

WO SAY SO

WO Say SO
Waterloo Oxford Student Newspaper



November, 2016
Volume 1, Issue 1

“Carpe Pincello”

SEIZE THE PENCIL: SAY SO IS BACK

That’s right Crusaders, the W.O. Say So Newspaper is back! We are pleased to present to you our first publication this year.

But this is no ordinary newspaper. No, this is W.O. and we put our own spin on things.

These are the days of social media, and it has become obsolete to publish sports scores, and constant updates for important events– that’s what Twitter is for. Instead, Say So plans to be a very creative paper, a published collection with stories, essays, poems, articles, or any kind of creative scribbling made by our fellow Crusaders! In short, a paper made by W.O. for W.O.

Look for our paper copies in the school, and please check out the school website to see a full colour version of this issue!

We invite you to enjoy this first issue (of many) of the W.O. Say So!

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Extra Curricular Update

WO MUSIC

WHAT'S NEW?

In September we had all music groups start up!
We had our September Performers of the Month:

Vocalist: **Brittany Ramseyer**
Instrumentalist: **Josh Kimpel**

We also have our October Performers of the Month:

Vocalist: **Zach Watsa**
Instrumentalist: **Maren McLean**

What's Up and Coming for



WHAT'S NEXT?

Remembrance Day Performances by Mens Choir, Senior Band
and Appassionata

Music-a-thon for all music groups -Thursday, November 17th!
Festival Of Holiday Music (F.O.H.M.) - Thursday, December 1st!

Hope to see you there!





Historical Halloween Happenings

By Michaela Baker

HISTORY OF HALLOWEEN

October. Trick-or-treat. Costume. Jack O’lantern. Candy. Pumpkin. Halloween. It’s that time of year again. Houses are being decorated, pumpkins are being carved, and children of all ages anxiously pick out their favourite costume to dress up in for the big night. Halloween has a lot to offer for us, besides the free candy. The history of this annual festivity is

just as sweet as any treat given out on October 31.

Nearly 2000 years ago, a day called Samhain (pronounced ‘sow-in’) took place on November 1, while All Souls Day, a day to remember deceased relatives, occurred on November 2. The festival of Samhain marks the end of the harvest season and the beginning of winter and darker times.

“Original Jack O’Lanterns were craved from potatoes, turnips, and beets.”

Many people believed that on the day before Samhain (October 31), the dead returned as ghosts, so they left food and wine on their doorsteps for the roaming spirits. The townspeople also wore masks when going out that night because they wanted to be mistaken for other ghosts.

The day known as Samhain was later changed by the Christian churches to All Saints Day, which celebrates all the Saints, known or unknown. In the 8th century, some people called this day All Hallows, but it remained commonly spoken of as All Saints Day. The day before All Saints Day, or All Hallows, became All Hallows Eve, similar as to the day before Christmas is called Christmas Eve. All Hallows Eve was shorted to Hallowe’en, which is just a contraction of Halloween, the day we now know and celebrate annually.

As fascinating as this is, where did we get our yearly traditions such as carving pumpkins to make jack o’lanterns, dressing up in costumes, or trick-or-treating around the neighbourhood to score some delicious goodies? Original jack o’lanterns were carved from potatoes, turnips, and beets. On All Saints Day and

All Souls Day, Catholic children carved lanterns from these garden vegetables and carried them from door to door, begging for a pastry called soul cakes. In return for the soul cakes, the children would pray for the people’s dead relatives. This was called souling. Immigrants from Scotland, Ireland, and England brought these traditions with them to the United States and it was soon learned that pumpkins make perfect jack o’lanterns.

The custom of dressing up in costume on Halloween night came from an old ethic called guising, which is when young people dressed up in costume and asked for food, wine, and coins in exchange for a song, poem or joke. In the 19th century America, Irish, and Scottish immigrants revived these traditions calling them trick-or-treating, which is what we do nowadays. Souling and guising originated in Medieval Britain. At first, Halloween was just about the tricks and pranks. It soon became a much more family friendly event.

October. Trick-or-treat. Costume. Jack o’lantern. Candy. Pumpkin. Halloween. When you hear these words again, what do you think of now?

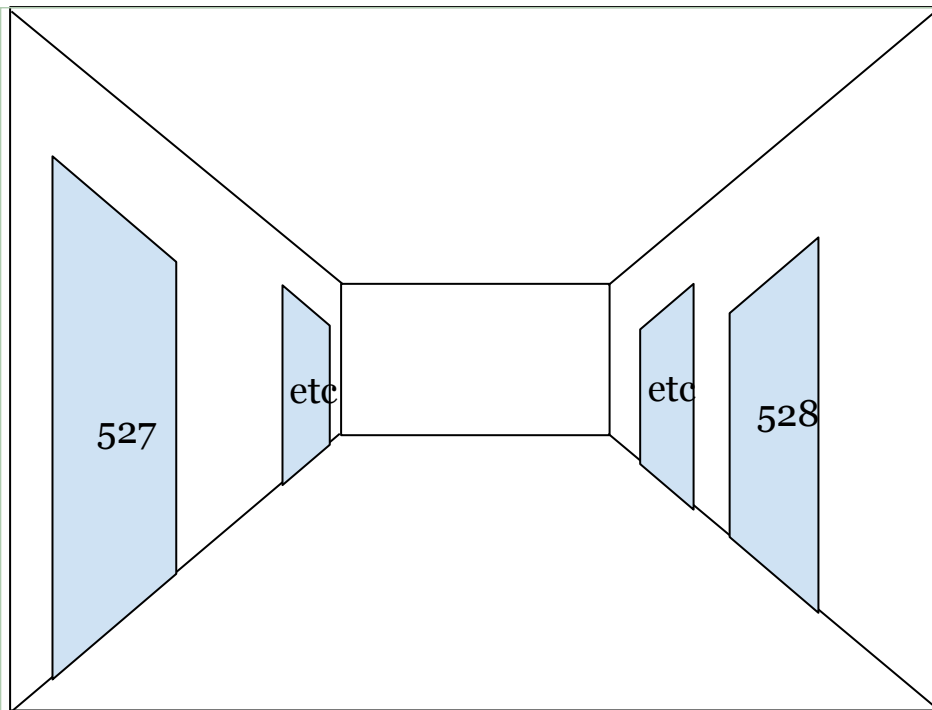


Figure 1

Room Numbers

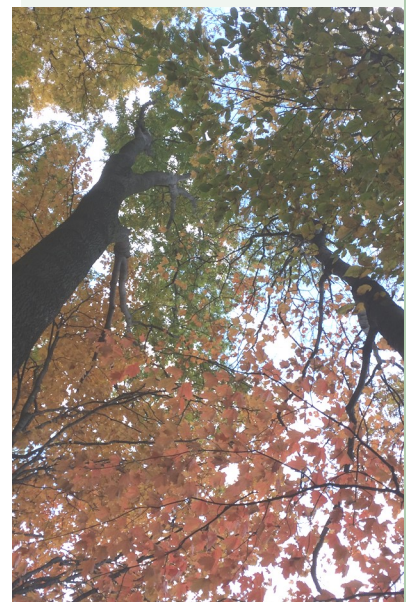
By Micah Kipfer

Suppose that you are a grade 9 student at Waterloo Oxford on your first day. Checking your schedule, you see that your first class is in room 521. You walk in a straight line from the bus turnaround down the main hallway until you arrive at room 501. *Whoo-boy, you think to yourself, Boy-oh-man, I sure am good at going to class. Whoo-ee, look at me, walking down this hall, doing exactly the right thing.* Little do you know the horror that is about to befall you.

You turn right, following the numbers as they increase. *521 is a larger number than 514, you think, passing room 514. Better go where the larger numbers are.* Bumping into a wall, you notice that the hallway ends. Fortunately, there is a staircase to your right, and you mount its first step. The last room on the ground floor was 518, so the first room at the top of the stairs should be 519. After that, there should be 520; after that, 521. But when you reach the final step and peer over at the room across the hall, your mouth is suddenly dry. You do a double take, but the number doesn't change: 540. Hustling back down the stairs, you check to see if there were 22 rooms that you accidentally skimmed over - but there is nothing. Nothing.

Retracing your steps, you return to room 501 - a futile exercise, but one that seems as logical as any other. You look again at your sched-

“You walk in a straight line from the bus turnaround down the main hallway until you arrive at room 501. *Whoo-boy, you think to yourself Boy-oh-man, I sure am good at going to class Little do you know the horror that is about to befall you.*”



Continued Pg. 5

ROOM NUMBERS CONTINUED:

-ule, thinking it must be a mistake, hoping that the mistake corrects itself before your eyes. You consider asking one of the older students for direction, but they're all so tall, and there is not even a flash of kindness in the sea of their cold, dead eyes. And then the hall is empty. All hope gone, you pick halls to walk down by closing your eyes and spinning around. That works on your ninth try.

End of simulation.

The room numbers at our school are bad. Take, for example, the counter-intuitive layout that led to all your panic and confusion. The 500's increase on the ground floor from 501 to 518, then jump to 540 at the top of the stairs. From the stairs, they decrease to 521, backtracking overtop of the hall underneath. A similar situation occurs on the other side of the school in the 100's. The numbers increase from 101 to 118 in a straight line down the math/science hall (with a jump from 104 to 111 for no reason). Then the hallway ends. If you walked to the end of the hall looking for a number higher than 118, you'd need to walk all the way back to the stairs, and you wouldn't have any signage to direct you there. Were it not for our extended travel times between classes (longer than any other school in the region), you might not arrive at all.

Still, in the disorder, the numbers do follow some rules. In many buildings, the first digit of every room number denotes the floor number (1*** for the first floor, 2*** for the second...). At Waterloo Oxford, the second digit fills this role. If the second digit of a room number is greater than or equal to two, the room is on the second floor. If the second digit is zero or one, the room is on the first floor.

Another factor that contributes to confusion is the direction in which the numbers increase. For example, in the leap from 518 to 540, the numbers suddenly change directions, decreasing rather than increasing. Even when reading the room numbers, one may still be unable to determine whether they are increasing or decreasing. Observe figure 1, (pg. 4). From this image, can you tell whether the numbers are increasing or decreasing down the hall? Although they appear to be increasing, they are not. The numbers on the doors marked "etc" and "etc" are 526 and 525. This extra bit of chaos is caused by the fact that the doors are even or odd based on which side of the hall they are placed, and that the doors aren't all the same length apart. There is a rule to help with this problem as well - the numbers always increase moving away from the main office. Upstairs and downstairs, this rule always applies, with the exception of the jumps that switch the first digit.

Knowing the approximate location of a room based on the first digit is an ability that can be learned fairly quickly with practice, or that can be mastered instantly with the knowledge of one simple rule. Starting at the north-east corner of the school with the 100's (the math hall), the first digit increases clockwise. The 200's are in the hall that juts out toward the bus turnaround after the 100's, and the 300's follow (all five of them). The 400's branch off from the main hall just before the 500's start.

In the end, the room numbers at Waterloo Oxford are a mixed bag. They are prone to disorienting newcomers, but they are consistent with their own rules. We could set up signs to direct students away from the traps that the room numbers set, or we could reorder the numbers entirely. Likely though, we will do nothing. In the war against chaos, the battles won will remain won, and the battles lost will remain lost.



Noises of Life

By Sam Henderson

THOUGHTFUL WRITER

When will it end? The words. The noises. Everything. The words saying you're not good enough or the noises of laughter, when you think someone is talking about you. We have all heard the noises and had people call you names and violent words and whoever says they haven't is in denial, rejecting the idea that they have been affected by this violent bullying. But what we all need to know is the words bullies say and noises of laughter of the bystanders hurt more than a knife going through the heart. Sometimes ending the same way as a knife going through the heart. These people affected by bullying give up before they can turn their life around. Surrounded by pain, that becomes unbearable, the worse the bullying gets.

“When will it end?”

Starts with noises ends with silence and pain, hurt and pushing to be alone. We need to think as a society, if we have ever bullied or been a bully, stand up and speak out for those who have felt the pain and don't let the cycle of bullying continue, because we never know when our noises and words can cause people pain and us to become a bully or a bystander. If we don't innocent people will lose their lives to a fight that no one can win or break away from. If you suffer this reach out and speak up because you can be saving more than just your life.

Yellowing Pages

By Miranda Schultz

AN IMPORTANT NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

We regret to inform you that due to an encroaching threat, of unexpected proportions, we, and our other important resources, have been forced to retreat; to be placed back on the shelves.

We know this may be a shocking piece of information, but please, rest assured, our services will continue to be offered to those who seek them. We vow that we will do our best to remain at hand, and will loan our abilities out to anyone who asks, or has need.

Please note, that we do not like this course of action, but we feel it is the best way we can stay in circulation. We hope never to be gone completely, however if this threat continues to push us back, we cannot say for sure what our next course of action will be. Already, in many cases it seems that some of our fellow workers have been transplanted. Many of us may soon be subjected to a similar fate.

In lieu of these changing times, we are pleased to say that our values have remained the same. We continue to preserve, inspire, transform, inform, and to put our words into your hands, hearts and minds. We, hope to inspire so many more individuals before we are discarded. All of us will continue to strive to assist the young in their learning, and understanding, to travel with the explorers, and cherish the memories of past times with

the elderly. We will continue to share the jewels that remain hidden among our shelves, and to not hide even the ugliest of truths that live among the gems.

To make sure you are aware of the threat of which we speak of, so you may be an informed individual, and may recognize what we face, we will describe to you what we are up against.

Many people own them, it seems that only a select few choose to stick to what is now considered the “old” ways. It appears that access to these devices are at the touch of a button, or screen, in most cases. It seems now, that because of these large objects called computers and smaller versions, referred to as mobile phones, ipods, and gaming-devices, that our services have little need. In fact our stability, and livelihood has been shaken. These computers have taken the attention of the young and middle-aged, with fancy communication, pretty pictures, and HD games. Important information is now being found on a thing called online, but some of our resources show that while students read from screens they do not benefit as much from, or remember, the information as strongly. It has also been said that the screens, which these people read from, damage the eyes. We recognize the superiority of our services in that particular area, as we offer selections that include larger print.

To conclude, we would like to convey that we do not wish to become extinct, to no longer be needed. We love our jobs, and we love the things we have to offer. We long only to be in your hands. We long only to help you.

As times continue to change, please think of us, and help us fight to keep our place on the shelves. The dust, and air, may eat at our pages, but we pledge our services to your enjoyment, and enlightenment.

We thank you, for taking the time to read this.

Sincerely,

Books



A Child's Movie With An Adult Message

By Rose Danen

So a couple weeks ago I was at the Outdoor Movie Night event. I think you know where this is going... Finding Dory. Finding Nemo, as I'm sure it was for the rest of you, was an essential part of my childhood movie line up. So when Ellen DeGeneres finally had her way with the world and the sequel came out, naturally I wasn't the only person over the age of twelve who enjoyed this movie. I think the script writers knew this because although the movie was animated and meant for all ages, I couldn't help but notice the themes that were intended for an older audience

For those of you who haven't seen the movie, I may accidentally throw out the odd spoiler.

So it's common knowledge that Dory has short term memory loss, and most would portray this as a disability. But the director of this movie has found a deep and thoughtful way of portraying mental illnesses and mental health.

In one scene, Merlin and Nemo are trying to find Dory, and they find themselves stuck in an empty fish tank. Merlin is growing frustrated with worry which encapsulates what it's like to interact with people with a mental disability. We don't often realize it but we tend to treat those with a mental disability like children, no matter their age. It's interesting to see some light shed on that aspect as Merlin tends to worry and treat Dory, a full grown fish, like he would treat his son.

Nemo on the other hand is a completely different story. His character has vastly matured since his own movie. We often find him being the adult and treats Dory with the same competence. He often criticizes his father for thinking too much. He encourages Merlin to think "What would Dory do?" which later becomes Merlin's mantra throughout the rest of the movie. It hits on the point that Dory's disability is a strength in itself. She lives in the moment; doing not thinking. This just blew my mind away because to be teaching children that we should approach disabilities as unique strengths is revolutionary. We are seeing this more and more in our

world. A particular example to make note of is in the down syndrome community. Researchers are finding more and more evidence that they're disability has its advantages, like the fact that they are more able in recognizing emotions through body language. By teaching children how to act around and perceive those with a disability will help to eliminate the discrimination around them in the future.

Now I've saved this point for last, because as I watched this scene, my eyes filled with tears of hope. Dory has just found out that her parents are "gone" and she begins to have a panic attack. Having friends who experience this in their daily life has helped me familiarize myself with the struggle. I loved how the directors decided to let the viewer's see through Dory's point of view so that we could gain perspective, even if it is just for a moment. We get to experience the hyperventilating, the blurry tunnel vision, and the muffled sound as if you're underwater. It may pass over the understanding of most children, but as for myself I think including that scene is a step in the right direction. It becomes an advocacy for mental health, educating those who struggle with the ups and downs of depression and clinical anxiety, among others. This gives me hope in more ways than you can understand because we are making it real; making mental health a physical problem that we can identify and diagnose.

Yes, the plot of Finding Dory is good and is enjoyable for all ages, but that doesn't even begin to describe the depths of genius behind this film. I applaud the directors for acknowledging the fact that viewers would be all ages and took advantage of this opportunity by shining light on mental health and disabilities. In Finding Nemo, Nemo had his lucky fin which got the ball rolling, but this movie takes it a step further. I hope that children and adults alike continue to watch this movie over and over, adding it to their collection of favourites because this movie is laying the groundwork for a new genre of movies, animated children's movies with an adult message. Good job Disney and Pixar. Good job.



An Ancient World

By Melissa Jantzi

A POEM

From my vantage point on the hill I can see it
Through the slender trees and past the curling clouds
A changing shape gliding high above
The shrill call pierces my ears
Free and fearless it calls out to the wood below
I hear the crisp crackle of leaves
Stirring in a whirlwind of colourful tones
The current of a silent stream flows
Here drifts the powerful scent of damp earth
Which draws me deeper and
Spurs me onto a new trail
A stiff whispering melody singing in my ear
As I stride through afternoon shadow
And patches of sparkling sun
Old memories resurface from the depths of my mind
Ever shifting,
yet trapped in time
This is where I watch the world
And where people have watched for many years



Eleven Siblings

By Betty Nenadov

A PERSONAL ESSAY

“Eleven siblings?! Oh you poor thing!” Yes, that’s the reaction I often get when I tell people all about my life. And let me tell you, it’s not always easy. We argue about almost everything- whose turn it is to use the washroom, who deserves the last brownie, chores, clothes, and most passionately, our opinions. I mean, isn’t it important that the rice we had for dinner looks more yellow than brown? And anybody could tell that the cloud looks more like a rabbit than a dog. Those ears are enormous. Okay, I think you get the point. We talk about everything and anything, and believe it or not, even important things. *“You poor thing!”*? Well, I wouldn’t know what to do with myself if it were any other way.

“Eleven Siblings?! Oh you poor thing!”

In my opinion, this is what makes living in a large family so interesting. Not only interesting, but beneficial to the development of each of the children.

Twelve children in the house mean that there are fourteen personalities, counting the parents. How could a large household like this not be interesting and fun? If you were a fly on the wall, you’d see what I mean. There’s always something new and exciting about to happen. Any day now, Jacob could present to us his newest invention, or Tamara could come up with the catchiest tune on the piano. With so many people and ideas, there’s no way any of us could say we are bored. As a matter of fact, I wonder if my six-year-old brother even knows what that word means! As a large family, board games, soccer games, and made-up games always work well; there’s no such thing as not having enough players. We also often find ourselves putting up the bright light in the backyard because our soccer game isn’t finished yet, even though it’s already getting dark out. Our best and closest friends are with us all the time and we have the greatest fun laughing at ourselves and each other; it’s okay if the joke was on me- I’ll get back at her, and she knows it. Living in a large family is terrific!

Large families also play a big part in the development of the children. They learn valuable lessons through sibling rivalry, as well as how to be less self-centered. I think this is what helps shape their personalities. According to the Child Development section in the Psychology Encyclopedia, children in large families learn to cooperate quickly, and take more responsibility for themselves and others. This makes sense because they need to work around each other’s needs and help out whenever they can for things to run smoothly. It seems to me like the older siblings especially are like an extra set of parents, always protecting the younger ones and making sure they get along. Not only does being in a large family help with the development of character and personality, it also helps with the development of social interactions and relationships. There is constant interaction among siblings and parents because they can hardly go anywhere without bumping into someone.

Continued Pg. 11

ELEVEN SIBLINGS CONTINUED:

It's not even like they can go into their room and lock themselves in, because of course, the bedroom is shared too. Dr. Bronwyn Harman, a lecturer in the School of Psychology and Social Science says that children in large families have much more social support, and they also get independence early on. It's very interesting how the children become independent, and yet, they stand up for each other all the time. In the home setting, the children need to help out, take care of themselves, and be responsible. However, when it comes to school situations or something similar, they act as an army, all working together and standing up for each other. Have you ever, in any way, insulted someone from a large family? Well you didn't only offend that someone- you've offended the whole bunch! This is the kind of support the siblings give each other. I believe that the experiences of living in a large family definitely shapes who you are.

In conclusion, living in a large family helps children develop their personalities and social skills, and makes life exciting and enjoyable. There's never a dull moment with so many people around, and they have fun while learning valuable life lessons on responsibility and friendship in the process. They help, love, and stand up for one another. "Eleven siblings?! You're soo lucky!" This is what I really think about living in my large family.

"Eleven Siblings?! You're soo lucky!"



Say So Wants Your Feedback & Participation

WO Say So
meets every
Day 1
in Rm 507.
Talk to
Mr. Cvetich or
any Say So
member if you
want to put
something into
our next
publication or if
you have
questions.

WO Say So invites its readers to provide constructive, and positive feedback! Let us know how we did, or if there is something we are missing, or something you would like to see.

We also invite you to contribute! If you have an interesting story, important observation, fascinating essay, poem, picture, or even a comic, feel free to share it with us, and we will put it in the next edition in January.



Thanks For Reading Crusaders!



Photos used in this publication were taken, and contributed by Meredith Schultz