

# The Owlet

Hoosac School

NOVEMBER 2023

And- We're back, hello Hoosac!! The entire Owlet team and I are so excited to share our first issue of the paper this year with you all! We hope that it's everything the campus has hoped, dreamed, and yearned for in a paper covering everything Hoosac related. As the Editor in Chief this year, I'm proud to work with so many incredible people to deliver this even more incredible paper! Let us know your thoughts on the articles, and be on the lookout for content in between issues from The Owlet Instagram: @hoosac\_owlet

*-Fin, Editor in Chief*

Welcome to the Student Edition Owlet! We are excited for you to dive into all the different things we are covering, as there has been so much happening at our school. In our first edition of the year, we will bring you new things this year including, a poem about November, interviews with new Teachers, a comic strip, and music recommendations. Be sure to also look out for the Crossword puzzle on Facts on Teachers, where you can win 5 points for your team. We hope to bring you a better insight into the News in our Hoosac World.

*-Ms. Jones, Faculty Advisor*

## NEW TEACHER SPOTLIGHT

*By: RYANNE RATHBURN*

Hello Owls!! I thought it would be a great idea to introduce our new faculty members in our first newspaper of the school year. Down below you will see the answer of a few familiar faces. The four questions are: 1. Where are you from? 2. What brought you to Hoosac? 3. What are you most excited for this school year? 4. What is a secret talent that you have?

Mr. Whitney:

1. Raised as a kid in Summit, New Jersey and spent most of my adult life in South Florida (Ft Lauderdale and Boca Raton) in the racquet club business, before moving back to the Northeast where I now reside in Manchester, Vermont .
2. Through fellow coaches in the industry I learned of its terrific programs and history and subsequently met Headmaster Dean Foster and Head Coach Virginia Gilroy.
3. I'm excited to be a part of the campus community and help the student athletes develop and grow as tennis players and individuals. And excited to introduce padel and pickleball to both students and faculty.
4. Certified to coach in five different racquet sports: padel, pickleball, tennis, platform, and beach tennis but my secret talent is my famous nachos.

Mr. Franco:

1. I'm from Brazil (from a fantastic coastal city called Salvador)
2. Soccer
3. Soccer season. Great group of players that we have and very good opponents to play against.
4. I love cooking, especially grilling BBQ, Brazilian steak cut.

Mrs. Franco:

1. I was born and raised in Brazil, moved to the US in 2014, and today, I am proud to be a Brazilian-American citizen
2. My husband's job. I am married to Coach Franco, who received an offer to be Hoosac's Men's Soccer Head Coach this year. Later, I received an offer to work at the school as both a teacher and a marketing professional.
3. I am most excited about the opportunity to inspire and empower my students to achieve their full potential this school year. I am looking forward to fostering a positive and engaging learning environment, and helping my students develop a genuine love for Marketing and Graphic Design. :)
4. To make Brigadeiros. I think so. Mine are really good. hahah Ps. Brigadeiro is a traditional Brazilian dessert. It is made of condensed milk, cocoa powder, butter, and chocolate sprinkles covering the outside layer.

Ms. Wilson:

1. I am from Hannacroix NY
2. I came to Hoosac because I was given the opportunity to coach hockey with talented young athletes and I wanted to spread the love I have for the sport onto younger generations while being able to expand student's knowledge in the classroom.
3. I'm very excited to get on the ice with the hockey girls and teach them some new skills.
4. My secret talent is that I can juggle.



# SPORTS UPDATE



*By: Alissa Ushiro*

Hoosac School is known for not only its excellence in academics but especially for its excellence in sports. With a big percentage of our students composed of student-athletes, we have many updates from our sport teams. In this article we'll be talking about both tennis teams, Girls Soccer, and Boys Cross Country.

To start, with the tennis team starting the new year off strong. They traveled to Torrington, Connecticut, to play an USTA Level 6 tournament. Where the Hoosac owls were able to win first place in all the events of the tournament. Ignacio Manzanares from Spain won Boys' 16 with two sets 6/1 and 6/1. In the Boy's 18, our player Guillermo Gomez also won the draw, with a 6/4 in the first set and a 7/6 in the second, 16/14 in the tiebreak. For our girls, Anna Barlini from Italy won Girls' 16, 6/1 and 6/4. An amazing debut for our tennis team, congratulations to all the players!

In our Boys Cross Country, our last meet was at Military Academy, as well as traveling to schools such as Darrow, Marvelwood, and a couple others. Highlights with the best timings were Carter Wood, at 22 minutes, and Marlowe Roy at 23 minutes. Congratulations to all our runners for the Hoosac Boys Cross Country team!

With an amazing 23' - 24' team, our Hoosac Girls Soccer came out strong. Our girls varsity brought an amazing level to all games, with several wins home and away. Their first home game ended with a 9-0, and our latest one in Boston against Bradford Christian Academy ended in 15-0 to our girls. With only 3 losses out of 9 matches, it has certainly been an incredible season for our girls. Some highlights to our players Elizabeth Heinrich (United States), striker, Ana Valadares (Brazil), outside midfield, Julia Toledo (Spain), center midfield, Clair Schaaphok (United States), and Isabella Holman (Mexico), goalie, amongst many of the other girls who have been showing amazing talent in the fields. Congratulations to our Hoosac Girls Soccer team!

# FALL DORM CLEANING

By: Ivanka Huang

The start of a new semester requires a clean and hygienic as well as a nice school environment. About 25% of the students within the school have requested bed rest and almost 15% of the students have been diagnosed with viral bacterial colds. This shows how important it is to utilize cleaning to create an environment that reduces germs.

Using Towne Hall dorms as an example, the bathrooms in the dorms as well as the common area are often cluttered with debris. Unclean toilet paper scattered in a mess on the floor greatly affects students' lives.

## The Importance of Dorm Cleaning

A clean environment reduces the spread of germs so that fewer students will develop illnesses due to environmental issues. Cleaning keeps mites at bay. There are many enclosed areas in the dormitory area, and long periods of stifling heat and lack of cleaning can create many invisible mites.

Cleaning ensures that the environment smells fresh; a dirty environment produces a disgusting odor, which is the miniature odor of floating dust that decays over a long period of time, and this odor can easily cause people to suffer from respiratory illnesses if it is not cleaned up over a long period of time.

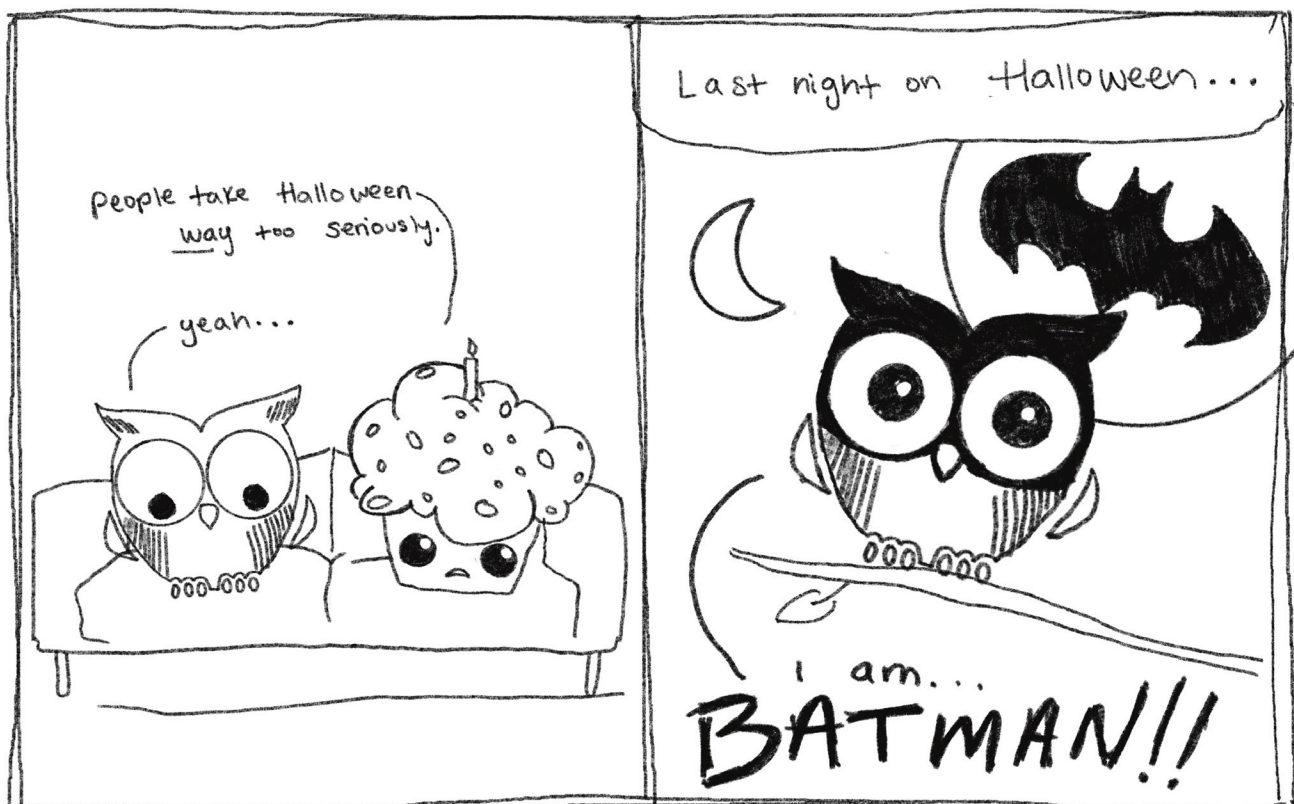
## The impact of mental health

An unclean environment can have a depressing psychological impact; no one wants to study or live in a space with low environmental quality. If a respiratory disease develops because of an unclean environment, then the disease can also have a negative emotional impact on a person to a great extent.

A neat and organized space improves concentration and focus. It is easier to study, work or relax in a clean environment. Engaging in cleaning activities, such as tidying up your room or doing laundry, can be a way to practice mindfulness or de-stress. Some repetitive cleaning tasks can have a soothing effect.

A clean and pleasant dormitory can encourage students to interact socially with roommates or friends. A well-maintained common space is more conducive to socialization.

C  
O  
M  
I  
C



By: Finleigh Lewis

# FITNESS CHALLENGE

*By: Avery Hilton*

Fitness Challenge - Let's get our game on!

Start your workout off with;  
15 single leg deadlifts without touching the ground,  
then, do 10 pushups,  
25 jumping jacks,  
5 burpees,  
15 sit ups,  
a 30 second plank,  
15 deadbugs,  
and, finally, a 15 minute jog or walk around campus.

# THE OWL BOARD

Editor in Chief.....Finleigh Lewis  
Faculty Advisor.....Katie Jones  
Editor.....Nehir Dulger  
Editor.....Olivia Lorenz  
Writer.....Alissa Ushiro  
Writer.....Ryenne Rathburn  
Writer.....Avery Hilton  
Writer.....Eyon Kim  
Writer.....Miranda Lorenz  
Writer.....Ivanka Huang  
Writer.....Blayne Dussold

# SPORTS UPDATE: HOCKEY AND SOCCER

*By: Avery Hilton*

Hockey has been in full swing in their fall prep season. This isn't their actual season but they are a part of PPP (Peak Performance Prep Hockey League), which includes teams such as Williston, Winchendon, Pomfret, Portsmouth Abbey, Hotchkiss, Taft, Choate, Brewster, Roco, and even Albany Academy.

Hoosac has had an amazing start to the year with the best record in the league with a 7-3 record beating Winchendon, Pomfret, Portsmouth Abbey, Hotchkiss, Choate, and Albany Academy. Each game is a close and very competitive game, and each one, we have come out on top showing the NEPSAC that we are not the same Hoosac as previous years. This team has come to play, and they want the wins. The boys this year have come here with a mentality that we have yet to see.

The fall prep season is coming to an end, leading into the regular season when the boys will be attacking the ice with speed and confidence this year. As for the girls varsity team, they didn't have a fall prep season, but from the looks of it, we are looking at another great season coming from the girls team once they step on the ice together.

# CLUB

# INTRODUCTIONS

*By: Miranda Lorenz*

There are many interesting clubs here at Hoosac. The variety is a wonderful chance for students to make new friends and expand their knowledge. Some examples are Chess Club, Art Club, History Club, Newspaper Club, and Masterminds. Over the years, many clubs have appeared and disappeared as students flowed through the school.

Chess Club is run by Mr. McDonough. The students currently participating include Tommaso Galassi, Finleigh Lewis, Eyon Kim, Fausto Delgado, Linsha (Sean) Xie, and Sami Joghetaei. This club meets on Thursdays in Blake Hall Room 2. They play chess against each other to have fun and improve their skills. Every so often they will hold a chess tour-



-nament for all who wish to participate in the auditorium, and will also provide pizza for the audience and participants! Art Club is run by Mr. Sussman. A direct quote from Mr. Sussman himself, “The Hoosac School’s Art Club is an inclusive and creative space open to all students, regardless of whether they are currently enrolled in art classes. Unlike traditional clubs, it does not have a formal list of members, allowing students to attend as needed. The club provides a supportive environment for self-directed art projects and offers extra help to those who seek it. It fosters a sense of community, encouraging artistic expression and collaboration among students of varying skill levels. Whether students are working on personal projects or seeking additional guidance, the Art Club at Hoosac School welcomes everyone, making it a vibrant hub of creativity and learning.” As you can see, the school takes the arts very seriously.

The History Club is run by Mrs. Graves-Brownell and Mr. Buckholtz. The students currently participating include Blayne Dussold, Kaylin Foster, Valentina Machado, Clair Schaaphok, Auston Wang, Miles Mittenag, Alejo Bezunarte, Peter Zheng, Miranda Lorenz, and Olivia Lorenz. This club meets on Thursdays in Room 3 in Blake Hall. We discuss historical events and periods in time, make visits to historical sights, participate in historic activities, and learn about history in a fun, inclusive, and exciting way. The people showing up change everyday, faces old and new.

Newspaper club is run by Ms. Jones. The students currently participating include Finleigh Lewis, Nehir Dulger, Alissa Ushiro, Avery Hilton, Blayne Dussold, Eyon Kim, Jin Huang, Kaylin Foster, Olivia Lorenz, Ryanna Rathburn, and Miranda Lorenz. This club meets mostly on Tuesdays, and on Thursdays when needed, in the first room on the right in the library. We discuss, write, edit, and publish the campus newspaper. We write on current events, sports, and often do interviews. We also have a fun Antonian vs. Graftonian puzzle. Each month that we are on campus gets a newspaper!

Masterminds is run by Ms. Purvis and Mr. McDonough. A direct quote from Ms. Purvis, “Hoosac has been a successful contender thus far in the MasterMinds league. MasterMinds is a quiz bowl-style academic competition for high school students across New York. In their inaugural season, the Hoosac MasterMinds finished 4th place in the league, with 2 of our students maintaining a ranking in the top 15 for individual scoring. With formers Alexandra Wang and Eliot Lauzon holding 4th and 14th, respectively. Meets are held after school with each league gathering once every few weeks. Each meet is normally designed so that each school plays two matches. The questions cover a broad range of topics including: art, biology, chemistry, current events, geography, history, literature, music, political science, pop culture, religion and sports. This year, Hoosac will be in a new league and testing their skills again. Schedule to follow!” Our school has some very smart students!

---

# Fall

*By: Nehir Dulger*

Slowly the world gets quiet.

Music turns into peaceful drops of rain.

The sun that shined so bright finally gets a break,  
And clouds stop hiding to take her place for a while.

We watch the leaves turn from bright green,  
To the warmest shades of orange, yellow, and brown,  
While families gather around the table,  
And give thanks to the sun for brightening their days all  
summer.

Pumpkins take the sun’s smile until she is back,  
Fires take her light and warmth.  
“We will take care of them while you’re gone”  
Clouds promise her as they surround her in peace.

Wind blows through bald branches,  
Passing kids dressed in costumes,  
Knowing that they are protected by fall until the sun  
rises.  
And slowly but inevitably the world goes silent.



# SPORTS UPDATE: VOLLEYBALL AND XC

*By: Blayne Dussold*

The Hoosac Girls Varsity Volleyball team has been doing good this season with a record of 5-5-0! Players include Princess Delano, Sofia Ierardi, Kaylin Foster, Sasha de Toulouse Lautrec, Bella Gale, RYanne Rathburn, Teyla Geekie, Nehir Dulger, Geneva Letal, Shoshana Lofstock, Mackenzie Santora, Erin Keville, Eleven Wu Liang, Irene Damianakis, Nandipha Adamma Lakeisha Mbonani, Marta Gonzalez Sevilla, Uliana (Li) Doronina, Mariah Luke and Bojana Radnjic with Ms. Sugar as their coach. The girls end their season with a 3-1 win against Oakwood Friends!

Our Girls Cross Country team has also been close to winning every race, though there are always shortcomings. Some of our runners are Lily Czub, Norah Osu Azurmendi, Zoe Richardson, Jamie Chen, Blayne Dussold, Uliana (Li) Doronina, Marasia Dyes, Carolina Williams and Évelyne Côté. With Coach Jim and McBride leading the girls, Hoosac XC has a record of 16-1!

Moving on to our Girls Hockey team, they have been having off-ice practices that focus on conditioning and endurance training which help them prepare for the upcoming season. The Girls Hockey team includes Shoshana Lofstock, Alisha O'Doherty, Erin Keville, Alexis Scherzer, Geneva Letal, Isabella McKenna, Princess Delano, RYanne Rathburn, Bella Gale, Irene Damianakis, Lea Glosikova, Nina Hudakova, Sofia Ierardi, Teyla Geekie, Mackenzie Santora, and Blayne Dussold. Head Coach Sugar and Assistant Coach Wilson are making sure the girls are ready to hit the ice once the season starts!

---

## Spirit Week Success (alt. title: Pijama vs. Pagama)

*By: Eyon Kim*

This past October, the prefects added some extra excitement to our school days by declaring one of the weeks as Spirit Week. During this particular week, students—and even some willing faculty members—dressed according to different themes chosen for each day, showing a creative and quirky side of themselves, not easily expressible when following the usual dress code.

We started the week off with 'Pajama Day', a theme that had many of us going to class straight from bed. Monday was a big success—despite Mr. Uhl's disapproving comments on the spelling of 'Pijama Day'—with everyone showing up in their coziest comfortable outfits. Some mentionable outfits that stood out were the Hoosac sweatshirts and hoodies that truly put the 'spirit' in Spirit Week, Finleigh's unicorn suit, and the shark onesies worn by a number of ISA boys.

On Tuesday, students got to double their creativity, as the two themes of 'Countries' and 'Everything but a Backpack' were combined. Several colorful flags could be seen around campus on the outfits, backs, and even faces of many. Adding onto that, we had students rolling up to class with suitcases, pet carriers, and laundry bags—everything but a backpack!

Wednesday, titled as 'Mismatch Day', was easily the day with the craziest looks of all. From contrasting colors to ties on T-shirts and around heads, both students and several faculty members went all out to create the strangest clothing combinations.

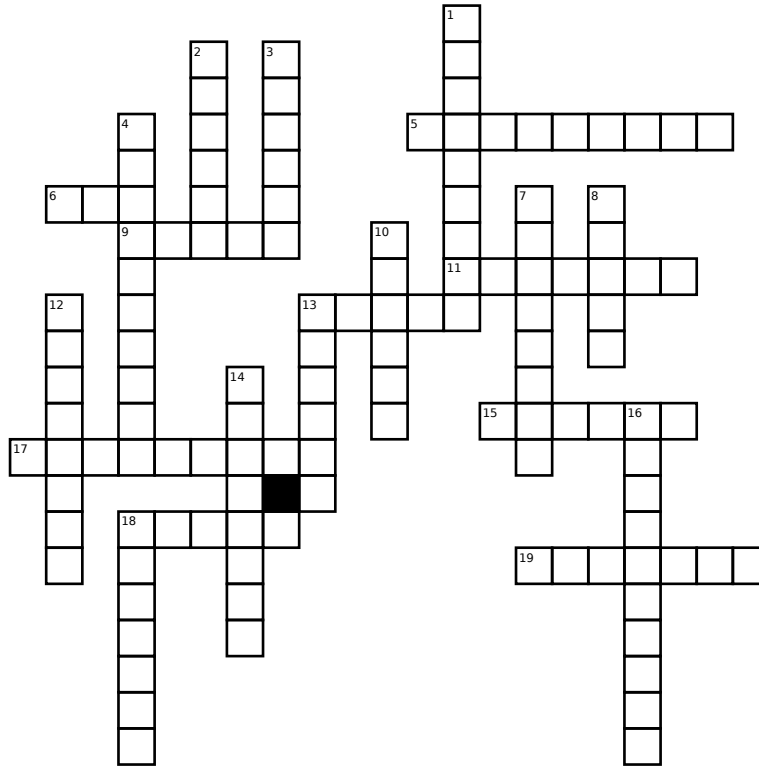
'Celebrity or Character Day' that followed on Thursday had many of us turning heads as participants dressed as their favorite famous idols or fictional characters. It sure was amazing to see Alvin and the Chipmunks, Barbie, Drake, and Adam Sandler walking amid ordinary Hoosac students.

We ended the Spirit Week with a theme that was simpler than the last four but brought us together in spirit and coordination more than any: 'Class Color Day'. By dressing in black, white, purple, red, blue, and yellow according to our forms, everyone was able to tell which grade each person was in and feel connected to one another.

It comes without saying that Spirit Week was a great success, especially for a first attempt. It allowed many of us at Hoosac to have some fun and take our minds off some seriousness, especially during midterms, and it gave everyone a chance to embrace their individuality and school spirit. It is in the hopes of Hoosac's prefects and many students that Spirit Week becomes a tradition with an even bigger number participating with enthusiasm in the next run.

A chance to win 5 points for your team. Whoever turns in the crossword puzzle to Ms. Jones first with all correct answers gets 5 points towards Antonion or Graftonion. (turn in before 11/4/23)

# Teacher Facts (Only Last Names)(GFranco & PFranco)

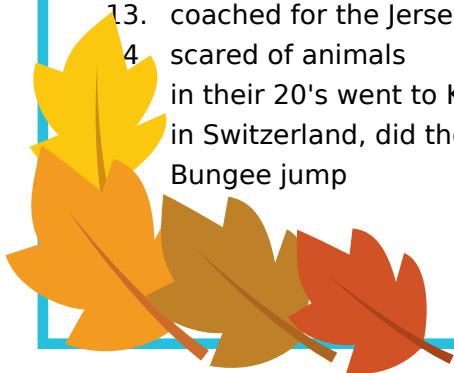


## Down:

1. has cracked their head open 3 times
2. graduated from Hoosac in 2012
3. half Canadian
4. is Serbian
7. lived in Florida for 5 years
8. in high school played a soccer tournament in Spain
10. went to Concordia College in Bronxville, NY
12. taught German at Yale University
13. coached for the Jersey Hitman
14. scared of animals
18. in their 20's went to Kazakhstan in Switzerland, did the World's Largest Bungee jump

## Across:

5. dog's name is Thor
6. Conducted the Mozart Requiem in Paris
9. was adopted at age 5
11. has broken their arms 7 times
13. graduation from Charleston
15. has an identical twin sister
17. in highschool was in love with Rachel from the Friends TV show
18. has lived in 5 different states, NH, PA, CT, NC, and NY
19. holds high licenses in UEFA & USSF federations



# TV/BOOK/MOVIE RECOMMENDATIONS

*By: Ivanka Haung*

**Book:** The book I would like to recommend is *The Love Hypothesis* by Ali Hazelwood; a super sweet romantic comedy novel. It's about a Stanford student who wants to prove to his best friend that he's dating someone. He decides to kiss a random person in the Stanford hallway not realizing that the person he kissed is actually a famously strict professor. The professor needed to prove to the university that he wasn't going to leave Stanford because of research funding issues. The best proof was to fall in love with the Stanford student who kissed him. The two begin a "contractual relationship" to get what they want. The book is fast-paced, humorous, and light-hearted. The two men's bravery and hesitation in love are written in great detail.

**TV:** "XO, Kitty" is a Netflix summer series. The content is based on "To All the Boys I've Loved Before". XO, Kitty" focuses on Kitty, who accepts an offer to attend an independent international school in Seoul, South Korea, because she wants to go there to learn about the school where her mom lived and to reunite with her boyfriend in Seoul, she begins to question her knowledge of love. This drama has a lot of Korean elements, Kpop music, Korean food, and Korean festivals. A must watch if you like Korean culture!

**Movie:** "Parasite" is an Academy Award-winning movie from Seoul, South Korea in 2020. The movie focuses on the intersection of high society and low society in South Korea. In the movie, the social system of the Korean chaebol and the desire of the lower class to squeeze into the upper class is portrayed in the movie. The movie is highly satirical and some of the clips are banned, but the filming techniques and the human nature behind the satire are worth thinking about.

---

## FIN'S MUSIC RECS.

*By: Finleigh Lewis*

The transition from the "summer vibes" playlist made with all of your friends during August has abruptly been disturbed by the weather dropping twenty degrees. You're now lost, cold, and wearing two sweaters because it's the middle of October. Desperation overwhelms you for new music to match your melancholic mood. Hey- don't worry, as an unofficial DJ/musician/president of music, I've got you covered.

Before getting into my greatest hits of the beginning of the school year, I have a disclaimer. My music taste is very... eclectic. My top artists of all time are Mitski, Lady Gaga, David Bowie, Nirvana, TV Girl, Tyler the Creator, and Elliot Smith. I think that explains enough about who I am as a person. If you read this and absolutely hate every song on here please feel free to challenge any of my choices. I may argue with you, but that's only if you disagree with anything regarding Lady Gaga.

The artists that define fall are Elliot Smith, Big Thief, Fiona Apple and The Smiths. They each capture that somber contentness you feel when walking through leaves on the way to class.

However there is no genre that produces more fall bangers than 80's New Wave. The eerie synth blaring over lyrics that don't usually make a whole lot of sense perfectly accompanies the excitement leading up to Halloween.

Although I always start October with a deep dive of The Smiths' *The Queen is Dead* (86), the overwhelming majority of the music I have been blasting through my headphones has been by Radiohead. I've always been a casual listener of their popular songs like "Creep" and "Paranoid Android", but once you listen to their album, *In Rainbows* (07), it's impossible to continue as a casual listener. Although short, every song on this album is a devastating masterpiece of sounds and there are zero skips (I rarely say that).

Although this month is filled with niche 80s goth hits for me, I've also been obsessed with some new releases and very much not new releases that don't fit into this category as seamlessly. "La Camisa Negra" by Juanes has been on repeat between Troye Sivan's new album *Something To Give Each Other* (23) and Nirvana's *In Utero* (93), which by the way is chronically underrated compared to their album *Nevermind* (91). "King For a Day" by Pierce the Veil is being played at full volume as frequently as 2Pac's "Hit 'Em Up" is.

All of my October favorites mentioned here plus a few others, are on a spotify playlist titled "October Owlet Playlist" by fin. Closing out, here's a classic music hot take of mine- I hate Ed Sheeren. Yes, it is because I am a ginger.