

# ERIC HAMBER SECONDARY THE GRIFFINS' NEST

VOLUME 9, ISSUE 1

# G

5025 WILLOW STREET, VANCOUVER, BC

DECEMBER 19, 2019

CONTENTS 1 cover stories \* 2 local news \* 3 global news \* 4 sports \* 5 student life \* 6 student life \* 7 fine arts \* 8 hambergur

## THE GRIFF SPEAKS UP: VSB FOOD RESTRICTIONS

BY: HANNAH AZAD (10) AND JESSICA KIM (10)

PHOTO CREDIT: KATJA RADOVIC-JONSSON (8) & MEGAN LEE (11)



The recent increase in dietary-related diseases affecting adolescents has put the spotlight back on the diet of teenagers. In order to combat these growing concerns, the VSB had taken the initiative to refine their food restrictions, resulting in stricter, more formalized guidelines for Vancouver schools to follow this school year. These reinforced food guidelines have caused the rules for how food is handled, sold and distributed to be much more inflexible than previous years.

Although these recent adjustments impact our community in many different ways, they greatly affect Hamber's very own school store, The Griff. The Griff is located in the school's cafeteria, and sells a variety of different food and beverage items. Run by Ms. T. Hayes (Business) and a dedicated team of managers, the store provides a unique, hands-on learning experience for students enrolled in her senior level business courses.

Similar to The Griff's previous years at Hamber, Ms Hayes and her managers worked hard on preparations over the summer to ensure a smooth store opening at the beginning of the school year. After learning about the newly formalized guidelines halfway through September, the team feared

that their plans for the store would be delayed. "It made us a bit worried because there were many things we were planning or had already completed over the summer that had to be changed or discarded," explained CEO Simran Sharma (12). While some of the store's changes are more noticeable to customers, such as the removal of certain products and the current pause on the selling of hot lunches, others were more behind-the-scenes. "The administrators wanted to make sure that we all had Food Safe Certification, so my managers and I had to take the course. We are all now Food Safe-certified," Ms. Hayes revealed. Due to The Griff team's hard work, they successfully made adjustments in order to meet each health requirement and opened just as planned; an exciting time for both the store and their loyal customers!

Although the new guidelines came as a shock, they ultimately mean positive changes for The Griff's employees, management team, and customers. Referring to this challenge, Sharma exclaimed, "It made us all go out of our comfort zones to explore new ideas and solutions so that we can have a successful year at The Griff."

PHOTO CREDIT: ONLINE SOURCE



## RECENT OUTBREAK OF VAPING SHEDS LIGHT ON HIDDEN RISKS

BY: SPENCER IZEN (10) &  
EMILY SHI (10)

As of November 13th 2019, over 2,000 cases of e-cigarette or vaping related lung injuries across 49 states have been reported in the US by the Center for Disease Control. There have been 42 deaths and the toll vaping takes on public health continues to grow. In the US, the situation has escalated so far that certain states are considering placing a complete ban on the sale of vape-related products. Studies by numerous government agencies and laboratories have linked vaping to pulmonary damage resulting in coughing, shortness of breath, and in severe cases, respiratory failure. Some studies have gone far enough as to label certain chemicals within e-cigarette carcinogens as being capable of causing cancer. While no single chemical has been determined to be the cause of this recent outbreak, the most commonly linked is vitamin E acetate. Vitamin E acetate is a sticky, oily synthetic form of Vitamin E. Though a safe ingredient in other products, recent investigation has shown that the chemical is not safe for inhalation.

The government of Canada is currently investigating the outbreak of vaping linked illnesses. Health Canada prohibits the use of Vitamin E acetate in vaping products. Recent cases of lung disease caused by vaping in Canada highlights the risks of using any form of vapes or electronic cigarettes. There have been three confirmed cases of severe lung illness in Quebec,

two possible cases in New Brunswick, and three possible cases in BC. Numerous health organizations have warned against the use of vapes on account of the lack of research about their long-term side effects. Many types of vaping fluid contain nicotine or cannabis oils, including Vitamin E acetate. The contents of vape cartridges are oftentimes unsafe, especially in fluid not purchased from a retail store. Nevertheless, vaping, especially among teenagers, is on the rise.

Although vape and e-cigarette products are only legal for individuals over the age of 19, youth are often able to obtain vapes through online vendors. It has become popular among teenagers under the misconception that vapes are a cooler and healthier alternative to smoking. This misconception may be partly attributed to the constant and aggressive advertising from vape companies.

Non-smokers, youth and pregnant women are advised not to use any form of electronic cigarette or vape related product. Individuals who use vapes as a means to quit smoking are cautioned that they have not yet been proven to be an effective alternative. The government of Canada recommends, "if you do not vape, do not start." Simply because a vaporizer does not contain nicotine does not render it harmless.

EDITORS

EDITORS-IN-CHIEF: SARAH AZAD & HALEY SENGSAVANH

SPONSOR: MR. GIUSEPPE SCAGLIONE

LAYOUT EDITORS: SARAH AZAD, DEAN ROHMAN, HALEY SENGSAVANH, FLORA ZHOU, JACOB ZHU

HEAD PHOTOGRAPHER: FLORA ZHOU

PLEASE RECYCLE ♻️

## TRANSLINK STRIKE: WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW

BY: ERIKA CHUNG (10)

### WHY STRIKE?

Unifor, the union representing 5,000 bus operators and transit maintenance workers, and the Coast Mountain Bus Company (CMBC) were in negotiations for a new employee contract this past November. The new contract focused on wage increases and improved working conditions. One of Unifor's primary concerns was closing the wage gap between skilled trades workers under the CMBC and their SkyTrain operator counterparts. They also wanted to close the wage gap between Metro Vancouver and Toronto bus operators.

CMBC has proposed a \$6,000 wage increase for transit operators, bringing their annual earnings to \$70,000. There is also a \$10,000 wage increase for skilled trades workers, increasing their annual salary to \$90,000.

### WHAT WILL BE AFFECTED?

On November 1st 2019, strike action began with a uniform ban for bus operators and an overtime ban for maintenance workers. After unsuccessful talks on November 14th, bus drivers refused to work overtime for several days during the following week. This

resulted in a 10-15% decrease in buses on the road, with the cancellations adding onto the pressure of existing SeaBus cancellations.

Overtime strikes by maintenance workers caused delays and affected several bus routes.

As of the writing of this article, Unifor has announced a three-day system-wide shutdown taking place on November 27th, 28th and 29th. All busses and SeaBus will not run while their operators take to the street.

Canada Line, SkyTrain, West Coast Express and HandyDART will not be affected by the strike, though the SkyTrain worker's union (CUPE 7000) is currently in deadlocked discussion for their contract.

To stay updated on current cancellations and to be notified of transit delays, visit and subscribe to TransLink's website (<https://alerts.translink.ca>) for real time information and updates.

The previous transit strike in 2001 escalated into a record-breaking four month full-fledged strike and bus operator walkout. Eventually, legislation was passed to encourage bus operators to return to work and end the strike.

PHOTO CREDIT: ONLINE SOURCE



## RACISM ALIVE IN VANCOUVER SCHOOLS

BY: DEAN ROHMAN (10) &  
SPENCER IZEN (10)

Several students at St. George School have been suspended or expelled for their involvement in what was described as "deeply offensive behaviour" by school administration. That behaviour was a social media page that contained racist content. The school conducted an internal investigation along with the Vancouver Police Department, and ultimately handed out punishments to those involved. The page was allegedly reported by a student at the school who showed it to school administration upon discovering it. In an interview CTV News conducted with a parent at the school, the racist behaviour included "anti-Semitic posts... celebrating the Holocaust" and the usage of "[the] Nazi salute on campus." A source speaking to Global News stated that the page additionally contained deeply offensive comments regarding Black people. Another unidentified parent from the school said that they would like to see the school intensify their diversity on education and the history of hatred directed towards the Jewish people.

The incident attracted the attention of several anti-hate groups, including the Anti Defamation League (ADL) in the United

States, who tweeted out "Making Nazi salutes on campus, mocking the Holocaust, and making #racist and #antiSemitic comments is reprehensible. Good that this school in Vancouver took strong action immediately". Additional statements regarding the incident were issued by the Centre for Israel and Jewish Affairs and B'nai Brith Canada.

Recently, schools across the US and Canada have been seeing a rise in hateful and racist behaviour being exchanged both online and in school. The CBC conducted a survey with 4,000 students aged between 14 and 21. Of the students that were visible minorities, more than half have said that they have been called racial slurs, and have received offensive comments. 1 in 8 students say that they dealt with these incidents more than five times.

So what can we learn from this? In Vancouver schools right now, hate is still alive. There is a lot of racially and culturally motivated hate towards other students. Due to social media nowadays, hateful messages and ideas can easily be shared in private among small groups of people. Students, parents, and teachers should become aware of this and learn to recognize this behaviour, and take action.

PHOTO CREDIT: PRISCILLA KUAN (11)  
& NICOLE TAM (11)



## CANADA VOTES 2019

BY: SPENCER IZEN (10), JESSICA KIM (10), DEAN ROHMAN (10)

By 10:00pm on October 10, Justin Trudeau officially entered his second term as Canadian Prime Minister, overcoming two scandals to do so. Although he won the position, the Liberals lost a significant number of seats since 2015 and Trudeau will be leading with a minority government. By the end of the election, the Liberals held 157 seats, with the Conservatives following closely behind with 121 seats. After that, the Bloc Québécois had 32 seats and the New Democrat Party had 24 seats. The Green Party gained seats, tripling from 1 seat in 2015 to 3 seats.

The aftermath of the election saw many changes. For one, the western provinces felt that they were not being represented. With this, they created a campaign called Wexit. The campaign itself was created when the leader of the campaign, Peter Downing, stated that the west did not want to be pushed around anymore, and wanted to create a separate government. Wexit - the "Western exit" - would help to create a separate government that did not have the supposed "liberal supremacy" of the current Canadian government.

In the east of Canada, there's Quebec, Canada's electoral predictability equivalent of Florida. The results of the 2019 Federal election in Quebec can be summed up in

four words: The Bloc is back. In the previous election, the Bloc Québécois won just 10 seats, but in 2019 the Bloc soared to 32 seats. The epicentre of this surge is somewhat difficult to determine. Some of it can be attributed to the partial rebranding of the Bloc by party leader Yves-François Blanchet. Blanchet's message for the duration of the campaign was focussed on Quebecois nationalism, as opposed to the party's traditional autonomy/sovereignty rhetoric. This message resonated with Quebec voters and is a reflection of the inner-province debate over the changing demographics of Quebec and the future of 'Quebec values'. In any case, the Bloc has once again risen to national prominence and is poised to play an unpredictable role in the minority government. Whenever a bill is on the floor, the Bloc should never be discounted.

This election cycle was captivating from the very beginning, and we saw many changes along the way. We now have a record-breaking number of women in the House of Commons, and our very own riding is represented by Independent MP, Jody Wilson-Raybould. We don't know exactly what the future of our government will be, but we do know that change is inevitable.

PHOTO CREDIT: ONLINE SOURCE



## DO YOU HEAR THE PEOPLE SING?

BY: EMILY SHI (10)

Do you hear the people sing? The song can be heard from the thousands of protesters on the streets of Hong Kong, adopted by a country fighting for their rights and their freedoms. In March, 2018, a Hong Kong man confessed to the murder of his girlfriend, Poon Hiu-Wing. The murder took place in Taiwan but as there was no extradition agreement between Hong Kong and Taiwan, so the man could neither be arrested in Hong Kong nor sent to Taiwan for trial. In 2019, a bill was passed in order to allow for the extradition of criminals from Hong Kong to Taiwan, but also to Mainland China. This action was the catalyst for the ongoing protests in Hong Kong.

In 1997, Hong Kong, then a colony of Britain, was ceded to Mainland China on the condition of one country, two systems. The agreement promised citizens of Hong Kong democratic freedoms including the right to vote, freedom of speech, of the press and freedom of assembly. Hong Kong was further granted fifty years of freedom from autonomy from Mainland China - a communist, authoritarian system. Since the initial agreement in 1997, China has constantly sought to gain power over Hong Kong and for the general erasure of democratic action. The proposed bill provided Mainland China an opportunity to gain greater control over Hong Kong. In authoritarian China, the law is often used to silence and punish individuals speaking out against the state. Amid the recent arrests and disappearances of pro-democracy demonstrators and book sellers, the proposed bill represented the continued threat of Mainland China to the democratic

freedoms of the people.

March 31st, 2019 marked the beginning of the Hong Kong protests. Thousands of citizens filled the streets in protest. Mainland China has tried to frame the Hong Kong protests as a mass riot, influenced by Western powers. This accusation is based on the presence of Western media and reporters. On June 12, the Hong Kong police, a force heavily controlled by the pro-China members of Hong Kong's government, deployed tear gas and rubber bullets among the protesters. The Hong Kong protesters are demanding five demands "and not one less."

1. To withdraw the extradition bill
2. To stop labeling protesters as "rioters"
3. To drop charges against protesters
4. To conduct an independent inquiry into police behavior
5. To implement genuine universal suffrage for both the Legislative Council and the Chief Executive

On September 4th, the bill was officially declared "dead". However, the end of the bill did not signify the end of the protests. What originally began as a protest against the bill has evolved to become a fight for democracy and more freedom from Beijing. Since the beginning of the riots, there has been the call for pro-democratic countries to stand with Hong Kong. Canada has long been in favour of a high level of autonomy for Hong Kong; around 300,000 Canadian citizens live in the country. Nevertheless, the protests have sparked tensions among Pro-China and Pro-Democracy groups, especially in cities with a high Chinese-identifying



PHOTO CREDIT: GOOGLE IMAGES

population, such as Vancouver, Richmond and Toronto.

Canada's official stance on the matter is that the country will continue to defend its values of human rights and international law. Prime Minister Justin Trudeau stated "We do not escalate, but we also don't back down."



PHOTO CREDIT: NISHA TIANGRATANAKUL (10)

## THE SEA LEVELS ARE RISING AND SO ARE WE

BY: THERESE BAIDO (12)

On the week of September 20th, 2019, cities across Canada participated in the Week of Climate Action. Millions of people, consisting of mostly children and teens, took part in the strikes to demand government action for the climate crisis.

To start off the week, students and adults in Vancouver skipped school and work to make their way to the Vancouver Art Gallery to assemble in a "die-in." This is a non-violent protest in which people pretend to be dead in order to demonstrate the potential consequence in the future. Catching the attention of many shoppers at the Pacific Center Foodcourt, they laid down for 11 minutes, each minute representing how many years we have left before damages become irreversible.

"It was super high energy, positive, and a supportive environment," said Audrey Soo (12). "Compared to the other strikes I've been to, it felt like everyone there truly cared about what was happening to our planet."

As the week continued on, people across B.C. prepared for the Global Climate Strike on September 27th, 2019. Prior to the event, VSB had voted to excuse students who want to participate in the climate strike. An estimated amount of 100,000 people flooded Vancouver City Hall and Cambie Street as protesters marched across

Cambie Bridge towards downtown Vancouver.

It was also estimated that 500,000 attended the climate strike in Montreal, including our own Prime Minister Justin Trudeau. People around the world, from Amsterdam to Seoul shared videos and tweets about the climate strike that went on in their city.

"I thought it was awesome to see people of all ages coming together to fight for climate action!" exclaimed Tiya Tanaka (12) at Eric Hamber Secondary School. "Attending the strikes keeps me hopeful for a better future and motivates me to create positive change every day. I hope everyone does the same and makes little or big changes to their lifestyle by putting the environment and their future first."

Even though action week is over, that doesn't mean that our fight for climate action is. Sustainabiliteens Vancouver, a group of teens fighting climate change, has many events planned for the future, especially nearing the holiday season. Samantha Lin (12) from Prince of Wales Secondary and a core coordinator of Sustainabiliteens Vancouver is excited for what's to come. "This is our chance to demonstrate alternatives to the current destructive system of consumerism and imagine the bright future that we know is possible!"

## A SUMMARY OF THE IMPEACHMENT INQUIRY

BY: SPENCER IZEN (10)

"I would like you to do us a favour though". Those are the words of US President Donald Trump on a phone call with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskiy on the 25th of July, 2019. The "favour" President Trump requested was for Ukraine to open an investigation into former Vice President and 2020 Presidential candidate Joe Biden and his son, Hunter Biden. The supposed investigation would have revolved around the period of time where Biden was Vice President and his son Hunter a board member of Burisma, a Ukrainian energy company. There has been no evidence to date of any wrongdoing on either Biden in relation to Ukraine.

The phone call was then reported by an unnamed whistle-blower on August 12th. All that is known about the whistleblower is that they are a member of the intelligence community who had "firsthand knowledge" of the events revolving around the phone call and ultimately led to an official complaint. On September 13th, House Intelligence Committee chairman Adam Schiff (D-CA28) issued a subpoena for the whistleblower's complaint after the acting Director of National Intelligence, Joseph Maguire, refused to cooperate with the investigation.

A week later on September 24th, Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi (D-CA12)

announced that an impeachment inquiry would be formalized in the House. Speaker Pelosi stated: "the actions taken to date by the president have seriously violated the constitution." The constitutional violation referenced by the Speaker was Article II, Section 4 that states "The President... shall be removed from Office on Impeachment for, and Conviction of, Treason, Bribery, or other high Crimes and Misdemeanors." Two days later the full whistleblower complaint was released.

In the weeks since the release of the complaint, the House Intelligence Committee has called on several Trump administration and State Department officials to testify as witnesses in the Committee's investigation. Some of those witnesses include Acting Ambassador to Ukraine Bill Taylor, EU Ambassador Gordon Sondland, Former Ambassador to Ukraine Marie Yovanovitch, Director for European Affairs for the National Security Council Alexander Vindman, and many others. The purpose of the testimonies is to assist in the investigation of the President's fateful phone call with Ukraine. These lead up to ultimately proving whether or not the President committed a crime, and whether the impeachment process move forward into the Senate.



PHOTO CREDIT: ONLINE SOURCE

PHOTO CREDIT: FLORA ZHOU (12)



## ONE LAST RUN

BY: FLORA ZHOU (12) &  
JACOB ZHU (12)

While fighting for the title of first in the province, Hamber's Senior Boys Volleyball team reflected on all they've accomplished in their past season. The Senior Boys powered through most of their season with easy victories, but finally met their match playing Argyle at lower mainlands.

Long time member **Timmy Wong** (12) expressed his immense faith in his fellow teammates to break the recurring loss streak Hamber sustained from lower mainlands in the past few years. Wong reveals, "I knew we were going to win. We had all the energy and momentum on our side; all we needed was to execute."

Setter **Alexander Keng** (12) agreed that a strong mentality was key for alleviating stress that came from moving onto increasingly higher calibre games. "It all comes down to who wants it more," Keng confessed. The persistence from the team's long practices and dedication finally paid off at lower mainlands. They finished off the fifth set at the close score of 15-13, bringing home the final championship trophy before Provincials.

**Minami Watanabe-Glasgow** (12) beamed with pride as he shared his insight about the tournament. "Every year we usually only win one banner, but winning two this year let the 2019-20 Senior Boys Volleyball team leave our legacy at Hamber."

PHOTO CREDIT: FLORA ZHOU (12)



## GRIFFINS, ARE YOU READY?

BY: MARK PERALTA (12)

One. Griffin. Every day after practice, the Eric Hamber football team broke off on those words. That slogan became the rallying cry of a team hungry to improve upon last year's dismal 1-7 season. Although we ended with a modest 3-4 record, there were still some great moments and stories that transpired.

Our season was defined by the emergence of an elite defense, led by a slew of talented seniors like **Jacob Goodwin** (12). He was an absolute monster who obliterated opposing teams with his blend of strength and athleticism. **Luke Lee** (12) also arose as another defensive captain. His hard hits crushed the

wills (and bodies) of our opponents.

The highlight of our season was our road trip to Kelowna. We were winless, facing an undefeated team. We were down 14-7 at halftime. That all changed when **Thomas Iverson** (11) scooped up a blocked field goal, running down almost the entire length of the field to score! We rode that momentum to win the game 26-20. The next week we won 36-0, in a game where backups like **Liam Pike** (10) and I got a chance to play significant minutes. We didn't reach the playoffs, but this season was still a rousing success.

## KICKING IT OFF

BY: ARIEL KONOMI (10)  
& AMELIA HUGHES (10)

Eric Hamber's Senior boys soccer team showed resilience throughout this season. They projected sportsmanship on and off the field, and they stood together even when it got tough. Even though they weren't always the strongest team on the field, they always motivated their teammates to keep going. No one ever pointed fingers after their wins and losses; they always took the victory or the blame as a team.

The coaches, **Mr. M. Todd** (Math) and **Brendon Willox**, couldn't have been happier with the turn out, and were overall very impressed by everyone on the team. They had a great season and came third

at Cities. They then moved on to playing in the Lower Mainland tournament but were unable to move forward after the first game. Even though it was a short season, the team managed to improve every step of the way. When they came across obstacles, they managed to push through and finish knowing that they tried their hardest.

The players that stood out this year were **Nico Liapis** (12), the captain of the team, and **Tristan Bannister** (12). They were great leaders throughout the season, and did their best to move the team forward. As Mr. Todd stated "People make mistakes, but everyone has a day to be amazing. That's why we play sports."

PHOTO CREDIT: FLORA ZHOU (12)



## A TURN OF EVENTS

BY: ANGIE LAN (11)

With the arrival of a new decade comes the Summer 2020 Olympics in Tokyo. The highly celebrated sports festival has announced that they will be adding five new sports: karate, baseball, skateboarding, "sports climbing", and surfing. "It's definitely a show of the times," commented **Mr. M. Mugford** (PE). "Some events, such as surfing and skateboarding, which have originally been considered 'fringe' sports, now have an opportunity to be a mainstream sport alongside events like basketball and volleyball."

Events have often been added

and removed from the Olympic Games, but sports that make an appearance often gain public interest due to the large audience that it reaches. These sports will only be a one-time addition to the Tokyo Olympics, but with a debut at the Games, it is entirely possible that they will return in future competitions. When asked about her thoughts on the events, **Kate Townson-Carolan** (11) remarked, "Why not include all of these sports? People put all of this hard work into what they're doing, so they might as well have a chance to demonstrate their abilities on a world stage and be celebrated!"

PHOTO CREDIT: FLORA ZHOU (12)



## HIGH SCHOOL: NOT A MUSICAL

BY: GRACE HUANG (10)

High school is very different from elementary school. It's also nothing like the movies, although you can join the school's musical or footlights! Grade 8 is your first look into the next five years of your high school career. I spent most of Grade 8 so far making friends in my classes and getting familiar with the workload. It is the perfect time to try out different study methods and finding out how you learn the best. It is also when teachers go the easiest on you, so it's a good idea to experiment. Not only should you focus on your schoolwork, but since you have the least amount of work to do, you can also join clubs as a way to spend free time. You're not only getting more experience

but it's a great opportunity to meet new people and make friends.

Lunch is a short 45 minutes between the second and third block so you can eat, catch up with your friends, and participate in the almost 70 clubs that meet at Eric Hamber. If you're wondering where you should sit, take your pick; in front of your lockers, the auditorium, or the cafeteria. In my experience, the best spot to sit is anywhere with a good group of friends! If you're looking to join one of the many clubs at Hamber, look for something you're already interested in or out of your comfort zone. Maybe a club you want to join involves fitness or even gives you volunteer opportunities and service hours!

PHOTO CREDIT: ONLINE SOURCE



## THE TESTAMENTS: COMPELLING OR CAPITALIZING?

BY: JOE SALMON (12)

Margaret Atwood's Booker-Prize-winning novel *The Testaments* is the "fifteen-years-later" follow-up to her critically acclaimed novel, *The Handmaid's Tale*. In the first dystopian installment, Atwood describes a theonomy taking over the government of the United States and the ensuing downfall of women's rights. In *The Testaments*, however, three stories unfold side-by-side fifteen years after the events of the first novel. It centers around the perspective of the outside world looking in on Gilead, the society in which the original narrative takes place.

The message of *The Handmaid's Tale* is more relevant than ever today, as evidenced by the popularity of Hulu's 2019 TV series adaptation of the novel. However, when you look at *The Testaments*, it's not quite clear what the novel is trying to accomplish in comparison. Standing in stark contrast to what was a compelling, bleak, and frighteningly possible premise in the original novel, Atwood's new novel feels like

a fan-fiction extension. The point it's trying to make is lost in a sea of biblical allusions and unnecessary plot twists and reveals. While it is a political novel, those politics certainly don't come from its premise, but from a series of one-off statements placed throughout the text.

What makes *The Handmaid's Tale* so powerful is the way in which it telegraphs the descent into the madness of Gilead through the narrator's experiences. Atwood closely compares her current situations with her past life in a way that makes her freedom alien. However, setting *The Testaments* fifteen years later circumvents that entirely, and instead creates a coming-of-age story with elements of political corruption. If you're already invested in the idea of "*The Handmaid's Tale*" as entertainment, you'll probably love this book. However, as a sequel to what is *The Handmaid's Tale*, it doesn't hold water, and frankly, you're not missing out on much.

PHOTO CREDIT: REYA KHANNA (8) & MEGAN LEE (11)



## NEW CLUB SPOTLIGHT: LEARNING ASL

BY: NATHAN LAM (10)

When we think of language, we often think of spoken or oral communication. But language can come in many forms. Sign language is a very meaningful way to communicate to non-hearing individuals and can be very useful in this society. At Eric Hamber, American Sign Language (ASL) club seeks to raise awareness about the deaf community. "We started the club because we wanted to have a space to practice and learn ASL," said club president **Eliana Gartener** (11). "We spend our meetings learning different signs, learning about deaf culture and practicing

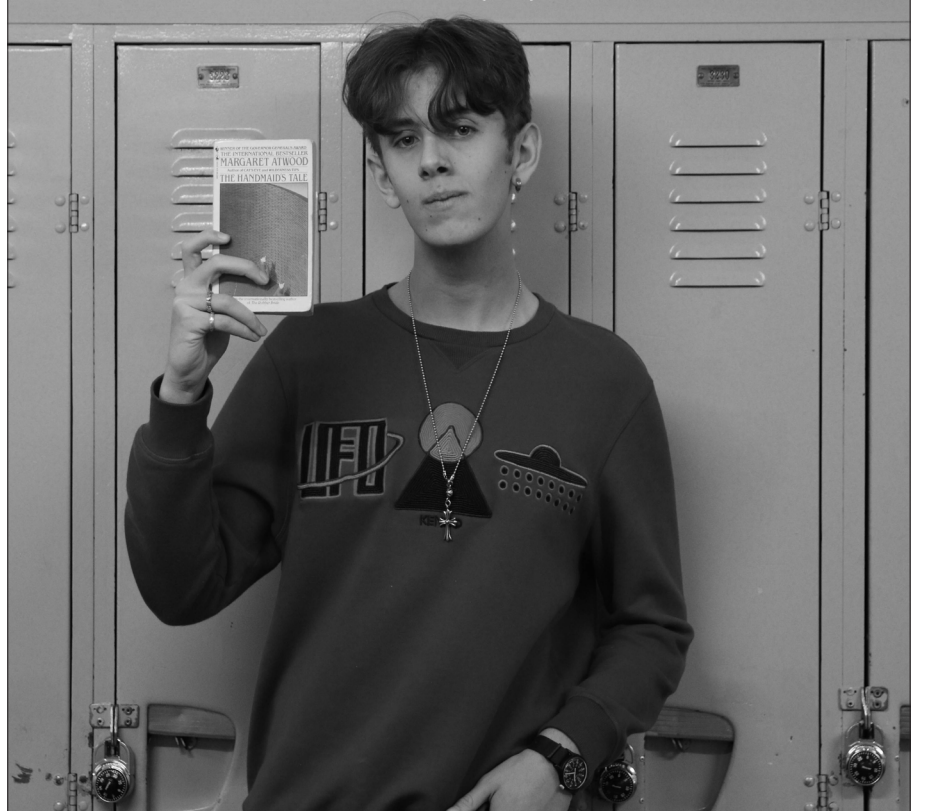
the language with each other. We meet Mondays at lunch in Mr. Wightman's room."

Learning sign language has been shown to improve cognitive processes, problem-solving skills, and dexterity. ASL is a very useful skill to have, as almost 340,000 people are deaf in Canada and 3.15 million are hard of hearing. They say actions are worth a thousand words, and sign language is a great example of this saying. Come by American Sign Language club every Monday at lunch in room 311 to learn and practice sign language, meet new people and have a good time.

PHOTO CREDIT: GINA HALLENSLEBEN (8)



PHOTO CREDIT: FLORA ZHOU (12)



## STUDENT VOICE

BY: SIRAJ VIRJI (10)

On October 8th, 2019, hundreds of students met at Kitsilano Secondary School to discuss the problems that occur in each of our respective schools. Around four students attended to represent each school run by the VSB, including Eric Hamber. Hamber's four representatives included **Oliver Izen** (8), **Holly Liaw** (9), **Eliana Gaertner** (11), and myself. The event was student-led. All administrators who were present just worked at the back of the room.

The first thing that happened were activities that encouraged social interaction between students from different schools, such as common icebreaker games. After the ice breaker games, the students went over different learning facilitation styles they called "the Jellyfish, the Willow, and the Brick." The

Jellyfish being very lenient, the Brick being very strict, and the Willow being somewhere in between.

Students then spoke about problems that occur in their schools. We found that many of the problems that were mentioned by students in one school were also problems that occurred in other schools. Oliver Izen (8) shared, "I learned that students have very good and unique ideas to improve the school. Everyone at Student Voice had interesting new ideas. I also found that all the students thought differently when it came to which problems to fix."

The purpose of the event was to help schools get together to allow students to share their opinions on what they feel needs to be fixed. Will this actually happen at Eric Hamber? Only time will tell.

PHOTO CREDIT: NISHA TIANGRATANAKUL (10)



PHOTO CREDIT: FLORA ZHOU (12)

WHAT IT MEANS TO BE  
ERIC HAMBER

BY: ALICE MANDLIS (8)

It all started with a philosophical question about a boat that we were discussing in class the other day. In case you haven't heard the question before, here it goes: if over the course of many years a journeying boat is replaced piece by piece, until none of the pieces are the original ones, is this still the same boat?

What if I ask this question about Eric Hamber? How much has it changed over the years? Would it be considered a completely new school, from what it used to be 58 years ago? Let's compare.

Well, for starters there was an entire new wing added (and a new physical building is coming!) I would specifically like to mention the *hairstyles* in the old graduation photos. These were honestly... quite terrifying (no offense intended). The older the pictures get, the more peculiar the fashion sense. But, let us move past that!

And clearly, over the course of these 58 years, all the original Hamber students and

the thousands that followed have already graduated. However, some students lingered even after graduation. Some students at Hamber became teachers, for example **Mr. A. Stevens** (Science) or **Ms. A. Lee** (Foods). Many alumni who help with school sport teams stay in touch for decades too!

Back to the basics. The things around our school that certainly have never changed, are the name and the crest. The school colours haven't changed either. It could have been tempting to part from the arguable combination of "maroon" and "light blue", but these are going to stick around in honour of Eric Hamber's race horses. It's amusing to think that our entire school colour scheme is based off of a horse. Or well, two horses.

The Eric Hamber crest featured on the Griffin logo was drawn by a student named Robert Lott in 1961 as an art project for a teacher he didn't really like. But that doesn't matter, as the final product was fantastic, and is still shown everywhere around the school.

WHERE WILL WE BE  
IN 2023?BY: KELLY LAU (8) &  
MARISSA LEAR (10)

What makes a high school experience special? For many, it's things like sports teams, theatre productions, dance shows, and school bands. Luckily, these programs will be able to continue to run once Hamber has moved into the new seismically safe school in 2023. While it will be hard to say goodbye to the building that has had "Eric Hamber" etched upon it since 1962, Hamber students will still get to develop their passions and continue their learning in a brand new building. Our current school has confusing and dark areas like the dungeon and maze. Our Vice Principal **Mr. D. Ambrose** shared that the new building will be focused around "20th Century learning." It will also include more of an "open concept with a lot of natural light."

Recently, it was announced that Hamber will be getting an auditorium in the new school. After many protests and speeches, the Hamber community got what was rightfully theirs. While it will be smaller than our current auditorium, this means Hamber will get to continue their renowned

theatre productions as well as their prestigious fashion shows. This just proves what the Hamber community is capable of!

Since the new school will be built on Hamber's track and field, many are wondering how that will affect our school's sports teams and P.E department. Eric Hamber's athletic director, **Mr. I. Sehmbi** (Physical Education), is using the new changes as "an opportunity to grow the P.E department in different ways." He would like to remind students that when faced with a crisis or challenge, if you look at it negatively, "you'll never see any type of opportunities moving forward." He also mentioned that there is "no chance [he] is going to stop sports teams." Mr. Sehmbi believes that the athletic department must lead by example and continue creating opportunities for students to be active.

This new building is going to be Vancouver's largest seismic project in history. It will cost around 79.3 million dollars without the addition of the auditorium. There is so much to look forward to with the start of a new decade and a new school!

There are many variations of the Griffin, but the main mascot represented on the crest remains the same.

The school motto - "Respice, Aspice, Prospice" looks like a list of spices whose names I can't pronounce. The school says there is a deeper meaning to them, but I don't think anyone really believes that. Nevertheless the motto is also permanent.

Strangely enough, another thing that remained the same for the longest period of time, is humor. As much as comedy evolves, there are still jokes around Hamber that have existed for decades. Arguably the most popular inside joke (the 4th floor swimming pool) is from the late 80's! And yes, Hamber actually does have a pool, located under the

tennis courts. Installed, but never filled, the pool was just built over. I'm looking forward to tell this joke to new students next year.

I guess I should probably stop rambling now. But- I hope you, the considerate reader, understands what I'm trying to say with this unnecessarily long article. As much as Hamber has changed, physically and culturally, many things around our school are still the same. And even if the things around our school are new and different, in my opinion, the school is the same as it was before. *Because nothing is more permanent than the temporary.*

## MUSICAL MADNESS

BY: MARISSA LEAR (10)

Fiddler on the Roof, The Wiz, Legally Blonde, My Fair Lady. These are just some of the fantastic musicals that Theatre Hamber has put on in the past few years. Now joining these renowned titles is this year's production...LES MISERABLES! Rehearsals have already started for this intense show and from the looks of it, it will not disappoint. Both cast and crew members are putting in countless hours of blood, sweat, and tears into this production. With opening night being February 20th, and closing night on the 28th, the community will have four chances to witness the magic that makes Theatre Hamber special.

Did you know that based on a rough estimate, each of Theatre Hamber's musical cast members attend about 100 rehearsals per year and put in roughly 400 hours of work? The production's producer Mr. P. Beharry (Theatre) said the biggest motivator for choosing to put on Les Mis was that Hamber was able to "field an orchestra." Doing so is hard even for professional

theatre companies! Mr. B wanted to "build on that momentum" and purposefully chose a musical which the orchestra would be excited to play in. However, the road to Les Mis was not an easy one. Before making the final decision, Mr. B looked at numerous other productions but was drawn to this one due to its popularity and "cache."

The musical is Hamber's biggest production of the year and incorporates all types of departments in the making of the show from sound and lighting sponsored by our very own Mr. R. Worth (Strings), to the amazing costumes that make the production pop, as well as the wonderful stage management. This cast and crew is truly all in this together, as another famous musical you may know puts it. Make sure to come out and support Theatre Hamber in February. You don't want to miss out!

PHOTO CREDIT: FLORA ZHOU (12)



## A LOOK AT THE BAND PROGRAM

BY: JOE SALMON (12)

Anybody in the band program will tell you the same thing – whether they're just starting out in Beginning Band or a member of the off-timetable Wind Ensemble, the band room is a second home for them. In any given block, the high-ceilinged space tucked away off the atrium is active with sound, whether it's Mr. Francis cracking jokes, a bopping jazz rehearsal, or even just sonic noodling.

At the time this was written, the Wind Ensemble is currently cooling off after the District Festival, an eight-school concert featuring bands from across the district. However, the movement doesn't stop. All five concert bands are currently gearing up for December 5th's Winter Night of Bands, a concert hosted at Hamber that showcases all of the different grade levels. For

some, this will mean their first performance with their instrument. While Nicholas Mar (8) has previous experience on stage, this is going to be the first time he brings his oboe with him. "It's different from piano, because you're performing with more players." He shared. Mar is looking forward to it though, exuding confidence.

For others, this Winter Night of Bands is going to be the last of many. "It's a bit of a surreal experience," reflects Victoria Dobbs-Hierro (12), Assistant Manager for the Wind Ensemble and long-time percussionist. "When you sit there and hear the other bands, you start to notice that the older the band gets, the better they play. And when you start to play, it's like, wow! I used to be that Grade 8!"

PHOTO CREDIT: FLORA ZHOU (12)



## MR. VATTA: FILM REVIEW

BY: ÉLISE ROY (10)

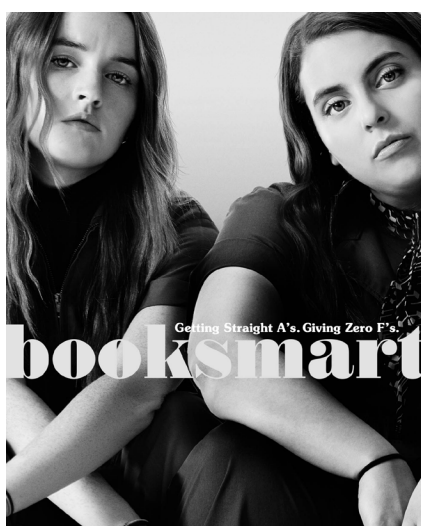
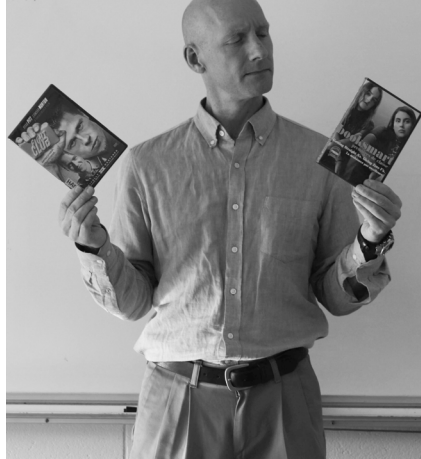
Mr. M. Vatta (English) is Hamber's acclaimed Film Studies teacher. We interviewed him to discuss his top 3 movies of 2019.

### Booksmart

Booksmart is a 2019 coming-of-age movie depicting two overachieving girls two days away from graduation. Over the past five years, the pair constantly pushed themselves in order to achieve their ultimate goal—getting into an Ivy League school. However, they realize that their peers, who also achieved this feat, did so while also having a good time. Now, they have but twenty-four hours to make all the high-school memories that they missed out on.

"It's hilarious and fun. Anyone in high school would enjoy this film, especially grads. It's the perfect reflection of the end of one's high school journey. It makes the viewer think, 'What have I really done with the past five years of my life?' With themes of gender identity, this movie shows what it means to be a teen, while also being hilarious."

PHOTO CREDIT: BIANCA TAKENAKA (8) & NICOLE TAM (11)



### The Lighthouse

Combining elements of a psychological horror and a classic, nautical tale, The Lighthouse is the story of two men on a weather-beaten rock of an island. Confined to the lighthouse with only each other, the men, played by Willem Dafoe and Robert Pattinson, struggle to maintain their sanity as the passing of time slowly eats away their conception of what is real.

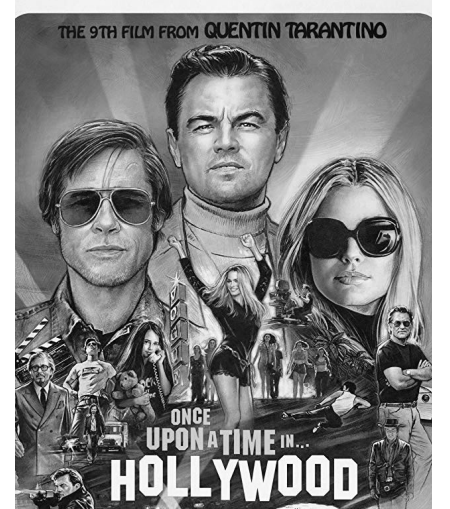
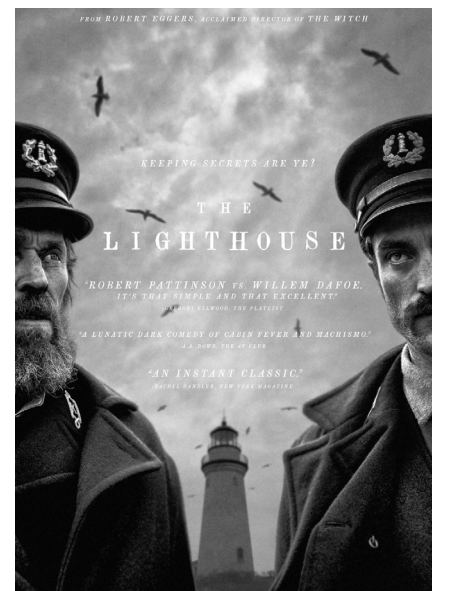
"Thoughtful, bizarre and confusing, this film traps the audience in with it. Just as the characters lose sense of time, you do, too— and that's what makes this film so unique.

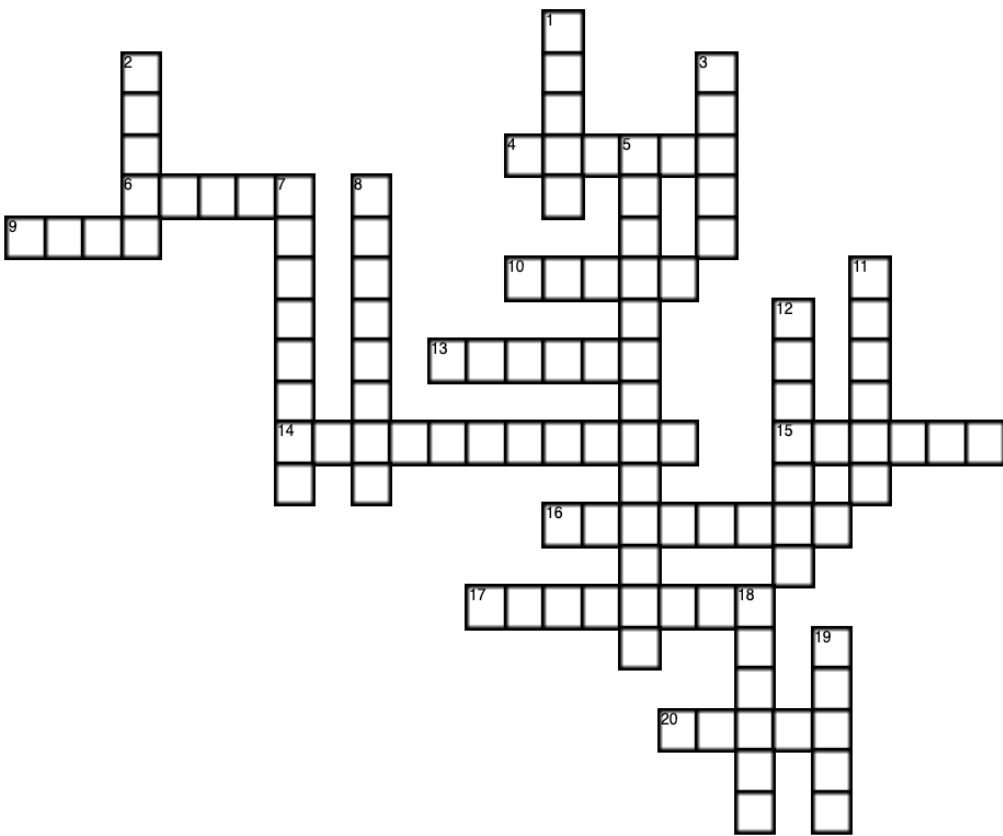
This is a movie that must be viewed in theatre for full effect, so there is no chance to pause or become distracted. It makes you wonder how long you've been watching— perfectly illustrated by the crucial line delivered from Dafoe to Pattinson, "How long have we been here? Five weeks? Two days?" Beautiful, yet utterly dark, The Lighthouse is a must-see for those in search of the perfect thrilling sea shanty."

### Once Upon a Time in Hollywood

Quentin Tarantino's Once Upon a Time in Hollywood showcases Leonardo DiCaprio and Brad Pitt in the Golden Age of the 1960s. In this fantastical version of Hollywood created by Tarantino, a TV star and his stunt double struggle to navigate their way through the changing industry.

"Though it is a bit macho, this movie was wonderful. It is about friendship and happy endings, despite stemming from the awful string of Manson murders in the late 60s. More than anything, I appreciated the mood and tone of this wfilm— it's warm, glowing, sunshine, it's the pure essence of Hollywood. It's brutally violent, yet comical, which is something Tarantino's pulls off time and time again."



CROSSWORD  
CORNERBY:  
HALEY SENGSAVANH (12)  
& SARAH AZAD (12)

## DOWN

- 1 Name of Canadian West-separatist movement  
 2 Name of company that recently launched the Cybertruck  
 3 2019 movie following aspiring comedian Arthur Fleck  
 5 Title of the sequel to Margaret Atwood's "The Handmaid's Tale"  
 16 Last name of the new Deputy Prime Minister of Canada  
 17 The \_\_\_\_\_ Prize announced a new category in Audio Reporting  
 20 The last name of our new Vice Principal

## ACROSS

- 4 Popular app that replaced Musical.ly and was launched in 2017  
 6 Singer, rapper, and songwriter. Notable hits include "Truth Hurts"  
 7 Phrase used by younger generations against Baby Boomers  
 8 Hit TV show starring Zendaya; inspired a wave of bold eye makeup  
 9 Name of Star Wars character who recently got baby-fied  
 10 First name of acclaimed Swedish environmental teen activist  
 11 \_\_\_\_\_ Miller, author of 2019 memoir "Know My Name"  
 12 Country President Trump pressured for an investigation into Hunter Biden  
 13 Hit song released by Ariana Grande; title describes pieces of jewelry  
 14 Dictionary.com's Word Of The Year for 2019  
 15 The name of Hamber's Halloween dance and the name of US military base  
 18 Host of hit reality competition show for drag queens  
 19 Last name of the Toronto Raptors head coach

ASK  
THE NEST

Hey The Nest,

Help! Everytime I go to Oakridge I keep bumping into people I don't really want to see. Even though I dislike them, I don't want to change my hangout spot with my friends! What do I do?

You might want to try hanging out in a different part of Oakridge. At the end of the day, you shouldn't let those people stop you from being where you want to be; turn the other cheek!

Hey The Nest,

Should I hang out with someone I know mutually but met online?

While it's entirely up to you, you should also be aware of all the safety concerns. Tell a trusted adult and get their opinion. If you do meet up with them, suggest a safe and public environment with an adult nearby in case anything happens.

Hey The Nest,

Nobody likes my memes. :(

Can you prove that absolutely *nobody* in the whole world likes your memes? The community out there is so diverse, consisting of students with varying interests, maybe you just haven't shown the right people your memes yet! We'd love to see your memes! Maybe you can submit some to the Nest so we can give your memes more exposure!

GRIFFIN'S NEST  
FUNNIES

BY: DUGAN URIBE (12)

