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# The EPIC

East Palestine High School

December 2018

Volume 47 Issue 2

# Operation Christmas Child

By: Caitlin Bable  
Staff Writer

Rotary Interact club is a great way to get involved with our school and our community. One can also obtain service hours for government class by joining and helping out. Much needed time, effort, and thought is put into the many projects that Rotary Interact Club initiates. Members can also participate in leadership conferences.

Rotary is about reaching out to people in need, lending a helping hand, and inspiring others to do the same. Meetings are the second Tuesday of every month, either in the morning before school, or after school in Mrs. Spanos's room. Snacks are brought in as we discuss upcoming events and projects.

Some events and projects that have already happened in Rotary this year are the overnighter at Camp Frederick, the Salem leadership conference, and Operation Christmas Child. At the overnighter, many foreign exchange students from other schools attend, giving the chance to meet new people from around the world. At the conference, Rotary Interact clubs from other schools, including ours, were able to discuss and share new ideas and projects amongst everyone.

Operation Christmas Child is where donations were brought in and shoe boxes were packed with essentials. Also toys for children in need are sent as gifts for Christmas.



Ephanian

Rotary Interact packs boxes for Operation Christmas Child

Many opportunities come about when joining Rotary Interact. Being a participant in the club looks good on college applications. Also, it's a great way to get involved with the school and community, and to even gain service hours.

Rotary Interact can never have too much help, so we look forward to seeing more people join next year who are willing to put in the time, effort, and thought that it takes to make the club what it is today.

# Seniors Take All, Again!

By: Lilli Miller  
Assistant Editor

Every year in East Palestine High School we have a friendly competition between the grade levels. Each grade freshman through senior has a one act play that they will perform in the auditorium, free for the public to watch.

Imagine walking into that familiar auditorium being greeted by two senior girls, Amanda Wilson and Emily Felger, handing out program papers for the night. You walk into the auditorium and pick a seat near friends, family, or off on your own. You have time to sit and relax for a little bit before the light testing begins and the plays finally start. First comes the freshman play, 11 Ways to Ruin Your College Application. Between each play, the curtains close and the lights turn on giving a few minutes for the next act to set up. Next came the



Shelby Russell

Senior class One Acts 2018 winner.

sophomores, a play called 10 Ways to Save the World, third was the Juniors with Puberty The Game Show and the seniors with The Losers.

Each Year at One Acts there are awards handed to students. The award for Best Play went to the seniors for the fourth year in a row. The titles for Best Actor and Best Actress went to Glendon

Dowd and Taryn Patterson. Best Supporting Actress was awarded to Faith and Hope Figley, and Best Supporting Actor went to Cooper Figley. The final award is the Best Use of Space which was awarded to the sophomores. Congratulations to everyone who put in hard work for another year of fun competition and laughter.

# Winter Driving: Safe And Sound

By: Natalie Hamner  
Staff Writer

Imagine. You are driving home after school. There is a light layer of snow on the ground, not enough for a plow but enough that it is seen. Nevertheless you drive cautiously. You take turns at a reasonable speed and your seat belt is fastened. At the young age of 18, you are the archetype of a safe driver. Everything stops when a vehicle slams into yours head on. This happens all too often. Even when you take precaution, others may not.

When asked senior Cheyla Gaskell had this to say about winter driving. "I'm afraid of the ice mostly. I almost slid into a school bus that was turning at a 4-way stop the other day because of all the ice. and I don't know about you, but I'm just not really fond of that type of thing". She also had this advice for drivers of all ages and experience levels. "Just take it slow and be aware of your surroundings at all times. anything could happen, and lives could be changed drastically

within moments of a slight distraction". A growing issue in our nation is motor vehicle accidents. Statistics from MOTO safety have shown that teens are the number one most likely age group to get into motor vehicle accidents. These accidents can result in the injury and possible death of both drivers, passengers, and bystanders. An estimated 17,000 people are injured and more than 1,300 are killed in winter-weather-related car accidents every year. Of these car crashes 24% occur in icy, snowy, or slushy conditions and 15% happen during actively falling snow or sleet.

MOTO safety advises people driving in winter weather conditions to remember the three P's: Prepare, Protect, and Prevent. Being prepared means being conscious of current as well as future weather conditions prior to driving. Prevent means to make sure that your vehicle is up to date on inspections and is in working condition. Protect mean being mindful of your speed and how weather conditions affect it. As always be sure to wear your seatbelt and make sure all passenger seatbelts are secure before setting your car into mo-

tion. Here are some safety tips for driving in the winter: never warm up a vehicle in an enclosed area, such as a garage, make certain your tires are properly inflated, never mix radial tires with other tire types, keep your gas tank at least half full to avoid gas line freeze-up, if possible, avoid using your parking brake in cold, rainy and snowy weather, do not use cruise control when driving on any slippery surface (wet, ice, sand), and use your seat belt every time you get into your vehicle.

Tips for driving in the snow: accelerate and decelerate slowly. Give yourself time to maneuver by driving slowly. Don't stop if you can avoid it. Don't power up hills. Don't apply extra gas on snow-covered roads. Reduce downhill speed and proceed down hill slowly. Don't stop going up a hill. There's nothing worse than trying to get moving up a hill on an icy road. Remember your reckless driving cannot only cost your life but the lives of passengers and innocent bystanders. Let's all have a safe and warm holiday season.



# Letter From The Editors

Enter text ...

Dear Bulldogs,

Welcome back Bulldogs! First quarter is finally over, and we hope that everyone's grades turned out the way you wanted them and that you had fun last quarter. We also hope that everyone had a fun, food-filled, Thanksgiving. If you don't celebrate Thanksgiving, we hope you had a relaxing break.

But now, it's second quarter. It's a little bit harder to keep up with school with Thanksgiving and Christmas break, so stay focused.

The nice thing about second quarter is that, although it's stressful, it's also fun and packed with holidays. So, get a head start on your homework, tests, and any other assignments. But, don't forget to

enjoy yourself and spend time with loved ones.

Winter also brings winter sports like girls and boys basketball, cheerleading, and wrestling. Don't forget to attend the games and meets to show support for our athletes and pride in our school.

EPHS has been busy. Our Veterans Day assembly was very successful. Everyone that helped with the assembly did an amazing job. One Acts were on November 20th; congratulations to the seniors! Also, there was a Christmas concert put on by the band and choir on December 9. Great job everyone.

If you get the chance during Christmas break, try Alex's recipe on page 11 and tell us how it turned out.

On December 20th there is a home wrestling meet, the first one in years, so make sure to go check it out and support our boys!

The boys basketball team has games every Tuesday and Friday, JV starts at 5:30 and varsity follows. The same goes for the girls basketball team on Mondays and Thursdays.

No matter what you are celebrating this year, we wish our staff, fellow students, families, and community a fun, but safe, holiday season!

See you next year,  
Paige and Macy



The Epic

Festive Editors

## Staff Question: What was your favorite Christmas gift?

Lilli Miller  
Assistant Editor



A: I love getting movies for Christmas.

Caitlin Bable  
Staff Writer



A: All of the Marvel posters that are in my bedroom now.

Larissa Busch  
Staff Writer



A: My first cat.

Courtney Hallock  
Staff Writer



A: I don't think I have a favorite gift, they are all nice.

Natalie Hamner  
Staff Writer



A: My favorite Christmas was a subscription for a readers box.

Sydney Muransky  
Staff Writer



A: I'm not sure.

Morgan Rutledge  
Staff Writer



A: I don't know, probably my phone.

Alexandria Sluss  
Staff Writer



A: My Polaroid camera.

Abby Stock  
Staff Writer



A: My letterman jacket.

Clayton Wright  
Staff Writer



A: When I got a New Nintendo 3DS XL.







# Making the Best Better With 4-H

By: Lilli Miller  
Assistant Editor

4-H is a nonprofit organization that helps youth reach their fullest potential and develop character. The meaning of the four H's are head, heart, hands, and health.

Some students that attend East Palestine schools are members of 4-H groups. I spoke to our student members about their experiences in this organization. Samantha Woods explained, "What 4-H means to me... Well, I've been in 4-H[and around] 4-H for a very long time, so it means everything to me. It's one of the best experiences, and I'm so

grateful for it... knowing I'm a 4-H senior is honestly sad. The years I spent in 4-H mean a lot to me."

Bailey Thompson stated, [Being a senior is] "bittersweet... it's so much fun, and I will miss it when I'm done."

After speaking with these two 4-H seniors, I asked Jen Donkin (advisor) some questions. She responded, "4-H means community to me. A community of like-minded people of all ages, ...interested in learning new things, supporting, encouraging one another, and serving those around them. I became a 4-H advisor so that I could continue to help kids that come into 4-H pursue the

things [that interest them] in a welcoming and positive environment. Most 4-H kids are just awesome people, and I feel privileged to know them! I love the fact that most of them are very responsible and know how to work hard. I love that the older kids often help to teach and mentor and encourage the younger ones. There is just an overwhelming number of positive reasons to be involved with 4-H!"

I am also a senior member of 4-H. I feel very grateful to be in such an amazing community of people. I'm sad that my years are limited, but I really encourage anyone who wants to join a group, do it now. 4-H is a very large family. You may meet new people every single year, making new friends and learning new skills, such as leadership and

sportsmanship. 4-H is also a very great way to get involved with your community.

To join 4-H you can call the 4-H Extension office in Lisbon for some possible groups. You must register with the group before March 1 to be in 4-H. Another thing you must do is pick which projects you will be completing for the year. There are livestock and non livestock projects. There is a very wide variety of things you may do. For anyone that is above the 4-H age, a lot of these branches have an open class list. So, even if you are older than 18, you can still participate in the showing of some projects.

## Celebrating Veteran's Day

By: Abby Stock  
Staff Writer

Veterans Day is a day to recognize our veterans and what they have done for us and our country. Every year, here at East Palestine High School, we hold an assembly to honor local veterans and thank them for all they have done. Our annual assembly is hosted by the senior honors English class.

At the beginning of the assembly, they introduced all of the veterans that attended and stated their branches of the military. Then, everyone said the Pledge of Allegiance. We also stood while our band played the National Anthem. This year our guest speaker was Mark McTrusty. He is one of our local pastors and is also a veteran.

The band played the official song for each branch of the United States military. Taps was played by students Cooper Figley and Rebecca Milliken.

Senior, Avery Oates stated, "I was surprised how much time it took to get the program together. We started in September...and there was a lot more to the process than I thought."

Senior Sara Buskirk explained, "I learned to communicate more and not do things on my own. [I was also surprised by] the amount of people willing to donate and use their own time to help out."

After the assembly, the veterans were served breakfast in our cafeteria and were able to visit with each other. We look forward to seeing everyone again next year.



Emily Randolph

Many of the veterans that attended our annual tribute to community members who have served.



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44441



# What is Up With Academic Challenge?

By: Larissa Busch  
Staff Writer

Columbiana County Academic Challenge is one of the longest running Academic Challenge events in the state of Ohio and has been around since the late 1970's and early 1980's. East Palestine's Academic Challenge is run by Dr. Bircher, and the team has had a lot of success in the past decade. Just stop and take a look in the media center at all of the awards! The club is currently accepting more members. At the moment there are 7 to 8 kids. If you are interested in joining, A.C practices every Wednesday, after

school until 4:00 p.m. in Dr. Bircher's room, where you can come and ask about the club. They welcome any student in grades 9-12.

Academic Challenge is a club that allows its members to learn more about things they are already interested in or care about, rather than sitting through irrelevant or boring topics. During Academic Challenge, there is a wide range of topics the group talks about. It is considered to be about general trivia, from important topics like historical figures to things like music, stories, or other different media. Practice for the season starts in September and runs all throughout winter, where they then have most of the

competitions take place.

As for how the topics are actually chosen, the topics are academic in nature including literature, math, social studies, and science. Sometimes topics are popular culture references like music, video games, internet topics, tv shows, and sports. The club plays a tournament in December that is only popular culture topics.

Dr. Bircher was asked what she likes most about Academic Challenge. She explained, "You know, I really love meeting with these kids every week. It's just a really fun group to work with. We just laugh, and we have a good

time. We enjoy talking about all kinds of topics related to school and not related to school. I am very proud that these students are willing to come after school and actually take their own time to learn more about things they are interested in. In Academic Challenge, it's more important to learn about what you already like and care about than a whole bunch of stuff you don't care about. So, that's really what makes the difference. So, yes, I love it."

Academic Challenge's goal for this year is to win more competitions and go further in the tournaments.

# How Do Other Countries Celebrate Christmas?

By: Larissa Busch  
Staff Writer

Many countries celebrate Christmas, but there are plenty who do it different from the traditional, western way that Americans are accustomed to. We, in the United States, use trees, lights, and a human embodiment of the holiday to celebrate and relate to, but countries like South Africa, Norway, and Australia, among others, have some of their own interesting traditions.

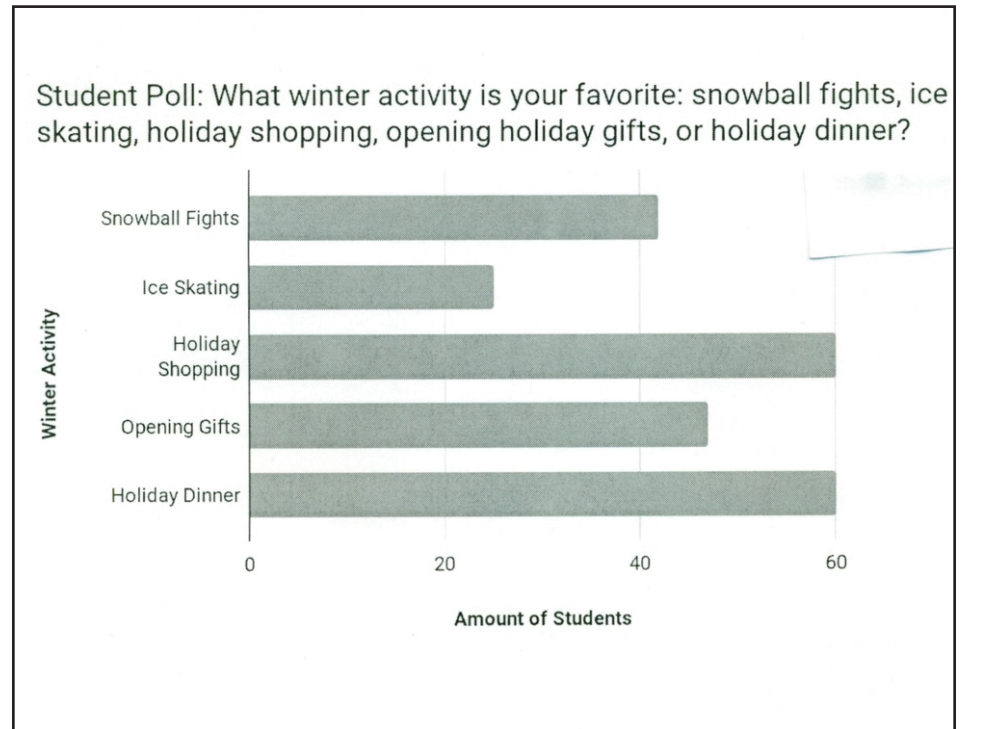
that day is perfect for witches and evil spirits to emerge.

In Australia, Christmas falls during the summer time, so their traditions usually include barbeques and beach trips.

South Africa has one of the more stranger traditions, which entails eating an oil-fried Emperor Moth on Christmas day.

In Canada, there is a postal code made solely for letters to Santa in the North Pole, ironically spelled H0H0H0. However, to help Santa out, thousands of volunteers every year come together to the Canadian Post to help respond to the letters, even in braille. These are some ways that other countries celebrate Christmas.

In Norway, it's traditional to put away all cleaning supplies and hide them in the house so the women would not have to clean. For the men, it is traditional to fire their guns into the night on Christmas Eve. According to their ancient beliefs,



Clayton Wright

This graph shows the results of the 2nd quarter student poll.

**OSI**

**Environmental**

**"God bless America and make it a very Merry Christmas with acts of selfless kindness"**



# Bucket Life: Row the Boat

By: Macy Rosen  
Editor

Now that winter is just around the corner, we can all bundle up and get ready because it's basketball season. The boys are ready to go after working hard, even through Thanksgiving break. This year we have a great team to rely on. We're all excited to see how this season is going to turn out.

Here is the roster for the 2018-2019 boys basketball team:



Coach Stanton

**Seniors:** Dominic Posey (3), Parker Sherry (10), Stephen Darlington (15), and Abel Figley (34).

**Juniors:** Dominic Cathers (5), Adam Leaf (20), Dominik Lohr (21), Aaron Hetric (33), and Dalton Vance (50).

**Sophomores:** Dominic Fertsch (4), Sean Helpy (20), and Brandon Turcola (22).

**Freshmen:** Dakota Ogle (1), Thomas Shasteen (2), Max Carvelli (2), Cooper Vance (3), Tyler Bistarkey (10), Brennen Bland (23), Jonathan Bertovich (23), Evan Smith (31), Aidan McTrusty (32), and Colin Trosky (44). The coaches for the team this year are Coach Stanton, Coach K. Paterson, Coach Lutz, Coach D. Patterson, Coach R. Paterson.



Magic Moments

East Palestine Bulldogs 2018-2019 Boys Basketball Team

Coach Stanton says, "We are looking to have a great year; all of our student athletes are working very hard. We have four seniors this year who will be our leaders and be looked on to fill very big roles for us. The players, myself, and the other coaches are very excited to see where the year will go and invite anyone and everyone to come out and watch a game."

Freshman Evan Smith talked about his experience so far stating, "My first year has been pretty good

so far, and I think it will only get better." When asked if he was nervous for his first high school game, he replied, "I was nervous to play and how I would do in my first game starting. But, I was confident in my abilities, and it went great."

I also spoke to another freshman Jonathan Bertovich, who is currently a varsity starter. He

stated that playing on varsity "...is an amazing feeling and a feeling of accomplishment. I have made many new bonds with my teammates. I feel that our team can win the EOAC." Congratulations to Jonathan for being the top scorer for almost every game so far.

Also, congratulations to senior Parker Sherry for

being a top scorer in the game against Columbiana.

The boys play every Tuesday and Friday. There is only one Saturday game this year on January 19th. JV always starts at 5:30 p.m. and varsity follows (unless there are any further announced delays).

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# Girls Basketball, Relentless

By: Paige Thomas  
Editor

So far the Lady Bulldogs first game was away at Western Reserve. They left with a score of 73-35, but they redeemed themselves with the next two games. They played East Liverpool and Jackson Milton, winning 49-31 and 38-31. Additionally, the girls beat Lisbon 50-49 in a closely fought game.

This season we have team members from all grade levels. Seniors Natalie Hamner (42) and Sara Buskirk (10). For juniors the roster consists of Jade McBride (2), Jamlynn Jones (14), Julianne Jones (4), Bailey Davis (23), Jailyah Mixon (21), Kenzee Johnston (5), Emily Zimmerman (11), and manager Caitlyn McTrusty. Our 2018 sophomores are Elizabeth Felger (32), Faith Figley (12), Joclyn Fristik (15), Morgan Rutledge (22), and Payton Sherry (20). The only freshman this year is Paige Snyder (3).

Senior Natalie Hamner says, "We have a smaller group of girls than usual this year. That however does not stop us from working hard everyday at practice, I wouldn't change anything about our team. Looking forward to our great last season!"

Head coach William Franklin gives us his insight by saying, "Hard working group, still learning everyday. Will rely on our speed and



Magic Moments

## 2018-2019 Girls Basketball Team

playing aggressive." This is Franklin's 12th season of coaching girls basketball.

The only freshman on the team this year is Paige Snyder. When asked about her first year on the team, Paige says "It's been really good. I'm upset more freshmen didn't play, but hopefully next year more people come out."

The girls will finish out the season by playing Columbiana, David Anderson, Toronto, Southern, Wellsville, Heartland Christian, United and Lowellville.

Good Luck to our Lady Bulldogs on their 2018 season!

# Don't Fear: Winter Cheerleading Is Here!

By: Sydney Muransky  
Staff Writer

The 2018-2019 cheerleading squad kicked off their season November 30, 2018 when the boys played West Branch at home. The next day, the cheerleaders got to perform during the Cleveland Cavaliers halftime show. The 2018-2019 basketball season has up to 23 games. The cheerleading squad is going to two competitions over the course of the new year.

The cheerleading squad consists of 12 members. The JV squad includes two freshman: Giavonna Brestelli and Jaiden Parker. Also two sophomores: Gracie Fitzsimmons and Rachel Hill. The Varsity squad has one sophomore: Harley Buzzard. The three juniors are Sara Cozza, Ryleigh Harn, and Faith Melnick; and the four seniors are Madison Cannon, Madelyn Hostetter, Amber Huff, and Shelby Russel. The squad is coached by Kristen Johnson and Roberta Brittan.

The cheerleaders practice three times a week. During that time, they make up their own cheers, dances, side lines, and more. Tryouts are held at the end of April- early May. For this you have to perform a side line, a cheer and a dance. Cheerleading is a great way to show team spirit and pride in East Palestine schools.

# To the Mat, Bulldog Wrestling

By: Courtney Hallock  
Staff Writer

This is the second year in a row that East Palestine has had a wrestling team for ages. Our team consists of six members. Mr. Dan Kibler is the new coach this year. This year's wrestlers are: (seniors) Noah Brown and Nathen Murrill; (sophomores) Kenneth Holly and Anthony Dellick, and (freshmen) J.D. McBride and Austin Burgess. Middle school also participates in wrestling.

Coach Kibler has commented on his team by saying, "The team has several hardworking grapplers that will be competing well on the mat this year in individual standings. Our numbers are a weakness. The team has started to really work harder and are striving to get into better shape.

Our main goal for the season is for each individual to win as many matches as possible and then rank high in the individual standings later in the year."

I also had the privilege to interview one of the team members, Noah Brown. He explained, "It is a privilege to play any sport. I will miss the the competitive nature of it all."

If you're considering joining the team, go to a couple wrestling matches and then get in contact with Coach Kibler. Coach Kibler will then go through the process of how to join the team and what you need to know to be on the team.

Any upcoming events you might ask? Well, on December 20th there is a meet here at EPHS. It is against Hubbard High School. There is also a Wrestling Tournament at United Local December 22nd. We hope to see everyone there. So, come on down to the mat to support our wrestling team. Don't forget to show your Bulldog pride!



Magic Moments

## 2018-2019 Wrestling Team

# Band and Choir Update

By: Abby Stock  
Staff Writer



Grace Baker-Stowe

Concert band is way different from marching band. The concert band is still filled with the same people from marching band, but now you will see them on stage. You might also see them playing as our pep band at basketball games.

At the holiday concert on Sunday, December 9, the band played *Rui Rui Chu*, *All Is Calm*, *Sleigh Ride*, *Celtic Bell Carol*, and *National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation*.

The choir sang eight songs. They sang in the *Bleak Midwinter*, *Carol of the Bells*, *Caroling Caroling*, *Breath of Heaven*, *Fum Fum Fum*, *Joy to the World*, *All on a Christmas Morning*, and they closed the concert with a favorite carol, *Silent Night*.

When senior Cheyla Gaskell was asked

how she felt about this being her last Christmas concert, she responded, "...it's pretty bittersweet...I'm excited that we get to do it one last time, but it's also kind of sad that we won't get to do it again."

Freshman Patience Champney said, "Choir is fun because we get to sing a variety of songs and sometimes we sing Latin which is cool."

When senior Grace Baker-Stowe was asked about her solo, she explained that it was "the opening to *Breath of Heaven* [and that to prepare she would] come to class and sing with Chiporo."

On December 10, the choir went to the Methodist church and sang for the people of East Palestine. Stay tuned for more performances by band and choir in the new year as these talented seniors finish their final performances of high school and the underclassmen look to uphold future leadership rolls.

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**THE FRIGLEY'S** 

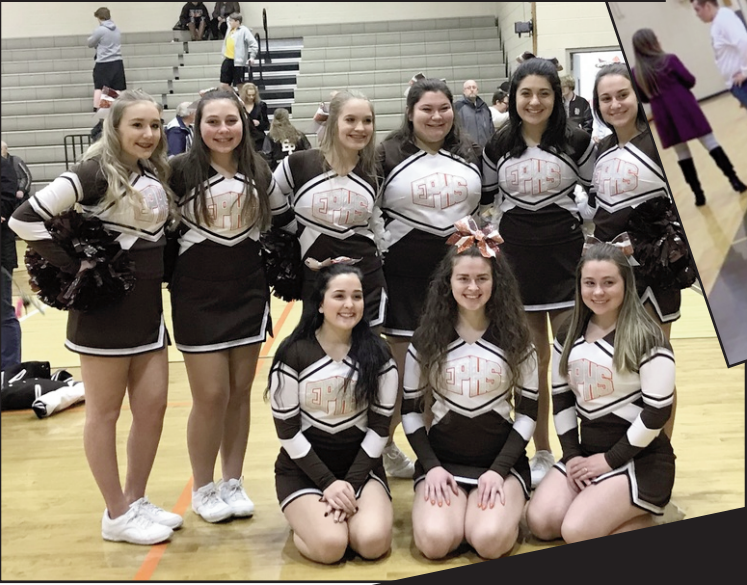
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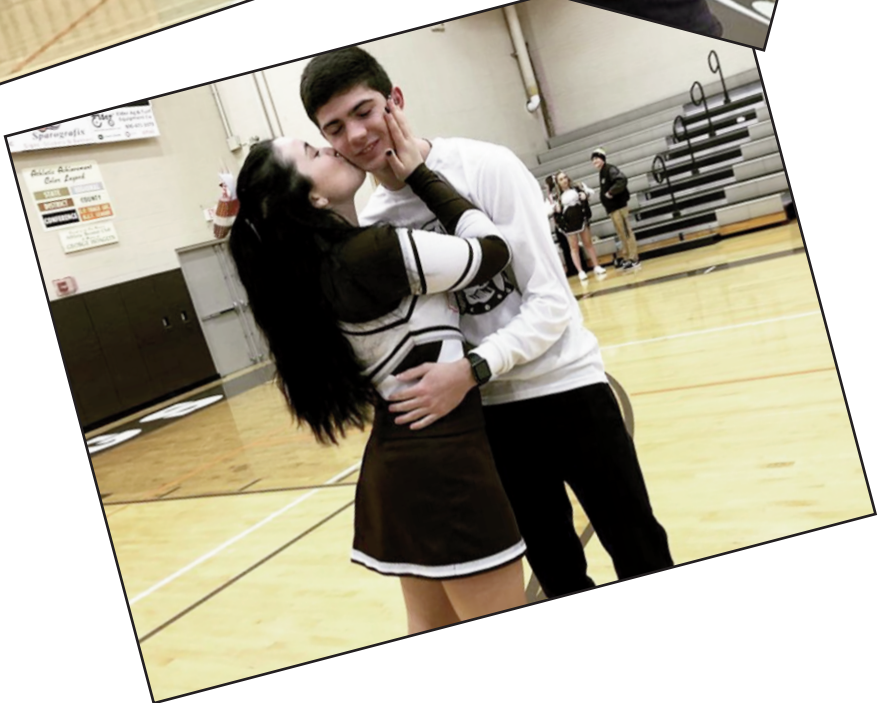
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# Meet the Team





# A Winter's Night Fantasy: Part 1

It was completely silent, which was odd for a warm night in June. There were no summer noises calmly making sonance in the darkness. No crickets chirping madly. No frogs croaking wildly. The sound of vibrant green leaves clattering in the warmish evening breeze was inaudible through the cracked window. Only a frigid cold air whisked through. As Annalise sat up in her bed, perturbed by the unusual silence outside, she was bewildered when she noticed frost ever so slowly creeping up her windowsill, covering the glass in a thin sheet of patterned ice. She reached out and ran her delicate fingers over the frosted wood and glass and breathed her warm breath on the window to try and melt a spot where she could see through. As she wiped away the melted ice and peered through the small circular area, she saw snow falling to the ground and covering it completely. There were no leaves on the trees. The pond in her yard was froze over, and everything was white with powdery snowfall.

Baffled but intrigued, Annalise pushed her window up all the way so that she could lean out. Chilling wind hit her in the face and blew snowflakes through her soft blonde hair and into her bedroom. She looked down at the snow and got the urge to go outside. She looked at her alarm clock; it was 4:12 am. She had to be at the airport in a little less than an hour. It's not like she was going to wander outside forever. She was only going to check and see if the snow in June was actually real.

When Annalise opened her front door, another

gust of crisp cold air hit her causing goose-bumps to rise on her skin. As she breathed out in disbelief, she saw her breath leave her in a puff of rolling fog. She looked out at the snow sparkling beautifully in the bright moonlight, and through her growing confusion and speechlessness, she noticed something quite prominent. There were large paw prints in the snow. They led from her front doorstep, across the street, and into the woods. She doesn't have a dog, and none of her neighbors do either. She bent down to examine them closer. The prints were bigger than any normal dog anyway.

Annalise studied the paw prints for a few seconds more before she stood back up and slowly closed her front door. She had an idea. Although it might not have been the smartest thing to do, she couldn't just go back to her room and ignore the snow piling up outside when it's supposed to be June.

She walked back inside, shivering from the cold, and went to her room. She dug out her winter coat, a hat, a scarf, and gloves from the depths of her closet where she had all of her warmer cloths stored away for summer.

As she was dressing, she looked over at her bed. The moonlight passing through the window dimly illuminated her room just enough so that she could see that her stuffed-animal wolf that she's had since she was little was missing from its usual home beside her pillow. Annalise never moved it from her bed out of fear that it would end up lost somewhere. It was very important to her, having gotten it from her grandpa when she was just a few months old. The name Valko was written on the bottom of the paw. He also told her about how Valko had something special about him, and that he would always protect her. Now, Valko was gone. As bizarre and worrisome as she found that, she could not waste anymore time searching for her stuffed animal.

Time was ticking by, and Annalise had to go find out where those paw prints lead. As crazy as it was to follow the paw prints instead of get ready or look at the news, she went anyways. Her curiosity took over as she glanced at her alarm clock and

headed out the door. She told herself to not forget the time, it was 4:25 am. She was really pushing it, having to be at the airport at 5:00 am, but she could not resist. Again, she was only going to be a minute or two.

When Annalise stepped out onto her front doorstep, her feet sunk into the deep snow. She shuffled down her sidewalk towards the street, following the paw prints. Sure enough, they led directly into the woods across the street. She's never been in those woods before. She thought about just going back, but she knew she couldn't.

As she skeptically wandered through the pine trees, she was immediately met with an immense gust of wind, almost knocking her down. She closed her eyes and blocked her face from the snow that was blown around with the wind, but all of a sudden, it stopped, completely. The only noise that could be heard was the sound of trees cracking from the heavy ice and snow weighing them down way up above her. Annalise slowly uncovered her face and looked up at the trees.

The trees were huge, quite literally as tall as skyscrapers, and the branches drooped from all the snow pulling down on them. They towered above her intimidatingly. Snow fell from the sky profusely in perfect snowflake shapes. Not a single one was imperfect. As she studied the beauty of where she was, it came to her attention that she couldn't have possibly been in the same woods she walked into. Somehow she ended up somewhere else. Somewhere straight out of a storybook, or even a dream.

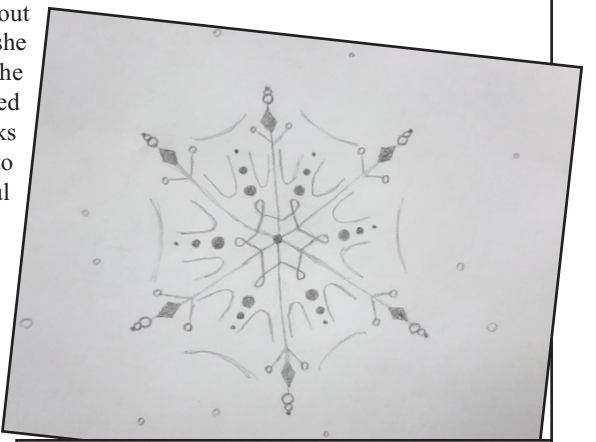
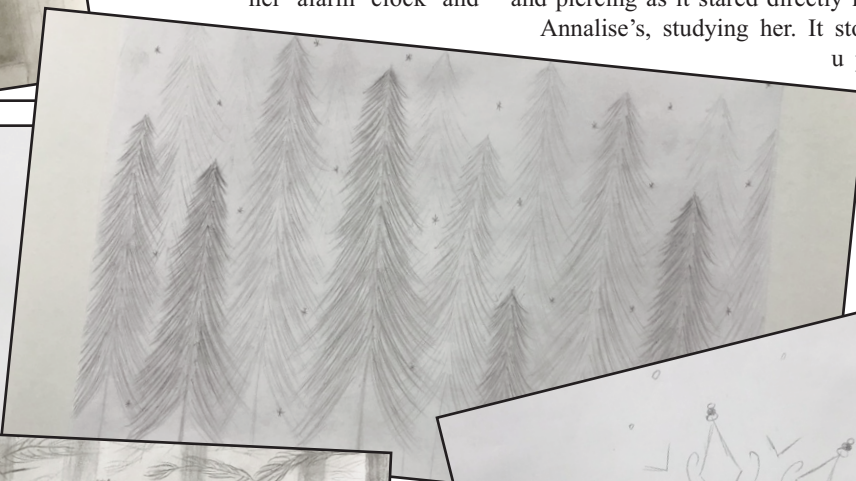
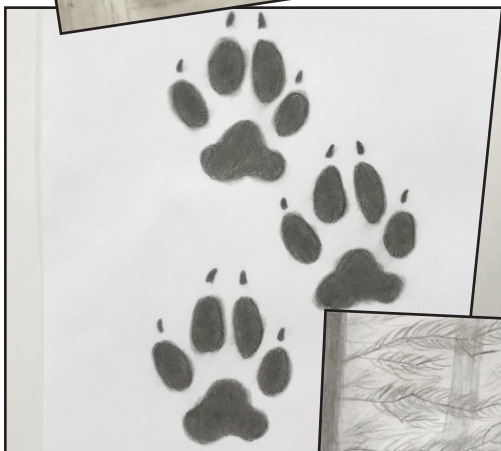
Annalise was astounded, but there were still paw prints to follow. She questioned herself once again and thought about going back, but again, she knew she couldn't leave this unexplored. She looked to the densely snow covered ground. Annalise didn't follow the tracks far before she froze, too startled to move. In front of her sat a beautiful giant gray wolf.

Annalise was frozen. It's fur was full and shiny, and it sat with a confident stance. The wolf's eyes were ice blue and piercing as it stared directly into Annalise's, studying her. It stood

making itself look even more massive, and sauntered over to her. For a split second she was almost about to run, but then, something came over her. Annalise didn't feel scared. It was as if she knew the wolf wasn't going to hurt her as it came and sat about a foot in front of her. She looked at its face and noticed that the colors and markings resembled her wolf stuffed animal that almost identically. There was even a scar in the exact spot where hers had a rip in it once. She thought to herself, *this couldn't possibly be...*

The wolf offered its large paw for Annalise to hold as a greeting. She remembered that the name was written on the bottom of her stuffed animal's paw. As unrealistic as this all was to begin with, Annalise thought that she might as well look at the bottom of this wolf's paw, just to see. As she slowly and gently turned over it's paw, sure enough, and to her growing astonishment, the name Valko was on the soft part of the wolf's paw. It looked like it was a scar. She was positive she had gone crazy, none of this was real of course, right? She breathed the name out under her breath, "Valko." She said it again, trying to comprehend this. The wolf tilted his head to the side and perked his ears up in response to his name being said. Annalise looked at him in utter disbelief. She reached out a shaky hand to run it through the soft fur on his head. Valko closed his eyes in appreciation of the touch. He stood up once again; he nearly towered over Annalise. He began to walk off, looking back to see if she was following him. She walked up beside Valko, put her hand on his back, and went with him to wherever he was going.

~By: Caitlin Bable, Staff Writer



All artwork also by Caitlin Bable



# The EPIC



A Bulldog Christmas

Caitlin Bable

## Movie Review: The Grinch

By: Paige Thomas  
Editor

Dr. Seuss's *The Grinch* is an honest and safe retelling of the holiday classic. The film was not considered highly anticipated; although, it was pretty well liked on social media as it had a soundtrack involving Tyler, the Creator. Some fans even poked or made fun of this by saying Pharrell Williams had done this years ago when he starred on the *Despicable Me* soundtrack, which was another childlike animated film.

I cannot express too much dislike for this film since it is one you cannot take too seriously, and it's a film that's purpose isn't to make you think or to be unique. This is a retelling of course.

Yet, I couldn't help but feel disappointed, like others, since this film had only received a 58% rating by critics from rotten tomatoes and an overall audience rating of 59%.

In my opinion, a lot of the enjoyable moments were given away in the film's trailer. This film was based more for an audience of children, rather than teens or adults. It captures the eye through bright colors and detailed animations, but the lessons are

overall simplistic and common sense. It ended up feeling more like a distraction for children rather than a remake of a heartfelt classic.

I felt as if this film was missing a huge part, the relationships. The first relationship missing was between Cindy Lou Who and the Grinch, which was a main factor as to why the Grinch gave up stealing Christmas. The second relationship missing was between Cindy Lou Who and her father. Instead, they made Cindy's mother a single mom, leaving out her father and his work at the mailroom completely. Another change in relationships was between the Grinch and Max, his dog. Despite the lack of human relationships represented in this remake, the Grinch is much kinder and sweeter with Max, letting them have an actual friendship.

Similar to the original Grinch, this film is all about compassion, love, and kindness. These were all themes that were emphasized throughout the film. As an animated children's film; however, I felt *The Grinch* lived up to its potential. Therefore, my initial rating remains 3 out of 5 stars. It is an enjoyable film for a snow day or family night.

### Virgin Eggnog

Since Christmas is right around the corner, the perfect chilled drink is eggnog. It's so easy and affordable to make. Here are the ingredients and steps to make homemade virgin eggnog.



#### You will need:

6 large eggs, 2 egg yolks  
1/2 cup sugar (plus 2 tablespoons)  
1/4 teaspoon salt  
4 cups whole milk  
1 tablespoon vanilla extract  
1/2 teaspoon grated nutmeg  
1/4 cup heavy cream (whipped to soft peaks)  
Garnish: additional grated nutmeg

#### Steps to make it:

1. Gather the ingredients.
2. Combine eggs, egg yolks, sugar, and salt in a heavy 3-or 4-quart pan, whisking until well-combined.
3. Continue whisking while pouring milk in a slow, steady stream until completely incorporated.
4. Turn on the burner to lowest possible heat setting.
5. Place pan on burner and stir mixture continuously until an instant-read thermometer reaches 160 F and the mixture thickens enough to coat the back of a spoon. Be patient. This should take about 45 to 60 minutes.
6. Strain mixture through a fine sieve into a large bowl to remove any accidental small cooked bits of egg.
7. Add vanilla extract and nutmeg, stirring to combine.
8. Pour into a glass pitcher, decanter, or container and cover with a lid or plastic wrap. Refrigerate this egg custard mixture to chill at least 4 hours or up to 3 days before finishing.
9. Serve eggnog in chilled cups or glasses and garnish with a sprinkle of nutmeg.



# Say What?

## Students + Teachers Edition

Aidan McTrusty  
Freshman



Q: Do you have any New Year's traditions?  
A: We usually have a party with friends.

Dominic Fertsch  
Sophomore



Q: What do you want for Christmas?  
A: Clothes.

Cassidy Fletcher  
Sophomore



Q: Do you have any New Year's traditions?  
A: Chugging that last carton of nog when the three second mark hits the ball drop.

Noah Garvin  
Junior



Q: What is your favorite Christmas song?  
A: Monster Mash.

Madison Cannon  
Senior



Q: What is your favorite Christmas song?  
A: Any song from "Snoop Dogg Presents Christmas in the Dogg House".

Mrs. Miller Mr. Young



Q: What has been your best Christmas gift?  
A: As an adult, Chick-Fil-A calendars. haha!



Q: What is your favorite Christmas movie?  
A: It's a Wonderful Life

Mrs. Sansenbaugher



Q: Did you enjoy Christmas more as a child or a parent?  
A: The parent thing is pretty cool.

Mr. Franklin



Q: What is your tradition for Christmas day?  
A: Open gifts with the fam in matching PJ's of course.

Mrs. Goodchild



Q: Do you have a favorite Christmas song?  
A: "Blue Christmas" by Porky the Pig.

### CHRISTMAS GIFT IDEAS BY: MACY ROSEN Editor

Sometimes it's stressful to shop for Christmas gifts. So I'm here to help you out and give you tips and ideas for your Christmas shopping this year, no matter who you're shopping for.

Mom- Clothes (jeans, cute graphic tees, cute socks, scarves), shoes (boots, slippers, flats, clogs), jewelry (earrings, a necklace, a bracelet, a ring), anything she has mentioned that she needs, something that broke or needs to be replaced.

Tips: Try a DIY or make the gift you get something unique or custom, something so she knows that you made (or bought) it just for her. Or even make her a homemade card, Moms love gifts from the heart.

Dad- Tools, cologne, new ties, a new wallet, a coffee machine, a grooming kit, shoes (boots, sneakers, slippers), a watch, anything he has mentioned that he wants or needs.

Tips: Get something unique to YOUR dad, if he's a camper, get him a tent, if he travels, get him something to use in the car or the plane like headphones or a book to read.

Siblings- Younger: Cute cups, toys, clothes. Teenagers: Phone stuff (charger, headphones, case), clothes, giftcards, games for Xbox or PS4. Adults: Throw pillows, home decorations, clothes, a keychain, giftcards.

Tips: You know what your sibling(s) like, get something useful to them specifically.

Grandma & Grandpa- Sweaters, blankets, socks (old people are always cold!), slippers, a crossword book, a puzzle, a cookbook, a coffee mug, a painting, wall decorations, a picture frame.

Tips: Grandmas are also moms, which means they are also under that stuff from the heart category. So, sweet cards and thoughtful gifts are always the way to go. If your grandparents are more active, then get them something he can put to use like fishing poles or hiking stuff.

Friends- Keychain, friendship bracelet, matching necklaces, giftcards, concert tickets, a fuzzy blanket, a funny gag gift, perfume/cologne, bath bombs, face masks, a hat, candy, chocolate.

Tips: Your friends are important, think of something they're interested in or something they have said they wanted when looking for a special gift for them.

Boyfriend- Headphones, food, clothes (shirts, shorts, etc), a hat, weights, protein drinks, a book, a duffel bag, favorite merchandise (sports teams, song artist/band, show, movie, book, etc), a wallet, a watch, a keychain, cologne, a speaker, a photo collection (album, frame, etc).

Tips- If your boyfriend is an athlete go for duffel bags and protein drinks. If he's a reader get him a book. A lot of boys are into watching sports even if they don't play, they probably have some kind of team they like. If not, they're probably into music, so merchandise of some sort is almost always a good idea.

Girlfriend- Jewelry, earrings, necklaces (with your name, a heart, a locket with charms that she likes, or a bar necklace with an anniversary date on it), bracelets (Alex and Ani, charms that she likes, or an anniversary date on it), clothes (literally any clothes), shoes (boots, Converse, Vans, Nikes, Adidas), headphones, speaker, makeup, face masks, books.

Tips: Girls are easy to shop for, don't overthink it. As I've said before, just make it custom to them.