



# RAVEN TALK

Innovations is a unique school. We have many things that can only be found within our walls. Take a dive into our various programs and get to know us better.

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## STOP NEVADA CATCALLING

You probably remember the first time you heard that noise. The gut-wrenching ego of someone who thinks it's appropriate to shout out at any person they find attractive. You are not alone, unfortunately, an onslaught of youth has been catcalled, yelled at, or called a provocative name. Most catcalling occurs to people aged 11-17, an epidemic of sexualization is happening to our youth, who feel as if there is nothing they can do to fight back. 6th graders should not have to be afraid of being sexualized in the street, as a matter of fact, no matter what age you are, you don't deserve to be treated like you are “less than” Many trans youth are also experiencing catcalling and sexualization from a young age. This can bring out strong feelings of dysphoria and leave more than just women feeling helpless at the hands of a stranger. If you are tired of sitting by and taking it, join the fight against Nevada catcalling

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stop\_.nvcatcalling775



# THE FACE OF O-WEEK

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Being the MC over the entire week of Orientation, we got to hear from him a lot; most of the new scholars had already met with him before classes even started.



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Protz has been at Innovations for 9 years; he has worked all over the world teaching this to everyone he got the chance to. He forms a connection with almost everyone he meets. He wants to know our scholars as people, not just how they are in class or their grades. Not to mention his connection with the staff. He lives his life knowing people, and he would have it no other way. Every day, people come up to him, asking him for advice or guidance. He loves being able to contribute and have an impact on the school and its students. Protz strongly mentioned being nice to everyone. It doesn't matter who you associate with or what group you associate yourself with, because it shouldn't prevent you from being friends with someone. Even if you don't want to be friends with someone, being respectful and nice is still a right of passage. It's his main goal to be friends with everyone he meets. He wants to see new scholars create bold, ambitious exhibitions—even if it makes them a little nervous. If they rise to the challenge, they have the potential to create amazing things. People close to our advisor know he thinks that everyone has the potential to create amazing things. Protz wants our veteran scholars to find a place to intern, or work that could be something they pursue during the summer or even longer. If they're not performing up to par with the new scholars, they should make sure to stand out and show their strength of character. For example, be strong-willed, and show everyone around you that you are in the moment. One should stay focused on the task at hand, and do the task well. We talked with Protz about scholars who weren't fit for our school. He shared about a former scholar who was more concerned with their own enjoyment. This scholar had ditched classes, their internship, and in turn, their future. Sharing about this student brought up the topic of integrity. "If we see someone not doing what they need to be doing, we don't want to stick our necks out for that scholar," Protz said. He has been doing this job or something similar for a while now, so he can use his experience to reflect on himself, and in turn, help the people around him. Protz made sure to tell us to give the other advisors and admin credit, showing his true compassionate nature.



# WHO IS THIS YAYA GUY?

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Yaya Andrews is a scholar who graduated last year. After being in Innovations for 3 years, he made a lot of connections. Before I sat down with him I had to wait for everyone to say their hellos and reconnect. Seeing how much happiness was in the room that day was uplifting for everyone involved.



The first thing Yaya told us was that he was doing good, but always striving to do better. Many people are curious as to what Yaya is doing now. He shared that he is training to become a heavyweight champion. Heavyweight champion of the world at that. Being as dedicated as he is, we know he is gonna get there. Talking about Innovations with the former scholar brought up a lot of stories. Yaya loves the community we have, he said it feels “casual”, every time he comes into the building it's like he’s walking into his house. He knows he can just be himself and it will be okay. He shared a bit about his past, and how he was friendless for most of his school years. That information and the man we had come to know didn’t add up, so we pushed further. Coming to Innovations, Yaya was able to grow into himself truly, after receiving continued love and support from the people in our community. Yaya is the most honest person we know.

He once plagiarized a paper and lied about it. He said he couldn’t stand the feeling of not being genuine with the people around him. He can’t imagine living dishonestly like that, so he made his amends and worked to be the most authentic version of himself he could be. He shared that if he could go back and relive his time at Innovations, that he wouldn’t change anything besides being more careful not to drop his lunch. He emphasized that the love he has within our school is unmatched and that he was so happy to feel it again.

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“DREAMS  
DON’T  
COME  
TRUE,  
THEY ARE  
ACHIEVED”

## INTERNSHIPS

Our school offers a great opportunity for scholars to build their resumes straight out of high school. Our internship program provides scholars a chance to build those real-life connections and get started out in the working world.

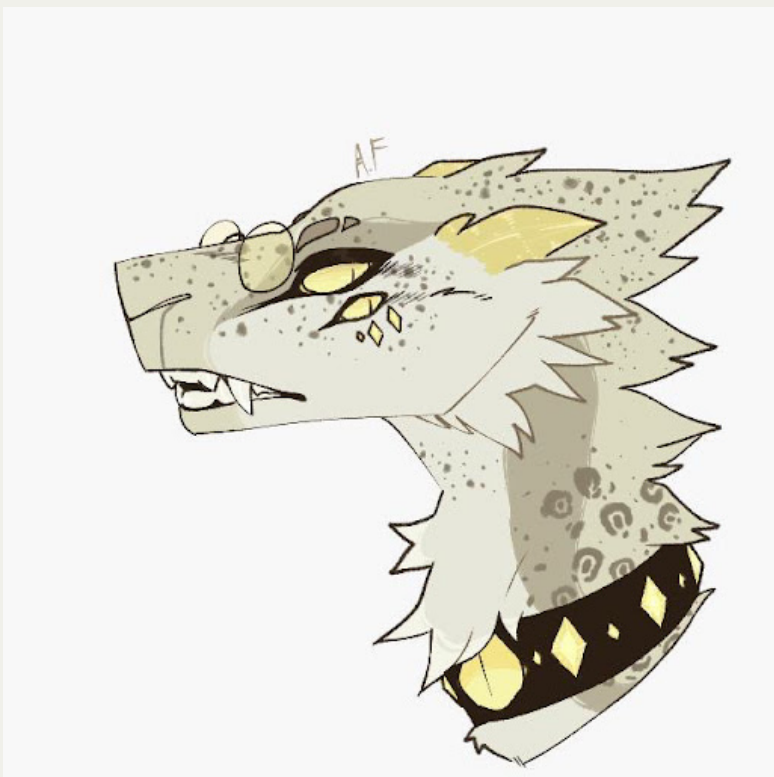


Image provided by Jasper Robards

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Max Krux is interning at his church, Reno First United Methodist Church. He is working on individual organizational projects within the church. He is also decorating for the new season. Working with a place that he is already involved with made getting the internship easier than most. He said that next semester he wants to try to get an internship elsewhere to expand his learning. Maddie Pursley is interning at Twisted Sugar, a bakery in Sparks. She wants to continue working in bakeries and is glad for the opportunity to learn essential skills while still in high school. She tried interning at a few other bakeries before getting into Twisted Sugar. She said if you are struggling with finding an internship, don't give up, reach out to as many places as it takes. Coby Nardone is interning at a mechanic shop. He gets a lot of hands-on time with the career he wants to pursue after school. Because of the internship program at Innovations, he is able to learn some things that he will need to apply in future workplaces. Bones and Ryan split their internship time in half. They spend some of their time at the Reno Downtown Public Library. At the library they help catalog materials, and help keep things organized. This helps them learn how libraries run outside of our school. They are able to use this knowledge to spend time making our library better for everyone.

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## NATIVE CIRCLE

Our school has a few things that no other schools in the district have, but one of the most unique is our Native Circle LTA. The Native Circle meets every Wednesday. They express their feelings, worries, hopes, and dreams. Ray keeps the door open to anyone who needs it. He often says many people come and go, and they are always welcome. Sitting with the scholars, I learned just how connected they are to each other. They look forward to their weekly teachings about life and spirituality, they shared that they feel safe in the circle and that they have more wisdom of their own spiritual self. The group also takes weekly walks to the river to reconnect with nature and themselves.

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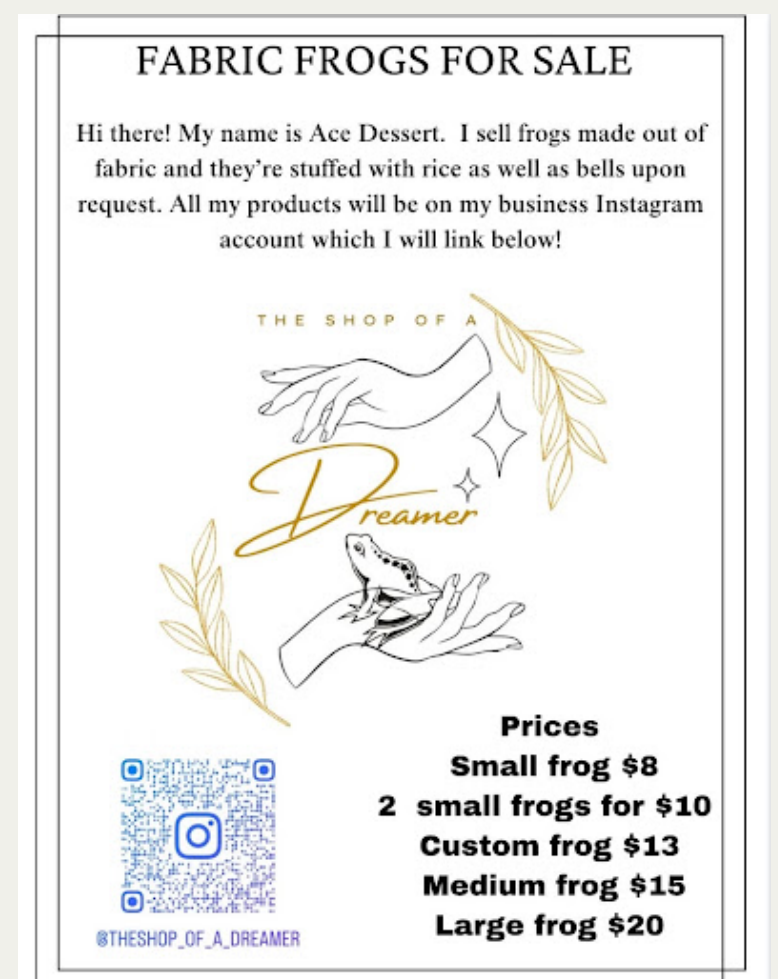
# LTA

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## SCIENCE

Our scholars in the science LTA are exploring all scientific disciplines through books and garden projects. They are currently reading “The Martian” by Andy Weir. “The Martian” is about an astronaut stranded on Mars, he uses science and engineering skills to keep himself alive. Our science team is working on their hydroponics system and their outdoor garden. They donate the produce they grow to the Innovations community and make sure to leave a donation in nearby karma boxes.

They are also working with carnivorous plants, worm compost, and mushroom cultivation. This LTA is quick with their work, as they already have seedlings planted, waiting to be transplanted into their indoor and outdoor homes. These scholars are also working to reproduce their happy Venus Flytrap. In the future, they will be working with a mushroom cultivation expert to learn how to grow their own mushrooms from scratch.



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## MATH

The math LTA is focusing on finding fun in math. Our scholars are focusing on recreational mathematics. Recreational mathematics is about making new discoveries, doing cool problems, and applying a new understanding to life. For the first bit of the year, the scholars are working on learning the basics of math. The math LTA has spent some time making shape toys called “Flexagons”, buying pizzas and figuring out the fairest way to cut them, and will soon be talking about how to build their own computers out of dominoes. Scholars recently used balloons to learn about spherical geometry. Our math scholars are working hard, and having fun while they do it.



## RECORD LABEL

Our record label, Kick In Records, is 100% student-led. It runs much like other record labels, as its main focus is to produce great music. Scholars have taken up different jobs to make sure that operations run smoothly. Kayde, the president of the record label oversees operations, making sure that everything is running as smoothly as possible. Scholars in the engineering department work with final products, making sure the music sounds good on any playing device. The promotions department works with a variety of things. Scholars are figuring out how to get money into the record label and making budgets for supplies. The record label also has scholars working on future merch, so stay tuned for the release! Scholars plan our kick-out, making emergency schedules for when there are no performances. Kick In Records is also reaching out to other schools and radio stations. Multiple scholars are responsible for just making beats, these beats can be given out to be sung over, or released as they are. Some scholars are assigned to specific artists and work with them to produce music, meet deadlines, and ensure the music is up to quality. Speaking of working with specific artists, a group of scholars focuses on finding artists to sign to the label, they assign producers to artists, and make sure the artists want to stay with Kick In Records.



Image provided by Finn De La Cruz Sierra



# LTA

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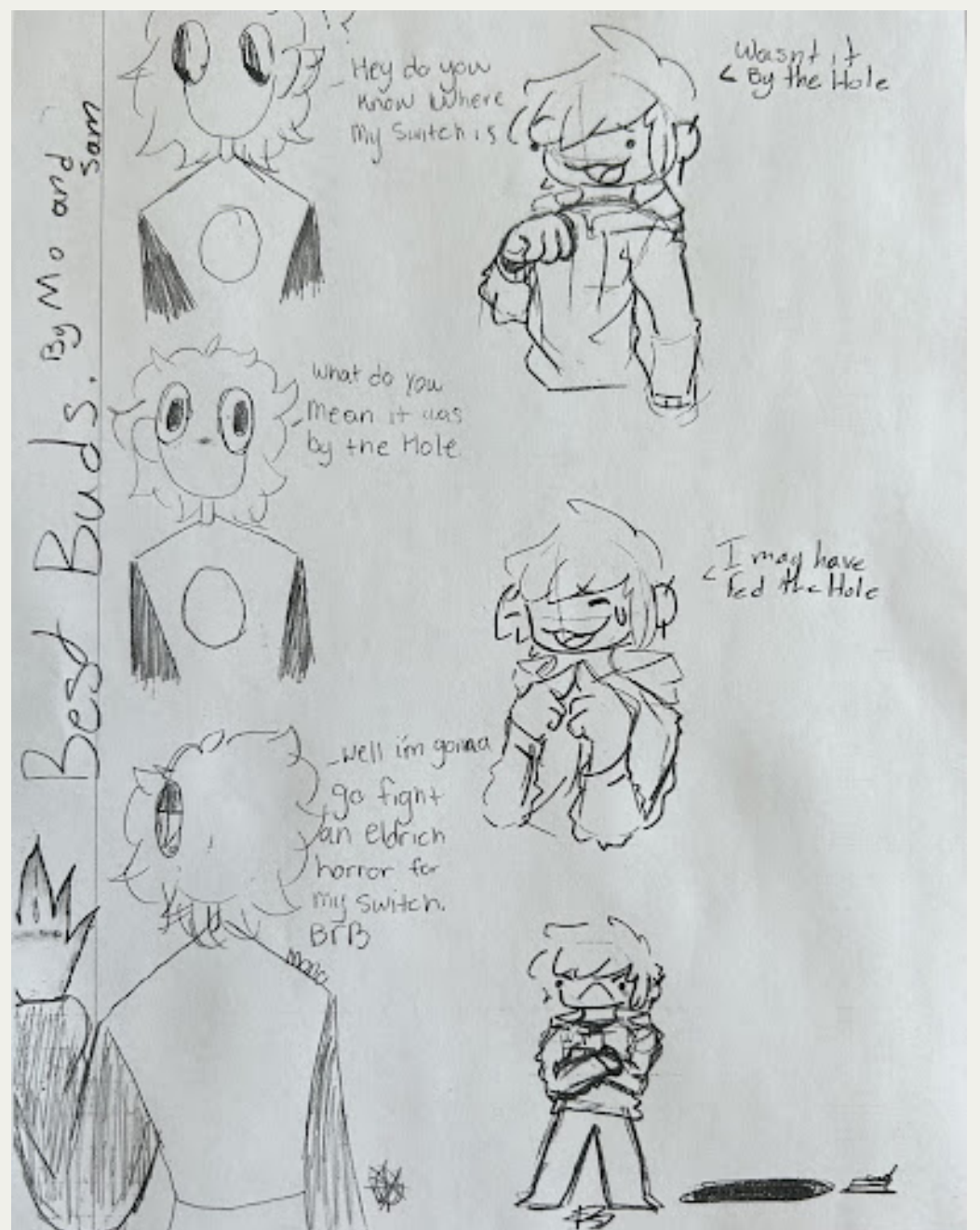
image provided by  
Avery Gartner

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## ART

Our scholars in the art LTA are making college level art portfolios. They are currently working on 2 art projects of any media. These projects have to have a central theme that connects them. These projects are later being submitted to a Scholastic Young Learner Contest.

Image provided by Sam Dailey and Mo/Forest



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## LEADERSHIP

Our student-led leadership is making big moves in changing our school for the better. Scholars work every week to make necessary changes to the school that benefit as many people as possible. Leadership is working on a magnitude of different things including making spirit weeks, planning upcoming school-wide events, and changing some of those pesky rules. Once a month Leadership meets with our principal, Micheal Bradley, and our dean of students, Erin in a group called “Site Council”. Site council meetings are focused on making changes to our community, scholars and admin address topics like unlocking the bathrooms, providing funding for school beautification, and planning future homecoming ideas. Recently, Leadership started a project to get a grant to fund an outdoor classroom.

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# BLACK WALL STREET

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Black Wall Street is a non-profit organization formed to meet the needs of the Black community. Their name stems from a community founded by African-Americans in the Greenwood district in Tulsa, Oklahoma. At the time this community was developed, segregation was a struggle for many African-American people. Their ability to shop, and keep their money in their community was being hindered by all the segregation laws. Greenwood residents collectively funneled their money into locally owned Black businesses. Greenwood was self-sustaining until May 31st, 1921. A white mob raided the community known as Black Wall Street, burning down businesses, homes, schools, and churches. While the official death toll of the mob is 36, historians estimate as many as 300 people had lost their lives. As many as 10,000 people were left homeless. Our non-profit Black Wall Street uses its name as a history lesson and a blueprint for the Black community to re-establish and embrace. Black Wall Street hopes to one day be a community, just like it was in the 1920s, to help the Black community. Black Wall Street helps minorities all over the Reno-Sparks area and they have been working with our school since they were founded. Black Wall Street rose during the George Floyd riots. When talking about the non-profit, Donald starts with his own story, he shares his hardships first. He wants to break the ice first, showing our scholars that they can come to him for help with hard topics. He wants to show his real-life example of perseverance in hard times. Scholars working with Black Wall Street are taught innovative, and life-saving lessons. Scholars are surrounded by supportive mentors who offer guidance and a safe space for ideas to be shared without judgment or fear of reprisal. At the Innovations open house, the founders showed the people in the room what it was like to rise above struggles. They want to be the ones who go through the hard stuff in life, so they can help everyone they can not go down that path. The scholars working with Black Wall Street share the same goal: to help the people around them and those they do not yet know. They go around and help our community. One of our scholars, Dakota Cantrell, shared about the Outreach Program. She told us about going to various schools for younger students and being there for students who need a little extra support. She and many other scholars will see a student skipping class, having a hard time with their work, or just having a bad day, and work with them. Sometimes just sitting with them through their classes, other times having tough conversations and trying to offer support. Our scholars also work with Black Wall Street to refill the various Narcan boxes, learn CPR, and help make donations to minorities in need. Aaron Brown shared about the connections he was making. He raved about the benefits of working with Black Wall Street, he is building his resume, getting to know future employers, and getting job opportunities already. He is connected with so many aspects of our community and he gives credit to Black Wall Street.

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# RYANS CROCHET COMMISSIONS

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Hello, it's me, Ryan and I crochet. I want to have some commissions so I can afford more supplies. Although I've been showing off my tops and cardigans, I can make almost anything that's crocheted. If you want something more customized, I will most likely be able to make it. If the project costs money or if there is no pattern for what you want I will be charging an additional price. I would price my work by paying myself \$5-\$10 an hour. I would quote you for the price of whatever you wanted and you would pay a deposit of 50%. I will then send picture updates as I go along. If in the end you no longer want it, I will give back some of your deposit, how much you get back depends on how much of the project I've completed.

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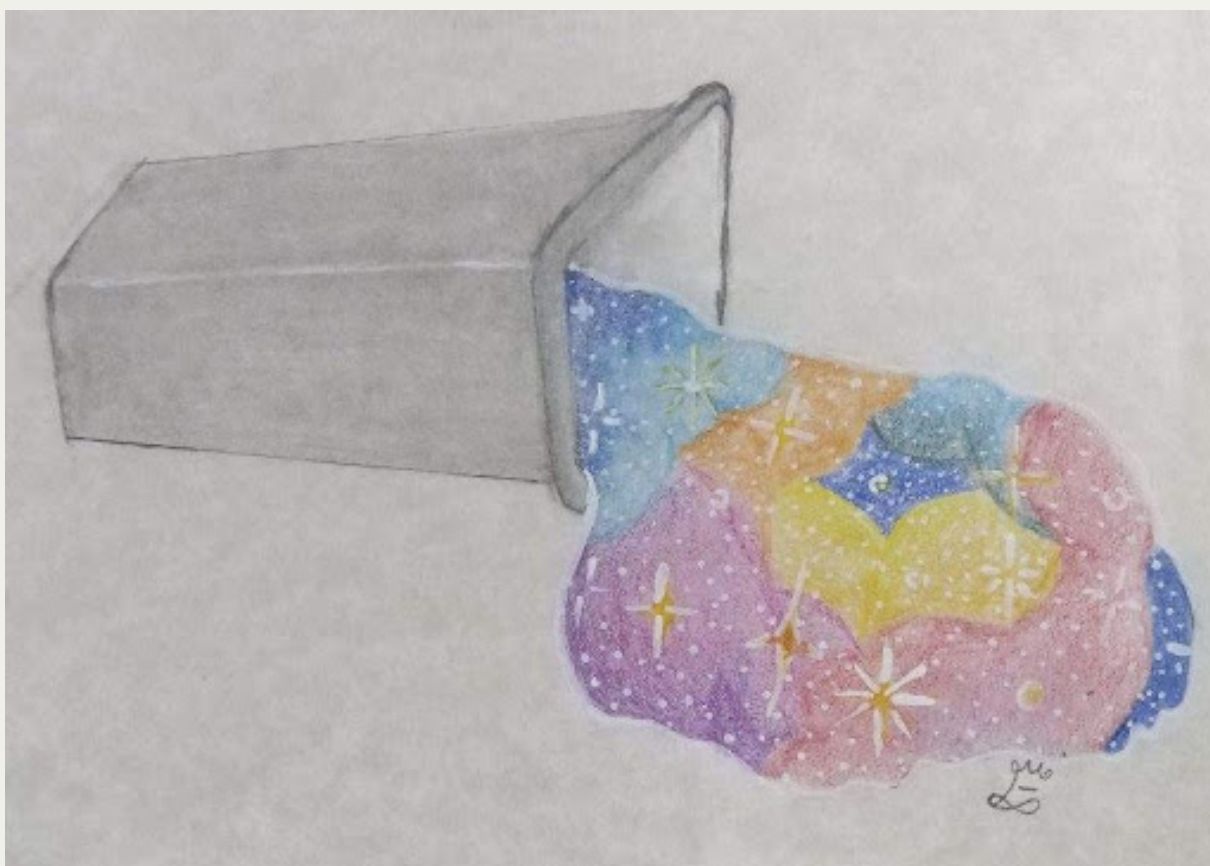


Image provided by Elliot Mckillip

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I want to say a big thank you to everyone who helped to produce the first quarter newspaper, and a big thanks to all those who gave us great content to write about.