



Graphic by Alyson Danielson

VOL. 4 NO. 3: February 2023

## Southwestern High School's Student Newspaper

# SUESS!

### SWCS Musical Preview

By Dustin Hendrix  
JAMESTOWN, N.Y.—

Seussical! Oh, the things you can think, when you think about Seuss!

This year's musical, "Suessical," takes a deep dive into the wacky world of Seuss. Dr. Seuss was a renowned children's author, famous for stories such as "Green Eggs and Ham," "The Grinch" and "the Lorax." Suessical invites the whole Seuss-world into the tale of "Horton Hears a Who!"

Despite Suess's poems being centered on animals, performers won't be wearing any elephant trunks or kangaroo pouches.

"We're not designing this to be childish or cartoony. We thought, 'who would the characters of Seuss be if they were real people?'" said Mrs. Beichner-Miller, the musical director. "So nobody is going to be dressed as an animal."

**See SUESS, Page A2**



A glimpse of part of the musical cast practicing during rehearsal.

Submitted photos.

# Spectacular Siriannis



Southwestern's Sirianni family. Submitted photo.

By Angelina Wilder

JAMESTOWN, N.Y.— The Sirianni family has been the talk of Southwestern this month. This may be because Mr. Sirianni was inducted into the Chautauqua Hall of Fame, or because former Southwestern student-athlete Nick Sirianni, now coach of the Eagles NFL team, has made it to the Superbowl.

You may have seen news reporters roaming the halls to interview Mr. Sirianni, or you may have attended the assembly Feb. 8 to support Nick Sirianni's accomplishments.

Flip to the sports section found in **section C**

to read more about the Siriannis' recent achievements.

# Pannes, King of the Court

By Nate Lewis

JAMESTOWN, N.Y.— Pannes for three... its good! Matthew Pannes, one of the most outstanding athletes that have attended Southwestern High School, set the overall record for most points scored in a basketball game this past season.

Tuesday, Jan. 10, was just another normal day for Pannes, or so he thought. School drags by as normal, until excitement awakes at 7:30 tip off. Pannes was off to a hot start, scoring 11 points in the first quarter.

As much as the Marauders fought, they could not stop him. Drive after drive, basket after basket, Pannes alone was matching the score of the opposing Dunkirk team.

**See KING OF THE COURT, Page C1**



Matt Pannes and former record-holder Aidan Kennedy.

Photo by Shelly Philips



### Key

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# Letter from the Editors

The third time's the charm! The February edition of the Trojan Times might just be the best edition yet.

This edition encompasses some sports highlights, reviews, op-eds and more. The reporters are really embracing their skills and it is evident in the pieces in this edition. Keep an eye out for a special photo-journalism edition in March highlighting students, teachers and staff here at Southwestern.

Publishing a newspaper is no easy task. It takes multiple people countless hours to write, edit, design and print the paper. The staff at the Trojan Times is a lively group of hard-working students who make this paper available.

Thank you for everyone who submitted pictures and artwork, we really appreciate student involvement! Contact Ms. Beaton if you are interested in future involvement in the Trojan Times!

Thank you for reading, and we hope you enjoy.

Your editors,  
Nate & Angie



## NEWS



# "Seussical" Preview

Continued from A1



Unlike most musicals, "Seussical" will have almost no dialogue. Much of the script is set to music, providing a unique challenge to performers and pit orchestra.

"In a normal show you may have to choreograph five or six numbers," Mrs. Beichner-Miller says. "We have 103 pages of music."

Preparation for the musical begins in May, when budgets are written and scripts are organized. After Christmas break, the cast, crew and pit have little more than two short months to get the show performance ready. Putting together a musical is

no small feat, but Southwestern is always up to the challenge.

"Our student actors are very talented, and our pit and tech crew are the best around, bar none," Mrs. Beichner-Miller says.

Many student actors will share the load of this year's musical. "Seussical" will feature Owen Riggle as Horton, Marley Ohl as Gertrude, Jacob Johnson as General Genghis Kahn, Meredith Kimball as the Sour Kangaroo, Joslyn Brown as the Cat in the Hat, Alyson Dalton as Mayzie, Sam Kautzman as the Grinch, Lucy Brown as the Sour Kangaroo's daughter, and Matthew Bielata and Grace Anderson as Mr. and Mrs. Mayor of Whoville.

Director Ms. Beichner-Miller and her son, Ethan, on the "Seussical" set.



Southwestern will be performing "Seussical" at 7 p.m. Thursday, March 9 and Friday, March 10, as well as at 2 p.m. Saturday, March 11. Tickets will be \$8 per person and can be bought either on the school website or at the door.

Students work on the "Seussical" set. Submitted photos.





# SWCS Juniors Host Valentine's Day Dance

By Dani Mincarelli & Kayla Patrick

The Valentine's Winter Formal Dance, hosted on Feb. 11 by Southwestern Juniors, was a tremendous amount of fun. The night will be something we'll all remember throughout our years.

Balloons covered the entrance of the middle school, leading to the cafeteria. Each table placed in the cafeteria was neatly decorated with a wide range of drinks and snacks. A beautiful backdrop created a perfect place to take pictures. Leading into the gymnasium and dance floor, silver tinsel covered your eyes, opening you to lovely decorations and lights making a beautiful atmosphere to dance in. Let's not forget the music, students hand-picked songs and the DJ spun them off, blasting and creating the perfect ambience.

Thank you, juniors, for hosting such an extravagant Valentines Winter Dance.

## FEATURED CLUB COLUMN

# Book Club



Book Club members having a chat about books in the library.  
Photos by Janmanshi Padhya

By Janmanshi Padhya

Reading improves your focus, memory, empathy and communication skills. In Ernest Hemingway's words, "There is no friend as loyal as a book."

In today's time, however, books are losing popularity. This has made finding like-minded readers even harder. The book club at our school provides a solution to this problem.

The book club takes place every Wednesday in the high school library during both lunch periods. Any reader is welcome.

Currently, the book club has 43 members and is a "Read What You Like" club. Readers bring their lunch to the library and talk about their books.

"I have found that students read a lot more when they have a choice, rather than when a book is assigned to them," said Mrs. Wright, host of the book club. "This way no one has to worry about spoilers or feel bad if they fall behind, want to stop reading a book, read faster than others, etcetera."

Mrs. Wright has been running the book club for the past five years.

"The book club provides a friendly and warm environment," Sharlenna La, a member of the book club, said. "I always look forward to it."

If you are a reader, joining this club will not only give you new perspectives, but also give you a place to speak your mind. Try it out for yourself!



## Horsie Affair

**Check out the Trojan Times' new comic strip by Lynn Joy!**

**FINANCIAL COLUMN****with Southern Chautauqua FCU****ALL ABOUT CREDIT**

By Will Pavlock

JAMESTOWN, N.Y.— Why should you learn about credit now? Well, there are many reasons why you should inform yourself about what credit is and how it helps you, especially at an early age.

I collected a few questions from some peers and asked Dave Samuelson, Chief Lending Officer at SCFCU, to answer them.

**What is credit?**

Credit measures the ability of you being able to pay a debt back. An example of this: if you take out a loan for a car, and make your payments on time, your credit will improve. If you do not make payments on time, it will negatively affect your credit score.

**What is a credit score?**

A credit score measures your repayment history on money you previously borrowed. A credit score is like a grade, except this one will follow you for the rest of your life. The higher your score, the less risk you are to the lender, which makes your chances of approval (for loans, credit cards, etc.) better.

**If you have a bill that is due, but cannot pay it on time, what should you do?**

You should do everything you can to try and pay the bill on time. If you cannot, contact the lender and let them know that it will be late and see what they recommend. Not paying your bill on time can negatively affect your credit score, so make sure you are always prepared to pay.

**How many credit cards should you have?**

This depends on how you use them. Usually, two to four should be plenty as long as you pay them back and do not abuse them. Credit cards can be extremely helpful to some and very harmful for others.

**Does using a credit card hurt or help you?**

It can do both. If you make payments on time, it will help build your credit score. However, if you pay late or have high balances compared to the limits, it will lower your score.

**What is interest?**

Interest is the money you have to pay for the privilege of borrowing money. It is a percentage of the amount you borrowed based on your credit-worthiness. It is important to understand how credit works before you start using it, so you can make better choices in the future.

**Have any further questions?** Stop into the Credit Union today to learn more about managing credit!



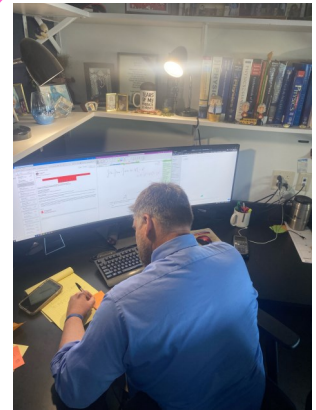
## SNEAK PEAK of a special March edition of the Trojan Times!

Keep your eyes open for a special March edition of the Trojan Times that will feature our newspaper staff's photojournalism projects! For these projects, reporters followed around students, staff and faculty to capture a day in their life through photography.

Some of the projects included will feature:

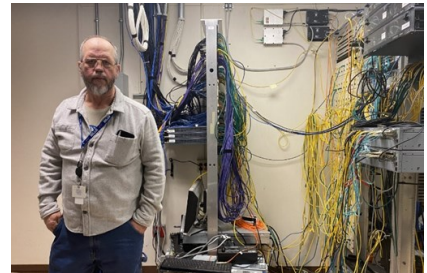


Officer Cashmore  
By Madison Swartz



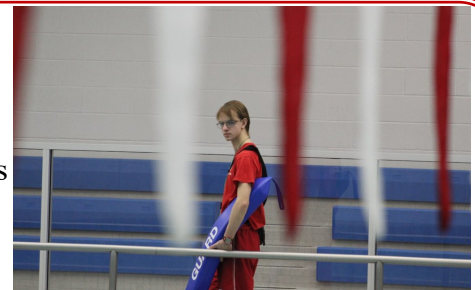
Mr. Pagett  
By Justin Vanstrom

Mr. Seastedt  
By Angelina Wilder



Mrs. Lund  
By Janmanshi Padhya

Logan Hren  
By Nathan Lewis





## O P I N I O N

# The Burden of College Application Fees

By Angelina Wilder



JAMESTOWN, N.Y.—Should there be college application fees? College application fees do serve a purpose, but I believe they should be reduced.

At the start of the school year, many high school seniors are busy looking at colleges and deciding where to apply. One small problem is that there is a fee for these applications.

Although I believe colleges should set an application fee, I also believe that many of these fees should be set lower. Colleges can have an application fee as high as \$100, but many average around \$50.

Having a fee may limit the number of schools a student is able to apply to or may be an inconvenience considering the amount you have to pay in college. I believe a reduced charge may benefit students.

“Personally, I find college application fees unpleasant,” Janmanshi Padhya, a senior, stated. “I do understand the application fees, but I already have enough other things to pay for like the AP exams. The fees add a burden.”

Many seniors have several other costs throughout the year, and adding application fees only adds to this stress. For a student who wants to apply to multiple colleges, these fees add up to a large cost.

Colleges want students who are truly interested in applying to their college. In order to do this, they charge for someone to submit an application.

For a college to avoid hundreds of applications of people who don’t want to go to that school, or to avoid several applications from one person, the college sets a fee for applications.

Colleges also need a way to pay their employees who are reading and going through the hundreds of applications. A college application fee can help do this.

Many students already are struggling to find ways to pay for tuition, books, meal plans and dorms, so because of this I do believe it would be reasonable to lower applications fees to about half of which they are currently.

College application fees do serve important roles, but these fees could certainly be lowered to help out their possible future students. One way for students to overcome the costs is to take advantage of the SUNY free application week and other application fee waivers if you can qualify.

# Hall Passes: Hallway Liberty?

By Janmanshi Padhya

JAMESTOWN, N.Y.— Sitting in my AP biology class, I couldn’t help but lose concentration when I heard students blaring in the hallways. I wondered where these students were supposed to be. Why were they not in class?

This incident made me realize the importance of keeping a record of where students are.

Our school uses hall passes to do so. Hall passes are the blue paper slips that the teachers give us when we want to leave a class. These passes consist of the student’s name, destination, date, time and signature of the teacher that has given the pass to the student.

As of now, the students caught without a pass are just sent back to their class. If the same student is caught several times, the punishments intensify.

I think that these passes are necessary for student safety. However, the system in which they work is faulty.

The teachers are responsible for the safety of the students in their class. Hence, keeping track of where the students are is important, especially in case of an emergency.

For example, if a student misuses a pass and is in the bathroom during an emergency, the teacher cannot send help if they don’t know where the help needs to be sent.

That said, the way the paper hall passes work is ineffective.

“It is difficult at times, especially when you have many kids going,” Mr. Pagett said. “They need to go places; it can be challenging to stop what you are doing in the middle of a lesson and write passes.”

Usually, the passes are not checked either.

“Some people just keep an old pass and use it again,” said sophomore Angel Mae Seeley.

I think a temporary solution is having sign-out sheets that students can fill in with the date, name, destination, time in and out. This would be more effective because the class won’t be interrupted, and the students’ comings and goings will still be under record.

It is only a matter of time before certain students start abusing this system.

Therefore, I had a conversation with Mr. Cooper about what is being done to better this system.

“We are looking at the electronic hall passes,” Mr. Cooper said. “This would be much more efficient for both teachers and students.”

The idea of having electronic passes on our phones or computers sounds like an improvement to me. It would be

more effective for keeping track of students and their time out. But we do not expect this change soon.

Some teachers, like Mr. Brown, use unique stamps to sign their passes.

Photo by Janmanshi Padhya

**SOUTHWESTERN HIGH SCHOOL HALL PASS**

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_ TIME: \_\_\_\_\_

TO: \_\_\_\_\_

SIGNATURE \_\_\_\_\_

## SPORTS

## KING OF THE COURT

## Pannes Sets New School Record

Continued from page A1

By Nate Lewis

With minutes to go in the last quarter, just three points away from the record, he shoots a three, and swish! With a wave of excitement, he runs back, pointing to Aiden Kennedy, the previous record holder, in the crowd.

“It felt natural and nice to get a good team win along with the record,” Pannes said.

The dominant performance doesn’t end here, however. His hot streak carried over into the following game against the Olean Huskies.

Again, Pannes was untouchable, leading his team to a win and shattering the record set last game, now scoring 47.

“I was excited and happy for him and the team,” teammate Paul Hayes said. “It was such a good game and he balled out.”

Pannes also just hit his 1000 points, a benchmark that not many achieve.

Let’s continue to support the boys varsity as they head into the playoffs. Go Trojans!



Pannes and Coach Emley rejoice in a hug.

Photos by Shelly Philips

## WALK OF FAME

## Sirianni Inducted into CSHOF

By Kira Ricker

JAMESTOWN, N.Y.— After being a wildly successful football coach here at Southwestern, history teacher Mr. Sirianni was inducted in the Chautauqua County Sports Hall of Fame.



Sirianni coaches his team to another undefeated season.

Photo submitted by Kira Ricker

In late December 2022, Jay Sirianni was the third member of his family to join the hall of fame following his father Fran Sirianni and brother Mike Sirianni.

It is no coincidence they have all been inducted into the hall of fame as coaching is like a “family business,” according to Sirianni’s younger brother Nick, head coach of the Philadelphia Eagles.

The brothers look up to their father, Fran Sirianni, who previously coached football here at Southwestern. He influenced them to want to coach and all three brothers have found success in that profession.

Before coaching, Mr. Sirianni attended Southwestern and then Mount Union College, where he played quarterback on the 1996 National Championship team.

Playing here influenced him greatly as he stated that Mount Union showed him “what a football program should look like and how to win.”

He carried what he learned back to his alma mater, this time as head coach, and became very successful. The Southwestern football team won back-to-back state championships in 2008 and 2009.

Over his time as head coach from 2003-2014, Mr. Sirianni compiled a 101-26 record and received the Post Journal “Coach of the Year” award four separate times.

While Mr. Sirianni may have stepped away from the football coaching scene, he continues to coach the Southwestern track and field team, the modified boys basketball team and also helps the girls varsity basketball team. All teams are very successful.

Mr. Sirianni’s accomplishments can speak for themselves, but he is very humble in stating that, “It’s just an honor to be inducted into the hall of fame.”





# SUPER SIRIANNI

## Alumni Leads Eagles to Superbowl LVII

By Trojan Times Staff

GLENDAL, Ariz.—This past Sunday, Nick Sirianni, a 1999 graduate of Southwestern, coached the Philadelphia Eagles to the Superbowl. The team played a strong game but lost in the final quarter to the Kansas City Chiefs, 38-35.

Although the team didn't come home with the win, the very fact that an alumni made it to the Superbowl is an accomplishment for the high school. It obviously also meant a lot to Sirianni, who could be seen with tears streaming down his face while the national anthem played before the game.

"I've dreamed about this since I've been two years old," Sirianni said in an interview with Pro Football Talk.

Sirianni is only the second coach in franchise history to lead a team to the Superbowl within the first two years as head coach, following Doug Pederson in 2017. He claims that his path to success started as a young child when he followed in the footsteps of his father and brothers, all of whom loved football.

"You know, growing up in a family with a dad that's a football coach [and] older brothers that play football, this is what you dream of, being in this moment," Sirianni told Pro Football Talk. "It's just emotional because there's a lot of work, not just by myself, but a lot of people. Starting with my wife and kids, my brothers, my dad and just so many people — coaches that I've had, teammates that I've had that helped me get to this moment. So it's just emotional."

Southwestern celebrated Sirianni's achievement on Wednesday, Feb. 8 with a pep rally in the high school gymnasium.



Nick Sirianni.

Photo courtesy of Philadelphia Eagles website



# TOMORROW'S TALENT:

## A Look at the 2023 NFL Draft

By Justin Vanstrom

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — As the NFL season comes to a climatic close, fans cannot shake anticipation for the draft. "Who will save our franchise?" many proclaim. The draft has come bearing many prospects this year, and each team has needs that must be fulfilled, lest next year won't be the year.

It is safe to say that the quarterback is the most influential player on the field, and this draft brings the much-needed talent that multiple teams desire. CJ Stroud, Will Levis and Heisman-winner Bryce Young all have declared themselves for the draft. These young players all have a completion percentage above 60% and have above an 89 overall rating. Make no mistake, these players will be drafted, it is just a matter of when and where. The top landing spots for these gun-slingers are the Jets, Panthers, and the Texans, as these teams need this position most.



Defensive containment is also another side of the ball that can turn teams from chumps to champs. Aidan Hutchinson, Tariq Woolen and Sauce Gardner have proven this. However, does this draft class have enough to go

around? Jalen Carter and Will Anderson Jr. are the first names that come to mind, as they have shown themselves to be dominant on the field. With Anderson's 37 career sacks and Carter's 57 career tackles, they will be the first to fly on draft night. These trench-fighters will most likely go to the Packers, Colts or Cardinals.



Now to the bleakest element of the 2023 draft: offensive supplements. This draft was quite dry when it came to receivers and running backs. Bijan Robinson, Quenten Johnston, and Michael Mayer are the only relevant names on the big boards. Quenten Johnston's 1,000 receiving yards, Bijan Robinson's 1,500 rushing yards and Mayer's 800 receiving yards and incredible blocking ability will surely make them commodities. The Cowboys could use Bijan Robinson with their loss of Ezekiel Elliot, while the other two are most likely to land at the Lions or Jets.



Many teams are overdue for rebuilds; however, there is plenty of talent outside of the draft and in the free agency market: Lamar Jackson, Geno Smith, Saquan Barkley and Jordan Poyer. So why is the draft important? In the modern era of the NFL, the school of thought adopted by most coaches is to build with the draft, supplement with free agency. The draft is the foundation of tomorrow's talent. Maybe some talent was brushed over; after all, Bo Jackson was drafted in the seventh round.

Take risks—and never say never.

## REVIEWS

## DINING:

## Buddy Brewster's

By Angelina

Wilder

JAMESTOWN, N.Y. – Looking for somewhere new to eat with friends or family? Check out Buddy Brewster's for something tasty and new!



Brewhouse specialty with a side of fries. Photo by Angelina Wilder

As someone who previously visited the Buddy Brewster's location in Fredonia, I was excited to find another location in Lakewood. I walked into the restaurant eager to eat some delicious food.

Buddy Brewster's is a new attraction in Lakewood. The restaurant is in the old Ruby Tuesday building, which was renovated this past summer.

Buddy Brewster's is a classic restaurant with lots of choices of what to eat. This restaurant has delicious food served in a casual dining setting. The restaurant had great servers and a clean environment. The prices were reasonable considering the quality of the meal.

I had the brewhouse specialty, which was a large, delicious BBQ pulled pork sandwich served with a side of fries. This meal only cost me \$13, and I was able to bring home the rest of my food.

The best part of Buddy Brewster's, in my opinion, would have to be the food. I tried several appetizers as well as my entrée and they were all very delicious. The environment was also very clean and friendly.

To try it for yourself, visit the nearest location at 300 East Fairmount Avenue in Lakewood between 11 a.m. and 10 p.m. on Sundays through Thursday and 11 a.m. to 11 p.m. on Fridays and Saturday.



Buddy Brewster's on Fairmount Ave. Photo submitted by Angelina Wilder

## MUSIC:

## Gravy's Golden Greats &amp; Badly Busted Beats

By Justin Vanstrom

JAMESTOWN, N.Y. – Young Gravy's golden years look grim yet great, maybe he gets some unjustified hate. His new album is littered with inconsistencies, if you want a comprehensive review, come join me!

Who is Yung Gravy? Yung Gravy is a hip-hop artist who has risen to be a household name in 2020. Many people have heard his songs without knowing exactly who he is. Yung Gravy's claim to fame was his smash hit "Mr. Clean," which sampled the old head classic "Mr. Sandman" by the Chordettes.

He showed musical ability with his new album "Marvelous," which released on Oct. 28, 2022. Why is this album all the buzz? Gravy's flagship song "Betty Get Money" was released within "Marvelous." This song sampled Rick Astley's "Never Gonna Give You Up." He really captured the '80s techno genre, along with a great lead that really gave depth.

When "Marvelous" released, it left critics twisted as to its quality. This is because Gravy experimented with his traditional algorithm to making music. Gravy struck some gold with this adjustment in "Marvelous." A few songs that really show Gravy's Greats is "C'est la Vie," "Hot Tub" and "Soiree!" These songs are unlike anything he has done before, utilizing more of a rock beat, and less of a trap feel.



The "marvelous" Yung Gravy. Photo submitted by Justin Vanstrom

Now to explore the grim side of "Marvelous." I think Gravy really tried to compensate for his fans that like his typical bass-oriented trap music. His track number one, "Isn't It Marvelous?", which is ideally supposed to be the strongest song, was arguably his weakest.

Overall, "Marvelous" is a great musical experiment that has really shown strengths and weaknesses of Gravy's musical writing. I admire his courage to try something unconventional, but there were times where it doesn't work and others where it slaps it out of the park. That's why this album is so controversial: because of the inconsistencies. Gravy has most certainly found his stride after this album.

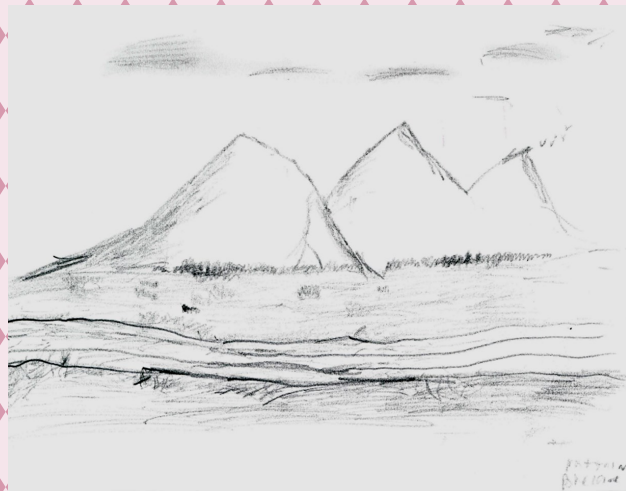
To listen for yourself, "Marvelous" was published on Apple Music, Spotify, Treble and Amazon Music.



## FEATURED STUDENT ARTISTS



Untitled by Azareeyah Eckberg



"Montana" by Matt Bielata



"Highlands in the Spring" by  
Matt Bielata



"Best of Friends" by Lynn Joy



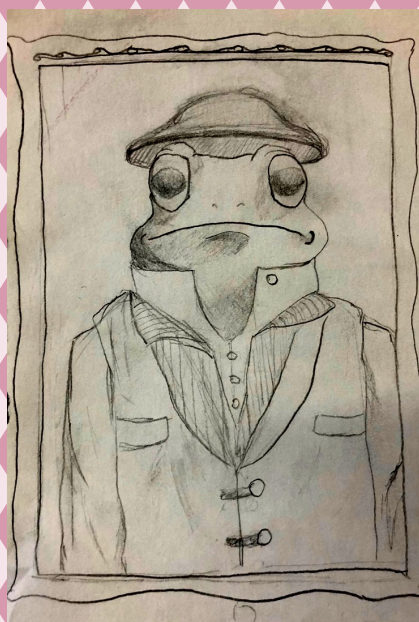
## FEATURED STUDENT ARTISTS



"Peace" by Lynn Joy



"Mental Health" by  
Marley Ohl



"Mr. Frog"  
by Sharlenna La



"Whitefish" by Matt Bielata