

The Acorn

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The Acorn's Driving Guide

By Sophia Schlag

I was 5 years old when we got into a rear-ending crash, and I still remember the sharp, chemical scent of the airbags deploying and me and my little sister crying... Eleven years later, I got my "L".

Getting your driver's licence is a very exciting rite of passage in high school: it feels like one step closer to being an adult and having more independence. As we enter a new year, a new batch of 10th, 11th and 12th graders will be taking a trip to the driver's licensing offices and gaining that new level of freedom. However, the experience of getting behind the wheel can be varied. I began driving this time last year, and progress has been slower than expected... probably because I hesitate to drive faster than 40 km/h.



Times Colonist

Here are a few tips for 10th graders this year:

- Read your manual! It can be found online as a PDF and at ICBC offices as a book, and tells you everything you need to know.
- Use the practice tests.
- Once you get your learner's license, practice regularly; I recommend the UVic and Camosun parking lots.
- Do your shoulder checks, and drive within the speed limit - these things can easily fail you during your driving test.
- Feel comfortable in your car, and confident on the road before you try for your "N".

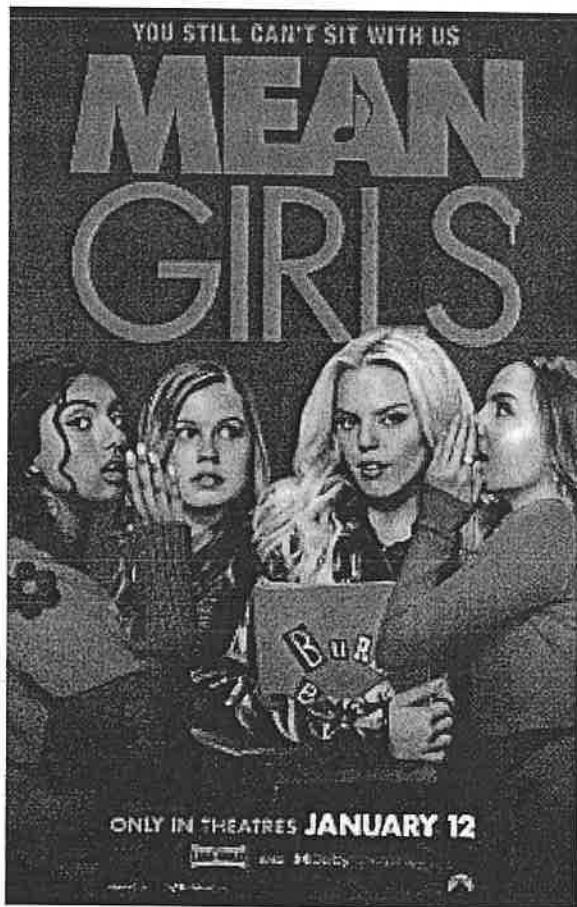
Drive safe!

Movie Spotlight: **MEAN GIRLS**

By Lola Weinzettl

Mean Girls the musical only came to theatres on January 12 but it already has caused controversial opinions. It has grossed \$33.7 million globally in seven weeks of a slowly expanding release. The story follows the fictional experience of Cady Heron (portrayed by Angourie Rice) as she leaves Kenya and goes to a real high school after years of being homeschooled. It explores the difficulties of high school and trying to fit in. Mean Girls is the fourth rendition of the story to be released, although the movie is the most well known. Mean Girls was originally a book written by Rosalind Wiseman that came out in 2002 called Queen Bees and Wannabes. Afterwards, the movie was released in 2004.

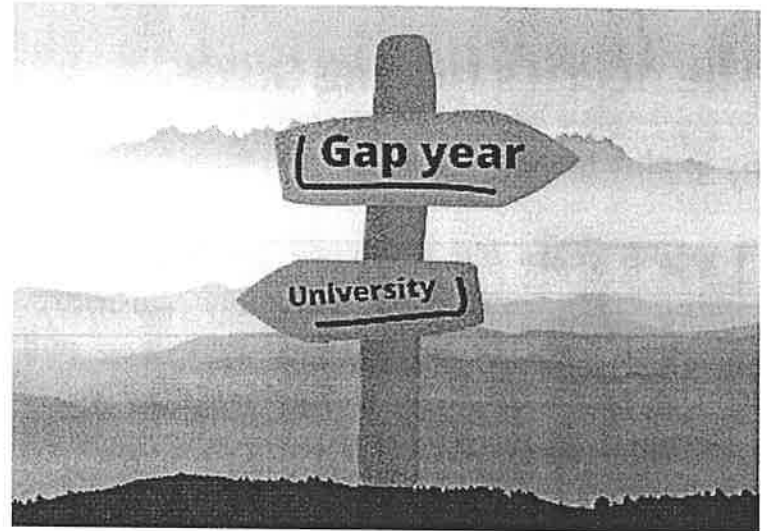
After being a hit on the big screen, it was adapted into a Broadway musical in 2018. Now, in 2024, we have a movie musical version. I was skeptical when I first heard of this so I went into it trying not to compare it to the previous versions, especially because I loved the musical songs from Broadway. However, I have to say, I was pleasantly surprised. It was a little bit disappointing because they cut some of the original songs and switched them out for new ones. They also changed a lot of good, well-known lyrics. Other than that, the plot was very good and the actors were great. There was plenty of comedy that had the audience laughing and the ending was satisfying and true to the original movie. If you enjoy musicals or are a Mean Girls fan, I would definitely recommend this film.



Rotten Tomatoes

University Straightaway or Embracing a Gap Year?

By Alla Wersheffani



<https://skilegap.com/blog/gap-year-or-go-straight-to-university/>

As high school graduation approaches for many, students are confronted with a pivotal decision: dive directly into the university experience or embark on a gap year. While each path has its own set of merits and considerations, making the choice is a deeply personal one that hinges on the student's preferences. Opting for the direct route to university provides a sense of immediacy and continuity. It allows students to build on the momentum of their academic journey, diving straight into coursework and extracurricular activities. This choice can foster a good transition from the structured environment of high school to the rigors of university life.

On the other hand, taking a gap year provides a valuable opportunity for self-discovery and experiential learning. During this time, students can explore new interests, gain real-world experiences, and cultivate a deeper understanding of themselves and their goals. While taking a gap year can be a great idea to avoid burnout, it is also vital that the individual

plans well, whether it involves travel, volunteer work, or internships. A gap year allows people to step outside their comfort zones and develop practical skills that extend beyond the classroom. Nevertheless, that should come with proper preparation.

Going straight into university ensures a more expedited academic journey, potentially leading to an earlier entry into the workforce. On the other hand, embracing a gap year offers a chance for personal growth and a broader perspective that can enrich the subsequent university experience. In the end, there is no one-size-fits-all answer. What matters most is that the student's choice aligns with their aspirations, considering their readiness for academic pursuits and the desire for experiential learning. Whether it is a direct plunge into university studies or a detour through a gap year, the journey toward higher education is as unique as the individuals undertaking it.

An Interview with Niko Alevizakis on OBH's Dance Programme

Last Tuesday and Wednesday Oak Bay High School's very own dance programme put on their biannual Evening of Dance. The showcase boasted the vast and multitalented nature of our dancers through a number of performances in contemporary, hip-hop, K-pop, and jazz. We asked troupe member and choreographer Niko Alevizakis a few questions about the show:



1) Which pieces did you choreograph? What was your inspiration behind them?

I choreographed two of the pieces in the show: one lyrical dance and one jazz, called "Slow Me Down" and "Le Jazz Hot". "Slow Me Down" was inspired by the song of the same name by Emmy Rossum; I loved how airy and melodic the song was and thought it would make a pretty cool dance. For "Le Jazz Hot," the process started with me looking to do a stylized jazz piece for our annual holiday show. After much searching, I found the song and thought it would be a perfect fit.

2) When and where did you start dancing?

I have danced for as long as I can remember, but first got put in classes at 7 at a studio nearby my house in downtown Toronto.

3) Do you have any advice for those only entering the dance programme now?

If you are even considering joining the dance program, I would say do not hesitate to try it out!!! Our inside-the-table courses and our hip-hop group are super chill and fun, and the troupe is an all-around great group of talented people who come together over their love of dance. I was very, very nervous joining dance in Grade 9, but, once you break the ice, I promise it will be a rewarding, fun, and fulfilling experience!

4) What is your favourite memory of dancing with Oak Bay?

I would have to say my favorite memory in the program would be putting on our Barbie dance last June (shoutout Skye Franklin), or going to the Greater Victoria Performing Arts Festival last April!

5) What are your plans going forward in dancing?

Although I do not know exactly where I will be this time next year, I plan to continue dancing next year, training at an institute or university program, and hopefully one day getting hired in the industry. I am not sure exactly where the journey will take me but I am incredibly excited for whatever might be to come!!

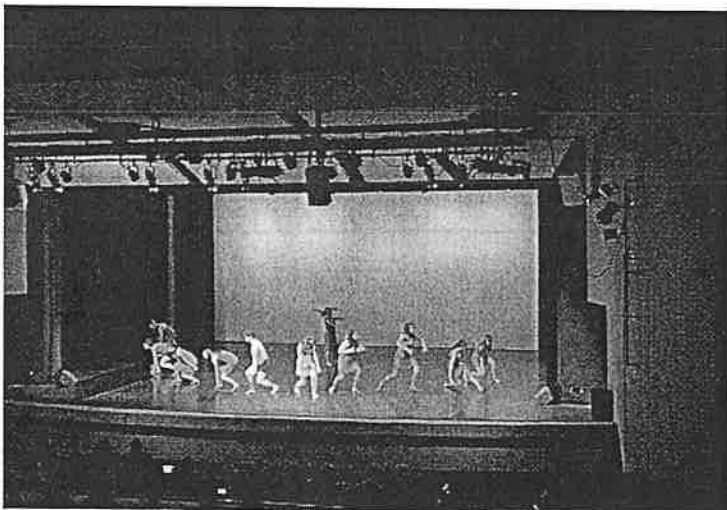
6) If you are going into dance in university, do you have any advice for others looking to do the same thing?

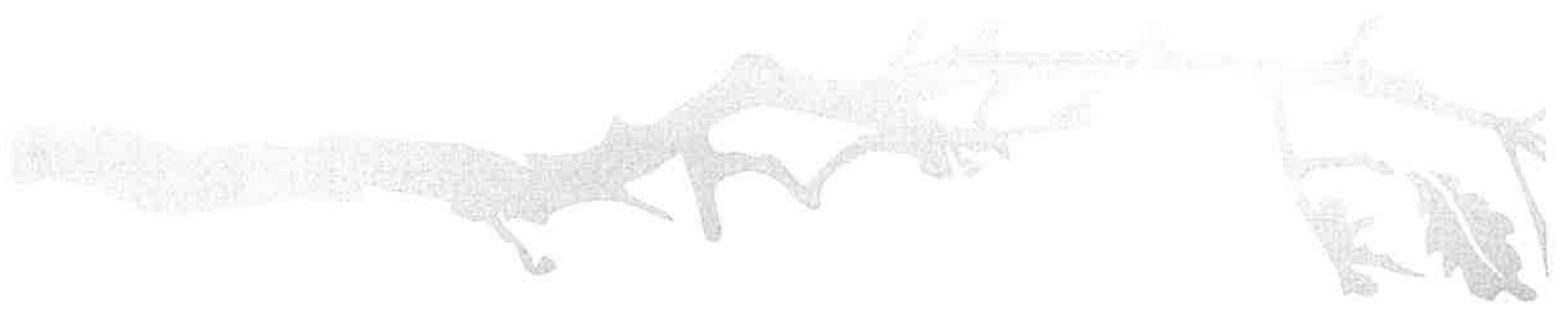
The advice I offer for anyone who is thinking of pursuing dance after high school would be to keep working hard and do not give up on that dream!! There are so many jobs/pathways in the industry, and although there will always be more no's than there are yes's, you never know when a big break might be coming your way!! :)

Club Spotlight: Interact Club

By Lena Dietsch

Interact club is a philanthropic club at Oak Bay High which has the goal of fundraising for both local and international organizations. Over the last four years, this club has raised money through various activities - such as bake sales, seed sales and concessions - for a school in Malawi, Victoria's Women's Transition House, support for refugees from Ukraine, and Rwanda Rising. Currently, the club is fundraising for the latter with the goal of building a nursery in Rwanda to allow single moms to get an education or a job. Our next fundraising event is called "Suckers for Love" and it is a Valentine's day lollipop sale for which the proceeds will be donated to Rwanda Rising. The lollipops that you buy for your loved one will be hand delivered to their classrooms on Valentine's day, either signed by you or, if you are feeling mysterious, anonymously given. Posters will be hung up around the school shortly for more information! If you wish to join Interact Club, you are more than welcome to come by the weekly meetings in room 209 during lunch hour on Wednesdays!





Word Search



Cafeteria Food

H	E	E	C	P	C	H	O	W	M	E	I	N	I
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- JUICE
- RITZ
- CHOW MEIN
- OPA WRAPS
- MENTOS
- COOKIE
- MUFFIN
- POPCORN
- PIZZA
- RAMEN
- COKE
- CHEESE STRING
- BAGEL
- PRINGLES
- EGGS
- SUSHI
- CHIPS



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