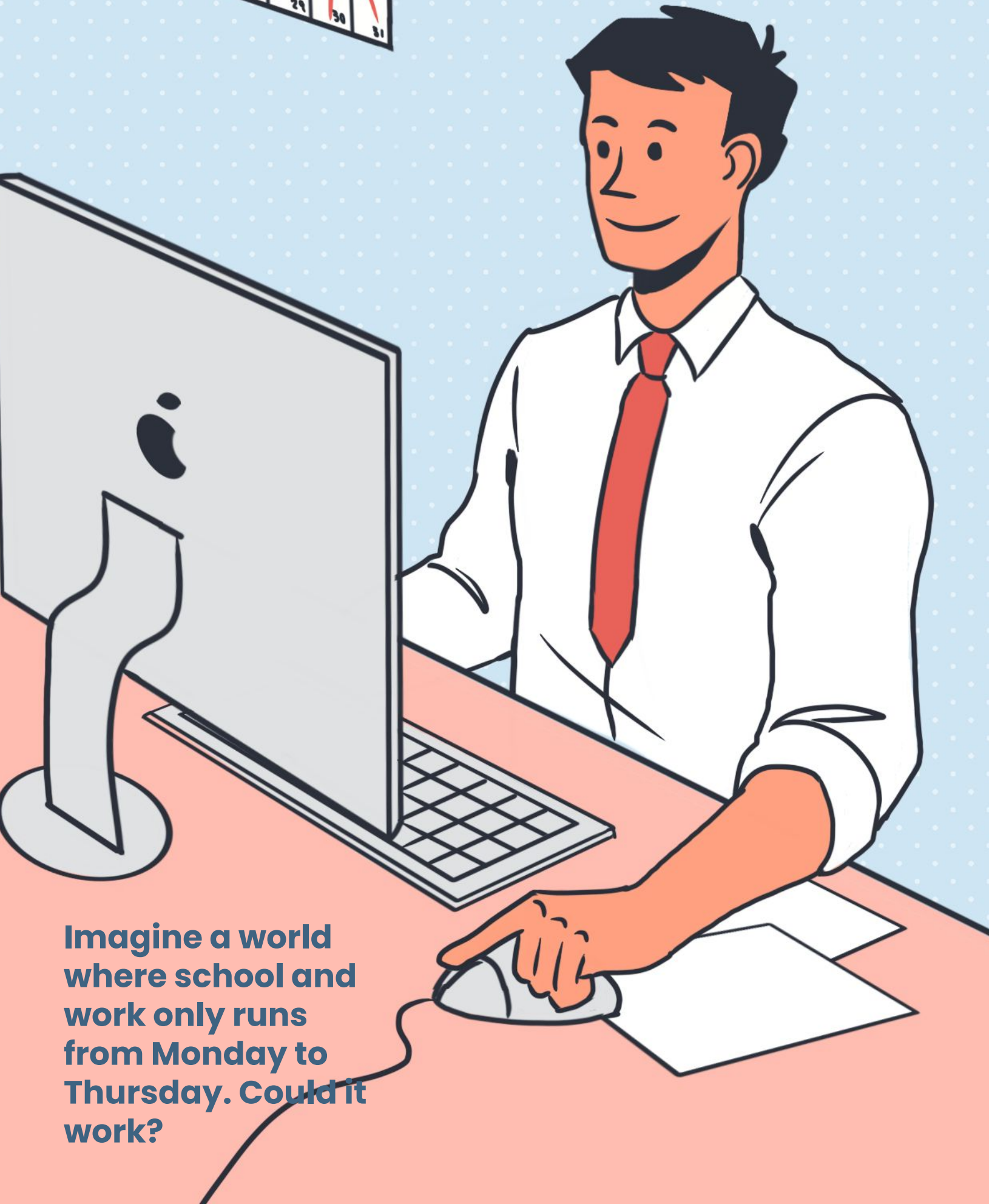
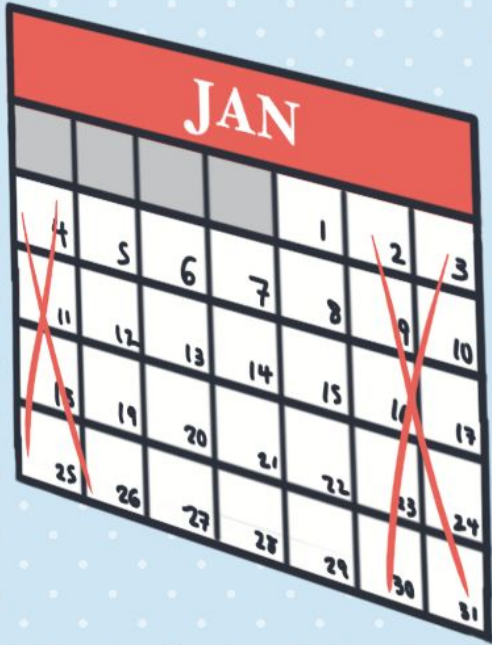
The only step left now is just to get to it! Best of luck and have a great exam season.

**Good luck on your exams!**



# *The* Four Day Work Week?

by Ethan Coleman – **Writer**



**Imagine a world  
where school and  
work only runs  
from Monday to  
Thursday. Could it  
work?**

Work has become a part of our culture, an integral part of life. It can be hard to find a balance between work and personal life, one that often is sacrificed to make ends meet or to combat the rising costs of post-secondary education and housing. The standard 5 day, 40 hour, 9-5 work schedule is commonplace and routine for many, leaving two days of supposed rest and personal development. The revolutionary idea of shortening the workweek to 4 days and leaving a three day weekend sounds counter-productive in the world that never sleeps, but the idea should be more seriously considered as not only a method of improving mental well-being but also an increase in productivity.

True, a four day work week would pile up more work to be completed in a smaller amount of time, but this would pressure businesses to hire additional workers who each work less individual hours to fill the gap. However, not all businesses are exactly icons of goodwill-- some will just expect their workers to deal with the pressure. Already, with a five-day schedule workers spend time after their official hours completing tasks, an unfortunate consequence of an interconnected world; computers and cloud services are conveniently not restricted to the office but can be accessed in one's private home. After-hours work has become societally expected as a means for employees to prove

“ The revolutionary idea of shortening the workweek to 4 days... sounds counter-productive in the world that never sleeps, but the idea should be more seriously considered.

themselves, to show that they deserve a promotion or praise -- sacrificing their personal time to their time-hungry job. By condensing five days into four, the pressure on each employee to finish their work would increase, overall increasing productivity. Sure, workers may experience more stress, but would it be more than they do now when they're already expected to put in extra work after their 9-5 day? In a competitive culture where doing extra is the crucial sought-after distinction between employees, both schedules have their evils of stress and pressure; the deciding factor should be whether those negatives are balanced out.

A four day work week entails that one person works four days with three days off. For the extra three days, the worker would gain time for more leisure activities, not only promoting well-being and giving them time to recuperate



A trial of the four day work week at Microsoft Japan resulted in a

**40%** increase in productivity



**23%** less electricity used.

from the workweek but also to spend more time with family and social groups. Furthermore, the increase in leisure would benefit leisure businesses. The increased market for leisure creates competition; more businesses would spawn up for a slice of the market, as well as new activities as people tire of old forms of entertainment. By transferring two extra hours to

**MONDAY**  
**TUESDAY**  
**WEDNESDAY**  
**THURSDAY**  
~~**FRIDAY**~~ ???  
~~**SATURDAY**~~  
~~**SUNDAY**~~

each day, four ten-hour days equate to five eight hour days and provide an extra day off.

Unfortunately, the four day work week does not work for all employees or all businesses. Most parents would prefer to spend five days working --like their kids spend 5 days in school-- so that they can see their kids more, rather than miss them in the mornings or evenings as they are working longer hours, only to get a day off while their kids still go to school. Furthermore, retail businesses and services like firefighting are not suited to shorten to four days, as they don't regularly follow a 9-5 work schedule for every employee and therefore would be ill-suited to be restricted to four days. Changing both work and school schedules is a battle going against an established 5 days on, 2 days off culture. Such a large upheaval is possible but requires many to be onboard and the patience of all while schools and businesses work out logistics but also while businesses dependent on their clientele's 9-5 schedule, such as local transportation and child care, adjust to the new idea. The uncertainty of change that departs from what is known is rightfully scary, just like all previously outlandish ideas that have come to be massive societal improvements. The only way to truly know is to put it to the test.



★ **What is COPPA?**

**COPPA** stands for the Children’s Online Privacy Protection Act.

Its implementation is only the most recent of a series of legal controversies between the site and its creators.



# Taking the “YouTubers” out of YouTube?

by Rose He – **Writer**

YouTube’s new controversial policy, known as COPPA, might only restrict creators on the site more, in favour of making the video platform more kid-friendly.

As of September 2019, the well-known video platform YouTube has announced its plans on complying with The Children’s Online Privacy Protection Act, also known as COPPA at the start of the new decade. For the past few years, YouTube has noticeably avoided COPPA, as most other platforms, websites, or online services has been complying with it ever since it has been established as a working law in the April of 2000. It has been finalized that YouTube and Google paid \$170 million as their penalty in regards to ignoring the laws of COPPA since the beginning. As the new COPPA rules are being applied this January, this left YouTube creators and their channels in a rather awkward situation.

**What does COPPA do?**

The laws of COPPA have been stated to protect the youth and their privacy among internet usages to address the concerns raised by the U.S Federal Trade Commission, also known as FTC. The goal of COP-

PA is to let parents or guardians have control over what information is collected from their children online. It has been applied to online services such as mobile apps, as well as the operators of commercial websites which are all appealing to children under 13 years of age. The above are some examples of methods that can collect or use any personal information. Operators must post a clear online privacy policy, provide direct notice to parents/guardians to obtain verifiable parental consent, provide parents/guardians’ access to their child’s personal information, and many other mandatory rules to follow with the same degree.

**COPPA strikes YouTube.**

YouTube had stated that the platform is not for any viewers under the age of 13 years. This resulted in them removing thousands of accounts they discovered per week which had belonged to someone under 13 years old. The plan wasn’t very effective, since there are

possibilities of shared devices when children can be viewing YouTube unsupervised.

From being unable to control how people utilize YouTube, COPPA was their next step and potential solution. By complying with COPPA, YouTube has disabled significant features on videos which are “Made for Kids,” as

**YouTubers have started a petition with currently**

**730,000**

**signatures asking the FTC to change some of their policies.**

well as limit data collection for personalized advertisements to

global users. This relies on how the type of advertisements being played before, in between, or after a “Made for Kids” video is based on the context of the following video instead of user data.

One feature that was not disabled is the ability to subscribe to a channel and see their uploaded videos in one’s subscription feed.

The many disabled features that are being affected by COPPA include:

- Comments
- Pop-up merchandise
- Live chat/Super Chat
- Notifications
- Playlisting
- Stories
- Community tab
- Use of mini video player

**COPPA’s Impacts on YouTube Creators**

YouTube creators must identify whether their videos that they produce are considered as “Made for Kids.” The FTC has shared many components to base off whether one’s channel fits in the category, such as:

- Subject
- Visual content
- Use of animated characters
- Child-oriented activities
- Type of music or audio played

- Presence of celebrities who appeal to children
- Language used

YouTube has not implemented an option for mixed audiences which made it more difficult for YouTube Creators to decide whether their content is “Made for Kids.” The pressure onto YouTube creators begins to rise when identifying their audiences’ age groups are required because of the following consequences if answered incorrectly or unclear:

The FTC has stated the fines for violating penalties can maximize up to \$42,530 per violation, but the FTC will consider many factors in determining the amount, especially when taking creators out of business is not their goal. A few factors include one’s financial condition and one’s ability to stay in business.

“ If you fail to set your audience accurately, you may face compliance issues with the F'TC or other authorities, and we may take action on your YouTube account.

▶ YouTube official statement

**YouTubers are undermining the fight for children’s privacy online. They believe that COPPA will destroy the video platform.**

Though it can be understandable why YouTube has to do this, people’s opinions say otherwise, especially when these significant features from YouTube will disappear. It has been argued that removing these features which made YouTube more significant than other platforms restricts it from being its unique and original self.

Everyone will experience a different effect, depending on the type of content they watched and whether it is greatly impacted by COPPA. In regards to the future, YouTube will continue to add any further adjustments and improvements while having the laws of COPPA always in mind.

Infamous gaming and pop culture YouTuber **Pewdiepie** made his own statement video on COPPA, explaining how it would affect his channel. With his fanbase of over 102 *million* subscribers, his call to action resulted in **152,000** comments being made to the F'TC.



**Above:** Pewdiepie in a video screenshot. (Pewdiepie/Youtube)



# Catastrophe in Australia as Wildfires Burn

by Ashley Barry – **Club Advisor**

Fire continues to ravage the country despite international efforts at combating it.

**Right:** A firetruck moves away from out of control flames from a bushfire in Australia's Bunyip State Forest. (AP Photo)



**Chaos has erupted in** Australia as wildfires continue to spread throughout Southern terrain. The fires have become a danger to Australians and Australian wildlife in the area resulting in 26 civilian deaths, 2000 homes destroyed, and over one billion wildlife casualties, where animals have been forced to evacuate their natural habitats, are injured, or dead.

The beloved koala bear is one example of wildlife that has fallen victim to this devastation. Australian wildlife experts claim that 30% of the koala bear population has been killed, and if the wildfires cannot be controlled, the quality of life in Australia will continue to deteriorate.

In December 2019, Australia had reached record breaking high temperatures. According to Australia's Bureau of Meteorology, December was recorded as the driest month on record. The combination of these extreme temperatures with what is known as Australia's "bushfire season" initiated the wildfires. The dryness in the climate during this time of year sparked multiple bushfires that continue to escalate during these months of minimal to zero rainfall and high winds.

With the fires advancing, they pose a dangerous threat to everyone affected from the crisis including civilians, the Australian government, firefighters, rescue teams, volunteers, habitats, and wildlife. Currently, 140 fires are still burning in New South Wales alone, burning over 17 million acres of land, leading to the estimated area burned by Australia's wildfires being the equivalent of more than 21,309 Central Parks put together. At one point, the air quality had reached above hazardous in Sydney.

With how quickly these fires started spreading, it has taken an immense amount of effort to attempt to control and put out the bushfires. Hundreds of firefighters have worked endlessly to tackle the raging flames. Thousands of volunteers, including former Australian Prime Minister, Scott Morrison have stepped up, offering their assistance in fighting alongside firefighters, rescuing victimized animals, and cleaning up the damaged remains that the fires have obliterated.

However, even with these tremendous efforts and unity within the country to fight the bushfires, without heavy

rainfall, the fires are likely to maintain momentum and will proceed to spread to dry regions in Australia. Until conditions change, thousands of terrified civilians will continue to flee their homes. Thousands will be left homeless, without their belongings, without their sense of security. This is a catastrophic situation. This is survival. "We have never, ever, been in this situation before," states Queensland, Australia's Fire and Emergency Service commissioner Katarina Carroll.

With the ongoing wildfires wreaking havoc on the other side of the world, I've begun to wonder as an outsider of the situation if Australians will be able to recover and face the repercussions that the fires have forced onto their country. Can this crisis be eradicated? And more importantly, what can we do to help?

In New South Wales, the Rural Fire Service lets you donate to the RFS as a whole or to specific brigades.

**NSW Rural Fire Service, BSB: 032-001, account number: 171051**



**Above:** A firefighter manages a controlled burn near Tomerong, Australia (Rick Rycroft/AP Photo)

# What You Need to Know About the Fires

by Anika Kanagaretnam – Junior Editor



Australia’s bushfires have always been dangerous, but this year’s burns have been exacerbated by the recent drought – **one of the worst in decades**. Strong winds and climate change have also made the fires more frequent.

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**From June 2019 to now,** there have been over 2000 homes lost and at least 28 people dead in Australia’s bushfires.

**Over 18 million hectares of land have been burned and 5 million of those hectares are in New South Wales alone.**

These bushfires have caused the worst and largest evacuation in Australian histor-

y. The fires are so out of control and are even engulfing entire towns. They have occurred in every state, but New South Wales and Victoria have been hit the hardest. The California and Amazon wildfires had much less damage in comparison to Australia.

Animals have been killed in the fires, with some endangered species now on the verge of extinction. Thousands of people are fleeing, which is also a challenge, since the roads are always blocked with all the people trying to leave. Thousands of volunteer firefighters have gone to Australia to help with controlling the fires.

Another problem is, since the temperatures are increasing drastically, it doesn’t take much for vegetation to ignite. All the smoke coming from the fires is also very dangerous. It is extremely hard to breathe with all of the thick smoke, and wearing a mask to cover your mouth and nose is a necessity. Australia now has some of the worst air quality in the world. Furthermore, the smoke is so abundant that it is even reaching New Zealand. The fires in Australia are becoming even more uncontrollable as they continue to rage on, and hopefully the temperatures will cool down and there will be rain.



# Teacher Insider: Mrs. Behiel

by Ariana Kelley – **Writer**

Get to know one of Ancaster High’s amazing librarians!

## Fun Facts!

**Q: What is your favorite color?**

A: Blush, I just redid a room in my house!

**Q: Food?**

A: Anything Mexican, the spicier, the better!

**Q: Favourite drink?**

A: English breakfast tea latte.

**Q: Favourite place on Earth?**

A: Los Cabos!

**Q: Best school subject?**

A: Math (even though I was an English teacher for 20 years!)

**Q: Most memorable book?**

A: All The Light We Cannot See by Anthony Doerr... a haunting story!

**What are your hobbies/activities?**

Scrapbooking (my retirement plan is to catch up on the many, many events and trips I haven't yet scrapbooked).

**What do you enjoy most about your job?**

Making connections with students. It is challenging in this role as I have no consistency from day to day.

**What is something that you are looking forward to this year?**

The new decade - it's amazing we are already 20 years into this new century!

**What made you want to become a teacher?**

I've always loved school and never considered being anything other than a teacher.

**If you were not a teacher what would you be?**

A hairstylist for sure - what better job than making people feel good about themselves?

**What is your favorite memory at Ancaster High?**

Probably the annual Canada Reads contest I run.

# Exam De-Stress: Restaurant Sampling Day!

by Brooke Vesentin and Hannah Breiding – **Writer and Photographer**

Ancaster High’s Student Council organized a terrific free food sampling event.

**During lunch in the Cafeteria on January 17th**, the East Caf was jam-packed! Students seemed to enjoy the food from the variety of local restaurants, including Starbucks, Pizza Hut, Pita Pit, and Freshii.

**Left and below:** Student Council hands out free food on Restaurant Sampling Day.



# Upcoming Concerts in **2020!**

## The Glorious Sons



Jan 17th- Mar 26th  
(Multiple Venues)

## KISS, David L. Roth



Feb 5th  
KeyBank Centre

## Post Malone



Feb 14  
Scotiabank Arena

## Hayley Kiyoko



Feb 24  
REBEL, Toronto

## Pearl Jam



Mar 18-24  
First Ontario Centre  
Scotiabank Arena

## Harry Styles



July 3-4  
Scotiabank Arena

## Alanis Morissette



July 11  
Budweiser Stage

## Foreigner, Kansas and Europe



Aug 8  
Budweiser Stage

## Green Day, Weezer



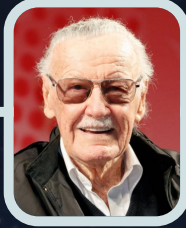
Aug 24  
Rogers Centre



# HOROSCOPES

## Capricorn Celebrities

Stan Lee



Justin Trudeau



Ellen DeGeneres



LeBron James

By Sophie Hughes  
and Olivia Pasian

### ARIES

March 21 - April 19

Aries, expect distance from your Taurus relationships and friendship from your Aquarius relationships. The circumstances may present themselves differently, but it is important to remain level-headed no matter what. Lucky Numbers: 18, 44, 73

### TAURUS

April 20 - May 20

Look out Taurus, you may experience some unwanted conflict with your Aries relations this month. Both signs are said to be strong-willed, leading to a clash of opinions. Remember to remain kind, even if you don't agree with Aries. Lucky Numbers: 3, 17, 21

### GEMINI

May 21 - June 20

Exam season is approaching, Gemini, which means you need to make school a priority. Do not be tempted by outside influences and keep your head in the game! Lucky Numbers: 6, 54, 82

### CANCER

June 21 - July 22

The upcoming month looks promising for you, Cancer! You are embracing change and we foresee interesting opportunities in your near future. Lucky Numbers: 11, 26, 32

### LEO

July 23 - August 22

This month, Leo, something you've wanted to do for a long time will become possible. You will encounter difficulties, but don't give up! You might have an unexpected supporter. Lucky Numbers: 34, 56, 72

### VIRGO

August 23 - September 22

Virgo, a project you have invested a lot of time in will fall to pieces. Though you'll feel like scrapping it, you will gain new understanding and an improved outcome if you try again. Lucky Numbers: 9, 21, 40

### LIBRA

September 23 - October 22

You will find out a friend has been keeping a secret from you, Libra. You might feel hurt, but it's important you realize that you'll be told things when the person is ready to tell them. Lucky Numbers: 7, 65, 91

### SCORPIO

October 23 - November 21

Technology will be your enemy this month! Computers will crash and printers will run out of ink wherever you go. You'd best hurry on those unfinished assignments. Lucky Numbers: 2, 15, 27

### SAGITTARIUS

November 22 - December 21

The stars tell us that you've made a New Years resolution. Good for you! Unfortunately, we also foresee that's not going to work out too well... Lucky Numbers: 25, 31, 87

### CAPRICORN

December 22 - January 19

Capricorn, this is your month to shine! Happy birthday to all of our Royal Capricorns. Upcoming exams will create great distress in your life, but at least you'll make a new friend this month! Lucky Numbers: 11, 16, 33

### AQUARIUS

January 20 - February 18

Aquarius, you are very excited to enter 2020 and have big plans set ahead of you. To successfully accomplish these, consult a friend - perhaps a Capricorn - for further advice. Lucky Numbers: 14, 33, 36

### PISCES

February 19 - March 20

This month, one of your final assignments will be subpar. Don't be discouraged! We foresee that second semester will go much better. Lucky Numbers: 1, 29, 67

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**Wednesdays**  
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