

# COMET NEWS

Fall 2021

Volume VII, Issue 1

## Hicksville Marching Comets Take First Place on the Race-Track

By Mallika Rangi

School is officially back in person, and a number of clubs and activities have once again assembled to operate face-to-face. Hicksville High School's Marching Band, also known as the Hicksville High School Marching Comets, has similarly reunited, and, after pausing for a year due to the pandemic, has won first place at the New York State Field Band Conference championships!

The marching band completed its 2021 season by performing "Car-Man" at the New York State Field Band Conference at the Syracuse University Carrier Dome on October 31, 2021. In the division of Large School 3, competing with six other schools, Hicksville was able to win first place with a score of 85.60! The first-place trophy demonstrates all of the hard work the students have put in, as well as the efforts of the staff—Ms. Barnett, Mr. Pollenz, Mr. Kamping, Mr. Caruso, Mr. Lensky, Mr. Valente, Mr. Moya, and Ms. Smith—who worked tirelessly to ensure a successful season.

The marching band normally begins rehearsing in June. The season consists of biweekly practices which last three and a half hours over the summer, and three during the school

year. During this time, members in the band work diligently to perfect both their marching and playing technique and prepare for their competitions in September and October. The four different sections of the band—the woodwinds, brass, percussion, and colorguard—perfect their individual skills throughout the

strengthening the band performance-wise as well as strengthening the bond between the members. The last day ends with a friends and family performance, an announcement of which section won the competitions and, under normal circumstances, a potluck dinner.

Previous productions the Hicksville Marching Comets have performed were titled "Rain," "The Snow Queen," and "Moving Forward," which was a production the band performed virtually last year. The title of this year's production was "Car-Man." A powerful and exciting show, it featured music from the musical "Grease," "Carman the Opera," and Olivia Rodrigo's "Driver's License, and was arranged by one of

Hicksville Marching Comet's own staff members, Kenneth Kamping. The production was centered around car-racing and truly radiated wonderful energy.

Although they did bring home the prize, each member's love for what they do and love for each other, is what makes the activity most meaningful. As the years progress, the Hicksville Marching Band hopes to continue to increase its membership and give outstanding performances.



Pictured: The Hicksville Marching Comets in Syracuse

season in order to work in unison.

One very important component of the marching season is band camp, which is a week in the summer during which students arrive at the high school every day to rehearse. These rehearsals are normally eight to nine hours and consist of the completion of the show, along with fun games and a competition between the four sections. There are also theme days, which earn the sections points if their members dress up. Band camp undeniably plays a significant role in both

# Homecoming 2021: A Reflection

**By Rohan Manjrekar and Holden Meyer**

This past October, Hicksville High School had its annual homecoming. The fair, the parade, but most importantly, the football game. You could tell people were happy to be there after the height of COVID because the stands were beyond packed. Being on the football team, I can tell you that we were all beyond hyped up to play a big homecoming game. For some of us it was our first one, as well as our last one.

This year the Hicksville Comets were going up against the Uniondale Knights. Hicksville is not known for football. We are not one of those schools that, once you hear football you think of us, but this year things were different. With the confounding leadership skills of Max Shapiro, Vinny Cappuccilli, Danny Ulloa, Griffin Ward, Gus Dejesus, and Jayden Jagmohan, Hicksville was able to defeat Uniondale 35-14.

One of the Team Captains, Max Shapiro, helped lead the team to victory by scoring 2 rushing and 2 passing touchdowns said, "I just remembered as a little kid growing up watching Hicksville play in homecoming and just picturing that being me in a couple of years. Knowing it was going to be my first and last homecoming, I wanted to make the most of it." Vinny Cappuccilli was able to score two touchdowns and he is now 4th in the county. Griffin Ward secured a 35 yard catch as well as seven tackles. Gustavo Dejesus used his quick thinking to complete two interceptions.

Danny Ulloa who has been on varsity since his sophomore year of high school says "Ever since I started playing football I always wanted to get the opportunity to play in a homecoming game. I would always go to the games and imagine how playing in my first homecoming game would feel and being able to win meant a lot to this team especially to

the seniors that missed out last year." Danny was also able to secure seven tackles.

With the help of these young men as well as every other member of the Hicksville High School football team we were able to get one step closer to playoffs.

These young men live by determination and respect and we could not be more grateful to have them representing our school. We could not be more grateful to experience a great win. Here's to many more.



# Photo Op: The Marching Comets



Pictured: The Hicksville Marching Comets after their performance at Malverne. From left to right: Harbaani Singh (Field Major), Sarah Chavez (Guard Captain), Samantha Mason (drum major), Mallika Rangji (Drum Major), Shari Thorsten (Drum Major), Alexa Gomez (Guard Captain), Brandon Baade (Field Major), and William Beiner (Guard Captain)



Pictured: Rose Walker (Legislative of 17th District), Mallika Rangji (Drum Major), Marianne Litzman (Superintendent of Schools), Kerri Barnett (Band Director), Samantha Mason (Drum Major), Shari Thorsten (Drum Major)



Pictured: Drum Major Mallika Rangji



Hicksville Fire Department welcomes the Hicksville Marching Band home from Syracuse. Photo Courtesy hicksvillepublicschools.org

# Back to School 2021-2022

**By Katelyn Corbett**

The halls are crowded, the desks are all filled with students and the cafeteria roars with voices finally after a year and a half of silence.

As we transition back to in-school learning, it may be difficult for some students and teachers to adapt back into the regular classroom. During this transition, it may be challenging for some students to go back to what once was: in person clubs, sports, classes, and any other extracurricular activity they may take part in. Back to school in person includes mask wearing, extra precautions when it comes to calling in to miss a day of school, and cleanliness. Before this school year started many of us were troubled by the mask mandates, and the idea of being in person instead of virtual.

Being back in-person gives all of the students, teachers, and staff of Hicksville High the opportunity to reunite with their needs like a social life, a better focus in learning, the chance to be involved in a sport they might've missed out on because they were fully-remote, teachers having the chance to finally connect with their students in a while, in addition, the feeling of being in a routine.

In the 2020-2021 school year, we all had the choice to be either hybrid or remote, and by early spring we had the opportunity to come in person the full five days. As for someone who was fully remote last year, it definitely took me the first two weeks to fully process the fact that I'm actually in school this year. Many other students could agree, as for some who were fully in person feel like there's more people in the halls than there were last year since everyone is back.

Originating years before, this year most importantly, Hicksville High gives the students resources to



Photo Credit google images

guidance and social workers for those who are struggling to adapt, or to those who feel uncertain about the new school year. Hicksville High is taking extra care to reduce the anxiety that may be given to students in those coming back to in person learning this school year. They serve us support and the opportunity to make it far this school year. To those who are struggling or just want to adapt could follow those sources on the Hicksville website: [www.hicksvillepublicschools.org](http://www.hicksvillepublicschools.org).

As a student who struggles with anxiety, and who feels a tad overwhelmed adapting, Hicksville High was sure to make me feel comfort and reassurance if I ever needed the help.

In comparison to last school year, we have had bigger opportunities already, including homecoming, football games, soccer games, seasonal sports, club meetings and in the future will be prom, regents exams, midterms, yearly exams, college visits in our building, and much more.

We all have had a busy school year already, but with support from Hicksville High and from each other we can make this a healthy and fun school year.

# Mask Mandate

**By Albert Feinstein and Logan Blitz**

Due to the new Delta variant and the surge in COVID-19 infections, there have been new mask requirements designed to protect New Yorkers against the virus. Masks are required at state-regulated child care, mental health, and substance abuse facilities to slow down the spread of the virus. Since the Delta variant is highly transmissible, there have been cases across all age ranges. Previous children under the age of twelve being eligible for the vaccine, there was an increase in cases among children.

As for Nassau County, people who are fully vaccinated are not required to wear masks outside, or inside in some establishments. Places, where masks are still required, include nursing homes, schools, mass transit, and health care facilities. People who are unvaccinated and immunocompromised must continue to wear a mask and maintain social distancing of at least six feet. Most restaurants, stores, gyms, places of worship, and other businesses, have been able to go back to one-hundred percent capacity.

Some do not agree with the mask mandate. This primarily refers to the school mask mandate debate in Long Island. At the back-to-school night in Massapequa, parents were signing petitions to let the school district know that they wanted to be able to decide whether their children wore a mask in school or

not. The main concern of the parents was that their children would have trouble breathing, or that it would be too hot under the mask and it would not create a beneficial learning environment.

There was an announcement made in early August by then-New York Governor Andrew Cuomo, on leaving mask-wearing decisions to individual school districts. This has since been walked back by sitting Governor, Kathy Hochul, who passed an executive order mandating all Children and Faculty wear masks in school at all times.

Parents shared their viewpoint at school board meetings on Long Island and some points were made about masks being mentally and physically draining, which raised concerns about mental health issues. Other parents stated that wearing a mask, especially inside, is necessary. On the other hand, a few parents thought that their rights as parents were being violated. This debate can be seen throughout schools such as Islip Middle School and the Locust Valley Middle School. Six students from Islip Middle School showed up to school without masks and were taken out of their classrooms, resulting in their parents having to pick them up.

During the same week, the board of Locust Valley School voted to gain a law firm to fight against the state's mask mandate for schools. Dr.

Bruce Farber, with Northwell Health, stated masks are crucial for schools to stay open, but other prominent figures such as Dr. Marty Mackary, with Johns Hopkins University, have openly opposed such policies.

This mask debate has been awful to watch, according to parents with children who have disabilities. Some parents see in-person learning as salvation for their children with disabilities, but who now face a higher probability of getting ill.

The Federal Education Department investigated Tennessee, along with seven other states, to see whether the orders of the governor to defy the school mask mandates are discriminatory against children with disabilities and hinder their access to a proper and safe education.

As of now, many schools require masks, despite the heated debates, and also take other safety precautions to ensure the safety of their students.

# Remembering September 11th

By Roxy Dias

People have taken several routes to commemorate this anniversary. There were several ceremonies in New York City honoring the victims, their families, and everyone that was affected by the horrific day. Hundreds of people gathered in Lower Manhattan where the twin towers used to stand, including President Biden and the First Lady Jill Biden, and former presidents Barack Obama and Bill Clinton, including former first ladies Michelle Obama and Hilary Clinton. A procession that marched with a flag and the names of the victims were read off by family members while people stood in respect with their hands over their hearts. There was also the sharing of stories and remembrances.

In our own school, a teacher, Mrs. Mastrocinque bravely led an assembly with an emotional testimony regarding the loss of her father to the attacks. It was a beautifully written and delivered speech that both educated and touched many students and faculty about the events of 9/11 for victims and the power of education in curing misjudged feelings. Many people have stated it was the best assembly we've ever had.

The assembly started with details about her father, to the emotional recollection of the moment she found out about the attacks. Then she detailed the nature of grief and suffering, and what that was like for her.

She also discussed a former professor she had in Middle Eastern studies, and shared a presentation that he prepared regarding the impact of 9/11 on Muslims and society. She described the way education about Islam helped increase her understanding for it and how it helped relieve some of the tension she had with the Middle East.

Then, the course of her life brought her back to



Pictured: Principal Raymond Williams, English Teacher Ms. Amy Mastrocinque and Ms. Meryl Ross Mastrocinque  
credit: hicksvillepublicschools.org

Hicksville, one of her favorite communities, filled with diversity. It was very well said and included many insights to the tragedy of 9/11, which was important for students to hear and understand, especially growing up in a post 9/11 world. It was especially meaningful to hear this speech from someone in our community that many of us have had the opportunity to interact with.

Overall, it is essential that we never forget the events of 9/11 and the way it affected our world. Nearly 3,000 people died in the attacks and numerous others were affected by it, those who lost family members, those who were in New York City near the towers that day, and those who faced hate crimes in the aftermath of the attacks. It is important to always remember the tragedies and the way New York united against it.

# Education & Afghanistan

**By: Zahel Nasari**

The gift of education is something many individuals take for granted. People do not realize that children who have no homes and are placed in refugee camps would find enormous delight in attending school. Many people immigrate to the United States in search of new opportunities and an education that is unavailable to them in their country. Those individuals instill in us an awareness that living in a first-world country could be used for more than our needs. They have shown us that we can use our education to positively affect those outside our borders.

To contribute to an organization, my sister, Maeryam Nasari, and I contacted several foundations and held virtual meetings with their founders. After researching the different humanitarian aid offered for educational purposes, my sister and I stumbled upon the Lamia Afghan Foundation. John Allen Bradley, the founder of the organization and veteran, strives to provide education and economic development opportunities for long-term self-sustainability in Afghanistan. During his service as the chief of Air Force Reserves and commander of Air Force Reserve Command, he made multiple trips to Afghanistan. In the past, he has partnered with other nonprofit organizations, corporate donors, and universities. He has conducted clothing drives and school supply drives around the country.

Along with the Lamia Afghan Foundation, I intend to enhance the lives of children in Afghanistan who are suffering from a lack of adequate educational services. The lives of children in Afghanistan have been ravaged by decades of bitter war and natural disasters. Afghanistan is in a fragile state in which life is difficult, and the odds are even more against children. My sister and I had obtained a list of twenty-six children, from grades one to eight, who needed monetary support. The children were students in an IDP (Internally Displaced Persons)



Refugee Camp run by the Lamia Afghan Foundation. Any money the families did have, primarily went towards feeding their families, and school supplies were very rarely something the children received.

In April 2021, my sister and I started to spread awareness through our website and began collecting money using our GoFundMe page. During one month, we were able to raise \$1,500, and with the help of Mr. Bradley's personal assistant in Afghanistan, we successfully transferred the money. Although our original intentions were to direct funds towards school supplies for the children in the IDP schools, certain events caused a change in plans. In light of the Dashht-i-Barachi school attack, \$1,000 was distributed among the victims of the bombing. The victims were mainly young girls between the ages of 11 and 15 who were violently attacked when they were simply seeking an education. The neediest families were carefully selected, and \$100 was distributed to 10 families. The remainder of the funds went towards the purchase of school supplies for the 26 children in the IDP schools, assisting in the preparation of the new school year. Due to our success and impact, we hope to spread more awareness of our project and hold more fundraisers in the future!

# Britney Spears: Free At Last

By Danna Taboada

The world watched as 26-year-old Britney Spears spiraled into a downfall in the year 2008. Infamous photos of her shaving her hair off at the salon were displayed for the public as she struggled with the loss of the custody battle of her sons to ex-husband Kevin Federline. She was taken to the UCLA Medical Center and had to be placed under mental evaluation and a couple of weeks later, Britney ended up right back under 5105 involuntary psychiatric hold for the same reason. The following day, Jamie Spears, the father of the iconic pop star, decided to put his daughter into an emergency conservatorship with him in charge. But despite recovering from that dark time in her life, Britney's choices were still in the hands of her father. And that went on for the last 13 years.

After the court declared to extend the conservatorship for an indefinite period in October of 2008, Britney went on to release four other studio albums, all receiving positive reviews and breaking many astonishing records. She appeared in hit shows like *Glee* and *How I Met Your Mother*, boosting the episode's rating. She embarked on a total of three tours, each selling out rapidly and becoming one of the highest-grossing tours of their year. Spears then became the second artist in history to have two consecutive singles debut at number one, after Mariah Carey with her single "Hold it Against Me." She spoke up about her mental health and how becoming a mother helped her overcome her difficult past. Spears was able to accomplish all of this and so much more than her conservatorship was something people assumed was now a part of her past. That was until 2019. February of 2019, a Britney-based podcast, *Britney's Gram* managed to obtain a voicemail from someone who claimed to be a former member of Britney's legal team. In this message, the source had stated that Jamie had canceled Britney's Las Vegas residency because her daughter had refused to take her medications.

According to the person, Britney was currently being held against her own will in a psychiatric facility since the month before when she had violated a no-driving rule. Most importantly, it was revealed that her conservatorship was originally supposed to end in 2009. And thus, #FreeBritney was born as fans and even celebrities and organizations fought day and night to let Britney go of this nightmare.



Photo Credit google images

Fast forward to two years later, after countless protests and suspenseful court hearings, on September 29th of 2021, Judge Penny suspended Jamie as conservator of Spears' estate along with putting accountant John Zabel temporarily until the arrangement was terminated. Gradually, Britney was starting to regain her voice. She revealed to her fans what her life was truly like behind the cameras during these years and yet they continued to stand by her side, supporting her as much as they did before.

Who was once an innocent, rising pop star at 15, had now become an inspiration and a role model for everyone around the world. Though it may sound cliché, Spears has truly proven to never give up without putting up a fight. Thirteen years later, Britney and her team were still going strong, making progress as the days went on. Her fans spread the word to join in on the battle throughout social media until everyone knew the connection between the word "Britney" and "conservatorship." It's difficult to deny what an impact Britney Spears and her music have had around the globe. Everyone at least knows one song from her and can probably agree it's pretty damn good. After all, she *is* the Princess of Pop. The one who set the bar for future artists. But personally, after all of this, I now like to think of her as the Warrior of Pop instead.

In mid-November, the conservatorship was terminated and Britney Spears regained her freedom. After the hearing, Spears posted to Twitter: "I think I'm gonna cry the rest of the day !!!! Best day ever."

And don't ever forget, "If Britney survived 2007, **you** can survive today."



# A Golden State of Mind

By Kaitlyn Verdugo Ortiz



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This past summer brought the Olympics in Tokyo and world-renowned gymnast Simone Biles was slated to take home gold in many categories. That all changed, though, when she chose her mental health over competing for gold.

"I truly do feel like I have the weight of the world on my shoulders", says Simone Biles, an American gymnast and olympic gold medalist. Biles has recently decided to speak out about the consequential effect of the Olympic games on players' physical and emotional wellbeing. She withdrew from the competition after attempting a vault on previous injuries, which was when she realized she could not physically or mentally handle the strain without injuring herself. Biles discussed in various television cast interviews that she believed she would land on her neck if she continued pushing herself, and

that her team would be better off with her on a break than dead.

The gold medalist's leave angered many Americans, as they argued that she "chose" to be an Olympian and had to handle her responsibilities. However, many defended her claiming that she did not owe America anything, as she is a voluntary participant and more importantly, a human being.

Another incredible athlete, Japanese tennis player Naomi Osaka, had opened the conversation on mental health in sports and helped Biles speak out about her personal experience. According to an NBC interview, Biles stated she wanted to "put (her) mental health first because if (she doesn't) don't, then you're not going to enjoy your sport and you're not going to succeed as much as you want to." She explained that "it's OK sometimes to even sit out the big competitions to focus on yourself, because it shows how strong of a competitor you really are."

Conversation on mental health, especially in the sports industry, has battled through decades of negligence, but simply focusing on our own emotions and mental health, we can make a change in various lives. As we look up to Simone Biles, we now not only see her as a gymnast with gold medals but a role model.

# Editorial: I Pledge Allegiance

**By Faiqa Ali**

Before we learned to spell our names, we learned to pledge our loyalty to the American flag and the values from which our nation was born. To some, this pledge of allegiance is an expression of nationalism and gratitude, whereas others argue that it is a blind oath of loyalty to a flag which has no place in a school environment. In 1943, it was declared unconstitutional to force students to stand for the pledge of allegiance, and to this day, students have the right to remain seated if they so choose.

In May 2020, a tragic incident sparked old controversy surrounding the pledge of allegiance. George Floyd, a black American man was killed by a police officer after allegedly using a counterfeit \$20 bill. Progressive activists were quick to respond to the tragedy by signing online petitions and posting to spread awareness about the Black Lives Matter movement. The movement then began to escalate as some protesters began starting riots and admonishing the American justice system, labeling it 'inherently racist' and immoral. In turn, this led to mass opposition from those on the left-wing towards the pledge of allegiance, which they claimed was a symbol of systemic racism; regardless of whether or not these people are correct, in America, everyone is entitled to voice their opinions and those who disagree are just as entitled to voice their disagreement. This means that those

who choose to sit for the pledge may sit, and those who prefer to stand may stand. The concept is neither difficult to grasp, nor is it worth such controversy, in my personal opinion, but it has incited a series of legal incidents nonetheless.

A teacher in Newport, Kristin Pitzen, posted a video on TikTok about how she took down the American flag in her classroom because it made her uncomfortable. She argued that her students had the option to either stand or sit for the pledge of allegiance, but the flag itself was removed due to her personal discomfort. In place of the American flag, she hung an LGBTQ+ flag, and told her students that if they wanted to, they could pledge allegiance to the pride flag, which was the only one available in her classroom. The Ocean County Register expressed their disappointment with Pitzen, arguing that her actions were against the district rules, and removed her from the classroom.

Moreover, in June 2021, the mayor of Colorado suspended the Pledge of Allegiance during city meetings, and received much backlash for his decision. He received angry tweet replies, including one from Senator Rick Scott, where the mayor was called "un-American" and "destructive."

It is evident that there is much history and controversy surrounding the idea of the Pledge of Allegiance, but among all the chaos and the mindless fighting on Twitter, there is

a lesson to be learned from this; it is absolutely crucial that while we defend our own right to the First Amendment and speak out for what we believe, we also must respect others' right to self-expression. The initial dilemma with the Pledge of Allegiance was that it was mandatory for every student to stand and recite it, whether they supported the pledge or not, and decades ago, the Supreme Court made it legally acceptable for students to sit during the pledge if they chose to. Today, that issue has become a matter of disunity and honestly, unnecessary conflict. It is ridiculously simple to understand that both you and your peers have the capacity and the moral obligation to exercise your right to self-expression with a mutual degree of respect and tolerance.

I personally choose to stand for the pledge, because I consider it a form of gratitude and support towards American values, and I support my peers who choose to sit during the pledge. A country that was built from the blood, sweat, and tears of a large, beautiful, multicultural group of people simply cannot be dismantled by such a minor obstacle.

Next time you choose to sit or stand for the pledge, remember that you are actively exercising your right to self-expression, and your peers deserve the privilege to do the same for themselves.

# The Only Thing Constant is Change

By Albert Feinstein

Throughout history, humans have progressed with technology, medicine, society, government and more. However, this all came at a cost. The cost? Climate change.

Industrialization really began to take off in the 1800s. Entrepreneurs and innovators made advances in various fields, and the world was run on their factories and products. With all this greatness and new technology, pollution became increasingly prominent. In 1900, five hundred million metric tons of carbon were released into the atmosphere. By 1950? Almost two billion metric tons of carbon. It only got worse from there.

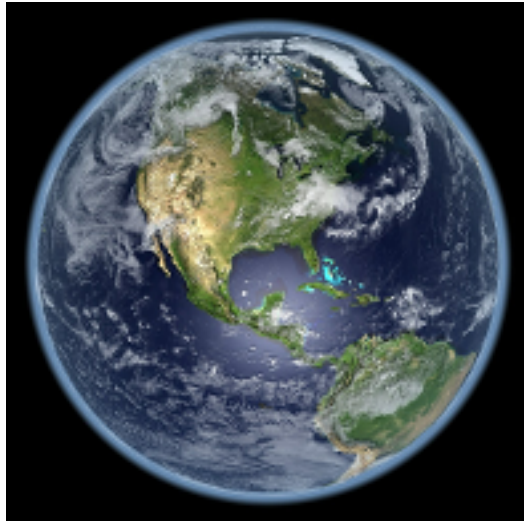


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According to the USGS (United States Geological Survey), "The U.S. Energy Information Administration estimates that in 2019, the United States emitted 5.1 billion metric tons of energy-related carbon dioxide, while the global emissions of energy-related carbon dioxide totaled 33.1 billion metric tons."

As one can see, the problem is right there in front of us. However, not many people are doing anything about it. Sure, you may have one organization in a country that is really trying to significantly limit carbon emissions, but that doesn't do much when compared to the billions of metric tons of CO<sub>2</sub> released into the atmosphere just in one year. Truly, the worst part about this pollution is that it affects us more than we really comprehend. Climate change causes deaths either through the spread of disease, natural disasters, or heat/temperature-related illnesses.

The WHO, (World Health Organization) states, "climate change is expected to cause approximately

250,000 additional deaths per year between 2030 and 2050; 38 000 due to heat exposure in elderly people, 48,000 due to diarrhoea, 60,000 due to malaria, and 95,000 due to childhood undernutrition."

The WHO and other organizations such as the EPA (Environmental Protection Agency) are trying to resolve problems worldwide to at least stunt carbon emission growth. These organizations deserve more credit for what they do. 2030 is not so far away, so this gives perspective on how massive this problem is; hundreds of thousands of additional deaths per year, all due to the fact that humans started industrializing.

"Extremely hot days can lead to heat-related illness as well as poor air quality, by increasing the chemical reactions that produce smog. In addition, many of the factors that influence whether a person is exposed to health threats or whether they become ill, such as an individual's personal habits, living conditions, and access to medical care can also change over time," claims the EPA.

Anybody can fall victim to the risks of climate change, but people with less access to essential services, such as medical care and proper access to food, are more likely to be affected. Climate change creates opportunities for unanticipated or unprecedented diseases to arise where they usually don't exist.

Overall, the world is a mess with the whole climate change situation. More people need to be informed about how climate change doesn't just affect the place we live in, but it also affects you.

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# Fall Entertainment Run-Down

**By Ishaank Madhadi**

This fall there were many exciting new movies and games that were released.

First, there's the second chapter of *Deltarune*. *Deltarune* is a role playing game that you can play on a PlayStation, Microsoft Windows, or a Nintendo Switch. The first chapter came out October 31, 2018. This game was made by the creator of *Undertale* which came out on September 15, 2015.

On Netflix a season two of the show *Locke and Key* was released Oct 22, 2021. It is a supernatural horror thriller based on the comic of the same name

*Agent 007* returned on Oct 8, 2021 in *No Time To Die*. This movie is the 25th movie in the series and the final one for Daniel Craig. In this movie Bond comes out of retirement to fight a new villain with advanced technology. It has some mixed reviews on the villain however.

Now we have a sequel to a well received movie, *Venom: Let There Be Carnage*. It's a continuation of Eddie Brock's tale with a bit more symbiotes like Carnage. This movie will center around Eddie Brock versus Cletus Cassidy, a serial killer who gains the symbiote Carnage. It was released Oct 1, 2021.

*Candyman* is a sequel to a 30 year old movie by the same name. It is a horror thriller that also talks about social problems. It is about an artist

trying to figure out the history of Candyman but unleashes a monster as the world around him devolves into madness.

*Squid Game*, which premiered on September 17th, is a bloody, not kid friendly Netflix series. It is even close to the number 1 spot worldwide for Netflix in fact. It is a death game type of movie, where if you fail the challenge you die. The challengers this time are all people in debt who want to get a better life. The catch is that all of the games are children's games but deadly. Also the more people that die, the higher the cash prize becomes. It has nine episodes in total.

Finally, *Shang Chi and The Legend Of The Ten Rings*. which came out on September 3rd. This Marvel movie was an origin story for a new character in the Marvel Universe. For many Marvel fans this was amazing. Some amazing things about this movie for example is that it is currently number 1 at the box office and the fight choreographer actually used to work on Jackie Chen movies. The cinematographer Bill Pope actually was the one who made the bullet time scene in *The Matrix*.

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