

# The Royal Gazette

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## Belarus’s Manufactured Migrant Crisis *pg 4*

Explore a breakdown on Belarus and its geopolitical conflict with the European Union that leaves migrants helpless.



## 7 Tips On How To Be More Environmentally-Friendly *pg 10*

See what you can do to improve your habits to become more ecological.

# FIGHTING AGAINST THE FLOODS

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# This Month's Top Stories

Get the most important news right away. Here are some of the top stories of November.



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## ANCASTER The Most Wonderful Time Of The Year In Ancaster

**Above:** Ancaster Heritage Days held a *Santa & Fireworks* event at the Ancaster Fairgrounds on December 12th. Visitors could view a special Santa float and a wonderful fireworks display from their car. **(Anika Kanagaretnam/The Royal Gazette)**

By Katherine Hunter  
Staff Writer

With the coming holiday season, anticipation builds in everyone. Whether you celebrate Christmas, Hanukkah, New Years, or nothing at all, December is a month full of flurries and excitement. The winter holidays are some of the most celebrated in the world, as it is said that New Years and Christmas are considered the two most observed celebrations around the globe. Though Christmas started as a religious holiday, it is now celebrated by increasing amounts of non-Christians. The holidays are a joyful time of year for everyone! Here are a few ways you can celebrate within your community.

While the pandemic has evidently had an effect on the past few years' holiday celebrations, this year, things seem to be adjusting back to pre-coronavirus times with a few tweaks to former activities. Unfortunately, the ever popular and traditional "A Village Christmas," more commonly known as the Ancaster Tree Lighting, was canceled for the second time in a row. "We could not return to normal quite yet," says the chair of Ancaster Heritage Days. Instead, Ancaster Heritage Days designed 'Santa & Fireworks' at the Ancaster Fairgrounds. On December 12th, people were invited to drive into the fairgrounds (making sure to stay in their cars) to watch the Santa float and fireworks. The festivities began at

4:30pm and the fireworks were at 6pm. To enter the event a \$5 donation was requested, in either cash or gift cards to help give back to the community. The 'Santa & Fireworks' was a very exciting event open to the entire public.

On the 19th and 20th of November, St. John's Anglican Church hosted a Christmas Bazaar for the general public. They had a book and jewelry sale in the Parish Hall as well as a homemade craft sale in the church. People all over the Ancaster community presented their craftsmanship by selling items such as knitted hats, gloves, blankets, and wood burnt art. Santa was also there to visit with children during the weekend. The items were beautiful and very well made, and this activity would certainly be recommended for people to attend next year. Anyone can attend this wonderful event, whether you are a member of the church or not.

If you're feeling generous this winter season, the Ancaster Community Services are asking for donations for struggling families around Ancaster and the Greater Hamilton Area. The Ancaster Village is also trying to convince people to shop locally this holiday season. Restaurants such as the Coach and Lantern and Cavallo Nero are open for lunches and dinners for the rest of the year, and possibly extending into the New Year. We must remember to give back to our community, especially around the holidays.

Downtown Burlington is lighting up their streets for people to enjoy during the winter season. While guests are asked to social distance, they can still enjoy the lights from the downtown shops and restaurants. Another activity within the Burlington community is the new Festival of Trees hosted by the Burlington Performing Arts Centre (BPAC). Between November 18th and December 19th, artificial christmas trees from Canadian Tire will be creatively lit in the BPAC's lobby. The trees will be available to buy via auction at the end of December.

On December 4th, for one night only, Ballet Jorgen's production of 'The Nutcracker' was presented at the FirstOntario Concert Hall. Proof of vaccination was required to watch the performance, and masks were required to be worn at all times. Also in Hamilton, Gore Park is giving free ferris wheel rides. Dundurn Castle will host their annual Victorian Christmas, where guests can experience guided tours to see the castle all decorated for Christmas. These activities are most definitely going to be exciting for anyone who attends.

In conclusion, the holiday season is shaping up to be a very exciting time. You can enjoy a variety of activities throughout Ancaster, Hamilton and Burlington. This season is certainly one to look forward to. Hopefully you had the time to attend a few. After all, it is the most wonderful time of the year. Happy Holidays!



By Rose He  
Staff Writer & Designer

As 2021 comes to a close, many of us have accepted that the change of a new year can't prevent the negative impacts of inflation that are to come, and sadly, food prices are no exception to this upcoming change. Canada's Food Price Report has recently published their annual report, researched by Dalhousie University and the University of Guelph. This report displays all of the analytical statistics they have calculated on this predicted inflation.

To summarize, throughout 2021, food prices have been rising as a result of the pandemic-plagued year, concluding in a 3-5% rise. As 2022 is approaching, the effects of the pandemic are generally predicted to lessen due to the world slowly opening back up again, hinting that food prices won't be as severely raised as before. Despite this statement, the annual report claims that food prices are predicted to somewhat disconnect from this trend, and instead, food-related inflation will likely increase alarmingly even more, expecting a 5-7% rise, or to put in perspective, an extra \$966.00 per year for a typical four-member family.

We may wonder, what exactly causes the inflation of food prices when there's not as strong of a correlation with the pandemic? With the help of Sylvain Charlebois, the chief researcher on the report, the annual report can successfully identify and explain the various reasons why these food prices are rising. To put simply, even though climate change and its dangerously rising temperatures is the prominent reason, it mainly narrows down to the specific food group and subcategorized industries that produce these goods:

Type of food	Expected price increase in 2022
Dairy	6-8%
Restaurants	6-8%
Bakery	5-7%
Vegetables	5-7%
Fruits	3-5%
Other	2-4%
Meat	0-2%
Seafood	0-2%
Total: 5-7%	

**Above:** Canada's Food Price Report officially states how much the prices are expected to increase in 2022 for each food group. **(Canada's Food Price Report)**

### Fruits, Vegetables, & Bakery:

The effects of climate change have negatively affected the farming industry, specifically vital grounds, such as the prairies, where wheat and other crops are grown. These crucial lands



**Above:** The annual food price report this year highlights climate change as the main culprit for rising food prices. **(Nathan Denette/The Canadian Press)**

suffered from hot dry summers this past year and are predicted to also be present in 2022, which greatly hinders the mass harvest of these crops. As a result, this reduces the supply of these goods and increases the price.

### Meat:

Also ironically known as, "meatflation," the environment of livestock has been suffering from the effects of climate change as well, but there are also other external reasons that add up to this rise in price. To explain, water scarcity and heat have forced farmers to reduce herd sizes, thus, reducing the overall supply of these meats and increasing the price. Not only are prices increasing, but these animals are unable to live in a well-suited environment-not affected by climate change-where they can be raised in a healthy manner. On a more positive note, almost half of surveyed Canadians in the report have changed their meat purchasing habits when they see the prices rise. This implies the adaptation of less purchases based on price and/or smaller quantities of meat being purchased.

### Dairy:

Dairy is seen to have one of the largest rises in price, and this all roots back to having extremely higher input costs. This includes the feed, energy, fertilizer, labour, and transportation costs. The Canadian Dairy Commission had warned about this already during the past year, stating that retail milk prices are to rise by 8.4% due to the added costs throughout the entire production process.

### Restaurants:

Menu prices are also expected to rise. It can generally be correlated to the overall purchased price of the food supply restaurants use to cook and serve with, where they are expected to sell their dishes at an equilibrium price in order to compensate with how much they are spending. Furthermore, the report also states that the "widespread labour market challenges the rising commercial rents," implying that the

inflation outside of just food prices requires them to earn more money in order to continue their business and not be left in debt and/or be forced to close down.

**"It's the highest increase that we're predicting in 12 years, both in terms of dollars and percentage."**

**— Sylvain Charlebois, chief researcher on Canada's Food Price Report**

Charlebois warned that this major change will heavily affect everyone's grocery bill, especially families that are already struggling to put food on the table. "The era of cheap food has ended...It's not going to be easy," Charlebois stated. These increases in food prices are ultimately going to lead to more families turning to and potentially relying on their local food banks, and then some may eventually not be able to meet the predicted higher demand. From this, we can understand the importance of communities collaboratively donating as many food supplies as they can for these struggling families. Unfortunately, communities that cannot provide enough supplies to meet these high demands can be detrimental for families in need.

As for what we can do in our communities, managing food price inflation can be a tough adjustment. It is highly suggested to encourage flexibility in buying habits. For example, trying to save up more than anticipated can help prepare families for the predicted effects of inflation and rising prices. Another example is to try and stick to foods that are in season, since they will generally be cheaper than the ones out of season due to their reduced supply. Adapting to these methods will ultimately help us prepare for what is yet to come in 2022. Though there are no current signs of the inflation reducing, we can only hope that inflation and prices of food will decrease and have less drastic changes sometime in the future.





WORLD

## Russian & Ukraine Tensions: A Breakdown

**Above:** Ukrainian serviceman holds a Kalashnikov gun as he guards at the separation line between Ukraine and Russia. This region is near Sentianivka, Luhansk, which is controlled by Russia-backed separatists. **(Alexei Alexandrov/AP)**

By Rebecca Liu  
Staff Writer

Over the past few weeks, the violations of ceasefire and the large amalgamation of Russian troops at Ukraine and Russia's border has sparked concerns across the globe, with certain officials speculating about another potential invasion of Ukraine. With actions reminiscent of the Crimean crisis in 2014, Russia continues to build a military presence on the Ukrainian border, while dismissing concerns as 'alarmist' and protesting the increasing forces of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), a military alliance between Canada, the United States, and the EU.

The relationship between Ukraine and Russia can be dated back to 1954, when Soviet Russia transferred the Crimean peninsula to Soviet Ukraine. The Soviet Union was a republic made up of many countries including Ukraine and Russia but collapsed in 1991, due to radical reforms made by its last leader, Mikhail Gorbachev.

After approximately 25 years of independence, in 2014, conflict erupted all across Ukraine when then-president Viktor Yanukovich rejected an agreement that would have made Ukraine closer to the EU, in favour of ties with Russia. This sparked protests across the country, with many becoming violent. In addition to corruption and vote-rigging accusations, he would eventually be ousted by parliament in 2014.

Following his removal, Russian troops, without insignia, entered the Crimean peninsula. Russia also backed Ukrainian separatist groups in Ukraine's Donbass region and took key cities, but

was eventually pushed out by Ukrainian forces. Large amounts of both Russian and Ukrainian forces were collected in the Crimean peninsula, which to this day is still considered one of the most heavily armed places in the world. In a move that most Western countries have declared as illegal, Russia claims to have 'seized' and declared the Crimea peninsula as 'a part of modern Russia.'

Ukraine has acted as a political stage for physical and diplomatic conflict between the EU and Russia. Geographically, Ukraine is wedged in between Western Europe and Russia, and its foreign policy has teetered between supporting EU and Russian policies over the years, with both sides eager to ally with the country. Russia has always viewed Ukraine as a country to which it is intrinsically linked, with Putin still referring to it as 'New Russia' and 'Little Russia,' names largely used during the Russian Empire.

Now, in 2021, seven years after the illegal annexation of Crimea, an increasing number of troops have been spotted near the Russia-Ukraine border. While what Russia plans to do is unknown, officials agree that this should be taken as a serious threat. Most experts agree that while full-out war is possible, it is also unlikely. This is due to how Russia appears to have made no effort to conceal its forces, and how an invasion would lead to a total breakdown in relations with the West and possibly the cancellation of Nord Stream 2, a major natural gas pipeline delivering Russian gas to the EU.

What is more expected is that the increased military buildup is a signal from Russia that says they are serious about their relationship with Ukraine. This buildup could also be Russia attempting to flex their military strength to save Putin's dropping

approval ratings, as Putin's ratings increased with the invasion and annexation of Crimea, and this may be a less politically harmful way of doing so.

Other reasons for this build-up include Russia trying to force concessions on the EU or testing how Biden's America will react, who so far has deployed two warships into the neighbouring Black Sea and said "all options" were on the table. Meanwhile, if Russia truly intends a full invasion, it would give Russia massive strategic and economic advantages, such as increased control over the Black Sea, Russia's only location for deep-sea ports, and the natural gas and steel capacity of Ukraine's Donbas regions.

While NATO has declared that tensions between Russia and Ukraine are likely to worsen, they have said that there is no obligation to defend Ukraine by sending military aid. However, NATO chief Stoltenberg has said that a Russian invasion would have "costs," most likely in the form of economic sanctions. NATO has made no clear interventions since the 9/11 attacks in 2001. Biden has stated that American troops would not defend Ukraine, but would defend Eastern European NATO allies in case of Ukrainian invasion. Biden completed a video call with Putin on December 8, but no breakthroughs were made.

Russia has stated that the deployment of NATO forces would cross a "red line" and trigger a response, even threatening to destroy GPS satellites, while fixtures necessary for a permanent stay, such as supply lines and medical tents, have been spotted in the build-up. For now, the world anxiously waits to see what the Russian government plans to do and whether the Ukrainian government will once again have to face invasion.

# External News

The biggest stories from outside the Ancaster community on a provincial, national and international scale.



EXTERNALS  
COP26  
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EXTERNALS

## Update On Belarus's Manufactured Migrant Crisis

**Above:** Migrants on the Belarusian-Polish border at the Bruzgi-Kuznica Bialostocka border crossing, all attempting to cross it. **(Oksana Manchuk/BelTA/Handout via REUTERS)**

By Arnold Fu  
Staff Writer & Editor

**Belarusan President Alexander** Lukashenko once again has been at the centre of a geopolitical conflict with the European Union. The EU is accusing Belarus of intentionally flooding neighbouring Poland, Latvia, and Lithuania with migrants in an attempt to coerce the EU into lifting sanctions, while Lukashenko claims that the EU has deprived the country of the money necessary to stop the migrants. Currently, it seems a resolution is far from now, while thousands of migrants remain trapped in political games.

Called the last dictator in Europe, Lukashenko, who is heavily connected with Russia, has led an authoritarian rule throughout his country, in spite of growing protests. In August 2020, Lukashenko supposedly won a sixth term with 80% of the vote, but the opposition party, along with the EU, UK, US, Canada, and Switzerland, called the election illegitimate and placed tough sanctions on Belarus.

Tensions between the countries further increased in May 2021, when Belarus scrambled a fighter jet to divert a Ryanair flight to Minsk, with reports of a bomb threat. However, Western powers claimed that the real purpose of the diversion was to arrest Roman Pratasevich, a dissident journalist, and his girlfriend. Calling the diversion a state-sponsored hijacking, they placed further sanctions on the country.

Many of the migrants have arrived from destabilized regions, such as the Middle East, such as Yemen, Iraq, and Afghanistan. Following relaxed visa rules, numerous migrants have received Belusan visas and flown to the country

Belarus's national airline, Belavia, is flying nearly twice as many flights a week from Istanbul, Dubai, and Damascus than the same time last year.

In addition to flying the migrants, Belarus has also been accused of actively helping the migrants cross the border, with reports of Belarus supplying the migrants with wire cutters, axes, and shovels, and Belarusan soldiers blinding Polish soldiers using lasers and attempting to destroy fencing.

This immigration crisis has continued for months, and has led to Lithuania, Latvia, and Poland declaring a state of emergency, and seeing the deployment of riot officers and other security forces to contain the situation. Poland has reported 17,000 legal migrant crossings in October, a massive spike from the 1,000 crossings in the first half of the year.

However, the main flashpoint of this crisis is at Poland's borders, where Polish officials have refused to allow migrants to enter, causing around 3,000 to 4,000 migrants to amass at the border and small groups attempting to slip past Polish security. 11 migrants have died at the time of writing.

Belarus is also accusing Poland of planning a military buildup, with 15,000 Polish troops, along with air defence systems and heavy vehicles spotted near the border. The Belarusan defence ministry referred to it as "a strike group of forces." The country has stated that it will respond to Poland's actions domestically and with its largest ally, Russia.

Belarus-Russia relations have been continually improving, especially after EU sanctions. Belarus is economically dependent on Russia, and

is also Belarus's only diplomatic ally. Russia has predictively taken Belarus's side in the crisis. They held joint paratrooper drills and flew nuclear-capable bombers in a patrol over Belarus, all signs Belarus and Russia are working closer together. Lukashenko even offered the idea of hosting Russian nuclear weapons should Poland host them.

Poland has also declared a state of emergency along a three-kilometre stretch on the Belurasan border, and has deployed 12,000 soldiers and placed barbed wire fencing. In addition, Poland has also banned civilians, such as journalists, lawyers, and aid workers, from the declared state of emergency at the border, which has been met with condemnation by rights groups.

Belarus has since moved the migrants to a nearby logistics center after a skirmish broke out between migrants and Polish soldiers. Belarus also coordinated with Iraq for flights back home, an option hundreds of Iraqi migrants have taken. However, EU sanctions are still likely, given their support and solidarity of Poland, Latvia, and Lithuania, and Lukashenko's unwilling attitude could mean that this crisis could plausibly continue for months.

This crisis does show signs of thawing, like Belarus's move of migrants, the Iraqi flights, and communication between Lukashenko and German Chancellor Angela Merkel. However, a full de-escalation could take months, especially given how no side is in a position to concede. This crisis could also act as a catalyst for influential events and processes, such as Belarus further falling into the influence of Russia. This is a developing situation, so make sure to pay attention to this story.





**Above:** The 2021 United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP26) was the 26th United Nations Climate Change conference, where all 197 countries signed the pact to help fight against the climate crisis. *(Robert Perry/EPA)*

By Arnold Fu  
Staff Writer & Editor

For two weeks, representatives and heads of state from across the world met in Glasgow, UK, finally signing the Glasgow Climate Pact. Previously delayed a year by the COVID-19 pandemic, world leaders would perform the complex negotiations necessary for tackling the climate crisis. However, the event has faced criticism over the seeming indifference from rich nations to curb their emissions enough to avoid catastrophic climate outcomes.

In 1992, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change obliged every country to protect the planet from dangerous amounts of climate change. The UN has hosted Conferences of the Parties (COPs), every year since 1995, and it has been where key climate change agreements have been signed, such as the 2015 Paris Agreement.

1.5°C over pre-industrial levels is often seen as the most amount of global warming allowed without catastrophic effects, such as severe sea level rise, crop failures, and large extinctions. To reach this benchmark, it's estimated that emissions need to halve by 2030 and reach net-zero by 2050. The 2021 IIRC report noted that a maximum of 1.5°C of warming was still possible, but required "unprecedented action" to be taken immediately.

In the pact, the countries made considerable improvements in the right direction. Over a hundred countries vowed to cut methane emissions by 30% by 2030, and also included a pledge to stop deforestation and land degradation by 2030, which was signed by countries holding over 85% of the forests on Earth.

However, despite these massive leaps, the pact also fails in certain areas. It doesn't lay out a timeline or plan on how to avoid violating the 1.5°C benchmark, or how the countries will be sharing the responsibility of cutting emissions, meaning that countries could be stuck in disagreements. In addition, the world's Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) for 2030 are still on track for a 2.4°C increase by 2100, and even if all NDCs were followed, it would still increase by 1.8°C. It's been advised for countries to "revisit and strengthen" their NDCs next year, which was otherwise scheduled to happen in 2025.

The summit also finished defining Article 6 from the Paris Agreement, which covered rules and regulations on carbon markets. Carbon markets are a form of making emitting carbon economically viable over time, such as the cap-and-trade system or having emission support projects and investments that can cancel their emissions, such as tree planting.

This new Article 6 allows for

the creation and use of these systems to be used and removes possibilities of double-counting, also known as phantom credits. However, these systems are vulnerable to lobbying and stalling practices, as they are extremely difficult to establish.

COP26 also highlighted the different views and attitudes between poor and rich countries held when combating climate change. Climate change affects developing nations more, so many see achieving the 1.5°C to be the top priority, while developed nations are more interested in ensuring that their economies don't strain under too much pressure. Developing nations requested for the creation of a climate change reparations fund, stating that rich countries have directly harmed them with climate change. However, the fund was heavily opposed by the US and EU and was ultimately left out of the final draft.

This year stands for what many believe is the last chance to avoid the worst consequences for climate change, and another lost year could have disastrous results for years and even decades into the future. COP26 has taken large steps forward, but still lags behind and will require improvements in the next few years. This summit poses a powerful moment in the fight against climate change, and hopefully, enough action will be taken to protect those most vulnerable to the climate crisis.

# Internal News

News on what matters immediately to you, from Ancaster High School, Hamilton, and the GTA.



**Above:** Ms. Wills, one of our new math teachers at Ancaster High since the second semester of last year. *(Lily Mcsevney/The Royal Gazette)*

By Eden Ridpath  
& Lily Mcsevney  
Staff Writers & Editors

This December, The Royal Gazette will be interviewing a wonderful, welcoming new teacher from our school: Ms. Wills! Though Ms. Wills has only been at Ancaster High since the second semester of last year, she has already made a good impression on the students who have gotten to know her. Ms. Wills is a part of the amazing, costume contest crushing math department here at Ancaster High. Despite having just joined the Ancaster High staff only last year, Ms. Wills has already gotten involved! She, along with Ms. Rotskas, runs the diversity club here at school, to help students discuss and tackle serious topics such as racism. Ms. Wills' kindness and consideration towards her students makes her a perfect addition to the math department and the school as a whole!

**Q: What made you want to teach math?**

**A:** When I was in high school, I felt totally disconnected from my school. I didn't care about it, and it didn't seem to care about me. I got into environmental activism and spent most of the fall of grade 11 at a logging protest camp in northern Ontario, and I failed all my classes (including math, a subject I hated).

My parents wouldn't let me drop out entirely to go live in a tree, like I wanted

to, so I switched schools after the first semester, and for the first time, I had teachers who saw me, knew me, cared about me, and brought joy and purpose into the classroom. Teachers were with me, not against me. I could learn about the things I cared about, not just be forced to memorize dates and vocabulary. And the biggest surprise of all: math was a game and a puzzle, not a torture chamber. I wanted more kids to have those experiences at school, and I wanted to be a part of it.

**Q: How was it being new to Ancaster High during Covid?**

**A:** It definitely made it harder to connect with students and to get a sense of the school as a whole community, that's for sure. But I knew students were craving that connection just as much as us teachers. We just had to work twice as hard to let you know we could see you, care about you, and keep bringing that joy and purpose into the virtual classroom.

**Q: How do you like Ancaster High so far?**

**A:** Oh, this is my home, no question. Are you kidding me? I'm used to being the only one in the school who throws a party on Pi Day. My math nerd game is tame compared to these jokers! But seriously, it's not just the math department - the teachers, administrators, and support staff at this school love what they do more than any other school I've worked at, and it makes room for students to really grow into themselves.

It's a special place to be.

**Q: How do you think the quadesters affect teachers and students in a math class?**

**A:** I really feel for you...two and a half hours of math, especially in the afternoon, is way too much. Teachers and students have both been really challenged this school year, but if this is what we have to do in order to be back in the classroom full time, I'll take it! I'm just happy to be in the building every day, with full classes and clubs and sports and all that good stuff. Recuperating from the last couple of years won't happen overnight, but at least now we're doing it together.

**Q: How has the quadmester model affected your teaching?**

**A:** Short answer: Much less time for napping.

Long answer: I've taught math in a lot of different formats and timelines: shortened courses, one-at-a-time courses, full-year courses, semestered courses, all-day courses, once-a-week courses, self-paced courses, etc, and they all have their pluses and minuses (pun definitely intended). If you try to teach them all the same way, you're going to have frustrated teachers and over-extended students. So, when teachers have the time to plan and prep, quadesters have the potential to make us better teachers because we're forced to think critically about the purpose of the course. But when we don't have that time, quadesters are exhausting for everyone since we're just trying to fit square pegs in round holes.

**Q: What is your favourite part about teaching?**

**A:** It never stops challenging me to grow.

**Q: How has the learning of math advanced since your time as a student?**

**A:** Oh my goodness, how much time do you have?

**Q: Bonus questions; What is one thing you enjoy doing in your free time?**

**A:** Woodworking.

**Q: What is your favourite food?**

**A:** Anything that pulls together salty, sweet, sour, and spicy (Indian and Latin American cuisines do this really well!)



# FIGHTING AGAINST THE FLOODS

By Rose He  
Staff Writer & Designer



Illustration by Rose He, Staff Writer & Designer

It was only a mere two days after Remembrance Day when one of the most catastrophic natural disasters unfolded across British Columbia, breaking twenty records, making everyone wish that these records could never be touched again. In a matter of days to weeks, the severe flooding, also named as the November 2021 Pacific Northwest floods, has been destroying countless roads, vehicles, houses, and undeniably causing miserable injuries and deaths among civilians.

Backtracking to November 12th, before the floods occurred, meteorologists had warned about an extreme rainstorm lasting for two days, which was caused by an atmospheric river that formed in the Pacific Ocean. The heavy rainfall was estimated to only create a small risk of local flooding, thus no official travel advisories or flood warnings were given out. Little did they know, the following morning's storm would end up furiously dumping nearly a month's worth of rain in just two days.

### ATMOSPHERIC RIVER?

Atmospheric rivers are long and narrow regions in the atmosphere, as if they are actual rivers or pipes in the sky, that transport concentrated moisture or water vapour outside of the tropics. Once they make landfall, they release all the accumulated water vapour in precipitation.

Once the rainstorm ended, floods were forming in many towns and communities, but the bad news did not end there; soon, overwhelming amounts of reports of mudslides, destroyed roads, and vehicle collisions poured in at an alarming rate. Announcements about avoiding any unnecessary travels were made, but because of the inconvenient timing, many families were already traveling on the weekend. Some mudslides had large debris that crashed heavily onto highways along with the mud, not only blocking cars, but pushing some cars off the hills as well. This caused almost every major highway in southern British Columbia to close, forcing numerous travellers to abandon their vehicles on the road and to find shelter for the night.

As the days progressed, multiple communities reported floodwater breaching into their homes, making them go under a local state of emergency, requiring over 20,000 people to evacuate their homes, and causing a large number of shelves in supermarkets to empty out from panic buying. Almost everyone was impacted

At least 5

Flood-related deaths

“The worst weather storm in a century.”

— Rob Fleming, Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure in B.C.

negatively by the event, and according to BC Hydro, an electric utility, at least 60,000 homes were left without electricity across British Columbia. To worsen the news, more severe mudslides continue to pose a great danger to many. The Royal Canadian Air Force managed to rescue over 300 people by helicopter, but they have sadly found a woman's dead body under debris, making it the first recorded death of this disastrous event, while many more are still missing. Besides human lives, thousands of livestock and wild animals were also killed in the extreme weather. British Columbia declared a provincial state of emergency on November 17th.

On November 18th, 19th, and even earlier before, despite the mass destruction across the province, British Columbians are already determined to come together as a community to help as many people as they can who were dangerously affected by the storm. Thousands have volunteered to clean up, fill and deliver sandbags, and share supplies, all in favour to help those who suffered. Province officials have been slowly trying to recover from the scarring natural disaster as well, through rationing gasoline and ensuring that non-essential travel is banned on major re-opened roads. Repairing cities is estimated to take many months, and the estimated cost to rebuild some cities could be as much or more than \$1 billion.

The extensive flooding continues to be a major issue for November 20th and onwards, especially when atmospheric rivers continue to form and release absurd amounts of rain on these cities. Two particular communities, Abbotsford and Fraser Valley, both known for their agricultural production in the province, have experienced the worst of the floods.

Despite the hardship, progress is being made a month into the crisis, with certain highways opening to non-essential travel and the Trans Mountain pipeline being opened again, after three weeks of closure due to fears of leaks and damage. In addition, another evacuation order has been lifted, leaving only one in the area.

Over 60,000

Homes without electricity

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau has stated that he intends to help with the devastation as best as he can for the people in British Columbia. He formed a new federal committee to help with British Columbia's recovery, as well as helping those who are affected by any future extreme events. Trudeau also visited Abbotsford to view the flood damage in-person, and talked to local officials and first responders there, praising them for their community efforts and strength. Trudeau also stated that the extreme weather seen this year in British Columbia and other parts of Canada demonstrates the impacts of climate change. He also alarmingly noted that these consequences have arrived “sooner than expected, and they are devastating.”

### HOW TO HELP

It is undoubtedly horrible to see British Columbia become a victim of the severe flooding and rainstorms that continued on for weeks, but we can still take action and send our support to the best of our abilities. The Canadian Red Cross is holding a nationwide fundraising campaign to help British Columbians overcome this tall hurdle. By going on their site (see below) right now, you can donate to help support those who have suffered from the catastrophic storm. Every \$1 donated will be tripled to \$3 by the Canadian Red Cross. To add on, many other fundraisers throughout British Columbia were created to help relieve the disaster that British Columbians had to endure. To list a few examples, a GoFundMe was set up to directly help flooding victims, British Columbia's provincial government launched a disaster assistance program which also has a feature where it is possible to submit cash transfers, and many local organizations, such as ones in Abbotsford, have started their own disaster relief fund. By donating towards these fundraisers, it will immensely help these victims who have suffered from the extreme abnormal weather this past month.

### WEBSITES TO DONATE

The Red Cross:  
<https://donate.redcross.ca/page/94172/donate/1?locale=en-CA>

United Way:  
<https://uwbc.ca/flood/>

Canada Helps:  
<https://www.canadahelps.org/en/donate-to-bc-flooding-relief-efforts/>

More than

640,000

Livestock deaths

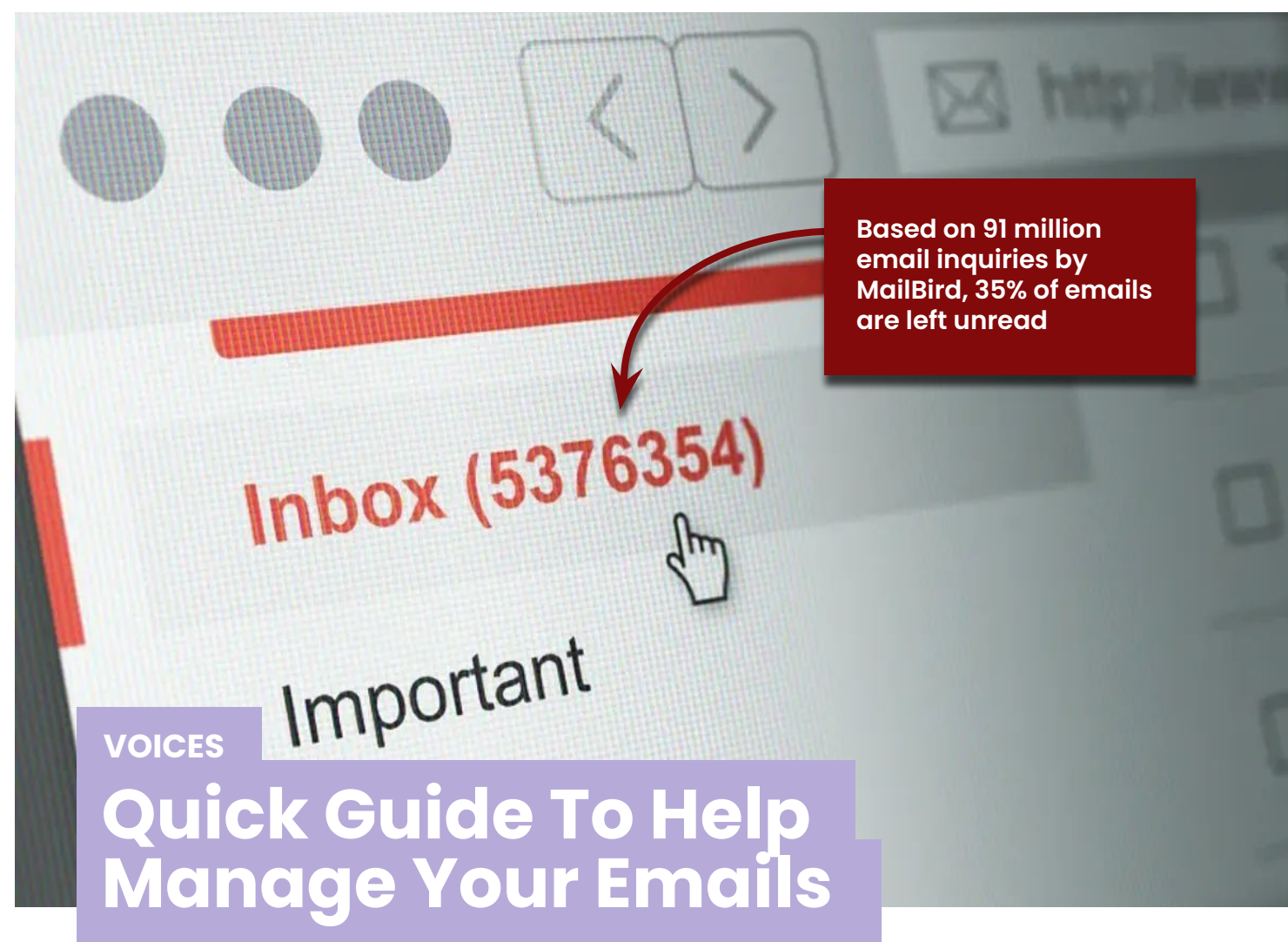


# Views & Voices

The *Gazette's* staff weigh in on what they believe matters with **essays, opinions, reviews and advice.**



**VOICES**  
**Student Insider**  
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**Above:** Severe lack of email management can lead to an unappealing amount of unread notifications, encouraging one to ignore their inbox even more. Proper email management everyday can prevent this. (*Shuttershock*)

By Geoffrey Cuff-Chartrand  
**Staff Writer**

**Do you never read your emails** and end up missing something important? Does your email account have 2000 unread emails? Well, in this article, I will try to show you how to manage your emails better so that does not happen.

The first thing you will want to do is put all of your emails in one place. You probably have at least two email accounts: your school/work account and your personal account. If you only have one account, skip this step. The best way to consolidate your emails is to use the Mail app already on your phone (if you have an iPhone) and on your school iPad for Ancaster High students. Go to Settings, then Mail > Accounts > Add Account. Then you will be able to choose what type of account to add. Add all of your accounts here, so that they all show up in the Mail app. If you are adding your school account, make sure to select Microsoft Exchange as the type of account, not Microsoft Outlook.

Next, you'll want to get rid of your spam mail. You probably have

many emails from companies or retailers you created accounts for, such as Quora. When you open these emails, you can usually find an unsubscribe button within the email itself. This is usually at the very top or the very bottom of the email, and in very small font. Clicking this should make the website stop sending you emails, clearing up your spam emails. Alternatively, you can have the emails appear in your spam folder, so you can separate your important emails from your spam emails while still having both.

Finally, you'll need to clear your email. If you've been accumulating spam emails for a while, your mail app could have over 1000 notifications! If you want to get rid of those notifications, first check all your emails from the past month to see if you missed anything important. Anything older than that is probably too old and irrelevant, but you can check it if you like. Then you'll need to mark all emails as read. To do that, click "Edit" at the top right corner of the mail app, then "Mark all" at the bottom left corner. This should make a menu with "Mark all as read" come up. Click on "Mark all as read". Now you should have zero current notifications for the app. This will let you easily

check if you have new important incoming emails.

In conclusion, to manage your emails better, put them all in one place, get rid of the spam, and clear your mailbox. I hope this article will help guide you to managing your emails a bit better.

## DID YOU KNOW?

The U.S. National Bureau of Economic Research conducted a study in July 2020, by asking 3.1 million workers in North America, Europe, and the Middle East, who have switched to the work-from-home model during the COVID-19 pandemic. Stated in their official report, they discovered that despite the general duration of meetings becoming shorter, the number of emails sent and received on average have increased by 5%. More intricacies can be explored in their report here: [https://www.nber.org/system/files/working\\_papers/w27612/w27612.pdf](https://www.nber.org/system/files/working_papers/w27612/w27612.pdf)

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## VOICES

# 7 Tips On How To Be More Environmentally-Friendly

By Munia Khondker  
**Staff Writer**

It is very important to be environmentally friendly, especially in 2021, as time runs out to avert the most disastrous outcomes of climate change. To understand how we are to combat the devastation of the climate crisis, we must first understand how climate change exists. The main reason why global climate change is happening is due to the burning of fossil fuels such as oil, gas, and coal. When these fossil fuels are burnt, they release carbon dioxide into the air, which causes the planet to heat up. The effects of this act can lead to flooding in coastal areas, wildfires destroying natural habitats, destructive hurricanes destroying houses, glaciers melting, air pollution, extinction of animals, and much more. As we all know, this is not good for animals or people in far-off countries that are surrounded by bodies of water or have little resources to prevent or stop such events. What we might not know is that global climate change affects all of us. Climate change is leading to extreme weather conditions, an increase in food prices, and decreased opportunities to appreciate the world in all countries. This will be especially devastating on Canada, a country that is heavily dependent on other countries for food imports in the winter months. We may soon face food scarcity if global climate change continues in this direction. However, we can stop this from happening by being more environmentally conscious. By being more eco-friendly, we can improve the quality of life in terms of morality, age, diseases, and illnesses to ensure the safety of all living organisms. Here are 7 tips to be more environmentally friendly!

### 1. Delete YOUR emails!

Believe it or not, emails are harmful to the environment! They take up energy which produces greenhouse gasses. It is estimated that junk mail produces 51 million metric tons of greenhouse gases every year. That can be compared to the amount of pollution of 9 million road cars! By deleting the thousands of junk mails on your device, you can both free up space and reduce your carbon footprint.

### 2. Choose local and organic foods!

When you go to a grocery store and see food that came from another country, you need to be aware that greenhouse gases were emitted into the atmosphere when that food was packaged and shipped to Canada. By shopping for local and organic foods, you are buying foods that have less travel pollution as they were made



**Left:** An illustration depicting how our collective everyday actions can help fight against climate change and improve life for all living species. (*Rose He/The Royal Gazette*)

right here in Hamilton or Ontario.

### 3. Walk or use public transportation!

By simply walking or using public transportation, you are fighting climate change. You are creating less air pollution and emitting fewer emissions into the atmosphere, reducing your carbon footprint. An added bonus of choosing to walk or bike is that you are getting exercise along the way, which is very good for your health!

### 4. Explore a vegan lifestyle!

By limiting the amount of meat and dairy you eat, you can reduce your carbon footprint. Meat and dairy products have higher greenhouse gas outputs than vegetable and grain outputs due to the inefficient transfer of plant energy to animal energy, and the land which is used could otherwise go to crops. A vegan lifestyle is also healthier for your body!

### 5. Donate clothing you don't use anymore!

By donating clothing that just sits in your wardrobe to places like Value Village, you are reducing the amount of clothing that would end up in landfills and making the most of the clothing's emissions. Your clothing will also end up in good hands and will be appreciated by someone.

### 6. Go to zero-waste stores!

There are many zero-waste stores across Hamilton. For example, "The Pale Blue Dot" on James St. has alternatives to daily single-use, plastic items. This includes toothbrushes and utensils. Deciding to use items that produce zero waste is a fantastic way to keep litter from ending up in our oceans.

### 7. Volunteer!

Many local volunteer groups help out by keeping our environment in good shape! For example, "The Net" is a volunteer organization connected with Ancaster Community Services who have helped the environment in many different ways. They have hosted numerous garbage clean-ups across Hamilton, and even partnered up with Ancaster Rotary for a few. They have also worked with "Green Venture" on planting a community canopy (tree planting) and seed sorting to replant native plants. This is very beneficial as planting trees help absorb carbon dioxide. Lastly, they have just partnered up with the Royal Botanical Gardens to learn more about local biodiversity and protecting plants and animals here in Hamilton.

Changing small things in your life to help stop climate change and improve life for all living species is a simple sacrifice we can all make to save the planet!





VOICES

# Student Insider: The Winter Break

**Above:** Student Insider is a monthly Ancaster High advice column. For December, explore what you can do to both relax and be productive during the winter break. **(Vita Rao/The Royal Gazette)**

By Anika Kanagaretnam  
Co-Editor-in-Chief

As winter break rolls around, you may feel unsure of what to do with yourself with the spare time, especially when it comes to balancing leisure with schoolwork. Of course, you should never sacrifice either, because having a balance of both is what will lead to a healthier and happier lifestyle. If you're uncertain about what you should spend your time on during the two weeks of being free from school, keep reading because this article will discuss how to manage your time as well as suggest things to do in your spare time.

It may be tempting to go through each day of the break doing not much at all, and although you should do that for the first few days of the break in order to relax, it can be helpful to at least follow a simple schedule that can improve productivity in any area such as your hobbies, not just school related things.

To begin, though staying up late and waking up late can be an appealing free-for-all sleep schedule during the break, try to sleep and wake up at the same time each day, even if it is later than normal. Next, set goals for yourself to complete throughout the day. These goals can be anything such as progressing through a TV series you love or finally finishing a book you have

been wanting to read, but whatever it may be, we should all achieve something we enjoy doing. The goals can be anything, little daily items or goals you have been striving for a longer time. Try to have goals relating to school as well, because having a balance of both leisure and work is important. Including these different types of goals in a simple easy-to-follow plan can help you be more productive in whatever you would like to accomplish during the time off. Plan out each day the night before, and it is okay if you do not get to complete everything on your list - it means you know where you are and what you need to do next.

## WINTER BREAK IDEAS:

- Baking/Cooking
- Painting
- Jigsaw Puzzle
- Write a story
- Donate old clothes
- Visit local historical sites
- Start a collection
- Play board/card games with friends/family
- Grow indoor plants



Another topic that should be brought to your attention is your mental and physical health. Although it may seem obvious, it is crucial to ensure that you are taking care of

yourself mentally and physically. Not having to worry about schoolwork will hopefully help with your mental health by removing some levels of stress, but there are other ways to take care of yourself on top of that. For example, remember to take breaks from social media, contact your friends, and try and pick up a new hobby, even though it may take some motivation to do so. Also, try to get in a bit of exercise each day, at least 20 to 30 minutes if you can, because it can help with health, energy levels, and overall happiness.

It is common to feel unmotivated to do anything productive, even if it is something we enjoy, but there are different ways to try to feel more motivated. If you are feeling unmotivated to complete tasks you hoped to finish during the two weeks, try to reward yourself once you complete the task. In fact, this is related to dopamine, as it spikes in your brain when something important is coming up, and brings feelings of happiness when you complete the task since you know you will be able to do something enjoyable after. For example, you could treat yourself to a meal from your favourite restaurant or reward yourself by watching a movie/tv show you enjoy after the task is done. It will feel rewarding and there will be a sense of satisfaction knowing you completed your goals and can enjoy yourself.



ROYAL REVIEW:  
★★★★★



GENRE:  
Science-Fiction, Gothic, Horror-Fiction



VOICES

# Frankenstein: Does It Live Up To Its Classic Title?

**Above:** Artist Bernie Wrightson illustrated Mary Shelley's classic tale, *Frankenstein*, for Marvel Comics in 1983. According to the press release, the artwork was sold for \$1.2 million. **(Bernie Wrightson)**

By Selina Hazin  
Staff Writer

*Frankenstein*, a name that most can instantly recollect, which begat numerous different parodies of media, discussions, and was summarily the kick-starter for the genre of science fiction, has once again proved itself apt for its recognition and praise for the past two hundred years.

I'd like to start with the fact that this book is *definitely* not for everyone, as the time period plays a chief factor and the language is broadly different to modern speak, and will be especially difficult if you aren't yet ensconced in reading older books (if you're looking to start I would begin with a book from fifty years ago, then seventy, a hundred, and so on to ease yourself into it instead of starting with 1818). The plot was interesting, extremely entertaining in the first hundred pages, and again in the last chapter, but the entire middle part was merely monotonous (as in I probably wouldn't have read the whole thing if I didn't have the obligation of this article). I even had to take a week longer to read it because I kept putting it off from boredom. The science-fiction-mad-scientist portion starts off strong in the beginning but is eventually muted toward the end. Nothing particularly arose in the book that I didn't like, but just

a lot of it wasn't particularly likeable either - just a whole lot of mediocre neutrality.

You might actually enjoy this story if you're a fan of geography, as it takes place all around the globe (yet somehow was vaguely xenophobic), and spares no word in giving a full description of the variety of settings.


The entire story is told in first person, and the majority is in passive style. The characters aren't that unique or interesting (except the monster, but even the main character's personality doesn't stand out). Despite this, it was certainly intriguing to read the realistic aspect of both sides being valid and not so black and white; there's no definitive *good guy* and *bad guy*. Toward the story's conclusion, you're not exactly sure who you should be rooting for. Out of a lot of classic books, *Frankenstein* is on the shorter side and includes an excellent plot, so if you can get through the writing, it could be a fulfilling and quick read. I was additionally surprised that the book didn't provide anything blatantly offensive and only really was contrived of ambiguous and short points if any at all. The story also contains a poetic flow with beautiful passages, and successfully achieved the nuance that the author was striving for. It's hilarious though that the entirety of the narrative is in a letter to someone (which you would definitely forget

halfway through) and also encompasses chapters. Not only that, but at one point in the story, it becomes a story being told in a story, that's also being told in a story, that's being told in a letter, or what I'd like to call, the 19th century rendition of *Inception*.

The initial lesson to be learned from *Frankenstein* isn't *don't try to play god and bring inanimate objects to life*, but one residual variable that seems to remain after every disaster is the drastic measures and effects of loneliness and isolation; loneliness overall is the primary recurring subject that seems to instigate the acts and thoughts of lunacy and rampage in the characters.


While *Frankenstein* was often boring, if you're interested in the story and its philosophies I would recommend it - although it wasn't absolutely revolutionary, I undeniably didn't regret reading it and it surely will give you various rich topics to think about. Subsequently, if you enjoy the *everybody dies* trope, crying in the rain, morose and dramatic themes and acts, insanity masked as passion, the marring of characters in a pitiful manner, abrupt but refreshing poems in the middle of chapters, sad and solemn endings, and unreliable narrators, I'm sure *Frankenstein* would make an auspicious recommendation for you! Rating: 4/5 stars.





**ORIGINAL TRILOGY:**  
Royal Review: 10/10

**OVERALL SERIES:**  
Royal Review: 8.5/10



**GENRE:**  
Juvenile Fantasy

By Gavin Potts  
Staff Writer

On October 19th, 2021, the fifth book in the Ascendance Series was published. Written by Jennifer A. Nielsen, the Ascendance Series is one of my favourites, largely from the original trilogy, which I have read multiple times. In 2020, the fourth book in the series was published, and then a fifth was written. With the series concluded now, one question remains: is the series worth the read or should it remain on the shelf?

The Ascendance Series consists of five books: *The False Prince*, *The Runaway King*, *The Shadow Throne*, *The Captive Kingdom*, and *The Shattered Castle*. The books are told from the perspective of an orphan boy, Sage, who is a citizen in the kingdom of Carthya. The series follows his ascent to king, until he is forced to defend himself and his country from the threat of neighbouring nations. While that is a very basic summary, the series itself is full of intricate plots, trickery, deceit, and twists which may catch some off-guard.

Nielsen is able to weave together an intricate and intriguing plot which leaves you constantly wondering what will happen next. The characterization in the books are fantastic, enabling readers to both emphasize with the heroes and truly hate the villains, which is a testament to how well they are written. Overall, the series is a glowing recommendation from me, I'd give it overall an 8.5/10. However, in my opinion, the original trilogy (*The False Prince*, *The Runaway King*, and *The Shadow Throne*) are the best books of the series, and I'd give those a 10/10.

In order to write more specifically about the individual books, it's difficult to avoid some spoilers, so if you already plan on reading the series, or at least the first book, then I would suggest that you stop reading here.

**SPOILER ALERT**

*The False Prince* kicked off the series back in 2012, centered around an orphan boy named Sage. Early on in the story, he is bought by a nobleman named Conner, along with two other orphans, Tobias and Roden. About a quarter to halfway through the book, they are told that the three boys have been brought there to play the role of the dead prince of Carthya; Jaron. Conner reveals that the entire royal family has been killed, and one of the three boys will pretend to be the dead Prince Jaron, under the guise of being in hiding for the previous years. The rest of the book centres around the competition to be crowned the prince and the twists and turns necessary to



VOICES

# The Ascendance Series Ascends Into Greatness

**Above:** The full collection of the Ascendance Series, though originally planned to be a trilogy, author Jennifer A. Nielsen expanded on her work, making it a wondrous read, despite the irregular fall of the 4th book. **(Scholastic/Twitter)**

do so. However, the main twist of the book comes near the end, where it is revealed that Sage is actually Prince Jaron, who had survived his assassination attempt and had spent the time since, in hiding, pretending to be the orphan boy Sage. It's a great entry into the series, setting up the world and characters well, along with a very intriguing plot which pulls you in and makes it hard to put the book down.

*The Runaway King* picks up where *The False Prince* left off, with Jaron, king of Carthya, and the threat of war looming large. The story focuses on him preparing for war by attempting to get his former friend, Roden, back on his side. This time the story ventures away from Carthya, and into pirate territory, accompanied by the first book's trickery and humour. Much like the first, it is very well written, and continues its good characterization and intriguing plot. *The Shadow Throne* also continues with this trend, and is a fantastic ending to the trilogy. In the third book, everything from the previous two culminates with an all-out war between the lands, and Jaron is stuck in the middle. Originally, *The Shadow Throne* was supposed to be the final book, and is a fitting and satisfying end to the series. In fact, I would have been perfectly fine with it ending with the third. Regardless, last year, *The Captive Kingdom* was published.

In *The Captive Kingdom*, the inevitable happens, and the series somewhat falls apart. To be honest, it


really isn't a good book. While Nielson continues as a good author, the plot struggles to match up to the rest of the trilogy, and almost all the characters (other than Jaron) become unlikeable. It's one of those books that are hard to read, and never drew me in like the previous three did. Moments of fun in the book are scarce, which is a stark contrast to the first three. Not only that, the main twist of the book was extremely predictable. However, the main issue I have with the book is the major retcon it does to the series, which is somewhat detrimental to the enjoyment of the first three books. Due to all this, it is the only book in the series which I didn't enjoy reading. Nonetheless, it is worth the read, only due to how good *The Shattered Castle* is.

In *The Shattered Castle*, Nielsen makes up for *The Captive Kingdom*, writing another story that is up to the caliber of the original trilogy. The characters are once again likeable, the main twist is actually quite surprising, and the plot is amazing. Much like the original three (and unlike the fourth), it was difficult to put this book down. It is also a fitting end to the series, and feels much like the third, ending with a sense of satisfaction and finality. As such, while the fourth isn't nearly as good a book as the others, it is worth the read to get to the fifth.

In conclusion, the Ascendance Series by Jennifer A. Nielsen is definitely worth the read, and I cannot recommend it highly enough.

# Arts & Culture

The latest on what's happening in the world of entertainment, lifestyle, and pop culture.



**ARTS & CULTURE**  
**Jojo's Bizarre Adventure**  
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**ARTS & CULTURE**

## Eternals Review: Is the MCU's Latest Addition Worth the Watch?

**Above:** *Eternals* offers a glimpse of the latest addition MCU adventure starring their first openly gay superhero, starring Gemma Chan, Richard Madden, Kumail Nanjiani, and many others. **(Marvel)**

By Gavin Potts  
Staff Writer

On November 5th, 2021, *Marvel* released its newest addition to the Marvel Cinematic Universe (MCU), *Eternals*. The film stars Gemma Chan (Sersi), Richard Madden (Ikaris), Kumail Nanjiani (Kingo), Lia McHugh (Sprite), Brian Tyree Henry (Phastos), Lauren Ridloff (Makkari), Barry Keoghan (Druig), Ma Dong-seok (Gilgamesh), Kit Harrington (Dane Whitman), Salma Hayek (Ajak), and Angelina Jolie (Thena). The film is directed by Chloé Zhao.

Despite unfavourable reviews from many critics, with around 48% on Rotten Tomatoes at the time of release, the film still made \$161.7 million globally on its opening weekend. Since then, that figure has increased to \$368.4 million globally, surpassing its \$200 million budget. *Eternals* also marks a couple of firsts for Marvel, including Marvel's first openly gay superhero, Phastos, which has unfortunately led to some controversy, and their first deaf character, Makkari, whose actor (Lauren Ridloff) is also deaf.

Before discussing the plot and film itself, it's important to note that there may be some minor spoilers, so a quick spoiler warning is needed. I would suggest skipping to the end if

you want to go into the movie knowing nothing about it.

**SPOILER ALERT**

*Eternals* follows a superhuman race of people who come from the planet Olympia, when they are sent to Earth in 5000 BC to protect humans from an invasive species called the Deviants. When they eventually complete this mission, the Eternals remain on Earth as protectors of humans, albeit with differing opinions among the group on whether or not humans deserve to be protected. Eventually, the group is drawn back together when one of them dies, leading them to believe the Deviants have returned. While this is confirmed to be true, the group, now led by Sersi, quickly learns that there is a much greater threat to humanity than just the Deviants. Fights with both the Deviants and amongst themselves ensue, leading to an eventual climax, both in action and emotion. In Marvel's signature end credits scene, they tease larger things that are to come in the MCU, with both the Eternals themselves, and another seemingly minor character in the film.

In my opinion, the movie is great, possibly even a top five MCU movie for me. It isn't exactly like a typical Marvel movie. It moves away from the typical formula and status quo

and becomes something very unique among Marvel. To start, the cinematography and directing are stunning, absorbing you into the world and character struggles that progress throughout the movie. The movie has great character development, allowing most of the characters in a large ensemble cast to go through well-defined change and progression. Fantastic character arcs, combined with actors who do an amazing job all throughout the movie, helps the audience to care about and connect with the characters. Lastly, on top of the great portrayal of characters, the action is very well done. It flows seamlessly with the drama, and as usual with Marvel, looks great.

With great character development, an incredible twist, amazing acting, and much more, *Eternals* is definitely worth the watch. Altogether, I'd give it a 8.5/10. For me, it's a top tier Marvel movie, and just a great movie overall.



**Royal Review:**  
8.5/10



**IMDb:** 6.8/10



**Google:**  
3.4/5 Stars





ARTS & CULTURE

# JoJo’s Bizarre Adventure Is Worth The Golden Experience

**Above:** JoJo’s Bizarre Adventure currently has 8 parts in the original manga which was created and illustrated by HiroHiko Araki. While Araki confirmed that there will be a part 9 in his manga, the anime adaptation of part 6: Stone Ocean, was recently released on December 1st this year. This part follows the first female JoJo, Jolyne. **(Netflix)**

By Victoria Lu  
Staff Writer & Editor

JoJo’s Bizarre Adventure is a title that may sound familiar to you, even if you don’t find yourself on the anime side of the internet often. It is a very unique show, both in style and story. It revolves around the Joestar family, focusing on one generation in every part of the series. From fighting vampires in 1880s England to overthrowing the Italian mafia in the early 2000s, this anime certainly has a lot to offer.

One of the main reasons I started watching the show was because of the increasing amount of memes I’d been seeing on the internet. I was not expecting much from the actual plot, as my initial impression of the show was that it wasn’t serious in the slightest, and I was prepared to have a good laugh. While I was not disappointed with the humour, I found myself unexpectedly enthralled with the story. JoJo’s Bizarre Adventure originally starts off as a rather typical action anime, where the main objective was to defeat his evil adopted brother, Dio Brando, who had rejected his humanity and turned into a vampire. However, as the series progresses into later seasons, new powers are introduced and the show really comes into its own, allowing viewers to experience dynamic and unique fights in every episode. Although the plot contained many holes and the pacing was odd at times, I still thoroughly enjoyed it as it didn’t take itself too seriously, which made these mistakes easy to forgive.

After all, many of the plot points were already quite bizarre to begin with.

**MEME CULTURE**

One of the most influential factors for the growth of popularity in JoJo’s Bizarre Adventure is the constant memes, JoJo references, or “JoJokes” that appear across the internet and among different platforms; there always seem to be JoJo fan spreading their love for the show no matter where you go.

To Be Continued

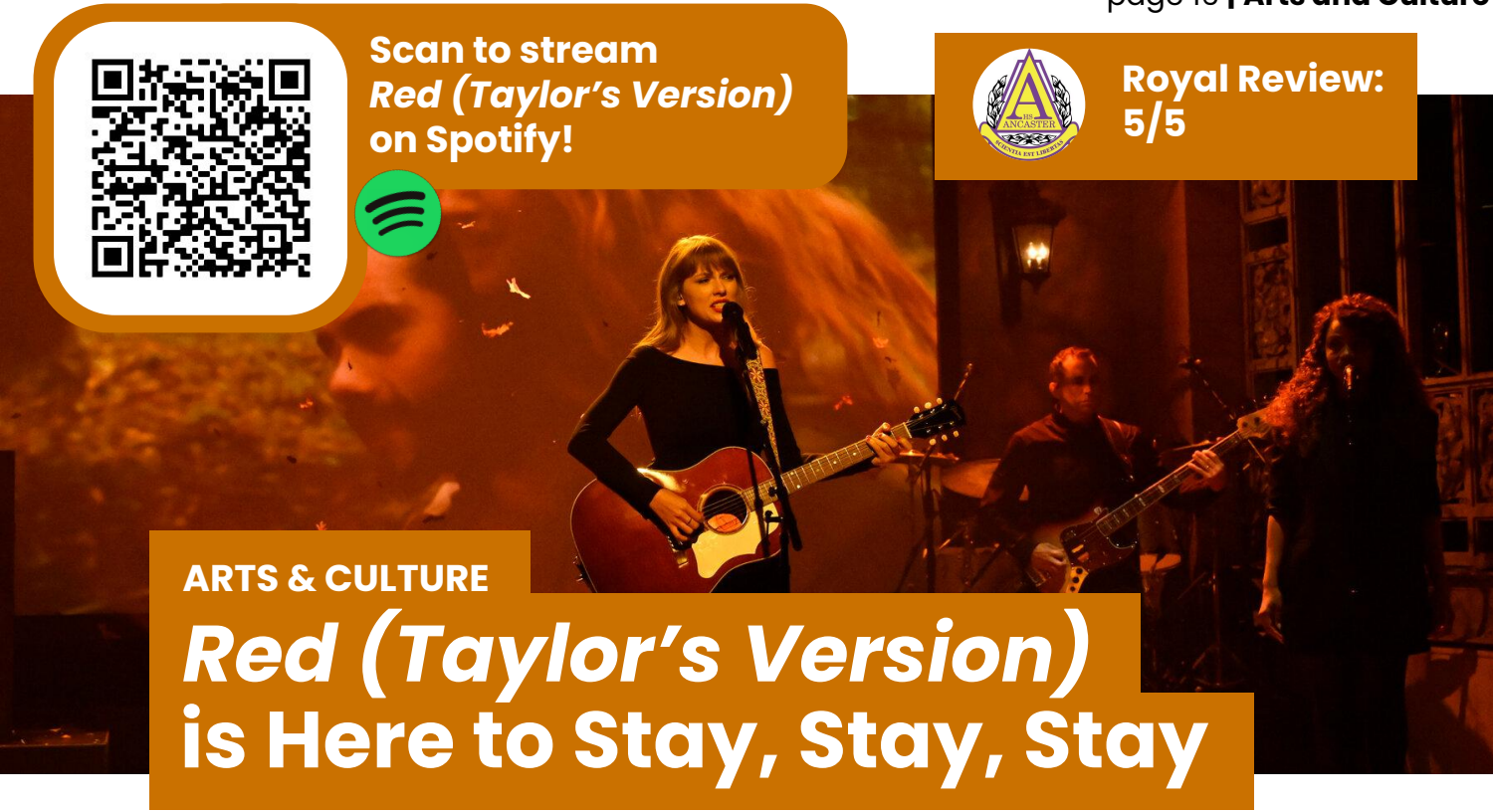
In my opinion, the strongest aspect of the show was the characters. Every part offered a new cast of main characters, while occasionally featuring familiar faces from other parts which was always a pleasant surprise. Every main protagonist had a distinct personality, with an equally lovable character to support them. Each character had their own way of overcoming hardships, which kept the anime interesting because it was fascinating to learn each group’s dynamic. At the end of their adventure, it always felt bittersweet moving onto the next part. I often found myself liking the side characters more than the main characters, as they are just as developed and unique, making every interaction entertaining and charming. The anime’s villains are no exception to this, as their motivations are unique and interesting. My personal favourite villain of the series is Yoshikage Kira, a serial killer whose ultimate goal is to live a peaceful and quiet life. He was written as such an absurd character, which created a fresh and interesting story.

The art of JoJo’s Bizarre Adventure is certainly an acquired taste, and changes drastically throughout the show. While it was jarring to get used to a new art style when starting new parts, it definitely kept things engaging. I learned to appreciate the bright colours and the constant shift in colour palettes, and I firmly believe that breaking the typical conventions of anime art was a fantastic choice, as it was able to showcase more dynamic poses and solidify its individuality as an anime. Along with the fluid animation and art style, the music was also very strong and iconic, with every character’s theme reflecting their personality impeccably.

In conclusion, JoJo’s Bizarre Adventure is definitely not for everyone, as many aspects may be unappealing. The pacing and plot can be a bit messy sometimes, and the amount of readjusting can be frustrating. However, I would definitely recommend this to anyone who wants an experience filled with adventure, action, and tears; a bizarre experience indeed. 8.5/10.

**Royal Review:**  
8.5/10

**Royal’s Favourite Villain:**  
Yoshikage Kira



Scan to stream  
*Red (Taylor’s Version)*  
on Spotify!



**Royal Review:**  
5/5

ARTS & CULTURE

# Red (Taylor’s Version) is Here to Stay, Stay, Stay

**Above:** Taylor Swift performing her hit, *All Too Well (10 minute version) (Taylor’s Version)* on SNL, after releasing the song’s accompanying short film. In addition to solidifying itself as a fan-favourite, *All Too Well (10 minute version) (Taylor’s Version)* also hit #1 on Billboard charts, breaking Don McLean’s *American Pie* record. **(Will Heath/NBC)**

By Sneha Desai  
Staff Writer & Editor

On November 12th, 2021, pop icon, Taylor Swift, released her re-recording of her 2012 hit album “Red,” as well as never before seen songs “From The Vault.” Many fans, or Swifties, – including myself – were anticipating this release and boy, were we not disappointed. Taylor Swift, yet again, blows us all off our feet, especially with the much-anticipated vault song, *All Too Well (10 Minute Version)*.

If you’ve been living under a rock all these years and have no idea who Taylor Swift is, do not worry, for I have come to inform you and share my perspective on her newest album. Taylor Swift is an extremely talented singer, songwriter, producer, and actor. She first started by writing and producing country music, but has since shifted to pop. She’s released numerous hit albums, including *Taylor Swift*, *Speak Now*, *Fearless*, *Red*, 1989, *Reputation*, *Lover*, *Evermore*, *Folklore*, *Fearless (Taylor’s Version)*, and *Red (Taylor’s Version)*. Personally, my favourite is 1989, rumored to be next of the re-recordings. If she still doesn’t ring a bell, you may know some of her hits such as “Shake it Off” and “Bad Blood.” Now, you may be wondering, if she’s already released these albums, why is she re-recording them?

To summarize what happened, Big Machine Records, the record label that Swift signed a contract with at the beginning of her career, declared legal ownership of her masters; all of her music, essentially. After Swift left the label, it dissolved and sold all of her

masters to Scooter Braun. However, to gain ownership of her music, Swift was able to re-record her albums, as there was no contractual clause stopping her. Therefore, for the past two years, Taylor has started to re-record her five albums (all the albums before *Reputation*), such as the already released *Fearless (Taylor’s Version)* and *Red (Taylor’s Version)*.

Now that you’re all caught up, we must move on to what this album is about. This album is a breakup album, based on the relationship between Taylor Swift and Jake Gyllenhaal. There are no words to describe this album that would do it justice, but I’ll try. I enjoyed every second of it. If I could go back and listen to it for the first time again, I would do it without hesitation. It brings back nostalgia, like with 22, when my best friend and I used to watch the music video on repeat, or when her songs from the album came on the radio and I would sing my head off. Also, the notorious fan-favourite song, *All Too Well (10 Minute Version)*, made me cry. This song gives us so much insight into what was going through her head while they were together and after they broke up.

*All Too Well (10 Minute Version)* has struck chords in everyone’s hearts, whether you are going through a breakup or not. Its lyrics are beautiful and filled with emotion, more than any of Swift’s other songs. It has gained immense popularity on TikTok as well. The lyrics “He’s gonna say it’s love, you never called it what it was/til we were dead and gone and buried” are one of my personal favourites. It shows the extent of her love and how she expressed it, but never got the same back and never got told it back. Other

lyrics illustrate similar feelings: “And there we are again when nobody had to know/you kept me like a secret, but I kept you like an oath.” Even though I have never gone through a breakup, it still manages to make me relate to this. It might be my favourite song on this album, but there are some others that are almost as good.

Some of my other favourites were *Starlight*, *Red*, *Treacherous*, and *We Are Never Ever Getting Back Together*. These songs remind me of fleeting moments in my life that were nice and amazing, free of homework or stress. Things I will forever treasure. *We Are Never Ever Getting Back Together* is nostalgic for me; it holds my past as well as my future.

Although those are some of my favourites, I decided to ask some Ancaster High students what songs they liked the best. One anonymous student mentioned “lov[ing] *All Too Well (10 Minute Version)*, *Stay Stay Stay*, and *I Almost Do*.” Another said “*All Too Well (10 Minute Version)*, *State of Grace (Acoustic Version)*, and *Starlight*” were their favourites. Lastly, another student told me that they loved “*All Too Well (10 Minute Version)* and *Ronan*.” Based on my fellow Royals’ opinions, it seems like *All Too Well (10 Minute Version)* is definitely a school-wide favourite.

And that’s a wrap-up for *Red (Taylor’s Version)*! This album is amazing, as it shows how far Swift has come as a person, – career-wise and personally – and how she is re-gaining ownership of her music and her life. This album might be one of my all-time favourites of hers, so I’d rate it a 5/5. Now go listen to *Red (Taylor’s Version)*!





ARTS & CULTURE

# 20th Anniversary: The *Harry Potter* & *The Lord of the Rings* Films

**Above:** The first image HBO Max revealed in celebration of the 20th anniversary of *Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone*, giving Potterheads a first look at The Golden Trio's (Daniel Radcliffe, Rupert Grint, and Emma Watson) reunion in the Gryffindor common room. (Warner Bros.)

By Eden Ridpath  
Staff Writer & Editor

2001; a year that would give rise to terror and fear, but also inspired magic and hope. The inspiration came in the form of two cinematic installments that would take the world by storm; *Harry Potter* and *The Lord of the Rings*. This year marks 20 years since each film series debuted the first installment of their franchise on the big screen.

*Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone* just had its 20th anniversary on November 16th. To celebrate such a monumental event, it was announced that many of the stars of the franchise, including Daniel Radcliffe, Rupert Grint, Emma Watson, Helena Bonham Carter, and Gary Oldman will be coming back together on a TV special titled, *Return to Hogwarts*. You can watch this special TV reunion through HBO Max on January 1st, 2022.

This is very exciting news for the many fans of the Wizarding World as it will be the first time in a long while where the cast will be coming back together to celebrate the magical journey they began 20 years ago.

*Harry Potter* was not the only film to have its debut in 2001. On December 19th, *The Lord of the Rings: The Fellowship of the Ring* will also celebrate its 20th anniversary. As of now, nothing has been announced

regarding a Middle Earth style reunion, however just last year the cast of *The Lord of the Rings* reunited over Zoom for Josh Gad's *Reunited Apart* series.

## PANDEMIC EFFECTS

Elijah Wood stated that he hopes to also have an in-person reunion with his fellow cast members to celebrate the 20th anniversary of *The Lord of the Rings*, but it would be difficult getting into New Zealand due to the restrictions from the ongoing pandemic.

Being a fan of both series, I have found a few ways to celebrate the anniversary of the two movie franchises that have stolen my heart. *Empire Magazine* came out with a special edition, *20 Years of Magic* issue called *When Harry met Frodo*. This article brought together the stars of both series, Daniel Radcliffe and Elijah Wood, to talk about their respective franchises.

For fans of either series, or -- like myself -- both series, this magazine was a wondrous read. They talk about their experiences on set, the effect 9/11 had on both movie releases and the possible competition between their movies. Overall, it was an enjoyable and insightful read that I would recommend to any fan of either series.

Both of these series have given

rise to huge communities of people that have come together to share the love of their favourite franchises. Despite all the drama that was caused by J.K. Rowling, *Harry Potter* fans have taken the Wizarding World out of her hands to create an inclusive fandom that celebrates all people, no matter their differences.

Both films premiered during a time of great darkness and gave light to happier ideals. These two stories of good vs. evil, friendship, love, and magic have given hope and inspiration to many fans around the globe -- myself included. Without the magic of *Harry Potter* and the beauty of *The Lord of the Rings*, I would be a very different person than I am today, as I am sure many people would agree.

So with all that in mind, let us celebrate these two franchises that have been a light in the darkest of times! I know that a movie marathon will be on my winter break checklist, and perhaps that could be in your plans as well.

“Harry Potter 20th Anniversary: Return to Hogwarts will take fans on a magical first-person journey through one of the most beloved film franchises of all time.”

— HBO



# Monthly *Diversions*

Thought-provoking, topical, and enjoyable crosswords, quizzes, and horoscopes.



DIVERSIONS  
Horoscopes  
pg 19

## DIVERSIONS

# Which Holiday Food Are You?

By Victoria Lu  
Writer & Editor

You snuck onto Santa's sleigh while he was on vacation. Why did you do this?

- a. To steal the presents. Capitalism.
- b. To meet Rudolph.
- c. To take a look at the workshop.

You land in the North Pole and Santa's Workshop comes into view. What do you do?

- a. Run.
- b. Follow the reindeer into the stables.
- c. Follow Santa into the workshop.

You enjoy your activities for a few hours, but now you're hungry. Where do you go?

- a. Find a mall in the North Pole. I'm sure they'll have one somewhere.
- b. Share a carrot with the reindeer.
- c. Ask a nice elf for a nice meal.

You're full now, congrats! You head into the workshop. What's your next plan of action?

- a. Find the naughty or nice list.
- b. I don't. I stay with the reindeer.
- c. Watch the elves working on presents.

It turns out that Santa knew you were there all along. He offers you three ways to return to your home. Which one do you take?

- a. The magical stairs.
- b. A reindeer ride back.
- c. The elves build a human catapult for you.

If you picked mostly a's... you're a turkey dinner!

If you picked mostly b's... you're a mashed potato!

If you picked mostly c's... you're a candy cane!



DIVERSIONS

Choose Your Adventure  
And Get a Holiday Movie to  
Watch!

You’re a weary adventurer who just walked into a quaint town. Where do you head first?

- a. The local grocery store to restock on your goods.

b. Grab a refresher at a tavern.

c. Try the local dishes.
- a. I’ve taken another commission from the adventure guild.

b. I go where the monsters are, I live for the adrenaline.

c. A relaxing one, I just like exploring the world.

It’s morning and you head back on the road. You meet a fortune teller on the side of the road and she tells you to head back, for your endeavors are too dangerous. What’s your next move?

- a. Head back. I don’t feel like getting hurt today.

b. Keep going! This is what adventure is all about!

c. Whatever happens happens.

It starts raining so you take shelter in a cave. You find a giant treasure chest with enough coins to last you for the rest of your life. What do you do?

- a. Take as much as I can hold in my pockets. I can retire early now.

b. Leave all my other belongings to carry the treasure chest instead. I’m rich!

c. Take a nice pouch and head on my way.

On your way, you find some travelers on the road. What do you do?

- a. Greet them and head on my way.

b. Challenge them to a friendly duel.

c. Ask them if they’d like to join you for a hearty dinner by the fire.

Night falls. Where are you sleeping tonight?

- a. By the fire I made.

b. I’ll sleep like a bat: upside down on a tree branch.

c. Wherever the wind takes me.

If you picked mostly a’s... you should watch The Grinch!

If you picked mostly b’s... you should watch The Polar Express!

If you picked mostly c’s... you should watch Christmas Wedding Planner!



HOROSCOPES



Aries

March 21 - April 19

Look forward to this month, as you will experience something new and wonderful!



Taurus

April 20 - May 20

Remember to reflect on your actions, as this month may bring you some conflicts with friends.



Gemini

May 21 - June 20

Take care of yourself! You’ve been working very hard and you deserve to take a break once in a while.



Cancer

June 21 - July 22

Listen to your heart once in a while and do something that makes you happy, you deserve it.



Leo

July 23 - August 22

Work hard this month; it’s your time to make a difference in your life! Work towards the thing that you’ve always wanted to accomplish!



Virgo

August 23 - September 22

Check in on your friends and family. They may have been a little troublesome lately, but don’t worry, this month is a time for healing.



Libra

September 23 - October 22

It’s time to put yourself first. Refocus your thoughts and reflect on everything that’s been happening around you, and take note of what you wish to keep or remove from your life.



Scorpio

October 23 - November 21

Something big you’ve always looked forward to might happen this month. When the time comes, leave your worries behind and embrace the opportunity.



Sagittarius

November 22 - December 21

You may be facing an accumulation of problems that have gathered up over time. This month, take time to slowly sort through them and clear your mind.



Capricorn

December 22 - January 19

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Restlessness may hound you this month. Instead of letting it frustrate you, channel that energy into something productive.



Aquarius

January 20 - February 18

It may be time to just get away from the stress of normal life for a little bit. Remember to take breaks and enjoy the outside.



Pisces

February 19 - March 20

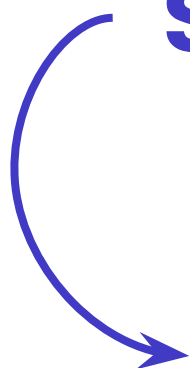
If there has been an opportunity you have been eyeing for a while now, do not hesitate and take it.

By: Victoria Lu & Grace Wang





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