

# THE BASIS SCOTTSDALE GAZETTE

## A TRULY *STARRY NIGHT*: HIGHLIGHTS FROM 2019 PROM

BY ESTHER LI-CHEN



A picture of the 2019 prom poster created by the BASIS Leadership Dance Committee

BASIS Leadership recently organized prom for this year's sophomore, junior, and senior classes at Monterra at Westworld on April 13 from 7pm to 11pm. Stemming from the theme of Van Gogh's famous painting *Starry Night*, there was a blue-and-white color scheme with lights, streamers, and balloons lining the halls and tables, as well a backdrop behind the DJ with a copy of the iconic painting itself. While last year's venue at Chateau Luxe was a sizable distance from most students, and the room was too large for BASIS

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### SAVE THE DATE

May 3: End of Trimester 3	May 24: Graduation
May 6-17: AP Exams	May 24: Last Day of School
May 20-23: Term Projects	May 27: Memorial Day

**FEATURED**

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Scottsdale students, the Monterra was a seemingly perfect size and distance for the approximately 150 students that showed up.

This year, we had DJ Tony in charge of the music and a photo booth from Candid Pix with an LED Party Cube; they offered both digital and physical copies of the images. Many of the songs were remixed to flow smoothly from one to another, and almost all of the students danced, cramming together on the dance floor, which had to be fixed later in the night after the dancing got too intense for the dance floor to hold up. The enjoyment was evident on everyone's sweaty, exhausted faces. Additionally, the photo booth was a big hit, as there was almost always a line for it, with everyone using the provided props. The DJ, photo booth, and theme were all chosen by the Dance Committee of BASIS Leadership, led by the heads: the Gazette's own Bobby Yalam, Leadership Co-President Gabby Wodka, and senior Lekha Kuttalingam.

One of the most beloved traditions of prom is the prom king and queen. Large cheers and chants burst out when the winners' names were called, and palpable excitement overflowed in everyone. This year, we had Audrey Madura and Aayush Modi as the senior queen and king and Rachel Baird and Michael Wayrynen as the junior princess and prince, respectively. Following their crowning, which featured exceptionally stylish feather boas, the pairs shared a special dance on the dance floor.

In my opinion, this year's prom was an overwhelming success largely due to the location, activities, and music, and next year, I hope that this year's rising sophomores – as well as next year's juniors and seniors – buy tickets for them and their friends for the next prom in advance to ensure it is an even greater success. Prom is an experience unique to high school that all students should experience with great excitement, and if you missed out this year, you should definitely go next year.

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## CLUB SPOTLIGHT: BASIS SHE'S THE FIRST

BY MALIA KUO

Though the end of the year rapidly approaching, and students are barely going to their mandatory classes, let alone their extracurricular activities, it's important to recognize the important ways certain after-school clubs shape our school for the better. One such club that is worthy of our appreciation is She's the First.

Founded in 2009, She's the First is a non-profit organization aiming to reduce gender inequality through fundraising for girls' education. It has impacted over 7,200 girls in eleven countries, providing scholarships for them to become the first in their families to receive a secondary education. BASIS Scottsdale's chapter was founded in 2013, with Ms. Haag, the club's faculty advisor. Since then, the club has contributed thousands of dollars to the She's the First national organization through school fundraisers. One of the most well-loved fundraisers is Bake a Change, in which the club gets together to bake cupcakes for a cupcake drive. This year, She's the First also hosted fundraisers like Sweat for STF, where the club convened at the Lost Dog trail to hike for five miles, with each mile backed by a financial sponsor. More recently, She's the First has also starting expanding their local outreach, creating a tampon/pad drive for homeless women and volunteering at a local women's shelter.

Each dollar She's the First raised has contributed to aiding girls education in underprivileged countries – an impact which She's the First was able to tangibly understand through direct letters of correspondence in this past year. Its contributions toward combating gender inequality make it an invaluable part of the BASIS community, and provide exciting hope for the future. If you want to make global change in the fight for gender equality, try out She's the First as an extracurricular activity next school year.



Pictured: She's the First members on their #SweatforSTF hike in January 2019

# NEWS

## *FULL HOUSE* TO PRISON HOUSE: BY MALIA KUO THE COLLEGE ADMISSIONS SCANDAL

On March 7, 2019, federal prosecutors charged fifty people with bribing their children's way into the college system. Among them were many of the rich and famous, including *Full House* star Lori Loughlin and actress Felicity Huffman, all of whom used their wealth to pay their children's way into selective colleges, with or without the children's knowledge.

The main scandal stems from the common practice of paying college admissions manager William Singer hundreds of thousands of dollars to take their children through an elaborate college scam. Supposedly, parents "donated" to Singer's non-profit organization, the Key Worldwide Foundation, which prosecutors believe to have been a cover for the true nature of his organization. His bribed SAT or ACT administrators would correct students' tests after they had turned them in to get the specific score Singer required. In addition to that practice, Singer would then use his connections to college sports coaches to have them accept students who had never touched a soccer ball or rowing oar in their life. Alongside his "stellar" photoshop skills, he would twist their admissions letter to be synonymous with his narrative.

Schools including USC, Stanford, Georgetown, UCLA, and Wake Forest have been implicated in these accusations, with many firing the coaches who had accepted undeserving students. As this scandal spread across America much like the supposed crew members raced across the water, many students, parents, and academic professionals became incredibly disillusioned with the reality of college admissions.

Though this instance exposed an extreme version of using wealth to gain greater opportunities, the ugly truth that erupted from the college admissions scandal was how colleges naturally favor the wealthy. Sure, many extraordinarily intelligent and determined students are accepted into selective college primarily based on merit, but they are in the minority. The unfortunate truth of college admissions is that while this Singer bribery was a side door into college admissions, thousands of parents pay just as much money to go through the main doors of

college admissions. Enormous donations to schools to build a new gymnasium, or to sponsor a library, constitute actions meant to tilt the scales of admissions in favor of students whose parents are well off. Besides direct contributions to the college itself, thousands of parents go a more indirect route, by paying college counselors to guide their children from eighth grade to acceptance to shape their offspring into the perfect child, tailored for admission into select universities. Though their applications had a spark, and their grades were stellar, each child forced into this pathway was guided towards college acceptance, unlike other students who used their own initiative to guide their education.

Now, in the wake of these accusations, it becomes all too clear that although these actions were extreme and devious, they merely scratch the surface of how many students gain acceptance into select universities through alternative, legal forms of bribery. Exposing the reality of college admissions makes one wonder just how much of college admissions are determined by absolute luck of environment, rather than merit alone. Even in BASIS, the repercussions of these accusations impact the way students look towards college acceptances. BASIS pushes each child to succeed in testing and academic activities, so if the colleges no longer care about merit, then what was the point of the stress from these last eight years? Nonetheless, there is only so far that a person can pull off such large-scale fraud in the long-term, and the great skills we learn BASIS will serve us better than a fake ride for the crew team.



Pictured: Actress Lori Laughlin after being accused in the recent college admissions scandal  
Source: Variety

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# BUSINESS

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## MY TOP STOCK FOR MAY 2019

BY ZAND GORGI

The stock market has been on a roll since December 2018, with the S&P 500 growing more than 17% since that month. This trend indicates that there is no better time to invest in the stock market than the present. However, with so many stocks succeeding in the market, it may seem daunting to choose just one that has growth potential, while still being at a great value. I find that Procter & Gamble (PG) is one of these rare stocks with enough upside to entice investors, while still maintaining a low P/E ratio, indicating it is a definite steal. Before I get into the many reasons why PG is such a great buy for this month, I would first like to get into what PG produces, as the name may not be familiar.

Since it was founded in 1837, Procter & Gamble (PG) has been committed to providing and selling consumer goods, health care products, home care goods, baby care products, and much more. Luvs, Pampers, Old Spice, Downy, Tide, Olay, Pantene, Head & Shoulders, Metamucil, Vicks, Oral-B, Gillette, and Crest are just some of the many brands PG owns. As such, I see the following as major reasons to buy PG stock:

**Growing global presence:** P&G is a global company with operations in 70 different countries and products in 180 different countries around the world. It is important to note that its presence will continue to grow for two reasons. First, the company spends quite a lot of money on marketing and is taking advantage of this technique to grow a strong consumer base in countries like Brazil, Mexico, Nigeria, and Poland. Secondly, with their new business model, company heads will focus their operations on specific markets around the world to ensure a growing global presence. Thus, P&G will continue to show growth in developing and overseas countries.

**Dividend:** It is important for investors to see growth in the actual stock that they purchase, but also have a dividend to increase consistency. Procter & Gamble fills this role with a dividend yield of 2.76%, a number that has consistently increased over the past 10 years. P&G's average dividend has been up about 7 cents per quarter over the last five years and I believe that with increased

efficiency and global presence, P&G's dividend will continue to see such rapid growth.

**Market cap and long history:** Procter & Gamble is the 40th largest company in the world based on its 2018 market value. The fact that P&G is a large-cap company makes P&G less risky than many other small-cap companies, and as the company continues to grow, so will its safety. Procter & Gamble is also one of the oldest multi-billion dollar companies in the world; given the company's long-standing history, it has created a large consumer base and established trust and consistency with customers, an achievement that must not be overlooked.

**Recent elevated stock performance:** Over the last year, the company has grown more than 35%. This recent upsurge in stock price is largely due to higher expected earnings, with an earnings per share of 1.25 in the latter half of January 2019, and because of massive cost reductions, which CEO David S. Taylor believes will increase profitability. The company is set to report earnings on April 23, 2019, and I believe they will outperform expectations due to their recent labor cost cuts and price increases.

**Company management and governance:** It is always a great sign when a company's management team owns a sizable portion of the company. That is the case with Procter & Gamble, whose CEO David S. Taylor has shown his executive prowess, making decisions to devolve many discretionary and policy-making powers to others to increase efficiency. In 2017, he expanded upon this point by stating, "Part of what leaders have to do is not get overwhelmed by their title and ... recognize that those closest to the consumer ... have the insights you need to really make the best decisions." The management team at P&G is incredibly strong, demonstrated by their recent devotion to the establishment of six more business units to cut costs and increase the efficiency of sales and production. As such, we see Procter & Gamble's management and governance as a positive for the company going forward.

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# FOOD

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## ESTHER EATS: MASKADORES TACO SHOP

BY ESTHER LI-CHEN

For those who are fans of Mexican food, or those who simply want to try new things, Maskadores may be the perfect spot for you. With three locations near BASIS (two in Scottsdale and one in Fountain Hills) that are open from 9am-8pm from Monday to Thursday, 9am-9pm on Fridays, and 10am to 9pm on Saturdays, and closed on Sundays, Maskadores is pretty accessible to satisfy a craving for tacos.

When I visited the location on Northsight Boulevard and Butherus Drive, the set-up seemed to mimic a grungy underground wrestling arena, with large paintings of wrestlers enveloping the walls and masks hanging above the line to order. The rusted sheets of metal lining the counters and the neon sign of a mask, as well as the metal chairs and wooden tables, really cemented the intentionally run-down atmosphere.



Regarding the menu, although there is an emphasis on the different types of tacos, as the name suggests (flour, hard shell, roll, and tacodilla), Maskadores also offers

burritos, meat quesadillas, enchiladas, and tostadas. This variety of options is supplemented by a wide selection of meats, including beef, pork, and chicken. While there is a vegetarian option, the restaurant seems to have a heavier focus on the *carne* (meat). Maskadores also offers add-ons like shrimp and fish. The food counter is set up right in front of the ordering line, which allows customers to watch as the chefs prepare their food. After they cook your meat, you are able to choose sauces and toppings like pico salsa and guacamole, which makes the experience into more of a build-your-own meal that allows you to know exactly what you're putting into your body. The price of each meal is around \$8, which isn't too expensive; however, considering the relatively small portions, that price point seems a little high.

When I visited Maskadores, I ordered three hard shell tacos and a meat quesadilla, both with asada beef, and topped the tacos with pico and lettuce. Though my choices were admittedly slightly bland, I wasn't up for taking too many risks. Both the tacos and the quesadilla were satisfactory, with strong flavors, but the food failed to distinguish itself from other restaurants that serve virtually the same thing. While I would return again, the lack of uniqueness from the food doesn't make it stand out in any way.

Overall, while the wrestling theme of Maskadores is entertaining, the food is what you'd expect from any other taco shop. However, I did try only a few simple menu items, and if you prefer more flavorful and diverse additions, then Maskadores will probably help you satisfy such a craving. So, I recommend going to Maskadores if you want to experience it for yourself, but if you already have a taco shop that you enjoy, then stick to that one.

# FEEDING YOUR OWN HAPPINESS

BY BOBBY YALAM

As the school year comes to a close, many of us have plans to relax this summer before getting back into the swing of things next school year. Though it can be easy to fall into the trap of non-stop Netflix and Doritos, the abundance of free time that summer offers can be a great opportunity to explore personal interests and hobbies in a productive manner. To ensure this productivity and avoid the slump of relaxation, it is important to consistently start your days with a healthy breakfast. A recent study from Rush University found that, beyond the established health benefits like a boosted metabolism and a lower BMI, regularly eating breakfast can improve memory and attention levels for an entire day. These benefits can ensure productivity in your free time this summer, and can even help you get through the next school year once you've established eating breakfast as a regular habit. Here are a few recipe ideas that are easy to make to give you an added boost each day this summer.



Source: Bon Appetit

## Avocado Toast with Sunny-Side-Up Egg

This popular breakfast is a staple for anyone seeking a filling, healthy meal to start their day. This recipe can be spruced up however you like, with hot sauce and tomatoes or shredded cheese and prosciutto, for example.

### *What You'll Need*

- 1 slice whole grain bread, toasted (1.5 oz)
- 1 oz mashed (1/4 small haas) avocado
- Cooking spray
- 1 large egg
- kosher salt and black pepper to taste

### *What You'll Do*

1. Mash the avocado in a small bowl and season with salt and pepper.
2. Heat a small nonstick skillet over low heat, lightly coat with cooking spray, and crack the egg into the skillet. Cover and cook until the egg whites are opaque and the yolk is still runny (approximately 3 minutes).
3. Place mashed avocado over toast, top with egg, and add salt and pepper.



Source: Hungry Girl

## Overnight Oats

If you don't have time in the morning, or want to maximize how long you can sleep in, try this overnight oat recipe, which prepares 2 servings of this delicious meal. This recipe provides a perfect foundation that can be tailored to your specific tastes with toppings such as granola, fresh berries, or shaved coconut.

### *What You'll Need*

- 1 cup rolled oats
- 1 tablespoon chia seeds
- 1/2 cup nonfat Greek yogurt
- 1 cup milk of choice (I used unsweetened almond milk)
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 1 tablespoon sweetener of choice (honey or maple syrup)

### *What You'll Do*

1. Add all the ingredients to a large mason jar or alternative glass container, and mix thoroughly until combined.
2. Cover the jar/container, and refrigerate for at least 2 hours or overnight.

# SPORTS

## BASIS SCOTTSDALE'S 2019 TRACK SEASON BY TANAY VERDARTHAM

In Mr. Wells' fourth season as head coach, BASIS Scottsdale's track team looks to improve from last year's impressive third place finish at the Arizona State meet. The Bulldogs completed their first meet of the season on March 20 and posted some impressive times, starting the season off on the right foot. The results are telling of the team's dedicated efforts, so to find out more about the team's success, I talked to some of their best performers about what drives them to be the best.

In its first meet of the season, the track team posted some awesome finishes. Our 4 by 800 boys' relay team posted a phenomenal time of 9 minutes, 38 seconds, almost 16 seconds faster than the second place team. Freshman Trevor Collins flew out of the gates to give senior Jack Flaherty a comfortable lead. However, Flaherty did not ease off the gas and ran the fastest split, the section of the relay ran by each runner, of all racers. This blaze provided a great start for sophomore Kasyap Chakravadhanula, who was practically able to jog his 400 meters. The large gap allowed anchor leg senior Nishant Kannan to finish ahead of the rest.

By no means was he solely carried by his teammates' stellar performance, as in the pure individual 800-meter, Kannan finished with the fastest time at 2:20. Kannan's constant drive gives him the stamina needed for these long-distance events and the power to be best. When I asked Nishant about these special qualities, he responded with this: "Having spent so many hours with the track team, I've created so many valuable friendships with fellow athletes and coaches. As a proud Bulldog, I always push myself in order to help the team in any way I can and just represent BASIS Scottsdale in a positive way."

The boys weren't the only ones dominating at the team's first meet. The girls' 4 by 800-meters relay team finished second place behind strong performances from the eighth grade duo of Ocean Mayer and Nastasya Stanisc and junior Millie Khosla. In addition, three of the top five

finishes for the girls' 3200-meters were from BASIS. Sophomore Stephanie Madura finished fourth and eighth grader Kiele Calhoun finished second with great times. However, sophomore Julia Lace managed to capture first with a time of 15 minutes, 21 seconds. Julia is one of the most driven runners to walk on our campus and has been integral in the team's success. When I asked her about her experiences on the team, she relayed, "I'd say the competitive spirit of the team and also the team spirit help keep me motivated. I love the team and want to do well for them, and that drives me to run faster and try to win."

As the track season continues BASIS Scottsdale looks to stay in the driver's seat. With more track meet coming up, the Bulldogs have been hard at practice. Under the leadership of Mr. Wells, Mr. Pepper, and Ms. Finley, the quest to return to the state championship is not just a dream, but could very likely become a reality.



Pictured: BASIS Scottsdale track team participating in the girls' 1600 race

# ENTERTAINMENT

## TOP SUMMER DESTINATIONS FOR 2019

BY ALLISON LI

As we approach the end of the school year, many families have already started planning vacations for the summer, trying to get away from the heat here in Arizona. If you are a person who prefers to stay away from the excruciatingly warm weather, check out these destinations that will make you eager to pursue your wanderlust.

### Williams, Arizona

If you don't want to leave the state this summer, don't worry! Williams, Arizona, is the perfect town for a summer getaway. Located among lakes, canyons, and mountains in central Arizona, you really don't have to travel very far to experience the wide variety of opportunities offered in Williams. The city is a gateway to the beautiful Grand Canyon via the Grand Canyon Railway, which starts in Williams, runs through the breathtaking landscapes of the Grand Canyon, and finally drops the passengers off at the scenic South Rim. In addition to a ride through the Grand Canyon, one can also go to the Bearizona Wildlife Park. At the Bearizona Wildlife Park, you can either take a tour bus or just stay in your own car to view black bears, wolves, mountain goats, bison, and other wildlife. Bearizona also has a petting zoo, bird-of-prey demonstrations, and other programs featuring wild animals.



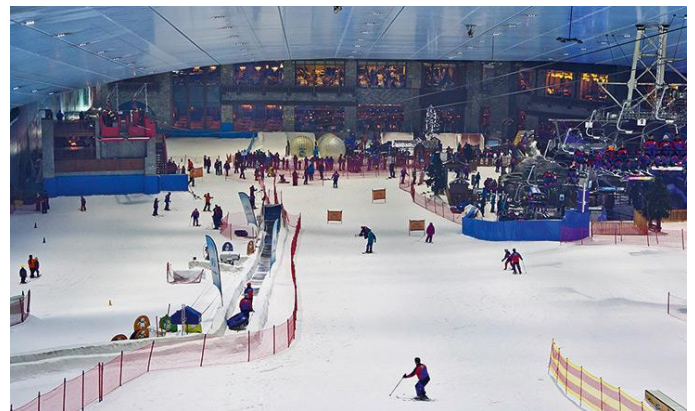
Source: Destination 360

### Schlitterbahn Water Park

If you're looking for a place that is relatively close to home, the Schlitterbahn Water Park is the perfect place for you. Located in Texas, this water park is split into two sections, with outdoor and indoor areas. Almost all the attractions in the outdoor section are connected by one river: the Rio Aventura. After entering the Rio Aventura from one of the several beaches in the park, you can choose your own path from there. The indoor section is open year round, though it has fewer features than the outdoor section. It is connected to the outdoor section by a short walkway.

### Dubai

If you miss winter, Dubai may be the perfect exotic location for you to visit this summer. In Dubai, you can still ski during the summer with their gigantic indoor ski resort. Stretching for 22,500 square meters, Ski Dubai is part of the mall of the Emirates, meaning you can go skiing and shopping at the same time. In addition to these two activities, Dubai is also known for its ultramodern architecture and beautiful nightlife scene. The most well-known tower located in Dubai, the Burj Khalifa, is 830 meters tall and has an observation deck allowing visitors a complete view of the city.



Source: Time Out Dubai



# AVENGERS *ENDGAME*: THE ULTIMATE CULMINATION OF THE MCU

BY ZAK HORI

Over the past eleven years, the Marvel Cinematic Universe (MCU) has produced strong, hero-centered movies: *The Avengers*, *Captain America: Winter Soldier*, *Thor: Ragnarok*, and many others. However, the MCU's twenty-first movie, the biggest one by far, will be an epic movie. In *Avengers Endgame*, recovering from the consequences of *Infinity War*, the Avengers will have to come together and save the world from Thanos, who survived the previous movie. Besides the main plot of this movie, how will this movie change the MCU forever? WARNING: spoilers for the entire MCU and *Avengers: Infinity War*.

For non-MCU fans, you might be wondering: why is there so much hype around this movie? Since all of the MCU movies connect, the last eleven years have built up many dynamic characters and heroes. The events of previous movies like Ultron, Sokovia, the Airport fight, and Xandar have shaped beloved characters like Captain America and Iron Man, mainstays in the Avengers. In addition, this is a sequel to the open-ended *Infinity War*. After Thanos snapped and won the battle, what happened to the world and heroes? *Infinity War* was basically a cliffhanger for the audience and *Endgame* is a continuation of the battle that began in the previous movies.

Couple that aspect with the culture of social media, forums, memes, websites, and fan theories, and millions of people are talking about this movie. Just like *Infinity War*, the mixture of Avengers and Guardians of the Galaxy, along with new additions to the movie, like Ant Man, Hawkeye, and Captain Marvel, is brewing more hype on the Internet. Overall, since *Avengers Endgame* features a huge crossover of the MCU, fans are anxiously anticipating the movie.

*Endgame* will be much different from the rest of the MCU's classic superhero movies. Already established in *Infinity War*, Thanos, the villain from Titan, already won over 28 distinct superheros. What other movie kills off so many heroes and lets the villain win? There might be hints of resurrection in the future, but the cultural impact of Thanos' victory did not go unnoticed. Video games, forums, and memes all started taking a stab at Thanos' character and superpowers. Personally, I have never seen so much attention to any other MCU movie.

The MCU is largely different from other fictional universes. In general, the MCU handles world consequences very nicely. How many science-fiction movies have included an alien invasion that is deterred before life resumes like normal? The MCU is all about making its characters' storylines believable. After the attack on New York in *Avengers*, Adrian Toomes (a villain in *Spiderman: Homecoming*) cleans up the mess before being replaced by government officials. Outraged, he decides to keep and smuggle the alien technology off-site to construct powerful alien weapons, which feature prominently in *Homecoming*, highlighting the interconnectedness of the MCU. Even TV shows build onto the MCU: Agents of SHIELD, a TV show focusing on the operations of SHIELD, cleans up the destruction from *Thor: The Dark World* and finds alien technology.

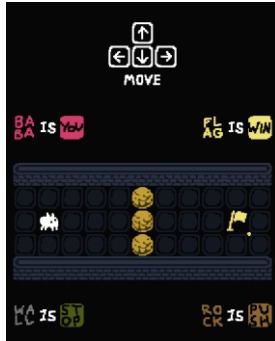
With all these alien attacks and civilian casualties, the governments want to restrict the Avengers, a key plot point in *Civil War*. These complex facets all came together in last year's *Infinity War*, with the ultimate consequence of half the population being wiped out. Fans could just speculate the consequences of losing 50% of the world's population. Airplanes could fall from the sky, cars could run off highways, and fires and crime could rise. All these consequences from the *Avengers* make the MCU more believable and in-depth with their themes and movie experience.

After *Avengers: Endgame*, the MCU will have to start a new era of storytelling. Over the past eleven years, Thanos and the Infinity stones have been hiding after the credits of every movie as easter eggs or plot points. There have been multiple fan theories about who could be the next villain. More recently, Disney bought 21st Century Fox for tens of billions of dollars. This opened up new rights for superheroes (Wolverine, Deadpool and Silver Surfer), superhero teams (Fantastic Four and X-Men), and villains (Magneto and Doctor Doom). There are obviously so many heroes and villains that Marvel and Disney can now use in their films to create what could perhaps become an even more intricate universe than the MCU.

# ALL ABOUT *BABA IS YOU*

BY ZANDER HILL

On March 13th, a new indie game, *Baba Is You*, was released for the Nintendo Switch and PC. With cutesy art and endearingly childish syntax, it's easy to love *Baba*, even based on its style alone. However, beyond the style, the best part about *Baba* is its roundabout approach to teaching players the rules of the game and the message that it sends about teaching.



Take the first level, for example. Of course, as an instructive tutorial, this level doesn't seem particularly inventive or new; basic tutorials have been around for years, and this just seems to be another instance of stating clear information the player could've figured out. In fact, it almost seems satiric of the modern tutorial, telling something so simplistic as who the player actually is, or what the flag does. But, the beauty of this level comes from it setting up the player's expectations of the game based on the tutorial, as being the same as everything else we've seen in recent years.



After the first level sets up as the game's expected "rules," the second seems immediately impossible; the titular character Baba is surrounded on all sides by walls he can't escape, separated from the winning flag. Now, the complete hand-holding of the first stage has disappeared, and the player is left to flail wildly. It may seem cruel to give so little direction, but the solution is something almost everyone will figure out in the confined space: by running into the words "Wall is Stop," the player is able to move the words such that the sentence is no longer present, and Baba is able to pass through the wall.

Now, instead of the rules being spelled-out, they are under the player's control. Players' expectations from the first level are subverted in such a way that they gain agency over the world of the game. Then, pushing together the sentence "Flag is Win," players not only realize their own power, but their ability to decide when they've won; that is, they decide what they get out of the game. And why shouldn't that be the case? Not only does *Baba Is You* introduce a relatively unique mechanic in its puzzle building, it also acts as a commentary upon the nature of gaming, asking us whether we choose how to enjoy games. And that's just in the first two levels.

Of course, going over the entire game in detail would take an impossibly long time, but the point is clear: almost every level is beautifully designed, managing to subvert the established rules in a different way while still maintaining the aspect of player control. There are definitely exceptions, but even with over two hundred levels the relatively simple mechanics never seem to get old, still bringing the same satisfaction upon solving a puzzle. Holding both a rewarding experience and an interesting message, *Baba Is You* is a must-play experience.

# BILLIE EILISH'S NEW ALBUM: *WHEN WE ALL FALL ASLEEP, WHERE DO WE GO?*

BY KOBE SIMON

American singer-songwriter Billie Eilish launched from relative obscurity to stardom at the age of fourteen with the release of her debut single "Ocean Eyes" on the streaming service Soundcloud in November 2015. The song became an instant hit, re-released worldwide a year later through record label Interscope Records. Far from fading back into obscurity, Eilish went on to release singles such as "Bellyache" and "Idontwannabeyouanymore" as well as her debut EP, *Don't Smile at Me*. In addition to serving as the opening act on Florence and the Machine's High as Hope Tour in 2018, Eilish has headlined three tours from 2018-present.

Now seventeen-years-old, Billie recently released her first full-length album, *WHEN WE ALL FALL ASLEEP, WHERE DO WE GO?* The album includes tracks such as "Bad Guy", "8", and my personal favorite, "ilomilo." Additionally, the album's song "My Strange Addiction" notably sampled dialogue from the popular American sitcom *The Office*, whose producers personally cleared the sample for Eilish to use. Several of *The Office*'s stars, such as Angela Martin and B.J. Novak, have reached out over social media to congratulate Eilish on the success of the song, as well as the album as a whole, with Novak simply calling the song "...a banger."

The album also featured singles such as "When the Party's Over" (originally released in October 2018) and "Bury a Friend," originally released in January 2019.

In total, the album, which was released at the end of March, includes fourteen tracks. In addition to previous nominations from iHeartRadio Awards and Pollstar Awards, *WHEN WE ALL FALL ASLEEP, WHERE DO WE GO?* debuted at number one on the *US Billboard 200* charts, Eilish becoming the first-ever artist born in the 2000s to have a number one album. Considering that *WHEN WE ALL FALL ASLEEP, WHERE DO WE GO?* is her debut album, this is particularly impressive.

Unfortunately, some seem determined to find fault with the young star, no matter how impressive her accomplishments are. Eilish recently went under fire for publically voicing her mourning over the death of friend Jahseh Onfroy, better-known as XXXTENTACION, who was tragically shot and killed in June 2018. Many criticize Eilish for this due to the controversy surrounding Jahseh's domestic abuse charges. Eilish has simply stated, "I want to be able to mourn, I don't want to be shamed for it...I don't think I deserve getting hate for loving someone that passed."

Despite this recent controversy, Eilish is steadily becoming a household name, with the success of *WHEN WE ALL FALL ASLEEP, WHERE DO WE GO?* causing Eilish to become the first musical artist born sometime in the 2000s to have a number one album. If you enjoy alternative music, this album might be the perfect listen for you.



Pictured: Billie Eilish performing in San Francisco in 2018

Source: SFGate

# BOREDOM QUIZ: PART 2

BY ANGIE WONG

Most of you probably don't remember, but a few months ago I made a boredom quiz that simply offers ridiculous answers for fun. This quiz is a continuation of the first one! It doesn't have any actual results as it's just supposed to combat boredom. For the end of the year, just read through this quiz without having to put the effort into calculating results. Have fun!

1. What's the best way to dance?
  - a. Yeet out of the room.
  - b. Dab aggressively.
  - c. *Fortnite* dance your way to victory.
  - d. Cupid shuffle.
  - e. "Ew, I hate dancing."
  - f. Stop, drop, and roll.
2. How do you spell "expecto patronum"?
  - a. "You're kidding, right?"
  - b. "Ahahahaha 'spell' I get it because it's a Harry Potter spell so funny."
  - c. "It's- it's right there..."
  - d. Expect patrons.
  - e. Egg penguin.
  - f. Take the derivative.
3. You stop at a red light while you are driving. What do you do?
  - a. Take a nap.
  - b. "I don't drive?"
  - c. Pull out a sandwich.
  - d. Switch places with your pet kangaroo.
  - e. Levitate the car and proceed to your destination.
  - f. "...I stop??? What are these other options?"
4. You see a duck named Bill.
  - a. "...Is that it?"
  - b. Did he walk up to a lemonade stand and say to the man running the stand "hey \*insert music\* got any grapes?"
  - c. Duck and cover.
  - d. Quack.
  - e. "Omg, I get it. Bill because he's a duck and ducks have bills."
  - f. The person writing this quiz might need help.
5. It appears your house is on fire. What do you do?
  - a. Drink some water.
  - b. Go for a refreshing swim in your pool of water.
  - c. Take a nice trip to the beach and stare at all the beautiful water.
  - d. Read about the water cycle.
  - e. Water your plants.
  - f. ... Call 911?
6. Let's go fly a kite.
  - a. Up to its highest height.
  - b. "We live in a desert you wacko."
  - c. "I don't have a kite."
  - d. "No, I'm tired."
  - e. "Yay, I love flying things."
  - f. "I'd rather fly a house with a bunch of balloons while an old man, a boy scout, and a mildly extinct bird are riding in it."
7. Today is a great day. This statement is:
  - a. A question.
  - b. False.
  - c. In need of reform.
  - d. Suspicious.
  - e. Super cool.
  - f. True.
8. \*Screaming\*
  - a. "Mood."
  - b. "Stop screaming it hurts my ears."
  - c. \*more screaming in response\*
  - d. "How am I supposed to answer that?"
  - e. Strong diaphragm you have there. \*clap clap\*
  - f. I'm confused."
9. Where do penguins live?
  - a. In my freezer.
  - b. On Earth.
  - c. "If I knew that, it would be an invasion of their privacy."
  - d. 7364846 North Iceberg Lane.
  - e. With Mr. Popper.
  - f. Antarctica.
10. Which weapon would you use to fight cereal?
  - a. I would use a – wait what?!
  - b. "I don't want to be a cereal killer, though."
  - c. A spoon to aggressively poke the cereal
  - d. A sword so I can pick up the bits individually and fling them across the room.
  - e. More cereal because...I'm hungry.
  - f. Milk as long as it is not poured before the cereal.

# WORD SEARCH

BY RYAN DONG

G S A X L L O S I F Z Q A F M X B L T X  
 U N G P T L Y U I V H J W G U X E E S J  
 M Y I E W C E N T H E D I N K V I M J Q  
 O W Z T G E A O M O T J O I A I Y E Q S  
 W M I N S L E L I I F S E R S U M M E R  
 V O R A E E A K H C A S T L C D H O N E  
 T N B X J K T H Z E D J C R D B Y R O W  
 F A A D Q R I D S G I P P H R X V I I O  
 G M S S M C A Y E T B T L R O T L A T L  
 S Z J H I D G P P Z O G B C Z O Q L A F  
 J A X B T R B G P Q I J X N O L L D C C  
 U N V N E G G M D R B D W T S S J A A A  
 Q W D L Y L A K M F N M R D X C Z Y V H  
 W J L E V Z Z M S O G T U A F N O S R Q  
 Y A P Y Y I W Y X C D U Q N D E F Y E M  
 F O R B G K Q D J A D E R T L N M A M X  
 Q B Z G T E R M P R O J E C T S A Z M C  
 Y A D S R E H T O M W V X R Q R I T U W  
 P U K O B V B L D R O H S S F J H P S P  
 L E X Y S R U L W F G G L X F K Y T C W

ALLERGY SEASON  
 AP WEEK  
 FINAL EXAMS  
 FLOWERS  
 FREEDOM  
 MEMORIAL DAY  
 MOTHERS DAY

OUT OF SCHOOL  
 STANDARDIZED  
 TESTING  
 SUMMER  
 SUMMER VACATION  
 TERM PROJECTS  
 TRAVEL

<u>Grades at Public School</u>	<u>Grades at BASIS</u>
100% - Genius	200% - Genius
95% - Excellent	110% - Satisfactory
90% - Great	100% - Adequate
80% - Good	95% - Below Average
70% - Average	90% - Borderline Failure
60% - Below average	85% - Failure
50% - Failure	80% - Exile
< 50% - Needs Improvement	< 80% - Ruined for life

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