

CELTIC JOURNAL

SINCLAIR SECONDARY SCHOOL



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**WHAT CELTICS WERE UP TO
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Ayesha Khan



FALL SHOW INTERVIEW

SAIBAH KHONDAKER

Theater, the magnificent collaboration of the performing arts is truly exceptional to witness and experience. Our school is more than fortunate to have our very own play, which is being presented on the twenty-seventh, twenty-eighth, twenty-ninth, and thirtieth of November. This theatrical experience, "Little Women" is a charming tale that follows the lives of four sisters: Jo, Beth, Amy, and Meg during the aftermath of the American Civil War. This interview with Mr. Emes, the director of this production, includes his opinions and experiences in theatre, and some insight on the play.

What encouraged you to pick "Little Women"?

"It's a classic story that has return again into popular culture. The production that we're doing just had its premiere in NYC this past spring, and there's a new movie coming out this winter."

What would you say is the hardest part about directing a play?

"The hardest part is getting started. Once you're feeling the experience, the rest of it becomes a lot easier."

What do you look for when casting actors/actresses for a play?

"Fit for characters. It's not always about talent."

What do you believe are the most important aspects of theatre?

"Making people care."

Who do you look up to as a director?

"I have worked with a lot of directors over the years, but the one who has had the most impact on me was Mrs. Foster, my high school theatre teacher. I've never met a person more patient, more creative, more compassionate."

What advice would you give to an aspiring director/actor?

"The advice I'd give to anyone interested in being a director is spend some time acting first. Know what it's like on that side, it helps so much!"

Best Ways to Spend the Fall Season

Alisha Khan and Samaritan Mostaque

The fall season has just arrived. This means hot chocolate, pumpkin spice latte, and sweater weather time! This season won't last long, so what better way to spend your time doing seasonal activities with friends or family? Fall is the greatest time of the year for enjoying fun activities from corn mazes, to scary movie marathons, or just enjoying the beautiful fall scenery. Here are some of the things to enjoy:

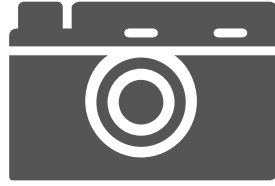
- Apple picking is one of the most enjoyable activities in this season. A popular area for apple picking found near Durham is Nature's Bounty in Port Perry, but go quick as this activity is limited!
- Have a scary movie marathon with your friends this month for Halloween.
- Pumpkin carving!



- Create autumn-inspired outfits! Experiment with any colour that fits this fall season such as red, yellow, brown, and more.
- A corn maze is another fun activity perfect for the fall season!
- If you are planning to do a simple, yet entertaining activity, take a walk and enjoy the fall colours of the trees (take aesthetic pictures while you're at it).
- Go on a road trip to the countryside to view the scenery.
- Try fall-themed food such as apple pie, warm cider, or pumpkin bread to get into the fall mood!

Sinclair is also participating in activities for this fun season! Make sure to get a hold of tickets for the Fall Show in November since they will be sold out quickly! Sinclair's first-ever Fall Festival was also held in the last week of October. Organized by Student Parliament, students had a chance to participate in sing-alongs, a mummy-wrapping contest, face painting and apple cider!

Student Photography



Islamic Heritage Month

FARIYA WAHAB

As October is declared as Islamic Heritage Month, the Muslims Student Association club collaborated with Students Together Against Racism and organized a week full of exciting events to celebrate the month to help take away any misconceptions there are surrounding Islam. The week kicked off on October 21st with an information booth. Students inquired about Islam and cleared up any misunderstandings by asking their questions to the MSA members.



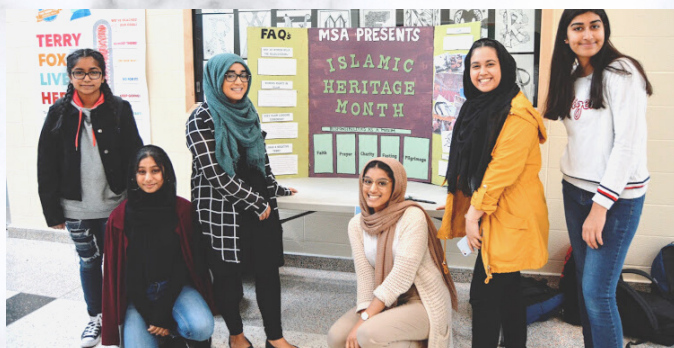
The day was followed by a presentation on the impact of prominent Muslims in history and in the present. A few of the many discoveries and inventions made by Muslims during the GoldenAge of Islam were mentioned. It was fascinating to learn that a woman named Fatima al-Fihri founded the world's first university that is still operating today! Social media influencers, athletes, human rights activists and other influential Muslims were also highlighted. Overall, it was an intriguing and thought-provoking day.



As STAR executives conducted the announcements for the week, the month of Ramadan was touched upon. Muslims fast from sunrise to sunset throughout the month and the month ends with a celebration called Eid al-Fitr. A cultural food sale also took place in the student store at lunch in which delicious snacks were sold!



In addition to this, the derogatory term "Islamophobia" was discussed. It is unfortunate that the society we live in today utilizes this term often as this is fundamentally being prejudice against the religion. It has created many misconceptions about Islam which has afflicted many Muslims in the world.



To end off the week on an exciting note, a Kahoot took place in the library challenging everyone's knowledge of this religion. In essence, the goal of this initiative was to bring awareness about Islam and break down the stereotypes surrounding this religion. As Malcolm X once said, "If you're not careful, the newspapers will have you hating the people who are being oppressed and loving the people who are doing the oppressing."





DEAR CELTIC...

Sinclair's very own advice column
Sara Martin and Sadhvik Singh

Have any questions that need answering? Visit our instagram @sinclaircelticjournal or email us at sinclaircelticjournal@gmail.com

What are some tips for grade nine students to adjust to high school?

I know you've probably heard this a thousand times but, get involved! This an amazing way to meet people in the school and explore your interests. Also, remember to keep up with homework and manage your time well. Unlike elementary school, keeping up with your homework is your responsibility and your responsibility alone. While you need to make sure to focus on school, you should also have fun, you're only in high school once and it'll be over before you know it!

What can I expect for grade 10 / 11/12?

You should expect that each grade is harder and that there is more work than the previous year. On the bright side, there is more variety when it comes to the classes you can take and you can begin to pick classes that you are interested in. This makes the homework load easier to handle when you have a real interest in the subject.

What is the best course to take at Sinclair?

In my opinion, there's not one course that is the best course to take at Sinclair. Sinclair has so many options that it gets tough to just choose eight per year! Choose courses that you want to do, meaning if you're into building and creating/making stuff with tools and your hands, then take construction technology. If you want to learn a new language, take Spanish! Don't be afraid to step out of your comfort zone! I know so many people who have never played the piano/keyboard before, but they took it in grade nine and they loved it. You don't always have to take courses that your friends are taking, do stuff that YOU want to do. One of my personal favourite classes I took was Food and Nutrition, I learned so much information in that class, and I also learned lots of delicious recipes (the cinnamon rolls are a personal favourite of mine). Don't stress and worry too much about your course, you always have your guidance counsellors and teachers/peers to help you!

How do I figure out what I'm going to do after high school?

Now, this is a tricky one!

“

You may not realize what you want to do in the future right now, but you will figure it out. Do what you are genuinely interested in. If you can picture yourself doing a career and being happy with it, then that's the profession for you.

Another way you can figure out what you're going to do in life is by taking a different variety of classes. Take business, visual arts, construction etc. From taking classes like these you will have an idea and if you want to go to a career like that. Don't stress too much, if you feel lost or still confused talk to your guidance counsellor and do not worry too much.

Best places to get volunteer hours?

Try to find something that you are passionate about and go from there. If you enjoy the time spent volunteering, the 40 hours will go by much quicker. For example, if you enjoy playing sports, then you could volunteer as a scorekeeper or if you like to read, then the Teen Advisory Group (TAG) at the Whitby Public Library is perfect for you. Enjoying the time makes it feel like a fun activity than a chore.



OPINION : CLIMATE CHANGE

A COUNTER OPINION TO LIBERAL PROPAGANDA
QIRA AZFAR

Cred: Tracy Tu

The sea levels are not rising. Freshwater is a renewable and an inexhaustible source. At what point in our history was climate not changing? People are praising and calling Greta Thunberg our saviour and someone all should look up to, for what? For yelling out and virtue signalling? For saying "how dare you?" It seems highly illogical, mediocre, and furthermore a sign that individuals are in need of more diversity when it comes to the types of news and media one consumes.

To start this off, let's look at this astonishing piece of information: a group of "experts" in a 1977 Time Magazine article claimed and promoted the idea of global cooling, this same group of experts in 2008 is promoting the current global warming hoax. When incidents such as these take place it is not unnatural to become skeptical. "The whole climate crisis is not only Fake News, it's Fake Science. There is no climate crisis, there's weather and climate all around the world, and in fact carbon dioxide is the main building block of all life."-Patarick Moore, co-founder of Greenpeace. The climate change movement is another communist ploy to propagate the deconstruction of the commerce system. This movement was likely never truly about climate, it has always been about the economy. Scientists in Finland have found that

there is "practically no anthropogenic [man-made] climate change" after a series of extensive studies. More than 500 scientists and professionals in climate and related fields have sent a "European Climate Declaration" to the Secretary-General of the United Nations asking for a long-overdue, high-level, open debate on climate change. The declaration states: "Climate science should be less political, while climate policies should be more scientific." The signatories of this declaration are also insisting that public policy adhere and show respect for scientific as well as economic realities as opposed to just reflecting what is the most fashionable frenzy of the day.

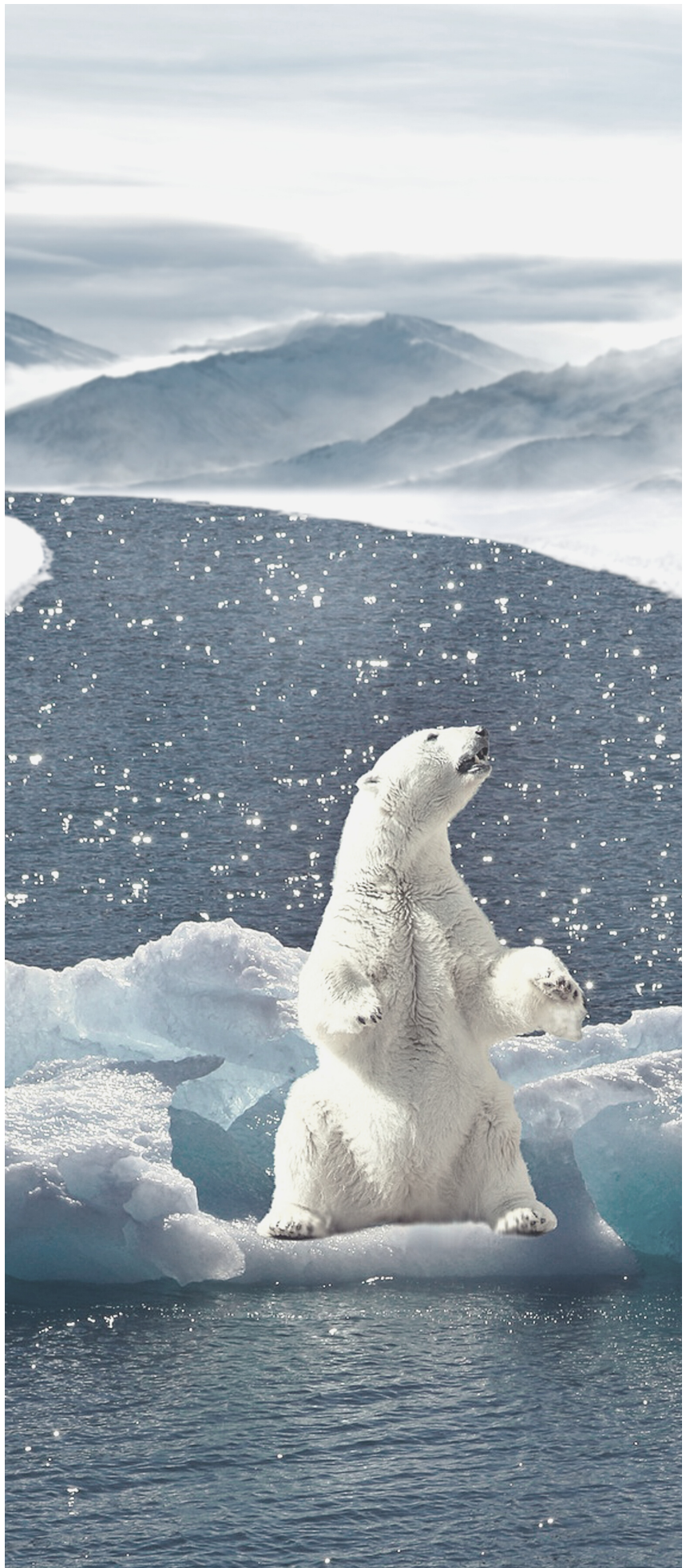
An anecdote to take would be that prior to the climate walk-out at our school, there had been a protest in Vancouver where a couple thousand ill-informed individuals took it upon themselves to block mid-day traffic and force cars to idle which counter productively caused more pollution defeating the whole purpose. What is more, is that during the walkout almost majority of students walked out to Mcdonalds to sip from plastic straws and eat out of other plastic wrappings or had their parents come to pick them up in their cars for the day. When it comes down to it, cleaning up the planet is always good and should be promoted. Taking greener action is important and reducing pollution is still something everyone should be working on.

**“In politics, what begins in fear usually ends in folly.”
-Samuel Taylor Coleridge**

These things are not what I have an issue with, what I do have an issue with is the lack of integrity and the ill intentions driving the climate change propaganda. Their goal is not to better the planet as Greta did not offer any solutions, the goal for her, as well as everyone puppeteering her, was to instill fear so that government control would increase. Adding carbon taxes will do nothing except take away more wealth from the public only to give more to the elite. By aiming to instill fear, these liberal ideologies hope to have the public vote for them in search of a solution to an issue which statistically is not even there.

What most liberal and democratic propaganda claim is that they are all-inclusive and open-minded, that they have everyone's best interests at heart but time and time again, they are proven otherwise. Such propagandas and popularizations, to a certain level are inevitable, the root cause is the lack of true information and research prevalent.

From what I understand, information seems to be taken at face value, there is nothing inherently wrong about consuming extensive knowledge, what makes it wrong is the misuse, or rather, in this case, the lack of utilization. Individuals who care, and have good intentions at heart simply need to become more open to other truths and to utilize the gift of discernment and critical thinking in order to truly make a change as so many today wish to.



WHAT CELTICS WERE UP TO THIS SUMMER

Ayesha Khan

Yes, it's November and (hopefully) most of us are in school-mode. And yes, we're still thinking of summer break. The 2 months of freedom that can be a blessing or a curse have long gone, yet some are still reminiscing about their summer. A few exceptional Sinclair students did not have many regrets about their summer and used their time to accomplish amazing things. I had a chance to talk to three Celtics about their experiences at various programs and trips. Here's everything you need to know about your fellow students' experiences and how you can get involved.

French Program in France

Anita and Hannah, Grade 12

Program?

This summer we went with Greenheart Travel, to attend a two week language camp in France, more specifically Arcachon, which is located in the south of France, near Bordeaux.

Why did you attend?

We decided to attend the program because we're both very passionate about learning the French language and wanted a chance to experience it in the real world with real French speakers.

Application?

The application was fairly simple. Most of it consisted of formalities like your name, address, contact info, etc.



The program leader reviews this and once you are accepted, you will be prompted to fill out another, more lengthy application for your host family placement. They asked a variety of questions pertaining to you as a person



What did you do at the program?

Each morning we had about 3 hours of French class, which focused on speaking and comprehension rather than reading, writing, and grammar. Afterwards, we would all eat lunch together outside and then split off into our various activities. When signing up with their organization, some students had the opportunity to pick surfing as their activity (Greenheart doesn't offer this). Others participated in activities such as paddle boarding, visiting the beach, canoeing, going to Bordeaux, etc. (which is what we did).

After activities we would sometimes stay in Arcachon with our friends to grab dinner, go to the beach, or browse shops nearby. Besides this, you might also participate in some things with your host family such as attending a festival or fair happening in the city.

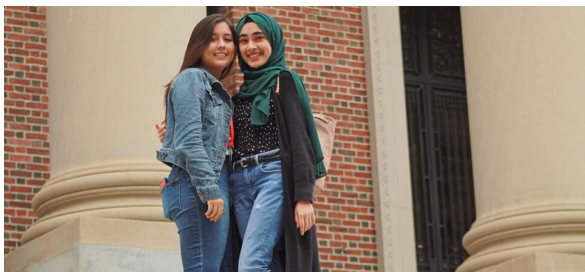
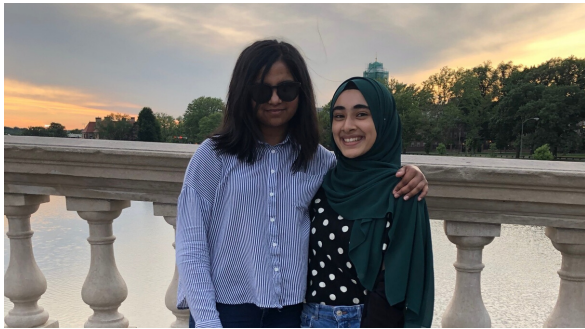


Would you recommend this program to others?

We would definitely recommend programs like this where you are able to immerse yourself in the culture and language of wherever you're visiting. The best part was the diversity in the program as there were Austrians, Germans, Americans, Italians, and Spanish students. We'd recommend it for students that are fairly independent and are genuinely interested in whatever they'll be studying during their time abroad. We would also recommend looking at other organizations that offer this kind of trip.

Harvard Pre-College Program

Afrah and Ayesha, Grade 12



Program?

My friend Afrah and I had the chance to attend Harvard Pre-College Program - a 2-week academic course of our choice at Harvard University. We got to live in undergraduate dorms, dine at Annenberg hall (Harvard's dining hall which resembles Harry Potter!), explore Boston, interact with Harvard professors and students, and meet with passionate highschool students from around the world.



Application?

In order to attend the program, a rigorous application process was necessary. We found that the process somewhat mimicked the US college application process, so it's a good opportunity for anyone interested in applying to the States. The application consisted of a reference letter and a few teacher recommendations, a grade transcript and a supplementary application consisting of 4 essays. The essays mainly asked about extra-curricular involvement and commitment to academics. Applications open in mid-fall, to find out more about the program visit the Harvard Pre-College website.

What did you do at the program?

The course I took was called the Power and Politics of Fairy Tales and it dealt with deconstructing the psychological, social, and political aspects of fairytales and fantasy fiction. In the class, we learned a lot about how to perfect the 'fairy-tale style' in our writing and how to make stories resonate. I would recommend this course to anyone who is socially-conscious, passionate about activism, and loves writing and fairy tales! . We also got an inside look into Harvard student life as my teacher was a PhD student.



Afrah attended a forensics course called Scientific Evidence in The American Judicial System which dove into specific poisons and their relevance to court. The course beautifully combined science and legal studies to show how interdependent they are. She had multiple in-class debates about certain cases and wrote reports and presentations. She explored scientific evidence in X-rays, polygraphs, and fingerprints and considered the relationship to interrogation techniques in court.



Would you recommend this program?

We would recommend this program to absolutely anyone who wants to study in the US or wants to expand their horizons in terms of careers! You do not need to have amazing grades to get into the program, just good essay writing skills and creativity. Being able to surround ourselves with such successful and determined high school students allowed us to truly think about what we want to accomplish after high school.



Thank you for
reading the Celtic
Journal!

Have any comments, questions, or concerns?

Contact sinclaircelticjournal@gmail.com