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Life on the Stage:

A *Dream* turned REALITY

ANNABELLE DEASY '22 Visual Editor

From 7 years old at Broadway Bound as an evil stepsister in “Cinderella” to taking the spotlight on the Seattle Prep Stage as SpongeBob, Sarah O’Connell ’23 has taken her love for theater to the next level. Her ability to take on a variety of different roles and use her talent to bring joy to all who see her is what is so special about Sarah O’Connell.

O’Connell began her theater career at a young age when she saw her friend perform with Broadway Bound. Broadway Bound is a program in Seattle that consists of classes for music, acting and dance for beginners to advanced performers, along with putting on a variety of shows throughout the year. O’Connell said, “My mom signed me up for a ‘Frozen’ summer camp and after I participated in my first show I couldn’t stop.”



O’Connell has taken her natural born talent into something amazing. She began taking vocal, acting and dance classes to master her skills and keep everything “tuned” she said. Sarah said her biggest inspiration in this industry is Betsey Wolf her vocal coach and previous Broadway actress. O’Connell commented on the way Wolf looks at the arts with an open mind and perspective. When asked her favorite thing about the theater O’Connell responded “There is something about being in the theater in front of a live audience that I couldn’t find anywhere else. The energy from the audience and feeling on the stage is so unique”

After putting so much dedication and heart into her passion for the art, O’Connell hopes to further pursue her theater career outside of high school. She plans to apply to college for theater and dreams of attending New York University or University of Michigan. When asked her dream role in any show, O’Connell would love to play Anya from Anastasia due to the amazing vocals of the character.

O’Connell said “Something unique about me as an actress is when I snap into character on stage. I could be quiet or tired off stage but when I step on stage something enlightens me. The stage presence I bring is something I have had since I was little.”

O’Connell recently portrayed the role of SpongeBob SquarePants in the Seattle Prep winter musical: a role unlike anything else. When asked about the role she responded, “it’s been a hard one since it is a cartoon character, but the optimism and willingness to find a solution is something I admire and has helped me in my real life.”

Sarah’s cast-mates and directors describe her as hardworking, passionate, and kindhearted. The spirit she brings to the theater on, and off stage is unlike any other. “The connection we have is so different and something about us working towards one product is so unique” O’Connell said. Sarah has an incredible voice and ability to draw a crowd in. Even playing the beloved Nickelodeon, character Sarah O’Connell was able to bring something special to the role that left the audience in awe.



Behind The Curtains of The *SpongeBob Musical*
Kelsey HAMILTON '24 Staff writer

After almost two years, Seattle Prep’s Drama Department was finally able to do their first musical in two years.

Set in Bikini Bottom and based off the well-known cartoon SpongeBob, the musical was full of hilarity that kept the audience wanting more the entire time. The energy radiating from the actors filled the theatre. Rachel Fry ’24 went to see the musical on opening night and was immediately invested in the plot. “It was clear the cast members were excited and happy to be performing and that added a lot of fun to the experience and made it more enjoyable as an audience,” said Fry.

It certainly is true that the energy in the theatre created by the actors truly enhanced the performance. By having an exhilarated cast, the audience fed off that and became even more energized and intrigued. Mai Nguyen ’22, who played the role of Squidward, felt that energy on stage. “You can build off the energy of the live audience, you want to keep singing and acting. It makes everything worth it,” said Nguyen.

A noted having was that accompanied been practicing before the show, nerve-wracking, worked out perfect- was the cherry on “It was so amazing show together. It vated and made the explained Nguyen.

The live on stage performance of the show. While the orchestra was comprised of several people who did not go to Prep, there were a couple of Panthers among them. Ben Jammes ’24, played the cello. It’s important in a musical to have a live orchestra instead of a soundtrack. Jammes explained, “The energy that it gives off is better and easier to act off and sing with because it is live. We can adapt to each other and to each other’s mistakes. A live orchestra has more expression in general because it is less about playing perfectly and more about sound.”

Another essential part of the musical was the lighting and the sound that accompanied the different acts. They both helped to create a visual of the scene and had the ability to transport the audience to Bikini Bottom. It takes a lot of people to pull this off, and the entire crew did an amazing job. Conor Gent ’22, head of tech, explained why lighting and sound are such a crucial part of pulling off a musical. “Lighting has a huge impact. It is already programmed, and it helps different scenes. Spotlights help focus on which character is important in that moment.”

“The SpongeBob musical” was a big hit but might seem like an unusual choice to some. Adam Othman, director, and producer of the show, first saw the performance on Broadway and knew that he wanted to direct it one day. Coming back from COVID, he had a specific vision in mind for his future shows. “I wanted to do shows that were fun and people laugh and smile because I think that’s what we need in the world,” Othman explained.

The musical did not disappoint in laughter or creativity. The hard work and effort that everyone put in could be seen in the performance. “When it all comes together it is a beautiful thing,” said Othman.



A Panther’s Piece: Student Musicians at Prep

ANNA ROBERTS '23
Staff Writer

While Prep may be known primarily for its great athletes, or its award-winning mock trial team, Seattle Prep also boasts great student musicians and a thriving arts culture. Although it may not be as well known, there are many opportunities for student musicians to get involved at Prep including Choir taught by Mr. Weeks, Pep and Jazz band taught by Ms. Bost, the musical, and several music classes that are offered.

One big way the Prep community gets involved in music is through the Winter musical. Ian Miller, class of '22, who plays Mr. Krabs in this year’s “Spongebob the Musical” commented on this saying how “every year, people see the musical and are impressed by what they see”.

This showcase of music and the

arts is a great way not only for students to see a great show, but for students involved to show off their hard work and achievement. This excellent showcase of the artistic talents at Prep never fails to blow the audience away and serves as a testament to the hard work of all the people involved.

Miller commented on his personal experience in the music department at

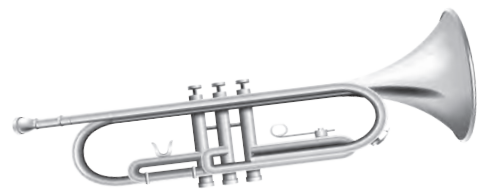
Prep saying, “Our teachers are extremely open-minded and constantly willing to offer guidance and knowledge to aspiring artists”.

This supportive staff and program are just the place for a young musician to grow their talents and experience within the Prep community. Like many Prep students, Miller finds an outlet for expression in music. Ian commented on his song writing and

musical experience saying how “there’s something so beautiful about turning thoughts into sound that often transcends words” and plans to pursue this passion into college as he hopes to become a musician and has applied to music schools.

Miller also commented on the musical talent of others in the Prep community saying how they “have a diverse and complex understanding of music and celebrate the creativity and talent of their peers”. Like Miller, many students at Prep find self-expression, community, and fun in their work and have contributed to the talent-filled music programs at Prep.

“There’s something so beautiful about turning thoughts into sound that often transcends words.”
- Ian Miller '22



Jazzy Jesuits!



Prep Jazz Band Emphasizes Collaboration, Community

NICK PICKEL '23
Staff Writer

Seattle Prep Jazz Band. A staple in the Prep Arts Program, but perhaps misunderstood. Prep Jazz Band isn’t what like what is often seen on social media; a group of fifteen or so uncoordinated people lethargically playing music off a sheet. Prep Jazz Band is a group of passionate, amiable, hardworking, and talented musicians whose commitment goes much deeper than simply learning to play an instrument.

Gabe Tanumihardja '23 has been in Prep Jazz Band for three years. He plays the piano and has been dabbling with the EWI (electronic wind instrument) recently. He explains what he has learned that goes deeper than instrument knowledge, saying, “I learned how to work with a team. I learned how to work with others, seeing what they wanted to do in the song and how I could accommodate that with my playing. I also learned how much music can bring a group of people together. It’s like this big connecting thing that we all enjoy and that brings us together.”

This is exactly the goal for Ms. Bost Prep Jazz Band director, who says the band has “grown as leaders and communicators, they have upped their discipline and perseverance, and they have struggled and triumphed.”

Bost explained jazz as “a Black American art form started in the early 20th century and it is everything - self-expression through improvisation and signature sound, boundary-pushing, cerebral and complex, full of feeling, a time capsule, a mood and a vibe.”

Bost has taught at Prep for six years as Pep and Jazz band’s teacher, as well as Lit/Study and lunch duty in the Smith Café.

Bost said she has “worked to create a collaborative environment where the students take ownership of their ensemble ... I allow students to discuss our music with each other and make decisions about arrangements and activities.”

She uses what she calls “Bost’s Law of Dispensability” which means she tries to get them so prepared to perform that



Photo: Seattle Prep Yearbook

Prep Jazz Band students perform at Epilogue, their concert in January. Led by Ms. Bost, the Jazz Band has worked to create a collaborative environment that emphasizes student ownership.

if she were to not show up to the concert that night, they could run their show as if nothing was different. Jazz Band focuses on three main things over the year; music theory as it relates to jazz, the study and practice of musical improvisation, and musical styles. In Prep’s band this year, there is a rhythm section, horns, a violinist and a baritone horn player.

Prep Jazz Band has a few performances throughout the year in which they get to show off the fruits of their hard work. Tanumihardja’s favorite song to play is trumpeter Roy Hargrove’s composition “Strasbourg St. Denis”, which he likes because “Not only is the melody fast and upbeat, but the chord progression flows very well.”

Jazz Band also branches out further than that, playing the subgenres of Jazz; swing, blues, Latin, funk, and soul. Members of Jazz Band get to experiment

with their instruments and knowledge in all genres of music, making them musically very well-rounded.

Tanumihardja notes how Jazz Band laid the foundation for his Prep experience, “Jazz band was the first sense of community I felt at prep. In my freshman year, the band atmosphere was so inviting and welcome. I felt that I fit right in. I think this really shaped who I wanted to be at Prep. It inspired me to be more open and welcoming of others.”

“Band culture at Prep is just playing music and crackin’ jokes,” Tanumihardja said, commenting on something that many Prep students can relate to, “[My] favorite part about practices is that it’s a chill time to just destress from school, and jam with friends. It really helps when you can take out AP Chemistry stress on the keys.”

Seattle Prep Jazz Band seeks to help students to master their instrument in

many subgenres of jazz. Furthermore, Jazz Band is an outlet for students to express their talent and creativity with a group of supportive, like-minded, and talented student musicians.

Tanumihardja notes that, if you want to learn more about Jazz Band, are interested in joining, or just want to chat, “Come stop by at window in the Lee Family Arts Center and talk to Ms. Bost! Or come up to any of us in the band, we’d be happy to tell you all about it!”

Bost would love to “get more women/non-binary players in our band” and wants to share her hope that “with the right priorities and with resources to back it, [I believe] Prep could become a School of the Arts for Seattle. We have top-notch faculty and committed, talented students, we just need to move toward that vision.”

The 2022 Fashion Rundown



Catsuit:

This form-fitting, full-body clothing item is number one on our list of trend predictions. Celebrities such as Dua Lipa, Lizzo, and Olivia Rodrigo have already strutted in these versatile pieces. With patterns, cutouts, and necklines for days, this is a style that can stand alone or be a staple in an outfit. We will be on the lookout for some halter top ones.

Yoga pants:

What we now call flare pants, used to be known as yoga pants, but under either name, these will be making a re-appearance. With the athleisure and sweatsuit look still standing strong, these pants are a perfect leggings without the total gym look. Comfortable and still great to move around, these pants are a sweatpants upgrade.

Low rise mini skirt:

While the low-rise mini skirt look is controversial, this is a trend that we are already seeing. A continuation of the Y2K reboot, the low-rise mini skirt is seen paired with the baby/crop tees. But we feel that 2022 will bring more mini skirt suits to the stage.

Capsule closet is here to stay:

Scrolling through your Instagram or travel blogs, you never fail to come across one of these minimalistic aesthetic, “that girl” influencers. With nudes, whites, greys, blacks, and GOLD JEWELRY, having a capsule closet of basics with a simple color palette can unlock your inner influencer.

Mesh/sheer/tulle:

We are confident that mesh and sheer garments will be returning this year. Tulle skirts and tulle robes/coats with feathers seem to be the next thing. Sheer/mesh tops and pants will bring the festival look to evenings out. We see a lot of sequins as well this year, making NYE a year-round celebration.

Cutouts:

While not necessarily school-appropriate, we believe the Euphoria euphoria (see what we did there?) will lead to experimentation of cutouts in pants, tops, and especially dresses.

Moonboots:

These carry through with the futuristic/space trend we are going to see. A carryover from the Y2K era and its resurrection, these chunky, fuzzy shoes will be a winter must. The puffy coat for the foot?

Gloves:

This is a big one. We are here for the latest accessory of gloves. The opera or lace styles we feel are going to be the most popular, but we look forward to being surprised. This is a perfect addition that will tie and elevate your outfit together.

Crochet:

Let's face it: we all tried to find a hobby or two over the past 2 years. For a few, crochet hooks and yarn were picked up. We love the creativity and uniqueness of this design. Crochet brings fun and comfort to stylish looks. We cannot wait to see the ideas that come out of this method.

Capes:

Another controversial trend – the cape. This look of royalty is one of those that only looks good when done well but IF done well, we see this style exploding. With Prom coming up, this might be the outgoing accessory that you did not know you needed.

70's glasses:

Last but not least, a hopeful summer craze. We lived through the tiny sunnies, now let's make room for the 70's sunglasses. These retro, vintage frames give the perfect amount of nostalgia and fun to the summer glow.

Never Too Old for Art Stores

PALOMA HISSONG '23
Staff Writer

Any aspiring or distinguished artist is bound to be inspired as they browse through an art store's isles. Seattle has many art stores to explore, and each encourages creativity. Stores like Artist & Craftsman Supply near UW sell all types of art supplies imaginable. There are also places like Paint the Town in U-Village and Emerald City Fired Arts in the Mount Baker neighborhood where customers can create their own art in the shop.

Artist & Craftsman Supply offers a variety of art supplies to customers. Brushes, paints, ink, pencils, and fabrics just to name a few. Many of the employees are also artists themselves, allowing them to share their knowledge and help ensure customers like what they are buying. This makes for an unintimidating, inviting experience for even the most beginner artists. For Prep art teachers Ms. Dold and Ms. Petty, Artist & Craftsman is a go-to.

Ms. Petty said, “That’s definitely the store I’d recommend if someone was asking me. They have a range of materials, so if you’re getting paintbrushes, they’re going to have cheap brushes and some crazy expensive paint brushes and anything in between.” Ms. Dold also added, “I feel like they have student discounts. And artist dis-

counts, which is funny because a lot of the people going there are artists.”

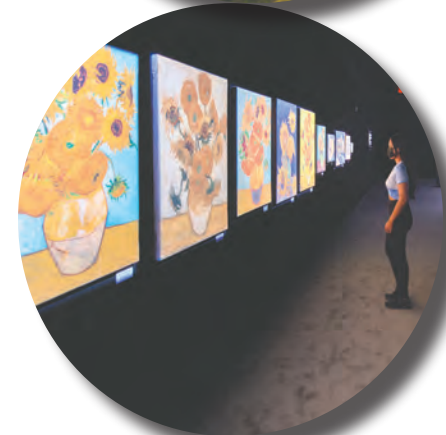
Alternatively, people can walk into Paint the Town and paint a piece of pottery. They would choose from the array of mugs, vases, and plates the shop offers and then return a week later to see their piece finished after being glazed and cooked in the kiln. Paint the Town also offers small decorative pieces like jewelry holders, ceramic animals, or piggy banks. Because there are so many options, anyone who looks around the store will certainly find a piece they like. Emerald City Fired Arts offers similar pottery services but also provides materials and instructions for glass fusing and mosaic work.

These experiences also do not have to be a splurge. Painting pottery at Paint the Town, for example, can be as inexpensive as \$10 for the whole experience, and Emerald City's prices range from \$6 to \$60. While these are less traditional art stores, they certainly provide a unique experience and space for people of any age to be creative.

Ms. Dold and Ms. Petty also recommended Blick Art Supplies on Capitol Hill and even the UW bookstore as other places to find art supplies. Regardless of someone's skills as an artist, their creativity and love for art can be fostered by even just browsing one of Seattle's many art stores.



Van Gogh Immersive Experience Seattle



ABBY BALDWIN '23

Staff Writer

Imagine taking a step into Van Gogh's famous oil painting "Starry Night." The painting, filled with beautiful and elaborate details, includes a navy dark sky, a shining yellow crescent moon, and pops of orange for the stars. This famous painting was created in June 1889, in Southern France. However, anyone can see the digitalized painting in Seattle, Washington at the Van Gogh Immersive Experience.

Visitors can fully submerge themselves in a 360 digital projection with 15,000-foot screens including some of Van Gogh's most famous work. Not only is "Starry Night" shown but 300 of Van Gogh's sketches, paintings, and drawings are displayed. In addition to a digital projection of his artwork, people are able to experience a Virtual Reality interactive, where they can walk through a day in the life of

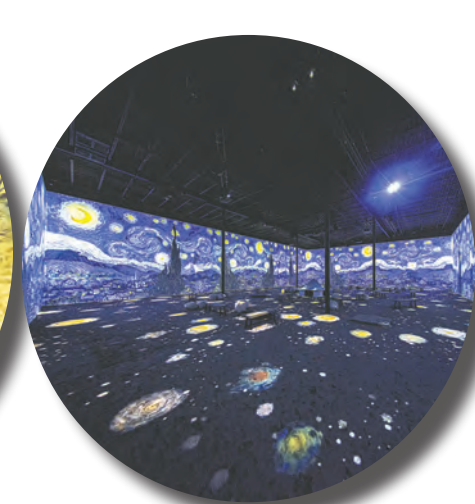
Van Gogh and take in some of his work including, "Vincent's Bedroom at Arles", and "Starry Night Over The Rhone River", in a new, real life, perspective.

Stella Hansot, a current junior at Seattle Prep, had the opportunity to visit this exhibit in January. She stated, "The Van Gogh art Exhibit was an awesome experience because of how peaceful and interactive the exhibit was", she added, "The colors seemed to jump out at you and seeing all of the paintings and his vision for them was a really cool experience. Art exhibits bring so many different people together and is a great way to disconnect from the outside world and other distractions of daily life".

All ages are able to visit, and the entire experience typically takes 60-70 minutes. More information can be found at <https://vangoghexpo.com/>



Photos: Courtesy of Dan Swartz for Exhibition Hub & Fever



ONLINE ARTS JOURNAL IGNITING CREATIVITY

What is Ignite? Is it a spark? A flame? Nope, it has nothing to do with arson, although the title of the program is inspired by St. Ignatius' famous phrase "Go set the world on fire." Ignite is Prep's Literary and Visual Arts Journal led by Collegio teacher Ms. Dotsey. This unique window class allows students to show off all forms of artistic talent ranging from paintings to poetry.

Many students on Ignite, including sophomore Zoe Bocek, take advantage of this opportunity to share their work. Last year, Zoe submitted one piece of art,

a poem entitled "Indefinite Peak" about always feeling pushed to keep going and to do things they were not ready to do.

Ignite was a "creative outlet where I felt comfortable sharing my art with others" stated Zoe. Now, in their second year on the Ignite staff, Zoe has become a member of the editorial team and is looking forward to reviewing, reading, and viewing the work of other student artists.

Any student at Seattle Prep can submit work for each year's spring edition of Ignite. These editions are released during Arts Week and can be viewed on the Ignite website. Students

who are members of Ignite take each student submission and go through a process of curating and analyzing the art that they may publish. Nellie Walsh '23 described this process as "a fun and detailed way to practice basic graphic design".

Ignite encourages students to share and express themselves through the use of all mediums and art forms. It embraces the uniqueness of each individual and works to develop the whole person. Panthers can submit their works of art by emailing them to ignite@seaprep.org in their correct forms which can be found on the group's website. Once entered, the pieces go through a review process and then get published for all to see. This student-led publication can be found only on the Seattle Prep campus and has a bright future ahead!

AUDREY CROMETT '24

CLAIRE RULYAK '24

Staff Writers



Scan Here to see work from Ignite 2021-22

"I felt comfortable sharing my art with others"
-Zoe Bocek '24

EDITORS: EMI NAKATA '22, ANNIE ROSKE '23, & MIA SCHWARTZ '24

THE PANTHER | MARCH 24, 2022

MIA SCHWARTZ '24
AVA TINDER '24
Staff Writers

A WEEK OF FITS WITH

JEFFREY

elizabeth • bollich
/art brings life into the world/

Elizabeth Bollich '22 has always enjoyed drawing, but has never had the time. AP Studio Art, however, integrated her passion for art into her school curriculum, giving her over an hour every other day to do what she loves. Over the past several months, Bollich has been drawing self-portraits, using graphite and colored pencils. Her creative process starts with initial sketches and a photoshoot of herself, which she then uses to begin her drawings. Bollich found that it easy for her to make self-portraits because she can always take photos of herself to use as a reference.

Bollich is a very visual person. She often sees a photo and thinks, "This would make a really good drawing". Her pieces are inspired by Pinterest, photos she has taken in the past, and other artists, such as Kehinde Wiley, an American

artist. He does a lot of portraits in color, and she likes how Wiley draws people.

Bollich's work showcases pops of color and focuses on the elements of design – value and form. Value, which she defines as "a core element of art that focuses on how light or dark a color", helps her create contrast, and form, is the way her portraits occupy the space on the page. Bollich likes to use color for the backgrounds of her pencil drawings because since they are completely grey, the color helps add emotion to each piece. She picks the color based on the mood she hopes to invoke, such as blue for calmer images and red for energetic ones.

"I put a lot of "me" in what I draw. It's a fun confidence booster and a good way of expressing myself," shared Bollich.

Bollich believes that art is a key part of humanity – being creative and making creative things. It not only brings people joy, but it also challenges ideals throughout history to better society. She believes that art brings life into the world.



SOPHIA HAYRE



'23

Sophia Hayre, class of 2023, is of the most stylish panthers! She gets her inspiration from social media, mainly Pinterest and Instagram. She loves how "fashion is constantly recycled and inspired by trends!" Sophia's best advice is that "confidence is the best accessory!" Use code 20SOPHIA on Princess Polly for 20% off!

MATT KENNEDY



'24

Matt Kennedy is the Sophomore style icon of 2022! Matt encourages people to "throw caution to the wind and just put some clothes on." He gets inspiration from classmates and prioritizes emulating style without stealing it. Fashion is his favorite way to get creative juices flowing!

AP
STUDIO
ARTpiper • pickar
/art is a very healthy form of expression/

Piper Pickar '22 applied to be in AP Studio Art because she wanted to learn how to take art

to a different level and push her limits as a young artist. This year she has worked on her photography skills, specifically focusing on the elements of design – contrast, shadows, and color. Pickar has shot every-

day objects, primarily glass, from unconventional perspectives to make them appear as something different. She loves how glass "casts different textures in the shadows depending on how they're made". Pickar finds inspiration from websites like Pin-

terest, then recreates and reimagines with materials, such as colored glass and colored lights. She describes her process as "intentionally chaotic".

"As a person, I don't like being labeled... In my art, the reason I am drawn towards creating chaotic masterpieces is to show that every object and every person has multiple sides to them and shouldn't be defined or let anything define them," explained Pickar.

To Pickar, there is no single perspective on art or people on view to art or people. Photoshoots, just like people, evolve a lot. She starts her photoshoots with a simple idea, and ends with a complex, multifaceted masterpiece. She finds new ways

to cast shadows, new viewpoints to shoot the photos from, new angles to point the colored lights, each change producing a completely new piece.

Pickar feels that art is a very healthy form of expression because it is personal, making it a really good outlet for people to deal with things that they are going through. Art sparks individuality and creativity, allowing people to see things in a new way. It can be used to initiate change, start conversations, or shed light on difficult topics. It almost feels protected because people don't have to tell others what it's about. Pickar uses the creation of art as a way to build a deeper relationship with herself.

BY: EMI NAKATA '22
ONLINE EDITOR

MASON WINEGARDNER



'25

Mason Winegardner, class of 2025, is the fashion icon of this years freshman class. Fashion is important to him because "he can express himself through clothes." He finds inspiration on the internet and trends on social media. He encourages students to "be themselves and wear what they want!"

MADDY BEER




'22

Maddy Beer is the fashion idol of the Senior Class! She advises to "not limit yourself to a particular aesthetic and buy clothes that make you feel good!" She lives by the simple words "the modern trend cycle is a capitalist scam, and so is gendered clothing. Steal your dads shirts, cut your old dresses, and have a blast!"

Grade A+ Fashion

ANNIE ROSKE '23
Managing Editor

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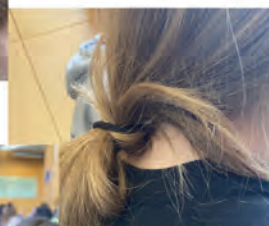
THE MULLET



throwback



fun
buns!



As trends and fashion progress, hairstyles will also evolve. This graphic shows some of that evolution and also a little look into the past.



How Students Tackle Art School Admissions

Graphic: Courtesy of National Portfolio Day Association

GRACE ROTHROCK '23
Staff Writer

For most seniors, this time of year is filled with a great deal of anxiety awaiting college decisions- especially for those who have applied to the competitive arts and theater programs around the country. The application process, though tailored to students' individual talents, is rigorous.

Due to the extensive work for the process, art teacher Ms. Dold's biggest recommendation is to "start early," because "the deadlines always sneak up on students." For art students, it requires months of creating and selecting pieces to form a portfolio tailored to each school's requirements, and for theater students, there are multiple rounds of auditioning, prescreens of monologues, songs, and dances, and eventually callbacks, some virtual and some at colleges themselves.

Along with the artistic applications, students must also complete traditional academic applications, both requiring strong material. Although the process is challenging, for senior thespian Sophie Walters, when thinking about applying to arts colleges she "kept coming back to where she found her passion."

Walters explained that the competitive nature of the process guarantees "a lot of rejection and disappointment", which makes it "easy to become self-critical." Given the intensity of the application process, it is imperative that students have as many options as possible. Especially when "there are times when you are competing with hundreds of thousands of other applicants for only 15 spots in a program," said Walters.

As Dold helps prepare students for applications, her hope is that they "take advantage of all of the

resources and really dive into what they are interested in."

The college arts programs give access to more learning opportunities, supplies, and an insight into the world of art and culture surrounding you. In college you are "surrounded by other serious art students which makes the whole college experience so rich," explained Dold.

After her many years of theater, Walters said she has been told again and again that "if you want to do anything else at all besides this, you should do it. This is not for the faint of heart." However, with the many outside resources such as participating in National Portfolio Review Day for art students to assess the quality of their works, or hiring a specialized artistic college counselor to help with applications, students are given tools to make the stressful process slightly easier.

In order to dedicate college life to the arts students must be prepared for challenges and face them head on and passionately. In the end, it is important to remember that even if it "wasn't the school or the program that you originally envisioned, it is more important that you find a place that supports you, helps you grow, and challenges you," said Walters.

A Niche of Custom Keyboards

JEFFREY GO '23
Managing Editor

As I was scrolling through my YouTube recommended page, one month into the pandemic, I stumbled across a type of video I'd never seen before. It was a typing test of a vibrant, color-filled keyboard, from a channel known as "TaehaTypes." I remember it was made of titanium and cost over two thousand dollars. The sound the board created reverberated in my ears, and this marked my discovery of the niche but infinitely vast rabbit hole of the mechanical keyboard hobby.

To preface this, no, there is no true "practical" benefit to building your own mechanical keyboard. While there are boards that create a more ergonomic or efficient experience to typing, those benefits do not outweigh the relatively high cost.

So, what is the point in getting into the hobby? Why do people spend so much money when there are other, much cheaper options available? Well, while people have their own reasons for throwing wads of money at keyboards, it largely boils down to four different reasons—sound, feel, looks, and quality of life.

People spend most of their time building a keyboard on tuning the sound and feel of it. The sound that can be achieved from typing on a custom keyboard is unmatched from other off-the-shelf boards. Furthermore, the feeling of any keyboard is not something people think about until they try to build their own, in which case it's nearly impossible to go back to something store-bought. Many others, myself included, also try to make the keyboard look good so that it complements the rest of the desk or room aesthetic. It can really turn into the center piece of the table that just pops.

However, all these factors ultimately contribute to the user's quality of life. It's true that a ten-dollar keyboard can do all the necessary functions a ten-thousand-dollar keyboard can. But while spending countless hours every year writing essays, typing messages, or editing videos, the work can be very mundane. This is where the keyboard comes in. Typing on something that looks, sounds, and feels good is simply satisfying. It helps me deal with the fact that I am still sitting in my room, five hours later, with only my intro paragraph written for my Collegio essay, where I have something that feels good to type on, which in turn improves my overall workflow.

One of the aspects that makes custom keyboards a form of art to me is the incredible amount of customizability and uniqueness that is out in the hobby. There are so many options out there for the inside workings of a single board, like the switches, plate, and PCB, which register a signal, hold the switches in place, and send signals to the computer, respectively. But there are also just as many, if not more options for the exterior portions of the board, like the case and keycaps, which hold everything together and make it easier to hit each switch. Even the size, or form factor of the board can be changed drastically, some even omitting everything but the letter alphas and spacebar (yes, that is actually a real thing).

The hobby ultimately culminates into what the maker wants and what their unique preferences are. From bigger established vendors to small single manned projects, there is something that fits a person's preference, and that's what makes this hobby so amazing and fun.



2021 OSCARS Includes Notable Snubs

ALDEN ARNOLD '23
Staff Writer

The last two years have changed the shape of the film industry in countless ways; streaming services are now making Oscar-worthy features, attendance for theatrical releases has significantly declined, and many studios are now bringing movies straight to the living room tv. Despite all these challenges, the Oscars award ceremony is still thriving.

I will be honest. When I rushed home from school to check the nominations for this years' 94th Oscars, I was disappointed. So many of the excellent films I had seen over the last year were either snubbed in categories they deserved or forgotten altogether. One of my favorite films of the year, "Spencer", which follows Princess Diana during the Christmas season at the royal family's winter home in Sandringham, failed to be nominated for many deserving Oscars; Pablo Larrain (director), Claire Mathon (cinematographer), and Johnny Greenwood (composer) did not receive any nominations.

Similarly, fantastic films like "Pig", "The French Dispatch", and "The Green Knight" did not receive any mention from the Academy at all.

I was further discouraged at the news

that the Oscars would stop airing eight award categories to shorten the current three-hour runtime and make the ceremony more appealing for audiences watching at home. I think that this decision calls into question the legitimacy of the Oscars. Awards ceremonies exist to celebrate artists and their artistic achievements, not to market to and entertain audiences. I would argue that the removal of the eight categories indicates that the Oscars are becoming more of a commercial endeavor than an artistic one.

This year was not a complete misstep, however; The Oscars got many things right, and quite a few hidden gems made the shortlist. The Oscars succeeded in curating a quality, diverse selection of films. Nominees run anywhere from documentaries like "Belfast", comedies like "Don't Look Up", musicals like "West Side Story", and blockbusters like "Dune".

I was thrilled to see the number of small independent filmmakers who were nominated this year; Jane Campion's "The Power of the Dog", Paul Thomas Anderson's "Licorice Pizza", and Guillermo Del Toro's "Nightmare Alley" were all deservedly nominated for quite a few prominent awards.

I was most delighted to see that my personal favorite movie of the year, "Drive My Car"

(dir. Ryusuke Hamaguchi), was nominated for a few major awards, including best picture and best director. "Drive My Car" follows the spiritual and emotional journey of a stage director as he grapples with the death of his wife through his theater production. Despite being almost entirely in Japanese and running nearly three hours in length, Ryusuke Hamaguchi's film is one of the most emotionally harrowing and profound works of art I have seen.

While critical and financial achievements are ultimately meaningless to most artists, the success of "Drive My Car" gives me hope for the future. With Bong Joon Ho's Parasite surprise sweep of the 2019 Oscars, foreign-language films are beginning to gain more attention from the American market. I am excited to see more foreign independent filmmakers take center stage and share their work with a wider audience. As Bong Joon Ho said after the 2019 awards ceremony, "Once you overcome the 1-inch-tall barrier of subtitles, you will be introduced to so many more amazing films".

The Oscars air on March 27th, so be sure to catch up on your watchlist and tune in to ABC at 5:00 PM PST.

Music and Painting at the Movies

BENI JURION '22
Editor-in-Chief

Master and disciple. The movie "Whiplash", directed by Damien Chazelle tells of the battle between the two forces, creating a musical masterpiece with hints of a sports movie, a horror movie and a psychological drama. Similar to that of many sport movies, "Whiplash" tells the story of an ambitious young "athlete" in his craft and a difficult mentor. Additionally, there are montages of grueling practices and tense competition, building to a moment of a hugely suspenseful "championship" game. In "Whiplash", Andrew Neiman (Miles Teller), is a jazz drummer enrolled at a highly selective musical school in New York and taught under the charismatic but terrifying Fletcher (J.K. Simmons). Similar to that of a drill instructor, Fletcher calls his students by their surnames, humiliates them, and constantly psychology abuses them. Simmons dominates

each scene he is in with sadism, sarcasm, and humiliation. Director Chazelle also gives "Whiplash" the brooding and spooky look of a horror movie, turning New York and the school into a realm of darkness and oppression through many close emotional shots. Simmons prowls the screen with a near vampire-like stalk and half-smile, he constantly swivels from charming to a violent rage. Through the entire movie, Teller literally puts blood, sweat, and tears in his drumming education and strive towards excellence. The editing of the movie is spectacularly matched with the film's jazz rhythms and stunning drum solos leading to even more "hold-your-breath" moments. "Whiplash" is a movie that redefines the classic sport movie by adapting it into a musical setting, while also including a brutal energy made possible by incredible performances by Miles Teller and J.K Simmons.

Rating: 9/10

While Julian Schnabel did make a heartfelt, straightforwardly reverent film about the last several years of Vincent Van Gogh (William Dafoe), "At Eternity's Gate" ultimately falls a bit flat despite a great performance. Dafoe's performance in this film is as great as any other film featuring the actor.

The film strikes the ecstatic immersion in the moments in which Van Gogh painted. The cinematography is fantastic, with the dynamic usage of a near "hand-held" camera style of filming, visual stimulation with lighting with yellow, which is both beautiful but also equally signifies

churning madness, as it grows throughout Van Gogh's life, and the magnificent piano orchestral chords from the movie's soundtrack, reminiscing that of an organ.

However, for all the feverish visual immersion, there is sluggishness in the storytelling that seems at odds with the feverish creativity of the film's subject. Like Van Gogh's mental state, the film loses itself in the rural South of France that at the same time loses the audience's attention. Regardless, the film is saved through strong, valuable and emotional performance Dafoe, which was captured by Schnabel, and creative cinematography.

Rating: 6/10

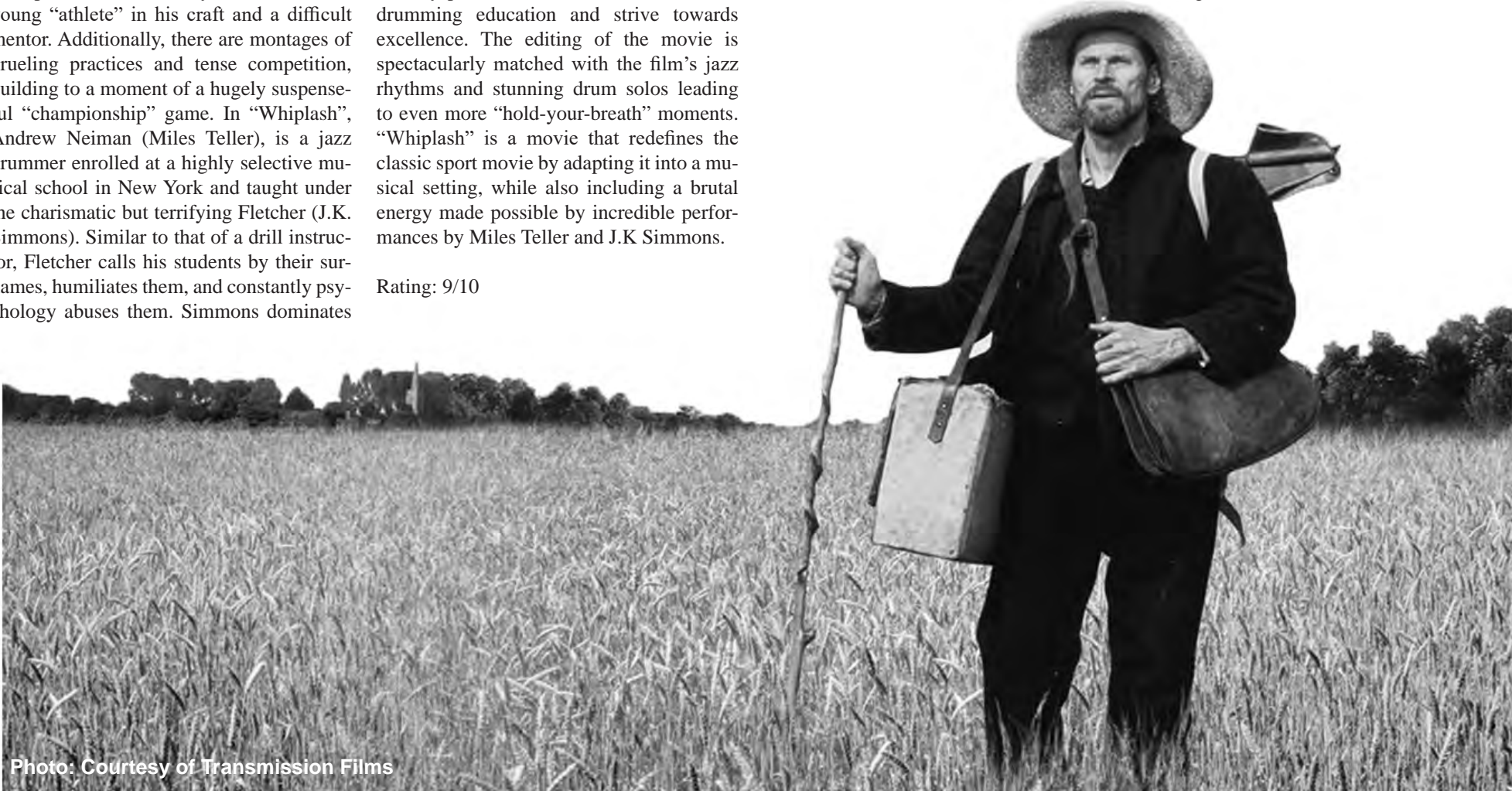


Photo: Courtesy of Transmission Films

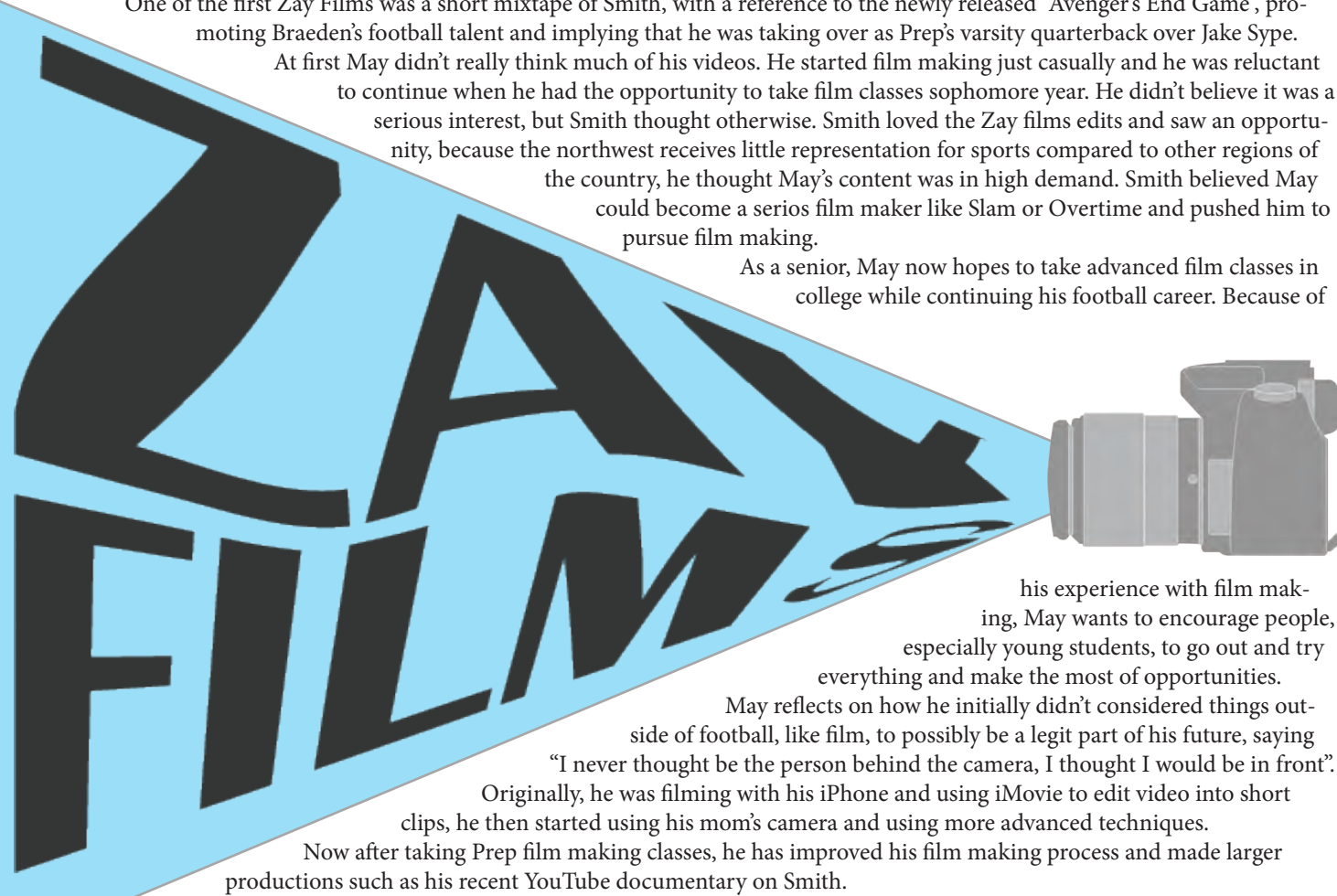
Isaiah May is a senior at Prep, a top tier linebacker on the football team, a film maker, and overall great guy. Zay, as he's known to his friends and admirers, has always been a prolific football player but film making wasn't always one of his passions.

His film making began freshman year when he started producing mixtapes for friend and football teammate Braeden Smith '22.

One of the first Zay Films was a short mixtape of Smith, with a reference to the newly released "Avenger's End Game", promoting Braeden's football talent and implying that he was taking over as Prep's varsity quarterback over Jake Sype.

At first May didn't really think much of his videos. He started film making just casually and he was reluctant to continue when he had the opportunity to take film classes sophomore year. He didn't believe it was a serious interest, but Smith thought otherwise. Smith loved the Zay films edits and saw an opportunity, because the northwest receives little representation for sports compared to other regions of the country, he thought May's content was in high demand. Smith believed May could become a serious film maker like Slam or Overtime and pushed him to pursue film making.

As a senior, May now hopes to take advanced film classes in college while continuing his football career. Because of



his experience with film making, May wants to encourage people, especially young students, to go out and try everything and make the most of opportunities.

May reflects on how he initially didn't considered things outside of football, like film, to possibly be a legit part of his future, saying "I never thought be the person behind the camera, I thought I would be in front".

Originally, he was filming with his iPhone and using iMovie to edit video into short clips, he then started using his mom's camera and using more advanced techniques.

Now after taking Prep film making classes, he has improved his film making process and made larger productions such as his recent YouTube documentary on Smith.

DEAN JOHNSON '25
Staff Writer

Find Zay Films!
YouTube @zayfilmz IG @_isaiahmay_

PAWD CAST

“This pawdcast episode features 2021 Miss Washington winner, Christine Brodie, as she talks with Sydney Leardi '23 all about her journey and experience with the crown. Spoiler Alert: it is not all about looks.”



SHOE GAME

Megan Moffit '24, Basketball

Most Important Aspect in a Shoe:
“Color and comfort level. I chose the basketball shoes I have because they are Prep colors!!”

Favorite Postgame Shoe Choice:
“Either UGG slippers or Vejas.”

Shoe Superstition:
“A superstition I have is I always put my left shoe on before my right!”



Ryan Hoang '22, Soccer

Most Important Aspect in a Shoe:
“Comfortability. These are my pregame shoes. I prefer wearing them in relaxed mode over sport mode for maximum comfort before soccer games.”

Favorite Aspect of His Crocs:
“I love how comfortable and easy to put on my Crocs are. I think the yellow looks good and gives off good vibes, and the fur lining makes them warmer and more comfortable.”



Joe Keaton '22, Lacrosse

Most Important Aspect in a Shoe:
“Style, ankle support so I don't break my foot again. These cleats have good ankle support, look cool, and are Prep colors.”

Favorite Postgame Shoe Choice:
“Gotta be the crocs!”

EDITORS: ANNABELLE DEASY '22 & ALEX GARDNER '24

THE PANTHER | MARCH 24, 2022

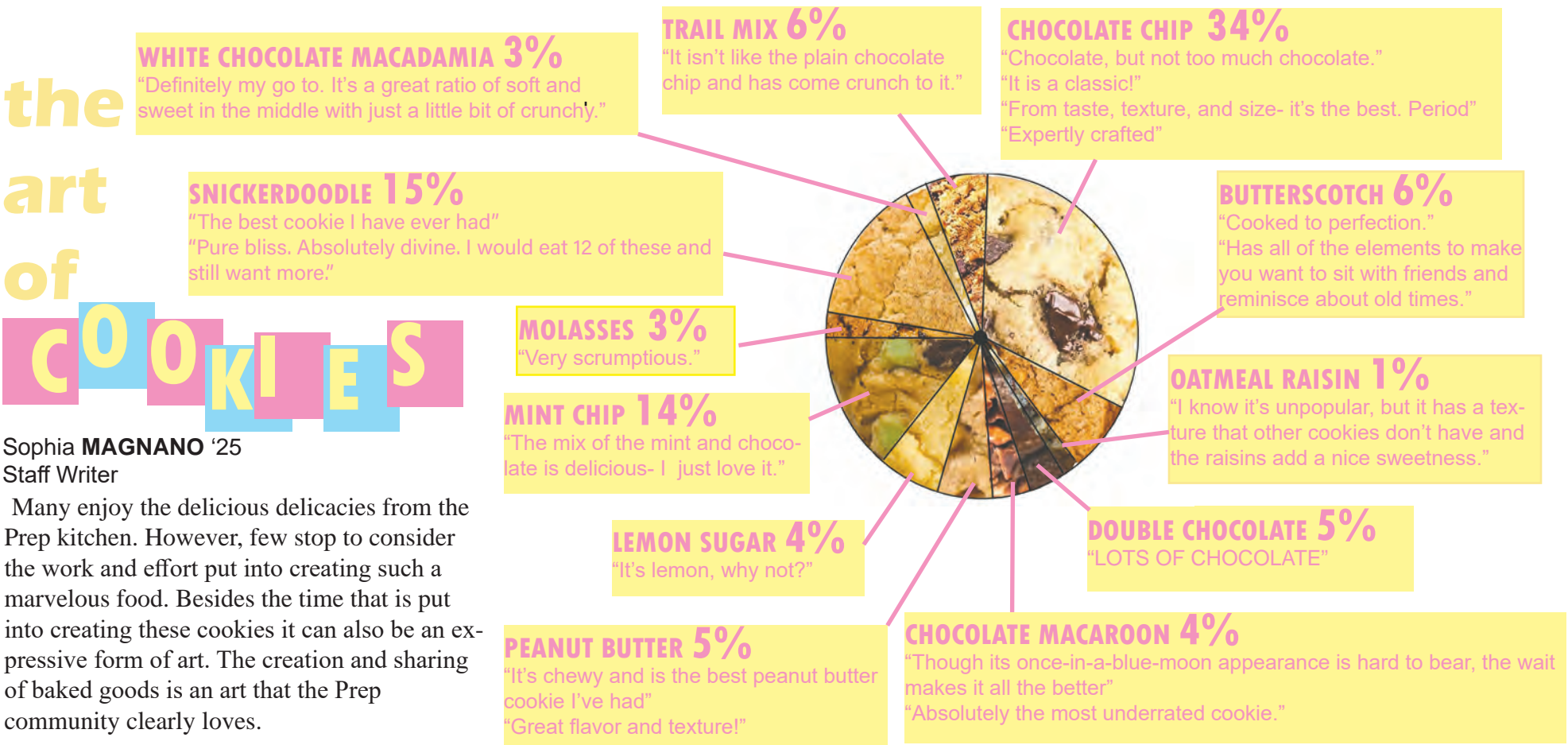
ADD SOME CREATIVITY TO YOUR COFFEE CRAZE!

Alex GARDNER '24
Staff Writer

Coffee is a natural energy booster, it stimulates the mind to function more effectively, and importantly but often disregarded, coffee is an art. From pumpkin spiced lattes to caramel macchiatos to peppermint mochas to just straight up black cold brew- the possibilities are endless. Just like no two pieces of art are created the same, no two cups of coffee you drink will really be the same either.

MR. HENDRICKS  FAV DRINK: Double tall nonfat latte CUPS PER DAY: 10 FAV COFFEESHOP: Franco Bido	LIZZY KAISER '22  FAV DRINK: Iced vanilla latte CUPS PER DAY: 1 FAV COFFEESHOP: Starbucks	KYLE FITZGERALD '24  FAV DRINK: Nitro Cold brew CUPS PER DAY: 2 FAV COFFEESHOP: Starbucks	NAT GEMMA '23  FAV DRINK: Dark roast w/ almond milk CUPS PER DAY: 2-3 FAV COFFEESHOP: Starbucks	BROCK TUMINELLO '24  FAV DRINK: Iced coffee w/ cream CUPS PER DAY: Only drinks occasionally FAV COFFEESHOP: Vivace
KAT LAUNGER '22  FAV DRINK: Almond milk latte CUPS PER DAY: 1 or 2 FAV COFFEESHOP: Café Vita	MR. KELLY  FAV DRINK: Black drip coffee CUPS PER DAY: Ranges from 3-6 FAV COFFEESHOP: Mercury	MEGAN MOFFITT '24  FAV DRINK: Cold Brew w/ sweet cream foam CUPS PER DAY: 1 or 2 FAV COFFEESHOP: Dunkin	THEO BUSHFIELD '22  FAV DRINK: Vanilla latte CUPS PER DAY: 2 FAV COFFEESHOP: Starbucks	MS. WHITE  FAV DRINK: Iced coconut milk latte CUPS PER DAY: 2 FAV COFFEESHOP: Copper Tree Café (from Izzy)

Experience the art of coffee yourself after school on MONDAY, WEDNESDAY and FRIDAY in the commons- courtesy of @seaprepcafe!



Local Food Art

Cafe Hagen


Café Hagen, located on lower Queen Anne and South Lake Union, serves unique Scandinavian-influenced coffees, such as a Brown Sugar Rosemary Lattes and Gingerbread Lattes.

1252 Thomas St
800 5th Ave N

Ava PITTS '24 Staff Writer

20 OZ Tea


20 OZ Tea, located close to Prep on Eastlake, is a boba and tea café. All teas are brewed with real tea leaves and no artificial ingredients. With flavors like strawberry matcha and blue lemonade, it is a perfect destination for all boba lovers.

1823 Eastlake Ave E #160

Kitanda


Kitanda is a local acai and coffee shop with 7 locations around Seattle. It is family owned and began as a small Brazilian shop. It has now become one of Seattle's biggest and most popular acai shops!

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