Humans of Westdale interviews Marisa Parry-Lai:

Discover the Hong Konger's struggles of moving to Canada

Warrior For Wellness For Inclusivity:

See how the Wellness club is working towards bridging the cultural gap in our school

Featured in this issue - Frozen 28

Is it as iconic as its 2013 predecesso

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Letter From the Editors

Happy holidays, Warriors!

It's hard to believe we're already in December, isn't it? It feels as though the semester has gone by with the blink of an eye, but at the same time we have been sitting in the same classes for a little over three months now. Since the beginning of September a lot has happened within our school: Clothespin Ninja went on without a hitch and we crowned new student and teacher victors, the IB cohorts put on a chilli fundraising event for the Holiday Hampers and a local not for profit, and Westdale had its annual winter formal, we may have broken a few toes, but it was all in good fun. Note: next year we should have a no-heels rule, ouchie!

Lucky for us, December means the winter break, a two-week vacation off of school! We'll all have a little more free time than before: more time to sleep-in and stay up late, more time to catch up with good friends, more time to eat good food, and last but certainly not least, more time to be grateful for the people and things we have in our lives.

During the holiday season, we can all get caught up in the promise of what is to come, with the expectation of gifts being a tradition that has become ingrained in our Western culture. The malls and small businesses embrace this gift shopping frenzy, putting up brightly colour advertisements everywhere, decking themselves out in holiday-themed decor, and selling specialty products tailored to the "season of giving". Haven't we already had enough of all that buying? Black Friday was just at the end of November! Everyone was out and about buying an excessive amount of goods due to a drop in prices in pretty much all stores. It is days like these that encourage consumers to buy things they do not really need, just because things are cheap. This waste has a huge negative impact on our environment, all while intensifying our material greed.

After all the commercialization that occurs during this time of the year, with industries preying off of our continual desire to have more and more, a superficial and materialistic yearning, we often forget to slow down and think about what we *already* have. Just think about it for a second; first off we're all privileged to get an education here at Westdale. Then, practically everyone has a phone or other electronic device, which is insane! After all we both wrote this letter to you through our own laptops and decided how we were going to tackle it using our phones.

Despite this, there are many people around the world, in Hamilton, and in Westdale who do not have the privilege we do. It can be especially difficult for people living in poverty at this time of year because of how dangerously cold it gets in the winter. If you are able, we ask that you donate your old winter coats, winter boots, money or time to one of the many homeless shelters in Hamilton. It really can be the difference between life and death with the extreme temperatures caused by our changing climate.

So Westdale, this holiday season we propose a challenge, let's all try to stop focus on getting and instead invest our energies in giving and more thoughtful gestures. Maybe that means spending more time with your family and friends and investing in the relationships around you, or perhaps you'll think of volunteering your time at a local initiative, whether it be a community holiday dinner, or helping out with Westdale's Holiday Hampers. Then, of course, you can invest in your school community by reading this issue of the Sequitur and giving time to find out more about Westdale's student voice and the problems that we face within our community. You can learn more about the struggles of international students who attend our school by giving the Humans of Westdale interview a read that interviews Hong Konger Marisa Parry-Lai. You can read Sara Abbas' article about Westdale's cultural divide and how the Wellness Club is working towards bridging the gap. Franklin Gaydos wrote a thought-provoking article about unproductive labour. For some lighter holiday-themed reading, read Maria Chzen's feature article that reviews Disney's new Frozen 2 movie.

Whatever you choose to do or read Westdale, have a safe and relaxing winter break,

Kaya Shimizu & Lane O'Hara Cooke

Co-editors in chief



November Update

Happy Holidays, Westdale!

Thank you for a great November! You may have noticed that November has been a little quiet, BUT GET READY, because we're preparing for a jam-packed December! As you know, we recently finished selling formal tickets. As requested, formal prices were changed from \$50 to \$30 and with this change in price also came a change in length. Formal is now from 5:30 pm to 9 pm on December 11th. We hope to see many of you there and are anticipating a great night.

Triune is also organizing the Winter Variety show which will take place on December 20th during periods 4 and 5 in the auditorium. If you're interested in performing and showcasing your talents or other cool skills and tricks, email a 1 to 2-minute video of you/your group performing your act before December 4th, 2019 to cmcourt@hwdsb.on.ca. We are also going to be collecting Class/Teacher TikToks. Email your Class/Teacher TikTok to cmcourt@hwdsb.on.ca by December 11th, 2019 to be featured during the winter variety show. The best Class TikTok will win a pizza party or doughnuts! Tickets will be \$2.00 and proceeds will go towards the Westdale Comunity Gift Card Drive. The start of sales will be announced at a later date!

Just a reminder that we have our performance survey for you to fill out! Scan the QR code or follow the link in our Triune Instagram account (@WestdaleBuzz) to fill it out. We really appreciate the feedback; it helps us do a better job.

Triune's public meetings are held after school every Tuesday in the Library Learning Commons. Follow our Instagram @WestdaleBuzz for more updates and info from us!

Have a Great Winter Break!

Ryan Truong Catherine Mulcaster Raymond Chen

Triune President Triune Vice President Triune Vice President

THE DON CHERRY CONTROYERSY

By: Sonya Pallapothu



On November 12th, 2019, a legendary ice hockey commentator for Hockey Night in Canada was fired due to his derogatory comment concerning Canadians wearing poppies on Remembrance Day. This commentator was Don Cherry. I was never interested in watching hockey, but Hockey Night in Canada and Don Cherry were a memorable part of my childhood. To me, Cherry was a funny guy who had a knack for choosing funky ties and was strongly opinionated on topics that were well beyond the sport he loved. Unfortunately, those strong opinions led him to lose his job.

On November 9th, Cherry and Ron Maclean appeared on the night's broadcast of "Coach's Corner," in which he aggressively argued that Canadians—and more specifically immigrants—had no respect for the brave men that fought for our country's peace because they don't wear poppies. Cherry ranted that "the least you could pay [is] a couple of bucks for a poppy," because "these guys pay for your way of life that you enjoy in Canada." Cherry's rant resonated with some Canadians, while others argued that his comment was racist and that he should be fired.

Looking at Cherry's comment as a whole, what he said was not wrong. It's true that many Canadians, including but not solely immigrants, don't wear the poppy to honour the soldiers who fought for our country anymore. The soldiers risked their lives to protect Canada, and the least we could do is wear the poppy. It is not only a sign of remembrance but also of gratitude. As I walked through Westdale's halls on Remembrance Day, only a few wore the red flower over their heart.

Our country takes pride in being multicultural and has worked hard for years to solidify its image of acceptance, but Cherry once again diverged Canada with his opinion. Cherry clearly directed his rant to immigrants when he referred to them as "you people" and criticized them on coming to Canada, loving "our way of life," and not even buying a poppy. The lack of respect he had towards immigrants—who came to Canada with aspirations for a brighter future—was hurtful and discriminatory, to say the least. And his gestures were even more disrespectful. Cherry furiously shook his finger towards the camera with anger as he ranted, spurring a hateful rage in many Canadians.

Following the day of Cherry's rant, the president of Sportsnet, Bart Yabsley, issued an apology on behalf of Sportsnet on Twitter: "Don's discriminatory comments are offensive and they do not represent our values and what we stand for as a network. We have spoken with Don about the severity of this issue and we sincerely apologize for these divisive remarks." However, Cherry didn't apologize for his remarks. In his Grapevine podcast, Cherry defended himself by saying that he "said what [he] said" and "[he] still [says] everybody in Canada should wear a poppy." Cherry's statement on his podcast was much less racist than his rant on "Coach's Corner," but until he fully apologizes for what he said, it seems as though Don Cherry will be temporarily vacating the space that he occupied in every Canadian's heart. From what I gathered, I believe that Cherry's frustration regarding Canadians' abandonment of a respectful tradition is completely valid. However, I agree with the many Canadians that voiced their concerns about Cherry's rant —Cherry communicated his frustration in a derogatory manner and should not have directed it specifically to the immigrants in our country, especially not in such a disrespectful way.

Warriors For Wellness For Inclusivity

By: Sara Abbas



With the merge between Westdale and Sir John A. Macdonald students that took place at the start of the school year, Westdale has never felt more divided. While cliques have always existed in Westdale, they are the most apparent now. Students coming to Westdale have claimed that they don't feel as though they are a part of the school and that they will always be Sir John A. Macdonald students at heart. While this is understandable, it does not help unite the students in Westdale. The Warriors for Wellness are working towards fixing this issue.

From November 21 to
December 12, Warriors for Wellness
hosted events and activities every
Thursday in the cafeteria during
both lunches. The very first event
included Jumbo Jenga, a
competitive ring toss game, and a
giant Connect Four. Many students
made new friends and many more
signed the large poster that showed
the rest of the school the
similarities and differences
between students. Participants
were less focused on who came
from what school and instead

focused on different strategies they could use, enhancing the competition and laughter throughout the cafeteria. After seeing the very first event result in a success, more may be scheduled in the foreseeable future.

As we all know, bullying awareness week took place in Westdale, and students were informed of how bullying can take place and what they can do to help with the solution to the problem. The aforementioned inclusivity plays a large role in that. Making someone feel more comfortable and welcome in our school goes a long way, and these Cafeteria Connections help that happen. People face a variety of issues in their life; chances are they won't feel better unless someone does something about it. That's where Warriors for Wellness steps in, giving people a place where cliques don't matter which makes everyone feel welcome.

Transitioning from one school to another is always a difficult move, especially when you aren't familiar with the school's layout or the majority of people

who attend it. Many students may have been in tough situations in the past, which makes changing schools surrounded by unfamiliar faces challenging. Reducing the negative vibe in Westdale would help tremendously, which has been proven in the activities in the cafeteria.

To help with the union of both schools, students also need to change their mindsets. Just remember, the other groups don't bite! They may want the same things you do or can offer something you need. If you don't take the chance to get to know them, you may regret the missed opportunity. Try asking someone you don't know for help in the homework questions, or giving them a smile when you walk into class or past them in the halls. Everyone needs to play a part of the solution if we want the situation to get better.

mage:

https://medium.com/@CheElizaga/a-personal-reflection-on-inclusivity-f2c0112f454d

Unproductive Labour

By: Franklin Gaydos

How one must acquire wealth is a practical and moral question. Labour, in a sense, is the means in a nation to acquire the resources essential to living. The resource of labour is said to be used to create necessities for those in need. It is the product of the means of production but not the actual workings of the labourer. The labour force is something that produces value so that the merchandise may be traded in the market. The labour itself holds value on its own and it is constantly traded through the job market. Valuables produced by the labour force comes in many forms: from resources like metal and oil to entertainment and education services. To what degree do the things the labour force produces change the value of the merchandise? We can easily explore this question by looking at the relationship between the value of the labourer and the value of their work. By our modern North American standard, a coal miner has a low to mid-level value in itself which can determine the value of the product the labourer creates. The material made should be slightly higher than that of the value of the labourer: if this was not the case, then profit for the institution employing the labourer would be negative. With this in mind, I have thought about a nearly unbreakable system that makes it possible to

have a negative profit due to a negative value of the labourer. This has a name: unproductive labour. It is not done on purpose in the capitalist world because we don't like to lose profit here in a society where many values are represented by money. We have a free market system and anything of this nature would be a mistake.



Now, unproductive labour exists in theory and in the widely feared command economy. Or does it? To explain this issue, imagine a society where the intentions of the people are absolutely in control of and, therefore, equal to the intentions of the state. This opens the realms of the workforce to the world of synthetic value as the intentions of the state can exceed natural needs and wants, possibly creating some form of unproductive labour. In this hypothetical situation, there is an excess of workforce, perhaps all replaced by automation or something along those lines. The state can use the workforce for nothing, making them a liability;

this means that they are no longer the workforce, they're unemployed. Through the brutal magic of command economy, it is possible for them to be in the workforce and not produce value. For example, by the order of the state, three thousand workers are to be deployed to produce and burn grain. Since they would need food,

water and organization, does this mean that their value is negative? Well, you could say so but they are still producing a value that exists in the realm of sentimental and personal ideals. They are being used and are filling their own value. Does that mean that it is producing a value for the state? It depends on how you see it. On one hand, it is useless within the material realm but on the other hand, it is the trade of the state's products as well as the sympathy for the people. So perhaps unproductive labor is only

possible when one believes it is, most likely when they are unaware of the values that are traded behind the scenes. Much like cold fire and dark stars, they are only possible in theory since they are impossibly contradicting. To be unproductive, in my sense, is to create a negative value. This, I find, is fundamentally impossible, and so the variables must be changed. There may be unproductive labor if value is in the place of money, but labour in its true form is not that. Unproductive labour will, therefore, stay a theory, only to be used as a hypothetical reference to show standards of variables in an economy.

Chili For Change: Behind the Initiative

By: Kaya Shimizu

On November 28, 2019 Westdale's two IB cohorts put together a fundraiser advertised as "Chili for Change", spearheaded by English teacher, Ms. Baboudjian. In this event, teachers donated crock pots full of chili, which the 2020 cohort happily spooned out, while the 2021 cohort manned a dessert bar containing every sugary confection one could dream of. Students were asked to bring their own bowls and spoons to the zero-waste event and purchase a ticket for \$2, giving them access to one bowl of chili and a dessert of their choice. All funds that were collected are going to be donated to both 541 Eatery and Exchange and Westdale's Holiday Hampers! Thanks to the generosity of the entire school community, the IB students were able to fundraise a total of \$487. Members of the Seguitur were able to attend this event and interview the attendees, teacher organizers, and the students behind the initiative to gain an insider perspective on the event! Without further ado, here is what the Westdale community thought about the event:



Ms. Baboudjian: Teacher Supervisor and IB English and TOK teacher

Q: First of all, how did you come up with the idea for Chili for Change?

A: I was [laughs] at a gym one morning and I heard people talking about a BYOB party, and I thought of how BYOB allows means "bring your own booze", and I thought wouldn't it be neat if it was bring your own bowl? And that's what started it.

Q: Can you tell me more about the event in general terms?

A: Essentially, the IB cohort 2020 and 2021 ran this fundraiser where they served chili and they served desserts, a bun, fixings, and they asked students to bring their own bowls and make a two dollar donation for their lunch.

Q: How did the event function or what were the different roles that students took on?

A: Students in the 2021 cohort, they all got organized on a google doc, and competed with one another about who would bring the most intriguing and seductive desserts, which they followed up with. So that cohort will go down in history as the "sweetest" cohort ever. And 2020 looked after the media, they looked after the mechanics, they were there on the front lines serving the chili, selling the tickets, making sure that bowls were washed, and ready for the next set of customers.

Q: Lastly, how would you describe the general atmosphere of the event?

A: It was...it was overwhelmingly cheerful, warm and jolly. And it was, it was, a much needed respite of joy in what could have otherwise been a very dark day at our school.

Anika Gupta: IB student, cohort 2020

Q: Anika, you have been working the cashbox, can you tell me a little bit about how things have been going?

A: So, a lot of people have come by, and a lot of kind people have donated, like, a lot of money. We've raised—I don't know if I'm allowed to disclose the amount—we've raised a lot of money so far and hopefully more, considering there's the next lunch to come. But, it's been going well so far and we've met a lot of people, and a lot of people are enjoying the chili inside!

Anonymous: IB student, cohort 2020

Q: What do you think about this event?

A: I think it's a great event! Especially for promoting the awareness of food instability that's currently within Hamilton, specifically in relation to the amount of peoples that are racialized or marginalized that are experiencing this food instability, particularly in Westdale where it's a predominantly white school. So, spreading awareness that Westdale is not only [composed of] wealthy, white kids is really great just to, like, help out the kids who can't conform to those standards. And it's really great especially to promote awareness for not only Westdale but also in downtown Hamilton, as I always hear stereotypes of "I don't wanna go into downtown Hamilton, it's too dangerous, I'm gonna get stabbed" or like a litterance of other stereotypes presented on predominantly, once again, marginalized and racialized people. So, promoting awareness that this is an event that can occur and will benefit these people directly that are living in downtown Hamilton and are experiencing this food instability is just a great thing!

Victor Plume: IB student, cohort 2021

Q: Can you tell me more about the dessert bar that you helped to organize?

A: Everyone made desserts and we all brought them to Chili for Change for proceeds going to charity.

Q: Ok, and how did you guys coordinate all of that? There are a lot of desserts!

A: Well, we had a google doc form that we all filled in and we just brought something different, each one of us, and we all pitched in and it turned out really great!

Jason Wang: IB student, cohort 2021

Q: What role did you play in Chili for Change?

A: I bought ice cream.

Q: You bought ice cream, what kind of ice cream?

A: Long, elongated ice cream coated in a substance called chocolate.



Q: Can you tell me a bit more about the event?

A: Well, it's an event where we can stare at people eating. Yes, it's also a rewarding experience about organizing fundraisers and stuff. And how we can organize amongst ourselves and get everything together.

Q: How would you describe the general atmosphere of the event?

A: Very relaxed and casual.

Ryan Truong: IB student, cohort 2020

Q: Can you tell me about your experience at Chili for Change?

A: Chili for Change has been a really great experience. We've had so many people out—[an aside] please go check out WESTDALE BUZZ on Instagram—as you can see there's a ton of people [someone in the background: "stop plugging!"]. Follow Westdale Buzz. There's so many people, we've got all our cohorts combined, everyone's having a good time, making jokes. Cohort 2020 is obviously better than cohort 2021, and don't listen to what any of the 2021's say!

Lily Mae Peters: IB student, cohort 2021

Q: You helped out at the dessert bar serving people?

A: Yes.

Q: And can you tell me about your experience and how things have gone?

A: It's gone really good! It's been super popular and we had a lot of people come through. Yeah, I think it went really well!

Q: And your IB cohort organized this?

A: We organized the dessert part of it, so we all made or bought a dessert and brought it in to help the 2020 cohort.

Q: And how did you come up with that idea?

A: Uhm, just kinda as a group through different trial and error, we figured out what would work best, yeah.

Cameron McKerracher: Grade 12 attendee

Q: Can you tell me about your experience at Chili for Change?

A: It was really fun! I thought it was really good value as well, we got to have chili, a bun, and dessert all for the same price. I'm really glad that the school's starting to do more events like this because it really shows like a sense of community within Westdale and I'm looking forward to seeing if there is going to be more events like this organized in the future!

Is Frozen 2 as Iconic as its 2013 Predecessor?

By: Maria Chzhen

Hello, my name is Maria. If you haven't watched the latest Disney movie, "Frozen 2", then I recommend you do so first and avoid spoilers. I warned you!

In this review, I am going to talk about the movie *Frozen 2*. Disney released the first film back in 2013 and it was a huge success, still standing at number 1 in "All Time Worldwide Box Office for Digital Animation Movies." This is why *Frozen* should certainly ring at least 1 bell in your brain! But let's jump to the real question here: is *Frozen 2* as iconic as its 2013 predecessor?

Evidently, the answer to this question is subjective and as a result, may not align with everyone's expectations. It is for this reason that I will look at several aspects such as the plot, music, characters, and animation, to offer a thorough and balanced review.

Plot

First of all, let's discuss the plot. One thing that checks out about the film is its plot and how well-planned out it is. The movie begins with Elsa and Anna's parents talking about their grandfather and how he died in the Enchanted Forest, not far away from the kingdom of Arrendelle. The sisters' father was also in the forest at the time and was possibly the only survivor of the incident. Many years later, Elsa starts hearing voices coming from the Enchanted Forest. What happens next?

Although Disney could work on the music timing, the plot itself doesn't feel too drawn-out and boring. The sequence of events is clear. There is always dynamic movement and development. When *Frozen 2 does* have breaks, they are usually filled by either music, Olaf's humor— which was surprisingly good—or Elsa and Anna

breaking through the ice and actually beginning to communicate with one another. If I were to compare *Frozen 1* and *2* in terms of plot, I would have to say that there is no real winner here. They are both vastly different, each with their own pros and cons.

Music

The music is good on its own but it cannot be compared to the original *Frozen* soundtrack. While it may be enjoyable in the moment—and it can be understood why people started humming along in the cinema—I still feel like Disney tried and failed to recreate the crazy hype that surrounded songs like "Let It Go" from the previous movie. This was a poor choice on Disney's part; they could have done way better had they chosen to charm the audience in a new way.

Characters

The characters, especially Olaf, weren't flat in any way. While Kristoff did feel a bit extra at times—especially when he tried to propose to Anna (ugh, the cringe is very real)—the other characters seemed to have learned from past mistakes, allowing them to grow and mature. Olaf, as crazy as it sounds, kind of adopted the "I am 14" and this is deep" behavior, all while bursting with tons of trivia knowledge. In 2013, I found his character to be annoying and repetitive. In 2019, he gets so much better that you unironically want him on the screen at all times!

Animation

The animation was top-notch! There is nothing else to say. It is understandable why Disney would spend so much money on their animations (the first movie was a hit, people **would** show up for the second one). Even the tiniest details seem to have been drawn by hand. Goosebumps ran all over me during the time Elsa was performing her wintry magic. Magnificent!

Cast

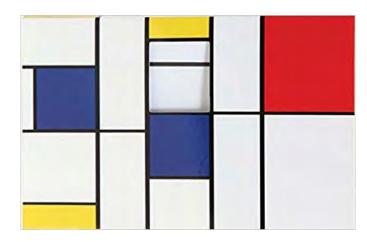
The actors Kristen Bell, Idina Menzel, and Josh Gad were all the voice actors for the main characters. *Frozen 2* was directed by Jennifer Lee and Chris Buck. The story was written by 5 people.

Conclusion

Speaking from experience, I know that sequels are almost never as successful as the original. *Frozen 2* isn't an exception but if we were to compare the film to other sequels, then we would get a very competent "player on the field".

Overall: 8/10





I Don't Get Modern Art

By: Miles K.V.

"I don't get modern art." It's safe to say that everyone has heard this or felt this at one point or another. So why don't we understand modern art, and why are we so quick to dismiss it?

First of all, the use of the term "modern art" is not entirely accurate. When speaking of art that is from our current time, "contemporary art" is more fitting. Modern art is art created between 1880-1970, and everything after is considered contemporary art.

So, why is it that we can't grasp contemporary art? Perhaps contemporary art is misunderstood. People visit galleries with certain expectations, expecting to see beautifully framed oil on canvas paintings. If we are to get the most out of art, maybe we need to push aside all expectations. To quote the Buddha, "[b]lessed is he who expects nothing, for he shall never be disappointed."

Art is not always beautiful. The reason why some people say they don't get contemporary art is that they do not put in the effort to question it and understand the underlying meaning. This is true for artists like Marina Abramovic, who put on a show called *The Artist is Present* where she would simply sit across from different people for two minutes each. This was done to explore the relationship between artist and viewer and, as many of her other works have, explore transformation through experience and connection. The experience was the art. Many people left the show in tears, and one person who visited Marina twenty-one times tattooed that number on his arm.

Artist Ai Weiwei was imprisoned in China for his political art. He creates political commentaries through art such as his, arguably most well known, set of photos of showing him giving the middle finger to well-known sites around the world like Trump Tower and Tiananmen Square. This piece mimics tourist photos and invites the viewer to question their acceptance of governments and institutions. Many of the places pictured are those that prevent free speech or restrict freedoms. Ai Weiwei is asking us to stop and question our adherence to these establishments.

From Vincent van Gogh to Pablo Picasso, significant artists have often been misunderstood in their time. When people don't understand art, they often reject it. We don't always need to understand contemporary art, but we must try.

"Art is not a mirror held up to reality, but a hammer with which to shape it."

- Bertolt Brecht.



Humans of Westdale:

Marisa Parry-Lai

I have a best friend in Hong Kong. There's a 12 hour time difference between here and Hong Kong, and so it's kind of hard to talk to her because she would be going to bed when I was about to get up. So, we couldn't really chat very much: one of us would have to stay up late. Usually it was her, because I just sleep through the night but she would wake up in the middle of the night, like 3-4 a.m, and she'd text me. One time, she forgot that we were in different time zones, and she asked me if I was up. It's like, "obviously, it's 4 p.m for me". So I just chatted with her until she fell asleep.

At first, I didn't want to do this interview, but then I thought when I first moved here, I wouldn't have minded having a little bit of guidance. So, I'm hoping that if I do this interview, it'll help anyone who's in a similar situation to not feel so alone.

So, when I moved here, I didn't expect to have too big of a culture shock because I spoke English and I didn't think race was a problem at the time. In Hong Kong, my race was never really an issue, it was only sometimes that people would see me and speak English to me – I kind of preferred it if they spoke Cantonese to me, but it didn't really matter too much to me. But when I moved here, I realized that I'm a minority. I was in a predominantly white space and race was constantly on my mind.

The other thing is speaking the same language: I didn't think I would have a culture shock 'cause I spoke English and a language barrier wouldn't be a

problem. But, it still was. In small ways – I know that it's not as much as it is for people who don't speak the language, it's so hard – but I would say a word that people here had no idea about and I wouldn't know the Canadian or US equivalent. Like, lorry is "truck". And so, there was that.

Apart from race being something that's on my mind, whenever I would open my mouth, the first thing that someone would notice is my accent. I didn't like that: it meant that they weren't really listening to what I had to say but just noticing the fact that I had an accent. Sometimes, they wouldn't even be able to register what kind of accent I had but just said: "Oh, you have an accent". Everyone has an accent, it just depends on where you are, but it made me feel like they weren't even listening to what I had to say but just putting a label on me that I was different. It felt othering, it's like they were saying "you're different from us." I know that wasn't their intention, but that's how it felt.



I don't want to call it an identity crisis, it wasn't as serious as a crisis, but I did go through periods of time where I was questioning my identity and whether I was enough of a Hong Konger or enough of anything. When I moved here, I really had to make an effort to stay connected with my culture. That led to me feeling like I wasn't enough of a Hong Konger if I didn't just automatically know what's going on in Hong Kong. But, I definitely didn't feel Canadian since I'd only moved here for a few months. People would always comment on my British accent, but I didn't feel like I was British either 'cause

I've never lived there. I've only visited family and friends, and I've never really had a connection to it except for the fact that my mum used to live there. Homesickness would just sort of come in waves. It was really unexpected: the smallest thing could trigger it and there was no way to stop myself from feeling it. I'd just have to ride the wave. I'd just have to feel homesick and know that it was ok to feel like that. Sometimes, the only way that I could feel better was by thinking about how soon enough, I could go back home. I'm lucky that I'm able to go back."





When I first moved here, a lot of the things felt very North American. One of the good things about moving here was, well, we were very fortunate to get a bigger house. It's not like moving here was only bad things like an identity crisis and feeling alone; there were good parts. What's important for me is that the good parts outweigh the bad ones. Another nice thing about moving here, which may seem normal to most people here, was going to Canadian Tire. Very cool and North American. I've yet to visit Home Depot. There were just a ton of North American things that I was excited to see – yellow school buses. Yellow school buses are so cool! In Hong Kong, the colour depends on the company. The one I took, I guess it was yellow as well. It was yellow with a purple horizontal stripe.

Now that I've come out of the other end and I'm doing fine, every once in a while, I'll still feel like I just want to be back home. If anyone is feeling the same kind of feelings that I felt, then you should know that you're gonna come out the other end just fine. You're gonna do great. You might be happy that you moved, it might not have been your choice, but I hope that there are more ups than downs and that it's worth it. I also grew a lot during this experience. I grew up a lot mentally – not very much physically, seeing my height – even though I went through times of not understanding my identity, I came out the other end knowing who I was even better than I did and even better than I would have if I didn't have these experiences.

^{*}This interview has been edited for clarity.

The Biggest City

A Poem By: Casey Kisielewski

There was a big city in Brompusburg,

The biggest city of all,

It was made of bricks,

And of mud and stray sticks,

Now the people prepared for rainfall.

October was wet and quite gloomy,

The people threw hoods on their heads,

Boots made of leather,

Jackets of feather,

They tried not to only feel dread.

It came time for November and snowfall,

Yet not a flake could be found,

The days only passed,

The cold seemed to last,

But the people liked fooling around.

The city was big and was happy,

The people would smile and laugh,

The Brompusburg days,

Were the happiest haze,

The frown count was one and a half.

As December began, the days were grey,

But the snow didn't fall on the shore,

The Brompusburg coast,

Was dry as old toast,

And the frown count shot right up to four.

The people got tired of waiting,

One man, from the crowd, he walked out,

He took a stand,

He walked out to the sand,

He said, "would you tell us what this is about?"

The people turned, to look at the man,

Who only looked straight at the sky,

"There is not snow,

But we do not know,

Won't you at least tell us why?"

A boy walked up, he looked at the man,

"What is it you're shouting at?"

Then there was thunder,

The cold spell went under,

The man trembled, he pointed, "at that."

The big, happy city went quiet,

Brompusburg said not a word,

The quietest clouds,

The image was loud,

Only the wind was heard.

The sky bled grey, and the people all smiled,

But the air was still just as stale,

The big city sky,

Was still just as dry,

And then, they began to wail.

The people screamed, the people stomped,

The Brompusburg women and men,

The happiest city,

It was a pity,

By now the frown count was at ten.

The lightning struck, the thunder rolled.

The citizens shook and shivered,

The bright lights flashed,

Strong winds gusted past,

Now, voices that spoke only quavered.

The man stopped and slouched his shoulders,

He dragged his feet back to the crowd,

But after he pouted,

The people all shouted;

The noise and the fuss were quite loud.

The snow had begun to fall from above,

The villagers stood and they stared,

They waited so long,

For this to go on,

To see the white flakes in the air.

For a big city was a big holiday,

A white winter for all to enjoy,

Candles to light with,

Snowballs to fight with,

For all of the girls and the boys.

The city had waited for ages,

For what was happening now,

Skates for the rink,

Hot chocolate to drink,

Since the snow was coming down.

And so the frown count stopped counting,

The people were once again bliss,

The people all smiled,

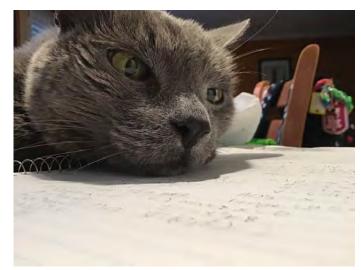
They made it worthwhile,

Brompusburg had gotten their wish.









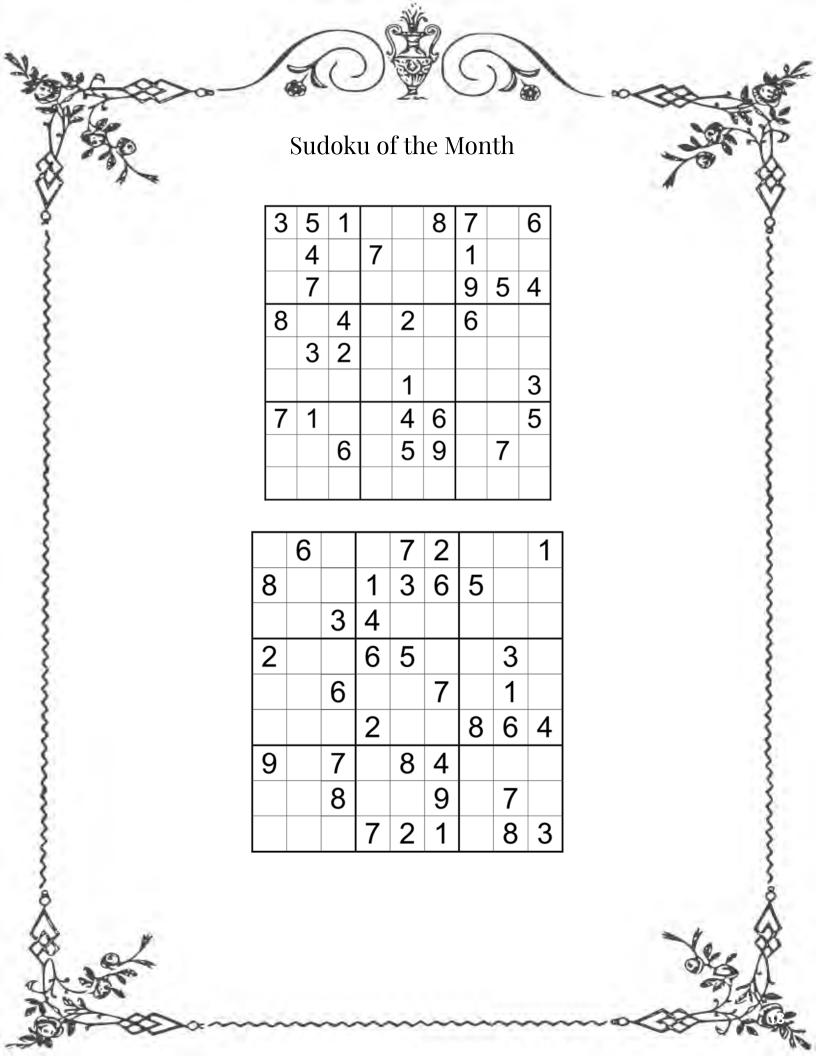




Photographs by Fiona Kerr







Answers to the Sudoku from the previous issue:

3	8	6	5	4	2	7	1	9
1	5	4	9	7	6	2	8	3
7	2	9	1	8	3	6	4	5
5	7	8	2	9	1	3	6	4
4	3	2	6	5	7	1	9	8
9	6	1	8	3	4	5	7	2
2	9	7	3	1	8	4	5	6
6	1	5	4	2	9	8	3	7
8	4	3	7	6	5	9	2	1

1	6	7	5	3	4	2	8	9
5	8	9	7	1	2	4	6	3
3	2	4	8	9	6	5	7	1
8	9	2	3	6	7	1	5	4
4	7	1	9		5	8	3	6
6	3	5	1	4	8	9	2	7
7	4		6	5	1	3	9	2
2	5	3	4	7	9	6	1	8
9	1	6	2	8	3	7	4	5

December Horoscopes

By: Casey Kisielewski and Esther Liu

ARIES Y

Aren't you tired, Aries? Didn't your most recent hair cut tire you? The stars say to relax a little, maybe. What about making that cup of hot chocolate you were thinking about, or tucking in for a nap, or hugging a friend tight? Just let yourself melt, Aries; good things are sure to follow.

TAURUS &

You should listen to your mother's words. The stars are not the ones saying this, I am. I'm saying this as a friend, Taurus. It would be wise to heed your mother's words, the ones she used to whisper to you when you were soft with youth, just before you would fall asleep. You used to think they were dreams, I'm sure, but I assure you – dream or not – it would be wise to listen to your mother.

GEMINI TT

Are you lactose intolerant? I didn't think so. Keep up the good work!

CANCER 95

The stars are dreaming that you are dying. Just kidding, no need to be dramatic. But, it should be noted that you are in a slump. A large, unmoving, unending slump. Just kidding again, seriously – you don't have to be this dramatic. In all seriousness, remember that recovery is not linear. You'll make it through, even if it's hard.

LEO න

You're just too sweet Leo! The stars and I appreciate the energy you've been putting into your attitude. The stars also advise not to tire yourself by doing so. Oh, and you know what else, Leo? They just told me that you should look for your best self in the world around you, and deep, deep inside you Leo!

VIRGO m

The stars are boiling, Virgo. They are toiling and raging, and I encourage you to do the same. Let others know of your rage in the kindest way possible. Remember: your work is not your worth.

SCORPIO M

You know it, we all know it: you've been thinking of breaking away from society and all of that mainstream to become a hermit. We all feel this, and the stars aren't necessarily going to call it a phase, but this won't last. Yes, it may be the result of the recurring grievances and sorrows in your life, but you'll get over it.

SAGITTARIUS *ヌ*

The stars are throwing a potluck! Isn't that exciting?!

There'll be all the goods from across the galaxies; I heard that they're even getting something from the other side of the black holes this time. Wouldn't it be nice to go, maybe try a little bit of star honey, sip a cup of warm ambrosia, get some chili? It's a real shame that you missed out.

CAPRICORN %

We understand that it's been a difficult couple of weeks for you, Capricorn. Those weeks may have actually lasted for a couple of months, years, or even decades. We understand. No, I don't think you get it. We *understand*, Capricorn, and now it's time for you to pay up.

AQUARIUS ===

No one will miss you when you're gone! This is because some new update was supposed to fix this other bug, but I guess the mods only made it worse. Who knows what else will happen; maybe you'll wake up on that wagon again with the other prisoners, or maybe a few hundred years in the future after a devastating failure of some sort where the blame solely rests on the wealthy. Actually, the stars know, but I've been told not to tell you. Can't wait for the next update!

PISCES H

You're real easy to talk to Pisces. That's what I've heard from ol' Jimmy and his dad, over on the corner. Were you ever sure that it wasn't something like fate, how easy it is for you to talk to others? It's funny, it's almost like it's all scripted. Never mind that though, Pisces! You're doing great, you smile every hour, and you sleep safe and sound.