



## CANADIAN SCHOOL OF MILAN STUDENT NEWSPAPER



### Letter from the Editor

As we wrap up this year's journey, I want to take a moment to acknowledge our efforts and share our aspirations for the future. This final issue of our student newspaper represents not just the end of the year, but the beginning of a new one filled with potential and promise.

This year, our newspaper has struggled to reach the heights we initially hoped for, but each article, photo, and contribution has been a step towards building something greater and laid the foundation for what I believe will be an exciting and impactful future.

Looking ahead, we are filled with optimism. We aim to learn from our experiences, add more to our content, and continue to connect with our school community.

We look forward to returning next academic year reinvigorated, with renewed energy and a firm commitment to making the Maple Leaf Gazette newspaper a cornerstone of our school community!

**Ms Beck**

### STUDENT COUNCIL ELECTIONS



Competition was tough on June 13 as students battled it out for the Student Council elections. All candidates gave fantastic speeches and their rhetorical skills were second to none.

A memorable highlight was when Gabriele Mazzocchi, posed several challenging questions in his speech, thus giving him credibility and respect among his peers. He also showed great courage, asking the questions right in front of the the Principal.

Other candidates made solid promises ranging from non-uniform days, great school parties, warmer uniform choices, and better snacks, which made our task of making a decision on election day a huge challenge.

Votes were carefully collected and rigorously counted and tension was high as students awaited the results.

Somebody had to win though and indeed CSM Student Council 24/25 will be led by President Lidia and Vice President Gabriele - congratulations to everyone!

The question is: now that the student council has changed administration, will they be able to keep up the 'hype' and stand up to students' expectations?

**Lorenzo V**



# \*\*SPECIAL REPORT\*\*

## CANADIAN SCHOOL OF MILAN AWARDS AND PROM NIGHT

### A different kind of 'class' (and lots of fun!)

An unforgettable time was had by all on Tuesday evening with MYP and DP Awards, Graduation and Prom. Opening with an inspirational speech by Ms Aguanno, the evening moved on to the Awards Ceremony for Middle School and High School. A range of prizes were given for academic, athletic and artistic achievements.

Grade 12 graduates then had their moment! Awards were given in a range of categories. Michele Accardo gave a fantastic speech which had students, teachers and parents both crying and laughing. Leonardo Scisco performed a lovely rendition of 'Somewhere Over the Rainbow' to complement Mr O'Meara's poignant and inspirational speech to the Grade 12 class. Ms Salvadori addressed the audience and was proud to grant them graduate status. Finally students threw their caps into the air, symbolizing the transition from being students to becoming graduates.



Refreshments were served in the Vivaio courtyard and attendees mingled and chatted while enjoying live music performed by a trio of classical musicians. At 8:30 pm the Prom began and everyone turned up looking classy and glamorous. Students from high school danced the night away while teacher chaperones made sure everyone was safe and happy!





## Football Tournament Diaries

A sports memory that I will treasure is the football tournament.

After a couple months passed at the beginning of the year (when we were still in the old school in Melchiorre Gioia) Mr. Parkins sent an email and also told us at school about a football tournament among all the schools in Milan, that was organized by some people in a sports center. As soon as I heard the news, I told my parents, then I showed them everything I needed to bring, they agreed and I went with my mom to buy the rest of the things. When I arrived home, I got a backpack to put everything inside like the shoes, uniform, football boots, lunch, water/other drinks...

After that, the next day I had to wake up at 6am, because the bus would then leave at 8am. I arrived there 20 minutes before, got on the bus, and went to the sports center.

On the bus there were a mix of students between grade 9, 10. As soon as we arrived there we made two teams, the team I was in had: Stefano (G9 - me), Teo (G9), Tommaso d'Addio (G9), Sam (G9), Gabriele Mazzocchi (G10), Marceau (G10) and finally Davide (G10).

A guy showed us our changing room and we got changed. While we waited for our first game, we started warming up, then a guy called us for our match.

Unfortunately, we lost that one....

Then it was time for the second match, we got scored on, but then Teo ran down the wing and crossed the ball hard and low, and I managed to score, meaning it was 1-1

I liked this game cause I managed also to dribble past some players.

After that it was time for the last game, the opponents were strong and we played hard. We might not have won but we were pleased with the job we did.



Then we watched our other team which managed to get further than us, but then got beaten. Then we ate our lunch, went to the bathroom, there also was a bar, if we wanted to get some other things.

After having lunch, there was a little soccer field, which was under some tents that were kept up by some structures, we played there just to have fun between us (also Mr. Parkins was playing with us) and while we were playing someone passed the ball to me and I was in a 1v1 situation against Mr. Parkins, and I dribble the ball between his legs, which is called a Nutmeg. After that we watched half of the final because we had to return to school. We got on the bus and headed back to school. We arrived for the last period of math, which ended very quickly because everyone was asking me, Teo, d'Ad and Sam about the tournament.

Overall, I think this was a very nice adventure and trip. I had fun with my friends and spent time with other students. I hope to do it again next year.

**Stefano M.**

## Unveiling the Drop CSTM80 keyboard

Throughout the vast world of keyboards, there have been many keyboards that have reigned supreme over the industry, and the newest ruler of keyboards is here, the high-end Drop CSTM80 keyboard from Drop, owned by the popular gaming company, Razor. Although released on October 17th of last year, this keyboard is still better than all of the newly released keyboards, being equipped with multiple enthusiast-level features and a price point of 149\$. It is the zenith of customizability with not only its user-friendly design, but also one of the key features that none other has, a magnetic top plate, meaning that if a plate is not to your liking, you can just replace the keyboard's cover with a different one.

As many of you might know, keyboards are divided into two categories, mechanical and membrane type keyboards, however, we will focus on mechanical keyboards in this article. There are three ways mechanical keyboards can be divided, based on the sound and the texture of each click, which is controlled by the switches and the keycaps as well as the body. There are three types of switches, linear, which has no sound and is completely smooth, tactile which also has no sound but has a bump mid-press and clicks which is the same as tactile but it creates a clicking sound, typically extremely loud and not recommended though.



Currently, the Drop CSTM80 keyboard has two applicable switch types, Gateron Brown, which is tactile and Gateron Yellow which is linear, both coming pre-lubed, which means that they will sound better and the click itself will be smoother. The tactile option is recommended for writers while the linear option would be most preferred by gamers and such. Although there are only these two options on the website, the keyboard itself is hot-swappable, meaning that you can purchase switches and replace them however you like. The CSTM80 comes prepared with all parts you need to produce the perfect, dreamy sound, including multiple layers of dampening foam, multiple plates and it's even gasket mounted, providing a more comfortable typing experience. As the name suggests, the CSTM80, CSTM being short for "custom" and the "80" referencing how it is an 80% keyboard, which tells about its size, is more centered on the customer being able to change and replace parts as needed. The top plate, which is the one most visible, is magnetic, a feature unique to the Drop CSTM keyboard chain and it means that you can swap the top plates with any of the other colors and designs that they have.

After purchasing and testing the DROP CSTM80, I can guarantee that it is simply fantastic. The heavy aluminum base weight ensures that it stays stable even if you get slightly angry, perhaps from losing a game, however, its weight of 2 kilograms may pose issues in regards to travel. Coupled with its powerful RGB lighting, still visible in bright conditions, it's the perfect addition to any setup, whether it be a gaming setup or a writing setup. The gasket-mounted design ensures that fingertips don't hurt even after hours of constant typing. As I am mostly a typer, I bought the Gateron Brown switches, however, I found it to still be easy to use even when playing games. Even out of the box, it still sounds and feels nice but with a few modifications, for example more foam or tape; it provides a simply ethereal experience. Overall, it's an amazing keyboard, priced at mid-range yet with the features of an enthusiast level keyboard. **Sam P.**

## O Sole Mio?

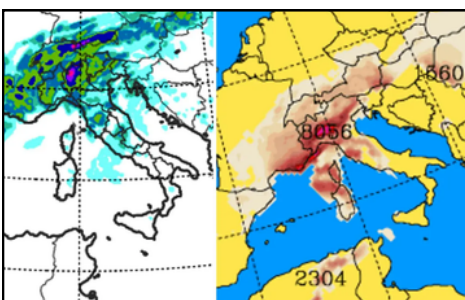
### How Weather Affects the Italian Economy

In Italy, the weather has a worryingly high effect on the economy. This effect is due to the services that Italy provides and its main exports. Italy's main exports include vehicles; metal products; clothing; food; machinery and plastics products. Most of which can be impacted negatively depending on weather conditions, take for instance metal which rusts quickly under precipitation and food which transporting under inadequate weather conditions can be difficult and expensive.

Also, the Italian economy is heavily reliant upon their tourism which contributed 150 billion or roughly 7.3% to their GDP (2.05 trillion).

#### The Tourism Industry

With that said, unwanted of any kind will severely discourage potential tourists. Another negative effect unwanted weather fluctuations could have is the destruction of buildings and attractions which may have an even longer disruption of tourism if people come to the conclusion that the country in question is unsafe and overly prone to weather.



#### The Food Industry

Finally, the food industry is another pillar of the Italian economy which contributes 41 billion or roughly 2% to the Italian GDP. However, the food industry can be a victim to weather fluctuations because excessive heat will cause fields to be dry and therefore underperform,

Heat will also cause food to become harder and more expensive to transport yet excessive precipitation can destroy fields and make a lot of mud which would impede tractors from getting to the crops and could also make transportation more expensive.

In conclusion, Italy's economy is heavily reliant on good weather yet we could try to combat this by diversifying the country's streams of income and not relying too much on the weather.

**Tommaso B**

## Newspaper article \ Interview

### Acting and performing in CSM's musical 'Chicago' for a student new to our school

We had the opportunity to interview our classmate Nora Longo from Grade 9 and we will be discussing her engagement in the musical as her role "Liz", and her point of view on her first high school musical production known as "Chicago". As we interviewed her about her knowledge on the musical and how she engaged in the production, Nora told us about the musical's backstory.

Chicago, the musical, narrates the story of two troubled women that committed murder and ended up in jail, later on meeting the most powerful lawyer and fighting for their freedom out of jail by making a jazz piece and gaining their fame.

#### **How was rehearsal and all the preparation? Was it tough?**

*No it wasn't hard, it was fun for the most part. Sometimes it was heavy and time consuming because there was so much to do in such little time. Rehearsals were in fact easy and fun mostly because of the other students, but it seems that they had only 3 months to prepare a perfect show. It was indeed easy if you put the hard work and dedication in the show.*

Nora had just joined the school, and was completely surprised by the growth in new friendships, and the new people that she had met.

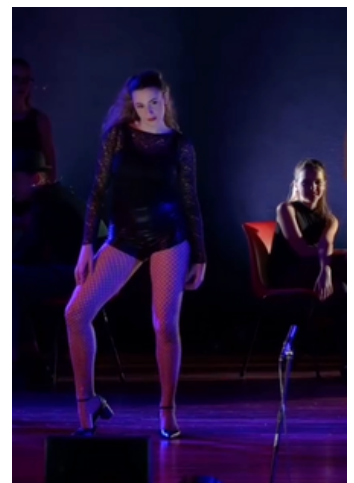
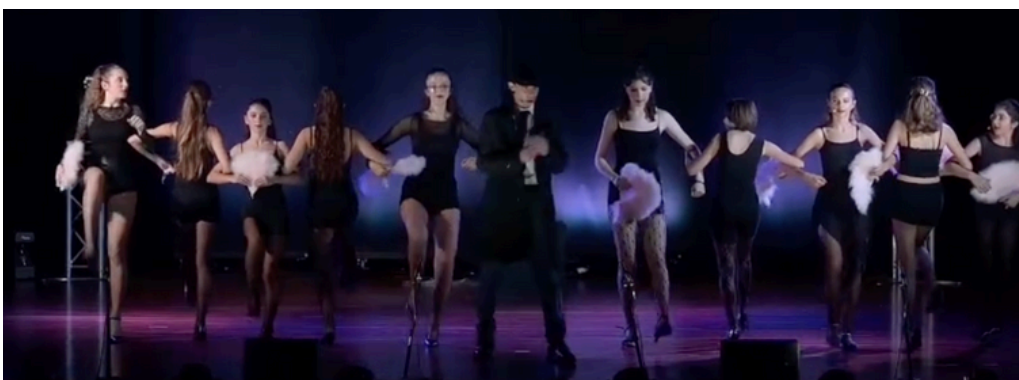
#### **What was a big thing you took away from this experience?**

*A big thing I took away from this musical was friendship. I also learned new skills, I had never done a musical before this one and I discovered that I really love developing my performing arts and expressing myself towards an art,*

Nora already had a lovely voice due to her singing lessons when she was little, and with the possibility to develop and showcase the art, it made her feel more at home, and in a good school environment.

In conclusion, Nora Longo describes this experience as helping her grow, mentally and physically. She highlights how in a short period of time she turned an interest into a passion to follow in the future.

*I will definitely do the musical next year, and work hard!* **Kaia**



## What Vacation Type Is Best?

When planning a vacation, the first thing to consider is what kind of holiday you would prefer - a pre-paid, all-inclusive resort or a DIY special.

Firstly, the resort vacation is much more organized, you don't have to think about preparing anything or organizing anything since the resort will automatically do it for you. However, on a resort vacation you cannot choose how much you want to pay as the resort usually has a set price depending on the service you want and how many people will be staying. Even though you may pay more for a resort, you get much better treatment, the service is more organized, and there are already various activities you can choose from without having to pay extra, for example, at the Black Marlin Club resort in Marina di Camerota, Campania.



On a DIY vacation, however, you have more freedom to choose what you want to do and how much you spend, since you can choose what to do and what not to do and what you want to pay. Also, on a DIY vacation, there is more privacy since you are not in a resort with other people, depending on the resort's size. That said, it is a challenge to organize a vacation since you have to worry about all the services, activities, food, etc. while in a resort you don't have to worry about a thing and it's a full break!

Both vacations are good ideas for the summer - some people prefer one and some people prefer the other; it depends on the people and what suits them.

In conclusion, if you want to have a good vacation with no worries, choose a resort. Instead, if you can put in the work and want to be free to choose what you want to do and spend, you could try a DIY special. **Jordie**



## Tips to Guarantee the Best Summer Ever!

Everyone wants to have a summer to remember but how can we ensure we will? Here are CSM's Top Ten for having an unforgettable summer break!

- **Start off with a short break:** After finishing school, take about a week off to relax. Decompress and forget about school!
- **Plan ahead:** Set a calendar date for when to start studying and keeping up with summer homework. This will help you finish projects and assignments early, allowing you to relax for the rest of the vacation.
- **Study a little each day:** You don't have to study all summer, but dedicating one hour each morning to your studies will be beneficial and help you complete all your assignments.
- **Continue tutoring and activities:** If you do tutoring or after-school activities to help you study, don't stop during the summer. Adjust the timings if needed to fit in fun activities.
- **Balance work and play:** Schedule time for fun activities and relaxation. Plan outings with friends, hobbies, or sports to unwind. This balance will keep you refreshed and motivated when it's time to study.
- **Set specific goals:** Break down your summer study plans into manageable goals. Set specific targets like completing a chapter of a book, finishing a project, or mastering a particular skill each week. This will make your progress measurable and keep you on track.
- **Have fun!** Summer is not all about studying. If you plan well, you can get your summer studying out of the way, leaving time for a well-deserved break from the books.

**Have a great summer!!!**

**Ginevre & Saron**



# THE ARTS

## DEATH

I yearn  
And patiently wait for your return  
As the days pass by I sit alone  
On the porch of the place we used to call home

I cry  
I don't want to say goodbye  
To the memories that kept you here  
I don't want to make you disappear

A wave  
The salty waters by your grave  
I sit on the grass and read my stories to you  
The stories of a life when it was just us two

Sometimes I wonder what could've been  
If you had seen me in my teens  
I know that when I turned fifteen  
You danced with me at the point in between

I think of you every time I write  
And I guess I just hope that might  
Keep you alive and everything will be alright  
As I cry out your name in the middle of the night

**Emilia MS**

## LIFE

She never knew what she wanted to be  
She grew up with too many talents  
She loved music, and the stars, and the sea  
All of the things she loved were unbalanced

He had his path set straight  
He would be a lawyer, just like his father  
A basic job that his inner child would hate  
But at least he wouldn't be a bother

Their stories intertwined on a dreary November  
He was on his way to work, she played the guitar in the street  
She was a flame and he was an ember  
Her hair was dishevelled, whilst his was neat

She noticed him standing in the crowd  
His suit and tie and dreamy face  
And seeing him, she forever vowed  
To not live a grey life or in his place

He noticed her happy, her voice soft  
With eyes so bright the stars glared in jealousy  
Just then he realized he'd been daft  
To cave to a life like his so easily

She has her path set straight  
She'll live the calm life of a painter without pother  
She'll love, and feel, and wait  
And live her life just like no other

He doesn't know what he wants to be  
He doesn't find his job as fascinating as planets  
If he tells his family it will guarantee  
That like Persephone, he must eat the pomegranate

## 'The Giver' by Lois Lowery - A Short Book Review

The Giver is a fictional book which talks about a utopian society which turns out to be dystopian as the story progresses. The book is written in third person and follows Jonas, a 12 year old boy who is about to graduate. In this world they get a job at 12 years old and then start preparing for it. Jonas receives a special occupation which only one other person has. The job that Jonas has allows him to feel and do things that others can't and because of this he takes a life changing decision towards the end of the book.

This world is very unusual and seems to happen in the far future. The more you learn about the world of this book the more you want to know about it. I like the way the book describes situations, even though it uses simple and few words, it really brings you to the moment. I also love the relationship between Jonas and the Giver. The Giver acts like a true father to Jonas and teaches him valuable concepts that change his perception of the world. I will not say more so as to not spoil the book.

The only thing I didn't like about this book was the ending as it isn't very clear what happened to Jonas. You can interpret it in any way which I don't like since I prefer books with a concrete ending.

In conclusion this book is easy to read and has an interesting concept behind it. For me this book is a 9 out of 10. I recommend it if you like books which make you think about the world the characters live in. **Andreea**

# THE ARTS



Jason F