

COMET NEWS

Spring 2022

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Hicksville's New Pool is "Fly"

By Matthew LaBarca

The grand opening of the brand new Hicksville Aquatic Center this school year is an incredible feat for the Hicksville community.

The facility is an extension of the high school that features a lobby that connects to the main gym, two entrances, locker rooms, bathrooms, showers, a lifeguard office, and of course, the six-lane, 25-yard long swimming pool. This pool has opened many new opportunities for coaches, swimmers, divers, lifeguards, parents, and now all of Hicksville.

The Hicksville boys varsity swim team tripled in size this year amid their rebuilding process as the new pool attracted many new and returning talents. Head Coach Epstein and assistant Coach Allgier have taken advantage of the new pool as this young team has improved tremendously.

Coach Epstein mentions, "Having a pool will help the swim teams become more competitive. It is much more convenient with more water time." Some key swimmers include senior captain Matthew LaBarca, senior record-holder Bryan Brendel, Joseph Adames, Justin Beatty, Albert Feinstein, Patrick LaBarca, Nathan Nardin, and many more.

Junior diver Adam Kaszovitz, mentored by Coach Greene, has been performing phenomenally

in his first season diving breaking two school records where his record for 6 dives stands at 206.85, and his record for 11 dives is 283.15. The boys ended as one of the top teams in the conference and are looking to move to higher ability-based meets in the coming years.



Photo Courtesy of Ms. Sheri Epsein

The Hicksville girls varsity swim team competed in a higher skill bracket this past fall after being named undefeated conference champions the year prior. Just like the boys' swim team, coaches Epstein and Allgier are molding the young core of the team, having the girls swim day in and day out.

Some key swimmers of the team include senior captains Arianna Goncalves and Paula Kruszewski

along with freshman Angelina Kim, 8th grader Kayla Kulier, 8th grader Samantha Taggart, sophomore Melanie Unger, freshman Jennie Zhang, and many more.

The relay team of Kulier, Taggart, Unger, and Zhang have broken the 200 freestyle relay record for the second year in a row where the record now stands at 1:52.14. Kulier mentions, "It was really cool since we were so young compared to the last record-holding relay team that were juniors and seniors. I think that over the years we will end up getting even better. The new pool will help because it's much more accessible than practicing at Eisenhower Park's Aquatic Center on a strict schedule." The girls are projected to experience much more and greater success in the near future moving up to another conference.

With the new pool, the implementation of middle school swim teams in Hicksville was finally possible. The new, but well-experienced coaches of Coach Scott, Coach Hawkins, and Coach Bunting contributed to a phenomenal kickoff to these new teams. The middle school teams are now a great way to attract interest for young aspiring swimmers as well as be a great developmental program before entering the varsity program. *(continued on page 3)*

Hicksville Marching Comets Soar in St. Patrick's Day Parade

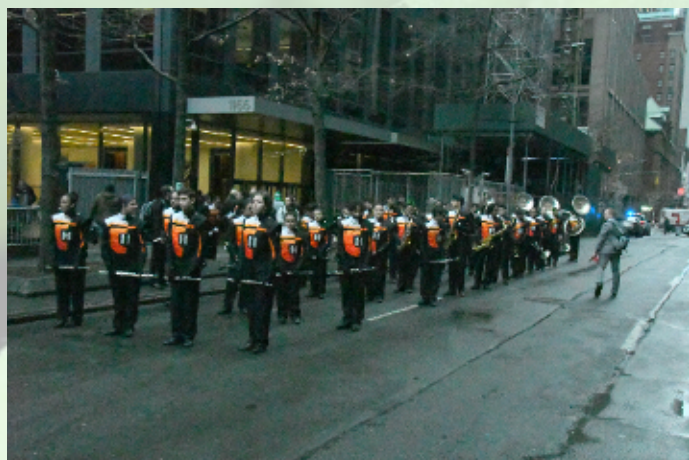
On Thursday, March 17, 2022, Hicksville's very own Marching Comets took to the rainy streets of New York City to march in the St. Patrick's Day Parade. Led by Band Director Kerri Barnett, Drum Majors Shari Thorsten, Mallika Rangji and Samantha Mason.



Neither rain nor wind could keep the Marching Comets from putting their best foot forward.



Colorguard proudly representing HHS.



Colorguard's impeccable lineup.



The Marching Comets warming up before the parade starts.

Hicksville's New pool is "Fly" (cont.)

None of this would be possible if it weren't for athletic director Mr. Calarco, Captain lifeguard David Vidad, and the rest of the newly-hired experienced lifeguard crew. The lifeguard staff consists of Hicksville High School students, HHS alumni, Town of Hempstead lifeguards, and more, but are open to all that are fully certified.



Photo Courtesy of Ms. Sheri Epsein

Swimmers here are often encouraged to become lifeguards and work for Hicksville due to the convenience, flexibility, benefits, nice pay, and great hours, where more are opening up soon. Previously mentioned senior swimmer and lifeguard Bryan Brendel says "It feels special being part of the first boys swim team to use [the pool]. I find it very convenient to be employed by my school as Vidad has made the balance of swimming and working very easy."



Diver Adam Kaszovitz/Photo Courtesy of Ms. Sheri Epstein

The year 2022 comes with big plans for the Aquatic Center at Hicksville. Along with the High School swim teams and Middle School swim teams, Holy Family CYO also uses the pool to practice. Should COVID restrictions and concerns lessen, the pool has plans for early this year to open to Hicksville residents for public swims. Additional plans for this year include senior citizen swims, in-school swimming classes, swimming lessons, and lifeguard training classes. Although the pool has brought great things to Hicksville thus far, this is only the beginning of the impact of this facility on the Hicksville community.



Kulier, Unger, Taggart, and Zhang after breaking the school record
Photo Courtesy of Ms. Sheri Epstein

Oxford Tragedy Continues to Spark Concern for Mental Health in Students

By Katelyn Corbett

When you go to school do you think of the worst possible outcome? You're possibilities are you have no friends to sit with at lunch, you spill juice on your new shirt, you get a bad grade on your math test. Notice how you'd never expect a school shooting? Neither did Oxford High School.

Your chances of experiencing a school shooting is low, but never zero. As of March 22, 2022, there have been 18 school shootings this year, alone, according to edweek.org.

On November 30, 2021 Oxford High School, located in Detroit Michigan, experienced a tragedy. A 15-year-old student, Ethan Crumbley, opened fire in his high school. In total, eleven people were shot, seven were left injured and four died.

Oxford is a 9-12 grade campus. Meaning the ages of the victims ranged from 13-18. The shooting claimed the lives of Madisyn Baldwin(17), Tate Myre(16) Hana St. Juliana(14), Justin Shilling(17).

Ethan was arrested and charged with one count of terrorism causing death and four counts of first-degree murder, which could lead to a life sentence if he is convicted. In addition, involuntary manslaughter was filed and charged against his parents, James and Jennifer Crumbley, saying that they had bought the semiautomatic handgun that he used in the shooting, which was "gifted from Christmas".

The day before the shooting a teacher saw the suspect looking at photos of ammunition on his cell phone during class, which prompted a meeting with a counselor and another staff member.

Hours before tragedy hit, a teacher alerted school counselors and the Dean of Students to "concerning drawings and written statements" that Ethan, had created.

The school provided mental health resources for both the students and community, Oakland Community Health Network provided mental health help after the shooting. It is important to have difficult conversations with children as they begin to heal from the tragedy. "We have to have those difficult, challenging conversations. Do they have trouble sleeping? Are they having trouble eating? Really to check in with them individually to see where they are," said Dana Lasenby, the CEO of the Oakland Community Health Network.

Figuring out why violence happens in schools and why students lash out has been challenging over the years. The one thing we *can* control is our actions. Knowing when to reach out for help, learning how to manage stress, identifying when we or someone else may be in crisis, being inclusive, kind and open-minded, can all have an impact on how we as a student body navigate our lives in school and outside of school.

Here at Hicksville High School there are a variety of ways you can reach out on behalf of yourself or a friend. Contacting our guidance counselors and social workers can help you or a classmate get the resources needed to cope. In addition, reaching out to a staff member or social worker on behalf of a friend you may be concerned about can help.

If you don't feel comfortable reaching out to someone here at the high school, the Long Island Crisis Center Hotline is open 24 hours 7 days a week all it takes is a phone call to 516-679-1111.

You're A Good Man, Charlie Brown: Interview with Roman Charan

By Mallika Rangi

Every year, Hicksville High School performs a musical around the time of March. Since 2020, the school's theatre department, led by Mrs. Cassidy and Mrs. Civello, has unfortunately been unable to present a live musical production. However, this March of 2022, the Thespians are ready to get back on stage and perform a musical in front of a live audience!

This year's musical was *You're a Good Man Charlie Brown*. It is centered around the stories of Peanuts characters created by cartoonist Charles M. Schulz. In order to gain greater insight about the production as well as the experiences of some of its cast members, Roman Charan, one of the leads of the musical, was interviewed. The following are his responses:



Q: Would you give a brief description of the musical and what it's about?

A: *You're a Good Man Charlie Brown* is a fun and unique musical. It gives the audience the opportunity to feel like a kid again. The characters of this musical are a light-hearted mix between adult and children: Although only five years old, each of the Peanuts characters has a complex story. The audience is given the chance to witness the life altering and major issues which a five year old has to face. The musical follows Charlie Brown as he takes on day to day obstacles from having to sit alone at lunch, to getting no valentines, to admitting his feelings to the little red-haired girl. Charlie Brown interacts with his friends who all care about him, despite his flaws. Although Charlie Brown makes a lot of mistakes and falls short of achieving his goals, in the end he is a good man, and that is what counts.

Q: What part about being in the musical do you find most exciting/fun?

A: The most exciting part about being in a musical is the rush of adrenaline I feel go through my body when performing. It is an incomparable feeling that cannot be described. Apart from that, I really enjoy getting to work with others. The cast and crew work as a well-oiled machine with the same goal: putting on an unforgettable show. I find a collective coming together, almost as an individual mind, to be rare and special.

Q: What do you want people to know about this production?

A: *You're a Good Man Charlie Brown* is our first musical since the start of covid where we can have an in person audience. Not only is it the first live musical since the start of covid, it is our first musical in our new auditorium. Each person has put so much time and energy into this production to make it special for the audience. This show has something to offer to everyone in the community: lighthearted jokes, fantastic music, and so much more.

Q: Is there anything else you would like to share about the musical or your experience?

A: This musical is truly a work of art, and I am very proud to be able to say I was a part of it. If I can make at least one person smile after watching this show, then I did my job. I do theatre because it is a quick way to connect with people in the audience. They say art brings people together and I believe this production has the potential to bring an entire community together.

Bringing Better Choices to the HHS Cafeteria

By Sameeha Azimi, Holden Meyer & Gia Rangi

You walk into the cafeteria and the thought of what is going to be for lunch that day clicks into your mind, from the previous day you hope your food is cooked well that day. You step in the line and realize it's the same thing as yesterday, and the kid behind you is upset they forgot to make their lunch that day and sees there are no vegetarian options.

The Unhealthy and Unappetizing

We tend to disregard the lack of fully cooked food, and that there are students with allergies and who have been on plant based diets for their whole lives.

Hicksville High School students believe that their school lunches are unhealthy and just unappetizing.

The student body is asking that efforts be put toward providing a variety of enjoyable, healthy options.

Students often avoid getting lunch from the cafeteria and going an entire day refusing to eat the lunch provided. The reality is, many just don't have time in the morning to create for lunch. Lets ask some students their opinion about this directly.

Zuhra Khan, a freshman at the high school states, "I think it's bad, it tastes weirder every day, I do NOT think it's healthy"

Another student, Daniella Binetti, claims, "All the food is raw, the only food I liked was the chicken tenders, but they suddenly disappeared."

Khan and Binetti are most likely not the only ones who feel this way.

Many students seem to have the same idea of more lunch options that are religiously appropriate and choices that accommodate students with food allergies.

Students Take Action

As students began to realize that change was important, especially with the absence of plant-based items and the lack of variety for students with food allergies and dietary restrictions in the cafeteria, Mallika Rangi, Alina Nodrat and Nisarg Shah, among other students, met with the Board of Education in March to discuss the students' concerns regarding cafeteria food.

Q. What occurred at the meeting?

Mallika: The school board discussed the current school menu and students were given a chance to voice their concerns. Alina and I, officers of the school's student government, talked about incorporating plant based items in the lunch menu.

Nisarg: For the most part, there was a lot of criticism about the cafeteria situation for middle school and high schools. Different members of the school board were discussing different solutions to different issues.

Q. What was the initial reaction?

Mallika: I think initially members at the meeting were concerned as to how plant-based items would be introduced and what those plant based options would look like. However, overall, I am glad to say that everyone was very open to the idea.

Q. What changes have you noticed?

Mallika: I have noticed plant based options like vegan chicken nuggets, vegan Buffalo nuggets, and rice and beans. I have also tried these foods and they are delicious!

Nisarg: On one side of the cafeteria, there are sandwich bars where students have the option to make their own sandwich. [mentions that there are many more vegetables now, and that this is a "great step forward"] Definitely an improvement as opposed to vegetarians having to eat pizza everyday.

Alina: I noticed that better food is coming in and tuna is back for our Muslim students!

Q. What do you believe students think of the changes?

Mallika: I think many students are pleased about the new changes as many of them follow plant based diets or have certain meat or dairy allergies. Many students have personally thanked me for introducing these new foods to the school cafeteria.

When asked what other changes he hopes will be made in the cafeteria, Nisarg responded with, "More cultural foods due to the diverse population of Hicksville, and inclusion of higher quality/healthier options."

To "Bee" or Not to "Bee"?

By Gia Rangi

"Without bees, it is said that people would have only four years left to live.

Bees are responsible for pollinating one out of every three bites of food that humans eat. The entire food chain would collapse had it not been for bees sustaining entire ecosystems. However, in a 2020 study from the University of Ottawa, it was found that a bumblebee's chance of survival decreased by an average of over thirty-percent.

The reason for this decrease stems from shifts in temperature, and the fact that all species have a different tolerance for higher and lower temperatures. Peter Soroye, a PhD student in the Department of Biology at Ottawa, discovered that bees were moving away from areas that



became higher in temperature. Another major reason for the extinction of bees includes parasites. These parasites can live inside, or outside the honeybee, and can cause harmful diseases. For example, the varroa destructor, or vampire mite, drinks the blood of bees which leads to their death. Another reason the bees are going extinct relates to the loss of habitat. This is primarily a human issue, because of construction and destroying habitual homes and natural resources.

If honey bees were to be extinct, severe damage would also be done to the economy and health of the people. For example, following the extinction of bees, people will become more reliant on junk food rather than the fruits and vegetables pollinated by bees,

since the prices of the fruits and vegetables will rise due to a decrease in the amount of pollination of crops. In terms of economy, a study at Cornell University found that bees pollinate roughly fourteen billion dollars worth of seeds in crops in America. The problem also lies with people's farming techniques. For example, monoculture farming makes it harder for bees to find a well-balanced diet. Monoculture farming is when one crop species is grown in a field,

limiting the bees' diet to a singular type of pollen. This causes the bees to become malnourished, and more vulnerable to pesticides and parasites, two of the leading causes of the extinction of bees.

Despite the circumstances, this situation can still be improved through a variety of ways. For

example, humans can grow plants in their yards to attract bees and formulate pollen. Another way would be to use organic or natural pesticides as a supplement to garden pesticides, such as neonicotinoids. To help resolve the issue of climate change, people should reduce carbon dioxide emissions and follow the 3-R Rule: reuse, reduce, recycle. In the long run, the extinction of a bee would depend on its ability to escape the warming climate zone and stay in the climate zone which is beneficial for their needs, and also be able to redistribute themselves quickly enough to survive.

Steps for a Studious SAT

By Kaitlyn Verdugo Ortiz

The journey towards college acceptance is arduous: keeping one's grades up, participating in exciting activities, and standardized testing. An important standardized test is the SAT, a significant indicator of college acceptances and a heavy factor in college admissions. The test is always taken in person for three hours long and is made up of math and reading components.

The SAT will be taken on laptops or tablets at American testing centers in 2024. It will also occur in other countries by 2023, so, the end of this #2 pencil sharpening era is over. The test will be shortened from three hours to two hours.

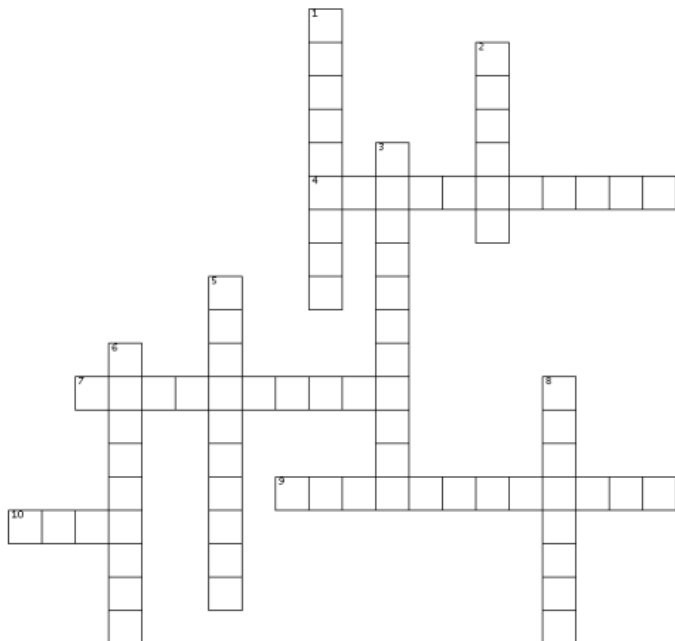
This drastic change is to be expected after the massive generational backlash regarding the fairness of the exam. The exam is guided to favor students with the necessary materials to study the exam content. Some of these resources might include SAT preparation books, SAT courses, SAT question banks, and practice SATs. The demographic of students who can access such resources usually come from high-income families. After COVID-19 school alterations, the SAT's value in college



admissions has drastically decreased. We can see this reflected in the college application requirements through their test-optional policies. "More than 1,800 schools did not require standardized test scores for 2022 admissions, according to the nonprofit organization Fair Test."

There was a 500,000 decrease in students taking the SAT from 2020 to 2022, which could have to do with the pandemic, but perhaps it shows the declining popularity of the test. The declining need for this standardized test score is aimed to provide low income and minority students with an even playing field when it comes to testing disparities. In all, it is up to the future college admissions statistics to demonstrate the consequence of this new policy on high school seniors.

Iconic Characters Crossword



ACROSS

- 4. You better respect his "authoritah", otherwise you'll regret it.
- 7. A plumber who rescues princesses and stomps on turtles
- 9. Lucky he's here to make everyone laugh and cry
- 10. Spiky black hair and wears orange pants

DOWN

- 1. He lives under the sea and is a well-known burger cook
- 2. An orphan who fights against a "clown"
- 3. One of the most iconic cartoons - has an amusement park

Alumni Spotlight

By Zahel Nasari

As the end of an academic year approaches, Hicksville High School celebrates its alumni and wishes them good luck in their future endeavors. When years follow behind the graduated students, many wonder how much they have accomplished and the different milestones they have hit. Luckily, Alaha Nasari, an alumna from the Class of 2020, shared her reflections from high school and college and provide us insight on life after graduating.

Alaha Nasari is a second-year student at Harvard College. She is concentrating in History of Science with a secondary field in Global Health & Health Policy. She is also on the pre-med track and hopes to pursue a career in pediatric medicine.

At Harvard, Alaha is a writer on the Crimson Editorial Board, student volunteer for Harvard MEDLIFE, team-leader for The First-Year Retreat and Experience Pre-Orientation Program, and the Wellness Chair on her House Committee. Alaha shares that one of her most fulfilling experiences was through Harvard MEDLIFE, a non-profit organization that partners with low-income communities in Latin America and Africa to improve access to healthcare services. This past winter, she had the opportunity to travel to Lima, Peru, where she worked closely with community leaders and doctors to provide medical services for the local Peruvian community.

Regarding high school classes and extracurriculars, Alaha says that enrolling in AP courses proved immensely beneficial to her performance at college. As a pre-med student, she is required to take classes in different science disciplines. Although Harvard does not accept AP credit, the knowledge and experience she gained from taking courses like AP Physics, AP Biology, and AP Chemistry



provided her with the foundational skills needed for the courses she has taken in college. In addition, her leadership experience in the extracurriculars she was involved with in high school motivated her to pursue similar positions in the activities she is involved in at Harvard.

Aside from her college experiences, Alaha states that she genuinely does not think she has any regrets from high school. Her development and growth as a student continue even in college, and she is grateful for her high school experiences in building her character and confidence.

Alaha thinks there is much more freedom in all aspects of the college experience compared to high school - intellectually, socially, and academically. This freedom gives you the power to pave the path for your own growth and success in turn, learning to lead your life independently and discover your passions and aspirations.

Why You Should Be Interested in Interest Rates

By Daniel Gregov



What are interest rates and what are they used for?

When the Federal Reserve, which is the central bank of the USA, raises rates it impacts

the American economy and its citizens in many ways. These ways are mostly negative. That is because many Americans take our loans, such as mortgages for homes, and car loans for new vehicles. They also take out money for home renovations.

Why are rates going to rise?

When inflation gets too high and the economy starts growing at a large rate, especially when trillions of dollars have been pumped into the economy due to the pandemic, rates have to be raised to slow it down. Raising interest rates makes people spend less money because it makes credit and loans harder to pay off. When there is less money being used, inflation calms down on that front.

What are some impacts of rising rates on the economy?

A slower U.S. economy and lower corporate earnings as well as the prospect of less risky assets like bonds becoming more attractive may result from higher interest rates, according to financial experts.

The S&P 500 stock index is down more than 9% in January due to signs of a more aggressive move to raise rates. When the Fed raises its benchmark interest rate, banks and lenders tend to raise borrowing costs, too. Loans and mortgages with variable rates, credit cards and other debt become pricier causing consumers to spend less. Businesses also pay more to finance their operations.

According to a Forbes article entitled "What Rising Interest Rates Mean For Business" written by Bill Conerly, short-term interest rates will be pushed up by the Federal Reserve, as the Fed announced. They will raise rates in quarter-point increments three or four times this year. They will still be behind the curve, most likely, and will raise short rates more aggressively in 2023. Looking first at business revenue, companies with extra cash will earn a little bit more interest as the Fed raises short-term interest rates, but this will hardly be significant for most companies. On the revenue

downside, interest-sensitive businesses will see less demand for their goods and services. The mortgage industry will find fewer homeowners refinancing their mortgages. The demand for houses, though, is probably strong enough that higher mortgage costs will have only a small effect, and that will impact pricing more than the number of new homes built and sold.

Who chooses to raise rates?

In simple terms, the central bank and the people in charge there, choose what to do with the rate. In the U.S., interest rates are determined by the Federal Open Market Committee (FOMC), which consists of seven governors of the Federal Reserve Board and five Federal Reserve Bank presidents. The FOMC meets eight times a year to determine how they are going to work out the near-term direction of monetary policy and interest rates.

The Million Dollar Question: How does the rising of key interest rates affect your money?

Rising interest rates mean you can earn more from your savings, but borrowing becomes more expensive. That part is for anyone with a checking account or a savings account. But what about people with investments and a 401k? Will they lose money? Most likely yes. According to an article by CNBC, any impact on the stock market to a change in the interest rate changes is generally experienced immediately, while, for the rest of the economy, it may take about a year to see any widespread impact. Higher interest rates tend to negatively affect earnings and stock prices (with the exception of the financial sector). That is because banks make more money in profits since consumers' interest rates have gone up, so they have to pay more to the bank.

If enough companies experience declines in their stock prices, the whole market, or the key indexes with in the market, the Dow Jones Industrial Average, S&P 500 and other market indices will go down in value. With a lowered expectation in the growth and future cash flows of a company, investors will not get as much growth from stock price appreciation. This can make stock ownership less desirable. This makes all the 401k's depreciate in value, since most are positioned as 60% stocks and ETFs.

So, how will this game of interest rate hikes really play out in a time of economic and inflationary uncertainty, only time will tell.

Encanto: Talking about Bruno and the Rise of Latin Representation

By Danna Taboada

A seven foot frame man with rats along his back. He walks into weddings with a mischievous grin, and he's always found sort of muttering and mumbling. A man who is told to never speak about yet has a whole song sung by his family about him.

We Don't Talk About Bruno has without a doubt become a major hit song ever since the release of the movie, *Encanto*, back in November of 2021.

Between its songs and the artistic elements, *Encanto*, beautifully displays the concept of the Latin community as well as the Colombian culture.

The story centers around a Colombian family where each member is blessed with a gifted power except for one: Mirabel, who tries to fit in with her extraordinary family. When Mirabel witnesses a danger threatening the family's power and the magical house, she must take matters into her own hands and do whatever she possibly can to save them all.

We Don't Talk About Bruno, written by Tony-award and Grammy-award winning Lin-Manuel Miranda and sung by the *Encanto* cast, is a song sung by the family to warn Mirabel about her long-lost and estranged uncle Bruno as she embarks on her journey to discover what exactly is threatening the family's power.

We Don't Talk About Bruno gradually grew in popularity mainly through the usage of TikTok as users expressed their love for the song or dressed up as their favorite characters and lip synced the words.

Topping the Billboard charts just recently, *We Don't Talk About Bruno* is now being seen as one of the most accomplished songs from a Disney movie, beating in some ways, *Frozen's Let it Go*, but it wasn't only Bruno that gained its deserved attention. *Surface Pressure*, a song based the pressures of being an older sister who just so happened to be gifted the powers of strength and having to live up to her grandmother's high expectations and *Dos Orguitas (Two Caterpillars)*, depicts the family's origin story until tragedy struck, leading the beginning of the magical house and the powers, have both gained spots on the Billboard charts and millions of downloads.

With the collaboration of unique voices and appearances of each character, *Encanto* has done a phenomenal job representing the Latino community as well as Columbian culture. As the tensions between Mirabel and her grandmother, mainly referred to as *Abuela*, rise throughout the movie, it is accompanied by catchy tunes and colorful and realistic images.



Characters with many different skin tones are incorporated as the movie challenges the typical Latino and Latina stereotypes like Luisa, Mirabel's sister, who has muscles and a deep voice. While some Latinx-based movies seem to lack the true diversity of the community, *Encanto* excels at it; children are now viewing more realistic

depictions of Latinx characters, many more children now get the chance to see their culture, represented and characters with their appearance and reactions on the screen. I, for one, was pleased to see the main character portrayed as a short, darker skinned female with glasses, curly hair, and a big nose when the media was getting used to seeing skinny, straight haired females with slim noses.

Additionally, living up to expectations of having to carry the family burden on your shoulders is something everyone can relate to, not just the Latinx community. *Abuela* had become so obsessed with keeping the power alive that she was blind to realize how much of a detriment she was to her family's mental health. No one ever truly called her out for fear of being seen as not loving the family and the gifts they were blessed with. *Luisa* doesn't want to mention the harsh feelings of being under pressure for fear of being seen as weak. *Isabela*, scared with every step she takes of ruining her image as the "perfect daughter", and *Mirabel*, who no matter what she does or how hard she tries, will just never live up to her *abuela's* expectations and constantly feels like there's nothing special within her.

Lin-Manuel Miranda, who composed the soundtrack incorporates features of Latin music genres like bachata and salsa and even included hip-hop. Viewers find themselves downloading the songs contributing to its

(cont'd on back page)

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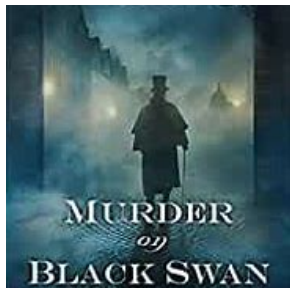
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Check out these exciting novels.

By Stephanie Dolan and Mae Schwind

Murder on Black Swan Lane

Author: Andrea Penrose

Murder on Black Swan Lane is the first book in a series of 5. It is part of A Wrexford & Sloane Mystery. The book is about a

cartoonist and a scientist that team up to investigate a series of murders. It is a good book if you enjoy murder mystery and romance.

I found it very entertaining with the story being a murder/romance of the two main characters. The setting is also fun because you have to use your mind to find the killer. Not go to the lab and get DNA. It tests you to think outside the book in another time.

Twilight

Author: Stephanie Meyer

Twilight is the first book in a series of four from the Twilight Saga. It is a story about a high school girl

who moves to a small town and doesn't quite fit in. She soon meets at her new school, a handsome mysterious immortal. But despite their differences, a romance develops between the unlikely two. It is a good book if you are into fantasy romance novels. I enjoyed the book more than the movie because it had much more detail.

Encanto (continued)

growth and promoting the representation of the Latinos. Colombian foods like arepas and buñuelos were also added into the movie as small details along with the structure of the buildings located in the town where the movie took place were very similar to those in Colombia. The idea that the grandmother in Latin families is always

the head is something many Latinos and Latinas can relate to.

Encanto received a nomination for Best Animated Film at this year's Oscar Awards. Just being nominated alone is huge for Lin, the cast, everyone behind the project, and obviously, Latinos. To win would be even greater.

Comet News would like to thank the following people for their support in helping us spread the news.

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