

The Sabre

Cleveland High School

Volume 74 , Issue 4 December 10, 2010

Cleveland students amp up for the holidays

BY ALLISON LI
Staff Writer

Cleveland students spend most of the school year stressed out, facing an endless barrage of tests, essays, homework, and even more tests. But for a few weeks in December, students can relax, enjoy time with family, and eat to their hearts' content. So how do Cleveland students contribute to the holiday cheer?

"I guess my thing would be that I bake like five hundred cookies and pass them out to people in cute little tins," said Junior Alaina Fisher. This is a holiday tradition she's carried out for the past two years.

While good-doers like Fisher enjoy spreading the love, others tend to forget the charitable holiday spirit in favor of more dubi-

ous activities.

"I like to get drunk," said an anonymous Junior.

Fortunately, others are more family oriented, spending this special time of year with their loved ones.

"I go with my three-year-old brother to Disneyland every year for Christmas," Sophomore Klarissa Ramos said.

"I watch *Eight Crazy Nights* with my family and eat

latkes with apple sauce," added

Junior Mitchell Bendersky. "And then I play dreidel,"

"[My family and I] always go to Griffith Park during Christmas season to see the lights. It's really pretty there," said Junior Kimberly Hernandez.

The adventurous ones enjoy a good family outing.

"I like to travel [and] go where there's some snow," said Freshman Leah Mirah. "I usually go with the family to go snow tubing or sledding or ice skating."

"My dad takes me to a random church, even though we're not churchgoers, and we watch the choirs sing Christmas gospels and get really into it!"

It's a really tight spectacle," said Freshman Olivia Fang.

While they enjoy going out during the holiday season, there are some who like to celebrate the holidays completely alone.

"For Christmas, I like lighting scented candles all around my back yard and making a tent, bringing all my presents into the tent, and opening them up myself," said Senior Dannie Nguyen.

"I like to go to my room and listen Carey's Christmas album every year," agreed Junior Chris Kuyumdzhyan.

Scrooges and holiday angels alike, everyone partakes in the holiday festivities. Whether a person is religious or not, the holiday holidays work a kind of magic into people's hearts, giving everybody something to celebrate.



photo illustration by Emily Yang

Share the holiday love

The winter vacation is just around the corner. While most people will be opening presents and spending time with family, let's not forget the less fortunate. The recession is still affecting many families so take some time from your hectic or not so hectic schedules to help others.

BY MARTHA TUMBOKON
Staff Writer

Check out these amazing organizations to jump-start the season of giving:

Project Angel Food

Description: Delivers meals to people affected by serious illnesses such as HIV and AIDS living in Los Angeles.

Location: 922 Vine Street Los Angeles

Volunteer: Contact Volunteer Services at (323) 845-1816 or check the website at www.projectangelfood.org

Life4Paws Inc.

Description: Animal-lovers volunteer by taking care of dogs and introducing the dogs to possible adopters.

Location: 2214 Victory Blvd. Woodlands Hills

Volunteer: Volunteer at www.life4paws.org or call (818) 772-4335

TreePeople

Description: TreePeople hosts several events where volunteers plant and maintain trees all over the Los Angeles area.

Volunteer: Explore TreePeople at www.treepeople.org

Wheels For Humanity

Description: Volunteers clean, refurbish, and pack donated wheelchairs which will be shipped throughout the world.

Volunteer: Contact Wheels for Humanity at (818) 255-0100 or check its website www.ucpwfh.org

Computers for Youth

Description: Computers for Youth helps low-income students do better in school by improving their learning environment at home.

Volunteer: Volunteers must be at least 16 years old. Call Computers for Youth at (213) 222-0100 or check its website at <http://www.cfy.org>

What are you looking forward to over the holidays?

BY PAOLA CACERES
Staff Writer



Principal Herman Clay

"I'm actually leaving the country. We're going on a trip to the Philippines."



Teacher Danielle Aucoin

"Being able to read the paper and have my coffee in the morning [as well as a] morning run. [I'll have] no work to grade."



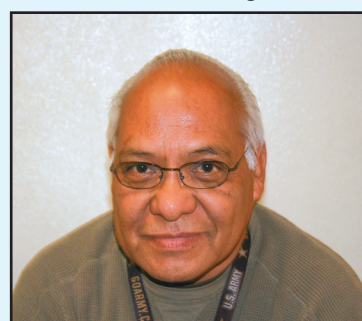
Athletic Director Jason Meskis

"Spending time with my family, playing with my kids, having some family come and visit. I'm going surfing [as well]."



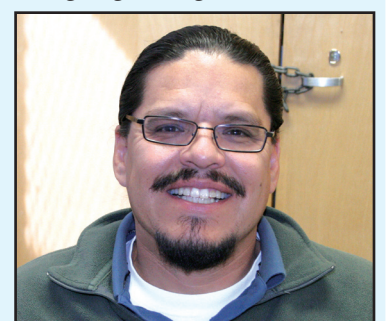
Teacher Raymond Crawford

"I'm looking forward to taking a motorcycle ride—a long one, completing all the grading [and having] real serious down time."



Security Personnel Richard Gallegos

"Being with my family, getting some rest and enjoying my grand-kids."



Teacher Hector Ramirez

"Spending time with the family."



Too much Christmas, not enough Hannukkah?

By NOAH CHO
Staff Writer

Whether or not we want to admit it, one thing is clear: the media glorifies Christmas and pushes other winter holidays aside.

According to a recent demographic study, the United States has just over a 75 percent Christian population, which means that about 25 percent of the American population is either Atheist or is affiliated with different religions.

As a result of this predominant Christian population, Christmas is the most commonly celebrated holiday in the winter. Then again, many people bring up the important point that many non-Christians celebrate Christmas.

The U.S. Census Bureau shows that about 95 percent of Americans celebrate Christmas, so it would only seem fitting that our radio stations, shopping centers, and household decorations scream out "Christmas spirit!"

Even if it seems like a small amount, five percent of almost 300 million people (according to the U.S. Census Bureau) is still quite a lot of people, and these people are not pleased with what they see in the media.

Right after Thanksgiving, the Christmas holiday spirit emerg-



photo illustration Mason Dang

es. After all, Black Friday, a day of mega holiday sales and shopping, is the day immediately after Thanksgiving.

People argue that this shopping is intended to purchase holiday gifts, including Hanukkah, yet the shopping is still advertised as "Christmas shopping."

An anonymous Jewish senior expressed his/her obvious discontent with this situation.

"You can't see a single Hanukkah advertisement [during the holiday season], but Christmas advertising begins right after Thanks-

giving. It's seriously so annoying," said the anonymous senior.

This Christmas spirit tends to hide the Jewish winter holiday, Hanukkah. Again, this sentiment is not seen by people, and they are left without a voice.

Jewish student Sophomore Rachel Gales claims that the decorations glorify Christmas over other religions at some malls, even when the stores do try to be equal.

"The Menorah is freaking small, while the Christmas tree is so huge at the mall," says Gales. Not only can this phenomenon

be seen physically, but it can also be heard if you just close your eyes.

Christmas caroling has been a very important Christmas tradition for hundreds of years, and the radio is spilling over with Christmas songs in November.

People do not realize that not everyone wants to hear this, and different people react in different ways.

Sophomore Jacquelin Proctor explains that many Jewish people feel uncomfortable around carolers. "I just sing Jewish songs to sing back," she said, showing her resiliency.

Many students at the Land share this discomfort, and although they do not know what to do about it, many wish for a change.

Sophomore Jewish students, Sam Brown and Lilian Polsky, express how they feel about this.

"It's not too bad because Christians are the majority. But a few more Jewish features in the media would be nice," says Brown.

The worst part of this is how many Jews and people of other religions feel left out from the holiday festivities. "Yeah, it's pretty annoying, but I also feel forgotten," said Polsky.

Christmas Day through history

Year 1	1492	1831	1896
First Christmas	Columbus' ship, the Santa Maria, docks in the Dominican Republic.	Louisiana and Arkansas are the first states to observe Christmas as a holiday.	Stars and Stripes Forever written by John Phillip Sousa.
1926	1936	1939	1950
Hirohito becomes emperor of Japan (1926-1989).	Belgium Bishops condemn facism and communism.	Montgomery Ward introduces Rudolph the 9th reindeer.	Dick Tracy marries Tess Trueheart.
1963	1964	1967	1971
Walt Disney's <i>Sword in the Stone</i> is released.	George Harrison's girlfriend Patti Boyd is attacked by female Beatle fans.	Paul McCartney and Jane Asher get engaged.	Worst hotel fire in history kills 163 people at the Taeyokale Hotel in Seoul.
1983	1989	1990	2009
First live broadcast of Christmas parade.	Japanese scientist achieves -271.8 °C coldest temperature ever recorded.	<i>Godfather III</i> premieres.	Unsuccessful terrorist attack against the U.S. onboard board Northwest Airlines Flight 253.

Rockin' Holiday Playlist



By JAZMINE GONZALEZ
Staff Writer

1. Lady Gaga- Christmas Tree
2. Mariah Carey- Oh Santa
3. John Lennon- So This is Christmas
4. Rihanna-A Child is Born
5. Vaughn G- Christmas Song

6. Jessica Simpson- My Only Wish
7. Hilda Stenmalm- a Little Magic
8. Shakira- Santa Baby
9. Bing Crosby- Mele Kaliki-maka
10. William Scott-The Kwanza Song

11. Ronan Keating and Moya Brennan- Fairytale of New York
12. Sara Bareilles and Ingrid Michaelson- Winter Song
13. Nat "King" Cole- This Christmas
14. Bing Crosby- Let it Snow

Eggnog: the facts, the history, and the noggin' burstin' flavor

By SOLOMON KIM
Staff Writer

Eggnog. The name of this age-old beverage pops up every holiday season. Most have heard of it, but few really know what it is, let alone its history.

The traditional drink is generally made using milk, eggs, and sugar. It can be flavored with various things such as cinnamon and nutmeg, and often has a little bit of liquor in it. Frequently used liquors are brandy, rum, and whiskey.

While most commonly associated with Christmas, eggnog is also consumed during Thanksgiving and New Years, making it the classic beverage for the holiday season.

Eggnog is widely popular in Canada and the United States with average annual sales of around 130 million pounds in the U.S. according to the Dairy Marketing and Risk Management Program. Canadians will drink 8 million liters of it this holiday season, equivalent to around 2.1 million gallons here in the U.S. according to Statistics Canada.

Interestingly enough, the origin of eggnog is debated by historians.

One account claims that it originated in Eastern England during the Middle Ages, evolving from a medieval European drink made with hot milk, called posset. The "nog" of "eggnog" may be derived from "noggin," the Middle English term for a small wooden mug used to serve alcohol.

Another story says that the name developed in the American Colonies in the 18th century. "Eggnog" was a common Colonial term to describe rum. Over time, the name changed to "egg'n'grog," then finally, "eggnog."

Whether eggnog was named in England or in America, it is enjoyed in places around the world.

While a homemade mug of eggnog has a lot of appeal, those who don't have time can always buy commercial eggnog at the store. There is a large variety of store-bought eggnog, including ones with lowfat milk for the health conscious, and soy milk for vegans and those allergic to dairy.

Even if it is cinnamon flavored, and even if the taste is made using

artificial sweeteners, eggnog will always have the traditional taste of eggs, milk, and sugar underneath it all.

For seasoned eggnog lovers and newbies alike, here is an easy recipe for traditional homemade eggnog.

Serves 8

- Ingredients:
- 6 eggs
 - 3 cups of milk
 - 8 tablespoons of sugar
 - 3 teaspoons of vanilla extract
 - ½ teaspoon of ground nutmeg

Directions:

Using a big bowl, beat the eggs with a whisk or electric beater. As you beat the eggs, add in the milk, then the sugar. Continue to beat the mixture until it thickens, and add the vanilla essence and ground nutmeg. Make sure the eggnog is evenly mixed, cover it with plastic wrap, and refrigerate it for at least 3 hours. After it's chilled, pop it out of the refrigerator, top it with some cinnamon and enjoy this easy to make homemade eggnog with your friends and family this holiday season.

December 2010 Concert/ Event Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 Christmas at Disneyland (Nov 12-Jan 2)	2 Strange Kozmic Experience: The Doors and more @ The Grammy museum (till 2/13)	3	4 Heritage Square Museum Holiday Lamplight Celebration
5	6	7	8	9	10 Downtown on Ice @ Pershing Square (till 1/17)	11 Grinchmas @ Universal Studios (12/8-1/2)
12 KROQ Almost Acoustic Christmas Gibson Amphitheatre	13 Michael Buble Staples Center	14	15 Adam Lambert The Music Box @ Henry Ford	16 Las Posadas @ Olvera Street (till 12/25)	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24 LACounty Holiday Celebration @ The Dorothy Chandler Pavilion	25
26	27	28	29	30	31 Kristin Chenoweth @ The Walt Disney Hall	

HOLIDAY ALBUM REVIEWS



photo illustration by Emily Yang

By BRENNIA FLETCHER
Staff Writer

This holiday season, Target is giving out a free compilation of thirteen original songs by indie bands/artists. *The Christmas Gig* features **Darker My Love**, **Bishop Allen**, **Blackalicious**, **Crystal Antlers**, **Best Coast**, and many more! This album has fun up-beat songs as well as slow, mellow tunes to get you in the holiday spirit. "You'll Never Find My Christmas," by Bishop Allen, is a short playful song using acoustic guitars, hand claps, and jingle bells. "The Christmas Gig" also includes two songs in Spanish by The Pinker Tones and Ceci Bastida. These songs are definitely Christmas party worthy. Overall, I give "The Christmas Gig" 4 out of 5 stars!



photo illustration by Emily Yang

By TARA ATRIAN
Staff Writer

In 1994, **Mariah Carey** released her stunning first holiday album. Sixteen years later, Mariah is hoping to recreate the same success with *Merry Christmas II You*. Although many may be apprehensive to listen to her album, due to the use of the roman numeral II instead of the the word two or even the dreaded number 2, her album seems to be hitting the right notes, although not as harmoniously as her first Christmas LP. Her rendition of "Charlie Brown Christmas" is a stand out because of her raspy yet sweet tone. However, the rest of this Christmas album is boring and unimpressive. No matter how hard she tries to show off her outlandish vocal range, Carey fails to stand up to her talents as heard in her previous album.



photo illustration by Emily Yang

By ALLISON LI
Staff Writer

For four consecutive years, alternative rock band, **The Killers**, has released an annual Christmas single in December. All proceeds from each year's Christmas charity single are donated to the Product RED charities fighting AIDS in Africa. As an alternative rock band, its take on Christmas is fresh, albeit unconventional. The song "Come Christmastime 2010" brings a real Christmas joy to The Killers' die hard fans. The slow and somewhat somber melody tells a heartfelt Christmas story from the narration of a simple boy in boots (hence the name of the song). The sweet story of the boy with the boots really warms the heart in a way that only hot cocoa and Bing Crosby traditionally can. And this is what Christmas is all about.

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Senior Favorites

Class Textaholic

Jared Smythe & Melika Pineda

Class Trendsetter

Daniel Ramos & Vianca Porticar

Worst Case of Senioritis

John Orellana & Gabriela Fernandez

High School Sweethearts

Jose Rodriguez & Kassandra Gutierrez

Couple that Should Have Been

Eduardo "Eddie" Gonzalez & Lynn "Vicky" Rosado

Most Likely to be Seen Together

Jade Denson & Joy Thomas

Future President

Justice Achonu & Kathryn Hart

Busiest Senior

Ryan Yoo & Precious Nicanor

Million Dollar Smile

Fabian Escobedo & Tanya Ortiz

Biggest Flirt

Joshua Williams & Sharlyn Morales

Mesmerizing Eyes

Brian Sanchez & Paulina Infante

Most Likely to be in the Olympics

Jaylen Bland & Valerie Orellana

Mr. & Ms. Congeniality

Brian Escobar & Sara Villalon

Most Likely to be on Reality TV

Kevin Somoza & Kristen Marquez

Most School Spirited

Ryan Yoo & Kelechi Kalu

Most Likely to be Mistaken for a Freshman

Andrew Choi & Dan "Dannie" Nguyen

Best Salon Styled Hair

Saritt Konkankit & Marlene Saad

Next America's Got Talent Star

Amit Pradhan & Megan Zuckerman

Most Changed Since 9th Grade

Charles Balcom & Jennifer Noriega

Most Mispronounced Name

Chijioke Nwokeji & Ishwerjit Kaur

Class Clown

Kevin Somoza & Keaira Johnson

Class Einstein

Hung "Mason" Dang & Audrey Kim

Most Likely to Become a Teacher at Cleveland

Jason Drantch & Esmeralda Balcazar

Most Dynamic Personality

Charles Balcom & Janette Contreras

Born in the Wrong Decade

Patrick Carl & Marissa Zeller



photo illustration by Emily Yang

Christmas traditions from around the globe

BY MINDY KIM
Staff Writer

Armenia

Because the Orthodox Church in Armenia still uses the old Julian Calendar, Christmas is celebrated on January 6th. The Christmas holiday season starts on December 31st and continues until the old Julian calendar's New Year's Eve on January 13th. Santa Claus or Father Christmas is known as Gaghant Baba. He traditionally comes on New Year's Eve because Christmas Day is thought of more as a religious holiday in Armenia.

Russia

In Russia, Christmas is celebrated in early January. Instead of Santa delivering the presents, "Baboushka," meaning grandma, comes.

Italy

The city of Naples in Italy is world famous for its cribs and crib making, due to the custom of recreating the Nativity scene during Christmas.

Poland

Poland is a largely Catholic country and thus Christmas Eve is a very important and busy day. Traditionally it's a day of fasting

and abstinence, and by conventional standards, meat is not allowed to be eaten in any form. It is traditional that no food be eaten until the first star is seen in the sky, so children line up in hordes to look at the night sky to spot the first star. A special Christmas Eve meal called "Wigilia" is eaten after the first star has been spotted.

Japan

Fried chicken is in great demand during the holidays, meaning most Japanese citizens must pre-order their chicken in advance! It is the busiest time of year for restaurants such as KFC and other local fast food restaurants. In Japan, Christmas is seen as a time to spread happiness rather than a religious celebration. Christmas Eve is often celebrated more than Christmas Day, because December 24th is marketed as a romantic day, in which couples spend time together and exchange presents. In many ways, it resembles the Valentine's Day celebrations of the USA.

China

In China, only about one percent of people are Christians, so Christmas is celebrated in major cities, such as Shanghai and Beijing, and not in the Chinese coun-

tryside. These country dwellers might never hear about Christmas. Funny how the world's Christmas decorations are predominantly made in China, yet the concept of Christmas is not well-known by the masses.

Iceland

Iceland has 13 Santas, and the holiday is not called Christmas: it's called "Yule." This comes from the ancient winter solstice celebrations, from the early Christians.

New Zealand

When we think of Christmas, we often envision the winter. But in New Zealand, December comes in the middle of summer.

Pick up your sweetie with these smooth lines

- I'm a professional; I taught Rudolph everything he nose.
- You can light my menorah any day.
- I must be a snowflake because I'm falling for you.
- You should be sitting on the top of the tree because you're an angel.
- Can I take a picture of you so I can show Santa what I want for Christmas?
- You're like gingerbread: sweet and spicy.
- I must be a snowman because I melt when I see you.
- Even Santa's elves can't make candy as sweet as you.

Grover: Year 6

By DAYLIEN CHIANG
Guest Illustrator



Plunge into the holiday spirit

BY BLESSING JEE
Staff Writer

It's that time of the year again. Christmas? Hanukkah? No! It's the Polar Bear Plunge!

This international event requires a group of participants to run and splash into cold, freezing water - fun!

Plunges take place during the winter, most often on New Year's Day. The rules are simple: don't dress warmly, bring a lot of friends for support, and have fun. Most plunges happen in oceanic water, although freezing lake water can act as a worthy substitute. These icy events can also vary from a quick "dip" into the water to a demanding two-mile Polar Bear Swim, like the one hosted

annually by La Jolla Beach.

On January 22, 2011, the massive "Fight Global Warming - Keep Winter Cold!" Polar Bear Plunge is to take place in the National Harbor, off the coast of Maryland. This is a way for climate change activists to draw media attention to the ever-growing problem of global warming.

MSP Polar Bear Plunge is the largest Polar Bear Plunge in the country, and it takes place in Maryland.

Like most Polar Bear Plunges, MSP Polar Bear Plunge raises funds for non-profit organizations; in this case, for the Special Olympics Maryland. The upcoming January 29th event will be their 15th anniversary!

Surprisingly, this event has been very successful in raising funds. It's amazing how many people are willing to go for a dunk in icy water just to help others!

However, if all you want to do is to have some daring fun during winter break, gather up a group of friends and go to one of the many polar plunges that the California beaches offer. Be grateful that the ocean temperature on our sunny coast is much warmer than



photo illustration by Emily Yang

that of the Atlantic. With this in mind, grab your friends' hands, dig your toes in the sand, and get ready to have some icy fun!