



## ALLY WEEK

What it's all about

## MARIUPOL

The City Under Russian Siege

## PARTY IN THE PARK

Be on the lookout! on the 30th of April, come and help out with this fun event.

MARCH 2022 | ISSUE 10

# ISPrint

GLOBAL NEWS FOR GLOBAL VIEWS

# Ally Week

As most of you know, the 4 day week between 28.03.22 and 31.03.22 was focused on celebrating allyship and the LGBTQ+ community in our school. During this week, multiple activities took place - pins were made with ISP's mascot in rainbow color, to be worn as a representation of our support; a movie night of a queer, teenage coming of age film took place on Thursday, and the students of US and MS were instructed to wear the colors of the rainbow throughout the weekdays!

We all really hope that the members of the LGBTQ+ community feel safe on the school's campus, and ally week is the perfect way to show them that they are welcome and will not be discriminated against. It is in ISP's policy to treat everyone equally; regardless of sexuality and gender identity. So, this is a reminder for all of us to let our loved ones know that we appreciate and support who they are.

**Stay Supportive!**

Our falcon rainbow pins designed by Alisa Krotov





SOME PEOPLE DON'T IDENTIFY WITH ANY GENDER. SOME PEOPLE'S GENDER CHANGES OVER TIME. PEOPLE WHOSE GENDER IS NOT MALE OR FEMALE USE MANY DIFFERENT TERMS TO DESCRIBE THEMSELVES, WITH **NON-BINARY** BEING ONE OF THE MOST COMMON.



**ASEXUALITY** IS THE LACK OF SEXUAL ATTRACTION TO OTHERS, OR LOW OR ABSENT INTEREST IN OR DESIRE FOR SEXUAL ACTIVITY. IT MAY BE CONSIDERED A SEXUAL ORIENTATION OR THE LACK THEREOF.



**PANSEXUALITY** IS THE ROMANTIC, EMOTIONAL, AND/OR SEXUAL ATTRACTION TO PEOPLE REGARDLESS OF THEIR GENDER. LIKE EVERYONE ELSE, PANSEXUAL PEOPLE MAY BE ATTRACTED TO SOME PEOPLE AND NOT OTHERS.



# The Case of Lia Thomas

Lia Thomas is a transgender division 1 swimmer in the USA. She recently won the competition for 500 yards, however a few days later, she was stripped of her title by the Florida governor. This has sparked a lot of debate around the world, but is most concentrated in the United States, as people are once again making this issue political. Within the spheres of social media, there are two main sides. Those who believe it was an unfair match, a 'cheated' win and who are sick of being called transphobic and labeled right-wing for thinking so. On the other hand, those on the side of transgender athletes are labelled as having no 'common sense', and letting transgender women have unfair advantages over the cis-women competing.

As I am writing an extended essay on this topic, I believe that I can offer some insight, in that there is significant research to support the view that transgender women retain a sporting advantage even after the amount of time (2 years) on which she started hormone replacement therapy (HRT). Additionally, that training through HRT may reduce its effects. However, the scientific literature on this topic is not conclusive, and there is evidence to support both sides. I urge you to keep an open mind, and to appreciate her opportunity to compete. It is imperative to realize that Thomas was legally allowed to compete, therefore as a result of this issue, there will most likely be new NCAA legislation for transgender athletes. Which means, if anything, blame the organization and legislators, instead of villainizing the athlete; Thomas has received horrible hate online, when she herself has done nothing more than abide by the rules, and kept true to herself.

**SOFIE ERCOLINO**



At the end of last month, Texas Governor Greg Abbot issued a letter to the Texas State Health Agencies announcing that, if parents allow children to undergo gender-affirming surgery, it should be considered child abuse - under state law. Now, doctors, nurses, and teachers are legally required to report to DFPS on parents who let their children receive such operations. Even though the ACLU sued Texas, and the US DHHS issued a statement saying this rule would be against the federal law, Texas does not seem to care. Abbott's directive, as well as moves in other states, continue conservative politicians' practice of aggressively targeting LGBTQ+ kids for state monitoring and exclusion over the last decade. More than 12 state legislatures are considering legislation that would ban access for trans youths to such operations. For now, the law is only passed in Texas.

# Texas Denying Essential Medical Care to Trans Youth



FIND MORE AT [THE WASHINGTON POST](#)

ALISA KROTOV

# Middle Eastern Governments Finding New Ways to Diminish LGBTQ+ Rights

The rights of LGBTQ+ people are being heavily violated in the Middle East, as people now have to protect themselves from mobile police sweeps. Researcher Afsaneh Rigot found that police in Tunisia, Lebanon and Egypt are now using digital sources to prosecute LGBTQ+ individuals. For example, in the case of a 19-year-old gay Egyptian man (who wished to remain anonymous), carefully uninstalls social media apps one by one before he leaves home, as a single selfie or conversation thread on Whatsapp, could send him to jail. In Tunisia 'sodomy' (anal sex) is punishable by up to 3 years in prison, and step by step the government is criminalizing online interaction between LGBTQ+ people. More and more arrests are happening in these countries, and individuals are not just being prosecuted under anti-LGBTQ+ laws but also under such cybercrime laws. This has diminished the so-called 'breathing room' or freedom many people in similar countries found online. In Lebanon, defendants say to their clients to always wipe their phones as if it was going to be confiscated.

All the responsibility should not lie in the individuals, but in the companies, therefore as a reaction to this, many applications have added methods in which people can contact each other in safer ways. Despite the deeply rooted problem being the governmental and systematic violence in these countries, Rigot ultimately states that revising such platforms is the most effective way in which to improve and help LGBTQ+ lives in such hostile conditions.



# Mariupol

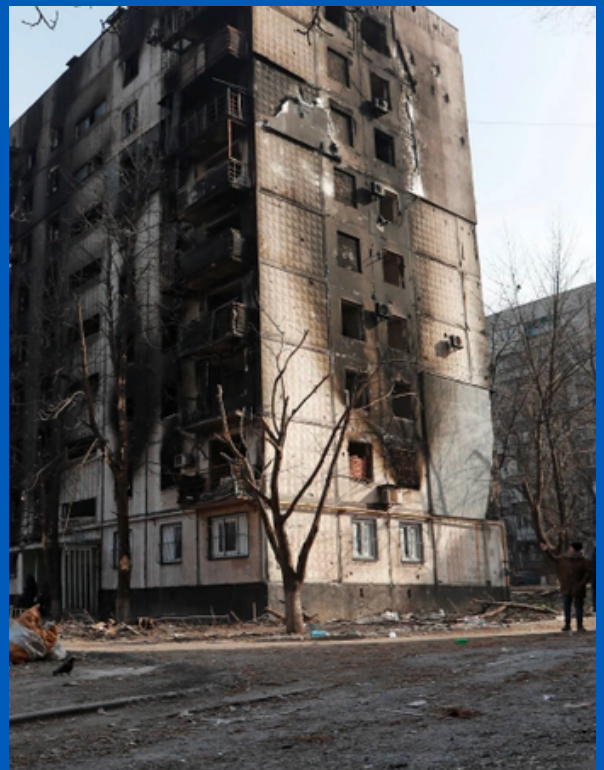
## the City Under Russian Siege



Mariupol, formerly known as Zhdano, is a city in southeastern Ukraine, six miles from the Sea of Azov. In March of 2014, Russia annexed The Republic of Crimea, and in an effort to connect the Republic and Russia, attacked Mariupol repeatedly. The same event began on February 24, 2022- however this time, Ukrainian forces have not prevailed. For more than a week civilians have tried to get out, but failed. Russian airstrikes have repeatedly battered the city, leaving 2,000 civilians dead and 80% of homes destroyed. The resulting humanitarian crisis, that the Red Cross deemed "a worst-case scenario", has meant people have to shelter in basements, on the streets, and hope to be evacuated.

There's no telling who will win this particular invasion; but here's what we do know. Firstly, if Russia gains control of Mariupol, the humanitarian crisis will worsen, and more people than the 41,000 who have already fled will need to be evacuated too. Secondly, if negotiations happen between the two countries, a ceasefire could occur. From this new boundaries may be drawn, and Russia would further expand into Ukraine.

Mariupol is in a strategic position militarily because it is located between Crimea and Donbas in Eastern Ukraine. These two places have received Russian aggression since 2014, and for Russia, controlling Mariupol would mean guaranteed access to both. The country would then "create a land bridge to Crimea and control the entire north shore of the Sea of Azov". In addition, as a port city Mariupol is important economically, because it exports Ukrainian grain and steel. If Russia's attempts to cut Ukraine off from the sea work, there is a very real possibility that the stability of Ukraine's finances will be severely damaged.



# Zelensky Compares Ukraine's Invasion to The Final Solution

GABRIELLA GUTHRIE

In a speech to Israeli lawmakers this week, President Zelensky of Ukraine compared Russia's invasion to a second Holocaust. He pleaded with them to offer aid, impose sanctions on Russia, and to start accepting more Ukrainian refugees into the country. In addition, the President criticized the representatives, saying "You can mediate between countries, but not between evil and good". This is an interesting choice of words considering Putin justifying invading Ukraine because the government was "made up of neo-nazi's".

The response to the President's speech have been mixed so far, with Israel's Yad Vashem calling it a "trivialization and distortion of the historical facts of the Holocaust". Israel has said it will try its best to remain neutral in order to mediate between the large Jewish Ukrainian and Russian populations living in the country.

#ArtforPeaceinUkraine is an ongoing initiative for students to spread the message of peace, created by Pechersk School International. Students will create their own art piece to reflect what peace means to them. Submit your art to this padlet and contact [nikitav@psi.kiev.ua](mailto:nikitav@psi.kiev.ua) if you have any questions.

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Scan this QR code created specially for the ISP Community if you want to donate to the Czech Red Cross. They have these options to buy medical supplies in bigger quantities and they are able to deliver it directly to Ukraine. The first drive will be going on from March 10 till March 17.





# Party In The Park

## - 30th of April -

The Happy Caravan student team is organizing a fun day for children who have recently been displaced from Ukraine. This will happen the afternoon after the Party in the Park, April 30th, 2:30pm-5pm. (We are still searching for a catchy name for the event.)

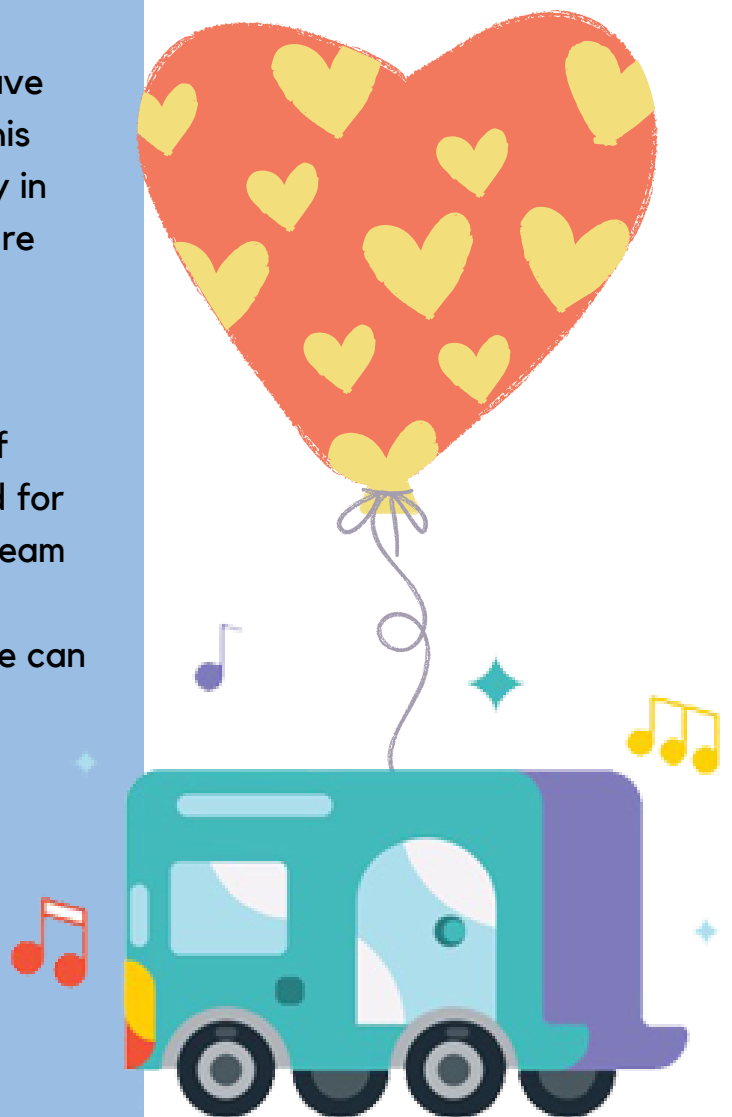
The afternoon will be a 'field day' type of event with a variety of activities planned for children 3 years and older. The student team is already planning many sports and arts activities, but we will need all the help we can get.

You can help us with:

- Planning, or running an activity
- Translating to Ukrainian
- Being on the welcoming crew
- Making small welcome gifts
- Bringing snacks

If you are interested in helping out during the event, see or email Ms Nina (Nhorakova@isp.cz) by April 8th with your ideas and interest.

**HAPPY CARAVAN TEAM**



# HAPPY CARAVAN

# Ukraine Update and Plane Crash in China

ANNA BELCIKOVA

Satellite images of dead bodies lining the streets in a town called Bucha, near the capital of Ukraine, have been released. The images sparked international outrage, with President Zelensky calling the massacre a "genocide", whilst Russia's dismissed the evidence as "staged". Furthermore, satellite images were released displaying mass graves being built, whilst other victims had their hands tied and were allegedly shot at a close range. Since then, President Biden has called President Putin to be tried for war crimes, with mounting evidence of the atrocities committed in Ukraine increasing. (BBC)

On March 21st, flight MU5735 carrying 132 passengers crashed in a remote forested area in Southern China. The plane was heading from Kunming to Guangzhou, however it nose-dived and then proceeded to crash in an area around Guanxi. Unfortunately, it has been confirmed that all passengers and crew died, with rescue teams already having identified 120 of the victims. The crash is the deadliest aviation incident in nearly three decades for China, with President Xi Jinping launching a full-scale investigation. It is so far a mystery as to why the plane crashed, with both pilots being experienced and there being "not dangerous weather". Fortunately, both black boxes have now been found, and there is hope that they may shed light on the mystery of this crash. (New York Times)



GABRIELLA  
GUTHRIE



# OSCARS

On the 27th of March, the Academy hosted the annual Oscars, presenting awards for technical and artistic excellence in films. Dune won six awards, including best cinematography and music, and Jessica Chastain was announced as best actress against Nicole Kidman, Kristen Stewart, Olivia Colman, and Penelope Cruz. Besides these astounding wins, everyone was instead focusing on the drama, that is to say, **Will Smith slapping Chris Rock onstage** for making a joke about his balding wife. This slap was received contentiously, with some calling it uncalled for and unprofessional, and others saying Smith was right for standing up for his wife- especially to an unsavory joke. This immediate controversy was only amplified, as not 30 minutes afterwards Smith won his first Oscar for best actor.

Since then the Academy has condemned his actions, saying that they have officially started a formal review of the incident and will explore further action and consequences in accordance with our Bylaws, Standards of Conduct, and California law. Smith himself apologized for the slap, and actually resigned from the Academy, which only means that he will have no say in what films can be nominated or will go on to win in the future. Rock broke his silence as well, saying he "was still in shock".

This situation, deemed ridiculous by many, has left the public wondering if an event as prestigious as the Oscars has lost its shine. Not only were there celebrities invited, but also a number of influencers, namely tiktokers. There has been much speculation if they actually "deserve it"- and what exactly warranted them being provided.



Actor in a leading role: Will Smith

Actress in a leading role: Jessica Chastain

Actress in a supporting role: Ariana Debose

Animated feature film: Encanto

Cinematography: Dune

Costume design: Cruella

Directing: The Power of the Dog

Documentary: Summer of Soul

Film Editing: Dune

International Feature film: Drive my car

Makeup and Hairstyling: The Eyes of Tammy Faye

Music: Dune

Writing: Belfast

Writing: Coda

Visual Effects: Dune

Sound: Dune

Short film: The Long Goodbye

Production design: Dune

Best picture: Coda

# Art Instagram Accounts

Let's support our Upper School artists! Check out their accounts and give them a follow:

**JANA FINDLAY**  
**@LT.JAMART**

>>



**ANNA MARIE TOUTONGHI**  
**@AJA\_T\_ARTWORKS**

>>



**SOJO ETHRIDGE**  
**@SOYA\_STUDIOS**

<<



# Comic Relief

THE DOUBLE STANDARD



ALISA  
KROTOV

Answer the poll!



In times when all the news that comes in seems to be bad, it can be hard to find something positive to focus on. Here's something good for you to turn to this week:)

# About Us

ISPrint is a student-led newsletter which brings to you the best and latest of school happenings, local news, and world events— all in bitesize reports and easy-to-read segments. With motivated student-journalists and editors from 6 countries, we strive to provide coverage as diverse as the team that puts it together. In doing so, we hope to promote global awareness, intercultural understanding, and engagement in the school community.

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**Photo Credits:**

**Unsplash**

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