

The A. Y. Oracle



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Sweeney Todd
Showing April 29th, 30th, and May 1st.
Tickets are on sale in the office for
\$12

Editors:
Maha Ansari and
Sayana Izmailova
Teacher Supervisor:
Mrs. Wickett

Editorial

January: An earthquake strikes Haiti. Over 200, 000 people are killed.

February: Georgian athlete Nodar Kumaritashvili loses his life in a tragic luge accident, only hours before the Olympic games begin.

March: A series of mudslides bury villages in Uganda. Residents flee from their homes to escape from the horrors unraveling before them.

Last week: A teenage girl in New York commits suicide after being bullied on the internet.

And we think *our* problems are bad.

News headlines that mention tragedies are so common, we often overlook them. We grow selective about what we read, and careless over how we respond to the issues we *are* informed about. After all, with so much happening in our own lives, how can we be bothered with the concerns of others?

The fact is, in some way, each life that is touched by grief affects us. For example, an earthquake in a different continent encouraged students at A. Y. to strive to gather money and supplies for its victims.

We can't afford to disregard the concerns of those in need. The global community in which we live relies on each member to contribute. Are we asking you to single-handedly change the world? Definitely not.

Making small contributions is the place to start. Helping out in the community, or even in the school, can have an impact on a global scale.

In addition to the frequent help A. Y. provides around the community, teamwork and dedication can be seen within its own walls.

Spring is finally in the air, and things have been very busy here at A. Y. Jackson. Sweeney Todd cast and crew have been working harder than ever in preparation for the show. Rehearsals are getting increasingly intense as opening night approaches. The musical will be showing on April 29th, 30th and on May 1st. Come see what everyone has been talking about!

Other exciting events at our school include sports. The badminton team is having a great season. Read their story on page 7. Both of the volleyball teams are also doing very well. What a great start of the spring sports season!

While most students and teachers are excited about things that are going on at A. Y, others are enjoying their stay in different parts of the world. The trip to China and the Spanish exchange are currently taking place and some of our students and teachers are very lucky to participate. Others are looking forward to the Boston trip that's coming up at the end of April. It's going to be great. School trips are an amazing experience. Try going on one before your four years are up. You won't regret it!

Let's end on a positive note. How's this for a news headline?

This spring: A. Y. students plan to turn over a new leaf and strive for success!

Enjoy Issue #4 of the A. Y. Oracle!

-Maha Ansari and Sayana Izmailova
The Editors.



Reviews

Reviews

Reviews...



Tim Burton's *Alice in Wonderland*

*** Starring ***

The MAD Johnny Depp
Her majesty Anne Hathaway
The encephalitis-suffering Helena Bonham-Carter
and... (drum roll, please)
Mia Wasikowska as the psychotic Alice!

Alice in Wonderland, written by Lewis Carroll, is an amazing story that was written in 1865 and is still “mad” popular today.

I went to go see it on opening night. Standing in line, I waited as the excitement grew and around me, I noticed a lot of teens dressed up, mostly as the Mad Hatter. I got my tickets, pizza and a pair of “mad” 3-D glasses! Even though I arrived an hour early, the best seats were at the sides and in the front of the theatre (this could have been the reason that the movie was slightly blurry at times).

Although the storyline was predictable, if you are a Tim Burton fan you won't be disappointed. The settings, make-up, costuming and effects were *amazing*. The Cheshire Cat... what a smile!! The Red Queen... what a head!! And let's not forget the wonderfully whack Mad Hatter. Johnny Depp transforms himself into yet another fantastical character à la Jack Sparrow or Willy Wonka. The first time the Mad Hatter appeared on screen, you could actually hear the audience's excitement! The only thing wrong with the Mad Hatter was that he was not on screen enough!



Throughout the movie I kept thinking, “that caterpillar sounds a lot like Severus Snape.” Little did I know that Alan Rickman was, in fact, the voice behind the blue caterpillar. Mia Wasikowska is an actress with little experience but I thought that she did a great job as Alice.

I think that *Alice in Wonderland* was a great movie, but I also thought that the plot could have been a lot more interesting. I give *Alice* 3 out of 5 stars. ★★ ★



By Michelle Ogilby

Dear John



Dear John is a touching love story between John Tyree (Channing Tatum) and Savannah Curtis (Amanda Seyfried). The two fall in love, but are forced to spend time apart due to John's job as a soldier. Dear John depicts the difficulties and sacrifices faced by the couple in order to preserve their love. Regular letters circulate between the couple. However, as time passes the relationship changes due to a single letter. John and Savannah find themselves forced to choose between love or duty—a decision which will affect their relationship. Dear John is an enjoyable movie to watch and will change your outlook on the true meaning of love.

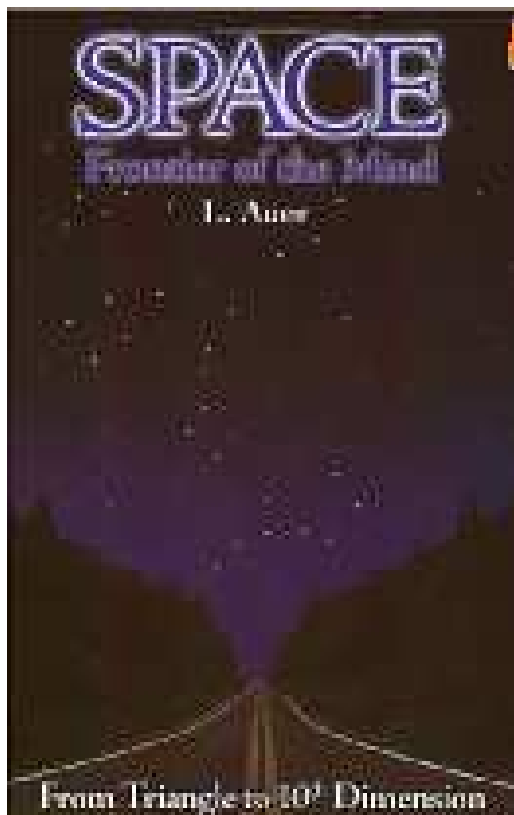
By Anonymous

Book Review: *Space, Frontier of the Mind* by L. Auer

Hello to all “physics phanatics” and mathematicians out there! This book is a MUST READ if you would like to increase your understanding of the universe around you.

The books starts off with the ancient philosopher’s physic and mathematical theories: Thales of Miltus, Pythagoras, and Aristotle, and continues through Kepler, Newton, and finally ends with the famous Einstein’s theory of relativity.

Through simple mathematical concepts, plain English, and other full coloured, simple diagrams, this



book can explain the complex, and mysterious Einstein’s theory of relativity, to any high school student interested in mathematics.

After reading this book, the reader will begin to comprehend and grasp the process of the human development and advancements through mathematics and physics.

Unfortunately, like all books, this one does have some flaws. Although this book does attempt to explain everything, some concepts are not explained enough so a regular high school student can comprehend. The phrases, even when they are intended to be simple, can be at times, hard to follow, especially when it comes to explaining the logic behind Pythagoras’ theorem or Hippocrates’ way of “squaring a curvilinear figure”. For the regular high school student, it can be quite challenging to follow. That’s why, in my opinion, only mathematically inclined people with a great deal of patience can truly learn these concepts.

So, in a nutshell, I believe that *Space Frontier of the Mind* is definitely a must read for math students to further their learning, and expand their knowledge about the world.

By Bill Lin



A. Y. Events



Badminton Season Begins!

As spring is upon us, so is the sport at A.Y that many people don't know about: badminton! The team for the sport that was rarely advertised had their first tournament on April 1st, 2010 at Confederation High School. The team is short of players, but with the help of their coaches and former students Kevin Hua and Vu Dao, they hope to manage fine. Practices are held mostly on Monday mornings, from 7:15 to 8:30am. Now that's dedication!

An obstacle that the students have to adapt to is their switched positions; most of them got switched from playing singles to doubles or vice versa. "It's hard to adjust to the new game play... I've been playing singles for three years and I just got switched to doubles, so we'll see how that works out," said Rachel Snider, a Grade 12 student on the team. A lot of the players have already been on the team in previous years so they are experienced with the tournament and how it works.

Another obstacle faced by the players is the lack of badminton nets on the court that they have during their time slot (which is shared with the junior girls' volleyball team). Furthermore, it was hard to choose the team because not many students tried out due to a lack of advertisement!

Badminton is a fun, challenging and satisfying sport that gets your adrenaline and energy pumping. It's also a great way to exercise. The team has only been practicing for two months, including interruptions like the March Break. Because of this, they are working extra hard to get in the time they need to excel in the tournament!

Here's what another team member has to say about this year's badminton season: "I am excited more than I have been any of the other years for the tournament because it's my last one and I want to do well! But also I want to see how I play doubles"



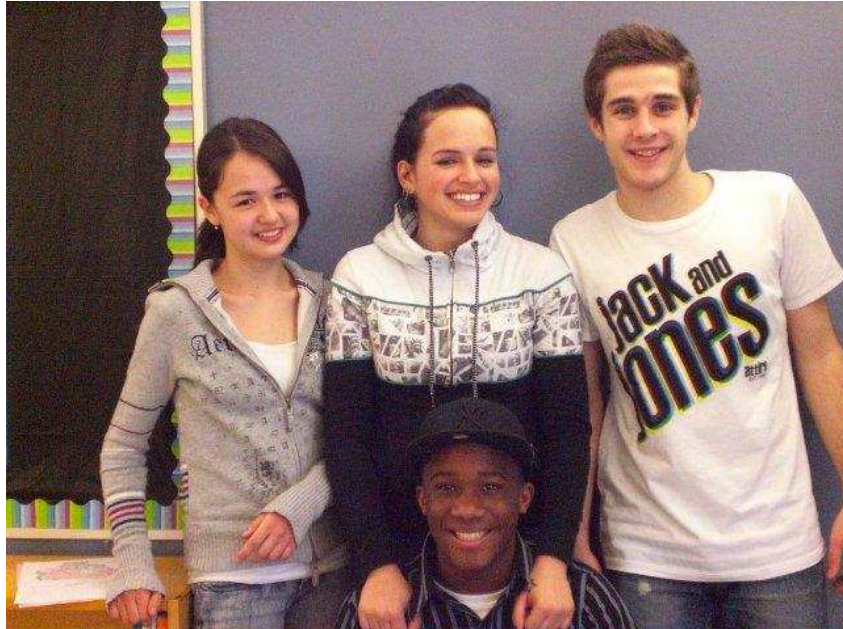
Good luck to everyone on the team! You guys definitely put the "bad" into badminton!

By Liz Palmieri



A.Y.'s Got Talent

We could all tell from the Coffeehouse, Busker Week, and the Christmas Talent show that there are many talented performers at A.Y, and these students had another chance to show off their skills at A.Y's Got Talent. A variety of students auditioned and performed in the show - singers, guitarists, rappers, and even a Guitar



Right to left: Sayana Ruslana, Niko and Konah (winners)

Hero player - which kept the talent show interesting and exciting. After three amazing rounds, three acts were chosen for the finals on March 12th. The winners were chosen based on audience appeal, and the applause was thunderous for everybody. It was clearly very close, and I don't know how the judges were able to decide, but in the end Sayana Izmailova, Konah Raynes, Niko Gramatikakis, and Ruslana Malytska won.

A lot of work goes into organizing a show like AY's got talent, and it was great of Kate Moussatova, Carrie MacDonald, Carley Hutchinson, and Andrew Blackstone, as well as the judges, to take the time to organize and work on the

show. When asked if it was difficult finding people to judge, Kate Moussatova said "Finding the judges was not hard because a lot of people enjoy watching the competition, especially the teachers, and there were a lot of people who came up and asked in advance. Thanks to everyone that did judge." She also said that her favourite part of organizing the show "would have been seeing the final competition and the amazing talented performances."

Thanks to all the people who worked on the show, and congratulations to all of the amazing students that performed. You guys were great!

By: Madison McSweeney



Featured Stories



A.Y. Students Reach for the Top

On March 5th, Confederation high school hosted a "Reach for the Top" tournament for all schools in the Ottawa area. Our team this year consisted of three grade 10 students (Bill Lin, Ellen Xue, and Michelle Rowland), two grade 11s (Yara Abou-Hamde and Cai Lauder) and three grade 12s (Do Jung Pyeon, Kaveh Farrokhi, and Jamie Vives). The competence levels within this tournament varied greatly because all schools were accepted.

Reach for the Top is a high school trivia game in which there are three rounds per game, with four people from each team playing at one time during each round. Each game has a total of eighty-six questions. The questions can, Hollywood, news or even life in general.

Although we lost our first game, the A.Y.'s Reach team quickly developed strategies to yield a better chance of winning. We developed a strategy which involved each of the "lines" that we put on covering the most possible topics. This was done by making a list of very broad topics, (i.e. music, history etc.) and identifying people who were strong on those topics.

Our second loss was against the Ottawa powerhouse for Reach for the Top: Lisgar Collegiate Institute. According to many sources, Lisgar's team is very dedicated, and practices at least four hours per week.

Here are a few highlights from the tournament:

- Mrs. Abra spoiled the team by buying them cookies, oranges and strawberries.
- Yara answered every single Physics question correctly (Mr. Oderkirk would be proud)
- Our team answered four 40 point questions correctly (much higher than what we had predicted).



Supposedly, over a period of ten years, the team has never lost a game in the citywide championships.

On the bright side, after a tough blowout by Lisgar, our team gained rhythm and won two straight, both by respectable margins. Unfortunately, A.Y.'s Reach team had a couple of very close losses at its last two games, one of which was only lost by one question!

Overall, the Reach for the Top tournament was a great learning experience for be based on any topic, either related to academics all of its participants. A.Y.'s Reach team is looking forward to its next tournament in April, against a more evenly matched set of opponents.

By: Bill Lin

...and more!



Horoscopes

***Aries* (Mar. 21st - Apr. 19th)**

The top isn't all it's cracked up to be.

***Taurus* (Apr. 20th - May 20th)**

Mark today on your calendar. This time next year, look back on who you've become. It's more important than you think.

***Gemini* (May 21st - Jun. 20th)**

Choices, choices, choices. You've made a lot, but did they lead you where you thought they would?

***Cancer* (Jun. 21st - Jul. 22nd)**

Pick your passion. It's your time to shine.

***Leo* (Jul. 23rd - Aug. 22nd)**

Okay, maybe the goldfish wasn't a good idea, but try stepping out of your comfort zone. Have you ever tried fried crickets?

***Virgo* (Aug. 23rd - Sept. 22nd)**

The world is your oyster. But to get anywhere, you'll need an oyster knife.

***Libra* (Sept. 23rd - Oct. 22nd)**

The stars are smiling at you, so smile back. Happiness is infectious.

***Scorpio* (Oct. 23rd - Nov. 21st)**

The world's starting to make more sense, so frolic around a little. What's the harm?

***Sagittarius* (Nov. 22nd - Dec. 21st)**

Just because you aren't where you wanted doesn't mean it's not the place you're supposed to be.

***Capricorn* (Dec. 22nd - Jan. 19th)**

You need a plan. Do you really think the world was made to be your playground?

***Aquarius* (Jan. 20th - Feb. 18th)**

Take up a new hobby! You need an energy outlet when life seems to be at a standstill.

***Pisces* (Feb. 19th - Mar. 20th)**

Even though it's long past, St. Patty's luck of the Irish is still in your blood. Live a little!



By Anonymous

You Know You're a **Canadian** When...

1. You know what a toque is.
2. You eat chocolate bars instead of candy bars.
3. You're tired of telling people that you neither live in an igloo nor ride a polar bear to school.
4. You have Canadian Tire money in your kitchen drawers.
5. You know that Mounties "don't always look like that".
6. You wonder why there isn't a 5 dollar coin yet.
7. You use a red pen on all your American textbooks to fill in the missing u's in "labor", "honor", and "color".
8. You are excited whenever an American TV show mentions Canada.
9. You leave a car worth thousands of dollars in the driveway and put your useless junk in the garage.
10. You talk about the weather with strangers and friends alike.



By: Kate Moussatova



Contest: Submit and Win!

Hello there, fellow Blue Jays!

The A.Y. Oracle has some exciting news for you. We are accepting submissions from students who have something to say concerning current happenings in our community as well as national and international issues. Whether you would like to comment about the latest school trip, express your excitement about an upcoming or past event, or share with us practical ways to help a humanitarian cause you care about, our columns will welcome your words. Each month, our editors will select a few letters/articles to be published in the next issue of the newspaper. The writers will receive a gift card for Chapters or the AMC Theatres as a thank-you for their valued contributions.

Artistic submissions of poetry, short stories, and drawings are also welcome. Get creative on expressing your thoughts and show us what you care about. Let us know what's getting on your nerves or what's making you smile from ear to ear. We want to know what you have to say!

Submissions can be e-mailed to aynewspaperclub@live.ca or handed to Ms. Wickett in Room 110.

By Yara Abou-Hamde



Like *The Oracle*? Join the club!

The Newspaper Club cannot survive unless new members are constantly being recruited. Meetings are held on Wednesdays in Room 110 at lunch.

We're currently looking for people willing to play the following roles in the club:

- More graphic designers: Those who designed layouts for this issue and the last one are highly talented, but we're still searching for more students to join our team of graphic designers and help create a visually appealing paper.
- Interviewers: Interested in chatting with students? Enjoy talking to staff members? The *A. Y. Oracle* is in need of people to conduct interviews for publication in the paper.
- Writers: You don't have to be "good at writing" to write for the newspaper club. What we're really looking for are enthusiastic people who are willing to do their best at delivering news on what's happening at A. Y. Writers for completely random articles on topics of their choice are also welcome.
- Someone to help us write the "Top Ten Lists" column and create miscellaneous crossword, puzzles, word searches, etc.: For details on what a "Top Ten List" is, refer to the "Worst Homework Excuses" article included in the paper.
- Photographers: You don't have to be a professional. As long as you have a camera at hand and are willing to snap photos around the school, we'd love to have you in the club. Attending all meetings is not necessary.
- People to keep us "up-to-date": We're in need of students who are willing to poke around the school and speak to staff and students in order to collect news on what's happening at A. Y.
- Sports writers: We'd love to hear the opinion of a sports enthusiast on the various teams at A.Y.

Remember, projects do not have to be completed solo. Do you and a friend work well together? Feel free to join the club and work as partners.



Is there anything else
you're interested in
hearing about? Send an
email to
aynewspaperclub@live.ca
and we'll definitely take
your suggestions into
consideration!

