# The York Oracle

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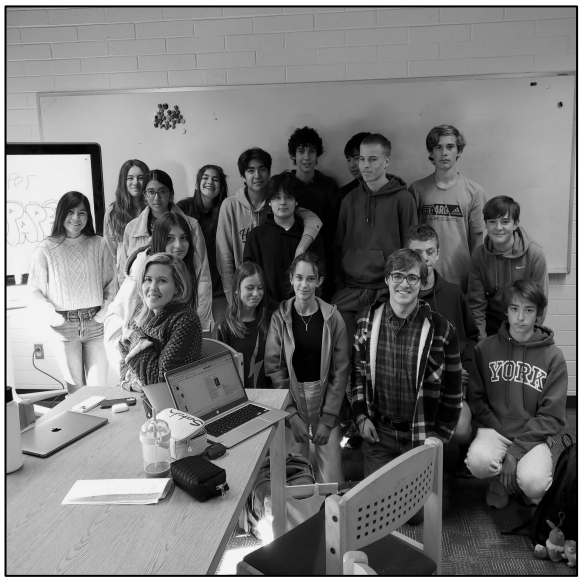
## YORK RELAUNCHES SCHOOL NEWSPAPER



Newspaper Staff, 2023-24.
Photo Credit: Gen Duran & Mr. Rubado

by Sofia Teresa Mejia Contreras

This year, there was interest in reviving the newspaper. Ms. Deschamps was approached by Mr. Zeljo to start a school newspaper during the newly-created Flex period, which allows students to pursue a variety of interdisciplinary projects.

York did have a printed newspaper about twenty years ago. *The Spork* was a satirical newspaper that featured many columns such as video game reviews, movie reviews, and Man on the Street. In 2014 a student had the idea to revive "The Spork" with Mr. Brookhouser as faculty advisor and turn it into a blog. Unfortunately, the blog was soon discontinued. When discussing the hope of relaunching the school newspaper, Mr. Brookhouser shared that he's "so glad that there is a group that is excited to bring it back."

Ms. Deschamps hopes that the newspaper will not only help those on staff improve their writing skills but also have a greater impact on the community. It is important to her to have media literacy for students and staff alike, even if not on the newspaper staff, to be involved in some way or the other or as Ms. Deschamps said "a shared experience of communicating truth."

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## SOPHOMORES TO TRAVEL TO COSTA RICA AGAIN

by Thomas Huston

Next semester, the Class of 2026 will go on an exciting trip to Costa Rica. They will learn about climate change and how to help with it, as well as go on adventures in the country with local professionals. They will be staying mostly in Monteverde where CIEE's campus is located. The planned time for the trip will be from March 2-9 and some activities will be going to a butterfly garden, astronomy nights, and ziplining. The teachers that will chaperone the trip will be Mr. Martin, Ms. Williston, Mr. Zeljo, and of course, Ms. Siarny, Director of Global Programs. *(cont. on P. 2)*

## CREATING A COURSE: HOW IT WORKS

by Aiden O'Brien

Last year, students came together to advocate for a Psychology class to be offered in 2023-24. Multiple signatures were gathered on a petition and an instructor offered to teach the class. They were denied. It turns out that there is more that goes into creating a class at York than we knew.

I first interviewed Jon Zeljo, Director of Teaching and Learning, to understand the logistics of the course creation process. "The administration is always looking to expand the curriculum offered at York, but the change in goals and leadership has changed the curriculum too," Zeljo explained. *(cont. on P. 2)*

# COSTA RICA, cont.

Ms. Siarny explained that Costa Rica was chosen for its proximity to the United States and its strong ecotourism and sustainable mindset, which together offer… a unique opportunity for our students to have a hands-on experience about climate change and climate change mitigation practices.

Ms. Siarny said, “I think many students will find the trip to be an exercise and experience for independence and self-reliance. I also hope that students come away with a deeper understanding of how other countries are addressing larger global issues like climate change.”

Sophomore Daniel Campos is excited to go to a new country filled with lush jungles and beautiful mountains and thinks the new experiences he will have with his friends will be fun and exciting, though he is worried about being so far away from home and not knowing a lot about the country. Danny Penrose looks forward to ziplining through the forests and seeing the beautiful springs. He will also think it will be interesting to see how independent everyone can be. Elysha Kennedy is excited about the new experience and seeing all the beauty the country has to offer. She thinks going on hikes and doing all the new activities will be fun and a great experience for sophomores to learn and grow. Xinyao Zhang thinks it will be cool to explore a new country and that sharing a room with her friends will be fun. Joey is most excited about going on the zipline because you will get to see so much of the forest and greenery as you fly through it.

These are just some of the student’s things that they are going to do there and there will be many more. This will be a life-changing trip that they will all enjoy and everybody can’t wait to go.

# CREATING A COURSE, cont.

Three criteria are required for a new class: student interest, teacher expertise, and course alignment with the school’s strategic goals. Student interest makes sure that students would take the class if it were offered. For teacher expertise, a PHD is not required; however, the teacher must have a level of understanding and love for the subject that makes the class enjoyable. The strategic goals for the school are a newer criterion, making sure the class hits global education goals.

The timeline of creating a class is lengthy. A new class proposal must include course goals and a few examples of class work assessments and be submitted to Zeljo by November. After getting Zeljo’s approval, the finalized proposal is submitted to the UCs/CSUs in February to start their approval process. Their approval is how the honors availability is gained, which is important to a small private school, as there is a prestige to be upheld. The UC’s/CSU’s final approval is given in June, ensuring there is time to workshop the class to meet their requirements. This allows for the class to have a York style, while still covering the materials the UC’s/CSU’s want.

I then sought out Dr. Gurska, an instructor in the History Department, which is also overhauling its classes. He focuses on creating new courses with relevance. “This involves cultural relevance, skills that students should develop, and making sure the course makes an everlasting imprint on the students,” he said. He also emphasized that creating an AP class has to go through the College Board. “UC approvals and honors options are far more elastic.”

So why does this matter? Students more than ever are advocating for the education that they're getting at York. While they know that the teachers are more than capable of teaching the classes, as the old saying goes “there’s always red tape.” This is a prime example of red tape that we will encounter in our life. Yes, a class could be added next week about psychology, but would that class be the absolute best class that York students deserve? As cumbersome as red tape is, sometimes there is a good reason behind it.

# THE SPORTS REPORT

by Emma Wilcox and Ivan Bischoff

## Cross Country

***"Every day they show up and are ready to work and push beyond themselves…they are also a very cohesive team; they support one another" –Dr Hanna, XC coach*** New 9th graders Ivan Bischoff and Ayden Kanter have come a long way, especially in figuring out how to pace themselves for a 5k race. Ivan was 0.8 seconds away from qualifying for CCS. Seniors Adam Galinato and Sebastian Del Toro are great leaders in setting the example for the team and Adam finally went sub-20 minutes at the Toro course for his first time ever. The Cross Country team overall performed very well, earning third place in their division while only being only a couple points behind the second place team.

*Field hockey getting ready for battle*

## Girls Volleyball

***"The coach changed the spirit of the game and overall its more fun to be apart of this team" — Vanitha '25*** The girls volleyball team did outstanding this year in grit and spirit. Even though they did not win very many games, there was a massive improvement though the team, practices, spirit, and participation. Varsity captains Orion Godfrey-Dacuyan and Akyra Smith were very encouraging supportive leaders, they took their time and effort seriously. JV captains Maya Barahona and Ja'Khiah McMillian carried positivity throughout all the games. They were very dedicated and were always there for the team.

*Lily Trujillo '27 - Water Polo [Andrea Sanico Photography]*

## Boys Soccer

***"Winning doesn't matter, have fun and play your heart out." -Paul Gaucher (Head Coach)*** Boys Soccer is now up and running. They have now had three preseason games and the team continues to practice each day after school. At the time of this writing, our current record is 1-1-1 with goals from Sebastian Del Toro, Anthony Penrose, and Jean-Pierre Brenot. There has already been a lot of improvement individually, and as a team. More news soon on their upcoming games and good luck to the Boys Soccer team!

*Alexa Arango-Cuevas and Alessia Torrente '25 [Andrea Sanico Photography]*

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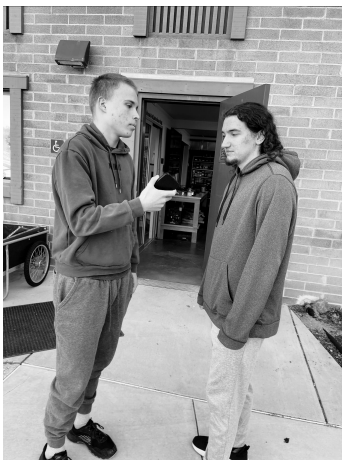
# STUDENT ON THE STREET Q & A

by Miles Fadem ‘25 and Diego Ortiz-Naranjo ‘27



**Do you think midterms are necessary?**
Cruz: “Actually not because it might waste some times to have a midterm, it will maybe influence our study schedule or something else.”
Gappo: “Nah.”
Dean: “Probably, I mean they help gauge the student ability at the middle of the school year.”
Franky: “No not really, because they don’t even count towards our grades. They do but they don’t like consider it in the final transcript. It's just the finals that count.”
Sofia: “Yes.”
Esbeidy: “I think yes because it would reveal the stuff before finals.”
Dedome: “No.”

**Do you think midterms help you learn?**
Cruz: “No.”
Gappo: “Nah. They just test your learning, they don’t help you learn.”
Dean: “Midterms are more of a gauge of what you have learned throughout the year during an assessment.”
Franky: “It’s a good place to like know where you’re at, where your current skill is at. Other than that, there is really not point in taking a midterm other than stressing you out.”
Sofia: “No.”
Esbeidy: “Yes.”
Dedome: “No.”

**Should midterms be removed from York?**
Cruz: “I think so, but it can’t be decided by me.”
Gappo: “Yes.”
Dean: “Probably not.”
Franky: “I mean, we need midterms to know where someone is at, right? I guess making them shorter or like less stressful would be more helpful.”
Sofia: “Yes.”
Esbeidy: “I think for some classes yeah.”
Dedome: “Yes.”

**Do you think midterms are too difficult?**
Cruz: “A little bit I think.”
Gappo: “Yeah they’re way too difficult. They should lower it down to like a one-page quiz.”
Dean: “It’s hard to gauge their difficulty, I believe they are designed with each class in mind so they should be able to gauge your ability with adequate difficulty if you are studying everything throughout the school year.”
Franky: “I mean it depends but like personally I think yeah, there is a lot of stuff to cover in one semester and then to put it all in one test…”
Sofia: “No.”
Esbeidy: “Sometimes, yeah.”
Dedome: “Yes.”

# HEAVENLY HOROSCOPES

by Angelic Ava

Aries (March 21 - April 19) - You're super strong and smart but also, why do you care so much? You're the type of person who cares way too much about gym class. In your future I see a mental breakdown over something that won't matter in a few years.

Taurus (April 20 - May 20) - Not showing up to school every four days because you have a headache and Sagittarius parents is just the epitome of being spoiled. In your future I see opportunities you don't deserve and a botched face lift.

Gemini (May 21 - June 20) - You are way too busy. Stop doing 8 extracurriculars and spend some time with your family. In your future I see a Med School exam you cram for at 3 a.m that day.

Cancer (June 21 - July 22) - You're super hippie, flowy and think you can speak to animals. Get a haircut, take a shower and know that natural deodorant doesn't work, we can smell you. Also buying from thrift stores doesn't make you the next Rosa Parks and stop reposting every social justice TikTok.

Leo (July 23 - August 22) - Mood swings are common with you and so are situationships that go nowhere. Either talk to a therapist or marry a Libra that will mellow you out.

Virgo (August 23 - September 22) - Sorry, I know you're nice but I don't want to hear about your hyperfixation on sharks. You laugh at all the teachers' math jokes and love Minecraft too much. In your future I see a STEM career and a pet tortoise.

Libra (September 23 - October 22) - you guys are apparently super balanced, which is lame. Saying "I can't pick a side" every single time your friends are fighting doesn't work when the argument is about something actually important. In your future I see you going to bed at 9:30 in your mid-twenties.

Scorpio (October 23 - November 21) - You are apparently rude, but it's because you're better than everyone, don't let lame other signs change you. In your future I see immense success, Prada bags and a 6'2 guy with dreads.

Sagittarius (November 22 - December 21) - Break up with him already, he's not even cute. Also yeah it's weird his Snap score went up when he said he was "sleeping." In your future I see toxic relationships and getting scammed by an MLM.

Capricorn (December 22 - January 19) - Being optimistic 24/7 is annoying: show emotions and don't hide your anger all the time. In your future I see bake sales, sewing and highlights you'll regret.

Aquarius (January 20 - February 18) - You're a "rebel": you don't use TikTok and think that listening to 80's music is a personality trait. In your future I see you trying to get into Harvard with an edgy essay about how your parents' divorce.

Pisces (February 19 - March 20) - You cry over tiny things and I'm not just talking about your ex. Crying over a B is not gonna help anything. Focus on school and making sure you buy waterproof mascara. In your future I see a meltdown at Target.

# ASK US

by Ayden Kanter, Donilo Shivers, Adrian Lorca

*Q: Are aliens real? If so, what is the chance that they are hot?*
A: The existence of an extraterrestrial creature has been debated for many thousands of years with speculations from as early as the Sixth Century BCE dating up to the modern day. However, sightings of Unidentified Flying Objects, or UFOs, cannot be ignored. It is tough to tell whether or not these are aliens or merely misidentifications. Nevertheless, if aliens do exist, it begs the question, "Are aliens attractive creatures?" And to that, I say that it depends on your definition of "attractive." Every person has unique qualities, each of which is appreciated by different people. However, studying these extraterrestrial creatures has proved harder than finding a needle in a galaxy-sized haystack. And until we can swipe right on some intergalactic Tinder profiles, the widespread search for aliens will continue.

We would love to hear your thoughts on this complicated but fascinating subject. Feel free to follow up on this question or submit your questions to kantera2027@york.org

# MORE HEADLINES

by Brandon Whaley, Oisin Burke, and Bryan Kim

**Mr. Key Accidentally Buys Airline Tickets to San Jose, California instead of San Jose, Costa Rica** *(p. 3+8)*

**Leaked Documents Suggest That Future Sports Games Have Been Rigged Years in Advance: Mr. Zeljo Will Always Win** *(p. 44)*

**Doug Key and Jon Zeljo Found Playing with Legos Duplos in Discipline Committee Meeting** *(p. y=mx+B)*

# QUIZ: Which Taylor Swift Album Are You?

by Evera Moore

Which best describes you?
A. Empathetic and sincere
B. Ambitious and competent
C. Passionate and witty
D. Insightful and curious
E. Spontaneous and optimistic
F. Self-confident and assertive

How would you spend your day?
A. Reading a book
B. Shopping
C. Binging Netflix
D. Playing sports
E. Going to Starbucks at the mall
F. Plotting revenge

3. Favorite of these colors?
A. Blue
B. Pink
C. Black & White
D. Yellow
E. Green
F. Purple

4. Which of these most closely resembles your aesthetic?
A. Pastels
B. Emo
C. Y2K
D. Woodland/cottage core
E. Sparkly glamorous
F. Country

## Results!

1-4 pts: Folklore/Evermore

5-8 pts: Lover

9-12 pts: 1989

13-16 pts: Midnights

17-20 pts: Reputation

21-24 pts: Fearless

| Question 1: | | Question 2: | | Question 3. | | Question 4. | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| A. | 6 pts | A. | 1 pt | A. | 3 pts | A. | 2 pts |
| B. | 3 pts | B. | 3 pts | B. | 2 pts | B. | 5 pts |
| C. | 4 pts | C. | 4 pts | C. | 5 pts | C. | 3 pts |
| D. | 0 pts | D. | 6 pts | D. | 6 pts | D. | 0 pts |
| E. | 2 pts | E. | 2 pts | E. | 0 pts | E. | 4 pts |
| F. | 5 pts | F. | 5 pts | F. | 4 pts | F. | 6 pts |

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# -TEACHER’S PET- MOLLY

by Esther Spaulding, Autumn Troy, Genevieve Duran, Nili Biblarz

In April, Molly, a Red Boston Terrier, found her forever home with Mr. Rubado. Now ten months old, Molly is a York campus favorite, known for her energetic and friendly nature. She is extremely social, always eager for pets and A LOT of playtime, or anything that makes her the center of attention. During last year’s finals, Molly became York’s support dog. Her positive energy comforted students under stress.

Molly’s love for play shines at home. She shows humans how it’s done and throws her ball for herself. Who needs humans when you can throw the ball instead? With Molly, fetch never ends and neither does the fun. Fetch may be entertaining, but Molly also enjoys letting out her energy by rolling on her back and biting her hind legs. She isn’t picky and loves all of her toys, making sure to choose a new one each day. There’s never a boring moment with Molly around, she’s always up for some playtime and lots of attention.

With her boundless energy and infectious enthusiasm, Molly is more than a pet; she’s an antidote to dull moments. As she continues to spread love among her ever-changing favorite toys, we can all agree that life with Molly is a perpetual game of joy and play. After all, who needs a stress ball when you have Molly around to keep the fetch game going forever?