

SJB TIMES

February Vibes



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What's new at SJB ?

Stevie Laycoe

Hello to my fellow SJB students! My name is Stevie and I'm in grade twelve - which is actually pretty relevant for the purposes of this article. It is my last year at SJB, and I've witnessed a lot of changes to the school over the last five years here, some of which younger students might not even know happened. I'll explain some of these changes below:

The one most of us know of is the library to art room to cafe conversion. For the majority of my years at SJB we've had a library, but last year we got the cafe! As a book lover I have to say that I miss the library, but the cafe has made amazing profit and will likely continue to do so for many years to come. I wish we had both because the library, while somewhat outdated, had some amazing finds in it. I will settle for the delicious caramel macchiato that the cafe offers however.

To bring back the comfort of the obvious, there is the portables and the new wing. I can't quite remember if the new wing was put in last year or the year before, but with it most of the portables were removed. I took Grade 8 Religion in the portable that was removed and initially it was a strange feeling to see it gone, but now I'm glad to have the new wing! The art room, dark room, and drama rooms are absolutely amazing and encourage artistic expression more than ever before.

I was shocked to find out the next one, but apparently some people didn't know that we used to take exams in the gym! Before covid, exams would take place in the gym with hundreds of tables in which you would sit long ways across from someone in another grade to write your exam. I actually prefer this to classrooms because it's a really particular exam atmosphere, whereas classrooms can feel like it's just another day of school. Most of you have not experienced this though, so I won't hold it against you if you prefer classrooms.



Finally- the school spirit. This has performed a complete flip since I was in grade eight. Due to Covid, the younger grade levels have hardly interacted with the older grades and a lot of school traditions never got properly passed down. This is no one's fault, but it is definitely odd to witness as some of the younger grades don't even know what Big Bear is about. With myself having been in Grade 9 when covid started, I can't say that I fully understand what it was like beforehand, but it was definitely not this. I'm sure that with time, we will begin new traditions and our school will thrive with school spirit once again.

Back to the drama, there are the buses. I take the south Langley/Aldergrove bus and I have seen more bus drivers come and go than I can count, but this year has been another level of weird. The bus situation has cooled down for the most part, but having to smooch in with the St. Catherines bus for weeks or just not having my bus show up at all was a unique experience. In prior years, despite a rotating number of bus drivers, it has mostly been relatively consistent with the timing and routes.

The Story of St. Valentine



Brigid Wright

The tradition of Saint Valentine's feast day started at the end of the 5th century when Valentine was declared a saint by Pope Gelasius. Valentine was born and lived in Interamna Italy, but he moved temporarily to Rome. He would perform secret weddings against the wishes of the authorities in the third century. It is said that St. Valentine signed a letter "From your Valentine" to his jailer's daughter, whom he had befriended and healed from blindness.

Saint Valentine defied the emperor Claudius II Gothicus's orders and secretly married couples, allegedly to spare the husbands from war. The emperor did not want men to get married because they were less likely to go to war once they were wed.

Marriages were banned in Rome, but Valentine continued to perform marriages for young couples. Eventually his administration of the holy sacrament of matrimony was discovered and for this, he was imprisoned, tortured, and martyred on February 14th, 269.

Valentine's Day Cookies

Irene Bong

Instructions

1. Beat butter, sugar, and lemon zest all together with an electric mixer until fluffy.
2. Put whisked egg yolks and beat them again.
3. Stir in the flour and ground almonds to form a stiff dough and divide them in half.
4. Wrap in clingfilm and place in the fridge for half an hour.
5. Roll one of the dough out on a lightly floured surface to no more than 5mm thick.
6. Use a heart-shaped cutter to cut out the first half of the dough.
7. For the second dough, repeat steps 5 and 6 and use a smaller cutter to cut out the center.
8. Place the baking sheets on the tray and the hearts on the tray.
9. Place them in the fridge for 20 minutes while preheating the oven to 170C / 325F.
10. Bake the trays one at a time for about 10 minutes until lightly golden.
11. Allow the biscuits to cool down completely.
12. Spread a dollop of jam over each of the whole hearts, leaving a small border.
13. Place one of the cutout hearts on top of each whole heart.
14. Sprinkle sugar powder on the top.



Ingredients

- 200 g unsalted butter (Room temperature)
- 150 g caster sugar
- Finely grated zest of 1 lemon
- 2 egg yolks
- ½ tsp salt
- 1 tsp vanilla extract
- 260 g plain flour
- 130 g ground almonds
- 150 g seedless raspberry jam
- 60 g sugar powder

Big Bear Classic

The Big Bear Classic is a basketball tournament that SJB hosts every year. Schools from around the Lower Mainland come out to compete and see who will come out on top. Students may come out of classes during the day (WITH permission) to cheer for and support the Senior Boys and Girls Basketball teams. As well as buy many snacks from the concession stand!



The Senior Boys and Girls Basketball teams at SJB this year came not only to play, but to slay.

Congratulations for our Senior Girls for placing 2nd in the tournament and our Senior Boys for placing 4th! Well done!

Raiden & Aleesha Coloma



When we say cheer, the cheer was REAL. The gymnasium was filled to the brim with noise and the SJB community cheered as loud as they possibly could. There were loud voices, horns, big buckets, the Sea of Red (YOU), and even our highly-acclaimed bear mascot (we can never remember the name) and this year's addition Moses who parted the "Red Sea". Once those essentials were brought together, the gym got hyped! The SJB community knows how to support their fellow Bears!





Opinion Piece: Should people be banned from Twitter ?

Antonio Hakko

Recent controversy has sparked the question as to whether people should be banned on the social media app – Twitter. As twitter shifted to a new management team under the direction of new CEO Elon Musk, questions regarding twitter’s new policies on unbanning certain users from the app have arisen and received criticism by the general public.

The term ‘banning’, also known as deplatforming, is a known method that social media apps use everywhere. It is essential as it ensures the safety of the users on the app and prevents the spread or commentary of discriminatory, hate driven, and non credible statements or information. Twitter’s new management had caused some policy changes regarding the rules around deplatforming certain users which has led to its controversy.

When it comes to deplatforming somebody, the answer should always be yes. Accounts belonging to Donald Trump, Andrew Tate, and others were among the first to be unbanned on twitter sparking the question as to why? In my opinion, both men have shared disturbing, hateful ideologies prior to their ban on the app. Trump used his platform to incite and support violence, especially following the Jan 6th 2021 storming of the U.S Capitol Building. Trump has also made some disturbing, sexist, and sexual remarks even before his ban on Twitter. Andrew Tate, a former kickboxer and a current media personality saw his account get unbanned following his original ban back in 2017 after remarks he’s made which he stated that victims should “bear some responsibility” in his commentary about the MeToo movement. Tate has seen some controversy surrounding the violent ideologies, which are seen to be misogynistic and maliciously outdated, and has shared on various platforms including twitter with content targeted to young men.

Recently, Tate was part of a media showdown against Swedish climate activist Greta Thunberg. In an attempt to mock her fight against the climate crisis, Tate tweeted at Gerta Thurnberg asking her to provide her email address to send her a list of his various supercars along with their carbon emissions. Greta replied, “yes, please do enlighten me...”

Tate proceeded to follow up with a video he made replying to Greta and eventually was arrested. Tate is currently facing criminal Human Trafficking charges in Romania.

Seeing that such people do exist in the world; deplatforming and banning people is essential. Allowing such remarks to be spread on an app of this magnitude is nothing more than willful ignorance which will eventually cause chaos and ultimately increase violence against certain groups of people.



Do you agree or disagree with this opinion? Write us at sjbtimes@gmail.com



Iconic Outfits- Princess Diana

Maria Jacob

As a fashion icon, Princess Diana has captured the hearts of millions. She was known to be both a style icon and fashion trendsetter and her love for couture and impeccable sense of style made her one of the most influential figures in the history of fashion.



On November 4th, 1981, Diana first wore this gown while attending the "Splendours of the Gonzaga" exhibition at the Victoria and Albert Museum in London. The stunning ball gown is designed by Bellville Sassoon.

Fun Fact, she wore this gown the day before it was announced she was having her first born child: William.

This dress gets a 10/10

The lilac and pink swirls add to the angelic vibe of the dress. The off the shoulder style allows for attention to the beautiful diamond choker also designed by Bellville Sassoon. Additionally, the soft blueish purplish color made her skin pop. It truly was a gown fit for a princess!

In November 1995, Diana rocked this iconic casual look. The neon orange lycra shorts, her virgin atlantic sweater, and white crewneck socks all contributed to a comfy but chic look. She wore this look as she was exiting her health club in London.

This fit gets an 8/10

This is a timeless outfit that could be worn today and no one would bat an eye. Diana was above her time with the biker shorts and sweater trend. The only thing that is a bit questionable are the neon orange shorts. I feel a more basic color that complimented her sweater would have worked better. Overall it's an amazing outfit.





In November of 1982, Diana was seen spotting this one shoulder blue dress with ruffle details and turquoise circles. It was designed by Bruce Oldfield and worn at a fashion show in London. This dress is definitely one that stands out, but I'm not sure if it's suitable for a fashion show.

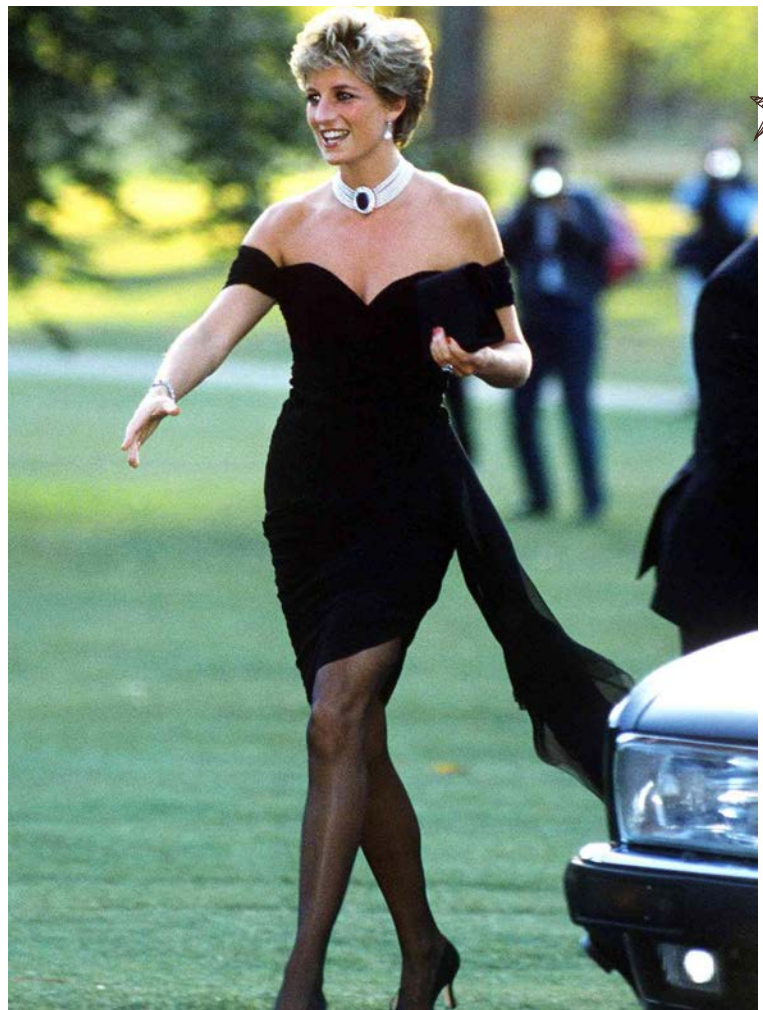
This dress gets a 4 / 10

Aside from the dress not being suitable for a fashion event, it simply did not suit her. The stark blue colour paled her skin. Aside from this, the dress looked ill-fitted and frumpy. She's worn many many other outfits that have suited her better.

On June 29 1994, Diana wore her iconic "revenge" dress on the same night Prince Charles publicly admitted to his affair with Camilla. She sported this beautiful black fitted dress, with a low princess neckline, black tights and black heels, and a beautiful sapphire, pearl and emerald choker necklace. At the time, this dress would have been considered controversial for her to wear, the low neckline was a strict "no" in the royal protocol.

This dress gets a 10 / 10

This beautiful dress signified her freedom from the Royal family, and it was a power move on her part to wear it the same night her husband admitted to his affair. The dress hugged her figure in a sophisticated way. She looked classy, sophisticated and powerful. Overall, the dress was a great representation of her character.



Valentine's Gift Ideas



Erica Lim

One of the big holidays in February is Valentine's day. As it is an annual festival to celebrate romantic love, friendship, and affection, many celebrate this day by sending messages of love and gifts. Some may find it difficult to express their feelings, so here are few recommendations for Valentine's day gifts.

Flowers and chocolates



There is a reason for the popularity of flowers and chocolates and why it's the most common gift that people choose- it best suits the Valentine's day theme! With pretty flowers and chocolate, you can make your loved one's day. Also, don't forget to include a card with all those presents.

Accessories



As Valentine's day is one of the most celebrated holidays, there are various Valentine's day themed accessories from various brands such as Pandora, Swarovski, and Tiffany. These popular brands have very beautiful designs to consider.

Perfume / Cologne

Like accessories, Valentine's themed perfume collections are released. It might differ depending on the person, but considering the receiver's style, sending perfume can be the best present. There are various price ranges, packages, and scents to select from also.

Watches

If you are looking for gifts for your boyfriend, a watch is a great idea. Like accessories, there are many brands with great designs. As it is used daily, a watch is a great gift and will act as a reminder of you everyday.



Shoes



Considering the receiver's style, shoes will also be a good gift. Choosing one of the popular brands such as Nike, Vans and Reebok will have no failure. Take a look at new collections or popular collaborations with other brands for a unique gift.

A love worth fighting for

Short story by Krista Tombs

Jezebel and Rory had been best friends their whole life. They always hung out at school, did all their projects together, and most importantly, they played Dungeons and Dragons together.

One day after school, the two of them headed back to Rory's house. It was finally D&D day, and after a week of plotting they knew what they had to do this session. Hoping that all would go smoothly, they had planned to go in and kill their main enemy; a very powerful (or so they thought) baboon, who had stolen their bananas.

Their Dungeon Master, being the smart person he was, had planned everything out perfectly. He set it up so the Baboon appeared incredibly mischievous, stealing the bananas of Jezebel and Rory, but little did the two of them know, the baboon only had 3 health points, and would be a ridiculously easy kill.

Jezebel and Rory had gone into the session strong. They made their way through the dungeon and found the Baboon exactly where they thought. The monstrous little beast was eating a banana.

Jezebel and Rory's characters Morca and Thad were not strong. Morca had decent stats, and though Thad was brave and courageous, he lacked greatly in intelligence.

Entering combat, the Baboon got to attack first and hit Morca, not doing much damage.

"I've got this, Thad is Rad and will protect the pretty lady!" Thad exclaimed, as he drew his longbow to shoot the baboon.

Rory took a deep breath as he rolled to see if Thad successfully hit the Baboon.

"C'mon... C'mon 20... c'mon 20..." He chanted as he rolled the D20, crossing his fingers.



He rolled a 1.

Both Jezebel and Rory protested, hoping their Dungeon Master would allow for a reroll, but as they suspected he did not.

Thad drew his longsword and let go, hoping with all his might he would kill the threateningly weak Baboon. As he let go he let out a scream.

"Morca!"

He had accidentally hit Morca, piercing her through the chest.

With all the rage, anger and guilt inside of him, he took a swing at the Baboon with his fists, killing him immediately.

"Morca, Morca are you with me?" He cried, Morca merely nodding her head. "Let me bring you to the temple, I'll pay a high Cleric to bring you back to me."

Thad got up and carried Morca, running as fast as he could out of the dungeon and to the temple, where he found a cleric, and paid him to revive Morca.

"Thad... you saved me! I love you, thank you for saving me!" she exclaimed, pressing a kiss to his lips.

Fate, an arrow to the heart, and their lack of intelligence brought them together, leaving Jezebel and Rory very happy as they walked to Jezebel's house for dinner.

"Maybe next week we should kill a whole colony of baboons!..."

The End!

Q&A with the Grade 8s



Who is your favourite teacher?

"Ms. Draayers because she is nice"

What advice do you give future grade 8s?

"Do not waste time on dating/relationships in grade 8!"

Emella Dolatti



If you could start a club at SJB what would it be?

"I would like to see the school have a gym club!"

What advice do you give future grade 8s?

"Don't just stick to the same people, but go out there and make new friends too!"

Michael Frendo



If you could start a club at SJB what would it be?

"I would create a photography club at the school."

What advice do you give future grade 8s?

"Being insecure is not gonna help you."

Lauren Soliven



If you could start a club at SJB what would it be?

"I would like to create a raccoon appreciation club."

If you were a Principal what would you do?

"I would completely take math out of the curriculum."

Massimo Chiappetta



If you could start a club at SJB what would it be?

"I would invent a sleeping club."

What's the best part of school?

The food!

Mina Hae



Rosa's Reviews

Rosa Nootebos



Puss in Boots: The Last Wish

Puss in Boots: The Last Wish was a very enjoyable movie. It's the second movie for this furry character, who was first introduced to us in the popular Shrek franchise.

I was a toddler when the first Puss in Boots film came out in 2011, so I don't recall what it was about. But from what little I can remember, I'm fairly certain this one was much better in comparison.

This time around, the adventurous daredevil cat named Puss in Boots realises he has used up eight of his nine lives. He wants to have them restored by finding the legendary "Last Wish", but has trouble along the way...



I loved this movie because the storyline was really good. It had plenty of action and a lot of great characters. The animation looked so detailed and lifelike. I thought I was standing right along with Puss and his companions.

The musical score was excellent and helped enhance the plot. If I couldn't see what was happening and was just listening to the soundtrack, I would know what was going on just from the music. Likewise, all the voice actors did really well making the situations sound believable.

So overall, I would rate this movie a 4 out of 5 stars for all of the creativity.

I have never been a fan of the Shrek movies, but I was very pleasantly surprised by how much I liked this one. I hope you get the chance to check out "Puss in Boots: The Last Wish" and enjoy it as much as I did.

SJB Artist Spotlight

Brigid Wright



SJB Poet's Spotlight

Jacky Fu



Hope

Every day I wake up,
 But there are only a few ads.
 on mobile screen.
 I tried to find out if
 There was one message that I missed,
 The result is
 nobody texted.

Although there is heating in the house,
 I feel as cold as an iceberg.
 The heater cannot provide me enough warmth
 To keep the cold from loneliness and loss.

Sit in the quiet room,
 I looked around and tried to get something to do.
 I decided not to care if you text me back
 and opened Call of Duty.

It's time for lunch,
 Adrenaline wears off.
 Loneliness comes up again
 mixed with hunger.

I put myself in the game all day long,
 just to keep me away from loneliness.

Oh God,
 please give me a candle
 to help me get rid of the cold.
 In this frozen world,
 all I want is a candle

Okay, it's time to sleep now.
 Let me see
 if there's a candle
 that can keep me out of the cold tomorrow.



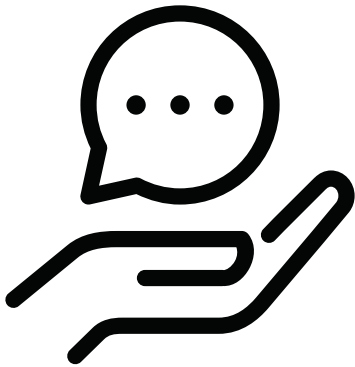
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Do you need advice? Do you have a problem that you need help solving? Do you have a school issue that needs to be addressed? Send it in to sjbtimes@gmail.com, and we'll be sure to answer them as best as we can in the next issue.

Do you want to show off your writing, art, or photography? Join the SJB Times! Email sjbtimes@gmail.com or talk to our editor or teacher sponsor. We're always looking for new members- Anyone is welcome to join!

