

The Chariot

Thanksgiving Edition

November 2020

Gratitude in This Particular Season By Ellie Folga

Though we are facing difficult and uncertain times, I think we have all the more reason to be thankful for what we have and for what we've been given. Thanksgiving is here, and regardless of whether we feel thankful or unhappy, this time of year tells us to appreciate even the little things we have in life. I challenge you, especially this year, to find a few ways to express your gratitude, as everyone is going through this year together and is experiencing similar difficulties at some level.

So many people make a deep impact on our lives, whether we realize it or not. I'm sure that even if you are usually more reserved, you have relied more on people this year than in the past. I encourage you to thank your parents, coaches, teachers, and friends for whatever they have done for you in this season. A simple "thank you" or a small note goes a long way for someone who is facing a lot of pressure and carrying a lot of stress on their shoulders right now!

Take note of the places where you spend your time outside of school. Is there any place that you have been able to spend lots of time recently, a place that has been a source of comfort? I am lucky to be spending most of my time dancing at the Goggleworks, and although I thank my teachers often, I have also been thanking the

people who work the front desk or take my temperature. It really does feel good on both ends, whether you are on the giving or the receiving side. When we are rushing ahead, worried or anxious, it can unfortunately be easy to dismiss these courteous conversations among others, but being mindful of this will help you develop stronger relationships with others and bring more stability to your own life. If it's not people or places where you would like to express your thankfulness, there are many things we have in our life that keep us happy. For example, pets, providing comfort and a sense of safety, deserve extra hugs or another treat they've been hoping for. Devote some time to be with them, as they always give to you. There are many ways to express our gratitude this season, and although this season in particular has been filled with ups and downs, I encourage you to shower some gratitude upon someone to celebrate Thanksgiving.



Alex Hoffman wonders if it's too early to celebrate Christmas on **page 2**

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Is It Too Early To Celebrate Christmas?

By Alex Hoffman

Fuzzy socks, Christmas music, and winter decorations are just a few signs that Christmas is coming early this year, and students receiving their education through online school are becoming particularly excited about what learning at home means for their holiday fun this season.

When Halloween ends and November first arrives, many people believe that the holiday season officially begins, and it's time to start getting themselves into the Christmas spirit. As always, stores have already begun selling all things Christmas: decorations, themed clothing, and Christmas present ideas. On top of how stores always get a head start on selling Christmas items, everyone seems to be hopping on the bandwagon taking them all the way to the holidays. Well, maybe not everyone. While some people agree with senior Riley Dauber, "I'm not a fan of skipping over Thanksgiving to get right to Christmas. I think the holiday season can be stressful enough, so rushing right to it might be anxiety-inducing," many others agree with senior Emmerson Piacine: "I believe that Christmas officially starts after Thanksgiving, but I start thinking about the holiday season around the beginning of November." When asked if she believes that Christmas season starts on November first, senior Grace Diehl said "Yes!! I love the energy of Christmas music and Christmas themed things." Similar to seniors Emmerson Piacine and Grace Diehl, the general holiday season begins at the start of November, even though Christmas is a month and a half away.

A poll was conducted on my Instagram story, asking my followers if they believed that November first is when Christmas season starts, or if it's too early,

and the results show that more people believe in celebrating Christmas starting on November first, rather than it being too early. While both opinions were present, the first prevailed.

As TikTok is currently a very popular app, many creators are beginning to post point of view videos about cozy, winter mornings with their online school work. They are spreading their excitement about being at home more often even while school is going on because they look forward to what their online school routines will be like when Christmas is closer. They have been posting TikTok videos for a few months already, and they are spreading their Christmas cheer and considering the benefits of having to spend their school year at home during the holiday season. Some fellow seniors are also looking forward to what their current hybrid schedule means for their winter plans. Online learning excitement is becoming a common feeling. Riley Dauber says "I am happy that I get to spend more time at home this holiday season," and Emmerson Piacine also gave her opinion on the topic: "I am excited to be able to spend more time at home this holiday season, especially because of not having to go to school everyday of the week in colder weather." Even though the pandemic will greatly affect Christmas this year, students and TikTok creators are still finding a silver lining to online school during this time. While Christmas will definitely look different, learning at home will allow students and families more time to spend engaging in their favorite holiday festivities.



At Least One Good Thing Came Of It: What Are You Thankful For This Thanksgiving?

By Sutton Daraneau

'Tis the season between two great holidays, Christmas, and its better: Halloween. Commonly known as the 'Nightmare before Christmas' season, it does have its own holiday. That holiday is, of course, Thanksgiving. Thanksgiving rituals vary from family to family. For some it means political fights around the dinner table to watching football, also causing fights around the dinner table. More importantly, however, it's about giving thanks. We have many things to be thankful for, from America the beautiful to the turkey that sedated Uncle Bob, who always needs to pick fights (everyone has an Uncle Bob. You might be your family's Uncle Bob). This year's pandemic Thanksgiving has possibly brought a new perspective to the season. I made a survey and passed it around to 19 people of varying ages and outlooks for their take on reflecting and being thankful in the time of the Corona Virus.

I first asked about one positive outcome of the quarantine. I got a myriad of answers. Increased family time received seven votes. Five people have improved themselves, concerning both physical and mental health. At four votes, we have increased free time. More sleep carries three, and saving money, two. The two most interesting and unexpected answers were "containing the virus" (thanks for playing along), and I quote "NATURE".

The participants were asked to rate their quarantine experience from 0 to 5. Question three was far more simple. Why did you rate it that way? The overall score was 2.89, with the majority voting 3. As to why? There are a few pluses and minuses, as with most things. Family was often mentioned. Whether that time was positive

or negative has yet to be decided. That aforementioned free time was often wasted on video games and YouTube. Not seeing friends was a huge letdown, but people improved themselves so they may bounce back up. Once again, there are notable mentions. Those mentions include spending 5 months with their college student. They also include, and again I quote "William Dramby". I have no idea why that was there, nor do I know what their rating was. Just thought it was notable, and so I mentioned it.

Looking at the data, one could make a few conclusions. For one, quarantine wasn't that bad. It scored a bit over 50%. For another, familial bonds were strengthened considerably. The main conclusion to be drawn, however, is that despite all that's happening now, despite the virus, there are still things to be thankful for. Happy Thanksgiving.

Don't Forget Fall

By Grace Diehl

As of the first of November, we have entered the season of the in between. First quarter is over, as is Halloween, and it feels as if the world is holding its breath, waiting for Christmas and the cheer that the holidays seem to always bring. While I totally understand the sense of longing for snow, seeing family, presents, and all of the other warm fuzzy things that come along with Christmas, I hate to see so many people simply living for Christmas and forgetting how much fun the fall can be!

For one, the weather has that chill in the air kind of feeling to it that is perfect for throwing a football around outside with some friends, as well as various other physical activities, without feeling the exhaustion of heat. And even when the weather is on the dreary side, with dark skies and rain that never seems to stop, it's

perfect for curling up inside with a good book, a hot drink, or a fun movie.

In addition to the weather, fall also turns the outside world into a beautiful array of colors. Being as blessed as we are to live in an area with tons of trees, we're able to better appreciate the reds, oranges, and golds of the leaves as fall sets in. Though they're a hassle to rake up, the colorful leaves both on the trees and the ground brighten up the streets and transform the outside into a collage of warm, homey colors.

Basically, all I'm trying to say is that fall is beautiful and underrated and we should all try a little harder to live in the moment and appreciate the season we're in

***Emma.*: The Saving Grace of 2020** By Riley Dauber

Before the pandemic ruined our lives, first time director Autumn de Wilde released her 2020 adaptation of *Emma.*, based on the Jane Austen novel. The film was in theaters in February, but many were unable to see it because of the pandemic and the limited release. Now, the film is available on HBOMax for everyone to enjoy.

Emma follows Emma Woodhouse (played expertly by Anya Taylor-Joy) as she continues her role as matchmaker in her small town during the Regency era. The film begins with Emma and her father attending the wedding of Emma's governess, Miss. Taylor. Emma believes that she was the one who set Miss. Taylor and her husband, Mr. Weston, up, and because of the success of the match, she decides to continue matchmaking. She takes the young, awkward Harriet Smith under her wing, and tries to set her up with Mr. Elton, a single man in town. Things go awry, however, as Emma's meddling leads to embarrassing moments for both her and Harriet, and her

own feelings for Mr. Knightley, a family friend, come to light.

now. That being said, putting your Christmas lights out in November is honestly a fall tradition at this point and is highly encouraged!



own feelings for Mr. Knightley, a family friend, come to light.

Emma. is the perfect example of a book-to-movie adaptation done right. The important moments from the book are all told in dedicated detail, and the somewhat boring chapters are glossed over; therefore, the film never feels tiresome. Not to mention the fantastic performances, which bring the characters in the book to life.

Anya Taylor-Joy, best known for her roles in horror films *The Witch* and *Split*, shows off her comedic timing while playing Emma. Emma can be a terrible person at times, but Taylor-Joy makes her likable and sympathetic. She steals every scene she's in, and carries the film on her shoulders.

The chemistry between the two leads, Taylor-Joy and newcomer Johnny Flynn, make the film much more enjoyable and easy to watch. Emma's friendship and relationship with Mr. Knightley is a key feature in the book, and it's effortlessly adapted to screen in the film. Their banter back and forth is entertaining and comical, and the two are able to balance the funnier scenes with the film's smaller, more dramatic moments. One scene that has stuck with me is when Emma and Knightley meet under the tree and confess their feelings

towards one another. The scenery is gorgeous, and the intimacy between the two characters is palpable.

Speaking of scenery, the whole film is a feast for the eyes. Each scene could be hung in a museum. Director Autumn de Wilde and director of photography Christopher Blauvelt did a fantastic job capturing the beautiful scenery and sets in the film.

The costumes are also an amazing component of the film. Oscar winner Alexandra Byrne is known for her costumes in Marvel films and period pieces, so she is skilled in the genre. The costumes for each character match their personalities: Mrs. Elton has more modern hairstyles and costumes, while Emma and the rest of the cast are of-the-times. Paired with the cinematography and scenery, the costumes in the film make it the perfect period piece.

Emma. is the newest and one of the best film adaptations of the Jane Austen novel. The important moments from the

book are included, with small changes here and there to speed up the film so it doesn't drag. Anya Taylor-Joy's performance as Emma Woodhouse is a career-defining moment due to her comedic timing, likability, and range; not to mention her chemistry with co-star Johnny Flynn, who brings life to cold Mr. Knightley. The real highlights of the film, however, are the cinematography, scenery and set design, and the historically-accurate costumes. *Emma.* is the perfect film for fans of period pieces and Jane Austen's work.



The Current NFL Season, and How They're Coping With COVID

By Harry Weiss

Despite concerns over the season after the COVID-19 outbreak in Tennessee, the NFL season has continued on and we have hit the halfway mark. With Thanksgiving approaching and the playoff race heating up, it is a good time to check in on the standings and how teams will fare the rest of the way.

In the AFC, the Kansas City Chiefs are once again the favorite in the conference, but they are now joined by the Pittsburgh Steelers and the Buffalo Bills. The Chiefs are 8-1 but play the Las Vegas Raiders, their only loss, who are 6-3 and also contending

for the Wild Card. While Buffalo has lost to the Chiefs once, they are currently 7-3 in the

AFC East but the Miami Dolphins are right behind them at 6-3. The Pittsburgh Steelers

are the only undefeated team left in the NFL, sitting at 9-0 in the AFC North yet both the Ravens and Browns are in contention at 6-3. Right now, the AFC South is the only division that has two teams, both at the same record, fighting for the number one spot. The Colts and Titans are 6-3, while the Colts have the head to head advantage over the Titans after they dominated last

Thursday night, winning 34-17. The two teams face off in Week 12 with a division title on the line.

While we explore the NFC, there is a major Thursday Night Football game between the injury ridden Seattle Seahawks and the streaking Arizona Cardinals. The NFC West is currently in a three way race with the Seahawks (7-3) ahead after defeating the Cardinals (6-4) and Rams, who are 6-3. While the Seahawks appeared to be the favorite earlier in the season, it seems like both the Cardinals and the Rams have legitimate chances to steal the division from the Seahawks.

Heading to the NFC North, the Green Bay Packers are sitting atop first place with a record of 7-2 while the Chicago Bears are 5-5 and both the Minnesota Vikings and Detroit Lions are 4-5. It seems the Vikings are out of contention under .500, however they have a very easy schedule remaining and the Bears seemingly have no offense, thus giving Minnesota a chance to make the Wild Card. Down in the NFC South the New Orleans Saints are leading the division with a 7-2 record while the Tampa Bay Buccaneers are 7-3. The Saints currently have the head-to-head matchup advantage after they absolutely dismantled Tom Brady 38-3 two weeks ago. And of course, we have the putrid NFC East with no team above .500. The Philadelphia Eagles are currently the division leader... with a dismal record of 3-5-1. The New York Giants are 3-7 while the Washington Football Team and the Dallas Cowboys are both 2-7. Amazingly, all four teams have a legit shot to win this division *and* host a playoff game.

Although it is way too soon to predict the Super Bowl and awards, I'm going to predict the end of the season and all the way through the playoffs.

Awards MVP: Patrick Mahomes OPOY: Alvin Kamara DPOY: Myles Garrett



OROY: Justin Herbert DROY: Patrick Queen Comeback: Alex Smith Coach of the Year: Mike Tomlin

AFC Playoffs First round bye: Kansas City Chiefs (15-1) Wild Card Games: 7th seed Las Vegas Raiders (10-6) vs the 2nd seed Pittsburgh Steelers (14-2) 6th seed Miami Dolphins (11-5) vs the 3rd seed Buffalo Bills (13-3) 5th seed Baltimore Ravens (13-3) vs the 4th seed Indianapolis Colts (10-6) Divisional Round: Chiefs vs Ravens and the Steelers vs the Bills AFC Championship: Chiefs vs the Steelers — Chiefs victorious 31-27

NFC Playoffs First round bye: Green Bay Packers (14-2) Wild Card Games: 7th seed Los Angeles Rams (10-6) vs the 2nd seed New Orleans Saints (13-3) 6th seed Tampa Bay Buccaneers (11-5) vs the 3rd seed Arizona Cardinals (13-3) 5th seed Seattle Seahawks (12-4) vs the 4th seed Philadelphia Eagles (6-9-1) Divisional Round: Saints vs Buccaneers and the Seahawks vs the Packers NFC Championship: Packers vs the Saints — Packers victorious 27-21

Super Bowl LV (55) Kansas City Chiefs vs Green Bay Packers — Chiefs win 35-24

A Clear Shade of Color By Emma Seley

It's almost as if colors meant words
Or as if words meant colors

Or maybe none of it signifies anything
And it's all just part of a trap

A trap that we all live in
Yet are so unaware
Like maybe the color yellow
Cowardice and illness
We all accept what we're told
And never question that maybe we're not
yellow
But black
The piercing nothingness everyone
considers brown
Like comfort
Comforted is what we all aim to be

I feel blue everyday
Sometimes I have moments of gray
Where I feel secure and solid
But most of the time I feel cold

It isn't a bad thing
It's just brown, a mix of both
Almost as if I am comforted by the mix of
colors
By the tension of arrogant purple mixing
with passionate red

What doesn't mix is my green shade of
spiritually
A pale, but very vibrant olive green

Along with the dark shadows of black
Mourning my ego death of what once was
And what now is
Accepting that whatever is to come
Will return me to my bright pop of yellow
philosophy and optimism

Oh, but it's not over yet
I haven't given up my purple enlightenment
My purple mystery of the age old question
What's next?
What is next

White signifies innocence

But it also means death
Is one better than another?
Do we really die or
Or are we just brown and purple mixed
tightly
Atom by atom
Maybe we're all just earth experiencing
itself in human form
Purple!
I can't help but address this
It is burning a hole in my brain
And growing mold in the depths of my
stomach

Knowing that we cannot assign a single
color
Because the color is us
The color is what we experience Every
single day
But not all people are able to escape their
arrogant shade of purple
Only some look out of their assigned
colored bubble
To realize it doesn't have color at all
It doesn't even have a name

We're just clear, see through beings
Made from a Big Bang collusion
Living on a floating rock
Appearing to be a comforting, soft brown
So we look down and do what we're told
So that comforting shade of brown
Doesn't one day turn clear on us
Revealing what's underneath

November **By Katie Schadler**

It is only November.
Only November and the turkeys have been
removed from the shelves,
the evergreen trees already on sale before
the first snow of the holiday season.
Dean Martin's "Baby It's Cold Outside" is
playing on the radio, oh God



it is only November.
 Only November, and I am already drowning
 in homework,
 caught in the rapid whirlpool of my
 thoughts,
 terrified that I am trapped in this never-
 ending cycle of swimming.

And I know this is water,
 but it is only November of my eleventh
 grade year.
 And there are approximately 122 days left of
 school,
 302 school days to go until I graduate, and I
 am already being asked
 the daunting question of where I am going to
 college,
 life after college,
 and then what?
 and then what?

Barely Thanksgiving, hardly the end of
 2020,
 and yet we are already making plans for the
 rest of our lives,
 thinking about the names of our three
 hypothetical children,
 daydreaming about what color we want to
 paint the walls of our mansion,
 so bold of us to assume that in 20 years,
 there is a roof over our heads,
 so hazed by the rose-colored lens of our
 limitless futures.

Audaciously, we assume that tomorrow is
 guaranteed.

Cause we were born invincible, right?
 We are the next generation of scholars and
 leaders, they tell us.

So sad that when we were young, our
 spoons filled of empty promises,
 we were fed one of the greatest lies ever
 told:

you can be anything you want to be, they
 say.

But when I sign up for career day, there is
 no option that says stay-at-home father or
 mother,

no box where I can check astronaut-
 princess,

no place to type in the word happy.

And I am “believing” and “putting my mind
 to it”

but how come there are still Americans
 dying at gun point, people sleeping on the
 streets,

as children, I don’t think that they wanted to
 grow up and be homeless.

But it is only November of my eleventh
 grade year, and we still have time to look
 after our children

and provide them with equitable education
 opportunities,

time to check in our children and make sure
 that the world isn’t getting to be too much
 for them—

before it really is too late.

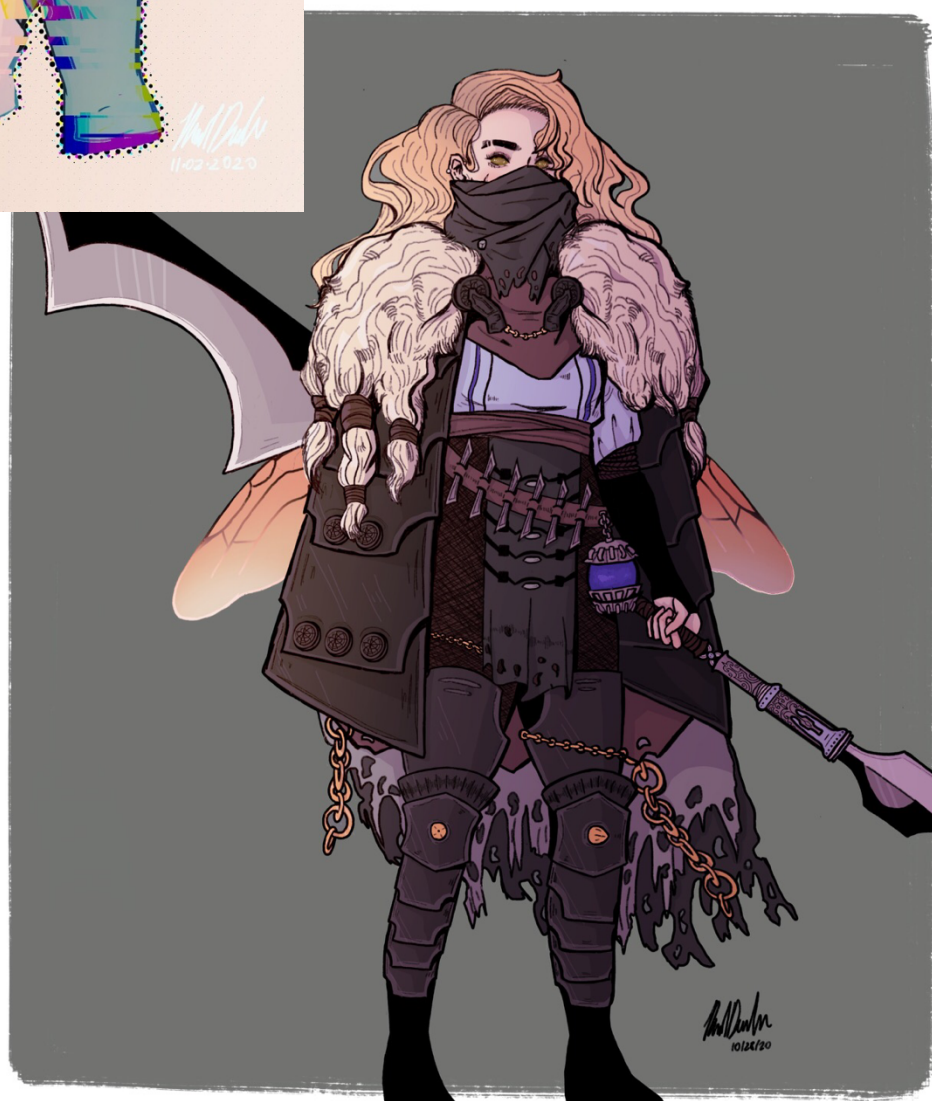
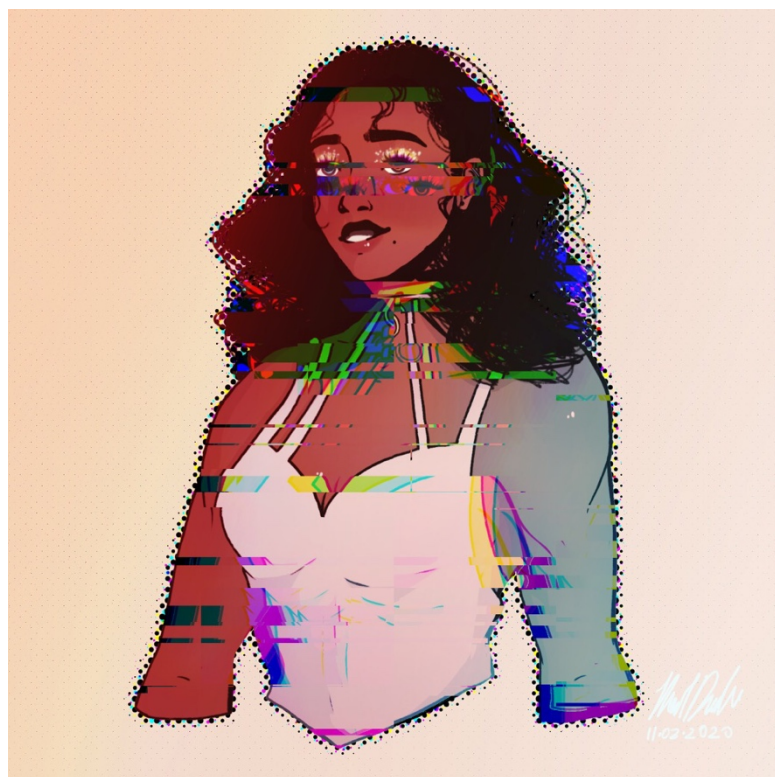
They say we have time to figure it out,
 yet what they really mean is hurry up.

But if we all “figured it out” by grade eleven
 in a life that takes us on different roads,
 drops us off at different locations,
 and forces us to travel deeper into ourselves,
 wouldn’t our journeys already be over?

But alas, it is only November.

And there is still time.

ARTWORK
By Reese Dauber



YELLOW JACKET