

THE CATHEDRALITE PRESS

The Arbutus
November 2023

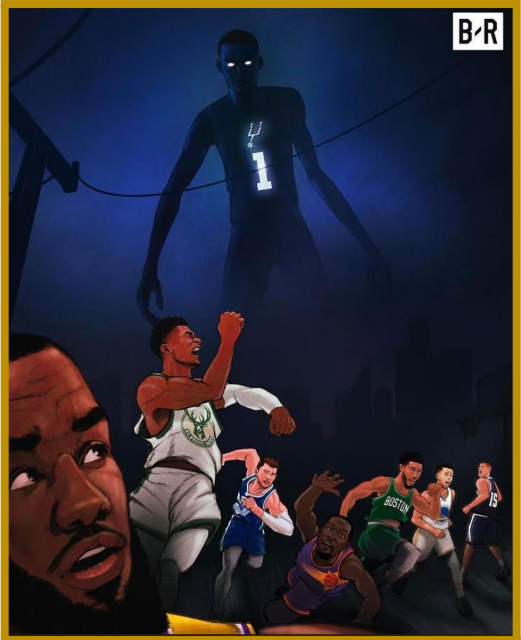


Sports

The New NBA Season is Coming!

This year is going to be an extremely different season for everybody watching the NBA. Starting this year, the NBA league office added in-season tournaments which break the traditional schedule of games. In addition, the All-Star game made a big change– the East and West divisions will come back as in years past. The All-Star game will be held in Indiana, where fans will have a chance to see some of their favorite players who are usually opponents play together such as Kevin Durant, Stephen Curry, and LeBron James. The competition in the Western Conference is especially fierce this year. The Phoenix Suns formed a new big three with Devin Booker, Kevin Durant, and Bradley Beal. They will have some major advantages on the offensive side of the ball. Furthermore, the Spurs drafted a super talented 19-year-old rookie, Victor Wembanyama, who will make the team more competitive. Do not forget the Golden State Warriors, where the addition of Chris Paul will improve the bench. The Eastern Conference is also very interesting. Who will go to the finals, the Bucks, or Celtics, or even the Heat? Will Denver win back-to-back? Stay tuned!

Article written by Hanzhi Lin (2025)



School Events

Fall 2023

The White Coat Ceremony

On behalf of the whole school, we would like to congratulate the seniors who received their white coats at the ceremony on October 20th. These ladies have worked very hard, spending many hours both in and outside the classroom. These white coats are the culmination of classroom work that began sophomore year, and continued outside of school at their internships during junior year. Their white coats symbolize their dedication and we would like to once again congratulate them!

Article written by Angelique Campos (2024)



Current Events

Speaker of the House Crisis

In the beginning of October, Democrats and some Republicans teamed up to oust House Speaker, Kevin McCarthy. As a result, there was no Speaker of the House for some time and much of the legislative work of Congress came to a grinding halt. After McCarthy announced he would not run for Speaker again, there were quite a few names suggested for the role including Jim Jordan, Steve Scalise, and Tom Emmer. There were some politicians who thought selecting a new Speaker should be a long, well thought-out process, but others thought it should be done quickly. Ultimately, there was concern that if a new Speaker was not selected, the government could shutdown and many essential government services would cease. On October 25th, Mike Johnson became the Speaker of the House after getting all of the Republican members of Congress to back him. Since the Republicans hold a majority in the House, it did not matter that all of the Democrats in the House voted against Mr. Johnson. Now that Mr. Johnson is speaker, he will have to work with the House to create solutions for all the issues that were put on hold while there was no Speaker. Some of these issues include a funding bill for the government and managing government aid directed at the crises in Ukraine and the Middle East.

Article written by Zanaiya Kettle (2024)

Entertainment

Films

Coraline (2009)

Genre: Drama/Family
Running Time: 1h 55m
Rating: PG



Although “Coraline” is famously known as a Halloween movie, it is versatile enough to be the perfect fall or winter movie to relax and get cozy with. We follow the movie’s protagonist, Coraline Jones, an 11-year-old adventurous girl who is emotionally neglected by her parents and meets her weird new neighbors after moving to an old house in a somewhat dead-looking, dark place in Oregon. However, she finds an escape from her boredom through a small door that leads to the “Other World”, where she meets her “Other Mother” and father who are attentive parents that give her nice and exciting things. She also meets new, vivacious versions of her neighbors while experiencing this new world. Despite Coraline having suspicions about “Other Mother” and receiving subtle warnings about the “Other World” in real life, she continues to venture into it and slowly discovers the things “Other Mother” is hiding from her. This movie is very suspenseful and thrilling with shades of “Alice in Wonderland” and with hints of horror.

Knives Out (2019)

Genre: Drama/Mystery
Running Time: 2h 10m
Rating: PG-13

If you’re drawn to crime mysteries, family drama, or just movies with nice autumn vibes that remind you of the colorful leaves and cold weather, this movie is definitely for you. “Knives Out” is a classic crime-solving movie about the investigation of the murder of a rich author, Harlan Thrombey. It takes several creatively unexpected plot twists that lead into a bigger issue commonly found in wealthy families and American society. The movie’s main protagonist is the detective, Benoit Blanc, who is a strange man that uses unorthodox methods in order to solve crimes and often goes beyond those expectations by delivering true justice. Another protagonist worth mentioning is Marta Cabrera, Thrombey’s nurse who

New York Fends Off Climate Change

New York’s New Composting Laws and Why They are so Important

Composting is a powerful way to reduce waste and limit the negative impacts of filling landfills. New York City has been actively trying to improve the environment since 1989 when the city first introduced its revolutionary bottle and can recycling program. As climate change becomes an even bigger threat, the city is making even more changes. Once again at the forefront of environmental conservation, New York’s new composting laws could soon make history again.

The Need for Change

Composting is very important in both rural and urban environments and is beneficial for protecting the environment, as it reduces the amount of methane emissions from landfills. These methane emissions are proven to be 20 times more harmful than carbon dioxide (CO2). In addition, the amount of waste is reduced through composting as the waste is recycled into valuable soil amendments. The average New York citizen is aware of the rat and rodent problem within the city. If there is less waste and food scraps on the streets, there will be less unwanted creatures roaming around.

What Are the New Laws the City is Implementing?

The new laws mostly consist of the requirement to separate out food and yard waste along with food-soiled papers, from other trash. Borough by borough, the law is being implemented and the whole city will have to participate in Spring 2025. The process has already started as orange compost bins have been spotted in several locations throughout the city. Not abiding to the upcoming compost laws will result in fines that are doubled with each offense.

What the Laws Will Do and How They Will Be Helpful

The compost will be used as fertilizer or animal feed which is significant for food production. In addition, the compost can also be turned into biogas. This biogas can be used for the heating of homes, and electricity for use in engines, microturbines, and fuel cells. It can also be made into a renewable gas called RNG.

The Negatives

With a law such as this, city residents can always expect challenges, especially in a sprawling metropolis such as New York. The main challenge is the participation of citizens. The law will have no effect on the climate if there is no participation from city residents, or if the composting and separating of trash is not done correctly. Already there has been only minor communication from the city on the program, and there is a general lack of education on the topic. This means that there needs to be more of an effort in advertising the program and teaching about it in schools. Younger generations will have the most effect on the climate depending on how they tackle the problem.

In conclusion, as the new laws are starting to get implemented in boroughs, it is crucial to recognize how the movement could fail if not properly implemented. New Yorkers will have to recognize and be made aware of not only how composting could benefit them, but also how not participating in it could harm them. This revolutionary new law could be a significant step in working with the Earth rather than working against it.



Article written by Eleonor Figeo (2025) and Jennifer Castaneda (2025)

is both the key witness and suspect of the murder. Yet her genuine kindness and respect is rewarded immensely by the end of the film. All of the characters are so well-written that for a second you feel like you’re watching a real group of people instead of characters on a screen; the entirety of the movie is highly engaging to keep you interested in what is about to happen next. Even though the plot can be a bit confusing because of the many plot twists and flashbacks, it’s a great movie; a one-of-a-kind mystery film that leaves a strong impression after watching.



The King of Comedy (1983)

The King of Comedy is by far one of the most real and most relatable movies by Martin Scorsese. *The King of Comedy* stars Robert De Niro, who plays Rupert Pupkin, a character obsessed with becoming a stand-up comedian. Rupert admires Jerry Langford who is a renowned host of a late-night talk show, and dreams of securing a spot as a guest on his show. Scorsese is a master when it comes to drama, but in this movie he shows he is equally competent in dark comedy. While the film isn’t quite of the caliber of some of his other films such as *Taxi Driver* and *GoodFellas*, it's really enjoyable to watch.

The beautifully created story that depicts Rupert Pupkin's sinking to insanity is one of the film’s most interesting parts. The film goes through Rupert’s drastic attempts to connect with Langford to advance his career. Scorsese made the interesting choice to cut between scenes of reality and Rupert’s imagination, which really emphasizes his delusion and keeps viewers engaged. The film begins with Rupert waiting outside of the studio where Jerry Langford’s show is filmed to get an autograph. At first Pupkin does not seem as interested as the loud cheering fans. The crowd of fans start getting more aggressive towards Langford, and Pupkin immediately gets in front of him to protect him. This seems like an act of kindness, however this is Pupkin’s first step in his plan to fame. He jumps into Langford’s car to give him an “elevator pitch” about his comedy career. These events later escalated to him losing his girlfriend and respect from his peers; all

True Crime

D.B. Cooper: The Man Who Parachuted Into Infamy



With a business suit and briefcase, D.B. Cooper was able to single handedly escape the police and receive a ransom of 200,000 dollars- all while flying 10,000 feet in the air.

On November 24, 1971, a man under the name of Dan Cooper (the name “D.B” is supposedly coined by a reporter who mistook his name) purchased a one way ticket to Seattle at the Northwest Orient Airlines in Portland, Oregon. After asking for a bourbon and soda, he gestured to the flight attendant, discretely passing her a note that demanded 200,000 dollars in twenty dollar bills, four parachutes, and a truck for refueling upon landing. In exchange, he opened his briefcase, revealing several wires and a shiny bomb, marking the beginning of what would be a very long day for the flight employees, and a very long forty-five year chase for the FBI.

After the exchange of money with the law enforcement, Cooper allowed the thirty-three flight passengers to disembark from the plane, but insisted that the pilots and flight attendants stay on, requesting that their final destination be Mexico City. This enforces the idea that he had no accomplice to meet at designated drop off point, as it gave the pilot free reign to choose their route. Despite this request, during the second half of the flight he abruptly put on his dark wraparound glasses, (an image that would soon become immortalized) tossed his JCPenney tie on the ground, and parachuted off the airplane at approximately 8 P.M. in Nevada.

D.B. Cooper was never found, leaving only very few traces of evidence. The first was his tie, which contained several rare earth elements that could have originated from a factory. In 1980, which was ten years later, \$5,800 dollars with serial numbers that matched Cooper’s ransom money was found in Tena Bar - supporting the theory that Cooper never survived the fall - especially because he also used two faulty parachutes: one that was sewn shut, and a military parachute that was not steerable. In addition, he jumped into a wooded area where it was raining very heavily in clothes that were unsuitable for parachuting.

The FBI interrogated more than 800 suspects in the first five years, eliminating only twenty-four suspects. One of the most famous suspects was Duane Weber, who on his deathbed gestured to his wife and whispered, “I’m Dan Cooper,” and promptly died. Duane Weber’s wife was supposedly convinced that he matched the profile for D.B Cooper because of his frequent nightmares of leaving fingerprints on a plane and mysterious knee ailment he received from allegedly jumping off a plane. Furthermore, she claimed that he took her for a stroll at Tena Bar, a beach along the Columbia River, two months before the money was found. There, he tossed a bag of ‘garbage’ into the river, not only littering but also possibly wasting \$5,800 dollars. However, the FBI ruled Duane Weber because his DNA did not match the traces that were found on Cooper’s tie.

Regardless of his mistakes, D.B. Cooper’s case continues to live on as a tantalizing story of an amateur hijacker that walked onto a plane and parachuted out wearing shaded glasses and holding a carry-on of \$200,000 dollars. After forty five years, the FBI finally closed the case and the Supreme Court charged Cooper under the Hobbs Act, which has no statute of limitations. This means that Cooper could still be charged despite the case being closed, if he is ever found. Whether he died from the fall or lived out his days as an old and wealthy man, D.B. Cooper was able to plunge the world, and especially the FBI, into madness.

Article written by Rachel Chang (2025)

for the hope of fame. The part that I enjoyed the most was a scene towards the end when Rupert finally gets his chance on stage and performs his monologue. His monologue is the best segment in the movie, everything in the movie leads up to it. The monologue itself is humorous while also melancholic. He makes light of events in his childhood while still smiling, which makes you empathize with him. However, earlier in the film the viewer is given the impression that Rupert is the funniest man on earth. The speech wasn’t as funny as one would expect, but I enjoy it more that way. It felt like the built up tension was finally released. The speech represents the feeling of longing and the desire to be loved.

The King of Comedy is more or less an honest depiction of the harsh reality of following one’s dreams in a highly competitive environment where skill alone is simply not enough to get you in the door. Scorsese was even more ahead of his time in predicting the direction of celebrity culture and the degree to which social exclusion has led people to prefer being a "king for a day" rather than a "schmuck for a lifetime." This relates to the current concept of Influencers and Microcelebrities. *The King of Comedy* is a reflection on celebrity culture and parasocial connections.



Article written by Nailea Cardenas (2025) and Ava Johnson (2025)

Celebrating Hispanic & Latino Musicians

Peso Pluma

Peso Pluma is a Mexican singer and songwriter. He debuted in 2020 with the song “Jeraqui de Nivel (En Vivo).” Throughout his early years, he learned to play the guitar and drew influence from traditional Mexican music, as he established his own musical style. He has appropriated this musical genre and utilizes it as a metaphor to convey the realities of Mexico. His sound brought about a cultural revolution in the music industry that made it possible for other Mexican musicians to be highlighted.



Myths

The Monkey King

The story of the Monkey King, Sun Wukong, begins with his birth from a rock, at the top of Flower Fruit Mountain, under the grace of Heaven and Earth. Although he had just been born, he was extremely intelligent, had many magical tricks, and could shapeshift into 72 different forms. After his birth, he lived on Flower Fruit Mountain with a tribe of monkeys. One day the monkey and his friends followed a stream on the mountain to a beautiful waterfall. The monkeys dared each other to jump through the waterfall, stating that whoever could make it through would be named king. The young monkey being the first one who made it through earned himself the role and name of The Monkey King. Behind the waterfall was a cave which the monkeys claimed as their new home.



However, the Monkey King was not satisfied and went on adventures seeking and defeating demons. On his adventures, he gained weapons which included his signature gold chainmail shirt and a magical eight ton staff that could shrink and stretch to any size. At the end of his life, he was sent to Hell but using his cleverness, tricked The King of Hell, Yan Wang, into letting him return to earth without undergoing the process of reincarnation.

Upset with his actions, Yang Wang turned to The Jade Emperor. The Jade Emperor believed the best way to contain The Monkey King was to invite him to live in Heaven. The Monkey King accepted the invitation but found himself unhappy upon arrival when he was assigned to the lowly job of guarding the Emperor’s horses. Realizing he would always be looked down upon, The Monkey King began entertaining the idea of power and immortality. He began his mischievous streak again and even declared himself as the Emperor’s equal which was considered treason. The Emperor sent out his army to capture The Monkey King but was unsuccessful. The Jade Emperor, unhappy with the Monkey King’s mischief, turned to Buddha for help. Buddha imprisoned the monkey under a great mountain, Wu Zhi Shan, The Mount of Five Fingers. The monkey survived the weight of the mountain but could never escape. One day, a Buddhist monk named Xuan Zang, encountered the monkey. He offered to free the monkey if he became his disciple. The Monkey King refused, not wanting to be under anyone’s command. However, as the monk began to walk away, the offer became more tempting. The Monkey King, desperate to be free, agreed and was freed by the monk. The monk gave him a new name, Sun Wukong, which means “monkey awakened by emptiness”. From then on, Sun Wukong protected Xuan Zang, on their journey to India to collect holy texts and bring them back to enlighten the people of China on Buddhism. On their journey, Sun Wukong reverted from his disobedient ways and learned the teachings of Buddhism.

What is Buddhism?

The Monkey King myth has elements of Buddhism implemented into the story. Buddhism is a widespread Asian religion founded by Siddhartha Gautam in India in the 5th century BCE. The ethics of Buddhism are based on purity, self sacrifice, and charity. It emphasizes love, equality, and non-violence. Some of Buddhism’s major beliefs consist of



The Four Noble Truths which are existence is suffering (Dukkha), suffering has a cause, namely craving and attachment (Trishna), there is a cessation of suffering (Nirvana), and there is a path to the cessation of suffering (Noble Eightfold Path). The Noble Eightfold Path includes: right understanding/view, right thought, right speech, right action, right livelihood, right effort, right mindfulness, and right concentration. In the Monkey King myth, the Monkey King may be interpreted as the unenlightened and his journey in turn can be interpreted as his journey to enlightenment where he adopts the

teachings of Buddhism.

Article written by Natalie Chu (2025)

Rosalía

Rosalía is a Spanish actress, singer, musician, and producer. She released her first song “Here With You” in 2014. Inspired by the sounds of Flamenco and traditional Spanish music, she brought out her passion for music within her songs. She serves as proof that creativity can triumph over any obstacle.



Ivy Queen

Reggaeton at its inception was dominated by male artists like Tego Calderon, Daddy Yankee, and Don Omar. When Ivy Queen, hailing from Añasco, Puerto Rico, emerged with her breakout hit “Quiero Bailar” on *Diva* after two consecutive albums with little to no success, she reshaped the landscape of reggaeton and paved the way for female Hispanic/Latino artists who came after her. She broke the stereotype of what a successful reggaetonero looks like as well as addressed the importance of female empowerment, independence, and self-confidence. As reggaeton is a genre that continually evolves, Ivy Queen remains a testament to the power of authenticity, reminding us all that the norms of music can be confronted and redefined to spark social change.



Santana

In the late 60s, Carlos Santana formed the band *Santana*, pioneering a blend of various genres and sounds. The first hit by the band was “Evil Ways” reaching the top 10 on the Billboard Hot 100 which began the start of a very long and successful career for the band. In 1998, after their induction into the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame, Santana went on to break a multitude of records in 1999 with the album *Supernatural*, winning nine Grammys in one night, tying Michael Jackson’s record. The unprecedented 99 consecutive week stay for the album, successfully solidified Santana’s status as a trailblazer through the fusion of Latin American culture into rock, blues, and jazz.

The Student Struggle with the Food Industry

How has the food industry affected your health as a student? What is the food industry?

If you and your friends sit down to eat at your favorite fast food place after school, or if you eat a small snack from the vending machine during lunch, you’re definitely familiar with the food industry. The food industry is a complicated global network of industrial processes to produce digestible food products. In the fast-paced and jam-packed modern world, eating healthier can be costly and time-consuming, which leads many to resort to purchasing what is most accessible and convenient. One major group of consumers affected by this are students of all different ages. As the food industry profits by creating low cost food products with poor nutritional quality, the well-being of young people deteriorates.

What has caused a glut of processed foods?

While the term “processed foods” consistently has a negative connotation, all foods you purchase at your local grocery store are processed to a certain extent. Processed foods refers to the process of changing any food from its original form. It can also include adding additional nutrients and preservatives. The food industry creates processed foods so that the food can last for a long time and has increased taste. The food industry knows that consumers may not have time to cook a meal, or that consumers generally prefer foods for their flavor rather than their nutritional value. Highly processed products such as frozen pizzas or cereal high in sugar have seen an increase in production. Children, for example, will most likely prefer highly processed yogurts that have a large amount of added sugars and artificial sweeteners rather than homemade plain yogurt that takes time to make. Young people are also seen as a major market for candy, cake, and other sweets which contain high fructose corn syrup and other ingredients that are harmful to their health. Additionally, since most students travel alone to school and are given an allowance by their parents, they have money and access to buy something convenient and delicious rather than focusing on the nutrients. Healthy alternatives tend to be more costly as well. Since most businesses only focus on making money, highly processed foods will continue to be an issue in America.

What can you do for your health?

Because students preferably eat processed foods that are sweet and tasty rather than other than healthier options, which are more advantageous to their health, they often are tired or feel sick throughout the school day. Processed foods only provide energy for a small amount of time, which can affect student performance in the classroom. However, this doesn’t indicate that students shouldn’t eat at all if something isn’t healthy. It’s better to eat than to not eat. As someone who has a huge sweet tooth, I will admit that I often am drawn to what is delicious rather than something healthy. A few ways you can help yourself that I’ve tried include:

- If you have the luxury to buy organic fruits and vegetables from local farms, then go for it. While it may be expensive, everything is fresh.
- Try to minimize the amount of sugary drinks you consume. Try to drink more water instead. While sugary drinks taste great and give you a brief sugar rush, water will keep you hydrated.
- Try to make homemade meals that aren’t too high in sugars, sodium, or oils whenever possible.

We’re all human and sometimes we all have to indulge in a treat. You do not need to entirely cut off highly processed food, but take small measures to ensure that you balance out your meals to stay healthy.

Article written by Jasmine Chavez (2027)

Santana facilitated mainstream appreciation and understanding of Latino/Hispanic culture as well as opening the doors for other aspiring artists of the same background.



Article written by Jaylene Nuñez (2025) and Ava Taha (2025)

A Chat With...

Ms. Isabella Parker

In the Cathedralite Press’ first issue of 2023, we had the privilege of interviewing Ms. Isabella Parker, the creative force behind the Art Department. She teaches sophomores, juniors, and seniors in addition to moderating the Art Club. Join us as we delve into gaining insights into her passion for teaching, her words of wisdom, and her unwavering commitment to fostering a space where artistic abilities flourish.

QUESTION 1: TELL US ABOUT YOURSELF/CONTRIBUTIONS

My name is Ms. Parker, I am contributing by giving an arts education here by following in the footsteps of Sr. Cecilia so that you guys can have some basic art skills and a way to express yourself. If there’s one thing that I would love to impart it would be that art is a great form of expression.

QUESTION 2: WHAT DO YOU LIKE THE MOST? WHAT INSPIRED YOU TO BE AN ART TEACHER?

I went to a Catholic high school like you, so I remember being in high school and turning to art as an outlet, and then eventually continuing that passion. I attended Pratt Institute, where I taught some drawing classes as a teacher’s assistant for almost 5 years with high school students. Not only did it help me financially, but it helped me to learn more about myself and develop my artistic voice. Since I started at Cathedral, and part of the blessing of working here, is that teaching helped me work on art more than I had been.

QUESTION 3: WHAT QUALITIES ARE IMPORTANT TO HAVE AS A STUDENT?

Always have an open mind. And also, have a willingness to engage, listen, and try new things. I have many students who have never done anything related to art, which is not uncommon, or a problem, but at the end of the day, it is always about learning and having fun.

QUESTION 4: ARE THERE ANY TECHNIQUES OR STYLES YOU PREFER?

In school, my concentration was drawing, and what I taught most was drawing techniques. My main interest lies in instructing anything related to generating imagery, illustrative techniques, and connecting ideas to images, which ultimately revolves around drawing. While I also enjoy painting, my personal work often involves fabric and sewing, which I incorporate into my teaching. However, some of the more textile and craft-based topics like sewing and embroidery, can be challenging for me to teach since I was self-taught and don’t have formal background in them.

QUESTION 5: WHAT IS THE MOST IMPORTANT THING FOR STUDENTS TO TAKE AWAY FROM YOUR CLASS?

Self-expression. So many of you are going into different fields whether it be business, medicine, engineering, or political science, so where does art come in? Two things: personal catharsis and a way to understand empathy. For your personal life, you may find yourself struggling and art can be the way for you to emote and release tensions from life. Secondly, art is a way to teach, see, learn, and understand empathy. If you are going into the medical field or business, a lot of your job is trying to understand people and respond to them. Art involves taking in the world around you, processing it, and transforming it onto a canvas, which fosters empathy. Maybe you don’t realize that now, but in 10 years from now, you might find yourself drawing, painting, or sewing to unwind.

QUESTION 6: HOW WOULD YOU ENCOURAGE SELF-EXPRESSION OR CREATIVITY WITHIN YOUR STUDENTS?

My students can attest to this, I try to encourage you by never labeling someone’s drawings as “bad” or “wrong.” I would never tell you that you’re not doing it “right” because art is subjective and we are unique individuals. It’s not my place to tell you how you see or articulate the world, whether you know how to draw or not. So many of you have never drawn before, but when you draw, I think “Wow, that’s a really beautiful way of seeing and translating what you see.”

QUESTION 7: WHAT ADVICE DO YOU HAVE FOR PEOPLE WHO ARE LOOKING TO PURSUE A CAREER IN THE ARTS AND FURTHER THEIR THOUGHT?

I think that it is important to always be open and never get too attached to the future. Try sticking to the present. I did not imagine myself becoming an art teacher when I graduated from Pratt. When being interested in art school or any creative field, many people tell you, “Well, how do you plan on getting a job?” or “What are you going to do with that?” For better or worse, I did not think about that when I went to art school. I entered with an open mind. I would say that if you believe it is your true passion, then go for it and everything will fall into place later. Life is long, there is a lot of time.

QUESTION 8: WHERE DID YOU GET THE INSPIRATION TO BE AN ART TEACHER?

My mom is an English as a second language teacher, so I grew up with a lot of talk about education and school because she is someone who is passionate about her job and lives and breathes it. Then going to college, my freshman year I had a drawing professor who pushed me and he is the person that I assisted in teaching for almost 5 years. His energy and his approach to teaching spoke to me.

QUESTION 9: FOR CURRENT STUDENTS, WHAT SHOULD THEY BE LOOKING FORWARD TO?

I am looking for the art club to be more integrative with specific projects in mind. We would like to do some art trips with the museums that are nearby. Like the fashion show, I would also like to hold our very own Art Show in the Spring which will be a collaborative effort with my classes. You guys have already made some beautiful work for me that would be great for the Art Show; it would be great for your friends and family to enjoy and to come and see all the hard work you guys put in.

QUESTION 10: HAS ANYONE BEEN GUIDING YOU THROUGH THIS EXPERIENCE?

All of the faculty and staff, really. I am very impressed with how welcoming the faculty and staff have been toward me. They are just really kind and good people. Sometimes, you never know what you are walking into in terms of a work environment which is kind of intimidating; starting a new job can be nerve-racking, but I have been met by nothing but kindness from everyone.

QUESTION 11: WHAT WAS YOUR FIRST DAY LIKE?

My mom was an actress when she was younger, and she would tell me that teaching is somewhat like acting. When teaching, there is a teacher persona. I kept that in mind. The students and staff have all been really respectful, accommodating, and welcoming. All of my students quickly engaged with me, which is all I can really ask for!

QUESTION 12: WHAT IS SOME GENERAL ADVICE YOU COULD GIVE TO THE STUDENT BODY AND FACULTY READING THIS?

The biggest piece of advice I have, all you can really do each day is live in the moment. Try to be in the present every day, because every day is a gift. It may be hard for teenagers, because you have so much going on and you’re trying to figure out what the rest of your life is going to be like. This is an impossible task. Like I said earlier, life is long. All you can do is be in the present and focus on what’s in front of you whether it’s schoolwork, or the people around you; when you stray from staying in the present it makes you lose focus on what’s important. We are all prone to that.

Through our interview, Ms. Parker’s commitment to nurturing creativity in each student became clear. She not only imparts knowledge but also creates an environment where students can manifest their passions, joys, and frustrations into art pieces. We express sincere gratitude to Ms. Parker for her dedication to shaping the next generation of artists, and we eagerly anticipate the brilliance she undoubtedly brings to Cathedral High School.

Self-Portrait of Ms. Parker:

