



NOVEMBER 13, 2025

ISSUE #1

LETTER FROM THE EDITORS

BY: EMMA SCHWENKE

Hello Tech Valley community! We are the editors of the new school newspaper and we are happy to present the *Tech Valley Times*! This school newspaper is a compilation of student works and all-school information. This newspaper is meant to amplify the student voices in our school and we would love for you all to consider contributing. There are many ways to contribute including Google forms we send out such as those for media recommendations, passion projects, and art submissions. We'd also like to work with dedicated members from each club to give us updates as needed. *The Tech Valley Times* is meant to be an authentic representation of our school community and a resource to inform.

In addition we will also be producing a podcast featuring student interviews. The goal of this podcast is to broadcast the true voices of our community and honestly represent the experiences of Tech Valley students. If you would be interested in writing for the paper or being interviewed for the podcast, you can contact the newspaper team at any time. Thank you for reading the *Tech Valley Times*!

JOIN US!

EMAIL US FOR MORE INFORMATION
TVTIMES@TECHVALLEYHIGH.ORG



Logo by Mohamad Ahmed



SOPHOMORES STRANDED ON AN ISLAND?!

BY; JAYDEN KRAJEWSKI AND TYLER CORCORAN

On a remote island, a plane crashed. Society was silenced until the spear caught the boar's head in its point. *Lord of the Flies* is a novel by William Golding, written in 1954. It follows the story of a group of boys (Jack, Ralph, Simon, Piggy, and others) whose plane crashes in a remote island. The boys resort to savagery, attempting to create a perfect society on the island. When opinions and disagreements get in the way of creating an ideal society, things start to spiral downwards. When the last spear is thrown, who will be there to tell the story of what happened? Sophomores at Tech Valley were instructed to read the novel and hold a respectful constitutional convention to determine which type of leadership was necessary for this environment.

Questions were asked by the 'council' which consisted of Ms. C, Ms. Ezzo, Ms. Hower, and Mr. Arace to test student knowledge on the book, their character and history. The first question asked was "what are the critical problems and how do they relate to historical events?" The replies highlighted loyalty, fires in Haiti and fires in *Lord of the Flies* (both in context of revolting), how Ralph didn't have enough authority like Louis XVI while also not taking enough accountability when needed, and Ralph's lack of strong leadership. Another question thrown out was "Would the government recognize civil rights for the citizens? Why or why not?" provoking those in the inner circle to start debating once more. A back and forth between members from Piggy's team and Jack's team ensued, with others joining in. Teams debated which governing system would work best on the island and the leadership Jack and Ralph. The debate ended in a rousing speech by CJ.



Unfortunately we cannot provide an entire transcript of the Lord of the Sophomores project, but here are some of the best quotes and moments from the seminar:

"Jack, Roger, all of you have a major issue with consent. You attack us when not getting glasses, set the forest on fire, if you make issues with people's consent they will revolt against you, like the French revolution."

"Alright, next question! Favorite part of the book?" Followed by crickets for a solid 15 seconds.

"My favorite part of the book was the entirety of chapter 12, shows Ralph running from Jack and his tribe in the deep end to try and kill Ralph. It shows how far it goes to killing someone that threatens their power, it shows how much they've descended from society."

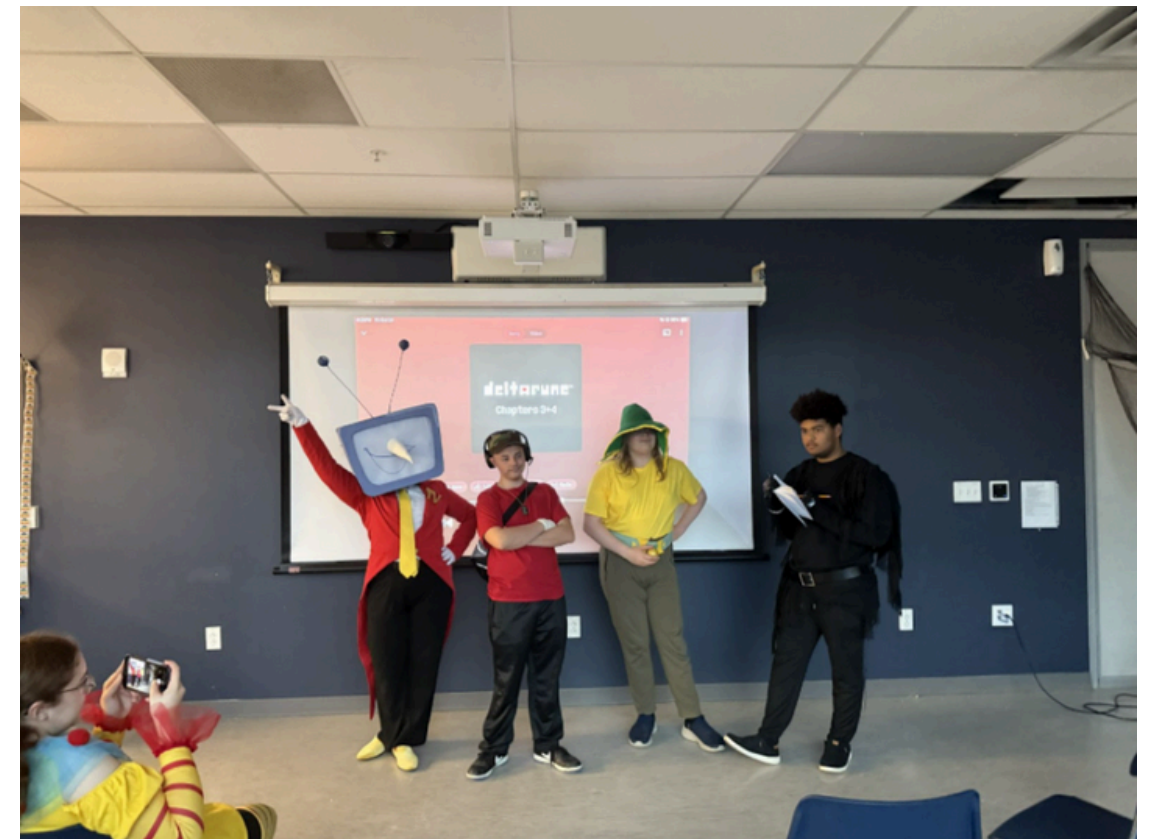
"Sometimes dictatorship can be a very good thing, just like Genghis Khan he was a dictator but fed his workers and became greater than all the empires." Followed by Ms. Ezzo laughing.

“A FRIGHTFUL MIX OF MUSIC, MAYHEM AND MONSTROUSLY GOOD FUN”

BY: MS. SAM CAVAGNOLO

On the chilly evening of Friday, October 24, 2025, Tech Valley students hosted their annual Halloween Party. The event, according to both students and teachers, was a spooky and smashing success. Mr. Irwin remarked, "From eerie tunes to echoing screams, our school Halloween party was a frightful mix of music, mayhem, and monstrosly good fun!" I couldn't agree more!

After school, students hung up decorations and transformed the building into a macabre masterpiece. The MPR was stocked full of spooky snacks and housed both a dance party as well as Halloween costume runway show. Room 106 was filled with video games of all kinds and was packed with students the entire evening. The highlight of the party by far was the haunted house which took over the second floor of the school. Students (and Mr. Irwin) were unrecognizable when dressed as scare actors and their screams were positively blood curdling. All who went through the haunted house were left terrified; the student teachers in particular are still suffering from nightmares.



TECH VALLEY CELEBRATES NATIONAL COMING OUT DAY

BY: TYLER CORCORAN AND MS. SAM CAVAGNOLO



GSA meets on Friday mornings and it is open to all LGBTQ+ students and allies. Feel free to stop by to check it out!!

On October 10, 2025 Tech Valley's Gender-Sexuality Alliance (GSA) hosted an incredibly successful National Coming Out Day celebration. Students were greeted in the morning by rainbow decorations all through the hallways. GSA continued the festivities during morning club time by having a delicious brunch and holding space for members to share their coming out stories. Teachers and students throughout the school were also decked out in rainbow stickers to show their support. To raise awareness about this important day, GSA made an all school announcement and sent an all school email explaining the significance of National Coming Out Day.

National Coming Out Day, officially on October 11 each year, is an important reminder that queer people throughout history haven't had the fortune to be able to be openly themselves, so we are celebrating who we truly are. GSA's goal is to foster a space in our club and throughout the whole school, not just for queer students, but for everyone.

Advisors:

sam.cavagnolo@techvalleyhigh.org
sydney.rogers@techvalleyhigh.org

Editors:

emma.schwenke@techvalleyhigh.org
tristan.peterson@techvalleyhigh.org



WOOLLY BEAR TELLS ALL FOR THE WINTER WEATHER!

BY: MAYA RIVERA

Have you ever seen those fuzzy, black-and-brown caterpillars during the fall? Did you know that there's old folklore about the cute, woolly bear caterpillar being able to predict the winter weather?

During the colonial era, Americans believed that the different bands on the woolly bear could tell them how the upcoming winter will be. The more black, the harsher the winter. Symmetry on the woolly indicates a moderate winter. The more brown, milder the winter will be. When there's more black near the head, the winter will start off harsh and turn out mild, and vice versa.

As fun as these predictions are, they are not scientifically proven. Factors such as diet, age, and species affect how the woolly's bands come out.

So, what are the actual predictions for the upcoming winter months? On November 2nd, daylight savings time ended and our clocks fell back one hour at 2 a.m.. This means one more hour of sleep, earlier sunsets and earlier sunrises.

Typically, it should start snowing around mid November for us upstate, the average is usually around November 15. Most had a pretty early frost in the beginning of October, and most of us should have had a decent first freeze of the fall season in mid-October. As cold as it gets, winter doesn't officially start until December 21st!

While woolly bears can't really predict our unpredictable weather changes, it's still a fun folktale that has held up through many years. Maybe even one day, their predictions will come true!



TECH VALLEY TIMES CONTRIBUTORS AND MEMBERS

Carter Elwood
Emma Schwenke
Gavin Garner
Jayden Krajewski
Maya Rivera
Mohamad Ahmed

Reece Reynolds
Tristan Peterson
Tyler Corcoran
Ms. Sam Cavagnolo
Ms. Sydney Rogers

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tvtimes@techvalleyhigh.org.