



THE ARCHBISHOP JORDAN SCOTSMAN



Editor: Victoria Wright

CURRENT EVENTS

Christmas Traditions Around the Globe *Madeleine Polak*

When we think of Christmas, we often think of our well-known traditions. Baking cookies for Santa, singing carols, decorating a tree are all excellent examples of the common festivities in which Canadians participate. However, nearly 160 countries celebrate Christmas each year, that’s over 2275 million people! Because of the different cultures, each country has different variations of the way they celebrate.

AUSTRALIA -- In Australia, Christmas falls at the beginning of summer vacation! In addition to other Christmas decorations, Australians decorate their houses with bunches of a native Australian plant nicknamed “Christmas Bush” which is a tree with little green leaves and cream-colored flowers which turn a luminescent red for several weeks near Christmas. Children in Australia believe that when Santa Claus arrives near their country, he

swaps out his reindeer for six old man kangaroos, also known as the 6 White Boomers, hence the popular Christmas track by Rolf Harris.

FINLAND -- People from Finland believe that Santa Claus or Father Christmas lives in the north part of Finland called Korvatunturi (or Lapland), north of the Arctic Circle. Santa may also be called Joulupukki which actually means “Christmas goat”. This stems from the Finnish legend of the Yule Goat. The Yule Goat was very scary and asked people for presents contrary to giving them out. As the years progressed, he became the gift giver until Santa took over. Joulupukki rides with reindeer leave gifts under the Christmas tree, but sometimes, after supper, he might visit children’s homes and give them presents. The family gathers around to watch the joy of the unwrapping, and after presents, it’s time for bed.

UKRAINE -- Instead of December 25, Ukrainians celebrate Christmas on the 7th of January because the main church is the Orthodox church, therefore they use the “Julian” calendar. Their main Christmas meal is eaten on Christmas Eve and is called “Sviata Vechera” which means Holy Supper. Traditionally, Ukrainians would not eat anything all day until the first star is seen in the sky, as it represents the journey of the Wise Men. Contrary to turkey, the meal consists of twelve meatless dishes which represent the 12 disciples. The story of The Christmas Spider is very well known in Ukraine and finding a spider web on your tree is meant to be good luck. As a result, they decorate their Christmas trees with artificial cobwebs.

While people of all nationalities have their own traditions for celebration, each one demonstrates their love, kindness, gratitude, and spirit in this time of holidays.



Charities to Consider this Christmas
Madeleine Polak

ALBERTA, Sherwood Park -- As the Christmas countdown commences, it’s easy to get caught up in the holiday spirit and forget about those in need all around us. Christmas is a time for giving and helping others, so it is a terrific time to contribute to our community in the form of local charities.

A great way local charity is the Strathcona Christmas Bureau, a non-profit organization which has been assisting the less fortunate since 1979. Each year, they give Christmas hampers filled food and gifts to over 450 families (1380 people!). However, this amazing charity isn’t able to run without the support of donations and volunteers. They rely on donations such as books, toiletries, and gift cards. In addition, they require the aid of many generous volunteers to wrap gifts, pack hampers and load the trucks on delivery day. If you are interested in helping out at this wonderful organization, visit <https://www.strathconachristmasbureau.com/> for more details.

Another great way to help out in our community is by donating the Strathcona Food Bank. There is a high demand for donations all year round, but when so many families aren’t able to afford a Christmas dinner, the need for donations increases. The food bank urgently needs nonperishable items such as pasta, canned goods or baby formula. No one should ever have to go hungry, but especially on Christmas.

During this festive season of presents and good cheer, be sure to consider the less fortunate and how we can help.

“Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.” 2 Corinthians 9:7

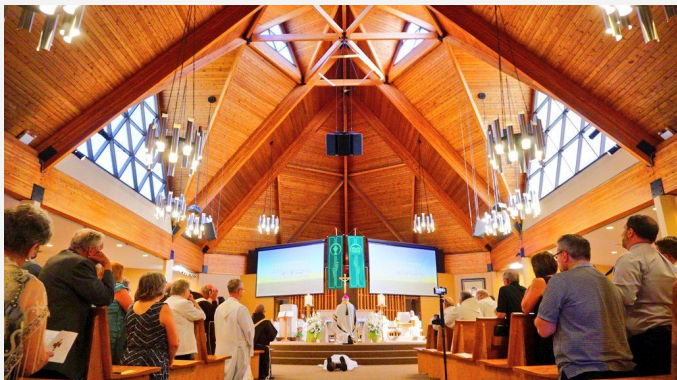
How to Grow in Faith as Youth
Ashleigh Mckinnon

It seems that not everyone these days believe that Jesus should be put at the very center of their life. However some of us may think differently. WAIT! Before you turn away from this article quite so quickly, I challenge you to evaluate your life. Are you happy? Are you loving life? If not, maybe Jesus is be the answer. I know what you are all thinking. This is lame. Little do you know, He saves. Here are some of my personal favourite ways to stay close to the Lord. First of all, go to church weekly. I strongly encourage you to attend a Catholic church, specifically Our Lady of Perpetual Help, which I am an active member of. Although many find it boring, you must truly believe in all your recite, and your relationship will flourish and church will become interesting. When you arrive or when you leave, be sure to chat with the priest presiding at the mass! Fr. Jim, Fr. Raj, and Fr. Joe are incredibly friendly and approachable and are willing to start a conversation.

Secondly, in order to strengthen your walk with the Lord, I encourage you to join a youth group. Youth groups are normally weekly and filled with fun. There are usually games to play, snacks to eat, and great company! Unfortunately, OLPH church does not lead a youth group. However, there are many in churches in Sherwood Park and the area that lead excellent youth groups filled with youth more than excited to meet new people like you, easily found through a simple Google

search. There is also another kind of youth group, called youth small group. This is an intimate group, sometimes split into girls and boys, that pray, bible study, and become great friends. This is a great way to draw closer to Christ.

My third way to grow in faith is through music. Simply turn on 105.9 Shine FM for a wide variety of genres, from slow songs to rock, that are all encouraging and uplifting. You will eventually find some songs you enjoy, add them to your playlist, and receive more recommendation for the types of songs you enjoy. Music is a way of worship and praise that is refreshing. The fourth way to draw nearer to the Holy Spirit is to open up your handy dandy bible! To start off, you may want to read Isaiah 43 or Psalm 139. Finally, and most importantly, train yourself to ignore what others think of you. If you love the Lord, show it! If you have any further questions, find a way to contact me. I’d love to give you a hand! Good luck and God bless.



Behind the Broadcast

Ashleigh McKinnon

ALBERTA, Sherwood Park -- we all know ABJ TV and love it. Filled with jokes, information, and smiles, it never fails to brighten our days. Have you ever wondered what happens behind the scenes? I contacted ABJ TV’s Marlow Pfeifer of Grade 10 with some unanswered questions we’re all secretly dying to know.

What encouraged you to join ABJ TV?

What encouraged me to join ABJ TV more than anything else was just watching the broadcasts back when I was in Grade 9. I thought it was genuinely cool to see how much fun the people on the screen were having, and I decided it was something I wanted to be a part of. It wasn't long into my Grade 9 year until I decided I was definitely taking Broadcasting in Grade 10.

What is your favourite part of ABJ TV?

As for my favourite thing about ABJ TV, I would have to say it has to be just watching myself on the TV while sitting in my Block 2 class, and watching how everybody reacts to our broadcast.

It was pretty stressful at first, having hundreds of people watching me every morning, but I'm pretty comfortable with it now. If I had to pick a favourite job to do, it would have to be the weather. Nothing beats getting outside even for a few minutes, even if it is a little cold.

What exactly does ABJ TV, both technical and performance, do each class in order to get the news out each day?

The day before a broadcast, a member of the Performance side will write the script based on the announcements sent in over the day. When that script is brought in the next day, the Performance team spends the next 30 minutes editing and rehearsing the script while the Tech crew holds a meeting to make sure everyone knows what they're doing that day to fit the script. During this time, a small crew heads outside to record the weather. Once the script is finished, the Talent are rehearsed and the weather is in, we make about 15 paper copies of the script and head to the broadcasting room. The Talent and Tech will hold one last meeting to discuss the sequence of events in the script,

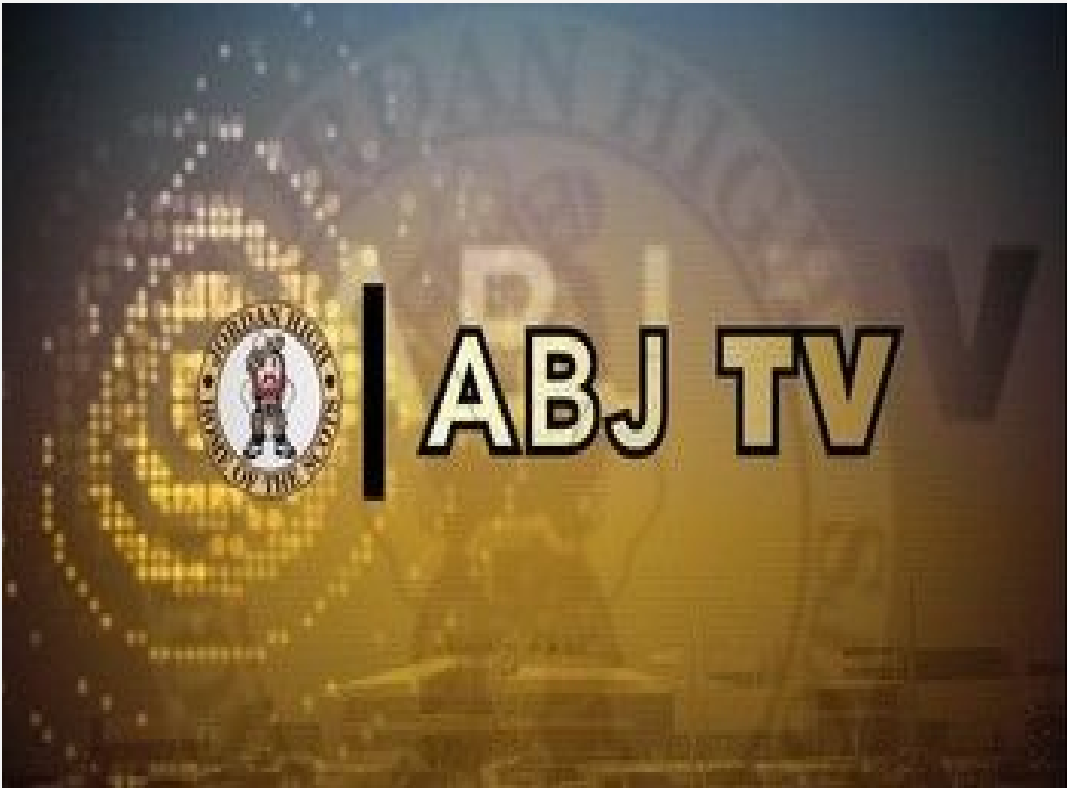
after which we do a quick check to make sure all our equipment is working. We then do a full rehearsal at about 9:30, before finally recording the full broadcast as many times as we can before the end of class.

Who writes the script?

The Performance side writes the scripts, and we generally rotate through a set order of people. The person who writes the script for a day almost never performs that same day, so whoever isn't in the broadcast that day is probably writing the script.

What do you have to say to anyone who is considering joining the option?

I would tell them it's not the easiest class, but it offers freedom available in no other course. I've been up past midnight working on scripts for the following day, but I never feel like a night like that isn't spent well. We can shape the broadcasts in our own personal vision every day, and it really has been a cool experience. If you want something challenging that offers a lot of freedom, this is the class for you.



Top Events This Month!

Victoria Wright

- The new movies *Wonder*, *Star Wars: The Last Jedi*, and *Pitch Perfect 3* have all been released and are coming out to make you laugh (or cry) this holiday season
- The Jay Z concert pleases many ABJ students with his stunning musical performance
- Taylor Swift releases her new album, *Reputation*, and tickets have gone on sale for her concert
- President Donald Trump is criticized for drinking about 12 diet cokes per day
- Prince Harry and Meghan Markle are engaged, a royal wedding is on the way!
- Wildfires cause devastating results across California
- The Toronto Argonauts beat the Calgary Stampeders for the Grey Cup



Sr. Boys Starting Strong

Victoria Wright

ALBERTA -- Sherwood Park, To start of the basketball season, the Archbishop Jordan Scots are performing with great skill and enthusiasm. With a silver placing the the SCA tournament, the Scots fans wait in anticipation for the games following the winter break.

Along with the many wins the boys are securing, Scots athletes Jordan and Jake win the three point shootout at the M.E. Lazerte tournament, along with Dawson winning the dunk competition.



What is Upcoming at ABJ?

Students and Staff

December 18th

Bring your own mug and free hot chocolate in front common area

December 19th

Gingerbread decorating in the front common area

December 20th

Candy cane bobbing in the front common area

December 21st

“Clause for a Cause”, come visit some puppies and Santa at lunch in the front common area, to raise funds and awareness for animal shelters in need

December 22nd

Ugly Christmas sweater day and ABJ talent show

Last day of classes before Christmas break



Ash Girl Review
Madeleine Polak

ALBERTA -- Edmonton, Beware the creatures hiding under the cover of darkness. Beware the shadows where deadly sins lurk in search of their prey. The Ash Girl, an ABJ Fine Arts Production which starred the ABJ Drama 30’s, was a clever twist on the well known Cinderella story and the original Brothers Grimm tale. Abandoned by her father and left in the care of her malicious stepmother, Ash Girl hides in the solitude of ashes. When the chance to attend a ball thrown in the honor of a prince arrives, Ash Girl is reluctant to attend, but with a boost of confidence from her friends she ultimately decides to go. After she arrives at home, she must face the torment inflicted by Sadness and the animal embodiments of the seven deadly sins in order to have a chance at a happy ending with Prince Amir. She later achieves her happily ever after and goes on to live out her story, friendship conquering the sins in the end.

The production began as the audience found their seats, when the personified seven deadly sins broke the fourth wall and idled in front of the stage, already immersed in their eerie, chilling characters. Each sin brought a unique movement or tone of voice to the character. For example, Envysnake, portrayed by Isabelle Wolinski, who slunk around the

stage staying low to the ground, giving the illusion of a slithering snake or Sadness, portrayed by Taylor Mckay, whose slow, melancholic voice entranced the audience. All of the actors in this production were extremely animated and committed to their roles. Nikki Patras, who played Ash Girl, had wonderful emotions and facial expressions while she delivered her heartfelt, nostalgic soliloquy about being her father’s friend. Hannah Bazin and Emma Olson who played the step sisters Judith and Ruth were practically made for their roles as sisters. Many of the actors who played a deadly sin also played a second role which, contrary to their dark, macabre characters, were cheerful and energetic. An impressive example of this was Sara Skoreyko who played Lust and also Girlmouse. As Lust, she seductively glided across the stage and spoke with a low, cunning, voice. Whereas when she portrayed Girlmouse, she contrastingly skipped across the stage and spoke with a higher-pitched, mouse-like voice.

The set designer, Isabelle Wolinski, and the rest of the ABJ tech theatre did a wonderful job constructing an eye-catching and enticing set which, combined with lighting cues done by Kai Yakichuk and Carter Griffith put together

a dazzling setting for the scene. Tangled branches put together with dusky lighting made the forestseem unwelcoming and perilous whereas plush pillows and orange lighting made the palace look elegant and exotic. The transitions were smooth and executed flawlessly thanks to the rigging, but also the help of the sins. Having them lurk beneath the stage added a nice touch of symbolism to the scene without becoming distracting and when they removed fabric from the tables in synchronization, it captivated the attention of audience members.

It was evident that the costume designers Emma Olson and Kailyn Schofield put a great amount of time and effort into the creation of the intricate, detailed wardrobe which matched each character perfectly. The sins nightmarish costumes and makeup amplified their sinister personas, such as Sadness’s dark eye makeup and Envysnake’s shiny black jumpsuit paired with a scaly mask.

Over all, this production of The Ash Girl was amazing. It was hard not to fall in love every aspect of it: the talented actors, alluring set, gorgeous costumes, and brilliant stage crew which altogether created a breathtaking performance.



Being a Scot
Victoria Wright

ALBERTA -- Sherwood Park, Archbishop Jordan has a school culture that fosters the true meaning of being a Scot. Along with the immense amounts of school spirit students demonstrate on a daily basis, students demonstrate exemplary levels of respect, responsibility, and enthusiasm. With each initiative, the Scots are dedicated to serving others and being exceptional citizens.

During the month of December, every year, the school and community work together to raise funds and goods for the Geomeer Foundation. While each class is given a list and encouraged to donate certain items, many students go above and behind - wanting to help other families enjoy the kind of Christmas that many of us are fortunate and privileged to have. Some students, after realizing more food was needed, went during their lunch hour to buy more supplies to help provide for families in need. Between the food, toiletries, gifts, and more - the Archbishop Jordan Scots will be providing necessities for multiple families throughout our community. As Scots, this generosity of spirit allows other families to experience the joy of the holiday season without worrying about basic necessities.

This past December 12th, another organization worked with us and afforded the opportunity for us to demonstrate Scot virtues. Throughout the day, students of all ages volunteered at a swabbing station to for DNA testing that is needed for stem cell identification and donations. After realizing that Alex, an eleven year old girl from St. Albert, was in critical condition and required an essential bone marrow treatment, the Scots were determined to find a stem cell match. With over 200 students and community members willing to have their saliva

tested, the Scots worked together and showed the true meaning of holiday spirit as we sought out possibilities to save lives through bone marrow matching and donations.

Even in our leisurely and festive Christmas activities, Scots continually do their best to improve the lives of others. In the popular *Clause for a Cause* (or “*Claws*”), students eagerly brought in their own puppies to take pictures with Santa and raise funds and awareness for struggling animal shelters within Sherwood Park and Edmonton. Not only do students get the opportunity to enjoy their friends’ cute pets, but the Scots were helping to make our community a kinder and better place to live.

Finally, many Scots continually work to reach our goal of raising enough money to buy a van for the Valeda House. This van would help women in the Valeda House with getting groceries, attending appointments, and completing many everyday tasks we take for granted everyday. With every donation, we are closer to helping improve the lives of people within our community in need of our support.

Clearly, Scots have a generous and giving spirit. Our ability to give back, help others, and show gratuity prove our warm-heartedness. Through the organized efforts we take to improve our community, or the simple acts of kindness we initiate on a daily basis, it is evident that our selflessness is infectious and contagious - fostering the truest sense of community and faith.

From all of us at the Scotsman Newspaper, we wish you a Merry Christmas and all the best in the holiday season.



DECEMBER HOROSCOPE

Aries - Decompress with your favorite buds around the December 3 full moon. There may be a lot of exciting entertainment available, but sometimes it's better to just chill with your fave friends. At the new moon on the seventeenth, the world may feel too small for you. Let yourself be surrounded by people and soak up their enthusiasm and wonderful, wild ideas. It's more than just the holiday season. It's an explosion of the love of life. The Mars-Neptune trine on December 27 pours some emotional magic into the end of the year for you and a special someone.

Taurus - The full moon on December 3 could bring money your way. It could come from afar or even from people you barely know. There may also be plenty of advice that comes with it, but you know your own mind. You have all the answers at the new moon on the seventeenth. A variety of people and problems may come to you for solutions, and you will have them. It will be easy, too. Have fun being the expert. The Venus-Saturn conjunction on December 25 mellows out the hectic days behind you. Appreciate hearing from older relatives and long-time friends.

Gemini - Mercury goes retrograde on December 2. Slow down and stay organized. The full moon on December 3 is shining for you. Partners and loved ones think the world of you and want to show you more of their world. You don't have to do anything special or clever. They find you charming. On the seventeenth, you may discover a brand-new love interest, or a certain romantic bumpy road could suddenly become smooth as silk. Enjoy all the special treatment and attention.

Cancer - Quiet time may be all you want when the full moon comes on December 3. Holiday plans are beginning to get serious and there could be a work crunch going on, too. Take care of yourself and don't get frazzled. On the sixth, Mercury and Mars are sextile while the moon is in Cancer. Be smart, motivated, and sensitive. Daily chores are all getting done, the cat is getting fed, and no one is feeling overlooked. Unexpectedly, you may be offered a helping hand. Say yes and thank you.

Leo - Your social life is buzzing when the full moon comes on December 3, but you may feel more like a spectator or observer than a participant. Enjoy being less conspicuous and let your friends show off for a while. It should be fun to watch. For the new moon on the seventeenth, get creative with shopping and wrapping gifts. Your mind may be buzzing with a zillion splendid, personalized gifts that would be easy to make, but time is running short. On December 21, the sun enters Capricorn and conjoins Saturn. Be the grownup in the room, make smart decisions, and be respected.

Virgo - The Mercury retrograde starts on December 2. Hit the “pause” button and don't get run over by the holidays. It could be hard to concentrate on your work during the full moon on the third, but you will. You're doing interesting things and it's a nice break from the mounting holiday madness at home. The December 17 new moon is all about your warm, fuzzy, comforting home and family life. Perhaps it's the promise of favorite foods and treats. See relatives or friends who had become scarce this year. Being together will be good for everyone. Mercury goes direct on the twenty-second and everything gets easier.

Libra - Get deep in the holiday mood. The full moon on the third could hit you with a strong desire to get away. You won't go, however, because you have so many people and things nearby that you dearly love. And there's so much going on now. The new moon on December 17 lights up your desire to be with friends and neighbors. Think block party! Holiday preparations can be turned into quality fun time together. Someone unexpected could show up, too. Venus enters Capricorn on the twenty-fourth. Share your holiday spirit with the whole community.













Scorpio - Don't let the full moon on December 3 leave you feeling insecure. A lot of people have your back and you have resources that are completely overlooked. You're actually in great shape now. Mars enters Scorpio on the ninth. Feel powerful and energetic and get everything done ahead of time. Give your friends or family a helping hand. Money is a big deal during the new moon on December 17. You could easily spend way too much. At the same time, you could receive a generous, unexpected gift. Expect nothing, be gracious, and see what happens. The stars have treasures in mind for you.

Sagittarius - Romance knocks loudly on your door during the December 3 full moon. You have so much to offer a prospective partner that a lot of people are going to find you totally irresistible. You can charm your way out of it if you like. The moon conjoins Jupiter on the fourteenth. Get lucky about something fundamental that will make many other small problems go away. The new moon on December 17 beams happiness and good cheer your way. On the spur of the moment, turn over a new leaf in your personal life or attitude and instantly become a new, improved you.

Capricorn - Some little things around the house need attention, and you're in the mood to do them under the full moon on December 3. Groom the dog, get the cat to the vet, or organize and feed the indoor plants. The new moon on the seventeenth favors quiet private parties rather than big social blowouts. You might want to invite a few choice friends (or perhaps only one) to your place for an intimate celebration of the season. On December 21, the sun enters Capricorn and conjoins Saturn. The holidays are falling into place, and you are making it look effortless.

Aquarius - Get quietly creative under the December 3 full moon. Social life may be getting out of hand and you'd like some quality private time anyway, just to play. The new moon on the seventeenth might take you from one holiday party or gathering to the next, to the next. Just when you think that you have your schedule under control and can get a little rest, the next irresistible invitation comes along. Don't even think about saying no. Just go. On December 27, the moon conjoins Uranus. Take a breather and have a little silly fun in the middle of the stressful holidays.

Pisces - Work may try to draw you away from home during the full moon on December 3, but you know where your heart is. Even if it's an early holiday party, you might prefer to skip it. Get out in public on the new moon of the seventeenth. People want to be with you and do what you're doing. Participate in a holiday charity event for children or seniors or both. Get great pleasure from doing the simplest things. The moon conjoins Neptune on December 24. The heart of the holidays could be the dreamiest, sweetest, most beautiful time of all.

Capricorn  22 Dec - 20 Jan	Aquarius  21 Jan -19 Feb	Pisces  20 Feb - 20 Mar	Aries  21 Mar- 19 Apr
Taurus  20 Apr - 20 May	Gemini  21 May - 21 Jun	Cancer  22 Jun - 23 Jul	Leo  24 Jul - 23 Aug
Virgo  24 Aug - 22 Sept	Libra  23 Sept - 22 Oct	Scorpio  23 Oct - 22 Nov	Sagittarius  23 Nov - 20 Dec

Musical Talent
Victoria Wright

ALBERTA -- Sherwood Park, on December 14th, the ABJ girls’ choir, girls’ ensemble, and jazz choir, performed beautifully at the Our Lady of Perpetual Help parish. Their “Not So Silent Night”, featured many holiday carols, led by Mrs. Kerley and Mrs. Moes.

Each song featured all singer’s voices and included a transitional song with audience participation. With accompaniments from Helen Stuart and Keat Machtemes, the performance had the entire audience in the holiday spirit!



We Want You!

The Scotsman Newspaper is always looking for new authors, photographers, cartoonists, and creative writers! While our hardworking team of journalists works diligently to cover all school and relevant community news, help is always appreciated. If you are passionate about a certain subject or topic, or are interested in improving your journalism and writing skills - there is a position for you! No experience is necessary. Please submit any articles, stories, poems, or works that should be showcased to Victoria Wright or Ms. Russnak.

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