

The Cougar Chronicle

June 2023

JACK M. BARRACK HEBREW ACADEMY

Volume XXXIII Edition V

Muss FAQ

Addison Smith, Israel Editor

As the school year comes to a close, a new one is just around the corner, and with that, the beginning of Muss. Muss, otherwise known as Alexander Muss High School in Israel, is a three month program that the rising 11th graders embark on towards the end of August. Studying abroad for three months is a scary thing to think about in general, let alone when you are 16, so a lot of questions come to mind for the 10th graders when Muss is brought up. I have interviewed and asked many people about their questions, fears, and concerns relating to Muss.

A big concern on the forefront of most people's minds when thinking about Muss is rooms. People are concerned about how much rooming matters while in Israel. Well, I am here to tell you that Muss rooms, although they seem like the MOST important thing, are really not. One of the best parts about Muss is that you can choose who to spend time with, and there is no exception when it comes to rooms. If you don't particularly like your room assignments, then fine, only go in your room when it's time to sleep. If you love your room, perfect - spend every second with your roommates. The point is, your room assignments are only as important as you make them, and if you are never in your room, that's a bonus because you'll get to become friends with so many more people.

The next question is how much does school really matter? Obviously, I'm not going to say that you shouldn't try in school because that would be wrong of me, but school is very different in Israel; you only have school in the classroom two or three days a week, and it's very spread out, meaning you could have a three hour break in between classes. Long story short, school is important no matter where you are but don't let your school work take away from time that you could spend with your friends. Make sure to get all of your school work done and get the best grades that you can get, but don't stress over it, because the second you get back to Barrack, it will be all work so enjoy the time with less school work and stress.

There are also some things that weren't asked, but I think are important to know. Your driver will likely be very nice, so make sure to always say "shalom" when you are leaving and entering the bus.

Also, one thing that is pretty minor but some thing that always appreciated is that every one matches vibes on the bus. You're sleepy, well look around, and I'm sure everyone else is sleep too; you're happy and excited, I'm sure the vibe of the bus is fun and up beat, and I'm sure someone will be

playing music in the background. Another thing that might not have been thought about is food. The campus obviously provides food, but I'll be honest and say that it really isn't the best. I recommend going to the supermarket the second you can to pick up some food you can microwave and some snacks for your room. Also, Wolt is dangerous; you can spend A LOT of money if you're not careful; trust me we've all been there. However, if you are going to Wolt, get roll n' roll, Yomi Sushi, Asia Monica for wings, La Piazza for amazing focaccia and pasta (get the Pasta Roza or Pesto), Piano Piano for the BEST caprese salad, and Little Sisters Pizza. For dessert, make sure to Wolt Mr. Pretzels and Oldies Concept bar. For dinner and dessert when you go out, Asian Deli is the best and Pasta Mia is so good, and for dessert, there is NO beating Illusion's frozen yogurt. When you are staying in Jerusalem, you have to order the french toast from Zuni. I hate french toast, and this is the best french toast I have ever had; it's fluffy, sweet and comes with toppings. In all seriousness though, Muss is there to step outside of your comfort zone, make new friends, and learn to let loose; if someone is having a dance party, run over and dance like nobody's watching, because these are the memories that you'll cherish for a lifetime.



Negative Effects Bells Have On Students

Aviva Markowitz, Arts & Entertainment Editor

Bells are not a good option for signaling class is over in schools. It is said that bells can be a sensory overload for some students, causing anxiety and extra stress. Autistic students in schools find that the noise is "distressing". Students who are from different countries that aren't safe are very alarmed by the bells constantly going off. One expert offered using classical music as a substitute, but later said that it can also infuriate students who don't appreciate it. Having bells disrupt an environment that is supposed to be calm can distract students from learning, and make school into a scarier place to be.

An easier way that schools have implemented the no-bell rule is that teachers would tell students when it was time to go to their next class. It takes time for teachers to get used to it, but that idea has worked best out of everything offered AKA bells or other types of

alarms. Some classes have decided to create a buffer in the beginning like a game or a warm up and at the end of class to make it a smoother



transition for students, and so that less will be late. Many classes have also been more flexible with time until they are fully adjusted. There are so many better options to loud bells that trigger many students with high sensitivity like classical music intermissions, or teachers telling students when to be in class.

The Sound of Success

Rachel Loeb, Editor-in-Chief

For decades, bells have been a vital component of school life, signaling the start and end of classes, breaks, and other important events and easing the transitions. While school bells have been the topic of much debate, there is no denying their effectiveness in managing time and keeping students on track, and Barrack should bring them back.

Although many claim otherwise, students benefit a lot from bells. By having a clear signal for when classes begin and end, students are able to manage their time more effectively. They are also able to be less stressed and more focused on the class, rather than the alternative of constantly checking the clock, which is occasionally not visible, in order to ensure they catch their bus. Without bells, students are often held in class for an extended period of time and then blamed for making it to their next class late. With the bell system, there is a definitive

ending point for the class, and the students will not be held late. One of the main criticisms against the bell system is that bells are loud and irritating. While this has generally been the case, it does not have to be this way. Potentially the students and administration could work together to choose a sound that is pleasant.

School bells can also be a valuable asset for school administrators and teachers. Without bells, students are less engaged, as they are concentrating on watching the clock. However, with bells, teachers are able to maintain students' focus better since they know that class is following schedule and they will not be late. Since Barrack has so many events that each have their own schedules, having bells would make it much simpler and faster for teachers and students to ensure that they are following the plan correctly.

The True Implications of GMOs

Evan Berman, Staff Writer

The introduction of Genetically Modified Organisms (GMOs), has sparked numerous controversies surrounding how GMOs affect human health. There are numerous arguments to be made supporting both sides; however, health experts around the globe have not come to a clear consensus on which to support. As a result, many popular food companies, such as General Mills, Post, and Nabisco, have included non-GMO labeling on their products to promote them. As consumers spot these labels in the grocery store, they are more compelled to purchase them, since they believe that they are healthier



than the foods that contain GMOs. However, many do not understand the true implications of GMOs, which lead them to have a false perspective of what GMOs are.

Genetically Modified Organisms are organisms whose genetic material has been altered in order to achieve a desired outcome of that same organism. These aspects could include color, size, and taste, and are all altered using extremely advanced genetic engineering techniques. However, due to this modified state of GMOs, many misconceptions have risen on how GMOs affect health, and what consuming them implies for the future. One of the biggest concerns regarding GMOs is the possibility that they could trigger an allergic reaction, which can

be life-threatening to someone with severe allergies. However, according to Harvard University, after 30 years of lab research and over 15 years of field research, not one health risk associated with GMO consumption has been discovered. Moreover, before a product containing GMOs reaches the public, scientists assess the likelihood of the product triggering a food allergy. So while there is minimal risk, scientists confirm the safety of the product before it is released. Some may argue that GMO foods may increase the possibility of long-term health issues; however, there is no evidence to support this. The American Cancer Society has stated that there is no scientific proof that GMO foods increase cancer risk, and while cancer rates are rising in the United States, there is no evidence that the incline in cases coincides with the consumption of GMO foods. As of 2022, even the Food and Drug Administration says that consuming GMO foods is the same as consuming Non-GMO foods. In fact, certain GMOs have been proven to possess beneficial aspects. For example, scientists have been able to genetically modify certain bacteria to form medicines and vaccines to prevent diseases. Insulin is an example of genetic modification used to treat diabetes, which is a significant discovery considering that there are now more opportunities to obtain new medicines and vaccines. Specific

“Genetically Modified Organisms are organisms whose genetic material has been altered, in order to achieve a desired outcome of that same organism.”

GMOs have even been proven to increase nutrition in certain foods. In particular, genetically modified soybeans contain oils that replace the oils that contain trans fats, (the least healthy fats to eat). Some GMOs can contribute to the resolution of food scarcity, since certain GMO foods are meant to withstand all climate types, includ

ing deserts, making food more accessible to people in places unsuitable for certain food growth. This is a fantastic accomplishment, especially as the population grows. Furthermore, GMOs can decrease pesticide use, water waste, and carbon emissions. In 2014, an analysis of 147 studies found that GMO technology had reduced chemical pesticide use by 37%, ultimately resulting in a healthier Earth.



Since there are no risks surrounding the consumption of GMOs, and instead benefits, there may not be a need to address the non-GMO aspects on certain food labels. If someone chooses to eat a food consisting of GMOs, rather than a food that is non-GMO, it may lead to unnecessary angst and stress. They may think they are consuming a food that could be detrimental to their health, however, as proven on multiple occasions, this is not the case. Furthermore, if consuming GMO foods is the same as consuming

non-GMO foods, it is not worth the money and resources to provide these labels for certain foods. Wouldn't we rather use this money to improve the quality of ingredients or packaging,

instead of providing non-GMO labels? It is essential in life to be aware of what you are putting in your body, because, after all, you are what you eat; however, I am not sure if differentiating GMO foods from non-GMO foods is what we should be spending our time and resources on.

AI Taking Over the Music Industry

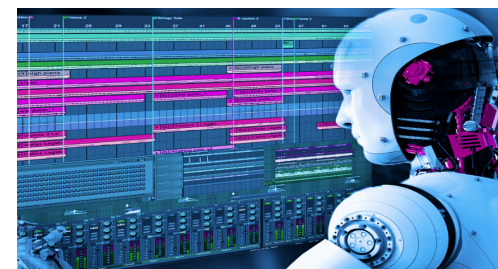
Aviva Markowitz, Arts & Entertainment Editor

AI music, or the composition of songs using artificial intelligence, uses samples of pre-existing music to create new songs, or can learn to make its own music from scratch. AI music platforms like Boomy, Beethoven.ai, Soundful, and Soundraw can all create new music, but the problem is that most of the songs sound similar or exactly the same. AIVA is a more advanced platform that has music genres already planted into its system which can help you make a more authentic sound.

AI music can become a real problem when it comes to the artists who create. There's

no harm in adding a bit of technology into music. It's actually improved a lot of musicians' careers, but the idea of adding in AI music can be a bit tricky. Artists can quickly lose their jobs over a technological system that requires no salary whatsoever. These are artists who write, produce, and sing their own songs, working very hard to climb to the top.

Another issue with AI music is that it loses its authenticity. A large part of music is the humanity in it, describing emotions that only people can understand. It's difficult to listen to a robot singing about your feelings when you



know they have no clue what they're talking about. If music is being created by AI it will lose all meaning and reason to it, which will ruin music for all of the people who connect with the songs they listen to on a personal level.

New Center for Student and Jewish Life

Sophia Mittman, School News Editor



With the opening of the new Center for Student and Jewish Life in the Dining Commons, there has been tons of planning, excitement, and creativity in the new space.

The new center is designed as a safe space for students and clubs to freely share ideas and socialize. Clubs can meet in the room during designated lunches, breaks, or Kehillah periods. The Student Associations and JLI have worked together in the center to plan activities for Lag B'Omer for the entire school. JLI meets in the space several times a week to learn more about Judaism and to plan events for the Chagim, Shabbat Shmoozes, and other fun activities.

As a JLI member, I feel welcome to share my ideas and talk about how to make our school more exciting. The room is a comfortable space with a TV and is decorated with blue and white colors, representing the colors of our school and Israel. Soon the room will

have comfy chairs to make the room feel even more inclusive. Recently, a few JLI members installed mezuzot in doorways around the school that needed new mezuzot. They put the parchment paper containing the Shema into those new Mezuzah boxes as an activity for the new center. They then hung one in the new space, which was a fun way to make the center an official room in the building. As a JLI team, we created a Passover parody video in the space for the whole school. The room also has two offices for Benaya and Ms. Grossman, who work with JLI as leaders for the school. Along with the other JLI members, we look forward to planning many future events in the center and seeing other students and clubs collaborate in the amazing new space.

Mini-Thon

Jemma Dengel, Staff Writer

Mini-Thon took place on May 23rd and was a fun, collective, community event where the student body joined together to fight childhood cancer. Thon was able to raise over \$16,000 to fund cancer research, surpassing our baseline goal of 10,000 dollars and here's how:

With the purchase of an admissions ticket, you were given five raffle tickets, free food, and access to many fun activities. The Mini-Thon club included extra fundraisers such as pie-ing and dunking a teacher and buying extra raffle tickets for valued prizes. Sixers tickets, Phillies' tickets, gift cards, Barrack gear, sneakers, a brunch basket, and jewelry were some of the most sought after raffle prizes.

The first half of Thon had a great selection of food including pizza, fried rice, Rita's, soft pretzels, and dip-n-dots. There were many yard games to choose from, including a bouncy house, corn-hole, water balloon toss, and spike ball. I also loved seeing the staff alumni basketball tournament. This was so funny and brought all ages together. During the second half of mini Thon there was adance party on the turf. After this



we all gathered to hear reveal the raffle winners and ultimately the amount of money raised.

This amazing event showed our school's dedication. It especially highlighted our Derech Eretz values (helping others). From this, we have been able to raise the more money from Mini-Thon than in previous years, all in the name of fighting childhood cancer.

The Future of Barrack: The Newest Addition to our Curriculum

Jillian Shweky, Opinion Editor

There has been a lot of excitement following the announcement of a more personalized curriculum for students at Barrack. Three diverse "institutes" will be available for upper school students to join, each focused on a specific area: Business, Art, and STEAM. Unlike general classes like History, Math, or English, students get to select which institute they want to be a part of based on their passions.

"With these institutes, students will be provided with building blocks that will give them a head start in a variety of career areas for real-world opportunities."

The STEAM Institute prioritizes outside-the-box thinking and teamwork in areas including engineering, computer science, art, and design. The Business and Entrepreneurship Institute teaches economics, budgeting, strategy, and marketing. In this program, students receive a basis in all aspects of what it takes to build and run a business successfully. Students learn skills for collaboration, organization, and presentation. Lastly, the Art Institute instructs on foundational artistic techniques and concepts while encouraging creativity and self-expression. Students interested in a career in art and design will have the opportunity to develop a portfolio to present to colleges. The institute program differs from electives in that it allows for progression, in the area of study

that one chooses, throughout one's high school career.

Each student will select the institute that interests them most. Though each institute has specific areas of study, there is room for customization depending on the student. Additionally, there will be an opportunity to participate in events like DECA for Business or local science fairs for STEAM. Barrack's commitment to continually evolving its curriculum to make the school as student-focused as possible is evident in this new program. With these institutes, students will be provided with building blocks that will give them a head start in various fields for real-world opportunities.

Eurovision

Mikaela Garber, Managing Editor



The wildly popular, annual Eurovision song contest, which gathers countries from all over Europe to compete, occurred this year in the UK. The contest operates as follows: each country selects its singer and song before going to Eurovision, which has two semi-finals and one grand finale which is voted on by the public vote. Since Israel's first entry into the contest in 1973, they have won four times, with the most recent being in 2018. In the past, Israel's singer

was chosen on a reality TV show. However, this year, Israel had a selection committee choose instead.

Noa Kirel, age 22, was Israel's chosen contestant for this year's Eurovision. Known for her hit singles such as "Million Dollar," Kirel is one of Israel's most popular singers of today. While she felt honored that the committee picked her, she had some concerns about accepting. For one, Noa Kirel was afraid of losing due to politics. In addition, she wanted the opportunity to have creative license over the song and performance. After much hesitation and deliberation, Kirel agreed to be Israel's representative.

Kirel's song of choice is entitled "Unicorn." The song, which is mostly in English with a few Hebrew lines, has a dance break in the middle. In her words, "We are faced with so many challenges and for that we need a special power. The power of a unicorn... Maybe if we stop hating each other and believe in fairytales a little more, we will have a phenomenal phenomenal world." According to a public poll,

38% of people gave the song a 10/10. Ultimately, Sweden won the contest on May 14, and

"Although Noa had every reason to be disappointed, she instead expressed her appreciation for the opportunity to represent Israel on this huge stage."

Israel got awarded third place. Kirel scored 362 points overall, with combined votes from the juries and the televote. Although Noa had every reason to be disappointed, she instead expressed her appreciation for the opportunity to represent Israel on this huge stage.



Lag B'Omer

Catie Broker, Staff Writer

Lag B'Omer is a holiday celebrated on the 33rd day of the Omer, a period of mourning in the Jewish calendar, while also symbolizing the hope of great new beginnings.

For those unfamiliar with the traditions and customs of Lag B'Omer, it is a day that holds great significance within Judaism. It is regarded as the day that Rabbi Shimon bar Yochai, a great Jewish scholar, passed away. Furthermore, it is a day that marks the end of a plague that killed thousands of Rabbi Akiva's students in ancient times. Thus, Lag B'Omer is a time to reflect on these great scholars' teachings and celebrate the Jewish people's resilience and perseverance. It is a day of hope and renewal, and the festivities we enjoyed at Barrack were a perfect way to mark the occasion.

The day started with a sense of excitement amongst the students as they arrived and eagerly anticipated the celebration soon to come. After a few class periods, it finally arrived. The school grounds were transformed into a carnival-like atmosphere with colorful decorations, music, and the smell of delicious food swirling through the air. 11th grade volunteers served food as students surveyed the activities. JLI had set up several games, including archery and tennis, which were a hit amongst the students.

The day's highlight was the small campfire built in the field behind the Dining Commons. It provided a perfect opportunity for us to come together, talk amongst one another, and roast marshmallows. The warmth of the fire and the camaraderie between students created a sense of unity and togetherness that was truly special.

As the day drew to a close, we left school with full stomachs, happy memories, and a renewed appreciation for the traditions and customs that make our faith unique. Lag B'Omer had been a day to remember, and we were already looking forward to next year's celebrations.



Safe Travels

Eliana Weinstein, Staff Writer

In any season, it's nice to visit Israel for the delicious food, fun people, and relaxing environment. It has been a long school year, and as a junior, it is no secret that the workload at Barrack can be very rigorous. However, as someone who attended Alexander Muss High School in Israel, it is also no secret that this school year has been meaningful and full of appreciation for the Jewish homeland. The junior class made many memories this year, like dancing in the

streets of Jerusalem, singing in caves, and swimming in the Dead Sea, to name a few. Since we miss the times, it is no shock that I, along with many juniors, will return to the beautiful place we would so desperately like to call home. Muss inspired me to continue practicing my love of Israel because of its interesting tiyulim, and continuous hands on learning. This inspiration makes me incredibly excited to be attending Ramah Israel Seminar this coming summer. Although

some tiyulim might be the same as Muss, I am ready to embark on new terrain. For example, I will be doing Gadna, a four-day mock Israeli army experience. I am looking forward to this experience to have a sample of the perseverance and grit that Israeli army members carry with them through the challenges of their service. If you are going to Israel this summer, I hope you, too, have things you look forward to. Safe travels!

National Security Concerns over TikTok

Rachel Loeb, Editor-in-Chief

TikTok, the video-sharing social media app, has recently been under investigation for its ties to the Chinese government. The investigation has raised concerns about national security and data privacy, as TikTok has become one of the most popular apps worldwide. The investigation into TikTok first began late last year over allegations that TikTok was obtaining private user data to spy on United States journalists



and was conducted by the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Department of Justice. This criticism is not new, as politicians have already had suspicions that the app could be used by the Chinese government to collect data from Americans and spread their propaganda, thereby harming America's national security. TikTok has also faced multiple charges related to data privacy and security in the past. In 2019, the company had to pay a \$5.7 million

dollar fine to settle charges after it illegally collected information from children under the age of 13. Also, late last year, following numerous state governments, Congress and President Joe Biden passed legislation that blocked TikTok from US government devices. Recently in Montana, Tiktok was banned; however the app is suing over a violating to their First Amendment rights. Lawmakers in other countries such

as Canada, Australia, Britain, and France have also imposed various restrictions on the app. This recent investigation into TikTok came after a bipartisan bill called the RESTRICT Act was introduced to Congress. This act would give the US Commerce Secretary the authority to control and potentially ban technology from

“While TikTok is being held under intense scrutiny, the chances of it being banned are slim.”

specific countries, including China. Although the bill already has support from a quarter of the Senate, it is far from becoming a law and has received a lot of backlash - from the public and from other senators.

TikTok is also facing pressure from government entities beyond Congress. For example, the Committee on Foreign Investment in the United States as well as President Biden's administration requested that TikTok's Chinese owners sell their share of the app. Another potential path is President Biden banning it by using an executive order. However, when President Trump attempted this in 2020, courts ruled that he did not have the legal authority to do so. Another outcome could be if ByteDance, TikTok's Chinese parent company, sells TikTok to another company, although that scenario is unlikely since they consider it to be a last resort. Additionally, the investigation has been criticized for focusing on TikTok, and this could potentially lead to Congress passing data and privacy laws that apply to all tech companies.

While TikTok is being held under intense scrutiny, the chances of it being banned nationwide are slim. TikTok's ban has been discussed since before Biden took office, and

it still hasn't happened. If the issue is taken to court, it is likely that judges will protect or at least delay the



restrictions because of free speech concerns. TikTok is also taking steps to protect itself and move forward. In the past three years, TikTok has hired numerous new lawyers. Also, TikTok is very compliant and is currently in negotiations with the Biden administration for a plan to secure American data and stop Chinese propaganda. Several TikTok creators have visited Washington, and its CEO, Shou Zi Chew, testified before Congress, which increased their public support. TikTok has also been working on a \$1.5 billion initiative called Project Texas, which would help quell fears as American data would now be stored by an American company, in an American city, so that the Chinese government cannot access that data.

The Controversy Surrounding The Little Mermaid

Jonah Pappas, Staff Writer



The Little Mermaid, a beloved animated classic, has captured the hearts of audiences worldwide since its release in 1989. However, the upcoming live-action remake of the film has been met with lots of criticism due to some changes made to the original story. One of the most controversial changes is the casting of Halle Bailey, a young black actress, as Ariel, the titular character who is traditionally depicted as a white redhead. While many fans have praised the casting as a step towards greater representation and diversity in Hollywood, others have criticized the decision as a departure from the original character and story.

This debate has led to heated altercations

online, with some fans even calling for a boycott. However, others have pointed out that the original story was based on a fairytale, which never specifies any particular race or ethnicity, and that casting Bailey is a natural evolution of the story for modern audiences. Another source of dispute surrounding the film is the depiction of Ursula, the villainous sea witch, who is the film's main antagonist. In the original movie, Ursula is portrayed as a larger, darker-skinned character with exaggerated features that, some critics have argued, perpetuate harmful stereotypes. In the live-action remake, Ursula will be played by Melissa McCarthy, a white actress, and the character's appearance has been redesigned to be less overtly stereotypical. Not only are there racial stereotypes involved in Ursula's character design but there are also harmful ideas about elderly people.

However, some fans have still criticized for missing the opportunity to cast a black actress

in the role and address the harmful stereotypes of the original character. Despite the controversy, Disney has stood by its casting decisions and emphasized the importance of representation and diversity in their films. Ultimately, the controversy surrounding the Little Mermaid remake highlights the ongoing debates around representation, diversity, and inclusivity in Hollywood. While some fans may resist deviation from the original story, others see these changes as essential to creating a more inclusive and representative environment for all audiences.



Dos And Don'ts of the Eras Tour

Aviva Markowitz, Arts & Entertainment Editor



The Taylor Swift Eras tour is one of the most impactful events in the music industry. While tens of thousands of fans are able to get in, many wait outside and jam out in the parking lot. Here are some tips to get you into the concert!

Tip 1: Buying Tickets

Check resellers! While many are overpriced, the closer to the concert the more likely you can get cheaper seats. Resellers also wait outside the stadium to sell at the last minute. If you're willing to miss one of the first sets, fans have been given free or low priced tickets after the show has started. Buying more expensive tickets and trading them online is also another option. But make sure to get the right amount so that you're not taking another fan's chance at seeing their favorite pop sensation.

Tip 2: Arrival and Merch

The stadium doors open for the VIP fans at 12pm and for regular fans at 4:30pm. The average recommended time to get there is at around 4pm so you can grab the merch you want and be there in time for the opening acts. The merch line has been around an hour and a half, generally not selling out until closer to the start of the concert, so getting there early is helpful, but also won't completely lower your chances of getting some

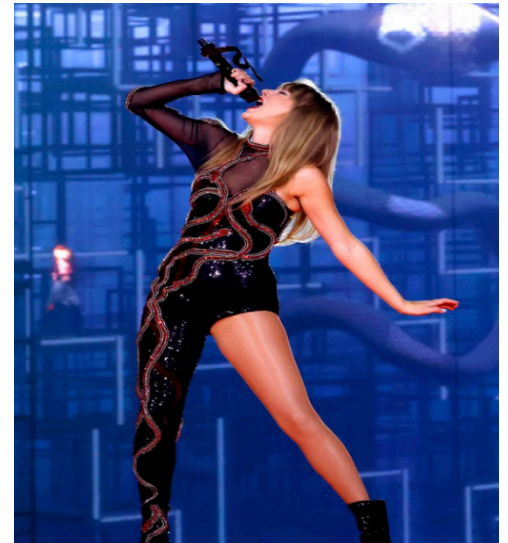
cool swag. There are merch trucks both in and outside of the stadium, and several concession stands on each level are selling. Merch can range from \$35 (a poster) to \$75 (a hoodie). The merch trucks also give options for buying the opener's merch too. In Philly at Lincoln Financial Field Stadium, the stands sold both Gracie Abrams and Phoebe Bridgers merchandise. Some merch trucks don't give out bags, mainly the ones located outside of the stadium, so be aware that you'll have to carry it throughout the concert.

Tip 3: Food and Drinks

Bringing your own snacks is definitely a smart idea if you want to get merch and be there on time for the openers. The food lines are very long, but the beverage stands were very short and easy to get through. If you want to get food, it's better to go earlier, but also to get it after merch.

Tip 4: Parking and Pickup

The Eras tour gives the option for both parking and pickup. There is a separate lot for pickup which is located outside the stadium. Make sure you are able to keep in contact with your driver, and have them describe the location they are so it will be easier to find them. For parking, most recommendations say to get there early. Many fans camp outside of the stadium with tables and fun things to do like making friendship bracelets and listening to music. You'll definitely have to arrive early if you plan on parking, and it will take longer to get on the road since you're in the stadium.



Tip 5: Outfits and Bracelets

While it's fun to dress up by wearing glittery dresses and cowboy boots, you have to think about the general situation of the concert. Will you be standing for all three and a half hours of it? If so, wearing sneakers would be the better option. Also, if you're higher up, it gets cold as the evening goes on. Some fans put on their merch to keep warm, but also bringing a sweatshirt would be helpful. Especially if you want to sit later on in the evening. You'll see fans wearing friendship bracelets, and if you make them, you'll be able to trade and have them as a keepsake after the concert. This is part of the Taylor Swift Fan Project, based on the bridge of You're On Your Own Kid. Also, when you enter the stadium you'll be handed a LED bracelet with a tab. Make sure to keep the tab after you pull it out so you can put it back in and save the light. Then later on if you pull out the tab even days after the concert, it will still light up.

Though she already finished her Philly part of the tour, she'll be visiting New Jersey soon! There are many fun parts of the Eras Tour, but it's also important to be aware of what you're getting yourself into. It will be a long day with lots of fun memories, and make sure to take lots of pictures with your friends and family!

10 Tips to Make Your Summer Even Better!

Aviva Markowitz, Arts & Entertainment Editor

Don't know what to do this summer? Here's 10 fun activities that can get your summer started!

1. Go thrifting or to garage sales
2. Bake some cupcakes with fun decorations
3. Make a summer playlist
4. Paint, draw, or watercolor a pretty outdoor scenery
5. Go and read in the park
6. Visit friends and family
7. Go to the pool
8. Watch a movie in your backyard
9. Have picnic with friends
10. Make and campfire and S'mores

New Found Danger in Amazon Alexa's Responses

Jillian Shweky, Opinion Editor

Many acknowledge that modern technology has a mind of its own, but have you ever thought it has political views as well? While doing research for a school project, I discovered a troubling response from my Amazon Alexa. I asked her where Israel was located and she replied by saying, "sorry, I don't know that." Then out of curiosity, I asked where Palestine was and Alexa responded, "Palestine is a state in the Middle East and Western Asia." I decided to ask the identical question about other countries and only Israel was not recognized. Alexa even knew both pronunciations for Qatar ("Cutter" and "Kah-tar"). Conversely, Siri noted that Israel was a country in the Middle East and gave no political commentary. This sent me down a rabbit hole trying to understand whether or not Alexa could possibly be anti-Zionist. Whether or not one supports Israel or Palestine, this issue is more about the idea that Alexa is in a position to espouse factually incorrect information that can impart political opinion to its 71.6 million users. Looking into Alexa's algorithm, I learned that for it to find the information, it "converts the spoken word into a language the device can use to search online databases" according to Ritholtz.com. Typically, Alexa uses reliable sources, but Alexa has been caught employing information from unreliable and questionable political websites. As an example, according to the Times of

Israel, Amazon Alexa has been caught giving anti-Semitic responses to questions about the Holocaust and reinforcing Jewish stereotypes. In 2020, the All-Party Parliamentary Group Against Antisemitism (APPG), made up of British Members of Parliament, claimed in a letter to Amazon that Alexa's responses to many questions about Jews and the State of Israel were disturbing and must be addressed. When asked if Jews control the media, Alexa answered that according to her source, "Jews control the world's financial systems and media." When asked if the "Elders of Zion control the world," referencing a fabricated antisemitic text from the early 1900s laying out a plan for Jewish global domination, she responded with a quote from a website affirming, "the swindlers of Zion have revealed their scheme to subjugate the nations and gain control of the world."

I wondered if Alexa could distinguish political bias from factual information. The Daily Mail reported that, when asked if Alexa believed that black lives matter, she responded by saying "black lives and the Black Lives Matter movement absolutely matter." Her response addresses the value that lives, and in this case black lives, do matter. However, she also inserts an opinion on Black Lives Matter which has become a political movement.

Alexa and most other technology are introduced to us as tools that will aid and enhance our lives. Alexa does generally note the sources of its information but broadly distributing conspiracy theories and misinformation, even when noting a questionable source, is extremely dan-



gerous.

The dissemination of "fake news" can fuel hatred, change the outcome of our elections and alter established history and even proven principles of science. I have often heard the expression "skimmers not divers" to describe how people want information provided to them. Skimmers skim the surface. They take the top level of information provided to them in the most accessible way and don't dive deeper to determine the source of the information or if there are varying opinions. This is both the beauty of Alexa and the danger. The question is, are we underestimating or even oblivious to the power and influence a little tool like Alexa can have over us, and will anyone do anything about it?

Biden vs. Trump: Round 2

Edan Held, World News Editor



It is increasingly likely that the 2024 Presidential race will repeat the one seen in 2016: Donald Trump vs. Joe Biden. Speculation of Donald Trump's 2024 bid for President circulated for some time, and finally, on November

15th, 2022, he officially announced his candidacy to a crowd in Mar-a-Lago. Similarly, after months of waiting, Joe Biden announced on April 25th, 2023 that he would be running for re-election.

If re-elected, Joe Biden will be 82 years old when sworn in, surpassing his current record of 78 years old. Similarly, if elected to a second term, Donald Trump would be 78 years old when inaugurated, tying Joe Biden's record. Unlike Donald Trump, Joe Biden's current run for re-election appears to be uncontested. However, even though Donald Trump is up against Nikki Haley, former governor of South Carolina and former US ambassador to the United Nations, and a potential Ron DeSantis, governor of Florida,

"An NBC news survey said 70% of respondents don't want Joe Biden to run again, and 60% don't want Trump to either."

he appears to be the clear front-runner for the Republican Party. While the country is gearing up for a 2016 rematch, much of the country does not approve. According to an NBC news survey, 70% of respondents don't want Joe Biden to run again, and 60% don't want Trump to either. Despite the election being over 500 days away at the time of writing, all current polls indicate a very tight race, with Biden leading by a few points in some polls and Trump leading by the same margin in others. While most of the populous does not favor either potential candidate for President, it will likely be a dramatic campaign season throughout the next year and a half as election nears.

Hellos and

Speaking with Mrs. Farrell

Clare Englander, Staff Writer

How long have you been working at Barrack, and how many of those years were you Director of Middle School?

I started working at Barrack in 2001. I was a Core teacher until 2008. When we moved to the Bryn Mawr campus in 2008, I was asked to become the Middle School Director by the then new head of school. While in administration, my roles varied: I was Dean of Students 6-12 when we merged with Saligman, I continued to teach, and when Mrs. Friedman retired, I returned to the role of Middle School Director.

What is something you have learned while being Director of Middle School at Barrack?

I have learned the value of being a good listener. I have learned how much students and teachers care about each other and our community. I have learned how to balance many different tasks and wear a variety of different hats. I am not just a middle school director, or I should say that role has many different parts to it. I learned that you need a team to do this job; it is not something that is a solo effort, and I am grateful and appreciative of all of the support, guidance, and partnership I have had with the senior administration, the department chairs, the teachers, and of course, the students.

Are you excited to teach core again? If so, why?

Super excited to return to the classroom - I miss the student teacher connection. I love the curriculum; it is dynamic and ever evolving and relevant. I think it is important to change things up during my career. I like the challenge of taking on something new or different, and I am excited about planning lessons and writing curriculum.

What is your favorite part of teaching core?



Working with the students- engaging in discussions, working together on projects, enjoying literature and poetry, making connections between the history we learn and events in today's world- I like everything about teaching Core!

What do you think is going to be the hardest part of stepping away from your role as Director of Middle School?

The hardest part is stepping away, but it is something I really wanted to do so I am excited for the change. I am confident that the new director will bring great energy, creativity and thought to the role and continue to make the middle school a place where students feel welcome, are academically challenged, and enjoy being here each day. And I will miss having my own office:)

What advice would you give to the next Head of Middle School?

My advice would be to listen, to lean on a great team of teachers when needed, to ask for advice and support, to have fun and enjoy each day, be grateful each day for the experience, the relationships built and the time spent doing good work. And to take time for yourself so you can do your job well.

In my office I have a quote from Ralph Waldo Emerson that I read each day, it says:

“Finish each day and be done with it. You have done what you could. Some blunders and absurdities no doubt crept in, forget them as soon as you can. Tomorrow is a new day: begin it well and serenely and with too high a spirit to be encumbered with your old nonsense.”

Do you still remember a teacher that you had that made an impact on you?

My seventh grade social studies teacher had a tremendous impact on me. She instilled in me a love for history and learning, she made class fun, she had high expectations for her students and she was clear and consistent in her teaching style. I was fortunate to have many teachers who cared about me, who helped me understand the importance of being not just a student but a good person and who made learning feel relevant. Throughout my time as a student, so many of my teachers saw their role as a vocation, a higher calling, and I think this is so important- to acknowledge the role of educators in this way.

How do you envision your next stage at Barrack?

I am excited to return to teaching, to work closely with my colleagues in the middle school, to continue to oversee the Core department. I love the Barrack community- it is a place of welcome, of kehillah and I am proud and grateful to be a part of it.

First Year Recap Interviews

Ariel Shavit, Arts, Features, & Games Editor, and Brandon Rosen, Assistant to the Editors

The following answers are directly from some teachers and staff members that were new to Barrack this year.

Emilie Grossman (Student Life)

Larry McAfoos (Science)

Adam Lovitz (Art)

Matthew Flory (Core)

Benaya (Jewish Life)

Marti Kwon (College Counselor)

Dan Hatfield (Science)

Georgia Gobora (Learning Support Teacher)

What was your favorite first year memory?

Mr. Lovitz: There was a moment in one of my first classes at the beginning of the school year where I had asked 6th graders to collaboratively build a structure without talking to one another. They were allowed to use physical gestures, draw, or even grunt. Just no verbal language was to be spoken or written. At the end of class, there was one representative that was assigned to ar-

ticulate the meaning of their form, in words. The insight that this 6th grader shared and how it was reflected in the abstract sculpture almost brought me to tears. Each student had contributed in their own way but worked together toward a shared vision. I was blown away at the depth of this sixth grade class and the magnitude of feeling they had gestured toward in this simple and experimental creative exercise.

Mr. Hatfield: My favorite first year

memory was the first day of school and getting to meet my students to see how amazing they are.

Georgia Gobora: My favorite memory was meeting my colleagues and students and seeing my students develop over the year.

Benaya: Visiting Marc, a school alum, in his army base on the northern border of Israel, with the 8th graders.

Continued on page 10.

Goodbyes

Interview with Mr. Dorsch

Ariel Shavit, Arts, Features, & Games Editor, and Rachel Loeb, Editor-in-Chief



Beginning next year, Barrack will be welcoming a new Middle School Director, Mr. Dorsch!! The following is an interview with Mr. Dorsch about his plans for next year.

What are you looking forward to for this new role?

I am extremely excited about this new position. I am most excited for the opportunity that this new role will give me to interact with the community of students in a new way. I am looking forward to getting to know the middle school, helping them navigate the ‘bumpy roads’, and creating an environment of joy. I know that there are moments in middle school that are hard, so I am looking forward to creating moments of happiness, where students are excited to learn and see their friends.

Some of my favorite memories are from middle school, and it’s where I met the friends I’m most connected with, so I’m looking forward to helping create an environment where students can have a rigorous program, find themselves, and find close friends. I believe that mid

dle school is a place to create memories as well as to prepare for high school. Middle school is not just a time of transition, it is its own entity, and it is important to focus on meeting the needs of each individual so that students can find out who they are and what they enjoy.

Is there anything in your previous role that you will miss doing?

One thing I will miss from my previous position at Resource is the opportunity to teach kids directly. While this new position does provide opportunities to work with students, it will not be the same regularity. Still, there will be many opportunities, and I look forward to stepping into this role of mentoring staff and overseeing the big picture ideas.

Are there any new rules or ideas you will be enforcing for students to take on other than Barrack’s Derech Eretz values?

Going into this new role, I don’t necessarily have any concrete ideas. Rather, I want to start by observing the pre-existing middle school dynamics, and then later determine what needs to be changed. Through my position in the Resource department, I have already had the opportunity to study student routine, but I want to increase this. In developing plans, I aim to put the needs of the students first. I believe that the administration is there to help students navigate a challenging and exciting part of their lives, and that will be done best if they first sit back, observe, listen, and then later make the changes. That being said, I believe that some improvements can be made regarding organization and locker use, which will improve student health and executive functioning skills.

Are you going to plan more activities and events for the middle schoolers?

Yes! I believe that a central part of the middle school and overall Barrack programs is connectivity and community. Students should not apologize for having fun in school. I believe there will be a lot of opportunities for activities in the future, either by elevating programs that are already successful, coming up with new programs, or bringing back old favorites from his time in middle school. I am working on planning events for next year in deep and meaningful ways.

Interview with Mrs. Messinger

Margot Englander, Centerspread Editor



remember most is the supportive, warm feeling of the Core/JS office.

What are you looking forward to?

I am most looking forward to not getting up in the dark and having my morning coffee while reading the paper.

What is something you would tell your first-year teacher self?

You made the right career choice!

What is your favorite memory of being a Core teacher?

I have many amazing memories, but the thing I will probably

Why did you become a core teacher?

For the first part of my teaching career, I was an elementary school teacher, and I most enjoyed teaching reading, language arts, and social studies. When the Saligman Middle School opened at Perelman, I was asked to teach in the middle school. I went with my passion and taught language arts and social studies. When Saligman merged with Barrack, I became a Core teacher. I love watching students develop

their writing skills, challenge their own thinking, and wrestle with difficult concepts.

What are your plans for the summer?

This summer, I will be moving to Northern New Jersey to be near my daughters and my most wonderful grandson, Ashton. Being close to Ashton is the most motivating factor in choosing to retire from Barrack.

Johnny Reflects On His Time at Barrack

Manny Shklar, Managing Editor

My new job is working in Hazardous Waste, where I will be coordinating the transportation and pickup of hazardous material that is regulated by the EPA (basically, I am saving the environment!). I am most looking forward to traveling within the northeast, as clients are within a 3-hour radius.

What made your new position so intriguing?

There were a multitude of factors that were intriguing about this new position. First, I get to use my science background when combining chemicals and determining the chemical makeup of certain waste, so that I can figure out where it needs to go so it can be disposed of properly - it's like trying to solve a puzzle.

The second factor in my switch was the schedule. In my new role, I create my own schedule and work

Monday through Friday. I get married in October, and with some big life changes incoming, I was looking for a change in work/life balance.

What will you miss most about your job at Barrack?

The community. I have been at Barrack since graduating from college (7 years has gone by so fast!), and the community at Barrack has been like my second family. I have connected with students and families on a personal level, and I will miss those relationships the most.

What were some of your favorite moments in your time at Barrack?

This is probably a cliché answer, but my favorite moments are when teams have won the championship - in my seven years here, I have seen at least ten league championships. I

have the pleasure of watching student-athletes work together every single day to achieve the goal of being successful, and to see the pure joy after winning a championship is priceless.

What message do you want to leave for Barrack's student-athletes?

Just as you have grown as students, athletes, people, and leaders, I have grown with you. It has been my honor and pleasure to learn with you and from you over these last 7 years, and I will be forever grateful for the time I was able to lead, guide, and help you. I will not be a stranger, and I plan on coming to games to support you. GO Cougars!!!!

Johnny, we as a community cannot thank you enough for everything you have done for us, from



healing our injuries to teaching us inside and outside the classroom. Your work has always been done carefully and flawlessly, and it was never done without a smile. All of your efforts will be remembered here, and we wish you all the best in the future. You will always have a special place in our Barrack community and be welcomed with open arms.

First Year Recap

Continued from page 8

Ms. Grossman: I had an amazing time at each Shabbaton. I really enjoyed getting to know the kids one-on-one better and spending quality time with them. Getting to see all of the kids participate in traditions and songs and just all of us having fun together was extremely special. I think the moment that stands out to me the most was the etiquette class the 6th graders took part in during their shabbaton. It was one of the funniest experiences I've had this year for so many reasons and I don't think any of us will ever forget it.

Marti Kwon: The Upper School Shabbaton. Seeing Barrack students out and about away from school hanging out with their friends, connecting over their faith and simply having fun stands out for me this year.

Would you like to see any part of the school environment improved for the next coming year?

Mr. Lovitz: I think it's very important to find an accessible location to act as an exhibition space to show off all the fantastic artworks made throughout the year. The glass case

near the auditorium is a bit limiting in size and in what type of artwork can be on display, so I hope to secure a location that allows for more art and is visible for the whole school to experience.

Emilie Grossman: I would like to see more of the Derech Eretz values intertwined between students' actions during the day. Random acts of kindness, like holding the door open for the person behind you and taking care of our building, will really help our Barrack community become stronger.

Benaya: I would be very happy to see students dance more at the Shabbat Shmooze :).

What is different about Barrack than other schools you have taught at previously?

Mr. Mcafoos: I think that the best part about being at Barrack for me is the feeling that everyone knows everyone and the sense of caring and concern for each other. At my last school (a large public school with over 1200 students), there were administrators and staff that I had only met a few times and teachers I didn't know. At graduation, it

seemed that I didn't even recognize more than half of the students receiving diplomas. In addition, with 5 Chemistry teachers on the faculty, administration put a high priority on making sure that students had "identical" experiences in their classes. That meant that creativity and personal engagement was a disadvantage. Here, I feel that I am encouraged to be the best teacher I can be and to bring to my classes all of the energy and creativity I can.

Benaya: I think the most important difference is the willingness of Barrack to think out of the box, explore new creative possibilities, embrace initiatives, and constantly change and improve. For an institute that is 77 years old, this is not something common, and to me it is inspiring and fun.

If you were to choose a movie to watch with your class, what would it be and why?

Mr. Mcafoos: Definitely a classic film because kids tend not to watch those movies on a regular basis and they need to!

Benaya - I actually saw Operation Thunderbolt with my JS7 class this

year, and although it's 46 years old, they were mesmerized by this miraculously true story.

What are you looking forward to next year?

Mr. Flory: I am looking forward to next year for the opportunity to improve and be more organized to get more efficient.

Benaya: I'm excited to come to school again and see how I can do things differently, try to make a better impact on the school's community, and meet the students when they are more mature and grown up, and hopefully, I am also! I believe I can teach the same material and have the same projects done but with the wisdom of someone who has done it before. I look forward to coming to school and seeing many familiar and friendly faces that were once complete strangers.

I am so grateful for this opportunity of learning and teaching at Barrack, and I am sure this will be another incredible year filled with endless possibilities of getting inspired by students and staff and being able to contribute from my own experience that I now will have.

Crisis in Sudan

Mordechai Singer, Staff Writer



Fighting erupted early in the morning in Sudan on April 15th, 2023, between the Sudanese military and a powerful paramilitary group named the “Rapid Support Forces”. The fighting has primarily taken place in the nation’s capital, Khartoum, and Darfur, the western region of the country. Each side is backed by powerful foreign nations and neither are willing to back down. The United States and surrounding African countries have tried to broker a treaty between the two heavily armed sides; however multiple cease-fires have already been discarded. Abdalla Hamdok, a recent prime minister of the distressed country, warned that a full-blown civil war within the country would be a “nightmare for the world.” Hamdok had been kidnapped and detained by

the Sudanese military under General Abdel Fattah al-Burhan which led to his resignation 18 months ago during the 2021 Sudanese coup.

General Abdel Fattah al-Burhan rose to power during the 2019 Sudanese coup where he seized power from President Omar Hassan Al-Bashir, who had been the nation’s dictator for over three decades. Originally, he shared his power with the Hamdok cabinet and other civilian leaders; however in late October 2021, he, along with the help of the leader of the Rapid Support Forces, Lt. Gen. Mohamed Hamdan, seized power from Hamdok in the 2021 coup and began changing the leaders in the government.

Shortly after the coup, Gen. Abdel Fattah Al-Burhan and Lt. Gen. Mohamed Hamdan had a falling out over the governance of the country, and tensions began rising within Sudan. Later, both Generals further escalated the state of panic when they started deploying their respective military forces to different military camps throughout Sudan.

When this round of violence first broke out, the fighting occurred all throughout the country; however as the fighting progressed, battles mainly moved to the capital in Khartoum, and cities in Darfur. The Rapid Support Forces are a group of battle hardened fighters, mainly consisting of soldiers who had fought in the Yemen wars years earlier. On the other hand, the Sudanese military has access to tech-

nology that is inaccessible to the paramilitary group, such as gunships and warplanes. Neither side has wished to concede to the other, so the war has raged on.

The fighting is already showing its toll on the nation. During the chaos, stray bullets and bombs have hit civilian houses and ended

“With the threat of violence in civilian areas, many Sudanese citizens have fled from their homes to find shelter far away from the fighting.”

up killing many innocent civilians. According to the Sudanese Health Ministry, there have been nearly 600 fatalities, as well as over 5,000 injuries from the violence (including both soldiers and civilians). With the threat of violence in civilian areas, many Sudanese citizens have fled from their homes to find shelter far away from the fighting. Over 150,000 refugees have fled to safety across borders into neighboring countries. The U.N. refugee agency expects the number of people who leave their homes to be close to 700,000, however the majority of that number would not leave the country. Still, this number of displaced persons would roughly account to 1.5% of the country’s population of 46 million. This war, if it continues to escalate, will be very deadly to not only to the fighters, but also the millions of innocent civilians who are in its path of destruction.

US reporter detained in Russia on spying charges

Jacob Weiner, Staff Writer

On the afternoon of March 29, 2023, Evan Gershkovich, a reporter for the Wall Street Journal, was detained by Russia’s internal security service, the FSB (the successor to the infamous KGB), while on a reporting trip in Yekaterinburg, a city in central Russia. He was later charged with espionage. These are accusations that both the Wall Street Journal and the United States “vehemently deny”. At the time of his detention, Evan was accredited to work as a journalist inside Russia by the Russian Foreign Ministry. Following his detention, the US government has declared him “wrongfully detained”, a status which allows the entire US government apparatus to devote its resources to securing his release.

Evan, aged 31, is the son of Jews who emigrated from the Soviet Union in the 1970s. His sister and

parents now reside in Philadelphia and Princeton. According to WSJ reports, Evan was raised to love the country his parents had fled, watching Russian cartoons, playing with his sister while speaking Russian, and other things. In a letter to his family, written in Russian, that was published in the Wall Street Journal, Evan reassured them that he is doing alright, saying “I read. I exercise. And I am trying to write,” and also that he is “not losing hope”. He even quipped that his mother’s cooking had “unfortunately, for better or worse, prepared me well for jail food.”

Evan is a correspondent for the Wall Street Journal who covers Russia, Ukraine and other former Soviet republics. Prior to working at the Journal, he also wrote for the New York Times, The Moscow

Times, an independent English language paper that has been banned in Russia since 2017, and Agence



France-Presse. The Journal hired him in January of 2022.

A month later, Russia invaded Ukraine, and, according to the Journal, while covering the Belarus-Ukraine border, Evan was the first American reporter to witness

wounded Russian soldiers returning home. Ever since the invasion, freedom of expression and speech

has been drastically reduced in Russia. Even calling Russia’s actions in Ukraine a war, as opposed to the Kremlin’s preferred term “special military operation”, can land one in prison for up to 15 years. Since February

2022, nearly all independent news outlets in Russia have been shuttered, with many reporters being imprisoned.

Continued on following page.

US reporter detained in Russia on spying charges

Continued from page 11

Indeed, Evan tweeted that “Reporting on Russia is now also a regular practice of watching people

you know get locked away for years”. His detention comes at a time when journalists are facing unprecedented threats to their security around the world with 363 journalists detained in over 30 countries, according to the committee to protect journalists.

“Ever since the invasion, freedom of expression and speech has been drastically reduced in Russia.”

Jewish communities and organizations have also been vocal in advocating for Evan’s release. In a letter to US

Secretary of State Antony Blinken, who is Jewish, the Jewish Federations of North America, which represents hundreds of local Jewish federations throughout the US and Canada, has called for increased effort toward securing Evan’s release, stating “For us, this is per-

sonal. Evan and his family are members of our American Jewish community.” Some households even left an empty place setting for Evan at their sed-

er tables. To find out more about Evan, stay updated with developments, and how you can help, or to send a note to his family, please go to <https://www.wsj.com/news/>



evan-gershkovich, and use the hashtag #IStandWithEvan. In addition to this, all of Evan’s reporting for the Wall Street Journal has been made available

for free, meaning you do not need to have a subscription to the paper to access it.

Sports

Howie Roseman Continues Make Up For His Disaster

Manny Shklar, Managing Editor

“THEY CAN’T KEEP GETTING AWAY WITH THIS” read the tweet of a popular Twitter user under the handle @elitetakes_. Despite the user’s 45,000 followers, this



tweet garnered nearly 350 thousand views in just five days. The context referred to the Philadelphia Eagles’ general manager Howie Roseman’s latest transaction, in which he signed undrafted cornerback Eli Ricks to a minimum contract. Ricks, a 6’2” University of Alabama product, was projected to be drafted as high as 10th overall just a year before. However, after spending most of his 2022 college season injured, Ricks surprisingly went undrafted. If the lanky defender can reach the potential many saw in him last year, it would be just one more incredible move for Roseman to add to his resume.

Howie hasn’t always had this kind of support. Howie has had his fair share of ups and downs since joining the Eagles’ organization. Despite being named the official

general manager of the Eagles in 2010, he did not get full access to the job until 2016, when the organization fired head coach Chip Kelly. Just two years later, Roseman had constructed the first Eagles team to win a Super Bowl. The team would go on to make the playoffs the following two seasons, until everything collapsed in the 2020-21 campaign. Many fans blamed the players, the coaching and the conditions caused by COVID, but ultimately Roseman took much of

the blame. People were relentless on social media, begging the administration to fire him and fix the team. Howie was, somewhat deservedly, on a very short leash.

The Eagles’ collapse may have started before they even won the Super Bowl, as then-superstar quarterback Carson Wentz had torn

his ACL. Wentz would go on to suffer a major back injury in 2018, a concussion in 2019 and numerous other injuries. This led to one of the worst quarterback seasons ever, but it did not help that his premier pass catcher was Jalen Reagor, Howie Roseman’s 2020 draft crush. Reagor was taken at pick 20, one spot before the Vikings selected Justin Jefferson, who is easily the best wide

receiver in the NFL and the 2022-23 Offensive Player of the Year. This past season, Jefferson had 128 catches for 1,809 yards and eight touchdowns en route to one of the best individual seasons of all time. Reagor, however, has just 72 catches for 799 yards and four touchdowns in his entire career. It’s safe to say that while Jefferson could end up being the best receiver of all time, Reagor will forever be known as the player taken one spot ahead of Justin Jefferson. But it doesn’t stop there.

The Eagles held another premier pick in this draft, which they used to take quarterback Jalen Hurts. Wentz had just thrown for a career high in yards with a subpar receiving core, and despite injuries there was no obvious reason to give up on him. It’s thought by many that this draft pick got to Wentz’s head

“Reagor will forever be known as the player taken one spot ahead of Justin Jefferson.”

and was a huge factor in causing him to have his horrible year. He would be benched for Hurts late in the season, traded and never heard from again in the sports-crazed city of Philadelphia. Now, with the sixth overall pick and a stacked draft class incoming, Roseman could find a way to redeem himself, but the odds were against him.

Howie made numerous

trades, acquiring tons of future picks, all for less than he should have been able to. Eventually, the Eagles would end up with the 10th pick and take Devonta Smith to lead the receiving core. Roseman also selected offensive lineman Landon Dickerson. Smith would go on to break many franchise rookie records and establish himself quickly. Hurts, who played college football with both Smith and Dickerson, surprised many in his first year as a full time starter. He was endlessly ridiculed for lacking arm strength and being insecure inside the pocket, but this didn’t stop him from leading the Birds right back to the playoffs.

Even though they suffered an embarrassing first round exit, the Eagles were a legit team again. This was a team that still had a ton of holes and a bad contract situation, and it seemed unlikely Roseman would be able to fix it. After tirelessly working to restructure deals and find perfect free agent fits, Howie built enough capital to feel solid heading into the draft. He held three first round picks, the most of any team, but only one of those would be used to draft a player that year. Georgia Bulldogs defensive tackle Jordan Davis was the 13th selection, but what happened with picks 16 and 19 was even more impactful.

Continued on next page.

A Legendary Start to the NBA Playoffs

Manny Shklar, Managing Editor

As with every year, 2023's NBA Playoffs are providing fans with more and more unforgettable moments. As the remaining four teams gear up for the Conference Finals, it's easy to forget how special this postseason has been. Some players seemingly returned to their prime while others were unable to perform on the biggest stage. Now,



as the Finals shortly approach, we can look back on some of the most memorable games, statlines, and plays throughout the start of the playoffs.

As Steph Curry dribbled around four Kings' defenders and smoothly laid the basketball through the hoop, it became clear to everyone watching that the generation-defining guard had made history yet again. From being the best shooter in NBA history to winning the first unanimous MVP award, Curry's name is already etched in basketball history. This time, though, Curry was breaking the record for the most points in a game seven. On a night when Steph made 20 shots, including seven threes, it felt like no one could come close to this feat. Two weeks later, rising superstar Jayson Tatum scored 51 points in his own game

seven. Tatum's ridiculous night led his team to the Eastern Conference Finals, leading them one step closer to the ultimate goal. This performance seemed out

of age of 30.1 points per game, as he had an extremely inconsistent series in general against the 76ers. Tatum scored nearly 40 points in game one, but just seven in game two. He was particularly bad in the first half of most games, as he was struggling to even make one field goal early into the game most nights. However, Tatum has always been known for his resilience as he battled back to have the best game of his short career. Tatum's game seven statline

was outstanding, but the only reason he got that opportunity was because of James Harden. Harden, the

"He's averaged seven more points per game in the playoffs than the regular season and led his eighth seeded team to the Eastern Conference Finals."

76ers point guard, has set numerous scoring records in his long career but transitioned into much more of a facilitator in more recent years. In game one, however, without his teammate and league MVP Joel Embiid, Harden had to carry his Sixers. "The Beard" delivered, pouring in 45 points to easily have his best performance since being traded to Philly a year and a half ago. This was not a one time performance either; Harden dropped 42 points in a game four victory, including both the game-tying and game-winning buckets. Harden has also been one of the main reasons for the Sixers'

playoff woes this year, as he had possibly the worst game of his career in game seven. No matter his inconsistencies throughout the series, it's hard not to root for a player like Harden when he turns back the clock to have a vintage game.

The Western Conference Finals will feature the best one-on-one matchups fans could ask for, as the LA Lakers will play against the Denver Nuggets. Both teams have future hall-of-famers manning the center position in Anthony Davis and Nikola Jokic. Davis, known as AD, is perhaps one of the best defenders to ever play, as he touts four All-NBA defensive team selections, while Jokic has been an offensive powerhouse over the last few seasons, allowing him to win two MVPs and compete heavily for a third one this season. AD has averaged over three blocks and one and a half steals in the playoffs thus far, including six games with over four blocks. It will be exhilarating to watch him cover Jokic, who has averaged a 30 point triple-double in the postseason while shooting over 50% from three. Although both teams have notable other players such as LeBron James and Jamal Murray, all of the attention will be on these two superstars for the entire series.

A final key, but unfortunate, part of the playoffs has been the shocking number of injuries to occur. Superstars like Embiid, Griz



zlies' guard Ja Morant, and Kings' guard De'Aaron Fox each suffered impactful injuries that played roles in their teams' early exits. The most notable ones were those of Milwaukee Bucks' forward Giannis Antetokounmpo and Miami Heat forward Jimmy Butler. Giannis's injury was the main reason the top seeded Bucks got eliminated by the Heat, but Butler's typical playoff performance trumped all. He's averaged seven more points per game in the playoffs than the regular season and led his eighth seeded team to the Eastern Conference Finals. He suffered what could have been a horrific back injury early in the second round, but in true Jimmy Butler fashion he bounced back better than ever.

Now we can watch two amazing conference finals matchups and excitedly await what promises to be an intriguing Finals matchup. Even with so much more history to be made this year, the 2023 NBA playoffs have provided us with legendary moments already.

Howie Roseman Continues Make Up For His Disaster

Continued from page 13

16 was traded to the Titans for AJ Brown while 19 would be dealt for a 2023 first rounder from the Saints. These moves were seen as safe, smart and possibly job-saving moves by Roseman.

Now, looking back on those trades, they didn't just save Howie's job, they defined his legacy in Philadelphia. Brown would go on to be a top five wide receiver in 2023, while pick 19 would become the tenth pick in 2023. Due to Brown's production, Smith's improvement and Dickerson's chance to start, Jalen Hurts would finish as the MVP runner-up and lead this team back to the Super Bowl just five years later.

The Eagles' general manager made five

draft day trades this year, including moving up from ten to nine for just an extra fourth round pick. Roseman selected Jalen Carter at nine and Nolan Smith at pick 30, both Georgia defensive linemen who were projected to go higher. He also traded for star running back and Philly native D'Andre Swift, addressing another clear need. The Eagles will head into training camp this year with all of their needs addressed and an infusion of young talent that will make an instant impact.

Howie Roseman has never been one to listen to rejection. He has always had a main goal and stuck with it. His determination to be

a general manager started when he was still in elementary school, and he would end up writing letters to NFL general managers every day once he was in high school. The two time Executive of the Year is still hungry for more, as the Eagles are a surefire bet to compete for another Super Bowl. Whether it's been dealing with the most expensive contract in NFL history, or having to let go of fan favorites, Howie Roseman found a way to keep the Eagles competitive, and it looks like Eagles fans won't be doubting Howie again for a while.

Athlete of the Edition: Edo Aharoni '24

Benny Scheinmann, Sports Editor



Edo Aharoni '24 embodies the idea of what it means to be a true athlete. A three varsity sport starter and future captain of the

Soccer, Basketball and Baseball teams, Edo truly can do it all.

This spring Edo is exemplifying his talent on the baseball diamond. He is currently batting over .500 while also pitching over 25 innings. Edo has been on the varsity baseball team since eighth grade, but his junior season has been his breakout year. Edo is a true two way talent who has little to no holes in his game.

Along with pitching and hitting he has also shown extravagant work on the defensive end. Paired with other star

middle infielder, Benny Scheinmann, this duo creates the greatest middle infield Barrack has ever seen. Teammate Mordy Singer even com

pared this duo to Phillies' legends "Rollins and Utley."

Off the field Edo continues to show his leadership qualities and why he is a true role model for younger players. Edo is always giving tips to younger teammates as well as showing them how to better their games. Edo is constantly cheering on his team and encouraging them to work harder.

Lastly, Edo is already preparing for next fall and the start of soccer season. Edo is a forward who has a strong left foot and can finish from almost anywhere on the field. He is working on his agility as well as working out to get stronger for the season ahead. All around Edo is the perfect Barrack athlete.

Work Hard, Play Hard- The Culture of Barrack Athletics

Eliana Weinstein, Staff Writer



Barrack is a place where hard work is strongly encouraged proven by the rigorous double curriculum. However, Barrack students' hard work often goes beyond the classroom and onto the field.

But, how important are Barrack sports to players, coaches, and the larger community?

With 70% of the student body

playing at least one sport, 32 varying options to participate in, and ten PJAA Championships in the past three years, it is evident at first glance that Barrack strives for competitive excellence in athletics. While this is true, let's get personal, what do sports really mean to student athletes?

In an interview with a current varsity softball player, Catie Broker '24, I asked, "What has Barrack sports taught you?" With almost no hesitation she responds, "Barrack sports teaches me to be willing to try, be willing to fail, and be willing to learn." Current Varsity baseball student athlete, Jay Goldberg '24 was asked the very same question, and he noted, "Barrack athletics have taught [him] the importance of sportsmanship - both to players on the team, and towards the opponents."

The players are just one small part of the sports culture at Barrack, as coaches who work up close with the players are able to understand the Barrack sports culture as well. In an interview with varsity golf coach Aaron Silver, I asked him what his view of the goal of Barrack athletics is, and his response was as follows, "Sports provide an opportunity for our students to grow and have fun with the community, outside of the classroom." However, playing sports does not come without its challenges. Learning to balance school while playing a sport can be tricky.

When I questioned three different high school student athletes about how challenging it is to miss class at the end of the day for sports, they all responded similarly. They agreed that missing class can cause them to feel stressed, and even feel behind their peers who do not miss class. However, with hard work and determination, these three Barrack athletes agreed that you can overcome these hurdles if you frequently meet with teachers and stay focused when you are fortunate enough to be in class during the day.

"Barrack sports has taught me to be willing to try, be willing to fail, and be willing to learn."

Overall, Barrack sports are an active, competitive, and fun extracurricular that any Barrack student of any skill level can participate in. The Barrack community of non-student athletes, teachers, administrators, family, and friends also contribute to the sports culture by constantly coming to cheer on our Cougars. I am so thankful that Barrack has allowed me a positive space to play an array of sports. To all the student athletes reading this, I acknowledge that you are putting in hard work to succeed both on the field and in the classroom. Keep it up!



New Chronicle Staff

Rachel Loeb, Editor-in-Chief

As the end of the 2022-2023 school year approaches, the Cougar Chronicle takes great pleasure in announcing our latest group of editors. We also want to extend our gratitude to Niva Cohen and Raphael Englander, our outgoing co-editors-in-chiefs, for their contributions.

And without further ado, our staff!

Editor-in-Chief: Rachel Loeb

Managing Editors: Mikaela Garber and Manny Shklar

Arts & Entertainment Editor: Aviva Markowitz

Arts, Features, & Games: Ariel Shavit

Centerspread Editor: Margot Englander

Israel Editor: Addison Smith

Opinion Editor: Jillian Shweky

School News Editor: Sophia Mittman

Sports Editor: Benny Scheinmann

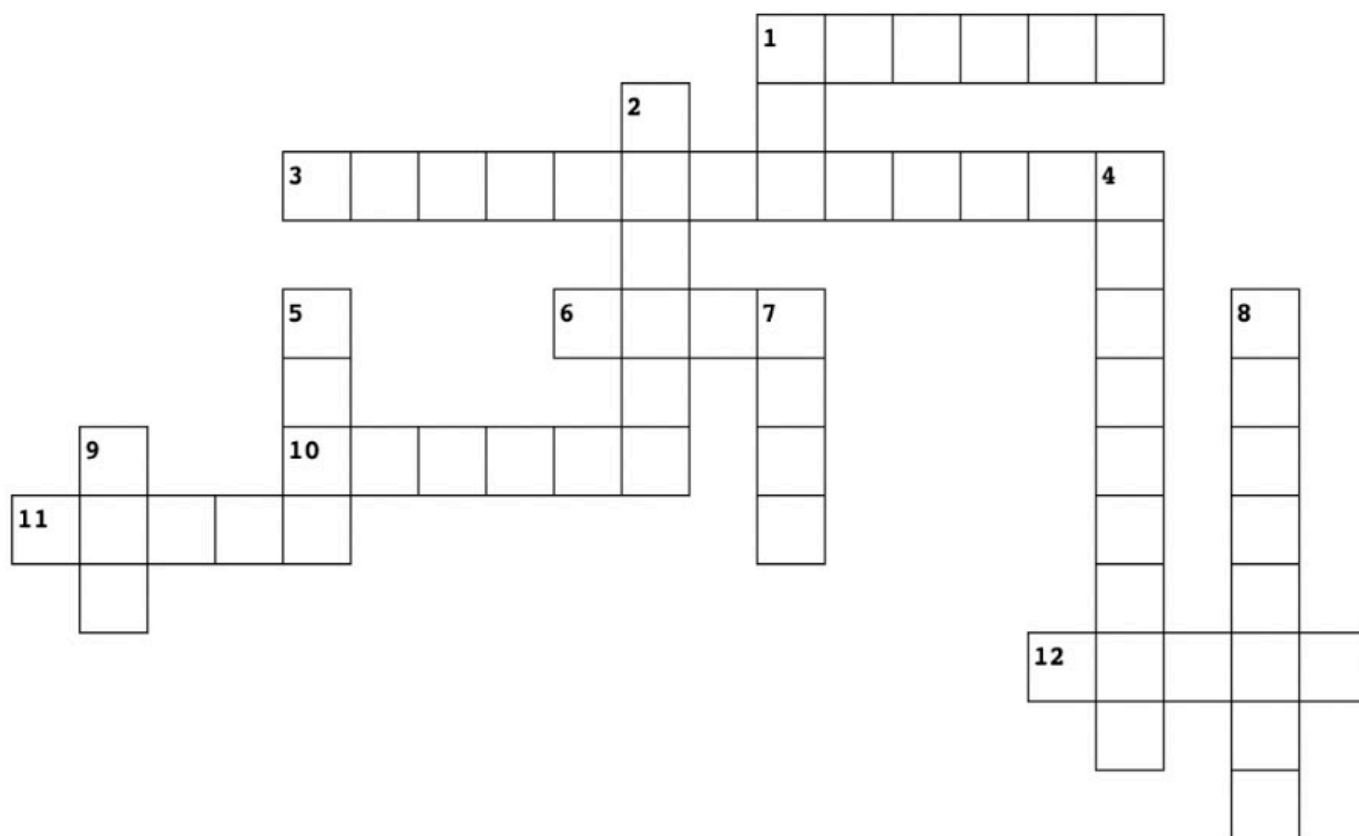
World News Editor: Edan Held

Assistant to the Editors: Brandon Rosen

Faculty Advisor: Mr. McLaughlin

Crossword

Ariel Shavit, Arts, Features, & Games Editor



Across

1. The warmest season that everyone looks forward to
3. Last game of the sports season
6. Many people look forward all year to this place because of the activities and friendships
10. If you are bored, you can go outside and play...
11. What is read at school
12. You can play games, swim, and relax here on warm days

Down

1. What makes summer nice out
2. Last tests before summer
4. To prevent a sunburn, use this
5. Where many of the juniors go in the summer
7. If you want to swim, but not with sharks or animals
8. Fun family get-together event that takes place
9. Some people get this over the summer because they are not in school

Ask Jack

Mikaela Garber, Managing Editor

How should I prepare academically for school next year over the summer?

Jack interviewed some students and teachers about how to prepare. The teachers recommend doing the summer work (before the last week of summer!) so that you know what concepts you need to brush up on. If there are any subjects or specific concepts that you feel particularly shaky in, summer is a good time to do some practice problems without the stress of grades. In addition to doing the summer work, the students were in agreement that organizing before school starts is helpful. Making sure you have all of the required materials will make the transition back to school less stressful.

How can I stay connected with my friends over the summer when we are going to be in different places?

It is hard to go from seeing your friends every day at school to maybe not at all. If your friends aren't going away to camp, I encourage you to text them just to say hi and set up times to facetime. If they live close by, hang out at each other's house or plan a fun activity to do together! Even though it might be harder to stay in contact with friends who are at camp, it is always fun to communicate the old-fashioned way, through letters! And, of course, camp, jobs, and other activities are a great way to meet new people as well!

Tips for going into a higher grade?

It might be scary to think about more rigorous classes and work, but your teachers will make sure you feel prepared for tests and are very understanding. Getting to know your teachers personally is really helpful! Don't be afraid to ask them questions; they are there to help you. Also, make sure to stay on top of your work instead of leaving assignments for the last minute. While work is important, taking care of your health is just as crucial, so make sure to get enough sleep and take time for yourself; it will help you focus better at school and on homework!

Sudoku

Rachel Loeb, Editor-in-Chief

1				8			9	6
			2					5
6					3	8		
				9	2	4		
		5	8					7
				6				
			4				5	
8	9	4						
	6						7	

Maze

Mikaela Garber, Managing Editor

