

# A 'Classic' Christmas Cotillion

BY: GIRLEY OYOLA

On the night of December 3, 2016, almost 400 students attended the annual Christmas Cotillion which was decorated with the theme *Classic Christmas Movie*. Festivities began with some students greeting their peers while others captured memories at the photo booth from Josh Lynn Photography. The DJ brought everyone out to the dance floor by playing the first song *The Cupid Shuffle* by Cupid. The students got their groove on and enjoyed countless other popular songs as well. After some dancing, Sister Cynthia Babyak led a prayer wishing everyone a fun night before students enjoyed their dinner, and then Father Keith blessed the food. Following dinner, students hit the dance floor again, and the Swing Dance Club stole the show dancing to the well-known *Crazy Little Thing Called Love* by Queen. The choreography was arranged by Sabrina and Serena Gil along with Daniel Mulvihill the club moderator. "Three years ago, Mr. and Mrs. Mulvihill swing danced to *Crazy Little Thing Called Love* at the 2013



THE SENIOR COTTILLION COURT TAKES A BREAK FROM THE FESTIVITIES TO SHOW OFF THEIR SANTA HATS AND CANDY CANES

Christmas Cotillion. After that, we created the Swing Dance Club and now perform at the Cotillion every year. It's truly amazing to see all our hard work pay off. This year, we decided to perform with the song that started it all," stated the choreographers.

The Cotillion Court was later presented soon after. The freshman Prince Julian Napoli and Princess Tina Raspa were announced first with the sophomore Prince Michael Trinidad and Princess Melody Lenhardt following after. The

junior class Prince was Michael Pacitti along with Emma Herban as Princess. At last, the senior court was announced: Justin Martinez and Shria Karthick, Marcus Adeniyi and Niara Rowe, Jonathan Edwards and Stephanie Corea with Cotillion King and Queen Raphael Parsacala and Katherine Yochim. The senior court was given Santa hats and the entire court received M&Ms in a candy cane shaped container as their prizes.

The night concluded with students picking up a small bag of the

BGA famous Roche cookies on their way out.

The event was coordinated by Sister Cynthia Babyak who said, "It was a blast! And it appeared to me that everyone had fun." Student and faculty volunteers donated their time and efforts to decorate for the Cotillion. The main entrance was adorned with ornamented Christmas trees and all kinds of decorations. Even the soda vending machine outside the theater was decorated with a bow and glitter. The tables were set up with green and red tablecloths and balloons. The stage and floor were illuminated with glowing trees and angels.

Another part of the Christmas Cotillion is the Christmas tree decorating contest. Each grade level was assigned two trees, which they decorated around themes of their choosing. The winners this year were the junior class with their "Peace around the World" tree, and the freshmen with their "Frosty the Snowman" tree. All of the trees were donated to families at St. James Parish, who otherwise would have gone without a tree.



LEFT: THE CROWD CHEERS AS THE SWING DANCE CLUB TAKES A BOW AFTER THEIR WONDERFUL PERFORMANCE

RIGHT: STUDENT COUNCIL SOCIAL CHAIRPERSON SENIOR SOPHIA SCHLESENER THANKS THE CROWD FOR COMING OUT TO COTILLION

(ALL IMAGES COURTESY OF BGA PUBLICATIONS)



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**MERRY CHRISTMAS**  
*Wordsearch*

Search for the words going up, down, left and right.

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CAROLING      TREE            ORNAMENT  
PRESENTS      MISTLETOE    ELVES

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Can you find all the Christmas words in this word search?

ABOVE: IMAGE COURTESY OF GOOGLE IMAGES  
RIGHT: COURTESY OF FRESHMAN CATHERYN DUARTE

Next quarter the Satoma Newsmagazine will hold a creative writing and art contest for students who wish to have their work published. Anyone who is interested should contact Ms. Byrne ([abyrne@bgahs.org](mailto:abyrne@bgahs.org))



Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!  
~ The Satoma staff

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# Christmas Eve vs. Christmas Day: Is 25 really greater than 24?

## CHRISTMAS EVE (JINGLE BELL) ‘ROCKS’

Sometimes, the moments leading up to an event wind up being more exciting than the occasion itself. For me, the most exciting part about Christmas is actually Christmas Eve. On Christmas Eve, you have everything to look forward to. It's a night full of anticipation as both children and adults look forward to the gifts they will soon receive. The best part is that once it's over, there's still another whole day to celebrate!

Since presents usually aren't opened on Christmas Eve, it becomes a night focused on family rather than on opening gifts. Everyone gathers together and can finally sit back and relax after a stressful holiday season. The hard part is already over, and that comes with a sense of accomplishment. Presents are bought and wrapped, food is cooked, and homes are decorated.

It feels like Christmas all day long, while on Christmas Day, everyone can sense the holiday coming to a close.

This is when the stress begins. Family members have to return home if they have traveled far. Festive wrapping paper is torn aside and must be cleaned up. People begin taking their lights and decora-

tions down. Parents everywhere begin dreading taking their trees down and putting away all of the ornaments.

During Christmas Day, it already begins to feel like Christmas is over. When you think of Christmas Eve, you aren't thinking about an ending. Instead, it's just the beginning of two of the best days of the year.



THE HOLIDAY SEASON IS A TIME TO BE WITH LOVED ONES  
(ALL PHOTOS COURTESY OF GOOGLE IMAGES)

## CHRISTMAS DAY ‘SLEIGHS’



THE JOY OF OPENING PRESENTS ON CHRISTMAS DAY IS INCOMPARED

Christmas Eve is usually too busy to actually enjoy anything. As a little kid, the impatient waiting for Santa and all of the gifts he'd bring was almost painful. Counting down the hours to the next day was how most of us probably spent our December 24th. The staying up as late

as possible to attempt to catch Santa was probably one of the most serious events of our young lives. Now that time has passed, Christmas Eves are usually spent helping clean the house for relatives, cooking Christmas dinner, or baking enough Christmas cookies to feed a small army. All of this work is just a precursor to the main event: Christmas Day.

Christmas morning is the best part of the Christmas season. All month long the anticipation has been building up to one day, and that day isn't Christmas Eve. As a little kid, nothing was more exciting than springing out of bed and sprinting around the house to wake everyone up. Of course, I was mostly excited for presents, but as I've gotten older, Christmas Day still rouses the same excitement it used to. Even if money is tight that year and presents are scarce, as they sometimes are, the time on Christmas morning

still overflows with love. I've been lucky enough to have almost never spent a Christmas without my family by my side. Nothing is quite as rewarding as watching someone open a gift you've spent hours searching for. Seeing their face light up is an amazing reward. Despite all of the gift exchanging and unwrapping, it's still clear that the most important part of all is the people you're spending the day with: your family. The excitement of the morning lasts all day long, as families travel to visit loved ones, share in Christmas dinner, and curl up to watch Christmas classics. *A Christmas Story* even plays all day long.

Overall, it almost doesn't need to be said that Christmas Day is the best part of the Christmas season. A very Merry Christmas to everyone and their families, be sure to take part in some real festivities this December 25th.

# Childish Gambino will 'awaken your love' for music

BY KRISTEL DOMINGO

Rapper extraordinaire Donald Glover, famously known by his alias Childish Gambino, has dropped his highly anticipated new album, *Awaken, My Love!* After teasing the unique artwork of the album on Twitter and sharing a few tracks, on December 2, die-hard fans of the recording artist were blessed with his passionate vocals heard like never before.

Gambino has not released music since 2014 in his EP *Kauai*, and it is safe to say that his new music is unlike his previous releases. Ditching his traditional rapping and hip hop approach, the album takes on a more soulful and funk experience. Gambino had premiered "Me and Your Mama" and "Redbone" early, two tracks from his album. "Me and Your Mama" has a somewhat intergalactic, out-of-this-world vibe. When he sings, "Do what you want/I'm telling you/Let me into your heart," it is somewhat oxymo-

ronic as he is telling someone to do as they please, but also to love him. "Redbone" takes on a more funky tone, starkly contrasting against his original tone in his 2013 album, *Because the Internet*.

The *Because the Internet* artist credits George Clinton and the Parliament Funkadelic as the inspiration for his album. "I remember listening to songs my dad would play — albums by Funkadelic — and not understanding the feeling I was feeling," Glover says. "I remember hearing a Funkadelic scream and being like, 'Wow, it's scary.' Not having a name for that, though; just having a feeling. That's what made it great."

In addition to once again awakening his love for music, Gambino is the star, writer, and executive producer of FX's hit show "Atlanta." His show has just been renewed for a second ten-episode season. One can also catch him in the role of Lando Calrissian in the upcoming



CHILDISH GAMBINO PERFORMS IN FRONT OF A LIVE AUDIENCE OF-FOR HIS FANS WITH AN AVID SMILE.

standalone Star Wars movie about Han Solo, which will be featured in 2018.

Gambino has pushed the boundar-

ies with his unique sound and style, and with his artistic vision and other-worldly tone, is sure to break down new walls in the music industry.

## Frank Ocean's 'Blond' moment

BY ISABELLA JOSON

After four years of anticipation, Frank Ocean shocked and, ultimately, satisfied his fanbase. Following the world premiere of his new music video, "Nikes" Ocean finally released his second studio album, *Blond*. It was released on August 20, 2016, almost immediately after he had fulfilled his contract with Def Jam Records by releasing a visual album, *Endless*, exclusively through Apple Music. *Endless* features a myriad of artists, like British R&B singer Sampha, Jazmine Sullivan, and Radiohead's guitarist Jonny Greenwood.

Just a day after he released his visual album, Ocean released a 17-track album, *Blond*, on Apple Music. In major cities, including New York, Chicago, Los Angeles, and London, he launched pop-up stores that gave out packages containing a CD copy of *Blond* and a magazine titled *Boys Don't Cry*. The album instantly became a trending topic on social media.

*Blond* received universal acclaim from a wide variety of publications. *Consequence of Sound* stated that, "for the first time in a long time, an artist riding on hype surfaced

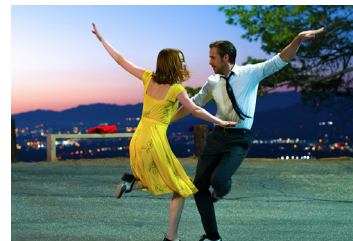
with an album that lives up to the very hype that lifted it. Better yet, in time, *Blond* will surpass its hype. The album's greatest feat is its ability to expand when it's listened to." On Metacritic, *Blond* received an aggregate score of 87 based on 36 critics, including The New York Times, The Guardian, Pitchfork, and the Chicago Tribune. Overall, *Blond* lived up to people's expectations.

Other than its emotional impact, Ocean's music has also become ubiquitous for his fans and is frequently featured as the background music for social media sites such as Instagram, Snapchat, and Youtube. People from all parts of the world have used Ocean's music as the soundtrack to their lives.



FRANK OCEAN'S *BLOND* TOPS CHARTS

## La La Land: Good old days



BY: PAMELA PICERNO

*La La Land* is definitely a throwback: it's a musical, unlike a vast majority of movies for the past 50 or 60 years. This is a risk in the age of action movies and special effects, but it works. The plot focuses around Mia (Emma Stone), who is an aspiring actress, and Sebastian (Ryan Gosling), who is a jazz pianist. Both of them are in LA to do what they love, but their plans aren't exactly working out. Mia works in a cafe and Sebastian plays the piano in a restaurant. Even that job doesn't work out for him when he's fired for playing jazz instead of Christmas music. Mia and Sebastian meet during a traffic jam, but it takes a while for them to hit it off. This starts to happen when they run into each other at sunset and compare discouraging stories about

how none of their dreams seem to be actually working and start to dance. They sing about how these aren't the dance partners they had in mind, but their dance moves seem to be telling a different story. This is when the couple's story really begins, and when the viewer begins to root for them, trouble ensues. However, when Sebastian is offered some work as a backup musician by his friend Keith (John Legend, in a cameo role), Sebastian can't decide whether money and fame are worth leaving behind the chance to be in the spotlight. He decides to go with the first option, something Mia wholeheartedly disagrees with. As he shoots to fame, he leaves her behind. It's 2016, and the idea of a fairy-tale ending can seem outdated and unrealistic. But this movie is so old-fashioned and dreamy it makes you wonder if such a thing is possible. *La La Land* takes place over multiple years, leaving the viewer time to wonder will Sebastian and Mia be able to do what they love? Will they sell out for fame and fortune? And most importantly- will love conquer all?

# Timeless Disney classic reimagined

By JUSTIN BRAINE



THE FAMOUS BALLROOM SCENE IS RE-CREATED FOR THE LIVE ACTION VERSION OF THE MOVIE

*Be our guest! Be our guest! Put our service to the test!* Who could forget the classic tune from Disney's 1991 film, *Beauty and the Beast*? Bringing in over \$425 million worldwide, *Beauty and the Beast* was a huge success, winning both Academy and Grammy awards in 1992. Disney fans, old and new, will be able to relive this amazing film in 2017!

Set to release in March, the 2017 version of *Beauty and the Beast* will be a fully live action feature film, starring British actors Emma Watson and Dan Stevens. Watson plays Belle, a bookworm turned princess. Watson is well known for her role as Hermione Granger in the *Harry Potter* series of films. Stevens, who plays Beast, is known for his role on British television hit *Downton Abbey*. Together, the two actors will portray a classic Disney story about love and inner beauty, and are expected to put on an impressive

performance on the big screen.

*Beauty and the Beast* is one of many Disney classics reimagined in a live action format. Jon Favreau directed the 2016 version of the Disney classic *The Jungle Book*, which grossed \$960 million at the box office. Other Disney movies that are scheduled to release in a live action format include *Mulan*, *Chip 'N' Dale*, and *Aladdin*. Judging by the performance of *The Jungle Book*, these movies are bound to be successful and provide room for more experimental and creative projects for Disney in the future.

By remaking these classics, old fans can enjoy their favorite Disney stories, and new fans can enjoy the magic of Disney's animated films from the 1990s. Disney fans can expect to reignite their passion for the classic tunes, and the luster of their favorite films from a new and creative perspective. Movie lovers and critics alike are bound for an eventful and nostalgic season of great movie remakes.

# 'Doctor Strange'- the future of Marvel Movies

By: SYDNEY CORIO

When Dr. Stephen Strange—portrayed by Benedict Cumberbatch—is stripped of his physical abilities as a neurosurgeon in the aftermath of a car accident, he seeks out any and every method of healing known to man. However, before he is able to do this, Strange must first forget everything he once thought he understood in pursuit of the mystical teachings of The Ancient One (Tilda Swinton). Through these teachings, Strange learns the practices of the mystical arts, along with the knowledge of a dark force with the intention of destroying reality. With this wisdom comes a price, though: Strange must make the ultimate decision of keeping his life of fame and fortune, or leaving everything behind to defend the world as the most powerful sorcerer in existence. While on this journey, Strange is aided by two fellow sorcerers—Mordo (Chiwetel Ejofor) and Wong (Benedict Wong)—as well as his previous co-worker and past lover Christine Palmer (Rachel McAdams).

Set in the split locations of Nepal

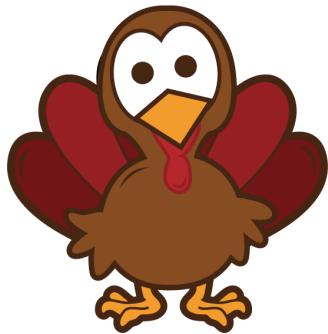
and New York's Greenwich Village, the film—which is ultimately based on the Marvel comics by Steve Ditko—was released by Walt Disney Studios Motion Pictures on November 4 into the combined genres of Action, Science Fiction, Adventure, and Fantasy. Under the direction of Scott Derrickson and screen-writings of Jon Spaihts, Scott Derrickson, and C. Robert Cargil, the project was an ultimate success, earning a fourteenth consecutive number one debut for Marvel Studios. Overall, the thrill of the plotline and love for the characters earned the project a total of \$85 million, as well as the second best ranking for Disney behind *Thor: The Dark World* at \$85.7 million.

In accordance with the tone of the previous films of the Marvel Cinematic Universe, *Dr. Strange* incorporates the beloved humor of already introduced superheroes such as Iron Man and Captain America. On the other hand, Strange's persona and obstacles are ones ultimately new to the routes usually taken by the studio for an altogether magical, out of this world experience.



DR. STRANGE DISPLAYS THE POWERS HE HAS LEARNED TO CONTROL (ALL PHOTOS COURTESY OF GOOGLE IMAGES)

# Special delivery! BLOOD DRIVE



|| COURTESY OF GOOGLE IMAGES

BY: JULIA KEBULADZE

About a week before Thanksgiving, the school community showcased its care and compassion with numerous holiday donations. Since early November, a total of about 100 frozen turkeys had been collected! After the birds were tossed into the van outside room 108, George Dietz, Sister Cynthia, and some students were able to deliver the turkeys to FISH Hospitality Program in Piscataway, NJ.

The mission of FISH is to serve

homeless families by providing shelter, meals, and numerous other assistances. Many people were in line on November 16th & 17th to receive their Thanksgiving food. Along with this event, another service activity took place on November 21st at St. Vincent's de Paul Society Food Bank in Perth Amboy, NJ.

Another group of students were able to accompany Sister Cynthia, Father Keith Cervine, and Deacon Rich Lutomski to deliver food bags to the poor. The students even donated most of the food they gave away, making the experience much more personal. Bishop James Checchio was also present at the food pantry.

Daniela Tornatore and Jillian Ramirez said, "We enjoyed helping out and seeing how lucky we are to have what we have. The workers had such great ethic and shared it with us."

Vanessa Porto continued, "Being at the food pantry was a very humbling experience. I'd love to go back and do it again."

BY: JULIA DUARTE

On December 9, the New York Blood Center worked in partnership with the school community to host the 2016 Winter Blood Drive. The staff during the event consisted of 8 students led by Mr. John Roche; 7 volunteer workers from the NYBC who set up the blood donation stations; and nurses who drew the blood. The event had a great turnout, with 105 school donors and 10-15 people from the public.

Both new and previous donors stated that the first time donating blood is the most uneasy, and many of them were nervous. Fortunately, the staff from the NYBC comforted the volunteers any way they could to help them relax and answered all their questions about the donating procedure.

For the past couple of years, New Jersey has been in a blood shortage, with only 3.6% of residents donating blood annually. The shortage especially reaches its peaks during the vacation and

holiday seasons due to many people traveling, and a significant number of donors come from high schools. The low blood supply in hospitals could cause surgeries to be postponed or canceled. Blood can not be manufactured inside labs, but can only come from human donors who decide to help save lives. Thanks to their gracious contributions, over 300 lives can be improved in time for this Christmas.

After the blood is collected, it is tested and shipped to hospitals and used almost immediately. After the blood is used, the participant receives a text giving details about who their donation went to and a little bit of information about the recipient. Every kind-hearted contribution from each volunteer will not only give someone a new life, but also a little hope to every family who needs some Christmas magic this year.

If you missed this opportunity there will be one more blood drive on April 7, 2017.

# Disciple of Mercy award Operation Christmas Child

BY: NICOLE PETRICK

On Sunday, November 20, at St. Francis Cathedral, six students were presented with the "Disciple of Mercy Award" by Bishop James Checchio after the "Extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy" Mass. There were more than 100 people from the Metuchen diocese who received the award. The Bishop described these disciples as "artisans of mercy" who helped "express one of the noblest desires of the human heart, making a suffering person feel loved." The awardees from the school community were seniors Kelsey Kaesmar, Tara Genovese, Fernando Sullivan, Michael DeSantis, and Allison Schreck as well as alumni parent Bob Merski.

The Bishop described disciples like them as "the outstretched hands of Christ" who are "making the face of mercy, the face of Jesus, more present in central New Jersey and the other places where they have ministered throughout the world." They have lived the corporal works of mercy in their everyday lives and

have continually been dedicated to helping and encouraging others in their community.

The qualifications to receive the award are very distinctive: a person must be a positive Christian role model who works tirelessly to show God's mercy towards others but does not expect any special praise or recognition in return. They must be active members of their church or school that are not employed by that place; they must be involved in bold, creative, and effective activities that are rooted in the mercy of Christ; and finally they must see and respect the dignity of every person and help to motivate others to do the same. Each person also had to be nominated by a minister or administrator before being considered for the award. Many of the nominees repeatedly volunteer for non-profit organizations or local charities.

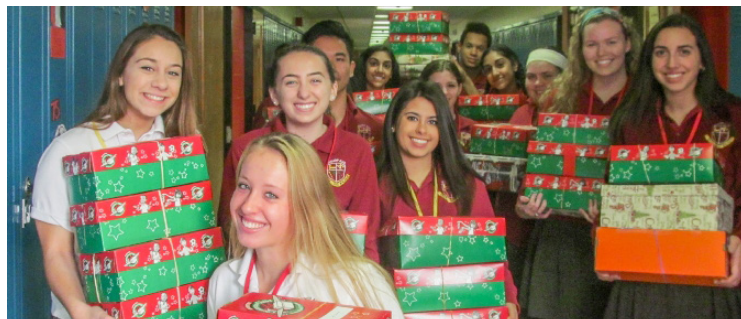
Seeing the courage and character of these worthy recipients both challenges and inspires many others to be active models of mercy in their everyday actions.

BY: ELIZABETH SHORT

This year, the school community once again participated in Operation Christmas Child. This project, run by the organization Samaritan's Purse, provides aid to children in developing countries who are in dire need of basic necessities. Boxes filled with hygiene supplies, clothing, snacks, and other presents are delivered directly to the children in need by Samaritan's Purse. Boxes were either created personally by students and their families, or boxes were created and purchased online

for those in need.

This year, BGA donated a total of about 150 boxes to children for Christmas. Sister Cyndi expressed just how much this program means to those who receive these gifts. "For most of them, this are the first gifts they've ever received. They will never forget it." For those who missed out on participating at school, Operation Christmas Child is still running online. Visit [www.samaritanaspurse.org](http://www.samaritanaspurse.org) to create an online box to send just in time for Christmas.



|| STUDENTS ARE EXCITED TO DELIVER THEIR PRESENTS FOR THE CHILDREN. (PHOTO COURTESY OF BGA PUBLICATIONS)

# 'MASS'-IVE LOVE FOR OUR AHR STARS

BY: COLLEEN SHARLOW

On December 13, Christmas spirit filled the air as students and faculty came together to celebrate Ahr Stars Finley O'Neill and Brianna Feeny in the annual Ahr Star Mass. Traditionally, the Mass began with a group of students swiftly making their way down the gymnasium aisle towards Bishop James Francis Checchio and Father Keith Cervine with presentations of symbols, candles, and cards. Father Edmund Luciano served as the Master of Ceremonies and Deacon Richard Lutomski assisted at the liturgy as well.

The main gym, magically decorated with Christmas trees, beautiful poinsettias, and glowing angels was a perfect setting for the celebration for the Ahr Stars. Because this was Bishop James Francis Checchio's first Ahr Star Mass, he addressed in his homily that he was touched and overjoyed. He stated that people should always remember



AHR STARS FINLEY O'NEIL AND BRIANNA FEENEY ARE ALL SMILES WITH BISHOP CHECCHIO, SISTER DONNA, AND CO-CHAIRS KELSEY KACSMAR AND JUDE ROCHE AFTER THEIR AHR STAR MASS.

to keep Christ in Christmas and to spread Christ's love wherever we go.

The band and chorus—under the direction of Joseph Cullinan—led the school in upbeat songs of worship and praise, along with BGA's most famous "Big House." When the end

of the Mass came around, the school community waited to see what gifts were going to be revealed to the Ahr Stars, and were satisfied to see the look of excitement on their faces. Ahr Star Co-Chairs Kelsey Kacsmar and Jude Roche, along with other members of the Ahr Star

Board and the Student Council, presented the Ahr Stars with various gifts; their families each received \$2,000 as well, which was money raised from the Ahr Star Spaghetti Dinner. Just when everyone thought the gift-giving was over, Finley and Liam O'Neill were presented a motorized mini-vehicle. Brianna received an iPad, which is going to help her tremendously in communicating with everyone around her.

After everyone received their gifts, the parents of both Ahr Stars thanked the BGA community for the endless love, kindness, generosity, and support. Mary Ellen Ewing, Finley's mother, and Patricia Trenchak Feeny, Brianna's mother, both stated that they never would have imagined being back in the gymnasium for an Ahr Star Mass that was for their children. The priceless expressions and reactions of the families alone was enough to spread Christmas love and joy around the room.

## Juniors 'put a ring on it'

BY: SAMANTHA SOLDO

On Tuesday, December 13, the Class of 2018 Ring Ceremony took place. Junior students processed into the gymnasium dressed to impress, surrounded by Christmas decorations and prideful family members. The ceremony was introduced with a speech that explained the meaning and theme of the 2018 Class's ceremony, "We Ahr All in This Together."

After a recitation of the Colossians 3: 9b - 17, the Responsorial Psalm, "Taste and See", was loudly voiced. Claps rang throughout the gym as the Gospel was acclaimed with an Alleluia. In the Homily, Father Keith explained how the ring that he received as part of coaching football held much value to him. It proved that he was a part of the activity he participated in, and it reminded him that he was a part of something greater than just one person. The junior students were reminded that this was a moment of

pride in their years here at Bishop Ahr.

Father Keith blessed the rings, and students wholeheartedly pledged the significance of the ring. Closing remarks were made by Sister Donna and the class moderator, TJ Reilly: "To me, Junior Ring Day reinforces what Bishop Ahr has taught us from the beginning— 'We Ahr All in This Together.'"



SEAN ZAGAROLA AND CHRISTIAN TORRES CARRY THE RING DURING THE CEREMONY

## Senior Lock-In

BY: ISAAC SCAFE

Hosted by the National Honor Society Executive Board and moderator John Roche, the class of 2017 was "locked in" school on December 9-10. Entering the gym at 8 P.M., students were not allowed to leave until 5:30 in the morning. In the meantime, the 81 seniors and faculty kept occupied by playing late games of volleyball and various card games. A media room was set up playing movies such as "The Polar Express" and "Zootopia." No matter who you are, there was something for you to do at the lock in.

Aside from the fun and games, the lock in also benefited two wonderful organizations, Summit Speech School and Fast Break Buddy Ball. Summit Speech School in New Providence, New Jersey assists children with hearing difficulties by providing educational and therapeutic services. The Fast Break

Buddy organization helps teaches people with disabilities how to play basketball. Each organization will receive around \$1,000, all raised from those attending the lock-in.

The lock-in was no easy task to set up but it was worth seeing the end result. Senior Spencer Tardy, a member of the NHS, was pleased with how the event turned out. "I felt like the lock-in went well," Tardy replied when interviewed. "Everyone seemed to enjoy it and overall it was a good time."



EDITED BY ISAAC SCAFE

# CHRISTMAS

## 'THE YEAR WITHOUT A SANTA CLAUSE'

BY: SYDNEY CORIO

After Thanksgiving, Santa Claus falls ill and is instructed by his doctor to get some rest. As a result, Santa becomes disheartened by the lack of seasonal spirit of the world and decides to cancel Christmas. However, when the

inhabitants of the North Pole grow concerned for Santa and the effects his absence will have, Mrs. Claus and two elves—Jingle Bells and Jangle Bells—take it upon themselves to save the holiday. On this journey to find proof that children still believe in Christmas, they take

along the youngest reindeer Vixen, with whom they face and overcome numerous obstacles.

This stop-motion, animated musical—while based on the book published in 1956 by Phyllis McGinley—was released in 1974 into instant fame. Featuring songs such

as “Blue Christmas”, “Here Comes Santa Claus”, and the Snow Miser/Heat Miser anthems, *The Year Without A Santa Claus* portrays a fun, catchy, and heartwarming storyline depicting children’s love for Christmas and the powerful magic behind it.

## 'THE POLAR EXPRESS'

BY: ISAAC SCAFE



THE BOY RIDES THE POLAR EXPRESS.

Based on the beloved book by Chris Van Allsburg, *The Polar Express* directed by Robert Zemeckis was the first ever all-digital capture movie. Following the journey of a doubting child to the North Pole. Hopping on board the Polar Express, the young boy meets many other children who share the same skepticism as him. The unnamed

boy learns lessons of friendship and courage as he rediscovers the true spirit of Christmas aboard the train. At the end of his journey, he meets Santa Claus in the flesh and receives an extraordinary gift only those who truly believe can hear...

For many *The Polar Express* is just another Christmas movie to enjoy during the holidays yet it’s much more than just your typical

Santa Claus movie. For those who have seen the movie, that’s not the case at the end of the film. Serving as a guideline to many, *The Polar Express* teaches that no one is ever too old to stop believing in miracles.

A Christmas miracle is ready to happen at any minute and no matter how old we grow or what we experience, it’s never too late to stop believing.

## 'Arthur's Perfect Christmas'

By: Jillian Ramirez

*Arthur's Perfect Christmas*, an hour long special of the cartoon television series *Arthur*, is my favorite Christmas movie. It is a cute story about how Arthur wishes for an ideal Christmas and nothing goes as planned.

Arthur’s sister, D.W., doesn’t get the toy she wished for. Instead, she gets a knock-off and throws a huge temper tantrum. Arthur’s friends Muffy and Francine get into a huge

fight when Francine is unable to attend Muffy’s Christmas party. The party conflicts with Francine’s Hanukkah celebration, and Muffy doesn’t understand how Hanukkah could be as important as Christmas. Buster has a hard time celebrating Christmas following his parents’ divorce, so he decides to create his own holiday called “Baxter Day.” Arthur gets his mother a glass bird for Christmas, and he tries his best to keep it safe. Despite his efforts,

it breaks anyway and he has nothing to give to her on the big day.

Although things don’t go as Arthur had hoped, he is still able to have a “perfect” Christmas in the end. He and his friends realize that all they really need is each other to make the holiday magical.

I like how different holidays are represented throughout the film. Arthur and Muffy celebrate Christmas, Francine celebrates Hanukkah, and Brain celebrates Kwanzaa. It

shows how the holiday season isn’t only about one celebration, and that accepting other traditions brings everyone closer together.

Although targeted toward a younger audience, *Arthur's Perfect Christmas* is a great movie for people of all ages. It reminds every one that gifts and parties aren’t worth worrying about. As long as you have family by your side, the holidays will be just perfect.

## 'It's A Wonderful Life'

BY: KRISTEL DOMINGO

Although it was released back in 1946, *It's a Wonderful Life* is still pulling at the heartstrings of myriads of people to this day. Director and producer Frank Capra brought the classic cinematic masterpiece to life, which was based on the short story “The Greatest Gift” by Philip Van Doren Stern. The film centers on protagonist George Bailey (James Stewart), a magnanimous man who puts others before himself, on the brink of suicide on Christmas Eve, wishing he had never been born. Bailey is taken back through time and views how people’s lives would have been affected without his presence. He begins to realize

that he has made significant impacts by touching the hearts of so many people.

The movie places emphasis on the importance of loyalty to family and friends, loving and giving to the fullest extent, and most of all, how wonderful life is. In addition, Capra clearly illustrates that every single person has the power to make a difference. Too often, people think that they cannot make a change because they are not rich or famous, but that is simply not true. As evidenced by George Bailey’s actions, any simple act of kindness has the ability to change someone’s life for the better. *It's a Wonderful Life* is a definite must-see this holiday season.



GEORGE BAILEY RECEIVES THE HELP OF HIS FRIENDS AND FAMILY (ALL PHOTOS COURTESY OF GOOGLE IMAGES)



# T T H E M O V I E S

## 'The Santa Clause'

BY: COLLEEN SHARLOW

When ABC's 25 Days of Christmas finally arrives, the first movie I go to look for on the schedule is *The Santa Clause*. Scott Calvin, played by Tim Allen, is the divorced father of 6 year old Charlie, a firm believer in Santa Claus. When Charlie goes to stay with his dad on Christmas Eve, Scott is troubled when he hears that his ex-wife Laura and Charlie's stepfather Neil told him that Santa Claus was not real. That night when Scott and Charlie are sound asleep, they hear a commotion coming from

the roof, only to discover the real Santa making his way down the chimney. Startled by Scott when he calls out to him, Santa falls off the roof and disappears, leaving Scott to take his place. Scott and Charlie deliver presents around the world that Christmas Eve and return to the North Pole, where they are told by so called "elves" that Scott is the new Santa. Charlie is thrilled to hear this but Scott remains in denial, until his hair turns white, he has cravings for junk food, and his belly grows larger. Scott accepts the fact

that he is now Santa Claus, but the only problem is how to keep this secret from his disbelieving family.

Ever since I was little, my dad and I have always watched *The Santa Clause* together and have made it our tradition. It is the perfect feel good Christmas movie that puts you right into the Christmas spirit and tugs at your heartstrings. It is a funny, entertaining flick that brings out your inner child. It is a great movie to watch on a brisk December night, cuddled on the couch with hot chocolate in hand.



SCOTT HAS TO BE SANTA AFTER KNOCKING HIM OFF THE ROOF

## 'The Nightmare Before Christmas'

BY: ALEXSIS SWANSON

*The Nightmare before Christmas* is the perfect movie you can watch from October all the way to December. The movie is set in Halloweentown where everyone is a witch, goblin, goblin, or some other creature of the night. This musical is led by the pumpkin king, Jack Skellington who is bored with their same old Halloween antics. While wandering around, Jack stumbles upon Christmastown and gets a new feel for life filled with cheery colors and merry spirits. Skellington makes it his new purpose to take over Christmas by kidnapping Santa Claus and, with the help of Halloweentown's citizens, make toys for the children of the world to deliver on Christmas day. His plan goes downhill when the toys come to life and go awry. With the help of his love interest and friend, Sally,

and his trusty sidekick and "dog" Zero, Skellington manages to save Santa Claus from the Boogie Man and get him on his sleigh to save Christmas Day.

*The Nightmare Before Christmas* has always been a favorite movie of mine. The fact that there is a movie that you can watch from the days leading up to Halloween till the days up to Christmas in itself should be enough, not to mention it is a musical. The character of Jack the Skellington, although clearly fictional, is very relatable. He was someone who had a big role in a group of people who got bored and tired of the same old things going on and sought adventure and a new purpose for life. With troubled times, many people turn to their closest and trust worthy friends, just as Jack did to save Christmas day after he messed up.



JACK TRIES TO BRING CHRISTMAS TO THE CITIZENS OF HALLOWEENTOWN.

(ALL PHOTOS COURTESY OF GOOGLE IMAGES)

## 'A Christmas Carol'

BY: ELIZABETH SHORT

Perhaps one of the most universal traditions that comes along with Christmas is the telling of Charles Dickens's classic novella *A Christmas Carol*. The story has been made and remade into countless movies and theatrical performances. One of the more famous movie versions of the story is the 1938 version starring Reginald Owen and Gene Lockhart. The movie follows the majority of the main plot featured in the original story. Elderly miser Ebenezer Scrooge is visited by the ghost of his former business partner Jacob Marley on Christmas Eve. Marley

brings the warning that if Scrooge does not change his bitter ways, he will be doomed to walk the Earth as a spirit forever. Marley sends three ghosts to further convince Scrooge. First the Ghost of Christmas Past takes Scrooge back to his childhood to pinpoint the events that shaped his future. After an emotional journey, the Ghost of Christmas Present takes Scrooge throughout England to see others celebrating. Scrooge's nephew remains happy with his fiancé despite losing his mother and being spurned by his uncle. Scrooge watches as his employee Bob Cratchit and his family

scrape up just enough to enjoy their family being together. He learns of Bob's son, Tiny Tim, who remains kind and hopeful despite suffering greatly from illness. The Ghost of Christmas Present predicts that Tiny Tim will die should the future continue on its path. Lastly, the Ghost of Christmas Future shows Scrooge the Cratchits shattered by the loss of Tiny Tim, and that Scrooge's funeral will be ignored by all. Scrooge returns to reality with a changed heart. He visits his nephew and makes him a business partner and raises Bob Cratchit's salary. Celebrating with Scrooge, Tiny Tim cries out "God

bless us, every one!"

This is one of my favorite Christmas movies because it embodies the true spirit of the season. It shows us that it is never too late to change your ways, and that being kind toward your fellow man is something we can always do more. Honestly, I feel this movie's message of love, kindness, generosity, and acceptance of others, is something the world could use a reminder of today. I still tear up when Scrooge declares that he will "keep Christmas in his heart all the year." Remember to spread kindness this Christmas season, regardless of anything that divides us.

**December Trending Hashtags**

**#in2017iwantto**

**#vSCO**

**#houseparty**

**#mannequinchallenge**

**#tentoedownchallenge**

**#dubchallenge**

**#mybestholidaymemory**

**‘On the Go’: the way to go**

BY: MARJOLEIN MEGALOUDIS

This holiday season is all about the new innovative technology mixed with the old-retro feel. With Christmas around the corner, consumers want the best items on the market. Searching for high quality items, whether on Amazon or in-store, has created a high rising market for consumer goods. The demand for cameras, sneakers, phones and more has increased by 89% this holiday season.

The new trend of taking high quality pictures drives consumers to purchase more high-tech cameras. Cameras such as Go-Pros, Fujifilm, even Polaroid cameras are in style for this holiday season. With the remake of old film cameras, record players and more, the retro theme has made its way into the charts. However, every buyer also wants the latest technology. The newest technology such as droids, Mac

Books and portable speakers are rated the most popular out of any item on the market. Brands who have released desirable appliances, such as Nike with their new running shoes, have also become a huge trend. The new running shoe was released just in time for the holiday season, with lines outside the door.

The “On the Go” feel is most desirable and preferable to the younger generation. Shopping online this holiday season has become huge. The most popular website for this is Amazon. People shop online to avoid the overload of shoppers inside stores. Shopping online has offered many people benefits such as free shipping, sales that are not inside stores, and a lot more to offer. With the release of so many online stores, consumers have more access to a wider range of products, and are more likely to shop online than in stores.

**Mannequins and music**

BY: SHREYAS KEERTHI & JILLIAN RAMIREZ

Social media in our generation constantly has something new trending. “Trending” correlates to being currently popular; each day is a different story, something new arises to grasp our attention. These past couple of weeks Twitter’s Trending Topics have been full of “challenges.” Starting with the running man challenge to the mannequin challenge, these challenges have taken over social media.

In the mannequin challenge, people remain frozen in action as the song “Black Beatles” by Rae Sremmurd plays. More than 60,000 videos of the mannequin challenge have been posted on Instagram and Twitter. The growing popularity of these challenges has left the world awestruck. Popular sports teams, celebrities, and politicians have even contributed to the trend. These challenges are worldwide, however most originate from American high schools.

Even our own school

participated in the mannequin challenge and uploaded it to Twitter. Rather than using the original song, a school favorite was played in background: “Big House.” Variations in the mannequin challenge are common, especially song changes. It keeps it interesting, and of course, trending.

In addition to that, many new albums had been released recently by rappers such as Childish Gambino, J. Cole, The Weeknd, and Kid Cudi. Frank Ocean had released a much coveted album, titled “Blonde”, after disappearing from the stage for four years. Ocean’s album is in standstill with Childish Gambino’s “Awaken, My Love!” and J. Cole’s “4 Your Eyez Only”. All three of these albums are exceptionally amazing; they all are different.

After two years MIA, causing his fans to listen to 21 Savage, J. Cole is back with another album with no features. Cole emptied his soul out into his album. He addresses social issues and preaching to do the right thing in a world full of



CELEBRITIES PIPER PERABO, JORDANA BREWSTER, AND WILMER VALDERRAMA PARTICIPATE IN A “MANNEQUIN CHALLENGE” AT THE PEOPLE’S CHOICE AWARDS NOMINATIONS PRESS CONFERENCE PROVING THAT THE PHENOMENON IS TRULY WIDESPREAD

(PHOTO COURTESY OF GOOGLE IMAGES)

wrong. He did not make any of the beats too “jamming”, yet he used the instruments you’d find in a school’s band room in order to get his voice to be the highlight of the album. Multiple times Cole has brought up that many black people are being killed, sometimes by the police

and other times by members of their own community. Cole also reveals that he has a ‘secret’ daughter in this album through the song “She’s Mine, Pt. 2” in which the song’s underlay is his newborn daughter fussing around and crying as well as her heartbeat from the ultrasound.

# Angels we have heard on high

BY: SONYA ASDIR

The music department put everyone into the Christmas spirit with their annual Christmas Concert! The concert took place on Wednesday, December 14th and Thursday, December 15th. Led by Mr. Cullinan, the show consisted of performances from four different music groups including the Select Choir, Concert Choir, Concert Band, and Jazz Band. The most talented musicians and singers in the school came together to make something truly spectacular.

The show opened up with a performance from the Select Choir and Concert Choir, singing “Angels We Have Heard on High.” Also included in the first act was the select choir’s three accapella perfor-

mances; “A Festival Madrigal,” “All is Well” and “Going to Bethlehem.” There also were 2 soloists for the medley of “Of Night of Silence/ Silent Night.”

The second act featured the Concert Band and Jazz Band. The songs played by the Concert Band and Jazz Band were Christmas classics! Some songs included; “Sleigh Ride,” “Nutcracker Suite Petite” and of course “Jingle Bell Rock!”

The Christmas concert was an absolute success and everyone involved did an outstanding job! Here are what some students involved in the concert had to say; “The atmosphere was very lively and it seemed like everyone enjoyed themselves”- Michael Trinidad. Sophomore, Ella Kubiak explains



MEMBERS OF THE STRING SECTION OF THE CONCERT BAND FOCUS ON THE MUSIC RESTING ON THEIR STANDS

that everyone apart of the concert “feels like a family” that she felt so much satisfaction, knowing that all of her hard work paid off! The one message that the music department

wants to send to students is to get involved and try something new! They are always looking for people to come and join them for performances!

# Grammar schools rule!



THE ADDAMS FAMILY UNITES IN SONG TO START OFF THE SHOW (ALL PHOTOS COURTESY OF BGA PUBLICATIONS)

BY: ELIZABETH SHORT

Not only does Bishop Ahr boast a drama department that towers above most, but it also has a unique tradition amongst high schools: the grammar school show. As the rehearsal process comes to an end, the drama department sends out invitations to local grammar schools to come and see the show. The grammar school show typically takes place right before each show officially opens to the rest of the public. The show acts as a preview performance, a common practice among professional productions, and it gives the department a chance to run the show in front of an audience before the show opens. It provides a unique opportunity to fix any issues before opening night, gauge audience interest and reac-

tions, and give each cast member a more comfortable feeling in front of an audience. Not only does the grammar school show benefit each production, but it also acts as a recruitment activity. The drama department receives a chance to show younger generations just what makes it such an asset to the school.

The show takes place during the course of a school day, but it does so much more than take up class time. During this time, any member of the drama department who is performing, assisting with costumes and makeup, or acting as crew for the show reports to the little theater instead of their first class. Immediately, the work begins. Costumes are donned, makeup is applied, dances are run, and any trouble spots are addressed. While most of the

school begins the day taking notes or studying, the drama department members are stretching and running scenes.

For the drama department’s most recent production, *The Addams Family Musical*, preparations began earlier than usual. Performers came into school early to start applying the extensive makeup used by those on stage. While it seems like a lot of work, many of those involved find it to be extremely rewarding. Senior drama department member Stephanie Driscoll stated: “I love performing for grammar schools because we get to show kids how fun it is to be in the drama department, and we get to showcase months of hard work.”

After the curtain closes on the grammar school show, department head and director Lea Gossett invites the grammar schools to stay

even longer for a talkback session. Here, the students get a chance to ask Gossett, the cast, and the crew about all aspects that go into putting on a high school show. Grammar school students can learn about what goes into picking a show, the audition and casting process, all of the physical demands of performing, what type of acting choices developed along the way, and the creative process as a whole. Students are encouraged ask as many questions as they want. They receive a unique perspective through asking the performers first hand. As the grammar schools leave, many groups will even snap a photo with the cast. The drama department provides itself, along with the rest of the school, a truly unique and wonderful service by partaking in the grammar school shows.



STUDENTS FROM ST. BARTHOLOMEW’S SCHOOL IN EAST BRUNSWICK HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO MEET THE CAST OF THE SHOW

# Tragedy and rising deaths in Mosul



IRAQI SOLDIER ESCORTS A GROUP OF CIVILIANS IN MOSUL

BY: LAUREL PRIME

Amidst prolonged misery and strife in Mosul, civilian and military casualties are escalating to staggering figures six weeks after the Iraqi Army launched an offensive to capture the city from the Islamic State. Nearly 600 civilians have been slaughtered in the turmoil, according to one estimate, as well as several dozens of Iraq's elite, U.S.-trained special forces soldiers – the vanguard com-

batants in the deadliest battle to date during Iraq's two-year struggle to vanquish the extremists. The wide-scale carnage has considerably stagnated the army's advance and aroused debate regarding the sagacity of the battle plan which intended for Mosul's denizens to take shelter in their homes as a means to avert a mass dislocation and the city's imminent annihilation. Iraqi commanders are refraining from employing

heavier artillery to prevent further fatalities within the civilian population, but at the expense of making headway on the ground. They further stated that U.S. allies are urging them to consider taking measures that could mitigate the civilian toll and concurrently precipitate a mutual victory against the Islamic State in the waning days of the Obama administration.

The battle for Mosul never promised a facile victory. Consternation about the complexity of successfully staging such an operation in a city occupied by more than a million residents impeded its execution for more than a year. The enemy's resistance has been more barbaric than many feared. They have released hundreds of car bombs to ward off the arrival of approaching Iraqi troops, deployed snipers on rooftops, and rained down mortar shells on residential neighborhoods. Khalaf al-Hadidi, a member of the provincial council, approximated that over 550 civilians had been massacred by Islamic State militants during skirmishes or coalition airstrikes. Many

of those who died, died en route to Irbil [the capital of the Kurdish autonomous region] due to delays at checkpoints. The ever-increasing toll and travails in eastern Mosul seemingly underscore the deficiencies of the current strategy, which has exposed military forces to close-range fire against the Islamic State's relentless shelling. Iraqi Prime Minister, Haider al-Abadi, joined by the country's foremost military leadership, has adjudicated against a mass exodus for now, according to a senior Iraqi official, instead adopting an initiative to request residents of recently cleared neighborhoods to shift temporarily to more secure regions in the locality. As of late, U.S. fighter planes have expanded strikes designed to "crater" roadways in Mosul, in an effort to inhibit the movement of car bombs that the Islamic State has utilized to ambush local units and bases. Iraqi commanders are transmitting mortar coordinates to the American coalition so its aircraft can destroy them. Fighting terrorism, it appears, necessitates a scalpel, not a broadsword.

## The Election Votes: how it happens and why

BY: TOM KNAPP

Before a discussion about the 2016 Election can commence, a shared knowledge must be established about the way the president is elected. The Electoral College is a group of people who actually elect the president. This group of 538 people represents the states they are from and vote on their behalf, although a voter in the College can freely decide who to vote for. So, what this means is that the group of 55 voters from California vote for what the popular vote decided in California. This winner-take-all system in each state explains how exactly a candidate can win the popular vote, but still lose the election.

The 2016 Election had many participants during the primaries. The Republican Party had a plethora of candidates to choose from, ranging from Ted Cruz, Jeb Bush, Chris Christie, Ben Carson and many more at some points. The Democratic Party primary was mostly between Hillary Clinton and Bernie Sanders. One by one the candidates of the Republican Party either dropped out of

the race to Trump, who seemingly took the GOP Nomination by storm. In fact, he won the nomination unopposed in the last month because Cruz and Kasich (the last remaining opponents) both dropped out of the race.

The Democratic Party nomination process is less straightforward however, including a series of delegates and super delegates. While Bernie Sanders was winning an equal amount of delegates and sometimes even more delegates, Hillary won more super delegates in each state. However, Bernie took defeat graciously as all politicians should, and acquiesced. Hillary Clinton became the nominee for the Democratic Party. The third party candidates Jill Stein of the Green Party and Gary Johnson of the Libertarian Party fought vehemently but failed to gain any traction due to the two-party system that American politics is based upon. With all four candidates in their corners, it's time to look at the ring and see what exactly went down. Hillary Clinton focused her campaign on the major ideas of helping the middle class to improve by raising incomes, expanding upon

women's rights by supporting equal pay for equal work, and improving the Affordable Care Act to better fit the needs of the citizens. Clinton also proposed a more efficient way for undocumented immigrants to obtain citizenship.

Donald Trump focused his campaign on topics that differ from traditional conservative ideals. Such as particularly isolationist ideals, restraining trade with some countries, and supporting nativism. Many of his Republican colleagues also support things that he widely opposed such as: military interventionist policies, and cuts in Medicare and Social Security. While yes, the Electoral Voters do not necessarily have to represent their state and can vote for whomever they like, voting against the candidate their state chose would be in violation of many unofficial rules and traditions as this would be the first time in the United State's history the Electoral College would have elected a candidate that wasn't elected by the people. Trump won the election by 74 Electoral Votes. Hillary lost and has agreed to a peaceful transition of power, which



TRUMP WON THE ELECTION WITH 74 ELECTORAL VOTES

was something Trump implied wouldn't have necessarily happened if he had lost. "I will totally accept the election results if I win," Donald Trump said before the results were published. However, now that he has secured the title, he is calling for us all to come together and unite for the betterment of America. We must all work, all of us, together, even with our apparent enemies, under the flag this nation stands for, to Make America Great Again.



**Name:** Nina Acosta

**Nickname(s):** N/A

**Grade:** 12

**Sport:** Winter Track



**What is something on your Christmas wish list?** Cute running clothes

**What is your favorite Christmas song?** *All I Want for Christmas is You* by Mariah Carey

**Name:** Adrian Genao

**Nickname(s):** AJ, PP

**Grade:** 12

**Sport:** Bowling



**What is something on your Christmas wish list?** Robinson Cano Jersey

**What is your favorite Christmas song?** *Carol of the Bells* by Trans-Siberian Orchestra

**Name:** Danielle Freund

**Nickname(s):** D

**Grade:** 12

**Sport:** Cheerleading



**What is something on your Christmas wish list?** A new phone

**What is your favorite Christmas song?** *All I Want for Christmas is You* by Mariah Carey

**Name:** Kyle Printon

**Nickname(s):** KP, Dave

**Grade:** 12

**Sport:** Swimming



**What is something on your Christmas wish list?** Clothes

**What is your favorite Christmas song?** *Let It Snow* by Michael Bublé

**Name:** Elizabeth

**Cimilluca**

**Nickname(s):** Elle

**Grade:** 12

**Sport:** Basketball



**What is something on your Christmas wish list?** Go-Pro and socks

**What is your favorite Christmas song?** *The Christmas Song* by Frank Sinatra

**Name:** Gaven Ringwood

**Nickname(s):** Javin

**Grade:** 12

**Sport:** Wrestling



**What is something on your Christmas wish list?** Pants

**What is your favorite Christmas song?** *Mistletoe* by Justin Bieber

**Name:** Christine Kelly

**Nickname(s):** Chrissy K

**Grade:** 12

**Sport:** Bowling



**What is something on your Christmas wish list?** Lamborghini Aventador Sv

**What is your favorite Christmas song?** *Dominic the Donkey* by Lou Monte

**Name:** Sean Kudelka

**Nickname(s):** Special K

**Grade:** 12

**Sport:** Basketball



**What is something on your Christmas wish list?** Lamborghini Murcielago

**What is your favorite Christmas song?** *Mary Did You Know* by Pentatonix

**Name:** Emily Louie

**Nickname(s):** Em

**Grade:** 12

**Sport:** Swimming



**What is something on your Christmas wish list?** To get into college

**Favorite Christmas song?** *All I Want for Christmas is You* by Mariah Carey

# Trojans 'shooting' for division

BY: SIMON LLAGUNO

The boys basketball varsity team is looking to turn heads this year. The Trojans have many new additions to the team this year. Returning seniors Sean Kudelka and Kieran Hodder are expected to lead this year's team. Juniors Alex Santiago, Jordan Wells, and Matthew Mellos will also add to the deep backcourt offense. Guards Simon Llaguno and Matthew Panganiban, and forward Deontae Crawford are all players who have also been making a strong impact on both ends of the court. New head coach Darius Griffin has also been introducing new philosophies to the team. With a new lineup, spectators are anxious to see if the boys can meet high expectations.

The team has been working hard in the offseason. Throughout the school year, the team worked out regularly to condition their bodies

and prepare themselves for the season. They also played in the Odie Page League in the summer and recently joined the Immaculata Fall League. Their most impressive win in the fall league was their last game of the offseason, a 54-49 victory over East Brunswick. Ending the offseason with a solid win, the boys hope to build off their progress and start strong in the regular season.

Now that tryouts have commenced, all teams are beginning to practice and prepare for the season. The varsity team is working extremely hard to start strong, even practicing early in the morning before classes on school days.

The season-opener was a home game against South River on the 16th. The men outscored South River with a score of 74 to 38. Following a close game against top-ranked Sayreville, the Trojans are expected to contend in the GMCs.



SEAN KUDELKA MAKES A MOVE TO GET TO THE HOOP. (ALL PHOTOS COURTESY OF BGA PUBLICATIONS)

## Statement season

BY: CLAIRE FROELICH

The BGA girls basketball team has begun another season. The varsity team is in the Greater Middlesex Conference, White Division. Last year's season, their overall record was 18 wins and 9 losses.

The head coach is Brittney Griffin. This is Griffin's first season as a head coach, after five years as

an assistant coach. Griffin makes a comment about the team's players and performance, stating, "We have three very experienced varsity players and two very strong freshman." Some key returning players are seniors Elle Cimilluca, playing point guard and guard, Brianna Jackson. Playing for another season are forwards Sara Decker and Virginia Lagdameo. Morgan Maguire is also returning as a sophomore guard.

There is also a handful of promising newcomers to the team, such as guards, Emma Boslet and Elyssa Jackson. Megan Herka is also an addition to the team, who plays forward. Both Herka and Boslet are freshmen, while Jackson is a junior.

This varsity team is known for speed, agility, and having an experience of playing together. The winter season of athletics has just begun, with high expectations for the girls varsity team at BGA. To end on the topic, Coach Griffin comments that her and the team are, "excited to see what this season has in store."

In their opening game, the Lady Trojans defeated Colonia 49 to 19. Emma Boslet led the team with 19 points and Ellie Cimilluca chipped in with 9.



BRIANNA JACKSON ATTACKS THE RIM AND HITS A FLOATER.

## Through the finish line



NINA ACOSTA SPRINTS IN A RELAY RACE.

BY: ISAAC SCAFE

After months of waiting, the girls and boy track and field teams are ready to get back into stride. Despite the harsh conditions, members of the team look to get warmed back up in anticipation of the first meet of the season. Returning and new members have their eyes set on suc-

cess in their respective events. From the 200 meter sprint and the 4x400 relay to shot put and long jump, the track and field team look poised for a successful season despite being such a young team. With the team filled with lots of potential, the track and field team are set for the next couple of years.

Leading the boys is senior Fernando Sullivan who has ran for the school all four years. A big reason behind Sullivan's involvement with winter track is his start in cross country freshman year. Enjoying the feel that running gave him, Sullivan was tempted to keep on going. And clearly he hasn't stopped. "I had been on the team since freshman year and cross country is what originally got me interested in running."

For the girls it's Nina Acosta who also runs all year long. Having just came off an impressive cross country season, Acosta aims to replicate similar success during the winter. Besides from individual accomplishments, she also hopes for the team itself to perform well during meets. "We're focusing on preparing for the upcoming season, trying to get as much mileage on for the spring season."

## Cheerleaders on a roll

BY: ALEXIS SWANSON

It is competition season for the varsity cheerleaders who will be taking the mat once again to show off their moves, agility, and stunting and tumbling skills. The 2017 cheer season is led by new coaches, and sisters, Jordyn Mueller and Chelsea Mueller. Taking charge of the team this year are captains Julia Fedor and Danielle Freund along with fellow seniors Renee Viviano, Melissa Oakes, Daija Duke-Phillips and Sara Osowski.

The varsity cheer team comes together as one and puts in work after school every day at practice in the Catanzaro Gym. The team also improve their tumbling skills weekly at All Star Athletics' gym together. The theme of the lady Trojans' routine is "military" showing

their true power in union as a team. The varsity competed at the GMC's this past fall for their first competition. Their next competition will be held January 22nd following about 10 other competitions including the State Competition where they will compete against other varsity teams in the state.

Both Varsity and Junior Varsity teams will be heading off together to Disney World in Florida to compete for a national title at competition. When asked about the outcome of the upcoming cheer season, senior Viviano said "I think the season is going to be great, we have a great team of really talented and motivated girls and I'm excited to compete with them all!"

The cheer team hopes to have a successful season as they give it their all.

## Bowling is right up Ahr alley

BY: ALEXIS SWANSON

The 2016-2017 bowling team aims for a good season. Both boys and girls teams put in effort each practice up to the games for the best outcome they can get. The teams are coached by teachers Mark Fiore and Terence Reilly. The girls team is led by seniors Nicole Genser, Jaylin Matysik, Jenna Ciancimino, and Christine Kelly. The boys team is led by Spencer Tardy, Bryce McCall, Erik Gonzalez, Andrew Funk, and Adrian Genao. To start off the season the teams played on December 1st with success. As of December 16th the boys' record was 5-1 and the girls' was 1-4-1.

When asked about how coach thinks the upcoming season will go, Reilly said, "The boys have a strong chance of winning the division and

GMC's. The girls are all learning the sport and hoping to finish with a solid season".



BRYCE MCCALL FOLLOWS THROUGH AFTER A THROW.

## Pinning down competition



SENIOR DYLAN O'CONNOR EXECUTES A MOVE, HOPING TO TAKE HIS OPPONENT DOWN. (ALL PHOTOS COURTESY OF BGA PUBLICATIONS)

BY: DUDLEY ENGRAM

That time of year has come again for the Trojans to hit the mats. After losing two key seniors from last year's team Dylan Jensen and John Sheedy, they look to fulfill a spot as one of the best teams in the division. The wrestling team consists of six seniors: Mike DeSantis, Dylan O'Connor, Gaven Ringwood, Seth Acosta, Nick Jensen, and Giuseppe Capasso. Alongside these seniors are some returning underclassmen working to get better for seasons to come. There are three captains for this Trojan Army: Dylan O'Connor wrestling at 132/126, Gaven Ringwood wrestling at 120, and Mike

DeSantis wrestling at 220. Through the practices, and amount of training they did in the off-season, the Trojans are patiently awaiting to take the right steps towards having a great season. Captain Mike DeSantis when asked about this year's team went on to say: "We are very optimistic about this season. Along with the moving down to the Blue division, and the strength of our returning seniors and underclassmen there is a lot to look forward for this season."

In a recent interview with the team's coach, alumni Nicholas Tonzola, when asked about his outlook

on this year's upcoming season, he sounded confident and explained how he expected the season to go well and responded: "We are hungry to compete for a GMC blue division title. My biggest job as a coach is to give my wrestlers the opportunity to succeed. We wrestle one of the toughest schedules in the area. We would like to compete for a division, sectional and district 20 title".

It is this kind of confidence that usually produces good seasons as it is built upon hours and hours of perfect preparation, which the Trojans have already seemed to have gone through.

## Swimming to states

BY: JILLIAN RAMIREZ

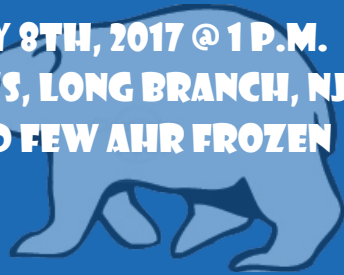
Seniors Noah Caruso, Sklyer Caruso, Tanya Chokski, Caroline Desuza, Pilar Jimenez, Emily Louie, Olivia Menture, Duncan Merri-man-Mendez, Sophia Nogales, Erin O'Donnell, and Kyle Printon began gathering for their last year of 6 a.m. practices in late November. They're looking forward to another successful season in the pool.

Last year, Printon became the first male from BGA to qualify for the Meet of Champions. He helped the boys team place seventh overall in GMCs. The girls team came in third, and Louie and sophomore Sarah Hardy also qualified for the Meet of Champions.

With so many talented returning swimmers, the team is sure to be victorious once again. The girls won their first meet on December 7th against Mother Seton (126-35). They had a tough loss against East Brunswick on December 9th, but they will continue to work hard and improve. The boys' record is 0-2 so far, with losses against St. Joseph's and East Brunswick. Printon says the team is sure to step it up in their next couple of meets

**ANNUAL POLAR PLUNGE  
BENEFITING BISHOP AHR!**

**DATE: JANUARY 8TH, 2017 @ 1 P.M.  
PLACE: ROONEY'S, LONG BRANCH, NJ  
MANY ARE COLD FEW AHR FROZEN**



*Prom Gown Collection!*

Collection of new and used prom gowns and accessories will take place **February 2nd - 10th, 2017**. Gowns, etc. can be brought to Rm. 106a. Forms due in the Main Office by **January 31st**.

*Start cleaning those closets now!*

**CSAC Used Clothing Drive**

CSAC will be collecting used clothing, socks, belts, stuffed animals, linens and shoes

Collection dates: March 13th, 14th, and 15th, 2017

Bags (tightly secured and sturdy) can be placed in the truck outside of Rm. 107 until 9 a.m. each morning (BGA student must sign-in in Rm. 106a)

Night drop off: March 15th 7 - 8:30 p.m. Bring items to the Concession Stand by the football field

Come join us in praying The Stations of the Cross

You are invited to join us for a simple soup supper in the BGA cafeteria 5:30 - 6:30 p.m. before stations.

Stations will be held at 7 p.m. In the Little Theatre on Tuesday, April 11

Call 732 - 549 - 1108, ext. 648 and let us know the number of people who will be joining us

**2nd Annual BGA/STA Alumni Family Day!**



**Saturday  
May 20, 2017**

Information will be on [www.bgahs.org](http://www.bgahs.org) or Follow us on Twitter and Instagram at [bgahs](#) or Facebook at Bishop George Ahr High School

*Communion Dresses*

*New and used Communion dresses/suits will be collected during the month of March*

*Collections will be given to the*

*St. Vincent de Paul Society for distribution*

*Specific dates will be given later*

**HOOPS FOR HEART!**

Thursday, March 9th 2017, 7 - 9 P.M.  
\$5 Admission, Tickets will be sold during lunch periods (April 5th - 7th) and at the door  
Halftime free-throw game & raffle prizes!

**ALL PROCEEDS GO TO THE AMERICAN HEART ASSOCIATION**