

Photo by Clover Tahhan

Exclusive Interview with the Incredible Musician Huu Bac

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*We hope everyone had a restful
and productive break!*

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*The infamous BU event will take
place tonight, November 22*



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On the front page - "The Pro Series is a series of concerts held by the School of Music here on campus. Normally they are put on by faculty, with occasional special guests. Recently we had a very special guest named the Huu Bac Quartet from Montreal. Brandon was their last stop on tour. Esteban Seunarine (5th year music student, left) joined them as their drummer. Huu Bac (right) is one amazing musician, bringing in Asian, African, and South American instruments into the jazz scene! Check the School of Music page for more about the Pro Series." - Clover Tahhan, Photographer

EAST MEETS WEST - AN INTERVIEW WITH HUU BAC

By Mahé Rabesa, Junior Reporter

Last Thursday at the Lorne Watson Recital Hall, the Huu Bac Quintet performed before the astonished eyes of the audience. The concert was part of the Pros Series, a professional jazz and classical concert series.

The Huu Bac Quintet is made up of Émie Rioux-Roussel on the piano, Jean-Félix Mailloux on the bass, Zoé Dumais on the violin and Huu Bac. Initially trained on jazz guitar at McGill University, he continues to learn new instruments such as the dan bau (Vietnamese monochord), the erhu (Chinese fiddle), and the violin. Jazz music incorporates styles from many cultures. During his stay in Peru, he encountered the melodies of the Andes and the rhythms of Afro-Peruvian music, which prompted him to learn the quena (Andean bamboo flute). As the band's drummer could not travel, he was replaced by a student from the Faculty of Music, Esteban Seunarine.

On stage, the quintet; a blend of cultures. Jazz melodies from the Andes, traditional sounds from China and Vietnam, and Afro-Peruvian rhythms blend perfectly under Huu Bac's mastery.

During the concert, each musician gets a chance to shine in the songs. The audience applauds each musician warmly. There's an excellent collaboration between the musicians and lots of energy on stage, a sight to behold. Throughout the concert, there's a superb complicity between the drummer and bassist. At the end of the concert, the bassist showed us some dance moves.

It was an excellent performance; I wouldn't hide from you that I would have spent the whole evening listening to other songs. It was a beautiful moment, with musicians as talented as they are warm. A fabulous artist whom I recommend discovering and who works magic on stage.

Huu Bac's first album is available on CD and streaming platforms like Spotify. Huu Bac is working on his second album, which will be released between March and May 2024.

We had the chance to meet Huu Bac, and ask the artist some questions!

Q: Could you tell us the story of this Quintet? How did it start?

After stopping my studies in jazz guitar at McGill University, I returned to my Asian roots and started to learn the dan bau at 23 years old, followed by the Chinese fiddle and the Andean bamboo flute. I wanted to have a band where I could express myself completely. I wanted a project where all those instruments and influences could be together. I went abroad and

started to write my own music. Once back in Montreal, I met my friend, a pianist; we began to play as a duet. Later, a drummer joined, and Jean-Félix, who played the bass tonight, joined the band. In the end, a violinist completed the band, and there you go, I had my band. We did our first concert in 2013, which is almost ten years.

Q: Where did you start incorporating traditional instruments into your compositions?

As I said, I never had the idea of learning all of those instruments. Until I was 23 years old, I only played guitar, and I thought I would only be a guitar player all my life. After many years of playing the dan bau in traditional settings, the Chinese fiddle in traditional settings, and some South American bamboo flute with South American musicians, I just wanted to put that all together. Because in the end, as an artist, I wanted to express myself completely and honestly, and I felt there was no other project I could present all that together. After a while, I thought I had enough experience and was mature enough to build this project to express myself fully as an artist. I believe it is the ultimate goal of every artist to tell in musical terms who they are and what their life has been like in their history.

Q: What is your favourite song on the set, and why?

We did not play it tonight. It is called Sea Roads; it is about my family's trip out of Vietnam as refugees. It is one of my most significant accomplishments as a composer because it is very complex, but at the same time, you do not hear the complexity of the piece. I was able to match the emotion with the intellectual complexity of that piece. I am very proud of that piece.

Q: What inspires you?

What inspires me is meeting other musicians and artists. Develop a chemistry that will lead to an influence of mine. I accidentally got into all those instruments (dan bau, erhu, quena) because I saw someone play. For me, music is a very people-oriented business. At least, I developed my own signature by playing with many different musicians from different backgrounds and musical cultures, and it inspires me a lot. For example, the first composition we played at the show was influenced by a Senegal choral player I played with at a festival in Montreal. Encounters inspire a lot of my compositions. Meeting and discovering different cultures definitely inspires me a lot. Unconsciously, I tried to find the shared human expression that is universal. The bottom line is that we all have the same human experience. We just express it in different languages and instruments. (Continued on next page)

HUU BAC, CONTINUED FROM PG. 2

By Mahé Rabesa

Q: How did you enjoy Brandon?

We had little time, but we ate in a delicious Ethiopian restaurant. It was so good, and we had too much food. The Brandon University campus is beautiful, and the people, too, are beautiful. For me, I am more interested in people tourism, meeting people, and getting to have local friends. Up to now, Brandon's people have been very friendly.

Q: How did you find the drummer Esteban Seunarine?

He was so professional, so good. He was very well prepared; I am sure he worked very hard. He is very talented, has a good listening capacity, and has a good groove. I think he's got an amazing future. It was a pleasure to play with him.

Q: What's next?

The next thing for me is for the next two months, I have to finish my second album. Some tracks are recorded, I have to re-record some others, and I have to do the mixing and

all of the post-production. I am also working on a CD in collaboration with a citare player. Also, I will go to Cameroon for six weeks in January to work with a vocal musician. I have been studying a lot of African rhythms for the last five years, and I worked hard to get a residency in Africa and finally got one in Cameroon. I am really excited to learn more about their music, especially rhythm since it is so groovy. I hope to work with some vocal musicians, record and have a concert at the end. I want to compose, meet some musicians, learn some of their music and, through that, find inspiration to write my own music. After that, I have a residency of two weeks in France, and then I am coming [back to Canada] in March. I will have one date in British Columbia, Alberta, Winnipeg, and perhaps more. Then, I will launch my second CD between March and May. We will also have a tour on the West Coast of the US and then a tour in China during the summer.

We at The Quill wish the Huu Bac Quintet all the best for the future! And we hope to see them in Brandon again soon!

THE IMPORTANCE OF READING WEEK

By Janine Campbell, Junior Reporter

Reading weeks are invaluable breaks within the academic calendar, playing a pivotal role in students' educational journeys by offering a multitude of benefits that extend far beyond a pause from classes. These designated periods of respite hold immense significance in fostering a conducive learning environment, promoting academic success, and nurturing holistic student development.

Firstly, reading weeks serve as essential intervals for students to recharge and rejuvenate. The relentless pace of academic life often leads to stress and mental exhaustion. These breaks act as much-needed respites, allowing students to step back, take a breath, and reset their minds. This pause not only aids in alleviating academic pressure but also significantly contributes to mental health and overall well-being.

For instance, I feel like my academic load is overwhelming, and this causes stress and sleep disruptions, leading to an overall reduced quality of life. I find the reading week as an opportunity to catch up on sleep, seek mental health support, and reassess my study habits. This pause not only aids in alleviating academic pressure but also significantly contributes to my mental health and overall well-being.

Moreover, these breaks facilitate an environment conducive to enhanced academic performance. They offer students the opportunity to catch up on readings, assignments, and projects that might have accumulated over the semester. This dedicated time allows for deeper engagement with course materials, fostering a more

profound understanding of subjects and enabling students to better prepare for upcoming assessments.

Reading weeks are not solely about catching up; they also encourage proactive planning and strategic thinking. Students can assess their progress, identify areas requiring improvement, and set realistic goals for the remainder of the semester. This reflective practice fosters better time management skills and cultivates a sense of responsibility towards their academic journey.

Beyond the academic realm, these breaks play a pivotal role in nurturing holistic development. Students often engage in activities beyond their coursework, such as pursuing hobbies, spending quality time with family and friends, or participating in community initiatives. This multifaceted engagement contributes significantly to their personal growth, fostering a well-rounded approach to education. For me, I'm binge-watching Star Wars, but what makes it even more special is that I'm sharing this moment with a good friend of mine. It's been two days, and we're already at the eighth movie, Star Wars: Episode VIII - The Last Jedi (2017).

Importantly, reading weeks provide an opportunity for students to seek additional academic support or guidance. They can engage with professors, teaching assistants, or academic support services to clarify doubts, seek advice, or delve deeper into challenging concepts. This access to supplementary assistance aids in consolidating their understanding of course material and promotes a supportive learning environment. I

Photo by Janine Campbell



personally have been emailing my professor in regards to an assignment I have due in a few weeks.

Furthermore, these breaks encourage a healthy balance between academic pursuits and personal life. Students engaged in part-time work, extracurricular activities, or other responsibilities find reading weeks instrumental in managing their diverse commitments, fostering a more balanced lifestyle.

The importance of reading weeks cannot be overstated. These breaks serve as essential pillars in the academic structure, providing students with the space and resources necessary for academic success, personal growth, and overall well-being. They not only offer an opportunity to catch up on studies but also foster a balanced approach to education, nurturing students into well-rounded individuals equipped to navigate the challenges of the academic world and beyond.

MOVIE REVIEW: STAR WARS, EPISODE IV - A NEW HOPE (1977)

By Janine Campbell, Junior Reporter

Although I've been using reading week to study and do assignments, I've also been finally getting into Star Wars. I have been watching it in the order of release and am currently watching the eighth movie, Star Wars: Episode VIII - The Last Jedi (2017). However, this article will be on Episode IV - A New Hope, the first-released movie of the franchise.

"Star Wars: Episode IV - A New Hope" is an iconic and groundbreaking film that continues to captivate audiences decades after its release. Directed by George Lucas and originally released in 1977, this space-fantasy epic remains a benchmark in cinematic history for its innovative storytelling, groundbreaking special effects, and memorable characters.

The film transports viewers to a galaxy far, far away, where a young farm boy named Luke Skywalker (played by Mark Hamill) embarks on a heroic journey after discovering a message hidden in a droid, R2-D2. Luke, alongside the wise and enigmatic Obi-Wan Kenobi (portrayed by Sir Alec Guinness), the charismatic smuggler Han Solo (played by Harrison Ford), and Solo's trusty co-pilot Chewbacca, sets off to rescue Princess Leia Organa (portrayed by Carrie Fisher) from the clutches of the tyrannical Darth Vader and the oppressive Galactic Empire.

One of the film's most significant achievements lies in its groundbreaking special effects. George Lucas and his team revolutionized the industry with their pioneering use of computer-generated imagery and practical effects. The visually stunning space battles, the lifelike alien creatures, and the futuristic technology transported audiences

into a universe that felt both fantastical and tangible. Beyond its technical accomplishments, "A New Hope" is a masterclass in storytelling. Drawing inspiration from classic hero's journey narratives, George Lucas crafted a tale that resonates with audiences of all ages. The film skillfully balances elements of adventure, romance, humour, and mythological themes, creating a narrative that feels both epic and deeply personal.

Moreover, the characters in "A New Hope" have become cultural icons. Luke Skywalker's journey from an ordinary farm boy to a hero fighting against evil resonates with audiences, while Princess Leia's strength, wit, and determination shattered stereotypes and established her as a trailblazing figure in the realm of science fiction. Additionally, the charming scoundrel Han Solo and the menacing Darth Vader have become indelible figures in popular culture, leaving an enduring impact on audiences worldwide.

Furthermore, John Williams' legendary score elevates the film to another level, adding depth and emotion to pivotal scenes and enhancing the overall cinematic experience.

Decades after its release, "Star Wars: Episode IV - A New Hope" continues to inspire generations of filmmakers, storytellers, and fans worldwide. Its timeless themes of heroism, friendship, and the fight against tyranny remain as relevant as ever. The film's influence on popular culture, its innovative use of technology, and its enduring storytelling make it an unparalleled cinematic masterpiece that will continue to be celebrated for years to come.

(PS. No one asked, but I have an unexplainable love for Chewie. I really don't know why.)

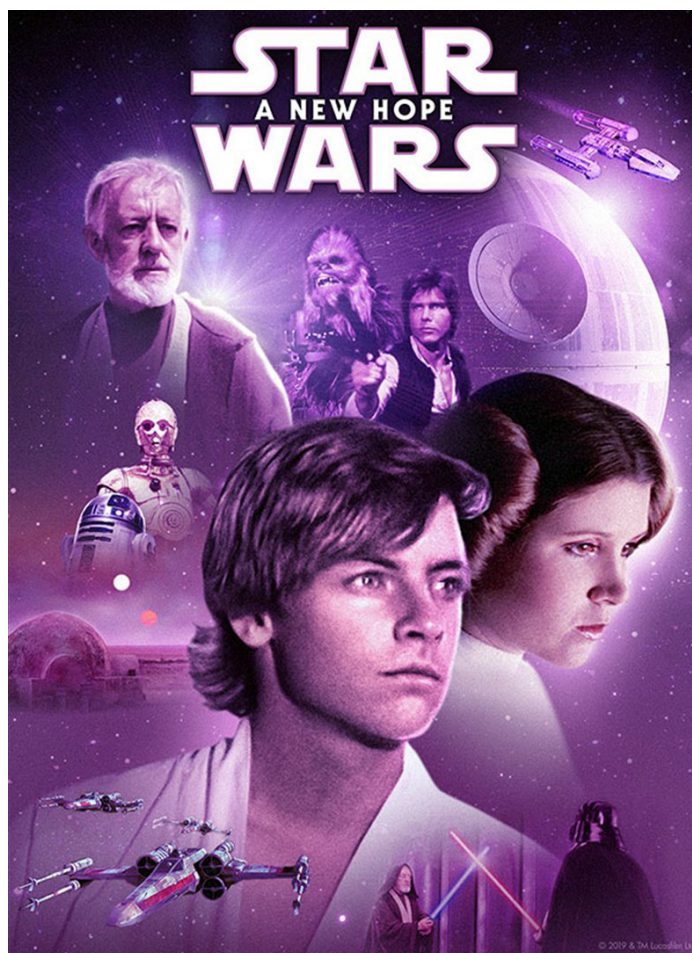


Photo Courtesy of Century 21 Studios, Inc.

RECIPE OF THE WEEK - MOM'S PEROGY CASSEROLE

Ingredients:

1 Bag Frozen Perogies
1 Can Mushroom Soup
Shredded Cheese

Optional (But Recommended):

1 Onion
Bacon/Sausage/Protein of Choice

Instructions:

1. Preheat oven to 350° Fahrenheit.
2. If using an onion, dice and sauté; If using meat, fry until fully cooked and then cut into small pieces.
3. In a large casserole dish, cover the frozen perogies with the can of mushroom soup, mixed with half a can of water.
4. Top with shredded cheese (measure with your heart) and add your protein if applicable.
5. Bake for 1 hour, or until perogies are fully cooked and cheese is melted and bubbly.



THIS WEEKEND AT THE EVANS THEATRE: DRIVING MADELEINE (2022)

A seemingly simple taxi ride across Paris evolves into a profound meditation on the realities of the driver, whose personal life is in shambles, and his fare, an elderly woman whose warmth belies her shocking past.

Showings on November 24, 25, and 26 at 7:30 PM.

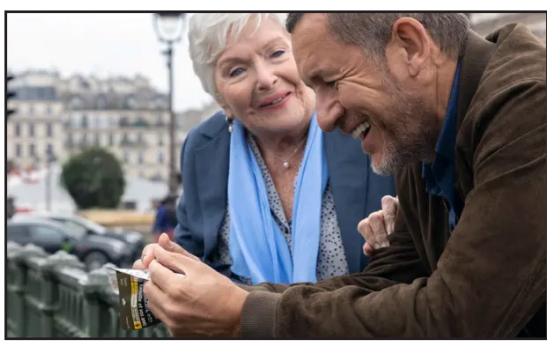


Photo Courtesy of Pathé Cinema



Drawing by Adeniyi Ayodele

Pet Corner



“You know how they always say cat owners get their cats in weird ways? Well for Glimmer, her mom gave birth on my veranda, took all her other kittens but abandoned her.

“Me and my sister begged our parents to keep her. And we named her after a character from the show we were watching, ‘She-Ra and the Princesses of Power’.

“Glimmer, my wonderful grey cat, is a delightful bundle of joy. With her sleek coat and playful demeanor, she brightens every corner of our home. What makes her truly special is the unique patch of orange hair on her back, adding a dash of color to her otherwise grey fur. Glimmer’s playful antics and loving purrs make her the heart and soul of our family, bringing warmth and happiness into our lives every day - though she has a little attitude and loves to attack my legs and shoes! She manages to brighten my day even when I’m feeling low.”

Send a photo of your pet to eic.thequill@gmail.com to be featured in the next Pet Corner!

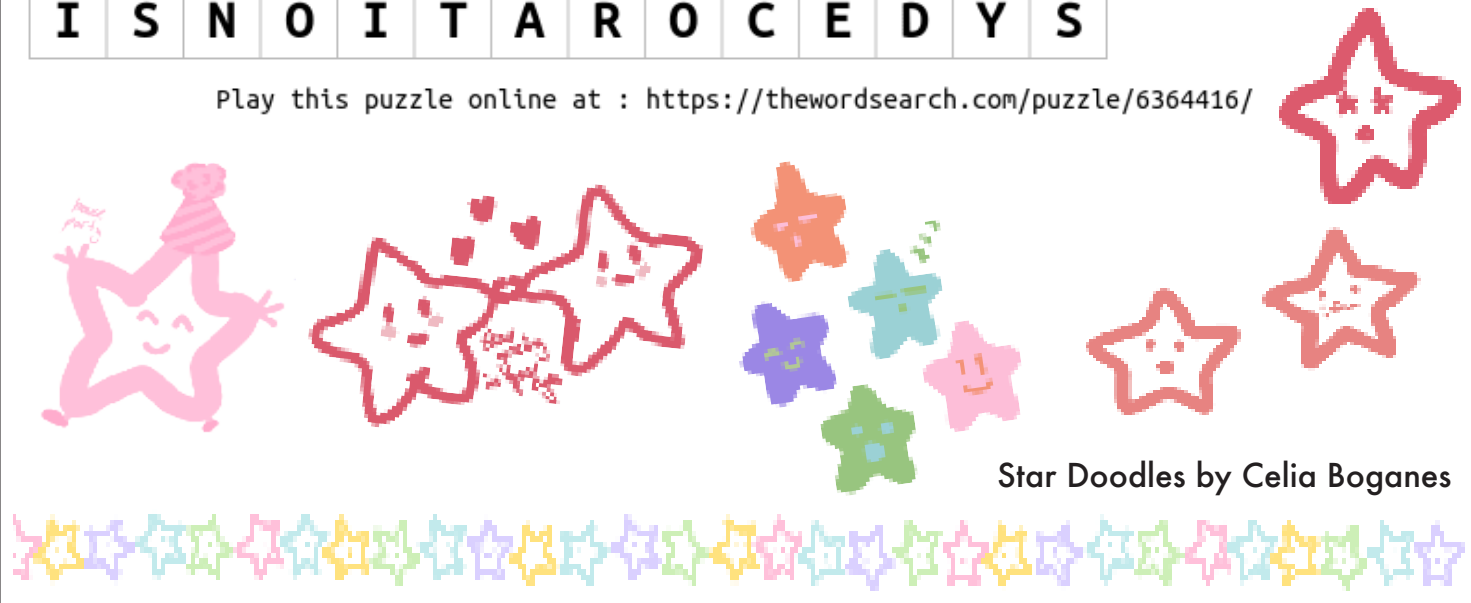
Winter Holidays

Puzzle by Lily Hodgson

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- JOLLY
- FAMILY
- ST NICHOLAS DAY
- FRIENDS
- SOLSTICE
- CANDLES
- HANUKKAH
- THREE KINGS DAY
- CHRISTMAS
- KWANZAA
- ST LUCIA DAY
- TREE
- FESTIVE
- GIFTS
- DECORATIONS
- NEW YEAR
- SNOW
- MEAL

Play this puzzle online at : <https://thewordsearch.com/puzzle/6364416/>



Star Doodles by Celia Boganes

TONIGHT: THE LONG NIGHT AGAINST PROCRASTINATION

By Mehak "May" Oberoi, Junior Reporter

We're nearing the end! To all the freshmen who think time has gone by way too fast for their first semester, finals are fast approaching to make them change that belief, with large deadlines sneaking up on us all for projects we should've started a long time ago. For all but the after-education students, classes will officially be ending on December 8th.

If you are, like me, a chronic procrastinator, the library team will be presenting a great opportunity to get a few extra hours of work in this week. Presenting the Long Night Against Procrastination, an event that keeps the library open after-hours and gives students a chance to spend time with their peers on campus on what is the most crowded night of the semester.

During the event, students will have a chance to take advantage of the many different opportunities given by the library, including free food, therapy dogs, and a safe escort to walk students back to their destination, which would be limited to the nearest bus stop. The event will begin on November 22nd at 5:15 with a concert

at the music library, and end at 2 am with the library's closing. The event will take place in the BU library and the Indigenous People's Center.

Special highlights of the event include: extended hours on the numerous library services offered, such as bookable group study rooms, research help and an open circulation desk. Students are encouraged to participate in the door prizes offered at the event for the chance to win one of many gift hampers offered. Free beverages and snacks will be offered throughout the event, with pizza being offered at 10 pm, and cookies being offered at 12 am. For those in need of a study break, a Photo Booth will be available through the night. Other activities for students will include therapy dogs from 10 pm to 12 am, and beading from 10 to 11 pm.

If this interests you, more information on the schedule is available on the Brandon University website. For updates, follow @bustudentlife on Instagram or BU Student Life on Facebook.

THIS MONTH'S UPCOMING EVENTS AT BU

November 24 - Brandon University Business Conference 2023: Re-Imagining Entrepreneurship

Registration for the 2023 Business Conference is closed. Agenda can be viewed on the BU website.

November 24 @ 6 PM - Bobcats Woman's Basketball at the HLC

November 25 @ 5 PM - Bobcats Women's Basketball at the HLC

November 25 @ 7 PM - Bobcats Men's Basketball at the HLC

November 28 @ 7:30 PM - Pro Series: McKenzie Warriner, Soprano & Danielle Guina, Piano

Tickets: \$20 (Free for Music Students)

November 29 @ 3:30 PM - Poetry reading: 'Queers Like Me'

Join poet Michael V. Smith in the Elephant Room for a reading from his new book, 'Queers Like Me'. Light refreshments will be provided.

November 30 @ 7 PM - Film Screening and Q&A: "The Floating Man"

Join director Michael V. Smith in the Evans Theatre for a screening of his new film, followed by a Q&A. Film description: "As anti-trans and drag queen rhetoric in a new wave of rightwing gender wars rage across the globe, Michael V. Smith's intimate documentary unpacks his journey as a radical drag performer and genderqueer."

Visit events.brandonu.ca for more information and upcoming events.

FUN TIME POTTERY

By Celia Boganes, Junior Reporter

Fun Time Pottery is a small business in Brandon, located at 535 34th street. It's a really fun place to go for the afternoon if you are looking to make a hand painted gift or just something for yourself. They have many options for kids and adults alike, ranging from little figurines to plant pots, dishware, Holiday themed décor, and more! They have many options for paint colours, and with your student ID you can get a discounted studio fee. The firing times differ, but your piece will usually be ready within a week or two. They are usually open between 10:30 and 5:30, but open later on Sundays and close later on Thursdays, so be sure to look at their website to confirm their open hours before arriving or call and tell them you are coming. If you plan to go with a bigger group, make sure you call so you can go at a time they will have enough space for you. Altogether, it's a fun thing to do to take a break from your studies, and leaves you with a hand painted piece to take as a memory!

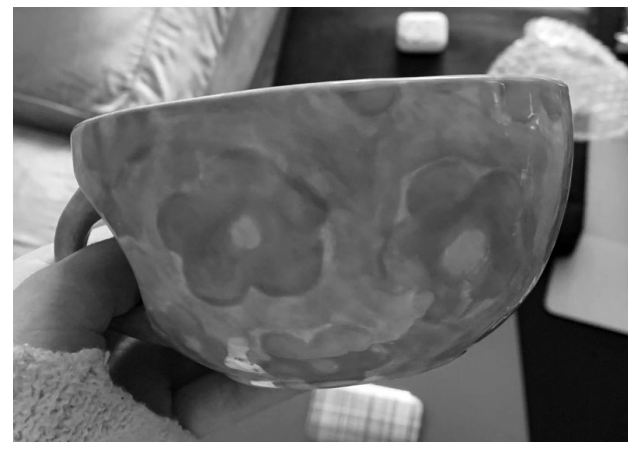


Left, a Fun Time Pottery piece before firing

Right, the same piece after firing

Below, Santa and Mrs. Claus' float in the Santa Parade

Photos by Lily Hodgson



THE BRANDON SANTA PARADE

By Lily Hodgson, Editor-in-Chief

Brandon's yearly Santa Parade took place on Saturday, November 18th. Hundreds of families flooded the sidewalks to watch the many colourful, bright, and music-filled floats go by. A special highlight was the Brandon University carollers. At the end of the parade, as always, were the one and only Santa and Mrs. Claus. The 2023 parade - the final parade by the current managers - was a grand success. Hopefully, upcoming Santa Parades will be refreshed by the change in management, but maintain the traditional charm that has delighted Brandon families for years.

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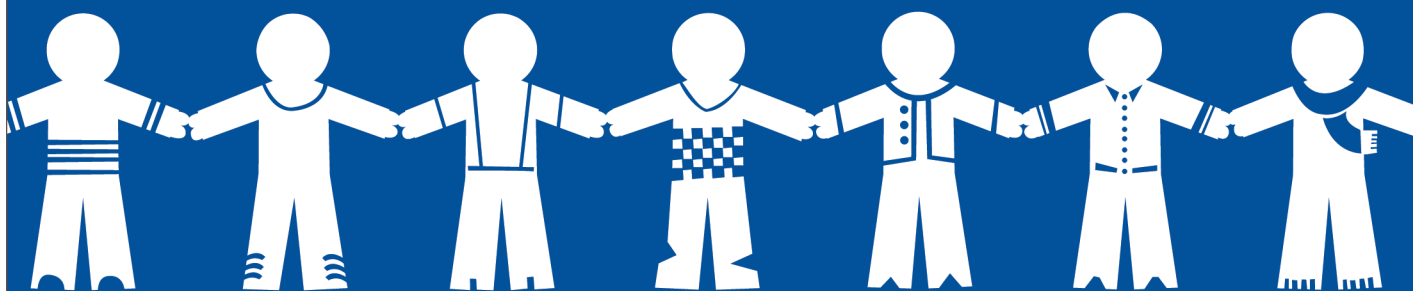
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