

BASIS SCOTTSDALE GAZETTE

The Doctor Is In

by: Mintra Waram

The school year is finally here, and over the next nine months students at school, share one thing in common: the need for a reliable guidance counselor. They are all searching for someone who will be there each step of the way. This is where Dr. Wilke comes in.

In a recent interview, Dr. Wilke shared her journey and plans for supporting students here.

Dr. Wilke's aspiration to become a guidance counselor came from a deep desire to positively impact students during a "pivotal" time in their lives. "The reason I was interested in coming to this job was the impact that I could have on students. This is such a pivotal moment, and it's scary. Students often don't know what they want to do, and that's okay," she said. Her background in literacy and education really shines through: "Writing literacy is a big part of my background because I actually teach higher education literacy. Reading and writing are fundamental life skills."



SAVE THE DATE

Half-Day: 9/20

Homecoming: 9/28

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Before joining our school, Dr. Wilke had numerous education related jobs. She began as an elementary teacher, moved into professional development with Pearson Education, and then became the literacy director for Northern Illinois University's Jerry L. Johns Literacy Clinic. "I loved that role because I was able to do research and present with Dr. Johns," she said. Her move to Scottsdale was a dream come true, and she has continued teaching online programs that she helped develop. "I love working with students one on one. It's about navigation—through their applications, future plans, and essay writing," she added.

As she settles into her new role, Dr. Wilke is focused on getting to know students, especially seniors. "I'm probably one of those nosy people. I want to get to know you, not in a rude way, but because I genuinely care," she said. She aims to foster a comfortable environment where students can freely share their concerns and goals.

Looking ahead, Dr. Wilke is eager to support students in various ways. "Right now, I'm helping students with their personal statements and essays. It's about guiding them through the process of finding and developing their topics," she explained. She is also planning to engage with juniors and sophomores through presentations and workshops to help them with college planning and academic preparation.

Dr. Wilke emphasizes the importance of an open environment. "The door is always open. I want students to feel comfortable coming in, whether they need academic, emotional, or social support," she said. She also shared her vision for integrating emotional and social support into her role. "I'd love to introduce more programs focused on emotional well-being and creating a safe space for students."



Source: Google Images

Quarreling Over 100 Bucks: A Parking Update

by: Valerie Polukhtin

Almost every school year at BASIS Scottsdale begins with some kind of parking lot fiasco. Remember three years ago when the school tried to use the *Park My Kid* app? It lasted a grand total of one day before the line trailing down past two traffic lights convinced administration to discard it.

This year seems to be no different. In the past few years, parents have increasingly been using the North Lot, frequently referred to as the “Senior Lot,” to drop-off and pick-up their students. Although it doesn’t cause any obvious issues, over time it can cause some backlog and, quite simply, is frustrating at times.

However, this year the administration is coming down hard, regulating everyone entering and leaving the lot. New signs banning the drop-off of students have gone up in the North Lot, blocking part of the road and forcing drivers to severely slow down.

On August 19th and 20th, Mr. Flores was seen carefully inspecting each spot, checking license plates and parking tags. Later that day, he announced to all juniors and seniors that they would no longer be allowed to pick-up siblings from their spots.

Naturally, within hours, Mr. Flores' office was filled with students complaining about the policy. They cited the price—one-hundred dollars per spot, and the fact that the spot was rightfully theirs. Students like Tanvi were noted passionately arguing about the inconvenience of picking up siblings in the line when they already had a spot.

Two days later, Mr. Flores amended his previous announcement, stating parents were still banned from using the spots but students could park there to pick up their students. Arguments over the parking seem to have subdued since then.



Source: Payton Dymek

REVIEWS

A Summerization by: Claire Hong and Riya Bangalore

Each year, at the beginning of August, we are once again forced to drag our feet through the familiar green corridors of BASIS Scottsdale and forget the free and exciting days of summer. Ready to spend the next endless months of our lives buried in worksheets? Before we start our collective downward spiral, let's reminisce on the wild roller coaster of the summer of 2024!

Let's kick things off with the most notable moments in music, like Kendrick Lamar dropping the hit single "Not Like Us" music video in July in an epic response to disses from Drake. This was part of a months-long back and forth between the two rappers, "Not Like Us" marked the end of the 'beef', leaving most fans proclaiming Kendrick as the winner. In early May, Billie Eilish released her 3rd studio album, "Hit Me Hard and Soft," to both critical and commercial success. This album debuted multiple hit summer songs like "Birds of a Feather," "Lunch," and "Chihiro." Another prominent musical artist, Charli XCX, released her album "Brat" in June 2024. This sparked discussions online over its jarring neon green album cover and grainy letters spelling out the album title. After its initial release, the use of the word "Brat" along with "Brat summer" started trending online with no specific meaning attached to it. Charlie created even more chaos when she tweeted "Kamala is Brat" seemingly in support of vice president/presidential nominee Kamala Harris. Astonishingly, Harris' campaign embraced the title.

We also can't forget how Sabrina Carpenter burst onto the music scene after going viral while opening for Taylor Swift's legendary Eras tour. Soon after, she released her hit single "Espresso," with many crowning it as the song of the summer. Espresso's iconic lyrics and catchy beat have made it a long-time chart-topper and popular social media audio. She followed this up with yet another banger, "Please, Please, Please," which she released a couple of months later. After releasing these gems, fans were thrilled when she announced her new album "Short n' Sweet".

One cannot mention the new artists of the year without mentioning the overnight success that is Chappell Roan. She released her debut album "The Rise and Fall of a Midwest Princess" in 2023 and gained a cult following, which set her up for success this summer. Roan became a viral sensation with songs like "Hot To Go" and "Good Luck, Babe!". She is now known for her bright red hair and her camp pop rock style. Chappell Roan is here to stay!



Source:
Business
Insider

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Along with historical musical moments, we also witnessed extraordinary two box office phenomena, *Inside Out 2* and *Deadpool & Wolverine*. While these movies are entirely different genres, they both hit the one billion mark in the global box office in less than one month prior to their release. With *Inside Out 2* grossing a grand total of 1.7 billion and *Deadpool & Wolverine* making 1.2 billion dollars this summer, Disney finally managed to make a couple of commercial successes after three years of underwhelming summer releases. Ryan Reynolds and Hugh Jackman's *Deadpool 3* was the first R-rated movie to surpass one billion dollars at the box office, and *Inside Out 2* exceeded the one billion mark in just 19 days, faster than any animated movie before it. These two massive hits granted Disney the triumph of being the only studio to release billion-dollar grossing movies back-to-back in only one year.

Of course, our summary would be incomplete if we did not discuss the 2024 Paris Summer Olympics, too. And these Olympics did not disappoint, filled with controversial moments and astonishing performances.

Starting off, America continued its streak of Olympic victories with a total of 40 gold medals, with the help of our women's gymnastics team winning the team all-around and Simone Biles winning the women's gymnastics individual all-around and women's vault. Noah Lyles and Quincy Hall both won gold for the US in the men's 100m and 400m. The US swimming team won a total of 28 medals, eight gold, with the help of Katie Ledecky, who won 2 gold medals, increasing her Olympic golds to 9. Moving away from the US, Rebeca Andrade of Brazil won gold on the women's individual floor exercise, beating Simone Biles. Nadeem Arshad of Pakistan broke the world record for Javelin. Armand Duplantis of Sweden broke his own world record in the pole vault. Novak Djokovic of Serbia finally won the Olympic gold in men's singles tennis after an intense battle with Spain's Carlos Alcaraz. Finally, Zheng Qinwen won China's first Olympic gold in single's tennis.



Source: Forbes

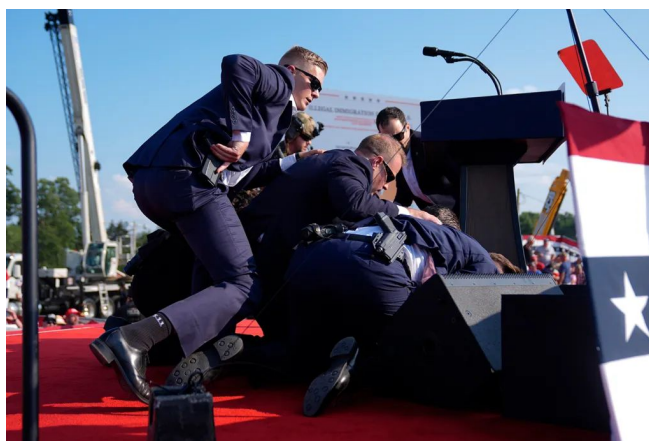
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Moving from the tennis court to the courtroom, a significant legal case this summer, *Loper Bright Enterprises v. Raimondo*, overturned *Chevron*; which makes this one of the most impactful cases in our everyday lives. *Chevron Deference*, a 40-year precedent, says that in the case of ambiguous federal legislation, courts should defer to a federal agency's interpretation of the law. So now, instead of agencies like the FDA using their expertise to analyze vague laws Congress passes, this power is now given to federal judges. This decision expanded the power of the judiciary and will forever change the way cases involving pollution and workplace hazards are approached in US courts.

Another jaw-dropping event this summer happened at one of Trump's rallies in Butler, Pennsylvania on July 13th when America witnessed a failed assassination attempt, by a young man named Thomas Matthew Crooks. During the shooting, two people were wounded, one person was killed, and a bullet grazed Trump's upper right ear. Crooks was eliminated by Secret Service agents, and Trump was quickly rushed out of the scene. Shortly after this, Biden dropped out of the race, and Democrats nominated Kamala Harris as their official presidential nominee, and Tim Walz as her Vice President pick. Harris is set to have a presidential debate with Trump on September 10th. It is without a doubt that we can say this year's election is going to have major implications for American society.

Finally, two technology stories popped up this summer, Alphabet, the company commonly known as Google, was convicted of being a monopoly by a federal judge. The basis for this decision was Google's history of paying large sums of money to be the default search engine for browsers such as Safari. Alas at the airport, a software update gone wrong from CrowdStrike, a cybersecurity firm, ended in hundreds of flights being canceled and thousands of bags being lost. This error was worldwide, throwing many major airlines into chaos.

That's it for our *summerization* this year! So, as we all return back to school and revisit our ceiling-less classrooms and uncomfortable plastic chairs, let's hold onto the memories we made this summer. The good, bad, and in-between are right here in this recap; the only thing we can say for sure is that this summer was one for the history books! See you next summer!?



Source: Northeastern Global News

Book Review:

Victim by Andrew Boryga by Valerie Polukhtin

Published March 2024, Andrew Boryga's satiric debut novel *Victim* criticizes America's obsession with trauma culture. Our protagonist, Javier Perez, has the exact kind of past that appeals to a college admissions officer looking for a sob story: single mother, murdered father, and Hispanic heritage. Despite his misgivings – and the feeling that his life is not all that bad compared to his classmates – Javier uses these points to craft a college essay that grants him a full-ride scholarship to a fancy private institute for a degree in writing.

Although Javier himself is at times lazy and unambitious, only initially pursuing writing because he dreams of becoming a rich and famous author, his girlfriend Anais maneuvers him into better and better positions. He corrals the school newspaper into giving him a column with the threat that there's no Hispanic student on the staff permanently. He slowly gains online fame by posting exaggerated and often entirely false stories about racist encounters.

Meanwhile, his childhood friend Gio ends up in prison instead of a college, busted for selling drugs. Javier continues sending letters to Gio, describing his college experience and his new-found awareness of his social position. Javier is told he's a victim of systemic racism, and although he knows he grew up with different opportunities than others, most of the time he feels

like he's playing along with this farce rather than believing the fancy jargon.

Javier also begins dating his first long-term girlfriend, Anais, who's half-Hispanic, like Javier, but from a much wealthier background. *Victim* provides a nice juxtaposition between these three characters, using their similar racial but different class backgrounds to question the impact of circumstances on our future.

Anais comes from a similar ethnic background as Javier but her middle-class lifestyle reflects a degree of privilege Javier lacks. Although Javier faced worse economic conditions, such as a constantly underfunded school or neighborhoods that lacked access even to fresh food, he doesn't blame it on race in the way Anais does.

Anais, Gio, and Javier provide a beautiful trio of parallels. Javier's exposure to more white-dominated academic fields and critical race theory contrasts with Gio's stint in prison. Despite their similar backgrounds, Javier grows to believe his life is defined by the system around him while Gio reaffirms his opinion that his life is his choice. Even though he's from a poor background, he fully acknowledges that he made the decision that led to his arrest. Right or wrong, he doesn't let his individual choices be overshadowed or justified by something else, maintaining his volition. To him, background is not a choice.

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And, in a way, Anais represents the opposite. Despite having more opportunities than either other character, she's often overshadowed by the perception of injustice. She fabricates moments of racism where there are arguably none and almost hides behind this idea. Although she's been undoubtedly affected by racism, such as growing up Hispanic in a mostly white neighborhood, her continued emphasis on trauma stories almost suffocates her as a character.

The only obvious disappointment in *Victim*, in my opinion, was the few instances of one-sided analysis of trauma. Although Javier heavily exaggerates his trauma to advance in his career, it's hard to imagine that seeing your father get shot wouldn't affect you psychologically. Brushing over the very real consequence of this makes the book seem a bit one-dimensional at times. Yes, Javier is not defined by his trauma, but I would have appreciated a more nuanced look at this topic. Sometimes, I feel like it was brushed over in a way that felt dismissive.

The satiric tones of the novel, however, kept me hooked. Boryga has just the right amount of mocking – poking fun at the reader and those around us without overdoing it – to communicate his message. Javier's role as both the victim and the victimizer forces us to re-evaluate these stories we've come to praise. Boryga ruthlessly criticizes the modern media's hunger, obsession even, with stories of victimhood.

To me, it felt especially pointed towards those who over-emphasize the importance of diversity for diversity or the woes of those burdened by systemic racism. Boryga dismantles this narrative by proving how a dramatization actually harms these minorities, shaping their stories to center on their background and identities rather than them as individuals.

Victim is a beautiful debut novel. Andrew Boryga injects just the right amount of humor and criticism, remaining both insightful yet entertaining. *Victim* is an interesting reapproach to America's obsession with victim culture.



Source: Goodreads

September Shuffle:

P.S. What are YOU listening to?



Music

homecoming??

fall vibes🍁

Based on your recent listening



Apple: Charlie XCX



Good Graces: Sabrina Carpenter



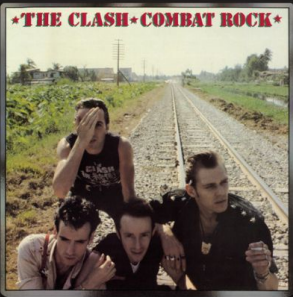
Magic Johnson: Ian



Need new recommendations?
Discover more, including some “Witz from the 80’s!”



Mirrorball: Taylor Swift



Rock the Casbah: The Clash



Good Luck, Babe!: Chappell Roan



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Monkeypox Outbreak

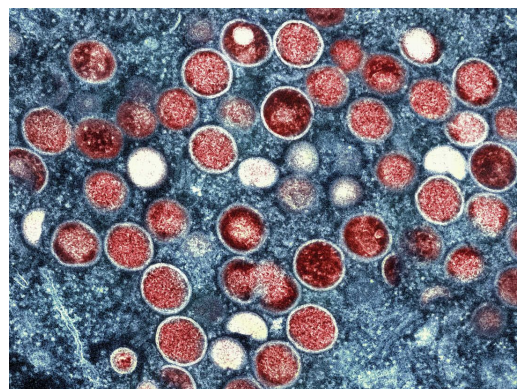
by Ethan Kim

As you may know, there has been recent news about the outbreak of Monkeypox, also known as mpox. It seems that this virus originated in Africa and is even spreading in some states in the USA. Pictures are being posted everywhere of people who have monkeypox covered with pimples, rashes, and lumps that seem painful to bear. Some people have even gone to say that this will create another lockdown just like how COVID-19 did a couple of years ago. But really, what is the possibility of another lockdown happening?

To begin, there are necessary facts about monkeypox that everyone should know about. Firstly, this isn't an airborne disease like coronavirus, and is actually transmitted through physical touch instead. Additionally, certain animals and materials can also transmit this disease upon contact, which means that everyone should be careful of what they touch. This means that most of the time you won't have to worry about people that are coughing and wearing a mask but rather, focusing on what you make physical contact with. Moving onto symptoms of monkeypox, they may consist of rashes, a fever, sore throat, headache, muscle aches. Of course, if anyone is concerned with having monkeypox, they should consult their doctors and make sure if they truly have contracted monkeypox.

Densely populated states such as California, New York, and Florida, have reported cases of monkeypox, and there have been rumors about schools shutting down again. However, many experts say it is unlikely for another lockdown to occur. According to Anne Rimoin, an epidemiologist who focuses on new infectious diseases, "The answer is no. Mpox is not new, like COVID-19. This is a known virus with tools already available to be able to control it, including vaccines." Additionally, monkeypox itself is more difficult to be spread since it isn't airborne like COVID so, there is a smaller threat comparatively.

Thankfully, it would be unlikely for another lockdown due to monkeypox, and it isn't going to affect many people in their day-to-day lives.



Source: NPR

PUZZLES

El Wordo

by: Neha Jasthi

P	R	O	N	G
A	D	I	E	U
P	O	S	T	S
Z	E	S	T	S

 = right letter, right place
 = right letter, wrong place



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