

Senior Spotlight

Kelsie Weingart

Micah Harris
Writer

Another senior here at Columbian is Kelsie Weingart. At Columbian, she runs in cross country and track. She plays tennis and is in quiz bowl, she's also the president of NHS. She says her favorite part about her activities are the people and the sense of community. Kelsie wants to tell the underclassmen to "write memories down in a journal and take pictures. There are so many little things that you'll want to remember down the road." After graduation, she plans to go to college and major in political science/criminal justice, with the goal of becoming a prosecutor. In Kelsie's free time, she likes to read, bake, and listen to Taylor Swift.



Logan "The Beast" Beaston

Brayden Miklovic
Writer, Designer

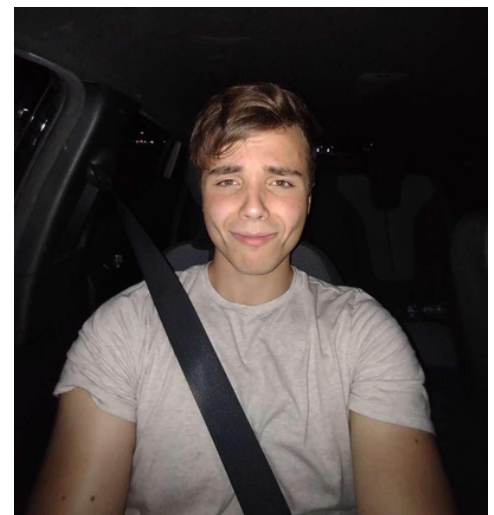
Logan "The Beast" Beaston is a senior at Columbian. He is involved in NHS and he plays on Columbian's basketball team. In his free time, he likes to workout and play basketball. After high school, he plans to attend Hillsdale College in Michigan, where he will play basketball and get a degree in accounting. His advice to his underclassmen is to "enjoy high school while you can" and to make as many memories as possible, because "it goes fast."



Owen Szablewski

Micah Harris
Writer

Owen Szablewski is another senior for the spotlight this month. Owen plays alto sax in band, and he loves band because of the "connections [he] made while playing with others." He says that he has made many friends because of band. His advice to underclassmen is to "not stress about grades" and to "start working as soon as you can. You don't want to get out of high school without having a source of income." He also adds, "Don't listen to the hate, being yourself is so much easier than wearing a mask for others." Owen says that after high school, he wants to pursue his passions of cooking, writing, drawing, and just art in general. He says, "I love doing the things that make me happy." In his free time, Owen likes to play chess, experiment in the kitchen, and work out at the gym.



Senior Spotlight (Cont.)

Maggie Joyce

Brayden Miklovic
Writer, Designer

Maggie Joyce is a senior at Columbian. She is the vice president of student council, and she is also involved in choir and NHS. In March, she will be on stage as Urleen in the school's musical Footloose. When she has free time, she volunteers at Noble Elementary with the Budding Genius after-school program. For fun she hangs out with friends and attends Columbian's games and events. After graduating, she plans to obtain a major in education and a minor in business at Heidelberg University. She advises her underclassmen to enjoy their time in high school because of how fast it goes, and to "get involved as much as you can," because joining clubs and volunteering is "a great way to make friends and create memories."



Aricka Fisher

Micah Harris
Writer

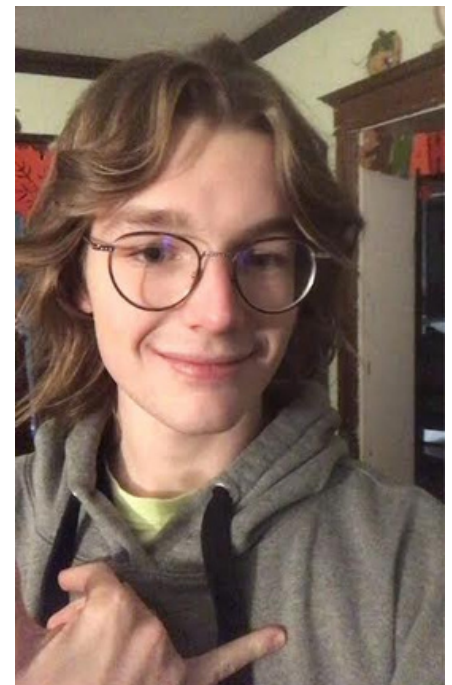
Next up, we have Aricka Fisher! They are in choir and NHS. They say, "I love the community and sense of belonging that choir gives me. They make me feel very comfortable with myself." Aricka's advice to underclassmen is to "be yourself and don't worry about popularity and status! School is a lot more fun when you don't worry about what others think of you." When they graduate, they would like to pursue marine biology in Boston. They aren't sure which school they would like to go to yet, but they say they are "super interested in marine animals." They also add that they hope to work in a rehabilitation center or aquarium someday. In their free time (outside of dance), they like to play video games. They say their favorite video game currently is "Pokemon Violet."



Cyprien Marchal

Brayden Miklovic
Writer, Designer

Cyprien Marchal is a senior at Columbian. This is his first year at Columbian, as he is originally from Belgium. He is involved in the musical Footloose and in choir. For fun, he likes to relax and watch movies and TV shows, and he likes to bake when he has free time. After he graduates, Cyprien is going to study computer science at a college in Belgium. The advice he has for underclassmen is to "never let other people tell you what you can and can't do in life." He says that "being in a new and different environment may be scary at first," but you need to learn to adapt to your surroundings and "make it your own."



Tiffinian Writer of the Month

Aiden John

Newspaper President Kylee Thom interviewed *Tiffinian* writer Aiden John to be honored as our first Writer of the Month.

What grade are you in? What are you involved in?

I'm in 11th grade and currently, I am involved in Quizbowl, NHS, Advanced Science Research Club, Ping Pong club, Esports, Tennis, and of course, Newspaper.

What do you do in your free time?

I love to read, play video games, write, and hang out with my friends.

What is your favorite part about newspaper?

My favorite part about newspaper is that everyone can write multiple articles on a multitude of topics and have fun with it.

What is a piece of advice for the upcoming writers and why should people join?

One piece of advice is to make sure you are managing your work accurately and getting your article in on time by the due date. Others should join because there's one meeting per month and you get to write an article about so many topics. It could be about movies, books, local or national events, and so many more. Overall, it's a great experience and it can help get your voice out to the community.

Solo and Ensemble

Alison Kramer
Writer

On January 20th, both members of the Columbian Choir and Columbian Band participated in Solo and Ensemble at Marion Harding High School. Solo and Ensemble is an excellent chance for students to showcase their musical abilities in small groups with their friends or even alone. Solo and Ensemble is scored on a 1-5 scale, 1 being the highest and 5 being the lowest. Columbian is filled with incredibly talented musical students, so many were awarded 1s and 2s. Students in the choir awarded 1s include Juliannah Haudenschild, Kylee Thom, Katherine Albright, Paris Salyer, Ainsley Richards, Rylan Clarkson, and Kaiah Yonts. From the band, students earning 1s included Rylan Clarkson, James Thompson, Vincent Daniel, Deacon Albright, Brayden Miklovic, Colin Hoover, Curtis Steele, and Renae Nitecki. The Brass Choir, Percussion Ensemble, and Woodwind Ensemble also received 1s for their group pieces.

Everyone performed very well, so make sure to congratulate Solo and Ensemble participants and cheer them on for future competitions!



Indoor Track

Joaquin Perez

Writer

This year Columbian students have a new sport to run during the cold, bleak winter months: indoor track. While only having a few members currently, they are nevertheless determined to run fast and bring home some awards. And on January 14th, the indoor track team had their first meet: The University of Findlay Dave's Running High School Series #2. Some standout results included Grace Blonde placing 4th in the 3200 (2 mile), Farrah Gaulden placing 2nd in the 60m hurdles, and the girls taking 3rd in the 4 by 800.



Members of the indoor track team. From left to right: Maddie Gurney, Carmen Lewis, Grace Blonde, Kelsie Weingart, and Makiah Gurney.

Mental Wellness Month

Madison McBride

Writer

Stress, Anxiety, Depression, and OCD are mental health issues, but that isn't what January is about regarding one's mental state. January is all about one's mental wellness. Mental wellness is when someone has positive characteristics that help someone thrive, even when facing stress or mental health issues. Those, with good mental wellness, often have overlap in traits. These include contentment, resiliency, work/ life balance, the ability to build/ maintain relationships, self-confidence, and a sense of purpose. These can be hard to attain and must be worked for. This is where mental health ties into and furthers your mental wellness. Look at your mental health and determine what you need to work on. You must first see and acknowledge that you struggle before recognizing what you can do to better yourself. Having good mental wellness is vital to have a happy and full life. To better yourself and your mental wellness, you can improve or work on different aspects of your life. These include: mindfulness, thinking positively, taking breaks for yourself, staying active, quality time with friends and family, stress management, physical activity, and sleeping and eating well. While this may seem like a lot, you don't have to jump in. Work one thing at a time and take it slow. Bettering yourself is a process, and it can often be slow. Don't try to rush. Take your time; this is for your betterment—no one else's.

Mahayana Buddhism New Year

Aiden John
Writer

"The only real mistake is the one from which we learn nothing" -Henry Ford

On January 7th, many Buddhists around the world celebrated their new year. The word Mahayana embraces the ideologies of Buddhists and is one of the two main branches of Hinduism. It's largely practiced in Northeast Asia in places such as China, Japan, Taiwan, and more. Each region has its own customs as well as traditions. Mahayana Buddhists believe a form of enlightenment, called Eternal Nirvana, can be achieved during one's life. This is not only achieved by monks, but by regular Buddhists as well.

The Mahayana new year differs for each country depending on customs. For instance, some celebrate the new year on January first, alongside the gregorian calendar; others wait for the full moon of January. No matter the day, the celebration consists of immense prayer as well as the honoring of gods. Statues of gods are washed to show respect for them. Some light candles as a symbol of happiness as well as luck for the new year.

The Buddhist New Year is a time of self-analyzation; it is a time to become a better person. Many people will clean and decorate their homes as well as buy gifts for others. It is also a time for grand feasts and fireworks.

Martin Luther King Jr. Day

Josephine Cooper
Writer

Martin Luther King Jr. was born on January 15, 1929 in the Auburn Avenue community of Atlanta, Georgia. At 15, Martin graduated from high school and started college at Morehouse College, which was a Black men's liberal arts school in Atlanta. He was a Baptist minister and a social activist who led the Civil Rights Movement in the 1950s. Throughout his Civil Rights journey, he was arrested a total of 29 times, many of the times being civil disobediences.

Martin's leadership ended legal segregation of African Americans in the South and in other parts of the United States. He rose to national fame as head of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, which promoted nonviolence methods such as the March on Washington, to achieve Civil Rights. In 1963 he gave a public speech called "I Have a Dream." This speech was about civil and economic rights and spoke of an end to racism in the United States. In 1964, he was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize, four years before his assassination. He was the youngest person to win the Nobel Peace Prize until 2014. Martin Luther King's legacy continues to live on to this day, and many people look up to him to be a brave and socially just individual.



Oprah Winfrey's 69th Birthday

Brayden Miklovic
Writer, Designer

Oprah Gail Winfrey was born in Kosciusko, MS on January 29, 1954. She was named Oprah after a biblical figure in the Book of Ruth, but people often mispronounced it and her name was changed to the more familiar "Oprah" at the age of 1. Her parents were Vernita Lee and Vernon Winfrey. Her childhood was very difficult. Initially, she was left in the care of her grandmother Hattie Mae Lee on a farm. Her grandmother raised her very strictly, teaching her to read at the age of 2 and a half. Being a very smart child, she skipped both kindergarten and second grade. At the age of 6, however, she was sent to live with her mother and two half-brothers in a very poor and dangerous Milwaukee neighborhood. She flourished when she was sent to live with her father in Nashville, TN when she was 12, but her mother called her back and she was forced to leave the safety of her father's home. Vernita worked a lot, and when she wasn't home to supervise Oprah, she was often assaulted by members of her family. Oprah began to act out, and after years of bad behavior, she was sent back to her father. Vernon guided and encouraged Oprah to learn and to become a better student. She was active in her school's drama club, debate team, student council, and at a speaking contest, she won a full scholarship to Tennessee State University. The next year, she was invited to a White House Conference on Youth, and she was hired by WVOL (a local Nashville radio station) to read afternoon newscasts. During her freshman year at Tennessee State University, she was titled "Miss Black Nashville" and "Miss Tennessee." She was offered a job from CBS a total of three times between her freshman and sophomore years, to which she turned down twice. Taking the advice of a speech teacher, she accepted the job on the third offer, becoming Nashville's first African American female co-anchor of the evening news at age 19.

She was offered a job from Baltimore, Maryland after graduating, which included doing local news updates and called cut-ins during Good Morning, America, and she soon moved to the morning talk show Baltimore is Talking alongside Richard Sher. She was on the show for around seven years before her producer, Debra DiMaio, sent an audition tape to ABC, and she was hired to anchor A.M. Chicago, a morning talk show in Chicago, IL. She transitioned the topics from traditional issues to current and debatable topics, and within a few months, the show's ratings were ahead of Phil Donahue's national talk show.

A year and a half after being hired in Chicago, A.M. Chicago's showtime was expanded to an hour, and it was renamed the Oprah Winfrey Show. In September of 1985, King World bought the distribution rights of the show and aired it in 138 cities. In 1986, Oprah received an award from the Chicago Academy for the Arts for unique contributions to the city's artistic community, and the National Organization of Women named her Woman of Achievement. The Oprah Winfrey Show has won several Emmys for Best Talk Show, and Oprah Winfrey is widely recognized as the best talk show host.



Lunar New Year

Weston Runion
Writer

Lunar New year, the most important holiday in China, begins on January 22nd. Each year is marked by one of twelve zodiac signs: Rat, Ox, Tiger, Rabbit, Dragon, Snake, Horse, Sheep, Monkey, Rooster, Dog and Pig. This year is the year of the rabbit, symbolizing peace and longevity. The year of the rabbit last happened in 2011. Lunar New year is a time to... clean your house?

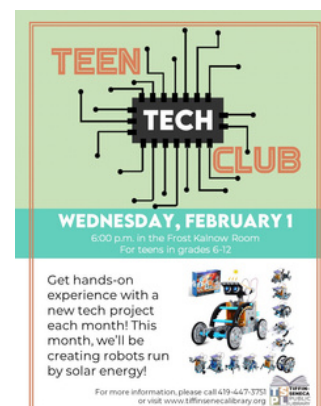
Cleaning your house symbolizes getting rid of inauspicious (evil) spirits, and letting good luck and good will into your home. Lunar New year was originally what farmers had to celebrate harvests and ask for better harvests the coming year. Lunar New Year also began as a time of feasting and to honor your ancestors and heavenly deities.



Upcoming Tiffin Events

David Wyant
Writer

As February approaches, so do the many events taking place in Tiffin. The downtown scene is becoming bigger and bigger as the months go on with more and more events taking place. The Tiffin Seneca Library is one of the main areas where these events take place. Lego Saturday is an event that has been going on for a while and they have done it almost every year except during lockdown. Teens can go into the Frost-Kalnow Room in the back of the library and build their lego creations and compete for different age groups. A really important event taking place in the Tiffin Columbian Gym is the blood drive. The blood drive is incredibly important as the American Red Cross can get blood from healthy teens/adults that can be used for patients in need of blood transfusions. Donating blood only takes a little time and can save lives. There is also an event being held in the Frost-Kalnow Room which is an Alien Escape Room. Teens from grades 6-12 can come in to solve puzzles to beat the escape room. Parents or teens with young siblings who are in preschool or younger can go to the library for an Indoor Snow Day at the Library. This Indoor Snow Day is for the little kids who want to enjoy playing in the snow without having to deal with the cold weather that comes with it. A great event for anyone interested in robotics is the Teen Tech Club at the Library. This event will have teens putting together a robot and learn how to get it to function with solar energy. You don't even have to be interested in robotics to come, you can just come and put the robot together. Overall a lot of events are taking place in Tiffin and a large amount of them are taking place in the library. More and more events are being planned every month and there is almost always something to do every weekend here in Tiffin.



Movie of the Month: *Avatar: The Way of Water*

CONTAINS SPOILERS: Do not read this if you have not seen the movie!

Grant Terry

Vice-president, Designer & Writer

Avatar: The Way of Water directed by James Cameron is the most recent blockbuster, coming out in December of last year. For context, I thought *Avatar* (2009) was a solid enough movie but it wasn't anything amazing. When I heard a sequel was coming out I wasn't overly excited but I still wanted to go see it and I am definitely in the minority with my opinion on this movie. This movie is getting a lot of praise from audiences, critics and even my friends who I saw the movie with but I just don't get why. I thought it was a fine movie, nothing special. It is basically the same as the first movie but longer and the visuals are slightly better. I'm sorry but visuals can not carry a film like this. The visuals are cool for like the first 15 minutes. The story is severely lacking; it is just the same plot as the first film but there is water now. The characters are boring and it's bad when I don't remember the names of most of the kid characters. It is literally the same villain from the first movie again except with this ridiculous subplot about him having a kid- somewhat. The kids are just plot devices and don't actually matter; they just keep getting captured in the third act. The acting is mediocre and the emotional moments don't work. The main characters from the last film are sidelined. Some of the choices the characters make are so flat-out dumb. The pacing is atrocious. I just disliked this movie so much. What did I like.. um.. once again the visuals are nice. It really is sad to see that James Cameron is only going to make *Avatar* sequels for the rest of his career because he really is an extremely talented director. That talent is going to waste though. I respect it if you like this film but I can not say the same. But I mean the beauty of film and art in general is that everyone has a different perspective and opinion. I didn't get much out of *Avatar: The Way of Water* but if you did, I am glad. Overall it is far from the worst movie I have ever seen but it is probably the worst James Cameron film I have seen. I would rate *Avatar: The Way of Water* a 5/10. Thank you for reading- I appreciate it!

Game of the Month: *Metroid Other M*

Joaquin Perez

Writer

Metroid: Other M released to the world on August 31st, 2010. After the massive success of the *Prime Trilogy*, *Other M* had a lot to live up to. It succeeded in a few areas but mostly fell flat on its face.

Metroid is a series known for its expansive maps and deep exploration, but *Other M* tosses that out the window. Instead it's a linear game, where you go where it wants you to when it wants you to. It at times actively discourages the player from exploring by locking off previous areas for no reason. This added linearity is all done to forward the game's story.

In terms of writing, *Other M* is mediocre at best and at worst it's just bland. Its story feels pointless since most of the events you experience are extremely similar to events from *Super Metroid*. No they aren't the same, but they're so similar they might as well be. Dialogue is mostly terrible, and the romance elements it tries to implement are laughably bad. And Samus just feels off in this game, possibly due to being shoehorned into a romance plot or the fact that her voice actress delivers her lines in the most monotone, emotionless voice possible. Samus's dialogue will drag on for literal minutes, which the player cannot skip. It drags the pace of the game into the gutter, on top of being poorly written.

So is this game all bad? No, if you're willing to sit through badly delivered dialogue, some fun can be had. The game has some epic set pieces, killer remixes, and it looks very good considering its age and it being a Wii game. It controls well, doesn't shove motion controls down the player's throat like *Prime 3* did at certain points. Some may even enjoy its more linear nature, seeing as the game is a bit more accessible to new players. But in the end, it's honestly just kind of mediocre, not entirely terrible, but also not that great.

Puss in Boots: The Last Wish Review

Micah Harris

Writer

Puss in Boots: The Last Wish continues the story of the beloved Puss in Boots. We watch as Puss finds himself on his last life of nine. He is confronted by death himself, so Puss decides to retire and settle down at a cat home to live his last life. A dog (later named Perrito) had made his way into the home and took a liking to Puss. Puss was not very fond of this new friend, but Perrito persisted. When a new, "evil" version of Goldilocks and the three bears destroys the cat home, searching for Puss, they talk about their plan to steal the last wish star from "Big" Jack Horner. Puss realizes that this could be his chance to wish for more lives, so he sets out on a quest to steal the star, and of course, Perrito follows him. Throughout his adventure, he runs into his old girlfriend, Kitty Softpaws, who is also after the star. Puss and Kitty grow closer again, but death looms over Puss, following him on this adventure. Death causes Puss immense anxiety, despite his history of never knowing fear. In the end, Puss has to choose between living out the rest of his last life with his loved ones or adding more lives to his timeline.

From the characters and the immense detail added to the settings to the lessons and the realness of this story, *Puss in Boots: The Last Wish* is an absolutely beautiful movie. It may seem like a silly children's movie, but it is much deeper. It shows the immense fear and anxiety over the inevitable. It shows the morals of having to choose between two things you deeply want and desire. In just 100 minutes, the movie showed love, fear, happiness, hatred, resentment, and desire, and it showed these emotions and feelings so breathtakingly. Puss's battle with anxiety is absolutely gorgeous and beyond relatable. To try and escape death is to live a life of denial and fear. We experience the beauty of life not in spite of, but because of our inevitable mortality. The world can be horrid, and people can be disgustingly cruel, but this movie shows us that it's the relationships and adventures we embrace that make life worthwhile. To enjoy the rewards of being loved, we must first submit ourselves to the mortifying ordeal of being known. If you have the chance, go see *Puss in Boots: The Last Wish*. You will not regret it.

The Golden Globes Controversy and 2023 Winners

Grant Terry

Vice-president, Designer & Writer

The 80th Golden Globes Awards Ceremony was held at the Beverly Hilton Hotel in Beverly Hills, California on the tenth of January 2023 at 8 PM Eastern Standard Time. The Golden Globes is an award ceremony which celebrates outstanding achievements in the movie and TV industry. There has been much controversy in the past couple years or so surrounding the Golden Globes or more specifically the Hollywood Foreign Press Association, HFPA for short, who runs the Golden Globes. NBC decided not to televise The 2022 Golden Globes because of the controversy. There was a severe lack of diversity among the members of the HFPA. It was pretty well known that the HFPA was in fact quite racist and people didn't like that, for good reason, and many people boycotted the Golden Globes because of this. There was also an incident with Brendan Fraser and the president of the Golden Globes at the time but that is a long story for another day. HFPA at least did something to address the controversy. The HFPA added 21 new members, mostly minorities, including 6 persons of color. It was definitely a step in the right direction but more can definitely be done to keep improving. But onto the actual Golden Globes winners themselves and not just the controversy.

I will specially focus on the movie winners since I am not as knowledgeable in the area of TV. I am very glad *The Fabelmans* won some awards because *The Fabelmans* is my favorite movie of 2022 that I have seen so far. I highly recommend *The Fabelmans*. I haven't seen *The Banshees of Inisherin* but it seems like people like it so I'll have to check it out. Austin Butler winning for his performance in *Elvis* was a very pleasant surprise; I for sure thought it was going to be Brendan Fraser for his performance in *The Whale* but because of his decision to boycott the Golden Globes it makes sense why he did not win. It was nice to see the cast of *Everything Everywhere All at Once* get some well deserved awards as well. Overall I think all the award winners were very deserving.



Ke Huy Quan winning his Golden Globe Award