

# BASIS SCOTTSDALE GAZETTE

## How to be Politically Active

By: Akansha  
Gupta

Today, politics isn't just relevant in the lives of adults; it's also prevalent in the lives of teenagers. Due to the increasing relevance politics has in our lives, it's important for us as students to be engaged. We already get some exposure by taking Mr. Klugman's AP U.S. Government class, but how can we apply what we've learned to the real world? Many students want to be politically active but don't know where to start. I interviewed Arizona Representative Alexander Kolodin, husband of our teacher Ms. James, to get the perspective of a politician on what students can do to be politically active.

**Why do you believe younger people, especially teens, should be politically active in our community?**

**Rep. Kolodin:** I think it depends on what you mean by politically active, right? I think that it's incumbent on every citizen to make sure that they're prepared to participate in a Republican form of government as a citizen...



*Source: The Arizona Republic*

### SAVE THE DATE

Precomps: 1/14-1/16

Martin Luther King Jr. Day: 1/19

The Art of Subconscious  
Storytelling  
Page 4

FEATURING  
The Death of Fashion  
Page 9

Aquaman 2: A Dive  
Into Disaster  
Page 11

# CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

I can only speak about my own party, which is the Republican Party. The Republican Party, the single best way to get politically involved, to get political access, and to learn about the system is to become what's called a precinct committeeman. And a precinct committeeman is the lowest level of official within the Republican Party.

If you're a precinct commitment, you go to meetings. Almost certainly, you will meet your state reps, your members of Congress, your statewide candidates.

For most of them, you'll be able to go up to them and just ask for their phone number, Hey, you want to volunteer for their campaign? Go meet them, And ...hear what they have to say, And by sitting there, and listening to the different candidates share their different perspectives, getting an opportunity to ask questions to the candidates, and hearing all of the other political discussion that's going on, you're going to be able to backfill some of that civics education. So that's where I think young people ought to focus in terms of getting politically active is finding good opportunities to learn about the system.

## **What are some barriers that prevent teen activism, and how can they confront those barriers?**

**Rep. Kolodin:** I'm a little bit concerned with the direction that the education system has gone over the past few decades, where the humanities and civics seem to have been deprioritized in favor of a very STEM-heavy focus. And, of course, I'm going to be biased on that since I used to teach civics. But I think, well, our schools are churning out people who have economically relevant skills for the current economy.

And I would stress "the current economy," right? What they're failing to do is produce people who are ready to assume the obligations of citizenship—not through any fault of the students, but of the people setting priorities in the curriculum. With that setup, the reason it's so important for young people to get politically active is so they can backfill that portion of their education that's been denied to them.

Thanks to Representative Kolodin for giving his invaluable advice, he has given us ways and reasons to become politically active today. We already know a lot from Mr. Klugman's classes, but perhaps it's time to take that knowledge and effectively apply it.



*Source: azleg.org*

# Coming Soon: 2026 Movies

By: Ethan Kim

With the beginning of 2026, we look forward to seeing how the next year will surprise us: new books, new year's resolutions, and most importantly, new movies. I always get excited about the upcoming movie releases, and I've highlighted some of the year's most notable.

To start off, *The Legend of Aang: The Last Airbender* is scheduled to release on October 9. Taking place after the end of the series *Avatar: The Last Airbender*, the movie will follow Aang, the last Air Nomad and Avatar that restored peace to the world, as he learns about a new ancient power which can help restore the Air Nation population. However, Aang and his gang need to find this power before someone who will use it for themselves and possibly jeopardize the peace that Aang and his gang worked so hard to keep. So far, the movie has potential and is highly anticipated by fans who have been waiting ever since the ending of the original series.

Moving on to book adaptations, *Hunger Games: Sunrise on the Reaping* was published by Suzanne Collins on March 18th of 2025. Now being released as a movie adaptation, the movie will follow the experience of Haymitch Abernathy, the only living victor from District 12, during his teenage years, where he survived the 50th Hunger Games. Being the largest Hunger Games with 48 tributes instead of the usual 24, the movie seeks to show how Haymitch Abernathy won and lived on to be the mentor for the future District 12 victors, Katniss and Peeta, from the original trilogy. Similar to the first prequel, *Hunger Games: Ballad of the Songbirds and Snakes*, the movie features a younger Coriolanus Snow, the leader of Panem.

Of course, we can't forget to mention a couple of new movies in the Marvel Cinematic Universe (MCU): *Spider-Man: Brand New Day* and *Avengers: Doomsday*. With lackluster movies in Phase 4 and Phase 5 of the MCU, with a few great exceptions, hopefully these two in Phase 6 are more enjoyable to watch. The plot of *Spider-Man: Brand New Day* revolves around Peter Parker's attempt to focus on preparing for college and moving on from his days of being Spider-Man, which fails, as expected, when a new threat is introduced. As a new twist, Spider-Man allegedly works together with an unexpected ally, who's either a big shocker or a forgotten character. For *Avengers: Doomsday*, a synopsis of this movie isn't known yet, but what is known is that it will feature the Avengers, the Fantastic Four, and the Thunderbolts. If all goes well, these two movies will have fans raving about them for a while.

Even though I'm more interested in these movies that I've mentioned, there is a stacked line-up of other movies that everyone should be hyped for, like *Super Mario Galaxy* and *Scream 7*. Comparing the list to last year, 2025 had good but fewer banger movies that piqued my interest. Perhaps 2026 is finally our year.



Source: Marvel Studios

# The Art of Subconscious Storytelling

By Sesha Kuttalingam

When you think of A-List directors, you think of Stephen Spielberg, Alfred Hitchcock, Christopher Nolan, Quentin Tarantino, and so many more. But what do these directors do with their films that leave their names in the hall of fame? That answer comes down to a director's ability to subtly emphasize details throughout a film in order to immerse the audience into the film's world—or what I like to call subconscious storytelling. So let's break down a few different ways of producing subconscious storytelling in film.

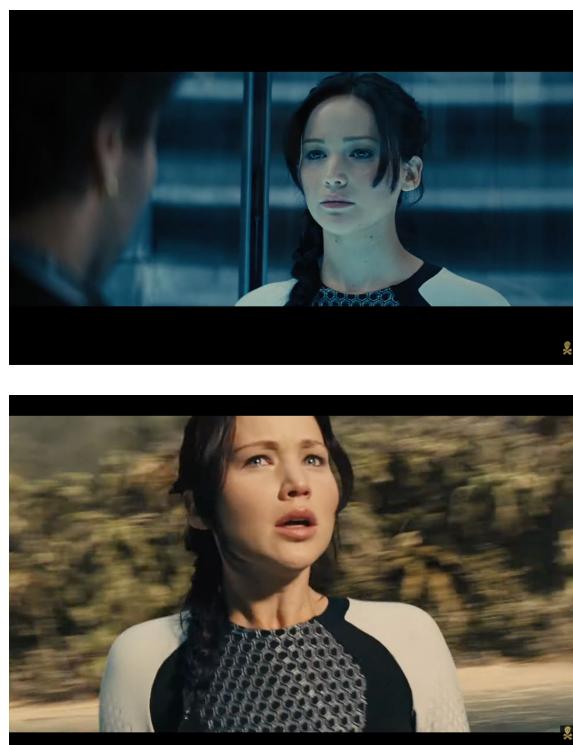
Starting with the most unseen but arguably the most influential: the aspect ratio. The aspect ratio is the proportional relationship between the width and height of an image or screen. Here is an example of what different aspect ratios look like:



Source: NSELED

The aspect ratio works like a narrator in some sense, acting as a window into the world. Older movies have a smaller ratio, as shown above through *Casablanca*, simply because of the size of TVs back then.

Over time, directors were able to experiment with different sizes and even take advantage of moving the aspect ratio, highlight emotion or signifying a shift in the narrative. My favorite example of this is in *The Hunger Games: Catching Fire*. When Katniss Everdeen enters the games about halfway through the film, the screen expands to the IMAX ratio, signifying that she's in a different world now. The screen expansion, as shown below, throws us into the arena alongside her, so we feel that transition of fear and suspense.



Source: Youtube

## CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

Along with the aspect ratio, more notable subconscious storytelling uses lighting/sound and costumes. Lighting sets the mood of a scene, indicates secrecy vs. openness, shows good vs. bad intentions, etc. Sound, specifically background music, can establish the emotions of a scene and tells the audience what to feel. Directors use lighting and sound to manipulate and subvert the audience's expectations. James Gunn takes full advantage of this in *The Suicide Squad*. In an iconic slow-motion "hero" walk, the characters are drowned out by high exposure lighting, underscoring the cool, tough aspect of it while matching the misfit theme throughout the movie.



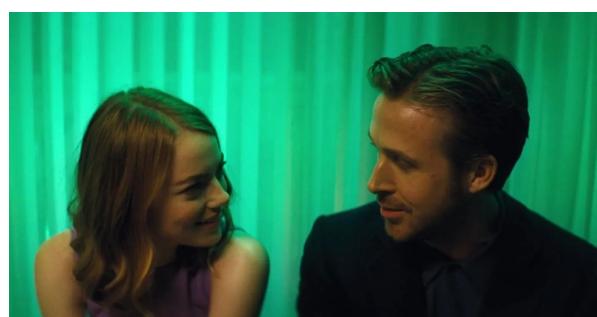
Source: [Stacksbowers.com](http://Stacksbowers.com)



Source: [moviewookie.com](http://moviewookie.com)

Similarly, costumes exhibit a character's identity, true emotions, and relationship to other characters. The Joker, an iconic example, has his purple suit and bright green hair taken from the comics. The purple symbolises chaos and the green hair represents decay, altogether portraying a character of madness and grotesque nature that matches his personality.

Costumes, specifically color, help to link characters in our minds through association. For example, *La La Land* attaches certain colors to different themes: purple for romance, green for distance, blue for reality, and red for dreams. The protagonist Mia often wears blue, showcasing her internal conflict of pursuing her dreams of acting and staying grounded. Seb, on the other hand, often wears red; the two characters' connection, though they ultimately break up, is crucial to achieve their dreams together.



Source: [experiencefilm.net](http://experiencefilm.net)

# CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

The final shot is lit in both blue and red, signifying how their reality and dreams blended: they both achieved what they desired, but they lost each other in the process. Also, purple (a mix of blue and red) is found in pivotal moments of their relationship progression. By contrast, green represents their relationship struggles and breaks apart.

A director's ability to tap into the mind of the audience using tools hidden in plain sight on the screen that don't immediately grab the viewer's attention separates a so-called A-List director from a mundane one. Directors control the voice of a film and subconscious storytelling is how they deliver it.



Source: IMDb

# New Year, New Me(dia)

By: Tyler Lin and Claire Hong

The arrival of the new year has brought forth new beginnings in the sports industry, the video gaming industry, and the music industry. But in this new era of media consumption and digital entertainment, an unprecedented wave of new releases from within the anime community arguably strikes the strongest.

As a new-gen anime enjoyer, here are my top 4 personal favorites and most anticipated sequels that are scheduled to be released this year:

1. *Frieren: Beyond Journey's End Season 2* – January 16, 2026

When I started the first season of the show, I never thought I would get used to the slow pacing of the anime. I always enjoyed faster, more aggressive stories, but the excellence of *Frieren*'s writing made the peaceful anime a much more enjoyable watch than I expected. When I finished the last episode on Netflix, I couldn't wait for its next season to be released, and now it's time.

2. *Jujutsu Kaisen Season 3* – January 8, 2026

At the time of writing this article, JJK Season 3 has already been released, and if you go to the right website, you can watch it for free. So far, the voice acting has been incredible, the color-grading unmatched, and the animation quality has been some of the best I have ever seen. *One Punch Man Season 3* aside. MAPPA Studios, the studio responsible for its animation, has been widely regarded as one of the best out there, and they have yet to disappoint. Other than just the storyline, *Jujutsu Kaisen* possesses some of the most intricate world building and character writing out there.

And for those of you out there who hate watching shows with shameless mountains of plot armor (cough, cough, *STRANGER THINGS SEASON 5*, cough, cough—I'm sorry, my throat has been itchy recently), *JJK* is just the right anime for you.

3. *Hell's Paradise Season 2* – January 11, 2026

*Hell's Paradise* is one of the lesser-known new gen anime coming out this year. The fight scenes in this anime are unlike anything else, and as a person who watches anime for the animation and art, *Hell's Paradise* is one of the best there is. It explores gender discrimination in ancient samurai clans and explores various backstories of criminals destined for death row. The character design for the show is some of the best, both humanoid-wise, and creepy, human-faced butterfly-wise.

4. *Jojo's Bizarre Adventures Part 7: Steel Ball Run* – March 19, 2026

The *Jojo's Bizarre Adventures* series has always been a cornerstone of the anime industry, commonly ranked top 10 of all time, next to generational anime like *Naruto*, *One Piece*, *Dragon Ball Z*, and *Attack on Titan*. Just like *Hell's Paradise*, the character design for all of Jojo's series has been some of the best, with interesting stand dynamics and power scaling unique to the Jojos verse.

# CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7

But the media encompasses more than just anime. As any year, 2025 has been quite interesting for the entertainment industry, and that energy is sure to carry through to 2026. Unlike Tyler, I am not a part of the anime community, but that doesn't mean there aren't exciting developments elsewhere, so instead I will break down all the other vast parts of the world forgotten in the first half of this article.

## 1. Music

I have to admit that 2025 has simply not been that exciting for music, but 2026 holds more promise. My most anticipated release of this year is undeniably *The Romantic* from the forever amazing Bruno Mars, marked for February 27. As any Mars fan can probably tell you, this will be his first solo album in nearly a decade, but that doesn't mean he hasn't been busy with collaborations like *Silk Sonic*, which won him a Grammy, and hit songs like *APT* with Rosé and *Die With A Smile* with Lady Gaga. Nonetheless, this new album is still exciting, especially after he released his single for his album, "I Just Might." Other highly anticipated albums are Lana del Rey's *Stove* which has already gone through 2 name changes and Hilary Duff's *Luck ...or Something*, which marks her first release since her Disney days.

## 2. Shows (Non-Anime)

2026 is a typical year for TV shows. While researching, I discovered renewals for dozens of shows that I have never heard of and, as always, reboots of things that did not need to be rebooted, or even worse, spinoffs (shivers). *Scrubs*, *Buffy the Vampire Slayer*, *Malcolm in the Middle*, and *Ted Lasso* are just some of the shows looking for a reboot in 2026 (the 90s are really coming back). The mostly highly anticipated season of a show is the 3rd season of *Euphoria*, which I probably shouldn't be advertising in a school newspaper. Moving on, the show *Elle* will be debuting on Prime detailing the life of Elle Woods from *Legally Blonde* before college. Prime will also be releasing *Spider-Noir*, which will follow the character introduced in *Spider-Man: Into the Spider-Verse*. The *Blade Runner* Universe will be expanded with *Blade Runner 2099* and John Steinbeck's novel *East of Eden* will be seeing another adaptation starring Florence Pugh. This is not even half of it.

## 3. Movies

There's an already wonderful article written by one of our new editors, Ethan Kim, about this. It's on Page 5. READ IT.

# CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8

## 4. Sports

I don't know if sports count as media, but who cares! Obviously, the FIFA World Cup—need I say more? For the first time, all three countries of North America will be hosting these games. I can already imagine the transportation costs. Perhaps overshadowed, the 2026 Winter Olympics and Paralympics will be hosted in Milano and Cortina, Italy. Who is excited to watch people play on ice and snow professionally? Because I am! Other major tournaments are the Commonwealth Games, which I didn't know existed, and the T20 Cricket World Cup. In F1 news, the new season will come with some of the biggest car regulation changes in the sport's history, which is sure to disrupt the grid. And of course, as an American, I must include the 60th Super Bowl featuring an unnecessarily controversial halftime performance from Puerto Rican (which is part of America, by the way) singer, Bad Bunny.

Phew! That was a lot. 2025 has already been chaotic enough that I don't think I need any more, but 2026 is shaping up to be even worse in more than just media. So let's strap ourselves in for another wild ride as we once again take on whatever humanity is going to throw at us this time. But who knows, maybe this is the year we all become better (let's be honest, probably not). Good luck in the new year!



Source: Crunchyroll



Source: Wikipedia

# The Death of Fashion

As 2026 starts to set in, it's important to remember where we are as a society, especially in terms of our style. Our society has evolved from exposed feet and unflattering animal hides to the far superior polyester "Supreme" shirts and the practical "Big Red Boot." Even with our now-evolved fashion sense, could style be taking a turn for the worse? With the fall of our beloved Nike tech fleeces in 2025, society is faced with the rise of the quarter zip and male skinny jeans, marking the endangerment of modern fashion. To remember how great society once was at its style game, I've decided to create my own thorough study of fashion throughout the years under the name of "Kiss it or Ditch it" (from your closet).

Let's start off strong with the beloved Julius Cesar. His chest plate looks sturdy, and his skirt looks like a mix of coquette and warrior. His wardrobe clearly complements his physique and makes him look pretty stylish. I'd qualify this as a "Kiss it" and a wonderful wardrobe piece that should be more accessible to the general public.



Source: Wikimedia Commons



Source: Buzzfeed

By: Parisa Khan

Another admirable fashion icon would be the little French firecracker, Napoleon Bonaparte. Though the shirt may be tailored a little too well, his long coat and stark black boots are a threatening aura to this sophisticated miscreant. We can see his impact on today's culture, as many of us are lovers of some fun black boots, especially me. This is definitely going to the "Kiss it" pile, as we all need this level of seriousness in our closets!



Source: Britannica

We were doing so well until we got to some modern-day fashion. Homeless couture is now in, and we all must say goodbye to tailoring and dignity. To give Justin Bieber some grace, I reviewed his red carpet outfit, but sadly, he's being eaten by his monstrous suit with his chic sunglasses hiding the pain, as Hailey Bieber looks longingly for some help for her dear Justin. His pink beanie stares down the paparazzi, showing us the crimes against fashion that humanity has committed. Prayers to all, these outfits are far more than "Ditch it's" and must be buried.

Fashion may have fallen, but after all, it is still subjective. Maybe someone or something will inspire us to go back to our roots. Maybe by the end of 2026, we will ditch clothes and their restraints altogether. Maybe we'll try to make fashion go beyond polyester and something for the developing digital world. Who knows!

# REVIEWS

## Aquaman 2: A Dive Into Disaster

It's obvious that the quality of DC movies, and movies in general, has gone down. *Five Nights at Freddy's 2* just doesn't quite roll off the tongue like *Taxi Driver*. While the genius behind masterpieces such as *La La Land* or *Deadpool and Wolverine* don't go unnoticed, the twenty-first century lacks the creativity and ingenuity prominent in the Golden Age of Hollywood. Because of this global brain fart, we've created horrifyingly terrible movies like *A Minecraft Movie*, *The Emoji Movie*, *Venom: Let There Be Carnage*, and, of course, *Aquaman 2*.

Let's start with the face of this hot mess: Jason Momoa. The first stage of grief is denial, so let me begin this journey of acceptance by stating that Momoa is probably one of the worst Hollywood actors, next to Kylie Jenner. His previous projects include *Batman v. Superman: Dawn of Justice*, *Fast X*, and *A Minecraft Movie*; this resume alone should already warn you of the horrors of *Aquaman 2*.

Instead, they produce a cringeworthy, midlife crisis figure for the masses. Although, his lines in *Aquaman 2* weren't exactly Golden Globe worthy, that doesn't change the fact that Jason's execution of the already cheap screenplay amplifies the problem tenfold.

By: Mishal Rizwan

No amount of AR7 programs can hide the fact that this 260-pound Aquaman has an enormous one-pack.

Moving on, terrible CGI is a common issue in many movies, such as *Gladiator*, arguably one of the film industry's greatest products. Yet somehow Aquaman manages to pack a multitude of disasters with this problem, which makes the audience question their own IQ. The very first scene, where the movie opens with Aquaman riding on his seahorse, Storm, is a try-not-to-laugh game in itself. A glowing, giant, poorly animated seahorse sounds totally rad to me. That's not even mentioning the entire Necrus look.



Source: *Wikipedia*

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Did I accidentally turn on *Red Dead Redemption II* or what? Both Necrus and Atlantis look like they're from video games. The graphics for all the animals, especially the ones acting like battle horses, look as though *Call of Duty* decided to create an undersea callsign. I'm afraid to say that this movie is about to win close second to the movie with the worst CGI, with *Sharkboy and Lavagirl* as our reigning champion. At least we'll know where to place our bets for the Oscars.

The overall indicator on whether a movie is a hit or flop is not based on the number of abs the hero has, the quality of graphics, or even the sanity of Johnny Depp's former wife. It's the story. Even movies like *The Mummy Returns* or *Transformers: Revenge of the Fallen* manage to be somewhat acceptable movies with a decent plot. Unfortunately, *Aquaman 2* has neither good CGI nor a good story, relying heavily on Jason Momoa's looks, which, as I've stated before, are a letdown.



*Source: Inside the Magic*



*Source: Daily Dose of Buffa*

While there is nothing particularly with the story, the plot is as soporific as Bob Ross. The only good part of the two hours and four minutes spent on *Aquaman 2* was the laughs we got out of this flop.

It's always a blow to the film industry whenever a massive failure like this occurs. *Heaven's Gate* literally ended the United Artists film studio, as well as the Golden Age of Hollywood. But at times like this, when bad graphics, terrible actors, and steroids replace creativity, we must remember that the worst, *They Saved Hitler's Brains*, *Jaws: The Revenge*, and *Santa Claus Conquers the Martians*, is behind us.

# HUMOR

## Riya's Rants: To All the Emails I've Read Before

My inbox is a sacred space. However, the overwhelming majority of you are desecrating it. Most of you are repeated offenders—dastardly crimes including, but not limited to, unlawful use of “hey” in the opening line, willful neglect of autocorrect, and midnight ‘Reply All’ sent with reckless abandon. Consider this a desperately needed intervention. Below is a list of the worst email crimes committed, and if you are guilty, it is the court’s determination that you must serve your sentence.

Disclaimer: Some of you are email sending saints who already follow proper etiquette. This article isn’t for you, you beautiful, fastidious creatures.

### 1. “Hey!”

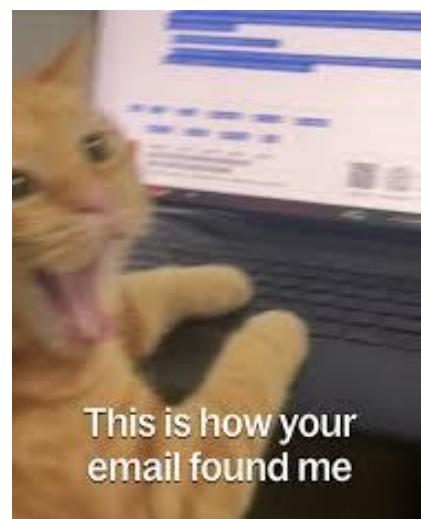
If your subject line is empty and your message starts with “Hi!” congratulations, you’ve already lost the Game.

Your sentence: Take to Google and look up common email greetings. My favorites are: “Greetings,” “Good morning/afternoon/evening,” or “Dear (name),”. Now go fill in that subject line! Add the most concise and pertinent description of your email.

### 2. I’m not texting you

If your email reads like a message in your three-person group chat, I simply won’t read it. “bestie what’s the hw plss” does not belong in correspondence with your chemistry teacher or Brain Bee club advisor. This isn’t iMessage or Discord. This is *email*.

Your sentence: Use full sentences, real words, and listen to autocorrect when it says “asinement” is spelled wrong. Forgo any emojis, excessive exclamation points, acronyms, and turn off caps lock. Wipe off that Cheeto dust, and for the love of etiquette, delete “Sent from my iPhone”.



Source: *Instagram*

# CONTINUED FROM PAGE 13

## 3. No returns, no peace

Looking at your email shouldn't hurt my eyes, and I certainly need an oxygen tank to get through that wall of text. Paragraphs exist for a reason. They help the reader breathe.

Your sentence: Hit return. Breathe.

Repeat.

## 4. Reply All is not a lifestyle

It's understandable when anyone over 65 years of age hits "Reply All"—but when you use it to say "Thanks," 53 inboxes are suddenly hit with your gratitude grenade. Every time you hit "Reply All," a kitten dies.

Your sentence: Just look before you press the button. Please.

## 5. "Sent at 2:47 A.M."

I didn't realize I've been emailing nocturnal beings. Sending the email when you draft it does not mean your teacher is going to click on it any faster. At least try to look like you have a decent sleep schedule.

Your sentence: Draft the email at 2:47 a.m., sure, but schedule it to send at 8:00 a.m. If you're writing it later than 10:00 p.m., you're sending it no earlier than 6:00 a.m.

## 6. "Toodles!"

Don't get me wrong, I love a quirky farewell. In person. Hold your "bye bye"s and "toodle-oo"s. Of course, this doesn't mean omitting all goodbyes. Some of you just stop. No name, no signature, no closure. That is somehow far worse.

Your sentence: Take to Ecosia and search up common email closings. My favorites are: "Best," "Kind Regards," "Warmly," or "Sincerely.". Add a job title if it's relevant!

Bad emails? Rejected, Respectfully.



*Source: Ken's Trends*

# January Teacher Shuffle

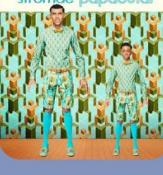
By: Claire Hong

Playlist

## Teacher Shuffle

For this months shuffle, we asked some of BASIS Scottsdale's teachers what their favorite song is. Is their music taste as bad as their tests?

 Gazette   

 Ms. Antal <b>All I Need</b> Radiohead	 Dr. Sahu <b>Landslide</b> Fleetwood Mac
 Ms. Yanashima <b>Counting Stars</b> One Republic	 Ms. Melder <b>New Slang</b> The Shins
 Mr. Navarro <b>Snow Angel</b> Reneé Rapp	 Ms. de Blas <b>Hanging On The Telephone</b> Blondie
 Mr. Berry <b>Black Betty</b> Ram Jam	 Coach Freeland <b>Papaoutai</b> Stromae

# GAMES

By: Nora Dalal

F*	R*	E	S*	H
A	D	U	L	T*
S!	T!	O*	R!	M
C	H	I	L	L
S!	T!	E	E	L
N	O!	R!	T!	H

\* = correct letter, correct position (green)

! = correct letter, wrong position (yellow)

answer: FROST

# Pop Culture Pop Quiz: Popstars and Popsicles

By: Claire Hong and Riya Bangalore

It's been a long year, full of ups and downs. Mostly downs for me. As social media grows and every company is trying their hardest to grab our attention, it has become overwhelming trying to keep up with all the news. But instead of an op-ed on the evils of capitalism and how our brains are dying, let's test your memory on all the happenings of pop culture in 2025 because there's no point in trying to fight it, we've already lost. So without further ado, it's time to feed into the senseless machine that is modern pop culture. Have Fun!

Multiple choice - Pick the best answer:

1) What was the top song of 2025?

- a) *Die With A Smile* by Bruno Mars and Lady Gaga
- b) *APT* By Rosé and Bruno Mars
- c) *Ordinary* by Alex Warren
- d) *BIRDS OF A FEATHER* By Billie Eilish

2) What was the most popular show of 2025?

(according to google)

- a) The Pitt
- b) The White Lotus Season 3
- c) Stranger Things Season 5
- d) Heated Rivalry

3) Who won the 2025 New York City Mayoral Election?

- a) Andrew Cuomo
- b) Eric Adams
- c) Zohran Mamdani
- d) Kash Patel

4) What was the name of the new pope?

- a) Pope Leo XV
- b) Pope Leo XIV
- c) Pope Leo XVIII
- d) Pope Leo III

5) Who headlined the 2025 Superbowl Halftime show?

- a) Charlie Puth
- b) Kendrick Lamar
- c) Jennifer Lopez
- d) Bad Bunny

6) Which famous celebrity couple got engaged this year?

- a) Natalia Dyer and Charlie Heaton
- b) Tom Holland and Zendaya Coleman
- c) Selena Gomez and Benny Blanco
- d) Nat Wolff and Billie Eilish

***KEEP TRACK OF YOUR ANSWERS HERE!  
ANSWERS ARE ON PG. 19***

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7) Which new phone color did Apple debut for the iPhone 17?

- a) Sky Blue
- b) Emerald Green
- c) Cosmic Orange
- d) Daffodil Yellow

8) Katseye went viral with their "Better in Denim" Gap campaign that featured which iconic '00s song?

- a) *Toxic* by Britney Spears
- b) *Bootylicious* by Destiny's Child
- c) *Hollaback Girl* by Gwen Stefani
- d) *Milkshake* by Kelis

9) Which late night host was taken off air for a week after making controversial political jokes?

- a) Stephen Colbert
- b) Jimmy Kimmel
- c) Seth Meyers
- d) Jimmy Fallon

10) What was the most watched movie on Netflix of 2025?

- a) *Frankenstein*
- b) *My Oxford Year*
- c) *Happy Gilmore 2*
- d) *KPop Demon Hunters*

**ANSWERS ARE ON PG. 19**


11) What country selected an interim leader through discord after forcing the resignation of their prime minister?

- a) Uganda
- b) Laos
- c) Tibet
- d) Nepal

12) Who won the 2025 Dancing with the Stars?

- a) Robert Irwin
- b) Alix Earle
- c) Zac Efron
- d) Corey Feldman

13) What company's former CEO and Head of HR were caught on the Coldplay kiss cam?

- a) Oracle
- b) Galactica
- c) Nvidia
- d) Astronomer

14) What book franchise released a prequel?

- a) Divergent
- b) Percy Jackson
- c) Hunger Games
- d) Harry Potter

15) Who came in 3rd in the 2025 Formula One World Driver's Championship?

- a) Oscar Piastri
- b) Lewis Hamilton
- c) Lando Norris
- d) Sebastian Vettel

# CONTINUED FROM PAGE 18

Short Answer - Finish the phrase:

16) Nothing beats \_\_\_\_\_ holiday!

17) I have the one and only 24 karat \_\_\_\_\_.

18) It's not \_\_\_\_\_ to you that I'm standing on \_\_\_\_\_.

19) Chicken \_\_\_\_\_! (from the *A Minecraft Movie*)

20) What is your biggest mistake? My biggest \_\_\_\_\_.

21) I got like \_\_\_\_\_ money.

22) 1 2 123 \_\_\_\_\_ 'em.

0-5 points: You clearly have other priorities, and honestly, good for you. While everyone else was glued to their phones, you were living your life.

6-10 points: You're casually plugged in—just enough to stay in the loop without completely losing yourself to the algorithm. A healthy balance, if such a thing exists anymore.

11-15 points: You're dangerously close to being chronically online. You know what's trending, you've seen the memes, and you probably spent way too much time on TikTok this year. Welcome to the club.

16-20 points: Terminally online. You didn't just witness 2025's pop culture moments—you lived them in real time. Your screen time report is probably terrifying. Seek help (or don't, we're not your therapist).

21-22 points (perfect score): Touch grass. Seriously. We're concerned. But also impressed. You are the algorithm at this point.

So, how did you do? If you aced this quiz, congratulations—you're extremely online, just like the rest of us. If you didn't do so well, maybe you had better things to do this year. Either way, you've just proven you know way too much (or too little) about things that dominated our feeds. Here's to another year of viral moments, internet drama, and pop culture chaos we'll probably forget by next December. See you in 2026!



**Answers:** A C C B B B C D B D D A D C A

12) Release

19) Jockey 10) Beefsteak 11) Hellia

16) Jet 17) Labnub 18) Clocking, business



## CREDITS:

JOURNALISTS: AKANSHA GUPTA, RIYA BANGALORE, ETHAN KIM, SESHA KUTTALINGAM, TYLER LIN, CLAIRE HONG, NORA DALAL, MISHAL RIZWAN, PARISA KHAN

COMIC ARTIST: GRACE ZENG

CO-EDITORS-IN-CHIEF: RIYA BANGALORE, CLAIRE HONG, AND ETHAN KIM

FACULTY ADVISOR: MR. WITZ

QUESTIONS, COMMENTS, CONCERNS: BASISGAZETTE@GMAIL.COM