



CANADIAN SCHOOL OF MILAN STUDENT NEWSPAPER



Letter from the Editor

In the spirit of change and growth, it is with great pleasure that we introduce you to the Maple Leaf Gazette – the newest addition to the Canadian School of Milan’s vibrant landscape. The Maple Leaf Gazette aims to be a testament to the voices that echo through our hallways, the stories that unfold within our classrooms, and the myriad of talents that make our school community truly exceptional.

Why the Maple Leaf Gazette, you ask? Well, the answer lies in the symbolism of the maple leaf itself. Much like the diverse veins that run through this leaf, our school is a woven with threads of uniqueness, talent, and interests. The Gazette is here to celebrate those and bring them to life through the power of words and images.

Here's to a new beginning, a new chapter, and a new voice. Happy reading! Ms Beck, Editor.

Features, op-eds, interviews and more!

What to expect... from the Gazette

With the inauguration of the Maple Leaf Gazette, what can a reader expect to encounter? Expect to find a rich blend of news articles, features, essays and spotlights in the Maple Leaf Gazette. From the accomplishments of our academic all-stars to the talents of our artists and athletes, from lighthearted humour to more serious articles and thought-provoking opinion pieces - the Maple Leaf will have it all. This first issue is just a small taste of things to come - stay tuned for more as the paper grows!

New beginnings - from classroom to the “news stand” - thanks to CSM’s Grade 9



Grade 9 English Language and Literature students (above), after writing a series of articles, essays and interviews for English class, agreed to compile them - with the help of their teacher, Ms Beck - and create the new **Maple Leaf Gazette!**

In this first, inaugural edition, expect to find a more limited range of article types and news items. Then, from our January edition, prepare yourselves for a real New Year experience!

INTERVIEW: THE LIFE OF A BANKER



Tommaso B.

Today I'm in Milan anxious to meet Paolo Basso, a banker for Morgan Stanley. As I rattle through the fashionable city's financial district in a tram, I breathe the cold windy air with an unpleasant hint of petrol and stressed financiers. Yet once again I am filled with excitement for the interview to commence.

Tommaso: Hello Paolo. Thank you for joining us today. To start, could you tell us what your role is in the company?

PB: Certainly. I am in charge of Morgan Stanley's Capital Markets team in Southern Europe.

T: It sounds like a hard job. What daily stresses do you undergo in your position, and how do you manage them?

PB: The job is indeed stressful, but it's also very rewarding. The stress comes from competing with other banks for our clients' business. We need to be quick and provide the best solutions.

T: I understand that your job involves a lot of travel. How much do you typically travel for work, and where do you usually go?

PB: I am based in Milan, and I travel almost every week, primarily between Italy, Spain, and Portugal.

COUNTERFEIT COSMETICS PROLIFERATE ONLINE - ENDANGER CONSUMERS

Kaia d'I.

Recently researchers and consumers have been noticing a strong difference between cosmetics found online, causing allergic reactions and endangering customers' life.

At 1 pm yesterday afternoon, a 21 year old woman called an ambulance due to the ingredients used in these counterfeit makeup products. These imitation cosmetics pose serious health and safety risks to unsuspecting customers, as they often contain harmful ingredients and substances.

Recent investigations have noticed a rapid growth in the problem, revealing that knockoff makeup items are being sold alongside genuine products, making it hard for potential buyers to distinguish the differences between the real and fake. The fake makeup selling chain is putting customers' health at risk.



One online customer, Aisha Mills, shared her disturbing experience saying, "I ordered a lip kit online from Kylie Jenner brand - as soon as it arrived it looked legit but when i tried it on my lips, it started burning and swelling, i later on found out it was a counterfeit product".

In response to these concerns, an amazon spokesperson stated "we take responsibility for the issue regarding counterfeit cosmetics, that's why we are going to pay more attention to prevent their sale, although we encourage customers to report any suspicious activity".

As the battle between counterfeit cosmetics rages on, consumers must speak to share experience to protect their health in order to keep the beauty part of the world safe.

T: Could you tell us more about your clients?

PB: Certainly. My clients are the largest corporate clients in each region. It's important to note that Morgan Stanley is an investment bank, so we don't provide retail banking services.

T: Can you share what led you to choose a career in banking and what did you study to prepare for it?

PB: Well, my journey was quite unexpected. I studied Engineering at the Politecnico in Milan, and I didn't think I would become a banker.

T: Finally, what are your professional goals for the year 2024?

PB: My goals for 2024 include trying to spend more time with my family and making sure my kids understand the importance of studying and working hard.

Thank you, Paolo, for sharing your insights into your life as a banker. It's been a pleasure talking to you today.

INTERVIEW: THE LIFE OF A BANKER



Tommaso B.

Today I'm in Milan anxious to meet Paolo Basso, a banker for Morgan Stanley. As I rattle through the fashionable city's financial district in a tram, I breathe the cold windy air with an unpleasant hint of petrol and stressed financiers. Yet once again I am filled with excitement for the interview to commence.

Tommaso: Hello Paolo. Thank you for joining us today. To start, could you tell us what your role is in the company?

PB: Certainly. I am in charge of Morgan Stanley's Capital Markets team in Southern Europe.

T: It sounds like a hard job. What daily stresses do you undergo in your position, and how do you manage them?

PB: The job is indeed stressful, but it's also very rewarding. The stress comes from competing with other banks for our clients' business. We need to be quick and provide the best solutions.

T: I understand that your job involves a lot of travel. How much do you typically travel for work, and where do you usually go?

PB: I am based in Milan, and I travel almost every week, primarily between Italy, Spain, and Portugal.

COUNTERFEIT COSMETICS PROLIFERATE ONLINE - ENDANGER CONSUMERS

Kaia d'I.

Recently researchers and consumers have been noticing a strong difference between cosmetics found online, causing allergic reactions and endangering customers' life.

At 1 pm yesterday afternoon, a 21 year old woman called an ambulance due to the ingredients used in these counterfeit makeup products. These imitation cosmetics pose serious health and safety risks to unsuspecting customers, as they often contain harmful ingredients and substances.

Recent investigations have noticed a rapid growth in the problem, revealing that knockoff makeup items are being sold alongside genuine products, making it hard for potential buyers to distinguish the differences between the real and fake. The fake makeup selling chain is putting customers' health at risk.



One online customer, Aisha Mills, shared her disturbing experience saying, "I ordered a lip kit online from Kylie Jenner brand - as soon as it arrived it looked legit but when i tried it on my lips, it started burning and swelling, i later on found out it was a counterfeit product".

In response to these concerns, an amazon spokesperson stated "we take responsibility for the issue regarding counterfeit cosmetics, that's why we are going to pay more attention to prevent their sale, although we encourage customers to report any suspicious activity".

As the battle between counterfeit cosmetics rages on, consumers must speak to share experience to protect their health in order to keep the beauty part of the world safe.

T: Could you tell us more about your clients?

PB: Certainly. My clients are the largest corporate clients in each region. It's important to note that Morgan Stanley is an investment bank, so we don't provide retail banking services.

T: Can you share what led you to choose a career in banking and what did you study to prepare for it?

PB: Well, my journey was quite unexpected. I studied Engineering at the Politecnico in Milan, and I didn't think I would become a banker.

T: Finally, what are your professional goals for the year 2024?

PB: My goals for 2024 include trying to spend more time with my family and making sure my kids understand the importance of studying and working hard.

Thank you, Paolo, for sharing your insights into your life as a banker. It's been a pleasure talking to you today.

SPORT OF THE MONTH

Luna A.

In the last decade, many people have been starting to question their gender. People nowadays can turn from males to females and from females to males. This causes a lot of controversy, especially with minors taking hormone therapy to change their gender. This should be illegal as when you are so young, you are not mature enough to decide something so important, as you might be just confused and regret it later. Some reasons on why it should be illegal is that if you are still a child you're not responsible enough to decide something so important, that in any case this therapy totally destroys your body, and that there are other alternatives.



The first reason why taking hormone therapy should be illegal if you are under 18, is because if you are still young, you might be starting to go through puberty and decide who you really are, you might take it and regret it later on. Overall, at that age you are too immature to decide something as important as your gender as it might just be a phase. This is why you should not be allowed to take hormone pills before 18.

Worrying side effects

Another reason why you should not be allowed to take hormone therapy before you are 18 is because they can damage your body. Some of the side effects that doctors have discovered include an increase in the risk of cardiovascular diseases, increased risk of breast cancer, seizures, sterilization, organs not growing properly, and more. This is why hormone therapy should be illegal for minors.

The final reason why it should be illegal to take hormone therapy before 18 is that there are other alternatives, for example, changing appearance, behaviour and clothes. This is why hormone therapy should be illegal for minors.

In conclusion the main reasons why children should not be allowed to take hormone blockers are children are irresponsible, and hormone therapy is bad for you, and, finally, there are always other alternatives.

CSM ATHLETES

For many years, the CSM exit gate has been the same as the entrance gate in via M. Gioia. All students, from nursery to high school, used that door for both entering and exiting. The janitor, Jean, always had a friendly smile for everyone, and this was the usual routine. However, in 2021, the exit gate for middle school changed, and a new one behind the school, on V Copernico, was used. This new exit was very close to the Railway station and bus no. 60, which many students liked. However, this change raised questions among parents about why it was necessary. Students began asking their teachers, but the answers were vague and didn't provide enough information.

What really happened?

So, what really happened to the main exit, and why was it closed?

Recently, I received some information about this: the change wasn't due to one specific reason but rather many problems with the secondary exit, which led to its closure.

One main issue was the area's safety for younger students, as it was easy for them to have their belongings stolen by passers-by without any control from Jean, as Ms. C mentioned.

Another problem, according to Ms. B, was that the secondary exit technically belonged to a nearby school, not the CSM. This meant the CSM didn't have the authorization to use that gate for their students. This led the school to reconsider its decision and close the middle school exit toward Via Copernico.

However, according to Ms. B, teachers still have access to the exit since they have a card to open the door. So, contrary to what most parents think, the exit is still functional, but only for teachers.

Students have questions

This raises some questions: if the property belongs to the neighboring school, why can teachers still use it while students can't? Students wonder if the CSM can obtain permission for both middle school students and teachers to use that door. It's known that middle school students need to use public transport to go home, and Via Copernico is a convenient route to reach the Centrale Station and public buses quickly. The exit on V Gioia could be reserved for students who prefer to use it. Having an independent exit can also make older students feel more independent. If it was a safety concern, maybe CSM could ask a teacher to monitor the exit when students leave the school. We are all eager to see new developments regarding the secondary gate.



SCIENCE NEWS

STUDENT ATHLETES: BETWEEN SPORT AND STUDIES



by **Carolina Cozzi**

Sports are, or have been at some point, an important part of all our daily lives. They can be a passion, a hobby or an actual job. They benefit our health, but above all they are enjoyable. Therefore, teenagers are encouraged to practice a sport, and most of them do: in September 2022, the average of hours spent on sports per week by ages 6-18 was circa 16, which equals to almost two hours and a half per day. But unfortunately young athletes have to face one big challenge: balancing and coordinating school with sports.

The law in Italy

Even if the article 14, comma 7, of the “Regolamento di coordinamento delle norme per la valutazione degli alunni” clearly states that students are allowed to be absent for reasons regarding sports, most of the decision making is still up to the school itself. Of course it is imperative that athletes engage in trying to keep up with their homework and their study, but school should meet them halfway by guaranteeing justified absences and permissions. Also, for those who practice high level sports there should always be programmed oral and written tests. It is important since schools should encourage these formative activities, as they benefit students' physical/mental health and they are able to learn valuable life skills.

School should encourage students to do what they love and should embrace the fact that they have an all-round life, which goes well beyond homework.

School and sports should go hand in hand, rather than limiting each other. In fact if one imposes rigid restrictions, it directly affects the other. For example, if a student practices horse riding and has an important competition on a weekday without access to justified absences, which are less likely to be obtained in determinate disciplines, he or she might have to miss out on a big opportunity. This obviously works the other way around as well, the more a student is occupied with matches or practices the less time will be dedicated to school work, but this isn't a recurring issue for most since usually school “comes before” sports and it is set as a priority. Therefore schools should be more encouraging by being more flexible.

Physical and mental health benefits

Furthermore, being slightly more permissive regarding sports will significantly benefit students' physical and mental health. It would give them more time to rest and catch up with homework and studying. This would certainly guarantee less anxiety, stress, risk of injury and a better overall school performance. In fact many studies have proved that students who practice sports usually have higher results and grades. But students' wellbeing is just as important as their academic performance and that is something that schools should definitely promote.

In addition, sports teach valuable life lessons and skills. But while students might not be sitting at their desk learning them, along with factual and conceptual information, they are literally out on the field learning other values. Sport teaches for example: determination, concentration, problem solving skills, tactic, collaboration, concentration and learning for your mistakes. It is therefore fundamental that they experience all of this in first person, even if it occasionally occurs on school days.

In conclusion, schools should be more flexible on students who practice sports with justified absences, of course only if they attend at least $\frac{3}{4}$ of the school days required to pass the year, and programmed oral and written tests, especially in Italian schools. We should all remember that sports is something which children and teenagers enjoy, it benefits their wellbeing and teaches them valuable lessons. Because school and sports are a fundamental part in shaping the adults they will be one day, and they shouldn't limit each other .

Editor's Note: Stay tuned for our series of interviews with our very own student athletes! At CSM we have many talented athletes who compete on all levels, all while managing to successfully balance sport with school.

TV NOSTALGIA - YOU CAN'T BEAT THE POWER RANGERS

In all of our childhoods, we have undoubtedly experienced the euphoric tv show that gave sensory overloads to all who watched it. This magnificent show is called Power Rangers: Samurai and it is a diamond in the rough with all that it needs being a reboot. Although the show started in 2011, the quality of the show itself is still acceptable by 2023 standards, however, the CGI of this show has not evolved even in the 30 years that Power Rangers have been airing. They instead use real effects and rarely use CGI, only for things that they can't recreate with effects and props. Furthermore, it is imperative that more attention is brought to this show as it is overlooked and with enough attention, it may get the reboot that it deserves. A few reasons as to why this show is amazing is due to the fact that it has an amazing plot, a few hidden meanings and there is no blood to disturb sensitive people!



The plot of Power Rangers: Samurai is gold, it is not too heavy as to disturb the children watching but it still has hints of seriousness to keep the viewer's attention. The plot of Power Rangers: Samurai and its sequel (Power Rangers: Super Samurai) is both about defending Earth from the incoming hordes of aliens using a cellphone-like device to transform into their super counterpart. Not only that, but the events are consistent, for example, in season 1, episode 4, one of the power rangers almost got eaten by a cat and from that point onwards, he demonstrates an extreme phobia to cats. Overall, Power Rangers: Samurai is fantastic, not only because it has an amazing plot but also because it is consistent.

There are multiple hidden meanings in Power Rangers: Samurai, some that hint at plot, powerups, weaknesses,... and some that are meant for adults. For example, the kanji words that are on the helmets of the Power Rangers once they transform correlates with the element that they use and it also correlates to their personality. An example of this could be how the red ranger (that uses fire) has an energetic, bold personality. Overall, Power Rangers: Samurai is a masterpiece with hidden meanings sprinkled with jokes that are not meant for children and more for the adult audience.

As everyone knows, all of Power Rangers were made for children, however, that can be beneficial not only for children but also for the developing audience. Studies show that kids who have been exposed to violence at an early age grow up to be more aggressive and desensitized. Further studies also show that kids who are exposed to gore early-on typically have problems with brain development. It is for these reasons that having no blood and gore is beneficial not only to children, but also to the developing generation (meaning teenagers).

Overall, Power Rangers: Samurai is an amazing show for the reasons listed above (great plot, hidden meanings, no gore). Furthermore, it could be said that Power Rangers: Samurai can be enjoyed by an audience of all ages. **Sam P.**

In or Out - Recess Redress?

Students might some days prefer to stay inside during break time, but they are not allowed to.

There are many schools that oblige their students to go outside every break, every day. Even though this rule has its benefits, students should be allowed to choose when they want to go outside and when they do not. The reasons why are: bad weather, wanting to study, feeling sick and sensory overload.

Cold or hot weather can cause exhaustion and can lead to infection with illnesses. When it is cold outside during the winter, students are more likely to get infected with a virus especially since their immune systems are low. Another example is when it is hot outside and students get exhausted from the heat. Bad weather might also make students less eager to learn because they would be tired or sick from the weather. This is only one of the reasons why students should be allowed to choose to stay inside.

Students sometimes would prefer to do other activities, inside, during break time. For instance, they might want to study or read. However, this cannot be done outside, as the outside is often sound polluted by other students playing or traffic, and outside there is no internet, which might prevent students from studying, or even a place where you could sit and study.

Staying inside might be especially useful when students have a summative next period. This is another reason why not letting students stay inside during the break is not a good idea.



On some days students can feel sick. For example they could have done some exercise the other day that caused them muscle soreness throughout their body, which might make them not want to go down three flights of stairs. If they have a sore throat going outside is not the best idea. Other students might have sensory overload, and their sensitivity to sound would make the courtyard a dreadful place for them. These were the reasons why students should be allowed to choose to stay inside.

In conclusion, schools should let their students stay inside when they want to. This is because, bad weather, being sick or feeling bad, and sensory overload can make students not enjoy their break outside. In addition sometimes students might want to study which can not be done outside.

