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Letter from the Editors

Breaking news! Our school paper now has a special theme for every issue released! In this month’s issue, which is Halloween themed, we have a wide variety of articles; such as an interview with our Co-Presidents and our Secretary Treasurer, Winnipeg’s most haunted locations, beautiful art submitted from our very own students, and much more! As always, we encourage you to join the Newspaper family and to send in any material to us at oak.park.opinion@gmail.com.

~ Mackenzie and Meka
Oak Park Girls Rugby
By Kayla Klanreungsang

Oak Park High School has an incredible girl’s rugby team. Some of you may have heard of rugby before, but do you know what it is?

Rugby is a sport played by both male and female participants on almost every continent of the world. It was first created in Rugby, Warwickshire by an Englishman named William Webb Ellis while he was attending Rugby school. The game is very similar to football although rugby players wear less padding and no helmets, even though it is a rough contact sport.

Oak Park’s rugby team is for girls who are in Grades 9-12, which gives students a great opportunity to become friends with their older and younger peers. All the players, along with the coaches and the teacher representatives, are amazing people who will welcome you to the team with open arms.

I started playing rugby last year when I was in Grade 9 and I absolutely love it, and plan on playing until I graduate. Rugby is a wonderful sport to learn, it might seem complex at first but with the help of senior players and coaches, it’s easy to get the hang of. Joining a sports team might seem a little scary, especially when coming to a brand new school with so many new people, but you won’t regret it if you do decide to play. I’m completely thrilled to meet the new rugby players this year and I hope lots of girls join the team!

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I Am Among the Trees
By Amy Klassen

I am among the trees
I was here before.

I breathe and take a step,
As I enter through the door.

There’s no sound,
Just whistling of the wind.

There’s no sight,
Only the floating leaves.

There’s no taste,
Except the bitter air.

There’s no smell,
Only the rotting, decomposing earth.

There’s no feeling,
Only fear.

But I am not afraid.

I will not be afraid.

I am among the trees, I was here before.
Winnipeg’s Most “Haunted” Places

By: Ayiesha J.

The supernatural is a debatable topic. Some people believe in it and others don’t. Some seek them out or they avoid them completely. But for those who want to go ghost hunting, here are some of Winnipeg’s allegedly “haunted” places.

Fort Garry Hotel
Fort Garry Hotel is widely known to be haunted. People report seeing ghosts and odd activities throughout the hotel. The legend goes that a newlywed couple stayed in the room 202, around the 1920s. Tragically, the husband’s life was cut short after an accident and this led his wife to commit suicide. People suggest she hung herself and ever since, her ghost waits in room 202 for her husband to return.

Manitoba Legislative Building
The Manitoba Legislative Building was built in 1920 and paranormal activities have been reported in the hallways and grand staircase. It is said that a man haunts the staircase and nightly meetings are held in a room close by. It is rumored that security guards knock before entering a specific room, just so they don’t disturb these “meetings”.

Burton Cummings Theatre
Burton Cummings Theatre was originally called “The Walker Theatre” and opened on February 18, 1907. Ghost watchers claim that the theatre is haunted by an acting couple who died over 100 years ago. People now report random sounds of doors closing and applause within the theatre.

Le Musée de Saint-Boniface Museum
Le Musée de Saint-Boniface is a museum dedicated to Franco-Manitoban culture and history. It was originally a nunnery and orphanage built in 1851. Throughout the years it has also been a school, retirement home, and a hospital. Sounds of singing monks, women’s choir and children playing around the building have been reported. It is also said that lights flickering, taps are turned off and on, doors moving and the feeling of being watched takes place.
DIY Costume Ideas

The easiest way to create a DIY costume for Halloween is to do it mostly with makeup and to check out second hand stores, such as value village. Most DIY costumes take longer to put together than a store bought costume, simply because you have to pick the pieces you need for it; it's not already chosen for you. One of the simpler, yet still effective costumes I've pieced together is the broken porcelain doll. Most of this costume is makeup. The only clothing you need is an older style dress, some tights (or not if you want to do the makeup on your legs as well), and some older flats (preferably in black and maybe with a buckle). The rest of this costume is in the makeup, you need either white face paint or some very pale foundation, red lipstick, a black eyebrow pencil, pink blush or face paint, and there are two options for the eyes. You can either draw eyes on your eyelids, in which case you would need face paint in black, white and whatever color you chose for the eye.

If this seems like too much work to you, you could just use mascara and dark eyeliner to make your eyes seem bigger. The most important part of this costume, if you want it to be creepy, is the black eyebrow pencil, with the eyebrow pencil you will draw as many lines as you like on your face. Be careful that the lines don’t overlap too much and that they are about the width of the silver band at the bottom of your pencil. Once the lines are drawn, smudge them a little on one edge. To give the full effect look through people not at them.

Another costume idea that is less complicated is a vampire. All that is needed is a dark colored semi-formal outfit, some white face paint, a set of fangs, a cape and some fake blood. It's simple, but can still be scary. Be sure that when buying face paint check to see that it comes with a brush. Have a Happy Halloween.
Executive Interview

For this issue we decided to interview our executive team which includes our Co-Presidents, Ranjan Sehgal and Chris Alexander, and our Secretary Treasurer Kate Abram. The interview has a mix of personal and Halloween questions.

What's your favourite scary movie?

K: The Conjuring 2, because it’s the only one that made me scream in the theatre before.

C: My favourite scary movie is IT.

R: Friday the 13th.

What was your favourite Halloween costume?

K: My favourite Halloween costume was when I dressed up as Dorothy and got to wear theruby red slippers!

C: My favourite Halloween costume was a ghost.

R: Batman.

What is your favourite type of candy?

K: My favourite candy is skittles.

C: Anything sour.

R: Caramilk chocolate.

Are there any tips you want to give to kids interested in being part of the executive team in the future?

K: For being on exec, don’t take yourself too seriously and be organized!

C: A tip I have for students wanting to be a part of exec is not to be too stressed, because then you’ll be wanting to pull your hair out.

R: Work hard and be passionate about what you do. Take opportunities wherever you can find them, and don’t be afraid to take risks. Try to do what is right, even if it isn’t the popular choice. These are all skills that are important for the executive team.

What's your biggest fear?

K: My biggest fear is spiders!

C: Zombie clowns.

R: Failure.

What's one thing you want to accomplish this year for the school?

All: Our goal is making the school a more inclusive place to be, whether that is through opening up Student Council by meeting in the library, or some of our other plans that you will soon see.

What are your plans for next year?

K: Next year I’m hoping to attend Asper School of Business.

C: My plans for next year is to get a scholarship to university to play basketball and fulfil my dream to become a chiropractor.

R: I intend to study at university next year. I am currently deciding between studying engineering, political science, or business.

What's one piece of advice for the new students?

K: To the new students; take pride in being a Raider and participate in spirit weeks!

C: A piece of advice I have for new students is to stay out of drama and have fun.

R: Don’t be intimidated by how big Oak Park is or how different it may seem from your previous school, it is still a big family. Work hard at the things you are passionate about, and takes risks.

What's the scariest thing that has ever happened to you?

K: The scariest thing that’s happened to me was probably when I saw the Conjuring 2 in theatres.
C: Dying on the bus.

R: The scariest thing that’s happened to me was hearing sounds in my house as a kid.

What do you like the most about OP?

K: My favourite thing about Oak Park are the kids there!

C: I like that it’s such a great environment to come to and it’s a whole lotta fun.

R: I enjoy the intense dedication Oak Park students put into their activities and pursuits. It makes the entire school great to attend, regardless if you share the same passions or not.

What's one word you'd use to describe yourself?

K: Reliable.

C: One word I would use to describe myself is joyful.

R: Passionate.

A word from Student Voice

Student Voice is a committee committed to bringing positive changes to the school. To do so, we need suggestions from you on what changes should we make and what aspects in the school needs to be improved on. With your help, we will improve the Oak Park we love.

There’s a link to our online suggestion box in the bio of our Twitter page. Follow @opstudentvoice on Twitter to get updates on our work and the changes we have made.

They say that progress starts out as a change, and a change starts out simply as just an idea. So, Raiders, be not afraid to speak up, for you have a voice. Help us bring progress.

~ Dana and Joe

“Undercover” by Meka Hunter
Three Blind Mice: Part 1
By Urooj Salar

It had become a ritual of sorts.

Hunter thought it had an allure to it, a sort of divine attraction that not only held everyone's attention, but surged a feeling of adrenaline through their veins. It was an annual event (this would be the third year of its existence) that even the most uninterested kids gathered to behold in a clearing just inside the forest. And behold they did, for it was a spectacle of the grandest kind, or so Hunter believed. He knew some of the guys that went usually ended up passing out from the amount of alcohol they consumed in order to handle what occurred. Personally, Hunter thought it was a show, an illusion so cleanly acted out that even his keen eyes couldn't figure it out.

So he watched. Every year on the 31st of October, he watched. Even while his friends turned away, throwing up in the bushes nearby, he watched. Hunter watched with eyes clear as day, never tilting back the can of beer he was annually handed, but he always saw the same thing.

Always.

This year would be different, though. He would notice their trick; their little secret. He had to. Every year, as they stood on the makeshift stage in the clearing, starting off by asking the crowd for a volunteer. But nobody ever did volunteer so they'd ask again. Still no one. By the third time, someone would give in.

And then they'd start the show.

The first thing everyone was encouraged to do was to sing along to which ever song they started singing and soon enough, Hunter realized they sang the same song, both times he'd gone. And every year while the crowd sang, the alcohol already slurring their words together, Hunter heard a scream, but not a blood-curdling, spine-tingling scream, but one that seemed raw and ripped from the throat. The first time he heard it, Hunter stopped singing and looked around but when he glanced in the direction of the stage, he saw nothing. He looked around at his friends, and realized he could see the blood intertwining with the whites of their eyes. The blank stares in the direction of the stage almost made him scream too, but instead he opened his mouth and continued singing.

His third year here wasn't any different and Hunter wasn't expecting it to be. When the man standing on stage, his greasy hair swimming around shoulders, asked his question a second time, he was answered again with complete silence.

"We will ask again. Who wants to volunteer?" he asked and flashes of his decaying teeth flashed into view. His skin glowed pale and sickly in the bright lights illuminating the stage, and his eyes seemed almost red, the bloodshot whites reflecting onto his irises. "This is your final chance."

"I'll do it," Hunter shouted. And then he froze because he did not mean to say that. "No! Wait, I didn't say--"

The bloodshot eyes landed on him and he fell silent, but his mouth kept moving, he just couldn't speak.

Hunter felt a pull, a tug, like someone had attached a cord to his navel and was dragging him toward the stage. He stood his ground. Another tug. Followed by a few more.

He stepped forward, stomach lurching ahead. Hunter forced his way to the stage, pushing past sweat-covered bodies and cringing at the strong stench of booze. Someone shoved him and he fell onto the stairs, but the pulling at his navel didn't stop. He pushed himself up so his face wouldn't get dragged up the stairs by the strange force.

FIND PART 2 on our new website!!