



THE WESTMOUNT GAZETTE

Westmount's 2022 Co-Presidents

By Arjun Ram

When Harry Wang found out he was going to be the next co-president of Westmount Secondary, he was ecstatic.

"I was happy," said Wang, a grade 11 Wildcat. "I was impressed [with myself] because I had actually won."

The news broke to all student council members prior to other students, and Harry, engulfed with anticipation to hear the results, was beside his just-as-nervous future co-president, Jason Xie.

"I was very excited, very happy to get this opportunity," said Xie, also a grade 11 student.

The two have always had their eyes set on the highest position in the student council: president.

"So, I've always been involved with the school community. I ran for class rep and Student Council in my elementary school since fifth grade. [I was] vice president in elementary, so it felt natural to continue this into high school," said Xie.

And although it was difficult to get the ball rolling, the two enjoyed working together.

"[It hasn't] been easy, especially because of Covid over the last few years. But as far as collaborating, I love working with this guy."



And Xie was quick to reciprocate the compliments, going out of his way to commend Wang's work ethic that might even surpass his own.

"Harry is the best co-president anyone could ask for...[he] definitely does more work than me, easily way more."

While a slow start was expected, Westmount's two presidents delivered in October with a few Halloween activities, having organized a costume contest and a scavenger hunt around the school.

"[The activities] were a good starting off point for the year," Wang told the Gazette. "I was very proud of the council."

Now they have their eyes set on the Winter Formal, set to open its doors on December 7th.

"Right now, our priority is getting the semi-

formal prepared," Wang said.

But Wang and Xie are still students at a school where they happen to be presidents. Juggling both of those positions has been overwhelming at times.

"It's a bit of work, but it's extremely rewarding," said Xie.

And the two have credited their student council companions for aiding them through their tenure, shooting down the idea that there may be rivalries between them.

"There's no beef," Xie said. "No secret rivalries...it's pretty anticlimactic."

But when asked about the possibility of re-election for next year, Wang's answer wasn't obvious.

"I'm still on the fence with it because next year is grade 12, [so] I have not fully decided yet."



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Xie on the other hand is a one-term president, already declaring he has no plans to run again.

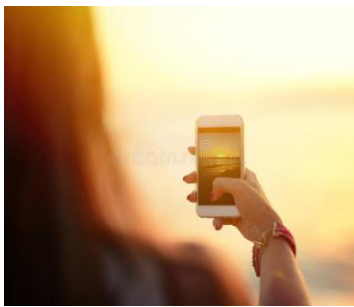
“Probably not. What I wanted to bring back to this school...everything is basically getting brought back. I wanted food in the cafeteria again, we got that. I wanted to organize dances, we got that...everything I wanted to get done is in the process of getting done.”

But Xie and Wang are focused on making this year a fun one for Wildcats, no matter the criticisms they may face against their work.

“For us, we were pretty mad with the criticisms,” Wang said. “But then we realized as long as there are people who know what we are doing and understand the work we are putting into the council; I think we are going to be fine with it.”

Is Social Media Good For Tourism?

By Sofia Lessa Fratini



Since its rise in the past decade, social media has

fundamentally changed how consumers decide. Social media has particularly impacted the tourism industry. The greatest way that social media has impacted tourism is online feedback. Travelers can search for a location online to know everything about the place.

This really helps to benefit places that aren't as well known, because good pictures, ratings, and reviews can be spread all throughout the internet. This also helps to keep tourists out of places that aren't so safe or sanitary.

Another way that social media affects tourism is by inspiring potential travelers. More than 95% of millennials share personal pictures and videos of their travel experiences online; this allows people who would normally be uninterested in travelling to view different places, and perhaps take an interest in travelling. That helps to encourage more people to travel, which helps to build up the tourism economy.

However, social media doesn't only have positive impacts on the tourism industry, it also has the potential to negatively affect it. Negative interactions on social media can hurt a travel brand's image. Negative comments can persuade potential customers away from a

specific place. Also, social media can negatively portray a place, which may make that location's tourism suffer. Those things can make hotels and even entire regions suffer from lack of tourists.

Ultimately, social media can greatly impact the tourism industry, both negatively and positively. Social media is mainly good for tourism, but it can create negative impacts occasionally. Overall, social media has helped travelers all over the world to stay safer and reach more locations.

The École Polytechnique Massacre and Gender-Based Violence

By Shahla Eslami

Thirty-three years ago today, on the 6th of December, 1989, fourteen women were killed by a gunman at École Polytechnique in Montreal, and ten more women and four men were injured.

Until the shooting events in Nova Scotia just two and a half years ago, this massacre was the deadliest mass shooting event in Canadian history.

The gunman committed suicide before he could be arrested but left behind a list of nineteen prominent Quebec women he



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claimed he would have killed had he not run out of time. Among these women were journalists and union leaders, as well as TV personalities and government ministers. Women he felt were “radical feminists.”

The nature of this shooting was difficult to ignore, as the gunman separated women from men inside the University and targeted them specifically, with the vast



majority of those killed being female engineering students. As a result, this massacre put an unwavering spotlight on the issue of violence against women, and, through fierce campaigning by activists as well as survivors of the massacre, strengthened gun laws in Canada, including the creation of the Canadian Firearm Registry in 1993.

Several memorials have been erected for the victims of the École Polytechnique Massacre, both in Montreal and in other parts of Canada, from Ottawa to

Vancouver to Hamilton, with one at the McMaster campus, dedicated by its engineering community to those women whose lives were lost at École Polytechnique.

You may notice that flags on federal buildings are flown at half-mast today. Since 1991, December 6th has been commemorated in Canada as the National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women.

Today, as on most days, you're encouraged to remember those who have been harmed by gender-based violence and listen to survivors.

If you'd like to find out how to more directly help in the fight to end gender-based violence, consider

volunteering at or donating to your local gender-based violence shelters or women's shelters, or learning more about the history of gender-based violence in Canada.

Organizations like the Coalition to Stop Violence Against Native Women and Native Hope, as well as others, have great resources on learning specifically about missing and murdered Indigenous women, girls, and Two Spirit.

If you are facing or have faced gender-based

violence, there are people you can reach out to. Kids Help Phone is always available to you, as are your teachers, guidance counsellors, and local gender-based violence shelters and women's shelters.

The Battle of the Wests: Westmount Vs Westdale

By: Vienna Wiedenfeld

Tensions were high during Westmount's game against Westdale on October 21st, 2022. However, our fellow Wildcats pulled through with an easy win, 44-0, to solidify their position in the playoffs.

As fans arrived, they discovered Westdale's parking lot was filled with a variety of food trucks to be enjoyed throughout the game as a celebration of their homecoming night. A vintage football helmet was even being auctioned off in support of new equipment for Westdale's next season.

There was a slow start to the first quarter with little to no points being scored. With only a few minutes left, Westmount took the lead with a touchdown. They maintained this lead for the rest of the game, which allowed for all members of the team to play and show off their skills.



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In an interview for TikTok conducted by a group of Westmount students, Austin, number 23, was quoted saying, “It was a pretty good game. We had an alright first quarter, but it got better in the second half.” As it turns out, Westmount’s football team was very successful in the rest of their season, winning the city championship for the fourth straight year and making their way to SOSSA. Congratulations to the Varsity Boys Football team and looking forward to the Junior season!

The Revival of Westmount’s Dance Ensemble

By Lilyanna Colling-Cen



As of this fall, Westmount’s Dance Ensemble has returned! The auditions for the team were held back in mid-September and brought together all of the passionate dancers at our school. The ensemble, supervised by Mr. Pattinson and Ms. Fanara, has sixteen members. They meet every week to rehearse routines,

practice dance technique, and work on creative projects.

In previous years, there have been dance teams to exist at Westmount Secondary School. Originally founded in 2007, the dance team would perform at assemblies and school spirit events. This ensemble dabbled in varying styles of dance, ranging from jazz to ballet and even tap. “It makes my heart so happy to know the ensemble is still alive and flourishing,” said Alyssa Nedich, one of the founding captains of the Dance Ensemble. This Westmount Alumni is now a dance instructor, choreographer, and movement director in places across Canada. She says, “I always felt really lucky to be able to have that experience. The Westmount Dance Ensemble is where I got my first taste of choreographing routines that were seen by audiences. It was a huge part in solidifying my love in teaching and creating.”

Now that the dance team has returned, they are hoping to continue the legacy made by others in previous years. The current team is hoping to explore new styles of dance such as jazz, contemporary, and lyrical. Some of the events that the ensemble will participate in will be pep rallies, fundraiser talent shows and performances, and Day of Dance hosted by Glendale

Secondary School. The dance team is a wonderful opportunity to have a creative outlet and it also allows the dancers at Westmount to collaborate and learn from each other.

The Death of Detail in the 21st Century

By Nick Minotti



Our current day and age overwhelmingly favours minimalism. It has become the default design for everything.

For example, the large modern skyscrapers that litter the skyline of Dubai and many other modern cities where every single building is a sleek cylinder or rectangle made from steel, glass, and concrete. Compared to intricate and identifiable historical buildings such as the Taj Mahal, The Palace of Westminster, or The Colosseum in Rome; even the tallest building in our world seems plain and boring. And it is apparent why this is the case.

I do not need to tell you what a gothic domineering building like



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The Palace of Westminster says. But what does the Burj Khalifa say besides that it's the tallest? The answer is the same as all other minimalist designs. Minimalism says nothing because its purpose is to present a neutral, clean slate that imposes nothing. And minimalist designs do this by removing detail from whatever the design philosophy was applied to.

Just look at the shift in marketing for big corporations like Warner Brothers, Apple, and Netflix over the past twenty years. All have taken on a new simplistic look to their logos through the application of minimalism. This is due to the fact that by imposing no ideas on its spectator, products of minimalist designs are hard to disagree with. So these corporations use minimalism to keep their market demographic as large as possible. That is why minimalist designs have become so absurdly popular in such a short period of time.

However, these minimalist designs do not say anything if they impose nothing on the spectator. And this is quite problematic if minimalism has become the norm for design these days. Because if clean-slates that say nothing have become the go to for everyone, then everyone has nothing to say.

Serving Up Jazz and Dessert

By Marzeen Jafar & Tahia Uddin

After a two-year hiatus, Westmount's Jazz and Dessert has made its return! It was a wonderful night filled with live jazz performances and a plethora of desserts.

The event took place on the night of Friday, November 18 at the beautiful banquet hall, Marquis Gardens. The performances were done by our talented Westmount students in Jazz.

Eager to start the night, Marquis Gardens opened their doors at 7pm with an amazing turn out. Guests consisted of parents/family members of performers, fellow Westmount students of all grades, and teachers from Westmount! Guests settled in and were given the opportunity to grab desserts before performances started. At 7:30pm, the night kicked off with our junior performers, Jazz 2. Jazz 1 then followed the junior's wonderful performance with their first set of the night. This led into a performance by the choir and ended with the second set of Jazz 1. Mr. Benning and Mrs. Grant acted as the night's hosts between each performance, engaging and educating the audience on each musical piece. A couple of the pieces played

were *Don't Know Why* by Norah Jones and *Crazy Little Thing Called Love* by Queen. Many of the true classics of jazz!

The room was filled with a buzz of laughter, small chatter and delightful music throughout the night. Alongside the extravagant performances, a variety of desserts were offered to satisfy the guest's sweet tooth, ranging from fruits to biscuits; but that's not all. There were live chefs who made customized crepes that suited the guest's individual preferences. To top it all off, there was also a chocolate fountain.

The organizers of the event also held a silent auction with items donated by neighbouring communities and businesses, Westmount families, students and teachers. The auction brought the community together and the money raised will go directly to our music department.

With the hard work of conductors, Mr. Benning and Mrs. Grant, as well as the performing students' efforts, the night ended well with a heartfelt performance from Jazz 1. Jazz and Desserts was a huge success and enjoyed greatly by guests. A big thank you to everyone involved for making this event possible. There is great hope to run this event again in the upcoming years to support the music department at Westmount!



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Westmount Life in Photos



Westmount Senior Boys
Volleyball Team, OFSAA Silver
Medalists, 2022



Eco Ninja Rally



Westmount Varsity Boys
Football Team, City Champions
2022 and SOSSA Participants



Pyjama Day



Grade 7/8 Night



Jazz and Dessert



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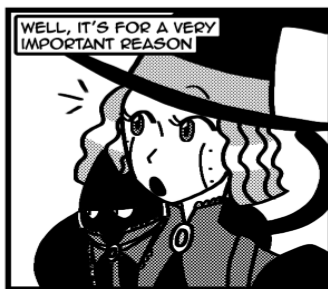
Comic

By Andrea Castillo

CREATOR



IMPORTANT REASON



ANOTHER REASON?



**GLITCH THE
ROBOT WITCH**

