

The Notre Dame Times

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NDA'S SOCCER GAME FOR A CAUSE



By: Nora Bloom

The entire school was anxiously waiting for the results of the soccer draft. Mr. Bartosik and Mr. Stevens got together the previous night to pick the teams. We were all so excited for the teams to be read, and for the game itself. This wasn't any ordinary game. Mr. Bartosik and Mr. Stevens organized it to raise money for a family at the school who had an unfortunate house fire, the Sperazzas. The players would all contribute a donation in order to play. As the list of names were read, cheers echoed throughout the school. The students were all very happy with the results. Throughout the week we made posters for the event, high fived our fellow teammates, and chanted our team names.

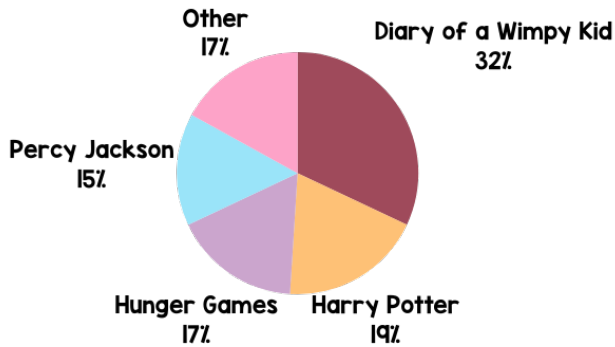
When the day of the event arrived, everyone was so excited. The signs that we made were held by many spectators, as they cheered on their team. The game was a scoreless tie for a very long time, and we were all getting very nervous. We knew that sooner or later, someone would have to score. At halftime, the players and coaches talked, and came up with a game plan. Nathan Wodaje was the first to score a goal, soon followed by Grace Bannister. Mr. Stevens' team was up, two to zero. Mr. Stevens' team was super excited. We changed lines, and soon after, Dylan Weeks scored a goal for Mr. Bartosik's team, making it two to one. Cheers were heard throughout the field. After lines were switched one more time, Mr. Bartosik ran onto the field. Mr. Stevens, knowing that they would have an advantage, soon followed. The ball was dribbled, passed, shot, but no goals were scored. Then, a pass to Finn Ryan resulted in yet another goal for Team Bartosik. The game was officially tied at two, and almost over. When we all heard the ending whistle, we were all happy. The event could not have ended any better way.

Although this soccer game did not result in a win for either team, it had a more meaningful outcome. It was a wonderful event to support a great NDA teacher and family. In total, we raised around 1,200 dollars, and all of it was given to the Sperazza family. This event showed what an incredible community we have. We all came together to help a family who needed our support and had a lot of fun along the way.

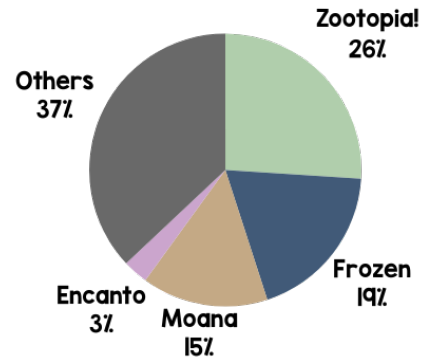


STUDENT FAVORITES – SURVEY RESULTS

FAVORITE BOOK SERIES



FAVORITE DISNEY MOVIE



“BLUEY”: THE SHOW FOR EVERYONE

By: David Corbett



In recent years, you may have heard of a show called “Bluey.” Bluey is an Australian Disney cartoon that follows the everyday life of a family of dogs called the Heelers. Now you may be asking, “What’s so special about some Disney junior cartoon about talking Australian dogs?” Well, I’m about to tell you why you should watch it, whether you’re fourteen or five. “Bluey” features not only young, loveable characters, but also some episodes focus on the internal struggles of adults or older kids, while still making the plot enjoyable for younger viewers. The show has some gags that only adults or older people will understand and can handle mature subject matter. Of course, the show is relatable to younger kids, as they are its target audience.

The show’s creators perfectly include representation of kids who have disabilities or are neurodivergent, such as Jack, (featured in the episode “Army”), who has ADHD, or an unnamed character (only in the episode “Turtleboy”), who cannot speak, so and communicates through ASL. The characters are relatable if you have any of those conditions, and will make you feel a sense of comfort and self-acceptance. Long story short, “Bluey” is able to be enjoyed by anyone, and can teach lessons to even the oldest of people. So while it’s a “kids’ show” it’s not only a silly cartoon, it captivates with its stunning visuals, beautiful soundtrack, and perfectly crafted characters. So, take my word for it, and maybe watch a few episodes, because when you watch one, you’ll be instantly hooked.

MY INTERVIEW WITH MR. STEVENS

By: Ally Ybara



Notre Dame Academy has many sports for our students. I recently interviewed soccer and basketball coach, Mr. Stevens, and he described the NDA sports and what it's like to be a coach. The sports we provide are cross country, intramurals, soccer, basketball, track, baseball, softball, cheerleading, and hockey. Mr. Stevens said, "It is easy to coach but sometimes it can be challenging." Mr. Stevens also added, "Coaching at NDA is super fun and there's great sportsmanship among the athletes." He added that he values responsibility, attitude, and respect. Overall, Mr. Stevens enjoys being a coach at NDA and working with athletes!

1989 (TAYLOR'S VERSION) REVIEW

By: Sean Ryan

As many of you might know 1989 (Taylor's Version) just came out recently. Being a huge fan of Taylor Swift, I am very excited about this. I asked 7th grader Mia Desiderio for her opinion. Here's what she had to say!

Q: What is your favorite song from the album?

A: My favorite song is "All You Had To Do Was Stay (Taylor's Version)"

Q: How do you feel about the response to the new version of the album?

A: I feel that the new album came out great!

Q: What are your top three favorite songs?

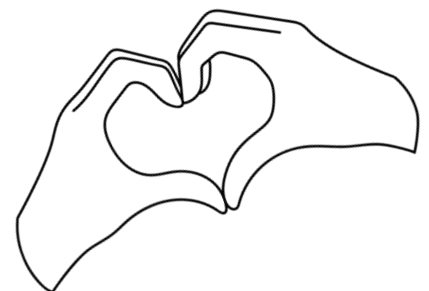
A: My top three are "Stay," "Style," and "Blank Space"



TAYLOR SWIFT

Sean's Top Ten Taylor Swift Songs (According to Sean)

- 1.) All Too Well (10 Minute Version) (Taylor's Version)
- 2.) Daylight
- 3.) Blank Space
- 4.) Delicate
- 5.) Love Story
- 6.) Cruel Summer
- 7.) Would've, Could've, Should've
- 8.) Lavender Haze
- 9.) Clean (Taylor's Version)
- 10.) Last Kiss (Taylor's Version)



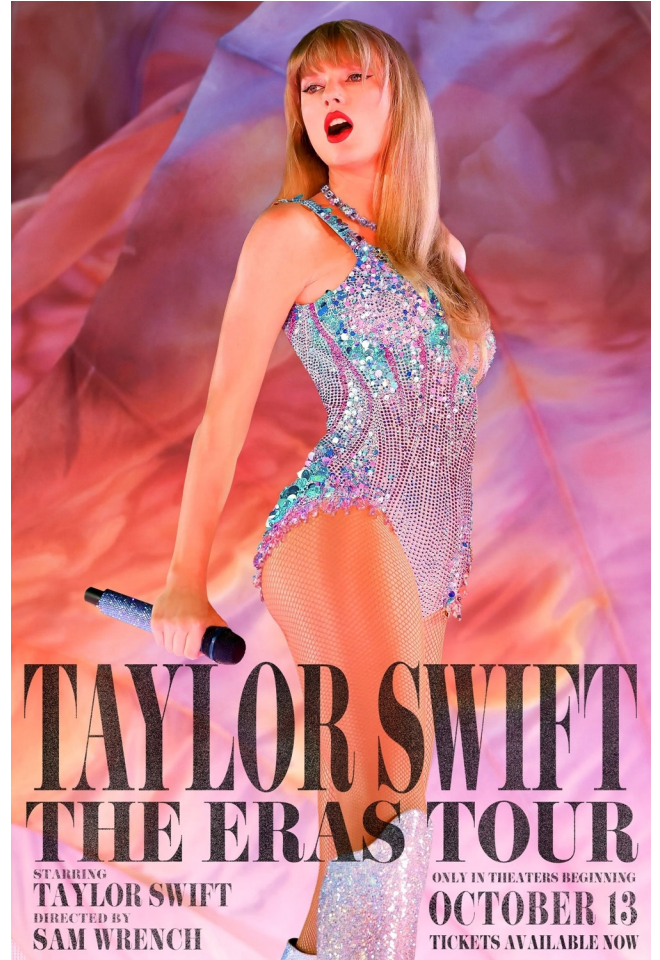
AN ERA TO REMEMBER: THE TAYLOR SWIFT MOVIE

By Addison Cusack

Are you a fan of Taylor Swift? Well, if you are, I recommend going to see “Taylor Swift: The Eras Tour Movie. As a dedicated Swiftie, I really enjoyed it!

Taylor Swift is an American singer and songwriter who recently released a movie of one of her many concerts. The movie is great for people who don't have enough money to go see the concert or for people who love Taylor Swift. This movie was a great experience for Swifties. The movie theater sold popcorn buckets and other souvenirs like drink cups and posters. If you have ever been to one of Taylor's concerts or to the movie, you would know how she sings a few songs from each of her albums. Then she usually picks two songs each night as a surprise that the fans call surprise songs.

Although seeing the movie on the big screen was not the same as an actual concert, it still felt like I was really there! Fans were chanting, singing along to every song, and standing up to dance! This made it feel like a real concert. Unfortunately, I didn't get a popcorn bucket because they were all sold out, but I still had a wonderful experience. I was happy to be able to go and see Taylor Swift on the big screen. So if you can't see her on tour live in concert, I 100% suggest going to see it at the movie theater. You won't regret it!



NOTRE DAME ENIGMAS

By Connor Law

Let's put your mind to the test. Crack these conundrums!

Riddle #1:

*I have oceans, yet no water.
I have forests, yet no trees.
I have mountains, yet no snow.
What am I?*

Scrambled!

Unscramble these words:
INSAP (Hint: Country) _____
NESETSV (Hint: Teacher) _____
ULRRE (Hint: School Item) _____
PIZPEIR (Hint: Teacher) _____

Riddle #2:

*I am measured in hours
I live to die
I go fast when I am skinny
And slow when I am fat
Yet always I die with the wind
What am I?*

(Answers on the last page!)

DEXTER, THE FAMILY'S PHANTOM

A Spooky Story By Madelyn Martz

Once there was a ghost named Dexter. He had caretakers, who were the humans who lived in the house he was trapped in. Dexter will never forget the first year of living with them.

Dexter was talking with his friend, Buddy, on the phone.

"Hey!" Buddy greeted Dexter.

"Hello," Dexter dully greeted back.

Buddy made a "mhm" sound, for of course Buddy could read Dexter like a book, of course they've been friends since the day they turned into ghosts.

"It's nothing," Dexter lied.

Dexter decided to tell Buddy after Buddy whined and whined. A few minutes prior, Dexter was making sure the house was the most dusty, dirty house it had been in centuries, then Dexter wanted to tell Buddy about his good deeds around the house. Then it happened— the humans had come. Now, Dexter wouldn't mind humans moving into his house, but he had watched their every move making sure the house he had just dirtied wasn't clean.

The mom of the house, Emily said, "This house is absolutely DISGUSTING."

This hurt Dexter's feelings. Was the house not dirty enough? He was definitely thinking the opposite Emily was talking about.

The teenager, Danny, had said, "Wow, and I thought my old room was dirty."

Then Dexter realized what was happening. First thing he realized was that the humans were shaming the dirtiness of the house, and now he learned why humans had brooms and dusters. Second, he realized that they were moving! Then Emily's oldest child, Sarah, had come to see the house too, but her opinion didn't matter to Dexter.

Dexter decided that he would allow this for a few months, and in those few months he would live in the attic because no human is brave enough to go into the attic. Or so he thought.

In a month Emily decided she would move Sarah into the attic, when it would be all renovated. Dexter had heard this conversation because either the floor is really thin, or humans talk really loud (he realized later that it was both reasons). Dexter's opinion about this matter actually wasn't bad. He wouldn't mind sharing a room with Sarah; she seems nice. So in a few weeks Sarah had moved into the attic.

"AH!" Sarah screamed.

Dexter jumped as he was frightened by this sudden noise. Dexter swerved and hid behind the bed. Suddenly, Sarah came rushing down the stairs.

"MOM!" Sarah screamed.

"Woah, woah, woah, don't be screaming in this house," Buddy scolded Sarah. Of course he knew she couldn't hear him because he was a ghost, and that is just impossible.

"Excuse me," Sarah responded.

Buddy seemed surprised because he thought Sarah was human, not a ghost.

"So, are you a ghost??" Buddy asked perplexed.

"What?" Sarah asked; she thought Buddy was a plumber for the company her mom had hired.

"Aren't you one of us?" Buddy asked.

DEXTER CONT.

“One of what?” Sarah said cluelessly.

“Aren’t you a ghost?” Buddy was certainly confused.

“You’re not very funny.” Sarah was thinking a worker was just playing with her.

“No, no, I’m serious, have you seen Dexter anywhere? I need to talk to him; he said there were humans moving in. He asked me to help scare them off, funny one he is, humans can’t even see us, nor hear us.” Buddy said, shortly after cackling.

“Uh, you’re kind of spooking me.”

“Oh sorry, I’ll have to play this ‘trick’ on the humans later, thanks for the suggestion.”

“Wait,” Sarah said. Sarah reached for Buddy’s plumber uniform, suddenly she could see her hand through Buddy’s ribcage.

“AH-” Sarah started before her mom yelled to her.

“MOM COME IN THE LIVING ROOM,” Sarah screamed while Buddy hid behind the lamp. Sarah tried explaining to her mother that she had seen a person, wait, no, not a person, a ghost. Sarah had pointed where Buddy was standing awkwardly. Though Emily saw nothing, Sarah tried telling her brother too but he didn’t believe her either. Sarah then tried telling her friends about her encounter but they didn’t believe her either.

A couple months went by and Sarah kept seeing things, like shadows, and weird clouds of dust when she tried to take a picture. The chances of getting those humans out of Dexter’s house is the same as the chance you will see a chainsaw and a tree becoming friends, not possible. As Sarah became more skeptical about the inhuman creatures in her house, Dexter was also having trouble booting the family out of his house, making him really angry. Then Dexter realized that he could become sort of acquaintances with the humans so he can get his house back and dusty again. So Dexter did the most logical thing to do, call Buddy. Buddy had told Dexter about his incident with Sarah, so he thought maybe he could make that happen again just with more talking and less scaring.

“SARAH!” Dexter screamed as loud as he can.

“Woah, don’t scream,” Buddy had told Dexter.

“My bad.” A few minutes later they heard a “WHAT?” they had a small inkling that was Sarah.

“We need to talk to you,” Dexter quietly shouted back.

“Okay.”

“What’s up Dann-” Sarah trailed off after she saw the plumber again.

“Hello, Sarah!” Dexter greeted her.

“THERE’S ANOTHER ONE?” Sarah said, spooked.

“We come in peace!” Dexter exclaimed, trying to calm Sarah down. When they finally got Sarah to calm down they had negotiated quietly, Sarah still somewhat freaked out, but she still understood where Dexter was coming from because she had been in the same situation.

So a couple years flew by and Dexter had promised not to share a room with Sarah after she had found out he had been living in her room. So, Dexter now lives in the basement, his favorite place in the house, and he kept it the messiest thing you had ever seen.

Now, if your basement is possibly really dirty and dusty you might have a ghost as well, let’s hope not a scary one



THE CHRISTMAS STORY

By Addison Cusack

There once was a girl named Charlotte. She was always a kind girl who just wanted to do what's right. Charlotte was very happy because it was Christmas, but for some reason, it didn't feel like Christmas. It felt wrong. "Mom, I really want this shiny and pink bike," Charlotte said.

"I'm not able to buy that right now honey, I really can't afford it," her mom replied.

"Ok," said Charlotte in a low, disappointed voice. "That's fine."

Charlotte went up to her room when she heard a loud bang in her closet. She was worried about what was inside and didn't want to look. She got up and looked at her closet door as she approached it slowly. She opened the closet a crack and what was inside shocked her. She raced back and fell on her bed as a person dressed in all red came out of the closet. As he turned around she realized who it was. It was SANTA CLAUS. "Ho ho ho," said Santa cheerfully.

Charlotte looked like a reindeer in headlights. She always wanted to meet the real Santa Claus. "Hi Santa," she said happily.

"Hi Charlotte, I need your help," Santa said in a panicked voice.

"What's wrong Santa? What do you need help with?" Charlotte asked in confusion.

"My reindeer are missing and I need your help to find them," Santa said nervously and quietly.

"Ok Santa I'll help you," said Charlotte happily.

They went off to the North Pole to go inspect the last place the reindeer had been seen. They saw footprints leading through the snow. They followed the footprints and found a carrot that Dasher had left behind. The footprints kept going until they just stopped and then she saw it. The reindeer were flying around in the air in MINNESOTA!

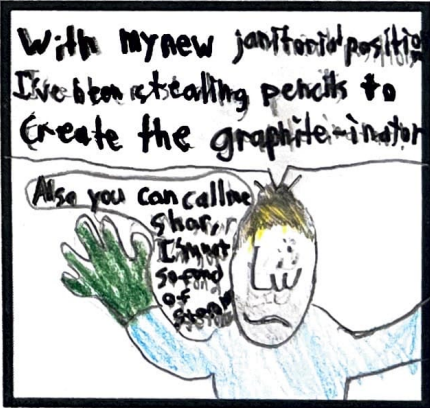
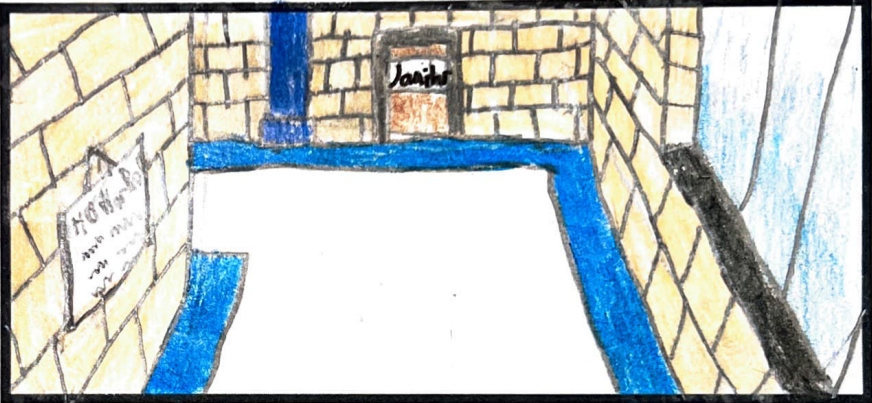
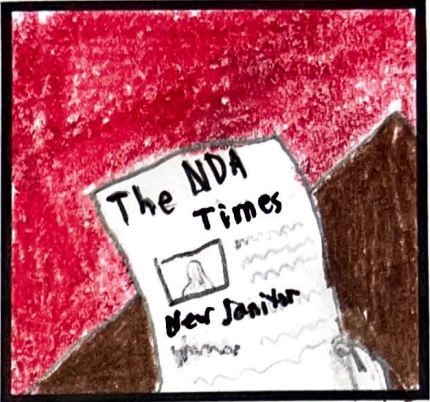
They came down to the ground as Charlotte hopped on. They brought her through every state and saw the good and the bad of everywhere. She brought the reindeer back to Santa and saved Christmas. Santa asked her what she had learned and she replied, "I learned that I'm lucky for what I have and I shouldn't be sad for what I don't have."

When she got home she walked over to her mom and hugged her. She told her mom that she didn't need the bike but her mom responded and said, "Well that's too bad because I bought you the bike."

Charlotte was so happy and she hugged her mom so tight and said that she was so happy and that she loved her.

That day she learned that the true meaning of Christmas is not getting gifts from Santa, but it's about spending time with family and being grateful for what you have.

COMIC / CARTOON: THE EXAGGERATED MR. BARTON'S ADVENTURES



And so, all the pencils were returned, and Shar was defeated for now...



SUPER MARIO ODYSSEY: QUITE POSSIBLY THE BEST MARIO EVER

By Connor Prendergast

Super Mario Odyssey is a great game, and I'm here to tell you why. Let's start with the story, being a Mario game, it's relatively barebones, but better than most Mario games. Bowser has kidnapped Peach and plans to have a wedding. They travel around on a giant airship, stealing things from kingdoms for the wedding, like a dress or a ring. Mario follows on his own hat-shaped airship, and has to run and jump his way through several kingdoms and chase after Bowser.

Now that's all well and good, but the star of the show is Cappy. Cappy is your companion throughout this adventure, and his abilities are quite impressive. For one thing you can throw him, which can act as an attack, or if you throw him onto certain enemies or objects, Mario will be able to control them! Have you ever wanted to play as a goomba? Now you can! This feature provides several interesting ways to traverse through the many kingdoms. You could become an octopus that shoots water to jet around, or a power line to zip at the speed of electricity! Alongside that, Cappy also provides numerous extra ways to platform around the world. Hitting Cappy provides for a small bounce which is extremely useful in tandem with Mario's other moves. Staples like diving and rolling are back, and better than ever.

Now I will talk about what I think makes this one of if not the best Mario game: the fast strats. If you're good at executing Mario's moves and using Cappy, you can skip huge portions of challenges, but I haven't even told you the best part about this. The developers intended for you to do this! In several places, you can find extra platforms or little details to help experienced players go through the game quicker. This is even incorporated into bosses; nearly every boss has some way to hit its weak point faster or skip cycles. For example, in the battle with Bowser, you need to grab his hat, which you can use to punch him, and then avoid a bunch of fireballs and bombs, but if you're quick with grabbing the hat and getting close to him, you can hit him before he starts jumping around. Or the battle with this massive robot, you're supposed to hit its bombs back at it and break its legs using a bird that can extend its nose, but instead of doing this, you can scale the legs of the mech (a big robot) without breaking them, and hit the weak point much faster, and after this, it would normally throw you off of it, but by carefully maneuvering through the air, you can get right back on and hit it again! These, combined with many other reasons, is why I think that it's the best Mario game.

WHAT'S GREAT WITH NATE: GETTING TO KNOW 7TH GRADER, NATHAN WODAJE

By: Addison Cusack and Mia Desiderio

Have you ever wondered about what life is like for a 7th grader? Well, we sat down with Nathan Wodaje, a 7th grade student at NDA. Nathan likes to start his day with a bowl of fruit loops because they are very colorful and he loves the fruity taste. After a hard-working day at school, Nathan gets home and does his homework. He is involved in many sports, for example, cross country. We asked Nathan what keeps him from quitting. "My amazing teammates encourage me to keep going, and I couldn't do it without them," Nathan said. Nathan is 5'10, but he wishes that he was 6'0 because then he could dunk a basketball.

In addition to cross country, Nathan also does track, basketball, soccer, and Tae Kwon Do. His favorite sport is soccer because he's been playing since he was three years old, and his whole family loves watching and playing soccer. "Playing sports has helped me to make many friends and become more social outside of school," he states. "I want to win my soccer championship because I believe that this year the team is very good, and we can actually do it if we apply ourselves," he further explained. Unfortunately, the Notre Dame Saints varsity blue soccer team did not win the championship game this year. However, the team put a lot of effort into the game and are ready to play again next year. Nathan won the Sportsmanship Award after the game because of his school spirit and respectful attitude.

How far does his love of soccer go? Someday, he wants to be a professional soccer player. "I think my family would love to see me succeed in something I love and they all love to watch soccer so it would be perfect."

Nathan has other interests besides sports. His favorite school subject is math. He states, "Mr. B always jokes around with everyone and he makes math class very interesting." In fact, when we asked Nathan what he likes best about NDA, he said, "I like the teachers the most because they always make every subject fun and they play fun review games to study for tests and quizzes." After interviewing Nathan and learning more about him, we found out that he is such a great person and is very nice to everyone. We really loved interviewing Nathan because we got to know our fellow classmate better.



Notre Dame Enigmas Answers:

Riddles: A map, a candle | Scrambled!: Spain, Stevens, Ruler, Zippier