

# LHS to Hold First Annual ACS Relay For Life

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By Ben Hicks  
*@hicks12 | Features Editor*

Loveland, Ohio - In partnership with the American Cancer Society, Loveland High School will hold its first annual Relay For Life this May. Relay for Life is a campaign led by the American Cancer Society, with over 5,000 annual events held globally across twenty countries. The initiative, hosted on countless university and high school campuses, raises money and awareness for the largest volunteer health organization in the US.

The event at Loveland High School will be sponsored and organized by the LHS Student-Athlete Leadership Team (SALT). Nearly 60 students from LHS's largest leadership group will organize the event through twelve specific Relay Committees. Seniors **Skylar Lundeen (12)**, **Courtney Haneline (12)**, **Olivia Raby (12)**, and **Alex Saletta (12)** serve as the chairs and chief organizers for the event, with juniors **Ben Hicks (11)** and **Gabby Saletta (11)** serving as co-chairs. The twelve committees each have a chair and an additional four to five group members to prepare for the event, which will be held at Tiger Stadium on Friday, May 5th, from 6pm to midnight.

Relay for Life was founded in 1985 when Dr. Gordon Klatt, a surgeon from Tacoma, Washington, decided to use his passion of marathoning to raise money and awareness for cancer. Klatt announced his plan to walk continuously around the track at a local university for 24 straight hours,

and allowed friends and family to donate \$25 to walk alongside him for 30 minute intervals. After 24 consecutive hours of walking, Klatt had logged 83 miles, and raised over \$27,000 for cancer research. Following his inaugural relay, Klatt began recruiting teams in the Tacoma area to hold their own Relay for Life to raise money for the American Cancer Society. Eventually, Dr. Klatt's message would contagiously expand across the nation and the world, and today, Relay For Life has raised more than \$5 billion worldwide.

SALT's staff leader **Brian Baugh** said that after discussion with the four senior chairs this past summer, it became apparent that SALT needed to organize a positive event to aid in connecting the Loveland community with the school district. The Relay For Life campaign, already hosted by numerous Cincinnati area high schools, served as a perfect opportunity for SALT to strengthen the Loveland community.

SALT will begin to recruit local teams, clubs, organizations, businesses, and students to form 10-person Relay teams, which will raise \$500 each, and continue Dr. Klatt's legacy by walking around the track at Tiger Stadium for six consecutive hours. Loveland SALT has an official goal of raising \$10,000 for the American Cancer Society, but with the help of students and local businesses, could realistically raise close to \$50,000. The 6-hour event in May will include a survivorship walk, a candlelight vigil, and team spirit events.

Students from around the country have described the event as a 6-hour long school party.

SALT will hold a kickoff event after school in the media center on February 17th to officially open the Relay for Life Campaign to end cancer. In the meantime, feel free to reach out to Mr. Baugh, Mr. Bryant, or any of the chairs with questions regarding Relay For Life.

RELAY 4 LIFE

May 5th

6pm-Midnight

LHS Turf



Register Here

# FTC Robotics Teams Advance to State Championship

By Jack Gerber  
*@JackGerbr | News Editor*

Loveland's First Tech Challenge Robotics Teams, "Nuts and Bolts" and "The Bionic Tigers" have advanced to the Ohio State Championship. They both won the Inspire Award, the highest award in FIRST Tech Challenge, at qualifier competitions.

"The Bionic Tigers" competed at the Kirtland Qualifier near Cleveland on January 7th. Although the team placed 14th in the elimination rounds, they were able to make an exciting comeback after winning the Inspire Award, FIRST Tech Challenge's highest award, which is given to the team that not only has a great robot but is also highly professional and works extensively with the community. Since the team was able to win this award, they were able to advance to the state competition.

**Luke Blaker (12)**, team lead for "The Bionic Tigers" says that he "is excited to attend the state championship" and that he's "hopeful that our team will qualify for the world championship."

Later, "Nuts and Bolts" competed at the Miami University Qualifier on January 14th. At that competition, they placed 5th in the initial elimination rounds, but they were selected as the first pick of the 1st seed alliance. After the intense final rounds, "Nuts and Bolts'" alliance was able to win, which allowed them to take a state championship qualification spot. Later, during the awards ceremony, it was announced that they had won the Inspire Award as well. **Allison Spitzley (11)**, team lead for "Nuts and Bolts" says that this award "not only advances our team to Ohio

State but recognizes Loveland's outreach to the community to involve them in STEM."

FIRST Tech Challenge is a robotics competition in which teams across the world build robots to complete tasks that are established at the start of the season as a part of the game reveal. This year's game is called "Power Play," in which teams must score cones on top of towers. This program teaches participants skills in engineering, programming, and business, which translate well to college and workplace.

Teams generally build their robots starting at the game reveal in September until they begin competing in January. This year, Loveland's teams decided to compete at Kentucky's League Meets in November, which are low stress opportunities to test robots and practice driving, but they required that robots be completed by November. Since these league meets, Loveland's teams have continued improving their robots, with "The Bionic Tigers" even completely redesigning their robot to be more efficient. In January, teams begin to compete at qualifier competitions for the Ohio State Championship, in which 5 teams advance from each event. If teams can advance, they will attend the Ohio State Championship, where teams compete for one of 2 spots at the World Championship in Houston, Texas. Loveland's teams will also be competing at the Kentucky State Championship, giving them the opportunity to qualify for Worlds there as well. While both of Loveland's teams have attended Worlds in the past, with "The Bionic Tigers" attending last year, only about 2% of FIRST Tech Challenge teams qualify, making it

very difficult for teams to get there.

If you'd like to watch Loveland's teams compete at the Ohio State Competition, it will be on Saturday, March 11th at the Hobart Arena in Troy.




Photo Courtesy of Jack Gerber (11)

Robotics poses for a team picture following a competition. They qualified for state.




Photo Courtesy of Jack Gerber (11)

The Robotics team focuses in the heat of competition. They were one of a select few to qualify for states.





# Valentine's Day 2

Tuesday, February 14, 2023      The Loveland Roar      Page Editor: Kate Krabacher

## Does Matchomatics Really Work?

By Kate Krabacher  
@lovelandroar | Staff Writer

It is the time of year for Valentine's Day, which means it is time for Matchomatics at Loveland High School. Matchomatics is a school fundraiser that allows all students to fill out a survey on their preferences in a significant other and matches them with someone else in the school.

Questions range from "What is your favorite thing to do in your free time?" to "How tall would you prefer your significant other to be?" Some take this fundraiser very seriously by putting much thought into their answers. Some barely pay any attention to the questions. Either way, you fill it out, it is a fun activity to participate in during this season. The real question is: does this survey really help you find your soulmate?

After everyone in the school takes the survey, the comparisons begin. Your answers are cross-referenced with everyone else in the school. Around Valentines Day,

the results come out. Student council has them available for \$3 during lunch to raise money for different school events. When you get your results back, it gives you a percentage of the likelihood that you are compatible with your top 22 people. It sorts them into male and female matches in your grade, but it also gives you the top matches that are not in your grade. Students get excited every year to see the results of who they matched best with.

The percentages are only based on answers provided in the survey, which some think is not as accurate. **Sara Bebout (11)** doesn't think they are accurate enough to find your soulmate. "I think Matchomatics is super fun," Bebout says. "Everyone loves getting the results and seeing who they match with but I don't think it works," Although Bebout doesn't think this survey is accurate in matching people, she says that she will continue to buy the results to see who she matches with for the fun of it.

It is hard to believe that your match can be found

through a couple of questions in a survey and even though the algorithm is not statistically proven to start relationships, it is a great way to spark a conversation between you and another person on your list. The survey looks for compatibility based on your interests, which can be a great way to find a new significant other or just a new friend. The real relationships that have been started from this survey are few and far between, but there is always hope that you could be one of them.

Although this Matchomatics survey may not be the most accurate in finding a soulmate, it is still a fun way to support Loveland Student Council. Students love the anticipation of the possibility of finding a significant other at Loveland High School. This survey will be done in an advisory bell soon, then the Matchomatics results will be available at lunch for purchase. Make sure to purchase yours and see who you are most compatible with!

## Titanic Celebrates its 25th Year

By Michael Dakoske  
@lovelandroar | Staff Writer

For 25 years, Titanic, starring Leonardo DiCaprio and Kate Winslet, has been a staple of cinematic love stories. The film highlights the story of a wealthy 17-year-old who falls in love with a poor artist aboard the R.M.S Titanic, the historic ship that famously crashed into an iceberg and sank in the Atlantic Ocean in 1912. This year, the film will be re-released in theaters on February 10th to celebrate its 25th anniversary. The film has been remastered in 4K 3D for its re-release, but everything else about the film will remain the same.

Although the true 25th anniversary of the film was in December, the director, James Cameron, chose to re-release it in February. In an interview on SiriusXM's The Jess Cagle Show, Cameron said, "the date that made sense to me was Valentine's Day, because, in the original release, which was 1997 into 1998, we came out a few days before Christmas. I think it was [December 19]. But the highest-grossing single day of the release was Valentine's Day." Cameron further explains that it's, "very unusual for a film that's been in the marketplace for two months to have its biggest single performing day. So [the re-release is] a

celebration of love. It's a celebration of the movie, at the same time. And it's a celebration of the success of the movie as well." Additionally, Cameron directed Avatar: Way of Water, which came out on December 16th, 2022, only three days before the true 25th anniversary of Titanic. This was most likely a strategic

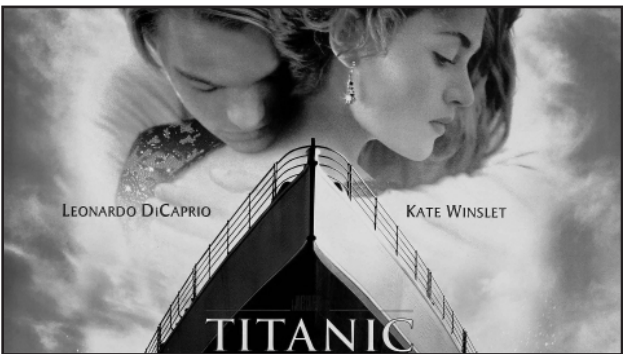


Photo Courtesy of Wallpapers.com

move by Cameron to have a longer period of relevancy for his films.

In 2017, Titanic returned to theaters as a 20th-anniversary celebration, like it is doing now, which is making fans wonder why there is a 25th-anniversary celebration and a 20th-anniversary celebration.

Cameron explained that "I figured that I was probably not going to be around for the 50th anniversary, so why not celebrate the 25th anniversary...there's another kind of half-generation of people that haven't seen Titanic in a movie theater and maybe a bunch of nostalgia for, you know, amongst people that have seen it in a movie theater or have always wanted to."

After its release in 1997, Titanic won eleven Academy Awards: Best Picture, Best Director, Best Cinematography, Best Film Editing, Best Art Direction-Set Direction, Best Costume Design, Best Original Dramatic Score, Best Original Song, Best Sound, Best Sound Effects Editing and Best Visual Effects. It is also the third highest-grossing film worldwide of all-time, following Avatar and Avengers: Endgame. According to forbes.com, Titanic has grossed roughly \$1.8 billion worldwide, \$600 million domestically, and \$28 million in the first weekend. Titanic was successful and remains timeless, so Cameron can expect great success this February.

If you're a big fan of Titanic and want to support the 25th Anniversary even further, the Disney Shop is now selling 25th Anniversary Titanic merchandise, including collectibles from the movie itself, hats, scarves, and t-shirts. You can find all of this at shopdisney.com.

## Dua Lipa and Jack Harlow dating?

By Kate Krabacher  
@lovelandroar | Staff Writer

Jack Harlow and Dua Lipa are two of the most famous pop music artists in 2023. Fans idolize these artists and love to hear about their personal lives. Recently, rumors have been flying around about these two musicians being more than just colleagues. After seeing these two spend time together outside of events and writing songs about each other, fans have started to speculate that Harlow and Lipa are in a relationship.

Dua Lipa's music took off in 2015 and since then, she's released new songs like "New Rules" and "Don't Start Now" which have also become very popular. Lipa has worked with DaBaby on her most recent hit

"Levitating" which spent 3 weeks as #1 on the Billboard Charts.

Jack Harlow has a similar route to success in the music industry. Ever since Harlow's music became popular on TikTok in 2020, his career has taken off. Harlow released a new album "Come Home The Kids Miss You" in May 2022, which has proven to be popular on more than just social media. Harlow's song "First Class" was #1 on the Billboards for weekly streams for two consecutive weeks. This song beat out "As It Was" by Harry Styles as #1 for weekly streams.

The song that sparked listeners' curiosity on Harlow's new album was called, "Dua Lipa." Fans were excited about this possible Hollywood match-up when they heard this song because of the lyric, "Dua Lipa, I'm tryna do more with her than do a feature." Many fans think Harlow was alluding to the fact that he has feelings for his fellow star. Harlow said in an interview that he got Lipa's approval before releasing the song. She was not thrilled about the song when she first heard it, but she approved it for Harlow to release.

Six months prior to the song, "Dua Lipa" being released by Harlow, Lipa and her boyfriend, Anwar Hadid, had broken up after two years together. Fans speculated that Harlow started writing this song after hearing about this breakup as a way to spark communication with Lipa, but it appeared that Lipa did not feel the same way.

As time went by, fans were losing hope that this

relationship would happen. However, Harlow sparked more rumors when he gave an interview with Us Weekly. He said that he has been in "constant communication"



Photo Courtesy of Page Six

with Lipa and is "very interested in her." This was more evidence of a possible relationship, but not enough to make claims. In December 2022, iHeartRadio's Jingle Ball was held in New York. Lipa was performing at this event and there were multiple reports of Harlow and Lipa hanging out during this event. The next day after the event, the pop stars were seen getting lunch together.

Although there is lots of evidence of the two being romantically involved, fans are still waiting for confirmation on Jack Harlow and Dua Lipa's possible relationship. Until then, fans are patiently waiting for the collaboration between these two as Harlow promised in his song about Lipa.



Photo Courtesy of People.com





## Top 3 Romantic Comedies

By Sam Crane

@lovelandroar | Staff Writer

Some people love them and some people hate them, but here is a list of my top 3 romantic comedies.

At number 3, *50 First Dates*. This movie is one of my favorite movies of all time because.... Its elaborate plot adds glimpses of mystery and an eerie aspect that.... The plot follows Henry Roth, a resident of Hawaii who falls for a young woman after a great first date. Little does Henry know, Lucy has short-term memory loss from a car accident and forgets who Henry is every day. He must remind her every day who he is and he gets to make a new first impression every day. Henry's character is perfected because he is also played by one of the best character actors ever, Adam Sandler. The plot adds an amazing aspect as the audience can see many scenarios where Henry succeeds or fails. The movie has an amazing ending which I highly recommend you watch.

My number 2 RomCom for this list is *10 things I Hate About You*. This creative plot follows high schooler Kat, who is opposed to relationships, while her younger sister Bianca is the queen of the school. The 2 sisters' father says that Bianca is not allowed to date until Kat does. When

young stud Patrick Verona enters the picture, it develops good plotlines as Kat and Bianca are taught lessons about life and about relationships. The movie has some famously hilarious scenes and is a classic among our generation. Patrick Verona as the late great Heath Ledger also adds some greatness to the movie. This one is entertaining and relatively appropriate for a good laugh and a cute love story.

My number 1 Romantic Comedy is *Forrest Gump*. It's hard to compete with such an amazing movie. The movie follows Forrest Gump, a man from rural Alabama. It credits his life through his own narration and storytelling. It is popular because of its unique way of storytelling. Since the movie is told from Forrest's perspective, we see a lot of situations that are uniquely interpreted in Forest's eyes, but his point of view leaves out some details that the audience can pick up on easily since.... A recurring theme is that, even when people treat him badly, he is still sweet and understanding. His character is blissfully ignorant of any negativity. My favorite aspect is how we see the conflict in his life up until he reaches the point where he ends up at the bus stop he has been telling his whole life

story at and where the movie has taken place up until that point. We then see the conclusion of the movie, this time, as it's actually happening. It is truly a beautiful movie with a heartwarming ending and an emotional plot as Forrest grows up in one of the most tumultuous times in American history.w

Those are my top 3 Romantic Comedies. Consider these movies when you are putting something on to watch with that special someone today.



## Valentine's Day Traditions Worldwide

By Mahi Sheth

@lovelandroar | Staff Writer

Valentine's day is here! You will see so many places decorated with hearts, glitter, red and white decor. Couples being handed heart-shaped candies, stuffed toys, balloons, and varieties of chocolates.

We know what people here in the USA do for Valentine's Day. How about the rest of the world, though? What do they do on the day of love? Before we get into the different traditions around the world, here is a brief history about Valentine's Day.

### History Surrounding Valentine's Day

Valentine's Day is celebrated worldwide in honor of Saint Valentine, but who is this enigmatic figure and why is the holiday celebrated with such enthusiasm? According to legend, Valentine was a priest in Rome during the third century. When Claudius II declared that single men made better soldiers than those with children and wives, he banned young soldiers from getting married. Valentine began performing secret marriages for young couples in protest against the injustice being done to young males. When the emperor learned of Valentine's acts, he demanded that the saint be executed. Saint Valentine gained popularity over time to the point where Valentine's Day is now recognized as the day of love by lovers everywhere.

### Traditions Around the World

Here are some countries and their traditions for Valentine's day.

#### Argentina

In Argentina, people celebrate "The Week of Sweetness" in July instead of Valentine's Day in February. On this day, couples exchange kisses and receive chocolates and other sweets. Sweetness week takes place in the first week of July, from the 1st to the 7th. It was founded in Argentina in 1989 as a result of the advertising campaign "a candy for a kiss" created by the brand Arcor. It was part of a sales-boosting marketing strategy. Every July 1st, we can see posters promoting this occasion in newspapers and candy stores.

#### Bulgaria

The equivalent to Valentine's Day in Bulgaria is called Trifon Zarezan, also known as The Day of Winemakers. They have a day of wine and feasting to honor St. Trifon, the patron saint of vineyards. On this day, it is customary to prune the vines. Winemakers go into their vineyards, trim the vines, water the soil with wine, and pray for a good harvest. Everyone in the village then contributes fresh bread, fried chicken, and a wine container. They all vote for the king, who produces the best wine and grapes. They dress him in a crown of cut vines and lead him solemnly to his home. There, he generously draws them

with wine.

#### Denmark

Valentine's day was not celebrated in Denmark until the 1990s, but that didn't stop the Danes from creating their own twist on Valentine's Day. On February 14, Danish people give pressed white flowers known as "snowdrops" to friends and romantic partners in place of Americans' red roses. Another element of Valentine's Day is the exchange of "lovers' cards," which were originally transparent cards with an image of the sender giving a gift to their partners.

What do you do for Valentine's Day? Do you have the traditional chocolates and roses to give? Or are you doing something different this year? Whatever you plan to do today, HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY!



Photo courtesy of Zeynel Cebeci on Wikimedia Commons

## Growth of Valentine's Day as a Commercial Holiday

By Sean Behling

@lovelandroar | Chief Editor

From chocolates to flowers, from cards to jewelry, Valentine's Day is a time for giving gifts to those you love. But how did Valentine's Day become what it is today? How did it grow into a huge commercial holiday? Let's find out more about how it all got started and how it's evolved to where it is today.

Valentine's Day originated from the legends surrounding the death of St. Valentine. However, who specifically he was, and what specifically he did, is shrouded in mystery. In fact, the Catholic Church recognizes at least 3 separate saints who were named either Valentine or Valentinus. While there are even more legends than this, they all tell the story of St. Valentine dying in a heroic way on February 14th, causing that day to be called the Feast of St. Valentine in his honor.

But how was it associated with love and romance? While some believe that it was due to St. Valentine's reputation as the "patron saint of lovers," others claim that celebrating St. Valentine's feast day in the middle of February was done in order to "Christianize" the pagan celebration of Lupercalia (History). Lupercalia was a fertility festival celebrated by the Roman people dedicated to the Roman god of agriculture, Faunus, and the two founding leaders of Rome, Romulus and Remus. While Lupercalia supposedly did survive the initial rise of Christianity, it was outlawed by Pope Gelasius I at the end of the 5th century. It is also

believed that Gelasius replaced Lupercalia by declaring February 14th be celebrated as St. Valentines Day, but the holiday would not become celebrated as a day of romance until about the 14th century.



Photo courtesy of Syced on Wikimedia Commons

Valentine's Day did not become popular until around the 17th century, and along with it came the tradition of gifting Valentine's Day flowers. Valentine's cards did not

grow into the mainstream until the 18th century, and at this point they were all handmade. Pre-printed cards did not show up until later in the 18th century in Britain, with the oldest surviving example on display in York Castle Museum, dating back to 1797. The early 19th century and the industrialisation of Britain allowed Valentine's cards to be mass-produced more than ever before. By the mid 1820s, an estimated 200,000 Valentines were circulated in London alone (HistoryExtra). According to the RoyalExaminer, it wasn't until 1861 that an English candy maker named Richard Cadbury had the idea to sell chocolates specifically for Valentine's Day and package them in heart-shaped boxes, popularizing this way of selling it.

Now, Valentine's Day has become a major holiday for the buying and selling of chocolates, flowers, cards, and other romantic gifts to mark the occasion. On average, consumers in the US planned to spend \$175.41 in 2022, combining for an expected total of \$23.9 billion spent. This was an increase from the \$21.8 billion in 2021, and is the second highest yearly amount people planned to spend on record (the highest being \$27.4 billion in 2020) (NRF).

However you enjoy spending Valentine's Day, it's always fun to look back and see how the holiday we know today grew over time into what it is now.





Tuesday, February 14th, 2023

The Loveland Roar

Page Editor: Chase G. & Sam C.

## Loveland Baseball Preview 2023

By Chase Gibson

@lovelandroar | Sports Editor

Loveland sports have endured some high expectations this season, and the baseball program is no different. The bar is set high for the team this year, and in a loaded Eastern Cincinnati Conference, the competition will certainly be fierce.

Before the 2022 season, the last two years for the Loveland Baseball program were mediocre at best. The team went a combined 22-30 the two previous seasons, with just a 13-19 record in the ECC.

However, last season, the Tigers finished with a winning record for the first time since 2018, and that momentum and excitement have clearly carried over into this season. Despite losing Pacific commit Jackson Lux ('22) and five other seniors, this team is loaded with young talent and plenty of guys with varsity experience.

This year's team is led by Morehead State University commit **Callum McGill (12)** and University of Northwestern Ohio commit **Tyler Huff (12)**. In 2022, McGill threw 32.0 innings, with a 1.09 ERA and 42 strikeouts, racking up one of the best seasons by a pitcher in recent history. McGill was also lethal in the batters' box, batting .264 with 25 RBIs and 2 triples. Huff had a

ridiculous campaign in the box as well, as he batted .325 with a team-high 26 RBIs.

Both of these two are very high on the team's potential this year. Described Huff, "This year's team has a bond like no other team I've been a part of. Throughout this offseason, we've been pushing each other to be the best we can, whether in the weight room or on the field." McGill agrees, "Honestly, this team is special because we have grown up together and seen each other grow in the game of baseball together."

The overwhelming experience on this team is a monumental reason why most people are high on the Tigers coming into the season, **Max Harper (11)** believes this team's experience will help guide the Tigers to a great season "We have ten seniors playing a large role in this team and it is a blessing to have such an experienced roster. These guys have played at the varsity level and know how to win." **Drew Holman (11)** agrees, and truly believes that experience has inspired everyone to work hard this offseason. "With the seniors' help, everyone has been getting after it and this has built an important bond that will certainly translate to the field."

McGill isn't the only dangerous pitcher that could start for this Tigers team. **Aiden Hansen (11)**, **Jared Werling**

(12), and **Tyler Evans (12)** lead the rotation for Loveland. As for the offensive side, **Ryan Cathey (12)**, **Cole Carrigan (12)**, and **Charlie Meckey (12)** lead a deep and well experienced group of hitters.

With an absolutely loaded ECC with West Clermont, Milford, Kings, and Turpin all having incredible depth and talent, the Tigers are going to need to compete fiercely, and this team seems like the perfect group to do so. With the balance of experience and younger talent, this Tigers team can be the team to win the conference this season.



Photo Courtesy of Griffin Studebaker

Tyler Huff crouches in position at the plate. Huff led the team in RBIs last season with 26.

## Academic Team Overview

By Jack Gerber

@JackGerbr | News Editor

Loveland's Academic Team, an Ohio High School Athletic Association winter sport, is fascinating to watch and a ton of fun to be a part of. They compete against other schools on Wednesdays at 4:00 PM, with home matches in the library.

Each match has four rounds, with four players per team allowed in each round. The first two are the category rounds, with Round One having the categories American Literature, Math, World History, Fine Arts, and Life Science, and Round Two having World Literature, Government/Economics, Physical Science, Geography, and American History. Each category gives each team the opportunity to answer a question and ends with a toss-up question, which teams must be the first to buzz in to answer. The next round is the Alphabet Round, in which teams are given 4 minutes to answer 20 questions written on a sheet of paper, with all answers beginning with the same letter. The final round is the Lightning Round, where there are 20 questions that are like the earlier toss-up questions, which

require teams to be the first to buzz in. This presents the dilemma of when to buzz, as if teams choose to buzz with incomplete information, they may get the answer wrong, but if they wait until the end of the question, then the other team may buzz first. At the end of the match, the team that has the highest score wins.

Loveland has two teams, a Varsity and a Junior Varsity team with the main difference being that the Junior Varsity questions are geared more towards underclassmen, with Varsity questions being geared more toward upperclassmen. Both compete with teams at schools across the Eastern Cincinnati Conference, with Varsity and Junior Varsity both playing 2 matches each week.

**Alex Loja (12)**, a member of the Varsity team, says that he enjoys "being able to compete with other schools over the levels of intelligence," especially "with people who think similarly to me." His favorite memory on the team was when he was "curling the lobby tables in front of competitors to intimidate them" before a match. **Aaron Spjut (11)**, a member of the Junior Varsity team, enjoys being on the team because it's "a welcome place to be after

school," and it allows him to "feel like I'm utilizing my time effectively." Spjut's favorite memory on the team was "when JV got all 20 questions right in the alphabet round."

If you want to try out some Academic Team questions, here are some from past rounds:

1. Commonwealth
2. Frozen
3. The Oregon Trail
1. States such as Kentucky and Virginia are among 4 states that use this designation instead of calling themselves states
2. Hans Christian Anderson's story, "The Snow Queen" was the inspiration for what hit 2013 film about a princess whose magical powers allow her to create and manipulate snow and ice?
3. Independence, Missouri marked the starting point for what famous trail, which many American settlers traveled along in covered wagons during the mid-1800s on their way to a namesake territory in the Pacific Northwest?

# Loveland Dairy Whip

## 2023 Opening Day: March 3rd

### Hiring Smiling Faces.

### Apply in person starting March 6th.



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Loveland, OH  
513-683-0992  
www.TheLDW.com

Spring Hours  
2 pm - 9 pm





## New Loveland Police Chief

By Mahi Sheth

@lovelandroar | Staff Writer

Loveland has a new chief of police as of August 2022. Chief Michael J. Gabrielson formerly started off as a patrolman in 1993 and later served as Assistant Chief of Police for the Kettering (Ohio) Police Department. As Assistant Chief, he was in charge of one of the department's two main divisions, with a particular emphasis on patrol operations, administrative assistance, community relations, and criminal investigations.

Chief Gabrielson has more than 20 years of experience as a law enforcement instructor and more than 25 years of experience as an Ohio-Certified Peace Officer. He graduated from Tiffin University with a Master's in Criminal Justice Administration, and he has continued his study through the Northwestern University Center for Public Safety

Chief Gabrielson has ten years of experience in criminal investigations and is knowledgeable about all forms of crime. He's participated in extensive, complex criminal investigations undercover for more than 7 years. He teaches law enforcement officers about drugs, animal fighting, search warrants, firearms (pistol, shotgun, rifle), use of force, emergency vehicle operations, evidence gathering, and many other topics.

Chief Gaberialson held a number of responsibilities during his 29 years of employment with the City of Kettering, among which he held the positions of Detective, Sergeant, Lieutenant, and eventually Captain. During his roughly nine years as a detective, he maintained Special Deputation status with the Federal Bureau of Investigations

and the United States Marshals Service. He was also a task force investigator for the Ohio Organized Crime Investigations Commission (OOCIC). Chief Gaberialson took part in investigations in Florida, Texas, California, New York, New Jersey, Wisconsin, Illinois, Ohio, Indiana, Pennsylvania, Kentucky, Michigan, and Illinois.

He also participated in undercover investigations for instances involving the Interstate Transportation of Stolen Property and Vehicles, Welfare and Food Stamp Fraud, Narcotics Possession and Trafficking, Firearms Possession



Photo courtesy of Loveland Beacon

and Trafficking, Explosives Possession and Trafficking, violations of the Animal Welfare Act, and Gambling. When undercover Chief Gaberialson says he's "purchased explosives I mean you you name it I probably purchased it at some point a lot of stolen property but yeah it's really an acting job is really what it comes down to is going out and getting somebody's trust and having them commit a crime"

As a Detective, Gaberialson was in charge of receiving and looking into reports of crimes and non-crimes from the public, his colleagues, his superiors, and his own initiative. Investigations into assault, burglary, domestic violence, fraud, homicide, menacing, theft, rape, and robbery have been among his responsibilities.

After getting a promotion to Lieutenant, he was assigned to the Criminal Investigations Section consisting of eight full-time investigators. As a Watch Commander, he was tasked with overseeing two patrol sergeants, fourteen officers, and their units on the third watch (afternoon) shift in order to aid the division commander in the administration, direction, and coordination of division activities. He was in charge of overseeing all 3rd Watch patrol actions on a daily basis. All reports submitted to their agency were examined by Gaberialson, who also handled any follow-up requests from police, detectives, or other divisions or sections. He coordinated collaboration with local, state, and federal agencies in intelligence and criminal justice-related fields. In order to close as many investigations as possible, he also provided help for police and investigators on open/active cases. Gaberialson spent almost five years as a lieutenant.

## Coffee Shop Highlight: Adesso Coffee

By Maria Monfreda

@lovelandroar | Staff Writer

For the month of January, I will be highlighting Adesso Coffee. Adesso is definitely a very unique and underrated spot. Only 20 minutes away from Loveland, Adesso is open every morning at 7 am (9 am on Sundays) and they close at 5 pm or 7 pm on weekdays, and 9 pm on weekends. Adesso is an Italian spot as Adesso means "now" in Italian and the coffee definitely does not disappoint. If you prefer hot coffee I recommend my personal favorite, the mocha. I know a mocha is a basic coffee drink that most places have however, Adesso's is by far the best one I have ever tasted. If you are more of an iced coffee lover I recommend the Iced Honey Cinnamon Latte. One thing I love about

Adesso is how reasonably priced their drinks are. All of their lattes are five dollars which is the most expensive thing on the menu, with items as low as \$2.50. Something unique about Adesso is the variety of events they hold at the coffee shop. They have Latin dance classes and Spanish language classes right inside. If you are ever bored and in need of something to do it's the perfect way to learn something new. They post about these events frequently on their Instagram, so if it is something you'd be interested in, definitely follow their Instagram @adessocoffe. They also have live music every weekend with a variety of different bands, so if you like coffee and live music it's the perfect place for you. Adesso Coffee is a very underrated spot so close to home. I definitely recommend trying it out.



Photo courtesy of Flickr

## Louise Vermeil Designs: Student to Small Business CEO

By Gracie Dillon

@lovelandroar | Staff Writer

I've recently received the pleasure of asking Loveland High School's very own **Louise Vermeil (12)** a few questions. For those of you that don't know her, Louise is an incredible student, a witty-humor advocate, and an avid debater on any subject that sparks her interest. However, I have yet to mention one of her most impressive accomplishments: Louise Vermeil Designs, her own successful self-starter. Amassing over 40,000 followers on Instagram, Vermeil's fanbase spreads across the globe and her products are nothing short of happy pieces of art. Now, that's enough of fueling her ego, let's get to the interview!

### 1. What inspired you to start your business?

Vermeil: I was pretty young when I started pottery, I always enjoyed art but sculpture was definitely my favorite. I started selling at the studio I worked at and after a while started selling the pieces online when COVID started.

### 2. How long have you been in business?

Vermeil: I'm around two and a half years into business now!

### 3. How long does it take you to create a piece for your shop?

Vermeil: About a month cumulatively; pieces only take me about a minute to throw on the wheel but sculpting,

firing, glazing, and sanding take much longer to complete.

### 4. How do you balance work and school life?

Vermeil: Work life balance is tough, I work right after I get home from school, usually for 4-5 hours. I try not to overwork myself but it can be difficult to put it away when you know you're the only person working on something.

### 5. Do you make all of your products at home? At a local location?

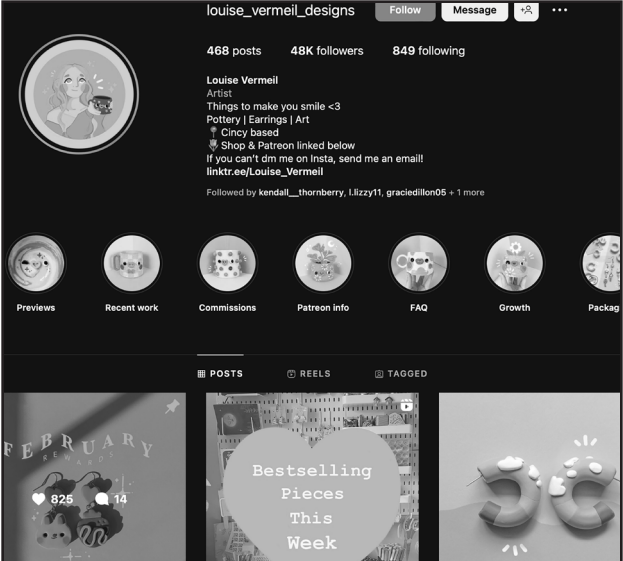


Photo courtesy of Louise Vermeil on Instagram

Vermeil: I started by working out of the Whistle Stop Clayworks in downtown Loveland and gradually over time I've transitioned into being completely independent. I have a wheel and a kiln at home and a studio in my basement that I do most of my work out of.

### 6. Do you struggle with burnout and does that have any impact on your enjoyment of creating these products/your art outside of the ones for sale?

Vermeil: Everyone struggles with burnout, sometimes I have days or even weeks where I'm feeling unmotivated and don't get a lot of work done. Usually when I'm feeling creative burnout I focus on something more academic and then go back to the creative work when I'm feeling more motivated.

### 7. Any advice for someone who wants to turn their favorite pastime into a successful business or someone who just wants to become an entrepreneur themselves?

Vermeil: Counter to what most would say, I think if you really love something for the fulfillment it gives you, you shouldn't try to monetize it. On the other hand though, if you do decide to pursue your small business, DON'T BE AFRAID TO CHARGE FOR YOUR WORK! I started selling pieces for \$10 because I thought that no one would pay more than that for a mug. I put a ton of time into my pieces and I'm so grateful people realize that and are more than happy to support me.





# Battle For Number One Pick

By Tristan Pfizenmayer

@lovelandroar | Staff Writer

Every year, NFL teams battle it out from September to February to be the team to hoist the Lombardi Trophy. Despite the battle to win the Super Bowl, some teams have their eyes pointed elsewhere at the incoming NFL talent in the draft. The NFL regular season has finally concluded and a handful of teams look to own the first overall pick.

As of this very moment, the Chicago Bears are the owner of the number one overall pick sporting a 3-14 record, just nearly edging out the 3-13-1 Houston Texans. In order to secure the number one pick they needed to lose to the Vikings, and have the Texans upset the Colts. The Texans managed to pull out a win by converting a 4th and 20 hail mary and converting the 2-point conversion to secure the win 32-31, which likely played a role in Lovie Smith losing his job.

The three teams I think are most likely to end up with the number one pick are The Colts, The Bears, and The Raiders. Usually, the first overall pick is an untouchable trade piece, the reason why I don't think the Bears value the pick that highly is the lack of a need for a quarterback. Personally, I am not a huge fan of Justin Fields and do not think that highly of him, but that being said, Ryan Poles (The Bears' general manager) has said he'd "have to be

blown away" to select a quarterback first overall pick. Although I have little confidence in Fields it'd be unfair to move on considering the severe lack of help Fields has on the roster. Adding a new quarterback wouldn't



Photo courtesy of Bryce Young's Instagram

Bryce Young hoists the Heisman trophy. Young led the SEC in passing in 2021.

magically solve their mediocre offensive line and their pitiful receiving core.

I think the most likely trade partner with the Bears is the Colts, The Colts have employed what some have called "the rent a QB system," The Colts pick up some aging veteran quarterback and pray his skills of the past magically reappear, which has not worked in the slightest. I think the Colts move up to the one slot and take Bryce Young, a young, talented, and cerebral quarterback.

The Colts also have the two things required to trade up, draft capital, and they're outside of The Bears division. With this move suddenly the Colts pair a quarterback with a high ceiling with a team with one of the best running backs in football, a solid enough receiving group, and a solid offensive line.

Another team poised to make an offer to the Bears for the first overall selection would be the Raiders. The Raiders also fill in the trade-up criteria, they have nine picks in 2023 and don't reside in the NFC. The Raiders just recently parted ways with veteran quarterback Derek Carr, which puts a gaping hole in the centerpiece of their roster. The Raiders have a talented roster, most notably Davante Adams. Dropping Bryce Young into an offense where he has Davante Adams, Hunter Renfrow, and Darren Waller gives Young ample opportunity to succeed.

# MLB Shift Ban and What It Means For Baseball

By Chase Gibson

@lovelandroar | Sports Editor

Baseball has always been a slower sport and in 2022, it was no different. The average game in the MLB lasted 3 hours and 3 minutes, the longest average game span in the last 50 years. With the baseball audience shrinking, the MLB made rule changes that would change the league forever, including adding a pitch clock and banning defensive shifts.

An infield shift in baseball is defined as a defensive realignment away from infielders' traditional starting points based on different scenarios dealing with the batter. This defensive strategy has been used in the league for years and has really been picking up traction in the last couple of years, especially against left handed hitters.

This new rule will ban all shifts, require that there must be two infielders on each side of second, and all infielders must have their feet in the dirt, instead of the rotation to the outfield that sometimes takes place in the case of a lefty at the plate. It is a rule that will most likely benefit batters with gifted singles, especially for left handed hitters, and will probably boost the offensive rating of nearly all teams in the MLB.

Defensively, the shift ban is going to make it harder on infielders to make plays because of the specificity of the ban, but the plays they do make in the infield will be spectacular more often, or in MLB stats terms, there will be more OAA (Outs Above Average).

This ban isn't just to make the games higher scoring (2022 was the lowest scoring season in the last 20 years and had a historically low home run count for the first 4 months). It is part of a marketing strategy by Major League Baseball that is designed to get people back into the once incredibly popular "American Sport."

Baseball isn't the most entertaining sport to watch and the league knows it, but obviously there are still millions of fans out there. However, when a season comes along like this one with pitching duels nearly every game, routine plays in the infield, and longer games, the MLB has no choice but to make its product more entertaining. It doesn't help that right around the time the league picked up steam in the playoff hunt, one of the most exciting college baseball seasons in history was taking place, taking more viewers away from the majors.

The MLB rules change is for the better for the league. Not only will it help guide viewers to the games, but more

importantly, it will keep viewers' eyes on the games, increase scoring, and help up other offensive statistics such as home runs as well. The flashy plays, nuclear home runs, ridiculous stats, and tight MVP races help keep fans involved, and therefore helps keep the league afloat.

This decision will certainly help the popularity of the MLB in the future for years to come and will allow this league to catch up with the NFL and NBA as the most popular professional sports leagues both nationally and internationally.

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# Justin Herbert Narrative You Need To Stop Listening To

By Tristan Pfizenmayer

@lovelandroar | Staff Writer

Justin Herbert is one of the most popular and well-regarded players in football. It is very hard to come across an analyst or broadcaster throwing the young quarterback any shade. Instead, analysts give him praise and credit whether or not the Chargers come away with a victory. That is where the issue lies, whether or not the Chargers come away with a victory, Herbert gets credit no matter what.

Herbert hasn't truly proven himself as many of the analysts give him credit for. Herbert has made the playoffs in one of his first three years, and he has yet to win a playoff game. To be fair, the Chargers were far from playoff quality in his rookie season, he doesn't have that to fall back on in his 2021 campaign. Most people let his failure to make the playoffs last season slide as the Chargers were twentieth in points allowed. As pathetic as that is, that doesn't tell the whole story. In every game the Chargers lost Herbert threw a pick, just to reiterate, in every single one of his eight losses Herbert gave away the football. Justin Herbert threw fifteen picks last year, twelve of which were in the Charger's losses.

It's a well-known fact that turning over the football will greatly increase your odds of losing football games, he did it twelve times in their eight losses, and that fact is

miraculously glossed over. This problem didn't translate as much this year, throwing five picks in their seven losses and five picks in their ten wins. Even though his interception problem didn't translate as much, that doesn't mean other issues didn't arise. Justin Herbert is regularly

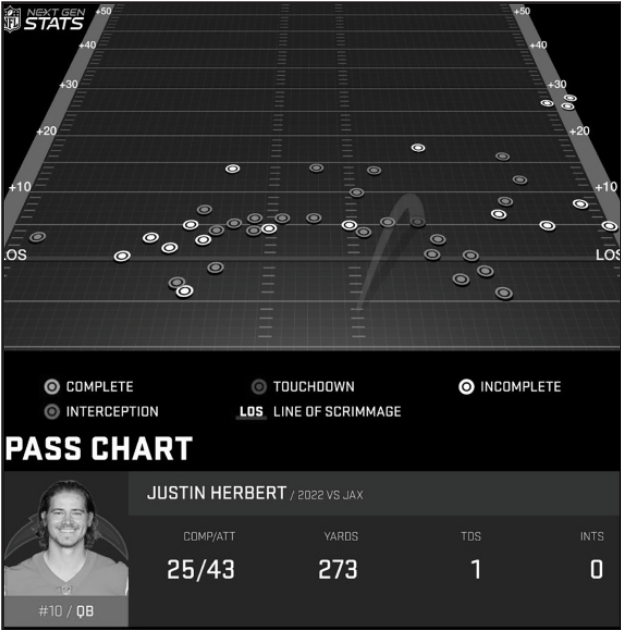


Photo courtesy of Next Gen Stats

given the title of clutch and I can't say I agree with that. Justin Herbert threw four of his ten picks in the fourth quarter and had a passer rating of 88.58 in the fourth quarter which was good for twentieth best in the league.

Last weekend the Chargers played the Jaguars and managed to drop a 27-point lead. Did Herbert get a fair amount of negative attention for allowing such a comeback; no. Wins are a team stat, that's not what I'm arguing against but, when you manage to put up only 3 points in an entire half of football, you deserve blame. I saw plenty of narratives that suggest Herbert did all he could. If "all he could" is throwing ten for nineteen, 134 yards and no touchdowns with a passer rating of 75.33 (which is only better than Zach Wilson) in the second half is "all he could," he simply didn't do enough. That is already a porous statline, but a good majority of those yards were after the catch on dump-offs. Herbert's average depth of target (how far his intended receiver is from him) was a pathetic 6.1 yards. Herbert threw nine passes at or behind the line of scrimmage and only threw the ball further than fifteen yards down the field on five attempts, and in those attempts, he only managed one completion.

I believe Justin Herbert is a very talented quarterback; he has all the tools to be elite for a very long time. I just think the lack of blame and accountability needs to be changed.





## International Club      Adaptive P.E.

By Ava Votapek  
*@lovelandroar | Staff Writer*

Most people join for the food, which in Krabacher’s opinion is a fantastic bonus, but International Club has so much more to offer. You get to dive into different cultures, learn about the unique heritage of the excellent food, and meet some fantastic people.

I interviewed **Kate Krabacher (12)** about her role in International Club. Krabacher decided to take on a leadership role this year; she wanted to help continue international club for years to come.

International club allows you to expand your knowledge; it opens up the doors for so many different learning opportunities. Getting an insight into other parts of the world that we typically don’t give any mind to allows us to gain a greater appreciation for our lives. Also, if you decide traveling is a route for you in the future, International

Club will teach you about customs and traditions from countries across the globe. It’ll help you to avoid culture shock, as stinky French cheese will make you queasy if you’re not expecting it.

Joining is a great opportunity to bond with friends, all while trying unique dishes from around the world such as some Dora-Yaki, Currywurst, or Eintopf.

If you are interested in joining International club, please contact Krabacher [@katekrbacher](#) on Instagram.



Photo courtesy of Wikimedia Commons

By Ava Votapek  
*@lovelandroar | Staff Writer*

I interviewed **Ms. Connor** about her part in adapted P.E. This is the most do-good class you could join. It started when a teacher approached Connor and told her that her regular gym class was too competition based for the kids with disabilities, and they felt excluded. So she put together an adapted P.E. class where the students had more accessible tools, for example, using a giant beach volleyball instead of a normal one.

Connor didn’t want the students to feel isolated, so she asked for mentors. These mentors show up every day during second bell and join whatever the other students are doing that week. They do a unit for two weeks, then move to the next unit. These mentors work as advocates for the students with disabilities. A lot of people don’t know how to approach people with disabilities,

so they help to break that barrier. This also leads some mentors down a career path working with people with special needs.

Right before break, they had a Holiday Hoedown. Everyone was welcome. Students danced, talked to Santa, opened presents, and even got to pet miniature horses. The mentors and students all got a partner and made a dance, **Kepler Taylor (12)** even performed a Taylor Swift tribute. They also all learned a square dance, which is relatively simple so everyone could join in.

Connors also believes universal learning design should be used across the board. That’s what she uses when it comes to this class. Catering to each student individually is a big part of how she does things.

If you are interested in mentoring, you can sign up for it on your schedule for next year.

## Ski & Snowboard Club      Journalism

By Michael Dakoske  
*@lovelandroar | Staff Writer*

Loveland Ski and Snowboard Club, established in 2014 by LHS staff member Lynn Neimeyer and student Johnathan Geist, is a club for any student at Loveland High School that wants to ski and/or snowboard, whether it’s their first time or they want to show off the “gnar” (Gaffney’s Numerical Assessment of Radness) they’ve built up for years.

The club utilizes bussing services provided by the school to transport their members from LHS to Perfect North Slopes in Lawrenceburg, Indiana, which is approximately a 45-minute trip. The members stay and enjoy themselves on the slopes for roughly 4-5 hours, and then return to LHS. Perfect North Slopes provides ample space to keep bags and equipment while on the slopes, food service, and 24 different ski runs that fit every level of skier and snowboarder.

According to perfectnorth.com, Perfect North typically opens for the season by mid-December, but this year could be earlier. For Perfect North to make snow, temperatures have to reach below 28 degrees Fahrenheit and the area has already

seen these cold temperatures at night since November 12th. Because of this, members of the LHS Ski and Snowboard Club can hope to hit the slopes by early December.

Ski Club members can look forward to a lot of new additions to Perfect North Slopes this year! First, there will be a brand new run, called Ella Mae Way. According to perfectnorth.com, Ella Mae Way “is over a half-mile long and is perfect for intermediate skiers and boarders.” For members familiar with the slopes, it will be accessible from the red and white chair lifts. Additionally, thirteen new snow-makers have been installed, which will lead to Perfect North’s faster open date. Large pine trees have been placed on Special Effects, a ski run off of the orange lift, creating a glade area.

The Loveland Ski and Snowboard Club has exposed its members to a brand new hobby that they can master on snow that two olympians, Nick Goepper and Justin Schoenefeld, call home. For updates on the future of the ski and snowboarding club, as well as pictures of your classmates crushing the slopes, follow [@lhs\\_skiandboard](#) on Instagram.

By Sean Behling  
*@lovelandroar | Chief Editor*

Have you ever wanted to write about the news, and keep people informed of important and topical subjects? Have you ever wanted to be a part of a fun and inviting newspaper crew that brings together people with different views and opinions? Have you ever wanted to get free cookies every Friday? If you said yes to any of these questions then you should apply for the Journalism class here at the high school. Let me explain more:

First, you get to write about topics that interest you. In particular, you get the opportunity to inform others of your passions and amplify your voice through editorials. On top of that, you also get the chance to be involved in the local community of Loveland, and help keep your fellow students and staff informed of important issues. In this class, you really get to let your investigative skills flourish.

Second, you get to help grow and shape The Roar into the newspaper you want it to be. This publication has been called many names over the years (such as The Tiger’s Tongue or The Loveland Scholar) and has been running since around the time the Loveland School District began in the 19th

century. We have only been able to run this long thanks to the many staff writers and editors we have had over the years who have left their mark on this wonderful program.

Third, you can become a part of an entertaining and friendly staff of fellow students. Many different types of people join journalism for many different reasons, so there’s always a fun atmosphere of banter and discussion. With such a colorful group of people, there can hardly be a dull moment.

Finally, the main reason people join: cookies and pizza! Every week, someone in the class is assigned to bring in cookies on Friday, which is aptly named “Cookie Friday.” On top of this, a lot of effort on our parts goes into publishing a physical edition of our newspaper, and because of this we throw a pizza party once it’s all finally published and distributed. These moments are a lot of fun, and it’s a great way to keep everyone’s spirits high.

Overall, Journalism is a fun class for everyone who likes writing, wants to be involved in their local community, wants to laugh with their fellow classmates, or just likes cookies and pizza.

## Show Choirs

By Maria Monfreda  
*@lovelandroar | Staff Writer*

As January begins so does the competition season for Loveland Show Choir. The Show Choir program here at Loveland consists of three groups: Revolution, the mixed middle school group, Allure, the all-girls high school group, and By Request, the mixed high school group. Tryouts for the high school groups take place in April, and they officially start their season in September. The show choirs learn their competition choreography in September, preparing it for their competition season in January. They have a 45-minute class period every day and practice for two hours Monday and Thursday evenings.

Both high school groups are under the direction of Mr. Miller, a music teacher at the high school. Show choir shows usually consist of 4 songs plus a slow ballad, and they typically have a theme to them. Allure’s show has the theme of “Woodstock,” a popular music festival from the 1970s. The theme pays homage to assistant director Donna Bernstein who is retiring this year, and actually attended

Woodstock. Their show this year consists of a lot of popular 70’s hits including “Mustang Sally,” by Andrew Strong, “The Chain,” by Fleetwood ,Mac,and many more. By Request’s shows don’t usually have a theme, however, this year they do. It’s not as specific as Allure’s, however, all their songs have the similar vibe and theme of being yourself and living your life the way you want to. Some of their songs include, “Livin My Best Life,” by Ben Rector, “Nothing Else Matters,” by Metallica and many more.Both choirs compete at multiple competitions throughout the country from January to March. Some interesting places they have gone are Chicago, New York City, Orlando, and to the national competition in Nashville. This year they will be going to two competitions in Indiana, three competitions in Ohio, and one all the way in Connecticut. If you are looking for a new activity/class for next year you should consider show choir. It’s a great community and a whole lot of fun! If you’re interested, auditions will take place mid-april. More information will be available at [lovelandvocalmusic.com](#) closer to April!



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Ariana Grande’s Role in Wicked

By Mahi Sheth @lovelandroar | Staff Writer

Pop star Ariana Grande has just managed to land her biggest acting role yet. According to Variety, the pop star will star along with Award winner Cynthia Erivo in Universal’s upcoming live-action adaptation of the musical Wicked.

Before we get into all the details about the movie, here is a brief summary of what the film will be about. Based on Gregory Maguire’s 1995 novel Wicked: The Life and Times of the Wicked Witch of the West, the movie will be a prequel to The Wizard of Oz, telling the story of the Wicked Witch of the West and Glinda the Good Witch and what happened before Dorothy appeared in the Wizard of Oz. In the film, the two young witches meet while students at Shiz University, trying to navigate friendship, romance, magical training, and learning to embrace their own identities.

Grande will be starring as Glinda, the Good Witch, and Erivo as the Wicked Witch of the West. The director of this movie was initially going to be Stephen Daldy but it was later decided that John M. Chu would be the best fit for directing this musical adaptation. It’s been said that Jonathan Bailey from Bridgerton will be playing the role of Fiyero, and Ethen Slater, best known for his role as Spongebob Squarepants, is set to play Boq and Nessa’s eventual love interest on the big screen.

On May 10th, Director John Chu announced that the

movie Wicked will be split into two parts. The director clarified on Twitter, saying “Here’s what happened: As we prepared the production over the last year, it became impossible to wrestle WICKED’s story into a single film without doing some real damage to it.” The director tells us the reason regarding a sequel, “As we tried to cut songs or trim characters, those decisions began to feel like fatal compromises to the source material that has entertained us all for so many years. We decided to give ourselves a bigger canvas and make not just one WICKED movie but TWO!!!! With more space, we can tell the story of WICKED as it was meant to be told while bringing even more depth and surprise to the journeys for these beloved characters.”

The film is anticipated to be released on December 25th, 2023, and its sequel is expected to be released on December 25th, 2024, exactly one year later.

Likewise, it has been made known that Steven Schwartz, who wrote the music and lyrics for the Broadway production, will collaborate with Winnie Holzman to adapt the screenplay. Schwartz later announced on social media that he will be writing two entirely new songs for it and that the film will not be an exact replica of the Broadway production. It has been reported that Marc Platt, who produced the Broadway musical, will also produce the motion picture.

It looks like the famous pop star Ariana Grande’s wish came true as she once tweeted in 2011 that she “Loved

seeing Wicked again... amazing production! Made me realize again how badly I want 2 play Glinda at some point in my life! #DreamRole.”

Hopefully, the new film will be similar to the musical Wicked and won’t change the plot too much, due to it being a live adaptation.



Photo Courtesy of emmarsheehan on Wikimedia Commons

Cultural Phenomenon that You’ve Likely Never Heard Of

By Ava VanBuskirk @lovelandroar | Guest Writer

Despite having just four seasons, Skam (the “a” makes an “ah” sound, and it translates to shame in English) was a Norwegian-turned-global phenomenon of a series that followed teenage characters as they navigated high school. The effect that it has had on society does not go unnoticed, even 7 years after its first episode aired. Ask anyone in Norway about Skam and it’s safe to say that they can tell you they’ve seen it or at least heard of it.

Steeped in culture and consistently relevant, many factors allowed Skam to have the impact that it did. It was somewhat unorthodox. Instead of the regular episode format, clips would be released from an official website throughout the week, in real-time. Meaning, if something happened to a character at 7:00 am on Sunday, September 4th, the clip would be uploaded on the show’s website at the respective real-life date and time. At the end of the week, the clips were compiled into full-length episodes and aired on the site. The bedlam that the release of a new

clip would cause was common among Norwegian teens. Clips were released with no warning, sort of like the show itself, which had almost no promo prior to its release.

On top of the real-time releases, the characters had Instagram accounts that would be updated with the show, and text messages between them were uploaded to the official website throughout the show’s airing. The actors did no interviews, and most were newbies, which added another layer of immersive realism for fans.

One of my favorite aspects about Skam is the fact that each season has a different central character, and they become supporting characters in the seasons that don’t focus on them. Season one follows 16-year-old Eva. Noora, a friend of Eva’s, is the central character of season two. Season three is when the show’s fame truly skyrocketed, reaching an unprecedented international audience. Isak stars as the central character as he comes to terms with his sexuality. Many fans expressed appreciation for its authentic representation of young queer relationships and mental illness, which serves to normalize these challenges

in a progressive, innovative way. The fourth and final season is when viewers get to know Sana, a headstrong Muslim teen and friend of Eva and Noora. Sana’s season, much like her character, brings difficult but important conversations to the table.

There are dozens of aspects that I could harp about—it doesn’t shy away from difficult topics, it’s supremely rich in symbolism, it conquers clichés, and at times it even calls out the negative aspects of its own fanbase. But when it comes down to it, Skam is lovable because it is relatable. Even after it garnered success with an audience of all ages, the show stayed true to its teen-centered nature. Every character has external and internal conflicts that make them real and unique, and ultimately the show depicts the journey of learning to love yourself, even when you’re not who you thought you were.



Photo courtesy of Nordiske Mediedager on Wikimedia Commons

The Screenwriter and Director of SKAM talk on stage of the 2016 Nordic Media Festival. At that time, SKAM was in the middle of its second season.



Want a chance to write a guest article for the Loveland Roar? Scan this QR code and get writing!