

The Acorn

Issue #13 - Wednesday, May 7th 2025

Capstone Celebration at Oak Bay High School

By Sophia Schlag



Photo by Sophia

For many years, Capstone Projects have been a rite of passage for grade 12s at Oak Bay High. Starting at the beginning of the year, students have the opportunity to work on and research something that inspires them, with the help of mentors and teachers, to explore what they are passionate about and what they may want to do after graduation. In the past, these have varied from research about being a doctor, to planning a small business, to filming a movie, and much more.

Last week, Oak Bay's grad class of 2025 gathered in the gym for two evenings to present their capstone projects and celebrate learning. I went for both nights, and can confidently say that I was truly inspired by my peers. The projects ranged from someone making a sports podcast, to creating

furniture. The crowd was happy and fascinated, and all the presenters were very engaging.

Some personal highlights include the creation of the Oceanography Club, a student who wrote and self-published a novella, and all the art portfolios. I myself was a part of the presentation. My project was about creating a historical dress from the regency period, and I wore my dress at the event. I'm very proud of my work, and of all the others.

Capstone is an amazing part of an Oak Bay High student's grad year, and I encourage future grads to take advantage of this opportunity to delve deeper into a passion of yours. It is what Capstone is all about.

The Poppy War Trilogy: A Review

By Rocio De La Rosa

R. F Kuang is an American novelist best known for her award winning contemporary, *Yellowface*, published in 2023 and a fantasy novel, *Babel* in 2022. However, her career began with a debut fantasy war series in 2018 called *The Poppy Wars*. It combines elements of dark fantasy, war, Chinese history, and colonialism into a gut-wrenching story of young soldiers turned all-powerful gods.



Amazon.ca

The series follows Fang Runin, who unexpectedly passes the national test to attend the most prestigious military school in the country. In addition to learning that the gods of the myths are in fact real, she becomes tangled in the unbalanced politics of her country and the dark secrets of her mentors. I enjoyed the plot and pacing of this book because it was so suspenseful and unexpected. I admire the way Kuang was able to describe war and military plans in such an engaging way, especially for readers with no previous interest in the topic. As well, the setting is based on real-world China and the surrounding countries, so it was interesting to be able to draw historical connections while reading.

R. F. Kuang's writing style seemed to fluctuate between extremely engaging and extremely dense, which made some parts of the series an effort to get through. The writing style was sometimes very moralistic; I felt like Kuang was attempting to press the message of the novel too much in some parts. The Poppy Wars series, as well as Babel and Yellowface, centre around racism and colonialism under different contexts, but I think her writing technique often makes these underlying themes very obvious when readers have already made those connections themselves.

My favourite part of the Poppy Wars series was the characters and character relationships. I have read all of her newer novels, and I have often felt that most of her character development is shallow or not believable. The Poppy Wars, on the other hand, does an excellent job of creating endearing, realistic characters that I found myself rooting for until the end. Overall, The Poppy Wars is her best work of fiction, in my opinion, and I am excited to read her upcoming novel, Katabasis, in September.

Victoria's Performing Arts Festival

By Ross Wilson

Did you know that we hosted the school band performances here at Oak Bay High School for the Greater Victoria Performing Arts Festival? The school band performances were hosted from April 16th to the 24th. I was very fortunate to be able to watch a few of the performances through volunteering and by performing with one of Oak Bay High's talented bands.

Though the school band performances have concluded, the festival is still ongoing for other areas of the arts. These areas include: different styles of music, oral arts, dancing, and drama. Unfortunately for Oak Bay High students, those events are not being hosted at the Dave Dunnet Theatre.



Davedunnet.ca

Because I performed with Oak Bay High's band in the festival, I have a bit of insider knowledge about how the band performances work (I can't speak for the other types of events, though). First, the band plays at their designated time, with an adjudicator and an audience watching the performance. After that, the adjudicator will have a short clinic with the band, giving them constructive feedback and showing them ways that they can improve their music skills.

To conclude, the GVPAF is a great event with many different kinds of performances, ranging from music to dancing and even to drama. Though most of the year's events have already concluded, I highly recommend watching the upcoming performances, next year's, or even this year's and next's!

Oak Bay High's Student Vote

By Ava Navaee

Earlier this week, the Canadian federal election took place. The liberal party, led by Mark Carney, won with a minority government of 169 seats; they were only 3 seats short of being a majority government. The party also won the popular vote, with 43.7%. As a result, 6,272 schools participated in a mock election. By May 1, 914, 549 valid votes were reported in 343 electoral districts.

These results were shocking, especially for a school election, considering that it contradicted the actual election results. The conservatives won with 36.4% of the popular vote and 164 seats, the liberals were close behind with 146 seats and 31.8% of the popular vote. The other parties didn't come close to the liberals or the conservatives, although the NDP still had a considerable amount compared to the Green Party and Bloc Québécois. The NDP won 13 seats and 14.5% of the popular vote.



Penticton Herald

Oak Bay High's election results were contrary to the other school's results with the liberals gaining 204 votes, NDP 125, Conservative with 89 and the Green Party with 43. These mock elections are always interesting, especially seeing how other people your age around the country, and even in our own school would vote.

Restaurant Review: Don Mee

By Shekayah Silvey

Price Range:

\$20-30 per person

Review:

Going to Don Mee is always a pleasant experience! Whether you are going for the Dim Sum, a bunch of carts carrying delicious treats that are both sweet and savory, or you are there for the Family dinners, Hot pot, Chow Mein, and many more I have yet to try.

My family and I go once a year around the start of December to Don Mee for the Dim Sum, excited to try different things every time. The table usually looks like the picture featured below, with steamed pork buns and sticky rice with chicken. Desserts consist of mango pudding and fried shrimp dumplings! This experience is definitely unique and I recommend going for the Dim Sum! You can pick all the things you want right in front of you so you can see them! Out of 5 stars, Don Mee is 4.4 stars.



Photo by Shekayah

Jokes and Riddles

Who is an herb's favorite singer?

Elvis Parsley!

Does February march?

No, but April may!

Why did the farmer bury all his money?

To make his soil rich.

My beautiful bouquet of blooms died, but then they came back to life. It must have been rein-carnation!

How do rabbits keep their fur looking nice?

They use a hare-brush!

Why is Yoda such a good gardener?

He has a green thumb!

What starts with a 'P', ends with an 'E', and has thousands of letters?

A post office!

What kind of lion never roars?

A dandelion!

Spring has sprung!

M	S	F	I	N	M	I	S	N	O	N	X	N	F
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P	G	H	A	C	E	O	C	I	M	I	R	N	E
I	N	S	R	N	O	D	S	R	B	E	F	A	D
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N	M	I	E	S	M	W	N	O	G	N	W	I	A
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FISHING
SUN
PLANTS
WARM
NATURE
GARDENING
PICNIC
BLOOMING
GREEN
FLOWERS
SPORTS
RELAXING

