



My name is Emma Mowat, and I'm a Gr.12 student here at FVAA. I've been the Editor of the school's newspaper for two years now. It's my delight to work with a group of my peers to create a relevant newspaper.

The Spring Spiel

The Invasion of Ukraine

By: Caleab Onyango

By now, you have probably heard of the conflict in Ukraine. On February 24, 2022, Ukraine was invaded by Russia. This "special military operation," as Russian President Vladimir Putin would call it, is a humanitarian crisis. Thousands of people have been displaced, cities bombed, hundreds have died, and hundreds more injured. This conflict has evolved into a full on war between Russia and Ukraine. As of today, March 3rd 2022, Russian forces have not taken over Ukraine's capital, Kyiv, but Kharkov, Ukraine's second largest city, has been heavily bombed and shelled. 16 bombs have been dropped on Kharkov and there have been dozens of victims, according to the Ministry of Defense of Ukraine. The city is in a dire state, one of the many in such a condition. Through all this, the President of Ukraine, Volodymyr Zelenskyy, has been in Kyiv along with various other people defending the city and keeping up the morale of the people in Ukraine. I will be addressing a few questions you may have in this article, starting with:

Why is Russia invading Ukraine?

The conflict between Russia and Ukraine had been going on for years. The reason for this conflict is complicated. There are many reasons for Russia to invade Ukraine. You may have heard of the expansion of NATO (North Atlantic Treaty Organization) and the liberation of Donetsk and Luhansk as the reason for the war. This narrative is pushed by Russia and was used by Putin before attacking Ukraine. Ukraine joining NATO would pose as a security threat to Russia. Ukraine has been acting like a buffer state between NATO and the CSTO. The CSTO, Collective Security Treaty Organization, is a



treaty, like NATO, between Russia and former soviet states, such as Belarus, Armenia, and Kazakhstan. Ukraine is wedged in between the countries within these two treaties and acts like a buffer state between them. Ukraine joining NATO would strengthen the NATO countries and weaken CSTO's defensive capabilities. The Donetsk and Luhansk regions of Ukraine are regions controlled by separatist groups. The separatists proclaimed Donetsk and Luhansk, "People's Republics," and are supported by Russia. They were unrecognized internationally, until Russia recognized them in 2022. In his declaration of war ("special military operation"), Putin has stated that the aim was to, "protect people who have been bullied and subjected to genocide by the Kyiv regime for eight years." These are just some of the many reasons Russia would want to invade Ukraine. In the past Russia has annexed Crimea, a former region of Ukraine and has done several, "special military operations," such as the Russo-Georgian War, which bears a striking resemblance to the current Russo-Ukrainian War.

Why is Russia getting away with the invasion of Ukraine?

Russia is not getting away with the Invasion of Ukraine without a fight. Ukrainian forces have managed to withhold the Russian forces

and still have control of their capital. You may have heard of Article 5 of NATO. Article 5 is an article that states that, "The Parties agree that an armed attack against one or more of them in Europe or North America shall be considered an attack against them all." This would mean that if a member party were attacked, the other members would help. The problem is, Ukraine is not part of NATO. Article 5 does not apply to them. Although Countries could not directly help Ukraine in the war, they have used other mean to weaken Russia, the most popular of which is sanctions. Russia has been bombarded with sanctions from multiple countries. A sanction is a commercial or financial penalty. Weapons are also being given to Ukraine, such as the 400 rockets the Netherlands have supplied to Ukraine. Deploying troops in Ukraine is being avoided because that will anger Putin and cause the conflict to escalate. With the existence of nuclear weapons, Russia could demolish a country within hours and have that done back to them. Ukraine which gave up its nuclear weapons in 1994, does not have the threat of nuclear warfare in its arsenal. A nuclear war is a war of mutual destruction, nobody really wants that.

What is a no-fly zone? Why isn't NATO agreeing to it?

A no-fly zone is an area of airspace where no airplanes or any other airborne objects other than those policing the airspace are allowed to fly. They are usually put in place to protect civilians on the ground during a war and to allow the safe delivery of humanitarian aid. NATO is not adding one on Ukraine's airspace because it would effectively be a declaration of War. A no-fly zone would mean that enemy aircraft would be shot down. That would mean NATO would be a threat to Russia, and in Putin's declaration of war ("special military operation") speech he states that, "Whoever tries to stop us and further create threats to our country, to our people,

should know that Russia’s response would be immediate and lead you to such consequences that you have never faced in your history.” A no-fly zone is a very risky move, so NATO and other countries are not going to implement that.

Unfortunately, this war has negatively affected millions of people in Ukraine, Russia, and all over the world. Russia and Ukraine are two of the world’s largest suppliers of wheat, the conflict between them would mean wheat and their other exports would rise all over the world. The civilians of Russia would have to pay for the actions of their leaders by being put into financial ruin. The Russian currency (The Ruble) has fallen drastically over the couple of days. This will not affect the people at the top very much, but the middle class and lower class of Russia would struggle tremulously. Putin might have done this to secure his place as the President of Russia, but with how it is going, it will probably backfire. Hopefully, this does not escalate into a world war and Ukraine survives.

Valentine’s Day Poem

By: Bono Siago

winter’s warmth

like the snow that falls on your hand
i fall and melt when you give me warmth

sit beside me
and hold my hand
keep me safe
and
never leave me

for love is strong
love is what keeps us strong.
our love is warm.
our love is cozy.

hugs.

if one day i won’t receive your warmth
the warmth you always gave me
i will always remember your warmth,
your warm hugs
that kept me warm on the cold winter nights
with you.

Twosday

By: Faith Macaraig

This year, February was a really special month. On the twenty-second day of February, it was Twosday! Twosday was then the number two applied to the date: 02/22/2022. To celebrate this occasion, the SA decided to announce that everyone could come to school wearing a pair of crazy socks! Those who participated had some pretty cool socks to display.

“It was a cool thing to live through, it was a once in a lifetime event. All the socks were really cool, and they were fun to look at!”
-Katherine; Gr. 9

“I like socks”-Izabella; Gr.9

Class Challenge Theme

By: Caleab Onyango

This year’s class challenge theme is Dream. It’s a pretty wide-ranging theme, so I’m curious to see where each of the classes takes their tiles and entrance. Make sure to get your cans in, they play a significant role in class challenges. Goodluck!

The Story of Black History Month

By: Faith Macaraig

Black History Month has a heavy foundation of these main points:

- educating** people about Black contributions to History
- advocating** and pushing for proper recognition for Black achievements
- supporting** Black creators, business owners and leaders and their works

First proposed by Black educators and Black students in Kent State University in the United States. The first celebrations of Black History Month followed on Kent State’s campus in February 1970. In the following years, this practice was celebrated and welcomed by educational institutions and centers of Black culture.

World History is Black History. Canadian History is Black History. The world today has made so many important advancements and changes because of Black people.

Mary Ann Shadd Cary was a Canadian Anti-slavery and Publisher. Her newspaper,

titled *The Provincial Freeman*, was the first newspaper published by a Black woman in North America. She also established a racially integrated school in Windsor, Ontario. Cary was also very passionate in advocating for the rights of Black and communities.

Like Mary Ann, there are countless amounts of Black people who made significant impacts in today’s world and the communities around them.

How can you uplift the spirit and celebrate Black History Month?

1. Read about the Black contributors to your country’s history. Learn how communities were impacted and changed through the impact of Black people. Educate yourself and the people around you. Validate Black experiences.
2. Advocate. Speak out about racial injustices, read resources on the history of racism, and take action when people need your help.
3. Support Black owned and managed businesses! Having their companies exposed and promoted helps out so much. Also support Black creators, artists, leaders and educators as well.

Let’s make sure to uplift and encourage each other and Black communities not just during Black History month, but all the time.

World History is Black History.

Sources:

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Black_History_Month

<https://www.slice.ca/black-canadians-who-played-a-big-role-in-canadian-history/>

Skates On!

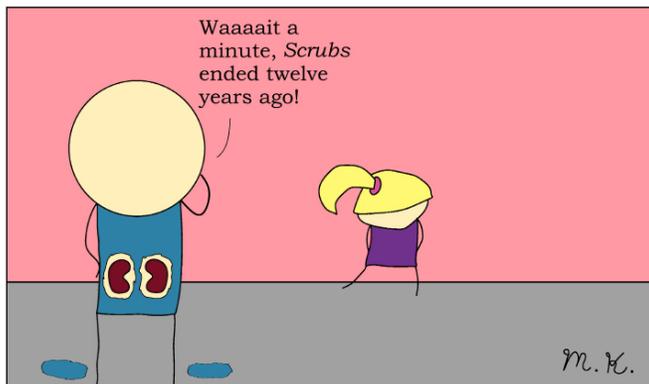
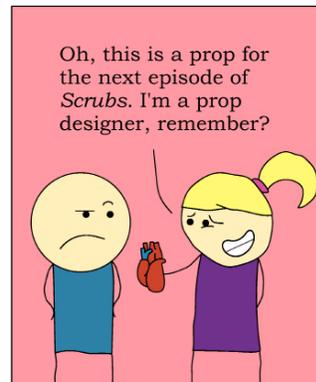
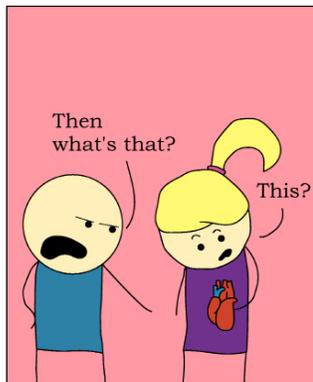
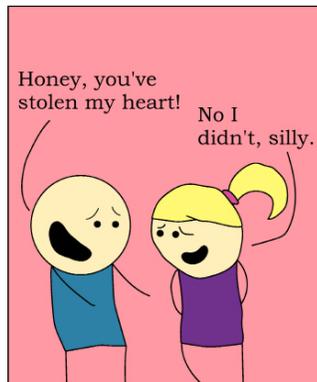
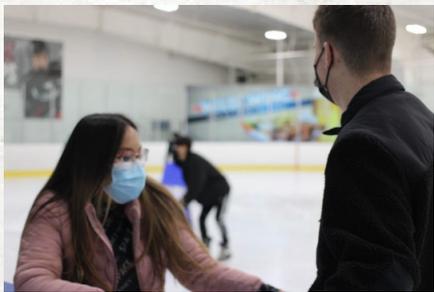
By: Faith Macaraig

On February 9, 2022, participating highschool students and teachers went on a field trip to Twin Rinks in Langley to enjoy a time of ice skating! We left right after lunch and stayed the next hour or so, having fun with friends and getting used to the feel of the ice underneath our feet.

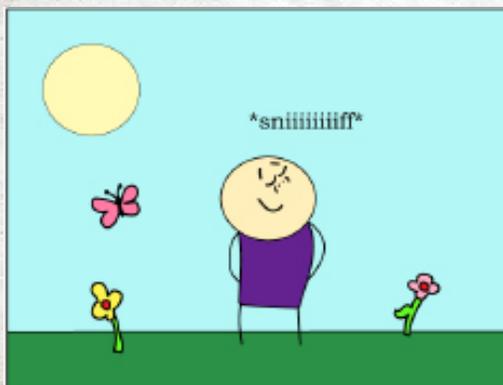
Luckily, there were no severe injuries and the rink was alive with friendly races, energetic laughs, and shoulder to shoulder conga lines.

Personally, it took me a while to adjust to the feel of the slip on the ice, and I'm sure it was that way for many other people as well. I'm glad students and teachers alike were able to enjoy our field trip of the month!

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