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THE INDERMERE WORD

MONTHLY DIGITAL PAPER



WINDERMERE CELEBRATES
PINK SHIRT DAY

P. 03

WWW.WINDERMEREWORD.COM



EDITOR'S NOTES

ABOUT THE PAPER

Welcome to The Windermere Word's very first official digital paper! This publication will be the first in a series of monthly releases that will feature articles and other works written by Windermere students. In addition, we have included news and interviews from various clubs and student organizations in the school. All of these features have been put together by the dedicated members of our Planning Committee, who have worked hard to create an optimal reading experience for you.

If you were not previously aware, The Windermere Word was formerly published in a physical newspaper format similar to the one you are currently reading from. Despite the major change in our organization's structure this year, we still wanted to maintain the monthly paper, which was a staple of the Word for many years. With this digital paper, we have updated the look, layout, and the content, in order to provide something that students can enjoy and connect with on a more personal level. By reading these publications, we hope that you will learn new information, discover new ideas, and develop a newfound liking for the written word!

Happy reading, and be sure to have a fantastic two weeks of Spring Break!

ANGUS HO
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

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MEC on the Hot Seat

Find out more about the current MEC boycott and MEC's ties to companies that sell firearms, by writer Christal Do



Rise of Social Media

Does LMAO, LOL, sound familiar? Learn how social media is taking over our lives from Prabhbir Purewal's critical perspective



Windermere Sports

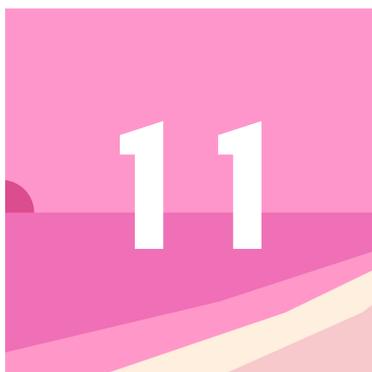
This month, we cover interviews with players from the ultimate Frisbee & basketball teams

ON THE COVER

Pink Shirt Day -

To coincide with bullying awareness month, we gathered the opinions of Windermere students and staff on what Pink Shirt Day means to them.

- Visit page 03 for more



Monthly Rewind

Overview of special events hosted by Windermere clubs and organizations that took place in February

PINK SHIRT DAY – EMBRACE YOUR INDIVIDUALITY

BY JANETTE CHEN & ANNA DINH

What does bullying look like to you? Bullying can be characterized as intentional aggression and dominance over an individual. It can occur in any setting, to people of any background and age. Bullying can come in various forms, ranging from verbal, cyber, to physical. As with everything, bullying comes with consequences. In many cases, it can lower the victim's self-esteem, leading to PTSD, anxiety, depression, and ultimately even suicide. The issue of bullying has become widespread, without enough efforts to resolve this crisis.

In 2007 in Nova Scotia, Charles Mcneil was bullied for wearing a pink shirt on the first day of school. Two students, David Shepherd and Travis Price, saw what was happening. Instead of being bystanders, they created a protest by distributing pink shirts for other students to wear in the school.



As a result, Pink Shirt Day was created, commemorating the day that the two teenagers stood up, and to promote anti-bullying on a global level.

"Buying the shirt doesn't mean as much as knowing the meaning behind it. It stands to support the movement of being individualistic and not pressured. When you're bullied in high school, it shows you many ways to deal with them, for example protesting with others, because of the strength in numbers." - Cameron Chan, Grade 11

Pink Shirt Day is a step towards anti-discrimination and anti-bullying. After taking a stand against the bullies by making a statement with pink shirts, Travis Price and David Shepherd discovered how this initiative could help make a difference in Charles McNeill's life as well as the lives of many others.

"Pink Shirt Day, to me, symbolizes that everyone should be able to be who they are without being worried about being judged or having others commenting," says Ms. Liew, a sponsor teacher for Windermere's Gender-Sexuality Alliance (GSA).

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Today, Pink Shirt Day has expanded into a global movement with the mission to “raise awareness for these issues as well as raise funds to support programs that foster children’s healthy self-esteem” (CKNW Pink Shirt Day). Each year, more and more people are joining in to stand up for who they are and it is evident that Pink Shirt Day has played an important part in stepping in that direction.

“Every instance where they hear something homophobic, students should stand up and say something about the wrongdoing.” - Mr. Mazo

Bullying can happen to anyone and everyone - it holds no prisoners. However, bullies tend to target those who stray away from social norms, for an instance the LGBTQ+ community. Pink Shirt Day also spreads a message revolving around acceptance and self-expression.

“Wear a pink shirt to accept everyone as a member of the human race.” - Mr. Hamlen

“The GSA represents the LGBTQ+ community where it helps those who may be uncomfortable expressing who they are. Pink Shirt Day and GSA support the same thing: Encouraging that people can be whoever they want,” says Nathalie Giang, a student in Grade 11. “In the long term, I want it to be for everyone to feel accepted. My goal is for there to be no need for a Pink Shirt Day, because everyone will be treated equally.”

Pink Shirt Day has been shown to bring the community together through protesting against anti-bullying, and by embracing one another’s individuality. Throughout this day, we hope that everyone will become more mindful of their actions and to encourage kindness within each other. As the saying goes, “Kindness is the greatest gift you can bestow upon one another” (Katharine Hepburn).



MEC ON THE HOT SEAT IN CORRELATION WITH CONSUMER BOYCOTT

BY CHRISTAL DO

MEC - or Mountain Equipment Co-op - has long been known as a company that is committed to socially responsible and environmentally protective movements. They are the go-to store for Canadians who are in search of outdoor gear.

However, MEC has recently been put under the microscope for carrying brands under gun companies. The recent school shooting in Parkland, Florida has sparked a large movement in the United States for tougher laws on gun control to better ensure public safety, and Canadians are hoping that the US will be pressured to do so with Canada's example. While MEC doesn't sell firearms, it does sell products from Vista Outdoor, an American company that also manufactures semi-automatic weapons. Thus, MEC has since been one of the biggest targets in consumer boycotts, and it's hurting their public image. This comes as no surprise, as their mission statement is "to inspire other organizations to be socially and environmentally responsible."

In response to the social media outcry, the co-op decided to suspend its connections with Vista Outdoor on March 1st. Through social media, Canadians have voiced much support, and this action will hopefully bring about change in our neighbours across the border.

Unfortunately, gun laws in the United States have remained stagnant despite the various tragedies that have occurred in past years. It's simply too easy for an average American to obtain possession of a dangerous weapon.



The National Rifle Association (NRA) is heavily involved in the lobbying of these guns laws, determined to protect the rules that stand unwavering and untouched by the US government. Political interests of business and industry have dominated over the people's interests for safety and well-being. This makes us wonder how much time it will take for the government to take the public's basic needs into interest before being influenced by NRA representatives.

Countries such as Australia have experienced mass shootings in the past, but it only took one of these tragedies to occur before a change was made. There have been 0 school shootings since then. So how much longer will the US government have their citizens wait for? One can only hope that stricter laws on gun control will be implemented soon.

MEC's actions may inspire change in our neighbours down the border, or it may not. Ultimately, the people have the power to voice their opinions, but the responsibility of listening to these ideas lies on the shoulders of the US government.

THE RISE OF SOCIAL MEDIA

BY PRABHBIR PUREWAL

Assimilating oneself into today's culture is reliant on the basis that we are able to utilize technology to its greatest potential. Humans have evolved tremendously throughout the years, and we are now at a period in time in which we are surrounded by countless technologies. When was the last time you called a friend instead of sending them a message with abbreviated text? When was the last time you sent a friend a meaningful letter instead of writing them a "tbh" on their Facebook wall where hundreds could see it? Your answer to those questions is probably the same as mine: A really long time ago. The rise of technology has also led to the demise of physical interactions. Technology is amazing, but has it caused us to reach a point where we've lost touch with reality?



Day by day, I find myself relying more and more on online communication, and not truly valuing the time I spend in person with my peers. LOL, LMFAO, and ROFL are all phrases that have become a staple in communication between peers in this day and age. How many times do you really share a laugh whilst sending those messages? Personally, I rarely do and I send those abbreviated messages just because they have become natural to me. We sit stone-faced behind our illuminated touch screens as we send them to our social media friends. I say social media friends because in reality, how many of those 600 Facebook friends do we really talk to on a daily basis? Our developed tendency to message one another on social media platforms such as Instagram, Facebook and Snapchat has surpassed our tendency to speak in person. As a generation that is moving closer towards Virtual Reality, I believe that we teenagers must now challenge the norms and truly get in touch with reality.

WARRIORS' SPORTS UPDATES

Basketball



Interview with Senior Girls Basketball Player, Gabrielle Parman

Q: How do you think the Warriors played this season?

A: "I personally think we played hard, worked hard, and we were all dedicated to learn and grow as a team."

Q: How can they improve next season?

A: "What we could have improved on was communication on the court."

Q: What was the main highlight of this season?

A: "I think my main highlight for this season was spraining my ankle twice, but still being able to cheer on my team when I could, being able to see the team's growth over the season, and making new friendships with my teammates!"

Ultimate Frisbee



Interview with Senior Ultimate Captain, Henry Nguyen

Q: What is your strategy for playing a successful season?

A: "Definitely working hard to improve myself in every aspect of this sport: throwing, speed, and communication. I've spent a lot of time with the coaches in improving my game, and I hope the hard work pays off!"

Q: What is the most important aspect of Ultimate Frisbee?

A: "Being able to communicate on the field with the other players is a huge aspect that many players usually forget about. Being vocal on the field is a great way to let your teammates know what you're going to do, and is a great way to improve coordination during games. "

Q: What are you most excited for as one of the team captains?

A: "I'm most excited to be able to play with returning players from last year and the new faces that joined this year!"

Artist's

YIN + YANGSTER

Corner

BY LAURA YANG



" *Sigh* Just found out I was rejected again to something I applied for cartooning-related. It's not easy being cheesy. Oops, I mean it's not easy doing this cartooning thing. For those not in the know, it is a fiercely competitive profession. FIERCELY!! There is a LOT of amazing talent out there, some have yet to be discovered. People seem to think that it's easy establishing yourself out there, but I suppose like anything worthwhile, it takes a lot of dedication, discipline, perseverance and grit to see these things through. Some might even argue that luck is a factor.

Well, back to our scheduled program!

So Valentine's is practically here. I decided to do a zombie-themed one as it actually coincides with The Walking Dead's midseason premiere. I'm not really a huge fan of gore and gratuitous violence but it's one of the shows I watch with my husband. So for the sake of our marriage... ha.

Nothing much to it... Happy Zombie Valentine's Day! "

" Well, not sure if y'all are aware but, today is Chinese New Year (though celebrated by Vietnamese, Koreans et al). It's sort of like the Christmas of China. When I lived in Taiwan, you'd get a week off of work. Businesses were closed. People would migrate to their home town and spend lots of time with family eating good food and playing games. Kids would get red envelopes filled with moola. Said kids would then use this new-found moola to purchase candy or firecrackers. The foods you eat are homophonous with words that generally mean long life, health, money etc. Certain traditions before the actual Lunar New Year Day include sweeping up house (doing so after the new year means sweeping away all your good luck), preparing yourself to be fresh for a fresh year — haircuts and new clothes... Anyway, if you'd like more information on this National Holiday in China/Taiwan, visit <http://www.chinesenewyears.info/chinese-new-year-history.php>.

Happy Lunar New Year! "



Like the Yin + Yangster Facebook page and check out new comics at www.yangstercomics.com

Want your artwork or photography to be featured in next month's issue? Submit your work at www.windermere.com

WE ARE WINDERMERE

Check out some of the exclusive student features from We Are Windermere!

“I have a love-hate relationship with Valentine's Day because Valentine's Day is just a holiday created by Hallmark and all the chocolate prices are raised, but I do like the part where you show how much you care about the people in your life and how much you love them.” - Kelly (Grade 11)



WE ARE WINDERERE



“During spring break, I might go to Hawaii and eat poke, which is like a sashimi salad. And then I will go home, and I will be back at school.”
- Andrew (Grade 9)

For more features, visit:
www.facebook.com/WeAreWindermere

ORGANIZATIONS

OPPORTUNITIES

WE CLUB



WE EDUCATE

The year is slowly winding down, and for many of you, it means time to start reflecting on yourself. What should I be doing next year? Which clubs should I join? How do I go outside of my comfort zone and be different next year?

Just as those thoughts are clouding your mind, Windermere WE Club will be hosting an empowering event, "WE Educate." An action-packed event filled with empowering speakers, raffles and many learning takeaways. Focusing on topics such as Impactful Volunteering, Going Outside of Your Comfort Zone and Breaking Down Walls. Be on the look out for more upcoming information!

WMG TPOT & BTS FESTIVAL

TPOT - The Windermere Marketing Group's annually hosted networking event, The Professionals of Tomorrow, helped to build confidence in students within the professional world. This event allowed students to discuss their future aspirations with professionals in all areas, and helped them obtain a better sense of their post secondary pursuits.

Back to School Festival - With the summer days coming to an end, the Back to School Festival was a great way to start off the school year right! There were a ton of cool games and prizes, delicious food and amazing performances from choir, the teacher band, Main-Uh-Vent, and more!



WINDERMERE MARKETING GROUP

GRAD COMMITTEE



Windermere's Grad Committee is a senior, student-led board, designed to coordinate Grad activities. Our main objective is to plan the year-end banquet dinner and dance. This year, we have designed a fun-filled calendar of events that will not only engage the community of our school, but most importantly create lasting memories for the Graduating Class of 2018.

DEBATE CLUB



Windermere's Debate Team aims to voice students' potential while fostering courage and confidence in public speaking through mock debates. We've represented Windermere in two cross-school competitions, one of them being Regionals. As the only East Side school, we competed with against various private schools and won two debates throughout the tournament!

WINDERMERE RATANAK CLUB



WRE Ratanak, the youth arm of Ratanak International, works to create awareness of issues faced by Cambodian children & families. This year, we've held many fundraisers including samosa sales, Krispy Kreme, and upcoming car washes. Through fundraising, we provide financial support to "Send a Hero" to Cambodia to help educate, rehabilitate, and save victims of human trafficking.

MONTHLY REWIND

FEBRUARY '18

BULLYING AWARENESS MONTH

GSA X WMG BUBBLE TEA FUNDRAISER

RATANAK SAMOSA SALES

FINE ARTS FEATURES



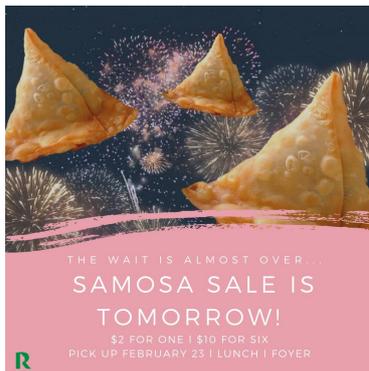
Taking a stand against bullying

Windermere students and staff showed their support by wearing pink this month



Bubble Tea Sale

GSA (Gender-Sexuality Alliance) club worked with the Windermere Marketing Group to raise funds for their club



Samosa Fundraiser

The Windermere Ratanak club hosted a samosa sale to fundraise for children and women in Cambodia



Fine Arts Features

In February, the drama department hosted their production "16 in ten minutes or less" written by Bradley Hayward

MONTHLY REWIND

FEBRUARY '18

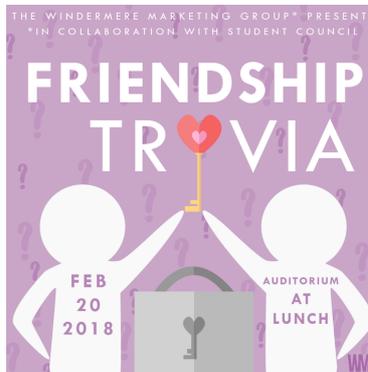
WMG WARRIOR WEAR PRE-ORDERS



New Warrior Wear

WMG released 3 new apparel designs this month and opened pre-orders at the Warrior Warehouse

WMG X STUCO FRIENDSHIP TRIVIA



Putting friendship to the test

Student Council & WMG collaborated to host an event showcasing student friendships

WRE CAFETERIA WEBSITE LAUNCH



Windcafe digital launch

Windermere's Cafeteria released its new website and Facebook page featuring fun food facts, and monthly menus

STUCO X CHOIR ROSE GRAMS



Love is in the air

Student Council organized a rose gram sale with Choir as part of the Windermere Valentine's Day Tradition



THANK YOU FOR READING THIS EDITION OF
THE WINDERMERE WORD!

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