



# I am more than just a: bro

Don’t read a book by its cover

by Ezra Wallach

At the beginning of December, I came up with this idea to do a thing where instead of just saying what it’s like to be “something” at New Trier, we could run articles about how people are often more than what they choose to show.

I would start the series off by talking about myself and who I am, and how I am more than just a bro.

Since then though, I’ve changed a lot. And by a lot, I mean a lot. Like a lot a lot.

I mean, I’m still a bro, but through time and through experiences, I have changed, at times becoming more than just that.

But, let’s just start with the basics.

I’ve always been kind of shy, except for when I’m totally not. I have a stutter, which doesn’t contribute to the shy part as much as it used to (in other words, I stopped stressin’). Essentially, I’m an extroverted introvert—actually,

I take it back—I’m an introverted extrovert, which means that I am the most chill kind of person.

I’m six-foot-two even though both my parents are like five-foot-seven—sometimes I forget how intimidating I can be to some people. It still feels super weird being that “scary senior” because I don’t feel that way at all.

People might know me from things they’ve heard from others or from the blue and brown Patagonia I wear to school \*every\* day, and these things are not not me. But there is obviously more to me than what I choose to show.

When I started writing these opinions for the newspaper, I wondered whether people would be surprised at the things I wrote about, and I wondered about whether or not I would want them to be surprised. Without these articles, some people would never have known how deep or sensitive I truly am. Only the people close to me would’ve seen that side.

So, I know that for most of us there is more than what we choose to show, which makes sense. Like books, we all have covers that we decorate, through our social media,

outfits, extracurriculars, etc., that attempt to give others a sneak peek into who we really are.

But, also like books, our covers often don’t spoil our entire story. These covers, although at times bland, do give others the best look possible into our lives.

In high school we each have labels that others put on us or that we put on ourselves. Because it can be scary to be “nothing,” each of us claim to be “something,” which is natural.

These labels aren’t the opposite of who we are, but a lot of the time they only tell part of our story.

The movie “Mean Girls” highlights the “cliquiness” and stereotypes of high school groups, but it does more than that too. By the end, we find out that the Asian nerds are more than just Asian nerds, and that the plastics are more than just, well, plastic.

I would’ve told you not to judge me by my cover, but then again, what else would you have had to judge me on? Book covers can be made to look however they would like, and through this, they get a certain amount of people to open them up.

So, we should just vow not to act like we’ve read a book just by reading it’s cover, even if we still judge it.

Why I brought up how much I have changed in just the past couple months is because we need to start taking people a little less seriously.

Just this year, I’ve started to hang out with people who at the beginning of the year I had labeled as something “less” than what they actually were.

It’s not that these labels were wrong or could be disputed, it’s that I took them at face value, and assumed that these labels were all that these people were. But, even if these people had been who I thought they were, they may have changed over time, just like me. I have a good feeling that I surprised some of those friends—I’m probably “more” than whoever they thought I was, too.

The cover of a book never tells the whole story, nor should it; but, when we stop taking people so seriously, we will discover that everyone, including each of us, is more than just “something”.

And so next week, and the week after that, we will run this

whole thing back. Stories will be told of people who are more than just mathletes or theatre kids or jocks, and through this we will learn that most people are just like us.

But, this knowledge shouldn’t just come from the article you might choose to read each week—there are thousands of kids at this school who could end up being some of the most influential people in your life, but you just haven’t given them the chance. If you never try to know others, then no one will ever try to know you.



## Q3 slump: fact or fiction

Lack of sun and tougher curriculum lead to lower student morale

by Mattea Carberry

With finals over, students are left to plunge into a whole new quarter, coming face to face with the dreaded third quarter slump.

For many, this slump seems inevitable, but there must be some reason why this dark time of year always seems to take place.

Both teachers and students seem to be in agreement about the answer, even outside the doors of New Trier.

Students and teachers alike believe that the cold, gloomy weather of the January and February months contributes to the decline in performance and morale during the third quarter.

“With bad weather or not seeing the sun as often, I think sometimes that results in a little bit of a decrease in morale for students,” said Latin teacher Robert Cummings.

Sophomore McKayla Lyons agreed with Cummings.

“I think the weather and not being able to get outside or get some fresh air to take a break from school work really affects me personally,” said Lyons.

While students acknowledged the mental aspect plays a definite role in the slump, they equally attributed a good deal of responsibility to a more challenging curriculum.

“There definitely is a mental aspect as far as a lack of motivation, but I also think the quarter is condensed. Having few days off could mean the units are taught in a shorter time,” said Lyons.

Though the third quarter slump is consistent here in the Midwest, if students look outside of those regional boundaries, they would find

that the slump is present on a more national scale.

Even all the way at Foothill High School in California, students experience the effects of a third quarter slump despite having sunny and warm weather.

When comparing the two high school experiences with sophomore Lizzie York who attends Foothill, she stated that she, too, is affected by the slump.

“I definitely think the curriculum is harder because it’s towards the middle but also the end [of the school year],” said York. “But also mentally because you’re already tired from the last [semester] and you’re just halfway through, so you still have a long way to go.”

Inevitably, the question arises of whether this is truly an issue that affects a student’s performance at school.

New Trier Science Department Chair, Jason English, taught in District 214 prior to coming to NT and saw a noticeable shift in the students’ class performance during the third quarter.

“At my last school, we would track the percentage of As, Bs, Cs, Ds, and Fs every week for the whole school,” said English. “The last three years I went back to, you could see the slump in the grades. They might have gone from A to B, or B to C, but they went down.”

If there were a way to combat these effects of the third quarter slump, time at school would go by much more smoothly and with greater success. But while there don’t seem to be any definite solutions, there are things that could be done in hopes of making the third quarter pass with more ease.

“I think it would help if students paid extra attention to getting the sleep they need and also getting the exercise they need because those little things can make a big difference,” said English.

## Cold days called into question

Subzero temps and snow cause two days off school

by Julia Nagel

Due to record-breaking wind chill temperatures as cold as -50 degrees Fahrenheit, Superintendent Paul Sally made the decision to close school on Wednesday, Jan. 30 and Thursday, Jan. 31.

Sally said staff and student safety is always the top priority while deciding whether to open school in extreme weather conditions, but logistical concerns play a role as well.

“At those temperatures, frostbite can occur very quickly on exposed skin. In addition, buses and the school heating and other systems are at a greater risk of breaking down and not working,” said Sally.

Most students were glad to have the days off, including Sophomore Madeline Brown who spent Wednesday inside watching movies with her mom, and Thursday hanging out with her friends and boyfriend.

“It was a nice break, especially right after finals,” said Brown.

Though many students use days off due to weather to relax and de-stress, students inevitably dread adding days to the calendar at the end of the school year.

“I would rather have had school just because I don’t want extra days of [school in the] summer,” said Sophomore Ashley Kim.

Junior Jacqueline Blumin agrees that adding another day to the already long school year is unfair. She also said that the school should have a better contingency plan for making up days when school is cancelled due to weather.

“I think they should try and build in to the school year [more]



Steam covers the surface of a frozen Lake Michigan on Jan. 30 | NT News

days at the end of the year that we can replace with days off due to snow or cold,” said Blumin.

Blumin pointed out that many other schools have more emergency days built into their schedule than New Trier.

For example, according to the Evanston Township District Calendar for 2018-19, Jun. 10, 11, 12, 13, and 14 are defined as emergency days for the Evanston Township. Feb. 18 and 22 are also designated as days that “may be used as a make-up day.”

New Trier, on the other hand, only has one specified emergency day in second semester—Jun. 12. Because there have already been two days off due to winter weather this semester, it is unclear how the schedule for the remainder of the school year will be impacted.

“I will be reviewing options with the Board of Education and they will approve an adjusted schedule at the Feb. 19 Board Meeting. One of our priorities is making sure we can start Summer School on June 17,” said Sally.

In addition to Wednesday and Thursday, Monday, Jan. 28 also brought problematic winter weather. However, the concern over opening school was due to snow, and not necessarily the cold.

Sally drove around the township early in the morning before he made

the decision whether or not to call off school, but in the end decided to keep the school open.

“I felt the conditions were not too dangerous with proper winter driving. The snow was scheduled to end by mid-morning but start again in the late afternoon/evening. Since we had a 1:20 dismissal time, I felt the travel home would be safe,” said Sally.

Some students, though, believe that Sally should have cancelled school on Monday. Kim said that the snow was dangerous to many of her fellow classmates.

“We were missing half of our chemistry class for Early Bird because there was so much traffic and people were slipping, and it wasn’t really great,” said Kim.

Student and staff safety remains Sally’s number one concern, and he particularly emphasized the fact that at all times, but especially when travelling to school, proper precautions should be taken in the winter.

Sally hopes that students and families take the steps needed to travel safely in cold and snowy weather.

“That is one reason why we put the safe driving tips on our website this past week. It still can be found on the front page – it’s the last item below the scroll.”