



# REED *all* ABOUT IT

December 19, 2019

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## TWO SENIORS SIGN COMMITMENTS

**Kishan Patel**  
ASSISTANT LAYOUT EDITOR

Two senior tennis players, Tess Johnston of Darko Flanigan and Hayden Smith, Byrd Tennis Academy, signed their commitments to colleges for tennis scholarships this semester in front of their families, coaches and all of William and Reed Academy.

On Nov. 13, Smith signed to Lee University's women's tennis team—and, on Dec. 2, Flanigan signed her commitment to Emory & Henry College's women's tennis team.

Smith has played the sport since she was "barely able to hold a racquet"—now, she's played in over 500 matches.

As a W&R Warrior, Smith was a finalist in the 2019 Georgia Independent School Association III Individual State Tournament and was MVP during both her sophomore and junior years.

Since 2012, Charles Byrd has been her coach. She currently trains with him as well as Henry Darko, Whitney Byrd, Derryck Clay, Sunday Emmanuel and Sue

Johnston of Darko Byrd Tennis Academy.

Smith says she's excited to fulfill this dream of hers by taking this next step as a Lee University Flame, under the direction of coach Patric Hynes.

Flanigan too got an early start—at age 8—and she says her older brother helped her foster a competitive streak. Her passion for the game has continued throughout her schooling.

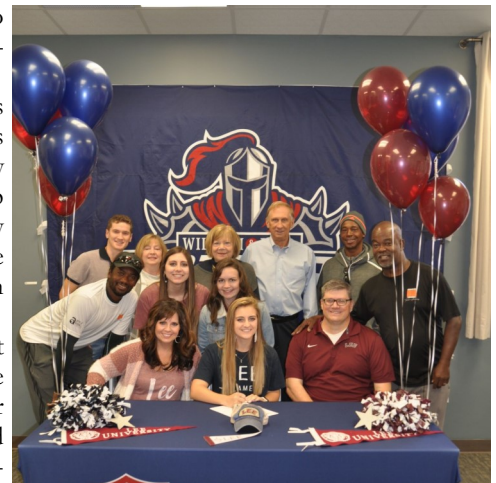
She has trained hard and played in many USTA tournaments, having success at each age level as she progressed.

Flanigan's high school coach is W&R's Carter McKenzie. She also has been coached by Julius Robberts and Scott McRee, and she currently trains with them at Genepri Performance Tennis in Marietta.

Likewise, Flanigan is thrilled that she will be under the direction of Coach Christine Johnson at Emory & Henry.

Both athletes credit their coaches and families for their many successes.

Smith would personally like to thank

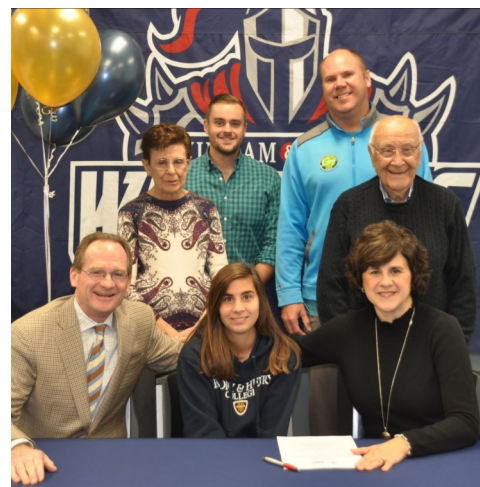


*Smith, center, with her family, friends and coaches.*

parents Todd and Dabney Smith, sister Maryn and grandparents Jack and Ann Smith as well as Prue and Kathy Dacus. She also wants to give a shout-out to her family in Ohio and South Carolina, all of her teachers and friends for all their support and guidance.

Flanigan would like to thank parents Tom and Gail, brother Michael, grandparents Fran and Joe Arena and her extended family and friends for their support and guidance.

We are so proud of both you, ladies! Go Flames, and go Wasps!



*Flanigan, center, with her family and coaches.*

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## Guess Who?

Caroline Warner  
STAFF WRITER

*Hey, Warriors! "Guess Who" is a fun, quick guessing game, where you read the answers to the following questions and guess which teacher or staff member it might be.*

*Here is this edition's installment:*

**RAAI: Where did you grow up?**

GW: Forsyth County, Georgia.

**RAAI: When did you realize you wanted to become a teacher?**

GW: After working at a summer camp during college.

**RAAI: If you could travel anywhere in the world, where would you go?**

GW: Greece

**RAAI: What's your favorite food item?**

GW: Meat

**RAAI: Favorite book?**

GW: *The Iliad*



**RAAI: Do you have any siblings?**

GW: Two sisters.

**RAAI: What was your favorite grade that you remember?**

GW: Senior Year

**RAAI: What's your favorite TV show?**

GW: *Alone*

**RAAI: Anything you want to say to the people reading this article?**

GW: Yes. Go America. Eat your vegetables. It's good for you—it builds character.



*Which teacher—  
or staff member—do you  
think it is?\**

\*SEE BACK COVER FOR THE ANSWER

## More Ways to Give

Kailin Neveu  
STUDENT EDITOR

Giving back is about more than spending or donating money. There are more ways to give this holiday season than just buying gifts! Small selfless acts go a long way, especially during the holiday season.

### 1. Bake Cookies for Your Neighbors

Think about it—you live so close to your neighbors; yet, in most cases, you might not even know their names. Bringing them some warm, fresh-baked holiday cookies is a great way to get to know them and to make someone's day.



### 2. Shovel the Driveway/Rake the Yard

Shoveling and raking is such a pain. Your parents don't like to do it and it stands to reason that your neighbors don't either.

So why not rid them of the burden this year and get on it for them when you have free time over break?

We don't see much snow here in Georgia,

but if we have it—go play in it—and clear it out of driveways and walkways. Spread salt to melt ice.

Or rake the yard—sweep the sidewalks. It will brighten their day and save them from the trouble.

### 3. Volunteer at an animal shelter

People aren't the only ones who need love during the holidays—stop by your local shelter and spend some time with the animals there! They all usually can use the extra helping hands, and who doesn't want to play with puppies? Everybody wins.

### 4. Do the Dishes

This is a time for big family meals. As well, parents are usually so busy around the holidays, running around trying to get houses ready for visitors and get in some last-minute shopping.

That said, another small but impactful gesture could be to do the dishes for your

parents or grandparents this holiday season. It would probably be very helpful to them if they had one less thing to worry about—so grab a rag and maybe a sibling or cousin and surprise the entire family by washing and drying the dishes so everyone else can put up their feet.

### 5. Tip Your Servers

Servers work hard but don't always make a lot of money. Giving generous tips will not only help a person buy presents for loved ones, but it can also help them out with their bills.

### 6. Hold the Door

It normally gets a lot colder during the holiday season, so on a day you're feeling extra helpful one particularly cold day, save the person behind you a couple seconds of pain and let them in before you.

You should be doing a lot of these things anyway, but being that so many don't, your acknowledgment and extra care—or extra attention to stepping it up and doing them more, if you already do these things—is sure to will go a long way.





# Them Dems: The 2020 Democratic Candidate Hopefuls

Caroline Warner  
STAFF WRITER

The upcoming 2020 Presidential Nominee race has been confusing, long and, at some times, concerning. With a diverse group of candidates—at one time, sixteen!—politicians are struggling to grab the public's attention.

Within each monthly debate, the people of America want to know who actually has what it takes to be the Democratic nominee for our next president? With so many candidates running, it's hard to keep track. Here is a breakdown of what is now considered by many to be the top four.

## Joe Biden

In the lead is past vice president Joe Biden, a moderate Democrat who leans to the left on social issues. Some voters are worried about his health and age, however. Biden has retold stories and accidentally altered them. He claims he has stated false “facts” accidentally as well.

At times, Biden's errors are so obvious, crowds have even laughed. This makes some people wonder if his mind is healthy enough to be president. In addition, other nominees have used these incidents and errors as a campaign tactic against him.

## Elizabeth Warren

Right behind Biden is Senator Elizabeth Warren. In fact, some news outlets project that she will surpass Biden by the end of this month. Warren's main platform is her “Medicare For All,” which—if successful—would mean universal healthcare in our country (i.e., everyone, no matter their insurance policies, would receive some amount of healthcare coverage).

According to political website thehill.com, “Seventy percent said they supported providing ‘Medicare for all,’ also known as single-payer health care, for Americans, according to a new American Barometer sur-

vey. The poll, conducted by Hill.TV and the HarrisX polling company, found that 42 percent of respondents said they ‘strongly’ supported the proposal, while 28 percent said they ‘somewhat’ supported it.”

However, thehill.com also suggests that some oppose it—stating that 32% would like every citizen to have some healthcare coverage, but they are against people being forced to be kicked off their personal healthcare plans in lieu of it. In the end, it seems Warren's healthcare plan could make or break her chances of winning the candidacy.



## Bernie Sanders

Senator Bernie Sanders is in third place in the polls. He has raised the most money out of all candidates, with \$36.2 million dollars at the time of this article. Additionally, he's received a lot of support from well-known such as New York District 14 representative Alexandria Ocasio Cortez as well as celebrities like rapper Cardi B and singers Ariana Grande and Miley Cyrus.

The seventy-eight-year-old recently had a heart attack, however, which has raised concerns from some about whether or not Sanders is in decent enough health to continue running for the nomination.

His policies are similar to



Warren's in that he also wants universal healthcare. Also similar to Warren, this could make or break his chances of winning.

## Pete Buttigieg

Although the previous candidates are generally well known, some lesser-known candidates too are gaining support—South Bend, Ind., mayor Pete Buttigieg is in fourth place. Buttigieg has received an education from both Harvard and Oxford. He is also a Navy veteran who speaks six languages and has improved South Bend's economy.

*The New York Times* says, “Pete Buttigieg has built his campaign around the idea of generational change. The youngest candidate in the presidential field, he says he would be a bridge to a new era of American politics.”

In addition, Buttigieg has raised the second largest amount of money (one spot behind Sanders) with \$32.3 million dollars. Other reasons folks think he might be popular in the polls are his age and sexuality. If elected, he would become the youngest American president ever at 37 years old—and, likewise, he is only the second openly gay person to run for president.

Buttigieg is a moderate Democrat who has a “Medicare for all who want it” plan. Although he is in fourth place, he is expected to continue to grow and gain support, and some project him to win the Iowa Caucus.

These are just a few of the many Democratic candidates who hope to run for president. These numbers and estimates will grow and change—we had to take Kamala Harris (pictured left and above) out of this article already!—and probably even more will changes will occur by the time of publication.

It should be an interesting few months!



## NFL's Newest Quarterback: David Blough

Drew Yuhas  
STAFF WRITER

### TOUCHDOWN!

To start off David Blough's first career completion, Blough (playing on the Detroit Lions) made a pass to wide receiver Kenny Golladay, scoring his first professional touchdown on Thanksgiving Day against the Chicago Bears.

Later in the first quarter, he threw a completion to Marvin Jones, Jr. He finished the game with 280 passing yards and 2 touchdowns.

"[He] exceeded the expectations of most, maybe all, but these grades aren't based on a curve," said Justin Rogers of *The Detroit News*.

Blough's football career started in high school, where he compiled 57 total touchdowns and totaled 5,800 yards. Purdue University was next—where, in 2015, he completed 169 of 293 passing attempts (.577) for 1,574 yards with 10 touchdowns and eight interceptions on the year and rushed for 94 yards on 67 attempts with four touchdowns.

In 2016, he completed 295 of 517 passes



(.570) for 3,352 yards and threw 25 touchdowns with 21 interceptions.

In 2017, he completed 102 of 157 passing attempts (.650) for 1,103 yards and threw nine touchdowns with four interceptions for the year—and he rushed 42 times for 103

yards and two touchdowns.

Last year, he completed 305 of 462 passes (.660) for 3,507 yards and threw 25 touchdowns with 10 interceptions.

After college, Blough was signed a free-agent deal with Cleveland. In the preseason, Blough completed 25 of 43 passes for 271 yards with two touchdowns and two interceptions. Right after the preseason, however, he was traded to Detroit, where he was the third-string quarterback. That said, both Kyle Slotter and Matthew Stafford got hurt, and it allowed Blough to start in the Thanksgiving game against the Bears.

When asked about Blough, fellow Purdue alumnus Mrs. Yuhas said, "I think he is an incredible role model on and off the field. I loved watching him do well in his first game."

Blough's NFL career has just started—and, hopefully, it will be a long fun road. With the help of his teammates, David Blough could really have a good NFL career.

## The Five Stripe Freakwent

Dominic Yeremian  
STAFF WRITER

Atlanta United have had an excellent season, despite losing the MLS Cup Conference Final.

Losing to Toronto was gut wrenching for many.

Tenth grader Alexander Monks said, "Through superior coaching, not play, Toronto managed to secure a victory over Atlanta, but was unsuccessful on crushing the team's spirit."

Even so, there are many things to be happy about. Winning the Lamar Hunt U.S. Open Cup is something for Atlanta fans to revel in. Lifting silverware is always a joyful time, but this victory was sweeter because of who Atlanta played.

Playing Minnesota made the victory better because they are the expansion team who came into the MLS with Atlanta United in 2017, further ensuing them as "the other expansion team."

Winning the Campeones Cup against Club América was a huge deal as well. Being the



underdogs, winning with a comeback, and being the first MLS team to win the competition makes the victory historic.

In addition, Atlanta has made some acquisitions—and some players have left the club. The most notable loss was Darlington Nagbe going to Columbus Crew.

### Out:

Darlington Nagbe

Mikey Ambrose

Brandon Vasquez

Florentine Pogba

Justin Meram

Kevin Kratz

Chris Goslin

Patrick Okonkwo

Brek Shea

### In:

Emerson Hyndman

Brooks Lennon

Hopefully, for Atlanta fans, the transfer window will be more utilized by the time of its closing. As for now, the acquisitions of Brooks Lennon, filling in a much-needed depth to the team, and Emerson Hyndman, becoming a permanent five stripe, are all that's to be happy about in the transfer market.

Time will tell!



## Tech Time: AirPods Pro, the First “Worth It” AirPods

**Kishan Patel**  
LAYOUT EDITOR

The new AirPods have been redesigned for the first time. Released just one day before Halloween, they caused quite a stir in the technology world.

These are some of the new features of what Apple is calling AirPods Pro:

Since the first AirPods in December 2017, there has been one-touch sensor. To activate it, double tap the top of the earbud, to activate Siri, Pause/Play or move to the next or previous song. Now, the sensors carry the ability for one tap, two, three, and a press and hold.

In addition, one complaint almost every AirPods user has is the shape—they aren't entirely comfy to put in your ears, and they fall out easily. The rounded rubber tips on the newest AirPods, however, allow for more comfort and stability.



Another complaint is waterproofing. While Apple has taken great measure to waterproof phones and watches, it has never paid attention to AirPods—they are not resistant to sweat. Now, you can put AirPods in water, wear them in the rain and even take them in the shower.

Additionally, a wireless charging case comes standard with AirPods Pro. The Pros are smaller than their predecessors; however, due to the new shape, the case is much larg-

er than on previous models.

Battery life has also improved, offering 24 hours of listening time and 18 hours of talk time.

AirPods Pro also offers compatibility with all iPhones SE or newer and works on all Apple Watches Series 1 or later, but not on 7000Series models. It also works on all iPads, Mini 411 and newer.

Starting at \$249.99, Apple calls Pro “Magic like you’ve never heard.”

According to CNBC, “Apple’s new AirPods Pro are super comfortable and the noise cancellation is awesome.”

So, for the first time, Apple’s AirPods are priced reasonably.

Are they worth it to you?

## A Breakdown of the Apple 2019 Release Event

**Kishan Patel**  
LAYOUT EDITOR

Apple’s 2019 release event happened recently, and they released a ton of new products. I was lucky enough to be in attendance—and, today, I will break it down, so you can better understand what’s happening in the confusing and information-packed keynote.

The first thing mentioned was Apple Arcade. This is a gaming subscription, equivalent to XBOX Live and PlayStation Plus. By getting this subscription, you have access to hundreds of games, made by hundreds of Apple engineers and developers...for free! There really is no catch, and it costs only \$4.99 a month. Plus, it comes with a one-month free trial!

Before we got to what we wanted, the new iOS/WatchOS devices, Apple threw Apple TVPlus in our faces. This, again, is Apple getting in on trends, adding a streaming subscription to our devices. Just like Netflix and Hulu, Apple TVPlus gives you access to hundreds of shows, including newly made Apple Originals, for the price of \$5.00 a month, with a seven-day free trial.

Finally, Apple showed us the next generation iPad models. Not much has changed in style or in technology. The main changes are in iPadOS 13. There is also a new regular iPad and an iPad Pro, and some less significant models released. They also start at a



reasonable \$329.

In addition, no one can forget the release of the iconic new iPhone 11 and 11 Pro. The main difference of these phones is the size, color—and mostly the cameras.

To show off the ultra-wide video camera on the 11 Pro, Apple showed a shocking high-definition video of cars racing by from different angles.

We could see everything. The cameras on the phone, as you may know, take regular telephotos, portrait and ultra-wide (the everything angle).

This is the best camera on an Apple device, and one of the best in the smartphone business. There is also a night mode, that lets you take bright pictures when there’s minimal lighting.

The iPhone 11 brings a similar camera, just slightly lower-definition shots, but it still

has portrait mode and ultra-wide.

As well, for the first time, it offers a wider variety of colors, like green, yellow and lavender among others. (Personally, I think the red looks best, but that’s my favorite color.)

Apple described this phone as “just the right amount of everything.”

Apple also released the latest and most innovative Apple Watch in Apple history. It brings back Apple Watch Ceramic Edition, a new Nike+ and Hermes Edition, along with a regular Series 5, offered with a built in GPS/Cellular Data.

The biggest new features of Apple Watch Series 5 are the always-on display, compass and noise tracker, which gives you your current decibel count, as well as telling you when your surroundings are too loud for a prolonged period.

“You’ve never seen a watch like this” is the official slogan for this incredible device.

There’s also an Apple Watch studio, which lets you customize a completely diverse and unique Apple Watch to your specifications.

That completes the list of releases at the Apple 2019 Release Event. The only new release since then has been the AirPods Pro (see above for more info).

With all the new products, there’s bound to be something for you or someone you love this holiday!

## Album Review: Lawrence

**Dominic Yeremian**  
STAFF WRITER

Lawrence, a jazzy and R&B band formed by brother and sister Clyde and Gracie Lawrence, are making big moves this year.

On Oct. 29, Lawrence announced their Spring 2020 tour dates for their album second album, *Living Room*.

They also announced their signing to Beautiful Mind Records, created by Jon Bellion (the artist reviewed in the May 2019 edition of *Reed All About It*), on July 5. Lawrence also opened for Bellion on his Glory Sound Prep tour.

Without further ado, here's my review of Lawrence's *Living Room*—and a few song highlights.

### Track 1: "More"

"More" is about how, when you get older, the annoying, day-to-day inconveniences and insecurities life hands you start to add up. The chorus, "There will be more!" explains to the listener that these events are going to keep coming and that you're not in the thick of it yet.

The song has a very pessimistic view about life, but that is for the listener to disagree with and defend the many great things that life lets everyone experience.

"More" shows you are growing up and maturing by getting through the annoying events that happen in your life. This stuff just happens because life isn't perfect, and it would be boring if it were.

The one piano note through the entire song is a guide for the rest of the instruments. It acts as a metronome for the amazing brass sounds; the keyboard; calm, but



### Track 8: "The Heartburn Song"

This song really brings out the funky and fun side of Lawrence. The song is about the effects of playing with fire but in the end to have everything and "be all right," while using metaphors of eating spicy food and actually getting heartburn. It is a fun way of displaying "you reap what you sow."

The brass section really comes to life in this song, and Clyde's voice on this track fits perfectly as it is more rough to Gracie's, giving it a nice bluesy feel.

(7/10) Clyde really brings out the jazzy vibe in this song, and the brass section mixed with the synthesized keyboard notes makes it sound really funky.

The song is great and fun to listen to, but I don't think the song has a high replay value.

pacey drums and the subtle guitar strums. It makes the song very catchy and something to dance to, which is a bit of a theme when it comes to Lawrence's songs.

(7/10) The song's pessimistic outlook on life makes the listener to form their own reasons to defend why life is fun, even with its problems. Although it is good, if I had to compare it to their debut album's first song, it isn't as catchy and doesn't have the same joyful feel as "Do You Want to Do Nothing With Me."

### Track 5: "Make A Move"

This song deals with the "rules of the game," as Gracie puts it, when it comes to the common things girls do to get a guy's attention. She says being lame is cute, being forward is ugly and fantasizing about the guy is frowned upon. Gracie expresses her irritation with following these rules and says she's ready to break the social norms.

Her voice on this track is absolutely amazing and makes this song more bumpy than it already is, due to its bass-heavy instrumental.

(8/10) This song is awesome and shows the true personality of Lawrence. It is fun to listen and vibe to, as it is something to kick back to or dance to. It has a good message for anyone to get behind, and the song expresses it in a fun way.



These are just a few songs to show the diversity of the album, which is definitely worth checking out.

Happy listening!



## Kishan on a Mission: Best Ways to Binge

LAYOUT EDITOR

Kishan Patel

With so many new shows coming to Netflix, originals or not, there is no better time to find a weekend to sit down and binge for three days. So, my mission this time is to help you binge, stay attentive—and enjoy the shows you love most.

Before I get started, I wanted to list a few of the best shows to binge. A few Netflix favorites are: *The Office*, *Arrested Development*, *Lucifer*, *Fuller House*, *Stranger Things*, *The Unbreakable Kimmy Schmidt* and *New Girl*.

(See the article below for more details on all)

The first thing you want to do before you binge watch a series is make sure you're interested in investing your time in a show. I recommend a show that you have not watched before, only just the first or second episode, and make sure you really like it.

The shows listed above are all great for

this.

Secondly, make sure you have a comfy place to sit—a great bed or couch and a throw or comforter pillow to prop you up

when its 4am and ur binge watching a show on netflix and the episode ends



You smart Netflix..you da best..

👉👉 #keystolaziness

#anothaone

will help you see the screen properly, without glare. Also, sit or lie in a position where you won't get uncomfortable.

Lastly (and most importantly), have good food. This is the simplest luxury while watching a show—that, and a good blanket (which you also need).

Snacks like SmartFood White Cheddar Popcorn, Cheetos, Goldfish, Nachos, extra Nacho Cheese, Coke, Coke variants, Coke flavoring, Coffee, Ice Cream and any other junk foods you can think of will do just the trick.

Now all you need to do is tune out all distractions. If you have a home movie theater, go there, or somewhere secluded with few distractions.

Happy winter break, and happy binging!

## The Best Shows to Binge

With so many shows to watch on Netflix, here are a few that you can binge over and over again:

### The Office

This show is a mockumentary, which means it's filmed as a documentary. It is about how sales staff, accounting and customer service representatives all work at a failing paper supply company in Scranton, Pa., led by their clueless boss, Michael Scott.

This is a great show, definitely worth watching, at least twice.

### Arrested Development

When the Bluth Building Company CEO, George Bluth, is imprisoned for fraud, his son Michael has to run the company on his own.

This hilarious Netflix Semi-Original Series is about a rich family losing everything and figuring out how to survive on a budget—and without jobs.

### Fuller House

This hit spinoff of the 1990s classic, *Full House*, is a show about DJ Tanner, and her three boys, sister and friend's family—all living in one house in San Francisco.

The show subtly teaches life lessons while being incredibly humorous, and has managed five seasons.

### The Unbreakable Kimmy Schmidt

Kimmy Schmidt has been in a cult for decades, without knowing. When she finally sees the real world again, she is amazed with all the new technologies and ways of life. She also has the attitude of a middle schooler, which is when she was abducted, because in the underground cult, she never finished her education.

This just makes the show so much more interesting and fun to watch.

### Stranger Things

In Hawkins, Ind., a portal opens, leading to an opposite dimension. In it are mysteri-

ous creatures that make the show interesting to watch.

With plot twists, and a fourth season on the way, this is one of the greatest shows on Netflix.

### New Girl

After her breakup, Jess moves into a Los Angeles loft with three guys. The trio and Jess's friend Cece live an interesting life after this, full of mysteries, romances and fun. We really get to see the characters grow and evolve throughout the show.

It's a great watch—and I bet you could get it done in one weekend if you really try.

Challenge accepted?



**WILLIAM & REED**  
ACADEMY





## Try Something New with Neveu: Bowling

Devin Neveu  
STAFF WRITER

Ever want something fun to do on the weekends? As I recently found, bowling is a fun option! Try going to the closest bowling alley with a few friends.

Depending on how many friends you bring along and how many games you play, the play time differs. Assuming you play two games with two other friends, the game will probably last around 1½-2 hours. That is why I mentioned it as something fun to do on the weekends because it takes quite a while.

According to HealthFitnessRevolution.com, it can improve your social life. “Approximately 2 million bowlers socialize and bowl together each week in leagues throughout America.”

Also, at most bowling alleys, they have two bowling lanes per group. You have the choice to use them or not. Usually, with a bigger group of around four or more, two lanes are used. You can eat and drink at most bowling alleys as well, so that saves making dinner—but if you don’t want to spend \$20 on a simple hamburger, you should maybe eat somewhere else or just eat at home.



My dad and I go bowling every weekend. According to HealthFitnessRevolution, “It encourages easy adjustment methods, which is why it is liked by most children and adults. In the opinion of 95% bowlers, it can be played for recreation, relaxation, competitively and socially.”

There isn’t much of a backstory as to why we went—we just wanted to do something that took up a lot of time so we weren’t always bored. When we first went, we weren’t thinking of going every weekend—that was a decision we made afterward because we had a great time.

The bowling place we went to was called

Bowlmor Atlanta. It has good prices, so you can go whenever you want. It also has food, so it pretty much has everything you need—but cheaper than many other places.

The price to bowl for each player is \$6 before 6 PM. After 6 PM, though, the price raises \$1 to \$7 per bowler. This rule only applies if you are going on the weekend. The shoe rental is only \$4 as well.

The food isn’t as expensive as your average bowling alley, but it’s still pretty expensive—but \$10 for a hamburger instead of \$20 is much better.

Also, it is not very popular, so it isn’t always packed—and, even if it is, it has 39 lanes. There will probably be at least one open for you.

This is why bowling is something you should try. It is fun and gives you a chance to really socialize. It’s good to go to with friends and family and anyone can play. It is very easy to learn.

Now get to it!

## Unpopular Opinion Corner: Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer is Bad

Mia Szirovecz  
STAFF WRITER

Don’t get me wrong—*Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer* is a classic and it has a nice meaning behind it, but I think the animation and the sound are horrible.

I mean, come on! I understand that the animator (William R. Kowalchuck, Jr.) was trying to make the characters look three-dimensional, but compared to animation now, they look like puppets that a fifth grader made.

I remember, when I was little, I would watch this movie all the time. I recently decided to watch it again since it is Christmastime and was shocked at how weird everything seemed to be.

If you look closely at the picture, you can see that it is fuzzy, and not focused. The music is good—so, I’ll give them that—but that does not make up for the voices. If you ever watch a video that has Rudolph’s voice actress (Billie Mae Richards), you will find



she does not sound like Rudolph in real life.

The movements is our next topic. If you’re going to make a movie, it should be good. We don’t want stops and pauses every time someone moves. In *Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer*, the movement from all char-

acters is jerky and dull.

I realize I’m being a little unfair, comparing 1960s camerawork and animation to that of today, but I just don’t feel this movie holds up. I’m surprised they haven’t doing a live action or remake yet. I’d watch that!

Check it out for yourself and see what you think!



# Where Do Our Holiday Traditions Come From?

Giselle Huggins  
STAFF WRITER

When our favorite holidays keep coming closer and closer, some of us start to ask ourselves: Where did our traditions originate?

## Christmas Trees & Lights

When the weather starts getting colder most of us start getting ready for Christmas, which means putting up trees and hanging lights, candy canes or tinsel on the tree. While we're doing this, we can ask the question, why do we do this?

In the 16th century, Christian Germans brought trees inside for Christmas to symbolize everlasting life—even though it wasn't until people heard that Queen Victoria told her husband to bring a tree into their palace for Christmas.

The legend of the lights, on the other hand, says that Martin Luther, a German professor, was moved by the way the stars looked through the trees.

Seventh grader Christina Yi says, "It is cool how Queen Victoria made Christmas trees the big thing it is now."

That said, Christmas isn't the only holiday during season. So, where do Hanukkah traditions come from?



## Candles & Dreidels

When you think of this holiday, you think of the candles—and, maybe, if you celebrate the holiday, you have played with a dreidel.

Before the 18th century, back to where the use of the candles dates, they used oil lamps instead of candles because, in the Hebrew bible, it says that pure, beaten olive oil was their light.



This changed because candles became cheaper and olive oil became expensive.

The origin of the dreidel, a spinning top, is unknown, but some think that this popular Jewish game evolved from a game in Ireland.

Seventh grader Mia Szirovecz was surprised that the dreidel a game connected to Hanukkah could be from Ireland.

Likewise, Hanukkah is not the only holiday people celebrate during the winter season. Kwanzaa, a week-long holiday, has many traditions—but what do those special seven days represent, and what do you do on those days?

The seven principles, the seven days of Kwanzaa combined, makes *kawaida*, which is Swahili for "tradition and reason."

The first day, *umoya* meaning "unity" is the day when you commemorate togetherness between family, friends and your community.

*Kujichagula*, the next day, which means "self-determination" is the day you honor your ability to create and speak for yourself.

The third principle out of seven is *ujamaa*, meaning "cooperative economics" is the day where people talk about their work and

their wealth.

*Nia*, which means "purpose" is the next day when you talk about your commitment to your family history and heritage.

The second to last day is *kuumba* meaning "creativity" is when you get to beautify your community for generations to come by expressing yourself through art.

The final day, the seventh day, is *imani*, which means "faith," where everyone celebrating Kwanzaa focuses all their energy on being positive and believing in yourself.

So, if you see someone decorating a tree, lighting a candle or talking about their heritage on *Nia*, just remember they're celebrating their holiday in the month of December, and each has rich traditions.

Happy holidays!



## End-of-December Holidays

Mia Szirovecz  
STAFF WRITER

### DECEMBER 18TH

Answer the Phone Like Buddy the Elf Day



### DECEMBER 22ND

National Short Person Day!

### ALSO DECEMBER 22ND

Hanukkah begins!



### DECEMBER 28TH

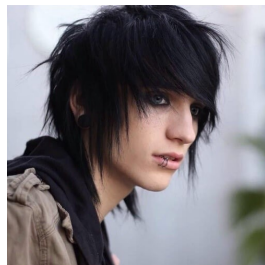
National Call a Friend Day!

### DECEMBER 30TH

National Bacon Day! Don't be afraid to pig out!

### DECEMBER 31ST

New Year's Eve! End of 2019!



### DECEMBER 19TH

National Emo Day—  
Don't forget to wear black!

### DECEMBER 25TH

Merry Christmas! Celebrate with your friends and family!

See you in 2020!

## Top Holiday Tunes

Giselle Huggins  
STAFF WRITER

During this holiday season, most religions have their own songs. For Christmas, the carols people sing are dear to their hearts; for Hanukkah, it's the songs they listen to every night when they light a candle.

So, what if you want to have a great holiday party? What should the music selection include?

To celebrate Christmas this year, seventh grader Hayden Mazur recommends "You're a Mean One, Mr. Grinch" by Dr. Seuss because it's about the Grinch, a classic character that many watch every year.

Whether you're watching it on a screen or playing the song on Spotify, the song just makes you want to dramatically sing the lyrics.

I personally recommend "Jingle Bell Rock"—a cover of it by Pentatonix is my favorite because it's an awesome take on "Jingle Bells" by James Pierpont that makes you want to dance in the lyrics.



So, get up and dance around the square... "in the frosty air!"

The last one that I want to mention is "Last Christmas" by Wham!

Seventh grader Lily Ayer says that, although it's a sad song, it has an upbeat track

with catchy lyrics.

The jaunty beat keeps your toes tapping and the lyrics make you feel empathy with the singer whose heart was broken at Christmas.

To celebrate Hanukkah, I recommend "Hanukkah, Oh Hanukkah" by Mordkhe Rivesman—a song that you can dance to.

As well, there's "I Have a Little Dreidel," which is a children's song by Samuel S. Grossman about the dreidel kids grow up with.

Last but not least, the "Rock of Ages" (or "Ma'oz Tur" in Hebrew) is a song that praises the miracle that Jewish people celebrate on Hanukkah.

So, if you are having a party, give this list a try—and happy holidays!

## Festive Things to Do

**Carlee Schmelzer**  
STAFF WRITER

During this Holiday break, with no school or extracurriculars, it can be easy to find yourself with nothing to do. However, there are many events and that taking place during the season to quell one's boredom.

The venues and events listed below vary in price, area and involvement, to be flexible with regard to you and your family's needs.

### Lake Lanier Magical Night Of Lights

During this event, you and your family can drive through seven miles of elaborate lights, enjoy carnival rides, make s'mores around a bonfire and much more.

It costs \$60 per car (\$90 per van)—and, to attend the carnival, it is \$29.95 for adults and \$15.95 for children 12 and under.

For more information, go to lake-

laniers.com.

### Six Flags Over Georgia Holiday in the Park

In this month-long event, you can enjoy the thrilling roller coasters in the amusing scenery of elaborate lights, including many shows and attractions.

Tickets are low as \$42.99 (not including a \$25 parking fee).



### Stone Mountain

From now through Feb. 23, families can ride down a 400-foot snow-covered tubing hill and more.



Tickets are \$50 per adult or child, including a possible parking fee.

### Holiday Lights at the Botanical Garden

From now through Jan. 1, take in all the lights, scenery and music with friends or family.

Adult tickets are \$22 and children's are \$19. Anyone under 3 can go for free.



These events and venues can get pricey mostly depending on the duration of your stay and how many people you bring along. For more information on any of these events, feel free to visit their websites.

Have a safe and fun break!



## Nifty Gift Ideas for the Whole Family

**Mia Szirovecz**  
STAFF WRITER

Do you need some last-minute gift ideas? We've got you covered.

### For moms:

Moms enjoy having the house smell nice, so get yours a candle from Bed Bath and Beyond.

Moms also tend to enjoy jewelry.

"Where do I find jewelry?" seventh grader Diego Moreno-Lule asks.

Answer: Macy's or JCPenney's—or even Target—will do the trick!



### For sisters:

If she's younger, maybe ages 3-10, get her a Barbie doll!

If she's eleven or older, she might enjoy some of her

favorite YouTuber's merch!

Don't know who her favorite YouTuber is? Don't be afraid to ask her!

### For dads:

Dads seem to enjoy sports. Whether it's golf or football, get yours something related to that sport! (For example, his favorite basketball player's jersey!)



Dads also love older bands like AC/DC or Garth Brooks. How about getting yours an album?

### For brothers:

If you have a younger brother who is 3-10, why not follow suit and get some sort of action figure? If he enjoys Marvel comics or

movies, get him his favorite superhero's toy!

If your bro is on the older side, maybe he enjoys video games. Don't be afraid to ask what is his favorite.

Or maybe he likes sports. Find out his favorite team and get him some apparel!



Remember: It's the thought that counts—so you can't really go wrong, no matter what you choose.

Happy shopping!





## Recipe: Holiday Oreo Truffles

Kailin Neveu  
STUDENT EDITOR

With the holiday season usually comes baking—but a lot of people don't have the time or patience to make something fancy or complicated.

This simple no bake Oreo truffle recipe will impress any family or friends in just about an hour!

Senior Chloe Wilcox says, "Holiday Oreo truffles sound so cute! I'd love to try one!"

### Ingredients:

- ~36 Oreos
- ~8 oz softened cream cheese
- ~16 oz white chocolate chips
- ~candy cane crumbs for decorating

### Instructions:

First, put the Oreos in a food processor, and pulse until they are finely ground.

Then, add cream cheese to the mix and pulse until smooth.



Next, put parchment paper on a baking sheet and, using a cookie scoop, scoop out the mixture into 1-1.5-inch balls onto it.

Place the baking sheet in the freezer for about 1 hour, or until the truffles are frozen.

While they are freezing, melt the chocolate chips.

After the hour is up, remove the truffles from the freezer and dip each one in the melted chocolate chips. Sprinkle crushed candy cane on top, and you're all done. All that's left is to share and enjoy!

Eighth grader Devin Neveu enjoyed them.

"They were pretty good, very festive. I had five."

There you have it—an effortless and fun holiday snack to share with your friends and family. You save plenty of time since there's no baking required, and you've got yourself a sweet treat.

## Craft Corner: Do You Want to Build a Snowman?

Giselle Huggins  
STAFF WRITER

During the Christmas season, to excite family and friends, decorate your house with homemade snowflakes, Christmas trees and snowmen. Instead of just drawing on paper, however, you can make something 3-dimensional, starting with a snowman by makelifelovely.com.

Seventh grader Mikaela Contreras believes that making this type of snowman is a great way to decorate your room.

To make this magical craft you're going to need:

- ♦ Clay (white and brown)
- ♦ Carrots
- ♦ Small buttons
- ♦ Small sticks (four to five)
- ♦ Scissors

The first step of making a tiny snowman would be to roll the white clay into three balls. If you want clay for a lower cost, I recommend Model Magic so you won't have to put it in the oven and it won't crumble.



Next, chop your carrot into circular slices so you can use one for your nose.

After that, put one stick through one of the balls so the ball is at the bottom and the stick is sticking straight up. Then, push a second "snowball" through the stick for the stomach. Lastly, top it off with the third white ball, which will be your snowman's

head.

Once your snowman's body is assembled, press the little buttons onto the snowman where you think his eyes should be, and to finish him off with a carrot nose.

After all this, you've made your own snowman! If you want to add to it, you can get a piece of felt and use it to make a hat or a scarf.

Eleventh grader Kailin Neveu says, "So cute! I would definitely make one for my room!"

*Voila*—your very own Frosty! Enjoy!



## Snowy Short Story

**Brennan Marasco**  
**STAFF WRITER**

Nia woke up to the normal sound of her alarm in the morning before school. Her best friend, Carter, who stayed over for the night after they spent ages finishing their history project, was lying on the floor next to her bed.

He was supposed to go home the night before, but the snow started to get bad, so Nia suggested he stay over so he wouldn't have to walk home in the storm.

He slept through her alarm, completely unfazed.

Nia was confused when she got up because her alarm went off; but, for some reason, it was still pitch black outside. She stumbled out of bed, careful not to step on Carter, and opened the curtains over her windows.

"WHAT THE HECK?!" she yelled furiously.

Carter snapped up on the floor, slamming his head on the side of her bed.

"What? What's wrong?" He rubbed his face.

"Look!" Nia pointed to the window.

Carter looked outside to find a pile of snow outside, at least 10 feet tall.

"Is that snow?" Carter asked tiredly.

"Yeah!" Nia answered, as if it was obvious.

"Does this mean we can't get out? We can't get to school?" Carter asked.

"And you can't get home. I knew it was supposed to snow a bunch, but *this much*..." she said as her voice trailed off.

"Oh, awesome. Well, I'm goin' back to sleep. See you later." Carter put his head back onto the pillow.

"What? No. What are we supposed to do?" Nia asked in a panic.

"Jeez, do you always gotta be doing something?" Carter asked, his eyes still closed. "Just relax a little. We're stuck inside. There's nothing we can do about it."

"You know I can't just do nothing all day. And you're parents are gonna worry about you," Nia snapped back.

She gave a sigh. "I'm gonna go clean and make breakfast."

"Okay, have fun." Carter waved her away.

Nia grabbed his ear and pulled him to his feet.

"OW! What's your problem?"



"And you're helping me."

"Ugh. Fine, I'm comin'," he said, rubbing his ear.

After they got some breakfast, Nia started cleaning the house and she mumbled about the cold while Carter called his parents and told them that the situation.

Nia's parents would have helped, but they got stuck at work, thanks to the snowstorm the night before, so it was just Nia and Carter.

Carter helped Nia when he could, but Nia seemed determined to keep herself busy, leaving Carter with almost nothing to do.

After hours of Nia working on anything she could, Carter finally stopped her.

"All right, that's enough," he demanded, as Nia messed around with the thermostat.

"What?" she asked.

"My turn to do what I want," he answered.

"Can't you head home now?" She turned to face Carter.

"I still can't get out." He shrugged.

"Fine. You can go on the couch and hang out. I have some more stuff to do," Nia responded.

"No, my turn means both of us. Come on." Carter grabbed her wrist and pried her away from the thermostat before he led her to the couch.

He sat her down before she could head off to the kitchen.

"You better not move," he said as he walked away toward the kitchen.

"Yeah, all right," she responded lazily.

After a few minutes of waiting, Carter came back into the room with two cups of hot cocoa and a few blankets draped over his back.

"Time to relax," he sighed, setting the cocoa down on the coffee table and tossing a blanket over Nia's head.

"Fine. Only for a little while. Then I'm getting some more stuff done." Nia crossed her arms.

"Come on, Nia. It's almost time for the holidays. Stop working your butt off and just enjoy the season a little," Carter nagged.

"Easy for you to say. You never work at anything," she said jokingly.

Carter laughed. "Let's just watch some TV and chill for a little. Then

you can get back to work."

Nia paused.

"Sounds good," she finally decided. Carter's face lit up. He turned on the TV while Nia wrapped the blanket around herself like a cocoon.

The two of them sat and watched older cartoon holiday specials until Carter finally heard the sound of snoring on the couch. He looked over at Nia to find her fast asleep, her head rolled back and her mouth hanging open.

He snickered.

"Yeah, thought so," he whispered to himself.

He let her rest and continued watching TV for a few more hours.



*(Continued on p. 14)*

## Short Story *(continued from p. 13)*

"Thanks Carter," Nia mumbled when she woke up.

Carter jumped a little as he looked over at her rubbing her eyes.

"No problem. I thought you were tired," he said as he stood up.

He walked over to the window and took a look outside.

"Hey, the snow's mostly gone. I think I can head home," he called over.

"Oh, all right," Nia mumbled.

She got up off the couch and headed to the door with Carter. Carter grabbed his jacket before going outside while Nia stayed in the door frame. Carter stopped and turned around before making his way down the stairs.

"Well, see ya later," he said as he shivered in the cold air.

"Yeah. See ya," Nia responded.



They both stood there for a little while, staring at each other awkwardly.

Carter didn't go down the stairs, and Nia didn't shut her door.

Finally, Nia broke the silence with a sigh.

"Do you want to watch a movie?"

Carter perked up and smiled. "Yeah. That sounds awesome."

And so Carter went back inside, and they snuggled themselves in blankets on the couch once again. They argued about what

holiday movie they wanted to watch until they eventually decided to just watch several—until they both fell asleep, enjoying the warmth of the indoors and the company of one other.

Because that is the true spirit of winter. Enjoying your time with the people closest to you.



## New Years Resolutions—Do They Work?

**Caroline Warner**  
STAFF WRITER

At the beginning of each new year, people sit down to write out their resolutions. These people all have hopes of changing themselves for the better or their stopping their bad habits just because a new set of 365 days is starting.

Some of the most popular New Year's resolutions tend to revolve around losing weight or taking on new hobbies. However, around March or April, many of those good intentions tend to fade away.

Don't get me wrong; New Year's resolutions are attainable, but are they realistic? We need to understand the science behind New Year's resolutions to decide if they work or not.

One reason New Year's resolutions do not often work is because people's resolutions are what the individual thinks they should do—not what they want to do. Since people feel more of a need than a want for these resolutions, many do not have the right attitude or techniques to accomplish what they said they would back in January.

Freshman Nicole Vassileva says, "I don't like New Year's resolutions because every-



one tells everybody they're going to do something—when, in reality, nobody [follows through]."

In reality, resolutions are just another set of goals we want to accomplish. Steve Errey from lifehack.org says, "Some resolutions are like goals in that they're about getting more of something. The trouble is that goals....rarely work."

Basically, it's harder to accomplish a goal if the individual doesn't TRULY want to work for it.

Another reason New Year's resolutions

often don't work is another good point that Errey makes—that resolutions take away our present mindset and leave us wanting more than we already had in the past year.

Errey writes, "The problem is that as soon as you set yourself a goal, you're saying to yourself that you want more in your life than you have right now. The very nature of goals make you look forward at what's next, never at what you've got right now."

Despite these opinions, some people do succeed in achieving their resolutions. Those that are successful have certain techniques like setting small goals to reach—one after another—instead of just one big goal they magically want to achieve.

In the end, one's personality and amount of ambition is what will make or break his or her New Year's resolutions.

But don't feel bad if you don't reach yours. Remember: Just because one decides to make a big, out-of-reach goal on Jan. 1 doesn't necessarily mean they'll reach it.



## Album of the Year: Rich Brian's "The Sailor"

**Dominic Yeremian**  
STAFF WRITER

With 2019 coming to an end, I think this album, *The Sailor*, by Rich Brian, must be discussed. In my opinion, this is the best album of 2019—and it could very well be one of the best pieces of music ever made.

Everything from vocals to production to the message and story clicks. I have listened to this album over twenty times now, and I am convinced there are references and messages I still have yet to notice.

This album is so amazing because it is not just a musical piece, it is a story as well. Sailors travel from port to port seeing new worlds of unexplainable sites (hence the album's title).

Brian is the sailor in this story, reaching new lands in his life of music, family, faith and what he leave the world with. This album is unforgettable and will most definitely have the same effect even a century later.

Without further ado, here is my review.

### Track 1: "The Sailor"

The title track is the exposition in this story. Through Brian's vocal inflection, we can visualize a very arrogant person but someone who speaks the truth. He talks about his success and how rich his music has made him, while at the same time talking about things he is irritated about in his life.

For example, he criticizes the impatience some fans have toward the time between his releases or how people have treated him due to his success and how he feels he has been pushed to the side when it comes to being respected in his profession.

That is only the first half of the song, while the second has a much more introspective and thoughtful tone. Brian speaks of meeting this normal woman on a normal day who ends up being not whom she seems to be.

She tells him, "Open your eyes" with Bri-



an replying, "I can see just fine."

That line shows how arrogant and blind he can be to his life and toward others around him.

The woman goes on to ask him questions that the listener can tell Brian hasn't thought about. While this is going on, he uses an amazing set of instruments to supply the listener with overwhelming feelings of inner thought.

### Track 3: "Yellow"

"Yellow" has a very somber and bone-shaking tone. The opening vocals are so dramatic and impactful, especially when Brian says, "Will anybody even miss me when I'm gone?"

This song is controversial because part of the meaning regards his race. He explains that some people won't listen to his music because he is Asian, further criticizing his unfair treatment in the genre. He opens the second verse with "Don't fight the feeling 'cause I'm yellow," embracing his race and not caring who or how many people listen to him based on it.

This song is meant to be inspiring, as he says, "They gon' memorize my name when

I'm gone, and they gon' recognize my face when I'm gone." He continues rightfully flaunting his success in the face of doubters until the song ends with a stunning string composed outro.

### Track 11: "Curious"

In my opinion, "Curious" is the best track on the album. Brian talks about his past, his current lifestyle and where his success has truly gotten him with his family, his career and himself. He says he is happy with who he is and what he does—and that he doesn't care about comments from people he doesn't even know. He goes on to say he's been living his life in the best way he can for his mom because she worries for him (as moms do).

He also shows his appreciation to his fans for their passion toward his work, while he references his pain about not being able to see his family as much as he wants due to his work. In addition, Brian encourages the listener to not be afraid of doing something he or she wants by saying "Shouts out to the ones doing things everyone was afraid or unable to do, The world needs more of you."

This is all sung over an amazing but simple guitar and more string instruments.

All in all, this album is revolutionary and is a step in the right direction regarding what has been released in the rap genre recently. Brian deserves so much praise for switching up his whole style to something he enjoys because rebranding can be a make-or-break situation.

It obviously worked, as I witnessed a newcomer to Brian's music—my cousin Mateo—who described it in three simple words: "It was fire."

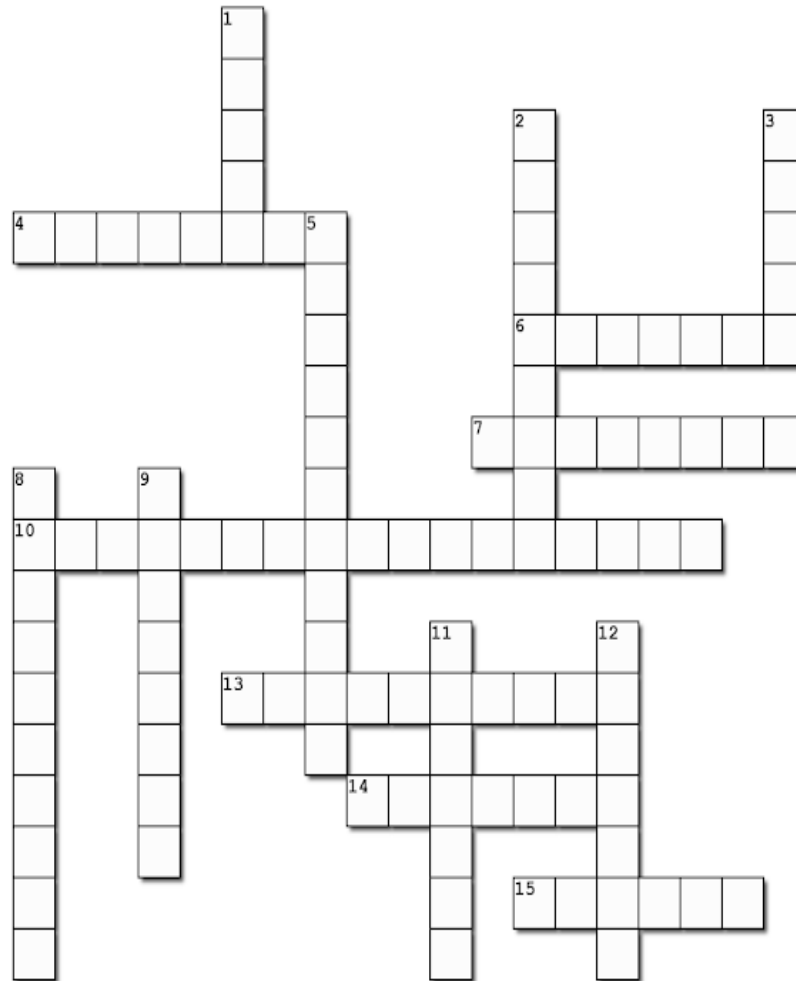
I rate this album a 10/10.



# Holiday Crossword

Kailin Neveu  
STAFF WRITER

Complete the crossword puzzle below



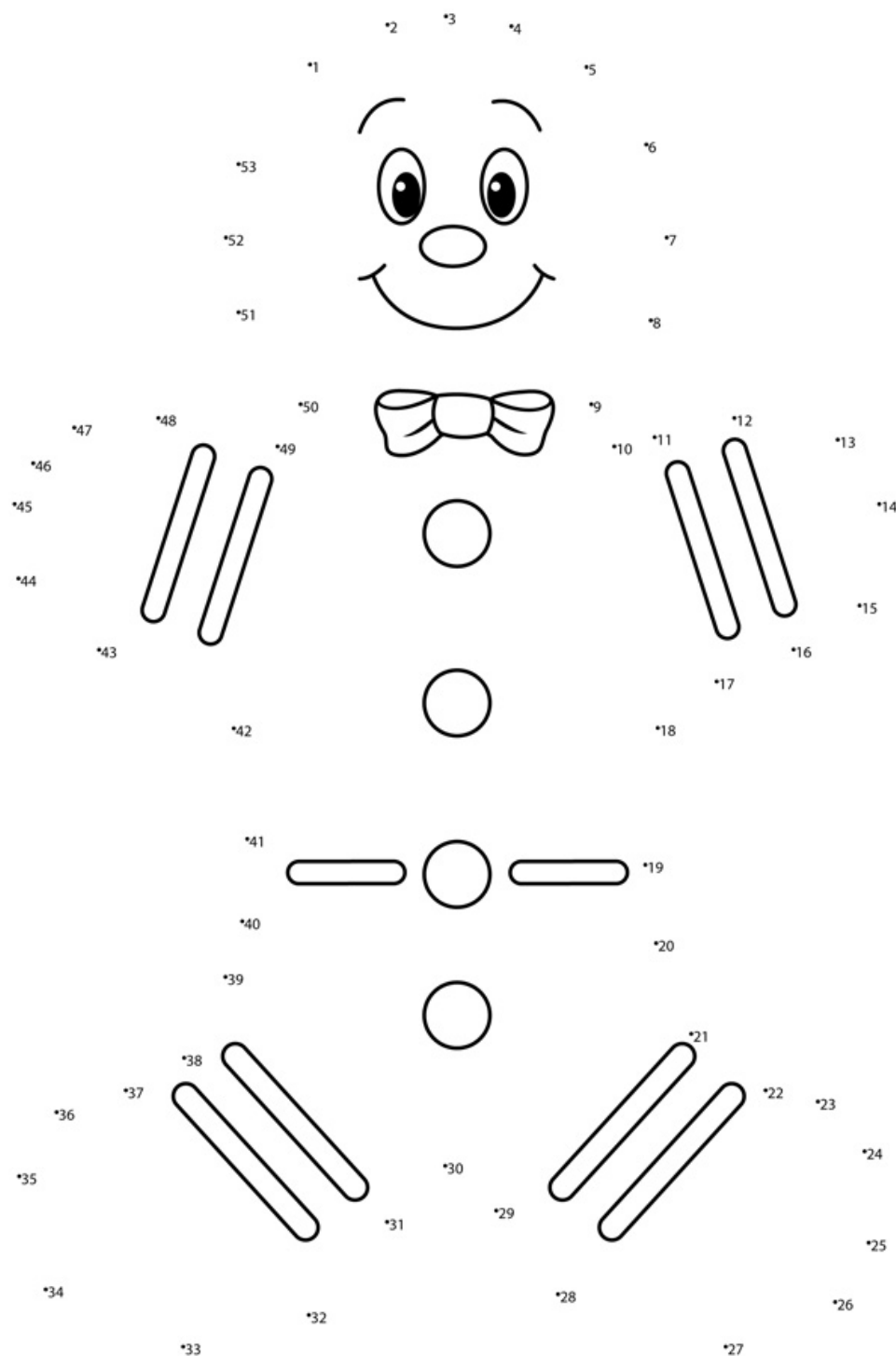
Created using the Crossword Maker on TheTeachersCorner.net

## Across

- 4. A violent snow storm that doesn't ever happen down south
- 6. Gloves without fingers
- 7. Only happens when it snows on a school day
- 10. Mrs. Sumner's favorite holiday movie
- 13. The best part of the school year for us at William and Reed
- 14. Frosty
- 15. One horse open...

## Down

- 1. Jolly old man with a big red suit
- 2. Typically used to decorate a Christmas Tree
- 3. The best things to give and get
- 5. Put up around the holidays to spread festivity and cheer
- 8. A classic peppermint holiday treat
- 9. Roasting on an open fire
- 11. A classic Hanukkah decoration
- 12. Santa's third reindeer





# Holiday Word Search

Kailin Neveu

STUDENT EDITOR

O C R Q X C E M R S M E Q M P  
I Q D O O U T K S U C U I Y O  
C Y Z E S E S K A I D L R A X  
I D G H D E O Z V L K O E N H  
C D E C W Z R D Z A F R L L N  
L T T L C J F E N V Y W U P F  
E C P D S A K D S K I M O P H  
B E T A L O C O H C T O H N H  
L R X S C O A C S I N O S A S  
G S S F O Z J Z N I Z A K J K  
R N B K D V A S C O O K I E S  
X A I Q L N E V M E U V N P L  
G E O T O L F H R N S T O O B  
S W S S C Z T C A R D G V G J  
A O C Y C B L H P J O E X K F

BOOTS

COLD

COOKIES

ELF

HANUKKAH

HOT CHOCOLATE

ICE

ICICLE

JACK FROST

MILK AND COOKIES

RUDOLPH

SKI

SLED

SNOWFLAKE

TINSEL

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Photo credit Ms. Taylor

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“GUESS WHO” ANSWER: MR. MCKENZIE!