



MUG IN HAND, Katie Coates, senior, shows off her hand-painted Harry Potter memorabilia. "I definitely have my nerdy Harry Potter referencing moments with my friends," Katie said. "And of course with those who have no idea what I'm talking about." Katie had a Harry Potter lanyard, a Ravenclaw scarf, a jar of Sherbet Lemon candies, and a wand, all of which she got at the Wizarding World of Harry Potter in Universal Studios, in Orlando, FL.

RANDOM FANDOMS

Potter Fans Obsess Over Wizarding World

■ F CLAIRE SALZMAN, SENIOR, RECEIVED a letter that began, "We are pleased to inform you that you have been accepted at Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry," all she would have to do is pack a compilation of her old Christmas and birthday gifts, and she would be all set to head off for Platform 9 ¾. "Thanks to my friends, I own all the Deathly Hallows," Claire said, allegedly naming herself the Master of Death. "I've got a Golden Snitch, chocolate frogs, and my own vial of Felix Felicis. My boyfriend made me a framed picture of all of the

book covers and famous quotes from them. It was the greatest gift. People always know to go with Harry Potter stuff for me." Claire was not the only one that had Harry Potter knick-knacks and supplies. Katie Coates, senior, was the proud owner of a Ravenclaw scarf, a well-worn Wizarding World of Harry Potter lanyard, and her very own wand. Unlike Claire's possessions, people who had not read the books would have probably recognized Katie's wizardly items, but Katie still said that anyone who had not read the books was missing out on something amazing.

"Regardless of what you think you like to read, read them."

- Sara Guilfooy, sophomore

"Those books are my childhood," Katie said. "I can't remember a time when I didn't have Harry Potter. My mom started reading me the books in preschool, and I still listen to the books on CD when I go to bed sometimes. I feel like it's the type of series that everyone can get something out of, and everyone can find something they can relate to." After finding those things to relate to, readers applauded J.K. Rowling's truly magical books and spread the must-read message to any who hadn't already received it. "Regardless of what you think you

like to read, read them," Sara Guilfooy, sophomore, said. "The characters Rowling's truly magical books and spread the must-read message to any who had not received it. "The characters are impossible not to fall in love with, and the plot is incomparable," Sara Guilfooy, sophomore, said. "No matter what genres you usually like, you will pick those books up and never put them back down." story by Grace Godsy design by Alexandra Dell'Orco photos by Andrew Conroy

Downton Devotees



This British version of *Gossip Girl*, set in mid-1900s England, had students staying up later on school nights just to fit in one last episode, putting off homework to cram in a Netflix session, and ranting about the BBC show, *Downton Abbey*, the next day at school. "It's so addicting," Ewan Burns-Wilton, sophomore, said. "I think it's just the entire setup of the show. You kind of root for

some characters and not so much for others, and the plot gets twisty and lets some things work out and causes problems other times." The show was set within an aristocratic family around World War I and II, centered around social conflicts and intertwining plot lines. Julia Belz, sophomore, thought she probably would not watch the show if it was made in American broadcasting.

"I hate American television. I hate it," Julia said. "There's no substance in American television. I think that's what makes it different, is that in British television you can be more open with controversial subjects, and you get a sense of that raw emotion without being held back by the politics of it."

from the fanatics Obsessions

» "My obsessions are *Pretty Little Liars*, prom dress shopping, shoes, movies and makeup. I love *Pretty Little Liars* because every time I watch the show, there's always something new and surprising, and I can't stop watching it." - Chandler Veldey, junior



Chandler Veldey, junior

"I am obsessed with phone cases. I just love switching things up and with phone cases. It's the easiest thing to do. You can find ones that match your outfit or ones that are just protective." - Bre Hastings, senior

"I am obsessed with soccer. Having a ball at my feet excites me. When I'm at my house, there's almost never a moment when I don't have a ball. I play as I can, be it in my yard, the high school or inside my house." - Matt Barber, sophomore

"I am obsessed with shoes because I like how there's a variety of them. I also like how they are all so different and there are so many colors to choose from." - Elizabeth Dell'Orco, freshman

"I am obsessed with *Gossip Girl* because I love the styles they wear. Also, I love the drama that happens between all the characters." - Miranda Ahearn, freshman

"I am obsessed with One Direction. They are genuinely nice people, and they wish to help people. Along with being caring, their lyrics are so amazing, and I really feel like I can relate to them. I have 15 books and magazines all about them and hundreds of posters and about 10 shirts and hoodies about them." - Gaby Saravia, junior

Holmies



Conor Bickham, sophomore

Solving crimes alongside Martin Freeman as John Watson, Benedict Cumberbatch's portrayal of Sherlock Holmes had more than just British fangirls crazed. After all, smart was the new sexy. "I may not be a fangirl, but I still think that Benedict Cumberbatch is perfect for the lead," Conor Bickham, sophomore, said. "He makes the whole series seem so much more modern-day than the *Sherlock Holmes* movies, and his personality works really well with the mind games and double meanings that are written into the show." For Mary Wilson, freshman, being part of the Sherlock fandom meant attending conventions in full dress, online role-playing with fellow

Holmies, and editing fanfics. "I just love getting to read them before anyone else, fixing and fangirling over them for a while and sending them back to the author. I also dressed as Sherlock for an Anime convention once," Mary said of her black-coated, blue-scarfed costume. "For a *Don't Forget the Lyrics* competition there, I did a reenactment of the Reichenbach fall off of the stage. The crowd ate it up." The mind games of each episode focused on everything from downtown London taxi drivers and Russian Roulette with pills, to bloodthirsty, red-eyed mutant hounds in quarries. And, of course, no one could forget the psychotic

criminal mastermind that wreaked havoc on England out of pure boredom: James Moriarty. "Moriarty is probably one of the coolest villains ever created. He's so far from the typical supervillain," Sam Lord, senior, said. "Sherlock and Moriarty are almost the same in a way. While Sherlock is the consulting detective, Moriarty is the consulting criminal. Other detectives go to Sherlock for help to solve a case, and other criminals go to Moriarty for help to commit a crime. They're both beyond ingenious. They think the same way and on a mental level that no one else can reach, which is what makes them such perfect enemies." The superhero and the supervil-

lence pair for director Steven Moffat to build plots off of. Yet there were six episodes, each as long as a short movie. Though small in numbers, these episodes resulted in some serious Sherlock junkies. "You think that since there are only six episodes and they're an hour and a half long, that you won't watch them. But then you get sucked in, and they consume your life," Mary said. "The fandom is creepy and weird. It's huge, and according to Tumblr, it's kind of the most insane one. But it's a really accepting place, and people love it."

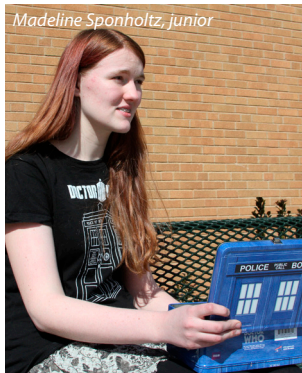
Whovians

Don't blink. If you have been erased from history, turned into an ancient Roman, or targeted by swarms of monsters from multiple galaxies, allons-y! The Time Lord armed with a sonic screwdriver is the one you need. And if an apple a day kept this Doctor away, there were quite a few people who would avoid apples at all costs and instead seek fish fingers and custard. "Oh, Steven Moffat," Sara Guilfooy, sophomore, said, referring to the director of the BBC television series,

Doctor Who. "People hate him, but have to love him at the same time because he creates these amazing shows, then kills off all your favorite characters. It's the most frustrating thing, but you can't not love him." From initiating a paranoid fear of cracks in bedroom walls and the Statue of Liberty to pulling overflowing tears of adoration from the eyes of Whovians everywhere, Moffat and each regenerated form of the Doctor won people's hearts from across the Atlantic.

"Even though it's been running for 50 years, the past seven or eight have been the best," Riley Erdmann, junior, said. "It's a mixture of action, adventure, sci-fi, and there's a huge emotional aspect too. It's pretty much all you could ask for in a show." Since its first episode premiered Nov. 23, 1963, *Doctor Who* had been a go-to show, from those who drive cross-country to attend conventions, to those who just look good in TARDIS blue.

"A lot of people don't watch it because they think it's just a nerdy show, but it really is about a lot more than just the science fiction," Abby Viers, sophomore, said. "It has a lot of lessons. It draws people in with all the emotions that it plays on. One of the main points it has is that every person is important and that everyone has their place in the universe. *Doctor Who* teaches you that no matter how small you think you are, you can make a bigger difference in the world."



Madeline Sponholtz, junior

Breaking Down British Broadcasting

Harry Potter

» Movie: *Harry Potter*
Director: Chris Columbus
Main Characters: Harry Potter, Hermione Granger and Ron Weasley
Synopsis: The series follows the Boy Who Lived through his years at Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry. Throughout the books, the themes of love, loyalty and of course, magic, guide Harry, Hermione and Ron through their trials.

Doctor Who

» Show: *Doctor Who*
Executive Producer: Steven Moffat
Main Characters: The Doctor, Clara and Madame Vastra
Synopsis: This television show, produced by BBC, depicts the life and times of the Doctor. Characters first meeting the Doctor often inquire about his name, asking, "The Doctor, who?" resulting in the response, "It's just 'the Doctor,'" and the title of the show's creation.

Downton Abbey

» Show: *Downton Abbey*
Director: Brian Percival
Main Characters: Lady Mary, Violet and Mr. Carson
Synopsis: This British era television series, produced by PBS, is about how Downton Abbey's wealthy family clashes with many scandals and crises. The Great War ruined everything and has a big impact on the society as a whole.

Sherlock Holmes

» Movie: *Sherlock Holmes*
Executive Producer: Guy Ritchie
Main Characters: Sherlock Holmes, Dr. John Watson and James Moriarty
Synopsis: Sherlock Holmes and partner John Watson flip through case files and crime scenes to catch criminals, especially archnemesis and evil mastermind, James Moriarty, in a thrilling series that combines mystery, action and love.