



# The Black & Gold

Student Driven News: Written for Blackhawks by Blackhawks

Volume 5, Issue 2

December 2022

## Secret Places in Our School

by Brooklyn Marti, Anthony Castro-Rodriguez, Lili Gomez, and Trevor Muirhead

There are so many different places in our school you probably haven't heard about, like basements, secret doors, elevators, huge kitchens, and more!

Our Black & Gold team took a tour of all the secret places! Soon after reading this article, you will know and get a picture of what these places look like.

In the kitchen, there are so many kitchen supplies, like giant mixing bowls, walk-in fridges, giant sinks, and a fryer that is also known as "the coffin".



In the elevator, we noticed that the flooring stayed the same even after they changed the flooring out in the hallways!



In the basement, there are a lot of supplies from years ago and costumes, holiday decorations, and candy. We even found a bag full of Polaroid cameras! If you have never been down in the basement, there are white walls, a steep staircase, an elevator, and about six doors that lead to storage rooms, mechanical rooms, electrical rooms, and a

stairway that leads to the front entrance to the school.

In the foyer entrance, there is a secret little door that opens a security gate that blocks off the cafeteria. Our team is still figuring out what this is for, we thought maybe for lockdowns. What do you think?



## Winter Break Activities

by Nathan April and Louis Holthouse

There are many activities you can do over the winter break, whether you are looking at the Christmas lights at the Plaza or building a snowperson in your backyard. Another thing you could do over the winter break is watch a good movie. Some holiday movies that we recommend are Elf, Home Alone, The Grinch, and Jingle Jangle. See the story on the next page for some great movie ideas.

### Snow Activities

Another fun thing you could do over winter break is to break your own record of the biggest and strongest snow fort. To build your own snow fort you can get a plastic rectangular box, fill it with snow, make whatever shape you need, then stack up the layers of snow until you have your full snow fort. A second activity you can use the snow for is for snow people. You can create a solitary snowperson in the vast snowy world of Santa Fe or build a huge snow army waiting outside your house.

### Popular Winter Places

Some popular winter places in Santa Fe are:

- 1. The Skyrail Adventure Train.** The train has a Christmas adventure in store for you including cookies, sing alongs and a Christmas tree maze.
- 2. Ski Santa Fe.** The Santa Fe Ski mountain is a fun opportunity to spend your time in a way that benefits your health and that is very enjoyable for you and your family.
- 3. The Plaza.** At the Plaza you can enjoy restaurants that serve hot food on cold days. Or gaze at the trees outfitted with a spectacular display of lights woven into the trees.

### The Black & Gold Staff

The Black & Gold is produced by the CGE newspaper club. It is reported and edited by fourth, fifth and sixth grade students.

**Editors:** Nathan April, Will Bodelson, Adam Dahkli, Louis Holthouse, Brooklyn Marti, Rory Primm, Whitten Sechrest, Lola Wetzel

**Staff Reporters:** Sage Arthrell, Anthony Castro-Rodriguez, Mila Clark, Lili Gomez, Joel Hoffman

**Junior Editors:** Montana Clark, Joaquin Linson, Rainier Long, Trevor Muirhead

**Advisors:** Sara April, Noah Long, Cynthia Wetzel

# Classic Holiday Movies

by Rory Primm and Whitten Sechrest

There's not much that's better than sitting down on the couch in December sipping hot cocoa while you watch a beloved holiday classic. We are going to list and review some of these feel-good classics.

Let's start off with a Thanksgiving classic. The first iconic film is **A Charlie Brown Thanksgiving**. This movie first appeared on CBS on November 20, 1973. This movie is about Charlie Brown who gets in way over his head when Peppermint Patty invites herself to a Thanksgiving meal at Charlie's house. This movie is available on cable near the Thanksgiving season and is also on the streaming platform Apple TV+. Google Reviews rates it a 4.7 out of 5 stars.

Let's jump into the Christmas movie we've loved for decades, **How The Grinch Stole Christmas**. This movie has been revised with the same plot three times in the last 22 years, stemming from the original 1966 *How the Grinch Stole Christmas* which was based on Dr. Suess's famous 1957 rhyme book *How The Grinch Stole Christmas*. This movie is about a Who (a human-like species that lives on a snowflake) that was once an orphan but nobody wanted him. When Christmas passed time and time again he saw the Whos with their parents and family opening presents when he had none. He became jealous and hated Christmas-time. He then decided to make Christmas horrible for all of the Whos by stealing their presents. Do you think he will change his mind or stay, well, a grinch? If you haven't already, give one of these movies a watch.

This next Christmas movie is a scary Halloween/Christmas crossover, **The Nightmare Before Christmas**. This movie was made with stop motion animation in 1993, making this is the most recent film on this list. In this movie, which is on the path to being a classic in future years, Jack Skellington, (Halloweentown's beloved pumpkin king) was bored of scaring people in the real world on Halloween, so when he accidentally stumbles into Christmastown he makes an evil plot that involves Santa Claus. When I was younger I thought this was pretty creepy, so watch out!

The next incredibly classic holiday movie is **Home Alone**. Made in 1990, this movie was an absolute success gaining five spin offs and catapulting young actor Macaulay Culkin to stardom. This story kicks off with Kevin McCallister and his large family the night before they all leave for a trip to Paris. Kevin gets upset at his family after they yell at him for making a mess. He then acts out and wishes that he didn't have a family. His

mother Catherine McCallister punishes him and makes him sleep in the attic. After the McCallisters leave for the airport they mistakenly leave Kevin behind in the attic still sleeping. He realizes his family has disappeared and he is home alone. He parties all day and all night. This fun is interrupted very quickly when Kevin overhears robbers plotting to rob his house. He sets up elaborate traps for when they come. Will Kevin not be prepared for the wrath of two grown adults or will he prevail? Find out by watching *Home Alone*!

The next amazing holiday movie was made in 1983 and is still an incredibly loved movie, **A Christmas Story**. This film is about a kid named Ralphie Parker who spends most of his time trying to avoid his school bully and dreaming for a Red Rider BB gun for Christmas, along with some very whacky antics. But with his grumpy dad and his comforting mother, Ralphie struggles to make it to Christmas day with his hopes and his glasses intact.

This animated holiday movie started out as a book, and yes, it's the 2004 **Polar Express**! The movie is about a young curious boy played by Tom Hanks who takes *The Polar Express* to the North Pole. The

journey he embarks on is one of self-discovery, friendship, bravery, and the spirit of Christmas. This shows him that the wonder of life never fades for those who believe in it! Watch this fascinating story!

This beloved Christmas stars Will Ferrell (one of our favorite actors). Did you guess it? If you said **Elf**, the hit movie made in 2003, you would be right! Buddy, a toddler from an orphanage crawls into Santa's bag and is accidentally sent to the North Pole and raised amongst Santa's elves. Though he doesn't completely fit in, he still loves his elf friends. But when Buddy overhears one of the elves calling him a human he realizes he truly doesn't belong. By this point he is all grown up. He asks Santa about this and Santa confirms it. He also tells Buddy about his dad who lives in New York who is on the naughty list. This triggers Buddy to go on a spectacular adventure. It turns out that his dad isn't all he's cracked up to be, but this doesn't stop Buddy from loving him. But another problem occurs when Santa needs more Christmas spirit. Will Buddy save Christmas or will all the children in the world be disappointed when they wake up with no presents under their tree? Will he turn his father's frown upside down or will his dad remain a grinch? Find out by watching *Elf* (I highly recommend this one).



# Kids vs Tech

by William Bodelson (Disclaimer: Read with a British accent)

With Christmas coming up, many parents are considering getting their kids phones, which may be a great choice or a horrible one. Since the decision of your children receiving a phone can be troublesome, I'm here to teach you the pros and cons of getting your kid a phone.

## Pros

- 1. They can keep in touch:** With phones, kids can stay in touch with their parents and become able to contact you if they need to go to hospital or a similar event.
- 2. They can talk to friends:** Similar to the previous statement, they can talk to friends and keep in touch with them.
- 3. They can plan with friends:** Adding to the prior claim, they can plan to meet and share crisps or chips and a burger at a local restaurant. Or maybe they can just have plain fun.
- 4. They can use the internet:** With the Internet, they have full access to the full library of answers to the questions they may have, or to help settle quarrels.

## Cons

- 1. They might use it all the time:** If they are having fun on their phones they may never want to get off.
- 2. It's expensive:** Phones can cost plenty and if they lose or break it and then you may have to replace it with even more money.
- 3. They might lose it:** Likewise, if they misplace and lose their phones it would be quite a troublesome and tedious process to find or replace them.
- 4. They can use the Internet:** If they have a phone they may be exposed to all kinds of inappropriate or dangerous websites.

# Clean Energy

by Sage Arthrell and Joel Hoffman

Imagine you are underwater, or on a ship. This is what the entire world might be like if we don't act soon, before the polar ice caps melt. We need cleaner energy to stop climate change. There are all sorts of ways to generate energy that impact the climate less.

Hydropower is the largest clean energy source. We build water mills and dams with turbines that turn and generate electricity, as well as wave power generators, that use moving water to generate electricity.

Wind power is also a way to get energy. Have you ever seen these huge towers with turbines on top? They spin and generate electricity.

Finally, solar is one of the most famous forms of clean energy. Solar cells turn the light into energy. This can power a lot of things. The only problem is finding the space.

People have come up with all sorts of sources of energy, and soon, we might have an even cleaner source of energy. These energies are all important because they will help us fight climate change.

# Lady Blackhawks Thankful for a Great Season

by Brooklyn Marti

The Carlos Gilbert girls basketball team made it to the championships with a record of six losses and three wins this year.

Head Coach Jimmy Rodriguez prepared the girls for the season in a rapid amount of time. Kim Pietrocchi, the principal, approached him because he had coached Carlos Gilbert boys basketball for six years while his sons Dylan and JT attended CGE.

The biggest challenge he faced this season as the head coach was teaching the game of basketball in a very short season while dealing with inconsistent league rules and referees. His advice for next year's basketball team is to keep playing basketball. Dribble, shoot, play one-on-one during off-season. Have fun with the sport!

His general philosophy in everything he does is, "Life is 10 percent what happens to me and 90 percent how I react to it." When I interviewed him, he gave me this short motto:

*"The longer I live, the more I realize the impact of attitude on life. Attitude to me, is more important than facts. It is more important than the past, than education, than money, than circumstances, than failures, than successes, than what other people think, say or do. It is more important than appearance, giftedness or skill. It will make or break a company...a church...a home.*

*The remarkable thing is we have a choice every day regarding the attitude we will embrace for that day. We cannot change our past...we cannot change the fact that people will act in a certain way. We cannot change the inevitable. The only thing we can do is play on the one string we have, and that is our attitude. I am convinced that life is 10 percent what happens to me and 90 percent how I react to it. And so it is with you...we are in charge of our attitudes."* -Charles Swindoll

Thank you for coaching us and giving us a wonderful season, Coach Jimmy, Anais, Aurora, JT and Dylan.



# Battle Of The Books

by Rainier Long



Battle Of The Books is back this year, and even better than before!

This year, the teams have four people each. Together, the team has to read all the titles on the list. At the first meeting, the contestants chose to pick the teams themselves rather than be assigned to random teams.

The club is hosted by Ms. Frances, the librarian, and in, of course, the library. Battle Of The Books is on Fridays at 12:15 to 12:45.

For 4th graders, that means missing recess. For 5th and 6th graders, that means having lunch in the library. For everybody, that means missing a little school for Battle Of The Books. Yay!

As you may have known, Battle Of The Books is only for 4th through 6th graders. Sorry, Kindergarteners, First Graders, Second Graders, and Third Graders. You will have to wait to join!

There are 22 books to read, and you are required to read ten books. Everybody who joined will get to check out two books at a time. You have until April 2023 to do it, so that should be easy enough.

Every Friday at Battle Of The Books you review a different book. All people get notebooks for taking notes on the books they read. There is a website to help people who are in the club to do things better. For example, you can use a Kindle to read books not checked out from the library. There will be a show at the end of the year. Battle Of The Books contestants will answer questions about the books. Whoever answers the most questions correctly wins! So, I think the Battle Of The Books is going to be epic, and everyone who joined will be in for a treat!

# Food Drive

by Adam Dahkli

This year, Carlos Gilbert had an incredible food drive before Thanksgiving. All the food went to families in need, which helped many families.

Although we did not get an exact count of food, we did see the food and estimated that there were about 500 items.

The 5th grade ran the drive this year, and did a marvelous job. Credits to Mrs. Blaser, Mr. Phillips, and Ms. Dee, the wonderful 5th-grade teachers, and of course the great 5th grade students who made the drive possible.

The drive ended on November 18th, but you can still help by donating to the Santa Fe Animal Shelter, and leaving the animal food and items in front of Mrs. Quintana's and Mrs. Stark's classrooms.



# Holiday Traditions

by Whitten Sechrest and Joaquin Linson

It's getting cold so we all know what that means. It's the holiday season! So that means Christmas, Kwanzaa, and Hanukkah are coming up. In this article we will give you a brief history and how we celebrate it. So let's jump right in!

## Christmas

Christmas is an annual celebration of Jesus' birthday and a coming together with family and friends. The celebration takes place on the 24th (Christmas Eve) and the 25th of December (Christmas Day). You can have a Christmas tree which presents have been put underneath for you. You tell jokes, stories and games. Games such as the white elephant game, snowball fights, board games and much more. It wouldn't be Christmas without having a feast. These feasts typically consist of biscochitos, turkey, prime rib, pumpkin pie, enchiladas, mashed potatoes, red chile, monkey bread, and posole.

## Kwanzaa

Kwanzaa is a weeklong celebration that honors African heritage in African-American culture. Kwanzaa is the coming together of family and friends. There is a candle called the

Kinara with seven branches: three are red, three are green and one is black. Kwanzaa lasts seven days from December 26th to January 1st. Some traditions are lighting the candle, reflecting on the principles of the day, preparing and sharing foods, honoring ancestors, and sharing talents. Kwanzaa, like Christmas, is often celebrated with a feast.

## Hanukkah

Hanukkah is a coming together of family and friends. It is much like Kwanzaa. There is a menorah with 9 branches. The colors can be any color but are usually blue. Hanukkah lasts eight days and eight nights. Hanukkah celebrates the rededication of the Second Temple of Jerusalem after it was taken by the Greeks in 2nd century BCE, but then retaken by the Maccabees (Jewish warriors). This year Hanukkah will be celebrated from December 18th to December 26th. You can celebrate Hanukkah by lighting the menorah (which candles are held upon) or you can celebrate by having a present for each eight days so eight presents in total.



That is some brief history of holiday traditions. Have a wintery holiday.