

The Acorn

Quebec Tuition Hike - What Students Need to Know

By Sophia Schlag

Grads applying to universities in Quebec, Canada's French Province, may have more to consider, after its government announced in October that they would be hiking the tuition for out-of-province students from \$8,992 to \$17,000 a year, starting next fall. That is almost twice as much money, and directly targets 2 of their 3 English universities. According to Global News, Concordia said it could lose up to \$62 million annually. It looks just as bleak for McGill, where this will have "devastating" impacts on the Schulich School of Music, the CBC says. However, last Friday, Premier François Legault announced that Bishop's would be exempt from this as they, unlike their Montreal counterparts, are "no threat to the French language".

The government has made clear that the lowering rate of French speakers is the reason for this decision.

"Yes, when I look at the number of anglophone students in Quebec, it threatens the survival of French," the Premier has said.

It is of the author's opinion that this whole situation is not fair, and will do nothing to stop students with greater financial means from going. All that this decision will do is make these excellent institutions elitist and less diverse, and the numerous students who have joined protests are in agreement.



<https://globalnews.ca/news/10058033/quebec-tuition-hike-student-protest/>

Grad Winter Formal

A friendly reminder to buy your tickets to the Grad Winter Formal! It will take place on Tuesday, December 12th from 7PM until 10PM. The tickets are now selling for 75\$. We are excited to announce that this year's theme is a classic Winter Wonderland, which will include a variety of different forms of entertainment such as a DJ, catered appetizers, and a professional photobooth. If you wish to bring a guest who is not in grade 12 at OBH, get your guest forms in the office by the end of lunch on Thursday. Buy your tickets on school cash online soon!



Martha May Whovier: Feminism and Rebellion

By May Carrey-Mistletoe

How the Grinch Stole Christmas (2000), directed by Ron Howard, is a modern-day opus, rivaling only Parasite and Titanic, in regards to pure artistry, suspense, and drama. The story conjures profound feelings of friendship, perseverance, and, above all, love. My heart is medically too big for my body (5'6", petite), and the culprit is watching this film during the formative years of my life. It elevates the original Dr. Seuss tale's analysis and criticism of modern-day consumer culture, holding a mirror to our own flaws unknowingly because who would see themselves as a green hairy man? Everyone, if we have the courage to look.

Martha May - a prominent character in this movie - is the only single woman in Whoville, looking for female friends but unable to find them, because of the mothers' envy of her strength and independence. Martha May is a role model in her confidence, appreciation, and bold emphasis on her femininity: she will not co-opt for any man. She has, since childhood, understood that she has magnetism and has used it to her advantage to fill the void left by being seen as both more, and less than, a human. She is dehumanized into an object of desire, and, at the same time, elevated to an untouchable icon. Both of these descriptions are false. Martha May as an adult is unapologetically human, even if she must keep up her appearances as a "dumb blonde" in order to get to her true goal, election, and sweeping reforms of who-society. She was fueled to enact positive change by her unlikely love for the Grinch that caused her to question how her society functions: a society that

allowed for a small child to fend for himself up on Mount Crumpit, rather than address the rampant bullying and discrimination he faced because of his physical form. Martha May has recognized her privilege in this flawed society, and intends to use it for good so that the Grinch and everyone else who faces discrimination, can be accepted and loved, as thoroughly as she loves the Grinch.



<https://pbs.twimg.com/media/DrTGwFwU8AEtZmR.jpg>

School Spirit after the Pandemic: Has our School Spirit Depleted Post-Pandemic?

By Lili Spencer

For many years, school spirit has been a highlight of the Canadian high school experience, with many international students choosing to study in Canada in the hope of experiencing this culture. So why have both Oak Bay High and countless other schools lost the emphasis on school spirit in the past few years? Last year, we returned back to "normal" in schools across Greater Victoria, with no masks, no restrictions on the size of gatherings, and fully regular time tables. After many years of uncertainty, we might expect that most students and staff would be rejoicing

and participating as much as possible; however, that does not necessarily seem to be the case. Events such as the Halloween Dance have been canceled due to minimal amounts of tickets being sold; while other events still run, there has been a significantly lower attendance rate than the years before the pandemic. This has led both students and staff to comment on the lower turnout of what would have been well-attended events. The question now is: What should be the next steps to increase the participation and variety of activities at our school? Should we maybe prioritize announcements and the value of engagement in these activities? Or perhaps all we need to do is to encourage each other to get involved in our school community?



Oak Bay High School Yearbook

Whichever it is that is causing a lower turnout would most likely benefit from some extra exposure of the events that are coming up, such as the Polar Bear Swim, School-Wide 'Movie Nights', and the Winter Formal. These are excellent ways to create lasting memories in the school, meet new people, and feel safer as well as more connected to each other in general.



Oak Bay High School Yearbook

Protesting - Is It a Dying Act?

By Alla Wersheffani

From the historic marches of the civil rights era to the fervent calls for climate action resonating throughout city streets, the acts of protest remain an indomitable force, challenging the status quo and demanding a reckoning with injustice. Protesting is far from a dying act; rather, it is a vibrant and enduring form of collective expression that continues to shape narratives and demand change globally. An ideal situation is the ongoing protests surrounding the Palestine-Israel conflict, where people worldwide, including in Victoria, of all diverse backgrounds, are passionately gathering around to share common concerns, grievances, and express solidarity for the affected communities. Protests are taking place in cities across Europe, North America and the Middle East revealing a persistent sincerity for addressing human rights violations and fostering global awareness. The #FreePalestine movement, driven by grassroots activism and amplified

through social media, exemplifies how protesting remains a dynamic and relevant form of civic expression: it mobilizes international support and brings attention to complex geopolitical issues, forcing the comfortable to become uncomfortable. The diverse assemblage of participants, spanning from different cultures, religions, and backgrounds underscores the universal resonance of this cause. This collective outcry challenges the notion that protesting is fading, showcasing its ability to transcend borders and reverberate with a global audience. In the context of the Palestine-Israel conflict, these protests not only signify a steadfast commitment to challenging the status quo, but also represent the enduring strength that grassroots movements have in influencing public discourse and policy agendas on a worldwide scale.

Join the Acorn!

We are proud to announce that this is the first edition of the 2023/2024 season of The Acorn: A student newspaper with the focus of promoting student voices in our school. This newspaper was re-created under Griffin Foster in 2020 in the hopes of re-inspiring creative expression amongst students and keeping students in-the-know about current events. Many students have found this to be a great way to get involved with our school community and as an opportunity to practice writing in a fun and low-pressure setting. A sort of “Rory Gilmore-like club”.

Meetings are on Wednesday mornings at 8:30 AM and at 9:30 AM on Team Planning days in front of room 217 in the languages hallway. We plan to publish a new edition every two weeks, and, with enough writers, participants would only need to write a 200-300 word article once a month. If you are interested in joining or simply learning more about the Acorn, come to one of our meetings and/or join the Google Classroom (code: s7ixz7z), or email 2253570@sd61learn.ca.



<https://content.ucpress.edu/blog/wp-content/uploads/2018/10/MOW-1963.jpg>



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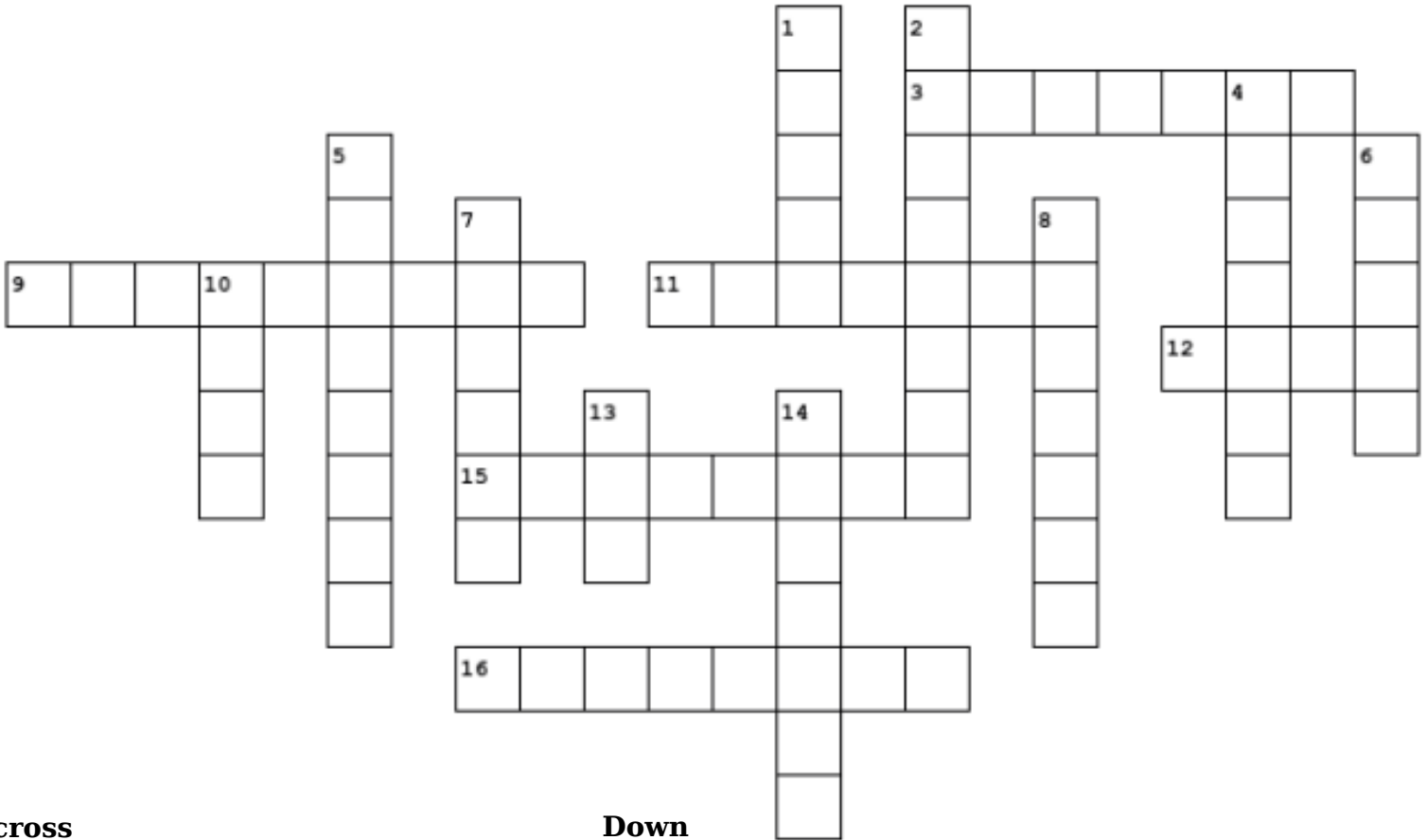
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School Subjects - Crossword

By Samantha Gomez-Bedingfield



Across

3. A class that can only be described as a millenials' daily book club
9. A class that makes you question how many significant figures are left in your highschool career
11. A class for Canadian rebels (who needs French when you can learn _____)
12. Once you join you never leave, nor live it down...*cue sad trumpet*
15. A class for the aesthetic pinterest girls who are willing to sacrifice moisturized hands for a bowl
16. You can smell the sawdust from down the hall

Down

1. A class for all the kids who have/had a favourite musical
2. A class for those who want to build a new wardrobe! (by hand...)
4. A class where you learn about all the questionable things Canada has done in the past
5. The only class where you get paid to be in a group project
6. A class that all grade 9's want to take because there's food (it's a canon event)
7. "I'm gonna take _____ because it will set me up for future job opportunities"...meanwhile you can't even pronounce au revoir
8. A class that makes you want to stay "at rest" according to the law of Inertia
10. "School started going downhill when they started putting letters in ____"
13. Therapy, but instead of a therapist it is a sketchbook and oil pastels
14. The only place where having multiple fetal pigs in a bucket doesn't make you seem unhinged