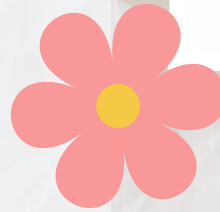


COLA STUDENT NEWSLETTER

April



about us

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This is a student-led newsletter that aims to highlight student and teacher stories and share important dates for standardized testing, field trips, and any other COLA events.

Our goal for this newsletter is to use it as a way for students and teachers to connect and learn more about their peers, and to have a resource for students looking to get more involved in both COLA and their community!



ENDANGERED ANIMALS

Spotlight



BLACK RHINOS

Arianna B

Black Rhinos have been listed as critically endangered species, since 1996, by the IUCN. Many decades ago, there were about 38,000 Black Rhinos; however, because of the poaching in the 1970s-1990s, the population decreased by 85%. Some threats, besides poaching, are fragmentation, or habitat loss. In 2021, there were 3,142 Black Rhinos left, but because of the efforts put towards saving the rhinos; there are now 6,421 left. Last, one-way people helped save the animals, were by taking them on a secluded island, and the island owners were required to protect them and report them regularly to the NMET.



Amur leopards, also known as *Panthera pardus orientalis*, are critically endangered with less than 100 remaining as of 2024. Native to southeastern Russia and northern China these beautiful big cats are vital to their ecosystems. As apex predators they help control the population of herbivores, preventing herbivores from overgrazing. Due to habitat loss and poaching Amur leopards have almost died out with as little as 40 existing in the world during the mid-1900's. However, due to the work of countless scientists, zoologists, and animal rights activists, Amur leopards have greatly improved in numbers, but we still have work to do to protect these wild cats!



AMUR LEOPARDS

Taryn Anderson



RED PANDAS

Amelia Sizemore

Red pandas are in danger mainly because their homes are being destroyed by logging and farming. As forests get cleared, they lose their homes and food, making it harder for them to survive. On top of that, people hunt them for their fur, which makes things worse. Climate change also messes with their environment, messing up their food and making their homes less safe. All of this is putting red pandas at risk of disappearing.



WRITING ON A WAFFLE



April — that one month that can't quite decide if it wants to be spring or summer. But if there's one thing it is sure about, it's turning everyone into wannabe comedians... and quickly reminding us why we're not.

It's the season of unexpected rain showers, allergy attacks, and the sudden urge to wear shorts even when it's still 55 degrees. April keeps us on our toes — one day it's sunshine and flowers, the next it's clouds and chaos. Still, there's something nice about the fresh air, blooming flowers, and the feeling that the school year's final stretch is finally in sight.

THE MOVIE CORNER

Movie Review: Wall-E (2009)

Wall-E is more than just a Pixar animated film; it's a visually stunning, emotionally powerful masterpiece that blends science fiction with heartfelt storytelling. The movie takes us on a journey through a dystopian future where Earth has been abandoned, and a single robot is left to clean up the mess humanity left behind. Wall-E is a small, rust-covered robot with a big heart. For centuries, he has compacted and stacked trash, collecting odd trinkets that fascinate him, a spork, a Rubik's cube, and even an old VHS that introduces him to love. Despite his mechanical nature, Wall-E is full of personality, and the film masterfully conveys his emotions through expressions and beeps rather than words. Wall-E's solitude transforms when a high-tech probe named Eve reaches Earth. The growth of their friendship is full of touching moments, like when Wall-E offers Eve a tiny plant he found, not realizing the result of this action. The film's second half shifts to space, where the remnants of humankind live aboard the massive spaceship Axiom. When Wall-E follows Eve into space, he sparks a rebellion against Axiom's artificial intelligence and reminds humans of their lost connection to Earth. The film exceptionally uses sound design and detailed animation. Beyond its adorable love story, Wall-E is a cautionary tale about environmental destruction, consumerism, and the consequences of abandoning personal responsibility. I highly recommend you watch Wall-E, a rare type of film that makes you reflect on the world around you, and proves that even a nearly silent movie starring a trash-compacting robot can be moving and unforgettable.



MOVIE FACTS

2025 OSCAR WINNERS

- Best Picture- Anora
- Best Actress- Mikey Madison
- Best Actor - Adrien Brody
- Best Animated feature film - Flow
- Best costume design - Wicked





What 2 Wear

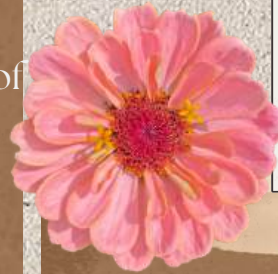
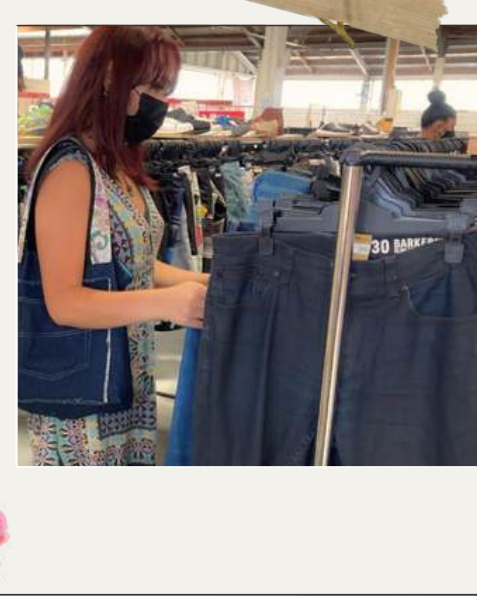
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President Tarynn Anderson

Hello COLA staff and students! Every year on April 22nd people from around the globe join to reflect on ways to make our planet a better place. I'm doing my part this earth day by sharing with you guys "Tarynn's Thrifting Tips".

Tip 1. Make a plan. Before you go to the thrift store figure out what it is you want so you know where to look and don't end up over buying. An example of this would be saying to yourself "I want some low rise embroidered jeans, so I'll look in the denim section."

Tip 2. Attire. Wear something comfortable and lightweight. This way you can try on clothing on top of your clothes. Additionally, be sure to wear gloves! You never know what substances you may come across when shopping for previously worn clothes.



Tip 3. Now that we have the prep done and you're in the store, you need to be patient! You're going to find a lot of junk before you find the clothing you want. I suggest bringing a friend to talk with so you can pass the time.

Tip 4. While searching through clothes look thoroughly! Check for any stains, rips, peeling, or anything that might make a piece unwearable. Furthermore, be sure you're only buying outerwear, shoes or accessories. Formerly owned socks, underwear, makeup, or skincare are both unsanitary and dangerous.

Poetry Palace

Kourtney Parham

JANE YOLEN



FEATURED
POET

Jolen Yolen is a well-known American children's book writer.

Jolen Yolen has written over 365 books for children and adults.

"Earth Day"

I AM THE EARTH
AND THE EARTH IS ME,
EACH BLADE OF GRASS,
EACH HONEY TREE,
EACH BIT OF MUD,
AND STICK AND STONE
IS BLOOD AND MUSCLE,
SKIN AND BONE.

AND JUST AS I
NEED EVERY BIT
OF ME TO MAKE
MY BODY FIT,
SO EARTH NEEDS
GRASS AND STONE AND TREE
AND THINGS THAT GROW HERE
NATURALLY.

THAT'S WHY WE
CELEBRATE THIS DAY.
THAT'S WHY ACROSS
THE WORLD WE SAY:
AS LONG AS LIFE,
AS DEAR, AS FREE,
I AM THE EARTH
AND THE EARTH IS ME.

April

Amelia Sizemore

Dear teachers, staff & students, I am so excited to share with you the experience of making your very own fruits & veggies in your backyard! The apple you eat for a snack can be much more useful than you think. You know those small seeds in your apple? Those can help make new apples!

How? Look below for instructions on how to make your own fruits & veggies at home! & most soils are great to use but, I suggest using Loamy soil. Its perfect for veggies because it holds enough water, drains well, and has all the nutrients plants need to grow strong.

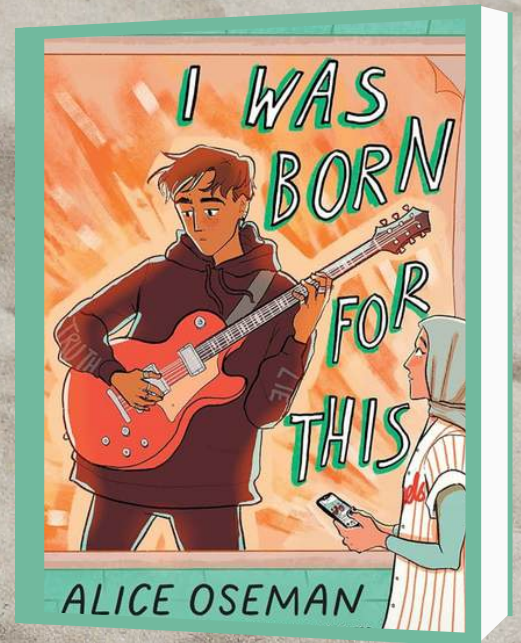
1. Remove the seeds from your fruits and vegetables.
2. Take some dirt and put it in a pot.
3. Now take your seeds and bury them in the dirt.
4. Water, place in sunlight and wait for them to grow!

Outside With Amelia



The Book Nook

KATELYNS
KORNER



Book of the Month

I WAS BORN
FOR THIS

By: Alice Oseman

Review & Summary

Born for this

Perhaps you were born to read this book or perhaps I should stop using witty plays on book titles. Either way this book captivated me as a striking coming of age story that offers an insightful perspective on today's modern fan culture and the pop culture fandoms it entails. The book prompt presents provocative questions on our modern social media riddled society, as well as illuminating some problems within fan culture. Not to say that it doesn't also narrate some invaluable opportunities that social media presents with the book illustrating the charming benefits in plenty. However, with the good comes the bad and both can be each other's vice when it comes to this smashing plot, following Angel Rahimi and Jimmy Kaga-Ricci in a dual point of view narrative. With Jimmy being the lead singer of the internationally famous boy band, The Ark, the same band Angel is quite frankly obsessed with. That being so, as any rational teenage girl would do, she rallies her equally super fan of a best friend to see them perform live. However, as the plot unravels and both characters dive deeper into their personal narratives they are presented with developing insecurities and personal instabilities that come along with being a young adult leading to the lives of these two unlikely characters to intertwine. With I was born for this taking a fascinating exploration into the different perspectives of fan culture, with both being advocated through the lens of teen character first finding their footing in the world with albeit completely different outlooks yet meeting in the middle to find humility, understanding, and connection. This book holds a repository of questions, queries, and overall intriguing perspectives shining light on pressing yet unprovoked subjects while keeping all creative liberties in the author's mighty pen. Making the story not just enjoyable but relatable with Alice Osman's knack for curating fleshed out characters with hearts, versions, minds and souls as we venture and take a peek into this developed world with the brief time we hold in their lives.

APRIL
FOOL'S
DAY

SPORTS CORNER

Arianna B



In the Zone: MLB highlights

(This game was on March 11th) In the game, Dodgers vs Guardians, Andy Pages drove 2 runs in a single, because the Guardian's catcher did not read his teammate's throw correctly. (This game was on March 16th)

Another game was, Rays vs Nationals, Jake Mangum on the Rays, homered to the left and his two other teammates Montes and Minser scored.

Spotlight-[J. Mangum]

Jake Mangum scored two home runs, four runs batted in, and two runs for the Rays, when they played against the Nationals. His average was .462.

Joke:

I kept wondering why the baseball was getting bigger... Then it hit me.



EARTH DAY

I'm rooting for the environment!

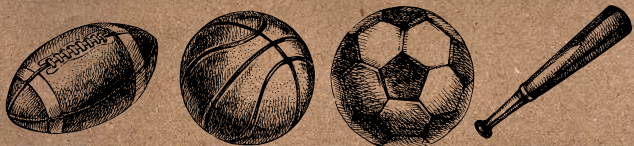
Sports Talk: What's Trending

The Tampa Bay Rays are not going to move forward with their development project, after their stadium got hit by hurricane Milton, which cost \$1.3 billion.

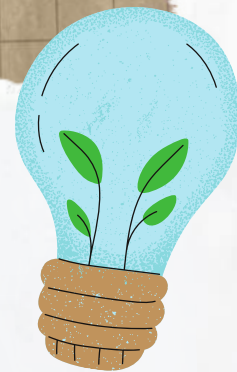
Stuart Sternberg said, "After careful deliberation, we have concluded we cannot move forward with the new ballpark and development project at this moment."

Game Day-Countdown

An MLB game you should check out is Royals vs Yankees on April 15th, at 7:05 pm. Last, for NHL, check out the Ducks vs Flames on April 3rd, at 9:30 pm.



APRIL EVENTS



April 5th & 6th: Acworth Art Festival

April 7th-11th: SPRING BREAK!!

April 12th & 13th: Big Shanty Festival

April 24th-May 4th: Atlanta Film Festival

April 25th - September 26th: 2025 Glover Park Concert Series

April 26th: Fit City 5K



NEWSLETTER CONTRIBUTORS

Kourtney Parham...11th Grader

Juan Quezada.....11th Grader

Jordyn Williams.....11th Grader

Katelyn Miller.....10th Grader

Ethan Scott.....10th Grader

Tarynn Anderson.....8th Grader

Arianna Barkley.....7th Grader

Amelia Sizemore.....7th Grader

