



The Soldier's Sword

March 2026—Quarter 3 Edition

The Pirates of Penzance

EskDale High School has a system of “switch years,” meaning every other year, the students go on a big choir trip, and on the off-year they put on a Spring musical! This year our students are proud to present *The Pirates of Penzance*, the musical by Gilbert and Sullivan.

The Pirates of Penzance is an absolute classic about a pirate apprentice, Frederic, aging out of his indentures at 21 and deciding to not be a pirate anymore and instead lead a blameless life evermore. He decides his purpose is to destroy the pirates and fall in love with a beautiful maiden. His nursemaid, Ruth, convinces him that she would be a perfect wife for him, and he believes her, until he comes upon a “bevy of beautiful maidens.”

After Frederic angrily leaves Ruth behind, he insults all the sisters unknowingly until they no longer are in love with him. All except one sister, Mabel. The two fall in love and make plans to be married. Frederic tries to warn the girls about the pirates being nearby, but it is too late. The pirates capture the girls, who are only able to escape when their father, the major general, claims to be an orphan, even though he isn't. The pirates begrudgingly obey their own rules of never capturing an orphan and let them all go.

A few days later, Frederic and the major general make plans to seize the pirates, even though the general

feels guilty for his lie. Their police posse is ready to attack at dawn, even though the only thing they know how to do is march not fight. All is going according to plan until the pirate king and Ruth approach Frederic to inform him that he was actually born on leap day, making him only a little more than five. Meaning, under his contract, he is still a pirate. Will Frederic stay honor bound and become a pirate once more? Will he leave the girl he loves? Or will he stay and protect the family, even though that makes him dishonorable?

Initially, the students were not sure about this musical. But all of them quickly fell in love with the characters, the costumes, and the music. They would like to send a special shout out to Dean and Dallas for working sound, Tina for working lights, John Paul and Donnie for working hours with them on choreography, Crystal, Ashley, and Janene for awesome costumes and



set design, the EHS teachers for sharing their time and being supportive, and especially Lois for never giving up on them and believing in them. And of course, this would not be possible without the parents, grandparents, and guardians of the students so thank you all.

Also a very special thanks to the EskDale community for letting us use their space, time, funding, equipment, resources, and so much more. The students want you to know that they really do appreciate your trust and faith in them, for they know that without you none of this would be possible. ♡

By Alexa Crouch

Behind the Scenes

On March 5th and 6th, the students of EskDale High School will present *The Pirates of Penzance*! It's so much fun to watch from the audience, but there's a lot of stuff happening behind the scenes as well. We have all been hard at work since the beginning of January learning songs and choir parts, choreographing, and many of us worked after school for solos and such. Don't get me wrong, we had lots of fun, it's also just a lot of hard work! I asked some of my peers questions about our musical and here are their responses.



What are your favorite stories from backstage?

Remi: one of the boy's pipe swords broke.

Clara: I liked when John Paul said “boyysss”

What are your favorite and least favorite parts about the performance?

Alexa: My favorite is getting to work with costumes and props. My least favorite part is when others haven't learned their stuff, and it makes it harder for those who have.

Clara: my favorite parts are the songs, least favorite part is having to dance with Aron. (Let the record show that this response made Ella cackle)

Britton: my favorite parts are getting to improve my singing and acting, least favorite part is when people force voice cracks to be funny.

What do you like or dislike about your part?

Remi: I like that it's a bit more simple, and I don't have a lot of lines and I don't have to be everywhere at once. Least favorite part is that all we have are girly and giggly parts.

Clara: that I have to pretend to like stuff I don't actually like.

Britton: I like it because it is it is a glorious thing to be a pirate king. I dislike that the solos are kind of hard to sing.

What was the most stressful part of this play?

Alexa: people not being prepared when they should be.

Clara: getting it done on time.

Britton: getting the parts learned on time.

This musical has been such a great opportunity for us, and I'm personally very grateful to have shared it with all of you. The students of EskDale High would all like to give their thanks to Dean, Tina, and Dallas for the lighting and sound, Crystal, Ashley, and Janene for their wonderful props and costumes, and especially Donnie, John Paul, and Lois for their endless hard work and energy poured into this process so we could put on a great show. As for us Juniors, we are very sad this is our last musical, but we are so grateful for everyone who has been a part of all our musical journeys.

Alexa: very bittersweet. I'm very glad I got to work with my brother and dad. It made it so much more fun.

Remi: I'm glad I don't have to do another one, but I'm also sad because I've enjoyed all the ones we've done.

Ella: I'm very sad this is my last. I've had so much fun over the years.

The Junior High students are very excited for their first musical!

Aron: I'm so excited! I'll be very proud when I look back.

Clara: It's exciting! Woo hoooo!

Eli: I'm feeling really good about it! I'm gonna cook in the police role! ♡

By Ella Faber

This issue of *The Soldier's Sword* was written and produced by the Language Arts students of EskDale High School

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Utah State Honor Choir

Every year, some students are able to attend Honor Choir music events. This year's Honor Choir performances involved seven students from EskDale High School and took place on January 24th in Abravanel Hall, with practices all day January 23rd. To accomplish this great performance, students practiced on their own time beforehand throughout January.

Since Honors Choir is split into Men's and Women's choirs, there were only two songs that all seven EskDale students performed together. Each separate choir had its

own set of four songs that it performed, however. Emma and Alexa were Sopranos, Ella was an Alto, Luis and Curtis were Bass 2, Landon was Bass 1, and Britton was a Baritone. This was a great experience overall, and everyone enjoyed it and met lots of new people. ♡

By Curtis Young



Game Party

EskDale High School's student council likes to plan events and activities that all the students can be a part of. This quarter one of the activities that was held February 10th was a game night. The game night was an after school activity where students played board games that the school had or that were brought from their homes. Donnie was our chaperone.

The activity started right after school and lasted for an hour or so. Games that people played were Codenames, Who's the Goat, and Sushi Party. There were some

people who came to this activity but just sat on their phones, not wanting to participate. After a while others got bored and didn't want to play anything else, so they sat in Sharon's classroom. So our student council president Alexa said that the activity was over, and all the students went home. Despite some people not participating, it was still pretty fun.

Here are some interview question for students who were there and their answers:

Q: What was your favorite moment that happened during the game night?

Alexa: I liked it when everyone sat down and played a game, and when people went out of their friend group to play a game.

Ella: It was fun when a lot of us played Codenames. It was pretty whimsical.

Emma: I had a lot of fun playing Who is the Goat and seeing everyone's impressions.

Landon: When we got to play that group game with a big group. ♡

By Remi Perea

Region: Solo & Ensemble

Every year, EskDale High School participates in the musical competition Solo & Ensemble for our region. The location of this event changes from year to year, but it always has amazing performances. This event gives students the opportunity to show off their skills and what they have learned over the years. This year it will be taking place in Orderville on the 18th of March.

Ella Faber will be competing with an amazing flute solo. Additionally, Emma Baker will be singing "Poor Wandering One," her beautiful solo from *Pirates of Penzance*. Since it is officially a classical piece by Gilbert and Sullivan, it is eligible, whereas other musical theater solos are not typically allowed at Solo & Ensemble. The orchestra will also be going to perform as an ensemble, performing two or three pieces we've been working on this year.

It is a great opportunity to make sure we've practiced and polished the pieces. Numbers who score the superior rating of a 1 will get the chance to advance on to the State Solo & Ensemble festival on April 25, 2026. We'll see which of our numbers make it, but regardless, it is a great learning experience. ♡

By Britton Faber

Region: Choir

Every year the Junior High and High School students go to compete in Region Choir at different places. This year the school is going to South Sevier High School in Monroe, Utah. The group of students attending must get a superior rating to qualify for state choir which takes place at the University of Utah in Salt Lake City. Region choir takes place on April 13th, and the choir will perform three songs there. If they qualify, they will advance to state choir on May 8th. Now let's go more into how it works.

When the group of students participate in a regional choir they have a few minutes before to practice some or all their numbers. These practices are crucial so the

students are warmed up and ready to sing. They then proceed to get onto stage and perform their songs. While they are doing this, three judges listen to them and mark down both good and bad things that happened in the performance. If all goes well they get a superior rating and qualify to go to state choir in Salt Lake City. They rate it the same way at state like they do at region.

To get a qualifying grade in region choir, they must get where either two or all judges rate them a 1—a Superior rating—which means there were little to no mistakes in the performance. Now if the group were to get two 1 minuses, they would not qualify for state. The judges also leave small constructive notes on the grading sheet like whether they were on pitch or needed more emotion. This feedback can be very helpful and prepare

the group for state even more.

How do you feel about the Region Choir?

Aron: I feel nervous about it but also excited

Maddie:Huh?

Eligh: I feel like we're gonna cook up that place like last year.

Ella: I guess I'm kinda excited

Camber: I'm worried we won't do very good

Alexa: I'm nervous, but we'll probably do fine.

Remi: I'm a bit nervous because we did lose most of the stronger singers, but I think it will be fine. ♡

By Isaac Duran

Flex Fridays

Each Friday, the school schedule shifts back by ten minutes, creating an extra hour before lunch for the entire student body to gather and discuss important topics. Throughout this year's Flex Fridays, a variety of guest presenters have shared on diverse subjects, giving students both valuable insights and an enjoyable experience.

This quarter, for Flex Fridays, we started with a fun New Year's activity, where we each filled in a coloring page filled with "2026" and it had little questions throughout to fill in, like goals for the rest of the school year, etc. Another week, which ended up being a lot of people's favorite Flex Friday activity, was when we had to do a lot of teamwork challenges. We were put into groups where we had to draw on people's backs down a

line and see if the final drawing ended up similar to the start. We also had team races where all the members in the team had their feet duck-taped together so they had to really intentionally work together to step in unison or all fall down. It was hilarious. We also had an escape room day where we were put into teams and had to figure out which spy we had to hire to help us with a secret mission.

We have had a few Flex Friday guest presenters this quarter as well. One of them was Liz Woolsey who came and presented about her time in Nepal with the organization Heifer International. Heifer International is a charitable organization where they give people in developing countries an animal—such as a heifer—and teach them how to use it for food and for profit. And then when that animal has a baby, the initial family gives it to

another family and teaches them. It was a great lesson, and we all learned a lot about the impact the organization has and how we can help. Another presenter was Trujillo Amy who is a counselor with SEDC. He presented on relationships, and how we can build them with tools or break them down with weapons. It was a really great and impactful lesson, and we all learned how to make tissue-paper roses in the process.

We recently asked the students of EHS what their favorite Flex Friday from this quarter was. Most said they liked the group teamwork day the most, but many also said they really enjoyed doing the escape rooms. Additionally, all agreed that it was really cool hearing from Liz and from Trujillo. We can't wait to see what adventures Flex Fridays in the fourth quarter will bring. ♡

By Eligh Young & Aron Huerta

Track & Field Season

Time sure flies when you're out of breath and exhausted after practice! - Or whatever it is that they say! Another exciting Track & Field season is upon us! This will be our second Track & Field season with Gretchen Baker as our head coach. We have seven students who are participating this season, and everyone seems pretty excited. We've got six meets lined up to compete at this year.

Three Quarters Down. One More to Go!

We are already $\frac{3}{4}$ through the school year! A lot of things have happened since the beginning of the year. We had this one event where we watched a movie outside. Halfway through it started raining on us, and we finished it inside. We also had this fun bonfire night. Towards the end, we played sardines and ghost in the graveyard.

We had a school dance in November, that was really fun. We had the banquet, where people could eat while watching the choir and the Christmas play. We also had a school Christmas party. It was Secret Santa so we all bought gifts for the people we got.

We've also had a lot of visitors on Flex Fridays doing presentations, about places they went, what we shouldn't do ever, such as drugs. We've also had students here give presentations. We had this one event where we stayed and played games here at school. Upcoming, we

Spring Break!

Spring break is coming up and I want to know what my classmates are doing. It will be from

March 30th to April 3rd. I am so excited for the break because I plan to play a lot of video games and hang out with my dogs and bunnies. I am also very excited because my cousin's break is the same so we are planning on her coming out and going to the temple with some friends, and after the temple going to the mall to go shopping. I can't wait for it and am very curious about what my classmates are planning on doing.

Q: What are y'all doing for spring break, and what is your favorite thing about spring?

Clara: I'm not sure. The fact that it's warm so I can play with water.

Aron: I don't know yet. The break cuz i have the time to hang out with my friends or lay on my bed.

Eligh: I don't know. flowers, everything starts to stop dying

Stran: camping on Easter. I like Easter!

Isaac: I'm going to Mexico. That I'm going to be in Mexico and I might get my citizenship.

Strattun: I'm gonna sleep a lot. No socializing

We started practicing at the end of February and we're going to our first meet in the middle of March. That doesn't give us a whole lot of time to prepare, but since everyone is working hard at practice, I'm sure that everyone will do well.

Practice lasts about an hour and a half right after school every day. We start with a jog to warm up our legs, then we do some dynamic stretches to finish warming up. After stretching, we do some core exercises, because core strength is really important in both running and throwing.

have the spring dance, and we have the school musical! The dance will be on March 20, 2026 and the play on March 5-6. I asked a few students some questions about the year so far and what's ahead.

Q. What was your favorite part of the year?

Camber: The Christmas dance

Eligh: The Christmas party.

Aron: The bonfire.

Isaac: The banquet.

Maddie: The dance

Q. What are you looking forward to?

Camber: Getting ready for the musical and the dance.

Stran: The next dance.

Isaac: State choir if we make it

Maddie: Summer

Britton: chillin at home. It's pretty.

Landon: We're going on college tours and to an amusement park. The fact everything becomes green.

Maddie: Probably going out of town. My favorite thing about spring is the flowers blooming.

Curtis: I don't know. I don't know

Luis: Probably work. Flowers and the weather.

Emma: visit family in Illinois. Everything becomes green.

Remi: Hanging out with cousins. My favorite part of spring is probably when flowers start blooming.

Alexa: I am going to Missouri for spring break for college touring. My favorite thing about spring is seeing the little baby animals running all over.

Ella: I'm gonna sit and have surgery. Everything doesn't look depressing anymore.

Alex: I might go to Colorado. The weather.

Q: If you could travel anywhere for spring break, where would you go and why?

Clara: Hawaii, because I didn't get to go with the high school last year.

Aron: California, I don't know why.

Eligh: Galveston Texas, to learn stuff.

After core we start the main workout, where we run or strength train or throw. After we finish the main workout, we do a cooldown and usually watch inspirational videos to try to keep us thinking positively.

The Track & Field team seems really excited to represent EskDale High School this year, and we're looking forward to a season full of Personal bests, new friends, and strengthened minds and bodies! ◇

By Emma Baker

Q. If you could describe this year in one word what would it be?

Eligh: Chaotic.

Aron: Interesting.

Stran: Supercalifragilisticexpialidocious

Maddie: Monkey

Alexa: Whimsical.

Q. Did you have any goals set at the beginning of the year, and how is it going?

Camber: Finish eighth grade and I think it's going fine.

Eligh: no and no

Alexa: I had a goal to befriend each grade, and I think it's going well.

Isaac: No.

Maddie: Stay out of trouble and I did it.

By Clara Faber

Stran: Hawaii, I shouldn't have to explain.

Isaac: Mexico. Cuz I'm going there and I don't have a choice, but I want to go anyway.

Strattun: Japan mostly to have the food because it's yummy.

Britton: Yellowstone because it's pretty in spring.

Landon: Austria, I've seen how it looks.

Maddie: California because of the water, I can go swim with the fishies.

Curtis: Home so I can sleep.

Luis: Mexico, for the food.

Emma: Tanzania to see all the cool animals.

Remi: Alaska for the animals

Alexa: Italy because I really want to go to Italy and why not.

Ella: Switzerland is really pretty.

Alex: Alaska to see the northern lights.

I personally would go to Hawaii or Germany because I loved going to Hawaii and wished I had more time there, and Germany because it just seems really cool. I can't wait for spring break, and I hope all ya'll have fun! ◇

By Camber Perea

Everyone Has a Story—Spencer Mark Butler

For my piece of the newspaper I chose to tell my Grandpa's story. He is my mom's dad. His full name is Spencer Mark Butler. He is 73 years old. He lives in Leamington, Utah. He used to live in upstate New York. Then he moved to California. Then finally to Utah.

He is a rancher who owns the Around Back Ranch in Leamington. He loves his cows and cares for them. He has moved a lot and loves his family. Here are some questions I asked him. I hope you enjoy it.

Q: If you had to summarize where you grew up, how would you do that?

A: I lived in Upstate New York and moved to California when I was four, and then moved to Utah in high school and now I still live here today.

Q: What is your favorite hobby?

A: "Well I am a cattleman so... Taking care of my cows."

Q: What got you in the most trouble as a kid.

A: Hanging out with my older brothers

Q: What was your first job?

A: A paper route in the 7th grade.

Q: If you could tell something to your younger self what would it be.

A: Spend more time with your family.

By Stran Elmer



Advice from a Modern Major General

As in newspapers before this, the advice column will be full of wisdom, humor, and outright possibly the best advice ever for life. Recently I have received the pleasure to interview one of the wisest guys I will probably ever meet. Major General Stanley. He has information on anything from vegetable, animals, and even minerals. He is good at math, and he even does integral and differential calculus. He is good at history and can quote fights historical from Marathon to Waterloo in order categorical. He even knows the kings of England. Yes he is lacking in military knowledge in which he is plucky and adventurous, he is still the model of a modern Major General.

Here I have questions from other people who have asked the Major General questions about anything and here are the questions and answers.

Q: What is your greatest achievement?

A: Well some might say that it is being a major

general or even having my wonderful daughters, but I would argue that it is being able to get all my daughters eligible bachelors—even though some of them are simpletons.

Q: How can I get an umbrella like yours?

A: You can get one by becoming a major general and receiving a personal gift from Queen Victoria.

Q: Do you have a favorite daughter?

A: Yes... Frederic.

Q: What is the best kind of tea?

A: The British kind

Q: When I'm done with school, where should I move?

A: Out of your mother's domicile.

And there you have it folks. Even though not all of them were advice, he did give great answers to the questions people have asked. ♦



By Landon Crouch

Upcoming Events in the Fourth Quarter

- ♦ **March 10, 2026**—ACT for Juniors
- ♦ **March 14, 2026**—Track meet, Fillmore
- ♦ **March 18, 2026**—Solo & Ensemble Region, Orderville
- ♦ **March 20, 2026**—Spring Fling school dance, Baker Hall
- ♦ **March 25, 2026**—Track meet, Nephi
- ♦ **March 30—April 3, 2026**—Spring Break
- ♦ **April 7, 2026**—Hale Centre Theatre trip with Baker Elementary
- ♦ **April 11, 2026**—Track meet, Milford
- ♦ **April 13, 2026**—Large Group Region, Monroe
- ♦ **April 16, 2026**—Utah Shakespeare Festival presents
A Comedy of Errors, EskDale Auditorium, 1 pm
- ♦ **April 18, 2026**—Track Region, Wendover
- ♦ **April 23, 2026**—School picture day
- ♦ **April 25, 2026**—Solo & Ensemble State
- ♦ **April 25, 2026**—Track meet, Delta
- ♦ **April 27, 2026—May 1, 2026**—Test Week
- ♦ **May 1-2, 2026**—Track meet, Cedar City
- ♦ **May 8, 2026**—Choir State
- ♦ **May 14, 2026**—Spring Concert, 7:30 pm, EskDale Auditorium
- ♦ **May 21, 2026**—Last half day of school!