

The Spotlight

November 2021

Vol. 70 Issue 2



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Song Of The Month!

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Masquers: Behind The Scenes

By Sam Poore

This year, Masquers will be performing *A Midsummer Night's Dream* as their annual fall play. Written by William Shakespeare, the play takes place in Athens and follows four individuals into the woods where they encounter fairy magic and love turmoil. This brief explanation comes nowhere near giving the play justice; therefore, I encourage you to experience it in person! Opening night is Friday, November 19th, at 7:30pm, and there will be another performance on November 20th at the same time. Since we'll be seeing our peers front and center on stage, why not get to know them as actors and actresses outside of costume? Take a look at our interview questions and their answers below:

Q1) What has been your favorite play/musical to perform in?
Q2) If you could spend a day in the life of one actor/actress, who would it be and why?
Q3) If you could select the next play/musical for Masquers to perform, what would it be?

Ava Katona

A1) "My favorite production that I've done so far has to be *Almost, Maine* which took place in the fall of 2019."
A2) "I would definitely have to say Dove Cameron! She has played so many of my dream roles!"
A3) "I would love to do *Mamma Mia* or *Little Women!*"

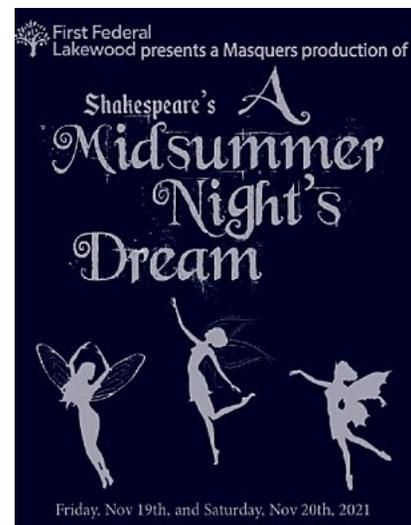
Wyatt Hensley

A1) "My favorite musical that I've performed in was *Beauty and The Beast.*"
A2) "If I could spend a day in the life of an actor, I'd choose Chris Hemsworth because I'd be in Australia, and I'd be Thor."
A3) "If I could select the next musical, I'd love to perform *Fiddler on the Roof!*"

Madison Podojil
A1) "My favorite play/musical I was in was hands down *Sister Act!* I grew so much as an actor and it taught me many life lessons and made me realize that I wanted to continue theatre in college!"
A2) "Well, Ariana Grande counts as an actress so Ariana Grande because I grew up with her for 11 years and she inspired me to start singing and acting in the first place! She's made a huge impact on my life!"
A3) "I would 100% pick *Mamma Mia* or *Mean Girls* as the next Masquers musical! *Mean Girls* is my dream show and Regina is my dream role so it would be fun! However, *Mamma Mia* has so many fun songs we could dance and sing to!"

Ben Cutarelli

A1) "My favorite Masquers show I've been a part of was *Almost, Maine.*"
A2) "Hugh Jackman because he is very talented and has performed in both movies and theatre."
A3) "The musical *She Loves Me.*"



A Look Back on the Best and Worst Scary Movies Watched This Year

By Katie Cleary and Hadley Allen

Watching horror movies is a year-round activity for us, but the fall seasons undoubtedly peak our excitement for scary films. As the spooky season comes to a close, we've decided to look back on the best and worst horror movies we've watched this year (and there are a lot.) At least once a week our squad of unofficial movie critics, formally dubbed the "Flannel Friends," meet to watch and discuss spooky movies. These well-crafted ratings have been constructed by our panel of experts, which consist of Hadley, Katie, Katie's dog Sandy, and Hadley's dad Dave. Enjoy our top underground(ish) movie picks ranging from 5-star hits to 0-star failures.

The Strangers (5/5)

We have chosen to give this movie a full 5 stars for its ability to be scary without relying on unnecessary jump scares and inorganic sound effects. The movie follows a young couple as they are hunted down by masked killers in their remote vacation home. This movie actually managed to make Katie scream out of fear, which is something Hadley had fortunately never heard before. If you are a big fan of being on the edge of your seat in anticipation, you will love this movie.

Hush (4/5)

This movie earned itself a solid 4 out of 5 stars. It is a great film for people who are new to the horror movie scene, as it is scary without being overwhelmingly gory and intense. This movie is about a young woman who is both deaf and mute living alone in the woods. If that isn't unfortunate enough for you, a murderous hunter begins stalking her down in her home with the intention of killing her at the end of the night. This movie has an excellent mix of soundless scenes that really put you in her position and allow you to experience the fear with her.

Gretel and Hansel (2/5)

This movie was possibly the most boring horror movie either of us have ever seen. This alone earns the movie a 2 out of 5 stars rating. This movie features two orphan children who are looking for a place to stay after being kicked out of their home, inevitably ending up in the house of a witch. You would likely expect this movie to be a gory, dark take of the classic children's tale; however, it does not do the original tale any justice. It includes a wonderful scene in which the kids stumble through the woods, relying on mysterious mushrooms for food. This, of course, results in two young children having some kind of spiritual awakening as they absolutely trip out of their minds on these psychedelic shrooms. This was the most entertaining part of the movie, and purely for the shock value.

You're Next (4.5/5)

This movie follows a rich and dysfunctional family as they are hunted by crossbow-wielding masked killers. It was specifically enjoyable for the lack of predictability as well as the occasional humorous comment to break the tension. We found ourselves actually rewinding the movie just to hear the jokes again. This movie is very comparable to *The Strangers*, so if you liked that movie, we recommend you give this one a try!

House of 1,000 Corpses (0/5)

If we could rate this movie in the negatives, we would, but that is just not proper movie critic etiquette. We would love to tell you what this movie is about, but truthfully, we have no idea. It started off as a family going into a bizarre gas station run by a bunch of clowns but then quickly deteriorated into the movie we ended up switching off 20 minutes in. We don't recommend watching this movie with a parental figure in the room. Hadley's dad was not a big fan. Katie still gets relentlessly bullied for this awful movie pick almost every day, and we watched it about a year ago. Yes, it's that bad. We will finish it one day, but in the meantime, do yourself a favor, and skip this film.

Fall Recipes You Didn't Know You Needed

By Abby Guthrie

The fall season is the time for trick-or-treating and fun fall baked goods. Since I love to bake, I find a lot of my recipes on Pinterest, and I went there to search for some easy fall recipes to try out. If you are new to baking, make sure you include "easy" in your search, but if you are ready for something more advanced, change your search as needed.

From Pinterest, I chose an easy chocolate cupcake recipe because everyone likes cupcakes. I also chose a recipe for pumpkin rolls with Nutella in the middle because this was something new for me. Lastly, I made cinnamon

rolls with apple pie filling because they sounded delicious and I could challenge myself by making my own filling or make the recipe a bit easier by purchasing the filling from Walmart or any grocery store.

In my opinion, the cinnamon rolls with apple pie filling were the best of the three and seemed to be the most favorable in my household. I took Pillsbury cinnamon rolls and wrapped them around the bottom of a cupcake pan so it made a cup. I initially followed a video for instructions on how to roll and wrap the dough, but with some time, I realized it's easier to just

squish the dough into a pancake-like shape; this is much simpler and has the same result. I chose to make my own apple pie filling and found the recipes online. One tip I have is to make sure you grease the pan so that the dough doesn't stick to it once the pastries are finished cooking.

The cupcakes were good but weren't anything special, especially since cupcakes are so common in baking. The fun part of making the cupcakes was definitely designing the frosting. For fall, I decorated them to look like apples, using red frosting and then detailing with green for small leaves and chocolate for a brown stem. The cupcakes looked great, but they just tasted like a normal chocolate cupcake.

The recipe for the pumpkin and Nutella rolls easily can be found on Pinterest or other websites. Using

Bisquick baking mix makes this recipe a bit easier. Form the dough into thin circles about the size of a big pancake and then while it is still hot, put Nutella in the middle and roll it. The batch will look like there is a lot of it because it is a thinner batter because the pancake rolls need to be thin to be able to roll.

All in all, I would definitely make all of these again. If you are looking for some fun fall recipes, try these out or look on Pinterest for your own!



OFHS's Ideal Thanksgiving Dinner Table

By Sam Gaba

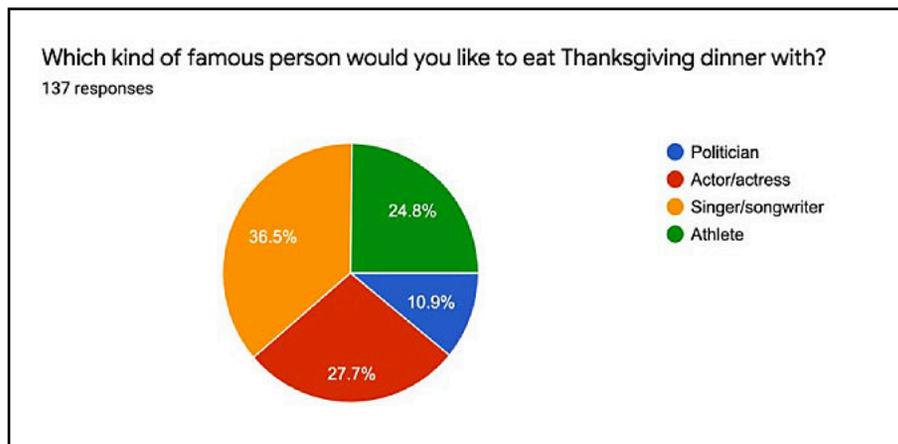
With Thanksgiving coming just around the corner, the air is filled with tension for upcoming family reunions, dinner table conversations, and burning food. A fail-safe way to make it through the family dinner is to have a friend tag along. To get a sense of the Olmsted Falls student body's ideal dinner guests, I sent out a survey to the students at Olmsted Falls asking them who they would like to eat with at Thanksgiving. Able to select from four categories of people (politician, actor/actress, singer/songwriter, and athlete), the students most abundantly chose to eat with a singer/songwriter. Unsurprising, of course, thanks to the Harry Styles concert that took place the day of the survey's release.

A whopping 10% (hint: sarcasm) chose to eat with a politician. Once again, unsurprising. Politicians make for an awkward family dinner, especially when it comes to the politics they discuss. I know of many families (*cough cough* my own) who when politics come up in dinner conversation, an inferno is released. Screaming matches are no gentle reminder of why

family gatherings are mostly annual, and fall about two weeks after Election Day. But who knows? Maybe you crave chaos like I do.

Thanksgiving dinner with an actor/actress would be...confusing. I mean, at any minute they could burst into tears (oh, the dramatics) and pin whatever "trauma" they've gone through on you. Especially if you're sitting next to one. Then again, if your actor/actress choice stars in comedies, you're lucky. Spare the awkward silences when the family gets upset with you, your actor/actress friend would clear the air in a second. I personally wouldn't mind sitting next to Melissa McCarthy because I know I would never stop laughing. Maybe not such a bright idea during dinner, then....

I don't think I'd ever want to eat Thanksgiving dinner with an athlete. I mean, can you imagine how awful it'd feel to stuff yourself with turkey and pie and then find out there was a planned after-meal gym trip? Absolutely not. If it was bulking season, then for sure, but let me digest first.



Love on Tour

By Claire Wiggernhorn

On October 20th, people from far and wide traveled downtown to Rocket Mortgage Fieldhouse for Harry Styles' Love On Tour. Wearing their 'best clothes' and Boas, the streets of downtown were lined all the way around the building starting at 12 pm when people who had 'Pit' tickets could start lining up. At 3pm doors opened for 'Pit' ticket holders and merchandise stands started to open so people could buy their iconic tour shirt. At 6pm, doors opened for General Admission ticket holders.

To get in the building, people had to show their vaccination cards or negative covid test results and IDs. From there, people were able to walk through security very quickly. The staff made the entrance to the show very efficient. After the quick entrance, concert goers were able to get merchandise, go to the many open snack and drink stands, or head to their seats. The merchandise stands had an array of options from the "Harry is my friend" hat to the "TPWK" water bottle to multiple crewneck sweatshirt and tee shirt options. While making the rounds, fans were bound to see the amazing outfits the city of Cleveland showed. Flair printed pants, feather boas, and glitter were seen on almost everyone in the building. And we can't forget the costumes people wore. In reference to the songs about fruits, multiple people were dressed in bananas, watermelons, strawberry costumes, and the rest of the fruit tray.

As 8 o'clock approached, the fruit lovers went to their seats to see Jenny Lewis, the opening act, perform. The '70s-inspired artist sang for about an hour until she left the stage with a person in a dog costume. After Lewis exited, a recording of Harry Styles rang out, reminding everyone to wear their mask at all times and thanking the crowd for getting tested or vaccinated to be able to see the show. The crowd roared when Styles' voice came over the speakers. As the lights went down, the excitement of the crowd went up. Soon, the opening chords to Styles' hit song "Golden" start to play. The building was shaking as people screamed, clapped, and mostly cried. Following the band, a moving platform brought the British sensation onto the stage. The tears and screams quickly turned into singing "Golden," as Harry was now on stage. The energy in the fieldhouse was no short of an adrenaline rush. As the song concluded, Styles challenged the crowd to "have as much fun as I'm going to have tonight." Styles then performed more songs from his albums "Fine Line" and his Debut

album "Harry Styles". As he sang, the audience could tell the performer he was meant to be.

During his anthem "Treat People With Kindness," Harry waved around LGBTQ+ flags that were thrown on stage. If most people were running up and down the stage during every song, they would probably be winded, but not Harry. Without skipping a beat, Styles was able to belt out his lyrics to "Woman" and "Carolina." Dressed in a reddish-orange shirt with light blue slacks, cream-colored suspenders and boots, Harry really put the style in "Styles." He ended the show with "Sign of The Times," "Watermelon Sugar," and his (in my opinion) most iconic song, "Kiwi." Leaving the show everyone was trying to take in what they had just witnessed for the last hour and a half. Overall, the concert brought fans together for the first time in over a year. Harry put on an amazing performance with not just his musical aspects but his personality shining through.



Treats By Tess Takes The Cake

By Ellie Phillips

Recently, one member of our student body found herself an amazing opportunity. Tess Blain, who runs her small business called Treats by Tess, got the opportunity to sell her treats at a stand in the Crocker Park Farmers Market. I decided to go and interview her and support small business, especially because it was someone from our school who I knew deserved it.

What got you into baking?

“I got into baking a little over two years ago when I got a little beginners kit for my birthday, and it just kind of took off from there! I would always watch my mom in the kitchen and I always wanted to be just like her!”

Wow, that's awesome! How did you decide to actually start a small business?

“I started an Instagram just to share my pictures on and it started to grow; soon I started to get orders and it just went from there! Now I sell lots of different treats and I'm working toward my dream of opening my own bakery one day!”

That's so cool! What do you sell?

“I do mostly cakes, cookies, and cupcakes, but I have also done some holiday specials like pumpkin doughnut holes and mint brownies!”

That all sounds delicious! What would you say your favorite thing to make is?

“My favorite would have to be cookies because they have tons of flavor combinations and always turn out so yummy, but I also love being creative when I decorate cakes.”

You are definitely very creative with your decorating! How did you get this amazing opportunity at Crocker?

“In my business class at Polaris, my teacher told me about this program where I could sign up and go sell my treats at a farmers market for free. I had never heard of anything like this so I just signed up and now here we are!”

That's perfect! How does someone order from you?

“I take orders mostly through Instagram DM but I also have a new google order form in my Instagram bio which makes ordering even easier!”

Are you going to be doing this again?

“Yes! It went so well that I'm hoping to do at least one a month, maybe more!”

That's so amazing! Thank you so much!

If Tess' sweet personality isn't enough to convince you to buy from her, the delicious taste sure will. Tess sold three types of cookies: vanilla, chocolate peanut butter, and pumpkin spice. By the time I made it to the stand, only about an hour after they started, she was already sold out of the chocolate peanut butter. I got two vanilla and a pumpkin spice. These cookies were heavenly and I highly recommend anyone looking for sweet treats to buy from Tess!



To support Tess, you can check out her Instagram page @treats_by_tess for the latest updates on her shop and info on her next (and hopefully very soon) appearance at Crocker!

Fall Sports: That's A Wrap

By Audrey Helms

As fall sports wrap up, the *Spotlight* staff interviewed our fall student-athletes one last time to close up the 2021 season.

Q1: What was the best memory from this season?

Q2: What was the highlight of senior night this year?/What will you miss most about your sport?

Q3: What is your favorite Thanksgiving food?

Football

Q1: Rocco Conti '23 - "My favorite memory from this football season was celebrating with my teammates on the field and in the locker room after beating Berea to win the conference."

Q2: Adam Varga '22 - "My favorite part of the night was definitely in the locker room after the game, everyone started going crazy and dancing with Coach Deluca and Coach Price."

Q3: Charlie Ciolek '22 - "My favorite Thanksgiving food is definitely mashed potatoes because it goes well with turkey and gravy."

Volleyball

Q1: Kylee Urban '23 - "Sweeping Amherst and sweeping Avon both times!"

Q2: Ellie Phillips '22 - "I would have to say the highlight for me was getting the game-winning kill."

Q3: Claire Schultz '23 - "My favorite Thanksgiving food is mashed potatoes because nobody makes it better than my grandma."

Girls Soccer

Q1: Camila Gutierrez '22 - "The talks in the parking lot after games with Leah."

Q2: Olivia Helms '22 - "Definitely all of our favorite teachers showing up in the customized shirts."

Q3: Carly Vitale '22 - "My favorite Thanksgiving food would be green bean casserole because I get to make it with my mom every year!"

Boys Soccer

Q1: Caden Vasquez '23 - "My favorite memory from this year was beating North Royalton on their senior night and giving Westlake their only loss of the season."

Q2: Lucas Russell '22 - "I'd have to say it was scoring 2 goals in a matter of 3 minutes from each other."

Q3: Matt Strohmenger '22 - "Definitely mashed potatoes."

Girls Golf

Q1: Sydney Ott '23 - "My favorite memory from this season was probably when we all went to breakfast after pictures and got a bunch of funny pictures and videos of Nagle and we were all sneaking around trying

to get a card signed for Nagle cause we got her flowers and stuff before our first home match."

Q2: Ady Lakota '22 - "I will definitely miss my team and coaches. Nagle pushed me to my highest potential throughout my 4 years in the program."

Q3: Ava Harb '23 - "My favorite is my mom's stuffing because she's the best at making food."

Boys Golf

Q1: Dylan Sowers '24 - "My best memory from this season was at Eagle Creek when we found out we were only allowed 5 golfers and we brought 6. So Justin Sickling wasn't allowed to play and he got to ride around the golf course on an electric motorcycle."

Q2: Tanner Nelson '22 - "Winning our match and eating team dinner with all my teammates."

Q3: Aaron Katitus '22 - "My favorite Thanksgiving food is stuffing because it's very filling."

Girls Tennis

Q1: Morgan Truscott '23 - "I'd say having fun and getting closer with my teammates after each match no matter what the outcome of our matches were."

Q2: Megan Nguyen '22 - "When the underclassmen were cheering us on. It was so sad to see them watching us but it was so fun!"

Q3: Kristina Hess '22 - "Pumpkin pie is definitely my favorite! It never disappoints."

Girls Cross Country

Q1: Olivia Montgomery '22 - "I would say the best memory from this season was wakeups. It was so fun seeing everyone get together outside of a practice setting, and it was fun being the one to wake people up instead of being woken up!"

Q2: Lillie Katsaras '22 - "The highlight of my night was definitely the team dinner that my coaches and teammates planned for all of the seniors. We were all allowed to bring our families and we had dinner like we have every Friday before a meet. It was really fun to be with everyone but also sad to read all of the things my teammates wrote to me. I am so appreciative for everything they did, both the gifts and the dinner and general (especially the Motts)!"

Q3: Emerson Long '22 - "I'd say my favorite Thanksgiving food is pumpkin roll because I'm a dessert person but I don't really like pie. Also, it's really tasty."

Boys Cross Country

Q1: Caleb Arroyo '22 - "Either sinking in mud or running through a foot deep puddle at SWC conferences."

Q2: Clayton Smith '22 - "Getting to walk out and see everyone cheering for us."

Q3: Cam Bryd '22 - "It's sweet potato casserole because it is simply delectable and I enjoy making it."

Cheer

Q1: Mia Salamone '22 - My favorite memory was definitely senior night when it started pouring rain. It was such a wholesome moment to spend with the squad. The moment was filled with laughter and tears, and it was by far one of the best games this season especially after beating Avon Lake.

Q2: Masyn Naegele '22 - "I think what I will miss most about cheer is all the bonding moments I had with my team. Whether that was at a game, practice, or outside of all that, we truly have some great memories."

Q3: Alyssa Mandak '22 - "I would say the sweet potato casserole. My sister and I make it every year and it's always been a tradition in the family for us."



Katie's Cozy Corner

By Katie Cleary

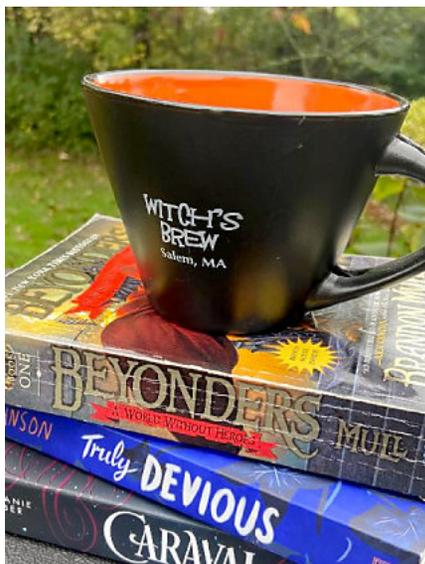
Welcome to Katie's Cozy Corner! This time around, I'll be giving out some good and cozy book trilogy recommendations along with a homemade chai tea latte recipe that you can sip by a nice warm fire while you read.

Truly Devious is an incredible YA Mystery trilogy written by Maureen Johnson following Stevie Bell, a child detective prodigy, as she attempts to solve the age-old mysterious disappearance of the founder's wife and daughter by the hands of "Truly Devious." Suddenly, one of her classmates dies in what appears to be a complete accident. Stevie isn't so convinced though. Has Truly Devious returned? Or even better, Who is Truly Devious? Stevie must solve the case before another one of her friends dies.

Caraval is a YA fantasy trilogy written by Stephanie Garber narrated by Scarlett Dragna as she searches for her missing sister, Tella, throughout the course of a

fantastical game called Caraval. Every year, a game is hosted by Master Legend, promising the winner the grand prize of a wish. They warn you that nothing in Caraval is real, and be to sure not to fall too far into it, but this game is way too personal for Scarlett and she lets it take her away. As she battles the other players to find her sister, she realizes that Caraval is way more sinister than she ever imagined.

Beyonders is a middle-grade fantasy trilogy written by Brandon Mull and it follows Jason and Rachel as they make their way through the enchanted world of Lyrian as they try to defeat Maldor. Only one word is needed to bring an end to Maldor, and they must travel all throughout the world (with some unlikely allies), uncovering the secret word piece by piece.



Homemade Chai Latte Recipe:

2 chai tea bags

1/2 cup water

1 1/2 cup milk

2 tablespoons honey

Cinnamon and nutmeg (for garnish)

Bring water to a boil, and then let both tea bags seep for 7-10 minutes

Add in the milk and honey, then reduce the heat to medium

If you own a frother or immersion blender, then blend until frothy (OPTIONAL)

Pour into a mug, and sprinkle nutmeg and cinnamon on top

(This recipe came from snacksandsips.com)

Stunnin' (But Not Runnin') The New Stop Signs

By Nora Barnard

As you may have noticed, there are new stop signs in the high school parking lot! The signs created a four-way stop upon entering and exiting the school. Every student that has come across this intersection at some point has thought, "I wish this was a four-way stop." Before the new traffic pattern, it would take forever to get out of the parking lot, especially after events like football games. The four-way stop has improved the lives of students and has made the parking lot a safer place for new teen drivers.

Sam Poore and I had the pleasure of discussing this issue with OFHS principal Mr. Spagnola. He shared that his principal advisory committee had the initial idea of the stop signs after the students brought up the horrible traffic flow and said something needed to change. From there, Mr. Spagnola talked to the grounds maintenance crew and put in a request for the stop signs. The idea got lost in the shuffle for a while and it took a while for anything to happen. This fall, a PTA parent emailed Mr. Spagnola and brought up the signs, and this got the ball rolling once more. There have been quite a few accidents and instances of people running into the gate because of the tight fit of the west road. Once obtaining the signs, the district decided to make the west road a one-way entrance. Making this a one-way entrance will hopefully reduce the number of accidents in that area.

Mr. Spagnola said that he has gotten a great deal of positive feedback on the new traffic pattern. When asked about the four-way stop, junior Morgan Truscott says, "It's nice because I feel a lot more confident about when to go rather than just guessing and risking an accident when I come to the school." Between the parent emails and students stopping Mr. Spagnola in the hallway to talk, it seems the new stop signs are making a positive impact on the school.



The Battle of Bagley

By Claire Wiggernhorn

In a hard fought battle, our Bulldogs defeated our little brother, the Titans, in the Battle of Bagley. Junior Rocco Conti led the dawgs to the end zone seven different times. With one second left in the second quarter, Conti scored one of the best touchdowns of the season. Conti couldn't do it alone; quarterback Charlie Ciolek threw multiple star passes leading to the Bulldog victory. The student section and band helped cheer the dawgs all the way to the end.

Arguably the biggest game of the year brought

multiple other wins. From being the Fox 8 game of the week to the Cleveland Browns pick, Olmsted had all of Northeast Ohio's eyes on them. The Cleveland Browns pledged to donate \$2,500 to the winning team's football program to continue the love of the sport. The great battle also brought the SWC championship title back home. Though shared with Avon, the title is back in Olmsted Falls for the first time in 10 years.



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