

The Acorn

Issue #5- Wednesday, February 14th, 2024

Will Phones in School Be a Distant Memory Next Year?

By Sophia Schlag

On January 26th, Premier David Eby announced that starting next September, the government will have all schools in the province create policies to restrict students' use of cellphones "bell to bell", and introduce legislation that protects what kids see when they are online. According to the CBC, the government says that it is a response to fears that unregulated content easily accessed while at school is having detrimental effects on kids.

"Our biggest anxiety is that if we don't address this issue, that our kids are put at risk both in terms of their physical safety, but also in terms of their educational outcomes," the Premier said in a press conference introducing his initiative.

Eby has a point: according to Statista, 87% of kids aged 12-17 in Canada own a smartphone, and Oak Bay High School likely has a greater percentage than that. While a 2022 Stanford study reports that the use of phones does not seem to have an effect on youth's health overall, its impact on your mental health and attention span is undeniable.

In my opinion, putting some restrictions on phone usage at school is good, and will help students stay more focused on classes instead of checking their notifications whenever they have the chance. However, the government



Vancouver Sun

has been very vague about what these restrictions will be: a complete ban would mean the loss of a very useful tool for learning (what about Kahoot?!), and a vital mode of communication. What is needed is a healthy balance... maybe we will actually use those little pouches that are already on the walls of half of the classrooms.

What do *you* think will happen, and how will this affect you?



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Recs
Spotify
Playlist

Chip, Chip Hooray!

By Chris P. Crunch

Among the student population, I would say it is quite common knowledge that here, in Canada, we have two popular and nation-specific chips flavours: Ketchup and All Dressed. These chip flavours are found in nearly every variety pack and grocery store, and yet both seem to be quite divisive. The Ruffles all dressed chip is popular for its unique flavour that can only be described as an explosion of acidic, salty and sweet, creating what is basically every chip flavour on the market combined. However, the casual chip-eater should not be fooled by the name of the ketchup chip. This chip tastes nothing like ketchup at all, rather it is the sweetest possible chip, with enough red dye on it to paint a barn. Why it is called ketchup I do not know, since the only thing remarkably ketchup-like is the name. The colour of a ketchup chip is simply too deep a red to be comparable to the condiment: it sits better beside a wine rack than the side of a diner table. Both of these chips have one thing in common: they are simply delicious in a way that can only be appreciated after years of having the last pick of an assortment of fun-size chip packets during school events. My association with ketchup chips is of an acquired taste, one that my tastebuds now accept with open arms upon their meeting.



Amazon

All dressed chips have had their share of haters, but to me they are a much more widely-loved chip. A chip flavour that quite literally has something for everyone. They are hard to describe, and almost none of the foods pictured on the packaging are distinguishable. The shape of an all dressed chip is almost more familiar than its taste: the classic ridged shape adds a textural intrigue that is miles above a classic Lay's. When you reach the end of a bag, that is when the fun really begins. The crumbs are inch-long slices that can be shovelled into your mouth faster than you could reach a trash can.

There is no denying that these chips are cemented into the minds of the common Canadian child, their intricacies learnt not by choice but rather by frequent exposure. The special chips we take for granted here deserve their moment in the limelight, as a staple of kids' parties across the country.

Club Spotlight: MUN Club



The Model UN club offers students the opportunity to learn and practice their persuasive speaking and argumentation techniques in a fun and non-committal environment. They have members of all skill levels, experience, and ages, encouraging new members to join at any time. The MUN club also hosts its own Model UN conference and attends conferences in the community. This past weekend, members attended VicMUN hosted by the UVic political science faculty. Two participants from Oak Bay High earned a distinction as top delegates. Learn how to win arguments or just try it out for fun! Meetings are in room 209 at lunch on Mondays or Fridays.

Roald Dahl's "Matilda: The Musical"

By Fernanda Ezquerro Silva

We all know the little girl with telekinesis power who freed her school from scary Ms. Trunchbull and, most importantly, taught us the importance of reading and resilience. No, we are not talking about Dora the Explorer. We are talking about the small and mighty Matilda.

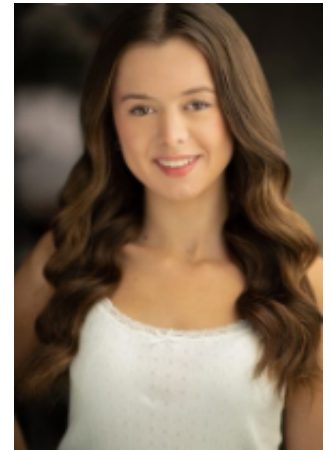
Elizabeth Foss, a senior member of the costumes crew, tells us how great it is to see how much work gets done for the musical and how magical it is to see it come alive on show days. "If you love theater but don't want to act, then joining costumes is a good fit for you," Elizabeth says to The Acorn.

Nicole Dempsey is another senior member of the costumes crew since the 10th grade. They joined with their friends because they wanted to have an extracurricular activity after school and enjoyed watching the plays come to life. "My favorite thing is definitely during the shows when they are hectic!" they say to The Acorn.

Scarlett Fraser will be playing Ms. Honey's mom, the acrobat. She has been part of the drama community since 9th grade: this has allowed her to build friendships and learn how to work as a team to put a show together. The actors rehearse twice during the school week, as well as on Saturdays. The weekend before the show, they rehearse for 9 hours on

Saturday, and, on Sunday, they do two full run-throughs of the show. It is a complex thing to run a play, but, if everyone puts in the work, it can look awesome. "Anyone can have a part in the production of the musical, and every part counts!" Scarlett says.

"Matilda: The Musical" is coming to Oak Bay High on March 1,2,3,6,7,8,9. Tickets are sold at Cash Online or the school's office. Do not miss this magical and inspiring play!



Elizabeth Foss on the left and Scarlett Fraser on the right.

A Valentine's Day Special: The Secret Meanings Behind Different Flowers

By Lili Spencer

Have you ever wondered if different types or colours of flowers hold special or hidden meanings? Are you planning to buy flowers this Valentine's Day for a significant other? Or perhaps you admire someone and want to show your appreciation with a floral bouquet? Well, this short guide will provide a little

insight into which types of flowers might be appropriate and which flowers you might avoid, based on the values and meanings attributed to them over many decades.

It is probably safe to assume that most people recognize red roses as a symbol of passion and love and that white flowers are often given at funerals. However, all types of flowers hold certain meanings that have arisen from different cultures, ancient myths and legends that have complied over time. In the Victorian Era it became quite common as a popular pastime to learn the special symbolism of flowers, with many Victorian homes containing guidebooks on the matter. White flowers such as lilies and roses often represent innocence and purity, black roses represent death and mourning and yellow roses represent friendship, contentment and in some cultures jealousy (something you might not necessarily want to give to a romantic partner). Roses are special especially around this time of the year as they are considered as a universal symbol of love. Tulips can also be a nice gift at this time of year as orange tulips can symbolise understanding and appreciation (especially on a spiritual level), pink tulips can symbolise well wishes, happiness and love all in a platonic sense and red tulips can be considered as a declaration of love. If you'd like to learn more in-depth about the meanings behind specific flowers both A Victorian Flower Dictionary and The Farmer's Almanac are great for more accurate details about this subject.

So remember, when picking out flowers for a significant other, you might consider the

hidden meaning and opt for either the traditional red and white roses or try to be a little different with a unique colour or arrangement of other flowers. Whether you have spent Valentine's Day with a significant other, a pet or a best friend(s), I believe I speak for everyone in The Acorn when I wish everyone a blooming wonderful Valentine's Day!



Justins Flowers



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