

CCS Times

June Edition

Feature Teacher: Mr. Oostenbrink

By: Genavieve
Myson

“For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the Lord, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.” - Jeremiah 29:11

The art of teaching is the art of assisting in self discovery. It is an art that inspires others to create their own, they provide students with hope to sculpt their own futures. This art form is hard to find within the world today, which is why teachers particularly like Mr. Oostenbrink are incredibly hard to come by. Calgary Christian School won't be the same without his enlightening enthusiasm, and mastery in the art of teaching. When I was first introduced to the idea of writing this article on a retiring teacher, interviewing Mr. Oostenbrink was going to be an interesting and exciting process. I have heard numerous stories about the importance he had served in their times as 8th and 9th grade students. He created a new way to teach the monotonous and unappealing curriculum that was Social Studies. But somehow, he was able to transform this knowledge into a world of wonder and interest, challenging his students to innovate and develop a deeper understanding of the topic. Whether that be through his outstanding and gracious attitude or through the fascinating assignments he would offer. The most influential aspect of his teaching was the environment he created. “Close community. Community

is valued, and it's about being there for each other” Mr. O explained to me. “What goes around comes around.” Mr. Rob Oostenbrink was raised by his beloved mother and father, and was a part of the first generation of students to attend Calgary Christian School, starting the First Grade year in 1968. His mother worked as the choir instructor for the school and quickly his family became involved within what we now know as the Calgary Christian School community. Mr. O would attend CCS from grades 1 to 9, participating in many sports such as basketball, volleyball, and especially hockey. So his favorite memories were going on overnight trips with his teams. He would also do the annual “Hike for Help”, the event that CCS would use for years to raise enough money for a proper gymnasium. But at the beginning of High School the Oostenbrink family moved overseas, where Mr. O himself would do his last bit of schooling at an international trading school in Holland. He would finish his schooling and leave to challenge the world through whatever career he chose. “My mother always told me to be a teacher, as I always had a passion for the subject.” He told me in
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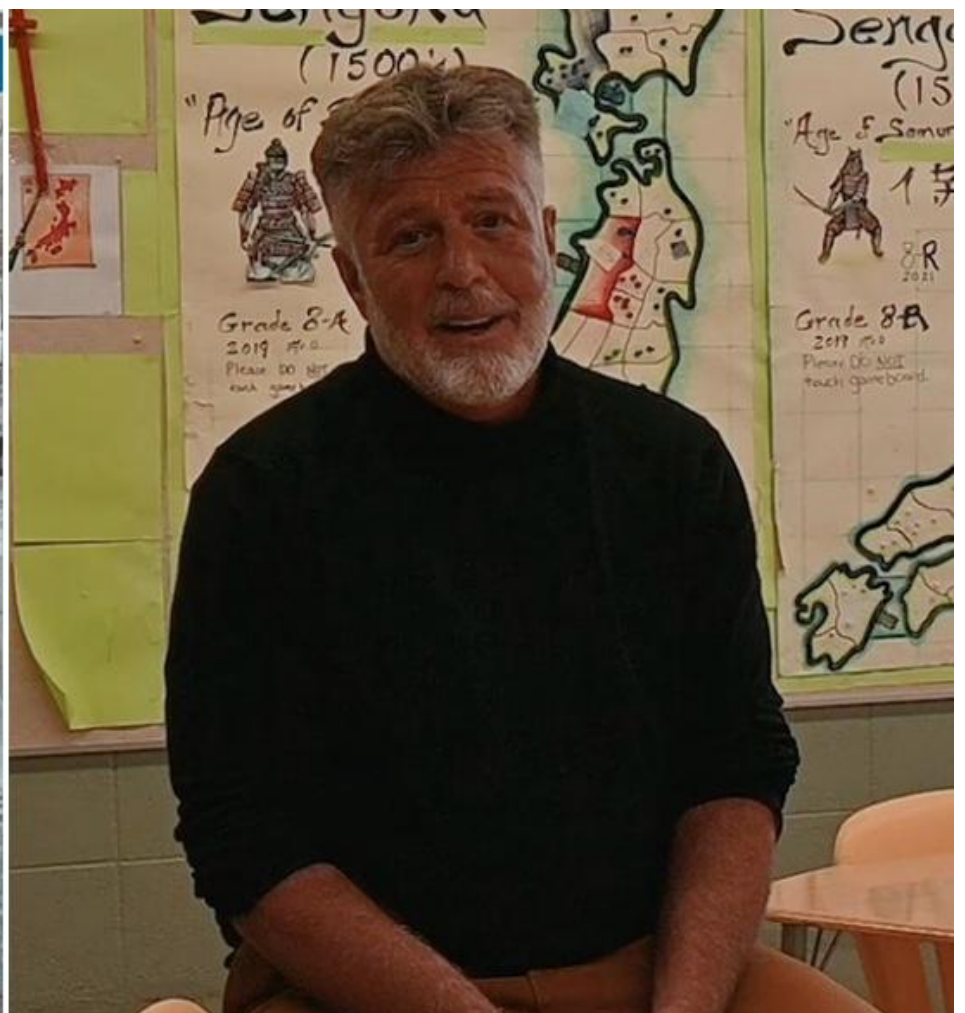
Brewing Bonds: The Vital Role of Coffee in Fostering Connections

By: Mackenzie Duthie

In a society that is very much infatuated with technology, coffee and socializing have become intertwined threads in the fabric of human connection. Beyond its aromatic allure and caffeine kick, coffee serves as a catalyst for meaningful interactions. Whether it's catching up with friends, bonding with colleagues, or sparking conversations with strangers, the simple act of sharing a cup fosters community. In a world where our interactions are often mediated by screens, coffee shops offer pockets of genuine face to face engagement. There, amidst the comforting aroma of freshly brewed coffee, friendships thrive, ideas bloom, and memories are made. In essence, coffee fuels not just our mornings but our connections. So, next time you savor that steaming cup, remember—it's not just about the caffeine buzz; it's about the connections made and memories forged, one sip at a time.



Mr. O: inspiring generations, giving back to the community and exciting students for decades here at CCS



Feature Teacher: Mr. Oostenbrink (continued)

A Note From The Editors

As we wrap up the school year, we would like to take a moment to say a few thank you's. First of all, thank you to all the CCS Times' journalists this year! It has been an honour working alongside each and every one of you these past few months. All the editions look amazing, and it's all thanks to our teamwork as a club! A special thanks to all the teachers behind the scenes as well, the newspaper would not have been possible without your guidance and help. We have had a lot of laughs, and so much fun with all of you! We have loved reading what you have come up with, and your creativity has amazed us. We hope to run this club again next year, and would love to see you there. Keep up the great work! Lastly, thank you to the readers, we hope that you enjoyed the newspaper. We hope you all have a great summer, see you next year.

~ Annabelle and Mackenzie

our interview. Mr. O explained how teachers impacted him to become the adored educator we know today. He described his past educators as engaging, closely connected to their students, and were especially passionate. "Passion you gotta own it. You gotta make it," Mr. O said, describing his past teachers. Mr. O would quickly fly by in school and get out of university with multiple opportunities and contracts from other schools, but his time capsule of childhood memories, CCS wasn't going to give up the potential he saw in Mr. O. "The principal of the school at the time made a special trip up to Edmonton to convince me," which just goes to show how even before Mr. O started his teaching career, everyone around him saw his virtuosity within this occupation. Signing on to the CCS community would unknowingly seal the amazing Mr. Oostenbrink here for the next 40 years. Mr. O would go on to become the amazing social teacher we know today, as well as juggling the side gigs of coaching athletics and helping with fundraising events for the school. Many students today have had parents, siblings, aunts, uncles, and cousins who attended and had the privilege to be taught by Mr. O, to experience his lessons he had invested time and energy to create for his students. But like many things, all good things come to an end.

At the end of our interview I decided to ask him one last question. What message do you hope to leave to your students? I watched him study each word and process the wisdom he was about to spread out into the world. And gracefully crafted a beautiful message

that he hoped to leave with his past students and the future generations to come were this, spoken truly from the heart.

"For them to know themselves, to know they're passions, to know their gifts, their God given gifts. To find their niche so they can help the world. If they use their passion and gifts to find their niche to serve they will find that most rewarding."

- Mr. Rob Oostenbrink

Though I have never gotten the chance to have him as my own personal teacher, I understand why everyone's hearts break to hear him go. You are a teacher full of kindness, generosity, and intelligence, one that students will always cherish and remember as they carry on throughout the path God has planned for them. I was truly honored to listen and hear the amazing story of his life and career. This lovely, ecstatic man will do many good things throughout the rest of his life with his amazing wife Arlene and three sons, Nathan, Reuben, and Levi. Enjoy the hiking, exploring and all the future adventures to come your way. Thank you for all the joy and wonder you have brought into students' lives, thank you for creating a new and lovely environment for all students, and thank you especially for all the devotion and time you put into taking care of your students. You are truly one in a million.

"We all have our unique gifts and God has a uniquely tailored plan for each person."

- Mr. Rob Oostenbrink

Shadows of Enchanted Destiny: Part two

By: Rebecca Imanse

Mrs. Anthrax was an evil witch with magical powers!

"What's happening!?!?"

"I'm getting my revenge on your parents!"

"Why do you need to get revenge on my parents?"

Mrs. Anthrax went into a long story, but here is the summary:

Mrs. Anthrax was friends with her parents before Mia was born. They were part of a magical club! Not a magic club. They all had magic powers that they used for good. Then one day, Mia's parents and Mrs. Anthrax and her husband were going to stop an evil witch. They fought and fought but eventually parents gave up and took Mrs. Anthrax with them to a safe bunker. They forgot to get Mrs. Anthrax's husband, who sadly died.

As Mrs. Anthrax revealed her shocking tale, Mia's mind raced with disbelief. Her parents, part of a magical club? An evil witch? It all seemed like something out of a fairy tale gone terribly wrong.

"But why are you getting revenge on my parents?" Mia asked, her voice trembling with fear and confusion. Mrs. Anthrax's eyes flashed with a mixture of anger and sadness. "Your parents betrayed me, Mia. They left my husband to perish while they fled to safety. They broke the sacred bonds of our magical family. And now, it's time for them to pay the price." Mia's heart pounded in her chest as she

struggled to comprehend the gravity of the situation. She had always known her parents were involved in mysterious activities, but she never imagined it would lead to this. "Please, Mrs. Anthrax," Mia pleaded, tears streaming down her cheeks. "Don't do this. My parents made a mistake, but they're good people. They don't deserve your revenge." But Mrs. Anthrax still didn't care. With a flick of her wrist, she summoned dark energies that crackled in the air, ready to unleash havoc upon Mia's family.

Just as all hope seemed lost, a sudden burst of light flooded the room as Mia's parents burst through the door, their own magical powers blazing with determination. They yelled a couple of magic words and all the kids in the classroom fell out of the trance that Mrs. Anthrax had put them in.

"Run children run! Get to safety! Mia, are you okay?" her mother cried, rushing to her side.

"We won't let her hurt you," her father vowed, standing protectively in front of his daughter.

A fierce magical battle ensued between Mia's parents and Mrs. Anthrax, each side unleashing spells and potions with all their might. The classroom shook with the intensity of their clash, desks and chairs flying as the forces of light and darkness collided. In the end, it was

5 Riddles That Will Boggle Your Mind

1. I am an odd number. Take away a letter and I become even. What number am I?

Ans: Seven

2. I am the beginning of everything, the end of everywhere. I'm the beginning of eternity, the end of time and space. What am I?

Ans: The letter e

3. What is so fragile that saying its name breaks it?

Ans: Silence

4. The more you take, the more you leave behind. What are they?

Ans: Footsteps

5. The person who makes it has no need of it; the person who buys it has no use for it. The person who uses it can neither see nor feel it. What is it?

Ans: A Coffin

Mia's parents who emerged victorious, their love for their daughter proving stronger than any vendetta. With a final incantation, they banished Mrs. Anthrax from their lives forever, ensuring that Mia and her family would be safe from her wrath. As the dust settled and the classroom returned to normal, Mia clung to her parents, grateful beyond words for their protection. And as they embraced, she knew that no matter what challenges lay ahead, their bond would always be her greatest source of strength.

The end.

Celebrating Indigenous Peoples Day in Canada

Every year on June 21, Canadians celebrate Indigenous People's Day. This special day is dedicated to recognizing and honoring the First Nations, Inuit, and Métis peoples who are the original inhabitants of Canada.

Indigenous Peoples Day was first established in 1996 by the Canadian Government. June 21 was chosen because it is the summer solstice, the longest day of the year, which holds significant importance for many Indigenous cultures. On this day, many events and activities take place across Canada. These include traditional dances, music performances, storytelling sessions, and art exhibitions. Communities also host feasts where

people can taste traditional Indigenous foods.

One of the main goals of Indigenous Peoples Day is to promote understanding and respect between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Canadians. By participating in the celebrations and learning about Indigenous histories and cultures, people can help build stronger, more inclusive communities. This day also serves as a reminder of the ongoing efforts to address issues faced by Indigenous peoples and to work towards reconciliation. Celebrating Indigenous Peoples Day is an important step in acknowledging and valuing the unique contributions and perspectives of

Indigenous peoples in Canada.

To celebrate Indigenous Peoples Day visit the AAWC website, to find out their free family day/Pow-Wow on Jun 22, 2024 from 9:00 am to 6:00 pm at ENMAX Park.

By: Lyndon Duthie



Doodling: The Ultimate Art of Boredom Busting

By: Nya Ogamba

What's the Big Deal with Doodling?

Doodling is the art of letting your subconscious take the wheel. It's what happens when your mind wanders into a realm of free expression, transforming idle thoughts into visual stories. Doodling isn't just for killing time during algebra class. It actually helps your brain stay awake and focused. So, next time your teacher drones on about quadratic equations, whip out your secret weapon: the mighty doodle! Feeling stressed? Doodling is like a spa day for your mind. It's like telling stress, "Hey, take a chill pill—I've got swirls to draw!" Doodles are like wild ideas in disguise. They can turn into anything—a funky alien, a magical castle, or even a superhero chicken.

The Upside of Doodling

- **Focus Enhancer:** Contrary to popular belief, doodling can help you concentrate and process information better.
- **Stress Reliever:** It's a mini escape, offering a break from the hustle and bustle of daily life.
- **Idea Generator:** Doodles can be the seeds of great ideas, often revealing insights and inspirations.

Doodling Tips and Tricks

- **Embrace Imperfection:** The beauty of doodling lies in its imperfections. Let go of the need for precision and enjoy the process.
- **Use What's Available:** You don't need fancy tools. A pen and paper are enough, but feel free to experiment with different materials.
- **Incorporate Words:** Mix in words or quotes with your images for an added layer of meaning.
- **Doodle in Color:** If you have access to colored pens or pencils, use them to bring vibrancy to your creations.
- **Practice Patterns:** Repeating patterns can be meditative and are great for filling spaces.

Doodle Hacks for Maximum Fun

The Squiggle Challenge: Grab a blank page and draw a squiggly line. Now turn it into something epic! Maybe it's a roller coaster track for ants or a wacky mustache for a potato. Let your imagination run wild!

Doodle Duels: Find a buddy and challenge to a doodle duel. Set a timer, and both of you start doodling. When time's up, compare your masterpieces. Winner gets bragging rights!

Doodle Diary: Keep a doodle book. Every day, draw something that captures your mood or a funny moment. Bonus points if you add speech bubbles to your stick figures!

Doodle Mash-Up: Combine random things. A pineapple with rocket boosters? Why not! A giraffe wearing sunglasses? Absolutely! Mix and match until you've created a doodle masterpiece.

Doodle Playlist: Put on your favorite tunes and let the music guide your pen.

As we turn the last page of this chapter, I can't help but think about all the lines, colors, and patterns that have popped up on our shared canvas. Drawing was more than just a way to show how we feel; it was a trip, a quiet chat between our hearts and the endless canvas.

As I put my pen down, here's one last thing to think about: every line was a word, every color a feeling, and every picture a story that hasn't been told yet. Even though this might be the last thing I write for a bit, the art we made together will keep talking, inspiring, and living in the hearts of everyone who saw it.

Thanks for letting me join you on your art journey. I hope your lines are strong, your dreams are bright, and your life is a work of art you made yourself. Until we see each other again, keep drawing with love, and don't forget—the end of one piece of art is just the start of inspiration for another.

Goodbye for now, dear readers and fellow artists. The canvas of the future is waiting for your special touch.

Live, Laugh, Levi

By: Levi Simpson

This is your monthly advice column by Levi Simpson. In this article, I'll cover varying advice topics including religion, relationships, emotions, and more. This month we're reflecting on struggles with Christianity and staying in faith amid the Struggle.

Now I'm sure we can all agree that being a teenage Christian isn't exactly the easiest thing in the world, sometimes even a challenge. As a fellow traveler on this narrow, jagged path I can only give guidance based on my experiences. I believe that Christianity wasn't meant to be easy. After all, we can't grow if we're never challenged. I was going through what seemed like a purifying season a couple of months ago (and still am), and it's rough. Many times this part of life is compared to making wine or oil. When making wine the grapes are crushed and pressed, almost violently; same goes for making oil from olives. This is a Christian metaphor for a season of purifying and pruning which happens many times during one's lifetime. It can include identifying and dealing with sin patterns while simultaneously choosing to walk in line with truth as reflected in the Bible and also in relationship with God. This is sometimes painful or dark. If (and when) you're going through this season the only advice I could give is to pray and stay connected to God. I know I didn't do this and I wish I did, just for the reassurance that it was a healthy and necessary process. Sometimes He Lets us Go through Hard Things To Teach us about ourselves, our World, and Others. Staying Connected Requires trusting the process. He'll clear the Space between to get us closer. Acknowledging what is there that creates Distance is necessary to get past it.

"Live Honest, He loves you!"

-Jocelyn Simpson

"If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness."
- 1 John 1:9

"Creativity is our most powerful tool to shape the world we want to live in"

- Isra Hirsi

Things to Add to Your Summer Bucket List

With the school year ending, everyone is getting prepared for summer break. We only have a few weeks left of school after all! So, here are some fun things to do for summer break!

- Go to the pool or the beach
- Make a craft of some kind
- Go on a bike ride or a walk
- Make your own ice cream
- Hang out with friends
- Have a picnic
- Water balloon volleyball
- Outdoor obstacle course
- Sidewalk chalk
- Read
- Stargazing
- Bubble Tea

Of course, there is much more to do on summer break, but here are some suggestions! Have a great summer break CCS!

By: Rae Martin

How to Eat Trail Mix the Right Way

By: Martha Anderson

There is only one right way to eat a trail mix.

When eating a trail mix there needs to be a perfect mixture of sweet and salty marinating in your mouth, whether you are on the top of a mountain or sitting in your science class, eating trail mix requires consistency and intense concentration to get the perfect mix in your mouth.

1. First, open up the trail mix and scan the nut to m&m ratio. Analyze whether or not there are an overwhelming amount of salted nuts or if the raisins are going to dominate the flavor in your mouth. You do this in hopes that there would be an even amount of all components of the trail mix, you don't want to just dive in only to find out you are eating a bag of pure peanuts. Right?

2. Now that you know what you are working with, dive into the bag and try

to get the most even handful possible. You want to have approximately 1 large m&m, about 3-4 raisins and about 8-10 assorted nuts. Don't be like one of those children who pick out all the m&ms and raisins only to give the salty bag full of assorted nuts to someone else. If you do that it's time to grow up.

3. Lastly, now that you have eaten the majority of the trail mix by taking even handfuls, it is time to toughen up and eat the rest of the nuts. Your first thought may be to give them to someone else but don't lose a fight to those salty peanuts. After choking down the assorted nuts. You did amazing!

Now you know the right way to eat trail mix, so if you are ever on the couch or at the top of Mount Everest. You can impress your friends with your spectacular trail mix eating ability

Taylor Swift: Helping the Economy and the Environment

Taylor Swift, the famous singer & songwriter, is not just loved for her music. She's also making a big impact on the economy and the environment. Swift is helping both people and the planet. Let's take a look at how she's doing this. First let's look at her economic impact, when Taylor Swift goes on tour she brings a lot of money to the cities she visits. For example, her "Reputation Stadium Tour" in 2018 made \$345.7 million, the highest-grossing tour in U.S. history at that time. A study found that her concerts can add up to \$5 million to a local economy in just one weekend. Taylor's tours need a lot of workers. From setting up the stage to selling merchandise, her tours create thousands of jobs. The "Eras Tour" is expected to create around 20,000 temporary jobs in each city it visits. Next let's look at her environmental impact. Swift is working to reduce the carbon footprint of her tours. She invests in carbon offset programs, which include projects that plant trees and protect forests. These efforts help balance out the emissions from her tour travel and productions. Besides her own efforts, Swift donates to environmental organizations like the World Wildlife Fund. She also uses her platform to raise awareness about climate change and environmental protection. Next, let's look at her social impact and philanthropy. Taylor Swift has donated millions to help

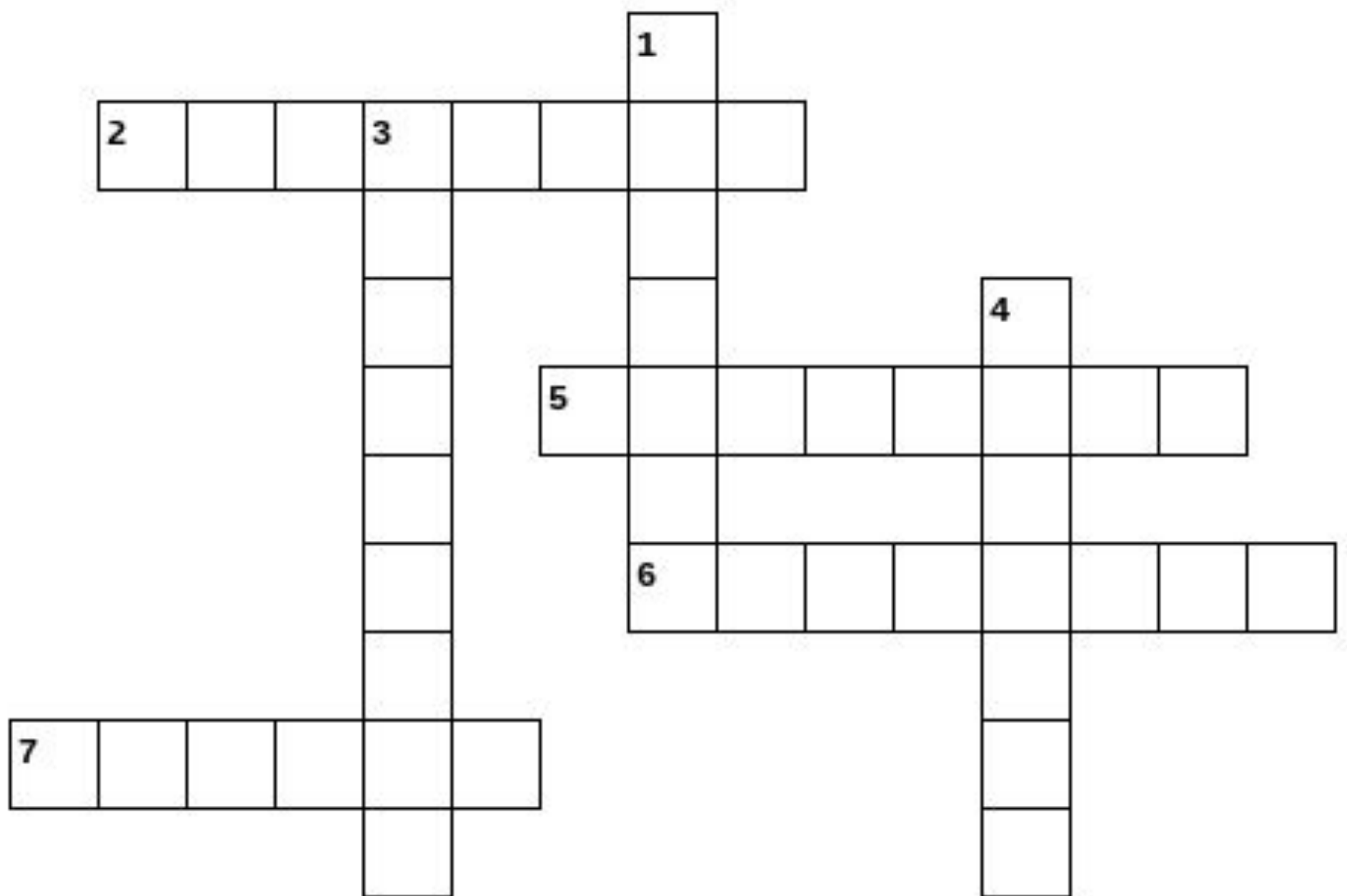
with disaster relief. After the Tennessee tornadoes in 2020, she gave \$1 million to help the affected communities. Swift is also passionate about education. She has donated to various educational programs and provided scholarships to help students afford higher education. Her \$4 million donation to the Country Music Hall of Fame for the Taylor Swift Education Center shows her commitment to arts education. Taylor loves supporting her fans in big ways. Recently in February 2024 she donated \$100,000 to the families of the

victims of the Chiefs parade shooting. To conclude, Taylor Swift's influence goes beyond her music. By boosting local economies, creating jobs, supporting sustainable practices, and donating to important causes, she shows how celebrities can make a positive impact. As she continues to grow as an artist and advocate, her contributions to both the economy and the environment are likely to increase even more.

By: Lyndon Duthie



Summer Crossword



Across

2. Sweet and sticky ice treat
5. Sweet summer drink
6. Common activity during summer
7. 2 month break from school and warmest month

Down

1. Things that grow on trees and smell good
3. Vibrant yellow flower that is tall and produces seeds
4. Hangs from 2 trees and you can lay in it