

PROWLER

Quince Orchard High School • 15800 Quince Orchard Rd, Gaithersburg, MD 20878

What is going with the U.S. - Iran Conflict?

By SARA KLEMOV
Staff Writer

A military draft? World War 3? These rumors began taking over the internet last month as tensions between the United States and Iran increased. But are these rumors even a possibility?

While the United States and Iran have had tensions for years, this current conflict started to erupt in May 2018, when the Trump administration backed out of the Iran nuclear deal in order to impose sanctions on their oil industry. Even though the United States backed out, the nuclear deal includes more countries, so the deal is still intact.

Or it was, until General Qassem Soleimani, the head of the Iranian Revolutionary Guard Corps-Quds Force, was killed by an airstrike at the international airport in Baghdad on January 3, which was orchestrated by the Trump administration. This strike was very controversial in the United States because Trump chose to withhold the information from the Speaker of the House, Nancy Pelosi,

because he concluded that Soleimani was an imminent threat to the United States. As a result of the attack, Iran announced they would no longer adhere to the 2015 nuclear deal.

Additionally, on January 8, Iran launched missiles at American bases in Iraq. Trump has been told that there are no American casualties; however, many of the troops have been flying out of Iraq with "potential injuries" to be examined, according to a spokesman for U.S. Central Command, Navy Capt. Bill Urban. As of January 29, the Pentagon reports 50 U.S. troops are suffering from traumatic brain injuries (TBI).

According to the U.S. military, TBIs are common in war zones. The most common cause of TBIs are explosive blasts.

"The question of American casualties was especially significant at the time because the missile attack's results were seen as influencing a U.S. decision on whether to retaliate and risk a broader war with Iran," writes Lolita Baldor and Robert Burns of The Military Times and the Associated Press. Instead, the Trump administration has added new sanctions on Iran, causing tensions to rise even higher.

In addition to the missiles launched

at bases, another was launched from Iran and shot down a Ukrainian plane, killing 176 people. Iran admits their responsibility and claims it was an accident because it was hours after they launched missiles at American bases in Iraq, saying it was "human error." Furthermore, Iran blames the United States for this accident because they wouldn't have been launching missiles that day if it wasn't for the killing of Soleimani.

Before Iran stepped forward about the missile, they told their citizens that "the plane crashed because of mechanical problems," according to The New York Times.

Iran's lack of transparency with their citizens has led to mass citizen protests against their regime. Iran has responded to the protests by sending in police to fire tear gas and shoot protestors. Trump supports the protestors through tweets and Instagram posts in Farsi, tweeting, "I have been standing with you since the beginning of my presidential period and my government will stand with you... your courage is inspiring."



PHOTO COURTESY OF CNN

Remembering Kobe

By JANTZEN FOCHT
Editor-in-Chief



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On January 26, the sporting world was forever impacted when it lost one of the greatest athletes of our generation, Kobe Bryant, in a helicopter crash in California. His daughter Gianna Bryant, aged 13, also passed away in the crash, along with five others. In this tragic event, it reminds us of how precious life is, and how we should seize every moment. We have to live, laugh, and love with the ones we cherish most.

From the time he was a child, Kobe was a basketball prodigy. Playing at Lower Merion High School in Philadelphia, he quickly came onto the scene with his dazzling moves and his unmatched athleticism. From there, he was drafted with the 13th pick in 1996 by the Charlotte

Hornets, but was ultimately dealt to Los Angeles later that night. The rest was history, as by teaming up with Shaq and other players such as Rick Fox, Robert Horry, and others, they wound up winning three championships within a three-year stretch, which has only been done by the Bulls from '91-'93 and '96-'98. Kobe became one of the biggest stars the NBA had ever seen, and could arguably be more popular than his other Hollywood counterpart Hall of Famer, Earvin 'Magic' Johnson.

Kobe would go on to win another two championships in 2009 and '10 and would also rack up other honors such as MVP and a Finals MVP before he retired in 2016.

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MD styrofoam ban

By MELANIE FRANK
Staff Writer



PHOTO COURTESY OF EYEONANNAPOLIS.NET

Maryland is poised to become the first state to ban foam food containers this year.

Effective July 1, Maryland will be the first in the country to forbid restaurants, coffee shops, and grocery stores from using and selling foam cups, plates, bowls, and clamshell containers.

Recently, lawmakers and environmental groups have targeted EPS because of their known environmental impacts. EPS decompose slowly, and the wind blows the lightweight material into the surrounding areas. EPS that ends up in the ocean can contribute to plastic pollution and the degradation of animals affected.

Styrofoam is made from expanded

polystyrene, which in 2002 and 2014 has been classified as a possible human carcinogen and could be linked to the occurrence of leukemia and lymphoma cancer.


Along with the list of general health concerns, styrofoam pollutes the environment. Kinhal explains that "HFCs, or hydrofluorocarbons used initially in the manufacture of styrofoam, were released during production processes." While the toxins put manufacturers at the greatest risk, it pollutes the air.

One of styrofoam's main uses is to be burned for energy or disposal. When styrofoam is burned and released into the environment, "it leads to air pollution and health problems when inhaled by humans and animals."

To help decrease the production, Montgomery County became one of the first counties in Maryland to begin the fight against single-use plastics. Starting in 2012, all plastic bags came with a 5 cent fee, encouraging customers to bring their own reusable bags or reuse plastics bags for things around the house, according to the Washington Post.

Alongside Maryland, California, Hawaii, and New York have all banned single-use plastic bags altogether on a state-wide level. Plastic bags are harmful to the environment due to their prolonged decomposition process, where tiny, toxic plastic particles are released into the air,

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The Prowler gladly accepts comments, concerns, and letters to the editor. Letters may be emailed to qohsprowler@gmail.com, mailed c/o The Prowler to the school address above, or dropped off directly to Ms. Cooley-Klein in Room 241. Letters may be edited for space and clarity.

ABOUT

The Prowler is published six times a year by the students of Quince Orchard High School, and it has been continuously published since the 1988-89 school year. To become a staff member, students take Journalism A & B to qualify for the Advanced Publications class.



Ms. Lyst featured on Say Yes to the Dress

By **JENNA LEVY**
Senior Staff Writer

Special education teacher Julie Lyst and her fiancée Bethany Tognocchi will be featured on the finale of TLC's program, "Say Yes to the Dress America," on March 14. The couple will be representing Maryland as the "Wedding Event of the Year."

Lyst revealed that Tognocchi loves to enter contests, and she was the one to take charge in sending in the application, eventually landing the once-in-a-lifetime opportunity.

As one can imagine, Lyst

says she "was pretty nervous at first, but the experience was more about the brides." At first, Tognocchi was more eager to be on the show, but Lyst confesses that after some time, she was "pretty pumped."

Lyst said Tognocchi was very nervous she wouldn't find her dress at the designated Say Yes to the Dress store, Kleinfeld Bridal. "However," said Lyst, "she was very lucky she found the perfect dress for her."

According to The MoCo Show, the couple was "married by Randy Fenoli of TLC's Say Yes to the Dress in the middle of

Central Park with 51 other couples from across the country." However, according to Lyst, "my 'wife' and I did not actually get married then. "We are having a real wedding in August, where our extended family will be able to join," she said.

According to Parade, the Say Yes to the Dress ceremony was "one of the largest wedding ceremonies of the year", and Lyst says that "it was a very cool experience." The lucky brides were styled by Hayley Paige, bridal gown designer, who also served as the couples' stylist. Additionally, Buddy Valastro from the

television production Cake Boss baked a cake for all the couples.

As a result of being cast on a worldwide television program, Lyst says "There have been random people on Facebook who messaged me asking about different people I met and the experience. Also, I've gotten a lot of questions from staff at school."

Lyst gives behind the scenes information on the reality of the show. "Bethany and I had to kiss three different times in order to get the perfect shot," she said. However, the event was picture perfect in the couples' eyes.

Wildfires burning through Australia

By **MADDY FREEDMAN**
Staff Writer

As we are getting deeper and deeper into winter, many people start to wish it was just summer again and that it would get warmer. However, in Australia people are wishing the exact opposite. Summer in Australia, while seemingly nice, always raises big concerns for their citizens due to summer being known as the fire season, and this year is no exception.

This summer, Australia has been facing one of their worst droughts of the decade along with heatwaves like no other, reaching up to 40 degrees Celsius. Unfortunately for Australia, the droughts and heatwaves are the least of their concerns, due to a quite literal fact that the whole country of Australia is on fire.

Starting in late December, brush fires began to break out, spreading rapidly due to strong

wind and lack of rain. There have been reports of fires in every single Australian state with a total of around 26 million acres affected. Quince Orchard junior Chloe Levine has been following the impacts of these fires on social media and said "it's absolutely crazy how big these fires have become and how many animals have been hurt by them." As of January 13, an estimated one billion animals have been killed due to these wildfires along with burning homes, cities, and forests.

Australian state and federal authorities have been working day and night to put an end to

the fire crisis for months, but due to the extremely large outburst of fires, this has been an ongoing challenge. There are more than 2,000 firefighters working on the ground in New South Wales alone (one of the areas hit the hardest) but additional support has been sent from the US, Canada, and New Zealand who have provided Australia with extra firefighters. "I think the U.S. getting involved in any way they can to help Australia is great," said sophomore Addison Moncak. The federal government has sent in additional military assistance such as army personnel, air force aircraft, and navy cruisers for fire-

fighting, evacuation, search and rescue, and clean-up efforts.

So the big question everyone has is when these fires be put down once and for all. Well... the bad news is unfortunately, for fires to burn out naturally, temperatures in Australia would need to drop, which is unlikely due to the fact that the summer season just recently began in Australia. Also even if the fires do get put out, the aftermath such as the extremely poor air quality will remain an issue. There have been an estimate of a few hundred thousand people taken to hospitals all around Australia due to smoke inhalation, which is unlikely to fully go away until weeks after the fires are put out. Since the fire season is an annually occurring event, it is unlikely this tragedy will ever fully be put to rest, however, there are ways you can help. Donation sites have been set up through many organizations to help with victim relief and recovery.



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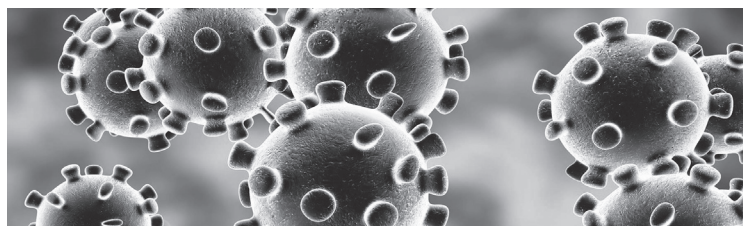


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Coronavirus worry spreads to MOCO

By **ASHLEIGH GORDON**
Editor-in-Chief

A new strain of virus has infected thousands of people around the world, from its initial outbreak in Wuhan, China, to the United States.

As a result, the US Center for Disease Control and Prevention has sent public health workers to screen passengers arriving from Wuhan at the five major ports of airline entry.

China has closed transportation in and out of Wuhan and other cities where the virus has contagiously spread, but many people have traveled to celebrate the recent Chinese New Year, which could have caused

the virus to spread even faster than it already was.

Anxiety about the virus has also reached Montgomery County. In a press release on January 27, the city of Rockville announced that their Lunar New Year Celebration had been cancelled due to "an abundance of caution in response to concerns about the coronavirus that have arisen from community members."

While no cases have been confirmed in Maryland, the state's Department of Health has confirmed as of January 27 that they were testing a patient for the same strain that is causing the outbreak in China. According to CBS Baltimore, the patient has tested negative.

Update on Trump impeachment

By **ASHLEIGH GORDON**
Editor-in-Chief

President Trump has been impeached by the House of Representatives, and now the Senate is holding an impeachment trial for a United States president for only the third time in US history, to determine if they will remove the president from office. Both Trump's legal team and the House impeachment managers spent three days explaining their side of the case, followed by two days of questioning by Democratic and Republican Senators.

During the Senate trial, Democrats wanted to call as witnesses four current and former White House aides who they believe could help determine Trump's involvement in the holding of Ukraine's military assistance in exchange for political favors. These include Chief of Staff Mick Mulvaney, Top Advisor Robert Blair, White House Budget Official Michael Duffey, and Former National

Security Advisor John Bolton. Bolton claims in his upcoming book, *The Room Where It Happened: A White House Memoir*, that he heard Trump say exactly what the Democrats are alleging: that Trump would release military aid for Ukraine only if investigations into Joe Biden were conducted.

Most Senate Republicans have since rejected the Democrats' desire to call new witnesses and documents in the trial, with a vote of 51-49.

If these numbers are any indication of the final vote on the charges against Trump, he will be acquitted on Wednesday from the charges of abuse of power and obstruction of Congress. However, as of printing, the vote has not happened yet.



WEBSTOCKREVIEW.NET



VIEWPOINT

The MSDE Report Card shortchanges schools

By JAY MOTIWALA
Staff Writer

As I walked into the media center, Principal Beth Thomas and English/staff development teacher Audrey Boettcher welcomed me with open arms, excited that I was the “student reporter” they were told about earlier. They kindly offered me pizza, and shared the slides presentation with me that they were going to present to the teachers who were about to enter.

Soon enough, the other teachers took their seats and Principal Thomas started the presentation.

My original intention was to write about the grade Quince Orchard High School received in terms of effectiveness as a school—issued to each school in Maryland due to the Every Student Succeeds Act—for the 2018-2019 school year. However, as the presentation commenced and the data was being revealed to us, I could

tell that the many people present, including the presenters themselves, couldn’t ignore the shortcomings of this report card.

Let’s get the most desired piece of information out of the way. Quince Orchard earned a total of 4 out of 5 stars on the MSDE Report Card, and earned 64 points out of a total of 100. While that may not seem like a lot of points, our standings rank in the 58th percentile, which is considered to be above average.

The way that those points are acquired was what caused concern for many of the faculty that were present.

In a video presented to us by Montgomery County, we were told that the score is calculated in terms of percentages, with 35% being on School Quality, 30% on Academic Achievement, 15% on Graduation Rate, 10% on Readiness for Postsecondary Success, and 10% for English Language Proficiency. The main issue with this grading system is the Academic Achievement portion, as the way the report card attains this information does not represent the entire student body. The only thing that is judged on the report card are the English 10 PARCC scores, and the scores of first-time takers of the Algebra 1 PARCC.

“Statewide, those are the only two PARCC tests that are available,” says Thomas to explain why those particular data points are used. However, she thinks that they should be using “not just Algebra 1, but how students are doing in Geometry and Algebra 2.”

When addressing the concerns the teachers had over this grading criteria, Mrs. Thomas responded by saying, “I have no problem going rogue,” meaning that she would gladly abandon the use of this state report card if she could.

After analyzing the data and hearing complaints from other staff members, I believe that only assessing a school’s academic achievement based on two tests taken in a student’s lifetime does not adequately represent the achievements that a student can make. The report card should also look at the Progress Checks taken in Math and English classes, as well as summatives taken for every grade level in required courses. That way, the school can be fairly graded, in order to properly determine how our school performs, instead of looking at just two tests that not all students even take.

Plus, many students already took Algebra 1 in middle school, and the report card’s Algebra 1 PARCC data only looks at the scores of high schoolers who take Algebra I at QO. Even the faculty members agree that the way the MSDE judges a school’s academic performance must be improved. The Every Student Succeeds Act must be amended to measure other indicators of academic success.

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VIEWPOINT

How online shopping impacts the environment

By **LYLA KIM**
Staff Writer

Thanks to technology, shopping has never been more convenient. Consumers everywhere have switched to online shopping, where the options seem endless. You can buy almost anything with only the tap of your fingers. You can buy clothes, that random tongue scraper you saw on TikTok, a car (yes, a car), and groceries all at the same time! This easy access has caused consumers to purchase items at an uncanny rate. “An estimated 1.8 Bil-

lion people worldwide purchase goods online,” according to Oberlo Statistics. This data was recorded in 2018, so the number has almost certainly risen since then.

Unfortunately, every good thing comes with a cost. Fast Company, a business magazine, used data from LimeLoop, a reusable shipping company, to calculate the three most used delivery systems in the US. They estimated around 165 billion packages are shipped a year in the US alone. This equates to packaging made from around 1 billion trees. Then, inside the box there is usually plastic and tissue paper to preserve the product that’s even

more waste. This doesn’t include the soft plastic package that you might receive your item in rather than a box, like from Amazon.

These numbers show we need to bring attention to the amount of waste produced each year due to online shopping.

Many companies tend to use bigger packaging for smaller objects because it is cheaper. For example, recently, my dad had won a prize through an online survey from Microsoft. He ended up winning a mini Surface Pro that came with a pen and a charging cord. These three items were all shipped separately when they could have easily fit in the same package.

I understand that sometimes these options are not available because different parts come from different factories. What shocked me was the sizing of the box. The small pen that came with the computer was in a large box equivalent to the size of two shoe boxes.

Why would a company use such a large box for such a tiny item? Because the weight of it was so low for that size box that the item was shipped for free. Companies often do this because it makes it cheaper on their end. The cost of shipping generally depends on the weight of the box because the weight changes the weight of the vehicle. The heavier the vehicle, the more gas is needed.

As you can see, there is a lot of unnecessary boxing involved in the online

shopping world. Companies aren’t thinking about the externalities of this use. Companies need to stop thinking of the cheapest way and think in a more environmentally friendly way. Otherwise, we will have to deal with the impact of this excessive packaging on the environment.

It’s inevitable that people will continue to online shop. But here are a few ways you can help. First, make sure you recycle boxes. Think of an alternative solution and reach out! Combine orders.

There’s endless things you can do to help. As long as you advocate your voice, you are making a change. If companies begin to hear customers complain, they will alter their ways because their businesses are run off of customer satisfaction.

So next time you decide to use the convenience of online shopping, don’t forget to use the convenience of social media as well. One comment can make an impact if we all join in together. Let’s start a movement.



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2020 Census: Updated rules for an update to the nation

By **ASHLEIGH GORDON**
Editor-in-Chief

Ever since the American Revolution in 1790, the United States has conducted a population census every 10 years in every state, territory, and the District of Columbia, in order to determine congressional representation, community funding, and other crucial services. Title 13 of the United States Code states the required participation in the Census, as well as the security of personally identifiable information. As 2020 is the beginning of a new decade, the official US Census will begin on April 1.

The 2020 Census will ask seven questions, including the number of people living or staying at the home on April 1, whether the home is owned or rented, the sex of each person in the household, the age of each person, the race of each person, whether a person in the household is of Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish origin, and the relationship of each person to each other.

For the first time, this year will offer a full internet response option as opposed to the paper responses that have been required in years prior. Also for the first time this year, verification of addresses will be done using satellite and GPS images rather than walking every street in America, only requiring in-person visits to areas where housing is changing.

According to the government’s 2020 Census website, [2020census.gov](https://www.census.gov), the 2020 Census “will provide a snapshot of our nation— who we are, where we live, and so much more.” Since 2010, the Census Bureau has relied on estimates made

using surveys in order to have an idea of how the population has changed. In December of 2019, NPR reported that “the annual population growth rate of the United States over the past year continued a decades-long decline, dropping to its lowest level in the past century.” But the Census results are the only way these estimates can be guaranteed.

The number of seats for each state in the House of Representatives is also likely to change due to the Census, affecting the number of delegates for each state in the Electoral College. Ten states, including New York, Michigan, and Ohio, are predicted to lose one seat, while Florida is expected to gain two seats, second only in growth to Texas, which is likely to gain three seats. Similarly, the census counts are used to redraw boundary lines for congressional districts, legislative districts, and school districts.

Here in the area around QO, the responses will determine what amount of federal funds will be allocated to our district. These funds go towards hospitals, fire departments, schools, roads, and more. An accurate 2020 Census count is crucial to the future of our community, as it determines how much support for public school services and programs we will obtain in the next ten years.



PHOTO COURTESY OF CLIPARTPANDA.COM

Maryland’s ban on polystyrene containers

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soil, and waterways. Plastic is one of the most common littered items in the ocean. This is harmful to animals as they often get tangled up or choke on the items and “pick up pollutants and then transport them through ocean currents,” according to Clean Water Action, an environmental nonprofit organization.

Along with Montgomery County’s efforts, Quince Orchard’s environmental club has helped label trash and recycling bins around the school, cleaning woods, and picking up trash around different parks in the area. Club president and senior Jack Faucett notes that since “over time styrofoam fragments into pieces and then animals eat it,” not only will this movement decrease the pollutants in the air, but the animals will benefit from having clean and safe food.

Alongside Faucett, senior Jake Alalouf adds “what makes styrofoam and

plastic bags so bad is that they are designed to be durable, taking centuries to degrade. Once they’ve broken down, the small pieces end up in the ocean, which fish eat. So when we consume fish, we consume all the plastic, styrofoam and other pollutants they’ve consumed.” Reducing the production of styrofoam and single-use plastic saves animals, fish, and people from consuming harmful products.

Banning styrofoam and plastics has the potential to decrease littering, burning the gases styrofoam puts out, and to help the animals that make EPS (expanded polystyrene) waste for food and nesting. Recently, lawmakers and environmental groups have targeted EPS because of their known environmental impacts. EPS decompose slowly, and the wind blows the lightweight material into the surrounding areas. EPS that ends up in the ocean can contribute to plastic pollution and the degradation of animals affected.



PHOTO COURTESY OF THEGEOSPATIAL.IN



Singing their way through Valentine's Day

QO a capella choir continues annual tradition of selling Song Grams

By **CLAIRE SULLIVAN**
Editor-in-Chief

To celebrate the month dedicated to love and friendship, QO's a capella choir continues their traditions of selling Song Grams during Valentine's Day.

Anyone can purchase a Song Gram a week before Valentine's Day, when the a capella group travels from class to class to perform the chosen song. Each Song Gram is \$5, and all proceeds will help the school purchase new music to sing.

Working hard throughout the month of January, the a capella group prepares themselves by practicing both classic and current songs, such as "Just the Way You Are" by Bruno Mars and "Can't Help Falling In Love With You" by Elvis Presley.

The a capella group is one of two auditioned choirs at QO, focusing more on pop music and adding their own personal take by improving and creating their own versions of the music.

"I auditioned for a capella in sophomore year and stuck with it," said senior Fareen Chowdhury. "The dynamic of the class is energetic where everyone's eager to learn new songs."

Similar to a capella, Chambers Chorus is also auditioned. The small group, made up of all female students, focuses on more difficult music from different cultures and languages. "Since there [are] only about a dozen of us, it drives us to push to do our best," said senior Megan Flynn. The class also has Thinking Thursdays, where the class engages in discussions about different types of

music, as well as the individual components that go into creating the song.

The beginning chorus class, Concert Choir, includes mostly freshmen and first-year students getting involved in music, who have not auditioned for taking the course. The introductory course in music and singing encourages students to learn more and either try out for an auditioned choir the following year, or get bumped up based on their hard work and skill.

In addition to Valentine's Day, the chorus classes involve themselves in other events within the school and the community. For example, the school does a Music Spectacular where elementary school students come to immerse themselves in music and watch the choir, band and orchestra classes perform.

A capella and Chambers Chorus also sing Christmas carols during the holiday season, as well as during tree lightings or other local community events. Chorus also holds evening concerts, demonstrating their talent and hard work.

Music teacher Robyn Kleiner-Vilgos, who teaches the three chorus classes, is determined not only to expose her students to new music, but also have them learn about all the factors that go into creating a song. "KV is the best. She helps us learn songs, but also the technical side of music, like how to sight read," said Chowdhury.

Song Grams will be sold a week before Valentine's Day, with a diverse choice of music to choose for your friend or loved one. "We travel room to room to perform our songs," said Chowdhury. "So look out to see if we come sing in yours!"



PHOTO COURTESY OF MEGAN FLYNN



PHOTO COURTESY OF FAREEN CHOWDHURY

Above: Chambers Chorus begin with warm-ups prior to class. Below: A capella performs at a winter concert.

Making the world a better place by...eating chicken?

QO Chick-fil-A Leader Academy continues giving back to the community

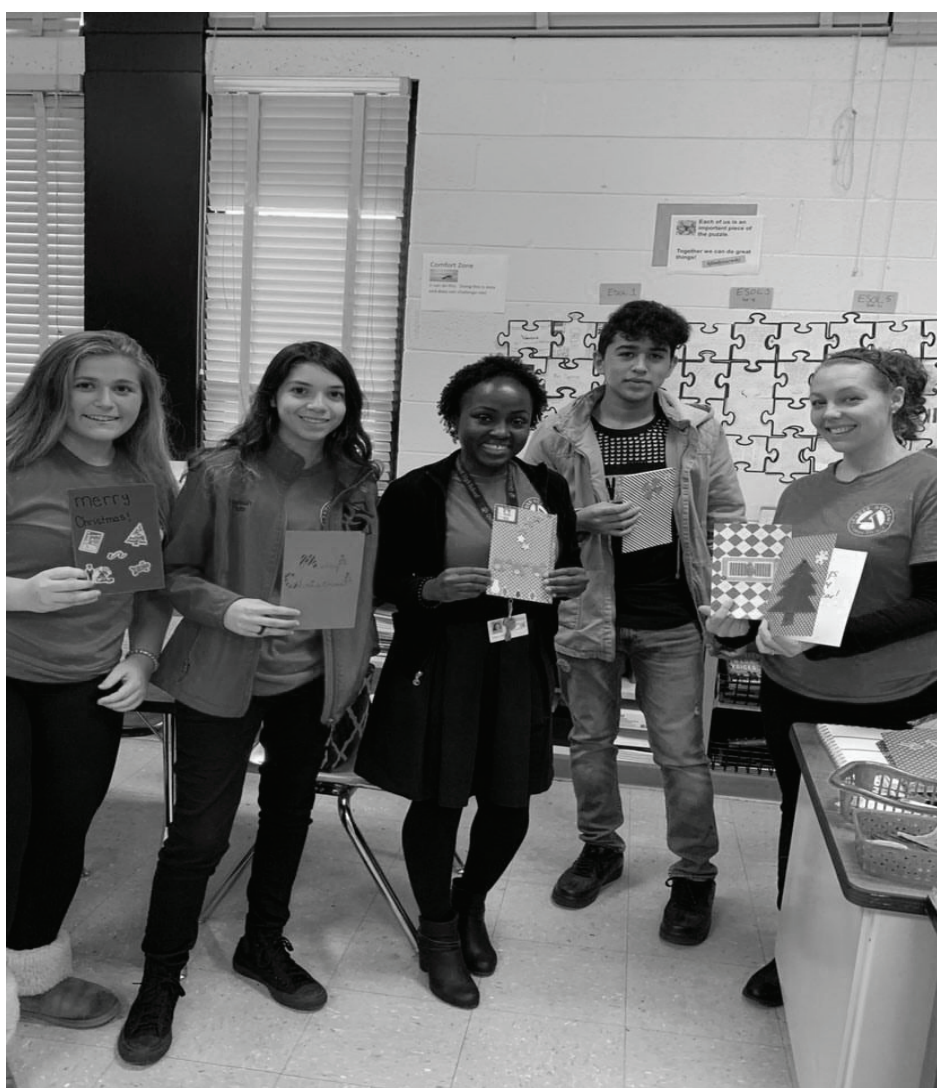


PHOTO COURTESY OF GABBY LUNENFELD

(Left to right) Cassidy Bach, Hannah Stein, Rosie Justilien, Alex Martinez, and co-sponsor Karen Capone show off Christmas cards they sent to homeless shelters.

By **NATALIE PRICE**
Staff Writer

If you walk by the Media Center after school on the third Tuesday of each month, you may notice a large gathering of busy students and the faint smell of chicken. This is Quince Orchard's Chick-fil-A Leader Academy at work.

Sponsored by English teacher Rosie Justilien, the Chick-fil-A Leader Academy gives back to the community through a variety of volunteer work, both inside and outside of school. Some projects they've already completed this year include making Christmas cards to those staying at homeless shelters and hosting a clothing drive for the Interfaith Works shelter. In addition, students in the club gave Chick-fil-A gift cards to a particularly impactful person in their life earlier in January. The primary purpose of the club is "to train students to become servant leaders by impacting their community by performing service projects," said Justilien.

Now this may sound similar to some other clubs at QO that specialize in volunteering, and you're probably wondering what Chick-fil-A has to do with all this. The Chick-fil-A Leader Academy is a nationwide program that partners with high schools in order to work alongside students and influence them to engage in volunteering. Introduced to QO a couple years back, the Chick-fil-A Leader Academy club has been thriving ever since. The club meets in the Media Center from 2:30 to 3:30 p.m. on the third Tuesday of every month.

"We start off the meeting with a smaller service project done right there in school, and then we get into discussing our larger project for the upcoming month," explained sophomore Cassidy Bach, the president and an active member of the club.

Furthermore, "students are guided through an interactive curriculum and learn about servant leadership," said Justilien. The club is often joined by a Kentlands Chick-fil-A operator, who then speaks with the students and helps coordinate the materials needed for the proj-

"There are a lot of different people in the club, lots of diversity, and a very friendly environment."

-Cassidy Bach

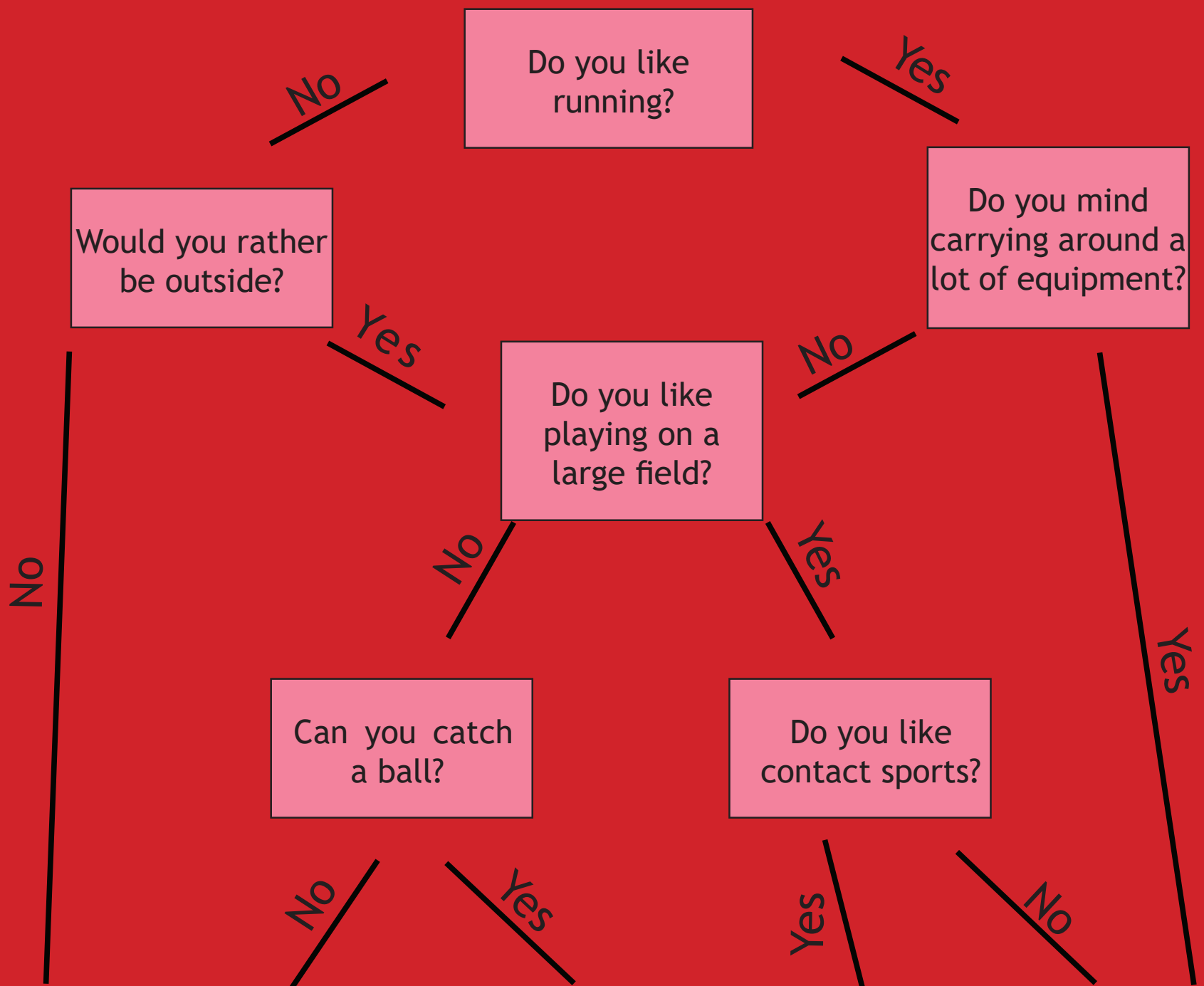
ect. At the very end of the meeting— you guessed it—they eat Chick-fil-A.

"There are a lot of different people in the club, lots of diversity, and a very friendly environment," Bach said.

If you're interested in helping out your community alongside a friendly group of students while eating Chick-fil-A, see Ms. Justilien in room 234.

WHAT SPRING SPORT SHOULD YOU PLAY?

By ANNA SOYKAN
Staff Writer



Volleyball

A game for two teams, usually of six players, in which a ball is hit by hand over a high net, the aim being to score points by making the ball reach the ground on the opponent's side of the court.

Tennis

A game in which two or four players strike a ball with rackets over a net stretched across a court.



Baseball/ Softball

Baseball:
Played between two teams on a diamond-shaped field.

Softball: Modified form of baseball played on a smaller field with a larger ball and underarm pitching.

Lacrosse

A team game, in which the ball is thrown, caught, and carried with a long-handled stick having a curved L-shaped or triangular frame at one end with a piece of shallow netting in the angle.

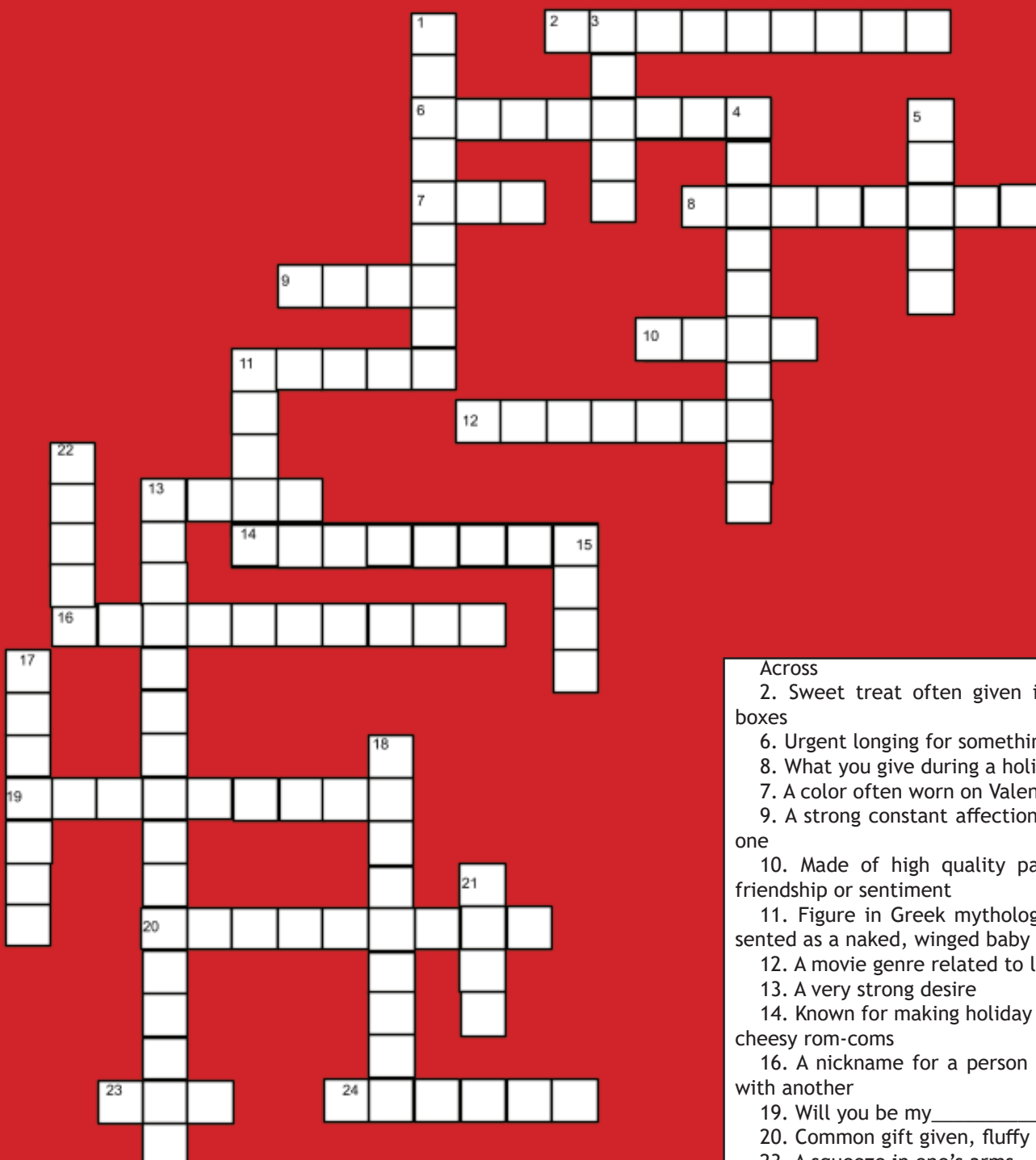
Track and Field

Athletic events that take place on a running track and a nearby field; track events and field events.



Valentine's Crossword Puzzle

By MIA RESNICOW
Staff Writer



- Down
1. A male companion
 3. Sweet, thick food substance made by bees
 4. Female companion
 5. Another word for sweets or lollies
 11. A brief, intense infatuation for someone
 13. Novel by Elizabeth Eulberg, a club for people trying to find a date
 15. Touch on the lips, also the name of a famous rock band
 17. A state of ideal perfect happiness, also the name of a rock band
 18. To acknowledge a social gathering, usually involving cake
 21. A series of hangouts with a romantic interest
 22. Plant grown and usually given on romantic holidays

- Across
2. Sweet treat often given in heart-shaped boxes
 6. Urgent longing for something
 8. What you give during a holiday
 7. A color often worn on Valentine's Day
 9. A strong constant affection towards someone
 10. Made of high quality paper to express friendship or sentiment
 11. Figure in Greek mythology; often represented as a naked, winged baby
 12. A movie genre related to love
 13. A very strong desire
 14. Known for making holiday cards as well as cheesy rom-coms
 16. A nickname for a person who is involved with another
 19. Will you be my _____?
 20. Common gift given, fluffy and soft
 23. A squeeze in one's arms

Crossword answers are located on page 8.

Valentine's Day Gift Ideas:

By KAILY PAULINO
Staff Writer

1. **Flowers** - A bouquet of roses and tulips are perfect
2. **Photo art** - A reminder of all of your best memories
3. **Chocolate** - Godiva is quality chocolate
4. **Jewelry** - Doesn't need to be too expensive to be a nice gift
5. **Candy** - Hershey kisses for you and me
6. **Gift basket** - A basket full of love and goodies
7. **Concert tickets** - Take them to see their favorite artist
8. **Teddy bear**- Something to snuggle with when you are not around
9. **Gift cards** - Let them spoil themselves
10. **Poems** - Roses are red, violets are blue, write a poem from the heart to reach their heart, too



Coal Fire blind date goes unheated

By ZOE BELL
Editor-in-Chief

Love is in the air as we near Valentine's Day, but it is not exciting for those who are unhappily single. Luckily, I had an idea to solve this dilemma. Inspired by The Washington Post Magazine's "Date Lab," I matched up two QO students who appeared to be compatible based on sexual preferences, personality, and similar interests.

Ben* is a junior who likes computers and video games. He is drawn to a girl who is respectful, honest, and a good listener.

Anna* is a senior who loves video games and art. She is seeking someone who is funny, kind, and passionate about what they love.

I sent the two to Coal Fire, a pizza restaurant in the Kentlands. Here's how their date went down.

Anna: I got there early. I was looking at my phone, and I looked up and he was a little close to my face. I was startled.

Ben: I was actually a little relieved because I knew who she was beforehand. My first impression of her was that she was a redhead and seemed nice.

Anna: He was wearing a red North Face jacket, glasses, and jeans.

Ben: I sat down and said, "Hey." I didn't really know what to say.

Anna: I offered to split a pizza with him, and he said that he was on a diet. I suggested ordering salads. I ordered a normal salad, he got his

with extra chicken and stuff.

Ben: [The conversation] was a bit hard to start off, but then we started getting common ground about types of games we like to play in our free time.

Anna: It was kinda awkward; we had some long pauses. I had to bring up a lot of the topics. It was just me asking "Do you like this?" and "Do you like that?"

Ben: I was nervous at first, but then I got a bit more comfortable as the date went on.

Anna: I wish he talked more about himself and took more responsibility carrying the conversation.

Ben: I think [the date] went okay. Good.

Anna: It went okay. He's a nice guy.

Ben: At the end, we paid, went outside, handshake, and said goodbye.

Anna: When we left the restaurant, he just gave me a handshake, not a hug or anything like that, which made me feel kinda weird. He didn't walk me to my car, but he was just a friend at that point.

Ben: We didn't exchange contact information, never got around to it.

Anna: He didn't ask, and I didn't want to impose. He seemed bored and tired at that point.

Ben: I would consider us compatible, on a friends level.

Anna: I don't know [if I would consider seeing him again]. If he asks [to hang out], I probably will.

RATE THE DATE

Anna: 3 [out of 5].

Ben: 3.5

UPDATE:

No second date. Anna said: "He's just ignoring me now."

*Names have been changed to protect the privacy of these individuals.

Want to be matched up on a blind date for next month's issue? Contact me at xusemezoe@gmail.com or talk to Ms. C-K in Room 241.



PHOTO COURTESY OF ACCLAIM IMAGES

Freshmen falling head over heels for seniors

By FAITH LANE and
MADDIE POMRINK
Senior Staff Writer and
Staff Writer

The class of 2020 is just so darn sexy, the freshmen can't resist, not like we're biased or anything. Although the seniors may be out of their league, some freshmen still want to shoot their shot with their senior crushes. Based on countless TikTok videos of people making jokes about relationships between the class of 2020 and the class of 2023, freshmen seem to have hope that their dreams of being with seniors will come true. How will these seniors react when the freshman tell them how they feel?

First to admit her feelings is freshman Lily Sweeney, a pull-up varsity soccer player with desires to find a man with soccer

skills to match hers. Senior and Stanford soccer commit Noah Adnan fits that criteria and more. If Sweeney could say anything to Adnan, it would be: "Can you show me some soccer moves?" Adnan responds, "Of course, but you better bring your A game."

Next up is freshman Josh Gordon. He has his eye on senior Zene Howard, because she is "really good at sports." As a JV basketball player, Gordon appreciates Howard's dedication and talent in athletics such as field hockey and lacrosse, and would like to tell her to "add me on Snap." Howard responds that her username is @nae5047.

Lastly, freshman Gabi Reed has a senior crush of her own. With her older brother Chase being a senior, Reed has gotten to know many of his friends. Senior Alex Soler specifically stands out to Reed as she "likes his glasses." If she could say anything to

Soler, she would say, "Come over and hang out with my brother more." Soler was a little thrown off by having one of his best friend's sisters being so fond of him, but he took the compliment graciously. "Gabi is really sweet and I can't wait to see her succeed in high school," he said.

Although the senior class will soon be on to the next chapter of their lives, they will be remembered in these three freshmen's eyes and hearts.

"Can you show me some soccer moves?"

- Lily Sweeney



PHOTO COURTESY OF VECTORSTOCK

Answers to the Valentine's Day crossword puzzle

Down

1. Boyfriend
3. Honey
4. Girlfriend
5. Candy
11. Crush
13. Lonely Hearts Club
15. Kiss
17. Nirvana
18. Celebrate
21. Date
22. Roses

Across

2. Chocolate
6. Yearning
8. Presents
7. Red
9. Love
10. Card
11. Cupid
12. Romance
13. Lust
14. Hallmark
16. Sweetheart
19. Valentine
20. Teddybear
23. Hug
24. Be mine



History of Valentine's Day

By BERI ALLEN
Staff Writer

When Valentine's Day comes around, what's the first thing that comes to mind? Flowers? Chocolate? What to get for someone, or just ignoring the holiday all together? Valentine's Day quickly became associated with the idea of love through cultural diffusion and traditions being carried on by generations before us.

Throughout history, many groups of people have argued their variation of how Valentine's Day came to be, to be the correct one. However this celebration of love has been traced back to the religious practices of Paganism. One of their most celebrated days is called Lupercalia. Celebrated on February 15, Lupercalia was a festival dedicated to the Roman god of

agriculture, Faunus. This day consisted of sacrifices including those of dogs and goats. The goat's hide would be covered in blood, which would then be wiped on crops and women. They believed it would bring fertility. In addition to these offerings, the women in the community would have their names placed in an urn, in the hopes of being picked as a match for marriage.

However, as Christianity had done repeatedly throughout history, the Church eventually distorted this religious practice and banned Lupercalia. As a result, the Roman Catholic Church was able to name February 14 as St. Valentine's Day, after St. Valentine, who was a Roman priest and physician. He

Although the Church has made changes, other groups continued to alter the holiday to what it is today. More recently,

Valentine's Day has been celebrated by gifting things like flowers, candies, chocolate and letters professing one's love.

So with this special day coming up, what are you going to do during this day of love?

In ancient Rome, this day consisted of sacrifices including those of dogs and goats.



Hollywood's biggest night is here again

How the 2020 Oscars have sparked controversy

By **MATTHEW MINTON**
Staff Writer

Another Oscar season is upon us, which always brings along several head-scratching snubs, controversy, and hashtags like #OscarsSoWhite making the rounds on Twitter. As Hollywood's biggest stars gather in a televised night honoring the best in film, there is a lot to look forward to for film fans and viewers. And like last year's ceremony, there will be no host, unsurprising considering that last year's ceremony saw an increase in the number of viewers following the previous year's record-low numbers.

One of the biggest controversies so far has been the lack of women represented in the Best Director category, resulting in the trending hashtag #OscarsSoMale. In fact, in the Academy's 92-year history, only five women have ever been recognized in the Best Director Category, with just one winning (Kathryn Bigelow for *The Hurt Locker*).

Furthermore, highly praised performances by actors of color were left out of the acting categories, including Jennifer Lopez for *Hustlers*, Awkwafina for *The Farewell*, and Lupita Nyong'o for *Us*.

While the Academy seems to have been taking steps towards greater representation through their inclusion of younger, more diverse members in their voting body, some claim there is still a ways to go; there was no shortage of acclaimed and successful films directed by women (for example, Greta



PHOTO COURTESY OF OSCAR.GO

Gerwig's re-telling of *Little Women*) and starring actors of color to honor.

The top film nominated this year was *Joker*, which received 11 nominations, including Best Picture, Best Director, Best Actor and Best Adapted Screenplay. The film's headline-making number of nominations surprised many, as the Academy rarely nominates genre films like this one. The other top nominees include more expected Oscar fare such as *1917*, *The Irishman*, and *Once Upon a Time in Hollywood*, which all received ten nominations each. Fellow Best Picture nominees *Jojo Rabbit*, *Little Women*, *Marriage Story* and *Parasite* all received six nominations each, and *Ford v Ferrari* got four. But what movies are out front to actually go the distance and win Best Picture on Sunday night?

1917 is being seen as one of the top contenders to win after its surprise upset for Best Picture Drama and Best Director

at the Golden Globes. The film is made to look like one long take, similar to previous Best Picture winner *Birdman*; the one-take achievement may give *1917* the ultimate edge to win out. Most notably, the film won the top prize at the Producers Guild Awards, an award that many Best Picture winners have won in the past.

Once Upon a Time in Hollywood is also considered to be a top contender with its wins at the Golden Globes for Best Picture Comedy/Musical, Best Supporting Actor for Brad Pitt, and Best Original Screenplay for Quentin Tarantino. It also managed to win the top award at the Critics' Choice Awards, and who loves movies about Hollywood more than Hollywood itself?

One should never count out upsets, though, and *Parasite* could very well find its way to being a Best Picture Winner. The film won the top honor at the Screen Actors Guild Awards, indicating

strong support from the actors branch, which makes up the biggest branch of the Academy. The film is the best-reviewed in the category with its rare 99% rating on Rotten Tomatoes and 96 on Metacritic. However, a foreign language picture has never won the Best Picture Prize before; it would be a first.

In the acting categories, the expected winners based off of precursor awards include Joaquin Phoenix for *Joker*, Renée Zellweger for *Judy*, Brad Pitt for *Once Upon a Time in Hollywood*, and Laura Dern for *Marriage Story*. Nevertheless, nothing is ever a guarantee with the Academy, and upsets happen all the time.

The Oscars can be watched this Sunday, February 7 at 8:00 pm.

There was no shortage of acclaimed and successful films directed by women and starring actors of color to honor.

What makes *The Bachelor* so popular?

Insights into the popular TV series

By **STACY SHIN**
Staff Writer

Every January, 7.5 million people turn on the TV to watch the biggest fight in American history: *The Bachelor*. Hosted by Chris Harrison, this American television series revolves around a single man surrounded by thirty women, one of which he will choose to be his future wife.

After the first introduction, the women spend a couple of hours with the bachelor, this year Pete Weber, and he then must decide who will be the first to be eliminated. The elimination process consists of the Bachelor passing out a rose to each contestant he chooses to stay,

and whoever ends up without a rose must go home. This process happens every week, until there is only one girl left. Peter Weber, also known as Peter the pilot, was previously seen on Season 15 of *The Bachelorette* which starred Hannah Brown, former Miss Alabama USA, but was eliminated during the final episode. Now Peter is back and is ready to choose his future wife. As of week four, Peter has eliminated 15 women. Three of the remaining girls, Hannah Ann Sluss, Kelsey Weier, and Victoria Paul were former beauty queens having competed in Miss USA. The other remaining contestants include Mykenna Dorn the fashion blogger, Savannah Mullens the realtor, De-

andra Kanu the Home Care Coordinator, Tammy Ly the House flipper, Kiara Norman the Nanny, Kelley Flanagan the Attorney, Shiann Lewis the Administrative Assistant, Madison Prewett the Foster Parent Recruiter, Lexi Buchanan the Marketing coordinator, Natasha Parker the event Planner, and Victoria Fuller the Medical Sales Rep. The women are constantly competing for time with the Bachelor in order to become the most memorable. The constant fear of elimination raises the tension and causes loads of problems.

And that's what makes this show so entertaining: the drama. This seems to be the show's main attraction based on reactions from its fans. Senior Jonathan Wilson

said that he enjoyed watching the drama and the fact that "you never know what is going to happen." The Bachelor may be on a date with a woman when another drags him away to steal his attention. With jealousy filling each contestant, fights break out for all 7.5 million fans to see.

For junior Anayaines Badmus, the concept of women "throwing themselves on one man" and the fights that erupt because of their greed is very entertaining.

Junior Courtney Hirsch agrees, saying, "Watching TV about other people's problems help distract me from my own."

The next episode airs on February 10 for anyone willing to add a bit of drama to lighten up their night.



PHOTO COURTESY OF COSMOPOLITAN

"Watching TV about other people's problems help distract me from my own."

- Courtney Hirsch



Chiefs stage fourth quarter comeback to beat 49ers in SB 54

By **BEN STROBER**
Staff Writer

"I'm gonna go get the biggest cheeseburger you've ever seen...and it might be a double." These are the words of longtime NFL coach Andy Reid, who finally won his first Super bowl on Sunday. The Kansas City Chiefs finally broke their Super Bowl drought, winning for the first time since 1969, the third-ever Super Bowl. However, this victory didn't come easy for superstar quarterback Patrick Mahomes and the Chiefs.

On the first possession of the game, Mahomes threw two bad passes and the Chiefs went three and out, forced to punt the ball away to the 49ers. Jimmy Garoppolo and the 49ers had a strong drive down field featured by a long 32-yard run by Deebo Samuel to put the Niners into Chiefs territory. The Chiefs' defense stood strong on their own end and forced a Robbie Gould field goal attempt, which he made from 38 yards out.

The Chiefs were then down 3-0 with 7 minutes remaining in the first quarter, but they had no worries. Mahomes led the team to a 75-yard drive down field, which he capped off with a rushing touchdown of his own to help the Chiefs take a 7-3 lead into the end of the first quarter.

The next drive ended quickly for San Francisco when Bashaud Breeland intercepted Garoppolo's pass on his own 44-yard line. "It's always been a dream to intercept a pass in the Super Bowl," Breeland commented to The Washington Post on his interception. Mahomes would then use this terrific field position to lead the offense down field for a Harrison Butker 31-yard field goal to extend

the lead to 10-3 in the second quarter.

Now down by a touchdown, Garoppolo and the Niners marched down the field and tied the game up when tight end Kyle Juszczyk made a remarkable catch and trucked through multiple defenders, diving into the end zone from 15 yards out to complete the touchdown. No other score occurred before half, so both teams were heading to the locker room tied at 10 each in Super Bowl 54.

Jennifer Lopez and Shakira put on an absolutely awesome performance at halftime that included multiple songs and dance routines. Lopez and Shakira both looked stunning. It's pretty sweet to see how Lopez at age 50 still looks beautiful. They also just overall were terrific in their singing and dancing. Many people enjoyed this performance including NBA star Giannis Antetokounmpo, for instance, even tweeted how he enjoyed the show. "Halftime show almost got me in trouble," he wrote, adding a laughing emoji. Anyway, after the show it was time for the second half to see who would be the world champions of football.

The 49ers started with the ball to begin the half and were able to lead a strong run attack featuring terrific blocking by San Francisco tight end George Kittle. The Niners then settled for a 42-yard field goal to take a 13-10 lead in the third.

On the next drive, Mahomes made a rare mistake for him—and his first one of the Super Bowl—when he threw a pass into double coverage and was intercepted by San Francisco on their 45 yard line. The Niners soon would make them pay for the former MVP's mistake: Raheem Mostert punched in a one-yard touchdown to give San Francisco a 20-10 lead with 2 minutes left in the third.

The Chiefs' Super Bowl hopes became even more diminished when, on the very next possession, Mahomes once again was picked off near the red zone by the stellar Niners defense with 11 minutes left in the game.

Kyle Shannahan and the 49ers looked to deliver a knockout punch to the Chiefs, but were unable to do so and punted the ball away for the first time all game. The Chiefs, with their back against the wall, had a third and long to convert. Mahomes came up big with his longest throw of the game. Mahomes completed a 44-yard pass to the speed demon Tyreek Hill, setting up the Chiefs to get to the Niners' one-yard line after a pass interference call on a throw towards Travis Kelce. Mahomes then completed a quick touchdown to Kelce to make it a 20-17 lead with 6 minutes left in the game.

The 49ers once again were forced to punt the ball away to the Chiefs, and suddenly Kansas City had all the momentum. Mahomes was ready to prove to everyone he is the league's best quarterback and that those two interceptions were just nerves.

"The Chiefs have taken the lead!" Joe Buck called as Mahomes led an almost perfect drive down field, where the Chiefs scored on a Damien Williams touchdown from five yards out to take a 24-20 lead late in the game. The Mahomes magic was real, and the Niners were seeing their Super Bowl dreams diminish in minutes.

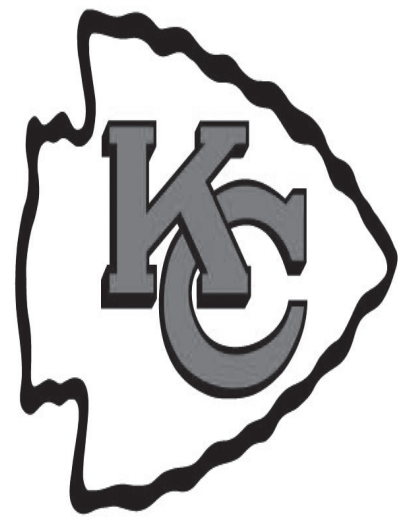
The Chiefs' defense now needed to come up big and prevent Garoppolo from leading a game-winning drive. The defense did just that when they made a stop on fourth down to give the Chiefs back the ball with 1:20 left in the game. Only needing one first down to run out the clock, the Chiefs did one better when Damien

Williams took a handoff all the way to the house from more than 40 yards away.

The game was sealed. With just 40 seconds remaining, Kansas City had a 31-20 lead. Another interception by Kendall Fuller and a couple of kneel downs allowed time to expire as the Chiefs won their first Super Bowl in more than 50 years.

The Chiefs and their fans celebrated tremendously as they were handed the Lombardi Trophy by commissioner Roger Goodell. Mahomes was chosen as the game's MVP with 26 of 42 passing, 286 yards passing, two passing touchdowns, and even a rushing touchdown for the game.

Mahomes led an extraordinary comeback, rallying from 10 down in the final quarter to lead his team back to Kansas City with a victory. They were down early but never out. "We never lost faith," Mahomes said in the Washington Post. "No one had their head down. That's what we preached all year long."



Lack of seniors raises questions over QO basketball

By **ZACH LEVEY**
Senior Staff Writer

Since the run at the championship in 2017, the QO boys varsity basketball team has had trouble finding its way back to the state championship game, as they haven't won a playoff game since. Not only has the team had trouble winning in the playoffs, they also recently had a problem with keeping students on the team.

Last year's season ended with two key players, both seniors at the time, quitting the team just weeks before their playoff game against Wootton. Sadly, this season picked up right where they had left off.

The entire senior class of 2020, along with other players, opted not to play this season. Whether last year's seniors had any influence on this year's team or not is unclear. "The seniors who did not come out this year had a vast variety of reasons why they didn't come out," said Principal Beth Thomas, citing college acceptances, prior obligations, and work as some of these reasons.

When asked, Athletic Director Jeff Rabberman had no comment on the situation.

After interviewing multiple former players, this reporter came to understand that there were poor "player-coach relationships" inside the locker room and on the court. The players claimed that these relationships disrupted the team dynamic and not only held the team back from being serious state championship contenders, but also had some players questioning their worth to the team.

Student athletes generally look forward to their season throughout their off-season workouts, so the fact that multiple players quit prior to this season even starting suggests the seriousness of



PHOTO COURTESY OF WONGHAN

Junior Alex Parisotto drives to the hoop and finishes over the oncoming defender. Parisotto is one of the juniors who is leading this year's team, which has no seniors.

this situation.

The Prowler reached out to multiple parents of current and former QO basketball players. All of them wished to remain off the record. However, in the process of communicating with various sources, *The Prowler* received confirmation an investigation into these issues had been completed, but the details of the investi-

gation were confidential.

This year, without a senior class to lead the team, a lot of the weight has fallen onto the more experienced players such as juniors Alex Parisotto, Teddy Kelly, and Amir Gray.

Parisotto, however, loves the spotlight. He is currently leading the team in most points scored and has been a strong

leader that the team looks up to. "Without any seniors, our team has many new players that don't know our plays, so I've had to help them learn, like telling them where to be on the court," said Parisotto.

A lot of the weight has fallen onto the more experienced players such as juniors Alex Parisotto, Teddy Kelly, and Amir Gray.

While the team's record may not show it, there have been numerous games that have come down to the last few seconds. After losing two overtime games in a row, the team really could've used their stars from last year to help close out games and boost team morale and chemistry, Parisotto explains.

The school has been doing everything they can to bring the team's hopes up and raise the attendance at games. There has recently been a Chick-Fil-A-sponsored halftime half-court shot in an attempt to get more people to come. Senior Alex Soler was given three shots from half-court: all he had to do was make one shot and the entire crowd would get a free Chick-Fil-A sandwich. Sadly, the entire crowd was not gifted free Chick-Fil-A nor a win from the boys team.

However, now is not the right time to count the boys out. They recently snapped a multiple game losing streak and are getting back on the right track before the playoffs start.



Swim and dive aims to go for gold this year

By **JANZEN FOCHT**
Editor-In-Chief

As the QO swim team wraps up their season, and the early morning practices start to go into the rearview mirror, the swimmers are still working hard on their craft to ensure a better executed outcome next year.

In order to be successful in the lanes, the boys and girls of swim undergo a very strict routine in order to be in prime form coming into their main season. However, one thing sophomore Cole Greenberg did to prepare for the season was having a clean mentality. This was important to him because this made sure that, "he was ready to race whenever I had to in order to support the team."

While the boys team may not have

had the season they envisioned, Greenberg thinks that the team next year should, "be more invested in each other's improvement and try to push each other more."

In addition, sophomore Gabri Santini feels that next year, she can help the girls team by teaching the freshman, "how to cheer and support their teammates." By doing this, they can ensure a better team atmosphere so the squad can thrive together.

When the weather starts to warm up, and the QO swim teams start to wind down, the swimmers will go back to their respective teams and prepare themselves so that next year, everyone can hopefully qualify for divisionals and metros next year. Make sure you come out and support the swimmers as they go for gold!



PHOTO COURTESY OF KANETRE AREEWONGSAGUL

Senior captain Eric Blackman reaches out as he swims butterfly.

It's time for redemption for the girls b-ball team

By **BEN FLEISCHER**
Senior Staff Writer

The girls varsity basketball team is one of the most underrated at Quince Orchard High School. The girls have consistently been a good team that wins games and makes runs in playoffs, yet they get little attention.

After their game against Northwest on January 31, they were 10-5 overall and 6-2 in their conference. The team puts in all the hard work needed to be great and they show that on the court.

Senior captain Paige McNeal said, "I am going to miss seeing my teammates, having fun, and playing intense games every week" once this season comes to an end. McNeal added that the team is "looking forward to playoffs this season because of [their] first round exit last year." They have been working hard and grinding on the off days to ensure that their goals are achieved.

"I am really looking forward to each divisional game we play so we can be conference champs this year," said sophomore star Julia Kavadias. She has risen to the challenge this year as a young starter and has led the team to many victories. She relishes the moments and the suspense that close games bring and she cannot wait for more to come.

These two girls are just a glimpse of what this team has to offer. The team is trying to redeem themselves after a disappointing end last year against RMHS.

They play for each other and for the names on their chest: Quince Orchard.

When you will be reading this, they will have four games remaining, four crucial games to help their chances of becoming conference champs and getting a better seeding for the playoffs.

The team needs you to help them and show that the Red Army shows up to more than just football and boys basketball once in a while. The next two games are at home on Tuesday, February 11 and Friday, February 14. Be loud and be red against each opponent and cheer these Cougars to victory.

"We are looking forward to playoffs this season because of our first round exit last year."

- Paige McNeal



Bocce Ballers

Bocce hopes to finish out season with another state championship

By **LILY STEWART**
Staff Writer

When you think of bocce, what thoughts come to mind? That it is a boring game, for old people? This couldn't be farther from the truth.

Contrary to what some people may believe, bocce is a game of numbers and strategies. Making sure that the ball rolls the correct way takes patience and skill. You have to be able to get in the mindset like you're taking a free shot, calm and positive.

Bocce is played by seeing who can roll the ball closest to the Pallino. The Pallino is a small white ball that one player throws, and the goal is to roll your ball's closet to the Pallino. Two players roll different colored balls to see who can get closer. Each match you win earns you one point.

Here at QO, the bocce team allows students who usually would not play a

sport the opportunity to compete for the school. Furthermore, QO Bocce has always been one of the school's strongest teams, making it to States almost every year.

This year, the team is led by senior captain Nathan Yan and managed by junior Caroline Simmons. The team comradery is what separates bocce from every other sport here at QO, according to Simmons. Yan says he "loves working with the other players" as they push each other to do their best at every practice and match.

Just like every other sport, there are refs. Simmons believes the most nerve-racking part of bocce is when the refs "take out the tape measure and bend down, you just have to wait and hope they make the correct call."

Everyone should come out and support the bocce team as they wrap up their season. With Counties and States coming up soon, they will need the most supportive fans to help cheer them on as they try to win another title.



PHOTO COURTESY OF GIOVANNI PIZZINO

Senior captain Nathan Yan looks on as he watches his ball roll.

Wrestling is coming in with a new mindset

By **KENDALL LUMSDEN**
Staff Writer

The wrestling program is often underrated here at QO, as not many people are familiar with the sport. "This year we've become a lot mentally tougher than last year," said senior co-captain of Quince Orchard's wrestling program, Rodrigo Cornejo.

Coached by special education teacher Rob Wolf and led by additional senior captains Thomas DeCastro and Ryan Jones, along with junior captain Dante Thompson, the team has entered this season with a different mindset.

"We've all gotten better from the beginning [of the season] to now, from losing to now winning every match and not making dumb mistakes," said Thompson. He also describes the team's goal: to "just get better and get ready, just to

win, keep winning, go to counties, and win States as a team."

One noticeable difference this season has been their team chemistry, which is something Cornejo has recognized that they've "lacked in past seasons" but is being used this year to "motivate each other and push forward towards success." He describes his relationships with the team as "tighter" than last year and acknowledges "working hard in the wrestling room" as one of his favorite pastimes with his teammates.

The team's current record is 5-2 and the players hope to improve throughout the season.

Cornejo described short-term goal as maintaining a positive record throughout the regular season and their long-term goal as "to send a couple guys to States this year." Doing so would be a huge win for a squad that certainly is working hard enough to get there.



PHOTO COURTESY OF WONGHAN



ATHLETE OF THE MONTH QUESTIONNAIRE

By ZACH LEVEY & BEN FLEISCHER
Senior Staff Writers

Boys Basketball



Alex Parisotto '21
Junior Alex Parisotto is a force to be reckoned with. His sportsmanship on and off the court is the reason why many people look up to him.

Girls Basketball



Josie Juhring '20
Senior Josie Juhring always works her hardest no matter the circumstances. She constantly works to be better and her efforts show in her play.

Boys Swim&Dive



Will Spano '20
Senior Will Spano has been a central piece of the team all four years he has swum. He always has fun and offers to swim what others don't.

Bocce



Courtney Hirsch '21
Junior Courtney Hirsch is the definition of a team player. She focuses on her teammates, always putting the team first and looking to help others improve.

Girls Swim&Dive



Claire Lilyestrom '21
Junior Claire Lilyestrom is the next one up for the girls swim team. She has been working hard and is ready to set the pool ablaze as she competes.

Wrestling



Danny Sinno '20
Senior captain Danny Sinno has worked extremely hard to accomplish his goals this season. His goal was to be one of the best and he worked towards that while also being a great teammate.

We asked these athletes the following questions...

	Alex Parisotto	Josie Juhring	Will Spano	Courtney Hirsch	Claire Lilyestrom	Danny Sinno
What is your goal for the second semester?	To get an A in math	To not completely fail	Getting out of here	Win bocce States	To be successful in school and swimming	Make Ms. Patel proud
If you were to take one teammate on a vacation, who would it be and where?	I would take Dacy to Hawaii cause he looks funny with his shirt off	I would take Makayla to a deserted island and leave her there by herself	Carson to Costa Rica	Nate to States	I'd take Ella Coulson to New York	I'd take Zane to Africa
How many licks does it take to get to the center of a Tootsie pop?	476	The world may never know	I just bite it	A lot	157	The world may never know
Who is your Valentine?	Ms. Soule	Anyone but Makayla	Carson	Myself	Myself	Rico
What's the perfect Valentine's gift?	Box of chocolates	Chocolate	Teddy bear	A puppy	Chocolate	I don't know
What is the groundhog's (from Groundhog Day) name?	Phil	Something Phil	Charles	Pocohantas or something	I don't know	Does he actually have a name?

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However, Kobe's athletic achievements do not tell the whole story on why he was regarded so highly among the American people and even in other parts of the world.

For one, he inspired millions to do their very best with his "Mamba Mentality" and never backed down from a challenge. Even though he was no stranger to scandal, it was hard for opposing players and fans not to respect his work ethic. He would often show up for games three or four hours beforehand, and go 100 percent in his shooting drills and game situations to prepare himself for the task at hand.

In addition, his charisma on and off the court was something that is rarely ever duplicated. He had that ability when he was speaking to make you truly believe what he was saying, even if you did not fully agree with it.

He spoke with such an intensity that

made you attentive while at the same time speaking softly enough and with enough humor to make you connect to him.

But lastly, he was a perfect role model on how to father children. As a father of four daughters, he was always seen laughing and playing with his children, while at the same time teaching them how to be great people and successful in the future.

For the daughters who played basketball, he taught them some of his famous moves as well, such as his signature fade away shot.

Kobe's death will be very difficult to move on from, as he was such an amazing player but an even greater person. He inspired us all to find our inner Mamba to rise to our full potential. However he touched our life in some shape or form, he will always be missed, and his legacy will forever be remembered.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF CNBC, LA TIMES, AND BLEACHER REPORT