

SJC Gazette

DECEMBER '23 ISSUE

St. John's Football A SEASON REFLECTION

EMERGING TEAM:
Girls Field Hockey



WHAT ARE SJC STUDENTS
WEARING THESE DAYS?

Jokes & Riddles, Tips for Grade 9's, & Council Corner

In his Massey Lectures, writer Thomas King states, “the truth about stories is that is all we are.” As I get older, and hopefully wiser, I am more and more inclined to believe in the truth of King’s statement. While the physical building here at St. John’s College is made of bricks and mortar, the school is much more than that. We are a collection of students and staff, each with their own unique story.

After a few years in hibernation, the SJC Gazette has returned as a space for us to share our stories. Whether they be about school sports, student events, the grade nine experience, NTS, or student council, these stories document our successes and near misses, both essential to the experience of life at St. John’s College. So, take some time to read your stories St. John’s – after all, they are who we are.

–Mr. Salciccioli

Table of Contents



1-2

THE STRENGTH OF THE EAGLES

By: Mikayla Portelli

3-4

NTS STRIKES AGAIN

By: Tatiana Reid

5-6

A NEW YEAR, NEW GRADE 9's, AND ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL COLOUR NIGHT

By: Emilia Punturiero

7-8

COUNCIL CORNER

By: Caroline Goveas

9

DRESS DOWN DAY

By: Emma Cromien

10

GIRLS FIELD HOCKEY MAKES DEBUT AT SJC

By: Cristina Rocchi

11

INTERVIEW IN THE ART ROOM

By: EsterRose Enos

12

RIDDLES AND JOKES

By: Asiyah Namazie

13-14

A PLAY REVIEW: KING LEAR

By: Tessa North

15-16

TIPS FOR GRADE 9'S

By: Ashleigh Brooks



THE STRENGTH OF THE EAGLES

"History repeats itself, but so does their strength"

MIKAYLA PORTELLI | MONDAY NOVEMBER 20TH

The St. John's Senior Eagles came in soaring during this year's football season, going 4-0 before the finals. Fans were able to see the team claim their victory against North Park Collegiate and Paris District High School and could frequently catch their games at the Bison's Alumni Field or at PDHS field. The season started as early as September 22, and ended on November 1st. Although the outcome of the season was unexpected by many, there is no denying how strong of a team the Eagles are.

With final scores of 40 - 6 (SJC) and 41- 0 (SJC) in games one and two, against NPC and PDHS, the team proved themselves incredibly capable early in the season. Notable players of week one and two consisted of Tyson Dyck and Carter Kellam on offence, and Alex Muir and Zack Kaman on defense.

The last two games before semi-finals saw more green spirit, with stats of 21-44 against BCI, and 7-42 against ACS. Outstanding players of weeks three and four, included Carter Kellam and Corson Hawes;

offence, Carlo De Grandis and Kieran Luscombe; defence. In addition, the Eagles were invited to a non-conference game in Burlington, against the St. Roch's Ravens, where once again they were met with success, bringing home a final score of 43- 7 (SJC)



Tyson Dyck (SJC), Photo: Kieli Kaczur

When asked "How do you feel the spirit was this year?", the team's defensive back, Bennett Portelli, says, "the team had a good atmosphere... the boys gelled together well."

Furthermore, in the final game of the season, the team gave it their all. Unfortunately, after a tough fight, they lost against Assumption College School. This defeat inspired conversations of the year prior. Many comparisons can be made between the 2022 and 2023 seasons.

During the 2022 football season, the Eagles had gone 4-0, similar to this year, proving their strength in semi-finals. After this strong entrance into the finals against PDHS, they were appallingly beaten by one, singular, point of misfortune. This loss ignited a fire this year, and the Eagles were the team to beat.




Tyson Dyck (SJC) shows sportsman ship as he helps an ACS player, Photo: Kieli Kaczur

Despite how much frustration and disappointment came from the finals, the Eagles should not be overlooked. The emotions that came from the loss do not show weakness, but rather an overwhelmingly strong passion for the sport, and for their team. The spirit alone made the team intimidating, as well as their fierce defence, and incredible final scores. The Senior Eagles played incredibly well, showing skill, incredible sportsmanship, and connection as a team. These triumphs and losses are the motivating factor that drives their will fight and succeed. We look forward to seeing what next year holds for the Eagles.





SJC Senior team in games, Photo: Kieli Kaczur




A new school year brings new students, new talent, and a brand new SJC Drama production. With the recent conclusion of casting for this year's production, it is with great pleasure to announce that this year's cast will be performing a play titled "Blues" for the annual dramatic arts competition, NTS. This play not only provides the audience with a deeper understanding of the lives of the homeless, but will also provide students in the cast with the opportunity to showcase their talents in the dramatic arts on an even bigger stage.

In a recent interview with this year's student director, Serena Mally, she expressed excitement to direct the performance and is determined to make it the best show yet!

Serena is a grade twelve student at St. John's who has taken a strong interest in the dramatic arts courses and activities during her time here. Serena also discussed the reason she felt it was important for our school to bring this production to life, stating that "it is important to bring awareness to an issue that affects millions of people around the world." Serena explained that she wanted to direct this play as she has not seen many other schools perform pieces that cover the same topic, which she believes will help our school stand out during the competition.



The play takes place in a vacant lot and begs the question of how this less-than-ideal situation could possibly happen to people who once led orderly lives. After speaking with a few members of the cast, they explained that this play acts like a handbook for the future homeless. When asked what she hopes the audience gains from the performance, Serena said she hopes that "through the performance the audience is able to gain a better understanding of what if truly means for someone to be homeless and to help break some of the stereotypes that many people still hold in regard to homeless people".



During this interview she also discussed how she believes that although homelessness continues to be a relevant issue, it is not discussed nearly enough.



NTS



TRIKES AGAIN

Tatiana Reid | Tuesday November 27th



Blues is a play that gives a deeper perspective into the everyday lives of the homeless. It answers the questions of where they came from and what led them to be in their current situation. It forces the viewer to realize that these people were once living comfortably, making the piece more emotional and understandable. It allows the audience to come to the realization that they have more in common with people that are homeless, than originally thought.

After briefly discussing the cast and crew she had selected, Serena explained that going into the auditions, she was concerned about the turn out based on last year's audition but she was pleasantly surprised on audition day! When asked how she was feeling about this year's cast in comparison to the cast from the previous year, Serena started by saying that she is very confident in the cast selection for this performance. While speaking with one of the cast members, they expressed that everyone gets along really well which has made this experience more enjoyable. Also, that they are looking forward to continuing to work with everyone. Serena continued by saying that she has witnessed firsthand the talent that each cast member possesses, and she is excited to see what each of them will bring to the stage. Serena appreciates the cast's faith in her as their director and says she will do her best to make the SJC community proud! She is excited to get to know each of the cast members over the upcoming months, as they continue to practice for their performance.

Just before wrapping up the interview with Serena, she was faced with one final question: Can SJC expect to get a preview of this performance before the competition begins? Serena hinted that there will be a performance or two for the school! She is looking forward to granting the SJC community the opportunity to see the performance. Having the support of friends, classmates, and teachers makes the hard work and time spent towards the production truly rewarding. Be sure to check out the school's social media accounts and the drama's Instagram page for all latest updates about the play.

A NEW YEAR, NEW GRADE 9'S, AND ANOTHER SUCESSFUL COLOUR NIGHT

Emilia Punturiero | Monday November 27th 2023

The start of a new school year signals the arrival of new grade nine students coming into the nest. From being the oldest they are back to being the rookies, and there is no better way to introduce and show them what St. John's is all about than, with colour night. Grade nine colour night has been organized for several years and is the perfect opportunity to meet new people and have some fun after just starting high school. It is recognized as a staple within our school, where students get the chance to create lasting memories. After school, all the grade nines meet in the cafeteria and are dispersed into groups based on their homeroom team colour.



Photo: Rachel Guddemi

They then go with their team to compete for the most points and be declared the winner. Some of the games included Huckle Buckle and Guess the Lyrics.



Photo: Rachel Guddemi

They also played a game where you pass a ball around while holding hands, a game where you build a shape with the people on your team and a game where you pass a Life Saver around with a toothpick in your mouth which has been played for many years. There was also the opportunity to participate in other activities such as decorating a banner with a handprint of your team's colour or creating a team cheer. There was also pizza, juice boxes and then finally it was time to share the cheers and chants each team had prepared.

A NEW YEAR, NEW GRADE 9'S, AND ANOTHER SUCESSFUL COLOUR NIGHT

Emilia Punturiero | Monday November 27th 2023

Each team had their own unique cheer, and it was nice to see everyone work with their groups as a team and share their creativity. That being said, some teams had better cheers than others. The team that won the best cheer this year was Purple, and I must say it was well deserved as you could see the effort they put into their cheer. A large number of points were given for the cheers and with a good cheer and having won multiple games, Pink was the overall winner and won the trophy this year. After the winners were announced and the music turned on, the dance began. The best thing about this part of the night was that the students got to just have fun with their friends during the dance, while parents had the opportunity to tour the school. The new grade nine reps were also announced then.



Photo: Rachel Guddemi



Photo: Rachel Guddemi

Although colour nights are enjoyed by many students, there are a few things that could be done differently in the future to make the night even better. Some students enjoyed the games while others preferred the dance portion. Overall, Huckle Buckle was a game that most students enjoyed, but the game with the Life Saver mint was less popular. Some students thought the games could have been more fun and should have had less physical contact. On a more positive note, many students got to socialize and meet new people from their grade and just in general become familiar with the environment. It was nice that food was provided, and students were saying how having the opportunity to make friends was a wonderful way to start off the school year.

COUNCIL CORNER

Attention Eagles! Student Council has a month of festivities and fun for you! For twelve days leading up to Christmas break, student council has put together twelve holly jolly events, to spread Christmas cheer around SJC! Take a look here to learn more!

The twelve days of Christmas will begin on December 7th, with Christmas sweater day and ornament-making! All eagles are encouraged to wear their favourite fun Christmas sweaters, with uniform bottoms. Ornament-making will also take place, in the cafeteria on both lunches.

7

8

On December 8th, both junior and senior football teams will be singing Christmas carols on their respective lunches! With a cash donation, you can request your favourite players to sing you a solo or a duet! All funds collected from this activity will go towards the SJC Angel Campaign.

Student council will be selling hot chocolate and Christmas cookies in the cafeteria, on both lunches, on December 11th! Support Angel Campaign by stopping by for a snack and a warm beverage!

11

12

Santa hat day is December 12th! Show off your Christmas headgear!

Candy grams are back! Student Council will be hand delivering candy cane grams to you and your friends on December 13th. Candy canes and personalized message cards to your friends, will be available for purchase from December 4th to 8th. All profits will be donated to SJC Angel Campaign, so don't miss an opportunity to send some holiday cheer to your friends and teachers!

13

14

December 14th is Christmas pajama day! Come to school dressed in comfy and cozy attire, in your favourite festive pajamas!

COUNCIL CORNER

15

Come cheer on your eagles! The annual student vs. teacher basketball game will take place on a common lunch on December 15th, organized by our Leadership classes.

Did you enjoy last year's ACE movie night? Well then, you are in luck because they are hosting it again! Join ACE after school on December 18th cuddled up in the cafeteria while watching a Christmas movie, enjoying yummy snacks, and warm hot chocolate!

18

19

Rock your festive socks! Christmas sock day is December 19th. But that's not all, spread cheer and joy this holiday season by helping student council make Christmas cards for our friends at Riverview Terrace, in the cafeteria at lunch!

Calling all SJC performers! Gingerbread House is back! The annual holiday-themed coffee house will take place on December 20th! If you have a talent to share, you are encouraged to perform it to the SJC community, after school at Gingerbread House! Look out for announcements on SJC Student Council's social media pages regarding important information about auditions!

20

21

Show us your joy and cheer with your smiles at the Christmas photo booth, in the cafeteria during both lunches, on December 21st!

On the twelfth day of Christmas, SJC brings to you the Spirit of Christmas Day! In addition, this last day of school before holidays, December 22nd, we will have a Pep Rally, and it will be a dress down day. Wearing red, white, and green is highly encouraged!

22

For more information, check out SJC Student Council's social media pages, or ask a friendly council member if see them in the halls! Have a great holiday season Eagles, we cannot wait to see all your spirit!

DRESS DOWN

Emma Cromien

Thursday November 23th

Dress down day is a highly anticipated event at St. John's, but it is expensive to keep up with trends; here's how students are staying stylish on a budget. Dress down day is a break from the monotony of the St. John's uniform. It allows students to express themselves through their outfits, but this can be difficult with rising costs. Many students have turned to thrift stores and outlets to combat this issue. Do you have an abundance of Pinterest boards dedicated to your outfits? Thrift shopping could be the perfect option for you. Grade 12 student Candace says she gets most of her clothes from thrift stores; "Putting [my outfits] all together is really fun for me," she remarked. There is something so satisfying about digging through Goodwill bins for hours until you stumble upon the perfect piece.

If hunting for used clothes does not sound particularly appealing to you, consider checking out department stores for better deals and a more efficient shopping trip. Grade 9 student Nick says, "I got my [favourite] flannel from Winners."

Winners may carry clothes from last season, but this is not a problem when you are buying something as timeless as a flannel.

WINNERS

Grade 10 student Michael says he likes Winners because, "They're always stocked up." Nick and Michael were both able to find their favourite comfortable clothing essentials at Winners. Searching through a huge department store may be time consuming, but if you make it an outing to the mall with your friends it feels like less of a chore.

One of the main reasons we love dress down day is the self-expression it offers us compared to our uniform. Luckily, there are many creative, cost-effective ways to express yourself through your clothing. Grade 11 student Annabelle says she, "Usually [buys] clothes at powwows to wear on dress down days." Annabelle likes to wear Indigenous made clothes to "represent [her] people." Clothing is more than just something we cover up with. Art teacher Ms. Kowalski says, "It's nice to have clothing that does more than just be fashion." Whether that means wearing something that represents your culture, or just a homemade necklace, clothes mean so much more when they are special to you.

So, you know where to look for clothes, now your problem is you do not know which clothes to buy? Considering how much media we consume, it would make sense to pull inspiration from our favourite celebrities.

Candace says she looks up to

“K-pop idols, Rihanna, and Zendaya [for fashion ideas].”

Nick's favourite dressed celebrity is motorcross racer, "Haiden Deegan." Candace and Nick have very contrasting styles, but they both pull inspiration from their favourite celebrities for their outfits.

No matter how they dressed, everyone interviewed agreed St. John's should have more dress down days. Dress down day can be stressful when you do not know where to shop, but between thrift stores, outlets, and street markets, there are options for everyone. You can always find what you are searching for as long as you look in the right places.



Photo: Sadie Keates

GIRLS FIELD HOCKEY MAKES DEBUT AT SJC

CRISTINA ROCCHI
Monday November 13th

For the first time ever, St. John's College welcomed a girls' field hockey team into the halls, and onto the fields of SJC. Joining the league as the fourth team in the AABHN, the Eagles played a total of four games, including a semi-final match. Coaches Mrs. Hutchinson and Mrs. Malecki both agreed that "Although it was a steep learning curve, we all had lots of fun learning how to play the game and connecting as a team."

New to the game, SJC played their first match against the Hagersville Hurricanes at Kiwanis Field on October 2, 2023. Following a penalty shootout, the game surprisingly ended in a Hurricanes loss, despite Hagersville being the most experienced team in the league. After Olivia Bullock scored the first goal of the game, Hagersville was able to tie it up, sending the teams to a shootout. With the first shooter up, Alexia Karmiris was able to score the only goal of the shootouts, leading her team to their first victory ever! St. John's was off to a 1-0 record to start their season.

On October 10th, the Eagles played a second game against the McKinnon Park Devils, a team they would face again later in the season semi-finals. Once again, Bullock scored the first goal making it 1-0. The Devils caught up and made it 1-1, until the last play of the game. The Devils were able to score off a penalty corner, gaining a hard-fought victory over the Eagles, with a 2-1 win.

The third game of the season pitted SJC against the reigning champions: the Assumption College Lions. Heading into that game, the team anticipated a challenge, but kept their heads up, and aimed to focus on their goal. The Eagles put up an excellent fight, with Bullock scoring in the first half of the game. Unfortunately, the team fell short, losing 3-1.




Photo: Sadie Keates

On October 17th, the Eagles and the Devils went head-to-head in a semi-final playoff game. Despite the Eagles having three starting players on the bench due to injuries, the girls still managed to dominate the field for most of the game. Sadly, they were unable to get a clear shot on the net. In the second half of the game, the Devils were able to score and advance to the finals.

While it was a short-lived season that lasted only three weeks, the SJC Eagles were able to quickly form a team of inexperienced players and dive headfirst into a sport they had never played before. Coaches Hutchinson and Malecki both agreed that they are, "excited to learn more about the game" and "continue to advance with the team next year."

AN INTERVIEW IN THE ART ROOM

ESTERROSE ENOS | MONDAY NOVEMBER 27TH, 2023



Room 2058 — a class with artworks strung on each wall and chalkboard, pencils and paintbrushes stored in almost every cabinet, and a healthy dose of creativity in the air. The primary teacher of this chamber, Ms. A. Kowalski, has overseen a generation's worth of students and is a welcoming sight every time you step into art class.

"WHY DID YOU CHOOSE TO DEDICATE SUCH A SIGNIFICANT PORTION OF YOUR LIFE TO ART AND TO TEACHING ART?"

"To be completely honest," she said. "Art makes me happy. It's a blessing to wake up every morning and know that I am being paid for something I would gladly do for free. Also, I love learning and I get to learn all the time through teaching. I have seventy-five students this semester and that means I am now being taught by seventy-five people—I'm learning new things all the time! And being a teacher means that I'm doing all sorts of different things: I'm an art curator, I get to talk about art history, I'm a trip coordinator when my classes go on trips... The only downside that I can think of is that I have to wake up at six in the morning."

"WHAT VALUE CAN WE DERIVE FROM ART TO APPLY INTO OUR DAILY LIVES?" WAS THE OTHER QUESTION THAT WAS POSED TO HER.

For the average student, life is packed to the brim with due dates that arrive far too early, part time jobs with demanding managers, and the inescapable dread of post-secondary education looming just out of sight, but as it turns out, art can remedy these worries. Creativity, at its core, is often the external display of the internal. It is putting your mind on a canvas — a wordless way to sort through your thoughts and emotions. "Therapeutic," as Ms. Kowalski aptly expressed.



Ms. Kowalski, art teacher

In short, there are plenty of purposes in practicing creative mediums, Ms. Kowalski is a wonderful conversationalist whose passion for art shines through in almost every word spoken. Any art class offered at St. John's College is worth your salt if you have a spare slot in your timetable.



Q: WHAT WORD IN THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE DOES THE FOLLOWING:
THE FIRST TWO LETTERS SIGNIFY A MALE, THE FIRST THREE LETTERS SIGNIFY A FEMALE, THE FIRST FOUR LETTERS SIGNIFY A GREAT, WHILE THE ENTIRE WORD SIGNIFIES A GREAT WOMAN.

A: Heroine.

Q: I HAVE CITIES BUT NO HOUSES. I HAVE MOUNTAINS, BUT NO TREES. I HAVE WATER, BUT NO FISH. WHAT AM I?

A map.

Q: YOU MEASURE MY LIFE IN HOURS, AND I SERVE YOU BY EXPIRING. I'M QUICK WHEN I'M THIN AND SLOW WHEN I'M FAT. THE WIND IS MY ENEMY.

A: candle.

Q: IT BELONGS TO YOU, BUT YOUR FRIENDS USE IT MORE. WHAT IS IT?

A: Your name.

Did you hear about the guy whose left side was cut off? He's all right now.

Q: What's the difference between a golfer and a skydiver?

A: A golfer goes whack "darn" and a skydiver goes "darn" whack.

I couldn't figure out why the baseball kept getting larger. Then it hit me.

Q: Why were the teacher's eyes crossed?

A: She couldn't control her pupils.

On a perfect day in October, the grade 12 English classes had the opportunity to visit the charming town of Stratford Ontario. Travelling through miles of fields and autumn trees beginning to change colour, the scene was set for a wonderfully cozy day. Stratford, Ontario is given its name from Stratford, England, the birthplace of Shakespeare. The festival produces various plays each season, typically including two or three works by Shakespeare, classic stories, comedies, as well as new productions. This year, the students were given the chance to see *King Lear*, an infamous Shakespeare tragedy, brought to life on the Stratford Festival stage.

Upon our arrival, we walked through the garden and then were led to a fun workshop experience led by two of the Stratford Company's actors. One of these individuals happened to be the gentlemen who plays Oswald in the production. The workshop allowed us to have some fun, find our inner Shakespeare, and, most importantly, learn more about the play.

Before the show began, we had a lovely lunch on the scenic main street. Afterwards, there was the chance to look in the local bookstore and even grab a latte or ice cream before returning to the festival theatre in time for the play to begin.

King Lear is one of Shakespeare's most well-known tragedies, and it certainly lives up to the name. It tackles a story of a king who is grappling with his grip on reality and, ultimately, losing his three daughters. Filled with family conflict, manipulation and secrets, *King Lear* is certainly no Holiday Hallmark Movie.

Play Review: *King Lear*

Tessa North
Monday, November 20th



Play Review: *King Lear*

Tessa North
Monday, November 20th

I am no expert when it comes to Shakespeare, but what I do know is that the beauty and emotion within Shakespeare is revealed when it is brought to the stage. To bring such a cast of characters to life is a tall order; however, the Stratford Company managed to rise to the occasion, exhibiting a vast array of skill and talent among a single stage.

HOW DO THE LESSONS OF SHAKESPEARE
CONTINUE TO BE RELEVANT TODAY?

There is more than one reason to be sure, but in terms of performance, it is the unique depth and life brought to each character every time an actor steps on stage. The performers of the Stratford Company have the undeniable gift of taking a character written centuries ago and relating their complex story to today's ever-changing society. Apart from the tremendous talent displayed by the acting company, what truly stands out on its own is the exquisite costume design. Each one of the king's daughters had a unique wardrobe which changed and reflected their characters transition as the story progressed. There is a great deal of hidden talent that makes the performance possible including the lights and effects used to emphasize and illuminate a classic story. In short, this production was well worth the trip and received outstanding reviews from the students in attendance, which goes to show the necessity of seeing Stratford's talent for yourself.



Tips for Grade Nines

**QUESTION: WHAT IS IT LIKE
STARTING THE NEW SEMESTER?**

Answer: Once exams are done, there are a few days off of school in between semesters so that you can switch gears for your new classes. On the first day, you'll be going to new classes and meeting new teachers, which can be overwhelming to do all over again, but don't be afraid to ask for help getting around...we've all been there! The start of the new semester will be very similar to your first day of school, meaning that the first few days will be about getting to know your teachers and the course material ahead of you. Don't worry, you'll get the hang of the new semester like you've gotten the hang of your current semester.

**QUESTION: HOW CAN I MEET NEW
PEOPLE?**

Answer: There are many clubs and sports teams that run at different times throughout the school year. Don't be discouraged if you didn't sign up for anything right off the bat because there will always be more opportunities to try something new. Participating in school activities like dances and supporting our fellow Eagles on the field can help you meet new friends as well as expand the friendships you already have. Remember that sometimes people aren't always meant to stay in your life but don't let that isolate you from putting yourself out there!

**QUESTION: HOW CAN I STAY UP TO
DATE ABOUT SCHOOL EVENTS?**

Answer: SJC is on various social media platforms, including Twitter, Instagram, and Tik Tok. Following these resources @sjc_eagles on Instagram, @sjc_council on Tik Tok, or even SJCEagles on Twitter. These resources can be a huge game changer when staying updated on the latest events at our school. If you don't have any social media apps, that's okay! Stay tuned for SJC-TV, student council homeroom visits, and ask your teachers or peers any questions you have.

QUESTION: IS IT OKAY TO TALK TO THE OLDER GRADES?

Answer: Absolutely! Having a wide variety of friends spread out across our school encourages a stronger sense of Eagle Pride and community. Getting involved with the school allows you to build those friendships and meet new people along the way. The senior students are happy to help if you have questions or need peer guidance if you're struggling, so don't be afraid to ask!

QUESTION: I WANTED TO RUN FOR GRADE 9 REPRESENTATIVE, BUT I WAS TOO LATE TO PARTICIPATE. HOW CAN I GET ON STUDENT COUNCIL NEXT YEAR?

Answer: Make sure you involve yourself where help is needed for student council, whether that be offering to help set up dances or helping at school liturgies. Towards the end of the year, you will have the opportunity to put your name in the running for next year's council so make sure to follow up with the current student council for further updates.

QUESTION: HOW DO I KNOW IF MY TEACHER IS CHILL OR NOT?

Answer: Every teacher has their own style of teaching, and it is important, especially for the first few days of classes, to try and figure out their style. It is crucial to remain respectful towards them as your teacher but feel comfortable answering questions and starting discussions in class. Overall, it is really up to them to establish class boundaries. Your role as a student is to follow them. As the semester progresses, students and teachers tend to get used to the classroom and more comfortable around each other after you all get to know each other a little, meaning that there won't always be tension.



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FOR MAKING THIS MAGAZINE
COME TO LIFE

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