

# The Acorn

Issue #2 - Wednesday, December 13th, 2023

## The History of Gotcha

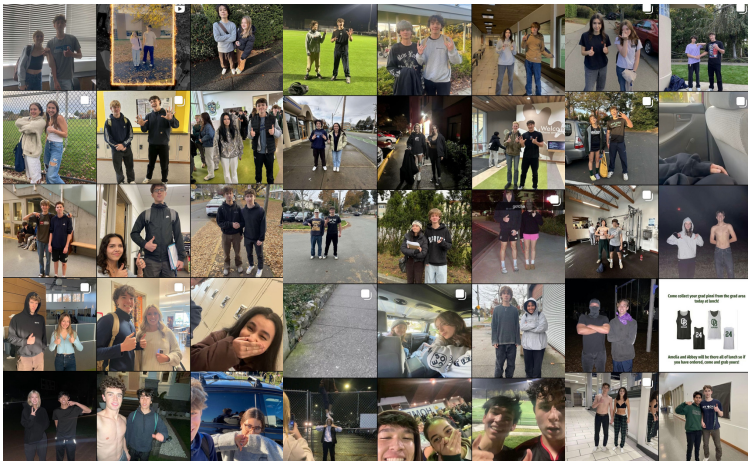
By Alla Wersheffani

The students of Oak Bay High cannot deny that one of the most exciting parts of their final year in high school is the classic game of Gotcha. This is an exhilarating game that involves the entire graduating class, where each participant is assigned a specific person to tag, and, once tagged, they inherit their target's assignment. To join the game, participants must place a ten-dollar bet, creating a cash prize of over one thousand dollars, adding an element of excitement and a stake in the game. Gotcha unfolds with challenges such as, "anything but a backpack day" and checkpoints at ludicrous locations such as the Ogden Point Breakwater Lighthouse, introducing strategic elements and creating a dynamic, fast-paced environment. As the class of 2024 is reaching the finale for the first round of the infamous game, it is time to look back to where this game started in the first place.



<https://www.dkclassroomoutlet.com/stem-basics-clothespins-50-ct>

The idea was originally a project created over a decade ago by Ms. Simpson and the community leadership group; rather than tag, each person received a clothespin with their name written on it and had to attach it to their clothing. To get their person, they must pull their assigned target's clothespin and attach it to their clothing: the person with the most clothespins wins the game. Although this version of the game was enjoyable, it was quite a hassle to run every year, becoming too difficult for the community leadership to organize on top of all of the other grad events. Hence, the students decided to take over and make their adaptation of the game that is used to this day. As quoted by Ms. Simpson, "The best thing students did in this school was create their version of the game. It is not just one less event for community leadership to organize: it unites graduates, creating memorable experiences."



oakbayhigh2024 Instagram

# Oak Bay Band Concert: “Harmonic Holidays”

By Sophia Schlag

Oak Bay’s band concert on December 5th was a very fun time that got everyone in the holiday spirit. The directors, Jeff Weaver, in his classic holiday suit, and Katherine Forster, in a fun ugly Christmas sweater, presented us with a mix of deep and reflective, as well as light and cheery music. Highlights from the first half include the serious but hopeful “Tragic Overture” by Brahms conducted by Ms. Forster and played by the Orchestra, in addition to “Let it Snow, Let it Snow, Let it Snow,” played in multiple styles by the well-tuned Strings.

After a short intermission, we returned for the Concert Bands. Some excitement came when the drum kit fell over during Band 9’s performance, but they recovered well to present us with music that made us feel like we were on a carousel. One memorable piece was Band 10’s “You’re a Mean One, Mr Grinch,” in which Mr. Weaver showed off his Grinch-themed socks.

The evening was concluded by Band 11/12’s “Celebration of Life,” a tour de force conducted by Mr. Weaver in a turkey hat provided by the grads. It was a fun evening that lasted less than 2 hours.

As a performer, I think “Harmonic Holidays” (one of the few good titles our teachers got from ChatGPT) went very well. All the ugly sweaters, hats, and decorated instruments made this concert most definitely a festive occasion, and my stressful practice sessions leading up to it were worth it.

The next concert will be February 21st at 7:00 pm. Hope to see you all there!



<https://www.pinterest.ca/suegrasse/how-the-grinch-stole-christmas/>

## Whobris: Queer Icon

Chris Mass

Continuing on from my analysis of Grinch 2000 in the last issue, I figured I would carry on with showcasing underappreciated Grinch characters. Although I consider myself OBH's resident grinch 2000 expert, upon my weekly perusal of the cast, I found my memory catching on Whobris. Who is he? I had to do a google image search to understand that Whobris is the moniker of the Mayor's assistant: a lacky who gets just as much screen time as the big Christmas tree. His attempt to be just like the mayor drives him to look just like Augustus. His hair is identical, his outfit just as garish and pompous. It is undeniable that Whobris looks up to the mayor for everything, but could it be more than just idolatry? I suggest that it is actually a form of one-sided enamourment. He has placed all of his hopes and dreams in Augustus, putting his needs aside to cater to him, facing public humiliation to appease him. When Augustus gets his head shaved (deservedly, I might add), Whobris is right at his side, standing with him even if he should know better. Not only is he in love with Augustus, he was manipulated by Augustus' narcissistic tendencies to think his love is being returned. If only Whobris could see his value, and realize that he can be so much more than Augustus v. 2. He can be his own man, with his own (hopefully, less silly) haircut. He can find his stride, find his own path. I believe in Whobris - do you?





Credits to the Official Barbie Movie Poster

## The Barbie Movie: A Controversial Doll Turned Blockbuster Movie

By Lili Spencer

One of the most controversial doll brands turned into a blockbuster film: how and why did the movie achieve the success it did? In 1959, Ruth Handler created the first Barbie doll, going against male toy executives conditioned to believe that little girls only wanted to play with baby dolls. This doll, as most of us recognise, became a hit success and a sensation. For the next 64 years, Barbie remained a staple doll; however, with all the fame Barbie has, there still remains the topic of debate over what stereotypes and standards it represents to young girls.

The Barbie movie received critical acclaim, grossing \$1.44 billion dollars, becoming the highest grossing film in 2023 as well as the 14th highest grossing movie of all time with this year's biggest opening weekend. The wide acclaim of the film is thanks to the massive marketing campaign that proved to be very clever and ubiquitous, giving the audience a taste of some of the 'iconic' movie moments without spoiling the movie's message.

The story follows Stereotypical Barbie (Margot Robbie) as she has an existential crisis regarding what her true purpose is, along with Ken (Ryan Gosling) as he has his own existential crisis while he tries to figure out himself when separate from Margot Robbie's Barbie. This leads the two dolls to travel to the human world in order to discover "purpose". However, this movie proves to be more than just a family friendly movie as it not only acknowledges our current patriarchy but also the unrealistic proportions of Barbie, all the while celebrating the doll's role as a feminist icon.

According to The New York Times, the tagline of Barbie was, "If you love Barbie, this movie is for you. If you hate Barbie, this movie is for you." This movie brought out a huge variety of people to the theaters, especially as it shared the same release date as Oppenheimer, sparking the Barbenheimer craze.



\*If you want to see the Barbie movie, dress up in full pink and have access to concessions and a bake sale. Join us this Thursday the 14th at 3:20 for a showing of the Barbie movie in the theater free of charge.



<https://victoriadailyphoto.blogspot.com/2015/07/willows-beach.html>

# The Polar Bear Swim

A reminder that this year’s Polar Bear Swim is on Friday, December 22nd from 8:25 - 8:40 at Willows Beach! To attend this optional trip, your parents must sign a consent form (that has been sent out on the google classrooms of each grade), that has to be handed into the office by Wednesday, December 20th. Make sure to remember to bring a towel and warm clothes, hot chocolate is provided! This is a fun and very cold annual event to celebrate having reached our Winter Break!

# Join the Acorn!

The Acorn is now well on its way, but we are always looking for more writers! All grades are welcome. 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](mailto:2253570@sd61learn.ca).



Editor in Chief: Lena Dietsch  
Editors: Lili Spencer, Ariel Fischer  
Formatter: Ariel Fischer

Coming up in the next issue: Senior Boys Volleyball Provincials!

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