



the ponds high  
**Gazette**  
*issue eleven*

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*make some cookies!!*



# our new Editor in Chiefs!

welcome the new Editor in Chief(s) for 2024 and 2025

The Gazette team is so excited to introduce our new Editor in Chiefs and to work with them! We are looking forward to the next year or two.

The reign has come down to make the decision of choosing the next individual(s) to take on the gazette's successful legacy and I can not be more grateful to introduce my TWO new Editor-in-chiefs. I have no doubt that they will fill the up coming gazettes with daily school news for everyone, especially the new Year 7's to enjoy! Thank you to my team for a wonderful year of allowing me to create such a well versed and coordinated team who always did their best and wrote outstanding articles.

**nikki**  
E.I.C., 2023

nikki fan club 2023-forever

Hey!! I'm Shaldeen, a year 9 student and I'm super excited to be the Editor In Chief from 2024-2025:!! I'm so grateful for this opportunity and can't wait to continue the legacy that our previous E.I.Cs have created!!

**shaldeen**  
E.I.C., 2024-25

Hi everyone! I'm Anoushay from Year 10 and am extremely grateful to be Editor in Chief of the Ponds Gazette! I aspire to be a journalist when I'm older, and this opportunity will just aid in that dream further. Ecstatic to work together with my team to enhance the Ponds Gazette!

**anoushay**  
E.I.C., 2024

# world news

current\* events and affairs from across the world

\* all information in these articles are current as per the release of this publication.

## what's happening in Gaza? the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, explained plainly

 ongoing story  cw: violence, distressing images

*Disclaimer: The Ponds High School Gazette does not hold any views that support a certain side, culture or country within the context of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.*

### a Brief Introduction

The Israeli-Palestinian conflict is a complex and long-dispute that has shaped the political and social landscape of the Middle East for over a century. The conflict has been marked by cycles of violence, displacement, and political deadlock. Despite the many attempts to resolve it, the conflict continues lurk the region, having devastating consequences for both Israelis and Palestinians.



the Gaza Strip, Palestine



a protest in support of Israel, Washington DC



a protest in support of Palestine, Washington DC

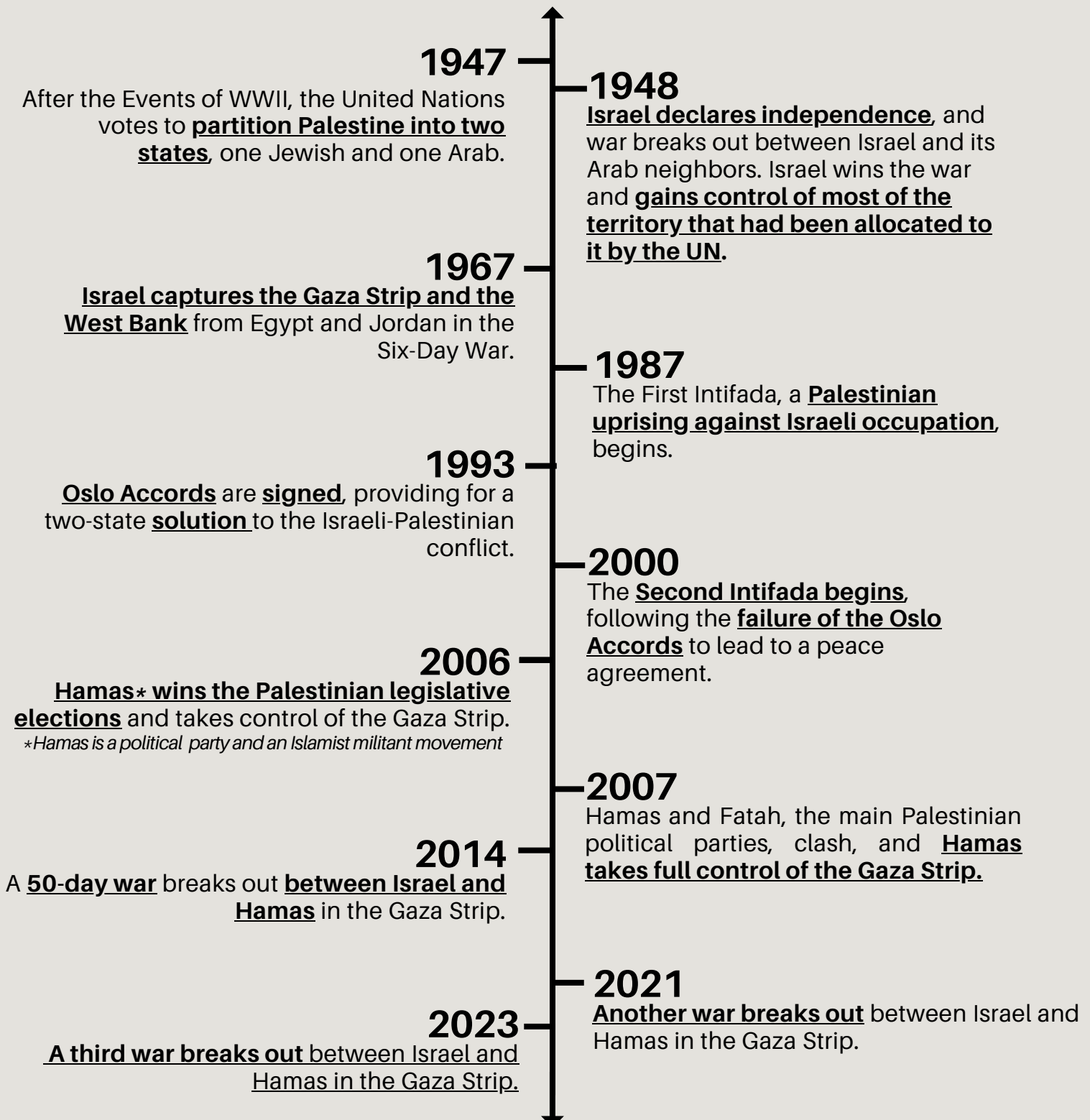


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## Key Timeline of Conflict Events



## Recent Events

In early October 2023, war broke out between Israel and Hamas, the militant Islamist group that has controlled Gaza since 2006, in the most significant escalation of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict in several decades. Hamas fighters fired rockets into Israel and stormed southern Israeli cities and towns across the border of the Gaza Strip, killing more than 1,300 Israelis, injuring 3,300, and taking hundreds of hostages. The attack took Israel by surprise, though the state quickly mounted a deadly retaliatory operation. One day after the October 7 attack, the Israeli cabinet formally declared war against Hamas, followed by a directive from the defense minister to the Israeli Defense Forces (IDF) to carry out a “complete siege” of Gaza.

Since then, the two sides have traded daily rocket fire, and Israel ordered more than one million Palestinian civilians in northern Gaza to evacuate ahead of a ground invasion that began on October 28. Israeli forces have encircled Gaza City, cutting it off from southern Gaza and squeezing Hamas. Hundreds of thousands of civilians remain in the city. Gazan health officials say the war has killed 10,000 Palestinians, including more than 4,000 children. The territory is also desperately low on water, fuel, and supplies as Israel has rejected humanitarian pauses and limited the amount of aid that can enter.

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The displacement of millions more Palestinians presents a dilemma for Egypt and Jordan, which have absorbed hundreds of thousands of Palestinians in the past but have resisted accepting anyone during the current war. They fear that Gazans, many of whom were already displaced from elsewhere in Israel, will not be allowed to return once they leave. Egypt also fears that Hamas fighters could enter Egypt and trigger a new war in the Sinai by launching attacks on Israel or destabilizing the authoritarian regime of Abdel Fattah el-Sisi by supporting the Muslim Brotherhood. So far, negotiations have resulted in only 1,100 people exiting Gaza through the Rafah border crossing to Egypt. The other 1.5 million displaced Gazans—70 percent of the territory’s population—have nowhere to go and face increasingly dire living conditions and security risks.



Palestinians remove a dead body from the rubble of a building after an Israeli air raid in Jabalia refugee camp.



# exam season study tips

prepare for the upcoming exams with these tips!

With assessments and tests coming up, managing work can become really stressful. But with these tips, you can ensure that you hand in your assignments on time, stay focused, and achieve good results.

## Top 8 tips for studying :)

Create a study schedule: Plan ahead and set aside specific times for studying. This will help you stay organized and avoid procrastination.

Find a comfortable and quiet place to study: Distractions can prevent you from focusing on your studies, so make sure to find a quiet place where you can concentrate without interruptions such as homework club or a library.

Take breaks: Studying for long periods of time can be exhausting, so taking short breaks can help you recharge and stay focused.

Pay attention in class and take notes: make sure to pay attention in class and take notes about the material being studied. Figure out what type of learner you are (e.g. visual learner, verbal learner, reading/writing learner, physical learner) and base your study techniques accordingly.

Test yourself: Practice makes perfect! Test yourself regularly by taking quizzes or reviewing flashcards.

Get enough sleep: A good night's sleep is essential for cognitive function and memory retention, so make sure to get enough rest before a big

Stay motivated: Set goals and reward yourself after completing tasks. Surround yourself with positive influences that encourage and support your academic goals.

Seek help when needed: Don't be afraid to ask for help from teachers, tutors, or classmates if you are struggling with a particular subject or assignment. There are also many online resources available, such as forums, videos, and study groups, that can help.



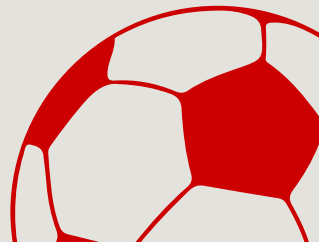
# year seven gala day

what happened on the year 7 gala day!

On Tuesday the 17th of October, the Year 7 cohort had Gala Day. They played against Rouse Hill HS, Kellyville HS, and their own peers. The games were netball (girls only), basketball (boys only) and soccer and touch footy for both boys and girls.



Throughout the day, they played 4 games per team. The weather varied from them being "slow - cooked" to being soaked when playing soccer in the rain. Overall, they had a competitive, exciting and enjoyable experience which they will cherish as one of their many Year 7 memories.







# env. Taronga Zoo

Environment Leader zoo visit and sustainability talk



On Thursday 19th October, 7 environment leaders travelled to Taronga Zoo to learn about sustainability and climate action. Over 20 schools attended with each presenting a short speech on what their school offered; which ranged from school farms to return and earn. All schools then needed to arrange another expo for grades 4-6, teaching them about sustainability and its importance on another day. Shortly after, leaders roamed the zoo spotting many animals up close such as adorable otters and penguins to ferocious tigers and lions! To top the day off, a ferry trip was taken home leaving everyone with an exhausted but joyful day.





# Halloween Activities!

3 ingredient Ghost shortbread cookies, find a word

## Easy 4 ingredient ghost cookies

### instructions:

- In a stand mixer fitted with a paddle attachment, beat butter and vanilla extract until creamed.
- Add confectioners sugar and salt; mix until combined.
- Scrape bowl down and add flour while beating on low. Scrape bowl once more and mix until combined.
- Shape the dough into the shape of a ghost, wrap in plastic and chill until firm. At least an hour.
- Preheat oven to 177C. Use a sharp knife to cut 1/2 inch thick slices and poke holes out with a straw to form eyes for the ghost
- Place slices, spaced at least an inch apart onto a baking sheet lined with a silicone mat or parchment paper.
- Bake for about 10 minutes, rotating baking sheet in the oven halfway through.
- Transfer to a wire sheet to cool.

### INGREDIENTS

- 10 tbsp unsalted butter unsalted butter, at room temperature 142g
- 1/2 cup confectioners' sugar
- 1/2 teaspoon pure vanilla extract
- 1 1/2 cups all-purpose flour 180g
- 1/2 teaspoon kosher salt optional



## Halloween Find-A-Word

P	P	E	S	P	E	O	T	C	K	A	O	T	B
C	R	R	B	L	A	C	K	C	A	T	A	A	B
H	D	R	I	O	A	T	H	A	Y	I	S	E	K
H	A	H	B	R	R	A	N	E	Y	S	N	R	O
A	I	S	W	N	I	K	P	M	U	P	O	T	O
R	O	R	O	C	T	O	B	E	R	O	I	R	B
S	K	E	L	E	T	O	N	D	T	O	T	O	Z
R	G	H	O	S	T	E	O	N	E	K	A	K	Y
A	O	B	P	S	P	I	W	O	R	Y	R	C	S
C	O	A	Z	O	M	B	I	E	O	N	O	I	C
S	C	T	K	I	H	C	A	D	Y	R	C	R	B
H	C	T	I	H	W	C	A	N	D	Y	E	T	M
O	B	L	E	T	E	R	A	D	E	K	D	A	U
H	A	U	N	T	E	D	M	A	N	S	I	O	N

- GHOST
- BAT
- BLACK CAT
- SKELETON
- OCTOBER
- CANDY
- HAUNTED MANSION
- PUMPKIN
- DECORATIONS
- ZOMBIE
- WHITCH
- SPOOKY
- TRICK-OR-TREAT



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