

COMMODORE CHRONICLE



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Resolutions for 2021

Here is a sampling of some of the student submissions for the Chronicle. Some were edited for space. Thanks for all of the wonderful resolutions and stories shared by our students.



My 2021 resolution is to finish writing a book. I have always wanted to be a writer since I was little but I have never actually finished a book. I want to get even one step closer to the career that I want. I don't want to just write a children's book. I want to write a book with at least one hundred pages. I want it to be a fantasy book. I want to be able to draw the reader's attention and give them an interesting story. I know that it will take a while for people to start to even read my books, but I want to try. I won't get anywhere by just sitting around waiting for it to do itself. I want to make books that will make someone happy. Even if it is just one person. If someone read my book, that would be enough for me. I want to make books that will take someone into another world. I always read books and I love the sensation of almost being the character. I want more people to know what it feels like. It doesn't matter how popular I am, if someone looks forward to my next book, I will be happy.



2020 was an ...interesting... year to say the least. Many things happened that year. Some good, most bad. The good thing that came was the New Year. 2021 shines a ray of hope in this sea of hardships. Hopefully, this is the year we can change. For me, I want to be more motivated. I became very unmotivated during 2020; I could barely do anything. It has persisted into 2021, but I hope that it can go away. Working online has been very difficult. With the ability to get off any time, I easily get distracted and then panic when I have to get back to working. My sleep schedule has also gotten very messed up. It makes me exhausted in more ways than one. Overall, I just want to get out of this depression I've gotten myself into. 2020 was a terrible year, and may I wish 2021 will brighten this horrid time. I hope I can get better and I hope the world can too.



2020 was a hard year for everyone and a lot of people picked up new hobbies. Some people started to do art or go for hikes. Some people got new pets in 2020 to pass the time. Everyone did something different. I started to become interested in Volleyball. I practiced for a couple of months in my backyard about every day. I often played by myself which if I could have changed something about my hobbies in 2020 it would have been to work harder while practicing. Now that it is 2021 I want to try my hardest to make the Volleyball tryouts this year. I have never played a sport before but I can't wait to try my best and work my hardest to make it. Hopefully by practicing every day no matter the weather and eating healthy will help me with my goal. I will put in as much hard work as I can to make my goal happen. Doing things like getting better grades, sleeping earlier and practicing more is what I am doing to do to get my goal. Working on a goal is hard work but when you reach it you will see how worth it it was. If you haven't made a goal yet for 2021 maybe you should think of one. No one can change your year for the better but you.



The past year, 2020, I spent a lot of time playing x-box since there wasn't much to do. My resolution would be to not play as much this year. Since I play three different sports, this should be easy to do. As long as we don't have another pandemic, I'll be doing what I normally do. Spring time is baseball season, which we didn't get to play at all last year. Football usually starts as soon as we get out of school. Last year that didn't happen either. We didn't get to start football until late, like the end of August. Spring and summer I had a lot of time to do nothing and didn't get to see friends at all. Playing xbox was a way to still talk and have fun with friends. When I woke up in the morning I'd start and would play all day. Usually I'd end up playing until early the next morning too. We had a lot of fun still, but not the same as going places and playing sports with friends. Hopefully we get to keep playing this year and if we do, my resolution will work. If not, then I guess I'll try it again for 2022.



2020 was an unusual year. It brought challenges but it taught us many important lessons. In 2021, I want to make a change. I could do simple resolutions such as studying harder or exercising more, but I thought of it deeper. When the pandemic came, our everyday lives were changed. Most of the things I wanted to do in 2020 couldn't happen. My resolution for the new year is to live life to the fullest. Tomorrow isn't promised, so live to the fullest today. I want to start actually living for myself and not for social media or other people to see. I should just do the things I don't feel like doing anyway. I regret many things I missed out on because I "didn't feel like it". My parents tell me about the once in a lifetime experiences they could have had, but they didn't do it. They always tell me how time flies and how they regret not doing things. This year, I need to remind myself of their words. In 2021 and after that, I'm going to live life to the fullest.



Thanks to our twelve contributors who all said they would like to remain anonymous. Even so, we can all relate to the stories and resolutions told by our students. Very enjoyable!

Do you have a resolution or even some thoughts you would like to share about your hopes for 2021? If so, email vralfail@fraziersd.org and we may publish your ideas in an upcoming issue of the Chronicle.

FAFSA Completion for 2021-22

Completing the *Free Application for Federal Student Aid* (FAFSA®) form allows you to be considered for federal student aid. In addition, states and colleges use FAFSA information to award their own grants, scholarships, and loans. But, since aid is limited, you have to meet the deadlines!

Federal Deadlines

2021–22 Academic Year

FAFSA® forms must be submitted by 11:59 p.m. Central time (CT) on June 30, 2021. Any corrections or updates must be submitted by 11:59 p.m. CT on Sept. 10, 2021.

2020–21 Academic Year

FAFSA forms must be submitted by 11:59 p.m. CT on June 30, 2021. Any corrections or updates must be submitted by 11:59 p.m. CT on Sept. 11, 2021.

College Deadlines

Each college may have its own deadline. Check with the college(s) you're interested in attending. You may also want to ask your college about its definition of an application deadline. Is it the date your FAFSA form is processed or the date the college receives your processed FAFSA data?

State Deadlines All first-time applicants enrolled in a community college; business, trade, or technical school; hospital school of nursing; designated Pennsylvania Open-Admission institution; or nontransferable two-year program: Aug. 1, 2021, by midnight CT. All other applicants: May 1, 2021, by midnight CT. Additional forms might be required.

<https://studentaid.gov/>

Federal Student Aid
An OFFICE of the U.S. DEPARTMENT of EDUCATION

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HERE'S WHAT TO DO:

A step-by-step guide to what high school students should do each year to prepare for graduation.

Freshman Year

Freshmen should take every opportunity to make themselves stand out among their peers. Here are some of the steps they can take:

1. Create a yearly schedule for achieving graduation requirements. School guidance counselors can help students develop a plan.
2. Explore career interests by conducting online research and attending career fairs. Look for career factsheets, articles and e-books that help students make informed decisions about securing a job in their desired field.
3. Begin participating in leadership or community-based activities. Many high schools require community service hours for graduation. Students should continue involvement in these activities throughout high school, even if it is not a requirement.
4. Sharpen core academic skills. Find e-books, tutorials and practice tests that can help students develop their skills in English language arts, social studies, biology, chemistry, earth science, physics, math and computers.
5. Cultivate good study habits and strategies to help students use their time wisely, stay organized, take good notes, and develop information literacy skills.

Sophomore Year

Learning how to manage school and extracurricular activities can be difficult enough without factoring in college or career exploration. Sophomores should schedule time for these activities:

1. Take more challenging classes. Many high schools offer honors and AP-level courses in core academic subjects as well as rigorous career and technical education classes.
2. Build workplace skills. Even part-time jobs require students to demonstrate professional behavior. Find practice tests for the ACT® WorkKeys® Assessments, which measure the workplace skills that can impact job performance.
3. Attend college and career fairs to help students with their initial college search.
4. Reach out to mentors in fields of interest. Ask questions about their careers and arrange to shadow them for a day.
5. Prepare for the PSAT/NMSQT® by using practice tests to prepare students for the PSAT/NMSQT® exams in math, reading, and writing and language.

Junior Year

Junior year is an important year for students, especially if they are college-bound. It's the year students begin taking college admissions exams. Here is a list of what they should do:

1. Take the PSAT/ NMSQT®. Students must take the test by grade 11 to qualify for the [National Merit Scholarship Program](#). PrepSTEP's simulated full-length practice tests prepare students for taking the official PSAT exam.
2. Schedule campus visits. It's important to select a college or university that is the right fit. Campus visits offer a glimpse into what life there would be like and can help students narrow their choices.
3. Research ways to pay for college. Options include scholarships, student loans and [federal student aid](#) for eligible applicants. PrepSTEP's Scholarship Finder enables students to search more than 24,000 scholarships and other awards.
4. Take the SAT® and/or ACT®.
5. Request transcripts and letters of recommendation from teachers and mentors.

Senior Year

By senior year, the majority of students should have clearly defined goals. Here are some key activities to focus on:

1. Take (or retake) college admissions or career certification exams.
2. Complete and submit college applications and write college admissions essays.
3. Complete and submit scholarship applications.
4. Keep grades up and verify that all graduation requirements will be met on schedule. Students and their guidance counselors should be keeping track.
5. Take an AP® exam. Offered each May, AP exams provide students an opportunity to demonstrate mastery of college-level material and earn college credit at most colleges and universities in the U.S. and Canada.

It is never too early, or too late, to plan for your future. Preparing for your future can begin as early as elementary school. Check out the ideas and websites listed in this article or see your school's counselor for more information and assistance.

Movie Club

Do you enjoy a good movie? Frazier is piloting a Movie Club for High School students. Please submit an email of interest to yrafail@fraziersd.org. Some people have already signed up, but it is not too late. Some of the movie genres we chose are:

- Film Noir
- Classic Holiday
- Horror
- Sci Fi
- And currently some members are taking a challenge and attempting to see all of the recently nominated films for the Academy Award. (shout out to Zane!)



PROM

Friday, April 30, 2021



You don't have to "hunt" for a fun time this year.
Ticket sales and reservations are closed but the
committee is preparing for a fun event this year.
We are excited for a great time!



State Universities Collaborating



California's partnership with both Clarion and Edinboro will expand

high-quality educational opportunities for students.



California, Clarion and Edinboro universities are forming a partnership that could change the face of higher education in western Pennsylvania.

Under the Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education's plan for System Redesign, the universities will affiliate and build on their institutional strengths in order to expand high-quality educational opportunities for students, position themselves for growth, and create greater efficiencies. "A partnership among California, Clarion and Edinboro has the potential to create a powerhouse," said Geraldine Jones, president of California University of Pennsylvania. "Collectively, we would be among the largest providers of higher education in western Pennsylvania. Through collaboration, we can serve our region even better, meeting the needs of all who will benefit from access to affordable, high quality education."

In July, the State System's Board of Governors authorized a financial review of potential integrations between three pairs of PASSHE schools – California/Clarion, Edinboro/Slippery Rock and Lock Haven/Mansfield – with the understanding that data and analysis would drive the process and could point toward alternative combinations.

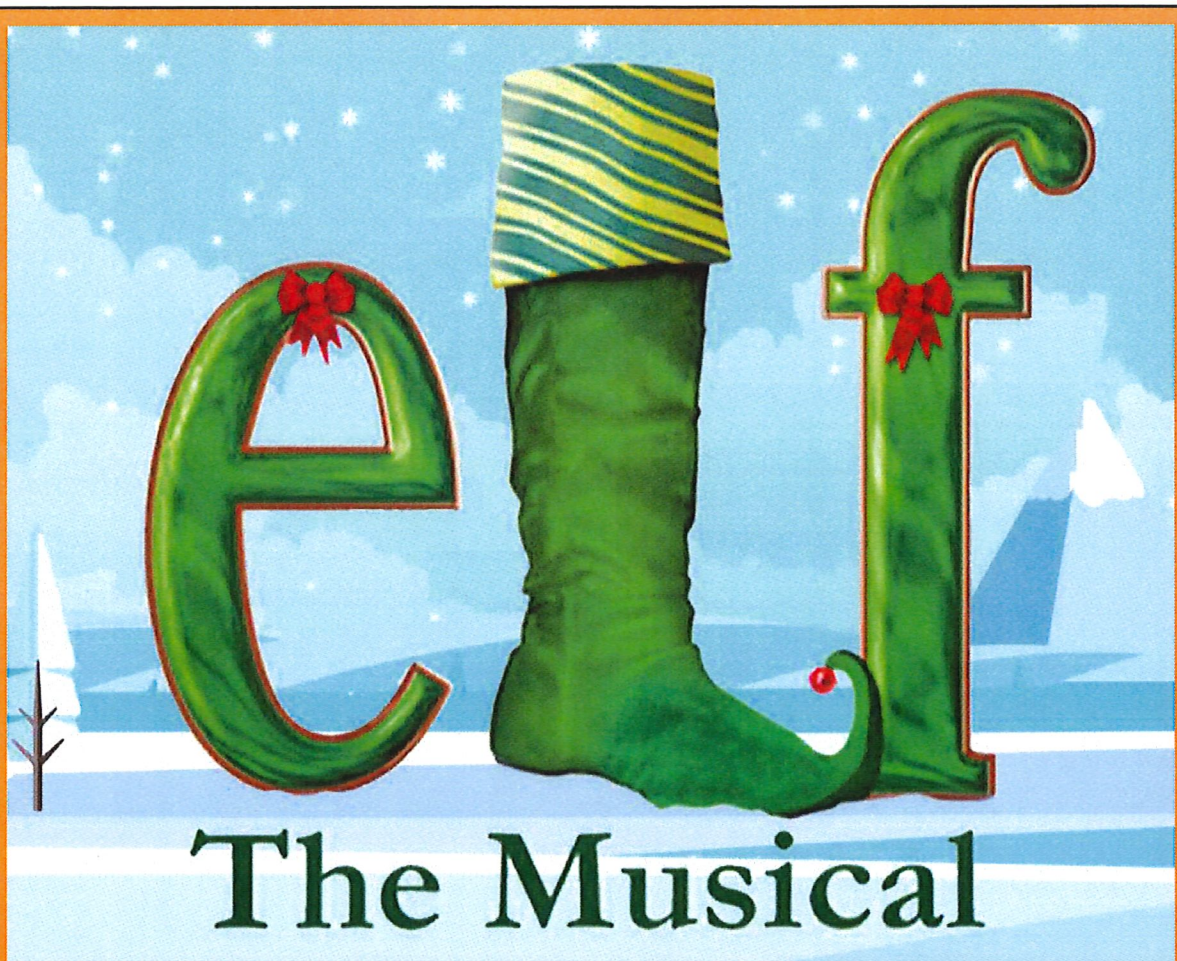
Early results of that review suggest that three-school affiliations could hold greater promise, according to System officials, all while honoring the local identity and traditional face-to-face programming of each institution. PASSHE's initial plan for university integrations paired California and Clarion, two schools with a history of offering nationally recognized online programs, to stand up a low-cost, high-quality online undergraduate degree and degree-completion program for students across Pennsylvania and beyond.

Edinboro is a welcome contributor to that initiative and to the trio's collective efforts to further enhance opportunities for students. The three universities already share successful academic programs and, collectively, serve more than 16,000 students. "An integration that includes California, Clarion and Edinboro will provide great opportunities for our current and future students," said Dale-Elizabeth Pehrsson, president of Clarion University.

The three universities already collaborate on a limited number of academic programs. The schools are like-minded partners, their presidents said, with similar missions, goals and campus cultures. "This combination will be a good fit for all three universities, given their histories of serving students with diverse economic backgrounds and offering them transformative experiences that lead them to places they may never have imagined," said Edinboro University President Guiyou Huang. "We're excited about the possibilities presented by this partnership and what we might achieve together."



Visit <https://www.calu.edu/> for complete information



Since Christmas this year may be smaller and not as festive, Frazier MS and HS Drama Clubs will be stretching the holidays into 2021.

We are presenting "Elf, the Musical" junior version starring members of both the middle school and high school clubs.

Friday, April 9 at 6:00 pm

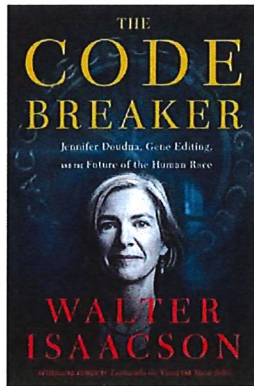
Saturday, April 10 at 3:00 pm and 6:00 pm

Limited tickets are available from the cast and crew. Adults are \$8 and children in 5th grade and younger are \$4.

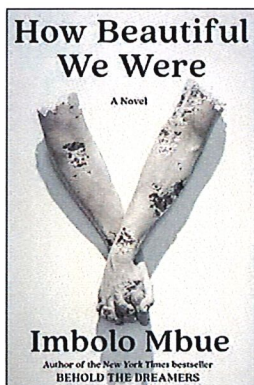
All tickets are presale.

Please remember that "there's room for everyone on the nice list" so masks are mandatory at all performances and social distancing is required.

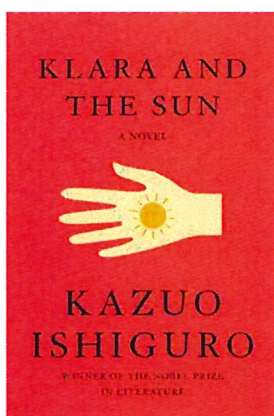
Check out these new books!



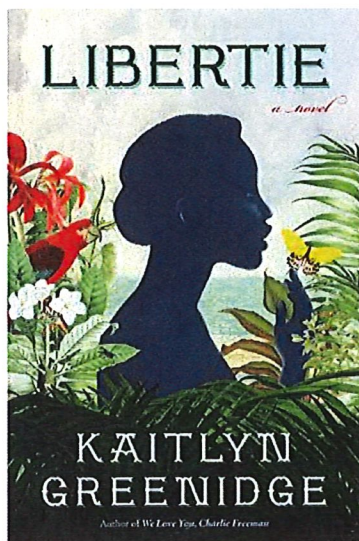
In his first intellectual canvas to showcase a woman, the doyen of American journalism and best-selling author of *Leonardo da Vinci* masterfully plots the groundbreaking career of Jennifer Doudna, the charismatic biochemist whose lab unlocked CRISPR, a transformative genetic therapy that would net her the 2020 Nobel prize. Isaacson's vivid account is a page-turning detective story and an indelible portrait of a revolutionary thinker who, as an adolescent in Hawai'i, was told that girls don't do science. Nevertheless, she persisted.



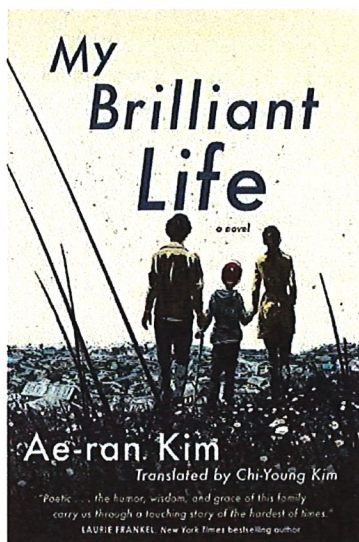
The second novel by the author of *Behold the Dreamers*, which was an Oprah's Book Club selection, takes readers inside an African village whose very existence is being threatened by the machinations of an American oil company. It's a David and Goliath story for our times, a riveting tale of how people come together to make change.



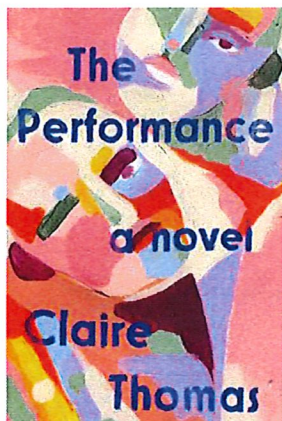
From the Nobel laureate and master of the hyperreal comes a gorgeously written novel that poses a question as old as Greek myths: What does it mean to be human? Klara, an Artificial Friend, smiles and nods to customers in Manager's store while tracking each day by the sun's arc. When a mother and daughter adopt Klara, a Pandora's box of repressed emotion springs open, fleshing out Ishiguro's themes of resilience and vulnerability in our mad, mad world.



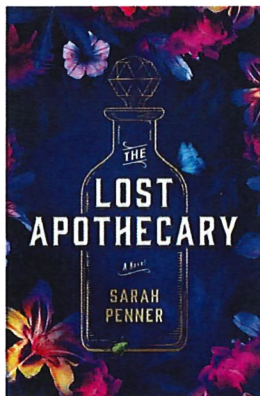
The Whiting Award-winning author of *We Love You, Charlie Freeman* and an indispensable cultural critic returns with a sweeping, engrossing new novel based, in part, on Susan Smith McKinney Steward, the first Black woman to become a doctor in New York State. Set in Reconstruction-era Brooklyn, Greenidge's fictionalized tale follows the doctor's young daughter—the titular Libertie—as she grapples with what freedom really means for Black women.



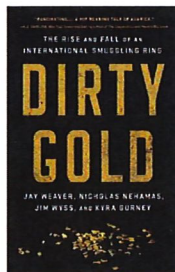
An eminent South Korean talent makes her American debut in this poignant watercolor of a novel about a valiant, poetic teenager grappling with love and early mortality. Born with progeria, a genetic disorder, Areum is living on borrowed time, a sixteen-year-old caged in the body of a withered old man. He's devoted to his best friend, Little Grandpa Jang, and his parents, who conceived him as teenagers; his last wish is to write a tribute. Wheelchairs, nightmares, on-line predators: nothing dissuades Areum from his dream, a “persimmon tree...sleek and its branches curved elegantly into the sky.” Kim is a writer on the move.



As wildfires rage outside Melbourne, three women, all on the cusp of new lives, treat themselves to a night at the theater, entranced by Beckett and seeking finales to their own dramas. An acclaimed Australian writer spins an alluring play within a play, probing the ways we perform for each other, how our best selves are mere costumes we shed before curtain call.



"The Lost Apothecary" is a dark and gripping tale with a tart edge about women struggling to survive in a world built by men, for men. Vengeance is the only way out from under their thumb, but when the reckoning comes no one will save women with as much heart and heroism as other women. Perfect for fans of "The Night Circus" or "The Weight of Ink".



"Dirty Gold" is a jaw-dropping true story of illegal gold mining that exposes its devastating ecological impact on developing nations in Latin America and a complex web of corruption and money laundering worth billions in the US. Gold is both recession-proof and easily melted down, leaving no trace of its lineage, and "Dirty Gold" offers a rare and exciting window into a criminal underworld that is the wild west of gold

Frazier School District's motto is

Inspire
Frazier
Empower

Who INSPIRES you?

How do you EMPOWER others?

Submit your thoughts to
vrafail@fraziersd.org and we will
publish them in the next issue.