

Can you find the hidden acorn?



# The Acorn

Issue #2 - Wednesday, October 30th, 2024

## Athletics at Oak Bay High School

By Ava Navaee

As we settle into the new school year, our school sports are already in full swing! Athletics are a significant part of our school culture, especially during the fall months. The sports currently going on are volleyball, field hockey, and cross country.

Our field hockey team had an impressive season, remaining undefeated, making it to Islands! Our cross-country runners also had an amazing season representing Oak Bay. Soon the volleyball season will also be coming to an end, so make sure to support our teams at any games they have! Basketball will be starting right after. The tryouts for the teams have already started and the season will be a lot of hard work for the athletes, but it will also be very exciting!



Last year's triumphant Cross-Country team

As you can see the fall sports season has a wide variety of sports, so it's busy but very fun! With the field hockey team's notable achievements, the cross country team's successful season, and basketball starting soon, make sure to get involved and come support our sports teams! Keep your eyes out for these sports next year and even some of the sports that will be happening later in the year, since there's definitely something for everyone.

## An Interview With Daví & Mr. Mercer About Language

By Ross Wilson

We're very lucky to have a French Immersion program here at Oak Bay. Have you ever wondered how knowing another language might affect you? I decided to ask Daví & Mr. Mercer some questions to find out more. Here's what I learned:

### 1) Why did you start learning a new language?

Daví: Because I thought it would be interesting to learn the [Japanese] language and culture, and also watch anime without subtitles.

### 2) Do you enjoy learning [Japanese]?

Daví: Yes I do, actually. Because it's an interesting language that applies logic. I also think the Japanese characters are interesting.

### **3) Do you think that learning a new language has affected your cognitive abilities in a positive way?**

Mr. Mercer: Absolutely. Learning any language benefits you in multiple ways. One of them is that you're able to see different perspectives and understand the world through a different lens. I also think that language learning itself, as a new skill, I've heard in studies that it's highly beneficial for the brain. And, the more different it is from English, the more benefit you gain.

### **4) Do you have any tips on how someone could get started learning a new language?**

Mr. Mercer: These days, there's more tools than ever available online, and outside of tools we already know, such as duolingo, just going online and exploring different resources is a great way to get started. You can also use AI as a language tool, such as AI voice calls to practise a new language. They can help you improve pronunciation and build vocabulary. They can also give you tests. I think AI can be a great tool, it just depends on how you use it.

(Note from the author: Did you know that AI like ChatGPT or Copilot are actually Large Language Models, rather than general AI?)

### **5) What language would you recommend learning?**

Mr. Mercer: I'd recommend learning a language that is different from your native language. If you learn Japanese or Chinese,

and you're a native English speaker, it opens new doors, because many of the words in Japanese or Chinese are going to be similar to other languages like them.

### **6) Daví and I have a conversation in Japanese:**

Daví: こんにちは、ロスさん。元気ですか。  
Hello, Ross. How are you?

Ross: こんにちは、ヴィさん。はい、元気です。  
あなたは?  
Hello, Daví. I'm well. And you?

Daví: はい、元気です。でも、疲れか。  
Yes, I'm well. But, I'm tired.



*Photo of Daví with Japanese text. Used with permission.*

## **Beetlejuice Beetlejuice - The Ghost with the Most**

By Maya Ney-Nichols

### **WARNING: SPOILERS AHEAD**

Beetlejuice Beetlejuice, the sequel of the original Beetlejuice film, is a new release starring Michael Keaton, Winona Ryder and Jenna Ortega. Released three decades after the original, its plot continues the theme of

chaotic elements of fear and comedy.

Lydia Deetz, played by Winona Ryder, has a supernatural ability to see ghosts. She hosts her own TV show of herself finding houses haunted with spirits from the afterlife. While filming an episode, she hallucinates seeing Beetlejuice in the audience. She rushes home to her mother, but instead of being comforted, she ends up discovering that her father, Charles Deetz, had been killed in a horrific plane crash. Lydia picks up Astrid Deetz, her daughter, played by Jenna Ortega, from school and goes straight to Winter River, Connecticut for Charles' funeral. They end up moving back into the Ghost House, the same house that Lydia had grown up in, and experience more paranormal events caused by the haunting of Beetlejuice.



*Blueprint*

I personally enjoyed this film and didn't truly find it scary, but more so comedic with slight

jumpscare elements. I found many scenes disturbing due to the gory and chaotic elements of the film. Tim Burton did a great job directing this film by mixing cartoony horror elements with pure randomness and chaos. Michael Keaton also does a fantastic job displaying Beetlejuice's personality, being the turbulent, impulsive and gross aspects of his character.

This movie contains many different ideas, plots and twists. From beginning to end, I was being tossed and turned in a wave of surprises you wouldn't expect while I laughed throughout the movie. This film did an excellent job keeping its audience engaged and waiting to see what would happen next.

I highly recommend this movie as one to watch on Halloween or with friends to have a laugh, since the movie is pretty hilarious.

## Oak Bay Band Concert: "Fires, Reels and Rivers"

By Sophia Schlag

On October 16, the members of the band program donned their concert blacks and tuned their instruments, ready for the much-anticipated first concert of the year.

The atmosphere was one of excitement and pride, everyone coming together so well in their new groups, especially for the people wearing their green blazers and ties for the first time. As the audience filed in, the theater filled with the sound of small talk and a tuba warming up.

The concert started with the excellent Orchestra, who often serenades the Acorn meetings Wednesday mornings. They played classical pieces such as “The Hebrides”, by the infamous Felix Medelssohn, whose ominous and tense melody alluded to Atlantic swells, and was executed masterfully.

Strings followed with the lyrical and bittersweet “Orchid”, by Yukiko Nishimura, then finished off with the exciting “Swamp Thing”, by Richard Meyer, surprising us all with its modern beat!



*Band 11/12*

Band 9 concluded the first half with a great show of hard work and skill. I especially liked “New World Symphony”, arranged by Michael Sweeney. It reminded me of the beginning of the “Jaws” theme, and felt very prim and proper.

After intermission came Band 10. Joining them on stage was the Monterey Concert Band, directed by our student teacher, whose 2 pieces “Men of Ohio” and “Blue Ridge Reel” gave us an old-timey American feel.

Finally, Band 11/12 was up with 2 epic pieces, “Fanfare for a new Generation”, a

hopeful piece that was enjoyable to play despite the difficult 16th notes, and “Arctic Fire”, which we played better than we ever had before!

All in all, this concert was a triumph, as can be understood by the unusually elated exclamation: “We didn’t suck!”

## **Cultural Corner: The Day of the Dead, or Dia de Los Muertos**

By Lola Weinzettl

As the days become shorter and colder, we are rapidly approaching Dia de Los Muertos. Dia de Los Muertos is a holiday traditionally celebrated on November 1st and 2nd. It is said to have originated from ancient pre-Hispanic Mesoamerican rituals practiced specifically by the Aztecs in what is now known as Central Mexico. The Aztecs had death rituals that involved making offerings to the deceased. The way Dia de Los Muertos is celebrated has changed since the time of the Aztecs, but the celebration has many of the same aspects in the present day.

Nowadays on November 1st, family and friends come together to celebrate and remember the lives of departed loved ones who have transitioned to the after-life. This holiday is a way to remember and celebrate the lives that loved ones have led. Families welcome back the spirits of the dead to the land of the living for one night. Traditions connected with this holiday include honoring the deceased using calaveras (skulls) and marigold flowers. As well as creating ofrendas for the deceased.

Ofrendas consist of pictures surrounded by a set of items that identify the person to whom it is dedicated. Items that identify the person can include photographs and personal items that belonged to them. They can also include favorite foods or beverages. The celebration

during Dia de los Muertos is not solely focused on the dead. It is also common to give gifts to friends such as candy sugar skulls, or to share traditional pan de muerto (bread of the dead) with family and friends.

To learn more about this holiday, you can watch movies such as Coco or The Book of life.



Wikipedia

## Jokes and Riddles

I have hundreds of ears, but I can't hear a thing. What am I?

A cornfield.

**What's the problem with twin witches?**

You never know which witch is which.

How do you spell candy in two letters?

C and Y.

**Why are graveyards so noisy?**

Because of all the coffin.

What kind of makeup is a ghost's favorite to wear?

Mas-scare-a.

# Halloween Word Search

A	S	N	M	I	P	K	T	C	A	N	D	Y	T
A	I	P	N	S	E	O	U	H	C	T	I	W	R
W	T	I	O	R	K	O	M	A	P	T	O	O	T
T	R	M	K	O	R	E	Y	R	A	C	S	N	R
R	I	T	O	G	K	R	L	U	U	O	S	O	N
O	C	U	O	H	U	Y	E	E	N	K	R	N	G
R	K	Z	O	M	B	I	E	I	T	C	R	M	H
R	O	T	Z	O	C	N	K	M	S	O	T	A	O
O	R	O	T	P	N	P	K	T	A	S	N	S	S
H	T	A	O	H	M	I	R	U	G	T	R	U	T
E	R	T	T	U	K	H	G	H	H	U	H	R	T
C	E	H	P	O	U	R	A	H	T	M	P	A	T
D	A	E	A	U	T	U	M	N	R	E	A	P	R
S	T	P	R	M	H	S	R	R	I	S	T	R	O

- TRICKORTREAT
- ZOMBIE
- PUMPKIN
- SKELETON
- COSTUMES
- AUTUMN
- SPOOKY
- HORROR
- CANDY
- WITCH
- SCARY
- GHOST

