

# The Roundtable

Lake Norman Charter's Official School Newspaper



## For The Foodies

This month's edition of *The Roundtable* has a nice selection of delicious foods for you to try, whether you make it yourself or try it somewhere special. Bon appetit!

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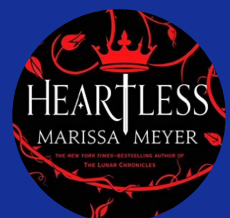
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# Unpopular Opinions

By: Ashlyn Chapman

This past year, with constant buzz about the election, many unpopular opinions have circulated the school halls. And I subscribe to one of them, for I am an ardent supporter of a largely unpopular opinion: I love Lake Norman Charter.

I love the people here. I love the students, my peers. They are so funny and smart and hard-working. Honestly, I feel connected with everyone over the fact that none of us get over eight hours of sleep each night. I want to resent my teachers for ruining my sleep schedule, but I cannot because I love the teachers here too. The teachers always go the extra mile to help us out. All they want is for us to learn and grow. Some of my teachers I consider to be my second mothers, and the rest are on my cheerleading squad. So yes, I love the people at Charter, but, most importantly, I love the community that we create. We are a community that has each others backs, that wants each other to succeed.

I admit, I was not always the biggest fan of Charter, but I have changed. In fact, this year, as a junior, I truly felt school spirit for the first time. It all started during one cross country practice in the fall. It was a Friday before a race; it was practically hailing outside. I was running by myself over the bridge at Verhoeff when I stopped. From the bridge I looked over Charter's campus and I froze. Never before had I felt such a sense of pride to say that I go to Lake Norman Charter than when I was standing on the bridge in the freezing rain during that cross country practice.

Sure, there are times when I wish I could drop out and sleep on my mom's couch for the rest of my life. I think we can all relate, but, in the end, I know that Charter is worth it. I know that my teachers and my classmates have my back. Charter pushes us to our limits in order to help us grow as students and people. Sometimes we feel stretched too thin, but we should find solace in knowing we are not alone. We are in this together. Everyone here encourages each other to be the best they can be, and that is why I love Lake Norman Charter.



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## “Russia and Trump”

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Trump's Campaign may be tied to Russia, according to recent research by the FBI. On March 20, James Comey stated that the FBI was currently investigating the ties that members of the Trump campaign may have to Russia. The FBI is investigating the human intelligence, travel, business and phone records, and accounts of in-person meetings of suspected collaborators that surround this incredibly "hot button" issue. The main reason that Comey has started this investigation is to act upon the gathered data that he believes give the FBI "a credible allegation of wrongdoing or reasonable basis to believe an American may be acting as an agent of a foreign power".

**Capricorn** (December 22-January 19) Try to smile more this month, but not too much lest people think you're being creepy. You may need to put in a little extra work, but it will be worth it. Romance is looking good for you in the near future.

**Aquarius** (January 20-February 18) Try to save a little money, something you really want might be coming up soon. It might be beneficial to try and get back in touch with some old friends. This month would be a great time to have a picnic.

**Pisces** (February 19-March 20) You might have a confusing or conflicting time coming up soon, but you can handle it. You should expect some good news at the beginning of April.

**Aries** (March 21-April 19) Listen to your instincts, they are often right. Try to avoid anything even remotely cowboy-like and try to clean something.

**Taurus** (April 20-May 20) I know you're really sad, but try and talk to your friends more. They really care about you. Some news might shock you soon, so keep a look out for that.

**Gemini** (May 21-June 20) Cook dinner for your loved ones some night and make sure to use your intellect wisely. Be loyal and trusting, but don't let people take advantage of you. Keep an eye out.

**Cancer** (June 21-July 22) Treat yourself to a day of relaxation; you deserve it! Keep track of your creative thinking, your ideas are valued. Take some time to sit back this month and reflect on all the changes that have recently taken place in your life.

**Leo** (July 23-August 22) Ask others for advice if you need it, and begin projects you're excited about doing. Try reaching out to someone who you may not talk to much anymore. They miss you just as much as you miss them.

**Virgo** (August 23-September 22) Be careful to not make assumptions too quickly, and take a day trip with your friends! Now would be a good time to make that purchase you've been contemplating, and maybe go for a walk if you have time.

**Libra** (September 23-October 22) You tend to overthink your decisions before you make them, but this month is the time for fast action. Be decisive and get going. It may seem like you don't have a lot of down time this month, but it will all be worth it in the end.

**Scorpio** (October 23-November 21) You may often feel in the mood to be alone, but try to spend some time with others in the near future. You will have more fun if you take as many opportunities as you can.

**Sagittarius** (November 22-December 21) You are a creative person who likes to experiment, so try to step far out of your comfort zone in April. This month you will have to make some mature decisions, don't let your easy-going nature get in the way of doing what you need to do.

Read On



## Restaurant Review: Basilico Italiano

By: Katie Scherner

If you enjoy Italian food, then this is the place for you. Basilico Italiano has the perfect blend of Italian food that you're sure to enjoy. For starters, you can have Bruschetta, which is bread topped with chopped Roma tomatoes, garlic, and fresh basil. You can also try their garlic knots. For an entree, you can try the chicken marsala, which is a lightly floured cutlet sautéed with mushroom blend in marsala wine sauce. With this, you can choose your pasta or pick a salad instead. For pastas, you can try the linguini and clams. They are whole and chopped clams in a buttery white wine sauce served over linguini pasta. Basilico also has a wide range of pizzas, from their chicken parmesan pizza to their traditional NY cheese pizza. You can also feast on their salads, specifically the signature salad, which is mixed greens, tomato, cucumber, aged gorgonzola, walnuts, and dried cranberry. The salad is then topped off with raspberry walnut vinaigrette. For a quicker meal, you could choose a classic calzone, which has ricotta, mozzarella, parmesan, and is baked in their signature dough until golden brown. To finish off the meal, you can choose from their selection of desserts. They have a mini cannoli, filled with cannoli cream and chocolate chips. You can also try the fried zeppolis, which is fried sweet dough topped with powdered sugar. In conclusion, Basilico Italiano is the one place you should go if you want outstanding Italian food. It is a place that will certainly have your tastebuds singing!



## Recipe To Try : Incredible Coconut Cake

By: Kirstie Moore

Hands-On Time: 30 min

Total Time: 3 hrs 30 min

### Ingredients (Serves 8)

- ▶ 1 cup shredded sweetened coconut
- ▶  $\frac{3}{4}$  cup ( $1\frac{1}{2}$  sticks) unsalted butter, at room temperature, plus more for the pans
- ▶ 3 cups all-purpose flour
- ▶ 2 teaspoons baking powder
- ▶  $\frac{1}{2}$  teaspoon kosher salt
- ▶  $1\frac{1}{2}$  cups granulated sugar
- ▶ 4 large eggs
- ▶ 1 teaspoon pure vanilla extract
- ▶  $1\frac{1}{4}$  cups apricot preserves
- ▶ 1 cup whole milk
- ▶ 1 cup heavy cream
- ▶  $\frac{1}{4}$  cup sour cream
- ▶ 2 tablespoons confectioners' sugar

### Directions

Heat oven to 350° F. Toast the coconut on a baking sheet, tossing occasionally, until golden, for 10 to 12 minutes. Butter two 8-inch round cake pans. In a large bowl, whisk together the flour, baking powder, and salt.

Using an electric mixer, beat the butter and granulated sugar until fluffy. Beat in the eggs one at a time, then the vanilla and  $\frac{3}{4}$  cup of the preserves. Alternately add the flour mixture and the milk, mixing just until incorporated.

Divide the batter between the pans and bake until a toothpick inserted in the centers comes out clean (40 to 45 minutes). Remove the cakes from the pans and let cool completely on racks.

Using an electric mixer, beat the heavy cream, sour cream, and confectioners' sugar until stiff peaks form. Spread the remaining  $\frac{1}{2}$  cup of preserves on top of one of the cakes; sandwich with the other. Frost with the cream mixture and press the coconut onto the sides.

Enjoy!

## *Beauty and the Beast*

- Rated: PG

- This Disney classic has now been made into a live-action film. Premiering on March 17, this movie exploded with popularity and broke records for the top grossing film on a weekend. *Beauty and the Beast* tells the classic tale of a headstrong young woman who learns to open her heart. Starring Emma Watson and Dan Stevens, this film doesn't need too much explaining; it is definitely worth a trip to the theaters.

## *Before I Fall*

- Rated: PG-13

- *Before I Fall* tells the story of a girl who seemed to be living the perfect life. Everything changed, though, when she died in a terrible car crash. The surprise occurs when she, in fact, doesn't truly die and is forced to relive the day of the crash over and over again. She goes through the journey of learning about the people close to her as well as learning more about herself and her life she once had.

## *Logan*

- **Rated: R**

- In a spin off of a classic comic book character, Logan (Wolverine) leads a sad, dystopian life. He lives his life hiding from the government and the terrible outside world. Everything changes, though, when he discovers a young mutant girl. Logan develops an attachment to this girl and lives to protect her and defend her from capture. This movie tells a story of adventure, attachment, and action which will be sure to draw in moviegoers.

## *The Shack*

- Rated: PG-13

- Based off of the bestselling novel, *The Shack* focuses its plot on a man named Mack Phillips. After suffering a terrible tragedy, he falls into deep depression and feels there is no escaping it. One day, though, he receives an anonymous letter telling him to go to an abandoned shack in Oregon.

Once there, Mack's life changes forever as the movie weaves a tale of hope and self-discovery. Mack meets characters that cause him to rethink his life and understand the tragedy that has caused him so much pain over the years.

\*Under the rules of the MPAA Film Rating System, movies **rated R** state that children under the age of **17** are not permitted to view the film without the accompaniment of an parent or adult guardian.



## Music this Month 🎵

By: Rhea Jain

If you ask me, March 10th was a good day; maybe even one of the best this month. On March 10, 2017, Frank Ocean unexpectedly released new single, *Chanel*. Last summer Ocean released *Blonde* and this new track was the last thing fans expected from the elusive Frank Ocean. However, it was eagerly accepted and perhaps overshadowed by other new releases this month. *Chanel* is a beautiful, daring expression of duality. The lyrics are carefully crafted and extremely important but if that doesn't sell you, then give it a listen at least for some nice beats.

Also this month, Khalid released his debut album, *American Teen*, at only 19. Khalid began making and releasing music online but became popular with his single *Location* last year. *American Teen* has reached number 9 on the Billboard charts this month. One particularly popular song on the album is *Saved*, which reveals Khalid's talented song-writing abilities and unparalleled vocals. Khalid is certainly a young artist to keep an eye on as he continues to pursue music. If *American Teen* is any indication, the 19 year old holds great promise in the years to come.



## Club Spotlight

By: Lindsey Jacobson

In the middle of March, the Science Olympiad team went to the regional competition at UNC Charlotte. The whole competition includes twenty four events and runs for about eight hours with breaks in between events. After a long competition day, the team placed in about eight different events, including placing first in bottle rockets, sixth in dynamic planet, second in helicopters, sixth in hovercraft, eighth in optics, sixth in remote sensing, seventh in rocks and minerals, and second in wind power. While waiting for the awards ceremony, most of the team participated in a traditional scavenger hunt made by some senior members of the team. Overall, the team placed 14th out of twenty five total teams, which is not too bad! Next year Science Olympiad is planning on doing even better. They hope to place even higher and have more partners win their events. If you really like science and would like to compete, then you should consider joining next year!



*Exploring the World of Science*

Read On



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## “What You Should Be Reading” By: Lindsay Moore

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April's book spotlight is on *Heartless* by Marissa Meyer. This book creates a back story for the Queen of Hearts, the iconic villain from the *Alice in Wonderland* series by Lewis Carroll. The plot begins with Catherine Pinkerton, the daughter of a noble in the Kingdom of Hearts. She is an amazing baker and would love nothing more than to start the best pastry shop in all of Hearts with the help of her maid and best friend, Mary Anne. However, baking is seen as an improper hobby for the daughter of a noble. Cath's mother would rather her focus on getting married. When the King of Hearts shows interest in Cath, she wants nothing to do with him. She is more interested in the appearance of a new court jester and the mysterious attacks of a mythical monster on villagers throughout the kingdom. The book takes many twists and turns as it leads to the emergence of the Queen of Hearts.

*Heartless* is a whimsical and intriguing adventure into Wonderland and the Kingdom of Hearts. Though Alice is never mentioned, the Cheshire Cat and Mad Hatter appear throughout the book, as well as a very special tea party. I am currently halfway through the book, and I am really enjoying it so far. If you loved watching the Disney movies as a kid, reading *Alice in Wonderland*, or reading the *Lunar Chronicles*, you're sure to love this standalone by Marissa Meyer. Pick it up in a library or bookstore near you (the cover design is beautiful, especially the hardcover!), and start reading. Have a madly amazing rest of your month!

<https://www.amazon.com/Heartless-Marissa-Meyer/dp/1250044650>

## Spring Break on a Budget

By: Gabrielle Porter

Spring break is quite possibly the most enthusiastically greeted break of the school year (excluding summer vacation, of course). Students and teachers alike celebrate that week off by unwinding from the past few months of hard work, and by rejuvenating themselves before the stress of finals comes around the corner. Most often, spring breakers flock to the coastal beaches, take off for the Caribbean, or leave to tour Europe. However, not everyone enjoys the packed beaches or can afford to spend a week touring Europe. Whatever the case is, if you aren't planning on doing much this spring break, read on to discover ways to make your "stay-cation" the best one yet.

There are lots of fun activities to enjoy if you're not planning on leaving the Charlotte area. Many activities can be found right inside your own home, such as: exploring Netflix, trying a new recipe, doing some spring cleaning, catching up on sleep, or completing a DIY craft. If you're looking for activities outside your home, you could also: go bowling/laser tagging/paint balling, head to the Whitewater Center, go to a sporting event, spend a day on Lake Norman, or visit Carowinds! There are hundreds of fun activities to do right outside your door that don't have to break the bank; all you have to do is take advantage of them. No matter what you choose to do, have a happy spring break and remember to be safe.

**Spring break is April 8th-16th, 2017.**

