

The Paw Print

IRVINGTON HIGH SCHOOL • VOL. 17 • ISSUE 2 • MAR 2022



Seniors Andi Bushati and Amanda Gilbert opted to go maskless on Wednesday.

'Bulldog Bash' Replaces Color Wars

By Dani Heller

"How does one chase away the winter blues? The answer is simple, with a bash. A Bulldog Bash. It'll be a Rivertown splash. Catching on in a flash. It'll be a week long dash," sang Ms. Cutignola (to the tune of Monster Mash).

In hopes to lift the IHS morale during the cold winter months, the student council curated the Bulldog Bash, a weeklong celebration from February 7th to 12th.

Each day of the week had a different theme. Monday was "Yoga Day" where students dressed up in loungewear and participated in a virtual yoga session courtesy of Jen Monness and the Meditation Club. Tuesday was "Snow Day" where students wore all of their favorite winter snow gear. Wednesday was "Wacky Wednesday" where students dressed in their craziest outfits. Thursday was "Everything but a Backpack Day" where students had to get creative to find a substitute for their backpack: everything from canoes, to shopping carts, to suitcases were used. To finish off the fun-filled week, Friday was "Zoom Day" — business on the top, casual on the bottom. On Friday, students had the opportunity to participate in an Irvington related game show in their eighth period classes.

The atrium was also decked out in all things Bulldog, from balloons to banners. There was also a photo booth to capture students' creative outfits from the week, as well as a spirit meter in the main office.

The student council also created a doghouse design activity where members of the school community were able to submit a design for a doghouse for the Bulldog. The winning design will be created in Ms. Clancy's architecture classes and will then be displayed in the main office holding a plush bulldog.

Overall, this fun-filled week seemed to be successful in lifting students' spirits to help get through the last week of school before break. Students were extremely creative in their outfit choices, and each walk down the hall was filled with not only music, but excitement.

Irvington Unmasked

By Kevin McLaughlin

On Sunday, February 27th, New York Governor Kathy Hochul announced that the statewide school mask mandate would end Wednesday, March 2nd.

However, it is still the individual school district's decision if they wish to make mask wearing optional. On Tuesday, Superintendent Kris Harrison announced that the Irvington School District would be making mask wearing "optional" at all four schools in the district.

The announcement was greeted with a mixed reaction from students and staff.

Sophomore Ciara Lyons said, "Honestly, it's gonna be so weird and such a big adjustment for all of us. I haven't seen the full face of most of these people in years, and some of them, ever!"

"I feel like they rushed it," said sophomore Sienna Berger. "They went in a little too early. But it's good they have the choice; it could be better for their learning."

The fact that wearing a mask is an option was a positive for many students.

"I am slightly concerned about people going maskless but I think making it a personal choice was

good," said Molly Martin, a sophomore.

"I'm going to wear a mask, but it is everyone's personal decision," sophomore Cyrus Kibel said. "There is never a right time to take away the mandate because cases are going to go up no matter what."

Others were less concerned about the change or looking forward to it.

"I haven't seen the full face of most of these people in years, and some of them, ever!"
— Ciara Lyons, sophomore

"I'm fine with the change, I don't really think it's going to make a big difference," senior Clayton Kirgan said. "It's going to be interesting to see how students, teachers, and the school adapt to it."

Freshmen Sofia Ahmad said, "I think it's a little sudden because everybody just got back from break but I also believe that it'll be the start of something new."

"I think it's good that the school is letting the students choose and it's one step closer to the end of the pandemic," said Simone Bohdanowycz, sophomore.

The reason for this change is the current drastically low infection rate of COVID-19 in the state. This past Saturday, New York state announced a statewide seven-day average test positivity below two percent, as well as less than 2,000 total hospitalizations in the past week.

There are approximately 2,400 positive COVID-19 tests a day in New York, far less than the 74,000 positive cases during the peak of the Omicron strain in mid-January.

There is no guarantee that Irvington students will have the option to be maskless for the rest of the school year, however.

The Westchester County Department of Health has the ability to require mask wearing indoors again if Westchester County falls within a "Red Zone."

In an email to parents, district Superintendent Dr. Harrison assured that this has been and will continue to be a team effort.

"Had it not been for our shared commitment to the health and safety of our students and staff members along with a great deal of flexibility, our school community would not have been as successful as it was in managing the pandemic," Dr. Harrison stated.

News

Town Votes to Place New Monument at MSS

By Kevin McLaughlin

A monument commemorating the enslaved African Americans from Irvington will be installed on Main Street School property.

It will be located to the right of the Rip Van Winkle statue on the southwest corner of the school.

Funds for the sculpture and its installation will be provided by the Commemorate Committee, a group of local residents whose mission is to honor the memory of the village's enslaved Africans.

"This new monument presents a learning opportunity for all to connect the present to the past," said MSS principal Ms. Joyce Chapnick.

"It provides another perspective to the past by giving a presence to the enslaved African history in Irvington and how our village came to be."

She also mentioned that the monument will be used as a learning tool for fourth grade classes while they study the different groups of people living in Irvington during the colonial period.

"This year, we are looking for-

ward to adding a visit to the enslaved African burial ground on South Buckhout Street as well as visiting the monument to deepen student understanding of the life of enslaved Africans and the role slavery played during this time period."

The design was created by artist Vinnie Bagwell, who was born in Yonkers and raised in Greenburgh. The design is of an enslaved African girl, with smaller-scale depictions of enslaved African adults working on the land, with the word "Yesterday" inscribed.

Board member Brian Friedman said, "I hope it will be a mechanism for the larger community to understand an aspect of local history and spur discussion about the experiences, sacrifices, and contributions of enslaved Africans in New York."

When asked about the potential for vandalism to the monument, like the kind that occurred in 2019 to a similar monument on the campus of the University of North Carolina, Friedman said, "I would hope that a monument based on historical facts would be something that everyone



Artist Vinnie Bagwell's design for the monument was unveiled last year during Juneteeth and approved in December.

accepts."

The Unsung Founders Memorial at UNC was defaced by vandals who had ties to a group called Heirs to the Confederacy, according to a

New York Times article on the incident.

The monument will be unveiled at Irvington's Juneteenth celebration on Sunday, June 19th.

Senior Internship

By Kevin McLaughlin

The senior internship requirements have recently been released to students and families. While not totally back to pre-COVID normal internship plans, this year will allow the opportunity for students to have a traditional internship.

The last day of non-AP classes for seniors is on Friday, May 13th. After that, students will be required to complete at least 20 hours a week of internships until graduation, Saturday, June 18th.

In an email to IHS seniors and their families, Ms. Julian and Ms. GM provided a link to a spreadsheet with many local companies interested in taking students for internships.

Some examples include Brrzaar, the Irvington Recreation and Parks Department, and Main Street

Sweets. They also added that if you do not feel comfortable taking on an internship role, you can complete a "passion project." These projects range from designing and creating your own magazine to filming your own food show.

Another aspect of this internship process is teacher mentors. Seniors can complete a Google form (included in the email) to request a certain teacher. If not, they will be assigned one at random. (Note: you are not guaranteed to get your requested teacher).

Seniors are required to attend two meetings in the coming months. The first is Thursday, March 3rd, 4th period. The second is May 16th at 8am.

All seniors are asked to join a new Google classroom class by March 7th. The meet code is d7pxybf.

Biden's SOTU

By Stuart Graeber

On March 1, 2022, President Joe Biden gave his first State of the Union address. There was much anticipation for what he was going to highlight in his speech, with the war in Ukraine growing worse, as well as the cost of gas and the growing inflation rate.

As predicted, Joe Biden was very vocal about America's support for Ukraine, even hosting a Ukrainian Ambassador. He was adamant that Putin had to be contained and punished for his actions and that NATO was doing everything in its power to inflict pain on the Russian economy through sanctions. This way, Putin would not have the necessary funds he needs to maintain his expensive military budget. President Biden repeatedly stated that Russia would come out of this war with Ukraine weaker than it had entered.

President Biden also addressed the oil prices rising in America. Biden stated that he would combat this by releasing 30 million barrels of oil from the petroleum reserve. The intent of this initiative is to avoid reliance on Russia for oil needs and in turn hurt their economy as a large part of it is built on their oil exports.

President Biden continued to address COVID-19, stating that the

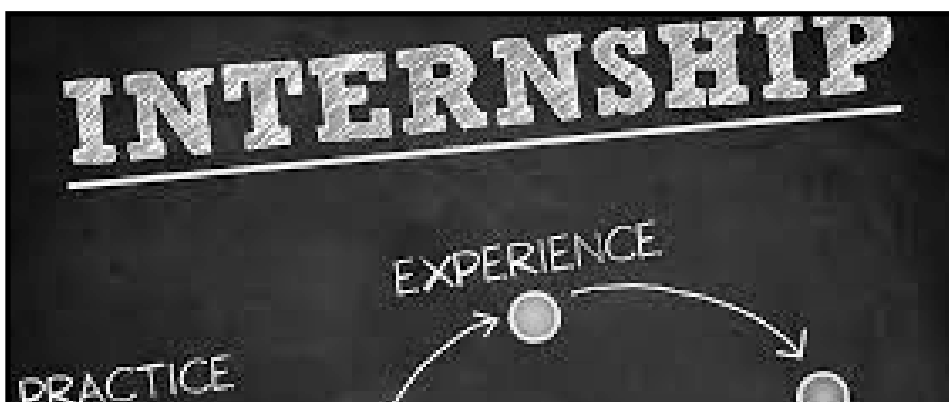
country is moving past the peak of the pandemic. He did state that we need to continue to combat any new mutations that may arise, but he believes that COVID-19 no longer needs to be a controlling factor in our lives.

It was noticeable that almost all of the people in the chamber were maskless, indicating that government officials were comfortable being without a mask in a relatively tight space.

Moving past this pandemic is very important for the success of business as well as the American economy in whole. States have begun to lift mask mandates, and as of March 2, New York public school mask mandates have been lifted.

President Biden spoke a lot about the large amount of jobs his office was able to create despite pushing through a COVID-19 riddled world. Biden and his office were able to create 6.6 million jobs, smashing previous first year records.

The President also spoke about how he aimed to continue to change the taxation system in the nation in order to allow the middle class to thrive. He stated that a strong country is built from the middle up, not the top down, and that when a nation has a strong middle class, its success will trickle through the rest of the country.



Arts & Culture

2021 in Music: An Overview

By Anton Dedvukaj



During the first week of December, Billboard's Year-End Charts were released.

We'll be taking a look at what made the lists, and providing an overview of what the music scene of 2021 had to offer.

The number-one song of the year was Dua Lipa's "Levitating." This song holds a number of unique distinctions because of its placement. For starters, it's the first song since 2001 to top the Year End without topping the weekly Hot 100, as it peaked at No. 2 for a week in May. It also becomes the first song by a solo female artist to top the Year End since 2011, where Adele topped that year's list with "Rolling in the Deep."

Below that, we have a double-feature from The Weeknd. At No. 2 is "Save Your Tears" with Ariana Grande, and at No. 3 is last year's No. 1 song "Blinding Lights."

The latter is the first song in history to rank among the top three biggest songs of the year twice. It was also recently crowned the biggest hit of all time in terms of chart performance by Billboard.

I think that 2021 can be defined as a "transitional" year for music, where the music of the late 2010s and the pandemic period faded out, to be replaced with the type of music that may come to define the 2020s. It's similar to how 2011 and 2012 served as transitional years, trading the wave of club-centered

music from the late 2000s and 2010 with a more prominent indie rock and EDM boom that came to define the early-to-mid-2010s.

Pop saw a fair amount of success this year, as evidenced by the Top Ten, where several songs within it -- including the year's biggest hit -- were pop songs.

Rap was also successful, but there has been a notable decline in popularity for the genre, especially since 2017 and 2018, the first two years I started following the charts. Back then, rap was inescapable in the upper reaches of the Year End, but this year, only two songs in the Top 20 -- "Mood" and "Astronaut in the Ocean" -- are labeled as rap.

That's not to say it didn't have a notable presence -- 30 songs in the Top 100 are still rap songs -- but it mainly tended to be in the middle of the Year End as opposed to the top.

Speaking of genres with low representation, two genres that are huge worldwide but were underrepresented in the United States were Latin and dance music. For Latin music, only four songs made the list, and even that's a significant improvement over last year, which only had one Latin song make the list. Still, that's better than dance music, which legitimately had zero songs represented on the Year End.

Conversely, one genre that has had a lot of growth in representation in recent years is R&B. Three R&B songs, "Blinding Lights", "Leave the Door Open", and "Peaches", ranked in the Top Ten. Eleven R&B



songs made the Year End in total, with other notable hits from the genre this year including "Go Crazy", "HEARTBREAK ANNIVERSARY", "You Right", and "You're Mines Still."

Next up, rock and alternative music. As I previously covered on "Mic Drop", it's very debatable whether the majority of these songs are rock music, but going by Billboard's definition, rock had a good year. As opposed to the six rock songs that made the Year End last year, we had nine songs make it this year, led by "Mood", "Heat Waves", and "WITHOUT YOU" in the Top 20.

Finally, we have country music, which had another fairly solid year. There were three country songs in

the top 40 this year, being "Forever After All", "Fancy Like", and "I Hope". All three of these songs peaked within the top three of the Hot 100 as well.

There were 19 country songs on this year's list, with the majority, as always, ranking within the bottom half of the list.

Overall, this year was a varied one for music. Many genres got a fair amount of representation in the music scene, and it'll be exciting to see where the music scene goes from here.

I'm very excited to see what 2022 holds, especially as I'd argue that 2020 and 2021 were both very good years for popular music, if nothing else. Here's to more great music to get us through the next year.

Spider-Man: No Way Home Review *Spoilers*

By Emma Jee

Sony and Marvel's latest movie *No Way Home* finished the latest Spider-Man trilogy with a memorable plot and record-breaking box office success.

After almost two years since the release of *No Way Home*'s predecessor, *Spider-Man: Far From Home*, Spider-Man fans eagerly awaited Tom Holland's comeback as Peter Parker, and it did not disappoint.

No Way Home broke box office records, becoming the first movie since COVID-19 to zip past \$100 million during its launch.

The movie takes place after Peter Parker is revealed as the identity of Spider-Man, and is falsely accused of the murder of Mysterio. As Peter Parker struggles with his newfound notoriety, he becomes desperate to ensure that every single person



would forget Spider-Man's true identity. Peter enlists the help of the sorcerer supreme Doctor Strange, who creates a powerful spell that guarantees that Peter Parker will be forgotten as Spider-Man. When something in the spell goes wrong, Peter and Doctor Strange attempt to deal with the fallout.

When I walked into the movie theater, I was prepared to come out

decently satisfied. Nevertheless, *No Way Home* surprised me so much I honestly felt like I was going to have a heart attack. Marvel fit so much content in two-and-a-half hours, it blew me away with the amount of fan service and storylines there were. *No Way Home* tied together almost everything Marvel and Sony has created over the years and seeing familiar faces like Doctor Octa-

vius was very exciting.

The only problem I have with *No Way Home* is that you need to know a lot about what happened in previous movies and TV shows to understand all the important references in the show. To fully appreciate the whole movie, you'd have to watch all of the previous Spider-Man movies with Andrew Garfield and Toby Maguire, as well as *Spider-Man: Homecoming* and *Spider-Man: Far From Home*. Viewers would also need to be caught up on all of the recent events of *Avengers: Endgame* and Marvel's latest animated series, *What If?*.

Unfortunately, while *No Way Home* was a masterpiece, it is not friendly to new fans and requires a lot of knowledge about other Spider-Man villains and superheroes like Doctor Strange.

Editorial

Better Together, Irvington Strong!

The Editor's Corner

By Dani Heller

In a society with so much hatred, it is imperative that the Irvington School District does all in its power to enforce a safe and welcoming school community.

The district's Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) initiative seems to be aiming to do just that. This initiative's main motive is for all students to have equal opportunities regardless of their gender, race, economic status or any other identity marker.

While all students make their way up Heritage Hill each morning, they are doing so for the common purpose of learning.

Each student that enters Irvington High School has the right to receive the same, equal opportunity to learn no matter their differences.

Students' differences are meant to be factors that make them unique, and it is essential that Irvington High School fosters an environment

where everyone's individuality has a place to thrive.

In an effort to make the school community as inclusive as possible, the district has been working alongside New York University's Metropolitan Center for Research

on Equity and the Transformation of Schools as well as other experts in the field in order to provide in-depth learning regarding the efforts of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion to all of the staff.

Aside from continuing DEI pro-

fessional development training for the staff, the district is also planning to review the District Code of Conduct and classroom curriculums under a more critical lens.

Additionally, a subcommittee has been formed whose motives are aimed at ensuring equity among the recruitment and hiring of staff in the district.

"We are a school district that has a commitment to each student, their success and growth," Dr. Duffy stated in an email to the Irvington community.

"To this end, we are committed to providing the very best, most enriching education in an environment that is culturally responsive, embraces diversity, equity and inclusion, and is proactive in fostering social and emotional well-being."

Although these changes will likely take time to appear evident within the school community, it is a step in the right direction to create an equitable environment for all students and staff.



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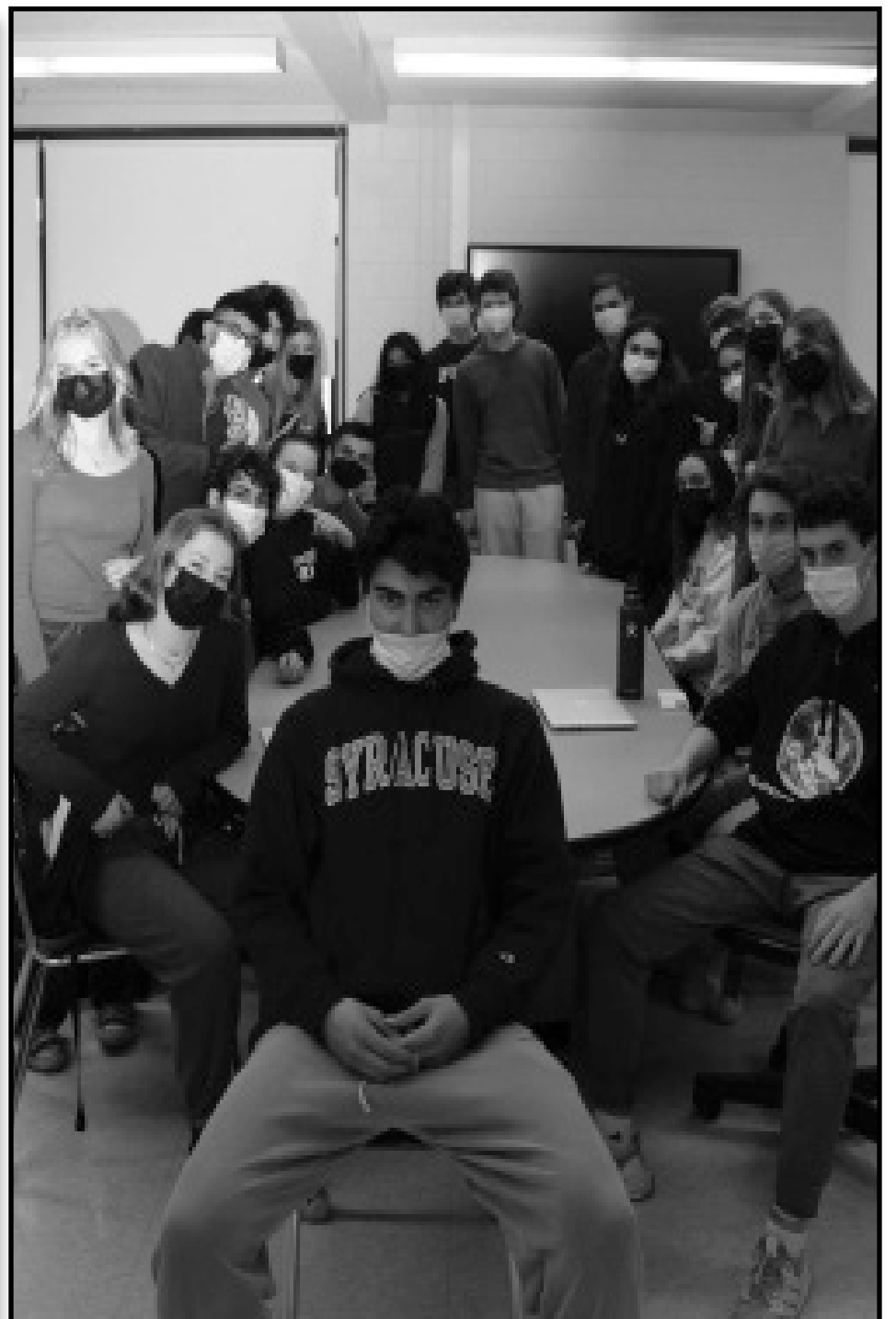
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Op-Ed

We Must Stand with Ukraine



Anna Semyuk hugs her children at the Beregsurány border crossing. Photograph: Bernadett Szabó/Reuters From The Guardian

By Olivia Yin

Russia has been trying to take freedom away from Ukrainian people forever, but they have been scared off by the power of NATO and the West.

On February 24th, that all changed. Putin declared war on Ukraine, attacking the country with zero Ukrainian provocation.

On that morning, more than 40 Ukrainian soldiers were killed. Since then, Putin has continued his full-scale attack on Ukraine.

As an outsider, this situation can seem scary and we might be unsure of what we can do to help.

As a participant in the organization called ENGIN — a program that connects students of the same age in Ukraine and the United States to bring together the different cultures while also providing a free volunteer-based conversation for Ukrainian students to improve their English — I have become close with my ENGIN buddy Marta.

Marta is also 16 years old. We have talked about our lives and school and laughed over the similarities and differences. We discussed and watched the same shows and read the same books.

I was amazed at her commitment and love for learning all things; she was so excited and appreciative to be able to practice her English. Now, all we can do is text frantically about the situation.

She tells me that she is safer now in the city of Lviv. She had to leave her home in the capital city of Kyiv and isn't sure when she can return home.

But she is extremely worried about her father who is still in Kyiv and her classmates, also in Kyiv in bomb shelters there.

Marta tells me her friends fear for death and are frantic because there is no food in the area. All normal life is halted. All schools are canceled.

Marta had such ambition and plans for her future — to pursue being a writer, to travel, and to be successful.

She had planned everything out on a tight schedule. She would tell me how lucky I am for the opportunities I have that she doesn't have access to.

But now school is the last thing on her mind. She has to focus on staying alive and worrying about her friends and her country. We don't know what this means for her future or what will happen to her.

And what is the United States doing throughout this? Our govern-

ment has imposed economic sanctions against Russia. But it is not enough.

He is attacking innocent communities just like our own. We need to do more as a country. We need stronger sanctions (including blocking the SWIFT system), totally isolating Russia, and we need to provide weapons and equipment so the Ukrainian army can fight, and medical equipment and humanitarian aid to support the civilians.

As fellow students, teachers, and members of the community, it is crucial for us to take action.

I cannot begin to understand what Marta is going through, but I know Irvington can come together and help in the ways we can.

ENGIN has put together a great list of things we can do to help (see ihspawprint.com for details)

I know Marta and her friends can count on us to help in any way we can. Anything helps: posting on social media that you #stand-withukraine, donating to reputable aid organizations or just passing on information and staying informed. Please take action.



Should World Language Classes Start Earlier?

By Scarlett Downes

Here in Irvington, World Language education begins in 6th grade. Students are given the choice to learn either French or Spanish, and they have the class every other day.

Irvington Middle School and High School both have great World Language programs, but the question that lies is whether these classes should begin for students at an earlier age.

You could argue that elementary school students are too young to start learning a new language; however, there are a few interesting points that might make you think again.

First off, learning about a new language makes kids aware of cultures other than just their own. Being exposed to other cultures fosters

and encourages respect amongst children regarding people who are different from them and speak different languages than them.

It has also been proven many times that learning a second language at a young age can further develop and enhance literacy skills, and can boost children's problem solving skills. Having this increased level in skill would be an obvious benefit to all students.

Additionally, having a solid basis of a World Language before transitioning to middle school would help IMS students greatly. Starting a new language with absolutely no knowledge of it can be hard, but having a foundation would make it a lot easier.

Having this foundation can alleviate some stress IMS students have at the start of middle school.



As of now at Irvington, World Language classes do not start until 6th grade, but there are other New York schools that have started to implement language classes in elemen-

tary school. One could argue both sides, but there do seem to be strong reasons that argue for having World Language classes start earlier which Irvington might want to consider.

Irv Eats

Tomatillo To-Go Provides Good (Not Pretty) Eats

By Harlan Flamm

Tomatillo is a cornerstone restaurant set in on Main Street in Dobbs Ferry. When you go there, you can always go and expect a solid bite of Mexican food. However, how is their takeout? Last week I tried their takeout to rate my experience.

We started off with their signature Nachos. A big fear with takeout nachos is that the chips could get soggy while in the takeout container. However, rest assured, these chips were very crunchy and satisfying. They also did not shy away from a good amount of cheese and sauce. Overall, these nachos are worth an order.

Next I ordered an Iron Man burrito. The burrito was really overstuffed with beef, cheese, beans, and sauce. While the burrito was stuffed generously it still tasted very good. My only complaint is that it came in a simple box with no garnish

or sides. However if you are only looking for a satisfying bite and not good looks, this burrito is for you.

For dessert, we had Mexican Pudding and Flan. The pudding was somehow grainy and creamy at the same time, although not visually appealing. The flan was good for what it was, but it was not a light, jiggly order flan that you would find at an expensive Spanish restaurant. However, the flan reminded me of a cheesecake drowned in caramel. Both of these desserts were very tasty.

Overall, the Tomatillo takeout experience is similar to the dine in experience. The food is all reliably tasty and will satisfy your belly. However if you are looking for a fancy beautiful meal for a special occasion you might choose to look somewhere else. Anyway, a hearty meal from Tomatillo is good enough for me.



Melting Snowmen in Time for Spring

By Emma Jee

A couple years ago before COVID hit, I remembered making sugar cookies that we decorated so they looked like snowmen melting to celebrate the upcoming holidays.

They were so fun to make and didn't require a lot of expertise, so they were great to bake with my younger cousins. They're extremely simple to create and are easy to make with younger kids to get into the holiday spirit!

They were so fun to make and didn't require a lot of expertise, so they were great to bake with my younger cousins. They're extremely simple to create and are easy to make with younger kids to get into the holiday spirit!

Cookie Ingredients:

- 3 cups all-purpose flour
- 3/4 teaspoon baking powder
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- 1 cup unsalted butter, softened
- 1 cup sugar
- 1 egg, beaten
- 1 tablespoon milk
- Powdered sugar, for rolling out dough

"Snowmen" Ingredients:

- 1 dozen baked sugar cookies
- 6 marshmallows, halved at an angle
- White cookie icing, for decorating
- Black cookie icing or melted chocolate, for decorating
- 12 orange sprinkles, for noses
- 24 mini M&M's, for buttons



Chocolate sprinkles, for arms
Sift together flour, baking powder, and salt. Set aside. Place butter and sugar in a large bowl of electric

stand mixer and beat until light in color. Add egg and milk and beat to combine. Put the mixer on low speed, gradually add flour, and beat until mixture pulls away from the side of the bowl. Divide the dough in half, wrap in waxed paper, and refrigerate for two hours.

Preheat the oven to 375 degrees.



Sprinkle the surface where you will roll out dough with powdered sugar. Remove one wrapped pack

of dough from the refrigerator at a time, sprinkle a rolling pin with powdered sugar, and roll out dough to 1/4-inch thick. Move the dough around and check underneath frequently to make sure it is not sticking. If dough has warmed during rolling, place a cold cookie sheet on top for 10 minutes to chill.

Cut into desired shape, place at least 1-inch apart on a greased baking sheet, parchment, or silicone baking mat, and bake for seven to nine minutes or until cookies are just beginning to turn brown around the edges, rotating cookie sheet halfway through baking time.

Let sit on a baking sheet for two minutes after removal from the oven and then move to complete cooling on a wire rack.

Spread white cookie icing on sugar cookies to create melted blobs.

Decorate marshmallows with black cookie icing to make dots for eyes and a smile.

Insert an orange sprinkle into the marshmallow for a nose.

Place marshmallow on cookie icing and add more cookie icing around the neck to secure it.

Decorate buttons and arms: Place mini M&M's on cookie icing for buttons and add chocolate sprinkles for the arms.

Authentic Cacio e Pepe

By Ben Hymowitz

A recipe I've always loved cooking is Cacio e Pepe pasta. Cacio e Pepe is a classic Italian dish made with black pepper, parmesan cheese, butter, and pasta water. Here's what you need to make it:

Ingredients

- 1 lb of Cavatelli pasta
- 2 tablespoon of butter
- 1 teaspoon of freshly toasted and crushed black pepper
- 1/4-1/2 cup of pasta water (save from the cooked pasta)
- 1 cup of freshly shaved parmesan cheese
- 1 tablespoon of kosher salt (for the pasta water)

Add a tablespoon of kosher salt to the pot of water and bring to a boil. Cook the pasta according to the cooking instructions. Toast the whole black peppercorns in a pan until aromatic and slightly brown. When finished toasting, crush them with a mortar and pestle.

Add the finely crushed pepper to a pan on medium heat for two minutes then add the two tablespoons of butter. After the butter has melted, add about two tablespoons of pasta water to the pan. Next, add half of the parmesan cheese and a quarter cup of the pasta water to the pan. Then add the pasta and the rest of the cheese. If the sauce isn't fully "together" add the other quarter cup of the pasta water.

Lastly, add to a bowl and add freshly shaved parmesan and black pepper. Enjoy!

Sports

Lyons to Join D1 Crusaders This Fall

By Isaiah Boyles

As the class of 2026 college recruiting window came to a close, senior cross country and track and field standout Liam Lyons finalized his decision to continue his athletic and academic career at the College of Holy Cross.

After establishing himself as one of the most dominant runners in Section 1 with All-State honors in both cross country and track and field, it is no surprise that D1 institutions were looking his way.

Narrowing down his final decision to just Colgate University and the College of Holy Cross, Lyons was forced to consider many factors before making a significant choice for his future.

When asked about what swayed his decision, he stated, "I really loved the coaches and the attitude of the team. On top of that, their facilities were amazing and it was evident that each player was accustomed to a healthy and balanced ac-

ademic and athletic life."

Being a part of a stand-up cross country program here at Irvington for all four years of his high school career, Lyons was buried into the competitive and passionate culture of both the cross country and track and field teams, developing an even greater love for the sport each year.

For those reasons, running collegiately was always in his mind when it came to the college process.

"I love to run competitively so I definitely made it a part of the process," he said.

"Holy Cross was a school that I was interested in with or without running, so it is even more exciting that I have the opportunity to run there."

After seeing him put up impressive times throughout the past several sports seasons, it is no surprise that Liam Lyons will be our third class of 2022 Bulldog to sign a division 1 contract, but he will certainly be missed by the entire Irvington



Senior Liam Lyons (right) competes in a Cross Country meet.

track and field program.

Solidifying his spot in the Holy Cross recruiting class of 2026, Liam is set to continue his athletic

career as a Crusader and will compete against other elite institutions in the Patriot League over the next four years.

Odds Are You've Heard Sports Betting Is in NY



By Matthew Weidler

There was big news in New York on January 8th when sports betting officially became legal.

New York followed in the footsteps of many other states that have legalized sports betting, including neighbor New Jersey.

New York was able to pull off a 51% tax on sports betting which is an incredibly high number compared to most other states that are below 20%. This mainly affects the books and not the bettors but is still shocking news.

New York agreed to deals with FanDuel, DraftKings, Betrivers, Caesars, and BetMGM to be the first batch of legalized books in the state of New York. There will likely be more to come but this is the starting point. The residents of New

York have wasted absolutely no time betting.

As of January 21, just 13 days after the official release there was already a large sum of money collected. Caesars received \$257.7 million in bets and made a \$227 million profit. FanDuel received \$200.3 million in the first 13 days.

This is crazy amounts of money and overall over \$600 million in bets have been placed.

This is a number that will keep growing and will be a very popular activity amongst New York residents.

Of course, New York high school students will have to wait to place those bets or have an adult do it for them, as the age to gamble in New York is still 21.

Irvington High School Drama Club
PRODUCTION OF

Disney
FREAKY FRIDAY
A NEW MUSICAL

BOOK BY
BRIDGET CARPENTER

MUSIC BY
TOM KITT

LYRICS BY
BRIAN YORKEY

Based on the novel *Freaky Friday* by
MARY RODGERS
and the Disney Films

FRIDAY MARCH 11 7:30 PM	SATURDAY MARCH 12 7:30 PM	SUNDAY MARCH 13 2:00 PM
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Directed and Produced by Stephen P. DiGiovanni
Assistant Director and Technical Director Sara Lake-Garcia
Choreography by Melissa Hansen | Musical Direction by Alan Goldberg

For tickets visit us at irvington.booktix.com
or contact us at tickets@irvingtonschools.org
at the Irvington MS/HS Campus Theater

Presented through special arrangement with Music Theatre International (MTI). All authorized performance materials are also supplied by MTI (mtishows.com).

Sports

Fencing Makes History

By Elise Harcsar

Irvington's fencing team recently finished their season competing in sectionals. The girl's épée team earned second place, the girl's foil placed fifth, and the boy's epi team placed seventh.

The girls épée made Irvington history, as Michelle Zhou, Elise Harcsar, and Malka Halliwell beat Ardsley and placed second overall.

Halliwell, a junior, was really pleased with the team's second-place finish.

"We went into sectionals as the sixth seed and finished with an impressive result of second place, which is very exciting and reflects our hard work and improvement during training."

Girls epi beat Nyack and Ardsley during the first two rounds, making it to the finals where the team fell short one point against Arlington with a final score of 4-5. After losing by a point, girls epi is hoping to claim first place next year.

"I got to fence against many people in our region, and I could strengthen relationships within our team," said freshmen fencer Zhou.

Overall, the fencing team concluded its season with an impressive record after competing against nine other teams this past season.

The team is hoping to maintain, if not exceed, these results next season.

As the first-year coach of the fencing team, Coach Kunz hopes to grow fencing within Irvington's community.

"I'm excited to support and grow the sport in a setting that makes it accessible to a wider audience. Fencing isn't usually offered in schools and is typically thought of as sort of an elitist sport," said Kunz.

Along with practicing and competing, Coach Kunz hopes the team will expand their passion for the sport outside of school.

"I would like to get our fencers interested in pursuing the sport even outside of our practices and meets. It would be awesome to take a look at some local competitions hosted by some fencing clubs and see some Irvington names on the competitor lists," said Kunz.



WINTER SECTIONAL ROUND-UP

By Isaiah Boyles and Dani Heller

Ice Hockey

The Legends Hockey Team had a successful season this year finishing with a 13-6 record.

They made it through the first round of the playoffs with a convincing win against ETBE beating them 8-2.

Braedon Gallante and Anthony Cappello of Ardsley and Ossining High Schools, respectively, finished with two goals and two assists each.

This game helped Gallante reach his 100th career varsity point and his 34th of the season.

Cappello finished with a team record of 50 season points and consistently proved to be a force on the ice.

Goals from Dylan Harrison, Ethan Pakola, Aidan Maffucci and eighth grade standout Alex Zinman also contributed to the winning effort from the Legends.

The team's goalie Ryan O'Hagan put on a show in goal saving 41 shots and only allowing two goals in the blowout win.

The Legends later fell to Suffern in the next round, a team that is cur-

rently ranked as the third best in the country.

"The season was pretty good besides the last game," sophomore John DiLuna said.

"There were a few games that we could have done better in, like the ones against Scarsdale and the season opener."

Reflecting on the Legend's last game of the season, he said, "Watching the final game against Suffern was tough. I felt as though we could have done better to cap off the season."

John looks forward to his next year as he stated, "Even though we are losing some key players, I think we can still compete for the league title and be a competitive team as a whole."

Boys Basketball

The Irvington boys Varsity Basketball team played through a hard fought season. The team had many injuries and ultimately ended as the 15 seed in the sectionals bracket.

This landed them a tough matchup with Briarcliff, the 2 seed. They hung in for a bit but ended up losing the game to end their season.



Girls Basketball

The Girls Varsity Basketball team is on fire so far this season, with the current record of 16-5.

The girls landed the two seed, and their season is still underway as they enter the semifinal round of sectionals against Westlake on Thursday, March 3rd.

Wrestling

The Irvington Varsity Wrestling came out of the sectional tournament with an impressive four place finishers.

Canaan Salles-Spar and Hudson Mollo both received 6th place in their respective weight classes. Samuel Anadre left the sectional tournament in 5th place, and freshman Joseph Rafferty earned 2nd place.