

# Applause

Volume 17, Number 4

School of the Arts, North Charleston, SC

January 2016

[soa-applause.com](http://soa-applause.com)



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## Letter from the Editor

Jay Rode

Dear Readers,

Even though it's humid and 70 degrees outside, winter break is here. Although Charleston is lacking traditional winter snow and chill, *Applause* is still here to keep you warm (or cold?).

In issue four (I know, we're here already) of *Applause*, we've got instructions on making your very own holiday gifts (7) and treats (8). In addition, learn what books SOA students are craving during the holiday season (11), catch up with last year's valedictorian (7), learn about SOA's favorite holiday foods (12-13) and traditions (14-15), look back on Powderpuff with some fab photos (18), and complete this month's crossword featuring fictional villains (24).

We're always looking for letters to the editor. Just head to [soa-applause.com](http://soa-applause.com) to submit and view our extensive archive. We're also on Facebook at "Applause 2015-2016" and on Twitter @SOAApplause.

Have a frosty and fantastic break everyone.

Jakob Lazzaro, Editor-In-Chief



# Applause

since 1999, the official student

publication of

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**Cover by Jay Rode**

## First dance senior thesis of the year is a success

by Anizia Fulmore

Since August, senior Dancers have been choreographing six, seven, or eight minute dance pieces. Inspired by social issues and including artistic collaborations or concepts, the Dance majors performed their theses on December 16th. The dances usually include two performers and used modern movement.

The show featured an intricate combination of lights and props, with one dance featuring ten including tables, lamps, and a newspaper. Another highlight of the night was senior Meagan Horres' dance, which used a table and couch instead of the floor.

Senior Ashton Platts said thesis has really helped her mature and grow.

"It opens my eyes to new perspectives about dance and my future as I mature as a person and dancer," she said.

The dancers researched the concepts of their dances and choreographed the dances before performing in front a live audience. This is the first thesis the dancers have performed, and the next performance will be held in late May.

## Creative Writers dominate poetry out loud

by Nick Scapellato

Poetry Out Loud saw another successful year at SOA. The competition, which has long been a part of SOA's literary culture, requires contestants to memorize poems perfectly and then recite them to a panel of judges. At the school level, only two poems must be memorized.

Returning champion Nicole Sadek read "The Hospital Window" by James Dickey and "Ode to the American Dead in Asia" by Thomas McGrath to take the gold. Kelsey Stewart and Chassee Palmer placed second and third respectively. All three are Creative Writers.

However at the state level, set for some time in January, contestants go through three rounds, reading a different poem for each.

Up next for Sadek is the district competition. If she wins that it's on to state. Don't worry. This isn't her first rodeo. This is Nicole's fourth consecutive year participating in Poetry Out Loud. As a sophomore she won the state championship in Columbia and went on to Washington D.C. to compete for the national title.

## Festival of lights remains a fixture of Charleston's holiday season

by Alissa Melsopp

The Holiday Festival of Lights, held at James Island County Park, is one of Charleston County's most famous holiday attractions. Sponsored by Boeing, the show draws people from all over the world to experience the lights. The main drive through is about three miles long and features over 700 displays. Holiday-themed art projects from county schools including SOA are also exhibited.

In addition, the Holiday Festival of Lights includes several walking trails centered on Santa's Village. The village also features a climbing wall, a carousel, a little toyshop, and many places to grab some food. For a closer look at the lights you can take the Festival Express, a train that loops around the park on a path mostly separate from the main road.

The festival is open seven days a week until January 3rd. Make sure you get your tickets and get out there soon for an incredible experience you won't soon forget!

## Crossword Answers

### Across

14. Silva.  
13. Edmond.  
12. Venom.  
11. Joker.  
10. Bane.  
8. Doc Ock.  
7. Voldemort.  
6. Magneto.

### Down

9. On.  
8. Daleks.  
5. Syndrome.  
4. Iago.  
3. Jafar.  
2. Two-Face.  
1. Ian.

## Fashion majors give back to community with design work

by Jada Orr

In addition to preparing for the fashion show at the end of the year, the fashion department is currently designing custom made clothes for two young girls with physical disabilities. These physical disabilities that restrict the girls' ability to purchase or even alter regular store-bought clothing.

The week before students got off on Thanksgiving break, fashion majors took a field trip to begin the groundwork of designing clothes for two young girls. Students are now sketching and creating fashionable clothes that work with their disabilities.

The students have yet to meet the girls, but have been told their favorite trends and colors. The fashion majors have already begun brainstorming, but the best part of the project is yet to come. Soon, two local girls will be sporting custom clothes made by SOA's own fashion majors.

Danielle DeTiberus



SOA's Poetry Out Loud contestants prepare for the competition.

Charleston County Park and Recreation Commission



The famous "Palms Bridge" at the festival of lights.

## Geocaching an adventurous experience

by Cheyenne Koth

We've all dreamed of adventure, but we often have trouble finding it. Whether it's being born in the wrong time period to go on dangerous and exciting adventures or not having the time to do it, we always run into hang-ups. Fear not, your answer is here!

Geocaching is a worldwide treasure hunt organized over the internet. People can log locations into the website and hide things at said locations. Your challenge? Find it. Using the geocaching app or the coordinates from the site, you must find the hidden object. Once you do find it, there might be several small objects for you to trade with fun knickknacks of your own. There is also often a log to sign to show your treasure-hunting prowess.

This "any day, any time adventure" is a perfect activity for those days where you're stuck in the house and want to find someplace in your town that you've never seen before. With over two million geocaches worldwide, there are so many possibilities when it comes to geocaching.

## Art in motion a knockout performance for junior dancer majors

by Annika Gadsen

The junior Dance major performance of Art in Motion, the first composition of the year, on Monday was an absolute success. From October to December, each dancer used the creative process to choreograph marvelous dances, and the overall experience was exhilarating.

The audience sat in awe over the complex and abstract movements as the dancers transferred the dynamic and vibrant arrangements from abstract visual canvases to a living art form on stage. The artistic wishes of the choreographers were skillfully interpreted and displayed by the junior dancers.

From duct-taped unitards to ring master biketards, the creativity of the dancers kept the audience engaged. After this successful show, the junior dance majors are now preparing for their upcoming spring composition. They hope to wow the audience once again with their creative artistic abilities.



Cheyenne Koth

Alissa Melsopp and Chloe Koth hunt for geocaches on the Isle of Palms.



**Congratulations to JJ Goller, who placed first at Slam Club's December poetry reading with his poem "4- an elegy."**

## SOA's holiday concert creates a wave of emotion

by Savannah Porter

The holidays are filled with brightly colored trees, joy, singing, and SOA's annual holiday concert. This year, one of the concert's highlights was the incorporation of the deaf program and their signed interpretation of "Silent Night." Robin Greig, high school science teacher and parent of one of the deaf students, was very impressed with the concert.

"I love how the deaf students were included in a tradition that SOA has upheld for years," Ms. Greig said. "I just think that they add a lot to the SOA community and they all have a lot to give as humans."

The defining moment of the concert came when the choir joined the deaf students in signing the last verse. In that moment, all of the kids on stage were connected and the feeling spread through the whole auditorium.

It's sometimes hard for people to grasp the holiday spirit, but there were very few dry eyes that night.



Annika Gadsen

The junior Dance majors triumphantly pose after the performance.

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## Angel tree a record-breaking success

by Jakob Lazzaro

Jakob Lazzaro

SOA's Angel Tree broke records for success this year when all 100 children were sponsored after only a week. Run by the National Honors Society (NHS), the Angel Tree provides Christmas presents to disadvantaged children in the Charleston area.

"This is the fourth year we've done the Angel Tree," project supervisor and high school science teacher Kirk Lindgren said. "The first year we sponsored 20 kids, the second year 40, the third year 75, and this year we've actually had 100 kids sponsored, so it's been an amazing success."

The wishes of children are hung as ornaments to be chosen and fulfilled by volunteers from the SOA community. After a volunteer sponsors a child, they head out to play Santa with the presents on the child's wish list. The expected cost is between forty and fifty dollars.

Alex Hepburn, the senior Piano major in charge of the Angel Tree for her NHS leadership role, said that the most popular presents were Frozen and Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtle related items.

All presents were turned in by December 11th to allow time for the wrapping parties, or events where more volunteers get together to wrap and decorate every present. The presents were quickly delivered to the happy kids after being wrapped during lunch on December 14th and 15th.

Mr. Lindgren is thrilled with the success of the project and hopes for even more next year.

"We started putting the kids on the tree Tuesday of last week, and all of them were gone by Wednesday [of this week]," Mr. Lindgren said. "It's been an amazing success."

## GSA redefines its mission

by Cheyenne Koth

SOA's Gay Straight Alliance, more commonly known as GSA, is undergoing a big name change this school year: SOA, meet Spectrum. With a new name come new goals and motivations, and nothing can stop this newly refurbished club.

"This year we plan to have specific goals, which is something we haven't had in previous years," Kate Grayson, sophomore Creative Writer and club member said. "Our main hope would definitely be to create a calm, creative, and welcoming space."

Spectrum members look forward to the in-depth discussions that each club meeting will include.

"Recently, racial injustices and gender inequality have become extremely prevalent in our society," Grayson said. "We will be discussing different injustices in society recently and in past years."

If you are interested in becoming a part of Spectrum, they will meet every last Friday of the month in Mr. Clark's room.



The Angel Tree struts its lack of ornaments.

## SOA Band majors excel at holiday concert

by Erin Molony

This year, SOA's band majors kicked off the holiday season with a Christmas concert, with tunes varying from "The Ukrainian Bell Carol" to a jazzy take on "Jingle Bells." The Thursday concert featured the 6th grade band, the high school symphonic band, and the award-winning jazz band while Friday's concert featured sixth, seventh and eighth grade band students and the high school wind ensemble. The beautiful holiday light displays, classic Christmas songs, and sophisticated concert apparel completed the musical experience.

Poised and confident, the 6th grade band majors stepped on stage to play their first holiday concert and their first official concert at SOA. Picking up their instruments for the first time in August the sixth graders have become concert ready in only four months. With whimsical and charming songs like "Nuttin' For Christmas," the talent of the sixth graders definitely got the crowd going.

Next up on stage was the symphonic band. They brought elegance and style with performances of well-known Christmas tunes. During "Adventum," Sunny Coons featured a snippet of "O Come, O Come Emmanuel." The crowd fell silent as her breathtakingly beautiful solo drifted through the audience. Later morphing into a rendition of the "Ukrainian Bell Carol," "Adventum" was a hit. However, the symphonic band could not go out without a touch of sass. The grand finale of "Go Tell It On the Mountain" had the whole crowd singing along complete with a standing ovation.

Of course, the holiday concert was not complete without the jazz band. SOA's award winning globally recognized jazz ensemble went above and beyond the crowd's expectations. The energy emitted from the performers fueled much of the crowd's energy, resulting in wild applause by the end of the very first song. By their final song, the crowd was buzzing with enthusiasm and crying out for an encore, and the jazz band obliged. Playing "Jingle Bells" for a second time, the band belted out every note without missing a beat.

The entire concert was a success, with both students and parents leaving proud and happy. Everyone exited filled with the holiday spirit. The concert was an amazing way to kick off the holiday season and truly was not something to miss.

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## Having trouble finding the perfect holiday gift? Try our DIY suggestions!

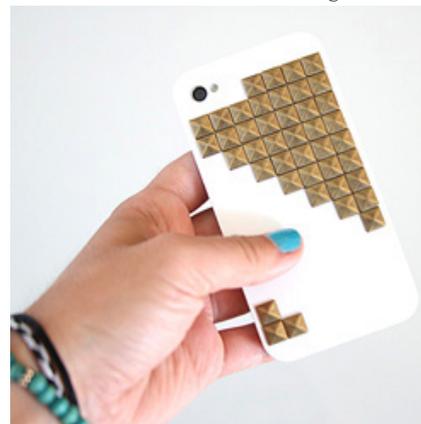
*It's that time of year again! You know what we mean: the carols, the snow (or at least the idea of snow), and all the excitement that comes with the season. But then there's the working until you drop just so you can afford to get your friends and family a gift. We know how you feel, and we've got you covered. Applause's **Mollie Pate** has whipped up a few Do-It-Yourself gift ideas so you can get your friends and family fantastic gifts without breaking the bank.*

natalme.com

babble.com

craftgawker.com

maddalee-blogspot.com



### Bookends

We all like the common animal book ends, but any trinket will do. Just find an old toy or knickknack and a brick or a block of wood. Spray-paint and Gorilla glue them together Voila!

### Jewelry Storage

Perfect for your best friend! Just find a cheap frame and paint it any color you choose. Then use Gorilla glue, found at your local home improvement store, to attach some mesh screen and some hooks.

### Studded Phone Case

Find a blank phone case online or in a craft store and some studs or decorations of your choice. Apply with tweezers and super glue and let dry! Try different colored studs for some contrast.

### Decorative Journals

These are the perfect gift for a writer or artist! The Dollar sells journals dirt-cheap, so pick one up and then cover it in fabric. Maybe your mom has an old dress she doesn't want any more.

## Yale is a perfect fit for SOA valedictorian

by Denver Baer

*Last year's valedictorian William Alike Smith dropped by to visit SOA. He's currently attending Yale for Neurobiology. Applause's **Denver Baer** caught up with Alike's Ivy-league life.*

**Denver Baer:** *How did SOA prepare you for college?*

**Alike Smith:** My AP classes helped me in the introductory classes at Yale, and the community service requirements were also helpful. Dr. Cusatis taught me how to write an essay as well.

**DB:** *How is college different from high school?*

**AS:** College is so much better! You are around a lot of other people who are interested in the same things that you are, so it's easier to talk to people about things that you enjoy. There are a lot of resources readily available around as well. Living around people is really nice for the social aspects.

**DB:** *What is your major at Yale?*

**AS:** Right now I'm majoring in neurobiology, which is in the molecular, cellular, and developmental branch of biology, but I might be switching to computer science in the spring. If I stay with neurobiology I want to go to med school, hopefully at Harvard, to pursue neurosurgery.

**DB:** *What is your most challenging class and why?*

**AS:** My most challenging class is probably English, because I'm not used to writing at such a high level. It has to be publish worthy.

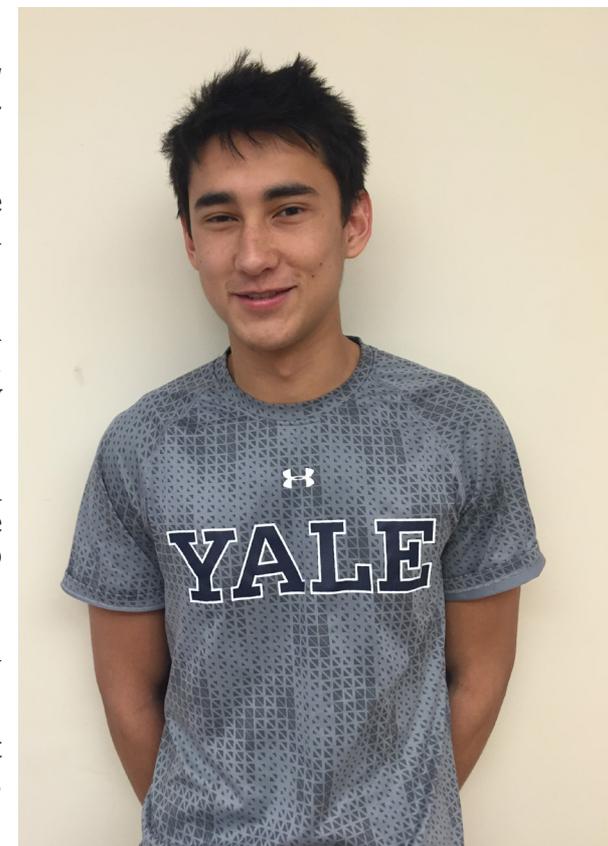
**DB:** *What's New Haven like?*

**AS:** New Haven is not the best city, but Yale has the "Yale Bubble" since they bought property around the school, so the "Bubble" itself is fantastic. But on the outskirts of Yale, New Haven is not the best city.

**DB:** *What advice would you give students at SOA getting ready for college?*

**AS:** Definitely look at your prerequisites for your majors. Getting AP chemistry instead of AP biology is much more useful, even though I love AP biology. Also look at the requirements for the applications because getting them in early is really nice and it gives you more time to revise your essays. I didn't realize how important college was and I'm glad to actually have worked hard to get into a good college.

Denver Baer



## Hungry? Try one of our favorite holiday recipes

Applause's *Jackie Evans* collected four tasty holiday recipes for you.

### Chocolate Truffle: [allrecipes.com](http://allrecipes.com)



#### Ingredients:

- 1 (19.8 ounce) package brown brownie mix
- 1 (3.9 ounce) package instant chocolate pudding mix
- 1/2 cup water
- 1 (14 ounce) can sweetened condensed milk
- 1 (8 ounce) container frozen whipped topping, thawed
- 1 (12 ounce) container frozen whipped topping, thawed
- 1 (1.5 ounce) bar chocolate

#### Directions:

1. Prepare brownie mix according to package directions and cool completely. Cut into 1-inch squares.
2. In a large bowl, combine pudding mix, water and sweetened condensed milk. Mix until smooth, then fold in 8 ounces whipped topping until no streaks remain.
3. In a trifle bowl or glass-serving dish, place half of the brownies, half of the pudding mixture and half of the 12-ounce container of whipped topping. Repeat layers. Shave chocolate onto top layer and refrigerate 8 hours before serving.

### Gingerbread Men [allrecipes.com](http://allrecipes.com)



#### Ingredients:

- 1 (3.5 ounce) package cook and serve butterscotch pudding mix
- 1/2 cup butter
- 1/2 cup packed brown sugar
- 1 egg
- 1 1/2 cups all-purpose flour
- 1/2 teaspoon baking soda
- 1 1/2 teaspoons ground ginger
- 1 teaspoon ground cinnamon

#### Directions:

1. In a medium bowl, cream together the dry butterscotch pudding mix, butter, and brown sugar until smooth. Stir in the egg. Combine the flour, baking soda, ginger, and cinnamon. Stir into the pudding mixture. Cover and chill dough until firm, about 1 hour.
2. Preheat the oven to 350 degrees Fahrenheit (175 degrees Celsius). Grease baking sheets. On a floured board, roll dough out to about 1/8 inch thickness, and cut into man shapes using a cookie cutter. Place cookies 2 inches apart on the prepared baking sheets.
3. Bake for 10 to 12 minutes in the preheated oven, until cookies are golden at the edges cool on wire racks.

#### Ingredients:

- 2 pounds of egg noodles and 10 eggs
- 1 cup of butter, softened

#### Directions:

1. Bring a large pot of lightly salted water to a boil. Add egg noodles and cook for ten to twelve minutes or until al dente, then drain.
2. Preheat oven to 350 degrees Fahrenheit (175 degrees Celsius).
3. Mix together in a bowl, cooked egg noodles, butter and eggs. Stir until all is blended and season as desired. Pour into two 9x9 inch baking pans. Bake for one hour.

### Peppermint Bark [allrecipes.com](http://allrecipes.com)



#### Ingredients:

- 8 ounces high-quality semisweet chocolate, broken into pieces
- 2 teaspoons canola oil, divided
- 1/2 teaspoon peppermint extract, divided
- 8 ounces high quality white chocolate, broken into pieces
- 25 peppermint candies, crushed

#### Directions:

1. Lightly grease a 9x9 inch pan and line with waxed paper, smooth out wrinkles, and set aside.
2. Place the semisweet chocolate and 1 teaspoon of the canola oil in the top of a double boiler over just barely simmering water, stirring frequently and scraping down the sides with a rubber spatula to avoid scorching. When the chocolate is melted, stir in 1/4 teaspoon of the peppermint extract. Pour the melted chocolate into the prepared pan, and spread evenly over the bottom of the pan. Sprinkle half of the crushed peppermints over the chocolate layer. Refrigerate until completely hardened, about 1 hour.
3. Place the white chocolate and the remaining 1 teaspoon canola oil in the top of a double boiler over just barely simmering water, stirring frequently and scraping down the sides with a rubber spatula to avoid scorching. When the chocolate is melted, stir in the remaining 1/4 teaspoon peppermint extract. Pour the white chocolate directly over the semisweet chocolate layer; spread evenly. Sprinkle the remaining crushed candy over the top and gently press in. Refrigerate until completely hardened. Remove from pan, break into small pieces to serve.

### Hanukkah Kugel [allrecipes.com](http://allrecipes.com)



## Where Are They Now: Miguel Robinson

*Miguel Robinson attended SOA from 1999-2005. After graduating, he moved to Los Angeles to pursue a career in dance and entertainment. In addition to dancing backup for Mariah Carey, Miguel is currently teaching and choreographing as well as focusing on his acting career. Applause's **Meagan Horres** caught up with Miguel on his Hollywood accomplishments.*

**Meagan Horres:** *How did you transition into a career as a commercial dancer from SOA? What was it like moving to LA after growing up in Charleston?*

**Miguel Robinson:** When I graduated, I knew I wanted to pursue commercial dance. I had to figure out the exact steps of what I needed to do to make that happen. The first thing I had to do was move to the land of opportunity: Los Angeles. From there, I worked on getting an agent who was right for me, one who could help take my career to the next level. After I landed my agency at Clear Talent Group, I had to put myself out there with auditions in hopes of landing a great gig. My move from Charleston to Los Angeles was definitely a new experience. I was on my own at 18 and in a big city. It was intimidating at first, but I had to face my fears if I wanted to make it.

**MH:** *How did you land the opportunity to become a backup dancer for artists including Mariah Carey? What is it like to be a backup dancer on tour?*

**MR:** The story of how I ended up dancing for Mariah is pretty crazy. She was having auditions for "Dancing with the Stars" and I really wanted to land that gig. On the day of the audition, I had another audition prior to Mariah's. My first audition ran overtime by a lot so my spirits of making it to Mariah's audition were pretty low, so I went home. My roommate told me I should still try to make it to the audition, and eventually talked me into going. I was already late and the audition was 40 minutes away. I went out on a limb, showed up super late, but ended up being the only guy from that audition to land the gig! It has been history with her ever since. She is my favorite artist to work with to this day. Being a back up dancer on tour is such a thrill. Dancing and performing for thousands and thousands in a different city every night is amazing. On the other hand, it can get extremely exhausting with going out of the country and having to be in a different time zone every other day. But I wouldn't trade it for the world. It's what I love!

**MH:** *What's one of your favorite experiences as a professional dancer?*

**MR:** My favorite experiences being a pro dancer are just being able to touch the world through my art. Another moment I'll never forget was being able to perform at the VMA's, a dream of mine since I was a kid. Another cool part is getting to meet and become friends with people from all around the world. It's awesome!

**MH:** *Do you have any advice for young dancers who may also want to venture into the commercial dance industry?*

**MR:** First and foremost, NEVER GIVE UP ON WHAT YOU LOVE! It's not going to be an easy task. You have to know who you are as a person and get an agent that's right for you. You have to have tough skin because you are going to be rejected plenty of times. Just know if this is what you love to do it's already there for you, so don't get upset when you don't book certain jobs. What's for you is for you!! Never let anyone steal your happiness. You can do whatever you put your mind to.

**MH:** *What motivated you to begin teaching and choreographing?*

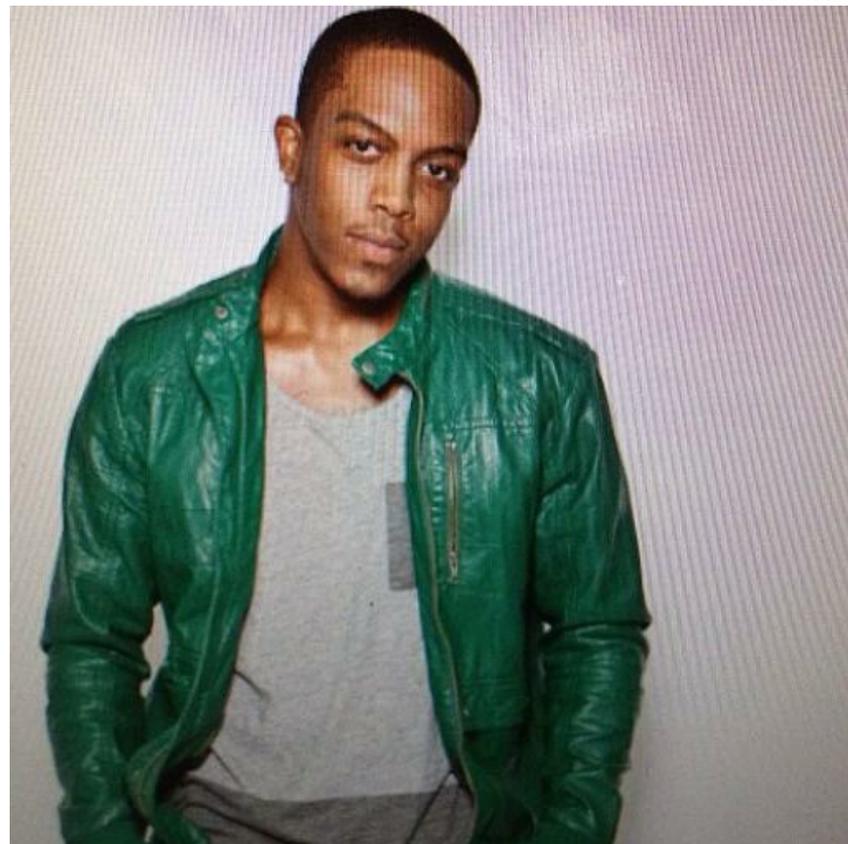
**MR:** I've been teaching and choreographing since I was fourteen. This wonderful woman named Buffi, the owner of Charleston Dance Center, really motivated me. She took me under her wing when I was young and pushed me to teach classes at her studio and choreograph pieces, allowing me to express and showcase my love for the art of dance. SOA played a major part of this as well with the choreography of my senior thesis and the pressure of deadlines. I work best under a little pressure.

**MH:** *How has SOA impacted your dance career and helped you to accomplish the things you have today?*

**MR:** SOA has impacted my career in such a major way. You see, ballet is the base form of all dance, and the training I received at SOA set me up for greatness! The teachers taught me to work hard and to never give up. The training I received helped me to accomplish all that I have to this day.

**MH:** *What is your most cherished SOA memory?*

**MR:** I have a couple cherished moments from SOA. The first one was being named prom king! That was a moment I'll never forget. The other goes out to one of the most amazing teachers of my life. Mrs. Slowinski, rest in peace. One day, she pulled me to the side and said, "Don't forget to give me a shout out when you receive your Oscar!" That really stuck with me, and to this day I often think about that moment when I'm feeling a little low or defeated from the entertainment world. Sometimes it can be that way when working towards your goal. That statement motivates me to keep going until I reach the top. When I receive my Oscar, Mrs. Slowinski will be watching from up above and I will definitely shout her out!



Provided

## Where Were They Then: Mr. Ratigan

*Patrick Ratigan is well known at SOA whether he's riding his bike down the breezeway, walking with Ashlee Ratigan, teaching algebra, or coaching soccer. Applause's Mollie Pate caught up with him on pre-SOA life.*

**Mollie Pate:** *Tell me about your math background. Why did you decide to become a math teacher?*

**Patrick Ratigan:** My undergrad is in mathematics and computer information systems and I went to grad school for secondary education and mathematics. Really, the reason that I became a math teacher is because after my freshman year of college I began falling more and more in love with math. By my junior year I knew without a doubt that it was what I wanted to do.

**MP:** *What previous jobs have you had in teaching math?*

**PR:** I was a student teacher at Banks County High School in Georgia, so this is my first teaching job. But ever since college I've been tutoring and basically been a high school coach.

**MP:** *What do you enjoy most about SOA and its students?*

**PR:** I love the SOA students. I especially admire the camaraderie amongst them. I've been to Wando and other schools and I don't think anything compares to our student body. And of course I enjoy working with my wife every day!

**MP:** *What are your plans for this year?*

**PR:** I found out we have an EOC this year, so I certainly want to help my students become well prepared for that. I've started coaching again and I'll do that full time at Magnet in the spring. And in years to come, I hope to become a better and better math teacher and continue teaching higher-level mathematics.



Mr. Ratigan and his canine companion.



## Ms. Smith loving the drive of SOA students

*Originally from Chattanooga, Tennessee, Laura Smith taught at Dorchester District Two's River Oaks Middle School before joining the middle school Spanish department. Applause's Anizia Fulmore sat down with Ms. Smith to discuss her life and plans for SOA.*

**Anizia Fulmore:** *How is SOA different from any other place that you have worked?*

**Laura Smith:** The students, as a whole, are more driven. Their artistic background lends them to be more creative. Whenever we have skits or video projects they are able to bring their creativity to it, which lends them to a better product. A lot of the things are exactly the same compared with other schools.

**AF:** *What drew you to Spanish?*

**LS:** The history behind Spanish is the main reason why I was drawn to it. I took it throughout elementary, middle, and high school as well as college. I was very good at it without trying very hard, making it an easy choice to continue studying. I was able to live in Chile for about four months, which cemented my love for the language and culture. It was not always my intention to become a teacher, but it worked out that way.

**AF:** *What college did you attend?*

**LS:** I went to the College of Charleston. Right now, I am in graduate school at USC for administration to become a principal. That career change will probably be years from now once my son is older.

**AF:** *What are some fun facts about yourself?*

**LS:** My birthday is on Halloween.

I like to sing karaoke and have sung with Dr. John Cusatis.

I have an eighteen-month-old son and I like being outdoors.

I've visited six Spanish-speaking countries: Mexico, Costa Rica, Chile, Peru, Spain, and the Dominican Republic.



Anizia Fulmore

# JOSEPH

## SALON

445 Folly Road, Charleston, SC 29412

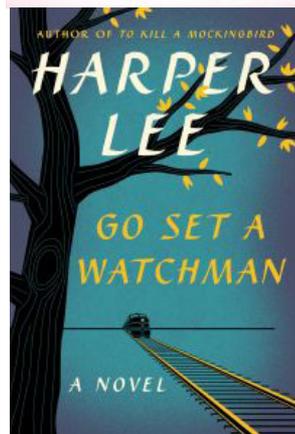
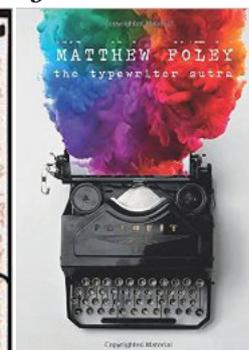
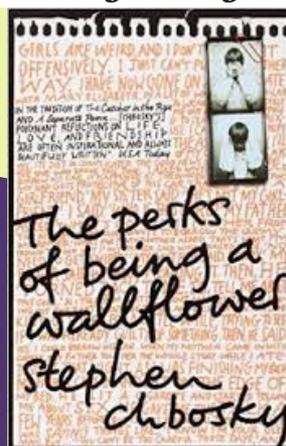
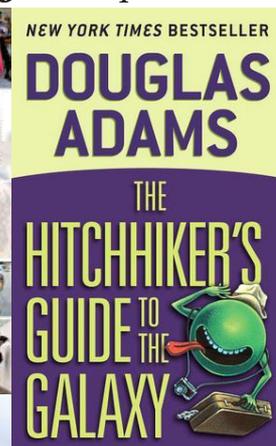
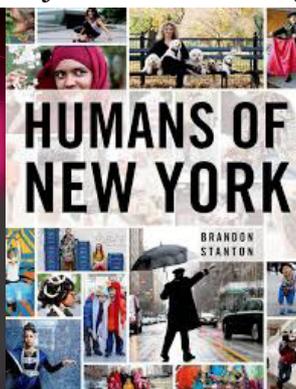
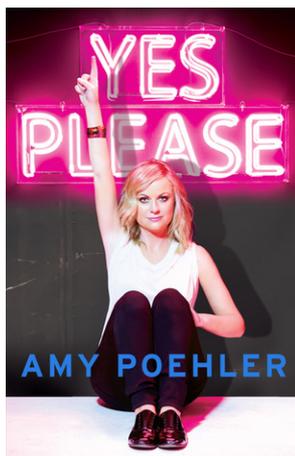
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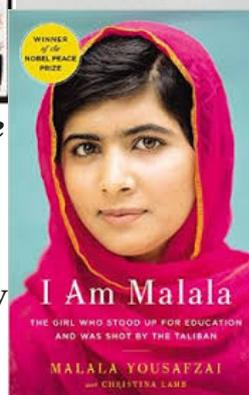
# SOA'S MOST REQUESTED HOLIDAY BOOKS

We asked approximately 300 high school students which book they would like to receive for the holidays. Here are the top 25. As part of the survey, Applause drew two names and will present those students with their requested books. This year's winners were junior **Chloe Ray** and sophomore **Bethany Young**. Congratulations!



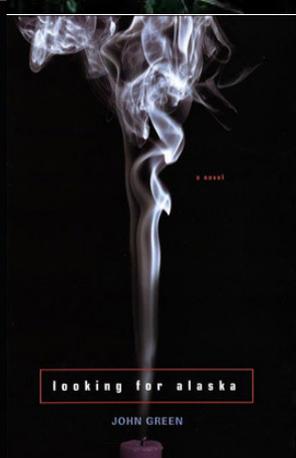
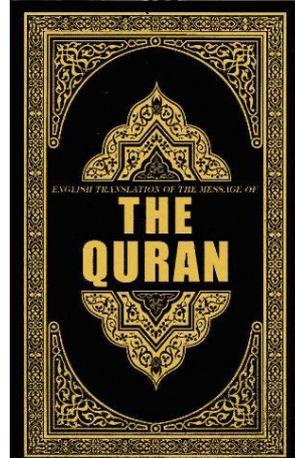
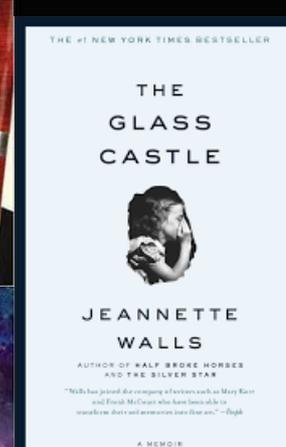
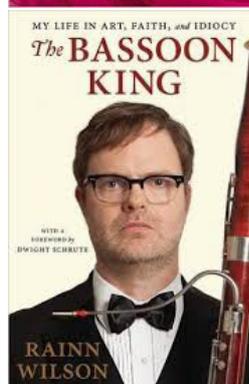
**Yes, Please**  
by Amy Poehler  
**Go Set a Watchman**  
by Harper Lee  
**The Bible**  
**The Quran**  
**Humans of New York**  
By Brandon Stanton

**The Glass Castle**  
By Jeanette Walls  
**The Typewriter Sutra**  
By Matthew Foley



**Gone Girl**  
By Michael Grant  
**City of Bones**  
By Cassandra Clare  
**Looking for Alaska**  
By John Green  
**The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy**  
By Douglas Adams

**I am Malala**  
By Malala Yousafzai  
**The Bassoon King**  
By Rainn Wilson  
**Gone Girl**  
By Gillian Flynn  
**Binge**  
By Tyler Oakley  
**Transatlantic**  
By Colum McCann



**The Perks of Being a Wallflower**  
By Stephen Chbosky  
**It**  
By Stephen King  
**Winter**  
By Marissa Meyer

**The Hunger Games**  
By Suzanne Collins  
**The Stand**  
By Stephen King  
**Rogue Wave**  
By Jennifer Donnelly  
**An Abundance of Katherines**  
By John Green  
**Let the Great World Spin**  
By Colum McCann



# SOA's favorite holiday treats

Applause's *Emily Dail* and *Meagan Horres* headed out to see what foods SOA students love to nibble on during this wintery season.



Sixth grade Vocal major **Nikki Brahen** loves apple pie.



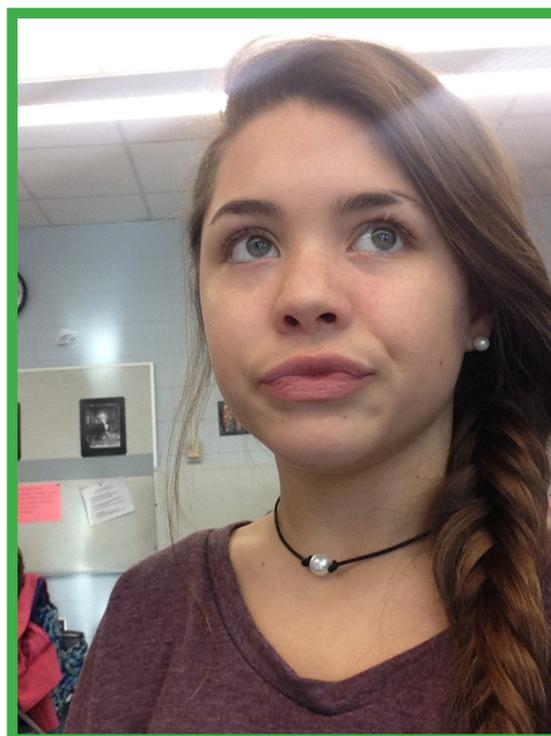
Seventh grade Dance major **Justice Woodman** loves honey ham.



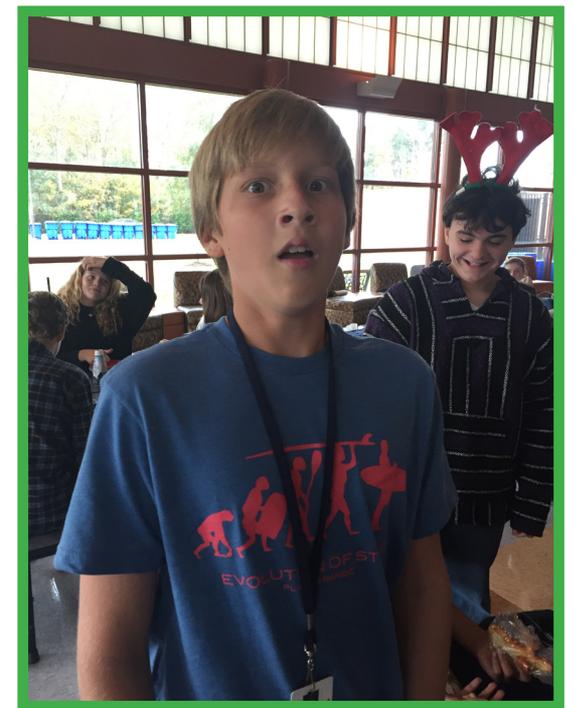
The holidays aren't complete for eighth grade Theater major **Aris Jeffers** without sweet potatoes with marshmallows on top.



Sixth grade Strings major **Sophia Kozlawski** can't live without peanuts, caramel, chocolate, and dough.



Seventh grade Vocal major **Lena Matthews**' favorite holiday drink is hot chocolate.



Eighth grade Band major **Matthew Olofsson** adores pumpkin spice spam.



Freshman Dance major **Jessann Gentile** loves candy canes.



Sophomore Dance major **Glynn King** can't get enough Pillsbury snowman shaped cookies.



Junior Band major **Nick Huss** enjoys his fruit cake.



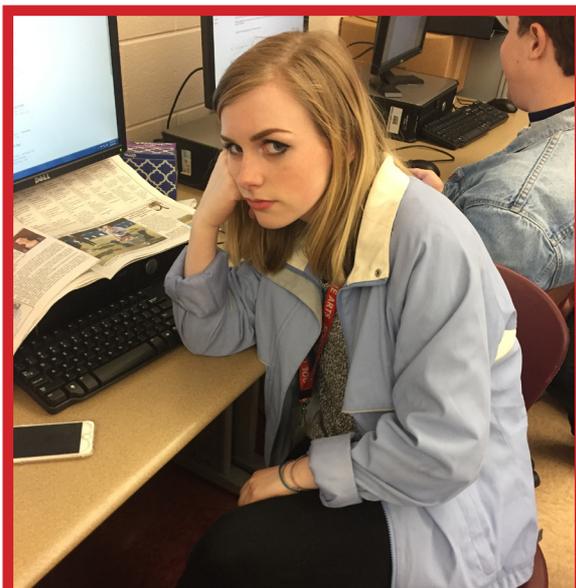
Freshman Dance major **Mike Wiles** loves sugar



Senior Dance major **Ashley Green** craves gingerbread cupcakes.



Sophomore Dance major **Abby Haynes** loves coconut cream pie.



Junior Band major **Erin Molony** loves peppermint bark.



Senior Dance major **Marissa Gigis** loves baklava.

# SOA's Holiday Traditions



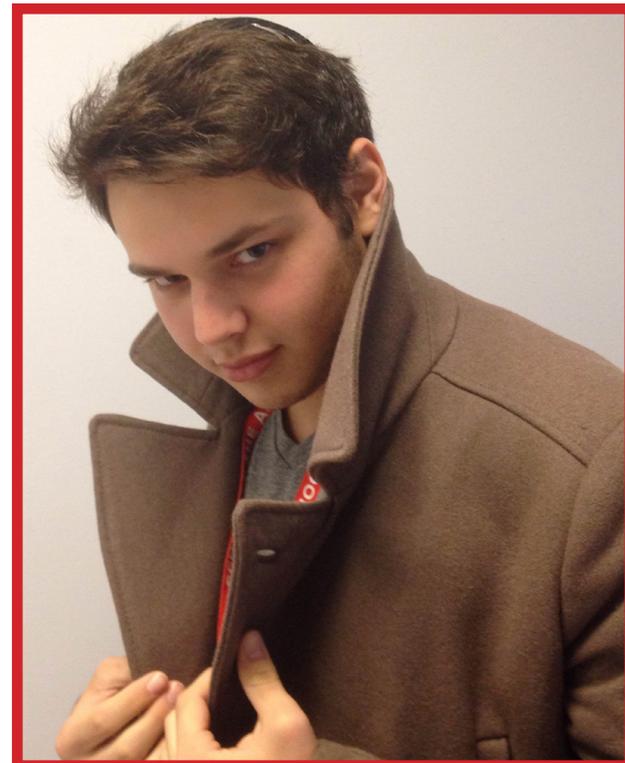
"Normally I spend time with family members during Chanukah and I usually go downtown to Chanukah in the Square."

**Nathalie Delson, freshman Theater**



"Every year my family plays monopoly and it always ends with my sister and I screaming at each other because we're both so competitive."

**Tori Newman, senior Vocal**



"We light our own menorahs and we each have a special one for ourselves. We usually will make a point of doing some sort of service to give back to the community."

**Ari Levine, senior Theater**



"On Christmas Eve our family does this Italian tradition where basically you cook seven different types of fish and eat them with your family."

**Joe Brennan, sophomore Theater**



"My family always does an Advent calendar where there's something different everyday like the nativity or chocolate."

**Jacob Fairchild, senior Vocal**



"My family always goes bowling on Christmas day."

**Emily Lanter, senior Vocal**

*The holiday season means many things to many people. Applause's **Holly Rizer** caught up with SOA students and staff on their unique holiday traditions.*



“We all send Advent calendars around to everybody, not only the ones with chocolate but also ones that have nail varnishes or stuff like that. I think I have four of them right now, we all usually end up having six or seven of them.”

**Mia Pernice, senior Vocal**



“My neighbor owns a Christmas tree farm, so after Christmas we just take around ten trees and burn them. Not to be evil or anything.”

**Ben Marcy, sixth grade Vocal**



“My family and I always go to the lobby of the Charleston Place Hotel downtown to look at the electric trains and all of the holiday stuff they have there.”

**Ethan Lopez, junior Visual Arts**



“My mom always forces me to watch holiday movies.”

**Samantha DuPree, senior Visual Arts**



“We decorate two Christmas trees. One of them is red and gold and the other one is all colorful.”

**Madelynne Burt, sixth grade Creative Writing**



“Every year my dad and I go to the Festival of Lights on James Island.”

**Hannah Glueck, sixth grade Vocal**

***Congratulations to the three seventh grade Visual Artists who received ribbons at the Costal Carolina Fair's Youth Art Show!***



Holly Rizer



**Braedyn Wasserman,**  
1st place.



Holly Rizer



**Sophie Heinold,**  
3rd place.



Holly Rizer



**Miriam HaLevi,**  
3rd place.

Cheyenne Koth



**Michelle Schultze,**  
Seventh grade

***Orange Tulips***

I miss him. Pencils clack around me, sweat dripping off hollow faces. The papers shivered under the pads of my fingers. All I want is him to come back. Chuck Taylors tapping on tile floors. Earbuds blasting electro pop. Gunshots, gunshots. BOOM, through my head. I need him back.

The teacher asks if I am okay, and I say yes, yes I am. Letting my hair curl around my fingers like fire. Pencils tapping on cheap plastic-wood desks, tap, tap, tap, BOOM! Gone! Sticky red cheeks, overpriced orange tulips ringing a memory, stuck into the ground.

Eyes follow numbers and words printed on yellow copy paper.

1: What is the square root of life? Shrouded coffins lowered into a hole. American flag draped over the dead. For honor, they said.

2: Why did he ever go? Camo-printed uniform, a rifle, a belt of ammo. Load, click, BOOM! Another life lost to the winds.

3: If you feel this alone, how long does it take for you fall apart? Bone-dry water canteens, caked in sand. Last time he came back, he told me he kept his rifle in the backseat of his black-windowed jeep. A backpack on the roof, held together by nylon strands about to snap. BOOM, thump as it trips into the wake of worn tires.

He said he would come back. Hold on, he said. Green army cap left over on his bunk. Picture of a family of three.

4: Family - Father = Two. Dad fell out of the equation. The picture and the cap on a shelf, next to a vase of orange tulips, wilting in the stuffy air. Mom crying in her room upstairs, me alone, dreaming of silence.

Boom, the school bell rings. And my pencil falls to my lap, an orange tulip on the grave.

Cheyenne Koth



**Caroline Blumer,**  
Seventh grade

***Marco***

I watched you for a moment, but you must have sensed me there because you groggily opened your eyes.

"Marco," you whispered and smiled to yourself.

"Hi."

"What are you doing here?" You closed your eyes again.

"It's okay. I wanted to see you. You look good." I glanced down at you on the bed. You were wearing a hospital gown, and you were still so beautiful.

"Marco, Marco." You were calling my name, your face looked pained.

"Polo." This was our little joke.

I slipped the corsage on Delphine's wrist.

"Marco," you whispered.

"Polo." I held your hand. And I hummed.

"Marco, I need to tell you something," I nodded my head.

"Marco, I have-"

"I know. I know, Dell, you did everything you could."

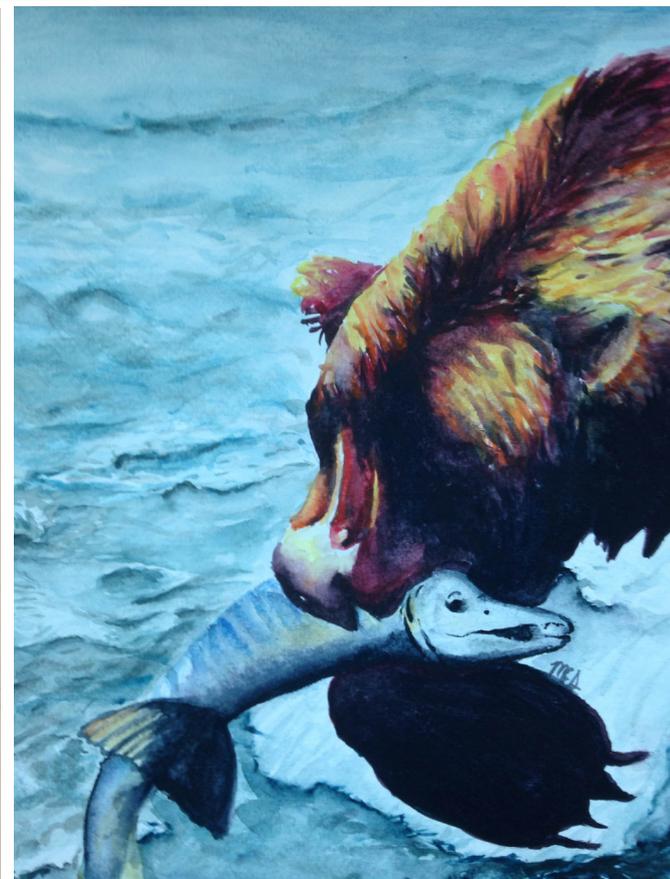
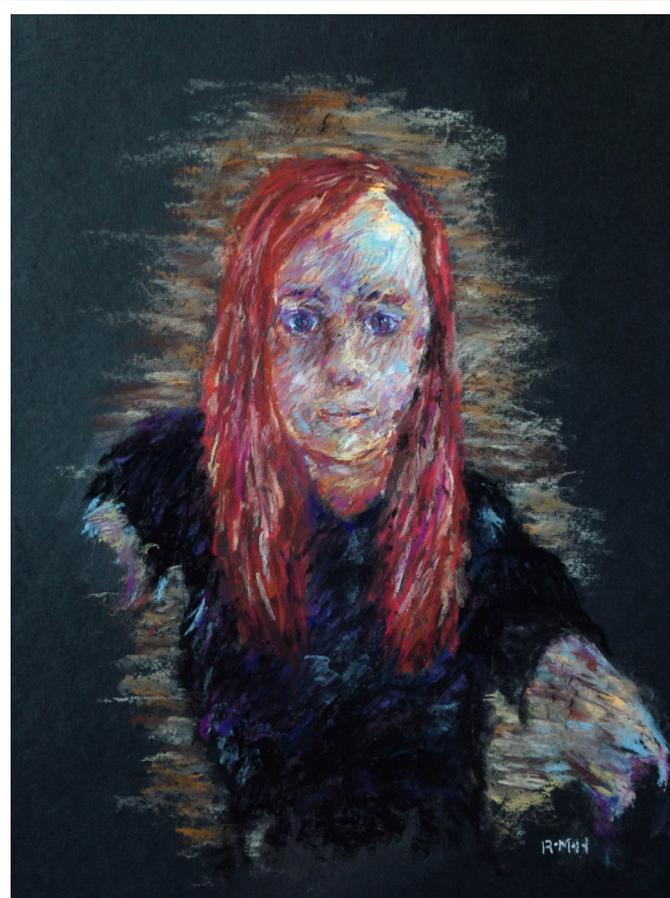
"I was afraid. Marco."

You smiled and closed your eyes.

Cheyenne Koth



**Hannah Elledge,**  
Seventh grade



Holly Rizer

Holly Rizer



**Lawrence Martin,**  
Senior. Colored Pencil  
(above, left).



**Meghan Slowey,**  
Freshman  
Watercolor. (above).



Holly Rizer

**Riley Hill,**  
Freshman. Oil Pastel (left)

**To have your artwork featured, contact  
Holly Rizer at [hrizer1219@gmail.com](mailto:hrizer1219@gmail.com)**

**To have your writing featured, contact  
Cheyenne Koth at  
[kothcheyennekoth@gmail.com](mailto:kothcheyennekoth@gmail.com)**

**One Note**

The soft sweet sound of the piano makes Celia's fingers tingle. She itches to touch the smooth black and white keys.

Her mother, who once was a famous pianist, gets up and says, "One day, Celia, you will be able to play just like us." She motions towards herself and Celia's father. "One day."

That night, Celia gets up from her bed and tiptoes down the stairs. One creaks, so she stops and listens. All that she could hear were the gentle snores coming from her parent's room. Celia let out a sigh of relief and kept going down the stairs and into the living room. There the piano sat waiting for her parents to play it in the morning. Celia walked up to the piano and stared over it. She saw her reflection and smiled as she sat down on the bench. Closing her eyes, she moved her fingers along the keys picturing the notes in her mind. Celia's fingers glided along them and started playing part of the song "Grande Valse Briliante" that she had heard her mother play so many times before.

The ringing of the notes chimed in her ears, and she breathed for the first time in what seemed like forever. The sweet hum of the piano knew Celia, and she knew it. Celia didn't stop playing when she heard the top stair creak, or when in the corner of her eye she saw both of her parents watching her. She wanted them to hear her. Celia wanted her parents to listen to the same sound that she, herself, was hearing. So, she kept playing, humming along with the piano. A duet. When she finished, she knew that they had heard her. For the first time, she had spoken without opening her mouth, like magic. And her parents saw Celia's eyes, how they glowed with every note played. They knew that she was grown up, and that scared them. But Celia had a gift. She had magic.

Celia looked up at her parents and they weren't smiling, but they weren't frowning either. They were listening.

## Powderpuff wrap-up: Seniors triumph in thrilling game

Photography by Jay Rode, article by Jacob Fairchild



Junior **Nigel Walker** stretches and gets into the zone before the game.



The senior class huddles before the game.



Senior cheerleaders (L-R) **Noah Rigsby**, **Nolan Tecklenburg**, **Jonathan Zuraw**, and **Noah Evans** get hyped for the game.



Senior **Jordan Benton** jumps for joy after snagging junior **Angie Agoafonovas** flag.

The seniors avenged last year's loss with their defeat of the juniors in Powderpuff football with a final score of 18-12. The defensive game on both teams was dominant with plenty of interceptions for each side. Although the game began with a touchdown from the juniors, the seniors could not be beat. Several defensive plays placed the seniors in a good field position, allowing them to score twice before halftime.

The second half began with another touchdown for the seniors. After that, the game appeared won, but the juniors rallied for another touchdown. However, the seniors simply retained possession and coasted to a win as the clock ran out.

In a post-game interview, junior coach Giovanni Meli said that he is, "very proud of [his] girls". Zois Manaris, coach of the seniors, said that his team played "extremely well," and that the defense really helped them snag a win.



**Tajh Horton**, decked out in body paint, rallies for victory.



Left: Senior **Legare Hay** circles the field with the senior team banner.

## HoM excites taste buds with its fantastic burgers

by Ryan Biddix and Nick Huss

The creation of burgers and fries generally is not considered an art form, but HoM defies this notion with its expressive dishes. This burger joint's exterior is similar to those of other bars, yet HoM produces a visually pleasing aesthetic. This burger boutique offers an atmosphere of festivity and intimacy.

According to an online editorial in *Elite Traveler*, "A restaurant's atmosphere sets the stage. It's about more than just a dining room away from home. Food takes the spotlight as guests become its audience. Factors such as music, lighting, artwork and spacing combine to create comfort, intimacy and even romance." HoM contains all of these attributes for the full



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culinary experience.

As we looked over the menu we were pleasantly surprised at the diversity of food. We ordered the "Classic Double" and the "Quinoa Tempeh" burgers with a side order of fries, and they were brought out to us swiftly. The "Classic Double" contains lettuce, tomatoes, onions, and "fancy sauce," which is composed of one part ketchup two parts mayonnaise. That gives the burger a complex combination of both spicy and sweet.

The "Quinoa Tempeh" consisted of a patty made of ground mushrooms, soybeans, and carrot, and the fusion of these vegetables creates an excellent meat alternative. Homemade condiments included carrot jam, arugula, and wasabi-truffle vinaigrette, creating a balance of complex spices.

HoM offers a vast selection of food for all appetites. According to their website, HoM is "where carnivores sit alongside vegetarians and vegans in a blissful state of taste bud satisfaction. And where every morsel is made with care and locally sourced ingredients whenever possible." Head to HoM for a good, locally-sourced burger in the Charleston area.



Ryan Biddix

## November Spotify Playlist

Your monthly Applause certified list of jams- just head to **cusatisoa** on Spotify to listen.



"Ghost" by Mystery Skulls  
 "Infinity" by One Direction  
 "Que' Onda Guero" by Beck  
 "Veto" by SOHN  
 "Song for Someone" by U2  
 "Even the Darkness has Arms" by The Barr Brothers  
 "Because the Night" by Patti Smith  
 "Lost In The Light" by Bahamas

"Falling" by Haim  
 "Clairvoyant" by The Story So Far  
 "It's Still Rock and Roll to Me" by Billy Joel  
 "Sounds of Silence" by Simon and Garfunkel  
 "Say It, Just Say It" by The Mowglis  
 "The Boxer" by Mumford & Sons  
 "Sleep Alone" by Two Door Cinema Club  
 "Things Have Changed" by Bob Dylan  
 "Renegades of Funk" by Rage Against the Machine

## Kurt Vonnegut's *Slaughterhouse Five* a witty and powerful read

by Alissa Melsopp

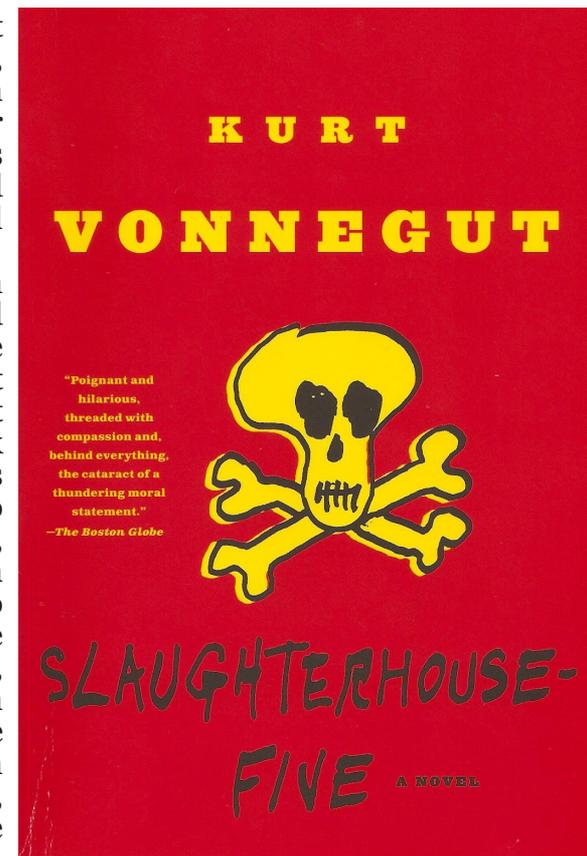
Classic satirist Kurt Vonnegut published *Slaughterhouse-Five*, one of his most famous works, in March of 1969. His reputation for delving into real world situations with a great sense of mockery did not fail to impress when this novel was released.

The plot follows Billy Pilgrim through the final years of World War II, detailing his capture and subsequent imprisonment by German soldiers. Billy is first described as a man "unstuck in time," a euphemism for his unwanted ability to be thrown into any moment of his life at any time, unprepared for how to act. Through this ability the reader is able to glimpse moments of his life before and after the war. In addition, Billy had been abducted to an alien planet called Tralfamadore. The small, green aliens there taught him how time is never-ending, and past, present, and future all exist on the same continuum.

Vonnegut's intent in writing this novel was to touch on the infamous bombing of Dresden, and he echoes his own experience of being captured by the Germans through Billy Pilgrim. In spite of such a serious topic, Vonnegut's intelligent humor makes the novel lighthearted and thoroughly enjoyable. Buried in the humor lies a strong anti-war message that resonates sharply with readers when it was first published and now. The obvious passion Vonnegut felt about this subject makes it even more of an interesting read.

This novel can be brutal, but also outright hilarious. It can be sad, but also uplifting. If there is one thing you need to know about *Slaughterhouse-Five*, it's that you need to go out right now immediately and start reading it. Come on. All your friends are doing it.

Goodreads



## Brave Baby is a bright spot in Charleston's rock and roll scene

by Jackie Evans

For four years, Brave Baby has done a lot of its rehearsing and recording in a storage unit just far enough away from downtown development to not annoy any neighbors.

Longtime friends Keon Masters and Wolfgang Zimmerman, who worked together

on indie-rock and emo music projects, created the rock and roll styled band. Masters plays guitar and does vocals, Zimmerman plays drums and does vocals, Jordan Hicks is on the bass, Christian Chidester rocks out the guitar, and Steven Walker plays the keyboard. Masters does most of the composing for the group, but Zimmerman sometimes writes as well.

The band's first album *Forty Bells* (2013), which has a sound comparable to a combination of Arcade Fire and The Killers, was a take on the members' childhoods and the things they faced. Their latest album is *Electric Friends* (2015), which was recorded at a family beach house in Ocean Isle, N.C. Masters said the new album is about the troubles of adulthood.

"It's not talking about our childhood anymore," Masters said. "It was something we had to do. You know, you get to college- and not just college, but that age -and everything up to that point was cool, or it seemed like it was good, and all of a sudden you realize, 'Stuffs not good.' All of it, family issues, all that stuff, you take a step back and just realize, 'Things are not healthy.'"

Zimmerman agrees on the album's new direction

"I think where we are right now, we've kind of gotten over ourselves," he said.

If you have yet to check this band out, I would highly suggest you do. You can find them on Spotify and iTunes. If you like them, you should see them live the next time they play in town.



Provided

## New Artist: Jessie Ware

by Jada Orr



Provided

She's done vocals for SBTRKT and a feature from A\$AP Rocky under her first studio album, but this London songstress lets her music do the talking.

Jessie Ware is an artist whose voice has been described as romantic, shimmering, and filled with a yearning. She compliments electro-soul melodies with her own lyrics.

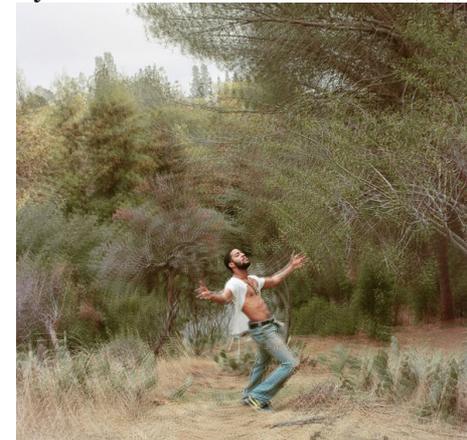
Her latest album *Tough Love* was as captivating as expected. The singer/songwriter co-wrote a track titled "You Say You Love Me" with Ed Sheeran. With a voice of a certain spark, she's quickly on the rise.

Jada Orr reviews fashion and music for Applause.

## New Album: Kid Cudi's *Speedin' Bullet 2 Heaven*

by Jada Orr

Provided



There were so many artists this year that led us on with promises of new music (cough, cough, Frank Ocean) but nothing has been released. Unlike the rest of them, Kid Cudi stayed true to his words.

Months back, Cudi tweeted multiple statements that a new album to follow his last, *Indicud*, would be released soon. On December 4th the masterpiece was released.

Unlike his last album, Cudi has no features. The sound is still his own, but there's more of that indie feel. *Speedin' Bullet 2 Heaven* is a perfect way to end the year. Job well done, Cudi.

## The most influential songs of 2015

by Jada Orr

From Taylor Swift to Kendrick Lamar, these songs are what people will think of when they look back to "2015."

- "Cheerleader" - OMI
- "Uptown Funk" - Mark Ronson Ft. Bruno Mars
- "Shake It Off" - Taylor Swift
- "Take Me To Church" - Hozier
- "All About That Bass" - Meghan Trainor
- "FourFiveSeconds" - Kanye West, Rihanna, and Paul McCartney
- "Shut Up and Dance" - Walk the Moon
- "Alright" - Kendrick Lamar
- "Can't Feel My Face" - The Weeknd
- "All Of Me" - John Legend
- "White Iverson" - Post Malone
- "Bad Blood" - Taylor Swift Ft. Kendrick Lamar
- "My Way" - Fetty Wap Ft. Drake
- "Watch Me (Whip/Nae Nae)" - Silento
- "Fight Song" - Rachel Platten
- "Hotline Bling" - Drake

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# POINT/COUNTERPOINT

*Aaah, the holidays. Semi-frosted windows, Christmas trees, peppermint flavoured Starbucks concoctions, Y102.5's never-ending Christmas carols, and the unspeakable horror of Krampus and Gryla... Wait, what? That's right. It's **Cheyenne Koth** and Krampus v. **Alissa Melsopp** and Gryla in this ultimate battle for the most evil holiday visitor. Hide the presents (and yourself).*

**Cheyenne: Krampus**

**Alissa: Gryla**

Jay Rode



“What do you want to be when you grow up?”

At one point or another, we’ve all been asked this. Until now, I’ve never known the answer. Now, I’m locking it in.

What do you want to be when you grow up, Cheyenne?

Krampus, friends, I want to be Krampus. The half goat half demon anti-Santa of the Pre-Christian German speaking world. Though his original identity and origins are unknown, we know that Krampus is old and we know that Krampus is timeless.

In many versions of European folklore, Krampus is a companion to Saint Nicholas, the patron saint of large white beards and creepily slipping coins into children’s shoes. They may sometimes be seen travelling

together on Krampusnacht, a night in which Krampus visits homes and businesses. There is even a variation of Krampusnacht in rural parts of Syria where St. Nicholas is nowhere to be found and Krampus is accompanied by wild men called Rauhen as he makes his rounds.

What does he do on these visits, you ask? Our hairy goat demon friend can often be found carrying around a sack, empty of toys. With this sack, and his ever trusty stick, Krampus mauls the naughty children and takes them away. In other less interesting and more appropriate versions, Krampus dispenses coal to said naughty children.

Another reason Krampus is a role model? He’s a rebel. After the Austrian Civil war, all Krampus traditions were banned by the Dollfuss regime. However, our man/goat/demon Krampus persevered. Despite such propaganda like Krampus is an Evil Man, Krampus has surged in popularity since 1934. He’s even inspired an event called Krampuslauf, or Krampus run. During this event masked Krampuses (Krampusi?) run the streets, often fueled by Krampus schnapps, with perchten, or wild pagan spirits, running with them. These runs are hosted in many cities worldwide.

So, in the end, Krampus is just like you and me, and isn’t what we really want, readers? Someone we can truly look up to? Of course it is. When in doubt, turn to Krampus. If you’re naughty enough, he shall deliver. What a cool guy.

Jay Rode



If we’re talking about the holiday season’s most unwelcome visitor, Gryla is the most terrifying without a doubt. That’s right, readers. This Christmas you have more to fear than a lump of coal in your stocking for being naughty.

Icelandic folklore brought about the inception of Gryla, but she only became linked with Christmas in the early seventeenth Century. People affectionately refer to her as the “Christmas Ogress,” and her name is roughly translated to “threatening.” Her appearance is horrific, and traditionally she appears with giant hooves for feet and thirteen tails representing each of her sons. She is the mother of the Yule Lads, who act as a bunch of little Santa Clauses and give children presents or rotten potatoes based on their behavior throughout the year. Gryla, however, is not as forgiving as her sons.

She lives in a cave deep in the mountains, but emerges during the holiday season to sniff out those who have been exceptionally bad. Gryla has an insatiable appetite, which unfortunately involves eating tons of children. Her preferred method is to throw them in a sack, drag them back to her cave (in a lava field, mind you), boil them alive in a giant vat, and cook them into a rich stew. It has been said that she never goes hungry during the holiday season.

If that’s not enough to keep you up all night Christmas Eve, her pet definitely will. Gryla’s Yule Cat is another horrifying beast that Icelanders must be wary of during their holiday break. This monstrous feline will eat anyone who hasn’t received a new item of clothing for Christmas (which is weirdly specific, who even comes up with this stuff?). She also lives with her third husband, Leppalúði after she killed and ate her other two husbands.

If there is one reason to be good throughout the year, it is Gryla. If you’d rather not be eaten for Christmas, it’s best to avoid doing anything that Gryla can smell.

## Finding symbolism in your life, or “You serious, Clark?”

by Jay Rode

During winter break, a person’s home is often filled with more relatives than beds and couches, with all of the in-laws coming and going at such varied times that there arises the need for an Arrivals and Departures board (Bonus points if it’s always wrong, because realism). This theme is wondrously exemplified in the 1989 film *Christmas Vacation: the Griswold’s* home is packed with all kinds of people, and nobody gets along, and the homeowners drink a lot, and it’s a generally unsatisfying experience, and at the end a lot of people just leave and wonder why they ever came in the first place. That’s an American tradition, I tell you! We love to get together, have a weird time, and leave while we delude reassure ourselves that, “Yeah, that went well...right?”

This year, the Rode family’s house will be a very different place: just my parents and I. So I’ve begun to question whether the classic, crazy holiday house life is superior to the vastly different experience offered by being all lonely and such. As my man JC once said, “[something something] is all about the dichotomies!” The dichotomies at play here are family versus feeling lonely, crowded versus calm, many small presents versus one small present (because do you really think I’d rather distribute my wealth over two people when I can just spend \$40 on and go and blow the rest on milkshakes and rock concerts?).

So, the symbolism. Once again, *Life/Fate* suggests a modest living: mules, lonesome houses, Emily Dickinson and Netflix, that sort of thing. *Life/Fate* just won’t stop suggesting this theme! Thus I have settled on a New Year’s Resolution: Ignore all the symbolism. It’s made up (But don’t tell Dr. Cusatis that...).

## Sass Attack

by Cheyenne Koth

I don’t usually use this column for personal business, but I have something rather serious to tell you all.

I am a galaxy trapped within a human body.

I fly on invisible astral meteor wings. I have nostalgia inducing visions of my past life as a galaxy, when the chill vastness of outer space was all I knew. I try to let my insides out by donning galaxy everything (aka clothes) on my human shell. On a daily basis, my headmates and I steal away the validity of actual transgender people’s identities.

I am otherkin. Galaxykin.

Yeah, no.

Believe it or not, readers, otherkin are real. People actually believe that they can be galaxies, cats, dragons, or fictional characters, (such as Harry Potter or Chica from *Five Nights at Freddy’s*) in a human body. They believe, sometimes, that they were these things in a past life. Otherkin have ‘astral appendages’, like claws or wings that correlate with their ‘kintype’. Some otherkin even have several kintypes.

My, yes. One can be deitykin, Ron-Weasleykin, octopuskin, mushroomkin, catkin, wolfkin, and demonkin all rolled up into one. Seems a bit tiring, don’t you think? It certainly is. You know, for people who have to tolerate them. Honestly, otherkin are right up there with transracial or transethnic people (which aren’t a thing, by the way).

So, a word to all you otherkin out there: do you like helping the transgender movement backpedal on all of the progress they’ve made? Because that’s what you’re doing.

(All kintypes mentioned in the preceding article are real. Source: tumblr).

Jay Rode



Jay Rode



## Editorial: Americans must reject fear and come together in solidarity

On “a day that will live in infamy,” Donald Trump came to Charleston, stood on the deck of the Yorktown, and called for a ban on travel by Muslims to the United States. The fact that a serious presidential candidate would even propose something so radically terrible is deeply disgusting and shows a blatant disregard for both the constitution and ethics.

After the Japanese bombed Pearl Harbor, Americans had a choice. Would we respond with fear of our fellow countrymen or boldly support them in the face of a great adversary? Unfortunately, we chose fear. That allowed simmering prejudices to bubble up through the floorboards of democracy. Japanese-Americans, citizens and noncitizens, were quickly rounded up and sent to internment camps. This gross violation of liberty is one of the most atrocious scars in American history. And yet on the 74th anniversary of Pearl Harbor, Donald Trump is asking us to repeat the mistakes of our ancestors.

Once again, we face a choice. Will we choose fear, and allow the current simmering prejudices against Muslims to spew into the mainstream? Or will we join hands and uphold the liberty of all Americans, rising above the fog of bigotry and hate? If we’ve learned anything from our past, solidarity is the best option.

A fear-crazed America is exactly what ISIS wants. Why? Because it plays directly into their message that the West is out to destroy Islam. We must not fall for their trap. They seek to end our way of life, and banning Muslims from travelling to the United States (citizen or not) is a step down the terrible path to a constitution that is worth less than the paper it’s printed on.

*When the Nazis came for the communists,  
I remained silent;*

*I was not a communist.*

*When they locked up the social democrats,  
I remained silent;*

*I was not a social democrat.*

*When they came for the trade unionists,  
I did not speak out;*

*I was not a trade unionist.*

*When they came for the Jews,  
I remained silent;*

*I wasn’t a Jew.*

*When they came for me,  
There was no one left to speak out.*

-Martin Niemöller, German minister and social activist.

We must all speak up. We must unite in defense of the constitution to show the world (and ISIS) that we are better than our ancestors.

20 <sup>th</sup>	21 <sup>st</sup>	22 <sup>nd</sup>	23 <sup>rd</sup>	24 <sup>th</sup>	25 <sup>th</sup>	26 <sup>th</sup>
<p>1803- The Louisiana Purchase is completed.</p> <p>1860- South Carolina becomes the first state to secede from the union.</p> <p>1968- Author John Steinbeck dies at the age of 66.</p> <p>1968- The Zodiac Killer kills Betty Lou Jensen and David Faraday in Vallejo, California.</p> <p>1998- In Houston, TX, a 27-year-old woman gives birth to the only known living set of octuplets.</p>	<p>1620- The pilgrims land at Plymouth.</p> <p>1913- The first crossword puzzle (with 32 clues) is printed in the <i>New York World</i>.</p> <p>1948- Samuel L. Jackson is born.</p> <p>1951- Joe DiMaggio announces his retirement from major league baseball.</p> <p>1968- Apollo 8 blasts off to the Moon.</p>	<p>1934 - Miss Theo Trowbridge sets the female bowling record of 702 pins in one game.</p> <p>1943- Beatrix Potter, author of the <i>Peter Rabbit</i> children's books, dies.</p> <p>1962- The 1,000,000th NBA point is scored.</p> <p>1984- Madonna's "Like a Virgin," goes #1 for 6 weeks.</p>	<p>1888- Dutch painter Vincent van Gogh cuts off his left ear during a fit of depression.</p> <p>1970- The North Tower of the WTC is topped out.</p> <p>1994- Reed Alexander, who plays Nevel Papperman on <i>iCarly</i>, is born.</p> <p>1997- Woody Allen, 62, weds Soon-Yi Previn 27, the adopted daughter of Mia Farrow.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Festivus</p>	<p>1818- Franz Xavier Gruber composes "Silent Night."</p> <p>1826- The Eggnog Riot at the United States Military Academy begins.</p> <p>1914- World War One's Christmas Truce between the Germans, British, and French occurs.</p> <p>1970- Walt Disney's <i>Aristocats</i> is released.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Christmas Eve</p>	<p>352- The first definite Christmas is celebrated.</p> <p>1918- Former Egyptian president Anwar Al-Sadat is born.</p> <p>1946- Jimmy Buffet is born.</p> <p>2010- The first snowfall in the last 128 years occurs in the U.S. city of Atlanta, Georgia; 500 flights are affected</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Christmas Day</p>	<p>1963- The Beatles' "I Want to Hold Your Hand" is released in America.</p> <p>1982- <i>Time's</i> Person of the Year is for the first time not a man, but the personal computer.</p> <p>2012- A law banning Americans from adopting Russian children is approved by Russia's parliament.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">The First Day of Kwanzaa</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Boxing Day</p>

## Sign of the Month: Happy New Year!

In our newest feature, Applause's **Savannah Porter** heads to the deaf and hearing impaired department to teach us all a common phrase in sign language. This month, **Dakota Cooper** demonstrates "Happy New Year."



### Happy:

Move hands out and up, slapping the chest as you pass by. Repeat.



### New:

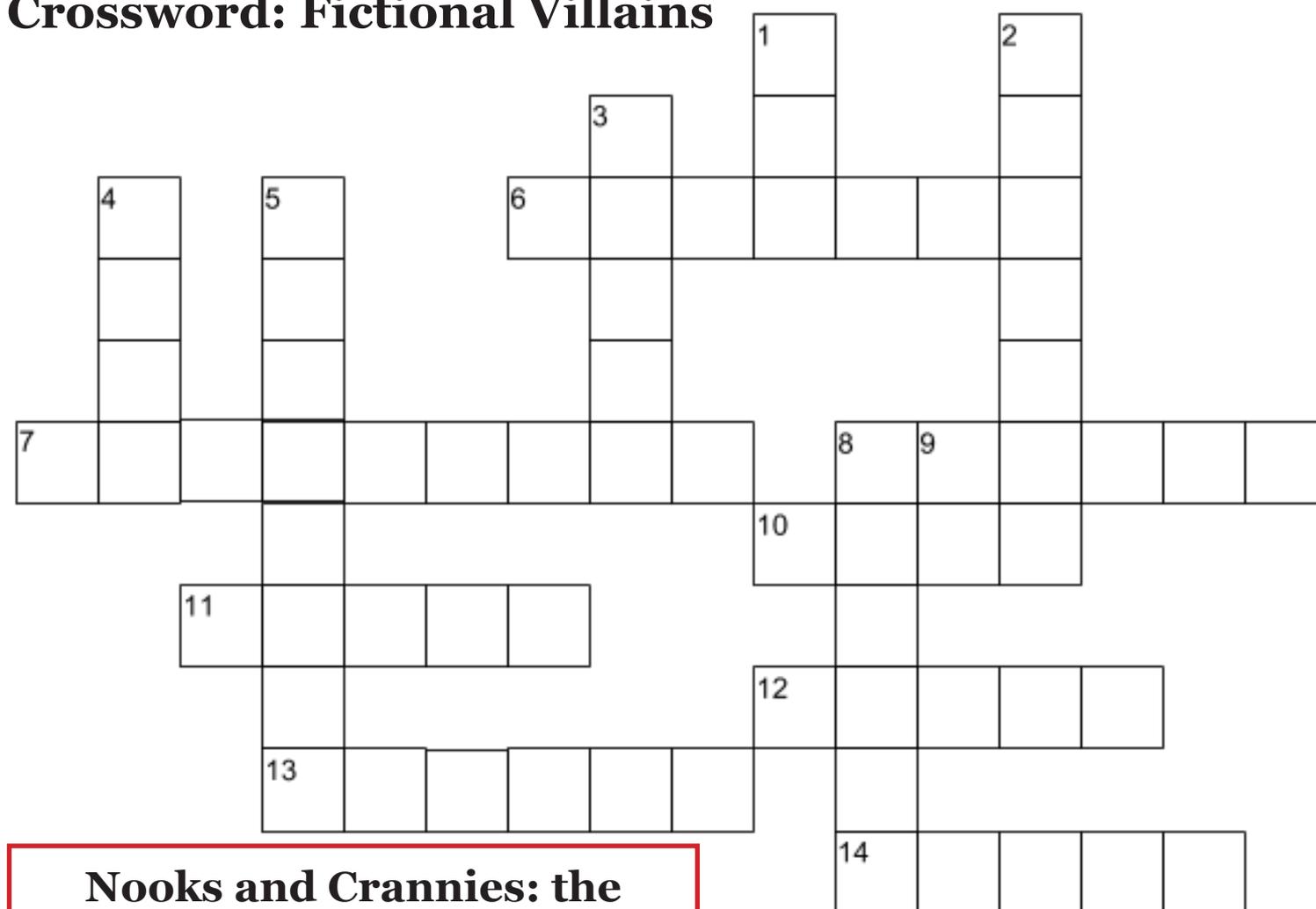
Move right hand down and up in an arc, slapping the palm of the left hand as you pass by.



### Year:

Circle the right fist around the left fist and land it on top.

## Crossword: Fictional Villains



### Across

6. Interferes with compasses.  
 7. Lacks a nose.  
 8. Not quite a squid.  
 10. Breaks a bat's back.  
 11. Hoo, hoo, ha, ha...  
 12. Dark spider.  
 13. "Out, vile jelly!"  
 14. Freelance, ex-MI6 spy.

### Down

1. Steals the Declaration  
 2. I believe in him.  
 3. The sultan's advisor.  
 4. Wooes Othello; a parrot.  
 5. Not a Buddy anymore.  
 8. Exterminate!  
 9. Not off.

## Nooks and Crannies: the lesser-known spots

*Applause's* monthly feature of a location somewhere in the greater Charleston area. The places we feature will be relatively unknown, and the description may help in locating the place... or it may be far too vague.

Maybe a description will reference a featured place from an older "Nooks and Crannies." Regardless, we will not disclose the location. Ever.

Happy hunting.

**You don't need a boat to get to this hidden gem, but it's more enjoyable with one (Just be a nice person and don't tread on the marsh grasses).**

Jay Rode



## Etta Elliott's Hot Tips: How to keep warm during the winter

### 1. Buy a car with heated seats.

A warm booty is a happy booty. If you don't have these, that's unfortunate for your body.

### 2. Learn to knit.

Yarn is the fabric of the future, you know.

### 3. Read Hot Tips.

lol, jokes are rad (but it's not a joke...).

### 4. Put your bed by a stove or a fire.

Pretend it's Christmas Eve and light a Christmas tree candle.

### 5. Get a cuddle buddy.

Try a dog, a cute dude, a soft person, your grandma, your sister or brother, a baby, or a randy. You do you.

### 6. Get your fireplace inspected.

Yeah, just do it.

### 7. Move to Florida.

They've got hot people, hot weather, and Disney world.

### 8. Shoot, skin, and wear a bear.

Bears are very warm.

### 9. Netflix without the chill.

Just don't chill...

### 10. Don't open your freezer.

It makes you colder and it causes global warming, global warming won't make you warmer so... don't open your freezer.

Jay Rode



## Horoscopes: the very special holiday addition

Applause mystic **Holly Rizer** reveals what the signs say you are craving during this holiday season.

### Sagittarius (November 22-December 21)

To be five again \*nostalgic sigh\*, it was a simpler time. #fruitsnacksforever #just5yearoldthings

### Capricorn (December 22-January 19)

Get some binoculars to judge all the haters from afar.

### Aquarius (January 20-February 18)

All the Harry Potter books and movies, a Nimbus 2000, Butter Beer, Chocolate Frogs, and their acceptance letter to Hogwarts. You've been waiting since you learned to read.

### Pisces (February 19-March 20)

Rainbows, sunshine, butterflies and a place to hide dead bodies \*cough\* I mean a place to hide cookies.

### Aries (March 21-April 19)

Enough power to rule the universe with an iron fist and a cape.

### Taurus (April 20-May 20)

Coal to put in the stockings of unsuspecting children.

### Gemini (May 21-June 20)

A hot date... actually maybe just another cat. They're easier to hold hostage.

### Cancer (June 21-July 22)

You don't believe in gift giving and want me to just go away. RUDE!

### Leo (July 23-August 22)

A fancy mustache, a Polaroid, a record player, suspenders, and music that doesn't exist yet. #theultimatehipster

### Virgo (August 23-September 22)

Camouflaged everything and a "Vote for Trump" bumper sticker.

### Libra (September 23-October 22)

Sleep, Netflix, sleep, pizza, oh and more sleep. Plus someone to do all the homework that you won't be doing over break because you'll be sleeping.

### Scorpio (October 23-November 21)

You crave to be worshipped like the all-powerful goddess you are.

				7		4		9
4				5			8	
	8	1			3			
		2	6		1			7
6	7						1	3
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3		9		2				

## Sixth grade then and now

Applause's **Nick Huss** takes a look at how times have changed.

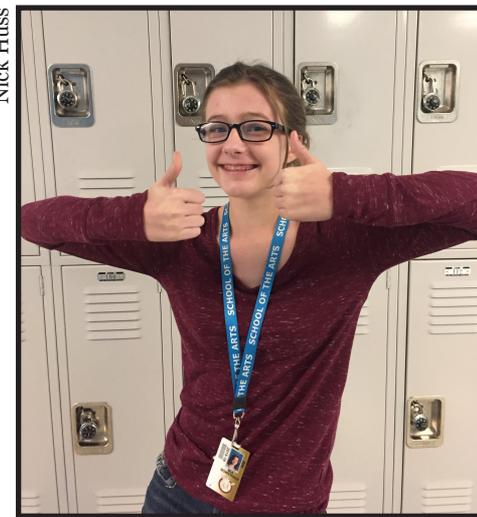
What do/did you want for the holidays?

Nick Huss



Senior Theater major **Anna Walker** craved the directors cut of *Twilight*.

Nick Huss



Sixth grade Theater major **Mia Bowersox** wants to shred on an electric guitar.

## Dream Interpretations

Each issue, Applause asks students to share recent dreams and our dream analysts **Jackie Evans** and **Holly Rizer** interpret them.

### Dream 1:

I dreamed the world was made in weird peculiar shapes.

#### Interpretation:

Shapes symbolize understanding and figuring things out. Your life is starting to fall into place and you're beginning to develop a better understanding of the world around you.

### Dream 2:

I had a dream that I was making Zac Efron out of cinnamon.

#### Interpretation:

Zac Efron symbolizes attraction and lust. The cinnamon suggests you may need a little spice in your life. You're entering a stage in your life in which you may be ready for a relationship... but honestly, who hasn't had this dream?

### Dream 3:

I had a dream that my hair turned into Macaroni and Cheese.

#### Interpretation:

Hair symbolizes making big changes in your life and the mac n' cheese symbolizes comfort. You're making big changes in your life, but don't worry. You'll adapt with ease.

### Dream 4:

Once I had a dream about a guy that was half dragon and he flew around with a black cat on his back.

#### Interpretation:

The dragon symbolizes your strong will, passion symbolizes flying and freedom, and the black cat symbolizes power and bad luck. You've recently been given more freedom in your life and you're likely very excited about it. But, be warned: with great power comes great responsibility...

### Dream 5:

I had this dream where I was in this house. I was a baby and there were these two men with black sunglasses. They said "evacuate the house or it will explode." There was a monster upstairs and if it sneezed the house would explode. I got left behind and the house exploded and then I woke up.

#### Interpretation:

Home symbolizes security, the baby symbolizes innocence and purity, the bodyguard symbolizes insecurity, the monsters symbolizes repressed fears and emotions, the sneeze symbolizes ease and healing, the explosion symbolizes being taken advantage of, and being left behind symbolizes rejection. Society may have tainted your innocence and your sense of stability. You may be left feeling rejected and like you've been taken advantage of. Don't worry you will heal over time.

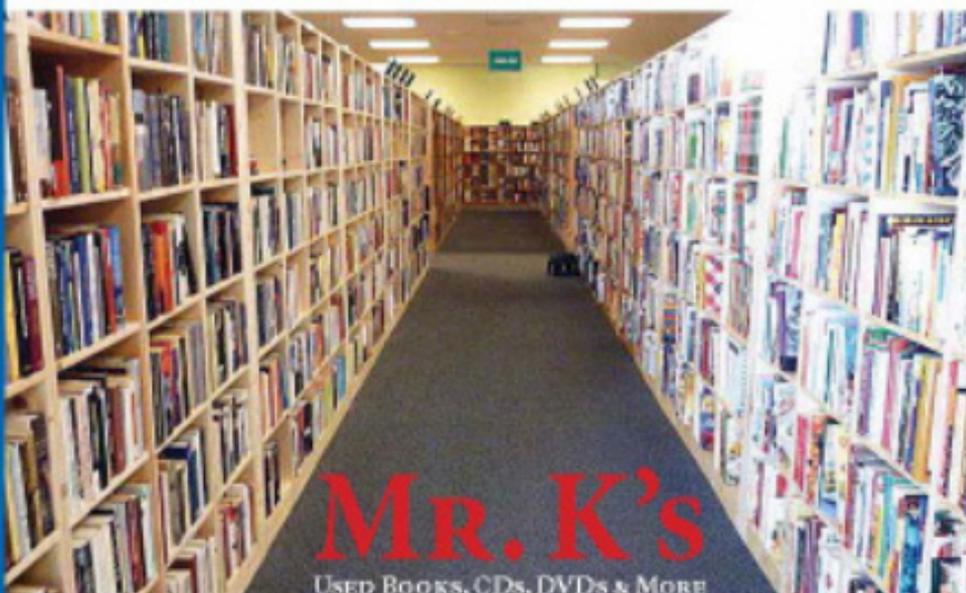
### Dream 6:

Once I had a dream that I was in the theater. I snuck backstage I opened a door and I was in an old lady's house. She was trying to eat me! I opened another door and I was in an old man's house and he was trying to eat me! Then I opened another door and I was back in the audience.

#### Interpretation:

The theater symbolizes your social life, the door symbolizes opportunity, the old lady symbolizes your concern about growing up, the old man symbolizes wisdom, being eaten symbolizes fear of losing who you are, and the audience symbolizes observation with a lack of control. Your social life is presenting you with tempting opportunities, but you're scared of growing up too fast and losing yourself. You likely feel like it's out of your control, but remember that what you do with your life is up to you. It's never too late to find yourself again.

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## Paint the town **Red and Gold**

by Nick Scapellato

### **POLAR PLUNGE (January 1st), Isle of Palms**

Freeze your butt off to support an amazing cause. Dunleavy's Pub teams up with Publix to raise money for Special Olympics. The plunge will take place on IOP at 2 PM. Help make dreams into realities, but remember a warm towel.

### **Charleston Restaurant Week (January 6th-17th)**

Enjoy gourmet food at a digestible price. Prix Fixe meals for set prices will include 3-5 courses, and can start as low as twenty dollars from restaurants such as Rue De Jean, Poogan's Porch, Basil, and tons more. Get your munch without spending a bunch!

### **The Harlem Globetrotters (January 9th), North Charleston Performing Arts Center**

Witness pure magic with a basketball. The artful mastery with which every movement of the ball is acquainted plays into the WOW factor that makes events like this worth it. The performance starts at 2 PM and tickets start at 25 dollars.

### **Charleston Marathon (January 16th)**

While many of us will be using MLK weekend as an excuse to catch up on sleep, why not use it to accomplish a real feat? The Charleston Marathon offers a full marathon, half-marathon, 10K, 5K, and even a kid run, making this event perfect for the whole family. All proceeds go to the Young Endowment for the Arts, who support fine arts programs in all Charleston area schools including SOA.

### **Charleston Jazz Festival (January 22nd-24th)**

Taking place at several locations throughout Downtown Charleston, the Charleston Jazz Festival is a prominent local concert that runs three days and features performances from Diane Schuur, Arturo Sandoval, several local artists, and our own SOA Jazz Band.

by Jakob Lazzaro

*It's another moderately cold holiday season in Charleston. To help you cope with the lack of snow, Applause is bringing you trivia about everyone's favorite TV activity: holiday specials! Grab your gingerbread as current emperor **Ari Levine** faces newcomer **Parris Byars** in this cheer-filled contest.*

## The Trivia Challenge

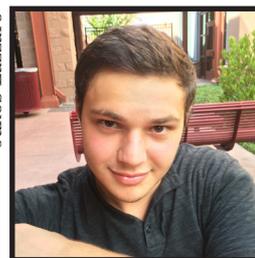
### Questions

1. Name the winter holiday invented by *Seinfeld*.
2. What is the longest-running holiday TV special in history?
3. What 1978 holiday special is infamous for being terrible?
4. Name the small child who confronts the Grinch in *How the Grinch Stole Christmas*.
5. Who played Buddy the Elf in the hit 2003 film *Elf*?
6. What island does Rudolph travel to in *Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer*?
7. What city is the house from *A Christmas Story* in? It's now a museum.
8. Name the composer who penned the famous jazz sound track to *A Charlie Brown Christmas*.
9. True or False. *It's a Wonderful Life* only became a holiday classic in the 1980's because the copyright had lapsed, allowing TV stations to play it all the time for free.
10. True or false. Adam Sandler produced, wrote, and starred in an adult-themed holiday Chanukah special called *Eight Crazy Nights*.

#### Ari Levine, Senior Theater

1. Kwanzika
2. *A Charlie Brown Christmas*.
3. Pennsylvania.
4. *War of the Worlds*.
5. Abby Leroy.
6. Will Ferrell.
7. The Island of the Lost Toys.
8. Fred Flinstone.
9. True.
10. True.

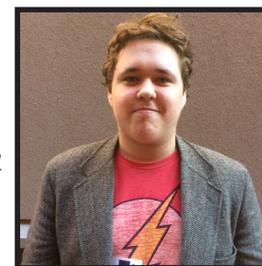
Jakob Lazzaro



3/10

#### Parris Byars, Senior Band

1. Sweater day?
2. *Rudolph*.
3. *A year without a Santa Claus*.
4. Cindy Lou Who.
5. Will Ferrell.
6. The island of misfit toys.
7. Detroit?
8. I don't know. I don't want to embarrass myself as a member of Jazz band.
9. True.
10. False.



5/10

Jakob Lazzaro

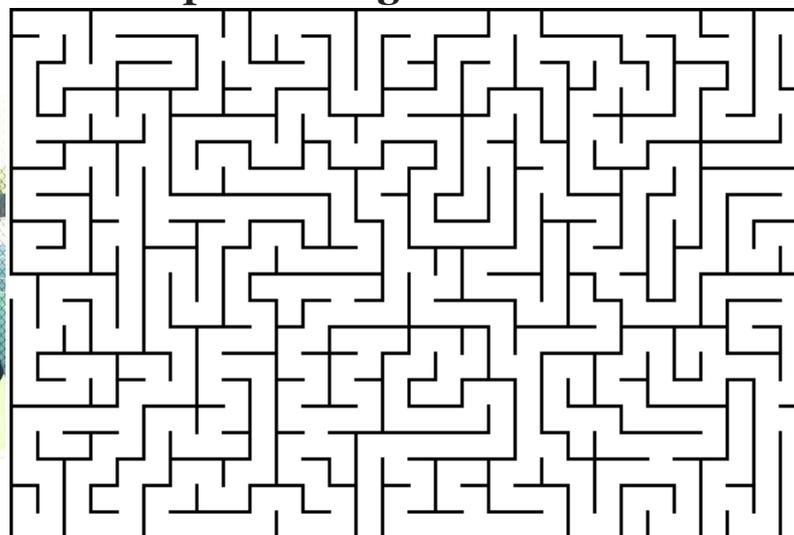
### Answers

1. Festivus.
2. *Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer*, since 1964.
3. *The Star Wars Holiday Special*.
4. Cindy Lou Who.
5. Will Ferrell.
6. The island of misfit toys.
7. Cleveland, Ohio.
8. Vince Guaraldi.
9. True.
10. True.

### The Victor

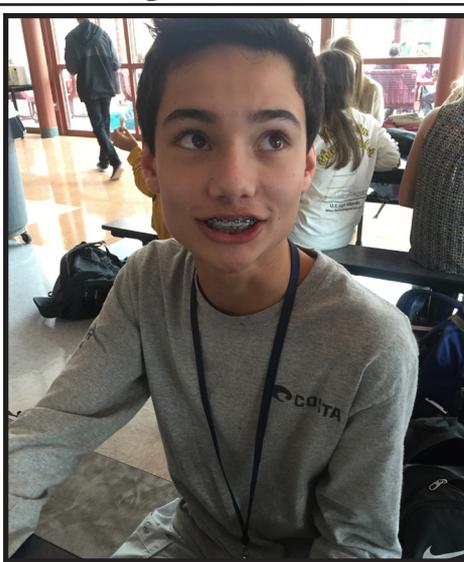
Ari couldn't outlast the wintry onslaught. Parris blasted the crown and scepter off of his head in the first Trivia transfer of power this year. Thus, Parris will return next issue as the Trivia Emperor to compete again.

### Help Mr. Ratigan find his bike!

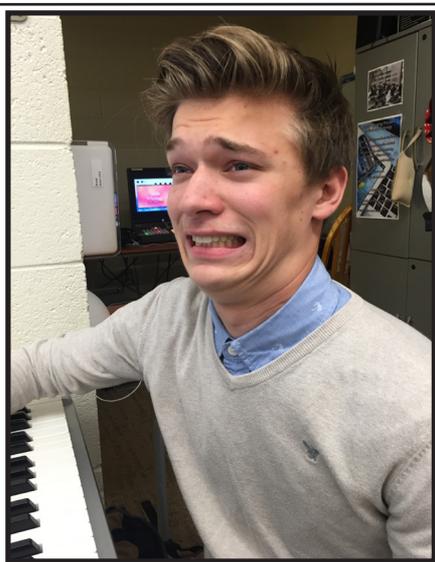




“To be like Ryan Biddix.”  
Henry Schrecker, Seventh grade Piano



“To gain weight.”  
Jack Powell, Eighth grade Vocal



“To make All State Jazz.”  
Stephan Tenney, Senior Band



“To get a good personality.”  
Peyton Corder, Junior Strings



“To get taller.”  
Ben Foster, Junior Band

# WHAT'S YOUR NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION?

BY NICK HUSS AND ERIN MOLONY



“To paint my house.”  
Ms. Godwin, high school science



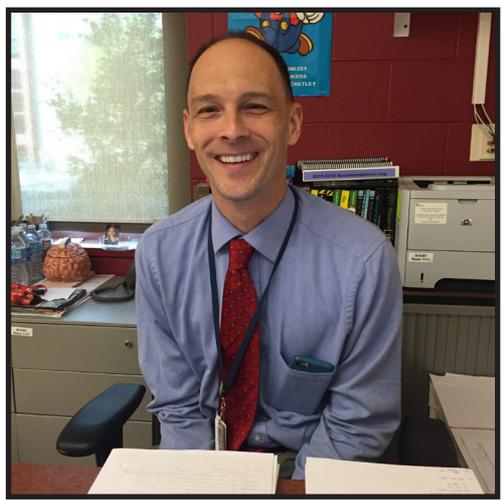
“Get better grades.”  
Amber Worth, Freshmen Band



“To make more friends.”  
Avery Tummia, Sixth grade Vocal



“To live more in the moment.”  
Jada Orr, Junior Fashion



“To change my highly concentrated junk food diet into one where I eat right.”  
Mr. Short, high school science