



TIGER TIMES



HOLIDAY EDITION

Vol. 2 | No. 4 | December 20th, 2022

Wizards and Wassail

On December 3 and 4, IBHS Choirs held their Annual Madrigal Dinner with a script written by Jake T.

By Ethyn D.
Contributor

This year's madrigal, titled "Wizards and Wassail" featured a comedic and defined cast of characters.

In past years when writing the madrigal, Jake T. mainly made his characters cartoony and goofy, but this year he wanted to shake it up a little. He mentioned that, "I felt like last year's show didn't have a great [story] moral, so the reason this year's show is more human is because I based them off of people around me."

There's been a well known character in Jake's madrigal, Duke Chad, played by Junior Brody B, and this year's madrigal was about him hosting a feast for his crazy family.

Everything is going well until Duke Chad's father, Reginald Chad, (played by Junior, Ethyn D.) and his brother, Arthur Chad, (played by Sophomore, Aidan R.) show up to the feast. Reginald's constant favoring of Arthur begins to ruin everything, and all the family members — Audrey, Adelaide Amadeus, Arthur, Reginald, Esther and Duke Chad — begin to fight. After this, both Reginald and Arthur are taught the importance of respecting their family and apologize, clearing everything up, which warmed the hearts of the audience, who had just finished their dessert.

While watching the show, attendees are first served wassail, a warm spiced cider. After some



Photos Taken by Kim Thomas. (L to R) Grace H., Katie R., Brody B., Ethyn D., Josh B., and Celine L.

singing and acting, soup gets served. The main course is a fine platter of chicken atop rice and a side of carrots. Served for dessert is a sweet custard pie with some strawberries.

"I don't usually like custard, but this pie was incredible!" said a parent.

In past years, the setup process took more than a day, meaning people had to stay late and come in early. This year was different; it was set up in just one day, about 6 hours to be exact. Jake was very impressed and happy it was going so well. "I like seeing people get so passionate about the show!" commented Jake.

While setup took about 6 hours, tear down took about half that time, and just like that, the madrigal was over, something that would have more of an impact on those who are seniors. "I'll definitely miss it, but I had a lot of fun!" says Katie R., who played

Esther Chad, a playwright whose ideas have already been done.

"It is very sad, but I'll always remember the good times," mentioned senior Grace T., chamber singer.

This madrigal completes a trilogy by Jake T., with the first being "A Terrible Tale with a Cup of Wassail" and the second being "A Squired Guide: How Not to Rule a Kingdom," with "Wizards and Wassail" wrapping up the series. But don't think student written madrigals are over, because Jake has already secretly chosen 2 people to succeed him, who will try their best to recreate the magic everybody loves.

Senior Emily T. truly worded it best by saying, "It slayed."

How to Not Crash Your Car This Winter Season

By Mr. Belville

Driver Education Teacher

'Tis the season for Jack Frost to come nipping at our noses as we welcome winter weather to the area. Living in Illinois, we get to enjoy the changing of the seasons, which I personally enjoy. With those seasonal changes, Illinois drivers need to be prepared for the changes to the driving environment itself.

Snow, ice, sleet, and freezing rain can create a challenging driving environment for even the most veteran of drivers. There are a lot of things that you can do to keep yourself safe when driving in wintry conditions, but here are just a few tips for driving success this winter season.

1.) Slow down!!!

As speed increases, so does braking distance. This is especially problematic in wintry conditions as traction is significantly reduced making for much longer stopping distances.

This means taking turns slower as well. Inertia wants objects to remain traveling in a straight line, but it's traction that allows you to change direction. No traction=no change in direction

2.) Increase following distances.

We've already discussed how less traction means

longer stopping distances. Give yourself a bigger space cushion in case a sudden stop is required.

3.) Make sure your vehicle is set up for winter driving success.

Check tire tread, tire inflation, battery function, wiper fluid levels, headlights, brake lights, and turn signals, just to name a few items. Also, keep your gas level close to full. You don't want to be stranded out in the cold because you ran out of gas.

4.) Give yourself plenty of time to get where you're going.

Realize that you'll be driving slower, so your trip is going to take longer. Plan ahead. Stick to main traveled roadways. They're more likely to be better maintained.

5.) Put together an emergency kit.

Include items such as an ice scraper, jump starter battery pack, flashlight, flares, kitty litter, water, food, and a blanket.

A little preparation and a lot of common sense can go a long way to staying safe this winter. Be extra cautious, drive defensively, and always wear your seatbelt. Good luck!

Senior Send-Off

Seniors sit down and talk about their time at Illini Bluffs High school.

By Kristina Petrey
Editor-In-Chief

Ella W., the star soccer AND softball player; Christian K., the most chillax guy you will ever meet; and Clara L., our German exchange student, sat down and talked about their futures and what they expect to come.

Senioritis has started to kick in for Ella and Christian, as they feel the readiness to leave this small town behind and start something new. Ella will be attending ISU after she graduates. What for? She doesn't know. Christian will be taking a gap year to see what is calling to him. As for Clara, she, unfortunately, will have to go back to Germany to make up 12th grade and do 13th grade.

The close community created by our school's small size allows for special memories to be cultivated for everyone you've come across. Christian will miss Mr. Adamczyk's advisory from junior year. For those who weren't in it, it was very chaotic and, "a very fun time," in his words. Ella's favorite memory is when she, the Howard sisters, and Zoe E. absolutely DESTROYED the dance floor with the song "Rasputin" at homecoming.

Clara also enjoyed homecoming because, "Germany only has school. None of the fun stuff." On the whole, she enjoys the Midwest, a sentence one didn't even know was possible, and has done the classic 'Midwest Adventure,' of going to Walmart and wandering around.

There are some secrets to these seniors. Well, semi-hidden talents. Clara's is speaking German!! Who knew? Ella and Christian both have double jointed elbows that usually makes a crowd a little squeamish, but are still cool nevertheless.

When they're not showing off their semi-hidden talents you can usually find them hanging out with friends, watching Netflix, gaming, or attending sports practices.

While Clara says that she will miss her time here with us Americans, Ella and Christian are

ready to move onto bigger and better things. Their parting words for the students: Do what makes YOU happy.



Photos Submitted by Students

Library News

Take a moment in the library to cozy up with a good book and the relaxation station.

By Bre S.
Senior Reporter

As we approach the winter months, students may wonder if there are novels in our high school library that match the cold holiday atmosphere that is around us. With one quick visit to the Illini Bluffs Library website, one can find two solid holiday novels, ranging from a classic to romance that captures this season.

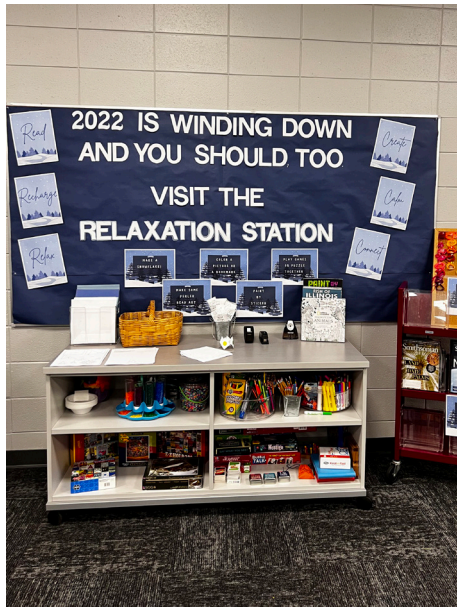
Starting with a classic Christmas novel, Illini Bluffs library offers "A Christmas Carol" written by Charles Dickens. This novel follows the story of Ebenezer Scrooge, who is an elderly man that gets a visit from the ghost of his former partner, Jacob Marley. Throughout the novel, you watch Scrooge grow, evolve, and transform into a gentler soul through the spirit of Christmas.

Next is the novel "My True Love Gave To Me: Twelve Holiday Stories" by Stephanie Perkins. This novel was published in 2014 and it covers four New Year's Eve countdowns, Christmas cheer, a celebration of Hanukkah, and the winter solstice. Each of these 12 stories features twelve different love stories, all taking place in the holiday season, which is guaranteed to make you fall even more in love with this season. Though, holiday books aren't the only inviting section of the library this season.

Found in the high school library, the relaxation station boasts numerous relaxing crafts, including DIY decorative snowflakes that will hang on the library's walls, customizable bookmarks, and coloring pages. Also featured in the library are "how to's" with how to make snowflakes and numerous other materials to also complete your relaxing project.

When asked, librarian Mrs. Coulter stated, "The end of the semester can be a really stressful time for students, but there are also some who find themselves with some extra down time during the last couple days before the holiday break. The Relaxation Station meets the needs of BOTH of those groups because it consists of a collection of activities that are both entertaining and relaxing. Students can find coloring and sticker art activities, puzzles, materials to make friendship bracelets and bead art; they can make snowflakes for the library's snowflake display or just relax and thumb through a magazine. The Relaxation Station is really about encouraging students to engage in self-care and to take a minute to breathe."

Illini Bluffs' library has numerous other holiday novels that are guaranteed to capture books lovers' and students' attention alike, so don't be afraid to swing by the library and ask Mrs. Coulter or its high school helpers for book recommendations this holiday season or for a recommendation on a craft from the relaxation station.



Happy Birthday



- Brandon C. - Dec. 1
- Tinley L. - Dec. 3
- Zander E. - Dec. 6
- Brooke B. - Dec. 7
- Jackson K. - Dec. 7
- Eric K. - Dec. 8
- Shelby S. - Dec. 13
- Lilly H. - Dec. 16
- Lexi R. - Dec. 16
- Malechi F. - Dec. 18
- Hudson S. - Dec. 18
- Xander B. - Dec. 31

Student Council

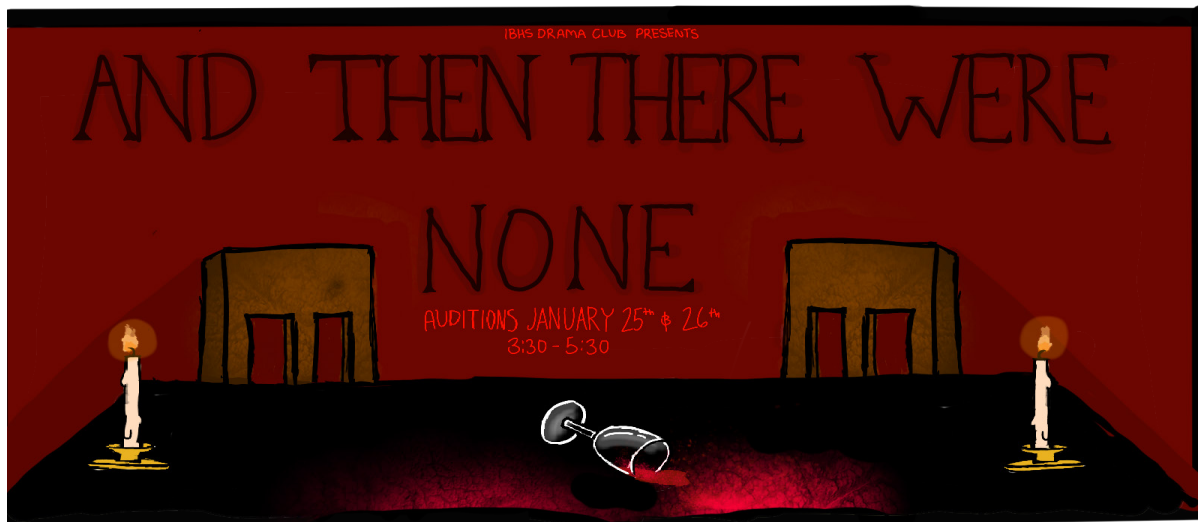
By Autumn Gray
Senior Reporter

Hello IB!

Winter Break is just around the corner, which means Netflix binging, snowboarding, and lots of time to do whatever you want! Student Council has planned a few activities and Spirit Days to get you in the mood! Be on the lookout for more information via flyers around the school, emails from your stuco crew, and posts on our Instagram (@ibhs_stuco)!

We would LOVE to see all the ways you 'get in' on the fun, so please snap some pics of you and your friends during the Spirit Days and share them with us so we can share them on our stories!

Lastly, we are always looking for Spirit Day suggestions from our fellow students! If you have an idea on a theme, activity, or anything at all, contact us via email or catch one of your stuco representatives in the hall, so we can take your idea to the rest of the council!



Featured Artist

Freshman Emmi W. created coloring sheets for a close friend who enjoys to color! After school she would spend hours making sure everything was perfect. She managed to share the sheets with the kindergarteners!

EMMI W.



Principle Updates

By Mr. Almasi
Contributor

I want to thank the Tiger Times Newspaper staff for all their hard work. It has been great to have a student-led paper back in publication at IBHS, and I am very proud of their job.

This month, I want to focus on finishing out the semester strong, relaxing over winter break, and starting the second semester in the right direction. With the final countdown to winter break, students need to ensure they are staying in contact with their teachers finishing the semester strong. We've had a great first semester, and I want to ensure students aren't missing any assignments that would negatively impact their grades.

If a student has to take mandatory finals, please utilize the study resources provided by their teachers. We want all students to be successful and prepared for the final exams.

Over winter break, please find some time to stay off your phones and interact with your families.

If a younger cousin or aunt you haven't seen in a while is visiting for the holidays, be sure to interact with them and make some memories. The holiday season goes by quickly, and you want to take advantage of the time you have together.

Lastly, as we enter 2023 and the second semester, I can't stress the importance of starting off the semester on a positive note. We want all our students to be doing well in our classrooms and life. Be sure to get all your assignments turned in on time, study for tests/quizzes, and participate in class. You want to make sure your work in class represents you as a student. As always, let me know if you need anything to be successful.

Beyond High School

IBHS hosts Career Fair.

By **Katie A.**

Freshman Reporter

What will you be when you grow up? This is a question most kids face starting at a young age. Some kids have it all planned out, while others are left to wonder what they are going to do to make money. The same problem is created when asked where they want to go to college.

This year IBHS had a solution that would help many students identify what they wanted to do and what they didn't. Many different high school classes have traveled to a local college to see what it offers. For some, it makes them think of where to apply or where they might want to look.

This year, students got to experience and learn about the jobs and colleges available to them. IBHS hosted its Career Fair on Dec. 2.

The event kicked off in the theater with introductions, including speeches given by a representative from the local electrician union and a member of Bradley's admissions team.

After the kickoff, four breakout sessions were held based on students' interests. Some of the sessions offered included law enforcement, cosmetology, entrepreneurship, Western University, Bradley University, medical fields and military, Bohms Aviation, amongst others. Illini Bluffs alumni volunteered to share their insight with students, as well as guests from the community.

Overall there was a positive student reaction. The majority of students had an excellent time. Emma H., a junior said, "I really enjoyed all the understandings of everything like learning the different options for everyone." She was able to find things that she wanted to do easily. The careers that caught her eye, she learned even more about them.

Other students had similar replies. Many said, they loved being around all of the colleges, and jobs that they didn't even know they might like. Sophia G., a freshman, said, "I think the best thing about the career fair was being able to pick different career paths to choose from and learn about that career path, the schooling, salaries, etc."

Students could walk around the gym, where various local colleges fielded questions and offered insight to their programs. Some of those colleges included: Western University, ICC, SIU, and Illinois Wesleyan University. Each of the tables had a representative(s) that would tell curious students anything they would ask, and need to know in order to consider applying to their college.

Another student, Riley E, a freshman, said, "Talking to many people and seeing everyone's different experiences within their career was beneficial." While students were in their sessions, they could ask questions and listen to the presenters talk about their careers, the path to get there, and their passion for their jobs.

The career fair was a big success. Many students now have an idea of what they want to pursue for a future career and can weigh their options for college. Making these connections with people who graduated from IB, or even other schools can make a big difference in a student's life. After the career fair, students are left with one thing: What are you going to be when you grow up?



"Laying Down the Law," group. Left to Right, Officer Brandon Jackson, Jaden C., Malechi F., Paul I., Carson O., Lexi B., Chloe E, Lillian K., Jocey P., Tessa H., Quintin C.,

Sco. Bowl Team Confident Despite Losing Star Player

By **Kristina Petrey**

Editor-In-Chief

In thirty seconds, your team has to come up with a response to "Who was the 31st president of the U.S. whose largely unsuccessful approach to the Great Depression cost him re-election?" Your brow is sweating; you know that Mr. Welsh told you about this. You know that it's somewhere in your head.

BUZZ

The other team got it. Scholastic Bowl is a trivia competition. It starts with a "Toss-Up" where each team will have 30 seconds to answer a question. Whichever team gets the toss-up correct has control of the "Bonus," meaning, they get a chance to answer the 3 part questions first. The other team will get a chance to guess if the team with control doesn't get the answer correct. Each Tossup is worth 10 points, and each part of the bonus is worth 10. Whichever team gets the most points wins.

With former IB student Paul K. leaving the school and scholastic bowl team, many team members welcome in this new era with

curiosity. He had the most correct questions during the conference last year and helped lead the team to state.

Mr. Adamczyk, second year coach, isn't too nervous though. He has faith that the other players will be able to pull through. "He [Paul] was an expert in music and history. But we have other people on the team who also know music and history. It's just a matter of stepping up, and fill his shoes."

Along with that, Mr. Adamczyk, too, has been studying, analyzing how the games are broken down and deciphering the best time to play different players. Indeed, these first couple of matches will be spent seeing where players' strengths lie and how everyone works together as a team.

With last year's 8th place state finish, the school's first state run in almost 20 years, many have high expectations for this season. While nothing is guaranteed, especially with a new group of students, the team feels as though another state finish is within grasp.

Student Spotlight: Belle B.

By **Katie R.**

Managing Editor

Illini Bluffs is full of outstanding, talented students, and Annabelle Bulfer is no exception. Nominated because of her cheerful attitude, amazing work, and killer dance moves, Belle exemplifies the character of a sensational student.

Annabelle Bulfer -Belle to her friends- is a sophomore at Illini Bluffs Highschool.

She is funny, sweet, and very smart. Along with being a dancer outside of school, Annabelle is involved in multiple things here at Illini bluffs, and she seems to love all of them.

She runs lights for the school's drama productions, is a part of the dance team here, and sings in Chamber Singers! As she moves away, she says she hopes to continue to do these things all throughout her high school life.

She was recognized because she is involved in school and activities and always in high spirits when she is. Although, our time here with Annabelle Bulfer is soon coming to an end.

We will bid her adieu at the end of our Christmas break as she is heading off to Morton High School. Even despite the abrupt change, she remains in high spirits and keeps a positive attitude about it.



Mrs. Gresham (L) Belle B. (R) Photo captured by Katie R.

She talks about how much she will miss Ms. Gresham and Mrs. Jatkowski's foods class. "Ms. Gresham class will forever remain with me because she never fails to make me feel welcome and at home."

She says "I'm going to be outgoing, I think that will help me on my journey." Moving to a bigger school, Annabelle says she's excited about all the new and fun opportunities she'll find there. She hopes to stick with dance and theater throughout her transfer, and we wish her the best of luck!

It is truly remarkable to talk to someone as optimistic and humble even as she undergoes change. Illini Bluffs will surely miss having Annabelle, but we also know that she will do great things wherever she goes.

How to Survive Finals

By **Autumn G.**

Senior Reporter

Christmas Break is just around the corner, but with that comes everyone's least favorite event ... FINALS! To help you get through your finals and get break started as fast as humanly possible, I wanted to let you in on my three part guide to final survival.

Part 1) DO NOT PROCRASTINATE! -

I know it is hard to get ahead of the game, but finals can have a lot of information that cannot be memorized in one hour before the test. Avoid going in underprepared and start working through the information from your course right now, a little bit at a time.

Part 2) Create a Study Plan! -

This can look different for every person and every subject. Make yourself a Quizlet or partner up with a friend from your class. An effective study plan I have is creating notecards and slowly eliminating the ones I am comfortable with from my stack until they are all gone! The combination of writing the information and memorizing is super helpful!

Part 3) Get a Good Night's Sleep! -

This is very basic advice, but that is because it works! Sacrificing sleep for studying is not a good trade because you will go into your finals too groggy to properly recall the information you stayed up all night studying. It's a vicious cycle. Don't get stuck in it! That being said, if you know you are going to stay up late to try and gather that last bit of content before your final, at least caffeinate up!

Good luck and try your best! Just remember that once finals are done, you get a nice long break to recover!

Girls Team Playing to Win

IBHS Girls Basketball Team plays with one thing on their mind. Victory.

By Lillian K.
Freshman Reporter

Within the first minutes of the JV and Varsity girls' basketball games, you could tell that the girls were here to win.

On December 1, 2022, the Lady Tigers curated an incredible performance against their opponents Stark County, which led them to want more.

On this night, there were many great highlights, such as glorious wins, but behind the scenes, there was more going on than any of us knew.

JV player, Tinley L. was in the complete mindset of winning. She says, "we played really well, we ran all out plays, the defense was solid, and we came to win."

However, not all games are perfect and some have their not-so-good parts, but this wasn't in the picture for the lady tigers. They were set to be prepared.

A junior, Resse C. mentioned that "there was no way for us to come out sluggish; we absolutely have to be ready."

While the players gave their perspectives on the game, coach Mr. Bellville revealed that "Every year is a new year, and based on last year, we personally should be fantastic."

Which for the kick-off they were. The team's record is currently eleven wins and only a total of four losses. The girls will continue to prepare and dominate their opponents and hold themselves to their highest potential, so make sure to come and support the girls at every opportunity you get!



Photo Credits: Kristina Petrey

Cheers to Third Place!

By Lauren B.
Freshman Reporter

Although the cheer team lost quite a few of its members over the course of this season due to injury, the first competition was a huge success! The competition was on Saturday, Dec. 10., and the cheer team was ready to win.

Before the competition, the cheer team had been working hard to perfect routines and get their skills up to par. Grace H., a senior and one of the captains of the team, was asked about the preparation that went into creating a good routine. She said, "Personally I am preparing by working out outside of practice. I go to the gym whenever I can during the week and during the weekend."

Although most of the biggest competitions are in January and February, the team was dedicated to getting the ball rolling with this first competition, and wasn't going to let anything, or anyone, slow them down.



Jocce P. (R) Megan R. (L) Photo Captured by: Kristie Russell

Throughout the struggles faced this year, the team has managed to continue practices and create routines for competitions. Grace H., a senior, addressed the missing members of the team.

She said, "We have had many problems that we have faced this year. We have had girls fall sick and get injured. We continue to keep working hard through these roadblocks. We are not letting them get us down."

Grace H. and Karena H. had been working incredibly hard to continue working with the competition team, yet the struggles they faced were not out of the way just yet. The competition was just around the corner, and the cheer team needed to be at the top of its game.

The competition was split up into three groups, small, medium, and large divisions, with IB being in the small division due to our schools' size. Teams came from all over, and the competition ran from dawn to dusk. When the cheer team got there, they had about an hour before the performance, so they began to warm up their jumps, tumbling, and the pyramids. Then, it was time to perform.

The cheer members were in their positions, and the spotlight was cast to the floor. The music began and they started the routine. With a three-minute time limit to perform, the cheer team was careful to not slow anything down. The stunts were at the hardest level, level four, and they had to be perfect. The routine ended at two minutes and forty-five seconds, and the cheer team rushed off of the floor, excited to see their score.

When the scores were ready to be announced, the team couldn't wait to hear their place. When Grace H. was asked about the outcome of the competition, she couldn't hide her excitement!

She said, "This weekend at our competition we got 3rd place! It was a really fun weekend for our team and a great way to start our season." With the cheer team placing third overall, the girls were ready to go home and celebrate a massive victory.

Team Rivalry: Freshman vs. Junior

By Lillian K.
Freshman Reporter

Junior Hunter R. and Freshman Jacob S, students here at Illini Bluffs, went head to head for wrestling on Nov. 27 in the Pat O'Connor Gymnasium. In the tournament, they met new people, discovered new talents, and took pride in their sport. These circumstances predict a high chance of this not happening again.

People throughout the gym had much curiosity about what would happen between a freshman and a junior from the same school. This event doesn't happen often due to the fact that way students are classified by weight, and also due to people wrestling students from different schools.

Freshman, Jacob Strube says, "It was fun being able to wrestle someone that was on the same team as you." Jacob was able to learn a thing or two from Hunter and wants to take it with him off of the mats. This left him with new moves and inspiration for the next match.

Junior Hunter Robbins says, "It was amazing to wrestle against an opponent from your team while being the best two in the bracket.. if I see Jacob in the future, this means that we are doing what we are supposed to and are going to excel in the future."

In wrestling, the goal is to not be pinned. For Jacob, this was his biggest challenge. Though Hunter did pin him, he obtained 2nd place, leaving with the words, "a challenge is never good."

For Hunter, the outcome wasn't much of a worry; he was there to have fun and enjoy what he was doing, so he did, which lead to 1st place.

In the end, the two boys wanted to have "better moves" and hope to see each other in the other meets because "If I see Jacob again in the finals that's great because it means we are excelling and doing good" (Hunter R.)



Photo Captured by: Lillian K.

IB Takes it to the Rink

Students Johnny S. and Christian talk about their time playing hockey with the Pekin Dragons.

Gracie L.
Freshman Reporter

With the winter season approaching, it's hockey season. What is the origin of hockey? Hockey is a term from french that means "shepard's stick". The term rink is a "designated area of play" used for curling in Scotland in the 18th century. Hockey's come a long way, huh?

Our students, Johnny Switzer and Christian Murphy have been playing hockey since they were little. Christian Murphy, A freshman has been playing hockey for 6 years. When I talked to christian he said, "the biggest challenge of playing hockey is getting yelled at by your coaches."

With the hockey season in pre-swing, Christian is hoping to have a successful season. With IB not having a hockey team, Christian plays for PCHS hockey team. So far, they have a good start to the season with 1-0.

The dedication these players have for their sport(s), is incredible.

"Hockey teaches you to be a good leader, have responsibility, it also teaches you to have discipline." Says Christian

Many people would say that hockey is easy, but it is everything but that.

Christian along with many other of his teammates have hopes and goals for their future in hockey. Christian says, "I hope to be playing hockey at a higher level than HighSchool, and if that doesnt work out then I may become a hockey coach."

Many people may not see it, but it's a teamsport. Youre constantly working together and trying to build on new ideas to get points. With sports in general, youre constantly building your relationships as a team, always making new friends.



Photo Submitted by Student

STAFF PICKS

Favorite Holiday Drink

Staff of the IBHS Tiger Times

With all the seasonal drinks being released, the Tiger Times staff shares their favorites.

Gracie H.

Sprite Cranberry

It's my favorite because it has just a little more flavor than regular Sprite does.



Kristina P.

Egg Nog



Something about it just brings me so much joy. It reminds me of the National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation, the scene where they're drinking the egg nog from the cute little reindeer mugs. Overall, top notch holiday drink.

Emily T.

Wassail

It gets everyone in the Christmas spirit and is overall just an amazing drink!



Lillian K.

Hot Chocolate



This is my favorite because, when it's cold out, something other than warm coffee is nice. When I was a kid, I remember playing with my siblings in the snow while mom made hot chocolate for us when we came outside.

Katie A.

Peppermint Mocha Coffee

I love anything with mint, and coffee always makes a person warm inside! It is the best drink to exist, seeing as it helps wake someone up and start their day with loads of happy memories.



Lauren B.

Peppermint Milkshake

Steak n' Shake is my favorite place to get milkshakes, and I also love their limited winter flavors.



Tiger on the Prowl

Students share their holiday traditions.

Mia B.



"Usually I go to my Dad's and eat with my family. Then, we open presents, my grandparents being last. We all pitch in to get a memorable gift for them!"

Hank A.



"My Family typically cuts down a Christmas Tree. This year we didn't, we just got it at Walmart"

Cassie G.



"We play a game to see who can say 'Christmas Gift' to each other first! It's really unique and it makes me happy."

Grace T.



"Every year my siblings and I go to Fired Up and design tiles to represent our year! They're presents for our mom."

Last Minute Presents!

Here's some present ideas for your loved ones

By Gracie L.
Freshman Reporter

With the holiday season coming up, you're probably wondering what presents to get for your family members. Fear not! The Tiger Times is here to help you.

Getting your family members gifts, should be something that has meaning behind it. Instead of getting your mom a giftcard to her favorite place, get her a custom necklace.

Getting her that necklace may be something small, but it can last a lifetime (unlike the giftcard). It doesn't have to be expensive because even the little things mean something, especially to your mom.

Wondering what to get your dad for Christmas too? Depending on what he likes, you can get him a new finishing pole or maybe some new arrows for his favorite bow. If he likes watching TV, you can get him a nice cozy blanket, or maybe a new recliner. It doesn't have to be expensive, it should just come from the heart.

If you have younger siblings, what's their favorite thing to do? Give them toys that are like activities, such as building blocks, a personalized book, or maybe just something they've been wanting for a while. Don't get them a dog, getting them a dog or any pet is a huge responsibility due to the fact you have to keep an eye on them, take it outside, or clean it's messes.

Shopping for grandma and grandpa is challenging but I bet they'll love anything you get them. For grandma, get her some of her favorite lotion, or maybe a handmade painting by you! Try to stay away from anything you or your cousins have given her in the past.

When shopping for grandpa think of what you would get for your dad. What kind of activities does he like, what does he spend most time doing. Find something that fits into there. If your grandpa likes golfing maybe get him a cheesy trophy that says "Number 1 golfer".

You can get whatever you want for them because we're sure they'll love it.

Editorial: Our Semester Wrapped

A student review of the Fall Semester at IBHS.

By Anna S.
Sophomore Reporter

As 2022 is coming to an end, so is our first semester of this school year. Before we hop under our blankets and hide from school for the few weeks of winter break, we must reflect on this past semester. For, as Margaret J. Wheatley once said, "Without reflection, we must go blindly on our way, creating more unintended consequences, and failing to achieve anything useful."

Alright, that quote might have been a little harsh. However, the point still stands, without reflection growth and improvement cannot be achieved. Taking this under consideration, how can our school improve for next semester?

According to an anonymous student, "Coming upon Winter, while this hasn't become an issue yet, I'm worried about the safety of our parking lots. While the sidewalks are often salted, the parking lots are dangerous especially for new drivers."

This is both bad for the walk between cars and the school doors, but can also lead to more fender benders." Pavement salt is a

much needed improvement to our parking lot.

Other complaints were towards the beginning of the year, over lunches. Hannah T. noted that, "Everyone appeared happy in the upgrade of the food, but disappointed in the price. Mr. Murphy however has listened to our suggestions, and has focused on making our meals more catered to us. Now complaints are few and far between. When they do happen, the kitchen staff listens to us and fixes the problem." Seems like the school has already begun to take Margaret J. Wheatley's words into consideration.

After these negatives, all that was left was the good. Two freshmans were particularly passionate in this portion of their interviews. Katie A. was the first to give her thoughts, "I think this semester has given an amazing opportunity for the newspaper to shine. I also think that this semester went by in a blurr, a crazy blurry but still a thrilling whirlwind." Lauren B. quickly added, "I love having no homework Fridays, and more

lunch time."

For this reporter, my favorite "good" of the year was watching our teachers become more open to our ideas and thoughts. Never before would I have thought that a science teacher would go out of his way to make optional note packets for everyone when a singular person recommended it on behalf of other classmates. Nor would I have believed that a math teacher would have opened up when I asked them to truly listen to my needs.

Other semester net positivies included the canned food drive and the return of the Veteran's Day in-person program.

The canned food drive served as an excellent way to unite students towards common goal while also encouraging fun and camaraderie in the process.

Though various organizations like Student Council, National Honor Society, and the boy's basketball team helped coordinate food delivery and basket arrangement, all students had a hand in helping provide for our community.



Photo Captured by: Bre M.

Likewise, the Veteran's Day program was also a great way to strengthen our school's bond with the community while honoring the veterans around us.

It was incredible to see representatives from nearly all branches, with members serving in conflicts ranging from World Warn II to Iraq and Afghanistan.

Though this semester was not perfect, it's hard not to see the overpowering good that occurred, especially all of the good things

that happened with simple communication, reflection, and problem solving.

Next semester is certain to bring it's own challenges, but with the culture and community

Student Survey: Best Christmas Song

Students choose which song they think deserves the title "All Time Best-Christmas Song."

By Kristina Petrey
Editor-In-Chief

You know the feeling, Halloween just ended and all the stores have decided that October is the ideal time to start selling their Christmas decorations. The mall is blaring the tunes that you will be stuck listening to until the day after Christmas.

The students were given a list of the top 10 songs and were asked which ones they think are the best, and there were a lot of different opinions as to which one deserves the award of Best Christmas Song.

12.5% of students state that "All I Want for Christmas is You," by the queen of Christmas, Mariah Carey, deserves they award. Junior Isabelle C. defends the song stating, "It's always played at Walmart, Target, and all other stores." One would assume that's why people don't like it, but to each their own.

Elvis' "Blue Christmas" stood out to 9.4% of students claiming it's the best. Senior Ashlyn R. talks about how "the vibe just gets you in the Christmas spirit!" The oldie vibes, thinking about it playing while you sit next to a warm fire. It all adds up to an excellent Christmas. Can't you just see it?

But, Elvis's smooth vocals happened to tie with "Santa Tell Me," by Ariana Grande. Mrs. Grande dipped her toe in the waters of Christmas music in 2014 with her song "Santa Tell Me." Junior Annabelle F. didn't state why it was her favorite. But it's Ariana Grande, so I guess that speaks for itself.

"Carol of the Bells," is a certified BANGER for the students. They talk about "how hype" it is, truly getting people in the holiday mood. Autumn G. states it "builds anticipation for the holiday season. Many schools sing it and it makes me so excited for Christmas Day!"

"Jingle Bell Rock," holds a very special place in senior Grace T.'s heart, "My father used to play it on guitar when I was little." It makes sense why it's heart-touching. Other students talked about how it's a classic and overall just an enjoyable song.

"Last Christmas" by Wham! is enjoyed because of the fact that it's a classic. Sophomore Tessa H. enjoys it because "it's from the 80s, one of the top 3 genres. You can't go wrong with it." Junior Zoe C. enjoys it because it contains hit artist George Micheal. The legend who created "Careless Whisper," therefore it has to be good.

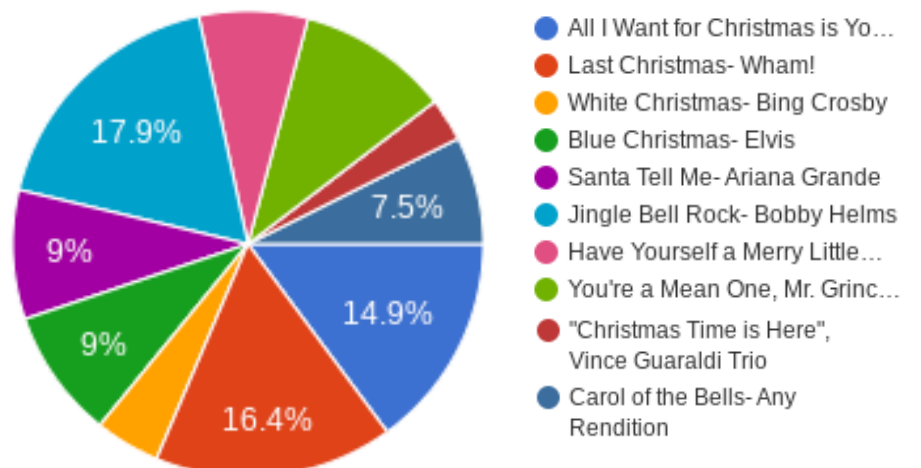
"White Christmas" by Bing Crosby is underrated according to freshman Annabelle C. The song also means a lot to her. Annabelle recalls that she would sit in front of the TV to watch black-and-white Christmas movies, the song flowing through the speakers. Just brings a memory that transcends time.

Mr. Grinch would probably celebrate the fact that his theme song wasn't voted number 1. But he did get a handful of votes! Woohoo! Junior Ethyn D. says it's his favorite because "it's a classic. And I enjoy villain music."

2 students state the list didn't contain their top favorite song, so they provided their own songs. Sophomore Will G put, "Underneath the Tree by Kelly Clarkson. No explanation needed." An explanation might be needed to defend why he thinks it's the best holiday song but the lack of explanation paints a picture of the mic hitting the ground while Will walks off stage while you hear the lovely vocals from Kelly Clarkson

Junior Adela G. put it, "I simply cannot choose any of these bland songs. The best Christmas song is obviously "Mistletoe" by the one and only Justin Bieber." Mr. Bieber's music has evolved from being cringy and childish to releasing STRAIGHT BANGERS that PEOPLE OF CULTURE ENJOY.

All this to say, the idea of choosing "The Best Christmas Song" is pretty difficult due to conflicting opinions on what 'good music' is. So, just turn on 106.9 and argue with your family over what's the best. 'Tis the season to be jolly!



Local Christmas Adventure

While bored over break, check out these cool places!

By Katie A.

Freshman Reporter

Picture it... you wake up after sleeping in late. It's the weekend and you can't wait to get out of bed to get your festive, sugar-filled cup of hot chocolate with extra marshmallows! You're still in your comfy, super soft, never-going-to-take-these-off pajamas. Hopping over to the couch, you turn on your favorite holiday movie for the tenth time this week thinking, I could do this forever.

Flash forward a week. Now that you've been home for a while, you start to get bored sitting at home all day watching holiday movies, which you never thought possible. If this sounds like you, you aren't alone. Excite your holiday spirit with these festive activities!

Many people have unique holiday traditions. For some, that may be attending church and having a nice dinner, for others it's traveling to see family. No matter what your tradition is, you are sure to love this magical show at Northwoods Church, located on Allen Road, Peoria, IL. This show involves melodic singing, and dancing, with jaw-dropping acrobatics. It is sure to keep the whole family entertained! Shows begin on Dec. 16th and run through Dec. 22nd. The show at Northwoods really knows how to captivate the holiday spirit!

If you're more of the cute and cuddly type, check out some reindeer farms! If you want to visit the Snowman's Reindeer Farm in Canton, IL. Here at this farm, you can visit with super-soft reindeer, meet Santa, enjoy yummy snacks, and shop all you want!

The reindeer typically found to be the center of attention, Mistletoe and Snowball are partners. Parenting Sugar Plum, Griswald, Sparky, and Holly. All of these reindeer have special personalities to match their festive names. Scott and Tracy, the owners of the place and the owners of these have devoted so much time to their beloved reindeer.

If you are more of an athletic person, you should check out Owen's Center, located in Peoria, IL. It has an indoor skating rink available for all ages. The Owen's Center is a great place to skate with everyone. and if you are looking for a long-term activity, the center offers a variety of skating lessons. This local center is also providing a place for kids and adults to play hockey in a full-sized rink.

One of the most colorful activities, and by far the most famous around this local community is the Peoria Festival of Lights. This beautiful show will leave you wanting more, make your heart grow three times in size, and is sure to be one of the greatest light shows this festive year.

The Peoria Festival lights are a classic way to make your holiday packed with fun! This production has won the heavyweights championship in 2020 on "ABC's Great Christmas Light Fight." You should add this show to your list this year! With so many different floats of lights, it's sure to interest young and old. This year is the 38th anniversary of this experience, so make the short trip to East Peoria and brighten your spirit with the Festival of Lights!

These are just a few fun things to do this holiday season, branch out and explore! Don't forget to continue family traditions, make new memories, and enjoy all of the time we have together this holiday season. Those who could never be tired of watching their favorite festive movies, now know that is out there. There's a chance that there might be something that you can start, something great.

My Holiday Experience

Junior Morgan L. shares how her holiday season differs from others.

By Morgan L.

Contributor

The holiday season can look different for many people. Personally, I like to say that I get the best of both worlds. This time of year, I celebrate both Hanukkah and Christmas. My mom is Jewish, so that is the religion I followed growing up. On the other hand, my dad celebrated Christmas his whole life so it was important to them that my sister and I got to experience both.

Hanukkah always starts on the 25th day of Kislev on the Hebrew calendar. This means that it typically starts in mid to late November or December in our calendar. This year Hanukkah begins on December 18th and ends on December 26. It is celebrated for 8 days and 8 nights and is symbolized by a Menorah, which holds 9 candles. Four on each side, with one in the middle being the Shamash, the helper candle.

Hanukkah celebrates the Maccabean victories over their Greek and Syrian oppressors. To rededicate the Second Temple of Jerusalem, they needed to have a candle burning at all times, but they only had enough oil to burn for one night. Through a miracle, the flame burned for 8 days and nights, so that is why Hanukkah is 8 days and nights.

Just like each family has their own Christmas and holiday traditions, so does mine. The day after Thanksgiving we fill our house with Christmas and Hanukkah decorations. Our

tree is filled with Hanukkah-themed ornaments and as the season goes on it gets littered with Hanukkah gifts underneath.

On the first night of Hanukkah my mom, my sister, and I get everything ready. We each have our own Menorah so we put the candles in it for the night and we say our prayer as we are lighting them. We say the prayer in Hebrew, but translated to english mean, "Blessed are you, Our God, Ruler of the Universe, who makes us holy through Your commandments, and commands us to light the Hanukkah lights". We exchange one gift every night and repeat this for 8 days when the sun goes down.

One night throughout the holiday my mom makes a Hanukkah feast. This typically consists of latkes, a potato pancake that is fried in oil, and applesauce. This is honestly my favorite part of the whole holiday.

When I was younger my favorite part was playing dreidel. While we have a lot of them in our house, we don't get around to playing the actual game. Most of the time we see who can spin it the longest or who can even spin it upside down.

Growing up in Central Illinois, and especially in a small community like our school, there aren't a lot of other students who celebrate Hanukkah, so I think that it is great to educate and teach others about different cultures and traditions!

How to Help This Holiday Season

Here are some present ideas for your loved ones.

By Anna S.

Sophomore Reporter

The holidays are a happy time for many, but not for all. Many are left out in the cold, snow boots filling up with melted snow, and noses red with awful coughs. Unfortunately, a lot of these people are children. To those who want to bring joy, or atleast comfort, to these families- there are a variety of ways to help.

There are plenty of traditional ways to help. These include making blankets for the cold, donating no longer used items to a local Goodwill, signing up at a church or other public location to serve hot chocolate, and volunteering at local soup kitchens.

However perhaps the simplest yet most unique way to give back is making Christmas Cards to "Santa". This seems too easy to be true, however Macy's Make-A-Wish Campaign is holding a fundraiser for these cards.

How it works is simple, for each card the Macy company receives, they will donate two dollars. Which may seem like a small amount, however, who ever said that the card's have to be fancy? Every game has rules, and every game has gray areas... besides by sticking a sticker and a few messy sentences, maybe they'll think you're merely a first grader. This makes it easy to mass produce cards, and raise as much money as possible. For anyone interested in this quick route to hundreds of dollars raised, go to the <https://www.macys.com/s/makeawish/>. There it explains the simple steps taken to proceed.

Whether you take a more traditional route, or a rather unique one, please donate. While you might forget it in ten years, the people you give back to might never forget what you did for them. They might not remember your name, but the mark you leave on their lives will never truly be forgotten.

A Costly Season

From presents to parties, the holiday season has a way of adding up.

By Celine L.

Junior Reporter

The holiday season is when people spend the most money on gifts for their loved ones. During this stressful time of year, people are more likely to spend more than they typically would on gifts and go over budget if it means they can make others feel loved.

Most Americans have been shopping for the holidays since the beginning of fall, but before we even reach the end of fall, people are stressing over what gifts to buy, party planning, and new Christmas decorations. Even before Halloween is over, we see most fall decorations being removed from stores to make room for new Christmas decor. Store windows fill with holiday-themed products with the Christmas music on repeat which places pressure on people to buy gifts to ensure they don't have a last-minute hassle.

This year's holiday expenses are expected to reach \$942.6 billion, a 6%-8% growth from 2021's sales of about \$899.3 billion. Holiday shoppers are also likely to see high travel costs. Travel intentions are down ~26% from 2021. Those who still intend to travel are mostly higher-income people who expect an average budget of about \$1,848 for their total travel expenses.

As time goes by, the holidays continue to become more expensive but people will still go beyond their budget for gifts. People feel pressured to spend all this money to find the perfect gifts to make their loved ones feel special.

Instead of overindulging on gifts, we can use inexpensive alternatives to gift giving, such as: making DIY gifts, decorating a tree together, volunteering, and watching holiday films together. These are great alternatives to gift buying because they are inexpensive, and your loved ones will definitely appreciate your time more than your money because it's the thought that counts.

