

# The Sequitur

WESTDALE SECONDARY SCHOOL

DECEMBER 2017

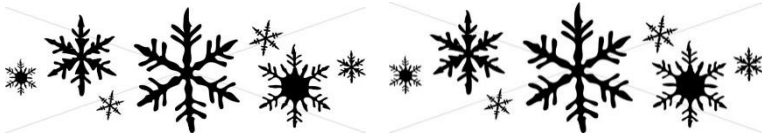
## Winter Formal Cancelled

The less-heard perspective on the contentious dance decision

By: Julia K. Watson

Recently, as all of you may know, the decision has been made to not have a Winter Formal for the 2017-2018 school year. The decision was made by the active heads of each department, and was based off of multiple contributing factors, all relating to the Wac-O-Ween dance. Although I am not personally happy with the decision to not have a formal, I understand the perspective that teachers are coming from.

The main factor that added to the decision was the excessive alcohol and drug consumption in which many (not all) students partook at the Wac-O-Ween dance. . . (**Formal Cancelled** is continued on **page 4**)



## Westdale Wins at Water Polo

A summary of our school's staggering success in the sport

By: Zeynep Berra Yilmaz

Water polo is a game very different from other ball sports due to its rules and requirements. But for Westdale, it has a common aspect it shares with other sports; Westdale is again the very best at it. All teams are in the championship finals every year and usually win with blowouts. Senior girls went undefeated for 15 years straight until last year and have earned 18 championships in 23 years while juniors earned 8 championships in 14 years. . . (**Water Polo** is continued on **page 10**)

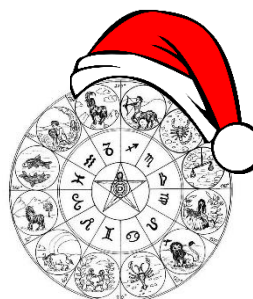
## In this issue . . .



. . . seasonal photography gallery (insert) . . .

. . . an investigation of the current humanitarian crisis in Yemen (page 7) . . .

*Yemen is in indisputable crisis. Civil war and disease has brought the splintered country to its knees. This is a monolithic humanitarian catastrophe the likes of which have never been seen . . .*



. . . some hilarious holiday horoscopes (page 19) . . .

AND SO MUCH MORE!

# The Sequitur



## OUR TEAM

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@SequiturWSS



### GET IN TOUCH TO JOIN OUR TEAM!

Visit Ms. B in room 209 for information, or email us at [thesequitur.westdale@gmail.com](mailto:thesequitur.westdale@gmail.com)

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## TABLE OF CONTENTS

- 1) Cover page
- 2) This page! ☺
- 3) Announcements, Ask A
- 4) Front Page Continued
- 5) Formal Cancellation Opinion Article
- 6) Me to We Trip Experience
- 7) Report: Humanitarian Crisis in Yemen
- 8) Report: North Korean Defectors
- 9) Opinion: Red Light Cameras
- 10) Red Light Cameras continued and Water Polo continued
- 11) Sports: NBA and Christmas
- 12) Sports: LeBron James
- 13) Essay: The Smartphone Epidemic
- 14) Essay: The Gift of Peace
- 15) Short Fiction: Waves
- 16) Short Fiction: Waves continued and The Buggers part 2
- 17) The Buggers continued
- 18) Real Good Reels and "Atelophobia"
- 19) Holiday Horoscopes
- 20) Inserts: Photography gallery, visual art



## NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

Hey Westdale,

Happy Holidays! If you're reading this, you've just received your first gift of the season – this month's issue is stuffed with student contributions to intrigue you, to engage you, and to warm your freezing heart.

As I admire the new fairy lights I hung in my bedroom (a Black Friday deal, of course), I begin to contemplate the meaning of *light*. This time of the year, light seems to be coming from everywhere . . . at least superficially. Thrumming overhead fluorescents keep the strip mall stores open an extra hour for the holiday shopping apocalypse, while the minivans stuffed into the parking lot collectively reflect a festive seasonal glare. But if we look past the glint of the tinsel and the shine of the plastic LED bulbs, we might find something darker. Hiding under the piles of glittery wrapping paper, we might uncover layers of socioeconomic inequality, or toss them aside to reveal ecological destruction; and that's just for starters.

In this joyful season of giving (and worrying about mid-term marks, and resenting your impulsive spending habits, and forgetting your scarf at home), it's important to stay active in the world around you. Follow the news, even just from a distance. Get involved with efforts in your community. Speak up when you're concerned – this is the only way that change can begin to happen. Please don't let the dull glow of the twinkling Christmas lights lull you into apathy.

Have a safe and happy Winter Break, Warriors! Be conscious, and be happy.

*Morghen Jael*



Come buy some holiday baked goods and support two Westdale clubs at the same time – The Sequitur is partnering with Triune for a bake sale on Thurs. December 21<sup>st</sup>! Save the date!



# ANNOUNCEMENTS



## The Westdale Music Department presents... The Winter Concert!



'Tis the season for great live music! Whether you like Christmas carols or jazz, Westdale's Winter Concert has something for almost every musical taste. You will get to hear from all of our ensembles, from the jazz bands to the choir, and – just for one song – all of our concert bands and orchestras will join together to form one epic symphonic orchestra. Saxophones and strings don't play together very often, so don't miss out on this rare opportunity!

But that's not all! During the concert, there will also be a bake sale featuring loads of scrumptious homemade cakes, cookies and pies (...oh, my!) to satisfy your sweet tooth.

So, if you want to experience an important part of Westdale's culture and listen to wonderful music played by talented students, come to the Winter Concert! It will take place on Wednesday December 13th from 7:30pm to around 10:00pm in the auditorium, and it will cost \$2 for individuals and \$5 for a family. You can bring along as many family members as you want, so make it a deal and invite everyone you know!

### TEACHER + DUCT TAPE + WALL

This is your chance. Tickets are on sale until December 11<sup>th</sup>! Buy the tape:

- 1\$ per piece
- 2\$ for 3 pieces
- 12\$ for an entire roll

**This tape-the-teacher event takes place on December 12<sup>th</sup>:**

- Period 3 is Ms Visca;
- Period 4 is Mr Gint Murphy.

Proceeds will be used to support the Music students go to the Golden Horseshoe competition!



### Photography on School TVs!

Share your Westdale school life photos and selfies on our TVs. Class projects, your experiments, your artwork, you & your friends at lunch, on the team, in a club...all things Westdale.

Send your photos to [wmelnick@hwdsb.on.ca](mailto:wmelnick@hwdsb.on.ca) (Ms. Melnick) as soon as you take them!



## DEAR A . . .

Advice from the best

Dear A,  
*I'm not sure what kind of gift to get for Secret Santa. Help!*  
Sincerely,  
S(O)S

Dear S(O)S,  
The holiday season is upon us! Gift giving is a daunting task, but a quick stalk of their socials and a sneaky conference with their friends should do the trick. Always remember that most of the time, because

of social rules, the gift receiver will pretend to like whatever gift you give them so just do whatever! Happy Holidays bois!!

\*side note: Secret Santa gift giving shouldn't be an economically challenging activity; remember that thoughtful gifts are worth much, much more than any other kind. Spreading joy > buying an expensive present!

Sincerely,

A





(**Formal Cancelled** continues from front page):

This is obviously illegal and prohibited, as well as stated under the safety section in the Hamilton Wentworth District School Board's Student Code of Conduct, "[Students are prohibited to] Be in possession of, or be under the influence of, or provide others with alcohol or illegal drugs." It was the intoxication of students at the Wac-O-ween dance that directly correlated to not having a formal this year. And the decision to not have a formal should be seen as a message to the student population that the behaviour would not be tolerated again. While intoxication on school grounds can be very detrimental for students, it can be equally detrimental for the faculty as well.

When it comes to school-sanctioned events, teachers and administration are ultimately responsible for the safety and security of the students. When students are intoxicated by any substance, their safety is in jeopardy and it falls on the teachers to make sure that they are taken care of. When there is such a wide range of students who are under the influence, it makes the job nearly impossible for the teachers to be able to care for the students--nor should they have to. The teachers are also legally liable for students at these events. What if there is a situation in which an intoxicated student decides to leave the dance and then drive under the influence? And what if said student crashes a car, and injures themselves or someone else? What if something even worse than that happens? What if an intoxicated student went home to bed and choked on their own vomit in their sleep? What if an assault--sexual or otherwise--happens because of someone's poor intoxicated decision?

I understand that many might think that these scenarios are far-fetched, but sadly for some, they may be an unfortunate reality if things get too far out of hand. And if anything similar to what I described were to happen, the faculty would be blamed and be held legally and criminally responsible. The decision to not have a formal was not just to protect those who may excessively drink at the event, but also the teachers as well.

It needs to be understood that teachers are volunteering their time in order to supervise these events. Teachers volunteer to supervise these events not because they have to, but because they want to. Better yet, most even enjoy doing so. Most teachers want students to let loose for a night and have fun, but that idea does not involve supervising intoxicated underage students.

Although I am very disappointed that Westdale is not having a winter formal this year, I can see where the teachers are coming from. They did not just sit at their desks and mischievously decide to cancel formal simply because they had nothing better to do. Their reasoning was fair and valid. I just hope that the same mistakes are not made again next year, and that dances can be held once again.



## What Ever Happened to Student Voice?

Opinion about the cancellation of winter formal: the process, and implications

By: Lane O'Hara Cooke

Remember in Elementary School when if one student didn't follow a rule, the whole class had to stay in for recess? Well, Westdale Secondary School is trying this same method of group punishment.

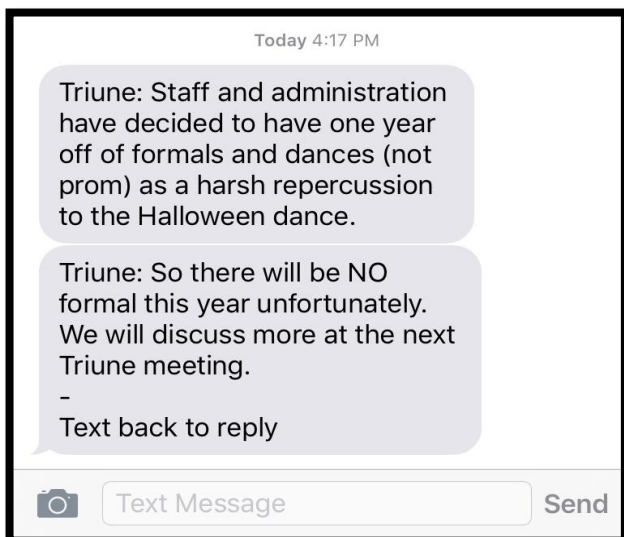
On November 16th, Westdale's Triune board sent a text out to its members (see below) announcing the decision made by staff and administration to suspend dances and formals for one year "as a harsh repercussion to the Halloween dance." The Halloween dance was described by many as a "disaster." There were an overwhelming amount of suspensions given to underage drinkers. Due to health and safety concerns, the dance was shut down an hour early.

In Elementary School, it was always explained to me that group punishment was given to teach the students a lesson, so that next time everyone would know not to break the rules again. Sometimes a grumpy teacher would tell me they would use group punishment to cause social consequences against the troublemaker. In theory, the rest of the class would be annoyed with the particular student and if anything, that would really be the thing to stop the student from becoming a repeat offender.

But throughout Elementary School, I so clearly remember not caring about the mischief maker, and fully directing my anger toward the authority member. And this is the fatal flaw of group punishment: when you penalize a group of innocent people - in this case, the students that were not drinking - they will revolt. They will be angry. They will lose respect for the authority.

When students feel that their voices have not been taken into account, the feeling of "why do we even try?" sets in. Why was there not an assembly held to even consider hearing from those who have done nothing wrong? Why was there not a conversation between students and staff to address what had happened? Why haven't we discussed why underage drinking is dangerous and unacceptable, especially at school events?

By not talking about what happened and then giving a group punishment, you both silence student voice and you cause divisiveness between the student body and staff. What happened at the Halloween dance was embarrassing and should never happen again, but we should use it as a learning experience to move forward together.



The texts sent by Triune to its members





## The Trip of a Lifetime

My unforgettable experience on a *Me to We* international trip

By: Kate Folsetter

“Hello! My name is Kate Folsetter. I’m a grade 9 student here at Westdale. Last year I had the experience of a lifetime. I decided to go on a Me to We trip to Ecuador. It all started one day during the summer before my grade 8 school year. It was just a regular day in my life; I was spending time at my cottage, eating breakfast. I was talking with my mom about how my sister was really getting into sailboat racing. I, on the other hand, stopped being so into sailing and was looking for my next thing. I’m pretty socially conscious and wanted to do something to change the world and do more than just donating to help a charity. I really wanted to make a difference on a global scale.

My mom suggested going on a Me to We trip. Me to We is a social enterprise that encourages youth to make change globally. I went onto their website and was pretty sold on the idea in a matter of minutes. I choose to go Ecuador because it looked really interesting in the photos they had online. I knew my Nana had gone there and loved it and my mother was the most comfortable with me going there because it was closest to home.

Now all I had to do was fundraise! I babysat, sold cookies, and tutored kids in French. I was able raise over \$2,000 dollars, which really surprised me.

Before I left, I had to get 5 vaccinations and malaria medication that gave me the craziest dreams; but it was all worth it! When I got to the airport, I was shaking - I was so nervous, but I was also really excited. The day was finally here. It was actually happening. It felt like was like a dream! Surrounding me was a group of amazing like-minded people from all across Canada and the United States. They were warm and friendly and welcoming.

After our more than seven hour plane ride, with a very quick stop in San Salvador, El Salvador, we arrived in Quito (the capital city of Ecuador). We spent 2 days in Quito, which is a UNESCO world heritage site. In Quito we went on a walking tour to learn about the history and the culture of the city. I got to visit The Ecuador Museum, where I stood on the equator line between the Northern and the Southern Hemisphere. It was a surreal experience. We spent a week in Riobamba in the Chimborazo province

in Ecuador. We got to learn about the culture of the Indigenous people of the Andes. Our group project there was building the foundation for one of the first high schools in this area in Ecuador. Lots of bricks were laid! We got to participate in activities such as crafting with local women's groups, going on a water walk, and playing soccer with the kids from the school.

Next stop was the Amazon Rainforest. This picturesque scenery was truly from out of a story book. The climate was hot and humid, it rained several times a day. We worked to help build another classroom in Montana. I met a girl my age at the build site, she was really sweet to me. I talked to her in my broken Spanish. We got to experience Amazonian culture firsthand. I got to learn how to use a blow gun, throw Amazon warriors spears and taste a hot Amazonian pepper. The Amazon Rainforest was really a beautiful place.

I had an amazing experience on my trip to Ecuador this summer. In conclusion, my Me to We trip made a huge impact on who I am today. I learned so much about myself and the world around me. Now I definitely want to be able to change the world one day. Next year I will be going another Me to We trip to Tanzania, Africa, and I am fundraising by selling dog toys (let me know if you're interested!!). If you are a kind, socially conscious teenager, looking to learn more about the world around you and wanting to make a change, I would definitely recommend going on a Me to We trip this summer! For more information, visit - [www.We.org](http://www.We.org).



A photo from the trip!





## FAMINE, CHOLERA, BLOODSHED: YEMEN IN CRISIS

A candid report on the country's critical condition

By: Talar Stockton

United Nations under-secretary-general and emergency relief co-ordinator Mark Lowcock says "It will be the largest famine the world has seen for decades, with millions of victims." 130 children will die each day due to it, according to non-governmental organization Save the Children. A Saudi-blockade induced famine in Yemen has reached horrific proportions this November.

The Saudi-led coalition has partially lifted the blockaded to allow humanitarian organizations through. However, this is not nearly enough to help the millions starving, United Nations top officials stated "all this does is slow the collapse towards a massive humanitarian tragedy costing millions of lives. It does not prevent it." in a joint statement released December 2nd. Yemen's population has witnessed one of the largest cholera outbreaks of all time, and hospitals are already bankrupt and understaffed treating cholera infections. The large amount of starving people has only applied more stress to an already damaged medical system.

At the beginning of this November, the Saudi-blockade was set up and closed all ports and prevented aid shipments from reaching Yemen. This was after Yemeni Houthi rebels launched a ballistic missile that was shot down at Riyadh, the capital of Saudi Arabia. The ballistic missile was to hit the capital's airport, according to the rebels. No one was injured by the strike. Saudi Arabia's government accused Iran's government of providing the Houthi rebels with access to ballistic missiles, as it has been known to do in the past. Saudi Arabia has been perpetrating an air-strike campaign on Yemen's Houthi-controlled north since 2015.

The Houthis have claimed Yemen's government is trying to replace the Shiite Zaydi Muslim identity with the Wahabi Sunni Islam, similar to what is practised in Saudi Arabia.

The blockade received immense global outcry condemning Saudi Arabia. In a statement published by the office of British Prime Minister Theresa May November 30th, it was stated that during a three-day tour through the Middle East, May talked to Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman of Saudi Arabia and made clear that "the flow of commercial supplies on which the country depends must be resumed if we are to avert a humanitarian catastrophe,". The statement reinstated what many NGOs, such as Save the Children and United Nations had been saying for weeks. However, US president Donald Trump has supported Saudi Arabia's stance fiercely.

Former Yemeni president Ali Abdullah Saleh has announced he is willing to "turn a new page" with the Saudi coalition as long as they "lift the siege" in a televised Speech December 2nd. The speech was followed by Houthi rebels calling Saleh a traitor, and triggering armed battles in the streets of Yemen's capital Sanaa between Houthi rebels and Saleh supporters. This is despite previous alliance between the two groups. Tanks were deployed through residential streets, as well as snipers positioned on building roofs.

Yemen is in indisputable crisis. Civil war and disease has brought the splintered country to its knees. This is a monolithic humanitarian catastrophe the likes of have never been seen.



# An Escape from an Oppressive Regime

By: Kofi Donaldson

On November 13th, a North Korean soldier was spotted crossing the DMZ (Demilitarized Zone) that serves as the border between North and South Korea. CCTV cameras captured footage of a vehicle passing military checkpoints before getting stuck in a ditch. Other North Korean soldiers began to run after the vehicle. The man then exited the truck and attempted to flee on foot. In seconds, the soldiers began to open fire on him.

When the man crossed the border into South Korea, a guard could be seen pursuing the wounded defector. This man continued to run to 'the South Korean side.' He collapsed shortly after and three South Korean soldiers dragged him to safety.

A United States Blackops helicopter transported him to a hospital near Seoul where he was treated by doctors and underwent multiple surgeries. "This defection was the most dramatic defection from the North in years, making headlines in South Korea," says Scot Leffler from the channel 'Defense Updates'.

Lee Cook-Jang and his team of surgeons discovered that the defector's damaged intestines were occupied by dozens of fully grown parasitic worms. "In my twenty years as a surgeon, I have only seen something like this in medical textbooks," said Dr. Lee. This recent discovery is said "to have shed some light on the conditions that the North Korean people face on a day to day basis." Despite this, experts on parasites were not surprised. "The finding was consistent with the broad sense of conditions in the isolated, impoverished North," they said. A 2014 study revealed that from a sample of seventeen female defectors, seven of them were infected with parasitic worms. That is approximately forty-one percent of them.

North Korean soldiers receive priority food rationing, particularly those who are deployed near the border with South Korea. This implies that the general population of North Korea may be in a much worse condition. Because of North Korea's lack of chemical fertilizers, North Korea relies on human feces to fertilize its crop fields. This causes the spread of parasites and disease.

North Korea experienced a "great" famine which killed more than a million people in the 1990s. This encouraged more than 30 000 people to escape since then. There have been many reports of North Koreans experiencing stunted growth due to inadequate nutrition, including the North Korean defector mentioned before. He is believed to be in his late 20s, is 5 feet 5 inches tall and weighs 132 pounds. However, an average high school male senior is 5 foot 8 inches tall and weighs 154 pounds.

This recent discovery has made many wonder: is North Korea as much of a threat as we once thought?

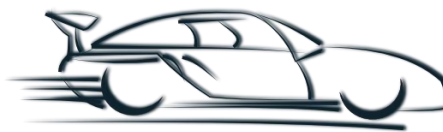


Have any thoughts on this (or on any other article)? Share your opinion! Send your response to [thesequitur.westdale@gmail.com](mailto:thesequitur.westdale@gmail.com) and we may be able to publish it in the next issue! Anonymous publication is always an option.



# The Red Light For Red Light Cameras?

By: Justice Tomlinson



## Red Light Cameras are designed to increase public safety but cause more accidents than ever?

That's right! The majority of areas that implement Red Light Cameras at problem intersections report a decrease in right-angle crashes, but an increase in rear end crashes. When your city makes a move towards protecting your safety, how does one stand to reconcile the idea that the interventions can make intersections more dangerous? A final report compiled by [stpetecameras.org](http://stpetecameras.org) takes a look at the long-term impact on intersection safety before and after the implementation of a red light camera. The collection of studies revealed a 27% average increase in total crashes, with crashes in some jurisdictions reporting increases as high as 107%. The studies also revealed that the amount of injury crashes increased, on average, by 21%. While it's true that there are many intersections that reported a moderate or no reduction to accidents in studied intersections, 75% of cities reported significant increases in crashes. It turns out, when people are aware of Red Light Cameras or scared of them, they slam on the brakes, causing multiple rear end crashes all to avoid getting a ticket. Overall, it appears that Red Light Cameras generally lower public safety where they're implemented. The statistics show that red light cameras can actually detract from public safety by causing more accidents! (**Red Light Cameras** is continued on page 10)

Red light cameras, designed to prevent traffic violations and increase public safety, truly only increase accidents and cost you money. The city of Hamilton, despite the now apparent drawbacks, has decided to implement 20 more by the year 2021. With cities all over the map voting to ban Red Light Cameras from their communities, how can the city of Hamilton justify not taking a hint?

## Red Light Cameras, certified and professional...with a poor reputation?

Red Light Cameras have been plagued, especially in recent memory, with the overwhelming impression of being more about money than public safety. The incentive is there. Red Light Cameras have the potential to generate hundreds of thousands of dollars for a given city. In most cases, one way or another, this is the reality. However, many municipalities resort to underhanded tactics that put money above the safety of citizens. There are reports of cities shortening yellow and green light times to ensure more cameras are meeting expected revenues. Moreover, towns have had to repay millions back in money collected by Red Light Camera issued tickets due to legal and design issues surrounding Red Light Cameras. Additionally, in many legal jurisdictions, Red Light Cameras have stood up poorly to philosophical legal challenges and have even been banned in some states. People have even defeated Red Light Camera tickets in court over the Camera's inability to actually prove who was driving the car (due to technologically intended limitations). Red Light Cameras have unstable legal footing and an often questionable history regarding corruption!



(Red Light Cameras continues from page 9):

### **Red Light Cameras, working on the behalf of the public ... generate revenue off the back of the average person?**

It's true! Taking a look a little closer to home, Hamilton has 24 red light cameras and plans to implement 44 by 2021. Ward 4 City Councillor Sam Merulla has been quoted as saying "Ultimately, I think every intersection should have red light cameras ... We need to expand the program and be aggressive in doing it." It's true that Red Light Cameras are revenue-generating; the cameras make way more money than it takes to install. The overall costs of Hamilton's current 13 Red Light Cameras is \$1,367,500. Generally speaking, the economic benefits of red light Cameras far outweigh the costs. The case is true for the most part of Canadian cities, some even having reserve accounts full of the money collected from the constituent Red Light Cameras. So, the profit incentive is there for the government. Don't believe it happens? A man in Suffolk County, New York known as the Red Light Robin Hood exposed a government collusion with the corporation Xerox to shorten the duration of yellow lights. He was imprisoned for 22 years for a painter's extension rod to direct red light cameras towards the sky and cutting the wires to 18 more. Credit where credit is due, the Canadian system prevents the corporations in charge of the cameras from taking a cut of the ticket profits so that the company isn't incentivized to

capitalize on potential ticket revenue (which appeared to be the largest element of the issue in the case of The Red Light Robinhood). In the United States, RLC companies are known to lobby for shorter red light times or manipulate the light timing through other means. The profit incentive is still there. The government still wants to maximize profits for itself to some degree.

*Red Light Camera Systems have been revealed to be exploiting citizenries as a source of revenue. With so few studies performed on the impact of Red Light Cameras in Hamilton, how much trust should be put in a government that thinks a camera at EVERY intersection is a good idea?*



### **Water Polo Wins: continued from front page**

By: Zeynep Berra Yilmaz

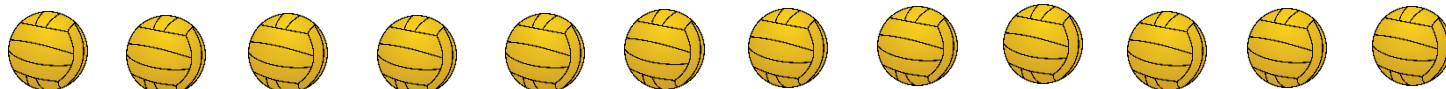
### **SPORTS**

... The boys' senior team has 20 championships where they outscored the other team with large margins and juniors on the other hand has 19 championships in 24 years.

Westdale's Water Polo Club welcomed the 2017-18 school year with a dynamic and confident attitude as always and has already started their practices. Boys' team started working out in November and will continue until mid-January while Girls will train from February to the end of March. Practices take place at the Dalewood Pool two times a week from 3:15 to 4:15, with juniors and senior combined. They are strict on time because it is difficult to get pool hours, which prepares the students for a more responsible and punctual life. There are ideally 12 players on a team but juniors have 16 players while seniors stand at 10 for now. There are many junior players because this is their learning year where they will build up their skills and

will gain understanding and knowledge of the game. They have to get used to lots of rules that may seem unusual to fans of other ball sports. But things get more serious and tough if you are a senior because you will have gained mastery of the game by then.

Six players plus a goal keeper play at one time. The goal is to develop all players, so the team substitutes players often, especially the junior team for them to learn. The hope is that everyone gets a chance to participate, however they also wish to be competitive, so there are times that they shorten the bench particularly for the senior team because they have more endurance and can last the whole game. Their goal for this year is to win like always, have as many players play as they can and represent our school properly. If you're interested in joining this fantastic Water Polo Club, you can contact Ms. Tonogai, Ms. Adachi or Ms. Gittings. GO WARRIORS!





## NBA Players Deserve Christmas Gifts As Well

By: Zeynep Berra Yilmaz

NBA brought on its A game on Halloween at LeBron James' party with mind-blowing costumes. There was LeBron as Pennywise, Carmelo Anthony as The Night King, Kyle Korver as Willy Wonka with his Golden Ticket and two Oompa Lompas. Curry wanted to play a game and was Jigsaw, while Tristan Thompson and soon-to-be-mother Khloe Kardashian as Khal Drogo and Khaleesi won the Best Couple Costume.

Now they have started preparing for Christmas. There will be a Christmas Day showdown of 5 games between the best teams starting at 12pm, which has become an annual tradition. Everyone deserves presents, and in case you are not good with picking gifts, here is a list of presents you can get for some NBA players for Christmas:

**J.R. Smith:** A shirt. He is known for going pretty much everywhere shirtless - especially to the post-championship celebrations. Even Obama was shocked when Cavaliers were welcomed at the White House and he actually wore something. Obama said "J.R. Smith's shirt has shown up. I wasn't sure it was going to make an appearance today. I'm glad you came. You're wearing a very nice shirt."

**Joel Embiid:** A date with Rihanna. He has a crush on Rihanna and even wanted the fans to vote for him to the All-Star Game this year because Rihanna said to him: "come back when you're an All-Star". In May, he was at an ESPN event with Kelly Rowland, Rihanna's friend, and explained why Rihanna should give him a shot. Embiid works really hard to get noticed by Rihanna so we hope Rowland convinces her. Whatever happens, congrats for the effort.

**JaVale McGee:** A card saying you don't think he is "dumb". He has been the favourite target of Shaqtin' A Fool for 7-8 years, which is a program by Shaquille O'Neal that focuses on the bloopers of NBA players. McGee said "Fans think I'm a dumb person" and that the program is "really just trying to ruin someone's career over basketball mistakes." Shaq and McGee have exchanged a series of words on Twitter which would be highly inappropriate to mention here...

**Marcus Smart:** A DVD Set of Ray Allen shots. He may be crucial for the Celtics but is also the worst shooter in NBA right now with just 28.1 percent. Maybe he can learn how to shoot from this DVD.

**Steven Adams:** A suit of armor to wear under the jersey. He has been elbowed and kicked many times in the game very roughly, taking hits from everyone from the defense beast Hassan Whiteside to dunk-master Vince Carter and Nick Young. But the worst was not one but two kicks from Draymond Green. What do they want from this perfectly likable and friendly guy? Do they think it brings luck to touch him or what?

HAPPY NEW YEAR EVERYONE!







## He is the Best. But he will never be the Greatest.

By: Zeynep Berra Yilmaz

Who is the best player in the history of NBA? This has been a major argument lately. I have a name in mind who has unbelievable stats; he is one of the two players to average at least 25 points, 6 rebounds, and 6 assists in his career. He is one of the 5 players to win at least 4 MVPs. He has had the privilege to play in 6 straight -7 in total-NBA finals and has earned 3 championships. He is the most versatile player in the 126 year history of basketball. Not only can he guard anyone in any position but can also play both point guard and power forward at the same time. He is the smartest one on the court today and the most physically gifted. He has the leadership spirit and skills with the perfect play for every situation. He may not shoot like Ray Allen, or have the 3 point accuracy of Stephen Curry, or defend like Dikembe Mutombo, or pass like Magic Johnson but has the entire package with a high level of everything.

In case you still haven't figured out who I'm talking about, I'll give you one last clue. He's really good-looking even with a receding hairline. Now there is no way you haven't understood I'm talking about LeBron James. We all know what a fascinating player he already is and still has a lot of time to achieve more, thus I don't want to write about the insane stuff he is doing. Talking about why he is "the Best" NBA player would be like trying to prove the World is round. It is a fact. Therefore, I'll argue about why he will never be "the Greatest" player with just two of many reasons.

My biggest problem with LeBron is his exasperating and immature flopping and complaining that has almost become a game day routine. It's like he'll fall down if you breathe in his direction. You remember the famous time when Lance Stephen blew into his ear. I cannot believe that LeBron didn't launch himself into the baseline at the cameramen and then follow the refs around the court whining for a foul. Many players flop but since he is a threat to the "Michael Jordan is the Greatest Ever" argument, we expect more from him. The sad part is that he is not even good at it. I'd be alright with his floppiest flops if he could actually do them. I mean you are supposed to act like you're injured when there is actually some contact, but he does them in meaningless places when nothing is happening. They also seem extremely absurd because of his physical superiority. It looks reasonable when Isaiah Thomas flops, while James makes it look outrageous, dramatic, and obvious as a result not effective at all.

As well, what gets LeBron in trouble the most even with his fans is his words. His current team, Cavaliers, hated him when he made the famous "Decision" which I think was basically a result of not handling being "the Man". In 2010, he left for Miami and put on the "not one, not two, not three" show referring to how many titles the Big 3 would win together. The whole league except Miami

hated him when he said the games would be "easy". The first year he was away, Cavs set a league record by losing 26 games in a row. In his "Decision 2.0", when he went back to Cavs, the only team that loved him, Miami, turned against him as well. Many saw these changes as basically toying with fans and teams. Today, people who don't support Cavs usually don't like him because he is a threat to their team. However, James loses the appreciation of his own team's fans as well especially on media days. He shuts down and talks rudely to journalists after a loss. We get that it is tough, but there are millions of people out there who want to learn about you and many more who are looking up to you.

He also makes ego moves and statements about how great or important he is. It is true that he is an unstoppable player but maybe he should stop talking about it and just stick to showing what he has got on the court. The latest drama he put on was when he declared himself the "King of New York". We know he likes giving himself nicknames but declaring himself the King of New York was over the top. He was replied to by Enes Kanter who said, "We've already got a king. It's Kristaps Porzingis. Sorry about that." James also made some statements about Frank Ntilikina from Knicks which Kanter found "disrespectful". As a result, when Cavs came to play in Madison Square Garden, Kanter and James were both given technical fouls after Kanter came to the defense of rookie Ntilikina who was chest to chest with James. There was an intense atmosphere where Kanter showed he is not afraid of anyone and will stand up for his team, while James went after a rookie not by words only but also with actions.

To conclude, Michael Jordan is loved and respected by everyone which plays a role in him being the GOAT but LeBron will never wholly earn that appreciation. NBA fans either adore him or despise him. No emotions in between. This will result in "His Airness", Michael Jordan, enjoying being the "Greatest Ever" for a longer period until a player with a better approach and the same or higher skill set takes over NBA. But until then, LeBron James should have fun with the "Best Ever" title.



# The Smartphone Epidemic

By: Sonya Pallapothu



When walking the halls of your high school and looking around, you'll probably find devices in most people's hands; more specifically, smartphones. Did you know that before smartphones came into our lives we used an act of communication called "verbal speech"? We still talk to people face-to-face in our daily lives, but nowadays, the amount of talking that we do in person is limited compared to the amount of communication used through messages and social media. Although our electronic devices do have their benefits, they also have a few negative impacts on our lives which are greatly important.

Our electronics are amazing resources in terms of the web; the internet is packed with helpful information, and has hundreds of answers for even the simplest of questions. Our devices, especially our smartphones, are handy in emergency situations and are right at our fingertips (or right in our pockets) when we are in need of help. The most obvious benefit to having technology is communication. We're not able to be with our friends and family all the time, and having devices on hand keeps us in touch with the people we don't see often. Communication is good, but there is always a limit to everything.



Texting is the most common way of communication between teenagers, and once we pick up our phone and start texting, it's difficult to stop. Texting is addictive and this is coming from a person who is obsessed with cyber interaction herself. We're so attached to our electronics that we keep them beside our bed in case someone contacts us and we have to respond as soon as possible. Teenagers feel compelled to be reachable at any time of the day which causes us to have lack of sleep and can affect us when performing our daily activities.

Research shows that electromagnetic radiation can be absorbed by tissue and can cause brain cancer in people who are exposed to it. Radiation can damage the DNA (deoxyribonucleic acid) in living cells which allows them to function, grow, and reproduce. If the cells in important organs are damaged, there can be lots of complications. There is no conclusive evidence quite yet, but cell phones can cause brain cancer, because they emit electromagnetic radiation. Cell phones do cause a high risk to our health, and shortening our usage of our electronic devices can help us to lead a healthier life.

We are the "wired generation" who were brought up with the discoveries of new technologies. But technology should be used for our benefit, not for affecting our health. Limiting the use of electronics can make you feel more productive in your daily life. So, go out and socialize and text for maybe twenty minutes a day, and you'll find how much better your life will be after just a small change in your routine.

1. Berry, Kristen. "How Do Cell Phones Negatively Affect the Health of Teens?" LIVESTRONG.COM, Leaf Group, 13 Aug. 2015, [www.livestrong.com/article/1005653-cell-phones-negatively-affect-health-teens/](http://www.livestrong.com/article/1005653-cell-phones-negatively-affect-health-teens/).

2. Curtis, Sophie. "Texting for long periods 'could lower life expectancy'." The Telegraph, Telegraph Media Group, 25 Mar. 2014, [www.telegraph.co.uk/technology/mobile-phones/10721014/Texting-for-long-periods-could-lower-life-expectancy.html](http://www.telegraph.co.uk/technology/mobile-phones/10721014/Texting-for-long-periods-could-lower-life-expectancy.html).

3. "Radiation Exposure." Radiation Exposure | Radiation Information and Answers, [www.radiationanswers.org/radiation-introduction/radiation-exposure.html](http://www.radiationanswers.org/radiation-introduction/radiation-exposure.html).



# The Gift of Peace

By: Jordan Denkers



14

“Peace is our gift to each other,” wrote Elie Weisel. Peace. What does that mean to you? Is it the cease of war? The entire population immersed in the state of zen? I think all characterize it differently. For me, peace is a word that encompasses a lot of little ones. Kindness. Empathy. Sympathy, and courage. Confidence and morality. They are little pieces that when aligned in the right way, and with the right proportions, lead to peace. And, no matter what holiday you are celebrating this winter, peace can and should be a part of it.

Peace isn't always easy to obtain - most of the time we can't even define it. We tend to only experience little glimpses of that pure world, which are hard to bring into our own. Even when presented with the opportunity to make a positive impact, we may pass it by, not thinking to glance at it while we're walking down the marked path in a huge crowd. However, if we take the time to stray and take a peek at the extended hands offering that change, we may find they hold the capability to impact us, in a way we long for.

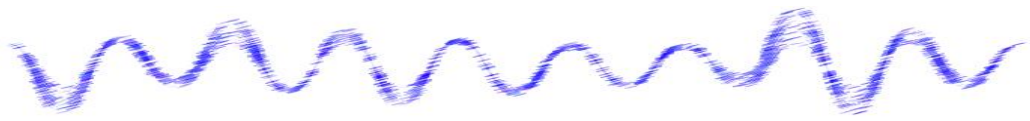
Now, you ask, why now? Why start this hearty march towards world peace during the holidays? Well, firstly, because it's easy. It is so easy! During the holidays, there are lights everywhere, gatherings, and spontaneous smiles. Yes, shallow underlying constant stress is a part of these days too, but there are so many special things happening around us! People taking extra care and thought to go out of their way is a daily occurrence, as are the commonly found laughter and exchanged grins. So if you decide you want to make a change, what better atmosphere to throw yourself into? Secondly, it's not world peace I'm going for. Not in the least, actually. Because I know that the world will never be perfect. In fact, the faith I have in this is what puts me at ease! Because as long as there is bad, I believe there will always be a good motivated to change it. When looking to instill peace into your and others lives, this not only provokes the question of how, but it actually arouses a goal that is shot down every day by the very people who want to achieve it. We are the ones who want more peace, yet we are distributing the news of all the negative things happening instead of all the good. We are constantly hearing horrible things and incidents on the media - it's incessant. We hear about

the man who died in a shooting last Tuesday, but not about the man who bought the next Tim's customer a coffee. We hear about the latest terrorist attack over the fact that at least one thousand strangers exchanged smiles on Thursday morning. While we need to be aware of the bad things going on in our world, and we can become even more determined to eradicate them upon seeing them, they constantly overshadow the good. So, when looking to foster more peace in your life, remember that. Don't be discouraged. There are good things happening - we just don't display them as often. In order to actually start making peace a bigger part of your day, start with things like giving your crossing guard a broader smile when she saves your life from the new drivers that surround Westdale (I will soon be amongst them). Start toning down the crazy drama that seems like the end of this world and the opening to a new demonic place, so you can concentrate on things that may be a little more important. Appreciate all the beautiful things around you, like the snow that will hopefully soon be falling (and don't say you hate the cold - we're Canadians!) or the new warm smells coming from pine trees and coffee shops and candles.

Delving into positive rituals will not only brighten your day, but will prove to be the gift that you can give to others now and beyond the holiday season. Good luck!







## Creative Essay by: Nicola Lawford

The station is crowded, so I remind my friends to stick together. I have taken the train to Toronto with three others to see a rock band from England. Legs numb from the long train ride, we wade as though through water from Exhibition Station into a dream-world of young people and food trucks, lit doubly by the glare of the late July sunset reflected off the lake. We are blinded a little when we lean out over a railing facing the water.

I look down at the waves, which have been building all day from back home in Hamilton on a southwesterly wind. The four of us took physics last year, and could draw these waves on sine graphs, modelling the motion of particles oscillating up and down or back and forth. We might be swaying ourselves, dizzy with anticipation. It is daunting to think of being in the presence of a famous person, even if they are only famous for their singing voice, or the way their body looks, or other traits to that effect.

On the hazy opposite shoreline, I try to place Niagara-On-The-Lake. This is where my mother grew up on a fruit farm, spending her winters at Catholic school and her summers packing peaches. She finished high school early, moved to Hamilton, and became a mechanical engineer working at a university. She stopped when she had me. Her years have since been spent making me meals, reading me books, and telling me I am beautiful. She gave me her love for science, and rock music, and her astigmatism of the eye, I suppose, among other things. As a teenager, she was never allowed to go to Toronto to see famous people, even though the CN tower was visible from the orchard, just across the lake.

After seeing an opening act we don't know, my friends and I wander to the merchandise table. Deciding whether or not to buy a t-shirt I am trying on--it is cut off high at the hem--I scan for reflective surfaces. The mirrored convex lenses of my friends' sunglasses disperse light waves and make my cheeks balloon out, swelling and undulating like the surface of the lake. As

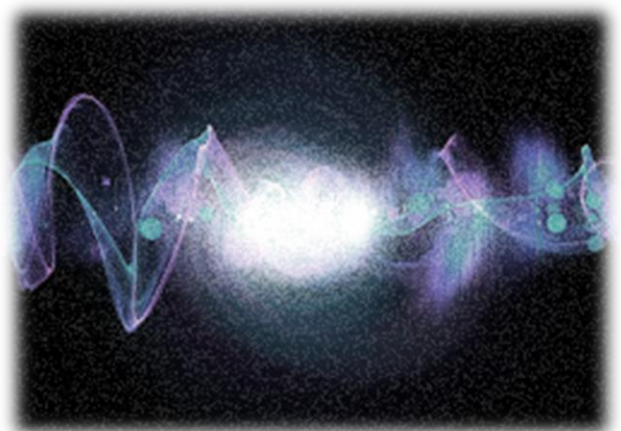
a rule, I try not to think too much about bodies. Bodies are all different. Bodies come with different features, in different shapes and colours, and they come from different places, and they wear different clothes, and that is alright with me, but it doesn't always seem like it is alright with everyone. I change out of the t-shirt, and the four of us walk to the cashier.

We sit down in our seats, only to jump out of them shortly afterward. The lead singer enters the stage in a flash of electric blue, holding a light-up guitar and wearing matching fluorescent shoes for the first set. A crashing clamour of applause echoes off the ceiling, but his voice flows through, clear like water. His presence is god-like; under the spotlight, his face glows in the dark.

When my mother gives me advice, she never says that she owes everything to hard work, toughness, or putting herself before others.

"Be nice to everyone, always," she says, "no matter how they are or what they look like. That will get you places."

Where would my mother be now if not for me? Perhaps she would be standing on a stage, in a space so vast you could hear an echo, sending messages in waves at the speed of sound. Perhaps thousands would flock from across Canada to see her in person, to have the very spotlights illuminating her face reflecting off their own skin. What does it mean to change the world? Has she done it? Will I? . . . (**Waves** continues on page 16)



(**Waves** continues from page 15):

Sheets of light roll across the crowd in front of me, which appears to rise and fall in rhythm. Without bodies, we are not so different; we all think and feel and love, it seems. The rolling lights reach us and the bodies before me blend together behind an astigmatic glare, so that we are one swelling, flowing, undulating medium. Waves move us, great waves of culture, from some ubiquitous source that no one can see, like wind, or breath.

“Thank you, Canada, the greatest country in America!” says the lead singer in closing.

Reverberating screams swallow me.

Walking out, my friends stick together, a molecule in the sea of bodies flooding Exhibition Station. It is after one o'clock when I get home, wearing a new t-shirt, ears still ringing with imaginary echoes. I collapse into my mother when I hug her good-night. Her arms bear me up, lifting the whole world, until we are a towering tsunami of people who are nice to everyone, bodies forgotten altogether. This is how the world is changed.

## FICTION

## The Buggers: Part Two

Short Fiction continued from the October Issue By: Dikshya Kafle



### SECTION 5 – FREDERIC

It's been long since I laid amidst the ruins of what Frederic used to be; his disheveled body still drawing more tears. I thought I could protect him. No, I didn't protect him. He protected me—twice. The boys, they just wouldn't listen. I thought if I played their game they'd stop. Stop coming after him. Boy was I wrong. So, so, very wrong.

If anyone is reading this right now, I bet you're thinking how horrible a person I am. That I don't sound saddened enough. Well...maybe you're right. Somewhere twisted inside me, I wished for this to happen. He, like any other bug, is replaceable. No, I ought to get help. That isn't true. Frederic, he wasn't any bug, he was my bug. Then why was I so inept of preventing his death? I don't know. I WANT to know. He loved me so much that he risked that very his life of his. I, a human, don't deserve this life. Frederic is more worthy. He died a humanitarian. And if he were human too, he'd be the kindest, most sophisticated one out there; drinking pish posh tea with a pinky finger raised up, courteously showing who's boss.

### SECTION 6 – FORMER DAYS

When I reach out towards the flickrs, did I not expect them to be so wary of me. No matter. The flickrs, it seems, aren't just vivid memoirs, but rather a group, a society, bribing me in through their heated spite. My malice, surprise, surprise, begins to seep out. Something I've been lacking. I, on the surface, am kind, but deep down, there's an unruly ugliness no one has ever seen. Unless you've died by my hands, of course. Astounded as you are, this is all you've yet to see.

I had a theory they were a reminiscent bunch and I was right. My old buddies have come slithering back to me. Even death wouldn't do us part.

“Ay Rico! How ya doin’ ma bud?” says the hive’s leader. He’s quite the gruffy guy, pardon – bug, but I should easily chew him off. For these guys, brains and brawns don't come into tact, making me not want to reply.

“Gonna be quit, huh?”

No answer. He appears a little impatient, and tied up in thought. What an improvement.

(**The Buggers** is continued on page 17)

“Hey Rico—

“Frederic” I sternly interrupt.

“Eh, okay Frederic, guess what?”

“What?” I ask unimpressed.

“Y’know that human who locked yer away from us?”

“Yes, and?”

“We’re gonna kill her”

“Why?”

“Ya can't be here, dis not okay”

Silence. Scrunching up anger, annoyance, disgust, do I respond, “You dare touch her and it'll be the last of you.”

Explicitly unfazed, he's almost happy to hear such remarks.

“Rico, this da hell!”

He caught me there, the loophole was: because we are undead, I have no power over him or the others. Although, one can try. Maybe it is possible to send this pack to a new hell, one where you'd burn entirely as the Bible had told.

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## SECTION 7 – ITCHES

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She awakes, not hungry, not thirsty, not in pain—just awakes. The guilt from her playing a role in her pet’s death stained her to the point where ordeals weren't enough. Waking automatically and randomly was her new punishment, possibly one for the rest of her life. And today, especially, was a bad day to do so.

The room felt smaller, only maybe she had shrunk a couple inches, \*cough feet. Which was true to exorbitant extent. The frolicking flickrs whirling within the darkness, eluded the girl from seeing what was real to what was an illusion. Not much could be done at this point. Frederic knew this and wallowed over defeat. He is above her, in the wall’s corner, devastated for what's to come. The group, now attentive, prepare for the hunt. The girl, unaware, drifts back to sleep. What perfect timing.

Frederic tries to negotiate with them once more but they show little reluctance. Momentarily, they sink their sharp, bearing teeth against her body, beady eyes watching closely. Nothing happens. Couple minutes, still nothing—till abruptly, she broke out in excessive itch.

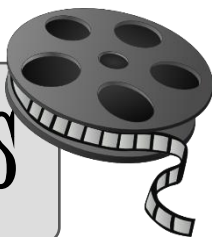
Frederic, now relieved, arrogantly puts up the front that this wasn't so serious when acknowledging it’s them. A spark of ideas hit him. What brilliance! A swarm of idiots shall fight for justice while seeking out vengeance in dauntingly harmless ways.

Frederic whistles to the group, ushering them to gather around. He explains his scheme precisely and briefly to which the bugs, simple-minded as they were, agree immediately, nominating him as troop leader just like the good old days.

Setting out across the world, they cause itch upon itch to those who've wronged and deserve to be wronged. Perhaps you too will be their next victim, dear Listener? Please remember, if you feel itchy and there's nothing there, it is them, The Buggers, haunting you, relishing their unholiness for centuries to come.

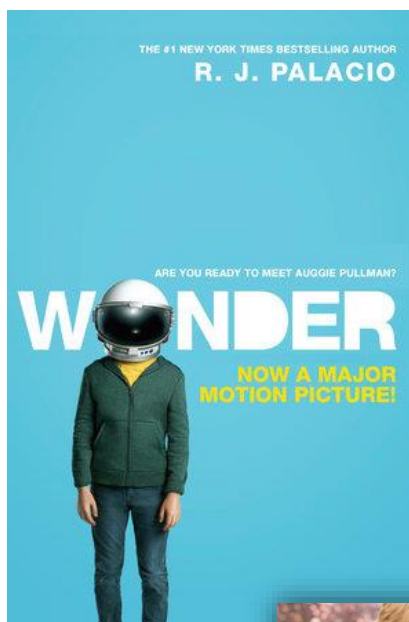


# REAL GOOD REELS



## Wonder

A movie review – Madeline Loewith



First of all, I would recommend reading the book before you see the movie. It's an unspoken law. Secondly, bring a box of kleenex to the theatre, because there will be many tears and you won't want to cry on your popcorn. The movie follows Auggie, a boy who was born with a rare facial deformity. He'd been homeschooled for most of his life, and this year, fifth grade, he's starting a real school. The story flips between Auggie's point of view, his friends', and his sister's. It's a really touching movie that shows the humanity in everyone, the individual struggles and stories of all the characters that weave a beautiful, and realistic, tale. The acting is excellent, and the film is well shot. Keep an eye out for Wonder during the Oscars. Also: Daveed Diggs.

**WHERE TO WATCH:** In Theatres.

*This movie is for everyone. Go watch it. Right now.*



When given the choice between being right or being kind, choose kind.

— Dr. Wayne W. Dyer

## Atelophobia: The Fear of Never Being Good Enough

By: A Rough Hazy Ink Ninja

Some days I feel like I'm drowning. The emotions, the to-do list, the people, all become too much. I don't have time to do the endless tasks and drama people put me through. This stuff that's deemed important isn't important to me.

I feel like I'm amounting to nothing. At the end of the day is what I'm doing even worth it? All those accomplishments seem insignificant when I'm faced with a failure.

I didn't add up, wasn't good enough, no amount of positivity in my life can change the fact that I didn't amount to what I wanted to be. I feel worthless at times, striving to succeed. And when I eventually do, it's not important enough when compared to the previous mistakes.

But I keep going, hoping tomorrow will be better.





## Holiday Horoscopes!

By: Megan Cyr



19



**Aries:** You're the Grinch.



**Taurus:** While gorging on shortbread, make sure you sweep the crumbs discreetly onto your pants. It's considered impolite to place crumbs on the ground, no matter how delicately you do it.



**Gemini:** Don't let people tell you that you shouldn't wear a red shirt with green pants. Red and green are complementary colours, yo. You look fly af.



**Cancer:** You shouldn't pick up cats by their tails.



**Leo:** The spirit of Christmas will visit you, but unfortunately you'll mistake it for a ghost and shriek so loudly you'll scare it away.



**Virgo:** After three hours of painstaking work, you'll stand back and admire the Christmas lights you've hung up outside of your house. Everybody can see how much spirit you have. However, nobody can see the stars due to light pollution caused by our society's incessant need to modify our surroundings, causing massive confusion to nocturnal animals of all kinds, and using an insane amount of energy probably fueled by natural gas, slowly wrecking the Earth. But yeah, those lights look really nice I guess.



**Libra:** Unless your name is St. Nick, don't go peeping through people's windows.



**Scorpio:** Just because it's cold outside doesn't mean you don't have a warm heart.



**Sagittarius:** In a pinch, a sucked-on candy cane can be used as a shank. The more ya know!



**Capricorn:** Ho ho hoes before bro bro bros-- life advice.



**Aquarius:** There's a reason why eggnog is seasonal and we don't drink it all year: it's fricken' disgusting. I mean, I'll eat cooked eggs I guess, but no way I'm drinking raw ones. Also, wtf is a nog? You can keep your nog.



**Pisces:** Make sure your jingle bells don't jangle too loudly, some of us are trying to sleep. As a general rule, no jangling over 50 decibels after 9pm should occur. Have some consideration.





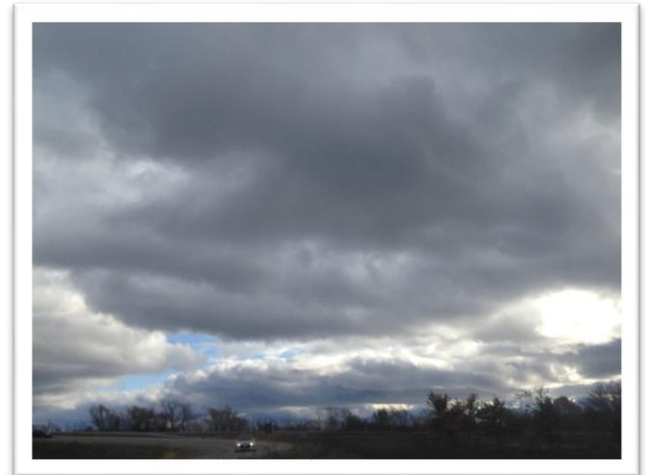
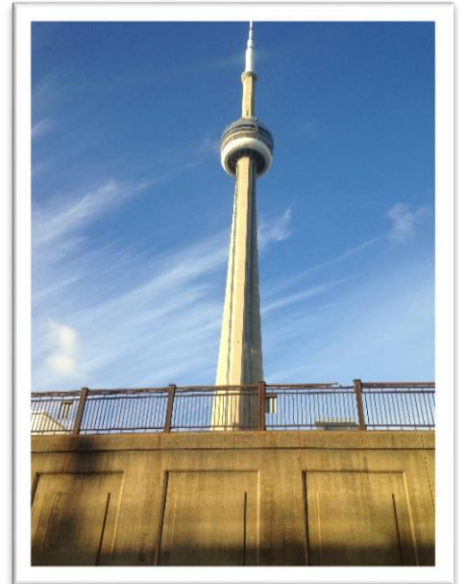
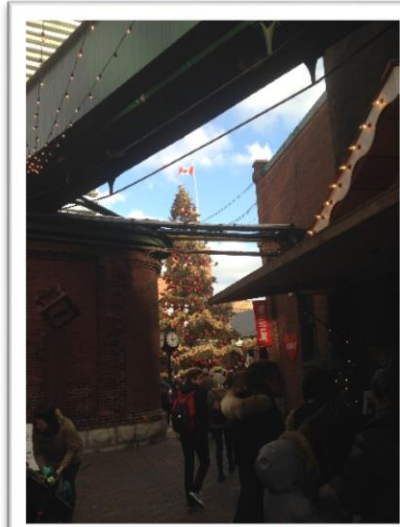




# Student Photography Gallery

Welcome to The Sequitur's gallery of student photography! Photos are IN COLOUR on a limited number of copies! Enjoy!

Gallery: Sarah Sellens

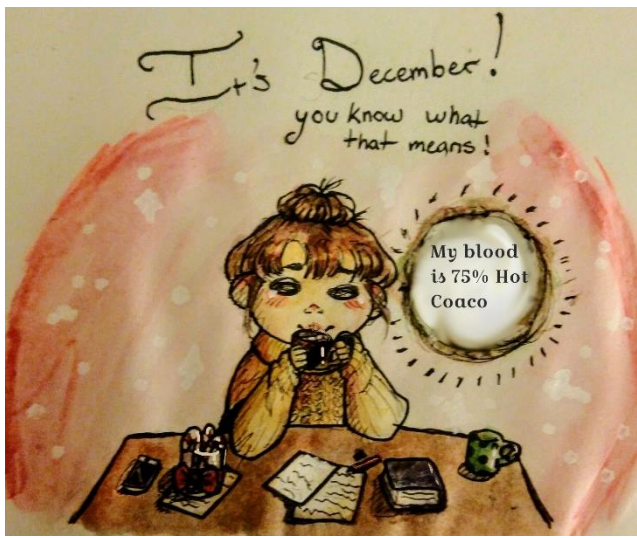


Gallery: Mackenna  
Friesen



Are you an aspiring photographer? Got some photos to share? Send them to [thesequitur.westdale@gmail.com](mailto:thesequitur.westdale@gmail.com) and we'll publish them next issue!





Ellyssa Armstrong

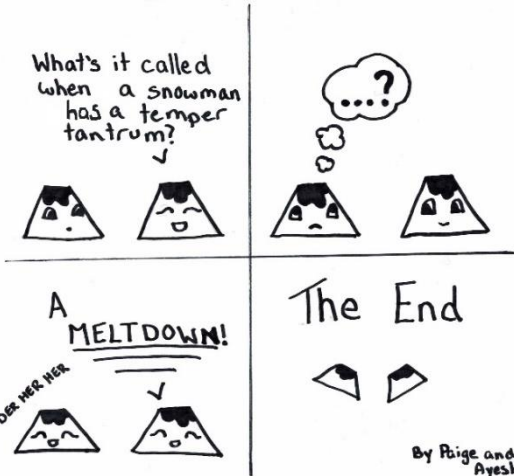


22

## Visual Arts

Welcome to The Sequitur's visual arts page! You don't need a camera to be creative – below are some comics and drawings for the month of December.

Valerie Canton



The Pudding Saga – Ayesha Nainar & Paige Sills

I Put the "Pro" in Procrastination

@painting\_crimson



Photography Gallery Part 2: Westdale Village's Winter Wander on December 1<sup>st</sup>



Westdale Winter Wander