



FROM THE DESK OF MR. MURLEY

CCHS family,

I would like to say a huge "Thank You" to the faculty and staff at CCHS for pressing through this first semester and facing challenges, one after another. Your dedication to teaching the young people of Chester County is to be commended. Students, thank you for staying the course. From positive tests to multiple quarantines, you've pressed through and

have made it to the halfway point. Continue displaying Respect, Trust, & Honor in all you do. In these unprecedented times, I hope each and every one of you is able to spend time with your family over this Christmas season. I wish you a very Merry CHRISTmas and Happy New Year!! We look forward to seeing you back in January.

Clay Murley

Principal, Chester County High School



CONTENTS

CCHS News.....	2
Local News.....	6
Athletics.....	9
Spotlights.....	10
Holiday Section.....	16
Opinion.....	30

CCHS CLUB NEWS

BY JADEN FRAME

BETA INDUCTION

The Beta Club recently held an induction ceremony for new members. Sixty-four students were welcomed into the organization. At the ceremony, students were served breakfast, heard from senior Beta officers, and received their certificate and pin from the National Beta Club. To be eligible for the Beta club, a student must maintain an average of 92.5, have no behavior issues, and complete two community service projects per semester.



HOSA NEWS

HOSA members have been creating handmade Christmas cards for the residents at Heritage Towers to bring a little cheer this holiday season.

Those in clinical Internships are continuing to stay busy at their clinical sites, which includes working with local dentists, veterinarians, physical therapists, athletic trainers, pharmacists, nurse practitioners, and surgeons. Those interested in future internships should make sure they have all prerequisites.

HOSA also has twenty students signed up for Regional Competitions that will take place in January. Good luck to those competing!

CCHS CLUB NEWS

BY JADEN FRAME

FFA MEETS WITH CITY COUNCIL

On December 10, FFA officers and officer-elects made a presentation to the Henderson City Council in which they requested permission to house chickens at The Garden Shed on campus since doing so is against city ordinance. The council voted to make an exemption to the ordinance, allowing FFA to have 25 hens (nor roosters) strictly for educational purposes. The chickens must remain on school grounds. Those involved in the presentation were FFA president Tyler Pierce, as well as officers Caleb Arnold, Aja Stovall, Madison Woofter, Will Kemp, and Eli Newsom. Officer-elects Paul Jones, Abby Bartlett, Lexi Harwell, and Sydney Cherry, were also in attendance.



NEHS BOOK DRIVE

The CCHS chapter of the National English Honor Society recently completed its third annual book drive. Over 70 books were donated to classroom libraries in Chester County in an effort to give students more access to engaging texts and create lifelong readers.

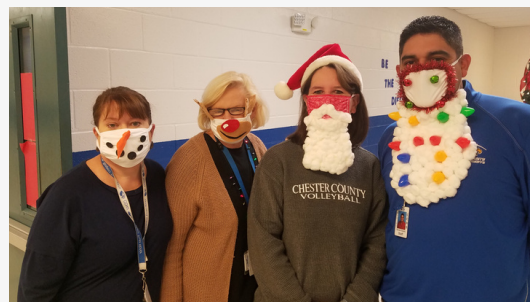
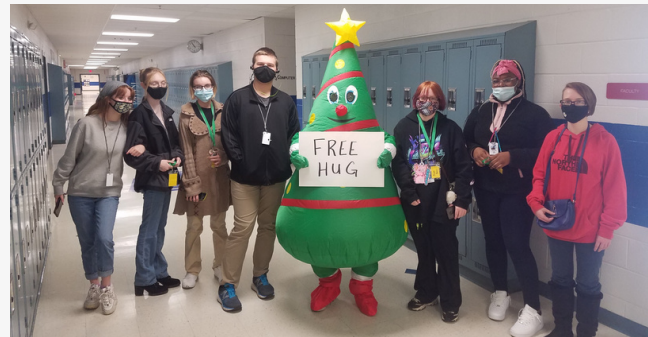
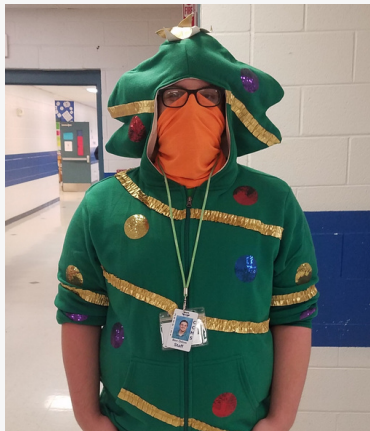
STUDENT COUNCIL ANGEL TREE

With the holidays approaching, the CCHS Student Council is helping Santa with their annual Angel Tree. Students and teachers have donated gifts that will be distributed to the preschoolers at the Chester County Head Start. Any extra gifts will be donated to the Carl Perkins Center. Thank you to those who helped make a child's Christmas brighter!

TALENT SHOW WINNERS

The CCHS Theater Department recently hosted a virtual talent show. The show was emceed by Board member Shane Connor and featured several of our talented students. The show was on You Tube; students and the community were invited to watch and then vote for their favorite act. The winners were announced on December 17. RJ Barboza received 1st place with his rendition of "Wagon Wheel," which he sang and played on guitar. Second place was secured by Emma McGaughy who beautifully sang "All I Want." Dani Brewer rounded out the top three with a video compilation of several pieces of artwork that featured her process for completing each one. The People's Choice award went to Luke Noles and Trenton Sweeney who sang the "Barenaked Ladies" song, "If I Had a Million Dollars."

CCHS GETS FESTIVE



PROJECT LIT

BY MRS. LEIGH ANN SKAGGS & ROSS LUDOLF

Project Lit is a grassroots movement that seeks to irrigate book deserts with relevant and engaging texts for teens. Started in Nashville, Tennessee, Project Lit now has over 1,700 chapters across the United States, and CCHS is proud to be part of this growing movement to get students reading! Each month, Project



Lit chooses a book to read and discuss; so far, Project Lit has read Born a Crime by Trevor Noah and Dear Martin by Nic Stone. This month, the group read Scythe by Neal Shusterman, which is the first book in the Arc of Scythe series. The group met on December 3 to discuss the book. The discussion included students' thoughts about the book, its characters, and the message it presents. Students agreed unanimously that they want to read book two in the Arc of Scythe trilogy, and several teachers who have read the entire series said that the next book is just as good as the first! Project Lit member Ross Ludolf writes, "Scythe is an extra-



ordinary book; the book came to life with every page I turned. Each turn of the page was something more to be revealed, to be found. The book is based in a futuristic society where no one dies, and overpopulation is an issue that must be addressed. The society uses Scythes to 'glean' people to solve this problem. Rowan and Citra, the central characters in the book and apprentice Scythes, never thought of themselves as the sort of people who would choose who had to die next, but they find themselves in that very situation. As Rowan and Citra learn how to 'glean' people in their society, their mentor, Scythe Faraday,

advises, 'Never lose your humanity or you'll be nothing more than a killing machine.' In Scythe, Rowan and Citra learn that becoming the honorable Scythe Faraday's apprentices will lead them down a path that opens more doors for them than they ever knew. The twists and turns in this book will keep you on the edge of your seat!"

Project Lit will be reading book two of the Arc of Scythe series next semester. Our next book will be Dear Justyce, the sequel to October's book, Dear Martin. Pick your copy up in the library. Project Lit would love for you to join!

HENDERSON CHRISTMAS PARADE

BY MADISON BREA

On Monday, December 7, Henderson held their annual Christmas parade hosted by the Chamber of Commerce and sponsored by Aeneas. Channing Carroll with the Chamber said, "We had a great turnout this year!" Participants and spectators were encouraged to wear masks and to social distance. For those who did not want to risk getting exposed or were not able to leave their homes, there was an option to watch the parade virtually through a live stream on Facebook.

There were two float categories that were judged--religious and civic. CCHS was represented well. The FFA float won 3rd place in the civic category, and the Student Health Council float placed Best Overall. The CCHS marching band also participated in the parade and won Best Performance Group. Many CCHS students and their families attended and enjoyed the parade, including Lauren Donaldson who shared, "My favorite part was watching it with my friends and seeing the Grinch. I thought the parade was a perfect length and all of the floats looked amazing."





GIVE A PUP A CHRISTMAS

2020 has definitely had its fair share of bad news and grief, but instead of focusing on the bad, CCHS junior Dani Brewer has decided to promote good by giving back to an organization here in Henderson. She has chosen to focus on the Henderson Animal Control shelter as her way of giving back to her community for Christmas.

Henderson Animal Control takes in dogs that have no place to call home and helps them find their new families. Those who volunteer at the pound make it their goal to find every dog brought in a forever home.

This year, Dani is hosting a "Santa Pup" Drive to give back to the local shelter. The shelter can

always use donations of dog treats, toys, and blankets for the runs to give the dogs a comfortable place to stay while they wait for their new family to come find them. On December 12 and 19 from 11:00 AM to noon, she will set up in the Chester County High School parking lot. People may bring food, toys, or any other essential item that can be used to help care for the dogs. The donated items will be delivered to the pound.

To help combat the bad times of 2020, we should all try to be the good in someone's day, even those of our four-legged friends. After all, the Cleveland Clinic says being generous is good for your health!

The Friends of City of Henderson
Animal Control group has an
Amazon Wishlist if you can't
drop off supplies on Saturday.
Scan the QR code to go to the
Amazon page.



ATHLETE OF THE MONTH

BY BROOKE THOMAS

Dalton Colbert is our December Athlete of the Month. Dalton is a senior on the CCHS boys basketball team. He is on the varsity team as point guard. Dalton has played all four years of high school. He has been playing basketball since he was seven. He says a good quality he has as a teammate is "pushing everyone to be better." He says that the goal for their team this year is to win over 15 games and make it to State. He says the most rewarding part about playing is all the support he gets. Dalton has scored over 1,000 points in his high school basketball career.



CCHS BASKETBALL

The Eaglettes started the month off strong with a 66-15 win over Humboldt, followed by a nail-biter of a game against Crockett County in which they lost by only one point (53-52). On December 7, the ladies traveled to South Gibson where they played hard but lost 51-44. They then faced off against the South Side Lady Hawks on Friday night but were defeated 66-38. The girls' current record is 5-4.



Photo courtesy of Kendall Patterson



Photo courtesy of Kendall Patterson

In the Eagles' December 1 matchup against Humboldt, our boys were defeated 65-59 but came back in their next game against defeated Crockett County 64-49. Their next two games both resulted in losses against South Gibson (63-59) and South Side (83-64). The boys' current record is 3-6.

The games that were scheduled for Tuesday, December 15 at CCHS against Jackson North Side were cancelled and will be rescheduled for a later date.

SENIOR SPOTLIGHT

BY GRACE INGRAM AND DANIEL BALDINI



Haylé Bates is completing her final year at CCHS. She is very involved inside and outside of school. She is a member of FFA and her extracurricular activities include managing the cheer team and playing tennis. Her favorite high school memory is falling down the bleachers her freshmen year. Haylé says what she will miss most about CCHS are all the teachers and staff. After graduation, she plans on attending college and earning a bachelor's degree in social work and then earning her master's degree in child psychology. Haylé's advice to underclassmen is, "Don't try and leave so soon. Time flies by, you'll get there soon enough."

Senior Clay Webb plays for the CCHS baseball team and says his favorite high school memory is winning the Regional championship during his sophomore year. He encourages others to take automotive classes and says, "Mr. Carter is the best teacher you will have." He also recommends that underclassmen "get all of your required classes out of the way, that way you can relax your junior and senior year." After graduation he is plans on attending lineman school. Clay says he will miss baseball, seeing friends and shop classes.



Best of luck to both of you as you begin your last semester here at CCHS.



HOLIDAY MATH RIDDLE!

Nick has a box of ornaments that he uses to decorate his tree each year.
All of them are blue, except for six.
All of them are green, except for six.
All of them are red, except for six.
How many of each colored ornament does Nick have?



How many total squares are in the diagram?

(Hint: Some squares are overlapping!)



(answers on next page)

ACADEMIC SPOTLIGHT

BY HUNTER PERRY



Junior Hayleigh Smith currently has a 4.0 GPA. She is a member of HOSA, NEHS, Beta, and Mu Alpha Theta. Her favorite class is Spanish II with Señor Moore because "he is a phenomenal teacher who makes learning Spanish more enjoyable." Haleigh finds English Comp I and Anatomy and Physiology--both college courses--to be her most challenging classes. Her advice to those seeking success is, "Define your own success, achieve what you want to achieve. Do not let your own success be defined by others. Success means something different to everyone."

After graduation, Haleigh plans to attend college and receive a bachelor's degree in biology or chemistry. She then intends to go to medical school, possibly to become a surgeon.

OUR SHINING "STAR"

BY KATERINA NORTHAM

This month's Shining STAR is Justin Puente, a senior here at CCHS. His favorite thing about coming to school is gym class. He enjoys learning about science, and his favorite teacher is Mrs. Hatch. In his free time, he enjoys listening to music and riding his bike. Throughout Justin's day, his friend Shawn makes him smile. Justin believes what makes him stand out is that he is a caring person. "When someone is being picked on," he says, "I can't stand for it. I try to get it resolved as fast as I possibly can." Thank you Justin for making CCHS a brighter place!



ANSWERS TO RIDDLES



Nick has 9 ornaments in total: 3 blue, 3 green, and 3 red.
There are 14 total squares (15 if you count the square at the center of the bow on the wreath)



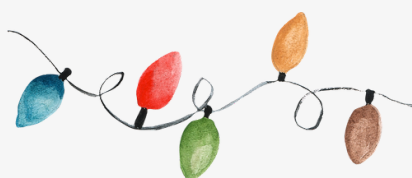
CTE SPOTLIGHT

BY BRIANNA ARROYO



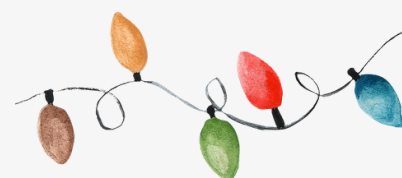
Freshman Dani Eldridge is our CTE Spotlight this month. She is in the Teaching as a Profession program, where she enjoys interacting with both the teacher and the students. Dani says, "We all get along and have so much fun in that class. We learn about different teaching styles and ways to grab students' attention. One thing I enjoy about the class is I get to be myself and don't have to worry about being judged because we're all pretty goofy in that class anyway. I also get to express my artsy side with my presentations." Dani believes what she

is learning in the program will benefit her in the future. She says, "I've learned the different types of ways students learn and how to focus on all types of learning to make sure you're reaching every students' learning abilities. For example, one kid may be an auditory learner while the other student may be more of a visual learner. And another may be hands-on." Dani says, "I've pretty much always wanted to be a teacher. I just couldn't figure out what subject. I'm stuck between becoming an English teacher or a junior high or high school band director." Dani has had many teachers who have influenced her along the way. "Two people that inspired me were Mrs. Varvel and Mr. Montgomery. Mrs. Varvel was one of my favorite teachers, mainly because she was pretty chill and most everyone loved her. That's the type of teacher I want to be: someone students can trust and tell anything. Mr. Montgomery has made my love for music grow even more. He picks some classical pieces for our concerts. There's nothing like classical music." Outside of the classroom, Dani is involved in local theater and has been in shows such as Lion King, Aladdin, Willy Wonka and Beauty and the Beast. She says, "Some of my friends wonder why I don't take theater. I'm not looking to major in theater. It is mostly a fun side thing." She is also in the CCHS Marching Band, which she says is very fun. In the future, Dani plans to graduate and attend Freed-Hardeman University. She wants to either major in music or English and hopes to get a job at CCHS or someplace very similar to it. She'd like her own kids to grow up in Chester County someday. In her future career, Dani wants to be a teacher that her students can relate to. She believes that "a student will not listen to what you have to say until you show them you care."



TEACHER OF THE MONTH

BY KATIE LOVELACE



This month, we would like to recognize one of our newest teachers, Mr. Tristan Arnold. This is his first year at CCHS, where he teaches Algebra I and Algebra II. Mr. Arnold has a B.A. in Secondary Education and a B.A. in Mathematics. He has always enjoyed giving people that “ah-ha” moment, which inspired him to teach. “Someone who knows that all students are different and is willing to put in the work to cover their range of needs,” is what he believes makes a good teacher. Although there are difficult parts to teaching, such as the uncertainty of how any given class will go, there are always rewarding parts that come with it as well. To Mr. Arnold, the most rewarding part

is “seeing a concept ‘click’ with a student.” Finally, Mr. Arnold would like to give a sincere “thank you” to all of the students who have been “diligently wearing their masks and patiently suffering through the annoying necessity of quarantine.”

WORDS OF WISDOM

BY BROOKLYN RUSH

The author of this quote, Ruth Carter Stapleton, was a Christian evangelist, who got her Bachelor’s degree in English and married a veterinarian named Robert Stapleton. She later died at the age of 54 due to pancreatic cancer. I chose this quote because I thought it could apply to everyone, not just students. I think that it is important to remember that giving and showing love to others during Christmas time is truly magical. You never know what someone is going through during this time and showing love to someone may just make their day a lot better!

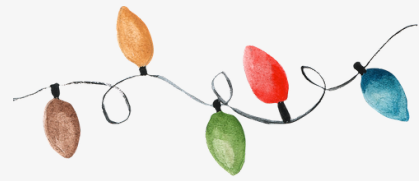
“
Christmas is most
truly Christmas
when we celebrate
it by giving the
light of love
to those who
need it most.

RUTH CARTER STAPLETON



GOOD HUMAN AWARD

BY AMERIAH ROSE



We have students here at CCHS who are admired by both their peers and their teachers. These young men and women have positive attitudes and are hard workers. They are often involved in different aspects of school life and in their community. They are what we at The Wingspan simply call a "good human."

Sophomore Evan Hutcherson was nominated by Mrs. Brianne Matheney who says, "Evan is an all-around great student! He has a fun personality but knows when to be serious. He treats others with kindness and truly demonstrates the principles of respect, trust, and honor."

Not only does Evan have a 3.8 GPA, he is also involved in many extra-curricular activities at CCHS, including Beta, HOSA, and NEHS. Outside of school, he is very involved in church at Sanford Hill Baptist Church, and he works at Snookum's Steakhouse. He also enjoys practicing baseball and golf during his free time. Evan's favorite classes are history and geometry because he says, "I really like my teachers." After graduation, he wants to go to college to be a physical therapist.



Evan's philosophy on life is, "Be your best self and concentrate on things that can improve your future life." He added, "Life is like a sandwich, no matter which way you flip it, the bread comes first."

Snow Day Superstitions

If you want a snow day, here are some "tricks" to bring on those flakes!

- Turn your pajamas inside out
- Tuck a spoon under your pillow
- Brush your teeth with the opposite hand
- Put white crayons in the window sills
- Eat lots and lots of ice cream

*Let
It
Snow*

CCHS STAFF SPOTLIGHT

BY KACEY SMITH



Mrs. Vicki Garland is a beautiful, hard-working woman who has been the office secretary at CCHS for six years. She and her husband, David, have one daughter, Hollie Shea. She lives in Colorado with her husband, Derek. In her free time, Mrs. Vicki likes to paint on wood and canvas and paint wall murals. She has always enjoyed playing basketball, waterskiing, roller skating, and photography. She loves to travel, especially to the beach because she says she finds it "peaceful and relax-

ing." She also travels to Colorado to visit her daughter and son-in-law which she describes as a "highlight of her life." While there they sightsee in quaint towns such as Fruita and Grand Junction.

In addition to her family, Mrs. Vicki has a second family here at CCHS! She says, "Being a part of the CCHS family is among some of my greatest blessings! From the moment I began working here, I felt blessed, loved, cared for and surrounded by Christian people who make every day a good day, one filled with fun, laughter, support and encouragement." Her favorite thing about her job is "helping parents and students feel comfortable, knowing teachers and staff are concerned about their education and safety on a daily basis." There are also challenges since the office is a very fast-paced environment where "multiple tasks have to be handled all at the same time." Mrs. Vicki says, "I truly enjoy having the opportunity to work with such awesome co-workers!"



Winter has arrived! Any Chester County student who is in need of a winter coat should contact Mrs. Heather Griffin or Mrs. Amy Eads at Eagle's Edge. Coats will be provided for free. Please send either lady an email to schedule a pick-up time.

'TWAS THE WEEK BEFORE CHRISTMAS BREAK

A PARODY BY MRS GARNER'S 2ND PERIOD CREATIVE WRITING CLASS



'Twas the week before Christmas and all through the school,
The students were living on Bang and Red Bull.
As they counted the days until Friday arrived,
Their serotonin levels started to rise!

Mr. Swain was decking West Hall with holly.
Señor Moore was feeling a tad melancholy.
Laughing, Ms. Hatch stuffed stockings with care,
While Ms. Irwin's cinnamon rolls' scent filled the air.

Ms. Haltom was wearing her holiday sweater,
And Mr. Murley reminded us all to act better.
Looking for hoodies, McPeake had a ball,
As he watched like an Elf on the Shelf in the hall

On that final day the bell rang for dismissal
The students shot of out of the doors like a missile.
"On Seniors, on Juniors, on Sophomores and Freshmen!
Your break has begun! School's no longer in session!"

The Eagles at last were free from their cage.
The brains of the teachers would now disengage.
A break for two weeks from those words they all knew...
"Please check your attendance" from Mr. Belew.

A CCHS CHRISTMAS

BY MR. JONATHAN PATEL AND MR. JOSH MOORE

'Twas the week before Christmas, when all
through the school
All the teachers were stirring, trying to keep cool;
The grades had to be put in, and the kids cried
"No fair!"
In hopes that extra credit soon would be there;

The children sat silent, longing for their beds,
While they practiced their Tik-Tok dances in
their heads;
And Haltom in her sweater and Clay in his Vols
hat,
Had just settled in for an administrative chat,

When out in the halls there arose such a clatter,
They sprang from their chairs to see what was
the matter.
Away to quad, they flew like a flash
Pushed through the crowds and broke into a
dash

A fight amongst the teachers; over what they did
not know
All they heard was shouting; something about a
rhino?
When what do you think that they should see?
But students wandering the halls constantly
getting tardy.

COVID cases on the rise, more in quarantine
And teachers are desperately trying to cope with
caffeine.
All of us have so many questions to ask,
Like "How do we teach virtually?" and "What's a
literacy task?"

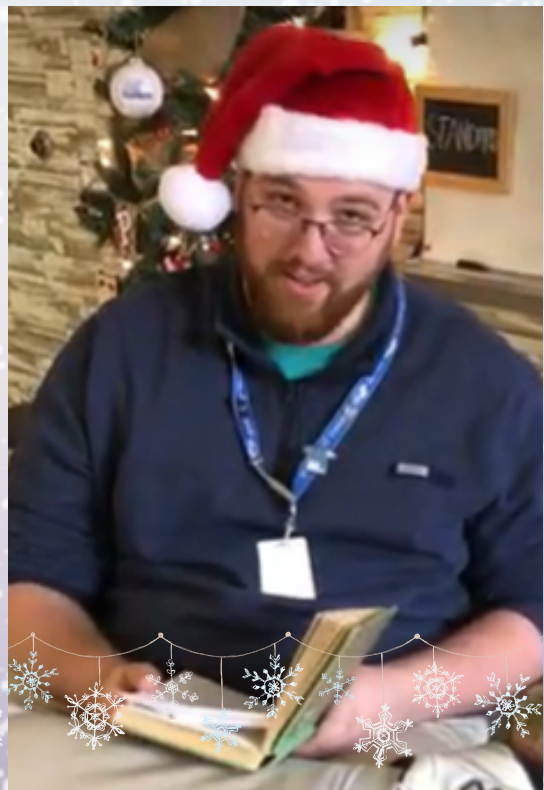
Frustrations are building and tensions are high
Constant worrying and we're ready to cry
Daily stresses begin to mound
But then the Christmas spirit comes 'round!

'In a sleigh full of goodies put our worries to rest
With sanitizer and masks in a buggy pushed by
Wes
Soda and chocolate should make us less antsy
In the Wal-Mart cart that belonged to Ms. Nancy

"On Leigh Ann, on Stewart, on Showers and Jeff!
On Kathy and Vickie on which the name Garland
rests!
On Carter and Hatch, Brown and Belew!"
The admins come riding, bringing gifts for me and
you!

So it is at Chester County High
Where we do what we can, and you know? We get
by.
Respect is aplenty, Trust is undoubted
Honor for our school and character is founded

So from all of us Eagles to all of you in sight
Merry Christmas to all, and to all a Good Night!



WHAT HOLIDAY TREAT ARE YOU?

BY MIA HALL



1) Which teacher do you feel you're most like?

- A. Mr. Beaver
- B. Mrs. Hatch

2) How would you decorate your Christmas tree?

- A. Everything coordinated. Very sophisticated.
- B. Crazy, mismatched tree! I want it festive!

3) What would you ask to get for Christmas?

- A. Something practical. like air pods
- B. Something meaningful, like a personalized photo album.

4) How big is your family gathering?

- A. Massive! Everyone comes!
- B. Tiny, just my immediate family

5) What is your favorite class?

- A. Algebra
- B. English

6) Which school pizza do you like better: breakfast or lunch?

- A. Breakfast pizza
- B. Lunch pizza

RESULTS:

If you chose mostly A's, you are salted caramel.

If you chose mostly B's, you are a sugar cookie.





WHAT'S WRONG WITH XMAS?

BY DEVIN AUSTIN



December 25. For most people, just hearing the date brings forth the thought of familial celebration and holiday cheer. There is one thing associated with the holidays that we don't typically think about, though, and that's the name. Most people don't pay much attention to it (and with good reason, it doesn't detract from holiday enjoyment), but certain groups have been up in arms over the "Xmas vs Christmas" debate. Many cite that "Xmas" is an attempt to remove the Christian roots from the holiday in favor of commercialization. However, it's important to examine the origins of the religion and, more specifically, Christmas itself.

Christianity spread throughout the world after the death of Christ, and the Roman Empire especially was not immune to this. The Roman Emperor Constantine I reported that he dreamt of a heavenly symbol that he was ordered to put on the shields of his men. The next day, at the Battle of the Milvian Bridge, he emerged victorious against fierce enemy forces. This symbol became an early sign for Christ, known as the Chi Rho ($\chi\rho$). Many years later, the term "X'temmas" appeared in England, followed by "Xmas" in the 16th century. This was accepted for centuries until, in the late 20th century, American churches and news organizations attacked the term for being "paganist in nature" and a "Jewish conspiracy to outlaw the name of Christ." Despite the best efforts of historians and academics to explain that 'X' is simply an abbreviation for Christ, the misunderstanding persists to this day.

It is this writer's opinion that whatever you call it, or whether you're religious, agnostic, or atheistic, we can all enjoy the many things that make this time of year special: giving, being given to, and spending precious time with people you love.



YOU MAY NOT BELIEVE THIS...



Last month's story was shared by Mrs. Ally Rogers. She was handed a baby by a stranger! Can you figure out which faculty or staff member shared this month's fun fact about their life? Email your correct answer or guess to Mrs. Amber Garner and win a Taco Bell gift card!

"I went to Astronaut High School, I've been chased by a gator in a canoe and lived to tell about it, and I broke my leg and found the love of my life in return."

THE TRUE-ISH ORIGIN OF SANTA CLAUS

BY HALEY HEENAN

Santa Claus, Kris Kringle, Saint Nick. All of these are common names for the “man with the bag” who visits every December 24th. But, surely, even this magical man must have had a beginning, right?

Santa Claus, actually named Nicholas, was born 280 A.D. He grew up in a village called Myra in present-day Turkey. Due to the shorter lifespan of people during this time, he lost his parents at only nine years old. His handsome inheritance also included his parents' inn. The church looked over him while he continued to run his parents' business. At the inn, Nicholas heard an interesting piece of gossip, as one does at



an inn. A single father of three girls had lost all of his money to a poor investment and now had no dowry for his daughters (yes, outdated, but it was 280 AD, mind you). Nicholas heard this story and was heartbroken. That night he decided to sneak into the family's house and leave each girl a comfortable account of money so she could be married; this way, the father's pride would not be hurt by having to accept charity.

Of course, like any amateur, Nicholas messed up and had to try a few times before it was finally right. Doing this deed filled Nicholas with so much joy that he could not help but keep giving. If he heard of a person in need, that person would wake to find presents left by their bed. Soon the town began to gossip about this “mysterious gift-giver.”

As Nicholas grew up, he became a bishop by day and devoted his nights to giving people gifts of food or clothing or money. He did this his entire life and at age 63 (very old for that time) began setting his affairs in order.

(continued)

In the middle of the night, Nicholas snuck out of his house and left town to give in other places. He met a Roman slave called Felix in 343 AD and they traveled together for years, giving gifts in the night and living off of the bare minimum since all of their money went to giving in secret to the poor. It wasn't until 67 years later that they realized they hadn't aged a day. Nicholas was 136, which is unheard of. Felix was 102.



To make a very long story shorter, Nicholas, dubbed "Saint Nicholas" after his death, met a woman named Layla in 412 AD. She would, after an interesting meeting, become his wife. The group of three found that they did not age and that they could also travel further than a normal person could. The journeys spanned anywhere

from 80 to 100 miles per day, whereas most people were lucky to make it 15. As the years wore on, this group gained more members, such as King Arthur, Attila the Hun, Leonardo DaVinci, and Theodore Roosevelt, just to name a few. Time wore on and the group decided they should focus on giving to children on December 6th, 25th, and January 6th (to celebrate the varying beliefs of when Christ was born). Instead of giving necessities that would be quickly used, they gave toys so that children from poor families had something to look forward to and to play with every day.

Now, I know this does not answer all of your questions; Does he work in the North Pole? Yes. Does he have elves that make toys for him? No. Does he look like the Santa from the Coke bottle? Yes. Does he have flying reindeer? Technically, yes. If you want to learn more about Santa and his origins, I suggest you read The Autobiography of Santa Claus by Jeff Guinn (as told to him by Santa).

Now, this has grown lengthy, so, allow me to bid you adieu with a quote attributed to Ol' Saint Nicholas: "Happy Christmas to all, and to all a good-night!"



We asked some of our students to write letters to Santa. Some shared their Christmas wishlist while others asked Jolly Old St. Nick for more serious gifts. A few took this opportunity to be silly and spread some holiday cheer--and humor.

Dear Santa,

I want a brand new car. A convertible please. Maybe the newest model of a Volkswagen Beetle. Yellow or red please. I also would like the iPhone 12. Rose gold if you don't mind. Please be sure to bring a clear case to show off the color. I'd also like some more film for my Polaroid camera and a new carrying case for my camera. I don't know if this is your type of gift to give, but I would love some cold, hard cash!

Dear Santa,

We have Rudolph in our possession. His little shiny nose will be worth a couple million. If you want him to guide your sleigh tonight, bring us 30,000 unmarked sugar cookies, 15,000 candy canes, a PS5, and a Xbox Series X all before Christmas Eve. Time's ticking Santa. If you're too late, Rudolph won't be playing any reindeer games. Drop the payment at the house with five sugar cookies on a plate, on the front porch. See you soon Old Saint Nick.

Dear Santa,

For Christmas I am asking for a Macbook for my college classes next year! I also want some new clothes and shoes! Additionally I want money and gift cards!

Dear Santa,

All I want for Christmas is young Leonardo DiCaprio. That's all. Thank you for your time. Also, if you wanted... I would like the Garmin Forerunner 645 movie music watch. But Leo will do just fine.

Dear Santa,

This year I have decided to keep my list short due to Covid-19. Remember to wear your mask when going from house to house. For my Christmas list, I want a brand new car, a rocket ship, a new V purse, the will to live, less stress, maybe some candy, jewelry, a necklace with my initials on it, some new new shoes (*Extra New* specifically, Nike or Adidas, because mine have holes in them). I'm a super fast runner so I wear out shoes pretty darn fast. I would also like all Post Malone merchandise on his web page and his Crocs and all his records for my record player. And Santa, don't forget to get something for yourself; it's okay to be selfish every once in a while. P.S. I left cookies under the tree.

Dear Santa,

Knowing that you will be busy this year, I will keep my list short. I would like to receive copies of the manga Bleach. I would also wish for more people to get in touch with their inner Christmas Spirit. I wish for my family members to be able to come together from the years of being apart.

Dear Santa,

This year has been a not-so-good year. If I could, I would wish for you to take away Corona. However, I know you cannot. so . . . money would be the best gift. If you want you could also bring clothes, Hey Dudes, and gift cards to just about any food place.

Dear Santa,

Knowing that you will be very busy this year, I will not ask for much. My wish for a Christmas gift is the gift of companionship. This year has left all of us very isolated and lonely, and I want to spend my time with friends and family.

Dear Santa,

For Christmas I want all seasons of That 70's Show on DVD because they took it off of Netflix and I'm mad about it. Also jewelry.

LIGHTS OF FIVE POINTS

BY MK MILLER AND AMBER GARNER

Over the past six years, a new traditions has begun for many residents in Chester County. From Thanksgiving to Christmas, people come from all around to see the Christmas Lights of Five Points. Located at 36 Pierce Road in the Five Points Community (near Pinson), Mr. Bill Hollamon and his family transform their home and property into a light show synchronized to music. Visitors park in front of the house, tune in their radios, and get in the Christmas spirit as they watch the lights sparkle and dance.



Mr. Hollamon grew up going to see Christmas lights with his family. He says, "Dad & Mom would always drive us around. We would go as far as Memphis to see them. I guess that's where it started." Seeing all of the technology available, he decided to not only decorate with lights,

but to create a light show set to music. The display is a labor of love, as it takes the Hollamons about four weeks to put up the thousands of lights and about two weeks to take them down, but he says he's usually programming the lights a few additional weeks.

According to Mr. Hollamon, approximately 3,000-3,500 people come through each year. He has a special way to keep track. "The way I know is that we pass out peppermint candy to all that come by," he says. "I buy 3500 pieces of wrapped peppermint in bulk, so I know how much I have to start with. Some years we run out, and have to buy more." Unfortunately, they will not be passing out candy this year due to COVID-19.

For those who have made the Lights of Five Points part of their yearly tradition, there are some new elements for 2020. Mr. Hollamon says, "I programmed the lights to a new song this year, 'A Christmas Twist' and also added a couple of small trees. We're up to eight songs now and the show lasts about 20 minutes."

The Hollamons use this opportunity to collect donations for the Rein-Bow Riding Academy, where children with varying abilities receive therapy while riding a horse. "It's called 'Hippotherapy,'" he says, "It is an awesome program."

MY PLAYLIST - CHRISTMAS EDITION

BY MK MILLER

I picked these songs because they are great songs in general, but it's Christmas time; a time to get into the holiday spirit! These songs have brought joy to millions, and I hope they bring joy to you during these crazy times.

"All I Want for Christmas is You" by Mariah Carey - It is the "Christmas Anthem." There is absolutely no better song to listen to nonstop

"Dance of the Sugar Plum Fairy" by Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky - This song is played in The Nutcracker, which is a spectacular show. Whether or not you enjoy the ballet, everyone can enjoy this classical Christmas hit. If you're feeling in the mood for some epic music, give Disney's The Nutcracker And The Four Realms rendition of it a listen.

"Run Run Rudolph" by Chuck Berry - This is a very "swinging" song that you can party to all season long. It is one of the best oldies that still slaps to this day.

"God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen" by the Pentatonix - They sing this song without the accompaniment of instruments. It is a more modern take on the classic song and gives it a little more flavor than most classical Christmas songs.

"Happy X-mas (War Is Over)" by John Lennon - I chose this song for this year because there is no better way to wrap up this year than with this song. The heartache of this year is not over and will never be forgotten, but this is a song of hope for the New Year.



CHRISTMAS REFLECTIONS

BY ANNA HOWELL

Everyone has heard the classic Christmas story. Mary and Joseph were the seemingly average couple and were engaged to be married. Mary historically would've been about 16 or 17 years old. Much to her surprise an angel appeared to her and told her she would have a child. Of course Mary, being a virgin, thought it impossible but the Bible tells us in Luke 1:37, "For nothing is impossible with God." Mary had to have been terrified, though, because she was an unmarried woman. In the time, women could be divorced for infidelity or even also stoned to death.

At first when Joseph found out Mary was pregnant, he planned to just divorce her quietly and not ruin her reputation. An angel appeared to Joseph in a dream and told him to trust Mary. The angel also told him the child should be called Jesus. Mary and Joseph were an incredible example of not only faith in God but also a very strong relationship with each other. Joseph could have left Mary and the baby, but he stayed and pursued a faithful and strong relationship with Mary and their son, Jesus.

We can learn from their faith and persistence in their relationship to better ourselves and our own lives. God's plan for us isn't always the same as the plan we have in mind. Many times things go wrong in life, but it's all part of a bigger picture. No matter what, God is still good. With faith and love, Mary and Joseph got through the unexpected events in their lives. We can learn from that by staying strong in our relationship with God and with the people in our daily lives.



DID YOU KNOW?

BY STEPHANIE GUTIERREZ

- Christmas decorating sends nearly 15,000 people to the ER each year.
- Last year, the U.S. Postal Service delivered around 910 million packages and almost 15 billion pieces of Mail between Thanksgiving and New Years.
- This year, Americans are expected to spend, on average, \$998 on gifts, holiday items, and other expenses during the holiday season.
- Studies found that the average American consumes 7,000 calories on Christmas Day, which is three times the recommended daily intake!
- At 225 tons, the Statue of Liberty is the world's heaviest gift. France constructed it and gave it to the U.S. in late October 1886 as an early Christmas present.
- If you gave all the gifts listed in the Twelve Days of Christmas, it would equal 364 gifts.

WEIRD & WACKY: CHRISTMAS TRADITIONS

BY HUNTER ATKINSON

There are many strange and creative ways that people around the world celebrate Christmas. In Japan, instead of the traditional turkey, they eat Kentucky Fried Chicken. In Norway people hide their brooms from "leftover witches" in their town on Christmas Eve because this day also coincides with when they believe evil spirits come out. The town of San Fernando has been nicknamed the "Christmas Capital of the Philippines." In mid-to-late December, they hold the Giant Lantern Festival, which features 20-foot lanterns with 10,000 lights and music. Each year, different towns around the world

try to break the Guinness World Record for "most elves in one place." Mobile, Alabama has tried a couple of times to break the record with their event called "Elfapalooza," but the record still belongs to Bangkok, Thailand at the moment of writing. Finally, Chandler, Arizona is home to the biggest Christmas tree. But it's no normal Christmas tree. It's made of tumbleweeds! This 60-year-old tradition involves 1,000 tumbleweeds stacked to 25 feet tall, shaped into a tree and covered in glitter and lights! It's easy to think that your Christmas is the "right Christmas" but there is truly no "right" way to celebrate.



DECEMBER CELEBRATIONS

BY MIA DYER

While most of us in Henderson celebrate Christmas, there are many other holidays celebrated during this time of year. It is important that respect is shown to these holidays, and it is also important to educate ourselves on cultures with which we are less familiar.

Kwanzaa originates from Dr. Maulana Karenga, a professor of Black Studies. He got the idea to create Kwanzaa in 1966, after becoming inspired by the Watts riots in Los Angeles. He hoped to bring the black community together after such an awful event, so he researched African harvest celebrations and combined traditions of several of them to create the Kwanzaa we know today. Celebrations of Kwanzaa are often very festive and include singing and dancing, music, storytelling, and a large traditional meal. The holiday takes place across seven days, from December 26 through the first of January. Kwanzaa includes the lighting of seven candles--three red, three green and one black--on each of the seven days. The candles represent the Nguzo Saba, which are seven principles that the African people hold dear to their culture: unity, self-determination, collective work and responsibility, cooperative economics, purpose, creativity, and faith. The colors represent key values to the African people: red represents the blood shed in their fight for freedom, green represents Africa's fertile land, and black represents the unity of the African people. Kwanzaa isn't meant to replace Christmas in any way. It is a cultural celebration, not religious.



Hanukkah actually does not appear in the Torah, the Jewish sacred text. This is because the events that inspired the holiday happened after it was written. Hanukkah originates from an event that occurred during the second century B.C. in Jerusalem. The Jews fought against their Greek-Syrian oppressors in an event that would be called the Maccabean Revolt and drove them out. To commemorate this momentous occasion, the Jews wanted to reclaim the temple, and light the menorah. To their dismay, they found that there was only enough olive oil for

(continued)

single day. However, this one day extended to eight and was considered a miracle to the Jewish people. This is why Hanukkah takes place over eight days in December. The Festival of Lights, as it is called, includes the lighting of the menorah, eating traditional foods, and the giving of gifts each night. The central Hanukkah celebration includes the lighting of a nine-branched menorah. On each day of the eight days, a candle is added to the menorah after sundown. Then the **shamash**, or the ninth candle, is used to light the others. For this ritual, Jews often recite blessings and display the lit menorah on a windowsill.

Regardless of the celebration, Christmas, Hanukah, and Kwanzaa are all opportunities for families to come together, reflect on what is important, and make memories.

REVIEW: THE GRINCH (2018)

BY MK MILLER



This rendition of The Grinch is a mediocre, almost forgettable movie, though the animation is very cute and whimsical. The setting is the best part of the movie. The town and the mountains are beautiful and bright. The Whos are very cute, but the Grinch is a little too cute in my opinion. He's supposed to be a mean character, looking mean both inside and out. In this movie, they have stripped the Grinch of his grouchiness and replaced it with a depressed green teddy bear. Although I liked what they were trying to accomplish, it did not end like they hoped it would.

I like it when a remake of a movie tries to do something different, but not when it completely changes the most important parts of the main character. They introduce him as a mean character and do a good job of showing it in the first few scenes, but he gets nicer as the movie progresses, which is the opposite of what is supposed to happen. He is supposed to be driven to peak meanness when he steals the presents, but it seems to me he is at one of his nicest points. It seems strange that he should steal Christmas after being so nice. Also, the scene where the Grinch squats right in the camera with the bright pink short shorts is just weird, but it's an Illumination film, so what can you expect? I can see how some would like the movie, though. It's simple, easy to follow, and less extreme than the live-action Grinch. The movie is good for children under the age of 6, but beyond that I would recommend Jim Carrey's The Grinch, which I give four out of five stars.



Now that Christmas is right around the corner, it is always fun to throw in some festive recipes to celebrate and share the holiday spirit. Gingerbread cookies have been around as a Christmas tradition since 1793. My family has used gingerbread cookies as a fun snack mainly for the kids, but they are so good that our whole family enjoys eating them. Here is an easy and fun recipe that my family uses and that you can use to make delicious gingerbread cookies.

INGREDIENTS

3/4 c. (1 1/2 sticks) butter, softened	1 tbsp. ground ginger
3/4 c. packed brown sugar	1 tsp. baking soda
2/3 c. molasses	1 tsp. ground cinnamon
1 large egg	1/2 tsp. ground cloves
1 tsp. pure vanilla extract	1/4 tsp. ground nutmeg
3 1/4 c. all-purpose flour	1/2 tsp. kosher salt

In a large bowl using a hand mixer, beat butter, brown sugar, and molasses until fluffy, about 2 minutes. Add egg and vanilla and beat until combined.

In a medium bowl, whisk flour, spices, baking soda, and salt until combined. With the mixer on low, gradually add dry ingredients to wet ingredients, as well as fresh ginger, orange zest, and black pepper (if using), until dough just comes together. (Do not overmix!)

Divide dough in half and create two discs. Wrap each in plastic wrap and chill until firm, about 2 to 3 hours.

Preheat oven to 350° and line two large baking sheets with parchment paper. Place one disc of dough on a lightly floured surface and roll until 1/4" thick. Cut out gingerbread men with a 3" wide cutter and transfer to baking sheets.

Bake until slightly puffed and set, 9 to 10 minutes, depending on the size of your cookie cutters. Let cool on baking sheets for 5 minutes before transferring to a cooling rack to cool completely. Repeat with the remaining disc of dough. Decorate with icing and sprinkles as desired.



CHRISTMAS CLASSIC OR SEXIST SONG?



BY EMMA GILBERT



The question “What's in this drink?” could apply to different scenarios depending on context, but it's pretty obvious that someone drinking a drink should be told what's in it. And an answer of “no” should not be met with “but...” No one should be guilty or coerced into doing something with which they are not comfortable. That's why the holiday

song “Baby, It's Cold Outside” by Frank Loesser is extremely problematic and outright describes a man attempting to coerce a woman to spend the night.

There are several lyrics that point to this being an issue of consent. The theme and main issue of this song is a woman saying she doesn't want to stay and a man trying to get her to despite her refusal.

Another problem is reputation. We learn that she's worried about what “the neighbors might think” and how “there's bound to be talk tomorrow.” However, despite her not outright saying she doesn't want to stay because she specifically doesn't want to be with him, and he should respect and accept whatever reasons she gives for not wishing to stay.

Arguably the most troubling line is, “Say, what's in this drink?” Whether or not this lyric is alluding to her being drugged or just being given alcohol is debatable, but either way, she clearly doesn't know what's in her drink. He should have told her the contents of the drink so that she could tell him whether or not she wanted it. As it stands, there's a chance she's being drugged or influenced to staying with him against her will.

There are also issues with the lyric, “What's the sense of hurtin' my pride?” Using his feelings against her saying “no” is a form of manipulation. “How can you do this thing to me?” the song continues, “think of my lifelong sorrow.” He's trying to guilt trip her into staying with him, so he still has his pride and happiness, even though staying with him could possibly ruin her reputation, career, and life considering this was the 1940s. He clearly doesn't care about how she feels, though, considering how he pushes her to say “yes” throughout the entire song.

No matter the interpretation, “Baby, It's Cold Outside” is a Christmas classic that is problematic enough to be left out of any holiday playlists for the family.

WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE CHRISTMAS SONG?

BY TANAYA BROOKS

"I like 'All I Want For Christmas Is Food' by Adrisaurus because I really hate the original and I love food."

Scarlett Webb

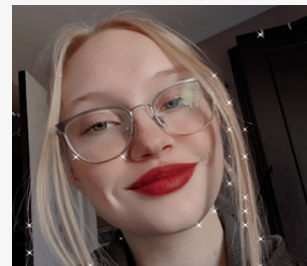


"'Santa Baby' covered by Linsey Sterling is my favorite because [the video] has a good mixture of ballet and violin. It made me want to do both violin and ballet."

Jaden Frame

"'Silent Night.' I love this song because of the music. When I listen to the instrumental I get all tingly."

Mia Hall

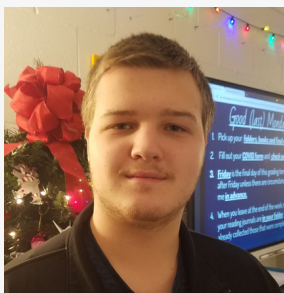


"'All I Want for Christmas is You' is my favorite just because it's one of the few classics I don't roll my eyes over, and all the covers of it keep it fresh and interesting."

Mia Dyer

"I personally like 'You're a Mean one Mr. Grinch' by Small Town Titans. It's the rock version of the original Grinch song. It gives off very good vibes. It's like the music I listen to, but Christmas-y. I highly recommend the listen."

Anna Howell



"I love 'You're a Mean one Mr. Grinch' as well. However, I like the original one better. I have always loved the tone it portrays about the Grinch. Not only that, but it easily gets you to go back to it."

Hunter Perry