

The Acorn

Issue # 6- Wednesday, February 28th, 2024

The Burden of High Tuition

Costs in Canada

By Alla Wersheffani

Canada is well-known for its renowned education system and has been a destination for students seeking a higher quality education. However, behind this exterior of academic excellence, lies a pressing matter: the increasing costs of tuition fees. Students and parents are bearing a great burden of the costs of a higher education. Years of tuition growth has resulted in the average student loan debt in Canada being \$28,000, with factors such as location and program of study affecting it greatly, and the repayment period averaging nine and a half years. As tuition fees continue to rise across the country, students and families are facing financial burdens, raising questions about accessibility and affordability in Canadian higher education. Statistics Canada states that student debt in our country was \$20,500 in 2000 for an undergraduate degree, meaning that, in twenty-four years, there has been a 26.8% increase in student debt. Despite these horrific statistics, thousands of Canadians continue to take out student loans annually, as the demand for higher education remains at an all time high, driven by increased earning potential and job opportunities. Nevertheless, these statistics begin to raise the question: is a post-secondary degree worth the high costs of debt?



Forbes

To address high tuition costs and promote fair access to higher education, collaborations among government bodies, educational institutions, and our society is vital. Ideal measures such as expanding need-based financial aid and exploring innovative ways to ease the financial strain on students in Canada.

Into the Joy of Spring

By Sophia Schlag

On February 21st, the Oak Bay Band, headed by Jeff Weaver and Katherine Forster, held their spring concert. With the Greater Victoria Performing Arts Festival coming up, all the groups regaled us with a variety of music, each one with the hope of one month left till spring in them.

The concert began with a charming, expertly played medley of Studio Ghibli music from "The Friendly Neighbourhood Sax Quartet", arranged by Grade 11 student Yashica Dangra. Following some confusion, Band 9 performed 3 pieces; a highlight of these is the bouncy "Luz

Y Sombra” by Jorge L. Vargas, conducted by Grade 12 teacher assistant Aevyn Jackson.

Next came the Orchestra with exciting songs such as “Also Sprach Zarathustra” by Richard Strauss, A.K.A the theme from “2001: A Space Odyssey”. You know - ba... ba... ba.....
BA-DA!

Strings followed with pieces including “The Highlander” by Deborah Baker Monday, with a nice Scottish feel. It was written as a tribute to a viola player which meant that that instrument would finally get a chance on the melody, and they played it well.

Right before intermission, a mass performance made up of all the band kids performed “Best of the Beatles” arranged by John Moss. Sitting with the loudest instruments behind me hurt my ears, but it was fun to be all together on stage, and have the audience clapping along to “Get Back”.

Following intermission, Band 10, who Mr. Weaver affectionately described working with as “being with his family”, played music such as “Circle Suite” by Stuart Johnson, a four-movement piece that brought us back to the Big Top.



Senior Band

Band 11/12 ended the night with 3 pieces, finishing off with the concert’s namesake, a dynamic piece with varying emotions featuring several soloists. All in all, the concert went very well: you could tell by the chorus of “We didn’t suck!”s that filled the fine arts hall afterwards. I agree.

Club Spotlight: Astronomy Club

By Fernanda Ezquerria Silva



Are you interested in learning about space? Do you like watching the stars? Are you the kind of person who likes to look at the infinite and vast galaxies? Then the Oak Bay Astronomy Club is the place for you!

We are a group of young astronomy fans who talk about space and galaxies. It is a great place to meet new people and discuss a variety of topics ranging from the latest space mission to alien conspiracy theories. It is a low-commitment club, meaning that you can drop in anytime you want! We play games like Kahoot and Trivia, as well as watch videos related to astronomy.

Our main activity outside of school consists of Star Parties. These take place on Cattle Point on Fridays and we use telescopes donated to the club to watch the stars.

Our first Star Party of the year will be on Friday, March 1. Hope to see you there!

We meet every Wednesday during Lunch in room 234. The code for the Google Classroom is pyjo6n7 (everything is in lowercase).



Pictures by Yearbook

Grad Traditions Worldwide

By Lena Dietsch

With graduation around the corner for many of us, our minds are on Oak Bay High School's traditions such as the Grad Dinner/Dance, the block party, and the grand ceremony at UVic. We are all faced with a mixture of emotions, ranging from fear to excitement. Many of us have seen our older siblings or family friends go through this process and know what it entails. To us, these North American graduation ceremonies seem like the norm. However, around the world, traditions vary, reflecting the cultures present in different countries. For example, Scandinavian countries celebrate graduations with parades and singing, Italians throw food at their graduates, and, in Latin America, graduates adorn their traditional graduation robes with decorations conveying gratitude to their families.

Some graduation ceremonies have a more solemn tone, such as in Japan, and in places like Germany, where graduates rarely celebrate as there is a greater focus on the final exam. Based on my research, my favourite graduation ceremonies are found in China, where red envelopes are exchanged, they have a graduation tree, and a growing tradition has young women wearing wedding gowns to grad! Maybe our school could consider incorporating some of these international traditions into our ceremonies. Regardless, I know that many of us are looking forward to the rite of passage that is graduation: the pretty clothes, dancing, and celebrating surrounded by friends and family.



The Advocate



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Weekend Plans

V	A	E	S	V	I	D	E	O	G	A	M	E	S
A	S	T	R	I	N	G	T	H	E	O	R	Y	S
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PLAY SPORTS
WATCH MOVIES
CRAFT
CONTEMPLATE
BEACH VISIT
THRIFT
STRING THEORY
SLEEP
DEFINE LIFE
KARAOKE
OVERTHINK
SURVIVE
VIDEOGAMES
STUDY
FEAST
CRY
WORK
READ