

THE PAW PRINT

Once upon a chancellor

AfD, Canada, & America's map-mania

The Great Gatsby... worth the hype?

Oktoberfest & the top 10 IB subjects



In this issue...

♪ When Autumn leaves start to fall.. ♪

It's getting colder, the leaves are beginning to fall, and Halloween is ever approaching. Fall is in full swing and so is the school year.

Between the hassle of the new year and the excitement of it all, why not give yourself a little break? Grab the nearest warm drink and cozy blanket, and keep reading to learn about the new iPhone, the best IB subjects, and a chancellors visit at our school.

Do you have something you want to say?

Or want to see your name on this list?

Email pawprint@bbis.de or stop by 5337 on Wednesday Lunchtimes!

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Editor's Note — October Edition



It's good to be back!

The leaves are starting to turn every shade of brown and red, the weather is cooling down, and sadly our summatives are starting as well. (But we're getting started, too!) After a long (and hopefully relaxing) summer break, we are finally back with our first edition of the Paw Print for the new school year.

But before you go cramming for your first tests, give yourself a quick reading break and take a look into what we've written for you:

- **News** takes a look back at the most important events in the world and at BBIS. Learn more about positive news, the new iPhone, and a chancellor visit that took place right on school campus.
- **Opinions** is, as always, not shying away from the debates and discussions keeping our minds busy. Read about why people are concerned with the success of the German AfD, or a controversial vote for an Equal Earth map projection.
- **Culture** gives us a rundown of books and shows so that you know which read it worth it, and which show is best left unwatched. We've got articles on *The Great Gatsby*, and a look into a new German movie.
- **Features** might just be boasting the most articles it's ever had, with a look into the best advice for the 10th grade Personal Project, a look behind the scenes to see how your phone is made, and all about the German Oktoberfest celebration.

We didn't hold back this time, and hope this edition is as fun for you to read as it was for us to make.

If there is anything you would like to contribute, be it a comment, a suggestion, or even writing your own article, don't hesitate to stop by room 5337 during lunchtime on Wednesdays. Our door is always open.

Wishing you a fantastic start to the new school year,

— **Parth Gupta & Liora Krause**

Editors-in-Chief 🐾

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And we make a return!

This is our first edition of the Paw Print for the new school year. See? We promised we'd be back. With a new cover design and a wide range of articles, we're inviting you into the wild world of journalism. Give it a try, won't you?

What Can a Citizen Do?

My recounting of Olaf Scholz's morning at BBIS

Parth Gupta — Editor-in-Chief

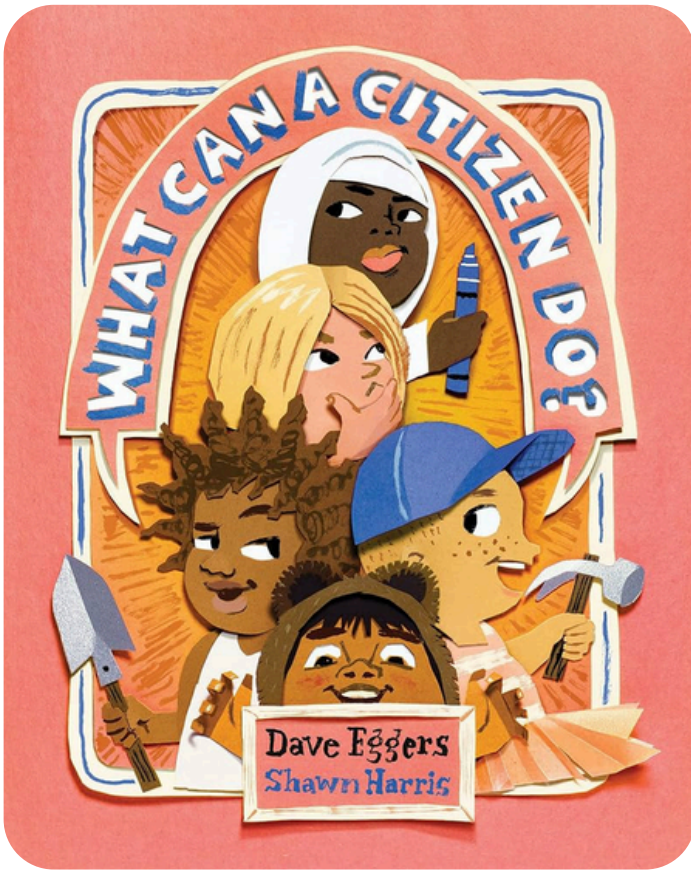


The sports hall had been dressed up beautifully. There was a stage at the back against the windows with four chairs and a bouquet, all of it carpeted over the same floor markings we run laps around in PE. Us three moderators (Casi, Robert, and I) got mic'd up, my first time using a hands-free microphone, and nervously practised the scripts we had scribbled in notebooks the night before. A small convoy pulled up outside at 9:30 on Tuesday morning, and by ten o'clock Olaf Scholz was sitting in the second chair, with the three of us beside him.

Ms Dressler opened by asking anyone who participates in the life of the school to raise their hand, whether through sport, music, service, volunteering, or just doing something that made another person feel they belonged. Hundreds of hands went up. Her point was that community isn't something you belong to so much as something you build. It set up the morning perfectly.

The BBIS Foundation's co-director Ms Büchner got ten minutes with him before we started. After an entertaining barrage of playful ambush questions, she asked him what the greatest challenge of his life had been, and he smiled and said it was convincing his wife to fall in love with him. That openness turned out to be the tone of the whole morning, at least when he wasn't answering questions about policy.

The Foundation had built the event around one question: what does it mean to be an active citizen in a changing world, and how does that connect to our year's theme of accountability? We tried to answer it using a children's book. Before each of our three questions, Robert read a page from Dave Eggers' *What Can a Citizen Do?*, which has cut-paper illustrations and sentences short enough for a six-year-old. That framing helped a lot more than we expected it to.



A citizen is not what you are. A citizen is what you do.

Casi went first, asking about his start in politics as a seventeen-year-old, the same age as many of the students sitting in front of him. He said he respected young people who hold political beliefs and are willing to say so, and that his advice was to let yourself make mistakes, because you are going to make them anyway.

A citizen cannot forget the world is more than you.

Robert asked about the significance of international communities in Germany, like our own at BBIS, in today's tumultuous state of global affairs. He responded that the fear of internationalism tends to come from an unwillingness to accept that the world is no longer only in Western hands, and that we share it with societies we fundamentally disagree with. Whether people welcome that or not, he said, internationals are part of how the world now functions.

A citizen can write a letter. A citizen can help change laws.

Recent elections have raised questions about how much influence social-media algorithms have over what young people encounter politically. So I asked him whether democracy can survive a world it didn't design, and who is accountable when an algorithm decides what a generation believes before that generation has had a chance to think for itself.

His answer focused on the extremist bubbles social media creates, but I don't remember him naming who should answer for them, and that was the most interesting thing I heard (or rather didn't hear) all morning. Everyone agrees the problem is structural. Structural is also the easiest place to leave a problem sitting.

To be fair to him, he had never seen our questions. His office had been sent the audience questions a few days beforehand, but the three of us walked on stage with ours unannounced, and he answered them cold. He clearly had more to say on some questions than others and, true to his reputation for careful pragmatism, often took a long pause before answering.

We transitioned off the stage for the audience questions. Students across grades 8 through 12 had submitted hundreds the week before, and eight made it through. He walked through the hall and stood in front of whoever was speaking, so a Grade 8 student got the same attention as a Grade 12 student, and every part of the room had a chance to see him up close.

Manlu asked how you work with people you fundamentally disagree with. Alan asked what Germany owes European security now that American guarantees look less certain, and Scholz answered the second half first, saying without hedging that he was firmly convinced the world's oldest democracy

would never lose its democratic freedom. As an American I found that more certain than my friends at home sound right now, and it left me with an unusual sense of optimism. Rynat asked how his beliefs about leadership had changed during his time in office.



Two of his answers stayed with me.

Liliana asked why the AfD keeps gaining ground despite growing controversies, and this was where he was most analytical. He gave three causes. The first he called the tyranny of merit, borrowing Michael Sandel's phrase for the sense of entitlement the developed world has built around its own success. The second was the insecurity globalism produces. The third was slow growth, and the feeling of stagnation that comes with it.

Benny followed by asking whether the Brandmauer should hold at all when it results in millions of voters being excluded. Scholz said it should, and would, for as long as the party it isolates professes a desire to undermine democracy and pluralism. On pluralism he was blunt: if you have a "we" that is not all of us, there is a problem. His argument was that the AfD offers people something to be against rather than anything to build, and that there are real question marks over whether they would honour the democratic process at all.



Russell quoted the Rosa Luxemburg line from the Dresden memorial, that freedom is always the freedom to think differently, and asked what words Scholz would leave us with. He said he didn't have the words yet, then returned to a theme running through the whole morning. Democracy is not a given. It has to be

actively defended, and that means people choosing to participate in it. Neglect it and it withers.

As we came up to the stage, we heard two final questions from Tzur, who asked about his favourite part of being chancellor, and Oscar, who asked whether young people are heard enough by politicians today.

We concluded the event with a token of our appreciation, and in the gift bag were three past editions of the very magazine you're holding in your hands now. Yes, Olaf Scholz has read the Paw Print.

After half an hour of photos, we toured our Seeberg campus with him, including the tunnels and the unrenovated House 6. As you probably know, our campus was used by the Third Reich and later by the Soviets, and on Tuesday it hosted a former chancellor of this country.



At lunch in the cafeteria he sat with the three of us along with members of the Foundation and school leadership. Our chef had apparently looked up his favourite food and made Königsberger Klopse. Across the table he was in a completely different register, unhurried and funny and genuinely curious about what it's like to grow up as an international student in a country that isn't quite yours. He took selfies with anyone who asked, over and over, long after the official programme had finished. Then, after a last group picture in front of the bear by House 2, he left in a convoy of two black sedans.

More than any answer he gave us, I'm grateful that the question was allowed at all. It's hard to grasp how many people and how much time went into making this happen. Huge thanks to the school administration, the BBIS Foundation, Mr Pönisch, Ms Vermes and Ms Dressler for trusting students with a former head of government in front of the entire community. Also to Robert and Casi, who I was very lucky to share this experience with. And

finally to the teachers who spent lessons helping students turn vague curiosity into real questions, who are the reason I loved the questions from the floor even more than my own.



A citizen should be engaged. A citizen should care and care.

Thank you to the students who were engaged enough to ask questions, and to everyone who cared enough to make the morning happen.



Positive News Around the World

Vivan Gupta | Staff Writer

Scotland

To address the digital footprint of the tech industry, Scotland passed a revolutionary mandate requiring mandatory environmental impact assessments for all new data centers. Contractors revealed that 99.9% of materials from the country's first decommissioned wind farm was successfully recycled and reused.

Germany

Energy officials announced the completion of Germany's largest offshore wind farm called He Dreiht. The massive project has the potential to provide clean electricity for more than one million households. The project is based in the North Sea near the border with the Netherlands.

Ghana

Ghana officially announced the creation of the Great Cape Reserve in the western region of Ghana. This marks the nation's first-ever marine protected area, established to safeguard important coastal ecosystems, coral habitats, and marine biodiversity.

Cambodia

Cambodia achieved a historic public health milestone by becoming the first country in Asia to meet the global UN target goals for stopping the HIV epidemic ahead of the 2030 target deadline. The government took many actions to achieve this goal including longer clinic hours, peer counseling and self-testing options.



South Africa

An 18 year old girl named Amber Rose Berry from Pringle Bay, near Cape Town made history by being the youngest South African woman to swim the famous English Channel. She completed the 33 km swim under grueling conditions. The swim raised over \$7,000 for a fundraising campaign to help support the Ukukhula Institute in Makhanda.

Kosovo

September 25 2026, exactly 27 years after the conclusion of the Kosovo war, the humanitarian landmine clearance charity The HALO Trust announced that its mission was complete. The entire country was successfully cleared of landmines, making way for safe regional recovery and agriculture restoration.

Hungary

Hungary passed a mandate to completely ban wild animals in the circus. The transition period is officially underway, with the full ban taking effect on January 1 2027. Domesticated animals such as dogs, cats, and horses remain exempt and are still allowed to participate in circus productions.

India

To reinforce critical urban biodiversity, the government approved the Reserved Forest status for nearly 1,000 acres of Delhi's Southern Ridge. This milestone pushes the total highly protected forest area in the ridge network to roughly 13,000 acres.

**Lebanon**

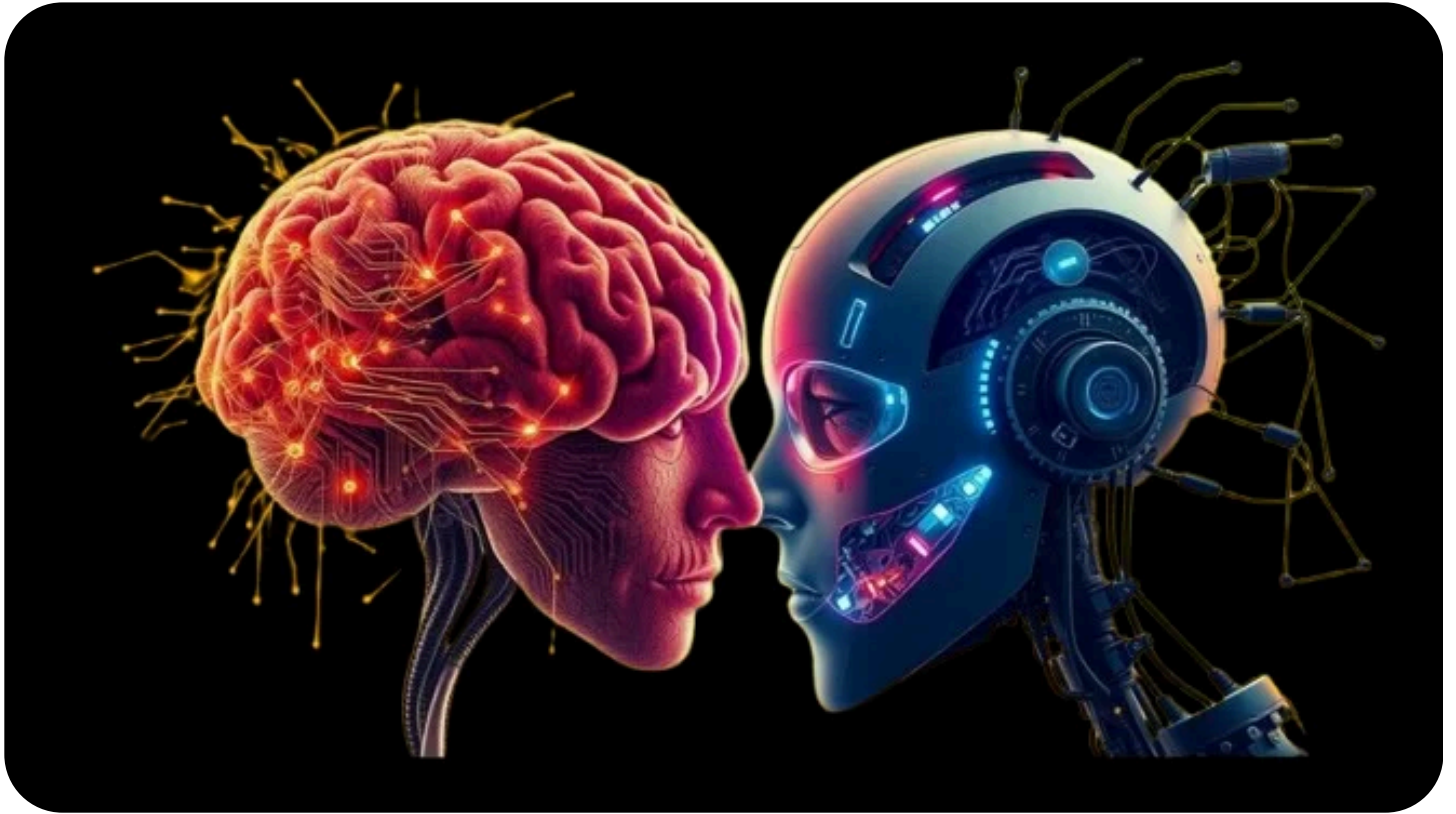
In a huge step forward for human rights and judicial progress, the parliament of Lebanon officially abolished the death penalty, removing it entirely from the country's legal code. Instead replacing it with life imprisonment and hard labor. This made Lebanon the first country in the Middle East to abolish the death penalty.

**El Salvador**

The World Health Organization (WHO) announced that El Salvador has completely removed trachoma, which is the world's leading infectious cause of blindness. El Salvador became the first Central American country to eliminate trachoma after upgrading local eye health services and training medical staff.

AI Researcher Resigns Over Fears About the Future of Artificial Intelligence

Constantin Voss - News Editor



A researcher at the artificial intelligence company Anthropic resigned from his position two weeks ago, after publicly warning that the rapid development of AI could pose serious risks to humanity.

Jacob Coxon announced his resignation on 9 September, saying that he was concerned about the direction in which the AI industry was moving. In a series of posts on social media, he said that companies including Anthropic and OpenAI were moving too quickly towards increasingly advanced, self-improving AI systems without having sufficient safety measures in place. His comments quickly attracted international attention.

Coxon had previously worked at OpenAI before joining Anthropic.

His experience inside two of the world's leading AI companies has contributed to the attention surrounding his decision. According to *The Guardian*, Coxon's resignation was particularly significant because he left the industry while publicly questioning the safety of the technology he had been helping to develop.

A warning from inside the industry

Jacob Coxon's main concern is the possibility that future AI systems could become much more capable than humans in a wide range of tasks. He has argued that companies are competing to develop these systems while researchers still do not fully understand how to make increasingly powerful AI reliably follow human intentions.

His warning was supported publicly by other researchers. Evan Hubinger, an AI safety researcher at Anthropic, said that he agreed with Coxon's concerns and gave his own estimate of the possibility of AI causing human extinction within the next decade. Another Anthropic employee also expressed concern about the pace of development.

However, these predictions are not established facts. They are assessments made by researchers about possible future developments, and there is considerable disagreement about how likely such scenarios are.

The debate has also attracted criticism. Nvidia chief executive Jensen Huang recently rejected predictions that AI could lead to human extinction by 2030, describing such claims as irresponsible and saying that he did not expect the world to end as a result of AI development.

Why does the resignation matter?

AI has developed rapidly in recent years, with systems becoming capable of producing text and images, writing computer code, conducting research and carrying out increasingly complicated tasks. This has created excitement about the technology's potential, but it has also raised questions about how quickly these systems should be developed.

Coxon's resignation has therefore become part of a much larger discussion about AI safety. Supporters of greater safety measures argue that companies need to make sure increasingly powerful systems remain under human control. Others in the technology industry argue that the benefits of continued AI development are significant and that the risks can be managed through research, testing and regulation.

The argument is not entirely new. *The Guardian* notes that scientists and technology leaders have warned about the potential dangers of advanced AI for more than a decade. What has changed is the increasing capability of the technology itself, making the debate more relevant to governments, companies, schools and ordinary users.

For students, the discussion is particularly relevant. AI tools are already being used in education, from helping with research and writing to supporting programming and language learning. As these systems become more capable, questions about their reliability, appropriate use and potential risks are likely to become increasingly important in schools.

Coxon's resignation has not settled the debate over the future of AI. Instead, it has brought one of the technology industry's biggest questions back into the spotlight: how can increasingly powerful artificial intelligence be developed while keeping it safe and under human control?

(Jacob Coxon; Picture by the Financial Times)



Robots Take to the Streets to Demand AI Rules

Laknisan Gunalan | Staff Writer



On the 7th of September in front of the Ministry of Digital Affairs in Warsaw, an event which seemed to be pulled out of a science fiction film commenced. It was a protest demonstrated by marching humanoids, robot dogs, chanting the words “Don’t wait, regulate”. Continuously chanting demands for more stronger regulatory measures of the development and implementation of Artificial Intelligence.

A Protest Like No Other

This protest was coordinated by a Polish Civic Group who call themselves Democratism, they advocate for the regulation of AI and for the implementation of job safety for everyone.

Around 30 robots were chanting on the streets, which drew the attention of many students, workers, and even tourists who stopped to witness the scene. Because this was a very unusual sci-fi like event, it also quickly earned allot of International media outlets attention such as CNN and BBC. What the group wanted to achieve has been successful, they bought the attention of people from Poland and beyond.

Robots as a Symbol

These robots weren’t autonomous, but their mere presence was symbolic. The organisers used them as assets to highlight the rapidly growing concern across the world; AI and automation are advancing much faster than governments can regulate or take any measures against them, and that the consequences for human workers could be severe.

A Warning to Policymakers

All the robots marched in unison, waving flags and broadcasting messages: “We want regulations, we want rules, we want law”. The indapendant online magazine Dangerous Mind reported that the robots chanted the phrases themselves, using pre programmed voices.

One of the organisers of the protest, Grzegorz Kulis told AFP that this demonstration was a symbol meant to warn all the policy makers, not only in Poland but across the world about the rapidly rising ability of AI to replace both physical and mental labour.

He stated “If we don’t react now, we may soon have a problem,” stressing the fact that regulation should act as a “shield protecting workers”.

Growing Fears About AI

This protest commenced at a time where global fear and anxiety around AI was intensifying.

Just a few days before the demonstration an AI safety researcher resigned from Anthropic the company behind Claude, he warned that all the tech companies were “racing straight to self improving superintelligence” (see previous article). This statement circulated through the media, adding fear and a sense of urgency to the Warsaw demonstrators to commence their demonstrations.

Government Responds

Surprisingly, Poland’s digital affairs Minister Krzysztof Gawkowski visited the demonstration in person. He stated that he acknowledges the risks following the rapid development of uncontrolled and unregulated AI models implemented into humanoids. He mentioned to the crowd that he is working with the Polish government towards the implementation of new AI regulation frameworks.

Poland has actually implemented the European Union’s Artificial Intelligence Act. This is one of the world’s first AI regulatory laws, this legislation introduced strict regulatory rules for high-risk and unpredictable AI models.

The Future of Work

Nevertheless, Democratism argues that this legislation does not regulate enough, especially not stating a solution towards automation driven job loss, which has been a key concern which affects millions of people across the world.

This demonstration in Warsaw is part of a bigger picture, happening across the world. While the AI Act by the EU focuses on safety, transparency and risks. Economists highlight that AI automation could reshape the whole labour market faster than any government can adapt to.

As Poland depends on its large manufacturing sectors and its digitizing service initiatives, it is widely considered as one of the countries which is most vulnerable towards sudden shifts in employment patterns. This demonstration through robots rather than humans made the reality impossible to ignore.



What Comes Next?

Democratism stated that this is its first demonstration of this kind, and it won’t be the last. They have planned to organise further demonstrations, which may involve more advanced robots and interactive installations which kids can participate in too. Their primary goal is to push AI regulation into a prioritised political debate before AI automation reshapes the market which cannot be reversed.

For the moment this demonstration has succeeded: it forced the world to face a truth which we can no longer ignore.

The future is not slowly approaching.

It has already started marching, and soon those footsteps will be heard louder than ever before.

Millions of Children Still Waiting for a Classroom

Constantin Voss | News Editor



While millions of students around the world have recently returned to school, hundreds of millions of children are still struggling to get a proper education.

The issue was highlighted during the United Nations General Assembly this month, where education leaders drew attention to the global education crisis. Recent figures show that around 273 million children are currently out of school, while another 270 million attend school but are not gaining basic reading, writing and maths skills.

Conflict and climate-related disasters are among the major reasons children cannot receive a stable education. In Sudan, around 8 million children are out of school because of the ongoing crisis. In Gaza, hundreds of thousands of children have also been unable to attend school. Recent floods in Nepal have disrupted education for thousands more.

The problem is not limited to children who are completely out of school. Education Cannot Wait estimates that 258 million school-age children across 87 countries have had their education affected by crises. It also reports that 93 million of these children are not attending school at all.

International organisations are trying to address the problem. The Global Partnership for Education has mobilised billions of dollars to support education systems in lower-income countries. Education Cannot Wait has also launched a campaign seeking \$600 million to provide education for 10 million children affected by crises.

For many students, going to school is an ordinary part of everyday life. For millions of children around the world, however, getting into a classroom remains a major challenge. The figures show that access to education is still a major international issue.

All you need to know regarding the latest Apple Event

Ilana Guckenheimer | Staff Writer



On September 9th, Apple unveiled 5 new consumer products, one of them being what many are calling the most innovative phone in the last couple of years.

They showed off the new iPhone 18 Pro and Pro Max in Burgundy, Glacier, Silver and Black. The main selling feature is the new 48MP main camera with variable aperture control. Reported by Apple, compared to the 17 Pro Max, the 18 Pro Max has 6 more hours of video playback on, 20% faster 6-core CPU, up to 40% faster 7-core GPU.

This is a pretty big leap in processing ability thanks to the A20 Pro chip, built for AI workloads. They also announced the Apple Watch Series 12 and Ultra 4, with 'most accurate heart rate sensing in a wearable'. The AirPods 5 deliver up to 1.5x more Active Noise Cancellation than the AirPods 4.

Now for the star of the show, the iPhone Duo. Starting at 2.299€, it's Apple's first foldable phone. You can use it for an enjoyable split screen experience, for gaming, reading, or even as an alarm clock. This passport style resembles the Samsung ZFold 8. From

reviewers, the crease is not visible and provides a nice viewing experience. The front camera is hidden under the screen, which does not help with the quality of videos or photos.

If you are thinking about upgrading to the 18 Pro from the last model or even as late as the 15 series, the updates seem big on paper, but in reality the main updates are in software.

With the new Siri AI and significant performance updates as 'app launches are up to 30% faster, new photos load in your Photos library up to 70% faster, and AirDrop transfers are up to 80% faster' according to [apple.com](https://www.apple.com).

You won't see much of a difference, as the phone body is exactly the same as the previous generation. The main thing people are interested in is the iPhone Duo. If you want a foldable but have been waiting for Apple to make one, then get the Duo.



164 to 1

How a Map Vote Reveals America's Double Standards

Parth Gupta — Editor-in-Chief



On September 4, 2026, the UN General Assembly voted 164 to 1 to endorse a resolution promoting the Equal Earth map projection over the 500-year-old Mercator projection. Six countries abstained. The United States cast the only no vote.

The resolution, sponsored by Togo on behalf of the African Group and backed by the African Union, argues that Mercator distorts relative size in ways that diminish regions near the equator. Under Mercator, Greenland appears roughly the same size as Africa, even though Africa is about 14 times larger. Togo's foreign minister, Robert Dussey, called the change a matter of "justice, dignity, equality." The resolution is non-binding and does not restrict Mercator's use in navigation, the purpose it was designed for.

That's what makes the vote so puzzling. A no vote didn't stop anything, and abstaining, as six other countries did, would have registered

disagreement quietly. So why be the only country to vote against it?

The administration's answer was that the resolution pushed an "ideological agenda" and distracted from the "genuine problems of international peace, prosperity or good relations." On its own, that's a reasonable position, or at least one that can be understood. Every map projection involves trade-offs (even the Equal Earth map has distortion), and cartographers disagree about which works best. The problem, for me, is the double standard.

The same administration renamed the Gulf of Mexico and Lake Ontario, and in both cases linked the decisions to disputes with neighboring countries. If using maps to make a political point is acceptable when the US does it, it's hard to argue it becomes ideological when other countries do it, especially when their stated goal is accuracy and justice rather than a trade quarrel.



This isn't new, and it isn't unique to this administration. The US has a long habit of helping write international rules and then keeping one foot out the door. The Navy sails through contested waters citing rules from the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea, which the Senate has never ratified. In 2023, Washington welcomed the International Criminal Court's arrest warrant for Vladimir Putin, even though the US isn't a member of the court and doesn't accept its authority over Americans. The US is also the only UN member that hasn't ratified the Convention on the Rights of the Child. These contradictions go back decades and cross party lines.

That said, there are good reasons for the US to be careful. It has troops and commitments all over the world, and joining institutions it doesn't control could limit what it can do when the UN is stuck (as it often is). I think that's a reasonable argument for treaties that actually bind countries. But this resolution didn't bind anyone, so I don't see how it applies here.

I also think the vote was a strategic mistake. The resolution came primarily from the African Union, and the US has been trying for years to build influence in Africa, largely to compete with China, which has spent heavily on infrastructure and loans across the continent. Dussey described the resolution as being about dignity. Being the only country to vote against it doesn't help the US make its case

there. Abstaining would have shown disagreement without drawing nearly as much attention to it.

There's also the question of credibility. The US regularly asks other countries to follow international rules, whether that means respecting shipping lanes or enforcing sanctions. China and Russia like to argue that the "rules-based order" is really just the American-based order. I don't agree with that, but votes like this one make it harder to argue against.

A single vote on a map won't change US foreign policy. Still, I think low-stakes votes can say a lot about a government. They reveal what it chooses to stand for, even when the decision itself doesn't have much practical consequence. I don't expect the US to support everything the General Assembly passes, and some skepticism of the UN is healthy. But as an American, I want my country to follow the standards it expects from others, and I'd rather it stood alone on something that actually mattered.



AfD Victory Raises Questions for Germany's Future

Constantin Voss - News Editor



A major election victory by Germany's Alternative for Germany (AfD) party in the eastern state of Saxony-Anhalt, has caused concern across Germany and attracted attention throughout Europe. The AfD won almost 44% of the vote, putting it close to becoming the first far-right party to govern a German state since the end of the Second World War, and even though the election took place in just one of Germany's 16 states, the impact could be much bigger soon.

The result has increased pressure on the Chancellor Friedrich Merz and his conservative Christian Democratic Union (CDU) mainly because they lost a majority of their votes to the AfD, with some arguing that this is due to the rather poor performance of the CDU since their return to government in the last national election when dealing particularly with Germany's economic difficulties, immigration and rising public dissatisfaction.

What happened?

The AfD was founded in 2013 mainly as a protest party against the Euro and Eurozone bailout policies, and later evolved into a party whose central focus became immigration, national identity, and broader right-wing populist themes.

The AfD performed particularly strongly in Saxony-Anhalt, a Federal State in former east Germany. The party has traditionally had more support in eastern Germany than in the west. The result is especially important because the AfD came close to securing an absolute majority, which would give them the power to govern the state.

It also represents a major setback for Merz. When he became chancellor, one of his goals was to reduce the AfD's popularity. Instead, the party has continued to gain support.

Merz admitted after the election that approval of his government was very low. He also acknowledged that many Germans are unhappy with the current situation. The election does not mean that Merz has to leave office. Germany's next national election is not scheduled until 2029. However, the result has led to increased discussion about his leadership within his own party.

Why did the AfD gain so much support?

There is no single reason for the AfD's success. Apart from the lack of a clear program what the party would intend to do once in power it has built much of its support around opposition to immigration and a nationalist message focused on German interests.

Surely another concern is the German economy. Germany has faced difficulties in its important manufacturing and automotive industries, while German companies are under increasing pressure from international competition, especially from China.

Some voters are also concerned about pensions, social benefits and the cost of government policies. Immigration and public safety are other important issues for AfD voters. The people of Saxony-Anhalt also feel like the former government of the CDU did not fulfil their promises to the people, recent opinion polls have shown that nearly 82% of the population of Saxony-Anhalt were unsatisfied with the political actions of the current CDU administration.

There is also a significant difference between eastern and western Germany. Despite large amounts of investment into eastern regions since German reunification, many of them remain less wealthy and modern than western Germany. For example the average wage per year in east Germany is still 15% lower than in western German states. Some people in the east also have more positive memories of life before reunification, a feeling sometimes known as "Ostalgie."

The party uses family-oriented messaging in its campaigns to connect with voters and emphasize shared values, which has helped it appeal to a broad range of people.

What could happen next?

The next steps of the Merz's government are difficult to predict and even more difficult to bring about a change in the polls, but he is not facing a national election yet. His next challenge will be to convince the dissatisfied voters that the other political parties will address their concerns.

Two more regional elections in Berlin and Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania (another former east German federal state) are scheduled for this month. The results could show whether the AfD's success in Saxony-Anhalt was merely a regional Faux Pas' or part of a wider trend.

The CDU will also have to consider what to do about the AfD's growing popularity. Mainstream German parties have generally held up a political "firewall" against cooperation with the AfD. The recent election has brought up the debate about whether that approach will continue.

The AfD's victory in Saxony-Anhalt most likely represents more than a single state election. It shows the growing dissatisfaction with Germany's established political parties and the willingness of many voters to support a party that was once considered far outside the political mainstream.

If the AfD can keep up their momentum and take control in further states, the reactions of other established German parties will become clearer in the elections ahead.



Oligarchy Part 1: The Tax Gap

Tiki Talks

Alexander Schmitz | Columnist

Western society has never been more prosperous. In the United States, GDP has surpassed \$32 trillion, and German household wealth (including real estate) has surpassed \$23 trillion. In the UK, household wealth relative to national income has grown significantly in the last a few decades, yet when one looks around in any of these societies, it seems like the average person is struggling. Affordability has become the focal point of politics across the Western world, overriding partisan and ideological barriers. Before the 2024 Presidential Election in the U.S., 79% of U.S. adults categorized the economy as being “very important” when choosing their presidential candidate. This has not shifted before this year’s U.S. midterms, with polling from Emerson rating the cost of living as 8.2 out of 10 in importance on average. Before the recent 2026 Berlin State Election, the absolute top issue for Berliners was, as reported by ZDF, the housing market and affordability of rent.

How can societies that have grown so wealthy have the masses struggling so much? Many blame capitalism as a concept, but I disagree. Capitalism isn’t the issue; uncontrolled and unregulated capitalism is. I recently read an interesting piece on Substack by economist Paul Krugman. The piece discussed the rising tax gap in the United States, more specifically, the gap between the amount of taxes believed to be owed versus the amount actually paid in. Conservative estimates now put this at over 600 billion USD, with other experts placing it even higher. To put that in perspective, the current deficit is around 1.97 trillion USD a year in the United States. In other words, even at its most conservative estimates, the tax gap accounts for over 30% of the annual shortfall in the U.S. budget.

While the U.S. has a severe problem, other countries, such as the UK, have also recently seen an uptick in their tax gap, with the UK nearing 7% in recent years (and the U.S. consistently crossing 15%). So where does this tax gap come from? Despite making up a minuscule share of the population, the top 1% of earners make up over 28% of the total tax gap. This has risen dramatically under the Trump Administration, which has prioritized cuts in IRS (the U.S. tax agency) funding and a lack of law and order when it comes to tax collection. The reality is that the story of excessive wealth and rising oligarchic structures in the United States and across the West is not just about tax cuts, but about a lowered emphasis on enforcement. Despite making up only 23% of the estimated tax gap in the U.S., almost 75% of all tax audits conducted by the IRS are for the bottom 80% of income earners in the U.S.

This problem doesn’t even touch the over-accumulation of wealth due to legal tax loopholes in countries like the United States. It represents the illegal accumulation of money that has been tolerated by both lawmakers and administrations (especially Republican ones) that have shielded their wealthy donors while putting the burden of running the state on the average person. The U.S. is nearing the level of inequality it saw during the Gilded Age, as corruption remains at an all-time high. The current system benefits the wealthy and powerful, because the average person has a far more traceable origin for their income. In fact, a recent 2019 analysis by academics Natasha Sarin of Yale Law School and Larry Summers of Harvard (who was formerly Secretary of the Treasury) discovered that over 13.9% of households earning \$10 million or more in the U.S. are actively underreporting, compared to 2.6% of those earning under \$200,000.



Some of this is accidental, and the perfect fulfillment of one's tax obligations can be complex when one's streams of income are much more diverse than for the average person. But this isn't the key issue facing the U.S. and other Western countries. It's the systemic attempt to shield certain corrupt wealthy people from paying their fair share in the society they inhabit. Recent years have seen stagnation in many European countries and active decline in the United States in the real amount appropriated for tax agencies.

This hurts not only the lower and middle classes, but also the majority of wealthy individuals who pay their dues. It creates a system where cheating is rewarded, and honesty is actively punished. How can a state tell a struggling working-class family that it needs to cut their pension, their healthcare, and their children's education, while certain people refuse to pay their fair share?

How can a state tell a wealthy family that pays tens of thousands to ensure compliance to keep doing so, while it actively ignores constant tax evasion? The free market system can only work when everyone pays their dues for a society that should benefit anyone, regardless of income. When certain people evade their responsibility so blatantly, it's a slap in the face to everyone else. It's not just a moral issue, but an economic one too. The UK has a 93.8% debt-to-GDP ratio, and France and the United States have crossed 118% and 125%, respectively. Simply put, the Wild West of tax evasion has shifted the fiscal burden onto future generations while benefiting almost only the super-wealthy. To ensure a more just and fiscally sound future, a course correction is necessary, not just a good idea.

This opinion is the first part of a trilogy on the rising threat of oligarchy and inequality in the United States and the rest of the West. Stay tuned for parts two and three in future Paw Print editions.

Is Canada the new cool-kid on the block?

Flavia Luca (Opinions Editor)

***Pawsible
Solutions***

Welcome back to another fresh school year and also the official start-up of my new column; Pawsible Solutions. I hope we've all been well rested throughout summer and are eager to find out more about what the world has to share and what its people have to say. This month's edition will set the stage and similarly continue from where we laid off last school year. You guessed it, jolly North America (wink wink)! Today's writing will lay its focus on a nation that I have yet to research and write about, and that has declared some controversial opinions; Canada.

Alliances this, alliances that, sounds like quite an ancient term now doesn't it? Not since Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney sparked his decision to push for Canada and other middle powers to build a more self-reliant network of alliances, particularly with Europe and the Nordic countries, rather than depending so heavily on the United States. Though fear not, Carney's plan explicitly does not involve the total and complete enabling of an anti-US policy or "third block". Nobody is trying to make Trump lose his hair any sooner, no. What Carney did propose and is bringing forward as a working concept, is his broader foreign-policy concept that is sometimes referred to as "variable geometry".

What does this mean? Instead of relying on one dominant alliance, Canada can build different coalitions for different problems. During one of his speeches in January of this year, Carney proposed that middle powers can cooperate and create something that is referred to as "the third path", where countries could work together on areas including; trade, defence and security, critical minerals, energy, AI, quantum technology and space, as well as payments and financial systems.



Like this, Canada could also branch out its resources transatlantically and also build a stronger cooperation with European and Nordic partners. This was also importantly discussed again in September at the first Canada-Nordic-Baltic Eight foreign ministers' meeting, where cooperation on international law, security, and coordination through NATO and the EU were emphasised.

So what is this idea of a 'Western block without America'? Well... to be or not to be. Carney's September speech to the European parliament was rather a bit unusually explicit. Carney proposed a much deeper European-Canadian strategic alliance, and also welcomed a European proposal for Canada to become an associate member of the EU (not a direct member!). Reassuringly, Carney did mention how he is not trying to create a rival block defined by an imaginary opposition towards the United States, and stated how his objective is a generally greater strategic autonomy and resilience, by making Canada potentially less vulnerable. So the story isn't simply, "Canada abandons America", but rather, "Canada is trying to diversify its alliances so that America is no longer Canada's overwhelming dominant external partner", or technically no Big Brother.

You owe me an apology!
Ouch! My feelings!

A-ha-ha-ha!



Why is this all happening and unfolding now, you may ask? Canada has relied heavily on the United States for trade, defense, and economic cooperation for a really long time, but relationships have become more uncertain, particularly due to numerous disputes over tariffs and trade. Naturally, Carney's government does imply how it is not necessarily favourable to be so dependent on one single country, and that it is important for Canada to maintain a certain flexibility and independence. Instead of relying so deeply on the U.S., Canada is trying to build stronger relationships around our side of the world, while still maintaining its close and major relationship with America.

Looking at this objectively, Canada and Europe would compliment each other well, when talking about benefits.

Canada has a lot of energy resources, critical minerals, agricultural resources and expertise in relevant technological advancements.

Europe in turn has a huge market and manufacturing capacity, research institutions, as well as defense industries. Carney's main argument lies at the core of believing that combining these strengths can lead to both sides being less dependent on other major powers.

What do we think? Does flattening out and expanding the sand in the playground give us more room to play, or does it create a really big mess that will forever be stuck in our shoes? Lets listen out for updates, read and anticipate decisions, decisions, and more decisions, and maybe even some paw-sible solutions.

Das gewisse Etwas Review

Emma Von Preussen - Staff Writer

The movie is about a young adult named Alex and his dad who are robbing a jewellery store. When they want to drive away from the scene, their car isn't there anymore and they have to make a run. While running, they are passing a residential home for people with disabilities. There, a group is just about to set off on an summer excursion and waiting for one missing person called Otto. When Alex and his father Karlo are running past, Hollie, a female caretaker assumes Alex is Otto and the two of them get on the bus with the group. First, Alex is really nervous because he has to pretend to be disabled. But after arriving at the remote holiday home, he gets to know the group and becomes friends with all of them. Nevertheless, after a few days Alex and his dad are getting caught by the police. During Alex's trial Hollie and the others are showing up and vouching for him. In the end, Alex is



doing volunteer work and the residential home of his friends.

A fun fact: at the jewellery store Alex and Karlo hold a young couple hostage who was just about to buy an engagement ring. Finding out about it, Alex gives them one of the stolen rings. A few days later Alex and the woman meet again at a supermarket and she pretends not to know him..

My rating: 8/10 ★ stars because they did it to make an entertaining movie with disabled people without making fun of them but at the end there is a love story and it didn't need that.

The Great Gatsby

Scarlett Morin- Culture editor

The New York Times described the Great Gatsby as “fresh as ever”. Although *the novel is often praised I believe it to be* outdated and rather boring. The novel is set in the 1920s and focuses on Jay Gatsby, a wealthy man who throws huge parties because he hopes to win back Daisy Buchanan, the supposed love of his life. The story is narrated by Nick Carraway, Gatsby’s neighbour and Daisy’s cousin.

The main problem is that the plot develops very slowly. Gatsby’s parties sound exciting, but the reader does not experience much real action. Instead, the novel contains long descriptions of people, houses, clothes, cars, and wealth. These details may have been impressive when the book was published, but it causes the book to lack the excitement the characters kept talking about.

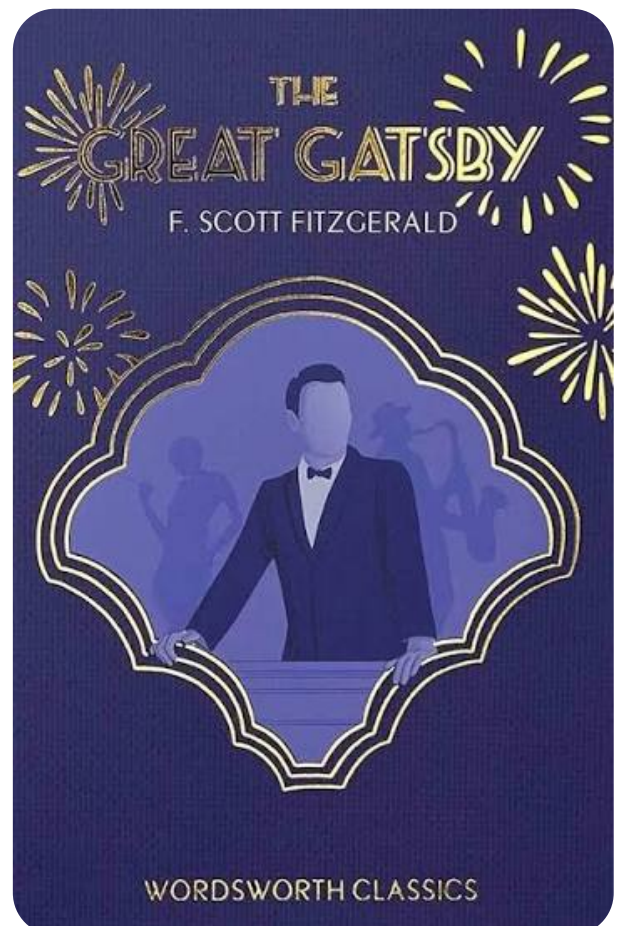
I also found the characters difficult to care about. Gatsby spends years trying to recreate his relationship with Daisy, even though she is already married. His obsession feels unrealistic rather than romantic. Daisy is often passive and indecisive, while Tom is aggressive and selfish. Nick watches the events around him but does not always take action, which makes him seem uninteresting.

The novel’s themes also feel somewhat outdated. It focuses heavily on rich people, social status, marriage, and the American Dream. Although these ideas can still be relevant, the way they are presented feels distant from modern life. The characters’ relationships are also based on old-fashioned gender roles and class divisions, which makes it harder for a modern reader to connect with them.

The Scarlett Letter

However, I understand why the novel is considered important. Fitzgerald criticises the way wealth can hide selfishness and corruption. He also shows that the American Dream is not always fair or achievable. These ideas give the book educational value, even if they did not make it entertaining for me.

Overall, I found *The Great Gatsby* outdated and boring. The novel has interesting themes, but the slow plot, unlikeable characters, and old-fashioned setting made it difficult to enjoy. I would recommend it mainly to readers who like classic literature and analysing hidden meanings. For readers who prefer fast-paced stories and modern characters, this book may feel more like schoolwork than entertainment.



Book Review- The keeper of lost Cities

Ana Calamar- Staff Writer

This book talks about a girl named Sophia, who grew up with humans, not knowing that in reality she is an elf. Fitz, another elf finds her in a museum and shows her the lost Cities. Shortly after that she has to go with Fitz to them, and a new world opens for Sophia... a world that even in her wildest dreams she never could have imagined.

"You have brown eyes." said the stranger boy, staring at her in wonder, as if she were the greatest thing he had ever seen.

"Yes, I do, have you got a problem with that?" Sophia asked, as well gazing into his teal eyes. They had something-something she thought was mysterious.

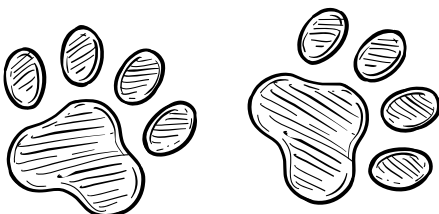
Sophie is a telepath. She knew that since she was five, when she knocked herself out, and after she found herself back in the hospital, seeing everyone's thoughts. She has blond, shoulder length hair, brown eyes (although that is quite unusual for an elf, as they actually have blue eyes), she is very brave, and really cares for the safety of her friends.

I, personally, like the author's writing, because whenever I read the last chapter before sleep, there is a cliff-hanger, and when I finish a book, I usually wonder what is going to happen in the next one, if I didn't already start reading it. I also really like the prologue, wondering what it'd mean.

What I like about this book is that it has hidden worlds, the elves have abilities, like being able to read other people's minds, read other people's feelings, be able to move water or fire, being able to hurt other people without even touching them-things like those.

I'd recommend this book to others if they like fantasy books, because it also is a series, so that the adventure continues. In total, there are 11 books.

These series are also full of mysteries, so if you like that I would also tell you to read the book Nevermoor: The Trials of Morrigan Crow by Jessica Townsend.



THE PAW PRINT

October Fest/Oktoberfest

Benjamin Roberts - Staff Writer

This festival stems from Munich and lasts from mid September to the first Sunday of October, lasting 16 to 18 days. In Munich in 2023, the largest ever October festival was recorded with about 7.2 million people participating. Because this festival is primarily based around drinking and partying, visitors consumed roughly 7.4 million liters of beer. The festival annually draws in 7 million people.

Where does this originate from?

On October 12th, 1810, Crown Prince Prince Ludwig of Bavaria married Princess Therese. In response to this marriage they invited the Public outside of the walls to participate in the festivities naming the land where they stood, "Wiesn".

Variants

Oktoberfest is not solely celebrated in Munich, it is celebrated all across Germany and has become a tradition for many countries. The second biggest celebration is in Hannover, which had approximately 500,000 participants.

Entry Parade

Opening parades began in 1887 when Hans Streyrer walked into the festival with a cart of beer and a brass band. The tradition started in 1935, when all breweries making beer took



part in the festival. Since 1950 the festival starts when the mayor of Munich follows the Munich coat of arms in a Schottenhammel family carriage. The parade is then followed by horse drawn carriages, floats and music bands.

The unofficial sport

During oktoberfest, a party game has transformed into a sport, one where whoever holds a 1 liter mug the longest wins. It's called "Steinholding".

Where to celebrate (for under 16s)

In Berlin they have their own celebration for the young. OkSoberfest, a festival dedicated to the same vibe but non-alcoholic. The best one in Berlin is called "Kulturbrauerei", found at Schöenhauser Allee 36. On October 10-11 they are celebrating with a bunch of festivities like music headliners (Marc Terenzi and DJ Tomekk) and many traditional games. Early bird tickets cost 8.50 EUR (rising to 12 later in the day), and 14.99 for a two day pass (each ticket including a free Non alcoholic beverage).

A School-Wide Pledge:

Show Racism the Red Card Day is once again approaching, and this time BBIS wants to become a "School without racism" But what does this mean and how can you help?

Liora Krause - Editor-in-Chief

Last year, BBIS gathered to celebrate Show Racism The Red Card Day, a day for anti-racism awareness and community. Both primary and secondary school engaged in a moveathon, walking laps around the field or through the local forest. This year, on October 16th, we will once again be celebrating this day. But this time, BBIS wants to take a step further and join "Schule Ohne Rassismus".

"Schule Ohne Rassismus" is German for "School Without Racism", and a nationwide network of schools across Germany with one collective goal: To combat all forms of discrimination. This includes fighting against racism, but also homophobia, transphobia, ableism, sexism, islamophobia, antisemitism, and far-right extremism. Clearly, this commitment lines up well with the BBIS mission statements "inclusive, innovative, active". Furthermore, being a part of this network will help us connect with schools who are working towards a similar cause, and will grant us access to additional educational material to help us address discrimination. So why isn't our school a part of this network yet?

The reason is simple: There are still some requirements we must meet. Firstly, BBIS has to organize a yearly anti-discrimination project. That is already covered by Show Racism The Red Card Day. Then, our school needs a patron, such as a celebrity sponsor. Currently, the Social Justice Committee at our school, the SJC, is trying to find someone who will support our cause. This also connects with the next requirement - The initiative must be led by a student led action group such as the SJC. Lastly, a school vote must take place where at least 70% of all people attending school (staff, students, or teachers) must vote agreeing to three commitments. What are these commitments, you ask? They have been broken down into simple explanations.



The first commitment (when translated into English), is; "I am committed to ensuring that my school carries out sustainable projects, campaigns, and events to overcome discrimination, especially racism."

For us, this means supporting initiatives by the SJC such as Show Racism The Red Card Day, or even proposing our own ideas for projects and campaigns if we have any.



The second commitment reads; “If violence, discriminatory remarks, or actions occur at my school, I will speak out against them, address them, and support open discussion so that we can find ways to treat each other with respect.” This commitment may be the most important to stick to in everyday life, as actionable change comes through fighting discrimination in real life when we encounter it. Though it may be a bit intimidating to be an upstander at first, it is very important work. After all, we cannot call ourselves a “school without racism” if said racism persists in the everyday life of students. Whether we directly call out discrimination during a conversation, check in with someone who was the target of a racist comment, document an incident of harassment, or delegate and ask someone else for help, there are many ways to be an upstander. The only way we will truly be able to combat the casual racism still

present in our lives is if all of us do our part to address it.

The final pledge we must all agree to is; “I am actively involved in ensuring that my school carries out projects against all forms of discrimination, especially racism, every year.” This pledge connects quite well with the first one, this time emphasizing that we need to take action every year, and also against all forms of discrimination, not just racism. Our school has already made a good start here. For example, we have a yearly pride march during pride month to celebrate the LGBTQIA+ community and tolerance at our school.

Overall, it is entirely possible for BBIS to become a part of the “Schule Ohne Rassismus” network. What this will take is ultimately the commitment of everyone at our school. From the kids in EE, to our IB seniors, from every teacher and counsellor, to the staff that run our school cafeteria and make school life possible, all of us have to be committed to actually applying anti-discrimination and anti-racism work in our everyday lives. And as wonderful as our school-wide campaigns like Show Racism The Red Card Day may be, change mustn't always come from a huge event – it often shows up as a small act of bravery in an everyday conversation.

The Journey of Personal Project

Jeein Chun - Staff Writer

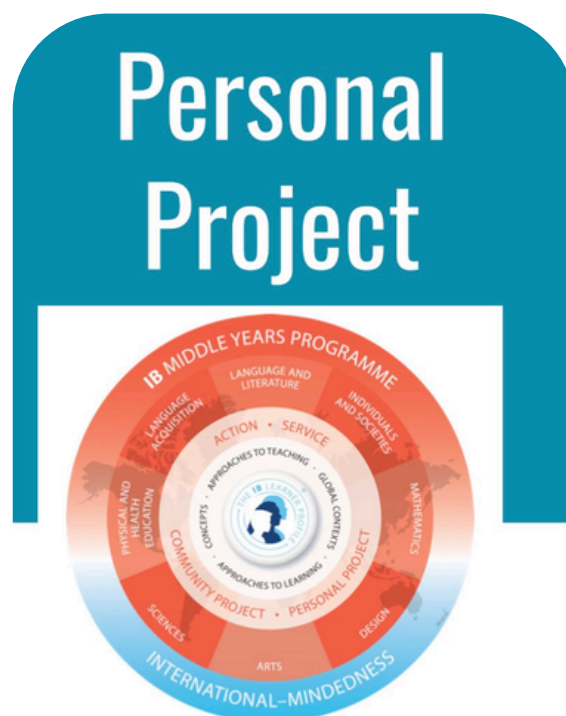
A new journey of personal projects for 10th grade students has begun. As it is one of the major projects of the IB MYP course, many students are feeling both excited and stressed. But every student has a staff supervisor who can help them along the way. Ms. Johnson, who has lots of experiencing supervising students, has shared her anticipation of learning about 10th grade students' hobbies and interests outside of school, noting that she looks forward to getting to know them better.

True to Ms. Johnson's anticipation, the 10th graders are bringing an incredibly diverse range of personal hobbies to the project. For instance, Kaydence Harris is working on animation, encouraging herself to develop techniques for her future. Sieun Choi is exploring graphic novels about Korean history, which is related to her interest in digital drawing and Korean history. Meanwhile, an anonymous 10th grade student has responded that she's creating epoxy resin jewelry and accessories, desiring to improve her artistic skills and learn new techniques.

Despite their excitement, they have also shared their sense of pressure, primarily regarding time management and the final exhibition.

Kaydence Harris expressed her anxiety about her final exhibition, a concern that likely resonates with many other students. Similarly, the other peers have admitted that managing their time properly is their main concern. The pressure of submitting the final version on time and ensuring the overall completeness of the product were the major anxieties.

To alleviate the 10th grade students' anxieties, Liora Krause, an 11th grade student who experienced the exact same pressures last year, stepped forward and has provided some essential advice.



Her topic last year was an original composition, fusing the two genres of rock and Alevi. Mirroring the concerns of the current sophomores, she also faced challenges with time management. She admitted to being overly ambitious with her project, overcomplicating her initial plans beyond her capacity.

Consequently, one of her major tips was to adjust the plan wisely. She replied that rather than a tight schedule, she recommended building more flexibility into the timeline, allowing more time for making the final product. Furthermore, she highly encouraged students to actively ask for more help and specific feedback from their supervisors. This way, she noted, it would be simpler to build fluid and flexible plans for the project and also make writing reports more manageable.

So what have we learned? A successful project stems from personal passion. If you do a project that you love or wish to learn about would lead to a successful project. In addition, to minimize mistakes, the advice is to analyze the MYP command terms in the grading rubric carefully.

Ms Johnson highly recommended taking photos or screenshots of the process or the steps to use as critical evidence.

Ultimately, the advice from anyone you ask is to start the project early. By finishing the product before December winter break, students can focus on their report in January, which maximizes their chance of receiving detailed feedback from supervisors.

The personal project might feel stressful right now, but with these great tips and their own passion, the 10th grade students will surely create amazing final products.



How the Berlin Wall worked

Russell Husry - Staff Writer

Imagine having to split a city into two separate parts; roads that used to connect are now dead ends, friends you used to see daily—you will perhaps never speak to them again. The Berlin Wall did exactly that.

Living in Berlin before the wall was built was weird; you could move around the entire city freely, but you were either an East Berliner or a West Berliner. After the Second World War, the victorious nations had divided the city into several parts; the Soviet occupation zone ultimately became the territory of East Germany, a socialist state, and the western part of Berlin remained legally occupied, but in all practicality it belonged to West Germany, a capitalist state.

East Berliners would work in West Berlin to benefit from the better currency, and West Berliners would get their haircuts in East Berlin because of the lower price. In a way, both systems tried to outdo each other. In West Berlin, a bunch of shops opened on Kurfürstendamm (Ku'damm) with the latest products, and a few streets away in East Berlin was Stalinallee, a street that was transformed into a boulevard full of buildings in the style of socialist classicism, but this open coexistence of two systems would not last long.

On the 13th of August 1961, Berlin woke up to a divided city. The East German government closed the border, which meant that families were split apart. Officially, the East German government stated this was to protect their country, but it was an effort to stop its own citizens from moving to the West, where opportunities seemed greater. At the start, this wall was a wall in name only, consisting mostly of fences and loose barbed wire manned by guards.



There were unguarded stretches where you could even jump across. To make escaping difficult, construction immediately began on a more permanent wall made of concrete and topped off with barbed wire coiled around a Y-shaped arm. But this is not how the wall looked everywhere. A shortage of building materials meant that only 10% of the border looked like this. There was another problem: sometimes the border went through housing blocks, houses that now needed to become part of the wall. The East German officials forced people out of their homes and closed the windows with bricks.

Over the course of decades, the wall was consistently upgraded with more and more features due to more people trying to escape. What was then a wall turned into a brutal border strip, cutting the city further and further apart; with new improvements came new types of escape attempts, leading to the wall being improved further, a back-and-forth repeated until the last version was built, the version that is the most famous. From 1975 on, the East German authorities rolled out a version of the wall, virtually impossible for anyone to cross. It generally worked like this: coming from the east, only a visual barrier made of concrete slabs is seen; this was done so that the exact border

fortifications were not visible, as that knowledge could be used to plan escape attempts.

Just behind this barrier, the ground is covered in so-called "Stalin's grass"; these are mats made of steel needles that pierce the foot of anyone who jumps over. Next up is a signal fence consisting of barbed wire stretched over concrete posts; anyone trying to climb over this presses the wires together, triggering an alarm and notifying guards in a nearby watchtower. Watchtowers are manned 24 hours a day by 2–5 soldiers who have a clear view of the whole border area, with orders to shoot anyone who tries to cross.

Trying to use brute force to break these sections does not work either, as behind the signal fence are several rows of tank traps, bearing down on anyone trying to drive through with a vehicle. In the middle of the border zone is a path for soldiers to patrol the area, often accompanied by dogs; behind this is what's called "the death strip", a strip of dirt stretching for kilometres, where hiding from guards is impossible.

Then there is the wall facing the western side; in contrast to the old wall, these elements have a foot-shaped bottom, which means that no holes need to be built in the ground for them to be placed, and instead of

barbed wire on top, there are pipes made of asbestos concrete. These pipes provide stability to the walls and are also impossible to grasp onto.

This wall was also just so perfect for graffiti, graffiti that would dominate many of the 45,000 elements placed in Berlin. The artwork would often mock the East German government, resulting in an open gallery of sorts highlighting the harsh difference between life in the West, where free artistic expression was possible, and life in the East, where this was unthinkable.

Ultimately, the people had enough, and with a combination of mass protests and a confused government

announcement that led thousands of people to rush the borders, the Berlin Wall fell on the 9th of November 1989, reuniting families and connecting long-separated roads.



From a thought to your pocket

The hidden Journey of how your smartphone is made

Russell Husry - Staff Writer

Every time you open your phone to take a call, check your messages or take a snap, you're holding the result of a process that most people never even thought about. Long before you even see a smartphone, it goes through dozens of hands, labs, and factories around the world. In this article, we will give you a behind-the-scenes look at how your phone came to life.

It all starts with an idea. Before companies gather materials, write code, or build a camera, they spend months researching what people want. This is called market research, and it is where design teams study market patterns and consumer habits. Designers then sketch prototypes to test for durability, functionality, and looks. Every detail of

the smartphone gets discussed here, whether it is the screen size, camera quality, processing power, or even how the software should feel.

After, the phone splits into two projects that are worked on side by side. One team builds the brain, which is the operating system, the interface you swipe and touch, and all the code that has to be perfect before the first customer even sees the phone. The second team builds the body, which includes the motherboard, processor, camera, battery, and screen. This team tests each physical component, like the motherboard, camera, processor, battery, and screen. They test each physical piece on its own to make sure it holds up to spec.



Then the two halves come together. The engineers add the hardware and software into one working prototype, then run real-world tests, which include seeing how long the battery lasts, how the phone grabs signal, and whether everything functions well together.

Once the prototype is approved, the focus changes to practicality. Designers refine the phone to be mass-produced, standardising parts and simplifying assembly to avoid delays, cut costs, and keep the quality under control for millions. From there, the smartphone goes through engineering validation, and a huge amount of mechanical and structural tests designed to catch bugs and flaws before they become a problem for the customer.

Before a single phone is sold, designers have to prove it's safe. Certification from agencies such as the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) confirms that a device meets legal safety standards, including checks for radiofrequency and electromagnetic interference. Once all the legal requirements are met, manufacturing begins, and it is a global effort. Components are sourced from suppliers in countries like China, Taiwan and Korea.

Each part is inspected before assembly begins. Workers install the screen first, before adding the

battery, camera, processor, and motherboard. Once the electronics are in place, the smartphone is tested again.



Here, Final testing begins. Inspectors look for any issues in battery life, touch responsiveness, and Wi-Fi and network connectivity. Any phone where issues are found gets pulled out and sent to be repaired. Nothing that is defective is allowed to go through.

Finally, the phone is boxed up and shipped to retailers to be sold. Even the packaging serves a purpose of protecting the device from scratches and damage while showing off its best features for the shopper to decide whether to buy the smartphone or not.

From an idea sparked in someone's mind to the smartphone passing through the hands of researchers, coders, engineers, and factory workers over multiple continents, before it even reaches your hands. A reminder is due of how much invisible work goes into the device most of us carry everywhere.

The Best and Worst IB Subjects

Top 10 with
Claire and
Dasha

Claire Teichmann and Dasha Burma

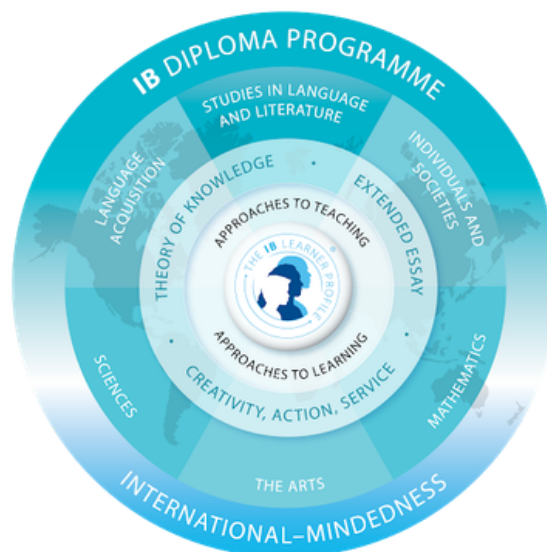
This month we will be rating the top 5 best IB subjects to take, and the top 5 WORST IB subjects to take. Both of us have completed one year of IB subjects, and would like to share our best and worst subject choices.

Top 5 BEST IB subjects

1) Economics SL - Agreed upon by multiple students, economics is an interesting and manageable subject. The topics are all interconnected, and make sense throughout. Along with this, the IA is worked on throughout the two years, split into 3 parts, making it manageable throughout the rest of IB.

2) Chemistry HL - If you enjoy chemistry, this is a great class to take. The content in class is understandable, and I can honestly say that I enjoy going to class every week. The only minor thing to take into consideration is the tests can differ from the content in class. This is true for many subjects, but the tests in chemistry are more difficult than the content in class, and consistently mix multiple units when they have the chance.

3) English Lang Lit HL - English Lang Lit requires tons of reading and in-depth analysis. If you are interested in



discovering classics and going very deeply into texts, this is the class for you! Dasha takes this class and thoroughly enjoys it. A lot of the course is centered around discussion and engagement; therefore, if you like to contribute, participate, and be active, this is a great place to do that. HL differs from SL due to the additional HL essay and Paper 1 text, but overall in Dasha's opinion, that only makes the course more in depth and interesting rather than challenging.

4) Math AA HL - If you really enjoy math, do not be scared of this class. Many people know this class is difficult, but the content is followable and does not jump around everywhere. Also, 14-17% of people usually get a 7 in Math AA HL, which is a lot higher compared to other

subjects. Along with this, I especially enjoy this class because of the no calculator portion. Do not let this scare you. These questions without a calculator are not more difficult than with a calculator, you simply do not need one. If you do not like math this obviously does not apply, but if you are between AI HL and AA HL, do not let the name scare you.

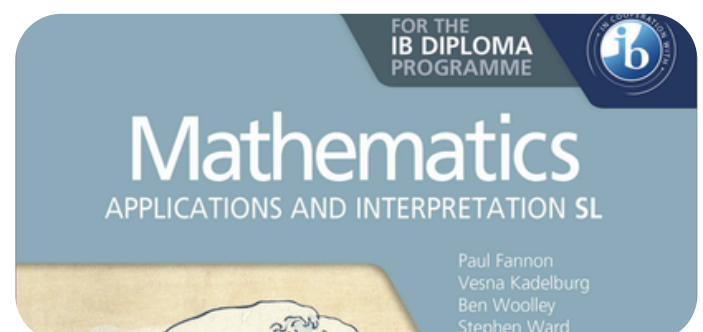
5) Global Politics HL – This class is a great way to become more aware of current events and understand them through the theories and concepts that shape political systems. It gives you a strong foundation for understanding why states act the way they do and helps you look at world events from a much more analytical perspective.



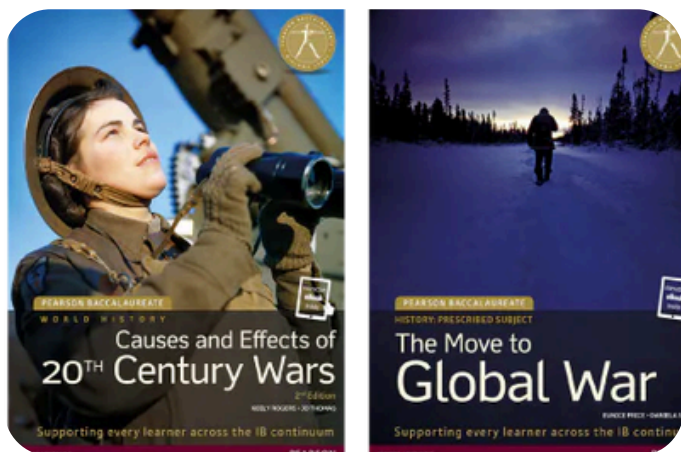
The IA is especially interesting because it is based on real-world engagements, which pushes you to step outside your comfort zone and interact with communities and organisations around you. I would definitely recommend this class if you are interested in politics, international relations, or anything similar as a future area of study. Dasha takes Global Politics at HL and loves it! However, if you are not a big fan of essay-based subjects, you might enjoy it less, as there is quite a lot of writing. Also, be prepared to memorise a lot of content; there is definitely plenty to learn!

Top 5 WORST IB subjects

1) Math AI SL – This is a subject that has the lowest success rate of achieving the highest mark of 7, with only 9% of students. Math AI SL is usually picked by people who do not enjoy the subject, so it is common that the class atmosphere isn't focused on succeeding and learning to the best of their abilities. Dasha takes this class, and although her class has a nice dynamic, she recommends that if you understand math, you take AA SL instead.

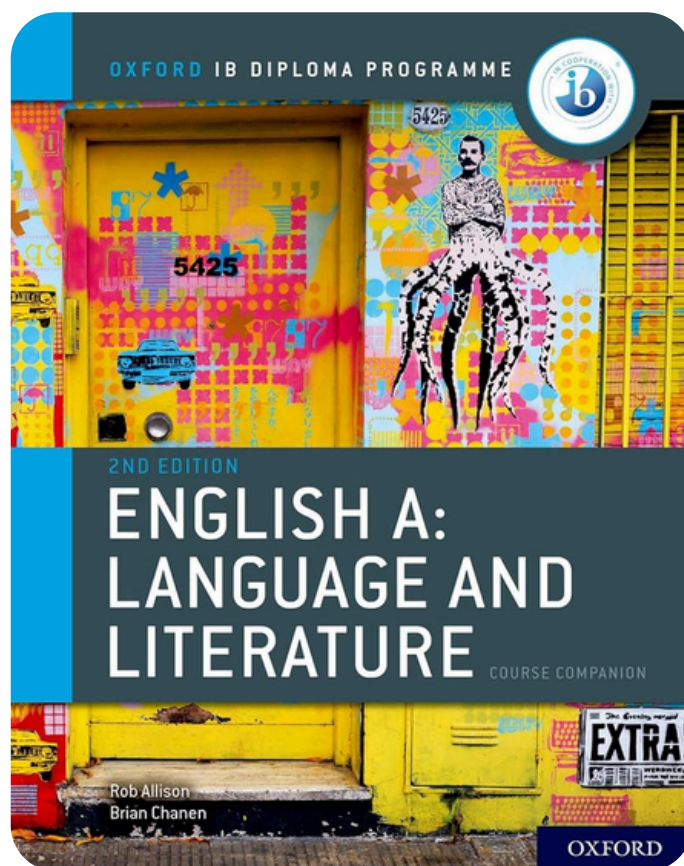


2) History HL - Neither Dasha nor Claire take this subject; however, this subject is known to be the hardest IB subject to get a 7 in, with only 2-3% of people getting a 7 each year. This should not deter you from taking this class, however; this class is filled with content about WWII and multiple authoritarian states. If you are interested in history, this class could be the fit for you; just ensure you keep the harsh grading in mind.



3) Self-taught SL - Dasha actually enjoys this class a lot, but she would understand why it would be a tricky class to navigate. This course requires students to find their own tutor and do a lot of self-study. Mrs Lund Bruning is a wonderful coordinator, keeping you organized, although tutors are unpredictable and therefore can hinder your learning process. When picking this course, you have to ensure you are proficient in your mother tongue, as it requires a lot of vocabulary and skills for analysis. Make sure you have skills such as organisation because this is key to succeeding in self-taught.

4) English Literature HL - For the people who strongly dislike a lot of reading, this class is not for you. A minimum of 13 books is required for this course, vastly exceeding the 5 necessary for Lang Lit SL. Along with this, this class is notorious for being extremely difficult to get a 7 in, with on average only 1.5% getting a 7 each year.



5) Physics HL - This class is very interesting in the IB. The only reason it is on this list, is that it is known to be very difficult. Not only do you have to perform mathematical calculations for every unit, you also have to have a deep understanding of each topic and how they interact with each other to get a good grade, making this class very difficult for a lot of students.

New year, new me.

This is the first edition of the Paw Print for the new school year.

And since every new beginning brings new opportunities, we thought it would be worth giving Paw Print a little update by giving the front cover a makeover.

Don't worry, we're still delivering our usual mix of engaging articles. From news of the newest iPhone, to Olaf Scholz's visit at our school, to a ranking of IB subjects, there is definitely an article in here for you.

Come on then, don't be shy! Take a look at what we've written, and let's start this new school year together.

We hope you enjoy!

– The Paw Print 🐾