



Senior Spotlights

Kylee Thom
Editor

Haley Welter

Our first senior is Haley Welter. She is involved in NHS, choir, the musical, and track. She is also a senior representative for student council and a varsity quiz bowl member. Her favorite activity is choir and she loves seeing the payoff of all of the work they do and being able to get immediate feedback. In her free time, she works, plays games on her Switch and listens to audio books. After high school, Haley is undecided on a school, but she plans to major in early childhood education and get her license for special education. Her biggest piece of advice is “don't be afraid to be involved in things.”



John Bailey

Our next senior is John Bailey. He is involved in choir, NHS, student council, church youth group, the musical and quiz bowl. His favorite part of these activities is the people involved and the friendly environment they create. In the student council and NHS, he says he enjoys the opportunity to help people when needed. In his free time, John reads, watches movies, goes on walks, listens to music, cleans and cooks. After high school, he plans to go to the University of Cincinnati to study secondary education and mathematics. His biggest piece of advice to underclassmen: “[I]n the words of Mrs. Ridge, ‘Don’t stop, look ahead, and sing out.’ Also, if you aspire to do something, just go for it; you may never have the opportunity again.”



Hayden Riley

Our last senior is Hayden Riley. Hayden is the vice president of NHS and a member of student council, football and tennis. He is also a private pilot in Fremont. He stated he “enjoys helping people and being involved in school activities.” In his free time, he plays video games, flies, hunts, and fishes. His biggest advice to underclassmen: “Don’t make excuses, and don’t let things get in your way. If you set your mind to it you can do it.”



What to Do Over Christmas Break

Alison Kramer

Writer

Go on a trip to a warmer place - The cold weather isn't for everyone, and with a long winter break, going on vacation is a great idea. Spending time in a warm place during the holiday season can be really fun, especially considering the different ways holidays can be celebrated in different places.

Snow activities - On the other hand, many love the cold weather that comes when the winter season rolls around. Going outside and building a snowman, sledding, ice skating, or having snowball fights can be enjoyable activities to do over winter break. Spending time outside is important, however, making sure to stay safe in the cold weather is even more important.

Movie marathon - Some prefer to just stay at home during break. Doing a movie marathon can be super relaxing, a way to stay inside and warm during the cold winter. Taking the time to sit back and enjoy movies with family and friends is really nice.

Baking - Baking can be a really good way to show others that you care, or just a fun way to spend time with family and friends. The holiday season is a great time to share baked goods with others. There's nothing better than the smell of warm chocolate chip cookies to warm up a household in the cold weather.

Christmas Movie Review

Dillan Hayes

Writer

There's nothing like a good holiday movie to get you in the mood for Christmas, so that's why I'm going to be reviewing *Gremlins*. Now, there is a lot of debate on whether or not *Gremlins* is considered a Christmas movie and my argument is that it takes place during Christmas and the holiday has a direct effect on the plot.

Gremlins, released on June 8th, 1984 and directed by Steven Spielberg is a horror comedy film about a guy named Billy who receives a weird pet called a Mogwai as a Christmas gift from his father. Billy is told that there are three rules he has to follow to take care of his Mogwai: don't expose it to sunlight, don't let it come into contact with water, and to never feed it after midnight.

Naturally, Billy breaks these rules and chaos ensues as his new pet multiplies and wrecks havoc across his hometown. Upon release, *Gremlins* succeeded commercially and critically, grossing over 212.9 million dollars. This success led to a sequel, *Gremlins 2: The New Batch* and an up and coming television series, *Gremlins: Secrets of the Mogwai*. Fun fact: in Chinese "Mogwai" means devil or demon.

Gremlins is a great time and worth watching for a few reasons. One of those reasons are the impressive special effects created by Chris Walas who is also known for working on films like *ET*, *The Fly* (1986), and *Return of the Jedi*. The effects really add to the tone *Gremlins* was going for and it would be a completely different movie without them. Another reason to watch *Gremlins* is because it's an all-around great movie with very few flaws which is to be expected from a movie directed by Steven Spielberg. So instead of watching *It's a Wonderful Life* this Christmas, pop on *Gremlins* and get ready for a wild time.

The Christmas Truce

Grady Albright
Guest Writer

On Christmas Eve 1914 on the French western front in the midst of trench warfare between the British, French, and Germans a ceasefire was held between those fighting in WWI. Both armies ran out of munitions and men to fight until they were able to obtain reinforcements and supplies. The two sides ventured out into no-man's-land where for two days they exchanged food and souvenirs, sung carols, lit Christmas trees, told stories, and most famously, played soccer to pass the time. It is said that the Germans were dominant in most of the matches but the outcomes are unofficial. At the end of the two days on December 26th, the soldiers returned to their trenches to resume their call of duty.

A 19-year-old British soldier wrote to his mother from the battle of Ypres on Christmas: "Dear Mother, I am writing from the trenches. It is 11 o'clock in the morning. [...] The ground is sloppy in the actual trench, but frozen elsewhere. In my mouth is a pipe presented by Princess Mary. In the pipe is tobacco. Of course, you say. But wait. In the pipe is German tobacco. Haha, you say, from a prisoner or found in a captured trench. Oh dear, no! From a German soldier. Yes, a live German soldier from his own trench. Yesterday the British & Germans met & shook hands in the Ground between the trenches & exchanged souvenirs & shook hands. Yes, all day Xmas day & as I write. Marvellous, isn't it?"

250,000 British, German, and French soldiers joined together despite their differences to celebrate something they both had in common and share the Christmas spirit.

It makes people wonder why others fight in the first place.



The Christmas Mutiny

Deacon Albright
Guest Writer

When one thinks of Christmas, most usually think of spending time with family around a cozy fire in a festively decorated room. But for many people, Christmas is just another work day.

Legend has it that 270 miles above our heads in the year 1973, the Skylab space station orbited Earth. Three astronauts lived on the Skylab space station, where their work days could reach up to 48 hours without a break. After spending their whole Christmas making repairs on the station, they decided that they deserved rest. In an act of defiance, they cut off communications with mission control and then celebrated Christmas a day late.

On the station they made a Christmas tree out of tin cans, hung socks on the wall for stockings, and exchanged gifts. The gifts ranged from freeze-dried fudge to fresh fruit, which were commodities in space.

After their little celebration, the crew reportedly said they slept for sixteen hours straight. Once they turned communication back on, they discovered mission control's dismay. Today the urban legend of the 1973 Christmas celebration is one of Skylab's most-remembered moments, and it's also remembered as the first and only mutiny in space.



Album of the Month

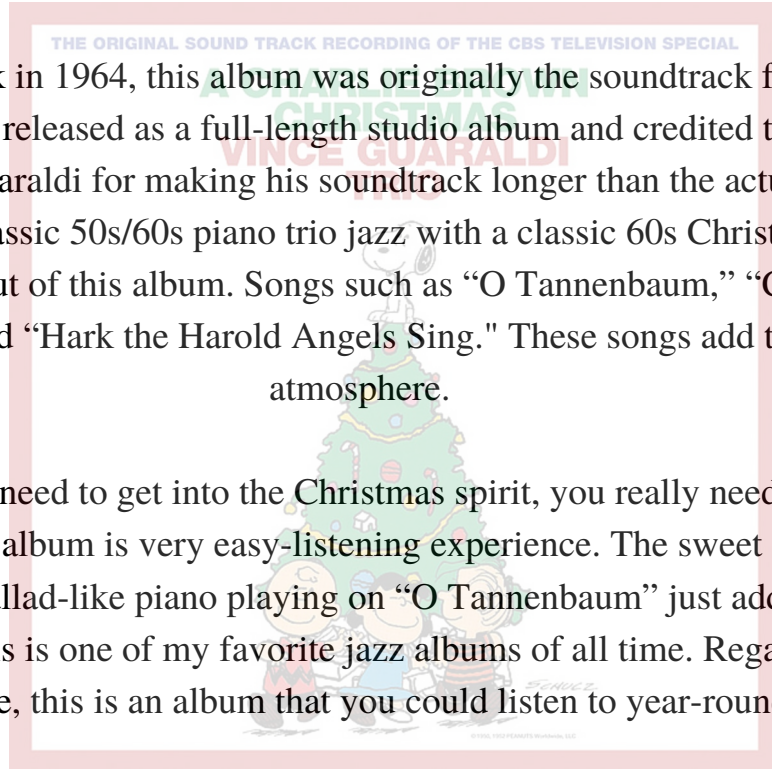
Rylan Clarkson

Writer

A Charlie Brown Christmas – Vince Guaraldi Trio

Released all the way back in 1964, this album was originally the soundtrack for the 1964 film of the same name. Later it was released as a full-length studio album and credited to The Vince Guaraldi Trio. Props to Vince Guaraldi for making his soundtrack longer than the actual movie. The actual album mixes both the classic 50s/60s piano trio jazz with a classic 60s Christmas vibe. Some great Christmas staples came out of this album. Songs such as “O Tannenbaum,” “Christmas Time is Here (Instrumental/Vocal),” and “Hark the Harold Angels Sing.” These songs add to the classic Christmas atmosphere.

If you really like jazz and need to get into the Christmas spirit, you really need to listen to this album. The music found in this album is very easy-listening experience. The sweet vocals on “Christmas Time is Here” and the ballad-like piano playing on “O Tannenbaum” just add to the easy laid-back feel of this era of jazz. This is one of my favorite jazz albums of all time. Regardless of the Christmas theme, this is an album that you could listen to year-round.



Hot Cocoa Cookies Recipe

Madison McBride

Writer

Merry Christmas! This is a great recipe and it usually yields about 38 servings that are completely addicting. My family has been making them for years and they are always a favorite.

Ingredients

- 2 cups all-purpose flour
- 2/3 cup unsweetened cocoa powder
- 1 teaspoon baking soda
- 1/2 teaspoon kosher salt
- 3/4 cup unsalted butter, *at room temperature*
- 3/4 cup light brown sugar, *packed*
- 3/4 cup granulated sugar
- 2 large eggs
- 2 teaspoons pure vanilla extract
- 19 large marshmallows, *cut in half horizontally*
- Finely chopped chocolate, *for garnish*

Instructions

1. Preheat the oven to 350 degrees fahrenheit. Line a large baking sheet with a Silpat baking mat or parchment paper. Set aside.
2. In a medium bowl, whisk together flour, cocoa powder, baking soda, and salt. Set aside.
3. In the bowl of a stand mixer fitted with a paddle attachment, beat the butter and sugars on medium high speed until light and creamy, about 2 minutes.
4. Mix in the eggs and vanilla extract, scraping down the side of the bowl with a spatula, as necessary.
5. Add the dry ingredients and mix on low until just combined. Don't overmix.
6. Scoop by using the rounded tablespoon and place onto the prepared baking sheet, placing the dough balls about 2 inches apart.
7. Bake for 8 minutes. Open the oven and carefully slide out the pan. Gently press one marshmallow half in the center of each cookie. Try to work quickly. Push the pan back in the oven and bake for an additional minute so the marshmallows can get soft.
8. Remove the baking sheet from the oven and let the cookies cool on the pan for a few minutes, then transfer to a wire rack to cool completely. Garnish with finely chopped chocolate.

The Tiffinian would like to present some wonderful holiday poetry written by staff and students this holiday season. Happy holidays!

"Do You See What I See?"

By Kinsey Slosser

There's this infinite ring about the holidays
It's not the families visiting after months without one another
It's not the community coming together
Or the common bliss that spreads
While all those can be favorable moments,
It's not all about that

The late night car rides are cozy
The faint Christmas carols in the near distance from the radio
Watching the road ahead; getting lost in the millions of snowflakes
The faint glow of the car's dashboard that provides hardly any light
Immersion in the glorious moment

It's about the gentle nights
Every person sleeps somewhat more silently than normal
The still and modest yellow that comes from the street lights
As snow barrels towards the street and covers up everything on the ground
The lone thing surviving the snow are the car tracks from the only other person awake

It's the secure feeling of the freezing snow as it blankets the rest of the world
With the bitter outside, the warmth of the moment, comforts the feeling of the overwhelming
congelation.

The holidays are still, quiet and placid, if you view it in a righteous way

"Wreath"

By an "anonymous staff member who loves Christmas"

A fragrant circle,
Decked with berries and pinecones,
Greeting all who knock.

"Snow"

By Kale Riley

The snow is finally falling,
The people are filled with glee,
No longer people are brawling.
We are brought together under the Christmas tree,
To celebrate a time of lulling,
And a time where everyone is free,
To watch the snow fall without glooming.

Christmas Poem

by Addy Schumm

To Bethlehem following a star
No bus, no train, not even a car
At midnight mass we listen and pray
The feeling He loves me never going away
Celebrate with family and having so much fun
I always look forward for Christmas to come

Winter > Summer

by Julia Keefe

Air bitter and cold
Vengeance for the summer heat
Snow falls uncontrolled

Winter Poem

by Manny Aller

The snow begins to fall.
The kids start being nice,
Knowing Santa is there, and they're already on thin ice.
Wanting their presents wrapped nice and tight,
And their warm cookies at the end of every night.
As the children fall asleep they listen for the sound of Santa's feet.
Ready to wake up and get all their treats.
While there is always one who wakes up in fright,
With no presents anywhere in sight. :(

"Update"

by Michael Robinson
Illustrator

Update

