

# THE SPRESS

November 22, 2023

\* MR. RIECK

\* ANDY WARHOL

\* CAELYN'S MIXTAPE

## It costs nothing to be kind

Caelyn Robbins



**Mr. Strickler, Desiree Philman, and Megan Beam celebrate kindness week by showing gratitude.**

Kindness Week is a week to celebrate being kind around South Park High School. During Kindness Week, celebrated November 13-17, students were asked to wear certain colors based on a word to be represented that day. On Monday, students wore green for gratitude and were awarded eagle feathers for saying thank you. On Tuesday, students wore red for helpfulness and were rewarded for helping faculty and classmates. On Wednesday, students wore yellow for positivity. During first period, students were asked to write encouraging messages on sticky notes that were placed on desks and around the school. On Thursday, students wore purple for politeness and were rewarded for respectful gestures. On Friday, it was blue and white day for eagle pride. Students were rewarded for any form of encouragement or kindness seen around the school. In a world where bullying is prevalent on social media and in the real world, it's always important to remember to be kind.

## Move over for Movember

Addi Yochum



**Mr. Boles is proud of his mustache!**

This month the high school is celebrating Movember, an initiative celebrated every year to help bring attention to men's mental and physical health issues. Around the school, many students have noticed the posters encouraging them to participate!

Mr. Boles is encouraging male students and teachers at the high school to grow mustaches this month. He found out about Movember several years ago, from some friends in New York. He said, "It started out as an excuse to grow a mustache but turned into a cause that is incredibly important to me." He also said, "I felt this was a great way to bring attention to this issue in a fun way but that asks for immediate attention."

You might be wondering what growing a mustache can do for men's health. Mr. Boles explained that "when you look at someone with a mustache who doesn't typically have one, it sparks conversation. When someone asks: hey, what's with the mustache? It begins a conversation about the issue and reason you decided to grow one." You can inform them about why you're growing the

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## Move over for Movember (con't)

Addi Yochum

mustache, and even encourage them to speak up to someone about their mental and physical health.

Movember is significant to men who have anxiety about speaking up, or those who don't want to. Mr. Boles said "Anxiety and depression are issues all genders and people face whether young or old. As mentioned earlier, men are less likely to seek help out of fear or shame." Society has this idea that men aren't allowed to show their feelings, or talk about them.

For women, or for those who don't want to grow a mustache, you can participate in something called "Move for Movember." You can count your steps for the month, and log them into a Google Sheet and send it to Mr. Boles by November 29th.

Make sure you keep your mental and physical health on the forefront, and don't be afraid to speak up about it. If you're growing a mustache this month, make sure to have your picture taken on November 21st. The mustache with the most votes gets a one-of-a-kind reward!

## From soup cans to silk screens

Callie Heynes

The year is set on the heels of the Great Depression in the late 1930's in downtown Pittsburgh. A little boy sits at his dining room table sketching and reading comic books. This scene was often a reality for a boy named Andrew Warhola, later recognized as Andy Warhol. He didn't know it at the time, but he would go on for decades inspiring generations by bringing flashes of color and new art forms to a once dreary world.

Andy Warhol is now known for his wild hair, exotic forms of art, and crazy controversies. However, his life was not always so glamorous or exciting. He had very humble beginnings as a first generation American born child to immigrant parents from Slovakia. In 1928, during the Great Depression, Andrew Warhola was born as the youngest of three brothers. He suffered from chronic illnesses throughout his childhood, often succumbing to dizziness or involuntary movements, which required him to stay at home for weeks on end.

His mother would comfort him by bringing him comic books and drawings she had done for him. In his early art works, it was clear that Andrew had gathered inspiration from these tender moments with his mother. During his late teen years, Andrew's father passed away. His father's last wish was for his son, Andrew, to continue his education.

Andrew was accepted into Carnegie Institute of Technology, now known as Carnegie Mellon, in downtown Pittsburgh. However, he struggled with college and almost dropped out his first year. A kind professor took sympathy on Andrew and allowed him to make up his work. Graduating with a degree in Pictorial Design, Andrew moved to New York and began seriously advertising his art work with the help of his mother. Why does the world only know him as Andy Warhol then? In the midst of his complex life, the story is simple- a publisher accidentally misspelled his name, forever changing how future generations would remember this remarkable artist.

Most of his well known works include a Campbell's soup can, copied in many bright colors that other artists wouldn't have thought was artistic. To most people, especially Pittsburghers, Campbell's soup was an American household staple, which was the exact message Warhol wanted to portray. He constantly thought of a day in the life as a typical American and how people perceive things in different ways. Not only was his portrayal of the once-thought-to-be-regular-object new and interesting to all, but his technique of reproducing art in a print-like way was radical and allowed art to be created quicker. Use of inanimate objects and reproducing images in color using print was something that no one else had thought of at that time.

Andy Warhol also gained popularity through controversial thoughts and actions like same sex interests and relationships, nudity, drug use, excessive alcohol use and other eccentric behaviors. His support of these indulgences helped others openly embrace similar interests. Unfortunately, fame and a bizarre lifestyle also made Warhol a hypocrite. Andy was known to steal artistic ideas from others without giving proper credit to the originator and he was known to treat others poorly, which may have lead to him getting shot at one point.

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## From soup cans to silk screens (con't)

Callie Heynes

Recently, students took a field trip with Mrs. Finberg to visit the museum. One sophomore, Owen Stillwell, shared why he enjoyed the field trip. "It's a typical underdog story since Warhol came from nothing. He captures the culture of the period very well so it's important in a retrospective sense." Decades later, interest in Warhol's life and art work is still prominent. In 2022, Warhol's silk screen painting of Marilyn Monroe's face sold in under four minutes of bidding, for \$195 million, making it the highest priced American work of art sold at an auction. If you are interested in learning more about Andy Warhol's art and life, you can visit a local museum dedicated to Warhol in the North Shore.

### IMPORTANT DATES

November 22: Early dismissal @ 11:00 am  
November 23-27: Thanksgiving break  
November 30: Deadline to participate in November  
December 7: Hanukkah starts  
December 22: Early dismissal @ 11:00 am  
December 25 - January 2: Winter break  
December 25: Christmas  
December 26: Kwanzaa begins  
January 1: New Year's Day



Students wrap up their field trip with a group photo featuring Warhol's couch.



## Spooky or jolly?

Savannah Booth

To commemorate the 30th anniversary of *The Nightmare Before Christmas*, a holiday debate that's been brought up for several years is coming back around. Is *The Nightmare Before Christmas* a Halloween or Christmas movie? To help spark the joy of the movie, theaters around Pittsburgh have been showing the movie to celebrate the big anniversary. People tend to be 50-50 on the month they choose to watch the movie, which gives them a decision on which holiday they will choose.

I recognize *The Nightmare Before Christmas* as a Halloween movie. All the characters of the movie are Halloween-like, rather than Christmas. Characters like Jack, Sally, Oogie Boogie, and Zero all resemble Halloween characteristics. Also, Tim Burton's style is more of a Halloween type which correlates to the rest of his movies like *Coraline*, *Edward Scissorhands*, and *Frankenweenie*. Although the Halloween spirit is apparent in the movie and talked about, none of the songs correlate with Christmas either. Director Henry Selick was asked his opinion of the debate and responded with, "It's a Halloween movie, I don't think it can get any clearer than that," which he stated during a Q&A at the Colorado Telluride Horror Show Film Festival.

Many students at South Park High School were also asked their opinions on the debate and some tended to get very interested in the debate. Several students strongly believe that *The Nightmare Before Christmas* is and will always be a Halloween movie. Many have commented on aspects of the movie like the characters and music which follow a Halloween.

While Halloween is the right choice, some believe Christmas is the vibe of the movie. Several in South Park High School describe the movie to be Christmas because of the scenery. Many explain that by Jack trying to become Santa Claus, the movie would classify as a Christmas movie. The title of the movie is *The Nightmare Before Christmas* so could the movie really lean towards Christmas rather than Halloween because of the title?

Even though this debate will continue for many more years, it is a fun way to see what your friend's opinions are, even if you don't agree with them. Make sure to watch the movie this November to celebrate the movie coming out 30 years ago.



Listed above are main characters from *The Nightmare Before Christmas*. Oogie Boogie, Jack, and Sally.

## WRITING CONTEST

Create an original two sentence holiday story using your own thoughts. This should be school appropriate and creative. All submissions must be given to Mrs. Surovchak in room 115 or emailed to [SPress@sparksd.org](mailto:SPress@sparksd.org) by December 1, 2023. The best two sentence story will be published in the next issue of *The SPress*, and the writer will receive a gift card.

**Birthday corner**

**November**

Elizabeth Penn- 16th  
 Jayla Thorn-16th  
 Aiden Papciak- 17th  
 Jude Papciak- 17th  
 Justin Papciak- 17th  
 Erin Thagard- 18th  
 Alyssa Rider- 19th  
 Andrew Costello- 19th  
 Autumn Moore- 20th  
 Pigeon Petruska- 20th  
 Ashton Jones- 21st  
 Gino Derenzo- 22nd  
 Luca Ranallo- 22nd  
 Ian Hanna- 22nd  
 Matthew Harmer- 22nd  
 Carter Piel- 23rd  
 Troy Miller- 25th  
 Donald Schafer- 26th  
 Nika Contakos- 27th  
 Alexander Lashley- 27th  
 Ariella Moelber- 29th  
 Janiah Ligon- 29th  
 Riannon Baumiller- 30th

**December**

Owen Mahalik- 2nd  
 Alaina Dietz- 2nd  
 Holden Finale- 2nd  
 Robert Lenzi- 2nd  
 Corey Mooney- 3rd  
 Grishma Khadka- 4th  
 Layla Hickey-Kareem- 5th  
 Luke Miles- 6th  
 Andrew Molter- 6th  
 Erika Doeru- December 6th  
 Mikayla Tuttle- 6th  
 Addisyn Petrovich- 7th  
 Rashu Mongar- 7th  
 Noah Fiscus- 8th  
 Lajit Subedi- 10th  
 Jana Snyder- 12th  
 Kyle Batchelor- 12th  
 Zachary Ludwig- 14th  
 Evan Ng- 14th  
 Alicia Riberich- 14th  
 Izzy Carpenter- 14th  
 Isabella Jones- 14th  
 Seth Stofik- 15th

**MOVEMBER**



**Attention students and staff!**

To help bring awareness to men’s health issues, grow a mustache (no beards), and have your picture taken in room 108 by Thursday, November 30. To raise money for the cause, students and staff will vote for the best mustache, and the winner will receive a one-of-a-kind prize. For additional details, see Mr. Boles.

## Skating into the winter season

Megan Beam

The winter season is upon us and fun activities will begin to emerge. Ice skating, tubing, making snowmen, and more, but if you like to stay warm inside, there's stuff for you to do too!

### Take a Trip to Seven Springs

Seven Springs has so much to offer during the winter season, and it's only about an hour and a half away in Somerset County. Seven Springs offers skiing, snowboarding, snow tubing, and even some indoor activities. There is something for everyone! You can purchase an adult day pass for \$110 (ages 13+) and a child day pass for \$58. You can also get a pass for up to seven days. However, the price goes up depending on the amount of days. Prices for passes will increase on November 19.

### Ice Skating in the Park

As you are probably familiar with, South Park has its very own ice rink down on Corrigan Drive. You can bring your own skates, and if you don't have your own, don't worry. Skates are available to rent for \$2 a person and if your skates are feeling dull, you can get them sharpened for \$4.50. For all the hockey players, stick time is available for \$7 on Mondays from 3:00 to 5:00 and Wednesdays from 8:00 to 9:30. If you are interested, you can check out the Allegheny County website.

### Slipping, Sliding, and Sledding

Go on a short drive to Sunny Slopes or go right in your backyard. All you need is a hill and a sled to have a good time! Sledding is a fun way to enjoy a cold winter day for free. You could also gather up your friends and family and have a huge snowball fight. If that's a little too brutal, you could make a snowman. Roll up three snowballs decreasing in size, stack them up, give him a carrot nose and button eyes, and you're done! Maybe give him a scarf and a hat to keep him nice and warm.

### Christmas Lights

There are so many displays of Christmas lights around Pittsburgh. Turn on your favorite holiday music and take a drive down to the Pittsburgh Zoo from November 24th to December 30th. There's thousands of sparkly, eco-friendly LED lights in the shape of marvelous animals and classic Christmas characters. The route you will take is about an hour long. There's also a beautiful show of lights at Phipps Conservatory Winter Flower Show and Light Garden. The Winter Flower Show is available from November 17th to January 7th. The show contains beautiful twinkling lights along with Christmas trees and poinsettias of all different colors.

### Too Cold Outside?

Round up all your friends and family and have a fun get together! You could take a trip to the store and buy everything you need to bake and decorate cookies. There are tons of Christmas and holiday cookie recipes for you to try. Sugar cookies, snickerdoodles, jam thumbprint cookies, Gingerbread men, and peanut butter blossoms just to name a few. You could also make a gingerbread house for your little gingerbread men to live in and customize it just how you want it. Once you finish making and decorating your cookies, you can sit down, eat the cookies, and enjoy a holiday movie with some hot chocolate. Secret Santa is a great way to surprise your loved ones with something they've been wanting.

## Caelyn's mixtape

Caelyn Robbins

Welcome to Caelyn's Mixtape, your monthly music recommendation to help expand your taste. Recently, I've been listening to Aldn, a hyperpop synth-pop artist and producer who gained popularity in early 2021 with his single "What was the Last Thing You Said" ft. Glaive. Aldn has been in the hyperpop music scene for some time now and I've been a fan since the beginning. Something about his music is nostalgic to me and the music I grew up around. In July of 2023, he released an extended play "EP" called "The End" which explains the overarching theme of a relationship from beginning to end. I really enjoy this EP, especially the single from it "Headstrong Gunner". It has a very fast paced electronic infused indie sound that gives me the perfect late night drive vibes. If you have any music suggestions, DM me on instagram @caelyn.robbins



"The End" EP

## Release radar

November 3rd

Kevin Abstract- "Blanket" (rap)

Snail Mail- "Valentine" (alt-indie)

November 10th

Chris Stapleton- "Higher" (country)

PinkPantheress- "Heaven Knows" (bedroom pop)

Rick Ross & Meek Mill- "Too Good To Be True" (rap)

The Kid Laroi- "For the First Time" (pop/rap)

November 17th

Danny Brown- "Quaranta" (rap)

Plain White T's- "Plain White T's" (rock)

2Chainz&LilWayne- "Welcome2Collegrove" (rap)

Kevin Abstract - "Blanket": Former Brockhampton member Kevin Abstract recently released a single called "Blanket" to tease his new album by the same name. Kevin said in an interview with Stereogum "I wanted to make, like, a Sunny Day Real Estate, Nirvana, Modest Mouse type of record. But I wanted it to hit like a rap album." That being said, his audience hopes for a more indie-rock inspired album rather than Kevin's usual rap.

Snail Mail - "Valentine": Singer and Guitarist Lindsey Jordan best known as Snail Mail delivered one of the best indie albums of the 2010's called "Lush". Now she has a new album "Valentine" coming out to show the ins and outs of heartbreak.

Chris Stapleton - "Higher": Chris Stapleton gained popularity in 2015 after performing with pop star Justin Timberlake at the 2015 Country Music Association Awards (CMA'S). That year he took home all three awards he was nominated for. Chris Stapleton is best known for his "Tennessee Whiskey". His new album "Higher" will contain his new song "White Horse" that has already amassed over 3.6 million listens.



Chris Stapleton

## Release radar (con't)

Caelyn Robbins

**PinkPantheress - "Heaven Knows":** "Heaven Knows" will be PinkPantheress's 3rd album. After her song "Break it Off" became popular on tiktok her rise to fame didn't take long. She has a song with the female rapper Ice Spice and has a song featured in the new Barbie Movie. Her new album will contain her very popular single "Boy's a liar" ft. Ice Spice, alongside many other features.

**Rick Ross & Meek Mill - "Too Good To Be True":** After Meek Mill was signed to Rick Ross's record label Maybach Music Group (MMG) in 2011 a collab album from the two rappers has been long awaited. According to Genius (an online music database company similar to Lyrical Lemonade), "Too Good To Be True" will have a song called "SHAQ & KOBE" ft. Shaquille O'Neal.

**The Kid Laroi - "For the First Time":** The Kid Laroi, best known for his song "Stay" ft. Justin Bieber, is releasing his long awaited album "For the First Time". This album includes 20 tracks featuring other artists such as: Central Cee, BabyDrill, Future, YoungBoy Never Broke Again, and D4vd. His song "What Just Happened" was teased during his tour in 2022, leaving people waiting a little over a year for this song.

**Danny Brown - "Quaranta":** Danny Brown is an experimental hip hop artist who has been making music since 2008. His most recent album was a collaboration with the hip hop artist Jpegmafia. Danny recently released a new single called "Tantor" which will be on his new album. The album was produced alongside MIKE, an American producer who has produced songs for Earl Sweatshirt and The Alchemist. He has a unique hip hop sound perfect for a collaboration with Danny Brown.

**Plain White T's - "Plain White T's":** We all know the Plain White T's for their very popular song "Hey There Delilah". The band has been known for this song since its release in 2006. Their new album will have the same nostalgic sound the band offers through every album.

**2 Chainz & Lil Wayne - "Welcome 2 Collegrove":** Their new collab album will be an addition to their album from 2016 "Collegrove". Lil Wayne best known for his song "Love Me" ft. Drake, and Future. 2 Chainz on the other hand is best known for his song "We Own It" ft. Wiz Khalifa. Both songs have a very different rap sound yet when the two artists join each other in the studio they are able to create an album appealing to many fans. Their new song "Presha" already has over five million listens on spotify.



## Save the shrews

Erika Filous & Jessa Harmer

There are a lot of endangered species in the world. There are also a lot in Pennsylvania. Animals are losing their habitats due to development in housing, agriculture, and energy. Climate change is another big cause for loss of habitat and it affects the species in ways no one can fully predict.

One animal that is endangered is the bog turtle. The bog turtle can be found in southeastern Pennsylvania. With already low numbers, the bog turtle is at great risk of extinction. They have been under the endangered list since 1997. Their main cause of being endangered is fragmentation and forest succession.

Another animal, the Indiana bat, feeds during the winter, in 19 sites. They have habitat losses due to a wide-variety of land development and land use practices that remove forest. They've been listed as an endangered species since 1966.

The American water shrew, more commonly known as the water shrew, is also an endangered animal. The shrew has lost its habitat. They live in the southwestern part of Pennsylvania, found on a few sites such as the Allegheny Plateau.

An animal called the long-eared owl is vulnerable to disturbance of roosts, known as an owl's resting place; increased human activities around roosts have led to abandonment.

The northern flying squirrel also suffers from habitat loss because of lots of downed woody debris. Along with the flying squirrel, the delmarva fox squirrel is losing their habitat due to development and timber harvesting.

The short-eared owl has a small breeding population which allows them to reproduce among themselves. The long-eared bat faces extinction due to the range-wide impacts of white-nose syndrome, which is a deadly disease affecting cave-dwelling bats across the continent.

One last animal, the king rail, a bird, suffers from losses of marshland habitat. Along with many other animals, this bird needs wetlands in order to exist.

There are many endangered species in Pennsylvania. A lot of causes seem to come from habitat loss, dealing with development in housing and agriculture. Using the best habitat management can help these species from extinction and help the environment.

## Teacher SPotlight

Noah Fiscus & Alana Deily

You probably have heard of Mr. Rieck from him raising his voice in the hallway or you heard him on the announcements. He is a goofy and positive person that can make anyone smile. Mr. Rieck is an American Civics teacher at South Park High School.

Mr. Rieck has an interesting history in his teaching career. Rieck said he went to Mercyhurst College, a division II school in Erie, Pennsylvania. He got into teaching because he viewed it as a noble and necessary profession.

When not teaching in school, Rieck loves watching his kids, two boys, engage in sports and band concerts at their school. He also enjoys fishing, trap shooting, and pheasant hunting. Rieck states when he went to school, he would wonder about his teachers' political and social opinions. He states knowing this information has impacted his views on them. He also states that "reliance on technology is much different from when he was in high school."

Rieck says he loves the game of football. He says it has been very good to him, but he said he wouldn't coach it full-time. He thinks that the people he has met through it have been life-changing, but he wouldn't want to do it full-time again. Rieck has also recently retired as the head football coach at South Park but currently is an assistant coach at Bethel Park High School.

In conclusion, Rieck is a well-mannered, goofy guy. Rieck is a multifaceted individual with many fun sides to him, and South Park is definitely lucky to have him.