

WINGS PAN

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Centennial senior, Joseph Kim, recognized this kind spirit in Bewley. "She took the extra care to make school lunch feel like home lunch."

Described by students as an "atm- sphere" in La "technical masterpiece" this fall's production put on by Skyward Theatre, 20,000 Leagues Under the Sea was an unforgettable and breathtaking theatrical experience.

The set itself brings elements that are typically different from Skyward's recent productions. For example, She Kills Monsters, based on Dungeons and Dragons, explored themes of identity and acceptance. Lost Girl followed characters facing the truth about growing up,

and the music. Pippin also had a similar coming-of-age theme. However, 20,000 Leagues Under the Sea takes you into a completely different realm — almost making the play an immersive world of its own.

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Rather than capturing a chunk of one story or theme, 20,000 Leagues Under the Sea is dynamic, simultaneously bringing you a collection of stories and perspectives of several characters, such as the finitely curious marine biologist, Morgan Max, the rash hax, Ned Land, and the vengeful Capt

its play selection and staging to marketing, even creating its own merchandise. Its showcase of "20,000 Leagues Under the Sea" was a powerful debut, symbolizing the start

the theater's choice of rebranding is smart because it "solidifies the theater program as a true company, almost elevating it to a more professional level. A similar opinion was held by actor Michael Stora, who played Captain Ferge, stating how "it made it more professional, it felt like I was working with a real theater company, not just a school one."

But the innovation doesn't end there. One thing that stood out to

audience was the incredible realism and effects the tech crew provided. Senior Alexandra Levin-Lozano explained how "the plot itself was quite interesting and with a very unique effect. Like the dry ice submarine hatch, the abstract lighting, and the transparent film screen. The play has been one that has impressed me."

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The third set was my favorite match of the entire season. We made play after play, gained point after point, and when I caught the score, I was surprised and relieved to see 22-10, finishing the set with a lead of 15 points. I can only describe my feelings as genuine joy while playing with my teammates in my Centennial jersey, with the student secretary's constant energy and cheering. There was a time between the points when I just looked around and listened, captivated by the moment and wanting to commit it to memory.

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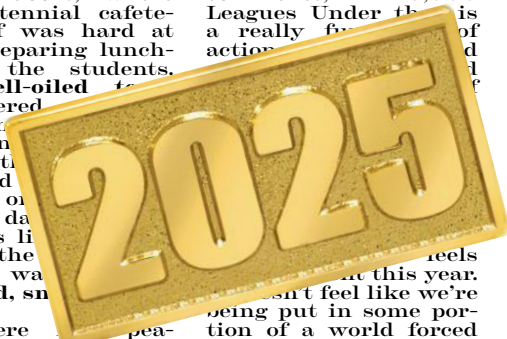
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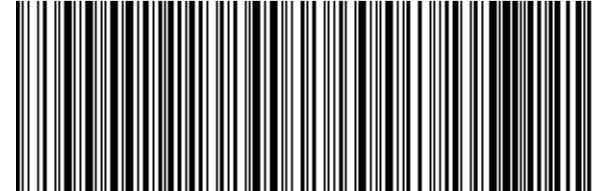
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THE POWER OF JOURNALISM



will be happy with our as she explains "'Cross country is a team sport,

Remembering Roseanna Bewley

The cafeteria was eerily quiet the morning I arrived to interview Mary Spicer. The sun hadn't revealed itself from behind the clouds, leaving the room shrouded in shadows between the fluorescent emergency lights. With no students having arrived yet, the only sound was the clangs of pots and trays from behind the heavy wooden doors, where the Centennial cafeteria staff was hard at work preparing lunches for the students. The well-oiled team maneuvered through the kitchen, light chatter bouncing between them as they pulled out trays and discussed the options on the menu for the day. The routine was like any other day, the only thing missing was one caring, kind, smiling face.

Our beloved Centennial cafeteria staff member, Roseanna Bewley, passed away on July 15 at the age of 70. Bewley's memory survives on with her husband, three children and grandchildren. As well, she is survived by her two brothers and her younger sister, our very own Mary Spicer. Spicer, who is the manager of Centennial's cafeteria, worked alongside Bewley for 21 years. Spicer allowed me to speak with her about her elder sister, which brings me back to that eerily quiet morning.

Spicer led me back to her small tiled office off the corner of the kitchen and offered me a seat with a polite smile. With her hands clasped over her black apron, Spicer emanated a certain warmth and kindness that immediately put me at ease. This trait seems to be genetic as I am quick to learn that her sister was infamous for radiating that same energy.

Both Bewley and Spicer started working in food service in 1996. Previously, Bewley worked as a beautician, then a babysitter, while Spicer worked as a floral designer. After a recommendation by their sister-in-law, they submitted their applications and Bewley was assigned to Centennial High School; Spicer was assigned to Centennial Lane Elementary just down the road.

After about five years at CLES and two years at another school, Spicer joined her elder sister at Centennial in the manager role. Spicer chuckled as she remembered telling her sister that she was going to work with her and Bewley promptly hanging up on



NEWS

her upon hearing the news. Nevertheless, the sisters worked alongside each other for over a decade, with their relationship only growing stronger as they got older.

"We were like peanut butter and jelly," Spicer said with a nostalgic smile. Having a sister myself, I returned a similar smile.

Even when they were younger, Spicer and Bewley were joined at the hip. The sisters' mother worked during the day and their father worked at night, meaning that Bewley was her primary caretaker.

"She taught me everything," Spicer said. Bewley treated the students of Centennial with similar care with Spicer mentioning that she had her "special ones" and came to the job for the kids. Bewley kept special treats for the students for their birthdays or Christmas and greeted every child with a smile.

Centennial senior, Joseph Kim, recognized this kind spirit in Bewley. "She took the extra care to make school lunch feel like home lunch." Spicer highlights the importance of being kind and empathetic when it comes to a job like food service because "we don't know what the kid's home life is like." Bewley wholeheartedly embodied that empathetic and caring spirit and brought that into the kitchen everyday. "She took care of everybody else before she thought about herself," Spicer mentioned with a touch of sadness in her tone, adding that it was devastating to tell students that Bewley had passed when the school year started.

Spicer insists that even though Bewley's physical presence isn't here this year, she carries her sister with her. "When I'm kind of messed up I always think 'ok what would Roseanna do.'" Spicer reminisces as she gestures to the space around her neck where she carries a necklace with her sister's thumbprint. "I see her when the kids come through, I remember what she's done so I try to do what she did."

Bewley's 21 years of dedication will never be forgotten by the Centennial staff, the students, and the community as a whole. As I left the cafeteria that quiet morning, I left with a realization. Behind those heavy wooden doors there was more than just a lunch being served – it was a home, a safe space, and a smile. Roseanna Bewley's memory will forever live in every lunch and every smile that is served within the walls of Centennial High School.

By: Tavroop Kaur Layout: Claire Lee

NEWS

The Centennial community is one of unique unity and dedication. There are few spaces that a person can enter and feel as though they are completely protected, helped and, most importantly, supported. While the functioning of this community does largely rest on the shoulders of our passionate administration and student body, it also rests on the shoulders of the exceptional Centennial alumni who continued to give back to the community, despite their time within the brick and mortar walls having ended. Of the many Centennial alumni that have brought opportunities and knowledge back to the school, one of the most passionate was Marcos Ocadiz II; a dedicated student, athlete, and a pillar of our community.

It is with heavy hearts we announce the passing of Centennial alum (2010), Marcos Ocadiz II, who passed away suddenly at the age of 32. He is survived by his younger brother Mylez Anderson (2011), his mother, and his three year old son.

Chad Hollwedell, Ocadiz's former coach and teacher, spoke highly of his attitude both on and off the court.

"He was a 100 percent buy-in guy," Hollwedell remembers. "Everyone isn't a buy-in guy."

This was evident as Ocadiz quickly rose to the position of captain on the Varsity basketball team as a sophomore. Hollwedell notes that he had the unique ability to reach out to anyone, no matter their background or experiences, which was a special trait in the sports scene.

Ocadiz and his brother also stayed connected with Hollwedell and the football program after their graduations, holding fall league camps before the season started and acting as mentors for the younger players. "For them to continue to come back was something that was above and beyond," Hollwedell notes. Ocadiz's passing only held more impact as he was dedicated to not only his own peers but those of younger generations.

Special Services teacher and Centennial alumni, Colin Moe, reminisced on the memories he shared with Ocadiz throughout his high school career, and carrying on to college. Moe and Ocadiz had known each other since 2005 when they played football together at Centennial.

"My first impression of him was just his charisma, [and] his smile. He was probably one of the hardest workers we had in the football program," Moe said. The two reconnected after high school when they committed to play football at the same school; Randolph-Macon College. In high school and college all the same, Ocadiz was remembered by Moe and his teammates for being selfless. He always had a concern for others, checking up on friends and family to make sure they were happy and healthy.

Moe remarks on the "brotherhood" type bond he developed with Ocadiz. Not only did they play together in college, but both Moe and Ocadiz's younger brothers played at Randolph-Macon too. Through the bond they developed, Moe noticed the way Ocadiz was always trying to be the best version of himself, and that is something he plans on carrying with him; working to become the best version of himself everyday. Hollwedell also carries Ocadiz with him as he works on himself, specifically in emulating that genuine nature Ocadiz carried where he went stating that, "Every time, every person I ever saw Marcos encounter with... When he would first see them, there was a huge smile and it was 100% like a genuine happiness to see that person." Hollwedell said that he aspires to be like Ocadiz in this way, and will keep his remembrance

By: Tavroop Kaur & Abby Rothrock Layout: Claire Lee

MARCOS OCADIZ II



alive with the kindness he treats other people with. Ocadiz will be remembered for his uplifting personality and compassion for others. While we did not personally get to know him, hearing the stories of the Centennial staff whose lives he touched has memorialized Marcos as a person whom we wish we had the chance to meet. *The Wingspan* Staff sends our condolences to his friends and family, and to the entire Centennial community. The legacy he left behind at Centennial will forever be remembered and celebrated.

A Nautical Adventure Like Never Seen Before: Behind the Scenes of 20,000 Leagues Under the Sea
PHOTO CREDITS TO JOHN KUTA

Described by students as an “action-packed thriller” and a “technical masterpiece,” this fall’s production put on by Skyward Theatre, “20,000 Leagues Under the Sea” was an unforgettable and breathtaking theatrical experience.

The sci-fi adventure brings elements drastically different from Skyward’s recent productions. For example, “She Kills Monsters,” based on “Dungeons and Dragons,” explored themes of identity and acceptance. “Lost Girl” followed characters facing the truth about growing up, and the musical “Pippin” also had a similar coming-of-age theme.

However, “20,000 Leagues Under the Sea” takes you into a completely different realm — almost making the play an immersive world of its own.

Skyward Theatre director, Jacob Traver, comments, “20,000 Leagues Under the Sea” is a really fun kind of action-adventure and sci-fi kind of show, and we haven’t done one of those in the last couple of years of theater here at Centennial.”

11th grader Dhruv Veda, who plays the role of Captain Nemo in the play, mentions, “The tone of the show felt very different this year. It didn’t feel like we’re being put in some portion of a world forced to view it in a set perspective, but it felt more expansive, like there are a million different ways I can view the same setting.”



Rather than capturing a chunk of one story or theme, “20,000 Leagues Under the Sea” is dynamic, simultaneously bringing you a collection of stories and perspectives of several characters, such as the infinitely curious marine biologist, Morgan Aronax, the rash harpooner, Ned Land, and the vengeful Captain Nemo.

One could say the play almost reflects the vastness and depth of its title location, the sea. Its depth is undoubtedly a product of the works that inspired it, as well as the unique vision of the writers, David Kersnar and Althos Low, who adapted the works for modern audiences.



From a Classic Book to Contemporary Performance

“20,000 Leagues Under the Sea” is based on the timeless novel of the same name by the French author, Jules Verne, in 1849. However, the modern theatrical adaptation includes elements from the sequel, The Mysterious Island, creating an interesting blend of the two stories that build upon the source material.

Many actors in the play expressed astonishment when it was first announced. 9th grader Rebekah



Kurstin, cast as a sailor, states, “When the fall play was announced, I was very excited because I never knew that ‘20,000 Leagues Under the Sea’ was a play at all!”

Student cast member and Junior Elliott Blackburn, who plays the role of Ned Land, reflects a similar sentiment: “I read the book, but I am excited to see the final product of the play.”

The Skyward production brought creative and unique theatrical twists for modern audiences, while also keeping elements from the original texts. The Skyward production uses creative and unique theatrical twists to bring the play to life for modern audiences. One of the standout features of the play is its technical production.

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So Many “Firsts”: Theater Takes Innovation to the Stage During This Year’s Adaptation of 20,000 Leagues Under the Sea
PHOTO CREDITS TO JOHN KUTA

Having the opportunity to experience performances live on stage in a time where so much of the entertainment we consume is on a screen is an exceptional experience. Last year, I attended a renowned Broadway show, traveling hours to the theater to absorb the show-stopping harmony the skillful actors had on stage. What I had failed to realize is that the exhilarating experience wasn’t exclusive to renowned professional theaters but is attainable within my own school.

For years, the Centennial theater program has been known for housing phenomenal performers, talented directors, and thought-provoking plays. This year’s performance was a fantastic rendition of “20,000 Leagues Under the Sea”, an adaptation by David Kersnar and Althos Low from the books by Jules Verne. This sci-fi classic unraveled flawlessly on our home stage, a compelling and unpredictable plot with gut-wrenching performances and stunning backdrops. I experienced joy, astonishment, fear, and shock under the sapphire-lit stage, feeling as if I was, in fact, “20,000 Leagues Under the Sea”. From watching in awe as large octopus tentacles attacked the crew through the ship, following the school of fish that were magically projected swim by in 3D, or the impressive extension of a deck hatch complete with misty fog emerging from its depth, it became clear that this play marks a moment of innovation to our theater program.



Evidence of such evolution is the program’s rebirth under a rebranded identity: Skyward Theatre. Operating as an independent entity within the school, Skyward Theatre manages everything from its play selection and staging to marketing, even creating its own merchandise. Its showcase of “20,000 Leagues Under the Sea” was a powerful debut, symbolizing the start of the company’s new identity. Stage manager and marketing director of Skyward Theatre, Sofia Wolf, believes the theatre’s choice of rebranding is smart because it “solidifies the theater program as a true company, almost elevating it to a more professional level.”

But the innovation doesn’t end there. One thing that stood out to the audience was the incredible realism and effects the tech crew provided. Junior Alexandra Levin-Lozovatsky explains how “the plot itself was quite interesting and with a very unique effect. Like the dry ice submarine hatch, the abstract lighting, and the transparent film screen. The play has been one that has impressed me.”

These advanced aspects were the intention of the company’s effort to improve its set. Bow Leard, senior and the head of the costume department, explains how “there were just a lot of technical aspects we didn’t have to deal with until this show”, elaborating; “For ‘Legally Blonde’ we are at a college or dorm. For ‘Lost Girl’ we were in a bedroom for the whole thing so we didn’t have to switch in between. But for ‘20,000 [Leagues under the sea]’, we were in between three different locations for the entire show so there was a unique challenge of having to create different settings, different costumes, and different pieces on the set.” Leard fondly recounts; “our set was really involved, so all of our people who were working on that had to put a lot of effort into making sure it was stable and fully functional...it was just a really fun show to put together.”

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By: Emma Liu Layout: Saroop Kaur

By: Sahil Prasad & Lucas Bromberg Layout: Saroop Kaur

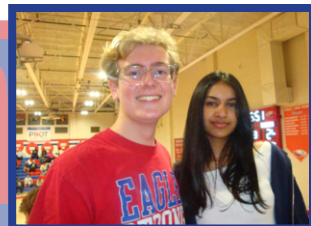
SENIORS of the MONTH

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Best Part About Being A Senior: freedom
Worst Part About Being A Senior: college applications
Best Memory Of Highschool: Senior Homecoming
Worst Memory Of Highschool: getting backed into in the parking lot
Most Likely To Find Me: at Dunkin

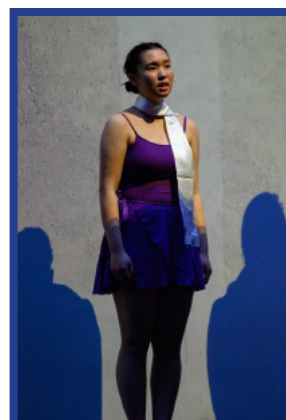
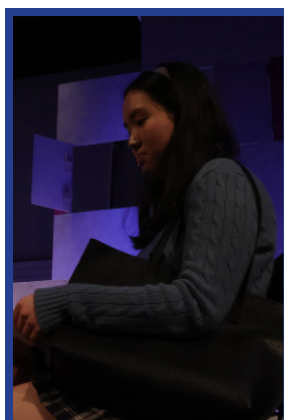
Name: Jack Schnieder Fav Food: pasta
Birthday: May 17th Fav Show: Modern Family
Favorite Color: blue Future Plans: college
Fav Teacher: Mr. Boggs Intended Major: psychology
Fav Class: orchestra



Best Part About Being A Senior: knowing all of the teachers and the school
Worst Part About Being A Senior: not knowing what to expect in the future
Best Memory Of High School: failed senior sunrise
Worst Memory Of High School: physics junior year
Most Likely To Find Me: on stage :)



Name: Jenny Min
Birthday: June 19th
Favortie Color: purple
Fav Teacher: Mr. VW
Fav Class: sociology
Fav Food: pasta
Fav Show: Gossip Girl
Future Plans: college
Intended Major: neuroscience with a minor in anthropology



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Best Memory Of High School: winning regionals 2 years in a row for field hockey
Worst Memory Of High School: chemistry sophomore year
Best Part About Being A Senior: snow days don't matter
Worst Part About Being A Senior: leaving my underclassmen friends
Future Plans: college
Intended Major: international relations

Name: Maya Parrish
Birthday: May 6th
Favortie Color: orange
Fav Teacher: Mr. Whittaker
Fav Class: chinese (specifically junior year)
Fav Food: pasta
Fav Movie: Crazy Rich Asians
Future Plans: college
Intended Major: international relations



Best Part About Being A Senior: having room in my schedule to pick fun classes
Worst Part About Being A Senior: college applications!
Best Memory Of Highschool: performing at National Jazz Festival with my quintet
Worst Memory Of High School: those few weeks in March where everything is happening at once and I'm balancing softball, theatre, and concerts (it's all worth it!!)
Most Likley To Find Me: in the theatre room



Name: Maddie Hall
Favorite Color: orange
Fav Teacher: Mrs. Vanover
Fav Class: advanced composition
Fav Food: pasta
Fav Song: "I Know the End" by Phoebe Bridgers
Future Plans: attend Elizabethtown
Intended Major: occupational therapy



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Finding Joy in the Journey: a Behind-the-Scenes Story of Centennial Volleyball's State Final



As I pushed the locker room door open, I realized the room felt completely foreign. I had been in and out of it a few times — once just two hours earlier, and exactly a year ago, where we took a team picture raising the 2023 State Championship plaque. Now it felt different, somehow dimmer. The silence filling the space was unnatural for a group of girls that always brought non stop chatter and laughter. But there it was, an uncomfortable and eerie muteness, only interrupted by the intermittent snuffles and hushed whispers of my teammates.

Earlier that day, the morning of Nov. 16, we met our parents and families at school, who decorated the doorway with red, white, and blue streamers and balloons. With high spirits, we boarded the bus full of energy and excitement, fueled by the cheers of our families and a trip to the 2A volleyball state championships that awaited us, where we would face Williamsport High School at Harford Community College.

The bus ride consisted of our usual speaker playing music, hair braiding, pictures, and conversations with one another. I felt a sense of both calmness and disbelief, realizing that we were on our way back to Harford Community College, where we left last year as state champions. States was always in the back of our minds — ever since tryouts in Aug. I remember telling my friends at multiple points throughout the season, “I just really want to make it to States again.” My teammate, Natalie Gomez, often brought it up after our regular season losses. “We have to be a lot better than we are now if we want to go to States again.”

After each playoff victory, the small glimpses of potential and promise I saw in the great plays of our early games had become a growing sense of hope and excitement. What we had talked about all season, even through tough losses where it felt just out of reach, was finally becoming a reality — all we had to do was just win one more game.

My belief in my teammates, myself, and our preparation remained steadfast as we stepped into the building, only strengthening as I reached to fill my water bottle, on which I had taped a pink sticky note with our team goals written. At the top of it, I wrote three words, “EMBRACE THE PRESSURE,” a message coined in our past season, that eased my mind and instilled a calm confidence within me. Tightly tying the laces of my shoes, I felt a security around my feet that mimicked the security I found in the faces and presences of my teammates.

“If we just play as we know how to do, no more and no less, we will be happy with our performance, no matter what.” This was the message our coach, Mike Bossom, sent to us leading up to the game, and it was the message he continued to send in our last huddle before it began.

After losing the opening points in the first set, I knew the game would be tough. Williamsport’s team had a strong serve, pass, and defensive game, as well as hard-swinging hitters. The points trickled past us little by little, and their team’s lead grew as we lingered

behind. And seemingly all in a blur, the first two sets had slipped through our fingers. At 2-0 in a five-set game, Junior Captain Hannah Shiau verbalized the severity of our situation: “We cannot let this next set be the last we play.” I knew we had more to give. I couldn’t fathom having a 3-0 loss; I believed we could turn it around, but more than that, I couldn’t accept a reality where we didn’t. The third set was my favorite match of the entire season. We made play after play, gained point after point, and when I caught the score, I was surprised and relieved to see 22-10, finishing the set with a lead of 15 points. I can only describe my feelings as genuine joy while playing with my teammates in my Centennial jersey, with the student section’s constant energy and cheering. There was a time between the points when I just looked around and listened, captivated by the moment and



wanting to commit it to memory.

A slow start to the fourth set led us to trail behind as Williamsport’s momentum continued to build. They made play after play, and we were struggling to keep up. Each point sort of slipped away from us, and I felt a helplessness and lack of control that was frustrating. Bossom called a timeout, and at 22-12, and I remember telling my teammates, but more telling myself, to dig deep and to not let up. And we didn’t. We fought to the very last point. We took every swing. We served tough. We kept balls off the ground. The game was coming to a close, and in those final moments, when we came together after the last points, I remember wanting to be present and soak it all in, feeling a special type of closeness to my teammates. We would never be the

exact same team ever again. With our arms bound tightly around one another in our last huddles, I could still feel the fight that defined us: the spirit that never gave up. It was our commitment to “embrace pressure” that characterized our final game, even as we fell short.



The aftermath was brutal and heart-breaking. Immediately after the last whistle was blown, I felt emotionless and numb. The magnitude of the situation had not hit me yet. It was not until my name was called in the award ceremony, looking into the eyes of my coaches, and seeing the silver medal, that it sunk in. And as I looked across the net at the opposing team, —

hearing their cheers and excitement — I felt a deep let down and disappointment not only for our team, but more for the parents, student section, administrators, coaches, and friends who loved and supported us. Now, I had been on both sides of the court, just one year apart.

The silence of the locker room after the game followed us onto the bus, as the ride began in a similar state. But before we knew it, the team was turned to one another, talking about our feelings and recapping the game. In our moment of defeat, we found solace in one another, a memorable togetherness. We were there for each other, in times of our greatest victories and most amazing plays, but more importantly, we were with each other in the locker room and on the bus after our seemingly biggest loss. Our dedication to one another, ourselves, and the team is what brought us to the State Finals, when many people, even ourselves at times, counted us out.

As I am writing this article, I see the small fortune cookie note taped on the wall in front of my desk. After our semi-final game against Eastern Tech, my teammates Hailey, Karen, Amanda, Joy, and I went to a buffet close to the school. We joked around with the idea that the fortune cookie our waiter brought us would be a sign, telling us that we’d win the championship. At the time, I was a little disappointed when I cracked my cookie open and my note said, “Find joy in the journey rather than just the destination.” But as I look back now, I think it fits perfectly. This season, in all its highs and lows, was always more than just the plaque we wanted so badly to raise — it was the dedication and passion we had for the fight, our commitment to one another, and our relentless pursuit to become the best team we could be. The love we had for the journey marked this team, and will forever continue to define the Centennial volleyball program in years to come.

LADY EAGLES RUNNERS FLY HIGH INTO COLLEGE

After illustrious running careers at Centennial, standout track and cross country athletes Caitlin Fritz and Riley Herdson will continue to run at the collegiate level, Fritz at Bucknell University and Herdson at the University of Maryland, respectively. They both announced their decisions after their dominant performances at the cross country 2A state championships, with Herdson being the overall winner. Though most Division 1 athletes have been playing and loving their sport since elementary school, it wasn't until high school that Fritz and Herdson took to competitive running. Both were soccer players until they decided to try out a new sport their Freshman and Sophomore years, and their love and passion for the sport grew quickly. Fritz and Herdson each look back on their time with the Centennial track and cross country program as a huge reason in their decision to commit to running at the highest level. Herdson, a 2024 All-Metro First Team selection, experienced different struggles throughout the years, but persevered through whatever came her way. Her challenges included a foot injury last season that made her doubt her ability to run times in the future that would be fast enough to run in college. Nevertheless, Herdson went on to return from her foot injury and set a personal record time at states last May. As Herdson became one of

the top runners in the area, she began to receive attention and interest from different colleges. The University of Maryland was one of the schools that she was considering. She reached out to express her interest and they showed interest right back as she recounts, "I never had a dream school, so I reached out to many XC/track coaches of larger colleges in the area. When I started talking to the Maryland coach and went on both an unofficial and official visit, I knew this was a team I wanted to be a part of." Between the coaching staff, the team, the academics, and the school size, Herdson knew that Maryland was a place that she could thrive as a college student-athlete. Herdson reflects on the cross country and track community at Centennial as being responsible for where she is today as a runner and a person. She calls the community a "family" who has built her up from a new and inexperienced runner to a state champion stating that, "The Centennial track family has changed my life. I am of course so grateful for Coach McCoy and Coach Graff for believing in me and building me into what I am today. For Herdson at Maryland, she envisions herself "running fast times and improving not just in my sport, but in my lifestyle." Fritz, similar to Herdson, was welcomed by the Centennial family after giving up soccer and turning to running. In 2022, Fritz joined the Centennial cross country team as a sophomore, and immediately excelled, earning second team All-county. While the transition from soccer to track appeared easy for Fritz, she had doubts early on, as she missed some of the team aspects from her soccer days that were lacking as she explains "Cross country is a team sport, however it still felt individual because in the moment, you only have yourself to keep you going. While that works for some people and can be viewed as a good skill to have, I missed leaning completely on my teammates." Though it took some initial adjustment, Fritz was able to eventually embrace the individualized parts of the sport, which changed her mentality completely as she recounts "It took a while for my



mindset on teamwork to adjust, but now I absolutely love relying on myself for my personal results. I'm only really ever racing myself."

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"The Centennial track family has changed my life. I am of course so grateful for Coach McCoy and Coach Graff for believing in me and building me into what I am today."



"It took a while for my mindset on teamwork to adjust, but now I absolutely love relying on myself for my personal results. I'm only really ever racing myself."

Teaching may be one of the hardest jobs out there. Not only does it require immense dedication and time, but it also plays a crucial role in shaping the success of younger generations. That being said, it's important to take time to appreciate your teachers and express your gratitude, and this series does just that by highlighting various teachers and taking a look into their career. A good teacher can profoundly impact the lives of their students, and Centennial is blessed to have an abundance of them.

This month, let's look at AP Physics C and E&M teacher Timothy Watson who is undoubtedly one of the most influential teachers here at Centennial.

Watson shares, "To me the best part about teaching is seeing the look on a student's face when they finally understand something that they didn't understand before. I think it's very gratifying for both them and myself." Teaching kids, especially in AP classes, is no small feat, but Watson finds reward in witnessing their growth and success.

Interestingly, teaching was not the career path Watson initially envisioned for himself. He attended Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in Troy, New York "originally intending to be a physics major and pursue a PhD." However, his time spent working in a research lab left him feeling uninspired. Watson explains he felt "pretty bored with it," and he "really didn't enjoy the research." It was during his time as a teaching assistant in introductory physics classes that he discovered his true passion. "I much more enjoyed being a TA in the intro classes," Watson recalls, sparking a new interest to pursue physics in another light; he was going to teach physics.

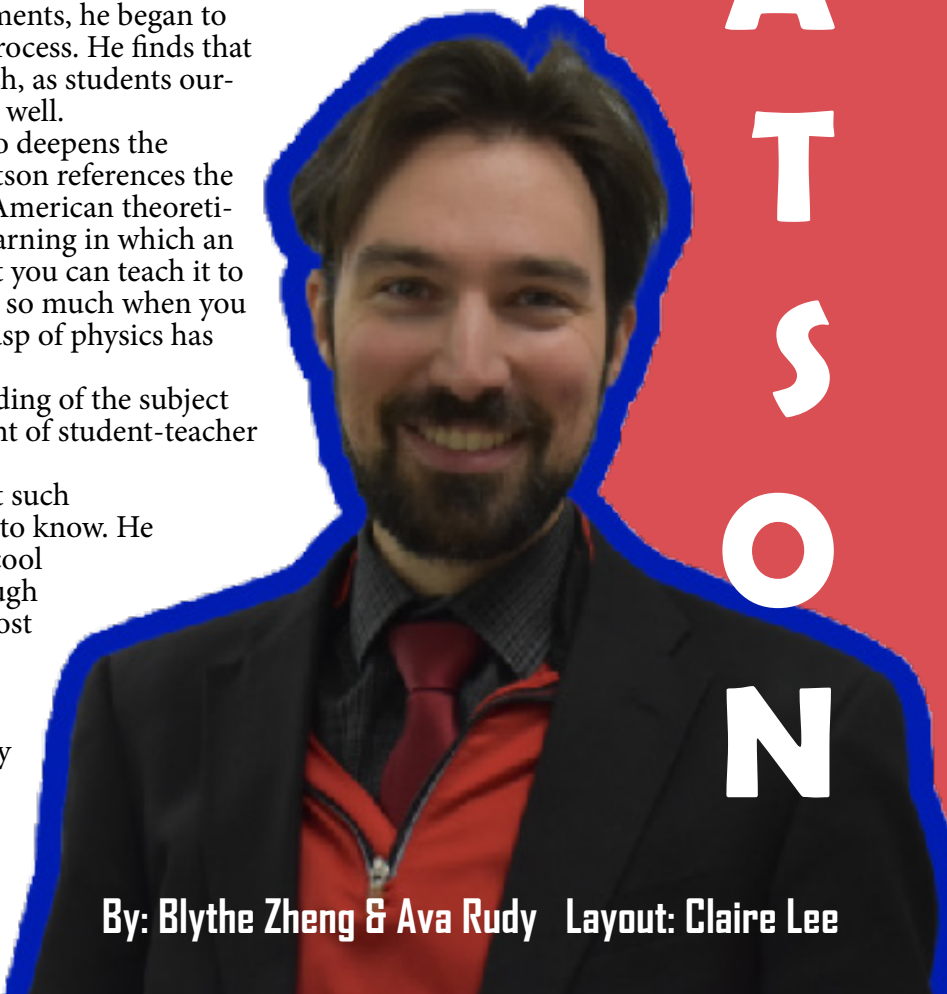
However, teaching comes with its own challenges, the most impactful (at least in Watson's case) being grading. "[It's] the least fun part of teaching," he expresses, relaying the most tedious aspect of his job. "It's usually the most time consuming part."

But, in true science fashion, Watson found his own solution. In an attempt to avoid hand grading students' assignments, he began to utilize the Canvas autograder to speed up the process. He finds that "it helps students get feedback a lot faster" which, as students ourselves, we can say most students appreciate it as well.

Teaching doesn't just impact the students; it also deepens the teacher's own understanding of the subject. Watson references the Feynman method, named after the renowned American theoretical physicist. Feynman methodizes a way of learning in which an individual must "try to learn it well enough that you can teach it to someone else." Watson observes that you "learn so much when you have to start teaching," highlighting how his grasp of physics has grown through his teaching career.

Not only does teaching deepen one's understanding of the subject as a whole, but it also allows for the development of student-teacher relationships. There are often stark differences in the perspectives of teachers and students, but such differences are exactly what Watson likes to get to know. He shares that "getting to know students, and the cool things [they] do outside of the classroom" through conversation and interaction is what he likes most about teaching.

Timothy Watson's journey into teaching demonstrates how passion and purpose can evolve, leading to a fulfilling career that not only educates but also inspires.



By: Blythe Zheng & Ava Rudy Layout: Claire Lee

Teacher Feature:

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On January 30, 2025, Howard County Board of Education approved changes to Policy 8080. According to the policy, which will be enforced on March 3, students must silence and put away their phones to avoid distractions. Cell phone use will only be permitted in emergencies (declared by administrators), students with IEPs, 504 and health plans.

The reactions to this phone ban with students and teachers have greatly varied. Many were shocked about the ban on phones in passing time and lunch, many citing this as extreme.

Tiffany Jiang-Chen, Centennial Freshman, expressed her animosity toward the ban, "I'm really disappointed."

Christopher Bailey, Centennial English teacher, had a more positive reaction, "I was excited about this phone ban. [...] As a teacher I felt comforted that my district would back me in that phones are not allowed in my classroom."

The phone ban has raised questions about enforcement during passing time and lunch due to foot traffic and staff numbers, leaving many to speculate.

Centennial Principal, Joelle Miller, expressed on record her worries. "We are waiting on guidance from the county on how we are enforcing phones in the hallways and phones in the cafeteria [...] I'm worried about not being able to enforce the new policy."

Centennial's current phone policy permits phone use during lunch, between classes, and with teacher permission, but opinions on its effectiveness vary.

Initially, many felt that Centennial's long running phone ban was effective, but enforcement dwindled as the year progressed. Before changes were made to policy 8080, the rules were that students were allowed devices in the hallways, lunch, and during non-instructional times in classrooms.

Centennial Science teacher Kevin McCoy believed it was helpful by acting as a warning of "change coming down the line."

Teachers interviewed by *The Wingspan*, have noted that cell phones are increasing-

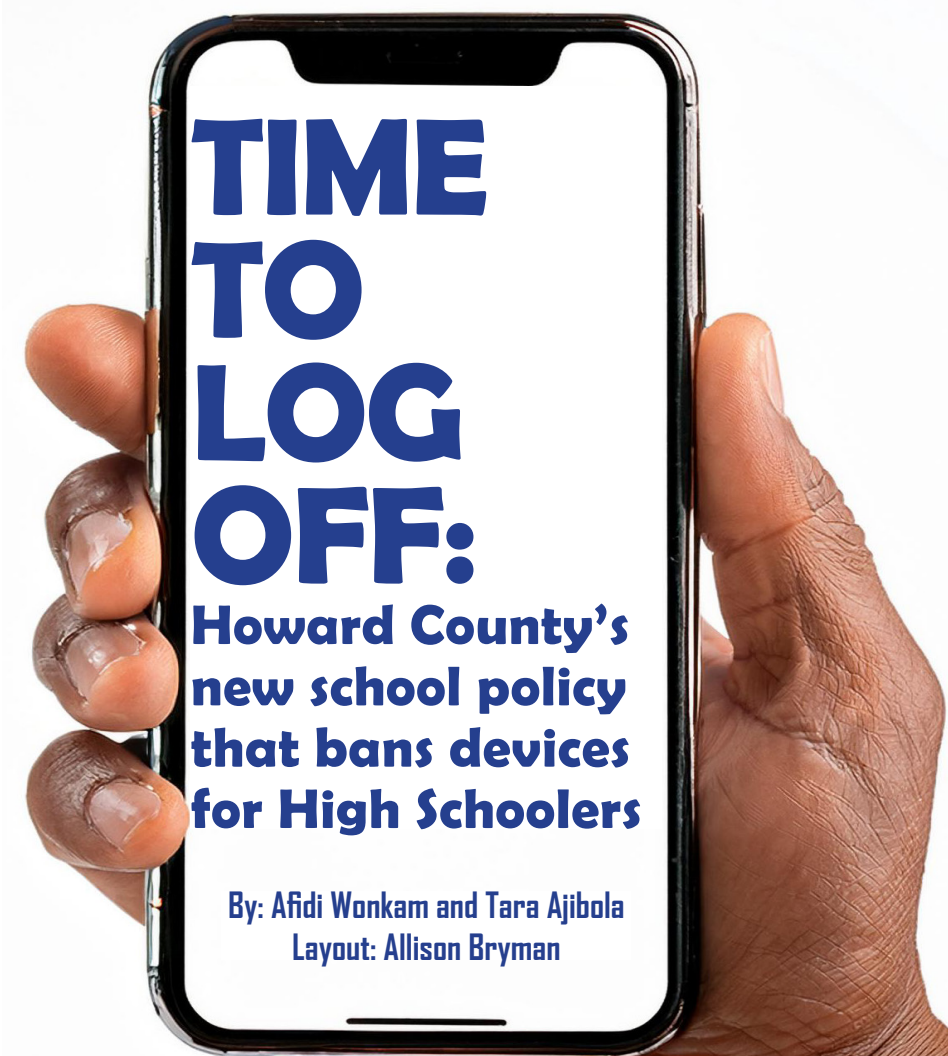
ly distracting and harming student behavior, mental health, and academic performance, leading to the implementation of this ban. Bailey talked about his biggest concern being academic dishonesty, "It's becoming a bigger issue How easy it is to circumvent the difficulty of school is something a lot of post-pandemic kids are very willing to do."

Jiang-Chen agrees "[Cell phones are] really popular, almost more than half of the students don't do their work, they just hide under their computers."

Phone use among teenagers can have positive impacts on academic and safety matters.

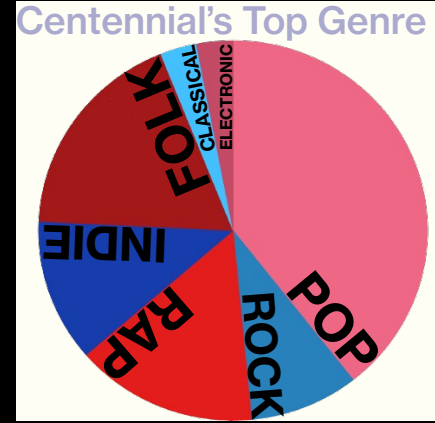
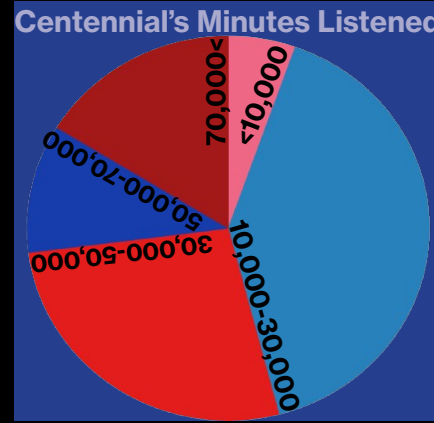
Centennial Sophomore Maral Tuvshintugs elaborates, "A lot of people use their phones to plan school events. Phones are helpful to contact parents during medical emergencies and for early dismissal. It can help inform people about school threats."

Centennial art teacher Mark Hanssen agrees that phone use can be educational. "It is tricky as an art teacher because we do utilize cameras on the phone ...to record processes and create a portfolio." Many students oppose the phone ban, and a petition on change.org has gathered 3,800 signatures from students and others across the county.



TIME TO LOG OFF:
Howard County's new school policy that bans devices for High Schoolers

By: Afidi Wonkam and Tara Ajibola
Layout: Allison Bryman



#1 Top Artist

Taylor Swift

87,182,061 monthly listeners

#2 Top Artist

Laufey

15,428,221 monthly listeners

#3 Top Artist

Travis Scott

73,241,465 monthly listeners

#1 Top Song

Work Song
By Hozier

#2 Top Song

Bags
By Clario

#3 Top Song

Time to Pretend
By MGMT

#1 Next Upcoming Artist

Tate McRae

42,386,405 monthly listeners

#2 Next Upcoming Artist

Lola Young

44,432,280 monthly listeners

#3 Next Upcoming Artist

Megan Moroney

7,357,092 monthly listeners

"Journalism is a way to express yourself in different ways while also being creative with your stories. The best part about Journalism is making an impact on your school"
- Ryan Doody

"Journalism means having your voice heard" - Hannah Elpus

"Journalism means investigating your environment to write about important topics. It means to advocate"
- Emma Liu

THE POWER OF JOURNALISM

What does Journalism mean to you?

"Journalism helps one understand perspectives of those different from them"
- Tara Ajibola

"Journalism is super important for staying informed on things in the world and community, that's what I love about it" - Afidi Wonkam

"Journalism lets people advocate for the things they care about and it's a vital tool in any community"
- Catie Fritz

"Journalism allows you to connect with other like-minded people. It's fun to experiment with different subjects as well" - Ava Phasukyued

"Journalism to me means sharing those stories people often ignore - bringing the perspectives we overlook to light. The opportunity to look at things differently, and inspire others to do the same is rare. Being a journalist means having the power to change the world"
- Caroline Jenkins

"Journalism holds the power to bring communities together through storytelling and get to the truth of every narrative" - Tavroop Kaur

"Journalism is important because it gives you an opportunity to advocate for something you are passionate about and it is also important for readers to be educated on issues in our world" - Abby Rothrock

"Journalism lets me share ideas with the world through writing"
- Sahil Prasad

TEST YOUR SKILLS

K U V J A B V H S L F A Q M Q F Q N E M
 Y B R Q K H Z K T V I Y E R W M A P T P
 H U E J N Q Z C U X Q P Q M X R J J W N
 U H P D Q V W J I T T X R S A E P Z B A
 P U A B G S B H X J X N G I B C J Q W P
 D N P S D W D G Z L E E X L N Z W J E S
 S E S T T E E D H N P W Y A B T I Q H G
 Y X W U I I L V Y F Q S T N E G K X X N
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 F J K T W T R T E K C O D J Z X Q W L M
 X R S S S N A X V S N P E N B U Q K D W
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 J H C S E L G A E P S C K G N Z P M I C
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 I X P B C R H H F Z E Z J M I F Z P A H
 O N J Q T W X J S G P R R E T I R W O L
 W W H S H J T T J V X P G Z Y F G N Q K

1. editor
2. print
3. interview
4. docket
5. article
6. news
7. journalism
8. newspaper
9. eagles
10. students
11. writer
12. wingspan

TRIVIA

1. True or False: Horizon Club supports non-profit and local community organizations by volunteering at events and donating time and goods.
2. Who is the principal of Centennial High School?
3. Who earned their 1,000 career points for basketball in the 2024-2025 school year?
4. What is the phone number to Centennial High School?
5. When was Centennial High School opened?

1. True 2. Dr. Joelle Miller 3. Josh Frazier 4. 410-313-2856 5. 1977



THE POWER OF JOURNALISM

The first semester of the 2024-25 school year has been a memorable one. Between staying on top of college applications and reminding ourselves to savor every moment of our Senior year at Centennial, this semester has been full of challenges. Our most lofty challenge was the cut of the Journalism program at the end of last school year, sending *The Wingspan's* future into a spiral of unknowns.

The odds seemed to be against us as we scrambled to build *The Wingspan* club up independently with a new team of writers, photographers, and designers, and we now reflect on the chaotic process of creating this publication as a blessing in disguise. A beautiful representation of teamwork and the belief of the power of writing. From honoring those of our Centennial community who have passed on, celebrating the achievements of our graduating athletes and marveling at Skyward Theatre's productions, this monumental issue of *The Wingspan* has allowed us to reconnect with our community and remind us of our roles as historians of this school. To you, this may just be a paper, but for *The Wingspan* staff it is so much more. It is a testament to the strength of truth through storytelling and physical proof that student voice matters. Hence our theme for this year's issues being, "The Power of Journalism."

Co-Editors in Chief:
 Abby Rothrock
 Tavroop Kaur

Feature Editors:
 Emma Liu
 Blenda Undrakhbold

Sports Editor:
 Ryan Doody

Photo Editor:
 Ana Lima

Media:
 Hannah Elpus

Layout Editor:
 Allison Bryman

Online Editor:
 Hibah Mehreen

Advisor:
 Rus VanWestervelt

A thank you to Wilde Lake's Paw Print

Amidst the drastic changes our newspaper was facing, Editor-in-chief of the Wilde Lake *Paw Print*, Amy Manazares, wrote a feature titled "Student Journalism Perseveres." She highlighted the struggles that many student journalists are facing, and helped bring light to the situation. She acknowledged our determination to keep our publication alive as we shifted from a class that meets everyday, to a club only running on bi-weekly meetings. From the two of us and on behalf of the entire *Wingspan* team, thank you for uplifting our voice.

We hope you will join us in holding our collective breaths in the hopeful anticipation of the reinstatement of the journalism class. Stay tuned. Thank you to our *Wingspan* Staff for their continued dedication to truth and justice.

By: Tavroop Kaur & Abby Rothrock Layout: Allison Bryman

A Wingspan Error

It has come to our attention that *The Wingspan* volume numbers have been labeled wrong. It is our job to hold ourselves accountable and correct this mistake. While Centennial High School was opened in 1977, *The Wingspan* was founded in 1978. Based on our last print edition, which was labeled as our 49th volume, this print edition would be labeled as volume 50. However, after looking back several years prior, we realized a mistake. If labeled correctly, the 50th volume would fall in the 2028-2029 school year; therefore we have decided to put the correct volume number within asterisks for each year until we reach the 50th volume, in which then the mistake will be corrected. For the record, this is Volume XLVII.





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