



# OUR PLACE PRESS

JANUARY 2025

## OUR HAPPENINGS

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DAY-TO-DAY ACTIVITIES & EVENTS WRITTEN BY PARTICIPANTS EVERY MONTH

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### GETTING A NEW DOG

BY: VAL

After we come back from our long trip to Greece, my dad told me that we will get a new dog. We already have some names picked out.

So far, we have:

1. Jasper
2. Mr. barks a lot
3. Scamp
4. Patch
5. JoJo
6. Victor
7. Teddy
8. Oscar
9. Snowball

Please let me know if you guys have any more names I should add to my list and I will let my dad know. My new dog will love car rides. If you guys want, I could bring him in the car and you guys can meet him but don't scare him.

### LA RAMS VS. MINNESOTA VIKINGS

BY: ANDREW

It is the L A Rams teaming up against the one and only Minnesota Vikings! I am looking forward to finding out who is going to win. Will it be the L A Rams or the Minnesota Vikings? Last year for Thanksgiving, we watched the game and the Rams were so close to winning the next quarter and then it was close almost getting there to the point of no return. They were so close and then they made it to the next quarter. They won! We were so lucky to see them win the game of 2024. I hope they will win again because this time it is different it is going to be the 2025 game of the century.

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## **IKEA TRIP**

BY: JOSH

This weekend, I went to the Riverwoods Center for Enriched Living. I did a scavenger hunt at IKEA in Schaumburg with my group. We hunted for all kinds of furniture. Then we went to Woodfield Mall and I had Popeye's for lunch. We walked around and looked at For Your Entertainment store and returned to Riverwoods with the Center. My mom picked me up and I shared some of her iced tea and headed home.

After that, I took a nap in my bedroom and went to Our Place. I had dinner at the Saturday Social and played junk food trivia and we did karaoke.

Yesterday, my mom baked oatmeal chocolate chips cookies, and I licked the metal bowl. I also shoveled the snow in the alley and my front and back yard before groceries arrived. I carried them into our house and drank lots of water so I stayed hydrated and then took another nap. Then I had tuna casserole for dinner, half a grapefruit, and an oatmeal chocolate chip cookie for dessert. In fact, unbaked cookie batter is for my after-lunch dessert, when I lick a small white rubber spatula in the kitchen and digest in my room. We stayed home and hung out because of the light snowfall.

## **BIRTHDAY TRIP IN MAY**

BY: ZACH

For my birthday in May, I am going to Springfield. I might see Abraham Lincoln's hotel and stay there. Tonight, I may watch the Bulls and Lakers game.

## **WEEKEND ACTIVITIES**

BY: DEREK

I went to Barnes & Noble and bought something before the Saturday Social.

Tonight, I am going to visit my sister in Lake Forest. We are going to eat tacos for dinner. I am happy that Sterling is back at Our Place today.

## **WEEKEND PLANS**

BY: TRAVIS

I took the bus to work on Friday. While at work, I swept the floor. I also ate some cookies. Then I went home for lunch. I had a turkey burger with French fries, pretzels, and garlic bread. Then I went to Our Place for Game On. I watched a movie with Jessie and all my friends. I went home with Jane and Buzz and they brought me to their house for family dinner. We had pasta and garlic bread. We played some Uno. We went for a walk and just hung out. It's been getting very chilly lately. On Saturday, I listened to Christmas music, ate some leftovers, and went to bed.

## **SATURDAY NIGHT**

BY: MATT C.

On Saturday night, I went to the Saturday Social at Our Place. I saw my friends Bella, Patrick, and Ann. I sang the song Just Give Me a Reason for karaoke. I ate pizza and salad. I had a Pepsi Zero Sugar to drink. For dessert I got to have a chocolate chip cookie. I had fun hanging out with Barbara and Sterling!

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# WILLY WONKA

BY: MATT C.

On Sunday, I went to see the Special Gifts Theatre presentation of the play Willy Wonka. I listened to the songs they sang. I got a picture with my friends Katie, Andrew, and Travis. Katie and Travis were Oompa Loompas and Andrew was the production assistant. It was an amazing show. Katie smiled at me on stage. She did a great job and I'm proud of her. I would like to shout out everyone in the show, they all did an amazing job!



# MY WILLY WONKA PERFORMANCE

BY: KATIE L.

On Sunday, I performed in Willy Wonka with Special Gifts Theatre. I played Wonton Oompa Loompa. I really enjoyed being in the performance with all of my friends. It was so much fun to sing and dance. I got to perform using ASL during the song I Want Candy. All of my friends came to support me and gave me flowers. I was happy everyone gave us a standing ovation. We celebrated by going out to dinner.



**Andrew, Matt, Katie, and Travis at Special Gifts production of Willy Wonka**

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# SEASONAL ARTICLES

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CHRISTMAS, NEW YEAR'S, AND WINTER PROGRAMS THEMED ARTICLES

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## HOLIDAY FESTIVITIES

BY: MICHAELA

The other day I went over to my brother and sister-in-law's apartment. My sister-in-law is named Mary and my brother is named Danny. I got to spend time with my nephew, Tommy. We hung out with family friends Ann and Zoe. Danny made a tomato and spinach quiche. We also had some pastries to go along with it. Then we opened the presents. I got really colorful headbands and a mug. Tommy got a baby version of bowling balls and pins.

I had a fun holiday with my family and my dog. I miss Our Place though, and I'm excited to come back for the winter session. I think I have community lunch on Tuesday. Hopefully people will have similar food preferences as me and we'll be able to be a little more adventurous than my last group. I also am signed up for Writer's Workshop and Animation Studio.

## CHRISTMAS & NEW YEARS

BY: SAM M.

I celebrated Christmas with momma. I got a new TV.

On New Years Eve I spent time with momma and my sister Maria. I stayed up until midnight and watched the ball drop. My sister Maria went back to college.

## WINTER RECAP

BY: PATRICK K.

### Christmas:

I got a new fan in my room. I also got a new wheelchair!

I got my mom a new shirt. I also got my dad a new shirt as well. My dogs Billy and Winnie got new collars for Christmas.

### New Years:

On New Years Eve I hung out at home with mom and dad. We stayed up until midnight and watched the ball drop. Ryan Seacrest was the host.

### Our Place:

The program I am most excited about is Our Place Press. This is my first time.

I am also excited to go to the pantry with Graham on Thursdays.





# CULTURE CORNER

OUR PLACE FOR REVIEW, RECIPES, SPECIAL INTEREST AND MORE

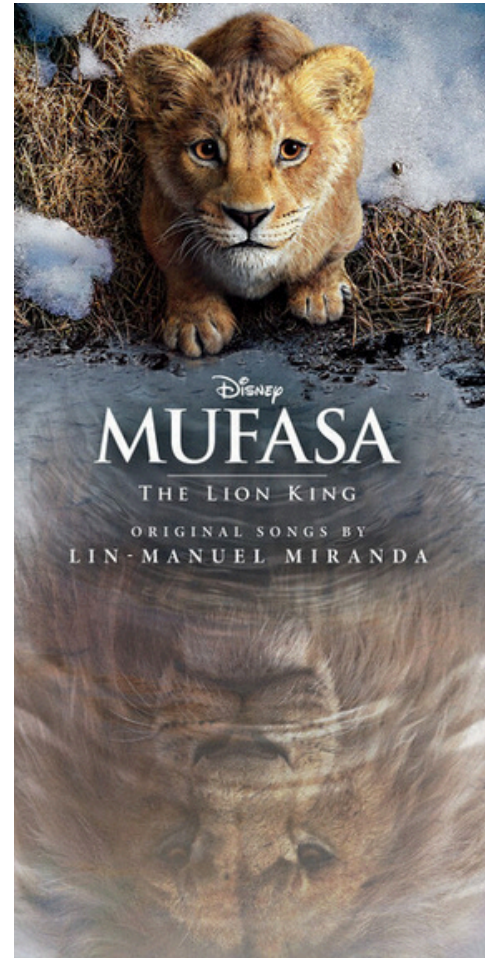
## A REVIEW OF MUFASA

BY: QUINN

Dear Disney and Mr. Barry Jenkins,

I just saw the movie Mufasa in theatres. This was the prequel to The Lion King (2019 remake). I really had mixed feelings about this movie. It was considered a mediocre movie. I found it a little disappointing. The movie was praised for its visuals. Some even considered it a visually stunning movie and praised the original story. Some praised the character development, while others criticized its rushed pacing and lack of emotional depth. Reviewers also criticized the overly similar character designs. The movie had impressive CGI, but lacked emotional moments. Many critics found the story rushed, generic, and not compelling enough. It was an unnecessary movie overall.

I am Quinn, and I'm happy the lions had facial expressions in this movie, unlike in the 2019 Lion King remake. I am Quinn, and I'm mad and upset with this movie because the rest of it was just not a good movie.



*Mufasa The Lion King*

## MY FAVORITE SINGERS

BY: NATALIE

- |                  |              |                  |                    |                  |
|------------------|--------------|------------------|--------------------|------------------|
| 1.) Demi Lovato  | 3.) Coldplay | 5.) Miley Cyrus  | 7.) Ariana Grande  | 9.) The Killers  |
| 2.) Selena Gomez | 4.) U2       | 6.) Taylor Swift | 8.) Jonas Brothers | 10.) Snow Patrol |



Demi Lovato



Selena Gomez



Coldplay



U2



Miley Cyrus



Taylor Swift



Ariana Grande



The Jonas  
Brother



The Killers



Snow Patrol



# SONIC THE HEDGEHOG 3 REVIEW

BY: SEAN

Over the weekend on Saturday January 11th, I went to the movies with my mom, Mary, and her mom. We met at the movie theater at Old Orchard mall in Skokie at 2:15 pm. Anyways, after getting to our seats, we enjoyed quite the awesome film in the Sonic the Hedgehog saga. This follows Sonic as he crosses paths with a new mysterious black and red hedgehog named Shadow and Doctor Robotnik's lost grandfather who is eviler than anything else. This film features a heist worthy of Tom Cruise and chases worthy of a fast and furious flick, with humor that will make any comedy movie worthy, yet has a heart of champion with the story of Shadow and the conflict between Sonic and him. Overall, this film is fun and awesome, and Sonic is better than ever!! I recommend this film to those who are Sonic fans and to anyone who enjoys this genre of movie. I score it a 9/10!!

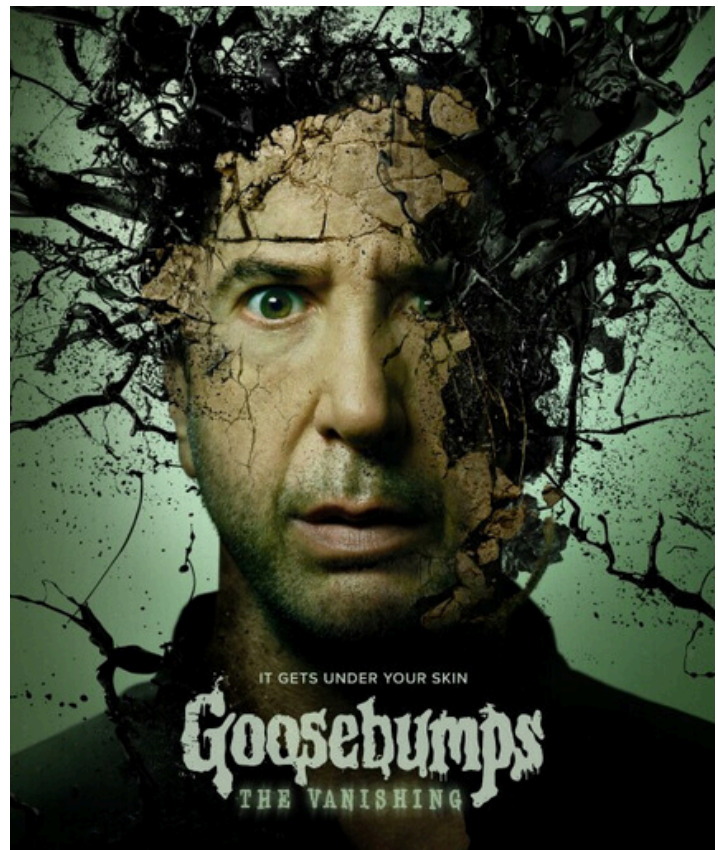


*Sonic The Hedgehog 3*

# A REVIEW OF GOOSEBUMPS: THE VANISHING

BY: MACEY

Yesterday I started watching a new TV series called Goosebumps: The Vanishing. It's on Hulu and also on Disney Plus. So far, I've watched only one episode. It's definitely intriguing and very fascinating. I'm feeling a bit skeptical about the show, but eventually I'll come around to love the series really soon. It's about an old disappearance in a town that is still a mystery. There is a family in the town that is intertwined in this mystery. Ooooo, chilling! It's a bit confusing but still entertaining. There are only eight episodes in this series, so it's a quick watch!



*Goosebumps: the Vanishing*

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# CHASING WATERFALLS

BY: SEAN

Morning light

Awakening the nightmare from the dream

As you try to speak, surrendering to the tide of silent screams

Reality after reality, why is the next one worse than the last?

Spinning, swirling, unraveling

Into the rage of the storm

And after all, our town is like crumbling under all

After all, our love is like chasing waterfalls

Midnight dark

Restless underneath the twin moons

As you try to reach out, surrendering to the ebbs and flows of another see you soon

Alteration after alteration, why is the next one worse than the last?

Spinning, swirling, unraveling

Into the heart of the vortex

And after all, our town is like crumbling under all

After all, our love is like chasing waterfalls

Our love is like chasing waterfalls

## BUBBLE GUM PINK RIDDLES - WHO AM I?

BY: ELLYN

I WILL BE WEARING MY BUBBLE GUM PINK OUTFIT AND I WILL BE SMELLING MY BUBBLE GUM PINK CARNATIONS. **WHO AM I?**

I AM SLEEPING BEAUTY.

I WILL BE WEARING MY LIGHT BLUE OUTFIT AND I WILL BE SMELLING MY WHITE ROSES. **WHO AM I?**

I AM CINDERELLA

I WILL BE WEARING MY RED WHITE BLUE OUTFIT AND I WILL BE SMELLING MY RED ROSES. **WHO AM I?**

I AM SNOW WHITE

I WILL BE WEARING MY YELLOW OUTFIT AND I WILL BE SMELLING MY BRIGHT YELLOW ROSES. **WHO AM I?**

I AM BELLE

BUBBLE GUM PINK IS MY FAVORITE COLOR. MY FAVORITE FLOWERS ARE CARNATIONS, LILIES AND TULIPS. I ALSO LOVE MY DAISIES. **WHO AM I?**

I AM ELLYN