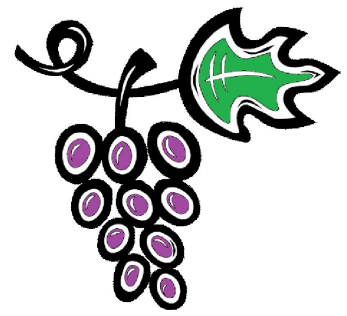


The Grapevine



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Special points of interest:

- Middle School Musical
- Photo Galleries
- Book Reviews



Members of the Green Team compete in the Dodgeball Tournament on 12/22. Photo by staff.

Holiday Dodgeball Tournament was a Blast

By Alanna Waite

On Thursday, December 22nd, the 8th graders had a dodgeball tournament. The 6th and 7th graders got to attend to watch and got to play at the end. Mr. Hamms and Mrs. Seiders announced the game and Miss Phinney was the DJ.

All of the teams and their fans cheered in excitement hoping that their squad would win. The purple team went against both the green and red teams and won against both. All of the teams played their best and did a terrific job during the dodgeball game.

This dodgeball game was a new event for the school and was very fun and exciting. Many people participated and had a great time. The students are hoping for an event like this again.

It was a great experience and many teachers also came to play. The 7th grade students got to play against the teachers. The teachers won. Both the teachers and students enjoyed playing.

— Go to page 5 for more images from the Dodgeball Tournament —

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Middle School Performs *James and the Giant Peach*

By Quinn Natal

Can you imagine sailing across the Atlantic Ocean on a giant peach with five different human-sized bugs? Well this is one of the many things that happened in the *James And The Giant Peach* musical performed by the students of the Silver Creek Middle School choir on November 9th and 10th.



Spider, Ladybug, James, Grasshopper, Earthworm, and Centipede perform during the November 9th performance of *James and the Giant Peach*.

In this musical, based on the book by Roald Dahl, we follow James our main character, who was performed by Auggie Boedo on the 9th and Mira Wade on the 10th. After James's parents died in an accident, he was sent to an orphanage, until two aunts agreed to take him in. Before James left to his aunts' home, they were introduced as Spiker and Sponge, played by Molly Shaw and Liana Parsell. Once James arrived to his aunts' cottage, it did not take long for him to realize this they were quite evil. After he lived with them for a not so long time, we are introduced to the Ladahlords, played by Lottie Zeller, Chloe Tytka, Justina Lindow, and Annie Matney. The Ladahlords provide James with a magic spell book that James could use to make a magic potion that could make his life better in many ways. That potion was called crocodile tongues.

Once James succeeded making the crocodile tongues he started to run with them in his hands. But while running, he tripped on something resulting in him losing the crocodile tongues. But after they spilled, they came in contact with a peach tree and five different bugs. After it came in contact with the tree, a peach grew to a humongous size, and was bigger than any human. Once Spiker and Sponge saw the peach, they new they could make a huge fortune off of it. But one night, James was walking by the peach, and suddenly he saw a door on the peach. He opened the door and he slowly got sucked into the peach more and more. Once fully in the peach, we meet Ladybug, Grasshopper, Spider, Earthworm, and Centipede, played by Eliza Mahaney, Benjamin O'Dell, Quinn Natal, Calvin Matney, and Mason Fote.

Not long after meeting the bugs the branch holding the peach snaps, and they find themselves rolling down the cliffs of Dover. After rolling down the cliff, they splash into the Atlantic Ocean and begin their journey across the Ocean to New York City. After sailing further into the ocean, sharks begin to eat at the peach, all the while Centipede began to vomit off the peach into the water luring seagulls to the peach. Then James came up with an idea that could save the group, he told them that they could use Spider's web to wrap around the seagull's neck and that they could use Earthworm as bait to get the seagulls down to a reasonable height so they could actually get Spider's web around their necks.

James's plan works and true seagulls end up carrying them to New York where we once again encounter Spiker and Sponge.

—continued on the page 3 as “Musical”—

Musical: Performance dazzles audience



The peach ends up getting stuck on the Empire State Building; luckily James and his Bug friends were able to escape the peach before then. After Spiker and Sponge try to kill the insects the peach begins to fall from the skyscraper Spiker and Sponge inevitably get crushed by the peach. After that, James is free from his evil aunts and he and his bug friends live the rest of their lives in America and go on to

do amazing things.

In less than 45 days Mr. McMullen's middle school choir memorized songs and lines and learned choreography. During the same time period, the drama club created our sets and the booster club raised funding which allowed us to purchase supplies so we could actually preform the musical. Bravo to the middle school choir for a job well done!



Winter Band Concert Held on 12/14

By Alanna Waite

On Wednesday December 14th, there was a band and chorus concert. Performing on stage were the 6th grade chorus, the 6th grade band, the 7-8 grade chorus and the 7-8th grade band. Leading the concert was band director Mr. Bridon and Mr. McMullen, leader of the chorus.

It was very fun and exciting. Many people attended. They played and sung a variety of Christmas tunes. The 7-8th grade band played "Bell Carol Rock," "Jingle Bells," and "Sleigh Ride."



Christmas traditions and their origins

By Everett LeBarron

With Christmas come and gone, a lot of people set up Christmas trees and hung stockings. But many of us have this burning question "Where and when did these traditions originate?" This article aims to answer those questions.

Christmas trees— Christmas trees date back to Germany during the Middle Ages. During the 19th century, Christmas trees became popular in America when German immigrants came to America and brought their holiday traditions with them. A little fun fact: during a 2019 survey by the American Christmas Tree association estimated that 77% of U.S. households displayed a Christmas tree and among them an estimated 81% were artificial and 19% were real.

Gingerbread Houses— It's the Germans again who lay claims on another iconic Christmas tradition. Gingerbread houses really became popular when German brothers Grimm wrote "Hansel and Gretel." Today, gingerbread houses can be found in pre packed kits although some families make their own gingerbread.

Candy Canes— They date back all the way to 1670 Germany although not introduced in America until 1847 when a German-Swedish immigrant in Wooster, Ohio, placed them on a tree. By the 1950's, an automated candy cane making machine was invented which is what lead to the popular treat known as candy canes.

Read *Crenshaw* for a good book

By Lyv Legere

The novel *Crenshaw*, by Katherine Applegate, is an amazing children's book rated for ages 8-11 from 2015.

The book follows the main character Jason and his family through financial troubles. During a trip to the beach, Jackson spots his old imaginary friend, a black cat named Crenshaw. Jason has many sightings of Crenshaw: at the beach, in his bathroom and outside his window. Crenshaw seems to follow Jason even when he family becomes homeless and starts to live out of their car. Jason and his imaginary friend go through the trials of homelessness and hunger throughout his teenage and adolescent years.

The novel mentions quite a few serious topics in a way that makes it easy for younger readers to comprehend, but also portrays it in an interesting way.



Scenes from the Dodgeball Tournament



**Congratulations to the
PURPLE TEAM
for their tournament win!
(coached by Mr. Charles and Mr. Tomasik)**





Everett LeBarron

Lyv Legere

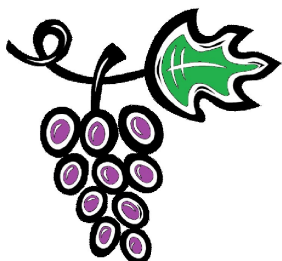
Quinn Natal

Alanna Waite

Mrs. Kempster
Advisor

Meetings are the first and
third Wednesday of every
month in room 318
during after school. All
are welcome to join!

*The opinions presented within this issue
are not necessarily those of the Silver
Creek Central School District nor its
employees.*



Williamsburg, VA: Rip off or a piece of history?

By Everett LeBarron

Williamsburg, Virginia, located just about two hours away from Washington, DC, is a small city with its roots set in the American colonies. It is a very tourist-oriented place, with many activities for history buffs and families.



When my family and I went to Williamsburg in November we stayed at Vacation Villages at Williamsburg which was okay. It was clean and the room service was good. But my main complaint is that the expense really outweighed what we got in terms of value, mainly in some of the tourists areas. For instance, the main village cost almost \$50 per person to actually see the inside of the buildings. And to make it worse, there was a \$5 shuttle fee per person for the day.

There are two great museums that cost \$20 cheaper than Williamsburg and are, in my opinion, better with their exhibits. Basically, Williamsburg is like a smaller version of Disney World when it comes to being a tourist place full of costs and fees.

But on the upside to that, the best part of the trip was the shuttle bus to Washington, DC. If I had to describe it in one way, it would be that I loved it. The guide was excellent and the overall experience at the Smithsonian was so cool! I've never been to DC before this and my one word to describe it was wow! So that was the highlight of the trip for me. So, in conclusion did I think Williamsburg was bad? In short no, but the cost was really bad.



THE NATIONAL JUNIOR HONOR SOCIETY
would like to congratulate its 2022-2023 inductees!

**Calem Izzo
Abigail Gawron
Claire Gonzalez
Oylvia Legere**

**Eliza Mahaney
Dominic Valvo
Alexis Wicks**