

# BASIS SCOTTSDALE GAZETTE

## Something New to Check Out at BASIS

by Jacob Shamoun

Congratulations to our very own BASIS Scottsdale students who have finally given our school what every school must have: a library! The library we have today is the culmination of several years of coordination between students, parents, teachers, and administrators. For those who are not already aware, the library can be found in Room 123 and holds over 2,000 books for all students to enjoy while also acting as a center for the student body, providing much-needed printer access, and various other benefits. Special thanks to all the students, teachers, and administrators who worked along the way, especially Ms. De Blas, Eric, Abhinav, Bhavya, Aiden.

To learn more about what we can use from a library and about how we can help improve our library, I have interviewed Eric, Abhinav, Bhavya, and Aiden, four juniors who have worked tirelessly to create and promote the incredible library in our school.

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### SAVE THE DATE

Garlic Lovers Day – 10/6

Diwali – 10/24

Halloween – 10/31

Spirit Week Begins – 10/31

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*When is the library open for students to check out books and/or read and do homework?*

The BASIS Scottsdale Library is open from 7:00 - 8:15 AM Wednesday - Friday, and 3:45 PM - 4:30 PM Monday - Friday. Whenever the library is open, we encourage students to use it as a free, quiet work space to read, do homework, and relax.

*What kind of books can students check out?*

We have over 2,500 books in our collection, with genres spanning from juvenile fiction to historical nonfiction. We also have a large collection of preparatory books, textbooks, and yearbooks from 2004-2022.

*How long can students check out books?*

Books are due two weeks after the day they were checked out, but can be renewed twice on our website, with each renewal adding one week to the due date.

*Can students request specific books they want to see in our library or provide other feedback?*

Yes! We want to hear from students about their favorite books so we can develop a catalog that best reflects our students' interests. If you ever want to get in touch with us, feel free to send us an email at [info@bsclibrary.net](mailto:info@bsclibrary.net)!

*Can students help improve our library through donations?*

We are always looking for new books to feature in the library! We prefer donations to our Amazon wishlist (<https://wishlist.bsclibrary.net/>). We also have a large



The new BASIS Scottsdale library

donation box in the library to accept any student submitted donations. We accept the majority of donations, and simply request that books be in good condition (not damaged or written in) and appropriate for the students at our school (5th-12th grade).

*What else does the BASIS Scottsdale Library do?*

We are committed to expanding resources for students and engaging with our school community. We are continuing projects from last year, such as the Pre-Comp and Comp Tutoring Sessions and our Mental Health Bulletin Board. Additionally, we are also taking on the Talent Night ATF fundraiser, the new and improved Master Society, the BASIS Scottsdale Spelling Bee, and the Poetry Out Loud competition. Finally, we are introducing new projects, such as our collaboration with Teen Lifeline, a Medical Field Exhibition, and a new printing service for students.

We thank our student and teacher leaders and our administrators for their effort in creating this collective resource for all students and look forward to the future improvements and developments of our library.

# CAMPUS NEWS

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## Safety and Security at BASIS Scottsdale

by Jacob Shamoun

As all BASIS Students will remember, about a month ago, on August 31st and September 1st, several notes circulated among lower schoolers, primarily through their lockers. These mixed messages, sometimes violent and grotesque, have changed the way most view the safety and security of our school. Firstly, we would like to thank our BASIS Scottsdale administration and teachers as well as the Scottsdale Police Department for their coordinated and timely response to the issue.

But what are the lasting impacts of the dangerous security breach we witnessed at our school, and what measures were implemented to protect us that still apply today?



Source: The Arizona Republic



Source: Business Insider

To understand the effects of the security breach we saw last month, we must first understand what actually happened. Notes first began to spread referencing an ominous message about the air conditioning unit in the school. Later, more vulgar messages were found in lockers in fewer quantities; notes found in lower school lockers. All of these claims were no joke and were taken seriously by our administration and the police. Thankfully, none of the ideas contained in the notes came to fruition, but what did the administration's investigation entail, and what are its impacts now?

The BASIS Scottsdale administration first notified the police on Thursday, September 1st, after which they searched lower schoolers' lockers and reviewed the security cameras and physical notes in an attempt to identify the writer(s) of the notes and evaluate whether the threat was present.

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After a day without backpacks when half of the student body was absent, parents were later informed that the student who sent these notes was identified and that correct disciplinary action was taken. Although the administration’s actions were unspecified, as the perpetrator and his or her punishment were never identified, parents have been assured that the school is safe now. Recently, largely as a result of the incident, the administration has started taking school safety and security more seriously, monitoring cameras more regularly and taking rules more seriously with regard to visitors.

This incident can be understood in the context of several notes being sent throughout Arizona high schools – at least seven notes were sent during the month of September either threatening a shooting or bringing a gun to school. And, while thankfully none of the threats came to fruition, our country as a whole has experienced such incidents at a much larger scale; while we may not think of the notes often now, it’s just as important to stay safe and secure at school. Now, with the school’s lanyard policy and hopefully other improvements, we will all stay safe at school.



Source: School Counselor Blog

# The Enforcement of the ID Card

by Shreyank Murala

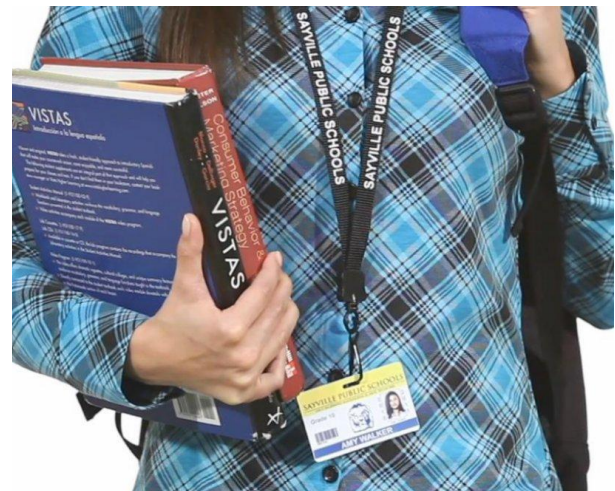
BASIS Scottsdale has continuously been at the forefront of taking safety concerns to the next level. On September 12, the BASIS Administration and teachers came together to discuss how we can better protect our school in light of recent unwelcome school visitors, death threats, and school shootings happening across the United States. This productive meeting resulted in the decision to require students to wear their ID card at school, which will be put into place October 17.

Upon first hearing about this news, many students found this rule to be unnecessary and had questions regarding how it will be enforced. What will happen if students forget to wear their ID cards to school one day? Will they be punished, or will they simply be given a “warning”? Do we have to wear the lanyards across our neck, or can we just have the ID card clipped to our clothes?

A few weeks later, Mr. Flores visited some classes and clarified that students must wear their ID cards on a lanyard around their neck at all times during the school day. If a student is found without an ID but it is in their locker, a staff member will walk with them to retrieve it. But if the student left it at home, they will receive a new ID. The first replacement is free, but afterwards there will be a \$10 fee per new ID.

BASIS successfully implementing the ID card rule still has its skeptics, primarily the students and teachers who have witnessed past BASIS policies not being consistently observed. One such policy required students to take passes whenever they left class to prevent them from wandering down

the hall or skipping class. Although this rule was well-meant, it soon became over complicated when different types of passes were created, including a bathroom pass, hall pass, and office pass. Often, students wear the wrong pass, or they do not wear a pass at all. Additionally, only a small portion of teachers and administration enforce this rule because it takes time away from class. If this policy cannot be followed, how does the administration plan to ensure that students wear their ID cards the whole day?



Source: Scoobuck Solutions

There has been talk about making the ID cards more useful and encouraging more students to wear them by using them to check out books from the newly created BASIS Scottsdale Library (for more information, please see pages 1-2). We asked students and teachers about their opinion on the enforcement of the ID card, and here are their responses:

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*What is your take on the ID cards having to be worn at all times around your neck?*

**Student 1:** I'm neutral about this issue. It's not a big deal to wear an ID card. It's like wearing a necklace or chain.

**Ms. Mitra:** I think it's good to identify the students who are attending BASIS and who are not attending BASIS. It is important.

*Do you have any suggestions for other uses of the ID cards?*

**Student 1:** At Desert Mountain [High School] and Brophy [College Preparatory], they have to wear ID cards on them all the time. They can use their ID cards for using the gym and getting into the building. We don't have an official gym, but we can use our ID cards for student discounts from Nike and Starbucks. We can also use the ID cards for getting school lunch with the barcode on it.

**Ms. Mitra:** If you go to the gym, the ID cards can be used to get a ball from the gym. It would be difficult to enforce this rule outside at recess, but for getting gym equipment, it would be good. Also, if you want

to borrow something from a teacher like a book, you can give them your ID card as proof until you return it again.

*Do you think this ID card enforcement will be successful?*

**Student 1:** I don't know. It depends. If it's gonna be like PikMyKid, they don't have a good track record. But they can surprise us.

**Ms. Mitra:** Every day, I find a couple of ID cards on the floor, especially the lower schoolers. I give it back to them when I see them, but they lose it again on the very same day. I'm afraid that someone can use this ID card inappropriately like checking out a book with the cards even though they didn't actually do it. This might hinder the success of the ID card.

If BASIS is committed to implementing the policy that students wear their ID cards, the students must be made aware of the reason behind the rule. If the administration can enforce the fee and find new uses for the ID card, this policy might be their most successful one yet.



Source: Fire & Frost

# R.I.S.E.ing to the Occasion

by Nahyan Wajiha

Imagine waking up everyday, afraid to go to school—a place where one should feel comfortable. Millions of students in the United States still experience bullying, despite implementing various prevention programs and incentives. According to the National Center for Education Statistics, in 2019, 22% of school age children between the ages of 12 and 18 have reported being bullied.

October is National Bullying Prevention Month, so it is necessary to be more proactive about bullying. Although bullying isn't prominent at our school (most likely due to our school's diverse student body), it is still an issue that occurs daily.

To reduce the presence of bullying, the upper and lower school deans and directors give a bullying prevention presentation every school year to teach us about bullying and how we can prevent it, emphasizing the importance of demonstrating BASIS Scottsdale's motto of Respect, Integrity, Scholarship, and Encouragement (R.I.S.E.). Although the presentation takes us one step closer toward bullying prevention, ultimately, it is not enough to lower bullying rates at our school.

Some ways I believe the school can prevent bullying are by enforcing stricter punishments for the perpetrator, providing emotional support for students who have been bullied, preferably through a school psychologist, as well as implementing lessons so that students are more conscious towards diversity.

I spoke with my some of my peers about their thoughts on the bullying presentation and their ideas for eradicating bullying rates at our school.

*Do you think the bullying presentation is a helpful guide to preventing bullying at school? What are some additional resources or actions BASIS can take to prevent any future incidences?*

**Anahita Antia:** I think the presentation itself isn't enough to prevent bullying, but it provides good resources like hotlines and anonymous incident reports. I think the school should have a guidance counselor for those struggling with mental health.

**Anastasia Sheleg:** I think the presentation is a helpful resource in giving information, especially about certain types of bullying. I was unaware of a lot about cyberbullying, but the presentation gave me more insight about it. However, I believe that the school should focus more on supporting the victim and giving them justice instead of on other measures.

It's necessary to come together as a community and work towards one shared goal—stopping bullying. In addition to the presentation, the school should provide emotional support for the victims. Not only will such resources relieve the mental pressures that come with being bullied, they can decrease bullying rates by educating students. Then BASIS Bulldogs will be able to R.I.S.E. to the occasion and take steps closer to preventing bullying.



Source: Alamy

# Linguistics or Latin?

by Stephanie Lobodanescu

A rite of passage for every middle schooler at BASIS Scottsdale is the transition from Latin to whatever language you desire to learn for your high school career. You argue with your parents, begging them to let you take Spanish instead of Mandarin, and you toss aside your old Latin notes. However, this year, BASIS.ed has removed Latin from the 6th and 7th grade curriculum, installing Linguistics as their new subject of choice. But what is Linguistics? Why did they make the sudden switch, and why cut off a full year of a language from the rising high-schoolers' educations? Here to comment on the ins and outs of the change is Mr. Hermann, former 6th/7th Latin teacher and current Linguistics teacher.

*Tell us a bit about yourself.*

**Mr. Hermann:** I am in my fifth year teaching here at BASIS. In the past, I've taught fifth grade classics, sixth and seventh grade Latin, and ninth grade Latin. Now I teach sixth grade linguistics and eleventh grade AP U.S. History. I'm also coach of the tennis team!

*What was your experience teaching Latin last year?*

**Mr. H:** I never thought I'd be teaching Latin in general, much less to younger students. It was certainly a challenge in the beginning, because it's a tough curriculum to try to wrap your head around as a sixth grader. But I think the curriculum was working the way it was supposed to and giving the students a background to choose the language they wanted ultimately without wasting a few years of curriculum and time before it. So I enjoyed it, I really did!

*What would you define Linguistics as? How accurately would you say BASIS follows that definition in their curriculum?*

**Mr. H:** Linguistics is a scientific approach to the study of languages, from their history, to their morphology, to how they're working in a day to day sense. I think it's doing a good job of introducing linguistics to them. We're using science and the scientific method in conjunction with language, and I think it's a solid start to their language learning journey. I get to have a lot of really cool conversations with the students, about things that open their brains to thinking, about how our brains learn and how all the languages in the world are related to each other. Getting to hear their opinions and have discussions with them is an interesting experience.

*What's your opinion on 7th graders not having a World Language anymore?*

**Mr. H:** It certainly puts a lot more pressure on the eighth grade year— overall it takes away a year of AP practice. I'm certainly not against them picking in their eighth grade year, but I think it works out better to pick in their seventh.



Source: Citrus Logic



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*What prompted this switch?*

**Mr. H:** This has been a discussion for quite a while. For us, it seemed like an immediate change, but BASIS.ed had been looking at this for a long time and trying to figure out how they wanted to approach this program.

*What about fifth graders?*

**Mr. H:** Fifth graders now have a writing course. I know it's focused on general writing improvement in fifth grade as opposed to starting them off with a language.

*Would you say Latin or Linguistics is more advantageous for the younger students to study?*

**Mr. H:** For a true answer to this question, I think we're going to need more time with the class in session– we'll need a larger sample size to see not only the growth from sixth to seventh grade linguistics, but how the eight graders can perform on the AP with one less year in the language. Regardless, I have high hopes for Linguistics in the coming years!

With this transition from a curriculum with Latin to one with Linguistics, we can only tell with time just how it will affect students in the future.



Source: iStock

# Panic of the PSATs

by Anastasia Sheleg

Fall is rapidly approaching, meaning the introductions of many fun events are on their way. Homecoming passes in September, and Halloween approaches at the end of October, but there is one major relaxing event in between—yes, the PSAT exam. It's every junior's favorite time of the year! The Preliminary SAT is used to identify National Merit Semifinalists and to reward certain students with Merit Scholarships. The average student spends about 5 hours studying for the exam, but PrepScholar students are shown to study for over 20 hours. BASIS having an elite educational program should mean that its students don't have to worry or study as much in comparison to the average high school student, right? Not necessarily.

Many BASIS students responded with quite the opposite. One junior, Anahita A., responded by saying she already studied about 15 hours for her PSAT just during this past summer. She also stated



Panicking before the PSAT is a common tendency for BASIS students

how it is “unfair that this year’s juniors never got the opportunity to take the PSAT in 9th grade, giving us less preparation than all the other lower grades, but I think with the correct preparation we will still do just as well.”

BASIS is known for preparing its students for standardized tests well, but regardless, students here still use a variety of study techniques. Meghana B. (11) stated that none of the sections are too difficult as long as the students properly study for them:

“My favorite way to study for the PSAT is by using prep books and taking practice tests online, and although it is not fair that we get less practice than the other grades, it shouldn't affect us too much.”

In general, most students don't worry too much about the exam, and yet, many agree that the possibility of earning a National Merit Scholarship does put a lot of responsibility on them. Some students even agreed that the pressure put on them at home is more intense than any pressure ever put on them by other exams. Others argue that the pressure connected to standardized exams such as the PSAT is worse than the exams themselves.

Richard P., a sophomore at BASIS Scottsdale, stated, “Although I don't get anxiety from standardized tests, my parents do have really high expectations of me when it comes to my scores.”

Exams are important, but remember to keep calm, stay focused, and study. Juniors, please don't panic – it's only the PSAT exam.

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# SPORTS

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## Seniors in Sports

by Payton Dymek

Sports here at BASIS Scottsdale are obviously not a priority, and to be frank, it's painful to watch. I'm a sophomore and have been a starting varsity athlete for two years, but in that time, I've seen little support from BASIS; instead, it all comes from the students. That's why I wanted to give some of the seniors a final chance to impress the student body, whether it's on the court or on the field. I talked with them about their sports, how they have been changed because of their sports, and what their favorite parts are. Here's what a few of them said.

The first person I talked with was Shan B. (12) who is a shooting guard for the varsity basketball team here at BASIS. I asked him what he loved about basketball, and he told me that he loves playing basketball in almost every way. But he noted, "My favorite aspect has to be the pace and play style of the game. The game is very fast paced making it exciting to watch and especially play, and I love the freedom I have on the court to adapt to defense and make the right play to get buckets."

Throughout his interview he talked a lot about personal accomplishments and how they contribute to a team as he offered advice and recounted memorable memories: "My favorite memory I have had during my time on the team has to be during one of our earlier games at Dream City Christian Academy.... Knowing we actually came back and won one of the

most exciting games in the season was a huge confidence booster for the team, and we all saw how good we can be if we play right." In his memory of this game, Shan highlights the importance of gaining confidence as a team and how important it is to build each other up in rough times.

Next I talked to Bryson C. (12) who plays basketball and runs cross country and track for BASIS Scottsdale. If you're curious as to why he plays so many sports it's because he "loves the people. Winning is great, but I really loved the community I found and the people I met. They changed something for me." His main goal for this year is to see the community within BASIS and "see people having fun and celebrating what they've accomplished. I want to hang out with the teams for my final season in high school. The games and awards are amazing, and I would love winning them with the team, but I want to feel that I got to know people."



Athletes and coaches at a cross country meet

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I also asked Bryson if he had one thing to tell people at BASIS and he told everyone to “choose. Life changes and goes on whether you want it to or not. It passes you by and it goes silently without you even knowing ‘til you are right in the middle of it. However, there is a constant. It’s called choice. You get to choose what you do. So choose to be better.”

Then Tristan C. (12) shared inspiring insights into sports and the journeys you overcome between your first time playing and your final time stepping onto the court. Tristan has played tennis for twelve years and volleyball since last February and offered an insight into the contrasting mindsets of athletes depending on what sport you play.

“When I’m on the tennis court, I love being able to hold myself completely accountable. If I’m not playing well it’s because I need to train more or practice a particular shot. But on the other hand, playing volleyball is almost the opposite; in volleyball you’re a part of a team much bigger than even the six on the court. That means it’s much easier to learn from your team members and also you can always rely on your teammates to make sure your head is in the game.”

Tristan had mentioned how sports taught him dedication and how to take criticism, but from his twelve-year journey he learned how “to take everything with a smile. Losing a point isn’t the end of the world, nor a game, nor a set, nor...a whole match — even at states. Even past high school there’s always time to get better and that’s always going to be an easier task with a clear head. Attitude really is the most important skill you can master on and off the court.”

Kianu D. (12) runs cross country, track and field, and soccer for us, and his key take on sports is enjoying the memories you make with your team. “Cross country is fun because of friends and competition. Track always brings competitiveness out of me.” Not only are good teammates great friends, but they always push you to be the best and most competitive version of yourself, which creates a memory that you’ll treasure.

Another aspect of sports that a lot of people don’t realize is how much it can affect your future in terms of your career. I don’t mean becoming a professional athlete or anything like that – I’m mostly focused on how it can shape the field you may want to go into, as Kianu told me that he’d love to be an orthopedic doctor when he is older because he wants to work with athletes.



The outstanding BASIS Scottsdale soccer team

To go hand-in-hand with Kianu’s point of friendship and bond-building present in sports teams, Enaya S. (12), a center for the girls’ basketball team and a track runner, also points out how her community is her favorite aspect of the sports she

## CONTINUED FROM PAGE 12

plays. I had asked her what she's most looking forward to this year, and without hesitation she had mentioned that she wants "to make lasting memories and have a really fun last season! I hope we can get a lot of support from our classmates and people to watch our games. Maybe make more than one 3 pointer!"

She also gave an important tip to anyone who plays sports by saying to "not care about what other people think of your team or your skills! Just play your best and be content no matter the outcomes because the experience is the most important and valuable part! If you want to play, go for it! Always try something new, even if none of your friends are doing it."

Lastly I spoke to Anna W. (12), who has been



Anna W. (12) preparing to spike a striking serve during a volleyball game

a member of the girls volleyball team since she was in 5th grade. Anna said that her favorite part of the sport is that the whole school really loves it and loves to be a part of it. "Whether it's the game, the players, or people being able to spend more time at games because it's the beginning of the year, the atmosphere is always so entertaining! Our team is also really close and we are all friends, so we always have so much fun together."

Anna then continued to expand on the team and how being embraced by a team for being yourself is one of the best feelings. "I was usually a pretty shy and quiet kid when I was younger, and that made me nervous to step out of my comfort zone. Playing a sport really helped with that, and helped me learn how to be more confident around others and work as a team." Not only does she point out how the team aspect of sports has helped her find her confidence, but she also reiterates the previous point of sports shaping a potential career. "Playing sports has also given me the opportunity to teach younger students how to play, which has shown me how rewarding it is when someone excels because you taught them something. This is why I want to work with kids in my future, particularly in therapy, because it is very rewarding to know that you helped a child learn the skills needed to thrive and watch them grow into their own personalities and develop confidence."

All these seniors want to show you how much they love their sport and how much being an athlete affected them and their time at BASIS. They want to tell you to continue to show the same level of support you always have because we need wins now more than ever, and the only way we'll do it is through a united and supportive student body.

# BOOK REVIEW

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## What Does a Wall Mean for Our Future?

by Valerie Polukhtin

For readers, new and old, interested in publicism, British author David Hare's Berlin/Wall holds just as much, if not more, relevance today as during its first publishing in 2009. At fewer than fifty short pages, a BASIS student can certainly fit this piece of criticism into their grueling schedule between founding a non-profit and running the next top-of-the-line honor society. This work provides a snapshot of certain social phenomena relevant to the current divide in the Middle East.

Berlin, one of the capital cities of Europe, bursting through the seams with life, art, culture, and, of course, clubbing, does not make sense to Hare. It is a place ravaged by two leaders, Stalin and Hitler, and has been rebuilt from the dust of its past with various measures of success.

Nostalgia hangs in the air, in the teaspoons, cups, tiny statues, and other Soviet era memorabilia sold in antique shops. German guilt still stains the streets, and Hare has no business intervening here when Prime Minister Churchill believed the Germans should be left to rot. When Berlin was unified in the nineties, Schiller Theater among others shut down, as if there was too much art, too many orchestras, too much culture, and Hare is left wandering, looking for the ghosts of the past he remembers.

What is it about Berlin that makes it Berlin? Hare asks this over and over again as he injects layer upon layer of cynicism into his writing. He's there, working on another project, and he wonders, day after day, what it all means. Filming at Hohenschönhausen prison on Genslerstrasse, Hare walks off and wanders into the city, straight into Bandol, a tiny restaurant with barely fifteen seats. It is there, finishing a bottle of red wine, watching the patrons, later walking down the street, that he has an epiphany. My words cannot do Hare's justice, and it is with that hook I leave the first half.

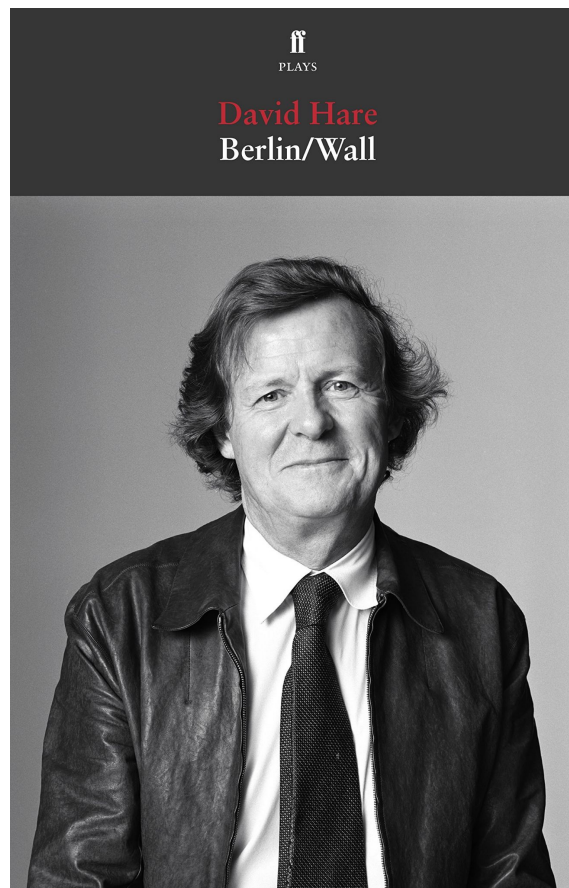


Source: Encyclopedia Britannica

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In the second half of this work, Hare shares his views of a very different wall, the border between Israelis and Palestinians, a wall meant to keep people not in but rather out. Hare’s words, critical and sardonic, shift as a new sort of hope begins to underlie his words. He interviews people from both sides of the conflict, to humanize it. He tries to understand how the Israelis think, how they torture their “enemies” with false visions of a future, with paper images that cannot exist. Hare sees how the wall is the perfect crime, “creat[ing] the violence it was ostensibly built to prevent,” a mirage of the strength Israelis wish to project.

Hare, British-born playwright, experiencing these conflicts from the outside, embraces his status as a foreigner. It is through his lack of right to pass judgment on the crimes of the wall, through his, as he claims, simple-minded opinions, that the truth glares at us. It is David Hare who tells us the wall is unsustainable. It’s a drab slice of concrete, it runs through the land like a scar, a reminder that the people can never be, that they don’t want to be normal. But, if we want to start living again, if we want to stand up against the boundaries that divide us, then, like the graffiti that tells us, “CTL – ALT – DLT,” we need some gates in the wall.



Source: Amazon

# OPINION

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## Winter vs. Summer: What's the Better Season?

by Anika Khera &  
Mintra Waram

### *Winter by Mintra*

Winter is better than summer because there are so many things you can do that you couldn't do in the summer. You can lay down on the couch and drink a cup of hot cocoa while watching a nostalgic movie, spend time and bake millions of cookies with your family, and so much more. You can also wear comfortable clothes, big jackets, and sweats because it's going to be cold and these types of clothes are far more comfortable. Meeting up with your friends for Christmas shopping and other winter sales is so much fun – no summer sale has that effect. Even just walking around in your festive fuzzy onesie pajamas is sure to bring out your winter holiday spirit.



Source: Travel Oregon

In the winter you can also go up to Flagstaff, Salt Lake City, and Lake Tahoe (among many others) to ski and snowboard. You can also go up north to skate on frozen lakes and build snowmen. Other than playing all the fun winter sports, you can still participate in all the summer sports here in Arizona. You can swim all year round since temperatures rarely drop low enough to freeze pools. Additionally, in the winter the weather is better to hike and play tennis, soccer, basketball – practically any outdoor sport.

You won't burn your any part of your body that accidentally touches any metal because winter weather is cool, serene, peaceful, and so much better than summer weather. It's not going to be 120 degrees, and when you step outside you won't feel like you have entered a global hairdryer.



A trash can melted by the blazing Arizona heat



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One might say that summer is better because you have summer break, but Thanksgiving and winter break are easily better. Winter break is a 2 weeks off in the middle of the stressful school year where you can just relax. In summer you will have to do summer camps or summer school because we go to BASIS.

Winter is clearly and more obviously better than summer.

### *Summer by Anika*

One of the most obvious reasons that summer is better than winter is because there's no school! Everyone would much rather spend time outside or with friends than go to school for 8 hours a day and have homework and tests every single day. During winter break, you are too busy studying for exams like midterms (or even Precomps for some people) to actually enjoy most of it. School is stressful for a lot of people and summer is the time to relax.

You can even go to fun summer camps where you play sports and do activities like rock climbing, hiking, or roasting marshmallows around the campfire while meeting new people. Lots of the time can be spent hanging out with your friends and going



Source: Laura Longstaffe

to movies or having sleepovers since you don't have to worry about going to school. Summer allows you to have picnics and barbecues and also spend time in the pool.

In summer you can also travel and see beautiful places or visit family. Popular summer destinations including beaches, mountains, or big cities all around the world, open for you to explore. Even if you say that Arizona has nothing nice in summer, go to the lake for a few days or even a waterpark!

Believe it or not, summer is also good for your health. All the sunshine in summer provides lots of Vitamin D, which is important for your body. You are also much more active in summer than winter, which is beneficial for your health.

Another reason is summer is better is the food! The amount of seasonal fresh food in the summer is mountainous. The fruit in summer is so much better than the winter. Some include mangoes, berries, grapes, peaches, watermelon, and cherries. Summer is easily the best season for food because it tends to be healthy, fresh, and colorful.

In summer, the clothes are so comfortable. Just throw on a t-shirt and shorts and you're good to go! None of the thousands of layers you need for winter are required. Summer style is also brighter and more colorful, not the depressing beiges and greys of winter.

Overall, summer is better than winter because you can relax, spend time with your family and friends, do loads of fun activities, travel, dress comfortably, and eat good food!

# CURRENT EVENTS

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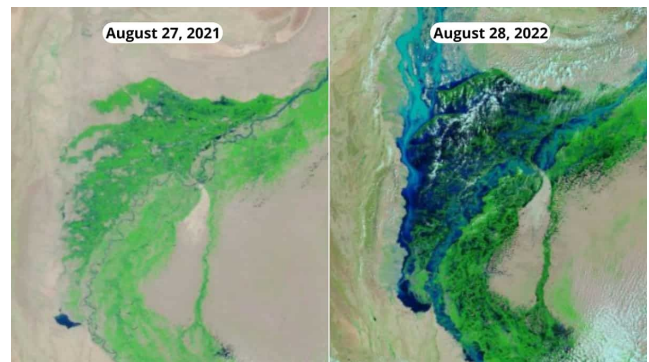
## “Just Like a Sea”: Understanding the Devastating Floods in Pakistan

by Sahil Sud

“It is water everywhere as far as you could see. It is just like a sea.” These are the only words Pakistani Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif could conjure up when describing some of the flood-hit areas that have enveloped the South Asian country. The floods currently cover as much as a third of Pakistan’s landmass and the death toll from the days of rain has reached nearly 1,500, making these floods the deadliest since 2017 and the most devastating in the country’s history. And the effects may become even more dire. Among a nation of 220 million, recent estimates have said that 50 million are at risk of displacement. Already, around 35 million have been affected by these floods and 1.4 million homes have been destroyed. These dramatic weather shifts and effects on home displacement and poverty come at a bad time for a country that underwent significant political changes after half a year of turmoil.

This disaster is largely being blamed on the growing impact of climate change, particularly in the Global South. The floods are likely a combination of two factors: record monsoon rains and glacial melt in Pakistan’s northern mountains, both of which can be

attributed to climate change. Glacial melt, not only in Pakistan but across the world, is an effect of rising temperatures, which are a product of greenhouse gas production. Rising temperatures across the year prevent stable glaciers from forming and make them more vulnerable to high temperatures in the summer. As a result, more liquid is produced, causing evaporation and ultimately condensation in the product of precipitation and heavier monsoon rains.



Source: WION

The floods have also caused villages to be suddenly torn apart as members of the communities are separated by inroads the flood has made. For example, the villagers of Sehta Sinhaj were isolated after flooding caused by the overflow of Lake

## CONTINUED FROM PAGE 18

Manchar, Pakistan’s largest lake, left many residents trapped by rising water levels. Lake Manchar has swelled to an area hundreds of square kilometers wide and breached its banks for the third time on September 6th. The location of this flooding, Sindh, Pakistan’s second most populous province home to nearly 50 million people, makes it particularly dangerous. To prevent impacts on densely populated areas in Dadu, home to about 1.55 million, the lake was allowed to overflow twice, but this led to flooding in smaller villages that has affected around 135,000 people. The lake has swelled significantly and has cut off large areas within the region, including surrounding areas in India and Afghanistan.

Water-borne infectious disease is also a significant concern even after the floods recede. In areas where floods have already receded, communities have been left stranded and without access to clean water, causing a rise in cases of diseases such as malaria and cholera, especially for children. This is compounded by poor sanitary conditions following the floods. The prevalence of water-borne diseases is growing and is a serious concern as stranded communities are forced to drink flood water to find a means to survive.

In its next steps, the Pakistani government hopes to focus on wheat cultivation as the water recedes. It hopes to cooperate with non-governmental organizations and find effective means for wheat distribution and, as a result, has asked the United Nations for \$160 million in support. It also wants to continue rescue operations for stranded communities and find ways to connect them with the rest of the mainland. However, damaged infrastructure may hinder these operations and limit short-term recovery potential.

These floods, which are one of the worst climate-related disasters in recent history, highlight the stark disparity between the largest contributors to greenhouse gas emissions and the countries that bear the largest impact of climate change. Despite producing less than 1% of global greenhouse gas emissions, Pakistan feels many of the most severe impacts due to its geography. Countries in the Global South that have long been exploited have been unable to develop adaptation strategies to the climate crisis, and these floods highlight the necessity for this infrastructure.



Source: Vox

# The Drought in The South

by Ram Bubby

Many people know that Arizona, along with other states in the southwest, is currently facing a drought; however, few know that this drought which started in 2000 has been the driest 22-year period within the last 1200 years, according to *The Washington Post*. National and especially local efforts to conserve water are currently underway, but could it already be too late to save us from the drought?

This drought results from two factors: high temperatures and low rainfall. While that may sound obvious, the issue itself becomes much more complex as we dive in. It all began with the winter of 2019-20, since this winter had an exceptionally low snowfall which resulted in greater soil moisture evaporation the following summer. This same pattern repeated for the years to come, and eventually, the first sign of the excessive drought became apparent. It was also sadly around 2020 that our worst wildfire season began. Arizona did not have nearly as many wildfires as other states in the west,

but the sheer number of wildfires happening in the Southwest began to have an effect on national weather and an even greater one on local weather.

The higher temperatures, while always a regular trait of the Southwest, have been reaching unprecedented levels in recent years. Increasing temperatures can be predominantly attributed to the Southwest's growing population, which is causing a substantial increase in infrastructure and worsening the burden placed on the environment through heightened total carbon emissions and rising temperatures.

Due to the drought affecting every state in the southwest, the federal government has already passed regulations over how much each state is allowed to draw from the Colorado River. California, Nevada, and Colorado, the most heavily affected states, have already placed limitations on city water usage; however, this can only work as a temporary fix. All states are currently searching for alternative sources of water and to reduce dependency on the Colorado River.

While Arizona is not in grave danger of running out of water, it is still imperative for our state to participate in these progressive steps to develop more efficient long-term plans since the drought poses a serious risk to all residents of the Southwest. The situation will take a collective effort to solve, and it serves as a message that it is important for our communities to conserve water and work to reduce carbon emissions not only to come out of the drought but also to create a more stable environment.



Source: *The Washington Post*

# The Future of the British Monarchy

by Abhinav Ravichand

Queen Elizabeth II passed away unexpectedly on Thursday, September 8, 2022. She ruled for over 70 years, and this time marks an end to a lengthy era of Elizabethan rule. The mourning of the queen proceeds until now, with many efforts commemorating her death. Flags of the UK will be on half staff, and church bells across the UK will toll their bells in memory of her Majesty. This, along with gun salutes and books of condolences, are only some of the steps taken by the British. Leaders of the other Commonwealth countries have also spoken loving words about her, with France's President Emmanuel Macron calling the queen "kind-hearted" and "a friend of France" and Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau noting her to be "one of his favorite people in the world."

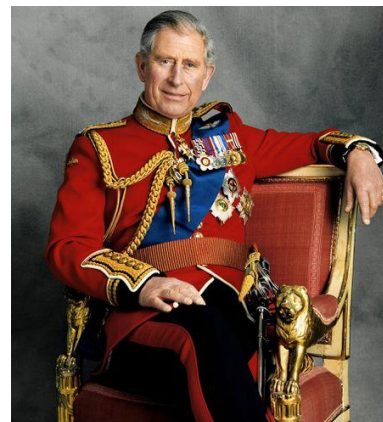


Queen Elizabeth II. Source: Encyclopedia Britannica

The funeral procession is exceptionally large. Many foreign officials, presidents, and celebrities have gone to London to pay their final respects. Only the current American president, Joe Biden, and his wife have been invited on behalf of the United States. Security is ramping up as London

police officers have to ensure order and keep everyone, especially the royal family, safe during these unfortunate times. Extensive lines of people have been observed entering the Westminster Hall in the Houses of Parliament to view the casket of Queen Elizabeth II. After the funeral ends, the coffin will be transferred to Windsor, where it will be buried in St. George's memorial chapel, alongside her mother, father, and sister.

From the moment the Queen passed, changes affected the roles and titles of the Queen's relatives. Her eldest son, Charles, formerly the Prince of Wales since 1969, was ordained King Charles III. However, the coronation (the Anglican religious service where the Archbishop crowns the monarch) has not yet taken place due to the current hysteria of the populace and the preparations being taken for the Queen's memorial. Charles III's wife, Camilla, is now Queen Consort, and Charles III's son, Prince William, has become the new Prince of Wales. These are only a few of the new titles the royals have acquired.



King Charles III. Source: People

## CONTINUED FROM PAGE 21

Now, what will happen as Charles III steps into the role as reigning monarch of the United Kingdom and the Commonwealth? Well, after the coronation, which might happen next year, he will move from Clarence House, his former residency. Because the Queen had many palaces and residences, we do not know where he will go, although Buckingham Palace is certainly a possibility, as Charles III has previously expressed his positive attitude towards this palace as an “important symbol of the British monarchy.”

As a constitutional monarch, Charles III is limited in what he can do. Many speculate that the new monarch will reduce the family cost to the “public purse.” He has also explained that he is interested in strengthening his relation with the Commonwealth territories as the head of state. Although many cannot bear the change of monarchs and feel like he symbolizes far less of Britain than the former monarch, time can change how we view him. In a public speech to the people, Charles III said that his mother “was an inspiration and example to me

and to all my family, and we owe her the most heartfelt debt any family can owe to their mother. Queen Elizabeth was a life well lived; a promise with destiny kept and she is mourned most deeply in her passing. That promise of lifelong service I renew to you all today.” Charles III seems to be genuinely dedicated to his role as a new monarch and will most likely fill in the role of his mother with passion and ardor.

Although Queen Elizabeth II might have passed away, Britain’s monarchy is far from over. King Charles III has promised to carry his mother’s legacy proudly. The sheer number of people who came to view Queen Elizabeth II’s coffin shows how influential and significant the Queen was to the citizens of Great Britain and her countless supporters across the globe. The security and formal procedures being taken by officials and the government show that Britain is not weakened by this loss but is preparing itself to stay strong as the leader of the Commonwealth and United Kingdom under the new ruler, Charles III.



Source: CNA

# Breast Cancer Awareness Month

by Aanvi Verma

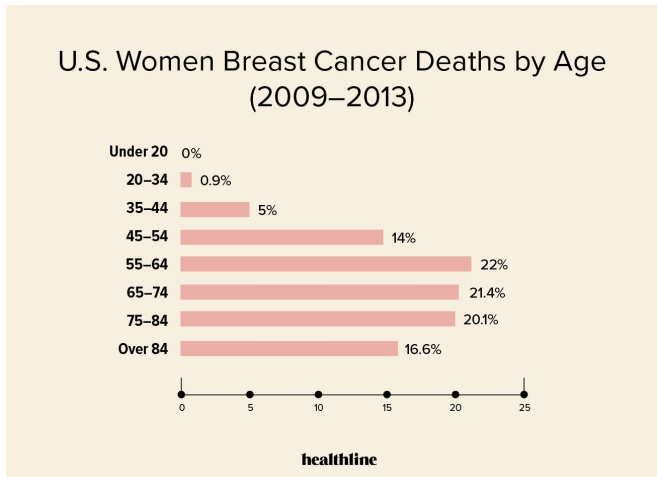
Started in 1985 by the American Cancer Society and Imperial Chemical Industries, October has become known as Breast Cancer Awareness Month. Betty Ford, a breast cancer survivor and wife of President Gerald Ford, led the first week-long event to spread awareness.

Breast cancer is the second leading cause of death among women. One in eight women will be diagnosed with it, which is why it is crucial to spread awareness. To tackle the disease, it is essential to know its main risk factors: age and gender. Women over fifty are much more likely to develop breast cancer than any other demographic. And while 83% of all patients are females, men can get it, too. Women are more susceptible because of more breast cells in their bodies and the presence of estrogen, which can nurture cancer cells.

The good news is that more people are living longer with this condition than they did in the past, thanks to the early preventative measures that medical science has gifted us today. Besides a test to identify the presence of the BRCA gene, a marker that may indicate whether your body will develop breast cancer, annual mammograms can help detect tumors when they are tiny, which can be surgically removed or shrunk with radiation so that the person doesn't have to deal with the extreme side effects of chemotherapy. Still, if we take preventative measures, it can be avoided. Monthly self-examinations are recommended between annual mammograms to nip anything in the bud. But it's important to recognize the symptoms of breast cancer from swelling to rashes to crusting of the skin.

The most traumatic aspect of this disease isn't the physiological part of the treatment, which brings about extreme weakness and disability. It also has a profound psycho-social impact on the patient, as patients lose all their hair, causing severe psychological trauma amidst other challenges. There are counseling and support groups where survivors and those undergoing treatment can discuss their struggles and seek advice from people going through or who have gone through similar challenges.

We must remind our loved ones about October, Breast Cancer Awareness Month, and remind them to get a mammogram if they are above fifty years old or earlier if they have a family history of breast cancer. Many hospitals offer free mammograms this month, and it wouldn't be a bad idea to take advantage of these services. After all, why go through something so severe if you can take care of it early on?



Source: Healthline

# The Monkeypox Virus - FAQ

by Nisha Shrivastava

## *What is monkeypox and why is it spreading?*

Monkeypox is a viral infection similar to smallpox. Monkeypox is mainly native to parts of Africa and is seldom found anywhere else; however, this year, the World Health Organization confirmed monkeypox as a global health emergency since it has spread to other countries, such as the United States, and various areas across the globe.

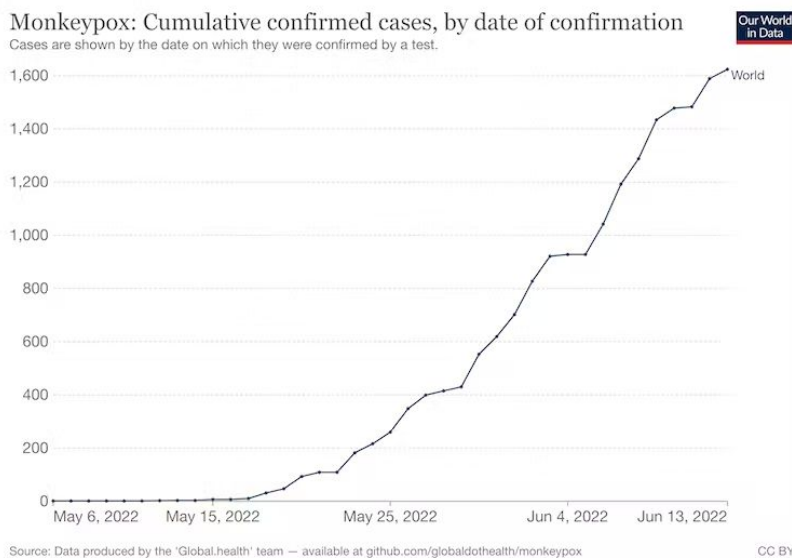
Monkeypox is spreading much faster than anyone would've expected. Although currently the number of cases is a little over fifty thousand worldwide, only five hundred are from the countries where it has previously occurred. So, what's behind this sudden and dramatic rage of cases?

As it turns out, scientists don't have a complete explanation for it. According to Dr. Lee Hampton, a

medical epidemiologist at Gavi, "The virus appears to have gotten lucky, and has hit parts of the population where people have been in close contact with each other and also travel internationally." Luckily, this virus is less transmittable than COVID-19, and if necessary precautions are taken in hospitals, the disease will not spread. It does, however, need to be treated with a vaccine, most likely similar to the one for smallpox.

## *Where did monkeypox originate, and is it a new disease?*

Monkeypox is not, in fact, a new disease. The first human case was identified in the Democratic Republic of the Congo in 1970, just two years after smallpox had been eliminated in that area. However, this disease remained in sparsely populated areas of the rainforest in the Congo and since 1970 has



Source: Our World in Data



## CONTINUED FROM PAGE 24

become native to eleven African countries. There have been a few outbreaks in these regions, but the fatality rate is often very low.

*How does one get infected with monkeypox, and what is the chance of catching it?*

Monkeypox spreads in several ways:

1. The most common way of transmission is through direct, intimate contact, such as sex, elongated face-to-face contact, hugging, and touching the rashes or scabs (which will remain for 2-4 weeks) of an infected person.
2. Touching fabrics, objects, and surfaces used by the infected (intimate or not) is another way that monkeypox is transmitted.
3. A pregnant woman can transmit monkeypox to her fetus.
4. Infected animals can transmit the virus by biting or scratching. Uninfected animals can contract the disease by eating the meat or using the products of the infected animal.

The likelihood of catching monkeypox depends heavily on the group of people referred to. For example, if one is a child under the age of fifteen in the United States, the probability is close to 1 in 4 million. If one lives in Nigeria, their chance is 1 in 2 million. The likelihood of catching monkeypox for a woman or heterosexual male is 1 in 260,000.

However, if one is a male who has had intimate or sexual contact with another male, the chance is significantly higher, resting at about 1 in 750. So, what does this mean?

Gay, bisexual, and other men who have sexual interaction with men are considered to be a high risk

group. The likelihood of contracting monkeypox is higher than that for a woman or a heterosexual man, who are part of a low-risk group.

While men who maintain intimate sexual contact with other males are at a higher risk, getting vaccinated and reducing such contact with multiple people can lower such risks. For children under age fifteen, the risk is incredibly low in the US.

*What are the symptoms of monkeypox?*

The symptoms of monkeypox do not appear initially, because the virus has a longer incubation period. The estimated time it takes to show symptoms ranges from 4 to 21 days. Symptoms often follow a pattern:

1. Monkeypox symptoms begin with a general, overall ill feeling.
2. Flu-like symptoms such as a fever develop.
3. Muscle aches spread.
4. Lymph nodes (located in areas such as the neck, armpits, groin, and gut) become swollen.
5. A rash, similar to that of chickenpox, will begin on the face or genitals, depending on where the disease was transmitted.

*What are some precautions to take to protect yourself?*

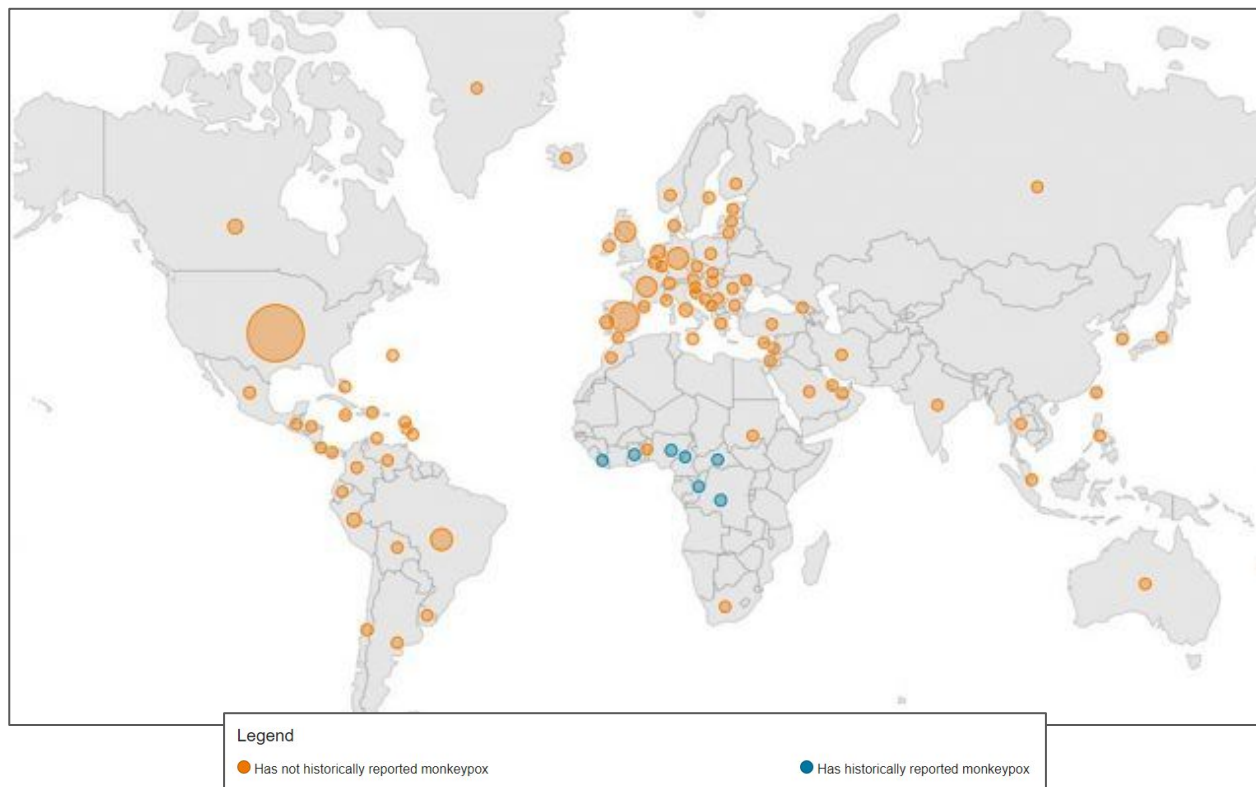
1. Avoid skin-to-skin contact with people who have monkeypox rashes
  - a. Don't touch the rashes of this person.
  - b. Don't maintain intimate contact with said person.

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2. Reduce contact with materials the infected person has touched.
  - a. Don't use the same cups or utensils as the infected.
  - b. Don't touch the bedding, towels, or clothing of said person.
3. Wash your hands often, especially before and after eating, before touching your face, or after using the bathroom.
4. In certain locations, such as Central and West Africa, avoid contact with rodents and primates, as they may be infected with monkeypox. In addition, avoid ill or deceased animals that may have been carrying the disease, including the bedding or materials they have touched.

In conclusion, monkeypox is not a fatal disease, nor is it highly contagious. Many scientists doubt that monkeypox will become a pandemic. Currently, the virus cannot attack humans well and instead infects rodents.

While the outbreaks in human populations have become more frequent, after infecting a relatively small amount of people, they taper off and disappear. However, this time, it seems that the virus is infecting humans more efficiently, and is quickly adapting. All in all, if necessary precautions are taken, such as getting a monkeypox vaccine and practicing physical distancing with the infected, the virus will be contained.



Sizes of the circles indicate the number of confirmed cases by country  
Source: CDC

# HUMOR

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## Paul Flores: An Enigma of the Modern World

by Arush Khan

As is BASIS tradition, a new year means a new staff member in almost every administrative position. I decided to interview our new director of student affairs, who many might be familiar with as their former US history teacher, Mr. Flores. Over the course of my discussion with him, my perception of this very handsome yet seemingly ordinary man was completely shattered. By the end of this article, you too will be bewildered by how truly fascinating a human Mr. Flores is.

*So, Paul, can I call you Paul?*

**Mr. Flores:** No.

*So, Mr. Flores, how do you like your new job as director of student affairs?*

**Mr. Flores:** I love it, it keeps me busy throughout the day.

*How did you get offered your job? Weren't you supposed to be the Director of Academic Programs last year?*

**Mr. Flores:** When Mr. Wilkins announced that he was leaving at the end of the school year, I asked

Mr. Garvey for the position because I felt that it would be more reflective of me as a person and a teacher. I also have the benefit of having taught almost every upper schooler so I can better support them on a personal level as a student affairs director.

*How wide is your shoe collection and what's your favorite brand?*

**Mr. Flores:** The exact number is undefined because I refuse to count all the pairs that I have, but it's also always changing because I'm usually selling some pairs in order to get others. My favorite brand is A Bathing Ape.

*How many Funko Pops do you own now?*

**Mr. Flores:** Not many now because I sold a lot of them in order to feed my shoe-collecting addiction.



Mr. Paul Flores

## CONTINUED FROM PAGE 27

*What do you think of garden gnomes?*

**Mr. Flores:** They're a big collectible community, and I've seen some cool ones, but they're not for me. I also find collecting shoes to be much more practical than gnomes.

*What's your favorite hobby?*

**Mr. Flores:** Anything related to soccer. Whether that's coaching, playing, watching, or e-football, PES Pro Evolution Soccer to be specific.

*Can you tell a joke?*

**Mr. Flores:** Yes, I can.

*Will you ever teach history again?*

**Mr. Flores:** I may miss it enough to go back to teaching eventually. I also want to teach my child so that might be what motivates me to go back to it if I do once they're older.

*Are you satisfied with the APUSH scores from last year?*

**Mr. Flores:** Yes, absolutely, the kids made me look very good.

At BASIS Gazette, we would like to extend our deepest gratitude to Mr. Flores for enlightening us on the inexplicably vast and complex catacombs of his mind. It is truly a blessing to learn from a mind as incredible as his. We are certain that Mr. Flores will be the greatest director in BASIS history, and maybe, just maybe, he will last longer than a year.



You'll never guess whom

# The Abuse of Bottom Lockers

by Parisa Khan

Bottom lockers have been severely mistreated around BASIS Scottsdale and it seems to be going completely ignored. I have been a bottom locker for two years straight and it has probably been one of my worst experiences at BASIS. The number of items that have been dropped on my head seems unreal—ranging from thick metal locks to painfully heavy textbooks. It's not just the items that get dropped on you that hurt, it's the people around you as well. I have been violently shoved, tripped, and even stomped on by top lockers.

Nobody has any sort of empathy for you. They may give you a quick and lazy apology such as, "I'm so sorry!" or "My bad!" but that doesn't even make up for half the damage they've done to you. Once that textbook, water bottle, or lock has been dropped on you, the pain is there for the entire day. Your head is in immense pain and you can't think of anything except how you want to go home and sleep. Bottom lockers are fed up with how top lockers treat us. Here are a series of interviews that show our plea for help. I also interviewed some previous bottom locker students who are now living the dream owning top lockers.

*What are your thoughts about top lockers?*

**Short bottom locker:** They are too sweaty and I think their stuff slips out of their hands because of that and like they drop stuff on me.

**Bessie the bottom locker:** Top lockers need to get a life.

*How have you been abused by your top locker?*

**Short bottom locker:** My top locker has made me smell their disgusting sweat when I'm trying to get my stuff from my locker. They always go over me and I'm just pushed inside of my tiny locker and I struggle and feel like I'm gonna throw up.

**Bessie the bottom locker:** My top locker is like five humiliating inches shorter than me and she drops her lock on me 50 times per day and she is soooooo annoying. She takes like 200000 minutes applying lip gloss and she can't even carry her books and drops them all over me because of the amount of makeup she has in her hands.

*What's the worst thing that has been dropped on your head by your top locker?*

**Short bottom locker:** I've had my fair share of big fat locks dropped on my head but the worst has got to be a water spill. My head was soaked and my tiny little self was just sitting there while my top locker went to class. I got my vengeance when I closed my locker on their backpack strap and made sure I was out of sight.

**Bessie the bottom locker:** My top locker dropped her ginormous biology binder on my tiny innocent head and she even sprayed me with her disgusting bath and body works perfume on "accident".

**A top locker who uses a flip phone:** They dropped their lunchbox on me like 2 times.

## CONTINUED FROM PAGE 29

*How would you treat your bottom locker if you were a top locker?*

**Short bottom locker:** I would not spill my water all over them and make sure they are in good health and that they always go first.

**Bessie bottom locker:** I would treat my bottom locker with love, care, and respect no matter their race, gender, or fashion sense. I would literally treat my bottom locker as if we were a married couple or just marry them all together.

**A top locker who still uses a flip phone:** I make sure I never punch anybody so my bottom locker can safely enter and exit the area. I always let them go first and make sure my lunch box is never anywhere near their scalp.

**A top locker who uses an iPhone:** I always move out of the way and protect them from any danger.

**A top locker who looks like a Smurf:** I never give my bottom locker any sort of trauma and make sure they are well taken care of and get to class safely.

*Do you think BASIS Scottsdale's bottom lockers should rebel?*

**Short bottom locker:** Yes! I give my full support to a rebellion! I think society would be a better place and all the world's problems would probably be solved if we gave bottom lockers control.

**Bessie the bottom locker:** We should raise a rebellion and wage a war against our abusers and drop all the textbooks, water bottles, and perfume bottles on their sorry souls.

**A top locker who still uses a flip phone:** I like the idea of a rebellion as long as it doesn't involve me! Top lockers need to be more aware of their actions and how they have damaged their bottom lockers physically and emotionally.

**A top locker who uses an iPhone:** I think there should be a rebellion and everyone just gets one big locker. No more suffering for all!

**A top locker who looks like a smurf:** This is a legendary idea! I think it will put an end to the filthy, sweaty, and rude puny little children who think they have a height advantage over you! The world will be at peace once again.

Well as you've seen from the bizarre yet eye-opening responses of our fellow bottom lockers, we are truly innocent people who just want to be freed from the restraints of a sweaty or perfume spraying top locker. I hope this has inspired bottom lockers to stand up for their rights as a human being and inspired top lockers to stop being inconsiderate and have respect for their innocent and adorable bottom lockers who haven't harmed the world in any way.



A bottom locker being assaulted with a Descubre 2 textbook and a binder

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# HOLIDAY HUM

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## Halloween and Diwali at BASIS

by Harini Karthikeyan

*In a school filled with Desi kids, how do celebrations for famous holidays differ?*

A very obvious running joke at BASIS Scottsdale is that we have a large Desi (a cultural group from the Indian subcontinent) population. Lots of students have friends who not only confide in each other, but also share similar traditions and ideologies, and thus, students tend to celebrate holidays similarly.

In many “traditional” American public high schools, Halloween is often the most celebrated holiday for the month of October. Hundreds of thousands of high school students across America not only dress up in extravagant costumes, but also distribute candy in class and create halloween parties. Many schools in America dedicate funds to contribute to the “Halloween Spirit” in October.

However, as many of us know, BASIS Scottsdale isn’t just the average traditional high school. As it is academically inclined, BASIS Scottsdale has a rather lackluster school spirit. BASIS Scottsdale’s attempt at school spirit in ‘Spirit Week’ isn’t as successful compared to other high schools, considering the majority of students who participate are from lower school. This forces many students to celebrate well-known holidays outside of school, as BASIS Scottsdale fails to provide time and resources for most holidays.

As previously mentioned, the majority of the school are Desi kids, who generally celebrate the more famous holiday in Hindu culture: Diwali. Diwali, generally held in October, is a festival of lights and is circulated around Lakshmi, the goddess of prosperity. I had a chance to ask a few of my classmates how they celebrate these holidays.

*Which holiday are you more fond of: Halloween or Diwali?*

**Neha K.:** I am more fond of Halloween. I get candy for Halloween, but not Diwali.

**Roma S.:** I like Diwali better because I’ve been celebrating it for longer and it has more importance and nostalgia for me.

*How do you celebrate Halloween? What about Diwali?*

**Neha:** I celebrate Halloween by decorating my house, dressing up, and going trick or treating with my friends. For Diwali, I go to a party and eat lots of food.

**Roma:** I go out with friends on Halloween to different houses in the neighborhood. I celebrate Diwali with my family by decorating my house with lights.

## CONTINUED FROM PAGE 31

*Do you celebrate/view these holidays differently from the way your parents celebrate/view these holidays? If so, how?*

**Neha:** I don't take Diwali as seriously as my parents because I don't value the significance of the holiday as much.

**Roma:** While my parents have a more religious view of Diwali, I like celebrating it for the culture and nostalgia.

Halloween and Diwali are both highly celebrated holidays during the month of October, and BASIS students are no exception. Despite the seeming lack of resources and low level of interest in in-school celebrations, students have still found ways to celebrate their favorite holidays outside of school. From decorating their houses with light for Diwali or going trick or treating for Halloween, Desi kids at school still find ways to celebrate the holidays that mean the most to them!



Source: LifePositive



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# MONTHLY MUNCHIES

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## Ever Heard of Garlic Lovers Day?

by Ethan Koo &  
Rahul Jasthi

Garlic Lovers Day falls on October 6th every year and is meant to celebrate our collective passion for garlic. This holiday, however, should not be confused with National Garlic Day, which is in April. To celebrate Garlic Lover's Day, people around the world cook any dish using garlic, garlic infused oils, garlic powder, etc.

Garlic is an onion-like plant that grows in cloves/bulbs. Although it has a bad reputation for the bad breath it causes, it is also known to have medical applications such as treating gangrene during WWI and WWII. Further studies have also shown that garlic can improve cardiovascular health and even prevent colds and cancer.

Garlic is native to northeastern Iran and central Asia. But around 3200 BCE, it spread to Egypt via trade. During the period of European colonization, garlic spread across the globe, from East Asia all the way to the Americas.

Fun fact: the Egyptians believed garlic would ward off evil spirits with its powerful odor. Interestingly, a similar myth in Europe began saying garlic held the power to repel vampires. These days, it is used as a common ingredient throughout the world for all kinds of dishes and cuisines. One such dish is a caramelized garlic, spinach, and cheddar tart.

### Caramelized Garlic, Spinach, and Cheddar Tart

#### Ingredients:

- Pie Dough
- All-purpose flour (for surface)
- 6 large eggs
- 3 heads of garlic, cloves peeled
- Kosher salt
- 1 tablespoon of olive oil
- 1 tablespoon of balsamic vinegar
- 1 tablespoon of pure maple syrup
- 1 teaspoon of chopped fresh rosemary
- 1 teaspoon of chopped fresh thyme
- Freshly ground black pepper
- 6 ounces sharp white cheddar cheese, grated (about 2 cups)
- 2 cups of baby spinach
- $\frac{3}{4}$  cup of crème fraîche
- $\frac{3}{4}$  cup of heavy cream



Source: Real Simple

## CONTINUED FROM PAGE 33

### Procedure:

1. Place a rack in the lower third of the oven; preheat to 350°. Roll out 1 disk of dough on a lightly floured surface to a 14" round. Transfer to a 9"-diameter pie dish. Lift up the edge and let dough slump down into the dish. Trim, leaving about 1" overhang. Fold overhang under. Freeze for 15 minutes.
2. Meanwhile, roll out a second disk of dough on a lightly floured surface until about 1/8" thick. Cut into 1/4"-thick strips. Transfer to a parchment-lined baking sheet. If dough is soft, chill until just pliable. Working with 3 strips at a time, braid dough, returning braids to the baking sheet as you go. Chill until just pliable.
3. Beat 1 egg in a small bowl. Brush the edge of dough in the dish and bottom sides of braids with egg. Arrange braids along the edge, trimming and gently pressing sections together as you go. Freeze for 15 minutes.
4. Line dough with parchment paper or foil, leaving some overhang. Fill with pie weights or dried beans. Bake until the crust is dry around the edge, 25-30 minutes. Remove parchment and weights and brush the entire crust with egg. Bake until the crust is dry and set, 10-15 minutes. Let cool.
5. Meanwhile, cook garlic in a medium saucepan of boiling salted water until beginning to soften, about 3 minutes; drain. Wipe saucepan dry and heat oil in pan over medium-high. Add garlic and cook, stirring occasionally, until cloves start to turn golden brown, about 2 minutes. Add vinegar and 1 cup water and bring to a boil. Reduce heat and simmer until garlic is tender, 10-12 minutes. Add maple syrup, rosemary, and thyme, and season with salt and pepper.
6. Cook, stirring occasionally, until liquid is syrupy and coats garlic, about 5 minutes. Scatter cheese over crust; top with spinach. Whisk crème fraîche, cream, and remaining eggs in a medium bowl; season with salt and pepper. Pour over spinach. Add garlic with any syrup. Bake until custard is set and golden brown in spots, 35–40 minutes. Let cool on a wire rack.



Source: Bon Appétit

This is a great recipe to make if you have plenty of time on your hands. It's a dish similar to a quiche and there are plenty of things that you could add to the dish based on your preferences. It is definitely worth a try and would be a fan favorite if you ever made it for a party. With that have a great Garlic Lovers Day!

# PUZZLE PAGE

## El Wordo

by Tristan Clarke

D	E	M	O	N
B	L	O	O	D
T	R	O	L	L
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COMIC ARTIST AND CREATIVE DIRECTOR: TRISTAN CLARKE

CO-EDITORS-IN-CHIEF: DERRICK KANG AND CALISTA WILK

FACULTY ADVISOR: MR. WITZ

QUESTIONS, COMMENTS, CONCERNS: BASISGAZETTE@GMAIL.COM