

THE RYGAARDS TIMES

WINTER EDITION

VIRTUAL TOUR OF RYGAARDS

Recently, a new section was added on our school's official website, labelled as the "Virtual Tour." This can be accessed by everyone (at the time of writing this). As the name suggests, the feature provides a 360° online visit to the school campus, and similar to the "Street View" feature on Google Maps, the camera can be moved around the school with ease. The feature also boasts accessibility in nearly all the places within the campus, including outdoors and indoors. This "tour" will be very useful for families who are considering an application to the school, as they will not need to be there to get an idea of the campus itself.

Here is a guide for accessing the "Virtual Tour":

1. Visit www.rygaards.com
2. Click on the "Welcome" tab located in the upper portion of the page.
3. Scroll down until you see "Virtual Tour" on the right margin. Click on it.
4. Allow a few seconds for the action to render. And ta-da! You can now navigate the school virtually!



Vihaan 11x

Ansh 10y

GEORG MOHR - MATHS COMPETITION

Not long ago many Year 9s, 10s and 11s attempted the Georg Mohr competition. It's a series of 20 extremely difficult math questions designed to test your math knowledge beyond an IGCSE level. Although normally attempted by Gymnasium and IB students, many Rygaards students were brave enough to attempt this challenge. While all competitors performed admirably, some Rygaards kids stood out for their performance.

Congratulations to everyone who made it to the second round of the competition:

Year 11: Fang, Vihaan, Mike

Year 10: Benjamin, Isabelle, Maria

Year 9: Aatish

Lana 11x

STUDENT COUNCIL NOTICES

Everyone's excited for the upcoming talent show. The student council hopes all participants are looking forward to preparing and performing soon!

With Christmas approaching, a door decorating competition is to be held soon. Stay posted for more information on this as the student council discusses this and other possible events.

Brought to you by the student council!

TALENT SHOW!



6TH OF DECEMBER!



Tryouts 29 November

If you are interested in performing,
please tell your class reps

SONGWRITING BRILLIANCE

SONG LYRICS BY THE SPANISH-TAKING STUDENTS OF 11Y **Vihaan 11x**

Recently, some of the Spanish-taking students of 11Y composed some amazing song lyrics (in Spanish of-course)! You can find them below, along with their translations.

Song 1 (Spanish):

Vivo en Copenhague
Hay una red de transporte
La usamos cada día
Copenhague Copenhague Copenhague

El metro es muy rápido
Y el tren es muy útil
Tenemos autobuses en todos lados
Copenhague Copenhague Copenhague

Copenhague es muy verde
Nunca hay basura
También usamos público transportico
Copenhague Copenhague Copenhague

Las tiendas de navidad son bonitas
Pero no nieva mucho
Bebed Glogg y le pones cómodo
Copenhague Copenhague Copenhague



Song 1 (English):

I live in Copenhagen
There is a transportation network
We use it every day
Copenhagen Copenhagen Copenhagen

The subway is very fast
And the train is very useful
We have buses everywhere
Copenhagen Copenhagen Copenhagen

Copenhagen is very green
There is never garbage
We also use public transportation
Copenhagen Copenhagen Copenhagen

Christmas stores are beautiful
But it doesn't snow much
Drink Glogg and make him comfortable
Copenhagen Copenhagen Copenhagen

Song 2 (English):

My ideal home
I would have many apartments for my friends
I would be on the side of the mountain
There would be the football field

My ideal home
We will live with pretty women
And two men for my friends

My ideal home
I would be in malta on the beach
It would have views of the sea
I would put a huge room

My ideal home
I would go out to meet women and men for
my friends
OUR IDEAL HOUSE



Song 2 (Spanish):

Mi Casa Ideal
Tendría muchos pisos para mis amigos
Estaría al lado de la montaña
Habría el campo de fútbol

Mi Casa ideal
Nosotros viviríamos con mujeres bonitas
Y dos hombres para mis amigos

Mi casa ideal
Estaría en malta en la playa
Tendría vistas para del mar
Pondría un salón enorme

Mi casa ideal
Saldría conocer mujeres y hombres
para mis amigos
NUESTRA CASA IDEAL

Song 3 (Spanish):

An la ciudad, bajo el sol brillante
Caminando por calles, vibrantes y elegantes
Nueva York con sus las torras
La Gran Mañana donde todo es un sueño

Ciudades del mundo llenas de vida y passion
Culturas diversas en casa rincón
Madrid Paris y buenas aires también
En estas ciudades la aventura nunca tiene fin



Song 3 (English):

Still the city, under the bright sun
Walking through streets, vibrant and elegant
New York with its towers
The Big Morning where everything is a dream

Cities of the world full of life and passion
Diverse cultures in corner house
Madrid Paris and Buenos Aires too
In these cities the adventure never ends

WORLD NEWS

Saanvi 9x

ISLAND EMERGES FROM THE ASHES

On October 21st, an underwater volcano erupted near the historic battle site, Iwo To. An associate professor at Tokyo University's earthquake research institute, who flew over the site of the eruption, said that he witnessed large rocks hurtling through the smoky air. After volcanic ash and rock settled on the shallow seabed, a small island appeared in just a mere 10 days! The new landmass is roughly 100m in diameter and reaches up to 20m high (the height of four giraffes)! The island could grow larger if volcanic activity continues, but it could also slip into the waves due to erosion like many others in the past.

In 2013, volcanic activity near Japan formed an island that merged with an existing island to create a new landmass that for a while looked like Snoopy.



Nishinoshima Island



Pictures taken almost two weeks after the underwater volcanic eruption near Japan

Tanish 9x

OPENAI CEO'S CURRENT CHALLENGES

You probably know that ChatGPT was developed by the company, OpenAI, but did you know that its CEO, Sam Altman was fired and then re-hired by his own company?

On the 17th of November 2023, American entrepreneur and investor, Sam Altman, who was the CEO of OpenAI since 2019, was fired by the company's board of directors. This was one of the biggest tech stories of the year, sending shockwaves throughout the tech world. But why did this happen in the first place?

Background information

OpenAI is an artificial intelligence research non-profit, that aims to create safe Artificial General Intelligence (AI that can do that intellectual tasks that humans can do or sometimes tasks that even we can't) for everyone. It was founded on December of 2015 by a few well-established entrepreneurs and businessmen. Along with Sam Altman, and Greg Brockman, who would later become OpenAI's President, another name stood out from the rest: Elon Musk.

Though Musk later left the company in 2018, and while some say that it owed to the fact that he was working on his own Artificial Intelligence as part of Tesla and Space X, others believe that when he tried to lead the company, he was rejected. However, relations between Elon Musk and Sam Altman did not improve after he left, as Musk is strongly against the rapid development of artificial intelligence as well as the decision to switch OpenAI from non-profit to for-profit.



WORLD NEWS

Why and How did this happen?

The decision to fire the CEO was possible because of OpenAI's bizarre structure, caused by the company switching from only non-profit to for-profit, which allowed a handful of board members to get rid of Altman. The Board members included Ilya Sutskever, the chief scientist and one of the co-founders of OpenAI; 2 women and Adam D'Angelo, the CEO of Quora. But you might be asking why was Sam Altman fired in the first place?

Well, you see there was no clear reason given to why, however, OpenAI have stated that they believe Altman "was not consistently candid in his communications with the board, hindering its ability to exercise its responsibilities". Though the exact reasoning behind what Sam Altman did to anger the board is still unsure, what is sure is that there has been huge backlash against it. In fact, the president of OpenAI, Greg Brockman resigned. Moreover, 95% of OpenAI employees (including the temporary CEO) signed a letter saying that all of them might leave the company if Sam Altman wasn't reinstated as well as if the board didn't resign.

All of this tension and drama forced the board to comply with the wants of the people.

In the end it is unclear on who was right or wrong on this matter, as we don't know what Sam Altman did or didn't do to enrage the board. For now, though, things have seemed to calm down, and even though everything isn't all black and white, this is just the tip of the iceberg of what we know.

So, what do you think? Why was Sam Altman fired? And why did the employees sign the letter, would you have?

Aatish 9x

WHY IS CHINA TAKING BACK PANDAS?



On the 8th of November, the National Zoo in Washington D.C. bid their farewells to 3 Giant Pandas. This marks the end of a 51 year program between the US and China. But why is China taking back their Pandas all across the globe and how did these notoriously cute bears even get to countries like the United States, the United Kingdom and Denmark in the first place?

History

Ever since the Tang Dynasty, Pandas were offered as diplomatic gifts to other nations called Panda Diplomacy. The US received their first Pandas in 1972 after First Lady Pat Nixon commented on her love for the animals during the first meeting abroad between Richard Nixon and the Chinese Premier. After 1984 however, Panda Diplomacy changed forever. Pandas were no longer offered as gifts, instead they were loaned for a 10 year period which could be extended. In turn, host countries would pay an annual fee of about \$1m per bear. In addition, any panda cubs born abroad would belong to China.

Why are the pandas returning to China?

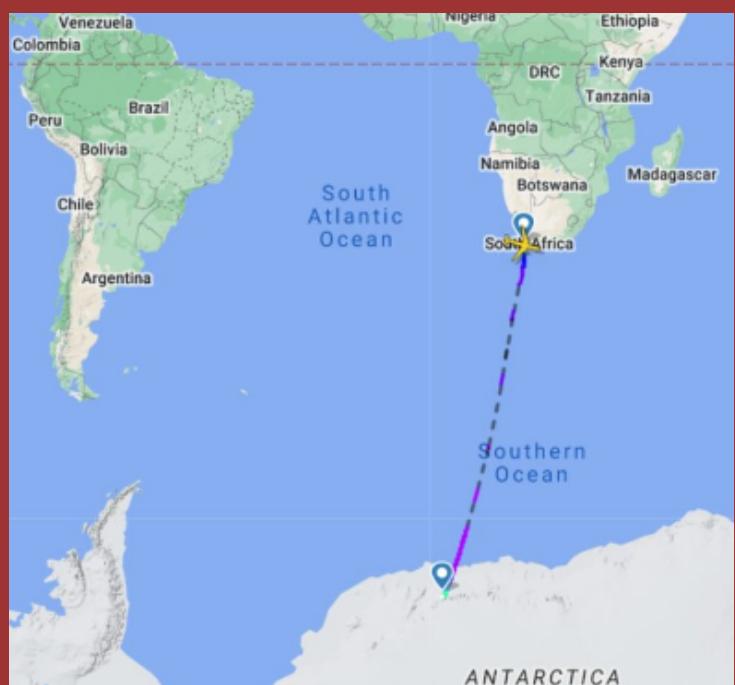
In the case of Washington, the loan agreement comes to an end in December when the pandas must be returned. The agreement has already been extended 3 times. Four pandas remain at the Atlanta Zoo, but they'll also be sent back next year if there's no extension, meaning it will be the first time in five decades that the US will be without pandas. Pandas in Scotland and Australia will also return before the end of this year. This all begs the question, why are the loans being extended? It all comes down to politics and international relations. As most of you know, the China-US relations are deteriorating as tension rises. The US continues to have trade deals with Taiwan, in particular selling defence equipment. Beijing is obviously not pleased and wants to establish its presence in the Pacific. Political relations is the leading factor is whether the loans will be extended or not.

WINTER WHISPERS

HUGE PASSENGER JET MAKES HISTORIC LANDING ON ANTARCTICA

Recently, on the 15th of November, a Boeing 787 aircraft capable of carrying around 300 passengers made a historic landing on the "Troll Airfield" in northern Antarctica. This aircraft was in Norse Atlantic Airways' fleet, an airline based in the neighbouring country of Norway. The flight, which travelled from Oslo to Antarctica via Cape Town in South Africa, was carrying 45 researchers from the Norwegian Polar Institute, and an additional 12 tonnes of equipment needed for the research stations throughout the continent. After staying for a few hours, the flight departed, and landed safely in Oslo (via Cape Town once again).

Now what actually made this flight special? Well this was the first time a Boeing 787, one of Boeing's state-of-the-art flagship aircraft, had ever been on Antarctic soil... I mean **ice**. This was also one of the first ever passenger jets to ever land in Antarctica period, although it should be mentioned that another plane, an Airbus A340, had landed in Antarctica in 2021.



The route of the flight (marked in purple).

Vihaan 11x



A picture of the aircraft involved and the celebration at "Troll Station" in Antarctica.

But why are these records so significant? As some of you may have guessed, flying and landing in Antarctica is a challenge. The difficulty for jets to land in Antarctica arises mostly from the icy "runways", especially considering the remarkable speeds that some jets travel at. Additionally, Antarctica is generally very windy and hence can cause trouble for pilots when approaching airfields. Contrary to popular belief, however, most aircraft are not affected by the freezing temperatures that are prevalent near the South Pole. In fact, most jets are designed to withstand very low temperatures, as they are subjected to freezing atmospheres when cruising at high altitudes.

Now, while this whole event may seem like a fantastic feat, it has created substantial controversy. Some people have been upset by the jet's landing, since it contributes to pollution and that it allegedly sparks the beginning of "Antarctica's downfall", claiming that the continent was the only remaining unspoiled region on Earth. Other complaints include those regarding the apparent "unnecessary use of jet fuel", as some people supposedly think that the trip to Antarctica was pointless, or could have been done in a much more efficient manner.

Regardless, this landing will definitely keep its fame for years to come, and will leave its mark in mankind. What a way to welcome the winter season!

FUTURE TECHNOLOGY

Mike 11x

SHOULD STUDENTS BE ALLOWED TO USE AI TECHNOLOGY, SUCH AS CHATGPT, TO COMPLETE GRADED ASSIGNMENTS?

Over the past few years, AI technology has taken the education world by storm, with engines such as ChatGPT becoming increasingly popular amongst students all around the globe for learning and completing assignments. While some may argue that the use of AI undermines the traditional learning process, there are several reasons why it could be of benefit for students.

One of the most significant advantages of AI technology is how time-efficient it can be. Whether it is for research, generating ideas, or even proofreading, its vast capabilities and almost instant feedback can save valuable time for students in their struggle to balance busy lives, schoolwork, and extracurricular activities. As well as being incredibly useful, AI technology is a part of the future, and is already present in many of the world's largest and influential companies and using it could help familiarise students with the technology and prepare them for the future.

On the contrary, there is a great chance for students to develop an over-reliance on AI technology, which does not allow for proper learning if abused or used incorrectly. This could lead to reduced human creativity and a lack of ability to independently come up with ideas or solutions. Furthermore, use of AI technology dehumanises the learning experience, taking away human interaction from learning.

Overall, whether AI technology should be allowed to be used by students depends on how it is used and integrated into the learning system by both teachers and students, potentially becoming a standard tool in the world of education.



Ansh 10y

SPACE THIS MONTH

This month has been another space-filled month. India's space agency, ISRO, plans to follow its successful moon landing with the next gen Chandrayaan-4, a lunar sample-return mission. The mission involves two launches, with a lander and ascender collecting samples near the lunar south pole, a region rich in water ice. The samples would be transferred to orbiting modules, then returned to Earth. Meanwhile, the James Webb Space Telescope captured a stunning image of the star-forming region Sagittarius C, revealing protostars, outflows, and ionized hydrogen in the Milky Way's centre. The Galactic Centre's extreme conditions challenge star-formation theories about how stars originate and whether they are conducive to massive star formation.



Pictures from the James Webb telescope

BOOK REVIEWS



Isabelle 10y

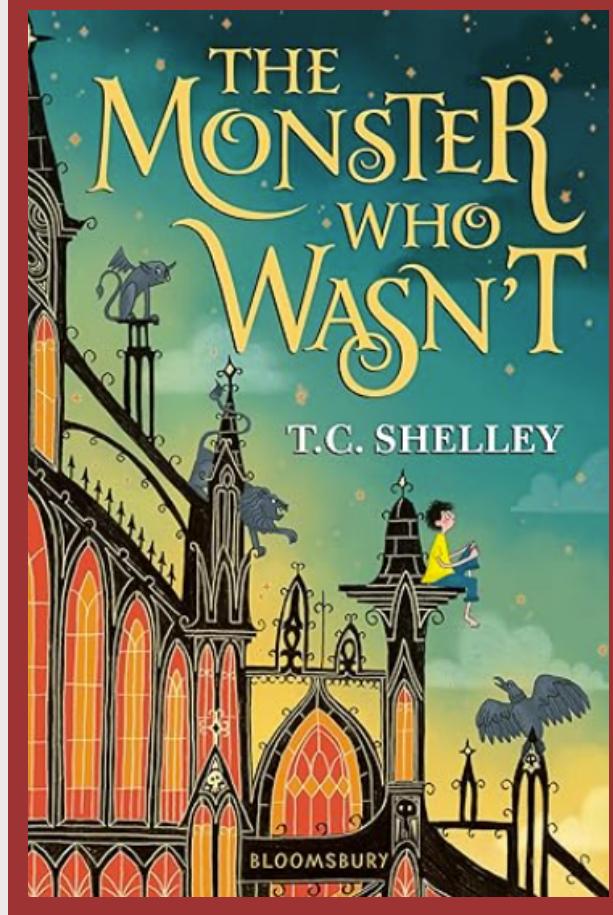
THE MONSTER WHO WASN'T

Age Rating: 10+**Author:** T.C. Shelley .**Genre:** Fantasy Fiction

This Book Is Wonderful. I read this book several months ago, yet still it sticks in my brain. Not too long, this astonishing, brilliant story about gargoyles, fairies, monsters, and a child who is someone in between, is perfect for anyone looking for a modern fairytale.

One fateful day, a boy named Imp, half-fairy-half-monster, is born from the first laugh of a baby, and a dead man's last sigh. Much to the disgust and interest of the monsters, Imp looks just like a human! With Thunderguts, king of the ogres, hunting him, Imp must carve his own way into the world (with the help of his friends, the chocolate addicted gargoyles).

I would definitely read this again and have already read the sequel. Luckily for you, it's in the library!



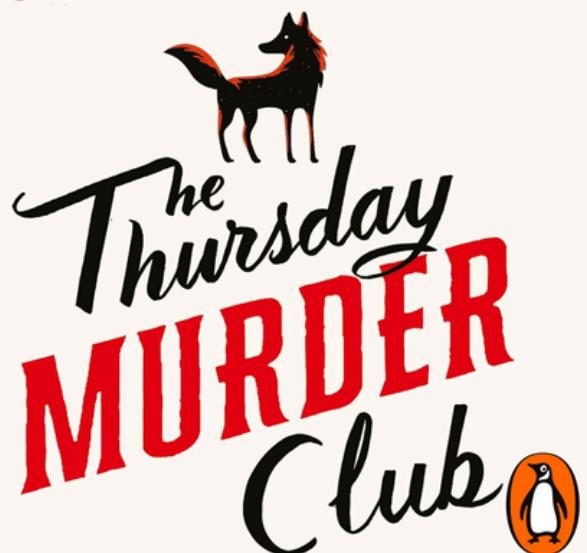
Isabelle 10y

THE THURSDAY MURDER CLUB

Age Rating: 14+**Author:** Richard Osman .**Genre:** Mystery/Crime Fiction

Murder? Love it. Romance? Love that, too. Some proper detective work by an unlikely group of 2 detectives and four eighty-year-old retirees? Definitely my cup of tea. I ate this book up in 1 day, no hesitation. The Thursday Murder Club is a small club in a small retirement village, made up of Elizabeth, Joyce, Ron, and Ibrahim. Every Thursday, they meet to discuss and pick at old unsolved cases. However, when a murder is committed in the place they call home, The Thursday Murder Club cannot stop themselves from investigating, and the police can't either. Filled with smart, witty humour and heartfelt messages, I love this book from the bottom of my heart. And guess what? It's a series!

RICHARD OSMAN



BOOK REVIEWS



Charlotte 10y

THE GLASS CASTLE

Age Rating: 14+

Author: Jeannette Walls

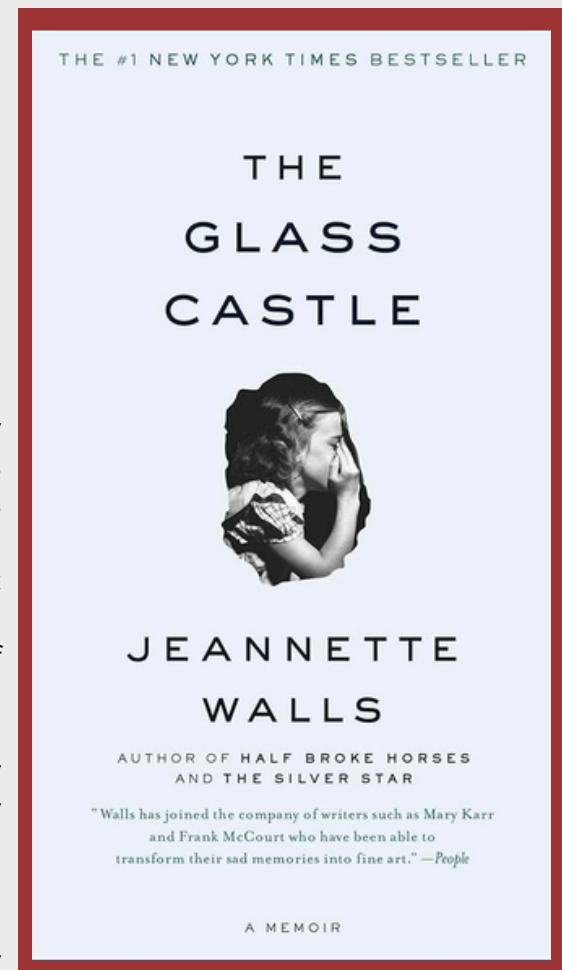
Genre: Memoir, biography, contemporary, nonfiction

Blurb:

The Glass Castle is a remarkable memoir of resilience and redemption, and a revelatory look into a family at once deeply dysfunctional and uniquely vibrant. When sober, Jeannette's brilliant and charismatic father captured his children's imagination, teaching them physics, geology, and how to embrace life fearlessly. But when he drank, he was dishonest and destructive. Her mother was a free spirit who abhorred the idea of domesticity and didn't want the responsibility of raising a family.

The Walls children learned to take care of themselves. They fed, clothed, and protected one another, and eventually found their way to New York. Their parents followed them, choosing to be homeless even as their children prospered.

The Glass Castle is truly astonishing--a memoir permeated by the intense love of a peculiar but loyal family.



Review

I first picked up this book thinking it was going to be a classical insightful memoir but boy, was I wrong! This book shocked me right from the start with the author's family's rogue escape from a hospital and showed me what type of read this would be. I loved the style of writing as it kept you hooked and allowed for unique descriptions of quite bizarre characters, keeping you always on your toes and making you promise just one more page! I really would recommend it to everyone as it is such a different read than anything else I have found, especially with how the author portrays her thoughts and feelings throughout her traumatic childhood in such a raw and authentic way making it easy to follow and enjoy. So honestly, I loved the book and do hope someone tries it out as it is one that will stick with you for while!

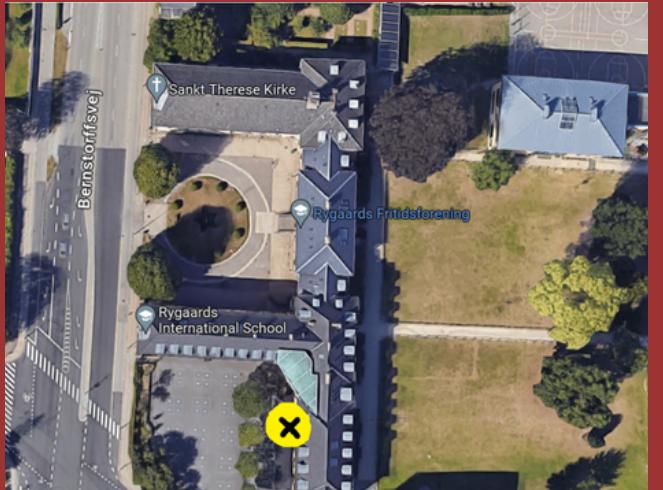


THE BOOK ALSO HAS
A FILM ADAPTATION
ON VIAPLAY !

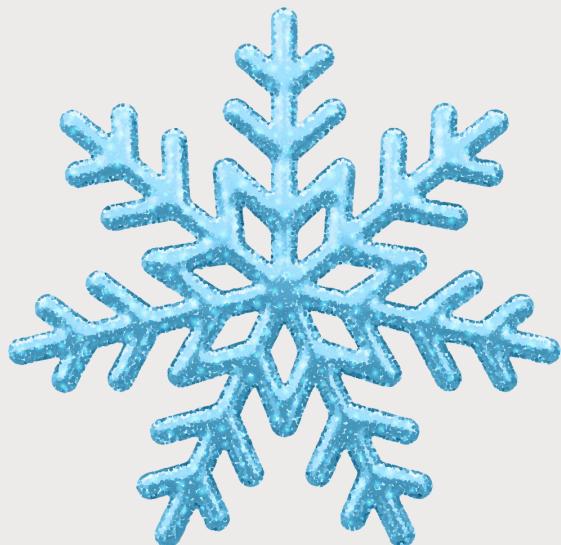


TREASURE HUNT

Vihaan 11x



Location of Treasure Marked in Yellow!



Hint below...
(Look carefully)

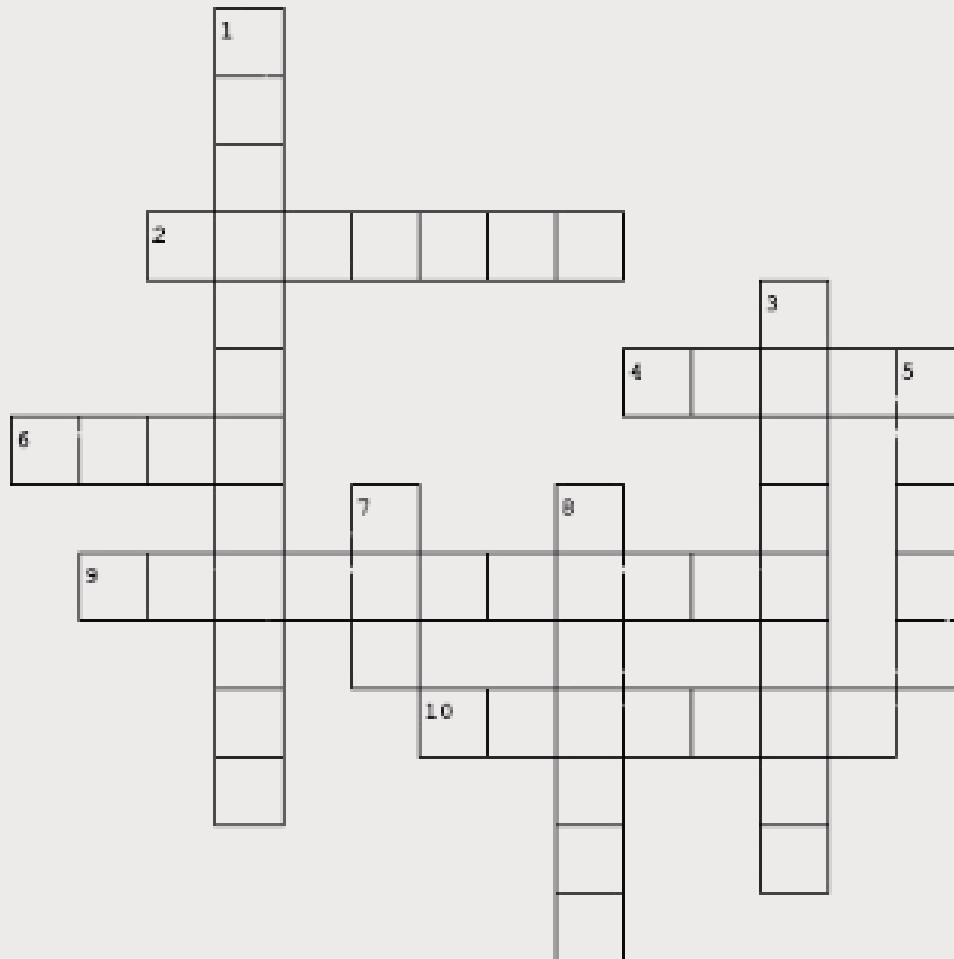


Beyond the confines of lecture halls and books,
venture where the outdoor court's allure hooks.
Where laughter mingles with the rustle of leaves,
find the realm where foosball joy weaves.
Handles turn and goals are made, in the open
field where the treasure is laid.
Follow the echoes of playful strife, and you're on
the path to the outdoor foosball life.

Once you've found the court in the open air, seek
the bench where the treasure's flair is rare.
Positioned in front of the field of play, this bench
hints at the treasure's display.
Under the vast sky's embracing cue, discover the
secret that lies in plain view.
Engage with the space where players compete,
and the bench will lead you to the treasure's
sweet feat!

CROSSWORD

Saanvi 9x



Across

2. An AI engine that has taken the education world by storm
4. "The ___ castle" (On pg.3)
6. India's space agency
9. "Use of AI technology ___ the learning experience" (On pg.2)
10. Which month did an underwater volcano erupt near Japan?

Down

1. A Japanese island that looked like Snoopy
3. Which space telescope captured an image of Sagittarius C?
5. What is the date of the Talent Show?
7. The protagonist of "The monster who wasn't"
8. Rygaards now has a ___ tour!

Credits:

- | | | |
|-------------------|----------------|-------------------------|
| • Vihaan Sanghavi | • Saanvi Raj | • Mike Zhang |
| • Ansh Makadia | • Tanish Joshi | • Isabelle Brander-Wang |
| • Lana Pedras | • Aatish Joshi | • Charlotte Sofia Trott |