

The REDHAWK REVIEW



(Photo Credit: Panya Cao)

Notable in October: Highlights of Significant Events

HOMECOMING
“Homecoming week was a total success. My favorite day was Country vs Country Club, which we’ve never done before but definitely got a lot of participation. I really enjoyed being on the inside and helping plan Spirit Week in ASB. I was so proud of all the seniors for showing up and being a great example of loud school spirit during the assembly.

We are the only class at the high school that had experienced the fun of Homecoming before COVID. Now I hope every class knows how fun participating can be, and in years to come I hope our school continues to have that positive energy.”

-Adeline Gellert DePalma, ASB Senior Class President

“The highlight of the week for me was the pre-Homecoming assembly. The amount of participation and school spirit exceeded our expectations. It was everyone’s first “real” assembly since 2020 and yet we managed to make it seem like we had done it before. One challenge of organizing it was finding a balance between too much and not enough. We didn’t know how much people

would be willing to participate, but we wanted to go all out for our first time back. For example, we knew that we wanted to do lip syncs this year, and the class of 2023 remembered how obscure our song that was picked for us [in 2019] was. We ended up deciding this year that the songs needed to be less challenging so that the lower grades wouldn’t feel

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Ava Butterfield and Nadia Fisch sail with the light breeze of late summer in Port Townsend Bay. (Photo Credit: Antonio Rioseco)

Sail-celebrating the Good Times With the Port Townsend Sailing Team

By Maggie Emery

Strolling downtown while the leaves are changing color, you might get a glimpse of some small white triangles bobbing out in the bay. This is the Port Townsend Sailing Team, students who are flying through the water, propelled by the wind, intently focused on the task at hand, but who will be laughing, enjoying time together, and creating the tightly knit group of friends that some know as the “sailing team cult.”

The Port Townsend Sailing Team is a program run through the maritime center and while it isn't officially affiliated with the high school, it is largely made up of students from PTHS. The team meets one to three times a week for practices and has regattas on many of the weekends in the fall

and spring.

Sailing is an incredibly unique experience, setting it apart from many of the more common sports. “It’s kind of niche in a way. Not many people at the high school know how to sail, let alone sailboat race, and it’s a really difficult sport to learn, so it’s like we’re all each other’s teachers. With two coaches who are never in the boat with you, it’s very much a learn-from-your-teammates scenario,” said junior Fiona Skidmore. Learning from each other and spending so much time together in boats has brought the sailing team together, and allows students to learn sailing faster with the one-on-one, teammate with teammate method.

So far this year the sailing team has had two regattas. Both were at Sail Sand Point, in Northern Seattle on Lake Washington. Their first regatta was fairly

normal, being just against other high schoolers. The second regatta was the Cascadia Cup, where their team was able to race against both collegiate and high school sailors. Both went well, with the gold fleet placing 8th out of 27 other boats at the first competition, and the silver fleet placing 7th out of 22 at Cascadia Cup. However, the last regatta was disrupted by the unhealthy level of smoke that descended on Seattle and much of the Puget Sound region.

Whether or not the Sailing Team is able to sail is dependent on one large factor. The wind. “Wind speed rules overall,” said Skidmore. The whole idea of sailing is about being propelled by the wind, so when the wind is non-existent or incredibly strong, it’s a bit of an issue. When speaking about the matter, junior Ava Butterfield stated, “The wind

is pretty different every day, and we’ve had practices canceled this season both due to too much and too little wind.”

The team sails on FJs (Flying Juniors) and C420s, which are 14 feet long, and have a mainsail and a jib. They use older models than most other teams use, and it could be inferred that these differences in newer versus older boats would affect the outcome of regattas. However, it doesn’t make much of a difference. At more intense ranking regattas Butterfield said, “Teams sail in other team’s boats, and rotate boats every few races,” helping to eliminate any small disadvantages that come with older boats.

The team is largely made up of PTHS students, but there are students from Chimacum High School and West Sound Academy

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Cinematic Review

Fall

Score: 6/10

By Zoe Pruden

When I first watched *Fall*, I enjoyed it. As someone with a love for the absurd and the thrilled, *Fall* seemed like the perfect movie. However, rewatching it with friends a few days later, I realized there were several main turn-offs that impacted *Fall's* overall rating.

Fall takes place on the “tallest” structure in the US, a 2000 foot cell-phone tower in the middle of nowhere. Our protagonist, Becky (Grace Currey), and social-media bestie, Hunter (Virginia Gardner), decide to climb this nightmarish tower, an adrenaline-filled method to forget the past. Earlier that year, Becky’s husband, Dan (Mason Gooding) died in a free-climbing accident, leaving her a destroyed alcoholic, afraid to ever climb again. Hunter, also present during the incident, comes to check up on Becky, urging her to climb this tower to “face her fears”, and scatter Dan’s ashes. However, the women find themselves stuck on the tower after a series of unfortunate events, leaving them with no food, water, or way to communicate with those on the ground.

Watching *Fall* for the first time was full of adrenaline for me, an effect the film did convey well. As the protagonist and her friend climb the tower, the tension

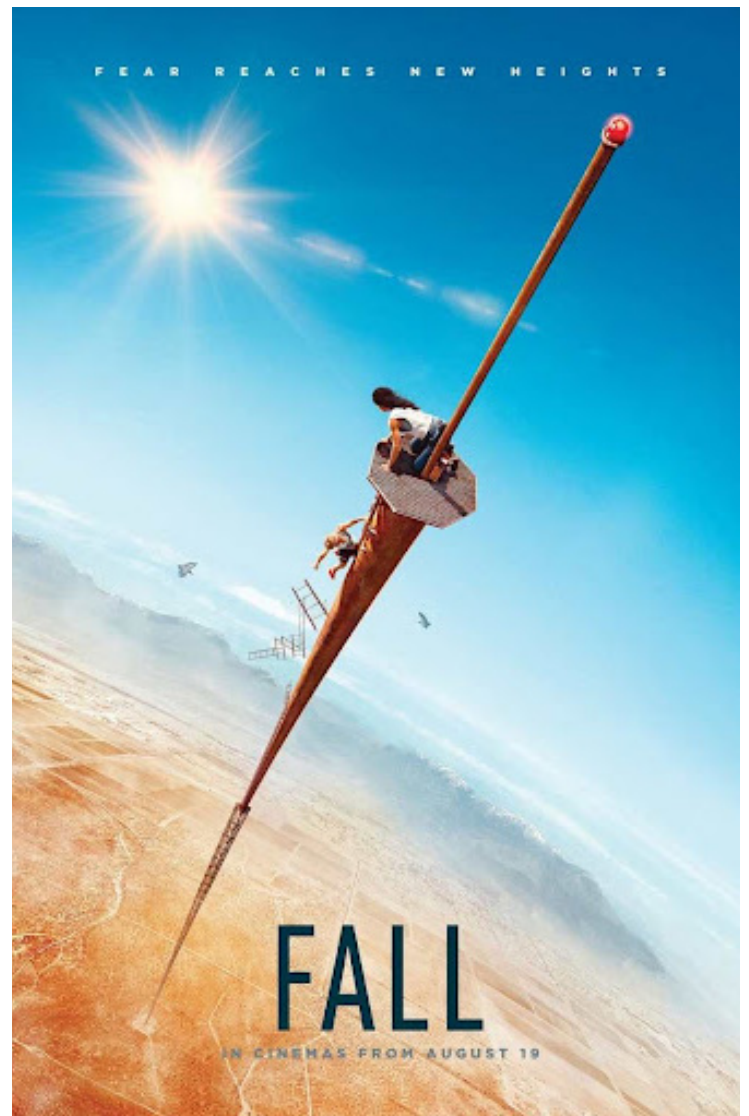
ramps up quickly as we realize just how tall 2000 ft is. Let’s just say I wouldn’t recommend *Fall* to anyone with a fear of heights. As the ascent continues, the suspense builds to a crescendo as we see bolts fall and ladders shake along the structure, before, inevitably, they are dislodged and hit the ground below. These first “thriller” scenes are well-paced, and you can really feel the stakes increasing. With impressive feats of cinematography and stunt work, we are introduced to the vertigo-inducing world of *Fall*.

However, the movie isn’t much more than its action scenes. As the majority of the movie takes place between two characters, they must be compelling both inside and outside the dialogue. *Fall* doesn’t hit that mark. The movie starts off with an extraneous set-up act with poor backstory and cliched monologues make the characters one-dimensional and hard to watch. As experienced free-climbers, why not climb a shaking ladder on a 2000 foot tower in the middle of nowhere, right? A homage to free-climbers and their need for adrenaline is understandable, but paired with poor characters it just seems unbelievable. Without dialogue to properly acknowledge the terror of being trapped 2000 feet in the air, *Fall* seems to have shot

itself in the foot in the character department.

Fall doesn’t only come up short with its character. Concerning plot, it’s quite impressive how much material was used to fill 107 minutes, when it really could’ve been around 45. While the action scenes themselves are riveting, everything in between seems unrealistic, falls flat or is even boring at times. Add in a melodramatic sub-plot and a foreseeable plot twist, and it’s clear the writers strained to fill the airtime.

Ultimately, with an interesting concept, impressive acrobatics, and stunning visuals, *Fall* had real potential to be a great thriller. Sadly, it crumbles under the pressure. Pretty scenes and stunts can’t make up for bad writing, something the producers of *Fall* didn’t seem to understand. Overall, it was an interesting movie—I did enjoy it—but an interesting movie isn’t always a good one.



Seniors Challenge Themselves with Ambitious Projects

By Sophie Kunka

Senior year comes with mixed emotions – excitement, nostalgia, and stress especially. Senior projects involve all three of these emotions as students begin to discover what they are passionate about and prepare to leave their familiar high school lives after graduation. These projects offer the ideal opportunity to get a taste of a future field of study or leave a lasting impact on the community that has supported us throughout our childhood. Each year, seniors scramble to find a project that is both fun and meets the mandatory criteria. It must either benefit the community or explore a future career and take a minimum of 30 hours. Project proposals were due at the beginning of October– the first in a long string of deadlines and requirements – so I asked some seniors about their plans.

I interviewed four students about their project, inspi

ration, what they hope to achieve, and anything they are especially excited or apprehensive about. I learned about a wide variety of projects, from artistic endeavors to volunteer work to job shadowing. The breadth of creativity and opportunities our community offers is truly exemplified by the range of options people have found for their senior projects. I vividly remember watching last year's Senior Symposium and being astonished by the passion and creativity demonstrated in each person's presentation. I learned about careers I had never known much about, like tattoo artistry or the intricacies of building a car. This year's batch of projects seems equally promising. One student, Ezra Cook, is directing and writing a 30-minute film titled "Cacti are due at Callowsbane." Another student taking on an artistic project is Eli McGregor, who is exploring drone photography. Others are testing out future jobs; Camryn Hines is volunteering at the Jefferson Healthcare to explore

nursing, and Juniper Cervenka is helping build affordable tiny homes.

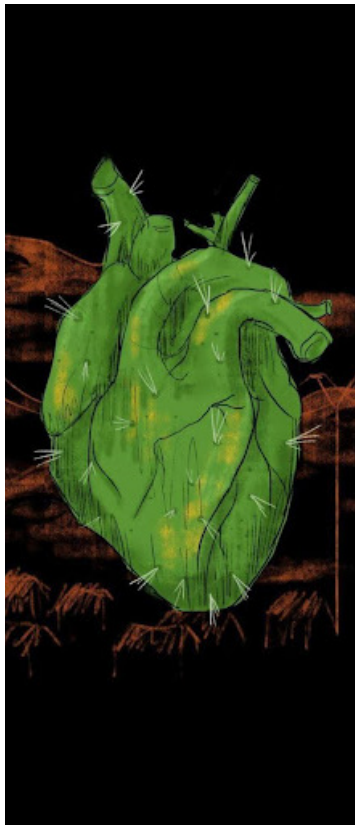
Projects were primarily inspired by exploring career opportunities, but for many, the decisions are also personal. Several students explained their projects were a continuation of their current interests and were a possible way to turn a hobby into a career. The project parameters give students an opportunity to explore something more creative or independent rather than being constrained by a school assignment. "I am excited to work on something that is super personal and fun and just completely my choice," says Ezra. Directing a film is an ambitious undertaking, but Ezra's vivacious film topic ("absurd and funny with socio-political undertones") and excitement for a future in filmmaking keeps them motivated throughout the long hours of work. Ezra has already completed around 50 hours of work on writing and planning. Juniper's inspiration for her tiny-house project comes from a desire to create a more inclusive and kind community in Port Townsend. "The homeless crisis in our community has always been

on the forefront of my mind when thinking of ways to better our community," she told me.

The challenges that come with senior projects are also prominent in peoples' minds. Many face technical difficulties or are worried about how to find enough money for their projects. Eli, who is working with drone photography, mentioned that he was concerned about losing or damaging equipment because it can be very costly. Ezra's project also comes with daunting costs, and they are hoping for a budget plan to help with expenses.

Despite such worries, however, students are excited to get to work. Camryn hopes to observe a surgery during her job shadow and discussed what an amazing opportunity that would be. She said that it is an added bonus to her project and one of the things she is most looking forward to.

Seniors will work hard on their projects throughout the year to meet the April deadline and will present their efforts in May at the Senior Symposium. The symposium is a chance for seniors to showcase their incredible undertakings and your chance to support your classmates before their graduation.



Graphics from Ezra's film "Cacti are due at Callowsbane"
(Photo Credit: Ezra Cook)



Jefferson Healthcare, where Camryn is job shadowing for her senior project. (Photo Credit: Jefferson Healthcare)



AP Environmental Science students took core samples from the mudflats at the Padilla Bay National Marine Estuary Preserve. (Photo Credit: Linda Lenz)

Taking Advantage of Autumn Weather and Local Ecosystems

AP Environmental Science Returns to PTHS with Vigor

By Sylvia Butterfield

After many years of absence, AP Environmental Science (or APES) is finally returning to PTHS. This year, APES is being taught by Ms. Lenz, who has a background in and is passionate about the subject. As Ms. Lenz explains, APES teaches students “how natural systems function, how human activities have altered these systems, and how we can bring back natural functions and mitigate future damage to natural systems.” AP Environmental allows students to earn AP credit but can also be used for dual enrollment credit, with 10 college

credits available from Central Washington University for the full two-semester course. Despite its AP designation and advanced material, Ms. Lenz is determined to make the class an engaging and educational experience for her students. With many hands-on lessons planned for the months ahead, Ms. Lenz says that “The best way to learn about ecosystem processes is to get out into the field.”

The AP environmental class has so far taken three field trips to natural areas near our community, with many more planned for the year ahead. On September 21st, the first of these trips

took the students to the Padilla Bay National Marine Estuary Preserve, where they learned about the functions and ecology of estuaries and conducted a controlled experiment to further their experience. On October 3rd, the class went out again, this time to the Lower Elwha Dam removal site, to be instructed by biologist Vanessa Castle of the Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe on the history and biology of the region and its connection to the tribe. Most recently, the class took a walking field trip to Sather Park for data collection. Many students see the field trips as a nice break from the normal school day. “It’s

always freeing to get out of the classroom,” says senior Adeline Gellert DePalma, who has “loved having field trips.” The class is going back out this spring for what Ms. Lenz describes as a “long-term ecological monitoring and restoration project,” which will take place over a longer period of time than the past field trips.

With so much planned for the year ahead, AP Environmental Science is making a victorious and visionary return to Port Townsend High School. Many APES students would agree with Adeline when she says that AP Environmental Science is “just a great time.”

Book Recommendations

By Rennie O'Donnel

The Strange Library

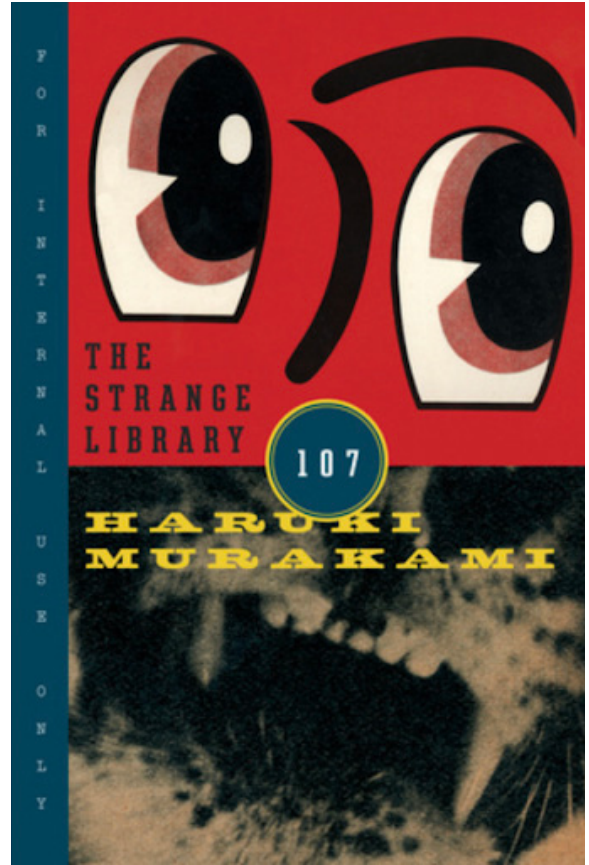
Written by Haruki Murakami

Hyperfixation is the exact word to describe what happened to me after I read my first Haruki Murakami book. I could go on for hours about how his writing is complex, confusing, and contradicting, while also being beautiful and smooth. Sadly, I can't defend all of his books - especially not the numerous short story novels that aren't organized or well-written - just unfinished ideas written on paper and mass produced. Even if Haruki Murakami's books are not exactly a favorite for many people, the books have the potential to induce thoughts on what it is that one may like or dislike in a story.

To begin to experience a Haruki Murakami obsession, three ingredients are necessary: 1. motivation to get past the sporadic sections of seemingly endless pages that add nothing to the story and are embedded in his books 2. enough time that you can read the entire book in one sitting because details are hard to hold on to if you put

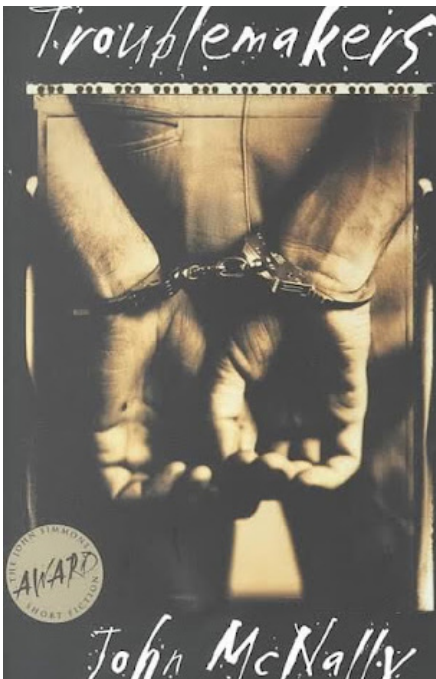
the book down and then pick it up later 3. the ability to be open to the most odd characters, who are both real and unimaginable at the same time. If the first two conditions are not possible, an easy short-term solution is to start by reading *The Strange Library*, one of Haruki Murakami's few well written short stories. The book is about a lonely boy, the sheep man (a common character throughout Murakami's books), and a woman in the basement of a library. The story is a thriller, a teenage love story, and an example of just how bizarre Haruki Murakami's stories can be. You can get it at the Port Townsend Public Library or order it to the high school library.

If you read *The Strange Library*, then the next Haruki Murakami book that I would recommend would be *Dance Dance Dance* or *Norwegian Wood*, and though popular, I would definitely not recommend *First Person Singulars* or *The Wind up Bird Chronicles*.



Troublemakers

Written by John McNally



This is the perfect example of a piece of dark realistic fiction that offers insight into the lives of convincing and believable characters. These well-developed characters could be brothers, friends, cousins, or classmates. This book of short stories could be compared to a puzzle completed many times - a beautiful photo revealed over time with cracks, bends, a few missing pieces, and peeling edges. One completely accurate description of *Troublemakers* according to GoodReads is that "Troublemakers is an often hilarious, sometimes fright-

ening, occasionally off-the-wall collection of stories about men living on the edge. ...these men tread a very fine line between right and wrong, love and hate, humor and horror." This book, though amazing, shouldn't be read lightly and does deal with certain sensitive topics that may not be appealing to all readers.

The book received the John Simmons award but in my own personal opinion, didn't receive nearly enough attention. I believe that the raw authenticity which John McNally creates is an amazing feat of writing.

▼Continued on page 8

Noteable in October Cont.

overwhelmed.

I think that it has really set high expectations for the rest of the year concerning school spirit. After Homecoming, I've been pleasantly surprised with the attendance at home games in comparison to last year, and I hope that the school can carry this energy through the year.

It was extremely important that we set an example for the incoming leaders of the school of how to arrange events like this in the future. Class of 2023 are the only students left who remember what high school functions like Homecoming were like before COVID, and because of this, it's essential that we pass down as much of the tradition and knowledge that we can before we are gone."

-Lily Morrison, Executive ASB President

FALL SPORTS CELEBRATE SENIOR NIGHTS

By Addison Asbell

The East Jefferson Swim Team had their Senior Night on October 7th in a meet against Olympic, where they took the win. The team has had an amazing season this year. The group of about 20 girls has been a very strong competitor against rival schools, and is looking with confidence at district and state competitions in the near future. On October 18th, the EJ Cross Country team hosted a league meet at the Port Townsend Golf Course and also celebrated Senior Night. Athletes did very well, with Rivals runners placing among the top positions in their races. Boy's Tennis Senior Night was also held on October 18th. Football, though suffering some losses at the beginning of the season, triumphed in a solid victory for the Homecoming game and also won its Senior Night game on October 21st. At the end of the month, Girl's Volleyball

played a home game in Chimacum against Life Christian, and EJ Soccer battled Bellevue Christian at Memorial Field. Regardless of whether each team won or lost, all Senior Nights were a time when our sports teams performed proudly and we had the opportunity to full-heartedly cheer for our senior athletes.

CLIMATE DISRUPTION HITS HOME TO JEFFERSON COUNTY

By Sophia Lumsdaine

At the end of October, the number of blazes in Washington state numbered around 20 according to Airnow.gov. The weather shifted fairly dramatically late in the month, transitioning from an unusually warm and dry Autumn to the rain, wind, and overcast sky that we expect at this time of year. Despite the eventual arrival of these typical weather conditions, the weeks before it were full of reminders about the

progression of climate change and its increasing impact. We experienced a Fall markedly lacking in rain and witnessed substantial smoke from wildfires in other parts of Washington. The hurricanes which hit Puerto Rico and Florida were seen in news headlines, but also had a personal connection due to some students having relatives in affected locations. Though the effects that climate change brings are, and will continue to be, much more drastic in other parts of the nation and world, this October in Jefferson County was a reminder that climate disruption is a global phenomenon that can also impact our own lives. Lingering Summer-like temperatures, unusual dryness, and skies shrouded by wildfire smoke were swept away by welcome rain and wind shifts, but the ultimate source of those problems will continue to cause ecological upset in the months and years to come.



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(Photo Credit: Panya Cao)

Sailing Cont.

as well, ranging from ages 13 to 18. The sailing team has gained a few new members, but they are always hoping for more people to join. “The bulk of our team is juniors and when we graduate the team will be very empty,” said Ava.

Because regattas are two consecutive full-day events, the sailing team often stays in hotels together, spending about a full 36 hours together for each regatta.

Spending so much time together has resulted in this close-knit group. “Through the end of the pandemic, we’ve all become pretty good friends. We all have a great time teasing each other, joking and laughing,” said Ava Butterfield. The sailing team is simply a group of friends who enjoy being out on the water together. They are looking forward to the season ahead and are knot ready to let out the jib yet.



(Photo Credit: Panya Cao)

The Redhawk Review

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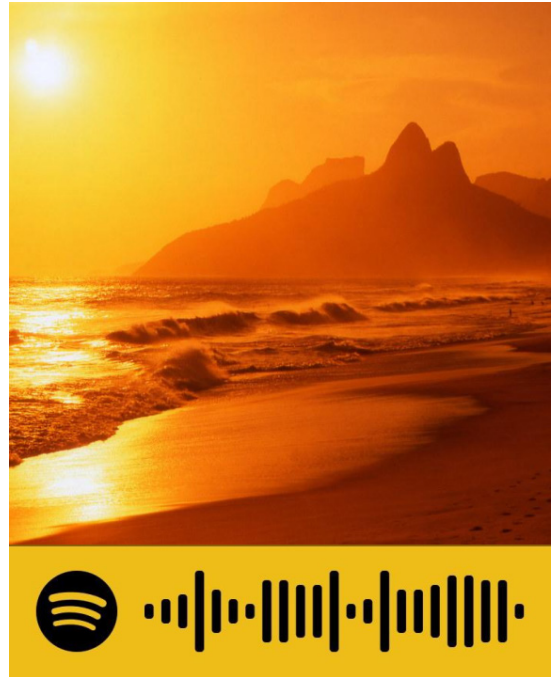
We hope you've enjoyed your peruse through this issue of the 2022-2023 Redhawk Review! This paper is written and produced by students, for students. Its aim is to both inform our student body about current events in our school, community, and world, and to provide an opportunity for students to get involved with journalism. We are always looking for more students to work with us, either as committed staff members or as contributors of independent pieces. In addition to welcoming articles, we are eager to work with students interested in creative writing, poetry, photography, cartooning, illustration, or other art forms. If you're curious about our paper or want to learn more, please let me know! We would love to have you on board. We are creating this with the student interest in mind, so feedback and thoughts for the future are always appreciated!

Thanks for reading,

Sophia

Golden Breeze

Playlist curated by Hugh Wentzel



Books Cont.

The Idiot

Written by Elif Batuman

Most times I hear that a book is a coming of age novel, I'm not impressed. This type of book is typically repulsive to me. Luckily, I didn't hear that *the Idiot* was described as such until I was reading reviews after I had finished reading it. *The Idiot* follows Selin, the daughter of Turkish immigrants, in her young adult years at Harvard University. The book touches the reader through ridiculous hints of irony and gives the impression that you could know Selin with her eccentric ways, one of which being her inability to understand email. As it is with many stories with romances in them, there are times the reader has the strong desire to yell at the protagonist. Despite the frustration that Selin's weaknesses produce, her intellectual and emotional capabilities develop throughout the course of the book as Selin learns and

grows into an adult. The book received a Pulitzer Prize and is highly acclaimed by the New York Times, NPR, and many other respected and well-known literary outlets. This book is available at the PT Public Library.

