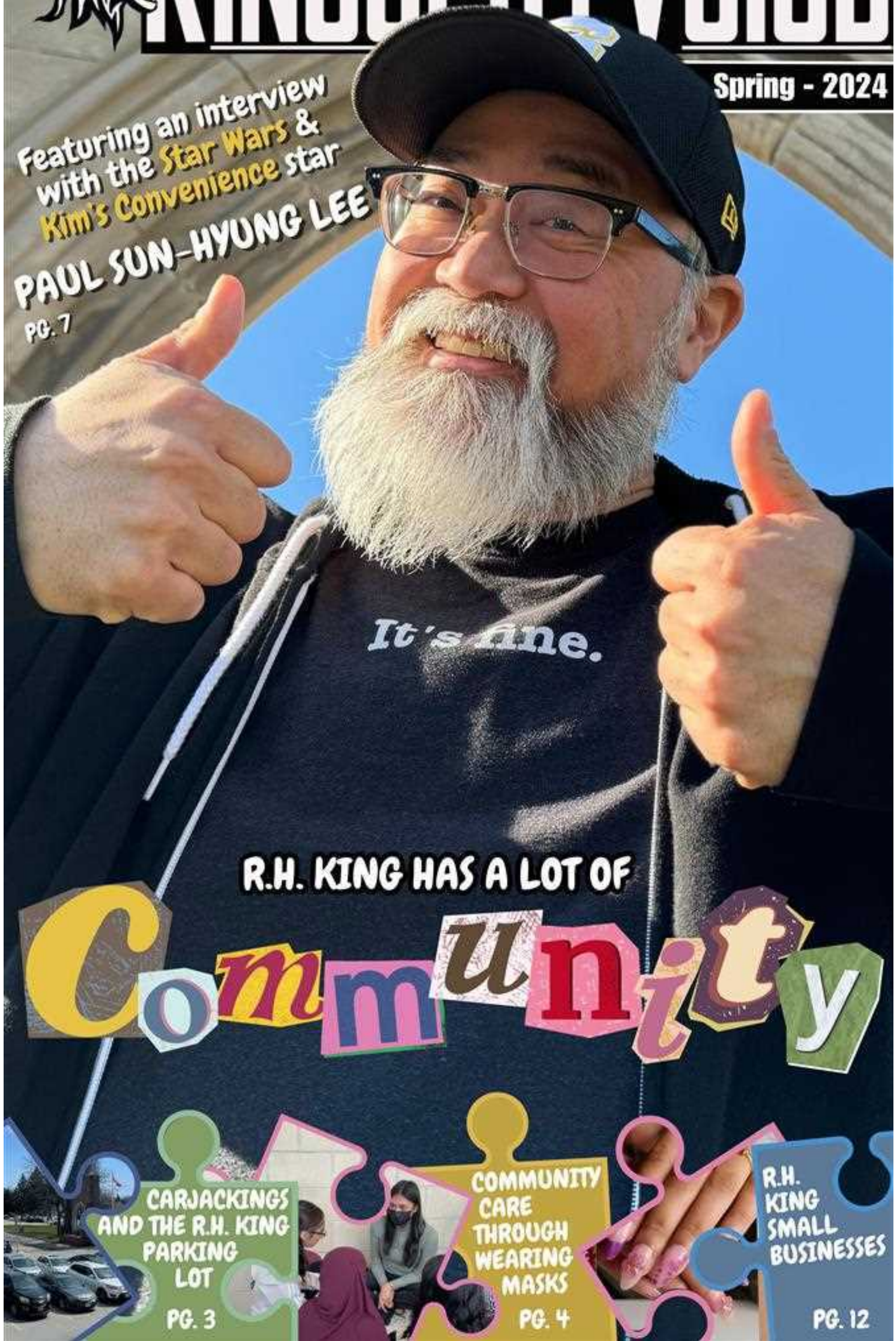




KINGSLY VOICE

Spring - 2024

Featuring an interview
with the **Star Wars** &
Kim's Convenience star
PAUL SUN-HYUNG LEE
PG. 7



R.H. KING HAS A LOT OF

Community

CARJACKINGS
AND THE R.H. KING
PARKING
LOT

PG. 3

COMMUNITY
CARE
THROUGH
WEARING
MASKS

PG. 4

R.H.
KING
SMALL
BUSINESSES

PG. 12

MASTHEAD

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Opinion: TDSB and the urge to scroll



Shweta Naik

School boards are suing social media platforms over negligence.

By Avery Farrell

The TDSB, along with three other Ontario school boards, has recently launched a lawsuit against the companies that own Facebook, Instagram and Snapchat. They allege that these companies have “negligently designed and marketed addictive products that have disrupted [their Boards’] mandate to enhance student achievement and well-being.”

This announcement comes as concern continues to rise over phone and social media usage amongst young people. However, many are unconvinced that this lawsuit is the answer. Premier Doug Ford has said publicly that he “disagrees” with the move, pointing to the fact that, since

2019, cell phones have already been banned in Ontario classrooms. While this is technically true, any King student can attest to the fact that phones are very much present in classrooms. “What are they spending on lawyer fees to go after these massive companies that have endless cash to fight this?” Ford asked. It is true that these tech giants have deep pockets, however, the TDSB did disclose that they will not have to pay any legal fees unless the lawsuit is successful. So, at the very least, this isn’t coming at the expense of taxpayers just yet.

Regardless, as schools navigate the ever-increasing presence of phones in the classroom, it is clear that something needs to be done. Studies have been showing an

international decline in student test scores for many years. The most recent results from the Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA) show a steady decline in mathematics, reading and science test scores in Canada and around the world. This decline began around 2012, right around the time cell-phone and social media use began to soar. The PISA also found links between large amounts of time spent on screens and low test scores.

Much research - like that of Jonathan Haidt, a psychologist and long-time advocate for removing phones from schools - also shows an increase in loneliness since 2012. While this is a complex issue, teens’ reliance on phones could certainly be a large factor. Many students use phones as a social crutch, opting to scroll on social media rather than engage in that awkward small talk with strangers that people hate (albeit the kind that helps form friendships). Over time, many teens will use their phones during conversations and in social settings simply out of habit. This stifles quality personal interactions as teens aren’t truly connecting with their peers when they’re distracted by their phones.

Simply put, phones in schools, and in general, are bad for teenagers. But, there are only so many defences schools have against phone use in classrooms. Really, schools are relying on students and parents to manage themselves. So far, that hasn’t been sufficient.

What schools ultimately need is a paradigm shift: a

zero-tolerance policy towards phone use during class. This will take time and, most importantly, consistency. But when students know they aren’t allowed to use their phones, when schools create a clear expectation, students will be less likely to pull out their phones every time they get the impulse. Yes, people will make a fuss and it won’t be perfect but this could result in a vast improvement in students’ success, focus and social well-being. This is, after all, what the TDSB claims to seek with their lawsuit.

The Ontario government recently announced new regulations in schools that will hopefully make this paradigm shift a reality. They are reinforcing the 2019 phone ban in classes with more explicit guidelines and consequences for students (for example, being sent to the office or having their phones taken away). Starting in September, all social media will also be blocked on the school Wi-Fi and devices - something that’s long overdue. Teachers are also going to be required to receive training to help manage this issue and report cards will start to include comments on students’ distraction levels. While it is unclear whether or not these new regulations will be successful, they certainly seem more promising than the TDSB lawsuit.

Before the TDSB starts pointing fingers, it needs to take some real action in its schools to combat this issue. Students need to be able to put their phones down and get back to what school is meant for: learning.

A note from the editors of KVC!

Hey, King!

Thanks for picking up and reading this newspaper, despite it possibly being handed to you against your will. We are so excited for you to be reading the Spring Issue of the *Kingsley Voice*.

This is the last issue of the newspaper for the 2023/2024 school year and it is very close to our heart as we are both graduating. In it, we wanted to highlight what made R.H. King Academy special to us: its community.

We started high school in 2020, during the peak of the COVID-19 pandemic, which didn’t make for a totally normal high school experience. Fortunately, there was one constant factor that kept us sane, and that was R.H. King’s community. Even when stuck online, we managed to find belonging and connection as well as foster relationships that last to this day. Without them, we would not be here and writing this so we would like to express our gratitude to just a few of the people who made this possible.

First and foremost is our advisor Mr. Wilkinson. Without him, we would not be the people we are today. Ever since grade nine he has guided us through our journeys. He taught us many valuable life lessons on top of supporting us during the creation of this paper and any other endeavor that we attempt. He always pushed us to be our very best, and for that we are immensely grateful.

We want to give a big thank you to every contributor, section editor, managing editor and executive editor, along with the layout team on KVC for dedicating their craft and time to this council and for being the foundation for the paper itself. They worked extremely hard to help us create this paper, and it would not have been possible without them! Many hours were spent perfecting this paper and we truly cannot thank them enough for their hard work. We hope that the collective passion for journalism continues to flourish within the council members for years to come.

Although not working directly with us on the print paper, we would also like to acknowledge and thank our fellow Editors-in-Chief, Avery Farrell and Diana Balko, for supporting us throughout this process. While we were working on the print paper, they were heading the website, which you can find at kingsleyvoice.com. As a united team we worked together to foster the same love and dedication to KVC.

We also want to thank Paul Sun-Hyung Lee for taking time out of his busy schedule to support our paper, as well as the many others who were featured in this issue!

Last, but not least, thank you to whoever is reading this. Enjoy!


Isabella Cadotte & Kerasia Kosich



Isabella Cadotte (left) and Kerasia Kosich (right).

Finding community in R.H. King athletics



King Athletic Council
Arm-in-arm, King students have been using athletics to not only excel in sports by building leadership and team skills but also as a way to make life-long friends and memories to forever cherish.

By Hirushi Madanayake

The R.H. King athletic community continually provides a sense of pride and glory as well as a safe haven for students to succeed at the school.

The friendships and bonds made over the 4 years spent in school sport has provided

these student-athletes with a community found nowhere else.

“Being able to come together with a bunch of girls and play a sport we have never played before brought us together in a way we didn’t see as possible,” Grade 12 student, Natalia Mangos says. “It’s fun

to learn together, fail together and succeed as we won this year’s gold at Regionals!” The Girls’ Field Hockey team had brought an unlikely group of girls together to play a sport they had never played before and it left them with a gold medal and new friendships.

Not only do sports bond

students together but also teachers and students alike.

Ms. Moh, the coach for the Girls’ Curling Team, mentioned how sports bonded her with her team of athletes.

“Coaching has brought me a unique experience of being able to enjoy seeing my athletes grow. Especially after taking them to OFSAA, we definitely bonded more and felt closer together as a team,” Moh says.

Sports can unite a school in many ways beyond playing. Home game crowds and friends come together to cheer on the Lions. That kind of support can fuel a team towards victory. There are also announcements congratulating the athletes and classmates applauding. A success for one becomes a success for all.

These small examples of daily occurrences help to show how sports at King is a uniting force in the community. It provides students with an outlet from all the outer stress of academic achievements and a chance to reach glory or success using a different kind a ruler. Additionally, sports

bring students who may have never met or been friends, together bonding over a common interest.



“It’s fun to learn together, fail together and succeed.”
- Natalia Mangos

Looking back at this school year, several sporting events made a strong impression on the school, not only boosting student pride in the name of R.H. King Academy but creating a safe space for all to be appreciated. With teams making OFSAA, and several City titles, King without a doubt finds patriotic sentiment for the school through sport. All in all proving how vital sport is for the school community to grow and succeed bonding students, athletes and coaches alike. Keep supporting King teams and coaches!



King Athletic Council
During the George Floyd protests in 2020, many athletes showed their support by taking a knee during the national anthem.

Many sports still using their platforms to talk about social justice issues

By Swadana Devadas

Social justice movements have increasingly influenced the world of major league sports including the fans, the players, and the owners. It’s opened a larger dialogue that has been as divisive as it has been thought provoking. Whether it was Colin Kaepernick taking a knee, calls for teams to change their names or everything in between, these actions have manifested in both visible and policy driven-changes being made. Major groups like the NBA, WNBA, NFL, and NHL have been reevaluating their roles and responsibilities in promoting inclusivity, equality, and awareness of pressing societal issues. However, the journey has been far from straightforward, marked by moments of progress and at the same time, controversy.

The NBA has been at the forefront of social justice initiatives, with players and teams using their platforms to address racial inequality, police

brutality, and other critical issues. The league’s decision to allow players to wear jerseys with social justice messages in the wake of the George Floyd protests stands as an example of its commitment to activism and the fight against systemic racism.

While these actions are recent, it is important to note that protests and activism in the NBA did not just start in 2020. One pivotal moment occurred in 2014 when Miami Heat players, including LeBron James and Dwayne Wade, voiced their solidarity with Trayvon Martin, a Florida teen who was wrongly killed by a neighborhood watch volunteer. The following years saw more movements such as when the LA Clippers wore “I Can’t Breathe” shirts in solidarity with Eric Garner, who died after being placed in a choke-

hold by police.

In the WNBA, players have been equally vocal in their advocacy efforts with teams like the Minnesota Lynx making powerful statements against racial injustice. The league has seen players sit out entire seasons to focus on activism and social justice.

Social justice issues are also present in sports litigation, notably Brian Flores’s lawsuit alleging rampant discrimination in NFL hiring. Furthermore, back in 2021, the NFL allowed players to display messages of support on their helmets; they had slogans such as “End Racism” and “It Takes All of Us.” The NFL had its very own social justice movement, the Inspire Change initiative. The recipients of the 2023 Changemaker awards, as well as the new social justice grant partners for the year 2024 were introduced.

Conversely, the NHL’s recent decision in October 2023 regarding the use of Pride Tape and themed warm up jerseys have ignited a similar debate within the hockey community. The league’s memo banning players from using rainbow-coloured Pride Tape had drawn criticism from advocates and as they argued that such actions represent a step backward in NHL’s commitment to inclusivity and diversity. Later that month, they rescinded the ban and agreed to give players the option to represent social causes.

The commitment of major league sports, specifically athletes, teams, and organizations plays a pivotal role in making impactful social change. As these efforts persist and evolve, it is evident that sports will remain at the forefront of the ongoing fight for justice and equality, leaving a lasting mark on the sports world and its fans.



“Sports will remain at the forefront of the ongoing fight for justice and equality.”

Embracing excellence in the 2024 Olympic year

By Hirushi Madanayake

This July, the Summer Olympics will be held in Paris, France but along with staple events there will be several new ones added including breaking, sport climbing, skateboarding, and surfing.

The layout for the stadiums will be centered around iconic landmarks, including the Eiffel Tower. This event will be drawing in large amounts of income for the country due to the tourist numbers booming with sports fans coming to watch the various sporting events.

Looking towards the athletes of Canada, the question of how many medals will be brought home looms. In the pool, Canadians will be keeping an eye on young swimmer Summer McIntosh. While many may see her age and assume this is her first Olympics, it is not the case. McIntosh made her debut in the Olympics at only 14 years old in 2021, coming in fourth overall just off the podium in multiple events. Now 17, the young swimmer has her eyes set on gold, not just in one, but several events as McIntosh holds the world record for the 400 individual medley. She will likely hope to

defend her World Champion title in Paris.

On the courts, Canadians can watch Leylah Fernandez. At only 21 she played a huge role in Canada’s win for the Billie Jean King Cup in 2023. She also won the Hong Kong Open in October of last year. Fernandez will likely have her sights set high as she competes this summer in Paris.

In other areas, the Canadian women will look to defend their gold medal title on the soccer field in Paris. The women of Canada will be facing France, Colombia, and New Zealand on the pitch. Canada has successfully reached the knockout stage in all four of their previous appearances at the Olympic Games, securing two bronze medals in 2012 and 2016, and a gold medal in 2020. Canada is the only country to reach the podium three consecutive times at the Women’s Olympic Football tournament in the last decade. An impressive feat in which they only hope to grow. No doubt fans around the country will be glued to their TVs and devices during these important matches.

The Olympics are an amazing opportunity to showcase not only athletic ability but to demonstrate national pride.



Paris Olympics 2024
Many of the events will be held right next to famous landmarks.

Community caring through masking



Natalie Caporusso

COVID-conscious students share their experiences as many precautions diminish around them.

By Leo Chan

Catching COVID-19 seems like no big deal to many students in 2024 and new infections are viewed as inevitable and insignificant. However, people around the world who are high-risk for more severe consequences from COVID-19 reject this framing. King students, both high- and low-risk, are a part of this movement to spread awareness and to consider the impacts of our actions. Utilizing their own experiences, they hope to encourage others to do the same.

“People and schools are acting like COVID is over, which it will never be, and have stopped most precautions, making it dangerous for anyone that is immunocompro-

mised or [more] susceptible,” said Kaycee Wigmore, a chronically ill King student. As of the latest report by Statistics Canada, the third-highest cause of death in Canada is COVID-19. High-risk students have mentioned that they are hyper-aware of the fact that an infection can turn into something more serious for them, including students like Mack Bertram. “As a high risk student, I am constantly aware that me getting a small infection could lead to me dying.”

Aside from the deadly potential of COVID-19, negative short-term and long-term consequences exist for everyone, regardless of risk levels. Every new COVID-19 infection can become what is being called

“Long COVID,” a chronic condition where symptoms extend long after the initial infection. COVID-19 can also exacerbate existing respiratory issues or illnesses.

Bertram has “slight scarring” on his lungs due to catching COVID-19 while being immunocompromised and having asthma. “Because of this, I now have more doctor appointments which puts me in an environment where COVID is prominent. The scarring on my lungs has made a huge difference in my day to day life... I’ve had to completely change my lifestyle and hobbies,” Bertram says.

The spread of COVID-19 can also have mental and social consequences. Bertram, who suffers from depression

and anxiety, said that needing to isolate from everyone while having COVID-19 put him “in a downward spiral that was hard to climb out of.”

Bertram also experienced a large shift in social circles during lockdown due to the COVID-19 pandemic. “I wasn’t allowed to go out and socialize with my friends because they didn’t believe it was a big problem. This caused me to lose life-long friends over wearing a mask and social distancing.”

Students, and youth in general, often do not have the option to isolate even when they want to. “I still try to avoid large or crowded events, especially ones that are indoors, but largely that decision is not up to me,” Wigmore says. “My parents often force me to go to events or places I would definitely not go to myself as a result of COVID. For example, airplanes.”

Students are encouraged, but not required to, try to stay home when sick. Many King students have noted that masking by both their peers and staff in school has decreased significantly after mask mandates were dropped.

Wigmore expresses frustration at this. “School has become almost dangerous as people are expected to show up regardless of if they are sick or not and, without a mask mandate, no one wears one anymore. My mask does not protect me, it protects the people around me, and without them wearing a mask, I have very little protection from the virus.”

Dean Milligan and Molly Frolick, two low-risk students,

both stopped masking after mandates were dropped and started masking again around mid-to-late 2023. Their decisions were influenced by social pressure, access to information, the health of their families, and most importantly, awareness of high-risk people in their communities. Neither mask all the time in public for different reasons.

“I try to be thoughtful about when I choose not to [mask],” Frolick says.

Milligan and Frolick both expect to continue masking indefinitely for the safety of themselves and their communities. Expanding on their experiences with COVID-19 and high-risk people, and noting that masking can also protect their communities from other illnesses, they have developed a personal value that is important to them; preventing the spread of disease to their communities is an act of care.

“Masking is community care! If you care for your community, make the switch back to masking if you’re able. You don’t always know who in your life might be high-risk,” Milligan says.

N95 and KN95 masks provide the best protection from airborne viruses such as COVID-19. Please be aware that many of the COVID-19 masks distributed by the Ontario government during lockdown expired in February 2024. Organizations such as Mask Bloc Toronto (@maskbloctoronto on Instagram) and DonateAMask (donateamask.ca) distribute high-quality masks and up-to-date COVID-19 tests for free.

Carjackings and the R.H. King parking lot



Natalie Caporusso

School parking lots can be a common cooling off spot for car thefts, such as R.H. King Academy.

By Riya Mahendrarajah

Following the pandemic, Toronto has seen an uptake in car thefts and carjacking. Carjacking is essentially the same as car theft, except it takes place in the presence of the car’s owner. According to Toronto

Police Service’s Public Safety Data Portal, there were over 12000 auto thefts in 2023, which is about 24% higher compared to 2022.

Cars are most often stolen to be resold, whether it be the entire car or just its parts. Before stolen cars are sold,

thieves “clone” the car: they copy the identity number of a legally owned vehicle and apply it to a stolen vehicle. That way, when the stolen car is sold, it seems legitimate since it does not have the identification number of a suspected stolen vehicle. Stolen vehi-

cles are also used as an accessory in other crimes, such as robberies to help them flee the scene of the crime.

Another way thieves try to reduce their likelihood of getting caught is by including “cooling off” locations in their theft map. Cooling off locations are often random parking lots that thieves park stolen vehicles in given that the vehicle may be tracked. They select random parking lots to decrease chances of pursuers finding the “headquarters” of their operation.

Though these locations are considered to be random, sometimes they end up being well known areas. For example, the R.H. King Academy parking lot. In February, CBC released a broadcast in which they reported that after a vehicle was stolen, parked near King as a cooling off location, and then taken to Mississauga.

The administration of R. H. King, including the principal, Catherine Chang, were unaware of this incident until it aired on the CBC (which didn’t outright name the school, though it did show it in the footage). “It was also shocking to see the familiar images of

our school in the report. Our number one priority here at R.H. King is the safety of our students and staff.”

While there is no official solution proposed to combat this issue, there have been some measures placed to prevent it. “Staff and students are required to provide their vehicle and contact information to the main office at the start of the academic year if they plan to park on site. No private cars are to be parked overnight and any vehicle left overnight must be registered with the permit office and is accounted for,” Chang says. Staff and students are also being asked to report any unfamiliar vehicles to the main office.

To reduce the risk of auto theft, vehicle owners should park in a garage, lock their vehicle, keep keys in hard to access places, and use a steering wheel lock. When purchasing a used vehicle, ensure that no vehicle cloning has occurred by running the vehicle identification number through the Insurance Bureau of Canada or the Canadian Police Information Centre, and to be wary of any suspicious online listings.



Encampment evictions in Toronto



The City of Toronto has invested more resources into encampment evictions at the behest of some housed community members.

By Najiha Rahman

Over the past few months, many people living in homeless encampments in areas like Kensington Market and Clarence Square Park have been evicted by the City of Toronto. These evictions are often driven by community letters by housed people, like the group of residents from Clarence Square Park penned in February, sent to the government requesting to take action. These evictions were executed hastily and have stirred frustration among activists, homeless individuals, and citizens alike. According to Ombudsman Kwame Addo in an 87 page report regarding encampments, the city is choosing “speed over people.”

These encampments are small areas where multiple homeless people live, typically on public property, with minimal shelter, such as cheap tents. These areas have no electricity or running water. According to data from the

National Survey on Homeless Encampments conducted in 2022, up to 23% of homeless people reside in encampments.

Fear of unhoused people fuels the misconceptions that encampments deteriorate the city’s atmosphere and make housed people unsafe, justifying the displacement of unhoused people from encampments. However, it is crucial to consider with an empathetic perspective the negative impacts for the unhoused community. Encampments serve as a home to many and allow unhoused people to maintain support systems they may not be able to have in a shelter. Shelters can separate people from family, friends, pets, or support animals, sometimes lack mental health services, and have frequent cases of assault and theft.

One of the many criticisms Torontonians have about encampment clearings is the prioritization of efficiency over people. These concerns

have been voiced since the summer of 2021 by Toronto Ombudsman Kwame Addo. During many of these encampment evictions, the police work with such urgency and aggression that is unnecessary and cruel to the people evicted. Specifically, during these clearings, tents are destroyed and many leave with only the belongings that they can carry.

Many homeless people are not able to find a spot in homeless shelters in the first place. Oftentimes, people who are evicted from their encampments and for whom shelters are not an option simply move back after authorities leave the cleared area, demonstrating the ineffectiveness of encampment evictions. Instead of rushing to clear encampments, there is a need for the city to invest in housing and services for the homeless population. These encampments emerged as makeshift solutions to substitute the lack of public services. This is a visual display of the government’s failure

with housing and services and factors into the haste they take in clearing these encampments, as these homes serve as a constant reminder to citizens of the government’s incompetence. When housed residents of areas with encampments turn their blame on homeless people—victims of the government’s inadequacy—they fail to hold the root of the problem accountable.

According to the City of Toronto, almost 11000 people were actively homeless in the past few months and that number has only been growing. Instead of simply clearing encampments, efforts should be directed toward improving shelters and addressing the underlying issues that contribute to homelessness, such as the housing crisis and inequality. It is imperative for the municipal government to reflect on the systemic barriers faced by homeless individuals and invest in comprehensive solutions to provide the support and dignity they deserve.

Upcoming Pride events

By Leo Chan

King’s Pride Week



Rachael Hodgson

R.H. King’s very own Gender and Sexuality Alliance will hold their Pride Week from June 3 to June 7. Activities in the years past have included distributing Pride-related buttons, a community chalk mural all students can contribute to, a bake sale, a lemonade stand, and much more. This year, they are planning on having a button table as well as a food giveaway in collaboration with the King Food and Nutrition Council. Follow @king_gsa_ on Instagram for updates on this year’s Pride Week!

Toronto’s Pride Weekend



Alisha Hanif

Earlier this year, Pride Toronto announced that their Pride Weekend would take place from June 28 to June 30. The theme this year is “Be ___.” Of course, the Pride Parade is the most popular main event, but Pride attendees can also look forward to the Trans March, the Dyke March, Blockorama, and much more! Check out @pridetoronto on Instagram for more information!

Abolitionist Pride



Vee Michela

Abolitionist Pride is organized by the No Pride in Policing Coalition, bringing together 2SLGBTQ+ activist groups in solidarity with other social justice movements. It will take place on June 25th in Grange Park from 1pm to 3 pm. In the past two years, Abolitionist Pride has included a march around historic sites of 2SLGBTQ+ oppression and resistance, a community picnic, and online teach-ins. For updates about this year’s activities, visit @noprideinpolice on Instagram!



King Gender & Sexuality Alliance

Libraries open doors to learning



Tanisha Chowdhury

Libraries, including King’s own, are hubs for more than just books.

By Swadana Devadas

In the age of social media and online information, the importance of libraries and their physicality could appear to be diminishing. However, their function remains as vital as ever, serving as sources of both archival and current

knowledge, as well as a key hub of community engagement. Libraries, whether they be our own R.H. King Library or one of the many public outlets, ultimately foster learning, literacy, and cultural enrichment.

Libraries offer free access to a wealth of resources in-

cluding books, journals, newspapers, and digital databases. This ensures that everyone, regardless of socioeconomic background, has the opportunity to be aware of the world around them and pursue both knowledge and educational opportunities. Furthermore, public libraries provide everything from things like story time sessions for children to adult education classes and thus play a crucial role in promoting literacy and lifelong learning. Libraries, including King’s, emphasize community as it is a place where people gather for various activities, including book clubs, lectures, art exhibitions, and cultural events.

Though King’s library has much to offer, there is one essential tool that can significantly enhance students’ learning experiences outside of school; a Toronto Public Library card. With this card, individuals can access many other kinds of resource for free including newspapers, movies,

music, and digital content in over 40 different languages.

For such crucial systems, there is startlingly little protection around public libraries. The cyberattack that occurred during the last week of October on the Toronto Public Library’s website underscores the vulnerability of public institutions to digital threats and revealed disruptions they can cause. Critical functions such as user accounts, the library catalog, and search functions were rendered inaccessible until partially restored months later.

Despite the challenges libraries face, they continue to adapt and serve their communities to the best of their abilities. By supporting libraries and recognizing their enduring value, society can access information freely and ensure that they remain a vibrant and indispensable institution. King’s own library has been working hard to serve our community by providing an open and safe environment to learn in.

The summers of King teachers

By Nikita Hardial



Kelvin Jermyn

Mr. Jermyn: Last summer I travelled to Japan. I got to spend eight days travelling around the country. I spent four days in Tokyo and four days in Tokyo Disney. It was an amazing experience, you should try to travel more!

Ms. Rungee: Normally, I try to check out local spots in Ontario and sometimes go all around Canada during summer.



Nareesa Alli

Ms. Alli: This summer I'm hopefully going to go on vacation. I'm also going to plan my wedding and hang out with Ms. Ratnasabapathy.

Ms. Ratnasabapathy: I hope to spend a lot of time outdoors, enjoying the weather, going to the beach and hanging out with Ms. Alli!



Jordyn Booth

Ms. Booth: During the summer, I like to go to my cottage, sleep in, read and spend time with my friends. I also like to go outside and be active, whether it's going on runs or playing in a beach volleyball league.

Mr. Mathew: This summer I'll be spending time with my family, enjoying myself, having more fun, and exploring!

The smallest communities at King Thoughts and struggles from less represented groups



Tanisha Chowdhury

King's smaller groups can often get lost in the mix during the many cultural events at the academy.

By Julia Nichol

R.H. King Academy is a multicultural school that provides students with many opportunities to connect with one's own culture and become knowledgeable of other cultures.

There are various student alliances and clubs dedicated to strengthening the plethora of communities in the school, such as the Black Student Alliance, the Tamil Student Association, and the King Bengali Culture Society. However, beyond these well-established communities at King, there lie smaller, yet equally significant groups that contribute to the cultural diversity of the school.

"While I have joined groups such as the Black Student Association, I often feel

like I'm a minority within the group," shares Lein Rami Elshaikh Elnaw, a grade 11 Sudanese student at King. Elnaw often finds it difficult to connect with others on a cultural level. Despite this, she always tries her best to share her culture with others where possible.

Ruqia Heydari, a grade 11 student of Afghan descent, also tries her best to share her culture at the academy. "I like to connect with culture by talking to others about my culture, my country, my life experiences related to culture, and hear about similarities and differences between my culture and others," she says, though she makes an effort to connect with people from a similar background as well.

"I speak to a lot of people

of the same cultural background, eat my cultural food on a regular basis, and participate in cultural events," comments Heydari.

Similarly, Jen Khine, a Burmese student, connects with her culture through friends and family at King. "I connect by talking with my cousin and bringing my cultural food to school and sharing it with my friends," she explains.

To celebrate the cultural richness of King, many cultural events are held where people from different cultures have the opportunity to represent the uniqueness of their culture. For instance, Multi-Night, hosted annually by King International Council, is a talent show that aims to showcase different cultures at

King. Since there is a smaller population of certain communities at King, some may lack representation at the event.

"I haven't seen any of my cultural dances at events like Multi-Night because of the minority population of my community," Khine comments.

Despite the difficulties smaller communities may have in finding representation at King, Cultural Day is a shining opportunity for everyone to showcase their culture, regardless of the size of their community's population at King. Cultural day, another event hosted by King's International Council, encourages students to dress up in cultural wear. Students are given the opportunity to show off their outfits on stage. "I believe Cultural Day is a very inclusive event where I can share pieces of my culture with others," Heydari says.

While it can be difficult for students from smaller ethnic backgrounds to receive the representation they deserve, students continue to devise ways to improve their circumstances. "I try to include my ethnicity into events hosted by cultural associations and I'm an active advocate for my country and my people," states Elnaw.

"You can teach your friends about your culture and even bring them to cultural events," suggests Khine. These approaches work towards providing a place where all voices and cultures can be represented.

Local restaurants near the academy

By Vidhi Jagesha

The sense of community at R.H. King Academy extends beyond its walls into the nearby streets where the local restaurants thrive. Big Boys Burgers, Double Double, #1 Jerk and Dairy Queen—just to name a few, are hotspots for King students where they connect with friends and create memories over meals.

Tim Kaussiouris, the owner of Big Boys Burgers, has been serving the King community for almost 20 years now. Renowned by students for its signature poutine, Big Boys has been a go-to spot for students at King since 2005.

While Kaussiouris started his business with a desire to be his own boss, he acknowledges how it's the community that truly keeps him going. "The school, the students' pleasantness—it's my favourite part about this community," he says.

However, running a restaurant for almost 20 years hasn't been without its challenges. "There's been a lot of changes over the years with new com-

petition opening up," Kaussiouris says. "Services like Uber Eats have also flooded the market a bit with more burger options so that's another challenge." Nevertheless, he remains committed to providing a welcoming space for the King community.

This work does not go unnoticed by students. "The local restaurants hold a special place in our school community because generations of King students including alumni, share memories here so it's something that connects us all even across different years," says Onuvhob Taher, a grade 11 King student who frequents the local restaurants.

Another grade 11 King student, Abirami Suthan, shares her perspective on the impact of these restaurants on the community. "I have made so many good memories in the past three years spending lunch at these places with my friends. I especially like how many small businesses around King cater towards the students, from the cheaper prices and deals offered like student specials," Suthan says.

Michelle and Arden, workers at the popular Dairy Queen neighbouring King, also witness the impact of the restaurants nearby on the community. "This location has been here for a very long time, so we get a lot of customers that used to work here themselves. It's also been a go-to spot for King students throughout the years," Michelle says. Both have seen enough lunch and afterschool rushes to see that this spot is a favourite of students at King.

"It's nice to see how this

gets to be a place for students to gather and make memories," Arden says.

Other nearby restaurants like Gus Tacos, #1 Jerk, Vindaloo, Super Choy, and Blessinglicious offer diverse cuisines, promoting community diversity. All of these restaurants have become integral parts of the King community, serving more than just food. These eateries also support local events, such as King's Backyards Arts Festival, showing their community involvement.



Nikita Hardial

Restaurants near King help to reinforce our community identity.



R.H. King Academy's unique aspects



Mentor, one of King's many unique aspects, aims to bring students together and strengthen relationships.

By Nikita Hardial

This past March, students of R.H. King Academy participated in a survey intended to gauge the effectiveness of the high school's unique aspects such as Clinic, Mentor and November break. While criticism regarding the school's unique features is received occasionally, there is no doubt that many of the features have become indispensable to students.

The first major difference that sets King apart from other Toronto high schools is its November break. Students at King resume school in August, a week earlier than TDSB high schools usually do. This extra week then contributes to a week-long break in November.

"I find the November break very useful: it gives us a

chance to relax from an overwhelming semester and it also allows us to catch up with work," comments Laiba Hossain, a grade 11 student at King. Many King students do not mind that they lose a week of their summer break since they get to have this useful break in return.

The November break occurs right around midterms, just when work begins to pile up for students. "I think [the November break] could be better described as a reading week rather than a true break," says Gwyneth Hsu, another grade 11 student at King. "Regardless, it allows me to catch up and get ahead in time for exam season."

While students may not be able to use the entire break to truly relax, they can ease their workload, feeling less stressed

during the weeks following the break.

King's Clinic period is arguably the high school's most well-known unique aspect. While most other TDSB schools have four 75-minute-long periods, King has four 65-minute-long periods and starts classes 10 minutes earlier. The 50 minutes accumulated from this slight schedule tweak contributes to Clinic, which occurs right after students' first class of the day.

The formal objective of Clinic is to provide a time when students can catch up on schoolwork from any class. The importance of Clinic extends beyond its simple definition, however, considering the many retake tests, co-curricular initiatives and guidance appointments that are scheduled during Clinic. In

many ways, more than just students have grown dependent on Clinic. King, as everyone currently knows it, would be very different sans these simple 50 minutes.

"I find Clinic helpful because it's extra time for students. They can work on their assignments or study for any upcoming tests or quizzes," says Tahmin Rahman, a grade 9 student at King.

Students in grades 11 and 12 often use Clinic to stay on top of their heavy coursework. With several university-level courses plus difficult exams at the end of each semester, 50 minutes a day can make a big difference to those in senior grades. Although those with heavier workloads are much more dependent on Clinic, it still provides notable benefits for all students, no matter the weight of their workloads.

"During Clinic, I typically work on an assignment or finish any homework I didn't do. If I have no other schoolwork I need to complete, then I usually read a book or talk to my friends," Rahman says.

Many students take advantage of the school's library during Clinic to study, complete digital assignments, collaborate and much more.

"The library during Clinic is actually heavily utilized and sought after by students," says King's librarian, Brian Wilkinson. In fact, the library is so sought after that each student is limited to one visit per week with all available spaces quickly snatched up. Every period, Clinic or not, Wilkinson still regularly sees a full library between students on spare, class visits, and those who have been given permission by teachers to come to the space.

Mentor is another unique aspect of King. Each King

student is a part of a mentor class, a set of individuals who will attend the class together each year until graduation. Once or twice a month, the students meet with their Mentor class during Wednesday's Clinic period.

Many argue that Mentor, being so irregular, has not been as useful for students as King's other unique features. That being said, while Mentor does occur infrequently, it acts as a starting point for grade 9 students to get to know their peers. Furthermore, it can enhance the friendships that already exist between students.

"[Mentor] has helped further develop friendships I already had," Hsu says.

Besides bringing students together, Mentor tries to touch on important topics that may not be covered in the high school's courses' usual curriculums. Wilkinson is also in charge of Mentor this year. He considers students' interests when he works with staff to plan each session. Students frequently participate in activities related to mental health, physical health and the environment.

Mentor, Wilkinson believes, can have an important and vital role at King, but it needs some work to make sure it's staying relevant and helpful. "Mentor will give back as much as the students put into it," Wilkinson says. "It needs to be loved in order for it to succeed."

King's current schedule has been approved for next year, leaving the academy's community feeling content when thinking about the year to come. Most students agree that King's unique features should be held onto; the various differences serve and support the student community extremely well.

The student leaders behind King's councils



Council executives strive to create a sense of community at King.

By Nabihah Tahseen

R.H. King Academy is home to a very diverse set of councils, each of which has the common goal of serving the school community. These groups are also student-run and student-led, helping participants gain leadership skills as

well as a sense of togetherness.

Being part of a council helps students learn various valuable life skills. Maryam Rehman, a grade 12 student, is an executive member of the King Wellness Council as well as the King Yearbook Council.

"It's definitely a transform-

ative experience! I think you change a lot as a person after having to take on a leadership role, especially in how you communicate with others," she says. "I've come to respect everyone's time and work, and understand how to be clear about what you want from people."

Leading a meeting and talking in front of some 30 kids would have terrified her a few years ago but now it has become somewhat second nature for her. "Also just improving on organizational skills in general," adds Rehman, listing the new things she has learned. "I have loved spreadsheets since becoming a co-chair and outlines and schedules are so good to make a habit of!"

Executive members also have the opportunity to make King the school they want it to be. "I hope to create a sense of community in our school and within the council by allowing student voices to be heard," says Aneeka Mukunthan, a

grade 11 executive of the King Food and Nutrition Council. "This can look like taking in ideas from your council members, and even students outside of our council and then asking for suggestions and things to change for the next year. This allows council members and students to be involved in activities at school and be able to voice their opinions and concerns."

In addition, these co-curriculars actively serve the school community. Mithursha Arulmohan, a grade 12 co-chair of King's Court Representatives, makes sure that King's events are running smoothly behind the scenes.

"Working with a large group, I have learned the importance of working with a team. What comes with that is the responsibility of making sure everyone is accounted for and has a role during the events we host for the school. During events, we encounter some challenges but we work to resolve them efficiently and

reflect on these challenges for the future," shares Arulmohan. "The skills I gained from the role as KCR co-chair came from the experience of meeting with members and through experience running events."

Student leaders are also constantly working towards improving the dynamics within their councils. "I hope to promote inclusion in all settings by breaking down barriers affecting minority groups," Arulmohan says. "Having faced barriers growing up, I often felt left out and discouraged from opportunities. With the variety of clubs, councils and events at our school, I hope no student at King feels that way and they feel confident that they can pursue any of their personal goals."

While this role is time-consuming and requires hard work, it is not unattainable. If one wants to move up in a council, Rehman advises, "Take initiative! Speak up in meetings, contribute your ideas and volunteer!"



Korean-Canadian actor Paul Sun-Hyung Lee, who is best known as Appa in *Kim's Convenience* and Carson Teva in *Star Wars*, talks about the importance of community.

By Isabella Cadotte

You might be surprised to know that we have a celebrity walking the halls of our school after hours. None other than Korean-Canadian actor Paul Sun-Hyung Lee visits at least once a week for his son's baseball practice.

Lee is best known as Appa in *Kim's Convenience*, Carson Teva in *Star Wars* television shows such as *The Mandalorian*, *The Book of Boba Fett* and *Ahsoka*, and Uncle Iroh in the live-action adaptation of *Avatar: The Last Airbender*.

In the halls of King, Lee is always kind enough to stop and say 'hi' when someone excitedly spots him as it ties into his love of building a community. "I do believe that as humans, we are intrinsically kind and we want to help," he says, adding that the point of community is to focus that energy. "It creates a willingness and a desire to overcome obstacles and to help others out."

Lee's importance in our school is not just limited to the grassroots level. He is an easy target for the sheer complexity of life. "You figure out what you're going to do, what you can do, how you can possibly do it, and then you have to achieve it." Lee says that his motivation is to do the most of what he's got that he can, and then change it.



A large part of Lee's personal community is his online space, where he is constantly active on Instagram, (@angryappa) and YouTube

(@Bitterasiandude). His pages contain a mix of family, work and "geeky" content. Before he became a part of the Fioniverse, the fan name for the modern *Star Wars* story arcs named after Lucasfilm Chief Creative Officer Dave Filoni, Lee was a long time fan. "I've been a fan since I was five years old, so [...] just to be in it is the stuff that dreams are made of."

The positive response to his character, Captain Carson Teva, has astounded him. "I feel like Cinderella at the ball. You know, I get to show up and do all these things and it means a lot because I'm a fan myself, to hear that other fans enjoy my work."

Having grown up watching it, Lee says that *Star Wars* and TV in general played a big role in his childhood, and it was even how he learned to speak English. "Growing up, I didn't even know I could be an actor because I never saw people who look like me. Successful actors at least." Lee says that

it means a lot to see yourself seen on the screens. "He adds that the family has not been 'exoticized or fetishized or just straight up made fun of' and that it is important "to

have a family portrayed in such a normal manner and not hyper idealised either."

Asian cultures are traditionally discriminated against in ways that are hard to notice. Lee mentions the model minority myth, which is the idea that certain minorities, specifically Asians, were smart, high achieving and well-adjusted. This was born during the Civil Rights Movement as a cudgel against those protesting unfair treatment and systematic racism, but the stereotype still lasts to this day.

The problem with this, Lee says, is that it "pits communities against other communities." *Kim's Convenience* was powerful because "when you portray a family in that way, and you show that they have the same fears, the same wants, the same issues that everybody else does, it really does open up a lot of eyes."

For example, Lee says that "people start to reconsider their views on the dude at the corner store" and are now "looking at them as human beings, as people who have wants and needs."

In 2023, Lee won the Governor General's Performing Arts Award for his work on *Kim's Convenience*. The award recognizes cultural significance and Lee says that *Kim's Convenience* was "just portraying an Asian family as being real, and that was groundbreaking. Yes, it was a sitcom and certain situations were exaggerated a bit, but at the same time we weren't hyper idealised, either. We had our faults. We squabbled, we fought and we loved."

Lee points out that although this concept has been done before, it has never been done with an Asian family. He says this is important for communities because when "more people see it on the screens

then when they see it in real life it doesn't seem as foreign." He says that this portrayal will

be fostered by the sense of community that is created. "It's not just about the 'us' versus 'them' thing. It's about how we can all get together and be as good as well. You have people not only in front of the camera, but behind."

Due to this, Lee prioritises participating in various communities and spreading positivity and kindness. One of these groups is the 501st Legion Canadian Garrison (@501cdngarrison), a group of *Star Wars* cosplayers who raise money for charities such as Make-A-Wish Foundation and Starlight Foundation. Lee describes it as "a bunch of nerds getting together to use their geekdom for good." The Canadian Blood Services (blood.ca/en) is another organisation that Lee has advocated for. "My father was ill and we were trying to raise money for the charity," he says, adding that there is a severe blood shortage of blood in Canada, so to raise awareness about that was great. Lee also brought up MUTTS Dog Rescue (muttsdogrescue.ca), another group that he is personally connected to. "We got a rescue. He's changed our life," he says about his dog, Podrick. Lee thinks these expressions of community are especially important and that "there is

strength in numbers in terms of people wanting to help."

When joining or building a community, Lee says it's important to remember that "we all make mistakes" and that "it's an ongoing process for all of us." At the same time, Lee says that "one of the hardest things for me was to admit that I'm wrong or made a mistake. Now, I try to be truly contrite and sorry and make amends. That's what building community and respect is."

For Lee, the most important way of building and nurturing community is to "do unto others as you would have them do unto you. Not to quote the Bible or anything, but how would you want to be treated? Treat everybody that way. It's very simple." Lee says that with all these tools, anyone can create or join a community. He also says that doing so is important, and that communities are powerful because of the people that are a part of it. "I would hope that people would choose to build rather than destroy. Because destroying something is easy. It doesn't take much. But to build something, that's hard."



How do other schools feel about King?



Natalie Caporusso

Having a positive reputation can influence many factors in a person's life so it comes as no surprise that people want to experience the best when it comes to their education.

By Ruwaida Ahsan

The name "R.H. King Academy" is one that holds a reputation, driven by more than 100 years of schooling history and the legacy of the thousands of students who have attended since its creation.

Many other schools' perception of King is overwhelmingly positive with only a few exceptions.

Things the school does well: the community at R.H. King is seen as inviting to many. King's social media presence and the many spirit weeks advertise a well-connected student body.

Marwa Mojadidi is a student at Cedarbrae C.I. "King honestly just seems really

friendly and the overall environment doesn't feel toxic. I know people at King who say they're happy to be there," Mojadidi says.

Additionally, the things that make King unique, such as mentors and clinics, appeal to students from other schools. "While I chose to go to Laurier for the IB program, literally everything at King is better: clinic, the November break, and all the extracurriculars. I wish we had those too," Aunusha Saha, a student at Sir Wilfrid Laurier, says.

There is especially an emphasis on the extracurricular activities offered at King. Having lots of interesting clubs and councils offered within the school are essential for com-

munity-building and for gaining vital experience to put on one's resume. As such, students tend to appreciate diverse extracurricular opportunities within the school.

Srestha Karmakar, a student at Bloor C.I., finds that appealing. "There seems to be so many extracurricular opportunities at King, and the environment seems just competitive enough to be fun."

The many appeals of King, in fact, are so enticing that some students would be willing to transfer schools for them. Mehran Bhuiyan, a student at Satec genuinely regrets not going to King. "My academic interests align better with King and the environment there just seems more positive

and energetic than my school. The humanities courses at King especially call to me."

However, despite all the features it boasts, King is not immune to disapproving opinions. Selina Fisher, a student at Notre Dame has a brother who went to King and felt that the school didn't have a great community. "So I definitely wouldn't want to go to King if I had the choice," Fisher says.

Abdullah Hasan, a student at Bloor C.I., agrees. "I always hear from people older than me that King was a super toxic environment when they were in high school. I feel like that probably carries into today."

Despite some negatives, many R.H. King students are unaware of the mostly positive

perception of their school. In fact, many students may get the idea that the school has a generally negative reputation. This could be due to the fact that the majority of interactions with other schools take place during various competitions, such as sports games, where the environment is not the most friendly. "I don't think people look at King and think good things," Rafeed Ahsan, a R.H. King student in grade nine, says.

While conflicting opinions will continue to exist, the prevailing sentiment among students outside of the school confirms that King is widely seen as a school of opportunity and community though there is always room for improvement.

Recognizing the vital role of conventions

By Kerasia Kosich

Conventions, such as Comicon, the Canadian Auto Show and more, provide a platform for fans to come together in meaningful and creative ways, often over shared interests and passions. They form close knit and diverse communities, and often provide a place for people to feel safe and connected, and as they have a space to bond with likeminded people.

A great example of this is Comicon. It is an annual convention featuring all things 'nerdy,' from comic books to anime, cosplaying to meet-and-greets with celebrities such as Paul Sun-Hyung Lee. Above all, Comicon serves as an outlet for fans who share mutual love for the things that bring them joy to come together.

It is typically held over the course of three days at different major cities like here in Toronto, New York City, Baltimore and more. In Toronto, it is specifically held at the Metro Toronto Convention Centre, and this year it took place over the weekend of March 15-17 and was attended by over 35,000 fans. Cosplayers filled the convention floor taking group photos, interact-

ing with one another and connecting over the passions that bring them joy. For example, there are photo opportunities for individuals who have come to the convention cosplaying in a specific fandom, such as Star Wars, Avatar The Last Airbender and more.

For one attendee, who was cosplaying as Shizuku Murasaki from *HunterxHunter* explained how the best part of Comicon for her is "definitely the cosplay community as a whole. Comicon is kind of like one big parade of fans, and you're walking through it, but you are also a part of it. It is just so fun to see everything that makes Comicon, Comicon."

She also elaborated on the importance of events like this, both to herself and others. "It's incredibly important to maintain a space where people can be authentically themselves, and not have to feel ashamed for their niche interests. It's a way for people to come together and bond over their passions and interests, and it truly fosters a strong community for those who may not have that community elsewhere."

Another way Comicon

brings its attendees together is through its Artist Alley. The Artist Alley is an area for creators and vendors to show off their hard work and products. Fanart, collectibles, arts and crafts and more are just a small number of what one can find within the Artist Alley, and it

is truly a hotspot for attendees. Each creator is able to showcase something unique and creative, reflected upon both their own interests, and the interests of the attendees.

Conventions such as Comicon truly harbour exciting and fulfilling experiences for all

who attend.

If interested, some of the next big conventions taking place here in Toronto include: the Oddities & Curiosities Expo which takes place June 15 to 16, along with FanExpo which is taking place August 22 to 25.



Kerasia Kosich

Conventions provide a shared space for individuals with shared interests and passions to come together.

Thoughts from the corner: With Wilkinson and Michaud

Should I go to University, College, go into the trades, or take a gap year?

Michaud: Yes.

What is the best thing to do in the summer?

Wilkinson: Hunting sasquatch. You have more light, it's warm out, and you're rested. They're wearing a huge fur coat. Press the advantage!

What's the best social media site?

Michaud: Whichever site doesn't allow high school students to participate.

Which teacher should I avoid?

Wilkinson: Avoid all of them. Fail everything. Live in the walls of the school. Haunt us for eternity! Certainly, that's what you seem to suggest you want to do if you avoid any teachers.

How do I deal with the slow walkers in the hallways?

Michaud: Follow as closely as possible and eavesdrop. Maybe even weigh in on the conversation. It won't get you where you're going any faster but it will creep them out.

Should I join a council?

Wilkinson: Do you want to join a council?

Which club should I join?

Wilkinson: Do you want to join a club?

What's the best way to spend my lunch break?

Michaud: Eating lunch and taking up as little room as possible while doing so. Seriously, move.

How do I get my teacher to like me?

Wilkinson: You don't. Ideally, you already have friends and family. If you want respect, just show up, ask good questions, and do your work. Then you'll have a positive loop of good energy all around!



Isabella Cadotte

Tim Burton's *Beetlejuice* returns!



Michael Keaton returns as the main character of Beetlejuice in Tim Burton's production after 36 years.

By Ariba Islam

As the king of gothic films, director, producer, writer, and animator, Tim Burton makes a comeback in Hollywood with his sequel to his original 1988 hit film *Beetlejuice* with *Beetlejuice Beetlejuice*. Tim Burton chose this name for his sequel as in the film, saying "Beetlejuice" three times in a row summons the eccentric and memorable ghost played by Michael Keaton (*Batman*, *Spider-Man: Homecoming*).

The second movie revolves around the Deetz family once again, but now the torment of the mischievous demon is brought upon both Lydia and her rebellious daughter Astrid.

After returning home to Winter River, expecting nothing eerie, comes an unwanted surprise for the family.

The sequel aims to improve on everything that made the first movie special. So far, what has really caught fans' attention is both the new and returning casts and the glimpses of their intriguing roles as shown in the trailer.

The most popular face of the new cast is Jenna Ortega (*Scream*, *The Fallout*) marking her second time working with Burton since the filming of the hit Netflix show, *Wednesday*. Ortega joins as Astrid Deetz, daughter of the previous film's returning protagonist, Lydia Deetz, played once again by

Winona Ryder (*Stranger Things*, *Edward Scissorhands*).

Fans are excited to see if Ryder can bring back the wittiness and sensitivity of a character she once played so long ago, but in a more modern and mature version.

Last but not least, Beetlejuice himself is once again being played by Michael Keaton with his usual flair. Beetlejuice is a mischievous ghost known for his chaotic antics, summoned by saying his name three times. Michael Keaton played him in the 1988 film, balancing his creepy and comedic sides brilliantly. Keaton's performance made Beetlejuice iconic, showcasing his

versatility as an actor and contributing to the film's success.

Some other new faces seen amongst the cast are Willem Dafoe (*Poor Things*), Monica Bellucci (*Mafia Mamma*), and Justin Theroux (*American Psycho*).

Beetlejuice Beetlejuice cinematographer Haris Zambarloukos poked at some details about the movie's story during an August conversation with *The Wrap*.

"At its heart, Beetlejuice is a story about a family. And now it's 30 years later, and what are the intricacies and the human condition in keeping a family together all that time, set in the craziest world possible?" he asks. "That's why I choose projects. That human connection for me is always at the forefront."

Tim Burton talked about his experience during the production of the film in a September interview with *The Independent*. "I really enjoyed it," he said.

"I tried to strip everything and go back to the basics of working with good people and actors and puppets. It was kind of like going back to why I liked making movies."

With everything that the public knows so far, it is safe to say that the movie can be expected to be nothing short of legendary, in that special way that only Tim Burton can achieve.

Beetlejuice Beetlejuice is set for theatrical release on September 5.

Exploring the depths of *Inside Out 2*

By Deepika Chandrashekar

The original *Inside Out* film, released in 2015, received widespread recognition for its innovative storytelling and ability to resonate with audiences of all ages. It took viewers on a journey through the mind of a young girl named Riley, showcasing how her emotions shaped her experiences and decisions. Now, with *Inside Out 2*, Pixar aims to continue this exploration while introducing new elements and challenges for the characters.

The first film focused on the inner workings of the human mind through the personified emotions of Joy, Sadness, Anger, Fear, and Disgust. The sequel promises to delve even deeper into the complexities of a teenager's mind by adding new emotions to represented new characters.

In an interview with Jackson Murphy, the interviewer, Kelsey Mann and Mark Nielsen, the director and associate producer, they discussed their excitement and approach to the sequel of *Inside Out*. Kelsey Mann, who worked closely with director Pete Docter, expressed her enthusiasm for the project, saying, "Every movie that we do here at Pixar has a high bar... I feel nothing

but excitement. Joy's at my console. Of course, you want to make sure that you're doing right by everyone that loves the original film. I want to do Pete proud. I want to do everybody who loves the original proud. I'm more excited than I am scared."

The interview also touched on the depth of the characters in the sequel, with Mann discussing the new challenges Joy faces, stating, "And going into this new story, Joy is the protagonist of this film — and going to the next stage of Riley's life and all the challenges Joy is facing in this — Amy just soaked it in and really connected with it on a deep, emotional level. She brings so much charm, humor, and empathy to that character."

In addition to exploring new emotions, *Inside Out 2* will also tackle themes such as empathy, resilience, and the importance of emotional balance. The film's narrative will follow the characters as they navigate through various challenges, both internal and external, highlighting the growth and development that comes from understanding and managing one's many emotions effectively.

The voice cast of *Inside Out 2* remains as stellar as ever, with Amy Poehler re-

turning as Joy, Phyllis Smith as Sadness, Lewis Black as Anger, Bill Hader as Fear, and Liza Lapira as Disgust.

Joining the cast are new voice talents including Ayo Edebiri as Envy, Paul Walter Hauser as Embarrassment, Adele Exarchopoulos as Ennui, and Maya Hawke as Anxiety. Lending their voices to the expanded range of emotions, the new additions add fresh perspectives and dynamics to the ensemble.

Fans of the original film

can also look forward to revisiting familiar settings within Riley's mind, such as the colorful Islands of Personality and the iconic Train of Thought as seen in the trailers. However, *Inside Out 2* promises to introduce new and imaginative locations that reflect the evolving emotional landscape of Riley as stated in an article by Jillian Pretzel for the *People* magazine.

Be sure to enjoy the movie when it releases on the 14th of June 2024!



The new emotion "Anxiety" is introduced in the movie through the now-teenager character, Riley.



Pixar's captivating creations for all



Pixar studios is behind many of the most beloved characters in animation including Woody, Buzz, Wall-E, Sully, Nemo, Dory, and more.

By **Nikita Rahman**

Pixar Animation Studios, a master and pioneer of animation, attracts audiences of all ages, both young and old. With their vibrant animation, endearing characters, and stimulating ideas, Pixar films have become mainstays of family entertainment. What really sets Pixar's films apart and keeps audiences of all ages interested is its ability to incorporate deeper and reflective ideas into their narratives. Their well-written and in-depth characters deal with all kinds of universal issues often in the most humorous and comforting way.

Every film contains a valuable lesson for a younger audience, but Pixar also teaches adults a lesson. For instance, *Finding Nemo* teaches kids the value of accountability and parental supervision, but it also demonstrates to parents the importance of accepting the reality of a child growing

up and recognizing their faults in parenting. It teaches both children and adults the importance of perseverance and taking accountability for their actions, while also understanding that it is okay to mess up, as long as one is learning and making the effort to improve themselves.

Similarly, *The Incredibles* is a movie that many parents can see themselves in. The main character, Mr. Incredible, is a father of three and a former superhero who both wants the best for his children and to enjoy the fame and glory of his past career. These contrasting desires put his children in danger, and this nuanced character causes the creation of the film's villain.

It's a realistic tale of parenthood (without the powers) and encourages both self-growth and a little selfishness to become the best possible version one can be, rather than succumbing to melancholy. This story resonates with

many parents, as it is common to be forced to sacrifice dreams, ideals, and wants for the sake of children or other obstacles in life.

Finally, what makes Pixar movies really stand out, are their deeply introspective themes by diving a lot further than most animated films ever do. In Pixar's *Soul*, Joe Gardner, a music teacher who's passionate about jazz, dies prematurely before ever reaching his dreams and begins his journey to get back to the human realm.

This movie was heavy at times, dealing with topics about death, existentialism, and the inability of many to pursue their passions. It beautifully meshes a fun adventure of Joe Gardner's way back to Earth, along with a story of finding beauty in the little things in life and not letting opportunities pass you by. It holds many messages that while helpful, may not be easy to understand for a younger

audience, but would be touchingly relatable for a developing young adults, with many contemplating their purpose, the discovery of their passions, and both the meaning and meaninglessness of life.

In the end, Pixar movies aren't just "kids" movies—they never were. They are family movies, made for both children and adults. Disney's Pixar has the ability to weave two stories, one for an older audience and one for a younger audience, into one cohesive masterpiece, and this renders it one of the most powerful animation studios. Its beautiful and thought provoking stories are gems in film, and with Pixar's many upcoming releases, students at R.H. King are definitely not too old to check them out and relate, cry, and laugh along with characters.

Check out some of Pixar's newest efforts like *Turning Red* and *Elemental* on Disney+ or *Inside Out 2* coming to theatres on June 14.

Noteworthy films releasing summer of 2024

By **Sabiha Sufian**

Summer is around the corner and the film industry already has a line up of exhilarating films releasing from May to August that film lovers will regret missing out on.

1. *The Garfield Movie* May 24



Columbia Pictures

This movie features the adventures of a cat and his journey as he embarks on a heist with his long lost father.

2. *Despicable Me 4* July 3



Illumination

This animation film franchise welcomes a new character, Gru Jr, who's intent on tormenting his dad. Criminal mastermind Maxine Le Mal makes a comeback!

3. *Kraven the Hunter* August 30th



Sony

As the fifth film in the Sony *Spider-Man* Universe, *Kraven the Hunter* stars Aaron Taylor-Johnson as the title character in a standalone film as a man driven to be the best there is by hunting prey of all kinds... including humans.

Diving into *Deadpool & Wolverine*



Marvel Studios

Ryan Reynolds and Hugh Jackson star as Deadpool and Wolverine.

By **Joanna Joseph**

Ryan Reynolds has returned to play Wade Wilson, the infamous merc- with-a-mouth

Deadpool and along for the ride is Hugh Jackman as Wolverine, a character he has portrayed for 24 years. Jackman previously retired from the

role after the critically acclaimed film, *Logan*, came out in 2017. Since 1989, there have been eight live action Batmans, three Spider-Mans, and nine Supermans... but only one Wolverine. Repeated pressure from Reynolds, including jokes within the first two *Deadpool* movies, and the allure of doing something fresh, brought Jackman back into the fray.

The movie's first teaser was released during the Super Bowl in February 2024. It depicted many characters returning from the first two installments of the movie series. Emma Corrin, the actress known for her role in *The Crown*, is confirmed to be the villain of the movie. She will play Cassandra Nova, the twin sister of Professor X. Returning actors include Stefan Kapicic, Morena Baccarin, Brianna Hildebrand, Shioli Kutsuna, and Rob Delaney.

Karan Soni, who plays Deadpool's taxi driver and adorable companion in the

movies, joked with the press about the possibility of other well-known characters being part of the film.

"Let's just say a lot of people traveled to London," he said to Mark Malkin informally in March. Despite the well-kept secrecy surrounding the film, rumors have arisen that the film will feature a ton of cameos from actors and characters from across both the Fox and MCU franchises. Some of the more popular rumors including Channing Tatum making an appearance as Gambit. Tatum tried for years to get a film off the ground for the character so it will be great to see his take. Other speculation includes Taylor Swift, possibly playing the role of the Dazzler, after she was spotted with director Shawn Levy and star Ryan Reynolds.

See the pair uniting for *Deadpool & Wolverine* on July 26 and will be the only cinematic release by Marvel in 2024.

What's your issue? Advice from Nabiha!

Q: I have a lot of anxiety over grades.

A: High school is not the end of the world for anyone. Yes, it is nice to have good grades as they help with university and college acceptance, but there are many post-secondary options. Try your best, and remember that in five years, your grades right now won't matter.

Q: Since school started, I have no time for Roblox.

A: It is always important to make time for the things you love. If you find yourself studying until you fall asleep, play Roblox first, but if you tend to procrastinate, tell yourself that you can only play after you study for a certain amount of time.

Q: I just can't stop procrastinating

A: Try asking someone to take away your phone at a certain time. If your phone is not the problem, then plan to start the work thirty minutes before you need to. This way, you will feel like you have already procrastinated, but in reality, you are pulling an UNO-reverse on your own brain and emerging a victor.

Q: The sinks in the C floor bathroom are broken.

A: Go to the office and report the problem. If you do not want to talk in person, the bathrooms have a QR code on the doors for students to voice their concerns.

Q: No one at King is datable, what should I do?

A: Date an actual King! Grade 11's read MacBeth in ENG 3U1, so maybe fall in love with him. Community centres and volunteer opportunities are also great places to meet people if you want them to be real!

Q: Should I just deal with people drifting apart? Or should I try to reach out?

A: If it is important to you, reach out, but do not desperately pine away. This is a natural part of life, but those who care will make an effort to stay in touch. If they don't, then they are not worth your time. If you really miss them, stalking is a great way to keep them in your life too...



Nabiha Tahseen

The influence of the "American Dream"



Isabella Cadotte

The idea of the "American Dream" has spread beyond the USA.

By Naiyarah Amarasinghe-Domingue

The ideals of the "American Dream" are rising in popularity, and not just within America itself. The "American Dream" is a place where everyone, no matter their race, gender or class, is entitled to liberty and is able to achieve social mobility through hard work. This is simply just the basis, as over time the "American Dream" has amalgamated with other classic American values such as materialism, exceptionalism and conservatism while ignoring the systematic discrimination that POC and LGBTQIA+ Americans face. Although the term was coined in 1931, the "American Dream" has existed far back into the 18th century. Here, the Dream is represented with the colonial interests in settlement and "frontier life." This was noted by many of the colonists themselves,

such as John Murray, the Governor of the colony of Virginia. With the *Declaration of Independence* signed in 1776, some of these early American ideals were sealed into the country's very creation. Which each decade, the "American Dream" was built upon, such as the "California Dream" during the Gold Rush in the 1850s or the civil rights movement of the 1960s. Throughout this, the idealistic picture of a happy family living in a frontier-style house with a big porch and a white picket fence remained constant.

Today the "American Dream" is not just confined to the United States. Looking to social media, the popularity of the cottage-core aesthetic - a popular social media trend characterized by simple living, making food and clothes from scratch, and connecting back to nature - during the 2020 election cycle served as a visu-

al reminder of a longing for a bygone era, in which things were assumed, to be easier and happier. Today, 'tradwives,' women representing traditional values such as submission and homemaking, embodied by figures like Nara Smith or BallerinaFarm, online content creators within the community that glamorizes such ideas, gained traction amidst political discourse. These women, with their home-made bread and knowing smiles represent the ideals of the homespun movement and post war Americana. The current running under so much media today is a sense of collective nostalgia for 'simpler times'. This is not inherently negative - of course there is value to be found in all ways of life, but by that same metric there is joy to be found in the present as well.

Ultimately, at the heart of this collective nostalgia lies a yearning for a pre-internet era, when life was more authentic. However, it's essential to acknowledge that, not only is this idealized past more myth than reality, but also harkening the past as our savior, as many tradwives and social media figures have begun to do, negates all the progress we have already achieved. Any advertiser or politician worth their salt will agree that in times of cultural crisis, people look to the past for hope - dreams of homesteading and true Americana. It's a commonly accepted idea in political science theory. 'Rally round the flag, an idea characterized by in-

tense, popular support of the government or nations ideals in tumultuous times. It so happens that much of America's values are rooted in the past. This only makes it more valuable, however, that society looks forwards for inspiration, romanticizing progress just as much as the idealized past. In Canada, the concept of the "American Dream" holds a significant cultural influence, albeit with distinct Canadian nuances.

While Canada has its own national identity and aspirations, the proximity and cultural interconnectedness with the United States often result in the diffusion of American ideals, including the pursuit of liberty, opportunity, and social mobility. However, Canadian society also grapples with its unique historical and contemporary challenges, such as Indigenous reconciliation, multiculturalism, and social welfare policies. Thus, discussions surrounding the "American Dream" in Canada inevitably intersect with questions of national identity, diversity, and social justice.

Similar to the United States, Canadian cultural trends reflect a nostalgia for simpler times and a desire for authenticity, though filtered through a distinctly Canadian lens. As Canadians navigate their own societal narratives, they are both influenced by and contribute to the ongoing dialogue surrounding the American Dream and its relevance in a globalized world.

Staying fashionable this summer

By Nikita Hardial

Every season brings a whole new wardrobe of clothes to show off. Summer in particular is known for its distinct fashion. With even warmer weather ahead, people have started to shift to the bolder colours and styles of the season. Here are five essential fashion items to help you stay stylish this summer.

1. Seasonal colours & flower prints



Andrea Penheiro

Summer is the time to bust out the bright colours. Match the cheerful feel of the season by changing into a vivid colour palette consisting of bright pinks, yellows and more. White is a great neutral option for the less bold. Incorporate even more summer elements into your outfits by wearing flower prints.

2. Layered jewelry

Layer and show off your many necklaces and bracelets this season; no longer will they be

hidden under layers of clothes. Experiment with seashells and colourful beads as the essence of the season's jewelry.

3. Sunglasses & butterfly clips



Andrea Penheiro

Accessories are what truly tie an outfit together and elevate it from just good to great. Sunglasses are no doubt the most iconic summer item; wearing them turns any regular outfit into perfect summer attire. You can also scatter tiny butterfly clips throughout your hair to add a pop of colour.

4. Denim



Andrea Penheiro

Denim brings a casual feel to any outfit, great for summer. Plus, there are many options when it comes to denim,

whether it be pants, shorts or a skirt! You can even take things up a notch by layering overalls over a fun shirt!

5. Sundresses

A summer staple, these flowy dresses are the perfect addition to your wardrobe. Sundresses suit all kinds of fun summer activities: you can wear a flowery white sundress for a picnic, a dusty yellow one for the beach and just about any colour for a simple stroll.

Summer vacation specifically allows for students to explore and experiment with fashion trends and styles that they might not wear during a typical week either to school or work.

Mix it up and incorporate some fun fashion trends into your summer wardrobe while also staying cool in the hot weather, whether it be by accessorizing with sunglasses or switching to wearing bright colours!



Shweta Naik

Summertime is the time to let loose! Wear summertime colours like white or pink and accessorize your outfits.



R.H. King student small businesses



Student run small businesses, such as Sunset Bracelets, provide students with opportunities to share their creations with the community.

By Claire Taylor

Within the R.H. King student population there are many different businesses and services that are being offered. Ever since COVID-19, small businesses have been on the rise. During lockdown many people found themselves reconnecting with their hobbies and for some of those people, they decided to start up a business that revolve around those ideas.

In line with other small businesses, the R.H. King students offer services that range from florals to baked goods, and can often be found through social media.

Particularly around commercial holidays, the idea of “shopping small” has been growing. Instead of supporting large corporate businesses, by shopping from small businesses one is confident that their purchases are greatly appreci-

ated and help to support smaller groups and local economies. There is often better care put into every part of the business starting from the item to the packaging. Customers can also rest assured that the product is not being made in situations where employees are not being properly paid.

While it can be hard to find small businesses, there are many within the R.H. King community. The majority are run by the students themselves.

Ragavy Narendran, a grade 11 student at King, has her home-based business, VY Nailed It, which specializes in Gel-X and natural nail artistry.

“I prioritize my responsibilities by setting specific schedules and deadlines, making sure to set aside time for each aspect of my life while utilizing weekends and breaks to focus on my business and spend quality time with friends

and family,” she says. For more information, visit @vynailedit on Instagram.

While it is already difficult to balance school work, extra-curricular activities, and spending time with friends and family, small business owners have a whole business to run at the same time! Having this sort of opportunity can teach important life skills such as time management skills, customer service, marketing, and financial management.

Mahishya Kanheswaran and Shanzé Kamran started SM Crocheted, a handmade and unique crocheted items small business, in grade 9. Instantly they noticed a huge response from the school community and received so much support.

“While people were reposting our social media posts to spread awareness, they also began approaching us in school. Many expressed their

thoughts and enthusiasm toward the business by asking questions, providing ideas for us to exceed further, words of motivation and much more. Some also voiced how our business encouraged them to start something of their own, which we love to hear,” Kanheswaran says. SM Crocheted can be found on Instagram under the handle @somuchcrocheted.

Not only can a community support and uplift a small business, but the business itself may just inspire others to start their own or pursue their interesting hobby.

If financially able, consider supporting a King small business. Purchasing is not the only form of support that one can give a business as there are many different ways. This can include sharing and reposting Instagram posts, referrals, encouragement, and positive feedback.

Learning abroad teaches life lessons

By Miriam Donnelly

Whenever school run trips are brought up, there is two concerns. Firstly, the cost. Parents know that travelling is expensive and are hesitant to spend thousands of dollars. Secondly, many parents are also afraid of letting their kid travel due to safety concerns or a fear of the unknown. To that, R.H. King teacher Don Halliday says “Let them go. Trust them. Help them with the funding if you can. It is worth every penny.”

Whilst in-school curriculum-based education is valuable, studying abroad provides students with opportunities for growth in maturity, responsibility, and independence, in addition to improving their practical and theoretical knowledge.

Iain Donnelly, a third-year UoFT student was offered an incredible opportunity for a month-long trip to Ireland for Irish language lessons and

immersion in the community. The trip was spent both enjoying the new culture with new friends and also attending classes with a local teacher and attending regular expeditions within the community. “Having that immersive experience is quite helpful for learning. You can use what you learn either in the classroom or outside of the classroom” Donnelly says.

A new environment can be a good opportunity for self-exploration. Halliday says that his Grade 13 trip to Rome, Naples and Florence sparked his love of history. Without this experience, he would not feel the same about some of his passions. “Going somewhere to understand the history and culture of a people makes travel so much more meaningful to me” he says.

Other study opportunities allow students to gain hands-on knowledge about their field of interest. Halliday’s daughter is currently abroad in Manila

to collaborate with Filipino students on an animation project. He says that “she is having a great time” and is “gaining experience in the field she wants to pursue.

These opportunities are not only available for post-secondary students. One non-King sanctioned trip students may have heard about is organized by former teacher JP Hoekstra and current teacher Heather Shaw. This particular trip takes students to a new country with an itinerary based around learning. The most recent one was to Greece in the summer of 2022. Halliday

participated as one of the chaperones. “By the end of the trip all I could see was a tight group of friends brimming with confidence” he says. “The friendships made while travelling are very deep and can last a lifetime. The memories sure do.”

Ultimately, trips abroad are a doorway to unique experiences for students in any field. There are a plethora of different options for studying abroad in places one would not initially expect, so it is always a good idea to inquire. One never knows where they might end up.



There are many lessons to be learned from studying abroad.

Fun things to do in the summer

By Iffat Nafisa

With an abundance of activities to take part in, Toronto comes alive when the sun shines stronger. There are many things to do and here are four great summertime activities to try this year:

1) Visit the Toronto Islands

The Toronto Islands provide an escape from city life. It is the ideal summertime getaway - perfect for a picnic with family and friends, relaxing at the beach, discovering parks, and taking in the beautiful skyline.



2) Explore museums and galleries

For some there is nothing better than exploring different exhibitions displaying art and history from around the world. From the Royal Ontario Museum to the Art Gallery of Ontario, go for the one that suits your interests.



3) Enjoy concerts and performances

Experience the magic of music and spend lively time with friends at performances in Toronto’s outdoor venues like Budweiser stage and the CNE bandshell.



4) Catch a baseball game

Enjoy an action packed baseball game at the Rogers Centre and cheer for the Blue Jays! If you’re lucky you may even be attending on a day where the roof is open!



KVC's sounds of summer

By Aleesha Qureshi

"Eternal Sunshine"
- Ariana Grande



"Eternal Sunshine" is the title track for global pop star Ariana Grande's record-breaking album, *Eternal Sunshine*. Its namesake comes from the 2004 Oscar-winning Jim Carrey film *Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind*. The fluctuating and unique melody here makes this song a light and fun experience. Definitely a song to play on a summer road trip or a picnic in the park with friends.

"Blame Brett"
- The Beaches



"Blame Brett" is one of those songs that will have you dancing around your bedroom at night. Its playful guitar riffs, strumming, and honest lyrics will guarantee a good time. Play it the next time you are getting a nice tan on the beach or playing some beach volleyball with friends! A Canadian band, *The Beaches*, are truly an underrated gem of Toronto and should be a part of your summer playlist!

"Island in the Sun"
- Weezer



As the title suggests, this song does sound exactly how you could picture being on a beautiful island. Most of the songs on this playlist are pop, so this rock song will add some diversity! The summer-themed lyrics and catchy guitar riffs make it memorable. "Hip! Hip!"

Scan the code to listen to more KVC summer sounds!



Perfect match or total disaster?

Marketing books based on their tropes



Tanisha Chowdhury

Bookstores take advantage of popular tropes by promoting books containing them at the front.

By Kaycee Wigmore

Books have been marketed in many different ways over the years, but a new method is gaining popularity: promotion based on tropes. A trope, for those who may not know, is a plot device that reoccurs in different stories. Common examples of tropes are love triangles, protagonists without parents or even enemies-to-lovers, where two people start off as enemies but slowly fall in love. You know the one. You've likely seen it a million times. Tropes in books are commonplace and many readers have preferences for which ones they will and will not read.

Publishers have taken note of this and instead of readers having to start the book before learning of the tropes, they began marketing the book around them. Many bookstores have also taken to hosting "blind dates with books" where novels are described based on the tropes they contain; King Library Council even hosted one!

This type of promotion can significantly benefit picky readers since people with very specific tastes can quickly find books with the dynamics they prefer.

Social media is getting in on the promoting game as well; sites like TikTok do much of the heavy lifting

when it comes to selling books the way movies do with their trailers. With the rise in popularity of certain tropes on spaces like BookTok (a subset of videos on TikTok), books containing those tropes are heavily marketed towards the general age demographic of TikTok users, teens and young adults.

#BookTok trends often as users can discuss their favourite books and recommend them to others. The subset of TikTok videos all began as a hashtag, but soon evolved into its own category. With recommendations coming from users, the popular genres and tropes only represented what appealed to TikTok's de-

mographics. This resulted in a deeper understanding of the interests of younger readers and what books should be marketed to them. Nowadays, even the front section of most bookstores are books containing popular BookTok tropes. Bookstores are making it as easy as possible for young readers to buy them. It's a good thing, right?

Well, there is a bit of a literary downside. Unfortunately, this marketing strategy has resulted in more focus on the trope itself rather than on the author, book, or plot. When less-than-ideal marketing meets marketing based on a singular trope, it can spread the trope more than the actual book name or author. *Icebreaker* by Hannah Grace was victim to this situation recently; most of the book's early marketing only mentioned the enemies-to-lovers and slow-burn tropes in it. Nothing was mentioned about the story, the author, or whether or not the book was actually good!

While publicizing tropes can work to get attention from readers, many may feel dissatisfied when the trope does not live up to their expectations, such as when it is a minor part of the story. This strategy of marketing can feel misleading as people buy the book solely for the trope, only to later find out how insignificant it is to the story.

Selling books based on their tropes can certainly help readers find books that may pique their interest, however, there's no guarantee that they'll enjoy them.

The hassle of going to concerts

By Jumaina Ahmed

In today's day and age, it is hard to believe that one used to be able to spontaneously add a concert to their plans for the day. Now, attending a concert often requires months of planning.

Buying tickets has become one of the most time-consuming aspects of attending a concert. Besides ticket selling sites crashing at the most crucial moments, the hassle can also be credited to bots scouring the sites and snatching up tickets to resell for over double the price. However, expensive prices are not exclusive to resold tickets. Thanks to Ticketmaster (one of the largest ticket selling companies) and its "dynamic pricing", original prices are starting to become unreasonable as well. Dynamic pricing allows artists to receive as much revenue as possible by automatically increasing prices as more people view the site.

Ticket buying shenanigans aside, unreasonable venue policies are also an issue. In November of 2023, at Taylor

Swift's Rio de Janeiro stop on her *Eras* tour, outside items were prohibited from being brought into the venue. This included water, which was crucial for a hot day in Brazil where temperatures reached 60 degrees Celsius. Many fans began passing out due to dehydration, and one attendee unfortunately passed away as a result. Essential resources were not provided and attendees' needs were neglected. Venue management is often inadequate, at times hindering the concert experience and posing a threat to attendees' safety, rather than providing a pleasant evening.

Another concern of modern-day concert culture is the digitalization of the live experience. When looking into the audience, it is becoming increasingly rare to see someone not holding up a phone to the stage.

Ahead of her 2022 *Laurel Hell* tour, singer Mitski expressed her wishes for a phone-free concert. "When I am on stage and look to you but you are gazing into a screen, it makes me feel as though those

of us on stage are being taken from and consumed as content, instead of getting to share a moment with you," she wrote in a now-deleted X post.

However, there are many positive aspects that Gen-Z has brought to concert culture. Now, more than ever, fan culture is seeing an increase in a sense of unity. Attendees are expressing themselves through

curated outfits that are related to the performing artist, chanting supportive phrases in accordance with the setlist, or meticulously planning fan projects to touch the hearts of performers.

Concert culture will continue to grow and evolve, and hopefully adapt to the challenges of new trends and new technology.



Andrea Penheiro

While there are negative aspects of concert culture today, Gen-Z are bringing a new sense of community to the experience.

The arts community at R.H. King



Andrea Penheiro

The arts community at R.H. King Academy works to provide many opportunities for students to contribute and express their creativity.

By Luckshika Ravinthiran

R.H. King Academy has really puts its heart and soul into developing academic opportunities for students who are interested in the arts. King offers various art courses such as Band, Dance, Drama, Music, Musical Theatre and Visual Arts, just to name only a few that are further explored here.

Visual Arts

With all the stress that comes with school, Visual Arts can be a therapeutic class; the environment is very relaxed, both workwise and socially as students focus on their art. Through this class, students receive the opportunity to learn about techniques like 5-point perspective, acrylic painting, and sculpting while analyzing other pieces of artwork.

Nikita Hardial, a Grade 11

student at R.H. King enjoys taking art. "The course not only offers knowledge on the actual process of the art itself, but the history of art as well," she says.

Students are able to learn about artwork throughout various time periods such as the Renaissance.

In order for an individual to achieve a better result as an artist, Hardial suggests not stressing too much about the project at hand.

"The outcome is almost always better if you take your time and not pressure yourself too much. After all, visual arts is meant to be an enjoyable class! As long as you put a good amount of effort into your work, you will do great and learn a lot."

Band

If you want to discover more about the world of

music and prefer hands-on classes, Band is perfect for you! Through Band, you receive the opportunity to learn how to read music, write music and analyze different songs.

It's not bad that many students do not consider taking Band due to concerns relating to their original skill level as it's not really a barrier. When first joining, each student is treated as though they are a beginner, so it's okay if you have no prior musical experience. The only requirement is that students are dedicated and be ready to learn. Band students perform a lot at school including in Frozen Sounds, the Backyard Arts Festival and more.

Dance

Taking dance is a great way to learn about connecting the mind and body while also learning proper techniques. In dance, stu-

dents learn about multiple different cultures /genres throughout the world, the fundamentals of the elements of dance and the tools of composition needed to create sensational choreography. Not only is dance a great form of exercise, but it also contributes to the conditioning of one's muscles.

Dance is an extremely practical course as it helps teach students about important life skills. Dancers are able to learn time management, self discipline and collaboration skills.

"The studio is truly a safe space filled with a community that wishes for success and brings out the best in each other," Eleni Haralampidis, a student at King says.

A piece of advice she suggests is to not be hesitant. "It was a decision I, myself, was wary about yet I do not regret a single moment. Dance acts

as a grounding safe space through the rest of a busy school life. It gives the mind a rest from calculations and allows for getting in touch with your creative side. It is an experience that differs from the majority of the courses one may take at King, which is what makes it so memorable," she says.

"Even if you are not a dancer or that you have no experience, everyone is always welcomed and encouraged to participate. There is truly never a dull moment in the studio."

Musical Theatre

Taking musical theatre requires a slot of two courses and gives you a chance to take part in the school's musical like it's recent production of *Freaky Friday!*

There are other benefits as well. Taking this course helps students improve their public speaking skills, along with their confidence.

"A piece of advice I would provide to anyone interested in taking this course is to not be afraid of what others will think of you because it's such a supportive community, filled with people who would help you rather than put you down," Olivia Hodgson, a grade 11 student says.

By the end of the show, lots of students felt as though they gained a second family, rather than just learning amongst classmates.

Taking part in any of these art courses helps students develop their creativity and helps create a supportive environment within R.H. King Academy.

Circular photos by Avery Farrell and Sandra Raymond



The impact of artificial intelligence on the world of art

By Shreya Achari

The art world has been significantly influenced by artificial intelligence (AI) in a way that undermines artists. The technology created art has sparked both fascination and debate amongst artists, critics, and enthusiasts alike due to ethics and quality concerns.

The most notable impact is the rise of generative AI. Generative AI is a subset of AI that can generate content ranging from simple text to images and videos from a single prompt. In particular, Midjourney, DALL-E, and Stable Diffusion are the most popular AI art generators. Usually, a single visual art piece, such as a painting, could take weeks or months to create, while generative AI can produce multiple pieces in seconds.

While it is impressive that these AI systems can create images in seconds, these systems cannot replace the artistic eye and storytelling abilities of artists. Some argue that relying

too heavily on these algorithms will destroy the emotional depth of art. There are also concerns that the use of AI in art may lead to the devaluation of traditional art forms and the displacement of human artists. As AI becomes more advanced and capable of producing high-quality works of art, there may be less demand for artists. This could have significant economic and social implications for the art industry. In fact, an artificially generated portrait was sold for an astonishing \$432,500 back in 2018 at Christie's New York auction. Though this instance was from six years ago, the quality of artificially generated art has only strengthened and has become more and more enhanced.

Furthermore, these AI-generated artworks often blur the lines between human and machine creativity, raising profound questions about the nature of artistry and authorship. There are also some worries about the ethical implica-

tions of using machines to create art. Who should be credited as the creator of this artwork? Is it the artist or the company that created the AI? Could it be the AI itself? There are also concerns regarding the future for artists. Will AI eliminate the need for human artists the same way self-

checkouts have eliminated jobs? Is the supposed benefit worth selling our artistic souls?

However, others counter that AI can expand the boundaries of artistic expression by producing novel forms and styles unattainable through traditional means. Some artists

are embracing AI as a tool to enhance their creative process rather than replace it entirely.

Ultimately, the intersection of AI and art presents a rich tapestry of possibilities, inviting individuals to reconsider their perceptions of creativity, technology, and the human experience.



Deep AI Image Generator

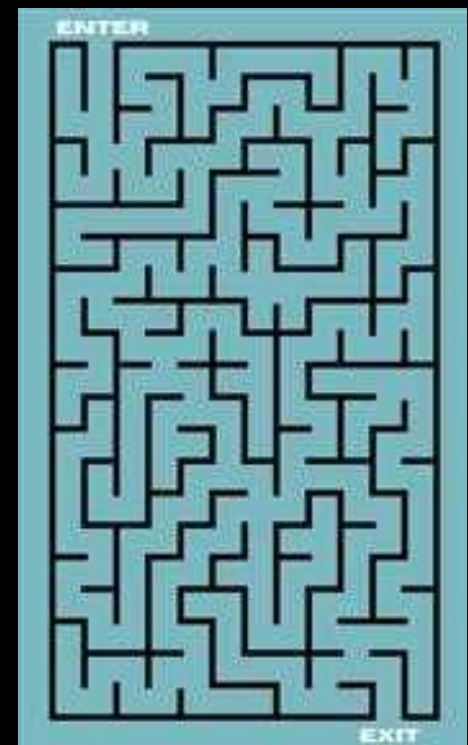
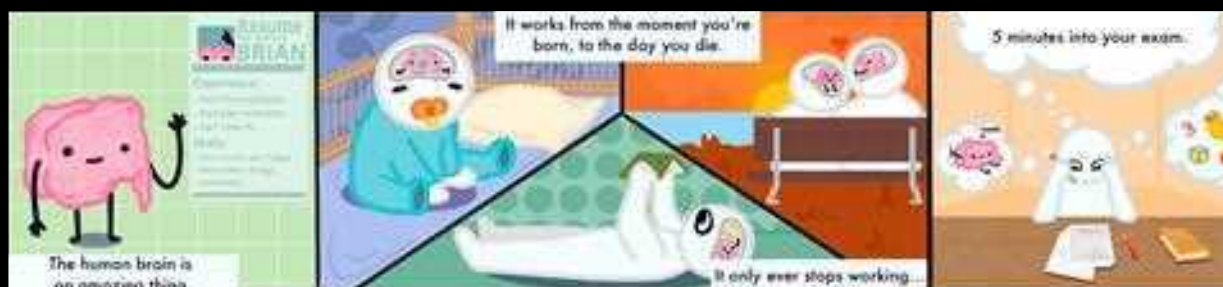
AI can create art in less than 30 seconds but diminishes the passion put into human made art creations.

B = Side

Spring Isn't All Sunshine and Rainbows — by Mary Belle Tabo



The Human Brain — by Everett Yi



Responsibility's Monstrosity by Aaron Minale



CAN YOU MATCH THE WORD TO THE DEFINITION?

- 1 WHIFFLER _____ LETTER _____
- 2 BIBBLE _____ LETTER _____
- 3 NUDIUSTERTIAN _____ LETTER _____
- 4 EELLOGOFUSCIOUHIPOPPOKUNURIOUS _____ LETTER _____

- a TO DRINK OFTEN; TO EAT AND/OR DRINK NOISILY
- b VERY GOOD, VERY FINE
- c THE DAY BEFORE YESTERDAY
- d SOMEBODY WHO WALKS IN FRONT OF YOU THROUGH A CROWD

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