



Page 2: CB West Spotlight

Page 3: Music Review: Merry Christmas: Deluxe Anniversary

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CB WEST HOLIDAY TRADITIONS

By Mattelynn Beahan

Markella Bishop, Junior

“My favorite holiday traditions are putting up the Christmas tree and baking desserts with my grandmother.”



Keely McGlone, Junior

“Me and my siblings open our presents for each other on Christmas Eve and we give my dog a stocking full of gifts for her to open.”



Maddie Carver, Senior

“I love playing the dreidel with my family during Chanukah season and eating latkas.”



Erin Fitzsimmons, Senior

“My family and I go skiing together while we’re on break.”



Lauren Molenari, Junior

“Me and my family play a white elephant game on Christmas Eve!”



Katie Morris, Senior

“My family and I love having a big Christmas dinner together with lots of food and a pudding dessert to follow!”



Shea Lubin, Sophomore

“My favorite tradition is going to Ooka on Christmas Eve with my family.”



Elianna Sinisi, Senior

“My grandma hires a Santa and we have a cookie day at her house.”



Sara Lelii, Senior

“Me and my cousins make gingerbread houses every year.”

Dylan Van Saun, Sophomore

“I like to open presents with my grandma and my family. We also eat a nice brunch my grandma cooks for us. It’s a splendid day.”



CB WEST SPOTLIGHT

MEET MR. RUBENSTEIN: JUNIOR HOUSE PRINCIPAL

By Ryan Horst

A professional boxing judge in his spare time, Mr. Rubenstein – the new House Principal for the Class of 2021 – is devoted to helping all students at West solve problems no matter how difficult. Aside from his free time sitting just outside the ring, Mr. Rubenstein also loves to spend time with his family. While here at West, he is dedicated to his new school and its students. Mr. Rubenstein conceded that his transition to West has been slightly challenging at times – after all, he is completely new to the district. Overall though, his experience at West has been nothing short of “awesome.” When asked what he liked most about his time at West so far, Mr. Rubenstein was quick to answer: “What I first noticed was the culture and relationships that have been formed here at West. West just has a different feel, the relationships are so strong, and I just love that.” However, Mr. Rubenstein did distinguish between what he liked best, and what’s been his *favorite* thing about West, namely the Student Activities Fair. “I think it provides so many opportunities for students, and that’s fantastic,” he said with a smile.

High school students will face challenges and difficulties. Here, at West, it’s no different. Mr. Rubenstein will not hesitate to help any West student overcome a problem. Regardless of the situation, Mr. Rubenstein has expressed a commitment to the school and to each of its students. His focus will be on helping the student body meet its challenges, and for each of us to find solutions to our problems. So, do not hesitate to greet Mr. Rubenstein the next time you see him in the building. He will greet you with a welcoming smile and will be one of the most outgoing principals you have ever met.

What would Mr. Rubenstein like to accomplish during his time here at West? you may find yourself wondering. Mr. Rubenstein has stated that his main goal at West is “to continue to add to the great culture and tradition in the building.” Judging from our first few months together, West, we’re in good hands with Mr. Rubenstein.

STUDENT FEATURE: MADDIE BURKE

By Mary Baltes

CSP: Who inspired you to play basketball and why did you choose it as your sport?

Burke: *My dad inspired me to play basketball when I was little, and ever since, I just fell in love with the game.*

CSP: How long have you been playing basketball?

Burke: I’ve been playing for thirteen years.

CSP: What is your favorite part of being on the CB West Girls’ Basketball team?

Burke: I love being on the team because of my teammates; they make it super fun and I love being around them!

CSP: What have you learned about yourself from playing West basketball?

Burke: I learned that I get easily irritated, but when I make a mistake and get angry, I just need to go to the next play and move on, and forget that the bad thing happened.

CSP: What college are you planning to attend? And are you planning to play basketball there?

Burke: I’m going to Penn State University to play basketball.

STUDENT FEATURE: SHANE HICKEY

By Alec Mettin

Have you ever reached for the door in the morning and found it was already open? If so, it’s likely that this generous student was on the other side. Shane Hickey is a junior who enjoys music more than anything else; he is an active member of the CB West Harlequin Club and the West Men’s and Chamber Choir. When asked about the origins of daily habit, Shane says it all began in middle school, though for no apparent reason. However, gratitude urges him to continue his kind deeds. Shane claims that his door holding has never caused him to be late to class, though it’s hard to believe his teachers would be critical of his tardiness. “Occasionally I am recognized for holding the door, and it is extremely gratifying” he says.



Pictured above: Junior, Shane Hickey holding entryway door after school.

On behalf of the entire CB West Community, we say **THANK YOU, SHANE!** For making our lives easier every day!

FRENCH CLUB’S SPECIAL GUEST SPEAKER

By Giulia Pascucci

Cc Jules! Sa va?
Slt Adrien! Jsg comme tjs :) É twa?
B1 mais j’y go. A+!
D’ac. A12C4!



To a non-French speaker this text conversation between Jules and Adrien makes absolutely no sense at all. You may wonder what kind of texting involves a response of “A12C4”? It might as well be a text from Mars. Well, I’m here to tell you that this is typical texting slang that a French speaker would use. This is only a small part of Ms. Bertin-Peterson’s talk to the French club which took place on November 21st. As president of the Alliance Française chapter in Doylestown, she promotes and enhances “knowledge and appreciation of French language and culture” (www.afdoylestown.org). This international organization has 7,000 chapters worldwide that offers a variety of French opportunities. One great way to practice your French is through roundtables which are discussion-based meetings. The Doylestown chapter meets every other Wednesday for a *Table Ronde* which is guided by different topics such as: tell a story about a hat, the color white, a forgotten friend, or a useful utensil. Ms. Bertin-Peterson also described some fun games that help expand your French vocabulary. The Alliance Française also hosts an annual essay contest which is open to all high school students that are studying 4th year or AP level French. This year’s essay topic is to write your own modern twist to a fairytale ending. First place prize is \$1000, \$500 for second, and \$300 for third. The submission deadline is April 30th. For further information see the Alliance’s site at www.afdoylestown.org. Oh, and if you are curious about that text from Mars, come on down to A108 and talk to the French Honor Society/French club advisor, Ms. Brookshaw!

THE REVIEW

SCROOGED

By August McBride

I believe this is the first time I’m reviewing a non-current movie, but I haven’t seen *Knives Out* yet and I think *Terminator* is already out of theaters. So, in the spirit of the season, allow me to recommend a comedic almost-classic: Bill Murray’s very own *A Christmas Carol*, *Scrooged*.

This movie is a modernized version of Charles Dickens’ classic, with a big-city setting and greater focus on comedy. Now, if you don’t like Bill Murray, this may be the movie to change your mind. His usual over-the-top style is rather toned down as he takes on the part of a greedy CEO who mistreats his employees for the highest possible profit. I feel like I don’t need to explain the story because it’s really the same thing as all the other renditions: there’s the sad childhood scene, the ill-fated romance subplot, the hero’s gloomy death, and the high-energy finale. However, what makes this movie recommendable is what it achieves with this classic story. Every Dickens character has been redone with a certain charm that’s just right for the holiday season. All three ghosts are hilarious, Claire’s romance with Murray’s character Frank is heartfelt and believable, and Frank himself is a fresh take on the Scrooge character. He’s funny even when he’s pulling it back. Most of all, he feels like a real human who just *happens* to be horrible instead of a character made for the *sole purpose* of being horrible. To that end, his redemption feels realistic and satisfying, as you could see that he had it in him to be good from the very start. This movie may not get crazy mileage outside of the holidays, even from such a Bill Murray fan as myself, but it’s definitely cool to see an adult-gearred, modern Christmas story. I think you should give it a try if you’re looking to skip *The Muppets* or *Mr. Magoo* or whichever version of *A Christmas Carol* you’ve had laying around since before you can remember. I’ve heard that every family that celebrates Christmas owns a different version, and if you’re one of them, I must encourage you to make this movie yours.

CSP Rating: 8/10

MUSIC REVIEW: *MERRY CHRISTMAS: DELUXE ANNIVERSARY EDITION*

By Cat Both



‘Tis the season for the holiday spirit to flood the speakers of every shop and home with music bearing festive lyrics about the construction of snow people and a jubilant, rotund bearded man leading the army of holiday festivities. To commemorate the 25th anniversary of *Merry Christmas*, Mariah Carey released a two-disc Deluxe Anniversary Edition. The album first produced the smash-hit “All I Want for Christmas Is You,” and caused a tidal wave of perpetual love and idolatry towards the album. The song itself is, frankly, a portrait of wintry disappointment, however “jolly” it may sound. The joy of this hit shows a cultural shift in the culture of Christmas spirit as a whole— and her album does not stray far from that ideal either. The song becomes a smash hit every year as winter rolls around, as it sets up camp amongst the *Billboard* Hot 100 alongside dozens of shiny, new pop songs. (Just last year the song climbed to No. 3.) The 29 tracks on the album make one thing clear: the Christmas spirit is alive and well in 2019. With Christmas fast approaching, this album is the singular one that is chock full of brilliant, modern compositions that embody the spirit of winter. While Carey’s faith is explicit in much of her music, she remains fixated on the secular aspects of Christmas: beautiful lights, mistletoe, peace, and love amongst family and friends. *Merry Christmas* is no *London Calling*, but its cultural impact deserves some recognition, especially the brilliance of composition in “All I Want for Christmas Is You.”

CSP Rating: “A Chilly” 7/10

A “REVIEW” OF THE 2019 FALL SPORTS SEASONS

By Liam Price

With the start of the new school year, many CB West student athletes and their teams also began their seasons. CB West football, boys and girls cross country, golf, soccer, marching band, girls’ tennis, cheerleading, and field hockey all competed this fall and represented CB West with their hard work and integrity on and off the field. Here is a brief recap of each of their seasons:

Football: 8-1 regular season. First-round playoff victory.

Girls Volleyball: 12-8 regular season record. Two big wins against CB East!

Boys Cross Country: 4-2 conference record. Finished third place at league championships.

Girls Cross Country: 6-0 conference record. Conference champions and finished seventh place at state championships.

Field Hockey: 4-14-2 record. Finished the season on a three-game win streak!

Golf: 14-1 record. Conference champions third year in a row.

Girls Tennis: 11-2 record. Suburban One League Champions.

Girls Soccer: 11-6-3 record. First-round playoff victory against Penncrest.

Boys Soccer: 14-8-5 record. Entered playoffs as 23rd seed out of 24 teams. Finished runner up in the state championship at Hershey!



Congratulations to all our fall sports athletes, way to be WEST PROUD!

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

By Anna Winters

Attention holiday season fanatics – this puzzle is for you! Try your hand at this crossword featuring a few of everyone’s favorite holiday tunes.

Clues:

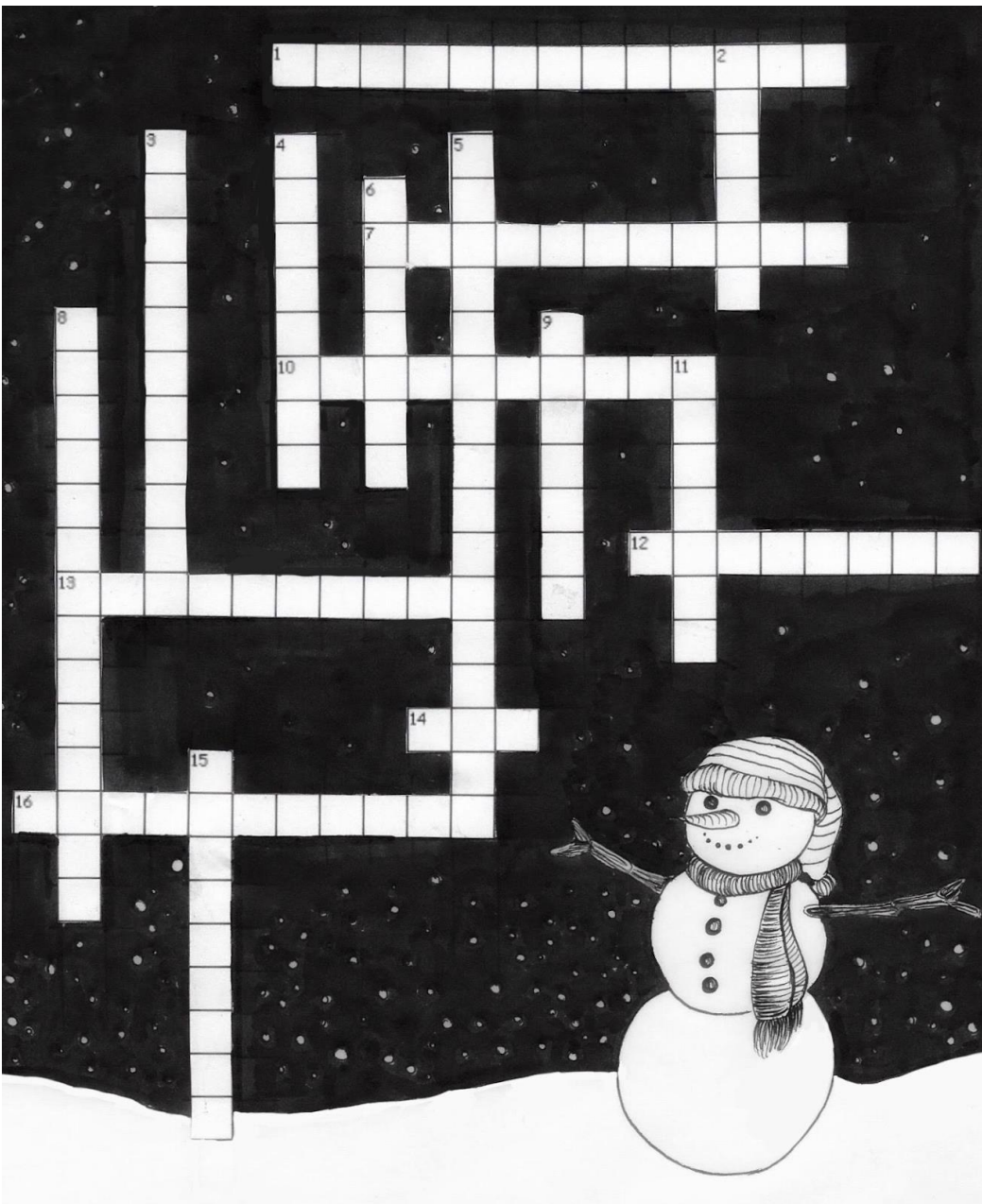
Across

1. Wham! sang about it in 1984
7. What we’re all looking forward to starting December 23rd..
10. Tchaikovsky’s famous ballet
(also handy if you’re in the mood for some hazelnuts)
12. Outdoor activity perfect for snow days
13. “It’s lovely weather for a ____ together with you”
(Leroy Anderson, 1946)
14. This handy garment keeps your head warm!
16. A tasty winter snack
(and the only building material you should ever eat)

Down

2. The glove’s clumsier cousin
3. Popular New Year’s Eve destination
4. “You’re a mean one...”
(Dr. Seuss, 1966)
5. “Walking in a...”
(Dean Martin – and over 200 others – 1959)
6. Cardigan, turtleneck, pullover
8. Official start of winter
9. Like translucent stalactites
11. Santa’s red-nosed sidekick
15. “And since there’s no place to go...”
(Frank Sinatra, 1950)

Flip your paper upside-down to reveal the answers at the bottom of this page. Happy hunting!



TOP TEN HOLIDAY MOVIES OF ALL TIME

By Ella Henderson

10. *Remember the Night* (1940)
5. *Die Hard* (1988)
9. *Miracle on 34th Street* (1947)
4. *A Charlie Brown Christmas* (1965)
8. *The Nightmare Before Christmas* (1993)
3. *It’s a Wonderful Life* (1946)
7. *Holiday Inn* (1942)
2. *The Shop Around the Corner* (1940)
6. *Meet me in St. Louis* (1944)
1. *How the Grinch Stole Christmas* (1967)

Comic by Connor Sturza



- Across
1. lastchristmas
7. winterbreak
10. nutcracker
12. sledding
13. sleighride
14. hat
16. gingerbread
- Down
2. mitten
3. timesquare
4. mrginch
5. winterwonderland
6. sweater
8. wintersolstice
9. iceicle
11. Rudolph
15. letitsnow

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Interested in joining CSP? Email
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