

THE TRAIL TRIBUNE

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SPRING CARNIVAL

Written by Abigail

An honourable accomplishment that NTHS school has made is Key club hosting a spring carnival. With around 100 people attending, the key club has raised over 500\$ for charity. Key club is a global non-profit club sponsored by Kiwanis. Its goal is to raise money and to provide funding for charities, which help people in need and bring some awareness to and talk about topics. Spring carnival was an idea provided by Key club and it was organised by the Team leaders and executives. Over the last two months, the club has been nonstop planning and organising. The spring carnival was hosted on May 25 from 1 to 5, and brought in people all over the area. The spring carnival had events and games, such as face painting, bingo, tug-of-war, balloon fights, and more. Make sure to attend next year's spring carnival to support the club and provide money for awareness!



COOKIE OF THE MONTH

Written by Abigail

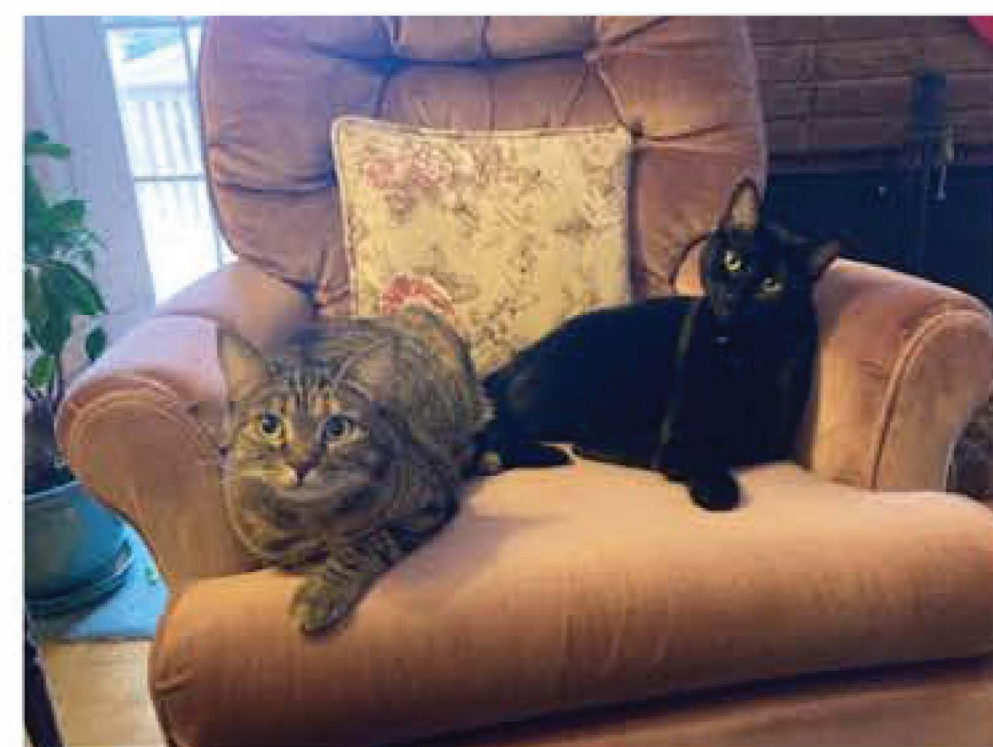
The recipe of this month provided by Chef, Sabrina Del Ben's culinary team is an exquisite look on chocolate chip cookies. These cookies are sold during all periods of the day they cost one dollar and are easy to make. Many students enjoy this little snack and come back for more. "Chewy, sweet, delicious" are all words to describe this tasty treat. Here's the ingredients!

Make sure to give this tasty recipe a try! Share this with your friends and take time to support the culinary team by buying a cookie at the cafe.

- 1 1/2 cup of flour
- 1 teaspoon baking soda
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1/2 cup margarine
- 1 cup sugar
- 1/4 cup brown sugar
- 1/4 cup oil
- 1 teaspoon water
- 1 teaspoon vanilla
- 2 eggs
- 1/4 cup chocolate chips

Pet of the Month

Cats Pepper and Poppy are three and two years old. When they're awake, they like to play with bottle caps, but they both prefer to sleep. Yogurt is also one of their favourite treats!



Custodian Staff Interview Mrs. Kaur-Toor

At North Trail High School, our custodial staff play a vital role in maintaining a clean and welcoming environment for all students, and staff. They ensure that our school facilities are clean, safe, and conducive to learning, making them an essential part of our school community. Custodians like Mrs. Kaur, whom we've had the privilege of interviewing, bring a unique perspective and dedication to their work that enriches our school experience. Mrs. Kaur's journey to Canada from Punjab, India, speaks volumes about her resilience and determination. As a first-generation immigrant who arrived in 1987 at the age of 22, she embodies the values of hard work and perseverance. Her dedication to her family shines through as she proudly talks about her husband and two children, Hameet and Raveena. Her son's successful career in the oil and gas industry, and her daughter's significant psychology related career. Furthermore her daughter's upcoming wedding evoke a sense of pride and joy in Mrs. Kaur, who cherishes the happiness of her family above all else.

Beyond her familial duties, Mrs. Kaur finds solace and joy in her hobbies, particularly in her beloved dog, Saint. Her profound love for her pet is evident in her words; "I feel as if my dog is my whole world, and that there is nothing else without him. I love him like a child." Whether it's going for walks or pampering Saint with treats and toys, Mrs. Kaur's affection for her furry companion adds depth to her personality and highlights her nurturing nature. In addition to her bond with Saint, Mrs. Kaur enjoys exercising, cooking, and Bhangra (a traditional dance originating from Punjab) which she did for seven years. When discussing ways to maintain a clean environment at NTHS, Mrs. Kaur emphasizes the importance of shared responsibility. She notes, "Sometimes cleaning rooms tend to be hard for us, as they are extremely dirty. I hope students learn to tidy up after themselves and take responsibility for keeping their surroundings clean." Her insight underscores the symbiotic relationship between the custodial staff and the student body, emphasizing the need for cooperation and mutual respect.



Despite the long commute from Chestermere, Mrs. Kaur's favourite aspect of NTHS is the warm and welcoming atmosphere fostered by the students, principal, and teachers. She shares, "I love the school environment and interaction. The students, principal, and teachers are kind. Even though I have a long drive from Chestermere, I still come because I enjoy being here." Her dedication to her work and appreciation for the school community reflect her commitment to creating a positive educational experience for everyone involved.

As a custodian, Mrs. Kaur's motivation extends beyond financial incentives. She finds fulfillment in the simple joys of outdoor experiences and meaningful interactions with others. "I work for myself, not for the money, but for the simple joy of experiencing the outdoors and interacting with different people every day. The school community also takes great care of me," she explains. Her intrinsic motivation and appreciation for the supportive school environment exemplify the dedication of NTHS staff members. Mrs. Kaur's wanderlust has taken her to various destinations including India, Australia, England, and America. Each trip holds special memories, but her heart remains tied to her homeland, India. Looking ahead, she dreams of exploring Pakistan's majestic mountains and immersing herself in Mexico's vibrant culture and cuisine. "People always talk about Mexico, and I too would like to experience it firsthand," she adds, echoing her curiosity and enthusiasm for new experiences. As for her dream, Mrs. Kaur envisions her family settling together in California, inspired by her daughter's upcoming move to the Golden State. Her dream encapsulates the essence of familial unity and shared aspirations, reflecting her deep-rooted values of love and togetherness. Ultimately, Mrs. Kaur's interview offers a glimpse into her life, motivations, and aspirations, showcasing her dedication to her work and her commitment to fostering a positive school environment at NTHS.

Written By: Noor Shafqat

Interviewed By: Talien & Noor

Edited By: Elisa



Teacher Interview: Mr. Law

Written By: Elisa

Edited By: Gabriel

North Trail High School presents Mr. Law as the Teacher of the Month! Born and raised in the small town of Quinnell, British Columbia, a place known for its logging industry. Mr. Law reflects on his high school days, sharing, "I experienced high school in three different schools. I formed lifelong friendships in junior high, grades 8 to 10, and then played junior hockey, which led me to Campbell River, B.C." He shares that he also experienced what being in a brand-new school is like. He expressed how nice it is to be in a rich and diverse learning environment with modern educational facilities, sparking his fondness for his high school experiences. Then, when asked about his favourite subject in school, Mr. Law revealed his love for English. "One of my teachers taught us how to write in a way I could understand," he explained. This enjoyment of writing and literature fostered a lifelong passion for stories, movies, and poetry. His enthusiasm for English highlights the importance of connecting with students through engaging and understandable teaching methods. Furthermore, Mr. Law emphasizes the importance of self-discovery and adaptive learning. Especially in today's rapidly changing world, Mr. Law shares advice with the students at North Trail, stating, "Learn who you are as a learner. Industries are changing rapidly, and you need to be open to learning new things," he advised. He encourages students to focus on understanding concepts rather than chasing grades. "If you do your best and learn, the grades will care for themselves," he assured. His advice highlights the value of genuine learning and personal growth over chasing grades by finding shortcuts.

When asked more about his personal life experiences, Mr. Law shared his story of how his path to teaching construction was not straightforward. Initially aiming to be an elementary teacher, he found himself working in construction and carpentry. His qualifications in both fields made him a perfect fit for teaching construction. "When I went into teaching in 2015, the principal decided I would be the shop teacher," he recalled. His background in construction and teaching allows him to impart practical skills and industry knowledge to his students, bridging the gap between speculative education and real-world application.

Further, Mr. Law shares his adventurous spirit, which took him to several countries, including the United States, Germany, Switzerland, France, the Netherlands, and England. His time playing minor professional hockey in Germany was particularly memorable. Stating, "The German fans are amazing. They cheer throughout the game, making it a festive and positive experience," he reminisced. This exposure to different cultures and experiences has enriched his perspective, which he brings into his teaching. Outside of teaching, Mr. Law enjoys woodworking, fishing, and hiking. His passion for woodworking, especially, using the wood lathe, is something he shares with his students.

Additionally, he expresses his happiness in fishing, "Seeing my son and his friends catch their first fish is pretty fun," he said with a smile. Moreover Mr. Law appreciates the fresh start at North Trail High School. "I love that we're starting with a blank canvas. We're shaping the school the way we want it," he expressed. The opportunity to build something new, from setting up the construction shop to fostering a positive school culture, is what excites him the most. His enthusiasm for creating a dynamic and supportive learning environment sets a positive space for the school community. Ultimately, Mr. Law's journey of devotion and passion for teaching makes him a respectable individual at North Trail High School. His advice and adventures continue to inspire students!





STUDENT VOICE

For this issue of The Trail Tribune, students explored the notion of “Cancel Culture” and examined the effectiveness and impact of Boycotting.

Cancel Culture: Do Boycotts actually work?

Written by: Sanaa

Boycotts are a tried and true strategy, and one of the ways that we as a society make our voices heard. It is a form of “cancel culture” that is very relevant to our society today. Billions of people world-wide are partaking in boycotts in order to show their support for the less fortunate. At some point this year, many transnational corporations have been hit with an alarming wave of boycotters. These companies include McDonalds, Starbucks, Disney and many more. However the true question remains unanswered, do boycotts actually work?

Boycotts are one of the few ways that consumers have control over a corporation's success. However it also depends on the corporation itself. After doing some research, efforts like the boycotts against McDonalds and Starbucks resulted in plummeting sales for both companies. Yakov Bart, an associate professor of marketing at Northeastern University says that because those companies exist in markets that are saturated with options they're the perfect targets for a boycott.

What this means is that the success of boycotts depend on not only the consumers, but the market as well. Through strategic tactics, boycotting can be incredibly effective such as in this case. There are many café's and restaurants that are arguably better than both Starbucks and McDonalds, making it easier to boycott. As a result of this, boycotting has taken a toll on the profit of both companies. Between Nov. 16 and early December, Starbucks' shares dropped 8.96%, equal to losing almost \$11 billion in market value and 9.4% of the company's total value, Business Standard reported. This is just between November 2023 and December 2023 alone. McDonald's has also faced a loss in shares following their boycott, with the company reporting its first quarterly sales miss in four years due to slow growth in the international business division.

In conclusion, through strategic techniques and determinations, the long-term impacts of boycotting can be very impactful. Boycotting is a great way for students to voice their opinions on pressing matters. It almost seems as if our troubles are insignificant compared to those suffering from hardships at the cost of ignorance. Boycotting is a miniscule act that we as privileged individuals can partake in order to voice our concerns in any way we can.

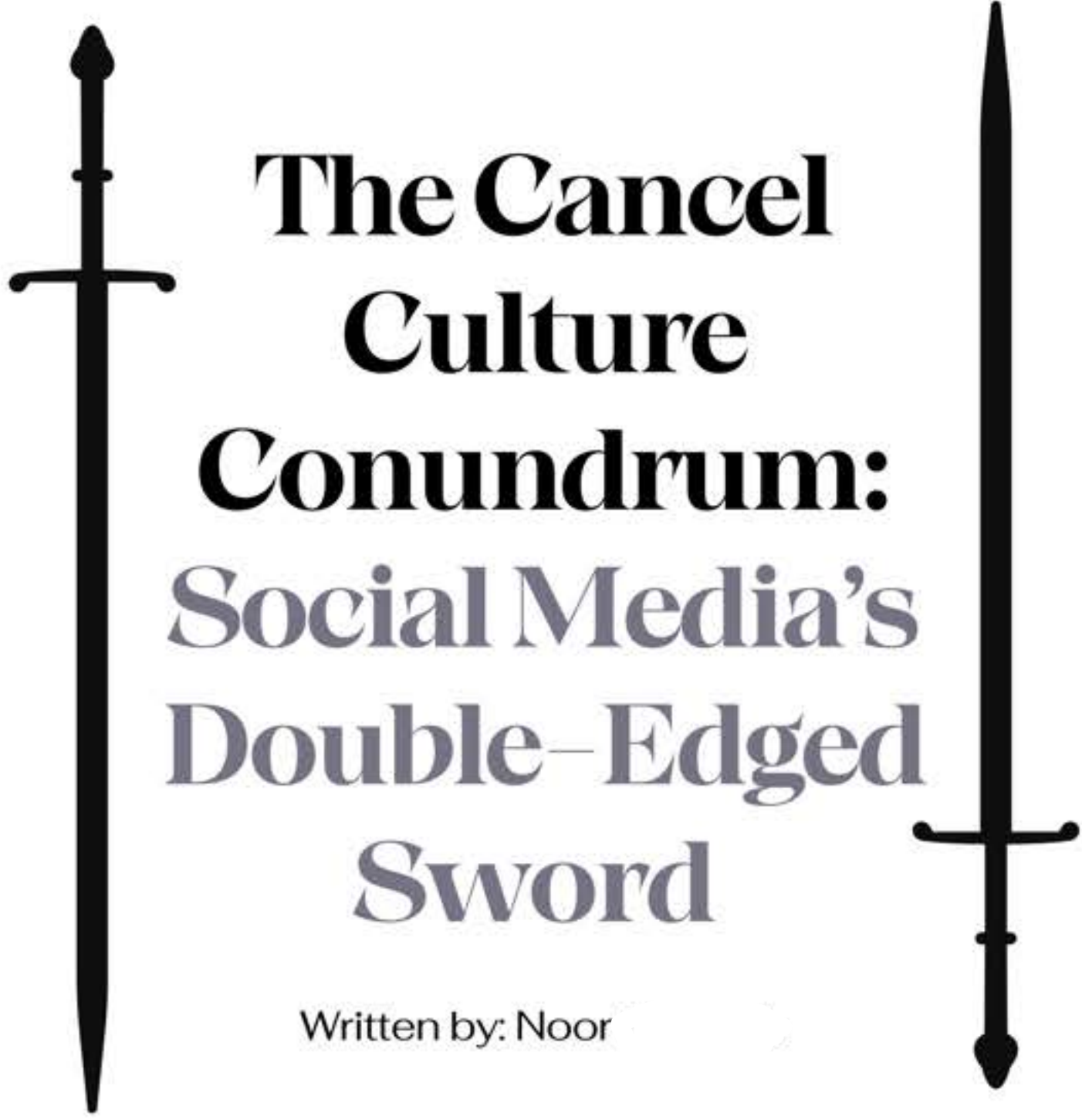
In every beehive, every single bee has a job. For the function of the colony, every single member is designed to fulfill a crucial and specific role. Drone bees help grow the hive, usually during pollination season. Worker bees tend to larvae and make honey. And at the center of it all - the queen bee lays eggs and presides over the hive. However, when food becomes insufficient or when a bee is “no longer needed”, they get killed or banished from the hive. Drone bees, when the hive has grown to sufficient amounts, are kicked out in a large group and they do not have the means to survive. As brutal as the reality is, the hive recognizes this as an inherent component of their functioning.

So what does this have to do with “cancel culture”? When people bring up “Cancel Culture”, it's likely your mind immediately races to the onslaught of the digital world, on what celebrity said what horrible thing on Twitter, or what politician was seen taking clandestine deals. But the reality of it is, cancel culture is human culture. Naturally, we have this tendency to attack or to ostracise individuals we do not agree with, and this tendency spreads through groups like social wildfire. Think back to high school movie classics, “Mean Girls”, “The Breakfast Club”, “The Outsiders”, and just how ruthless teenagers can be. We would all consider ourselves to be nice, but that peer conformity is almost inherent to the human experience. In many ways, the way we interact is just as systematic - and, oftentimes, ruthless - as the system of the beehive. This occurs on a daily, constant basis, and it can be both empowering and devastating.

So many times, I have seen and experienced cases and moments of people being judged by their covers, preceded by their rumours, or have their friendships completely changed just because of how some people viewed them. These people are “kicked out of the hive”, and often find it difficult to reason or to defend themselves. The central issue with cancel culture is that there is no telling who is in control. Ironically, cancel culture was originally coined to showcase the power that the people had over politicians, celebrities, and authority figures. In daily social life, people lose their individual opinions and identity in favor of the majority opinions. This means, some bees are kicked out, and people who don't fit in are treated with malice and negativity.

Cancel culture, at its worst, excludes people from being different or having different opinions. This pressure to conform is not only toxic for the people on the outside of exclusivity, but the people on the inside become more narrow-minded and internalize these ideals of egocentric elitism. The good news is, unlike bees, we can practice and be mindful of how our actions and systems can affect people. Cancel culture should not be weaponized as a way to bully or to demean people for who they are. You can advocate and speak up when people abuse, cancel culture, and simply reflect on how your own actions have been influenced by the hive. In the modern age, especially with such a digital dependency, it is incredibly valuable to practice the empathy of beekeeping.





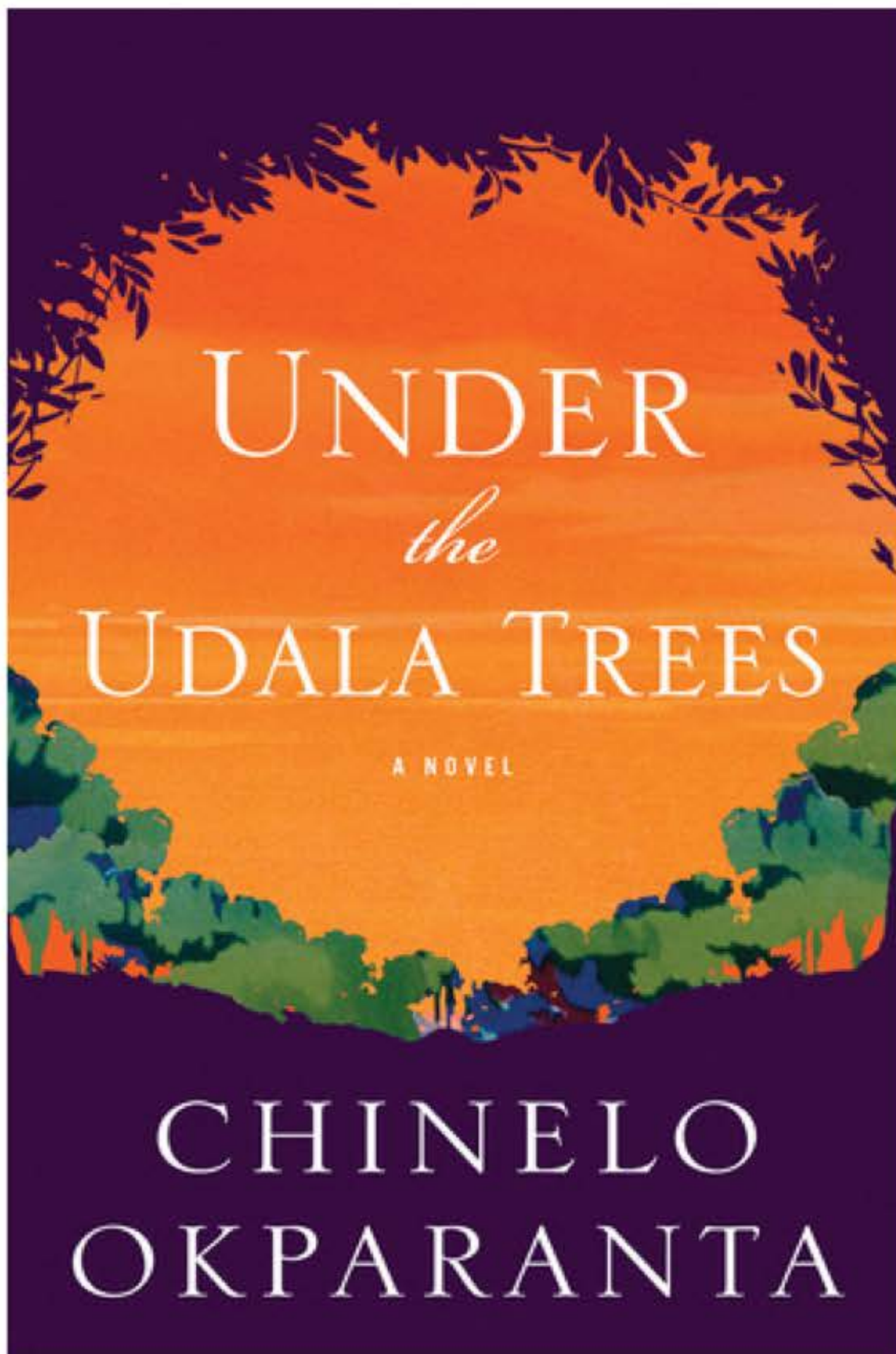
The Cancel Culture Conundrum: Social Media's Double-Edged Sword

Written by: Noor

In the digital age, social media has become a powerful platform that both amplifies and accelerates cancel culture. With just a few clicks, an individual's past actions or statements can be dug up, shared, and scrutinised by millions, leading to swift and often harsh consequences. Social media platforms, such as Twitter, Tiktok, Instagram, and Facebook, provide a megaphone for public outrage, allowing individuals to rally support for "cancelling" a person or brand deemed problematic. However, this digital mob mentality can sometimes result in unfair judgements and overreactions, as context and nuance can easily be lost in the fast-paced world of social media.

On the negative side, social media's role in cancel culture can lead to a lack of forgiveness and understanding. People are often judged based on conspiracies, rumours, or isolated incidents without considering their overall character or growth. This can have serious consequences on mental health and livelihoods, as individuals may face ostracization or lose opportunities; often leaving lasting wounds they must contend with for the rest of their lives. Additionally, cancel culture can create a chilling effect, where people are afraid to speak up or express controversial opinions for fear of being "cancelled." However, on the positive side, social media has been a force for accountability, allowing marginalised voices to be heard and holding powerful individuals and institutions accountable for their actions. It has sparked important conversations about social justice and helped drive positive change in society.

Ultimately, cancel culture is not just a product of the digital age but a reflection of human nature. Throughout history, societies have engaged in forms of ostracization and punishments for those who deviate from social norms. While social media may have amplified these tendencies, it is important to recognize that forgiveness and understanding are also deeply ingrained in human nature. Perhaps, in our interconnected world, it is time to reflect on how we can balance accountability with compassion, recognizing that people are complex and capable of growth.



Book of the Month

The book selected to represent the month of June honours the impactful coming-of-age novel 'Under the Udala Trees' by a Nigerian-American author named Chinelo Okparanta. The story follows the life of Ijeoma, a Nigerian girl growing up during the civil war in Nigeria in 1968. With her life in Nigeria being all she knows, it would be hard to leave everything behind to be taken away by the violence and destruction of this war. After being sent away for the sake of her safety, Ijeoma was introduced to another girl her age. Despite this, Ijeoma does not realize that she has fallen in love with her new friend. Their mutual feelings are reciprocated when both girls become secret star-crossed lovers. However, can others deal with the fact that both are girls? Will the social influence of Ijeoma's family and cultural traditions prevent her from discovering her path to her true self?

Written By Widda

Edited By Elisa

The Official Opening Ceremony

Written by Sanaa

On April 26th 2024, students here at North Trail were given the opportunity to take part in our schools grand opening ceremony. It seems like just yesterday when we walked through the doors of this building on the first day of school, in awe of the detail and precision that went into building this community. Students gathered in the gym, in anticipation of what this school year will bring us. After just a few months of opening, North Trail successfully runs over thirty clubs and hosts athletics events here in this very building.

As the gym overflowed with students once again, many government officials, dignitaries and board members attended the opening ceremony as well. Speech after speech, every student was reminded of the importance that North Trail High school has for the community. We are reminded that not only has a new establishment been built here, but a new community of students as well.



trailsports

At NTHS, our athletes have been displaying their teamwork, dedication, and persistence. Our badminton and wrestling teams have both emerged triumphantly as city champions. Their remarkable milestones have set our school's sports history, showcasing their diligence for both athletics and our coaches! Throughout the season for the badminton team, North Trails badminton coach, Mr. Mo, has guided the team towards enriching their techniques and building strong connections between their players. Ultimately, their hardworking hours of preparation paid off when facing their opponents. Parallel to the badminton team's success, the wrestling team has also paved their path to glory. After qualifying for provincials, our wrestling team placed 8th out of 79 teams! Their undeniable excellence and legacy bring inspiration to future NightHawks and beyond. Additionally, we had many young, determined athletes compete in field hockey, rugby, track & field, and boy's soccer this spring season. We had a few individuals from our track and field team who made it to cities and qualified for provincials, rising to the top of the leading board! As the athletic season comes to an end, we are eager to recognize the strength and commitment of our athletic teams. These thrilling sports offer unique challenges and opportunities, allowing students to choose the activities they are passionate about. Furthermore, having these talented students represent our high school sports teams fills North Trail High with pride! Next year, our student athletes will continue to train diligently to achieve their highest potential in connection to their goals and, above all, come out on top!



Written By
Elisa
Edited By
Widda

Asian Heritage Month



In our communities, as well as the entirety of Canada, Asian peoples have made and continue to make significant contributions towards - as well as participate in - our multicultural society and country. According to the 2021 census data from Statistics Canada, 51.5% of all Canadian immigrants originated from Asia. That is 7 013 835 individuals who are of Asian origin that live in our country! As per the goal of Asian Heritage Month, this event is an opportunity to celebrate and learn more about the diverse cultures and histories of Asian communities in Canada, as well as to acknowledge the many achievements and contributions of people of Asian origin who, throughout our history, have done so much to make Canada the country we know and love. Since the 1990's, Asian Heritage Month has been celebrated, and it was officially recognized by the Government of Canada in 2002. This month helps acknowledge the influence and profound impact that people of Asian origins have had on all aspects of Canadian society including sports, the arts, and social justice. During this time, there are many organisations and foundations that host specific events and gatherings to provide education into Asian cultures, as well as how we can further promote diversity, unity, and community.

Throughout May, we can recognise and participate in this event by reflecting on the significance of Asian-Canadian peoples, as well as by attending local events. Calgary has many organisations and groups that host celebrations including the Chinatown Scavenger hunt, lantern festivals, traditional dance performances, and many more. We also have many educational discussions and panels, such as ones that focus on Asian-Canadians in the workplace, ones that aim to help nurture understanding of the immigrant experience, and panels discussions that focus on unique elements of Asian cultures. Additionally, there are many galleries and initiatives that showcase Asian-Canadian art, such as the FascinAsian Film Festival and the Heart of Freedom Exhibition. These events are important as they allow individuals to meet people like them, with similar experiences and similar mother tongue languages.



There have been many noteworthy Asian-Canadians that have helped Canada make massive strides in our society. Amy Go, a social activist, was involved in amplifying the voice of Asian-Canadians as the Past President of the Chinese Canadian National Council. In this role, she has provided redress of discrimination and efforts to promote equality and diversity. Regarding the arts, individuals like Simu Liu have had an international impact on their artistry. Liu is an actor that has won many awards for acting in famous movies and shows like 'Kim's Convenience', 'Shang-Chi and the Legend of the Ten Rings', and the recent 'Barbie'. Vivienne Poy was the first Canadian of Asian origin to become appointed to the Senate of Canada, and was one of the first individuals to even advocate for Asian Heritage month. All of these people, and so much more, have contributed to our country in huge and beautiful ways.

Along with this, Calgary hosts multiple events in support of South Asian culture. Many famous South Asian stars have hosted concerts and events here in Calgary, such as Diljit Dosanjh, Atif Aslam, Rahat Fateh Ali Khan and many more. Calgary is home to a multitude of Eid Bazaars in support of South Asian culture. At these bazaars, cultural clothing, food, and jewelry is sold in support of South Asian business. Along with this, our municipal government consists of a multitude of South Asian bodies such as Muhammed Yaseen and Jyoti Gondek. Celebrations such as Nagar Kirtan are celebrated. It is one of the major festivals of the Sikh community. Nagar Kirtan celebrates the birth of the founder of Sikhism, Guru Nanak Dev Ji. Calgary is home to a vast South Asian cuisine. From a cozy café to an elegant restaurant, Calgary is notorious for their selection of South Asian snacks. Our community embrace diversity through cuisine, art and festivals!

Despite all this, discrimination is still a very prominent and modern problem many people of Asian heritages face in their lives. According to the 2020 General Social Survey on Social Identity, around 54%, 52%, and 47% respectively of Chinese, Filipino, and South Asian people aged 15 years or older reported that they had experienced discrimination in the five years before the COVID-19 pandemic. Whether it is in daily language, subtext, family beliefs, or even small jokes, discrimination and inequality is perpetuated or fueled. Asian Heritage Month also serves this purpose of combating discrimination by uplifting equality, understanding, and the acknowledgement to all Asian peoples that they are not alone in the specific challenges they might face. On a larger scale, this allows Canadians to appreciate and thrive off of our multiculturalism, celebrating not only those who have had profound historical influences, but even those individuals we hold dear in our own lives.

Written and Edited By:
Wilson & Sanaa

THE TRAIL TRIBUNE

TALES FROM THE TRAIL

Interviewed and Written By: Ayesha

Edited by Mavie

"Why do you want to thank the departments, teachers and staff at North Trail?"

"They give us opportunities to learn new things. That's why I want to thank the science department."

"Thank you Mrs. Wong because she's a very helpful teacher and she always tries her best to make students understand the subject and she makes sure to include fun stories. She makes the learning not very stressful but more of an enjoyable experience."

"Thank you Mrs. Tung because you're really good at helping me with math."

"Thank you Mrs. Chami because she's very cool and she always brightens the mood."

"I wanna thank the math department because they're really humbling me."

"I wanna thank Mrs. Morrison for being the sweetest teacher ever. Not only is she a good teacher, she understands stuff and treats you with respect. She's very understanding and that's why she's great. I love her so much."

"I like social because of its history."

"Thank you Mrs. Fuller for being such a fun teacher and such a good coach for volleyball."

"I like the art department because they bring life to the school. Without them it would just be boring and there would be no colour and culture."

"Madame Dunsmoor is my favorite teacher because she lets me go to the bathroom for more than two minutes like other teachers and she's literally the best person to discuss the cafeteria with. COUCOU Madame dunsmoor!"

"My favourite department is maths because even in semester one they had everything all sorted out, it was all organised, they literally had a schedule of when every test was going to be by the first week and I still have it. It was so organised I love it."

"Thank you Mr. Thompson for being the best teacher ever, he's a good individual. I like his son."

"Thank you Mrs. Grant for being the sweetest, most amazing woman in the world. I wanna give you a big kiss on the cheek."

"Mrs. Morrison is the teacher I want to thank because she's so caring and mindful and she actually helps you learn the topic instead of just repeating the question. Mrs. Morrison single handedly makes school enjoyable."

"Thank you Mrs. Hood for putting up with our yapping."

"THANKS FOR JUST BUILDING SUCH A BIG ATHLETIC COMMUNITY IN OUR SCHOOL."

"Thank you Mr. Maher for letting me sit out when I was hurt. I appreciate it."

"I really like Mr Halipchuk because he's been a really great and fun teacher to be with and he has helped me learn a lot about social studies. He deserved that contract extension."

"Construction is fun because it's not a lot of workload and it's really great."

"I like the social department because my class is pretty easy."

"I'm thankful for Mrs. Grant because she always is like a friend and not a teacher to us. She always looks after us."

"I'm thankful for Mr. MacLean because he always makes me laugh."

"WE LOVE MR. PAREKH."

"The Afro Caribbean association deserves thanks because they give out free food that's bomb bro."

"I like social because I'm great at it."

"I thank Mrs. Chami for existing."

"I wanna thank Mrs. Senanayake, my beautiful music teacher."

"I wanna thank Mrs. Thiara because she's so kind and gives me snacks."

"I would love to thank the art department."

"I wanna thank the social department because I learn more about the world."

"The math department probably because they're really lenient on marking."

"Math because Mr. Phillips is the best teacher and he teaches great."

"The cafeteria."

"Legal studies had a great teacher and it was less stressful and more support was provided. The work was great and the cases were great too."

"Thank you Mrs. Lomon for doing so much and making leadership great last semester."

"I thank Mr. Le for being a very great teacher."

"The English department is supportive because I like Mr. Lychak. He explained things really well and let me take my time with assignments. He walked me through assignments and gave visual aid."

"My favourite department is the maths department. Mr. Tersarski is a really good teacher and makes maths more of a show and interesting rather than just numbers. If you're willing to work with him he's willing to work with you."

"The gym department cares a lot about the students and about their success. They work really hard to include everyone into their activities. Even kids who aren't changing get support. They're very understanding."

"I like Mr. Lautenslager, Mr Lychak, Ms Morrison, Mrs Grant, Mrs Thiara."

"Mrs Garden is my most favourite person in the entire world."

Mr. Tesarski had done a really great job helping me catch up in math this year with things I missed last year in math."

"Thank you Mr. Schlueter for teaching the class in chemistry."

Thank you Mrs. Eagleson because she's really kind and caring."

"Thank you Mrs. Thiara for being such an amazing English teacher."

"Thank you Mr. Parekh for giving me a pencil. I'm very grateful."

"I thank the English and Science departments."

"Thank you Mrs Eagleson. She's so generous and kind."

"I wanna thank Mr. Mo for teaching me photography."

"The english department puts a lot of work into being cohesive and making meaningful lessons and projects that not only helps the students learn but also helps develop their real work thinking."

I thank aboriginal studies because I really enjoyed it. Mr. Lavoie explained it greatly and how he was connected with all the aboriginal cultures. Learning about it was really interesting."

"Thank you to the photography department and Mr. D'Aoust for helping us with our projects and always giving us the resources we need to pass the class."

"I like psychology so much."

"All the teachers are really nice so thank you."

"I wanna thank the construction department because he teaches us life skills."

"Thank you Mr. Potter for being a good teacher and putting up with our class."

"Thanks to the caretakers for putting up with us and cleaning the messes we make. We cause so much chaos so thank you."

"English is good. It's good."

"Thanks to Mr. Schleuter for preparing us well for our AP exams."

"I wanna thank Mr. Tesarski for being such a good maths teacher and always making the class fun."

"Thanks to the dance teacher because we have a lot of performance opportunities and we have a space for us."

"Thanks Mrs. Wong because she makes biology so fun and interesting with her beautiful stories. She has kept us prepared since the very beginning of the semester."

"Mr Potter is really nice, funny and supportive. He's my bestie and he makes lessons easy to understand."

"Leadership is so fun. It's my favourite option class."

"I really liked science because they taught me well."

"I wanna thank foods because they are really good and you can get great customer service as well as credits."

THE TRAIL TRIBUNE



Written by - Irelan _____ and Wilson _____
with Drama and Tech Theatre teacher, Ms. McKeown
with Music teacher and Fine Arts Learning Leader, Ms. Senanayake.

Even though it is just our first year of opening, our drama and tech theatre programs, as well as the drama and stagecraft clubs, have made tremendous progress in developing the performing arts at our school! Throughout the school year, we have had many performances, workshops, educational opportunities, and many additions to our theatre space. All of these unique elements have come to create a welcoming and vibrant program that celebrates a diverse range of the performing arts, from acting to lighting operation.

We are very excited to have the opportunity to work in a state-of-the-art theatre space. The theatre features a professional level stage, including a dressing room, props/costume storage, sound acoustic panelling, drapery, lighting bars and a projector screen that lower mechanically, as well as a separate Tech Control Room on the second floor of the school. In the new year final touches will be made in the Tech Room, which will control lighting, sound and audio/visual control systems. One of the most impressive features of our theatre space is the motorised lighting bars and stage curtains. With a space like this, students are able to fully interact and work with professional-level environments, as well as develop their own experience. All of these features allow the space to be transformed for many different uses, encouraging creativity in students and school-wide events that could be held in this theatre.

The drama program itself has many amazing elements, all centred around student development and student voice. For example, student written and directed scripts are mentored and facilitated by teachers, letting student stories and works shine through. In addition to drama and technical theatre classes in the timetable we offer an extra-curricular program that involves acting, directing, and technical theatre elements such as backstage, lighting operators, sound operators and stage management. This year the Stagecraft Club (a technical theatre component) designed and built traditional staging cubes for the theatre, designed prototypes for standard set furniture to be constructed next year, and supported the needs of both the Drama performances and The Fine Arts Showcase. Drama Club performed three short plays as part of the Fine Arts Showcase. These extra-curricular clubs allow students to participate in specific elements of performing arts that they are most interested in, also providing opportunities for them to advance their own artistry and skill sets. Whatever it is about performing arts you wish to pursue an interest in, the drama program offers diverse and detailed options.

Throughout our first year, we have had so many wonderful highlights and significant moments that will only continue to allow performing arts at North Trail to flourish. We participated in the city-wide Calgary High School Drama Festival, showcasing a student written and directed piece as well as participating in professional-led workshops. This experience was especially educational and insightful because for many of the students involved, it was their first time participating in a large performing arts event like this. Additionally, we also hosted many professional artist workshops for all classes, including elements like improv, acting, and special makeup. Many professionals came to hold these workshops and help develop the skills of the students. One of the best experiences in the drama/technical theatre program is being able to go on interesting field trips to local theatres for backstage tours and to watch professional productions. A highlight from this year was taking the Technical Theatre class to Theatre Calgary for a backstage tour of their space and engaging in lighting workshops led by professional designers. Students had the opportunity to learn how their 'Fly System' works and climbed all the way to the top of the theatre space. Other than that, we hosted or helped many performances like the Grade 9 tours and the Fine Arts Evening Showcase. These unique experiences allow performing arts to become more than just a class, but a series of diverse and tactile opportunities.



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In the next year, and in the future, we are looking forward to many things to continue to build this amazing program and community we have at North Trail. For starters, we will be producing a full length drama production (auditions happening in September)! Next year, in addition to there being 2 Fine Arts Showcases where drama and tech students can showcase their work and talents, there will be a full length drama production that will provide students with the opportunity to work behind the scenes as lighting and sound operators, stage managers, backstage crew and designers. Actors will experience what it is like to be in a larger production and will have the opportunity to perform in front of their peers during school matinees, as well as for parents and the community in the evenings. Alongside these performances, we will also have access and learn how to use many new tech equipment items, like theatre lights and sound systems. Students will then be able to design the lights and sound for many Fine Arts performances such as dance shows, fine arts shows, drama shows. We will also be sharing our performances with feeder schools. These things, alongside an ever-growing North Trail culture, will be strong elements for us to be continuing to build an inclusive and strong fine arts community.



As for our music and band programs, we offer a very integral part of our school community and culture, having already had multiple performances at school and extra-curricular events! Music is very important to building school culture; it is the thing that brings people together, allows students to pursue their interests, and an element of many major school events. Because of this, our fine arts program is dedicated to providing our music students with the instruments, space, education, guidance, and opportunity they need.

I think students don't always know where the music room is half of the time, because it's tucked away in a corner of the school. So - in the hallway where you go to line up for lunch, if you keep walking all the way down to the end of the hallway, you will find the music room! We have a nice large classroom, with high ceilings and acoustic panelling! We also have two practice rooms equipped with keyboard and amps, and a storage room for all the instruments as well. This space is incredibly special not just to us, but for our entire school community as a whole. The versatility of this communal space gives every student that enters it, for whatever reason, a feeling of welcomeness and special meaning.



Our music program offers many different classes, extracurriculars, and bands, spanning a variety of instruments and styles. It doesn't matter what kind of person you are, from absolute beginners to experienced musicians, or what instruments and kinds of music you wish to learn, this is a space open to all people. For our courses during the day, we currently offer Instrumental Music and Guitar. In each of these classes, students learn and develop incredible skills, and are supported in their own learning. One Guitar 15 student, Moon Bowden, writes, "We have many opportunities to learn new things and a lot of freedom in what we want to do - it's really nice because it keeps you constantly engaged and passionate in the class." Outside of the school day, we also offer many ensemble classes. This includes: Concert Band, Jazz Band, Choir, Chamber Music for Small Ensembles (yes, you can get into a small group, rehearse and perform music for credits). In the future, we hope we can offer a string ensemble as well. We have even had our own student-led indie-pop-rock cover band, After Crepe! They have already had performances at the Fine Arts Evening and the May Pep Rally performance! This band's keyboardist writes, "GOOOOOOOO AFTER CREPEEEEEEE!!!!!!".

Even though it is our first year building North Trail's amazing music program, we have already had so many memorable performances, workshops, and other highlights! This was the year of many firsts, such as our first band clinics at MRU, first concerts, first workshops with the feeder schools, first performances at the band and jazz festivals, first Jazz Day with The Fox Big Band. Ms. S, our music teacher, writes, "I think the choir performing the National Anthem at the Teddy Bear Toss game was one of my personal highlights this year!" Other than these very special moments, every single music student has most definitely had at least one moment that they will remember for the rest of their lives. Next year, we look forward to more trips and performances for all ensembles. Also, we are looking forward to having students from grade 10-12 be part of our program next year.

The music program is incredibly important and significant to our school and its students. Our music program is a community within a very large school. Having a place for people to come together and experience performances, trips, and rehearsals together helps you feel connected to something in a very large school. It is also a very rewarding experience to be able to work together and perform amazing things together in so many different ways, in and outside of our school. In every single one of our music program's students' hearts, the opportunity to participate and learn in such a welcoming and supportive environment is equal parts joy and personal development.

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"I go outside and do sports."

"I garden vegetables. I travel and hike a lot."

"Usually I like to go to places like fish creek. I love ice skating, being outside, and swimming. I try not to focus on school too much over the summer. I find it quite draining. I also enjoy hobbies like my guitar and stuff like that."

"I like to go on roadtrips to Banff and hangout with my friends all summer."

"I go somewhere that's not Calgary and take a vacation."

"I LIKE TO GO ON PICNICS WITH MY FAMILY."


"What do you do over the summer break to recharge?"

"I reconnect with nature because people are toxic and nature is not."

"When I have time, I go for walks with my dog and go out to the mountains."

"I paddle basically everyday on the water. I like to hike. Basically anything outdoors."

"Go on vacation."

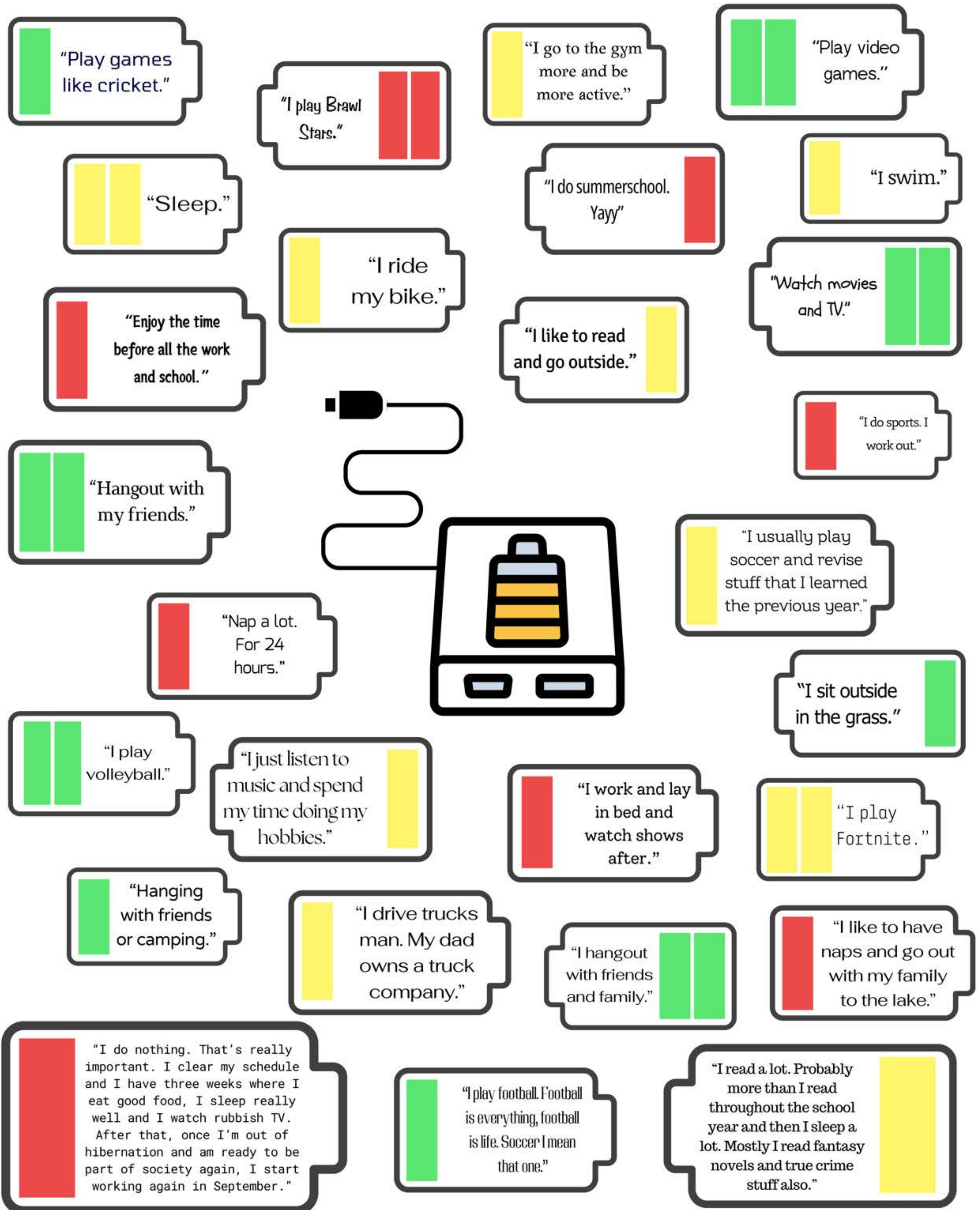
"Over the summer, I go on vacation with my sister to relax and with my family. Then I come back, take a couple naps and back to school."

"I go back to China."

"I'm gonna go camping, to California and I'm teaching summer school."

Interviewed and Written By: Ayesha
Edited by Mavie

THE TRAIL TRIBUNE



THE TRAIL TRIBUNE

2023-2024: NTHS Photodump

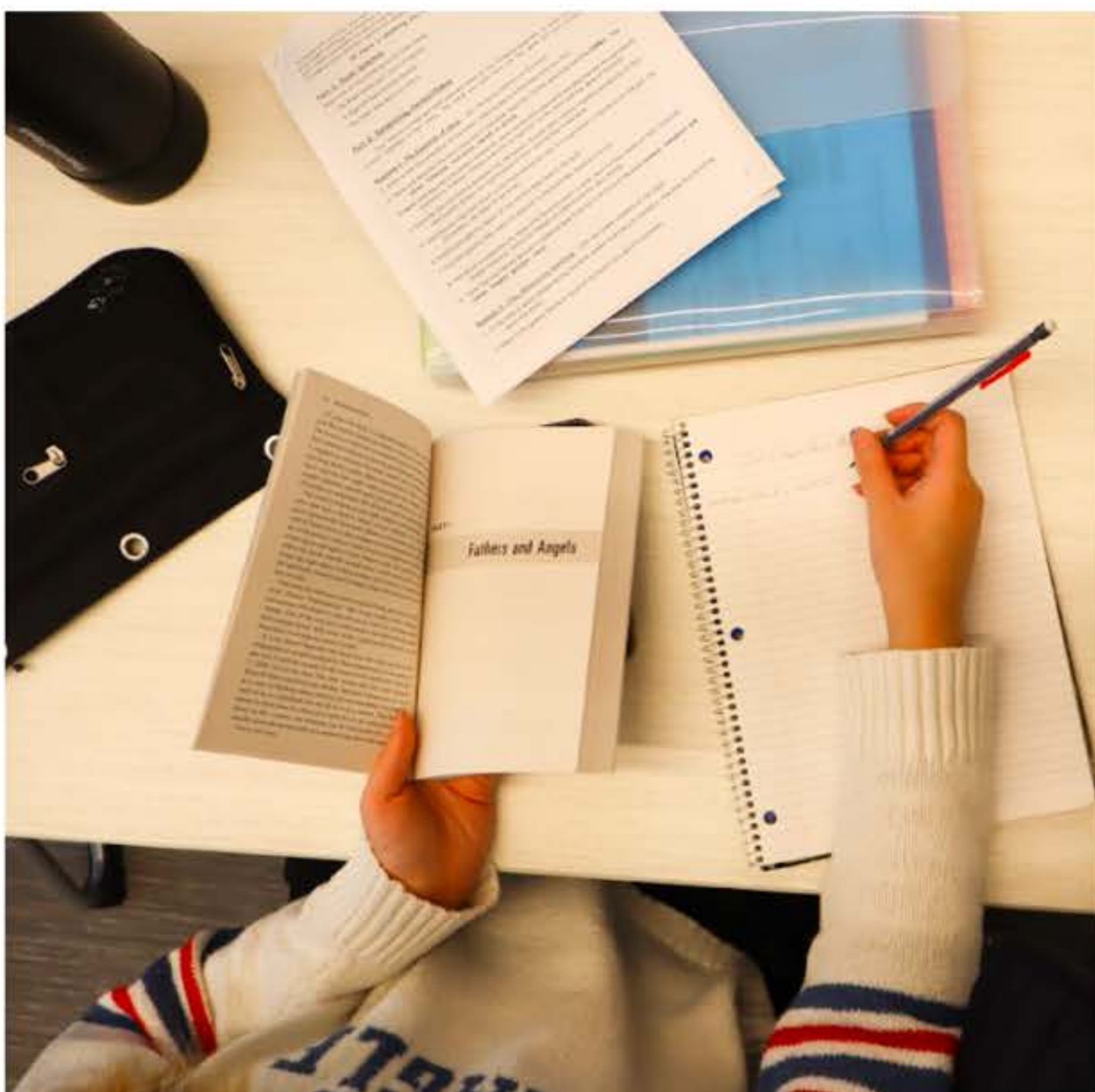


Images Collated by Nia

Photographed by NTHS Staff and Students



POV: it's the first year at NTHS. *Ever.*















*What creates **life** in a building is the people”*

– Principal Bester 2024