

The Mandolin

St. Francis Catholic High School

April 2025

"Spread the word."

Issue 132

DEAN COST
CAUGHT
STEALING CAF
COOKIES!



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Seniors: All Seniors Take Finals

BY STEPHANIE OLVIDO '25

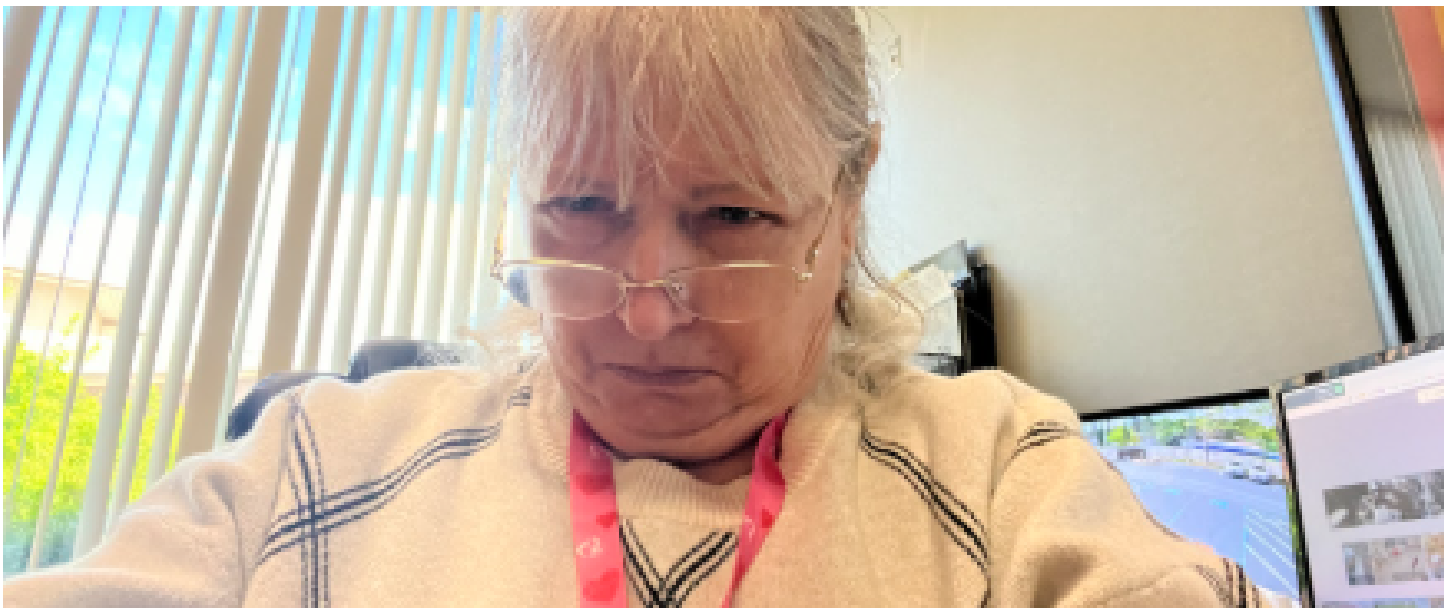
While seniors are taking on Senior Ball, graduation, and the crushing feeling of growing up, there is one more obstacle they'll have to take: final exams. According to top-secret reports from St. Francis administration seniors are now scheduled to take final exams in all of their classes. This decision was ordered by the Diocese of Sacramento, who were under direct orders from Pope Francis. The *Mandolin* has reached out to his Holiness but he has declined to comment, only saying, "God's plan."

Through our investigation of the reports, The *Mandolin* has identified a few reasons as to why seniors are required to take finals. The first one: a traitor. Someone personally informed Dean Cost that the entire senior class was planning to egg the school as a 'senior prank,'

resulting in the Diocese and the Pope's executive decision to enforce finals. It is unclear who hatched this plan (God's plan, supposedly) to inform the Dean.

But I fear the story does not end there. As I write this, I am currently in hiding, as I have been told to keep quiet about the news. Yet after convening with several members of the senior class, it is clear that these reports have been faked and there was never a traitor. In fact, the betrayal does not come from a senior, but rather from the juniors: the entire junior class pooled together money to pay the Pope for his order to force final exams on seniors. The motive is unclear, but sources say that it was another attempt at an upset over the senior class. It is bold of the junior class to assume that seniors understand what is happening around them at this point in the semester.

I fear that the administration has found me. Give my love to The *Mandolin*. Seniors, stay strong!



This is Dean Cost. All of this is fake and is treason against the school. The *Mandolin* is fake and a bogus publication. Goodbye.

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Juniors: BREAKING NEWS

BY STEPHANIE OLVIDO '25

There is no news for the juniors. Sorry not sorry.

Sophomores: Parking Privileges Revoked

BY KATHY DHALAI '27

In a shocking turn of events, Saint Francis High School administration announced this morning that all sophomore student parking privileges will be revoked effective immediately. According to some of the faculty and staff, the new rule comes in response to “excessive reckless driving” and “parking spot disputes” that have left the school community distraught. There were also reports of students taking part in parking spaces races, not parking in their own spots, and even trying to pay seniors and juniors for better spaces have reportedly reached an all-time high.



The SF student parking lot, some would say.
PHOTO COURTESY OF BUZZFEED

“This is a matter of safety,” said Dean Cost. “We’ve had too many close calls, and quite frankly, some of these sophomore drivers treat the parking spaces like a car race.” In response to these new rules, all of the sophomore parking permits have been taken away. The school will have security guards patrolling the student parking spaces, looking to take away any sophomores trying to sneak their car into the parking lot. Due to these new regulations,

the Class of 2027 is encouraged to find new ways of transportation– it can be taking a bus, carpooling with friends, asking their parents to drop them off, or riding a bike to school.



Carpooling. Car with a pool in it. Haha, get it?
PHOTO COURTESY OF SHARK TANK

Regardless of the administration's strong attitude towards these regulations, students are not happy to say the least. Sophomore Bella Takeya, who just got her driving license a month ago, said that, “Administration should reconsider giving permits to sophomores students who are actually following the rules, and revoke the ones who are not, so it would be a fair ruling.” Some students are thinking of protesting this rule, though its efficacy is questionable. However, before any sophomores start protesting for their spots in the parking lot... Happy April Fools! Sophomores, your parking spaces are still protected (for now). 😊

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Freshman: Summer School!

BY NEHA VASANTHAN '28

Breaking News on the St. Francis Catholic High School Campus: Freshman failed! The freshman class this year, Class of 2028, has reportedly done so badly in every single subject, that the entire grade will need summer school. This is not a joke, nor a drill. This is not optional. If the freshmen do not take summer school this year, they will either not be able to graduate from St. Francis or they will have to repeat 9th grade.

Instead of the school year ending on May 22, 2025, for the freshman class, school will end on July 22, 2025. The school will be expecting a written sonnet or soliloquy as a thank-you, for having any summer break at all. The freshmen will have 14 days of summer break. This gracious break was indeed debated, as many members of the faculty felt the class failed so miserably that they should only have a 4-day weekend as a summer vacation or maybe a full week.

The sonnet or soliloquy must be written in calligraphy and in a Shakespeare-worthy fashion. Each and every freshman will be expected to perform the thank-you poem from memory in front of the entire school in the theater.

A student hard at work.

PHOTO COURTESY OF CANVA



Summer school will include classes that begin at 6:30 am and end at 10:30 pm. Lunch will be 15 minutes long, and the once-a-day break will be running 3 miles. The allotted time for the 3 miles is 20 minutes, so if a student's 3 miles take longer than 20 minutes, they will have to stay after school for however much longer their mile took than the allotted time to catch up on what they missed. There will be weekly tests for every class, and finals at the end of the summer school.

That's it on the freshman summer school news, but next year, freshmen, try not to fail every single subject. Final reminder, all poems must be performance-ready the day after this article comes out. So, if you are reading this late, tough luck. You will be given a 2-day grace period, but, in addition to the poetry, you will have to perform an interpretive dance while yodelling.

Freshman, it's important to realize that if you do what you did this year—that is—failing miserably, you will all have to do much more next year. Who knows if you will even get a three-day weekend for summer break.

Remember: It's great to be an SF Troubadour.

This is not St. Francis.
PHOTO COURTESY OF CANVA



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BY ADA FRUIN '27

PRESENTING...

BESTIE BOT

50% OFF!

BUY NOW!

EVER BEEN TOO TIRED TO GO TO CLASS, KEEP UP WITH ASSIGNMENTS, AND PARTICIPATE IN EXTRACURRICULARS?

INTRODUCING THE BESTIE BOT!

A BUILT IN TUTOR, FRIEND, AND STUDY BUDDY! TAKE HER TO CLASS, AND SHE'LL TAKE NOTES FOR YOU!

CAN HELP WITH HOMEWORK!

The advertisement features a central illustration of a female robot character with red hair, wearing a white and grey outfit with a large skirt. The background is a vibrant yellow and red sunburst pattern. The text is presented in various styles, including large bold letters for the product name and smaller text in black boxes for promotional messages.

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Caf Cookies Cause Food Poisoning

BY GEMMA FRISCH '28

On February 30th, 2025, St. Francis High School had a food poisoning outbreak. Every day, hundreds of delicious cookies are bought from St. Francis High School's cafeteria. These infamous treats are usually something fun for students and faculty at this school. However, on February 30th, these cookies turned their backs on our school and caused a severe outbreak of food poisoning. Over 135 cases of food poisoning were reported, and that caused a drastic decrease in attendance the following day. Classes were nearly empty and nobody dared to enter the cafeteria at lunch. Several students were found throwing up in the bathroom or burning with a high fever. Outraged parents sent numerous emails to the administration and staff demanding all cookies be removed from the caf. The beloved lunch ladies were at a loss for words, and were deeply confused about how this tragedy occurred.

While there are still no answers as to what exactly happened, several plausible ideas are circling campus. One of the most popular recurring ideas is that the cookies were accidentally cooked incorrectly. This is the most realistic theory, as cookies have eggs

Her tummy hurts but she's being really brave about it!

PHOTO
COURTESY
OF CANVA

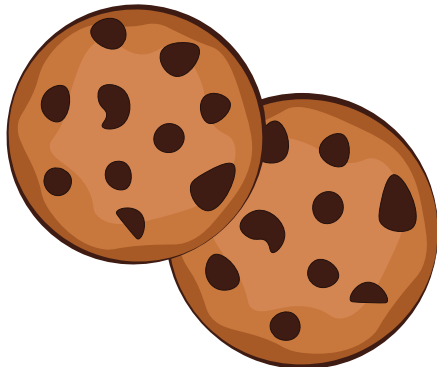


and flour which carry traces of bacteria such as E. Coli and Salmonella when raw. So, if the cookies were even partially raw, bacteria could have been spread to consumers of the cookies. This theory does leave room for doubt as no victims reported that the cookies seemed raw or overly chewy. The second theory that was floating around campus was that someone had poisoned the batches of cookies. While this may seem absurd and completely unreasonable, it is possible that something of this nature occurred. Several students reported that their contaminated cookies tasted abnormal, as if something had been added to the normal recipe. Some believers of this theory suspect that the lunch ladies committed this crime. However, the majority of students doubt this theory because the sweet women who manage the Caf would never intentionally harm anyone.

No theory the student body has come up with yet is one hundred percent plausible. Unfortunately, it seems St. Francis High School will never know what truly happened in the cafeteria that day or why their beloved cookies made everyone sick. While students recover at home, as a school, we can hope and pray that all who were affected by this tragedy recover completely.

These are not caf cookies.

PHOTO
COURTESY
OF CANVA



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From Stranded Tourists to Quebec Locals: An Immersion Trip Gone Wrong

BY MERCY COLLIER '26

In February, what was supposed to be a fun-filled French immersion trip to Québec City, Canada turned into a snowstorm of chaos, complete with canceled flights, lost luggage and negative temperatures. The St. Francis class trip, originally scheduled for five days, spiraled into a never-ending series of mishaps, forcing students and their chaperones to adapt to a *permanent* new way of life in Canada.

The annual trip to Québec is a St. Francis tradition for French students, led by Madame Picca for seventeen years. Although the trip is scheduled for just five days, it is filled with amazing activities, from dog sledding and tobogganing to visiting parliament and the world-famous winter carnival. The goal? For students to practice their French and experience the French Canadian culture after studying the language for the last three years. But no one was prepared for the unpredictable turn of events that awaited.

The student group left Sacramento on Thursday afternoon, and the group expected to arrive in Quebec Friday morning and dive into activities. Word of an enormous winter storm tearing through Canada was spreading, but these travelers weren't worried. They were too excited to meet their tour guide, Marie-Michelle, and begin exploring the old city.

Sounds amazing, right? Well, not for this particular group. Those fifteen student travelers, full of hope and excitement, didn't actually reach their destination until Saturday morning

– a whole day after their intended arrival. Talk about a detour...without the scenery!

Because of the storm, flights across Canada were delayed and canceled. The students weathered a 10-hour layover and multiple reroutes, where they filled the time with countless hours of napping, eating, and trying to do homework in airports all across Canada. Finally, after a long, middle-of-the-night bus ride, the exhausted group finally made it to Québec City. However, half of the group, unfortunately, discovered that their checked baggage had gone on an adventure of its own and didn't make it all the way to Quebec for another day.

Besides those few *minor* setbacks, the group had an unforgettable time. On the last day, the happy travelers came back to their hotel, satisfied with their trip and ready to go home. But, at the last minute, they discovered that due to an accident at the Toronto airport, they would not be able to return home until, well, never. Their flight was canceled yet again – the snowstorm had officially won.



The group pictured outside Le Hotel de Glace, a structure built entirely of ice and snow.

PHOTO COURTESY OF MADAME PICCA

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Unable to rebook an outbound flight after multiple days of bad luck, the fed up travelers finally gave up. Although their desire to get back home was strong, the charm of Québec was hard to resist – and they decided to stay indefinitely.

So, where are they now? The fifteen travelers are now official Quebecois locals, each with a job that suits their new lifestyle. From airport workers to professional mascots, they quickly embraced their new lives – making the most of a very snowy situation.

A few of the girls that lost their luggage now work at different airports throughout Canada. After what felt like *years* of trying to track down their missing luggage, they were left traumatized. They became so obsessed with making sure that no one will ever have to suffer like they did that they are now in charge of transferring baggage. They can spot a missing suitcase from a mile away! Some of the travelers, however, never received their luggage and have been wearing the same clothes for a month straight – a new Québecois fashion trend that they have coined “Airport Chic.”



Charlotte Krause and Danielle Payant now working at Passion Husking Dogsledding.
PHOTO COURTESY OF ELISHA CHAN

One girl, with a particular love for cooking and baking, quickly became a food critic, but not just any critic – she reviewed all kinds of Québecois dishes from a confused, yet intrigued, American point of view. Her best-selling book, *Poutine 101: An American's Guide to All Things Fries, Gravy, and Cheese Curds*, explores the dramatic shift from the American tradition of dipping fries in ketchup and ranch to Quebec's gravy-drenched dish that is poutine.

Another girl discovered she was a “natural” during the group's tobogganing excursion at Dufferin Terrace. After tobogganing for just one month professionally, she has become a local legend. She spends all her free time racing down the steepest mountains, and currently holds the record for the fastest time down multiple mountains across Canada.

A group of St. Francis students, who were previously dancers back home, were recruited to participate in the parade during *le Carnaval de Québec*. Spread out between multiple floats, they now regularly steal the show and are seen as the parade's unofficial royalty.

One lucky girl was particularly drawn to the Winter Carnival's mascot: Bonhomme, a giant, puffy snowman that is basically Québec's version of Santa. A fan favorite throughout Québec, Bonhomme can be seen on t-shirts, mugs, pins, as stuffed animals, and so much more – he's a genuine local celebrity. She now works as Bonhomme's understudy, lurking wherever Bonhomme is in case something goes wrong. The pressure and responsibility of truly *being* Bonhomme is very stressful, so she attends rehearsals every single day. She lives and breathes Bonhomme, and has cut out any part of her life that gets in the way.

cont'd

A few travelers with a deep love for animals were irresistibly drawn back to dogsledding. In a short time, they learned how to steer the sled, command the dogs, and bond with all the huskies. They now spend their days gliding through forests, so in sync with their dogs and each other that they have become the renowned “dog whispers” of the region.

And finally, after years of teaching French at St. Francis, Madame Picca now teaches English as a Second Language to Québec citizens. Her passion for teaching never waned, although her area of expertise may have taken an unexpected turn.

As days turned into weeks, the once-foreigners began to realize that being stuck in Quebec City wasn't so bad after all. They quickly adjusted to their new lives, becoming fluent in French, embracing the snow, and eating way more poutine than anyone should in their life. While they were originally determined to find a way to get back to Sacramento, they found themselves feeling oddly at home in Québec. This was, for sure, a trip of a lifetime...just not the one they had planned for!

Rock, Paper, Scissors

BY SANA SARKARI '28

In a groundbreaking shift in international diplomacy, world leaders have unanimously decided that all international crises, border disputes, and trade negotiations will now be resolved by using the method of Rock, Paper, Scissors. This decision, which will go into effect immediately, is expected to increase efficiency in conferences and put an end to long summits where nothing gets done.

Sources inside the United Nations tell us that this initiative was proposed by a diplomat who argued that traditional diplomacy was “too slow.” We are also told that this change has already caused commotion in political circles. A leaked document explained that matches regarding defense spending will be determined by a best-of-three match while issues regarding trade will be handled in a high stakes “winner takes it all” round.

Many mixed reactions have been shared. While some nations embrace the simplicity of the game itself, others are asking for expansions to the rules. Nations worry that disagreements over rules could cause a spike in tensions. “What if someone plays with shoot but we don't? What if someone hesitates? What if there is a tie?”

In fact, a new global department called the International Rock, Paper, Scissors Council (IRPSC) has been created to oversee all rules and games. Two important guidelines include: Overseers will choose how many rounds are to be played unless it regards defense spending or trade, and in the event of a tie, both parties must initiate a game of thumb war and be watched by a diplomat who is neutral to the situation.

The first test of this policy is scheduled to take place next month when two historically rival nations will determine the fate of a

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decades-old territorial dispute. Unfortunately, the match will not be live-streamed for the world to see; however, select organizations will be allowed to attend, which includes us at *The Mandolin*.

Looking ahead, as the world braces for this

transformation in politics, many are left wondering, will Rock, Paper, Scissors truly bring about world peace, or is it just another way for the more powerful nations to control the system? Only time will tell. But if all else fails, there's always Tic Tac Toe.

Easter Recipe

BY THOMASINA NICHOLSON '28

The Easter Season is all about using food to show your love and dedication to others. It's a perfect opportunity to show off your baking skills with simple yet fun recipes. Celebrate April and spend time with the ones you love with cute and simple Cadbury Egg Cookies! Or surprise you and your friends and family with Mystery Cookies that are perfect for the month of April!

Ingredients for Cadbury Egg Cookies:

- 3 cups all-purpose flour
- 1 ½ teaspoons baking powder
- 1 teaspoon baking soda
- 1 teaspoon sea salt
- 1 cup unsalted butter (room temperature)
- 1 ½ cups light brown sugar
- ½ cup granulated sugar
- 2 large eggs
- 2 teaspoons pure vanilla extract
- 1 ½ cups chopped Cadbury Mini Eggs™
- 1 cup chocolate chips
- 1 cup toasted coconut
- Flaked sea salt (to sprinkle on top of cookies)

Cadbury Egg Cookies-Chocolate chip cookies with Cadbury Mini Eggs and toasted coconut
PHOTO COURTESY OF TWO PEAS IN THEIR
POD

Instructions:

1. Preheat oven to 350 degrees Fahrenheit. Line a large baking sheet with parchment paper and set aside.
2. In a medium bowl, whisk together flour, baking powder, baking soda, and sea salt. Set aside.
3. Using a stand mixer, cream butter and sugars together for about 1 minute. Add in the eggs and vanilla and mix until combined.
4. Add the dry ingredients and mix on low until just combined.
5. Stir in the chopped Cadbury Mini Eggs*, chocolate chips, and toasted coconut.
6. Form the cookie dough into balls, about 2 tablespoons of dough. Place on prepared baking sheet, about 2 inches apart.



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Instructions continued

7. Bake cookies for 10-12 minutes or until the edges are slightly golden brown. Remove from oven and sprinkle with sea salt. Let cookies cool on the baking sheet for 5 minutes. Transfer to a wire cooling rack and cool completely.

Serve with your favorite Easter meal and enjoy!

*Tip: to chop the Cadbury eggs, place them in a plastic bag and smash with a rolling pin. Just make sure not to smash them too much!

Ingredients for Mystery Cookies:

- 2 cups all purpose flour
- 1 teaspoon baking soda
- A pinch of sugar
- 1 cup vanilla extract
- 5-10 bags of chocolate chips
- No butter
- 2 cups of lettuce
- A pinch of garlic salt
- A hint of realizing that this is fake

Instructions:

1. Start by creaming flour and lettuce in a short bowl.
2. End because this will not make anything tasty.
3. Garnish with cursive piping reading "April Fools" in Medieval Font.

Wicked - An Obnoxious and Offensive Adaptation

BY GEORGI WILLIAMS '28

The highly anticipated film, *Wicked*, recently came out in 2024. Fans were excited to see a whimsical film adaptation of their favorite Broadway musical. However, as soon as the film hit theaters, *Wicked* lovers around the world could only ask one thing: What were the directors thinking?

For starters, the extras featured in the film were not taking their job seriously. They were caught eating Chipotle on set during filming on several occasions. Now this wouldn't be a huge deal if these scenes were simply refilmed; however, the director decided to keep these Chipotle fiends in the finished movie!

Not only are they in the background of multiple scenes, but also one extra was even holding up his burrito bowl and flaunting his Chipotle right in front of the camera! It seems like these actors love Chipotle more than their beloved musical.

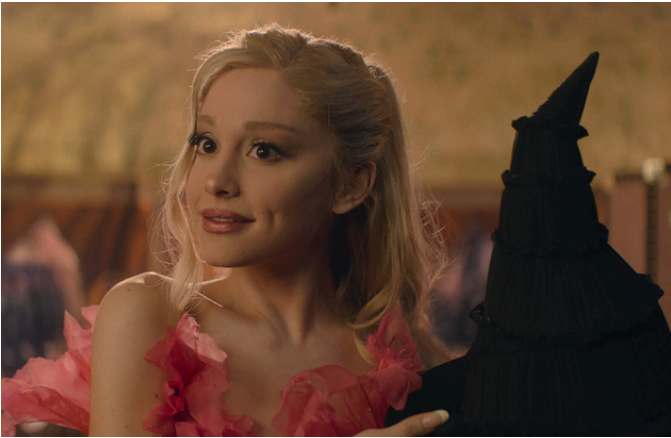


A Happy Meal.
PHOTO COURTESY OF CHIPTOLE
LOCATIONS

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Another problem was the CGI. As most people know, CGI is used in the majority of modern films, and *Wicked* is no exception. There would be no issues with directors using CGI, if it didn't make the movie look like a remake of the 2010 film, *Sharknado*. During "Defying Gravity," Cynthia Erivo looks like she has been cut out and pasted onto a windy background. Some watchers even spotted creases of what looks to be a green screen in the finished film.

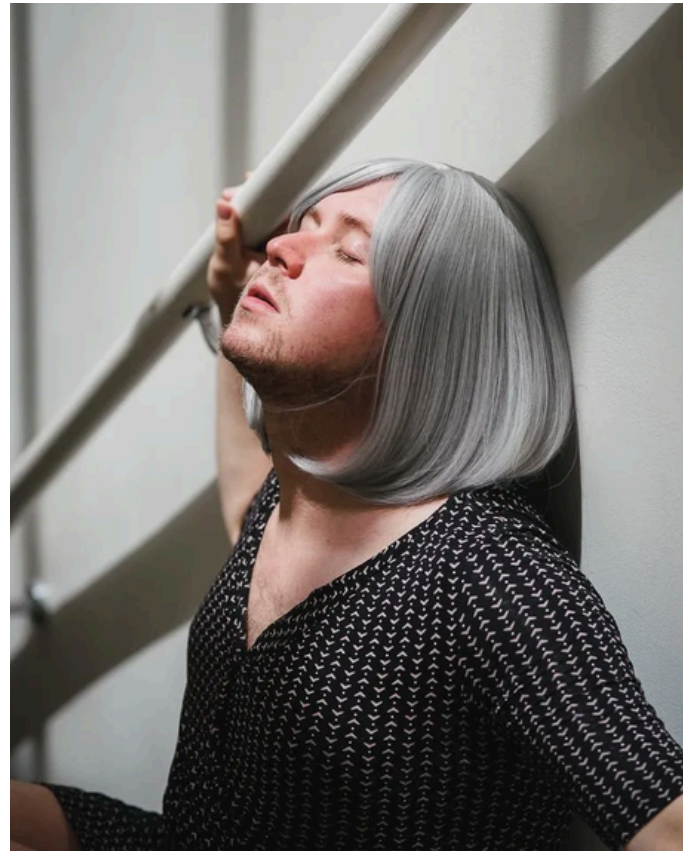


Cynthia Erivo before she performs "Defying Gravity", pictured.

PHOTO COURTESY OF THE NEW YORK
TIMES

The outrageous effects take away from the 'otherworldly' aspect of the film and reminds me of a terrible video project I did in middle school," says famous movie critic, Diana Diamond. Many outraged viewers agreed with Ms. Diamond, which sprouted an internet meme clowning the movie's horrible CGI. TikTokers started making their own versions of the scene, trying to fix whatever the filmmakers had done to make it look so cheap.

Probably the most important reason for the movie's worldwide hate were the vocals. Despite Ariana Grande and Cynthia Erivo being professional singers, every note that came from their mouth sounded strained. Going back to the "Defying Gravity" scene, Cynthia Erivo does the iconic *Wicked* riff. However, she sounds like a frog croaking. Even famous actor, Paloma Diamond, who has never been in a singing role says she could've done better.



Award-winning actress Paloma Diamond, pictured.

PHOTO COURTESY OF USA TODAY

Ariana Grande also ended up voice cracking six times! For professional singers, these two don't seem very professional.

BY DESLYN GALANG '28

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T
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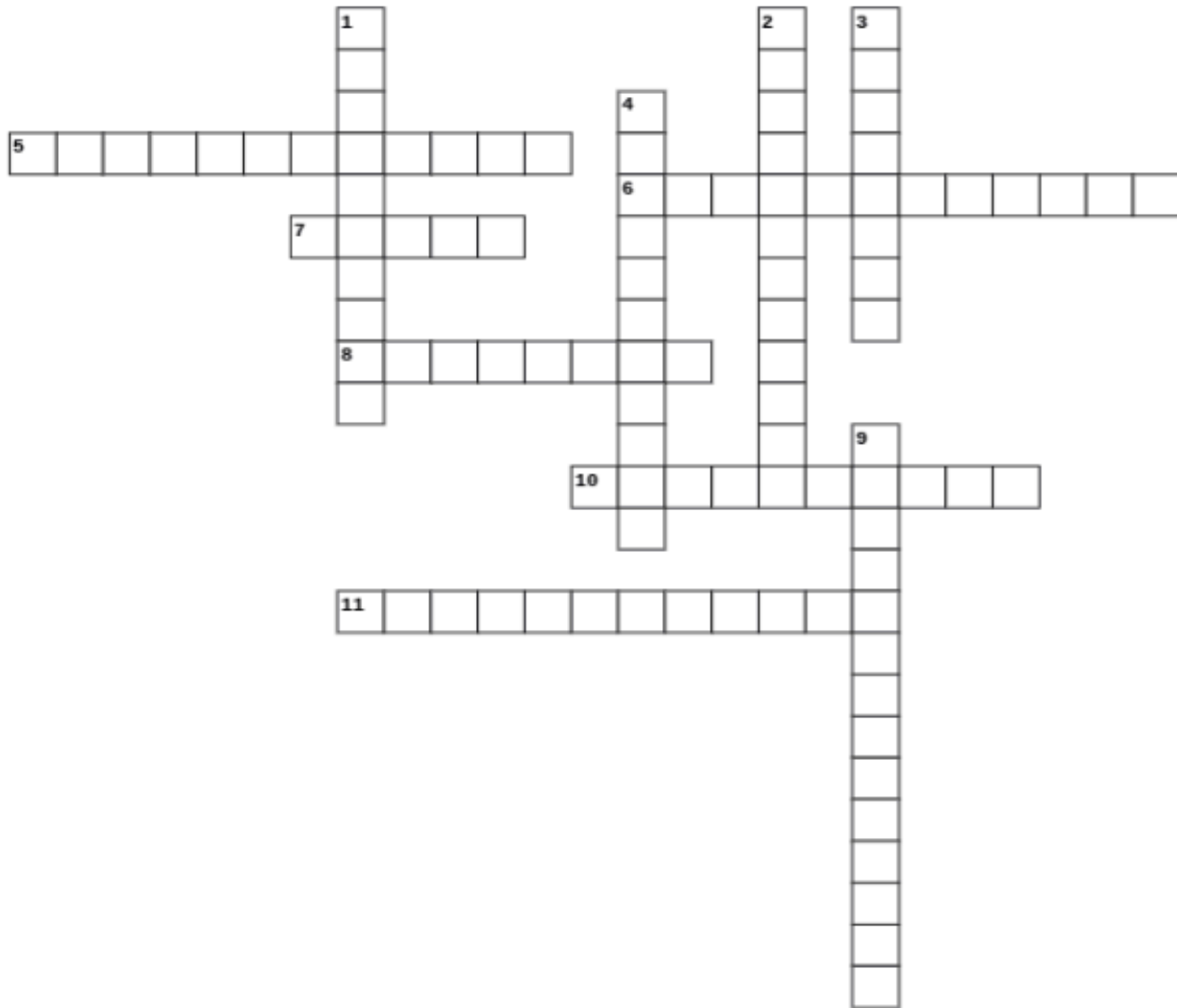
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Word Bank:

Caf Cookie, April, Spring, Joke, Zoo, St. Francis, Flower,
 Troubie

BY: TRINITY ITO '27

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ACROSS

5. The Friday before Easter
6. A Christian holiday often associated with spring
7. The day in spring when we lose an hour
8. The preseason practice for professional baseball players
10. The animal that hides eggs around your house
11. A colorful marshmallow in different animal shapes commonly given as an Easter treat

DOWN

1. A dance held at St. Francis, usually in April or May
2. The Catholic season in preparation for Easter
3. The thing bees transfer between flowers that causes many allergies
4. April showers bring May _____
9. The week-and-a-half-long break from school at the end of April

(LATE) APRIL FOOLS!

You've been pranked!

Dear readers,

Welcome to our annual April Fool's Edition – a time-honored tradition where facts take a short vacation and satire takes the spotlight. Every article in this issue is written with tongue firmly in cheek. That means names may be fictionalized, quotes invented, and events completely fabricated – all in good fun and in celebration of the wonderfully ridiculous.

Happy April, and may your pranks be clever and your laughter loud.

Sincerely,

The Mandolin

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