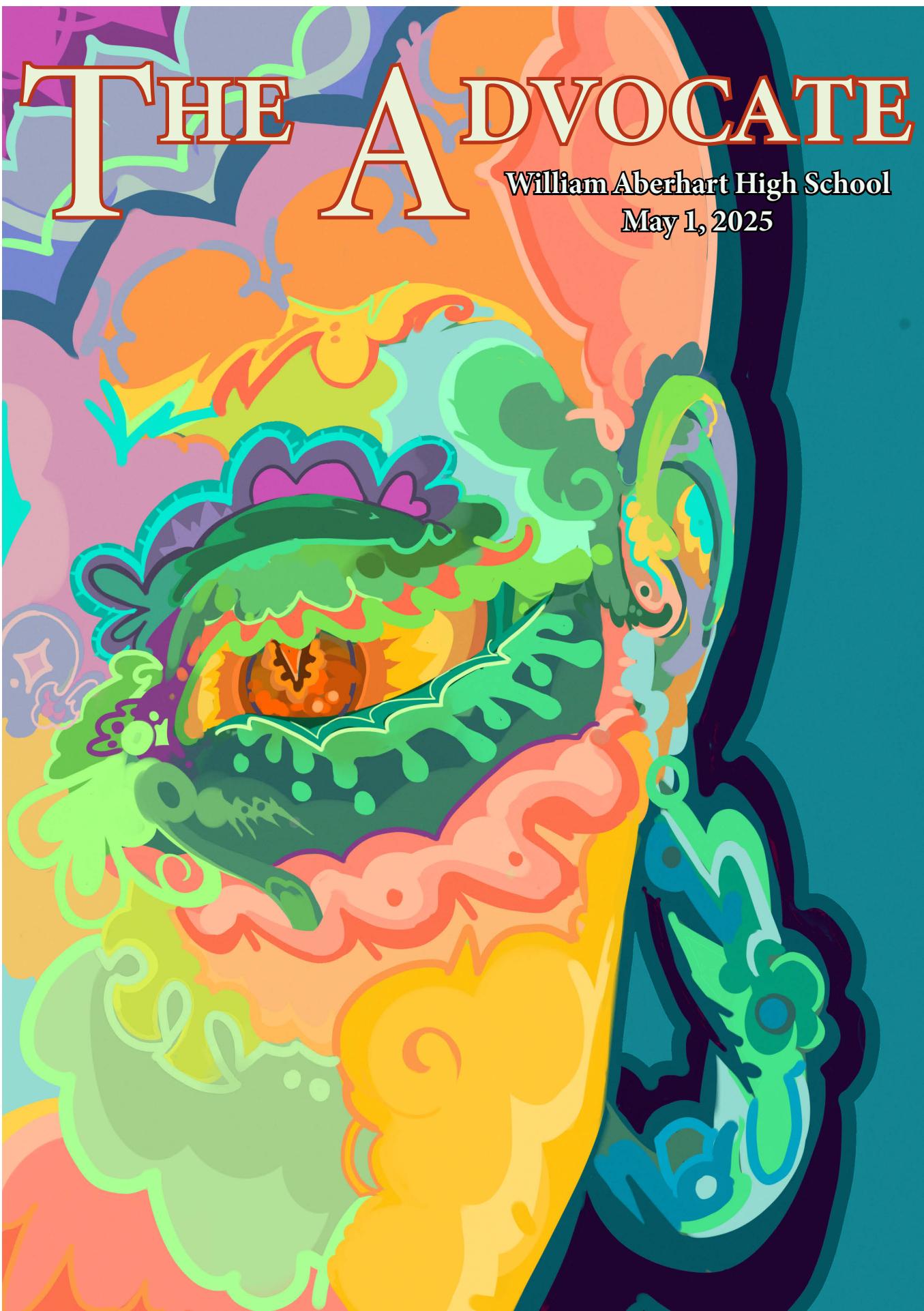


# THE ADVOCATE

William Aberhart High School  
May 1, 2025



# MAPLE MAGA: THE INFLUENCE OF YOUTH, STRATEGIC VOTING, AND TRUMP ON THE 2025 FEDERAL ELECTIONS

by: Sophia Lee



The results of the 2025 federal Canadian election were announced late on April 28. The Liberal Party, headed by Mark Carney, achieved a minority government. After their fourth consecutive term, many are wondering which events led to this win.

Up until December of last year, the Conservative Party was leading by 22 points in a national survey conducted by Leger. 43% of Canadians stated they would vote Conservative, with 31% believing that Pierre Poilievre was the candidate best positioned to become Prime Minister.

However, the election results presented a sharp turn, with the Liberal Party winning 169 seats -- just three seats shy of the 172 needed for a majority government. In contrast, Conservatives won only 144 seats, becoming the Official Opposition Party. Poilievre himself lost his Ottawa riding to Liberal candidate Bruce Fanjoy. This marks a historic defeat, as Poilievre has held the district for over ten years since 2003.

This kind of recovery is remarkable for the Liberal Party. Many suggest that the win can be attributed to a variety of factors, including the Trump tariffs, Trudeau's resignation, and a stronger emphasis on

strategic voting this election.

Strategic voting refers to when a voter casts their vote for the party that is best projected to win against another, even if it does not align with their true preferences. "If I prefer the NDP [and] that's my sincere preference, but I vote for the Liberals to stop the Conservatives, then the common phraseology is that I didn't vote sincerely. I voted strategically for the Liberals to prevent the Conservatives from winning," stated associate professor Christopher Cochrane, who teaches political science at the University of Toronto.

This kind of voting is certainly popular amongst young voters on social media, particularly against the Conservative Party. The rise of platforms such as Instagram and TikTok has made it easier to share political opinions and urge others to vote. In one video, a social media user shared that she was going to vote to "cancel out [her] father's vote," implying that her father was voting Conservative. Another urged people to check the poll statistics to see which candidate to vote for to stop the Conservatives from winning.

According to Elections Canada, more youth believe less strongly "that voting will make a difference." This lends itself to a strategic voting mindset, where voters are primarily focused on preventing a "worst

case" scenario. It seems youth believe that the best way to have their voice heard is by ensuring one party loses.

There is speculation that the increased voting turnout of this election is in part caused by young voters finding value in a strategic vote. Voting turnout reached an all-time high during the 2025 election, with 69% of registered voters casting their ballots. This is up 6% from the previous 2021 election.

It has long been a concern that the vote is being "split" on the left -- with voters divided amongst the Liberal, NDP, and Green parties. This election saw even candidates capitalizing on these worries, such as NDP candidate Peter Julian. He called for Liberal or Green party supporters to vote for him, as he was best suited to win the riding.

However, there are certain concerns associated with strategic voting. "One of the big challenges in our electoral system with strategic voting is that people

## THE ADVOCATE

THE ADVOCATE is the official newspaper of William Aberhart High School. THE ADVOCATE is meant as a forum for student expression and is published to inform and entertain the students and the entire school community.

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often look at national-level polls when they decide whether and how to vote strategically, when what ultimately matters is the local results," Cochrane stated. This means that voters may choose to vote either Liberal or Conservative, when in reality another candidate may be projected to win. This has an adverse effect on what strategic voting is really meant to do. Some argue that this does not matter -- a vote is a vote, regardless of the intention behind it.

Others question whether strategic voting is even ethical in a country like Canada, believing it undermines democracy entirely -- especially because Canada holds a multi-party system. In fact, it is only because of sincere votes that have allowed parties such as the Green Party and NDP Party to gain any kind of influence. Without the support of voters, all smaller parties cease to exist.

The detrimental effects of strategic voting are already reflected in the current situation. The NDP won only 7 seats, down from the 23 they won in the 2021 election. This means they have lost official party status, which requires 12 seats. Even Jagmeet Singh, leader of the party, lost his riding, leading to his announcement of his resignation as party leader. The NDP party now faces the uncertainty of how it will navigate the next five years and beyond.

While this loss is partly attributed to the relationship between the NDP party and the Trudeau government -- particularly with Poilievre referring to the unpopular administration as the "NDP-Liberal coalition" -- others claim that the influence of strategic voting cannot be ignored.

"Folks were saying they wanted to vote NDP and send people to Ottawa who wanted to fight for them, but they were scared," Melanie Richer, press secretary of the NDP party, stated. She also acknowledged the role the Trump government has played in the current election. "Unfortunately, folks are really looking for somebody who could beat Donald Trump, and we may not have been the answer this time."

But to what extent has the Trump administration and the threat of the tariff war actually influenced the election? Some voters state that it was a deciding factor in how they voted. "I just cannot support the hate rhetoric ... and this 'Maple MAGA' movement that's happening here in Canada," said Chantal Dugdale, who has always voted Conservative until this election. "Listening to Poilievre speak, it's like talking points from Trump," added Derek Ouellette, another long-time Conservative. In contrast, voters described Carney as "decisive" and capable of dealing with Trump.

This would also help explain the sudden preference for strategic over sincere voting amongst people in this election. Suddenly, the "worst-case" scenario is no longer having another party lead the government for five years -- it is the takeover of Canada by a Trump-esque politician. When viewed like that, it becomes increasingly easy to see why a voter would cast their true preferences aside in the name of the "greater good." It is also clear to see how this kind of rhetoric can be inflated on social media, exacerbating voter concerns. As Roland Paris, director at the University of Ottawa's graduate School of Public and International Affairs, stated, "Canadians were tired of the Liberal Party after 10 years, but they were even more concerned about Trump's threats." Even Trump himself acknowledges the role he played in this election. "I was disliked by enough of the Canadians that I've thrown the election into a close call, right?" he stated in an interview with The Atlantic.

However, the message of youth on social media conflicts with what the data claims. Surveys show that the Conservatives had over 10% more support from voters aged 18 to 34 years old than the Liberals. Additionally, only 18% of 18 to 29 years old expressed that their primary concerns involved Trump. The bulk of those worried about the United States were voters over 60, where 45% of people stated that their vote was noticeably influenced by this issue.

Instead, the primary issue for young voters was the housing crisis and the rising cost of living. Many claimed that they simply



could not afford to live in Canada unless the government changed its policies to make living more affordable. Here, Poilievre's campaigns and party platform seemed to resonate.

It is still uncertain what accounts for this divide. Some question whether supporters of the Liberal and NDP are simply more active on social media. Others wonder whether social media platforms have become too hostile towards Conservative voters, which may limit them from sharing their opinions online. Conservatives often find themselves on the receiving end of criticism, being judged for valuing the "ability to buy a house" over "human rights."

Whatever the cause, it is clear that young voters and strategic voting alike have had a major impact on the election results. As Carney navigates his first few days as newly elected prime minister, it remains to be seen what efforts he will make to keep or gain the support of all Canadian citizens.



## INTERVIEW WITH CEO PATRICIA JONES

by: Tess Wilton



Patricia Jones is the President and CEO of the Calgary Homeless Foundation. This month, I had the opportunity to interview her, focusing on her unique career. These are excerpts from our meeting.

### How did you get into this field of work? What did your education pathway look like?

I grew up on a farm. Back then, the story for women was, “marry a farmer” or “get a job in a bank”. And I thought, well, I don’t want to do any one of those things. I went to the University of Lethbridge and got a Bachelor of Social Work degree. I then went to U of C, and afterwards started working at Woods Homes for a couple of years, and then realized I’m very pragmatic. I thought in order to make more money, I’ll be frank, I needed to get a master’s degree. After getting my master’s, I worked at Catholic Family Service for 27 years. I started as a therapist, working my way through into leadership positions, and then came to Calgary Homeless five years ago. People ask me: Did you always want to be in leadership or the CEO? And to be honest, heck no, I didn’t even know what that was. But I do like to have an influence on how people are treated and how a culture occurs in an organization; I just kind of naturally gravitated toward that. So none of these jobs were intentional, though I always come to work feeling like what I’m doing has made a difference in some small way.

### What does a typical day in your profession look like?

My job is very external in many ways, and I often say my time is not my own. I’ll give you an example: Monday, I was at a drop-in center touring with somebody

from Lethbridge. After that, we brought in a speaker from Ontario for the afternoon with all of our colleagues. Tuesday morning, I had an internal executive leadership meeting with all the vice presidents here, followed by lunch with a board member and a board prospect. Then I met with a staff member, and then I had a partner meeting in the community, along with a compensation discussion later. Yesterday, I had staff supervision. In the afternoon, I was at Confluence, our Indigenous G4 Tribal Council, which is our Indigenous partner. We had a resource fair there for people experiencing homelessness. And then I was doing strategic planning interviews, and later at a launch for the Calgary Affordable Housing Foundation. So it’s all over the map, right? Probably 80% of my job is external. And about 60% of that to 80% is government relations. When somebody asks me a question, what do you do all day? Each one of those activities was about guiding the fight against homelessness. And if I’m doing something that is outside of that purpose, I shouldn’t be doing it.

### What is an initiative that you’re most proud of?

When I started here five years ago, the organizational culture wasn’t very good. Five years ago, when I had just gotten here, we were in trouble with the government. Culture is set by the leader, and the CEO had been absent for eight months. There was toxic leadership. And so I think what I’m most proud of is that we’ve built a high-performing organization system with great culture and dedicated leaders, and now a great partnership with the government of Alberta. Because without that, we couldn’t serve people experiencing homelessness. Our foundation gives out money, but the government can do that too. So why do we do it? It’s so we can guide the fight, one where we can be that trusted advisor in the community. I think I’m most proud of the internal transformations the system has underwent, but also that we have a very clear reason for why we exist.

### How do you see your field of work evolving in the future with things such as AI

### and other new technology?

We will need to pivot and be flexible constantly. AI for the people we serve will be very interesting. Our current count indicates that 3,121 people are experiencing homelessness. Every month, they must phone to do a housing assessment for us to keep track of them—they need to request through voicemail to say “I still want a house”. Well, can you imagine trying to figure out where to phone in for help, all while juggling everything else being homeless? That’s just not realistic, so we’re looking at technology to reduce that barrier. In partnership with 211, we could implement innovative tools using AI to make help more accessible. I think it will transform our world and others in ways we don’t even know yet.

### Are there any particular programs or resources you recommend for youth in Calgary who are trying to enter pathways such as yours? Or ways to get involved as youth?

The Distress Centre is a great place because they have a teen texting line where you can help out. Going with your family and serving a meal at the drop-in centre would be great. I think if you’re interested in a particular program, just go on the agency website and volunteer. Overall, going into social work as a career!

### Is there any other way we can help support your organization?

I think when you see somebody experiencing homelessness on the street, look them in the eye, say hello, and understand they are someone’s child, brother, sister, aunt, uncle, etc. I have a particular passion for our social behaviours surrounding homelessness. If you want to give somebody money, give them money, but don’t determine what they spend it on. Treat them like adults. So if somebody wants to give you money and they use it for alcohol, don’t judge that.

### The Calgary Homeless Foundation:

403-237-6456

## EQUESTRIAN CANADA SCANDAL: TOP ATHLETE FACES BACKLASH

by: Lauren Schultz



As of late, Olympian Erynn Ballard of Team Canada has faced severe disappointment from fans after a clip of her round from March 2024 was released. The footage showcased Ballard at the World Equestrian Center in Ocala, Florida, in which the rider was eliminated during the 1.30-meter jumper class while riding a client's horse. The clip of around 30 seconds began circulating online in December 2024 and has been shared widely since. The U.S. Equestrian Federation confirmed that in the video, Ballard hits the horse a total of five times: once over the jump, clearing the fence, and several times afterwards when the horse started spinning, therefore getting her eliminated.

In Show Jumping, the maximum number of times you can use a crop, also referred to as bats or sticks, is three times per round. Crops are an artificial aid intended to reinforce a rider's cues, a tool on the same par as leg aids, seats, and vocal cues, rather than as a form of punishment. This incident has been reported and investigated, but USEF declined to take disciplinary action.

Ballard's spokesperson said the incident shown in the video began with the mare not wanting to pass the in-gate and her struggle worsening as she tried to continue on course. The spokesperson noted that none of the officials on site for the class, including the steward and

ground jury, told her that she'd behaved abusively. "In her more than 25 years as a horse professional, Ms. Ballard has never been reprimanded, cautioned, advised, yellow carded, investigated or disciplined—formally or informally—by any sports association, judge or official.

The video in question, an edited snippet from a much longer ride, has been investigated and reviewed by USEF, which determined that discipline was not warranted", Ballard's spokesperson continues.

Equestrian Canada, which earlier this week named Ballard as its 2024 Equestrian of the Year, said it has "paused the award" while it investigates the video. They have faced many complaints and severe backlash about the choice of the award recipient after the clip surfaced.

"We understand this is a concern for our community and want to assure you we are committed to ensuring a fair, respectful, and thorough process," Equestrian Canada stated in an Instagram and Facebook post. "In light of the concerns, and out of respect for the integrity of our awards and our community, we have decided to pause the award pending the outcome of the complaint process."

"If she's doing this in public, what is she doing behind the scenes?" Social media users comment. "Why do these people have sponsors, clients, grooms, and fans?" another adds.

Erynn Ballard, from Oakville, Ontario, has represented Canada at major events like the 2024 Paris Olympic Games, the 2022 Agria FEI Jumping World Championship in Denmark, and the 2018 FEI World Equestrian Games in North Carolina. She has previously won EC's Equestrian of the Year honours in 2006 and has been ranked second second-highest female show jumper in the world. She is currently 27th in the Longines world ranking and 15th in the Pan-American rankings. Ballard is an influential professional to many Canadian athletes in the sport, but it is unclear whether that will stay that way after the surfacing of this event.

While Ballard's situation continues to stir up controversy, it is important to show empathy for individuals in stressful situations. Equestrian sports prove to be extremely difficult and demand intense focus on technique and control. Under pressure, people don't always act on their best standards, yet many are quick to judge from a short clip before learning the whole story. However, abuse is rightfully frowned upon in all disciplines by the equestrian community, and the sport is continuing to create new measures for improving horse welfare.

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## ABE TEACHER MONTHLY: MS. CHUNG

by: Ruby Tovich

### Tell us a little bit about yourself: hobbies, music, where you grew up, what sports you played, etc

I grew up in Calgary and went through CBE for K-12. I grew up in the southwest, and I graduated from E.P. Scarlett, then from the University of Calgary with a Geomatics engineering degree, and then a Bachelor's of Education. As for hobbies, I do all kinds of fiber arts like sewing and knitting. If you ever see me wearing a knit sweater in the halls, I probably made it myself. I'm also passionate about dog training and dog sports. I find that those things occupy most of my free time.

### If you could live in any other Canadian city, where would you pick?

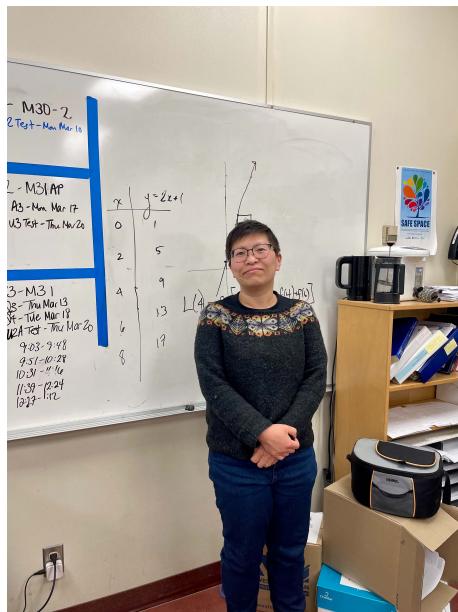
I think maybe somewhere on Vancouver Island, like Victoria. The weather seems a little more moderate than what we have here.

### Do you like the new bell schedule?

We're essentially going back to 85-88 minute classes, because we actually used to have longer classes before we had a WELL block. There was Tutorial as usual in the morning, and we still had the tumbling timetable (1-2-3-4; 2-1-4-3). Friday classes were a little bit longer; they were about 65 minutes. So my guess is we're just reverting to that schedule. Having actually taught those lengths of classes, it doesn't matter too much to me. It gives me a bit more class time to work with students, and it'll probably mean less homework.

### What are you most looking forward to this summer?

I've been working on training with my German Shepherd, and we're getting good at scent detection. What she does is she can identify scents like wintergreen, thyme, pine, and so on, and I can pretty much let her go into a room and she can search around for that scent and indicate to me if she found something. Other than that, I think we'll do some camping out in Kananaskis or Canmore. Although this year we might venture out more near Red Deer or Drumheller, because there are



some good fishing spots out there.

### If the Aberhart staff were in the Hunger Games, who would you want to team up with and why?

Now that I think about it, I'm not sure. Everyone who's coming to mind has retired in the last couple of years. From the current staff, I'm not sure; I think I would want to pair up with someone like-minded who I know well enough that I can predict what they would be doing, so probably Ms. Ng.

### What kinds of TV shows or movies do you enjoy watching?

I tend towards crime dramas. I've watched Criminal Minds and Law & Order, but over the last couple of years, I've been watching some more K-dramas.

### If you had unlimited resources, what would you like to improve at Abe?

I would say more staff so that we could lower class numbers, because we do have core classes that have upwards of 40 students, especially in math, and largely in the French immersion courses. My classes vary depending on the size of the English program, because the English kids are normally within walking distance from the school, plus a couple of transfer students. In French immersion, though, people are

driving in from almost all of the north-west, so there can be anywhere from 38 to 45 students in one room. That makes it tough for students when they're trying to get extra help, and having a bigger staff would be awesome.

### What is your favourite part about mathematics?

I like puzzles and I like problem solving. It's that "aha!" moment when you figure something out after you've put that time in and things work out nicely. It can be frustrating for a lot of students because if they have a shaky foundation, like a Jenga tower, they find math quite difficult. If that time has been put in at the beginning, it can help a lot in the long term.

### Do you have a favourite unit to teach?

Probably Math 30-1 trig. It is tough, but it's quite satisfying at the end once you understand it. In Math 30-2, I would say my favourite is permutations and combinations.

### Any advice for students going to university this fall?

Time management is everything! Especially for students moving away from home, they now need to potentially cook, manage their laundry, their classes, their assignments, their social life, etc. You're also gonna be meeting many new people, though I think it's important to find like-minded people. Certainly, if you're doing something like engineering, it's crucial to have that support system to get through it.

### Favourite genre of music?

To be honest, it has changed from year to year from when I was younger to now. And I mean, on the radio now, there's a lot of '90s tunes because things go in cycles. What was around when I was a teenager is coming back or has regained popularity. Generally, though, I like alternative music, and I listen to the Foo Fighters a lot.

### What is the most interesting place you've travelled to?

It's been a while, but I used to make regular visits with my family in Hong Kong.

### What was the last book you read?

It was a true crime one by Kate Winkler Dawson; I think it was the one about Edward H. Rulloff, who was a serial murderer from the 19th century. I've also read the Throne of Glass series and the A Court of Thorns and Roses series.

### What do you normally eat for lunch?

Leftovers. It's easy. Normally, my husband's cooking, or takeout if we've gone for my usual weekly dinner with Mr Marshall. Even though he's retired, we still go for dinner on a regular basis.

### What is your dream job?

Probably a veterinarian—I know I've mentioned dogs a couple of times.

### Do you have any "study hacks" for math?

I think the first part is that you always have to attempt the question. Even if you get stuck, the most important thing is that you've tried and you actually show your work. Showing your work is super important; you could bring that to any math teacher, and they could help you find where your mistake is. Getting a second set of eyes or setting the problem aside and coming back to it later can make things a bit clearer, and that perseverance will help with problem-solving.

### Do you have any closing remarks you'd like to share or any message you'd like to broadcast for May?

I would say that the grade twelves are probably very excited because the grad ceremony is coming up. I wish them all a safe Grad, and I also hope they don't

lose sight that they still have diplomas to write and that they're not totally out of the woods yet. We're near the end, so keep your eyes on your goals and finish strong!



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## WHY CHESS IS UNDOUBTEDLY NOT A SPORT

by: Addison Carr



Over the past month, the halls of William Aberhart High School have become battle grounds for a heated and seemingly endless debate among students and teachers alike. The topic at hand? The classification of chess. What started as a casual discussion has quickly escalated into passionate arguments, causing shifts between both classmates and teachers. It's clear that this debate has spiraled out of control, and as tensions rise, it's time to settle this once and for all. The truth is simple: chess is, at its core, nothing more than a strategic board game.

Chess — noun: A strategic board game for two players, played on a checkerboard. While many chess enthusiasts passionately defend the game's classification as a sport, this claim raises questions about what qualifies as a sport. A sport traditionally involves physical exertion and the demonstration of athletic abilities, such as strength, speed, and endurance. Chess, on the other hand, requires only mental energy and strategic thinking. Its

lack of physical demand sets it apart from traditional sports like football, soccer, or tennis, which inherently require physical fitness. Thus, classifying chess as a sport risks blurring the line between intellectual games and physically demanding competitions. If we allow chess to be labeled as a sport, it could open the floodgates to include other non-physical activities, potentially diluting the true essence of what defines an athletic pursuit.

At its core, chess is only a mental challenge. The game demands deep concentration, strategic foresight, and psychological resilience, but it does not require any of the physical attributes commonly associated with athletic performance. Chess players don't rely on strength, endurance, or agility to succeed. There's no need for physical training or peak physical conditioning to excel at competitive chess. This stark contrast to physical sports further reinforces the argument that chess, despite its complexity, is more of a hobby or intellectual pursuit rather than a sport.

If chess is classified as a sport, the concept of "sport" becomes increasingly difficult to define. Should board games like Monopoly, Risk, or even Uno be considered sports as well, simply because they also involve competition and strategy? This question challenges our current understanding of sports as requiring physical exertion. While games like chess may require mental competition, they lack the physicality that distinguishes traditional sports. Thus, calling chess a sport could weaken the integrity of the term and lead to a slippery slope where any competitive activity might eventually be seen as a sport, regardless of its physical demands.

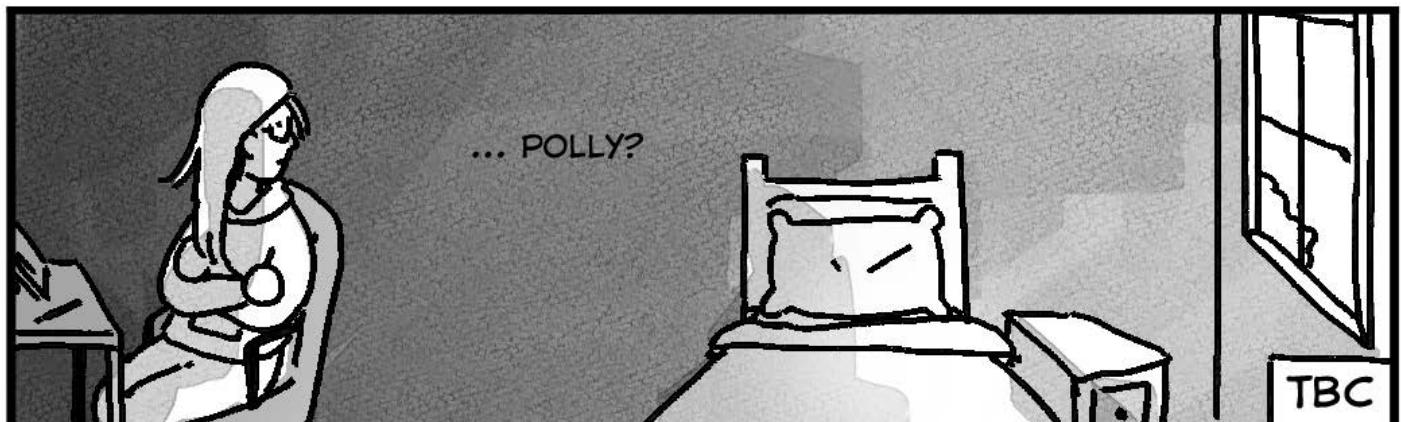
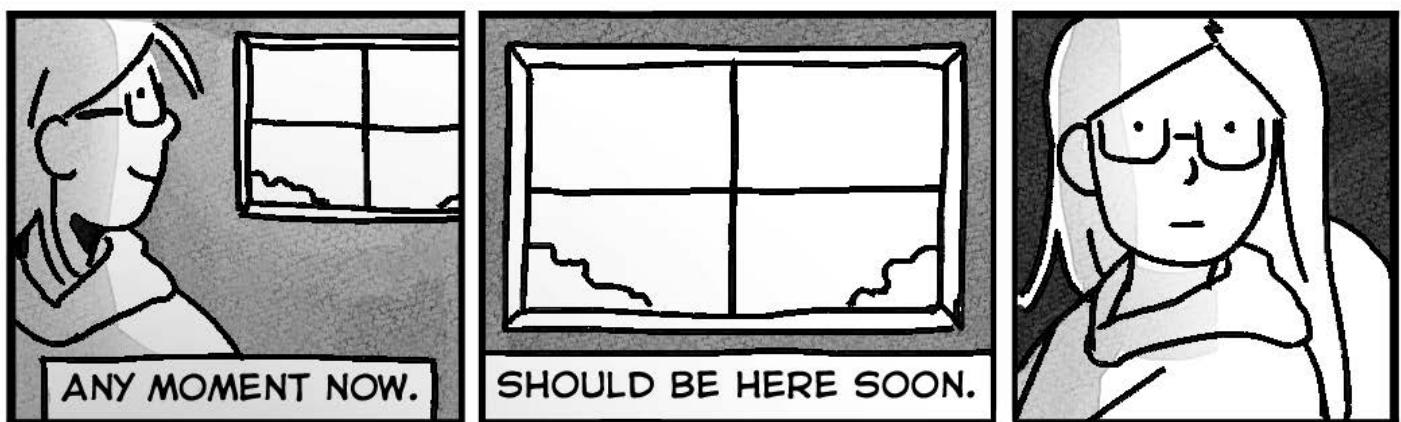
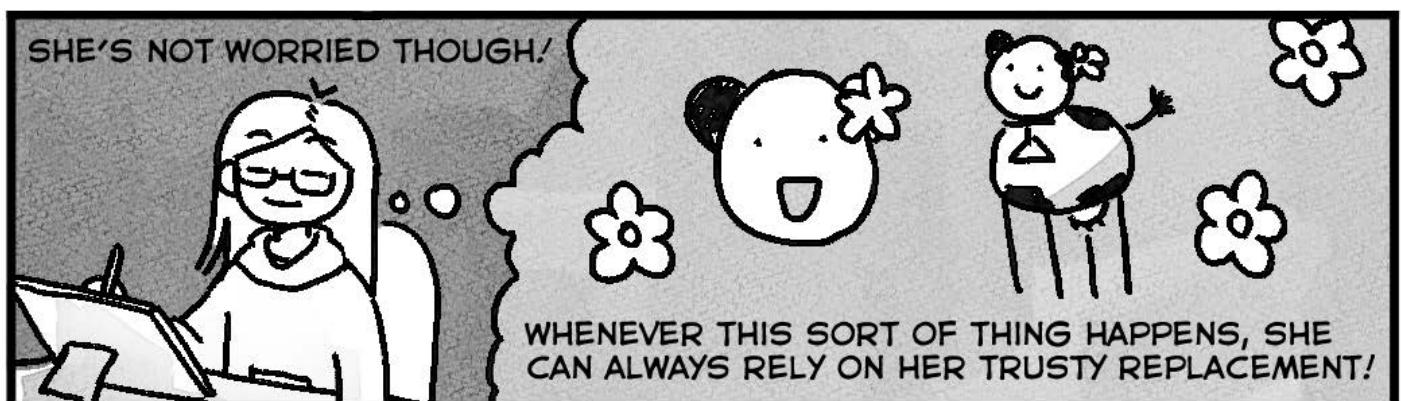
In conclusion, while chess undeniably requires mental concentration and strategic thinking, its lack of physical exertion separates it from traditional sports. The essence of athleticism lies in physical performance, involving strength, endurance, and agility— all qualities that are absent in chess. As such, classifying chess as a sport could blur the lines between intellectual games and physically demanding competitions, raising questions about the true definition of "sport." If we broaden the term to include non-physical activities, like chess, it risks diluting the very concept of athleticism and could open the door for other non-physical games to be labeled as sports as well. Therefore, it is essential that we preserve the integrity of the term "sport" to maintain a clear distinction between intellectual pursuits and physical, athletic endeavors. This debate forces us to reconsider the boundaries between games, hobbies, and sports, making sure that each is appropriately defined and respected in its own way.

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## MAY COMIC

Artist: Catherine Ang



## SHORT STORY: THE RAIN COLLECTOR

by: Laura Zitkova

I had often passed through the same town in my younger years, and it was in the drowned May that I found myself on the road I had crossed many times over, looking up into the clouds for the oncoming storm.

It was rain season, though I'd left on my journey so long ago that I had no mind of my own when it came to time. What I knew of the world was spread through travelers' mouths at bar tables and newspaper scraps off cobblestone streets. It had rained for a couple of days prior, and I had assumed the showers had finally been over, though the indication of clouds above had changed my mind as quickly as they appeared. Before, I had trekked through worse climates. Snow and hail and heat—none of which I had bothered to mind. Now, however, the chill in my bones ran deep, and I knew I'd have to seek shelter somewhere.

At this hour it would have been easy enough to stow away in a bar, were I not on the far edge of town. My only option was to strike the pity of some local on the outskirts who would be kind enough to trade a warm bed and meal for some coin.

As I walked, the road thinned, overgrown with grass no doubt untended for years. The occasional houses buried in the trees were dark and unwelcoming, and when I knocked on their doors no answer followed my call. I walked deeper, feeling a few droplets on my forehead. The rain had caught up to me, finally. I'd been foolish to think I could have beaten it.

As quickly as it had begun, it had torn through my jacket, clinging hard against my skin. My hair stuck miserably to my face, and I quickly remembered the awful feeling of the cold crawling underneath my skin, and clinging to every inch of warmth I had left inside.

My spirits, it seemed, had left me a lamb to the slaughter, washed away into the darkness. I'd been ready to curl up beneath a tree and wallow in my misfortune, when a voice sounded from behind me.

"Traveler, we don't get much of you these days." He spoke in a voice that was soft and warm, a comfort offered against the rage around us. He stood no higher than my shoulders, his age a hulking weight

shown upon his back. "Come, you'll catch death himself out there."

In my state I hadn't questioned his words, or the way he carried himself with an impressive strength, in spite of the weather. I went, the promised warmth of shelter the only thing keeping my legs moving.

He walked with incredible speed, and had not looked back to see if I followed. His hair was long and flowing behind him, and finally, I managed to speak. "What are you doing out in this vile weather, sir?"

He'd chuckled, then. "Vile indeed, sir." His eyes twinkled as he glanced my way. As we walked, the houses grew even scarcer, until we were alone. The old man wove through the thick trees, not at all bothered by the incessant downpour overhead.

He'd stopped in a clearing, rain soaked and shaded by trees. A small cottage lay at its edge, light spilling out of its cobbled window. He led me inside with a wave of his hand.

It was warm, with a crackling fire and a smell of hot food. A singular chair sat by the kitchen table, one plate laid out before it.

"Thank you." I managed to say as he led me to the small fireplace, pressing a bowl of soup into my frozen palms. I had taken the time to look around as he stood by the door, and it was then I noticed the strange array of jars. Shelved perfectly beside each other, they lined every wall of the small room. It was odd, as they appeared to be mostly empty. I stood up, examining my surroundings. They were clear, all of them, some so much so that they appeared empty.

At the bottom of each jar sat a small

label. 06/09/94, last storm. Was it water? It seemed strange to me to collect such a thing.

The man entered the room again, blanket in hand. He smiled, and spoke. "Rest. I will be back in the morning." I watched as he donned his coat, threw a large bag over his shoulder, and walked outside without another word.

After he'd left, it was difficult to find rest. I lay thinking of what he might be doing out in such weather, why he had labelled and displayed all of the different stormy days. The curiosity in me gave way, and I stalked to the window, peering out into the darkness. It was dark, though closer to morning than I had envisioned. The rain had eased slightly, a gentle patter giving it away as it sounded on the roof above.

In the center of the clearing, a shadow of a man stood, still as stone. His palms faced the sky, catching droplets into his hands. There were jars sitting open in the grass around him, filling slowly with rain water.

It was in that moment that I noticed his posture, the way he held himself much straighter than before. Even from a distance I could feel the way his age melted away amidst the rain which coated him like a fresh dew on a crisp morning. The storm had not driven the old man away. Instead, it had revived him into someone new.

I stepped back from the window, the glass fogged from my breath. As if sensing me, I saw the rain collector turn his head in my direction, and I caught the faint curve of a smile. It wasn't one of joy, but it felt peaceful, as if the quiet moments between the storm and stillness were what he had been looking for all his life.

Consider joining

### Speech and Debate

next fall!

- Weekly meetings
- Chances to compete in both debate and ethics
- French Immersion opportunities

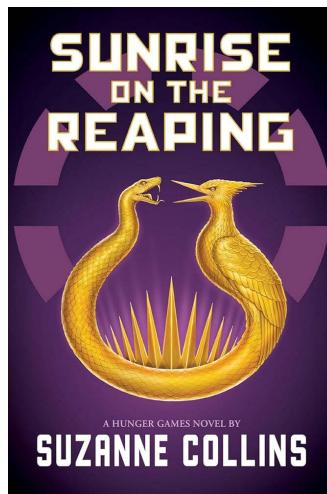
- Applying to **Business? Law? Medicine? Engineering?**
- Needing improve **critical thinking skills?**
- Struggling with **PRTs, CRTs, or public speaking?**

## BOOK REVIEW; SUNRISE ON THE REAPING - A HUNGER GAMES NOVEL

by: Addison Carr

As the day dawns over the totalitarian regime of Panem, Suzanne Collins ushers readers into the second Hunger Games prequel. The widely anticipated dystopian novel *Sunrise On The Reaping*, broke records on March 18th, 2025, selling over 1.5 million copies globally in its first week, securing the most successful debut of all The Hunger Games books yet. Collins flawlessly wove together hundreds of pages rich in plot twists, generational connections, and parallels to modern obstacles. For those in search of a book that's simply spellbinding, *Sunrise On The Reaping* is the ideal choice to captivate one from dawn to dusk.

Set twenty-four years before the original critically acclaimed trilogy, *Sunrise On The Reaping* takes place during the 50th Hunger Games. As it's the second ever "Quarter Quell", the stakes are doubled, meaning double the tributes are reaped. Readers follow the perspective of the sharp witted and rascally sixteen-year-old Haymitch Abernathy, observing the path that led him to his perpetually woeful state in the original trilogy. When Haymitch's name is called on his sixteenth birthday, he becomes set on survival to return to his little brother, his mom, and his precious romantic interest, Lenore Dove.



Movie Adaptation - November 20th 2026

Before the gruesome games of the Capitol's invention—which are no longer confined to an arena—Haymitch is plucked among three other district twelve tributes: the sister he never had that he'll protect at all costs, an compulsive oddsmaker, and the town's lovely tormenter. Once thrown into the games, Haymitch witnesses the unfiltered side of the camera, sparking a harsh awakening to the Capitol's manipulative spectacles. After fearing inevitable doom, Haymitch shifts his focus—no longer fighting for his own survival, but for the survival of his values and his vision for future generations.

Following in the footsteps of the trilogy's

previous book to movie adaptation, *The Ballad of Songbirds & Snakes*, the film adaptation of *Sunrise On The Reaping* is set to hit theaters on November 20th, 2026. With Lionsgate at the helm once again, fans can expect a visually stunning experience that stays true to the series' energy, along with embracing the darker tone of the newest installment as well. With the franchise showing no signs of slowing down, the legacy of The Hunger Games is sure to fiercely burn for generations to come.

*Sunrise On The Reaping* acts as a more mature evolution of The Hunger Games, leaving the series' PG-13 tone behind, in favor of darker, more adult themes. With deeper moral conflicts, haunting parallels to reality, and a rawer emotional edge, it invites readers into a version of Panem that feels more intense than ever before. As Suzanne Collins is infamous for not writing without a cause, this prequel acts as the missing puzzle piece—seamlessly connecting loose threads from the original trilogy and enriching the folklore in ways fans never expected. The result is a powerful, jaw-dropping, and unforgettable narrative that leaves readers impressed and utterly shocked.

## BELTANE: A CELEBRATION OF SPRING'S RETURN

by: Lauren Shultz

Beltane is an ancient Gaelic day of celebration on May 1st, welcoming summer. This is the midway between the Spring Equinox and the Summer Solstice. Also known as May Day, it was especially observed by the Irish and the Scottish, and is now celebrated by modern pagans around the globe. In the Iron Age, Beltane originated as a Celtic Fire festival. In Celtic languages, "Beltane" means "bright fire" or "fire of Bel," referring to Belenus, the Celtic god of light, healing, and the sun.

Key traditions in the celebration included feasting together, making offerings, and lighting bonfires, in which livestock would be passed between the fires for purification and protection before they were turned back out into the pasture.

Symbolism is an important part of all of the eight sabbaths: green, red, white, and silver are associated with Beltane, representing growth, strength, vitality, and cleansing. Bonfires, or candles as an alternative, signify purification, transformation, and passion, reflecting the fire aspect of Beltane. The maypole, with its ribbons, is a powerful fertility symbol, representing the union of the God and Goddess. Floral decoration and greenery illustrate new life, growth, and the fertility of the season.

There are many Goddesses associated with Beltane from different forms of paganism. Here are some deities that pagan communities from various cultures held connections to:

Amaterasu (Japanese): Sun Goddess

Oya (Yoruba): A warrior-queen of thunderstorms, lightning, and nature.

Aphrodite (Greek): Goddess of Love and fertility

Venus (Roman): Goddess of Love

Lada (Slavic): Goddess of Beauty and Fertility

Freyja (Norse): Love, fertility, war, and death

To celebrate Beltane this year, be sure to embrace the golden light of sunshine, welcoming this period of abundance and light. Spend time in nature to help renew your soul for the new season ahead. Make a bonfire, sing and dance to raise your spirits, and even dabble in making flower crowns to nourish your creative side. Blessed Beltane, Aberhart!

## MAY PUZZLE

by: Max Czuczman

## PUZZLE

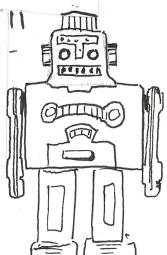


## FREE JUICE

## BOX

FOR EVERYONE  
WHO COMPLETES THE  
SHEET AND GIVES IT  
TO THE CAFETERIA!

A ROBOT BEGINS AT A FIXED POINT. EVERY SECOND, IT MOVES EXACTLY ONE METER IN A RANDOM CARDINAL DIRECTION — NORTH, SOUTH, EAST, OR WEST. WHAT ARE THE ODDS THAT AFTER 11 STEPS THE ROBOT IS EXACTLY AT THE POINT IT STARTED AT?

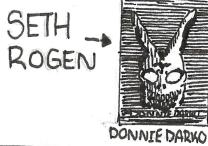


START

FLIP UPSIDE DOWN  
FOR A HINTAFTER 113 STEPS THE ODDS  
ARE THE SAME AS IF  
STEP.

## CONNECT THE STARS

CREATE A CHAIN TO LINK THE TWO ACTORS BELOW BY USING MOVIES THEY WERE IN WITH OTHER ACTORS. DOWN BELOW IS AN EXAMPLE CHAIN CONNECTING SETH ROGEN AND WILL FERRELL.

ROBERT  
DOWNEY  
JR.

## DOWN

1. EXPANDED TITLE  
USED BY MANY TEA-  
CHERS IN THE SCH-  
OOOL  
2. Chowder ingre-  
-dient

EMILY  
BLUNTAMY  
ADAMSWILL  
FERREL  
?

JACK BLACK

SAMUEL L. JACKSON



## ACROSS

1. Show hosts, for short
2. "You people," more informally
3. What April 29<sup>th</sup> was for  
People on April 29<sup>th</sup>
6. Resident of the garden  
of Eden
7. Reservoir structure
3. Foxlike
4. A Baby Version of this Alien sits  
on Minnie Lemay's desk
5. Tiny bit

## RORSCHACH

INKBLOT TEST  
IN THE BOX BELOW DRAW A SCENE BASED  
ON WHAT YOU PERCEIVE IN THE INKBLOT

DRAW HERE WHAT YOU SEE