

# THE VOX

Dawson Schmidt,  
sophomore, rocks  
out on guitar.



Jenna Danninger shares her love for and dedication to gymnastics. **4**

Learn how to move on after a Netflix TV. show ends. **3**

Students are joined together through the love of music to form the band called Royal Flush. **13**



Michalyn Mohr, senior, shoots a free throw after getting fouled during the home basketball game against Maquoketa on Friday, December 5th. Teammates Chloe Rice, and Mia Laube, both freshmen, box out their opponents while waiting for the rebound from Mohr's shot. Danielle Dunne, junior, waits towards the back for the pass.

## Hip-hop and hardships: a life dream

Young up and coming rapper, Chris Keller, shares his life and goals.

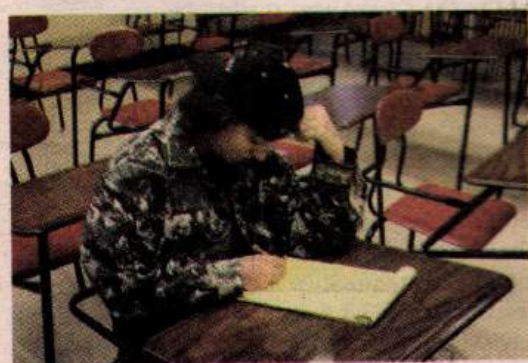
By: Gage Miskimen @GageMisky

Every person has their hardships in life and tend to find an escape in a passion, and for one student, his passion is pretty unique.

Chris Keller, junior, or as some might know him as, MC Chriz, is an aspiring rapper and has been writing and producing raps since he was in 7th grade and got into it because of his love for hip-hop that was already there, "I always grew up with Eminem stuff and my mom always had the Slim Shady LP. But I got into music when Recovery came out and I really got into it and I wanted to get into the culture. I wanted to know everything about the culture of hip-hop," Keller states.

Keller says he didn't really get into making music until a life-changing event happened to him and changed his perspective on things, "There's a rumor that I got stabbed and that's true," Keller said as he pulled up his sleeve to reveal a scar on his arm. "I didn't take rap seriously until I got stabbed. The doctors said it was an inch off from killing me. I walked home after it happened and I didn't truly realized what happened until I felt the blood running down my arm," Keller said. This was seemingly the turning point in Keller's young life for him and changed his perspective on life. "It 'sobered' me up and made me take life seriously and I didn't take anything seriously before that."

Influences are a big part of being a rapper. Rappers get inspiration from other music that they like and work pieces of those artists into



Chris Keller, AKA, MC Chriz, sits down with notepad and pencil to write lyrics.

their own projects and Keller has a various instrumental of influences that he picks from, "I have a list." He stated as he pulled out a piece of paper from his jacket. Included in the list were rappers like Tupac, Public Enemy, Wu-Tang, Nas, and Eminem. Along with these rappers, Keller brought up the 90's grunge band, Nirvana, "When I try to get abstract, I listen to Nirvana. Kurt (Cobain) puts it in a different mood and I don't like simple song titles obviously," Keller laughed as most of the titles of songs on his projects are also abstract and seemingly deep.

Keller's newest project came out on December 3rd. It's a full album titled, *Softly Dying in The White Abyss*. Keller explains it as, "It's a conceptual album and it will do better now, because conceptual albums are more accepted today opposed if I were to release this in like 1991," Keller joked. Concept albums are defined as albums where all the songs center around a central theme or idea and some include a story or plot. A plot-view, it's about a guy who is really close to a loved one, that they lost, so they feel like they can't live without them. It's about dealing with that despair. They become overcome by despair and it leads to suicide. It's one extreme to the next," Keller explained. Keller actually made this album a year ago as a way to deal with his own feelings and depression. "That's not how I feel anymore, it's a year old and it was purely therapeutic so I don't want people saying, 'Oh God, Chris is going to kill himself!' Because that's old feelings. It was therapeutic for me," He said.

He has friends who help him along the way, "I'll use alias because of reputations I guess. Dr. Dusty and Frost of Project Dead Presidents and Isolated Aura are a big part of all this," Keller said.

Like stated before, Keller works hard everyday and spends a lot of his time, writing and producing new songs, "I look at my music and one thing I love is my workflow. I go home and record like ten songs a day and some I lose track of. Hip-hop is therapeutic to me and I have to constantly make songs otherwise I would go crazy."

Keller has dreams and goals he is trying to accomplish and he is passionate in doing so and hip-hop is his way of expressing himself and making a name for himself.

## Caroling this Christmas

By: Savannah Guyer @SavannahMGuyer

Caroling is a Christmas tradition that in the modern times of the twenty first century, most people have forgotten about.

Layel Hofmaster, a junior who is homeschooled through Marion's program, is just one of the few people that are still involved with the old-fashioned precedent of bringing Christmas cheer through singing.

Hofmaster started caroling three years ago with a church group, and has done it every year since with a collaboration of fellow church members, friends, and relatives, "Caroling is enjoyable because it's just so much fun to be around the people you admire most and having a laugh with them but it's also incredible to see the joy you're bringing to people's faces," Hofmaster stated.

Though Hofmaster started the festive singing as just a way to entertain herself, she wants to make it more about the people this year, "Last year was just for fun but this time it's more mission-minded. Though we usually just go around a few neighborhoods, this year I will be going wherever my car will take me. We're planning on going to a nursing home too, since they don't get a lot of kids in there and they seem to enjoy the boost of Christmas cheer as well," Hofmaster commented.

With traveling around town so much, Hofmaster is excited to see everyone's reactions when they open their doors to a group of carolers, "It's always fun to see the little kids' faces because they're so happy just to have us sing to them but the adults really understand the purpose of our caroling and seem to enjoy the tradition," Hofmaster went on to say. With a majority of people taking their Christmas singing to heart, there are still those that won't acknowledge it, "Most people are pretty open to it, but there are some that won't even open their doors," Hofmaster added.

Hofmaster and her fellow carolers wait until around two weeks into December to do their holiday routine, leaving time for temperatures to drop and weather to get a little unfavorable for those who wish to venture out, "The cold is terrible. After awhile, you just start to not be able to feel things. My toes and my fingers always go numb first, so I'm always sure to wear lots of layers of gloves and socks," Hofmaster clarified. Though the rough elements might be too much for some to bare, Hofmaster enjoys it, "There's something so rewarding about being able to warm up with a cup of hot cocoa or apple cider after a long night," Hofmaster went on to say.

While caroling might not be as wildly popular as it used to be, for Hofmaster and her group of singers the singing will remain a way to keep the Christmas spirit alive for years to come.



Layel Hofmaster, junior, rehearses her caroling routine.

### Index:

Opinion: 2 & 3  
Activities: 4 & 5  
Entertainment: 6 & 7  
Christmas: 8 & 9

Senior Interviews: 10 & 11  
Community: 12  
Features: 13, 14, & 15  
Back Page: 16



# The commercialization of Christmas

As years pass, Christmas has become nothing more than a money maker.

By: Wyatt Ehr @wyattehr

Christmas is a time for giving and being together with your family, but this has changed in the past years... and not for the better. Christmas is now a time for spending money or if you're a business, than making money. These days when one hears about the upcoming holiday season they think of the holiday deals that stores will be having, Christmas movies, and decorations for their house. These are all ways that Christmas is commercialized. Although these things may be fun at times, it isn't what Christmas is about.

Christmas, like many other holidays, is now just a way to make money. Companies profit off of the holidays in many different ways. One way is through their "holiday deals". Everybody knows that on Christmas you give gifts to your loved ones, so stores take advantage of this by having holiday sales. This is when they will sell their popular products at a lower price than normal to bring in more customers during the holiday season. Stores will usually heavily promote these sales to bring in as many customers as possible. This has been going on for many years and is now one of the most prominent features of Christmas. Now instead of looking forward to Christmas, many parents are dreading it because it means they are about to drop large amounts of cash on toys and gadgets that their children have been begging for.

Another way Christmas is commercialized is through Christmas movies. It almost seems like Christmas movies have been around as long as Christmas itself, but somehow the movie studios haven't run out of ideas yet. For every holiday season one can expect an abundance of new Christmas movies. Almost all of these movies have absolutely nothing to do with the original religious meaning of Christmas, but no matter what they will

always make money, and that's why they will always come out.

Not all commercialization is entirely bad. Many things such as Christmas movies, music, and decorations can be fun and for the most part don't cause any harm. Sometimes watching a Christmas movie can be a great way to spend time with family during the holiday season. Many other activities such as decorating the Christmas tree and making a gingerbread house can be very enjoyable and a good form of bonding with family. A large majority of the commercialization is nothing more than businesses trying to sell products that people don't need so they can make money. This is why there is too much commercialization.

Although it isn't all bad, the commercialization of Christmas needs to be reduced. Too much focus is being put on what new gadgets to get for the upcoming holiday season, rather than spending time with family and having a good time without spending money on frivolous purchases just because the commercials and flyers said to. No matter what, commercialization is inevitable, and a season without it would truly be a Christmas miracle.



Examples of how Christmas has become completely commercialized. It is just an opportunity for stores to make more money.

## Two-faced tweeters

By: Kaydence DeWoody @kaydewoods

Everyone knows that person that acts different on social media compared to in real life. Like last time everyone remembered they weren't "makin' bank" last night or talking like that either. When certain people act or talk this way on Twitter or Instagram it makes one stop and think who they actually are. There is a great number of people that everyone knows for a fact that don't act like they do on social media and sometimes it can be good or bad.

In some ways it's okay to be different online to an extent. For a lot of shy people or people who are just really quiet, it might be their way to express themselves or to show people how funny or nice they are. Sometimes in person it's not easy for a lot of kids to be themselves around others so on Twitter or Instagram, it really gives them a chance to open up and show people how they actually are.

These kind of social media sites can tell one a lot about a person, so it can either make someone sound great or just close minded. If the information is true, these are great sites to follow people on but a lot of times there are kids who completely alter their personalities online which isn't okay.

For example, everyone can relate to opening twitter and just shaking their heads, seeing all the twitter fights because everyone knows that those people wouldn't even have the nerve to say half of the stuff they do on social media compared to saying it to someone in person.

Everyone knows that they don't act that way in person so why act like that on social media? It doesn't make any sense to be that funny, caring guy around everyone but then turn into that rude, sarcastic guy online that no one likes. The fact that some people think it's okay to turn into a completely different person online is ridiculous. Act the way one would act in person or else it just leaves people with a false impression when they meet those kind of people in real life.

Same with Instagram, Sundays are meant for selfies, right? Correct, until one person puts one too many filters on it and looks like a model but then comes to school Monday looking homeless. This might be why people have trust issues. They can post as many pictures as their little heart's desire as long as they actually look like them.

Moral of the story: These kinds of people just need to be themselves and not alter their personalities or looks over social media. It's dumb when people try to be someone they're not and it just leaves people with a false impression.

## Editorial Policy

The Vox is a public forum student-run newspaper dedicated to informing and entertaining the students of Marion High School since 1934. It's published six times a year by Tri-Co Printing Company and is distributed during the final block of the school day by the journalism staff.

The staff will report as accurately, fairly, and objectively as possible. All activities will be covered by the staff to the best of their abilities, without showing favoritism to any group.

Letters to the editor will be printed from anyone in the community. However, The Vox retains the right to edit articles without changing the writer's intent. There is a limit of two hundred words per article and all letters must be signed in order for them to be published. The decision to include them rests solely on the staff and advisor. Turn letters in to room 22 or to any staff member.

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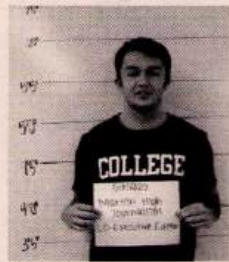




## Misadventures of Misky

-Commentary-

Not too long ago, during the summer after freshman year, I made a very honest mistake that made me more rational in decision-making. During that ill-fated



**Gage Miskimen**  
@GageMisky

summer, I was over at a friend's house and we had just woken up and the three of us that were there decided to eat some breakfast. One of my friends decided to leave the room for whatever reason and thus fate was set for the decision I was about to make. A couple minutes after he

had left the room, I heard the shower turn on. "Hey, you know what would be funny?" I said to my friend that was still at the kitchen table with me. "If I went up to the shower and dumped ice cold water on our other friend." This was possibly the worst combination of words I have ever uttered in my entire life.

I felt the adrenaline that came with the anticipation of a great prank about to be pulled as I walked up the steps to the upstairs bathroom. With each step, the foundation of my destiny was being poured permanently into my life. The door wasn't just unlocked, it was cracked open as well. "Perfect." I thought to myself. As I tip-toed into the bathroom with a gigantic cup of water filled to the brim with ice cubes, my heartbeat was well above the normal rate. My evil plan was about to come together. I stealthily reached my arm up above the curtain and tipped the cup so all the ice and water poured out into the shower below. I stood there for a second snickering, pleased with what I had just accomplished. That was until I heard the voice from the shower questioning who was in the room. It was a woman's voice and she sounded very confused and I just froze in place. I just stood there and my life flashed before my eyes. I had never been more afraid in my entire existence. I legitly thought my life was over at that point in time. There were so many things I hadn't got to accomplish yet. I hadn't even gotten my driver's license at the time. I had just dumped water on my friend's mom. Just so everyone understands this, at the age of fifteen years old, I ignorantly dumped a tall 32 ounce cup of ice cold water on a grown woman who was just trying to innocently take her morning shower. As soon as I heard the female voice, I sprinted out of the room and completely cleared about 15 steps in one leap. I'm serious. It was the most graceful thing I had ever done. I bounded like a gazelle across the African plain. I retreated straight into the basement to find my friend that was supposed to be showering, sitting there on his phone. "What are you doing? Why aren't you in the shower?" I asked frantically. "What are you talking about?" He said. As I explained my situation to him, his eyes grew wide and he just shook his head in disbelief.

In my mind so many questions swirled around. I was really just confused about everything at this moment in my life. "Why was the door unlocked? Why was it cracked open? Why didn't I notice the women's clothing on the tiled floor? When exactly was the moment when this all went wrong?" Though everything was worked out in the end, I learned a few lessons about life. Always lock the bathroom door, and apparently which surprised me most of all is that my friend's mom is very calm and well put together in drastic situations.

## Engle and Fish take on basketball season

Fish gets ready for his first season on varsity while Engle gets ready for his last.

By: Chloe Mallon @Chhhloe17

Winter time means Christmas, presents, and everyone getting into the holiday spirit. Christmas isn't all that goes on in the winter though, there is also boy's basketball. This season the team has big plans for success and possibly going to state.

This year the basketball team will be moving Baylor Fish, sophomore to varsity. Along with having Craig Engle, senior, who's been on varsity since he was a sophomore. The team will hopefully have a great chance at achieving their goals.

Engle has loved basketball his entire life. Playing since the age of 4, he has continued to practice constantly in order to someday play on varsity and take the team to state. "I switched to Marion my freshman year, and was really excited about playing basketball with this group of guys." Engle comments, "Everyone on the team was very welcoming and it was awesome." Engle got into basketball because of all of the family members he had that played basketball. "My brother, dad, and sister all played. That is probably the main reason I started to love basketball." Engle shared.

Fish was just asked to move up to varsity this year. "It was an honor to be asked to move up," Fish commented. "It was a great feeling." Fish wasn't very nervous about moving up to the team, mostly just excited. "I love basketball, and I love the team we have this year." Fish said. "We can really do great things this season if we get in shape and work together."

Both Engle and Fish have

become great friends since they have been on the same basketball team together. "We love having Baylor on the team," Engle said with a laugh, "We love picking on him." With this being Engle's last year of basketball, he really is glad that he can make it a good one with great players on the team. "We will be really good, we have so much potential." Engle says confidently.

With the basketball team focusing and working as hard as ever to try and go to state this year, winter break is approaching. "We will keep working out even with no school. We like to stay in shape and work together with a great bunch of guys." Fish said.

The basketball team will keep improving and working hard together to make an amazing season happen.



Craig Engle, senior, dribbles the basketball across the court, looking for an open player to pass the ball to.

## Danninger cartwheels into a busy schedule

By: Chloe Mallon @Chhhloe17

Most kids in high school are constantly complaining about their busy schedules, how many practices their coaches give them, and how they have no time to do their homework. Nothing compares though to the amount of pressure and stress that a gymnast has to deal with. To be a Gymnastics it takes skill, commitment and long hours of practice.

Jenna Danninger, sophomore at Marion High School is a gymnast who has the heart and dedication for a sport she loves. Almost every night of the week her parents take her to the gym to work-out and practice her routines for upcoming competitions that she hopes to place at.

For the past 11 years Danninger has fallen more in love with gymnastics with every practice, meet, and state competitions. This sport isn't just a drag to her every night, she calls it home. "Everyone there is my family," Danninger comments. "They can be frustrating sometimes, but they're always there for me." She loves spending her night practicing routines that she gets to perform with her teammates who are supporting her the entire way through.

"Sometimes practices are hard to fit in to the schedule with lots of homework and wanting to get a good amount of sleep at night, but I make it work by not procrastinating and getting my work done early." Danninger comments. With Danninger being involved in Show choir also, it makes for Monday nights to be very chaotic. She has to quickly do her homework, go right to gymnastics, then spend the rest of her night at show choir. "I love all of the activities I'm involved in and I wouldn't trade it for anything." Danninger said with a smile.

Danninger has about 5 meets a year. She loves when she has meets. "It's a stressful time getting

ready for them, but when I'm there with my team, it's so much fun." She said. "We have state competition in March and then Regionals in April. Last year I placed 3rd in bars and only missed regionals by 4/10 of a point. This year I'm hoping to make it."

Danninger isn't the only high school gymnast. Many of the students devote all of their time into this one sport, hoping that maybe someday something bigger will come out of it. "The work is all worth it." Danninger said. "I have made so many friends that are like family to me, and I just have so much fun doing it. I have also learned so many life lessons."

Danninger enjoys every single night she gets to go and spend with her gymnastics family. She has a love for the sport and for the people she does it with and that is truly amazing. Most people have no idea what their favorite thing to do is at any age and it's a great thing when people find what their true passion is so young, and for Danninger, it's gymnastics.



Jenna Danninger, sophomore, performing a gymnastics move in the wrestling room.



## Vasey focuses on her own beat

Vasey voices her opinion on wrestling cheerleading.

By: Skylar Miller-Baker @SkylarMBaker15



Amanda Vasey, junior

The girls sit on their mats, pounding away. Unable to breathe because their screaming at the top of their lungs, hoping for the wrestler to pin their

competitor to the ground. As the meet goes on the girls cheer for many different wrestlers, they cannot contain their excitement as each wrestler steps onto the mat.

Amanda Vasey, junior has been doing wrestling cheer since her sophomore year, and she's glad she made the decision to do it. "I actually volunteered for Mrs. Quinn and since I didn't have anything to do in the winter, she persuaded me to go out," Vasey stated. She enjoyed it so much that she decided to stick with it.

Trying out for cheer is a long process. The cheerleaders must first write an essay about their personality qualities and why they should be on the cheer team. Then they must design the locker sign for their particular sport. Then they must make sure they know the "onward cheer" before the tryouts actually begin. "We learn the onward cheer at cheer camp, before tryouts actually begin and tryouts are stressful and nerve racking at

the same time," Vasey exclaimed.

Wrestling cheer has been a fun experience for Vasey it, "Wrestling cheer is fun, and it has allowed me to make a lot of new friends." Vasey commented. Just like every sport though, there's good parts and there's bad parts. "My favorite part is the long Saturday meets, getting to hang out and cheer for the boys. The worst part, is having to get up for the long Saturday meets," Vasey stated.

The meets are very fun for the cheerleaders. They get to cheer for the wrestlers as they compete for the win. "Sometimes the boys actually get to pick out the cheers that we are going to do before they compete. It's the cheer that might motivate them to win," Vasey said. Vasey also hopes that the wrestlers get to state this year because that means that they get to go to states with them and cheer. "Yes we get to cheer at state for the boys. We do have to go to districts and cheer first though, I mean unless the boys don't want us there," Vasey stated.

It's safe to say that Vasey really enjoys wrestling cheer. She loves going to the wrestling meets and cheering for the boys, and just having a good time with all the other cheerleaders that have become her friends. Vasey may have gone out for cheer just for something, but now it has become one of her passions.

## Starting the Speechless season

By: Kylie McAllister @smileeyyykylie

Getting on stage and performing in front of others and being judged is not most people's strong suit, but for some it is something they enjoy and look forward to.

Ariel Carter, senior, is one of those people that enjoys getting in front of others to perform. Carter has not always been this way though because she used to be really shy. Carter joined speech her sophomore year which has really made her be able to come out of herself and feel comfortable on the stage. She joined because, "The seniors that year talked about it a lot and it sounded interesting. I was really shy so they said it would be good for me." For the past two years she has been in group mime and Carter has really grown as a person because of it. "Group mime helps you to express yourself without words and so that's helped me to use both words and just myself, with body language and everything and how to behave better," said Carter. Being in speech has really paid off for her, and was a great experience so she encourages others to join too. "I would encourage people to go and tryout for speech because it makes you come out of yourself and realize that it is not as scary to be in front of people and present yourself in different ways. You also learn more about yourself," commented Carter.

Even though Carter feels comfortable on stage she still gets nervous ev-

ery time. "Every time I am nervous, but it is not because I don't think I will do well, it is because I'm so excited that I worry I'll mess up from my excitement," said Carter. She is very excited for her last year of

speech but, "the past two years we've made all-state for speech so it's kinda stressful to maintain that, but at the same time it is my last year so I'm just excited for it," Carter said. In order to be successful and make it to all-state for her last year she has to be able to practice with the three to six others that will be in her mime group. Being in speech is a time commitment but it is really based on what the group wants. "I practice one to two times a week, but it is easy to balance with my other activities because it depends on the group for scheduling so we can be flexible with each member of the group," Carter commented.

The speech team will be competing at WaMaC, districts, and state, and will also be hosting WaMaC this year.

Carter has really broken out of her shell because of being and involved in speech, and hopes that she can achieve all of her goals for her last year.



Ariel Carter, senior

## Indoor soccer isn't just a game

By: Kaela Halvorson @kaelswhales



Carter Stigge, Senior

As winter and snow is headed our way, he steps into Cornell Colleges gym to play soccer. He puts in hard work in the winter and it pays off for Spring soccer,

which is outside. There are some very big differences between the two seasons and he is up for the challenge of handling them both. Playing all year round helps improve his skills and the skill of his teammates to make them succeed in the spring. With more practices he hopes to have better success with his teammates for the school season.

Carter Stigge, senior, fills his winter playing with the Marion Indians indoor soccer club, "Half of the kids are home schooled and the rest are just kids at Marion," said Stigge. The season got to a fast start, and he had no time to think about the spring season even though he is playing with some of the same students. It started at the beginning of November, with practicing with the

same kids, Stigge stated, "Yeah, I think it helps because any sort of thing that I play with the same kids I do in the spring will help with communication on the field." Winter club helps these students succeed in the spring.

Stigge likes to remain social while balancing practices and homework. "I definitely do think it helps build friendships because I know pretty much everyone, but you make better friendships through the club," said Stigge. As well as making friendships it's helped him with the other sports he does throughout the year. Preparing for the indoor season is harder than what most students would think, conditioning is everything in indoor soccer. Stigge makes sure he prepares himself for these rough practices. "I run three to four miles a day five days a week before the season," stated Stigge, about being prepared for this year. With good preparation comes a good season, they started out with three wins and zero losses in the first couple games. As the season continues he hopes for the same success, and to have fun with his teammates in both seasons for his senior year.

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# Christmas crock-pot recipe will satisfy all the chocolatey needs

Learn how to make a super easy, super delicious recipe using only four ingredients, and use it for any and all festivities during this holiday.

By: Alex Coleman @lts\_GalPalAI

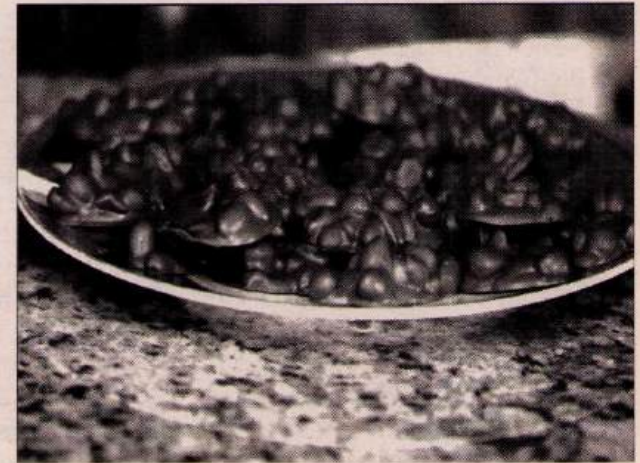
For this holiday recipe, there's only four ingredients. It makes a large amount of clusters, and is relatively inexpensive as recipes go. Plus, who doesn't want to have the most delectable food at the party? These will have your friends craving more. The ingredients are as follows: 2 pounds of white almond bark, 4 ounces of dark chocolate (the original recipe called for German chocolate but any chocolate can be substituted, such as dark), a 12 ounce bag of semisweet chocolate chips, and 24 ounces of dry roasted peanuts. That and a crock pot.



After two hours of waiting for these delicious little things, turn off the crock-pot and grab that wax paper mentioned earlier. Lay out a couple sheets, and find a spoon to use for the chocolate goop. Spoon the mixture out onto the paper in clumps, leaving a bit of space all around it in case it were to spread. After busting your butt to get as many clumps as you want, get rid of the pan and spoon. After all of you're waiting, you'll have to wait a while longer. This is a good recipe to make at night so that you can go to bed and dream of snowmen, Santa Claus, and twinkling lights, and in the morning you'll have chocolatey goodness waiting.



Plug in a crock pot and gather the ingredients, eventually you're going to need a roll of wax paper as well but let's focus on the preparation first. Dump all of your ingredients into the slow cooker, but don't be too eager, these babies are going to take a while. Set the crock-pot to low, and for one hour sit back and let the heat do its thing. Listen to some Christmas toons, pop in It's A Wonderful Life, decorate your tree to get yourself in the spirit for these bad boys. After an hour, stir to combine all the ingredients, then you can settle back down for another hour. During the second hour, stir again, and then keep stirring every 15 minutes or so. Just keep drinking eggnog and singing carols in between.



## What to do over holiday break

By: Kasi Rupert @kasibellerupert



"Spend time with parts of my family at Christmas parties and stuff."

- Michael Schirmer, '17



"Go outside and make snow forts."

- Peter Ward, '17



"I don't know, sleep?"

- Jacob Hugh, '16



"Hang out with my friends."

- Miranda Bowen, '15



"Hang out with my sister."

- Paige Wieneke, '18

## Celebrities locked up behind bars

By: Deshaun Quinn @Quinntower\_2

In today's society we have seen a lot of the well known people in the world often locked up in prison or being sent to some expensive rehab center. Most often these people repeat this process multiple times before it actually clicks or even goes through their brain. These are today's celebs in jail.

We start out with a couple that a lot of real housewife watchers will know. During the season finale of season six of The Real Housewives of New Jersey, Teresa and Joe Giudice were sentenced with jail time after being found guilty of mail, wire and bankruptcy fraud. Since Both are parents of four kids, Teresa will be serving 15 months in prison while Joe is taking care of the kids. After Teresa is done Joe will be serving 41 months in prison. Teresa is

stationed in the Alderson Federal Prison located in West Virginia. Lets just say this couple will be know as lovers behind bars.

Last on the list the New England Patriots tight-end Aaron Hernandez. Hernandez was arrested back in 2013 for the murder of Odin Lloyd who was found near his home. Hernandez is being held in the Bristol County Jail until his court date which will be sometime in January 2015. He is also being accused of two more murders which will be handled in May 28, 2015.

So to all the celebrities out there that like to act buck wild and go crazy. Please at like manners exist in the world we all live in today. If any person happens to become famous one day. Lets all hope they don't end up on the long list of celebrities in jail.

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# DIY Chalk "Countdown to Christmas" Plate

Inspired by Michael's Pinterest Packet. Let the countdown to Christmas begin!

By: Emma Hartman @Steal\_Your\_Hart



**Supplies needed:**  
Large, sturdy plastic plate  
Oil-based marker pen, darker than the plate  
Chalkboard spray paint  
Cardboard box  
Sandpaper and painter's tape



**Step 1:**  
Use painter's tape to cover the outside of the plate, to protect the portion of the plate you do not want chalkboard paint on. Make sure it is relatively even. Use sandpaper to give surface texture so the paint sticks better.



**Step 2:**  
Place plate inside of cardboard box, make sure all surfaces around your working area are protected (use newspaper if needed). Follow the directions on the spray paint bottle. Coat plate 2-3 times. Make sure there are no runs.



**Step 3:**  
Use oil-based pen to write "Countdown to Christmas" around the edge of the plate. Let paint completely dry. Then write the number of remaining days until Christmas in the center! Use easel to display.

## First book to the 'After' series doesn't impress

By: Alex Coleman @Its\_GalPalAI

Ladies and gentlemen of the metaphorical jury, ask yourselves, what is it that makes a good book? Is it the overall plot, the emotional connection between the reader and the characters, the dialogue, or perhaps even the detailing? All of these can be true, and most of the time are the make-or-break points on the awesome-book scale, but there are other things that tie into a book's swag levels such as subject matter, and the content used within the genre constraints. This being said, Anna Todd barely makes it to two and a half out of five stars for her fanfiction-made-book *After*.

The basis of the plot line is this: Tessa is a goodie two shoes with a prissy boyfriend to match. Now she's well on her way to Washington Central University, only to find that she's rooming with a gawky, tattoo covered girl who wears too much makeup and not enough clothing. Steph, her roommate, has a group of equally punk looking hooligans to stand by her side. There is one particular boy in this group that is partial to the plot, Hardin Scott. He's, as everyone could've guessed because this book is a walking stereotype, a jerk. He uses every girl he can get his hands on, leading him and Tess to resent each other. Shockingly, but of course not, he falls 'in love' with her, and she falls into his trap. With undertones of alcohol abuse, family drama, and lots of twists in the 'Hessa' romance, this book is seeming to be a good read, right? Not exactly.

Nearly the first 200 pages of the book are complete garbage, and the reason that the book gets such a low rating. For the whole beginning, it's roughly a mixture of Tessa complaining about everything in her life. When she isn't whining about college, her mom, or her roommates promiscuous closet, she's com-

plaining about how Hardin is a huge dip wad. This in itself is annoying, but what's worse is the fact that she also frequently mentions how attractive he is. Hardin said something overly rude? "Oh look at how pretty his eyes are". Hardin does something unforgivable? "His tattoos are so intricate and interesting". Not only this, but Tessa seems to get cornered by Hardin a questionable amount of times. There's a number of hot and heavy scenes between the two, majority of which end the same way. "I have a boyfriend," she says, "and I love him very much and he loves me and blah blah blah I'm a stupid teenage girl who won't admit what she wants." I'd be constantly on my man period too if the girl I had feelings for kept acting that way.

The only reason this book doesn't get one star or lower is because, towards the middle of the book, it does become more interesting. If a reader can make it past 200 pages of agonizing pain and their eyeballs potentially bleeding, then things do begin to fall into place. Maybe it's because they grow used to the writing style, or because they're so wrapped up in seeing if Tessa will ever grow a pair and admit she wants Hardin, or simply because they enjoy torturing themselves. The book is mediocre at best, and definitely not deserving of 1 billion reads on Wattpad (the website it was originally on). That's right, a seventh of the world population has read this, and a majority gush about shipping 'Hessa' and how amazing the author is. Frankly, there's been better writing from fifth graders, and unless someone has a strong love for reading, they probably shouldn't waste their time with this 582 page bucket of sap. Or they could hop on the bandwagon and have enough to complain about to satisfy their needs. Who knows, maybe they'd even like it, after all, everyone loves a book that ends in a plot twist.

## 17 and suffocated

-Commentary-

It's funny how as you get older, there is one thing that never really seems to change. That's how adults you've known your whole life seem to treat you. Especially relatives, it's like this weird Jedi-mind trick thing that happens when they look at you and instead of seeing a grown teenager, they see you like a little baby with a full diaper and drool hanging off your chin.



By: Savannah Guyer @SavannahMGuyer

There's an assortment of these kinds of family members, and if you're lucky, you may only have to come across them once or twice in a year. There's the standard Aunt, who insists on swooning over how tall you've gotten and how you've "finally grown into your face", yet insists on reminding you exactly what you looked like fourteen and a half years ago with your chubby cheeks and a head so bald it could rival the before pics of a Rogaine Hair Loss and Hair Regrowth Treatment commercial. Then there's that one sketchy uncle, you know the one. You're not quite sure how you're related to him but somehow he always ends up at all the family gatherings and you're pretty positive he probably saved the life of one of your grandparents back in the day or something and now your family feels bad for him so they just let him hang around. He's the one always offering to take you on some crazy adventure or trying to get you to help accessorize his state of the art RV from 1975 in an attempt to bond, as if running around the neighborhood with homemade potato launchers and gluing rhinestones on the side of his home is anything to make a connection over. In addition to all this crazy, there's your dear old grandma who sits back and watches these things occur from her stereotypical rocking chair. This is the woman who has nurtured you alongside your parents for years, yet wastes no chance to watch you squirm over the attention being given to you. It's like she's the Jedi master of it all, making sure to remind you that you don't have it that bad when all she forces you to do is hold her hand through the Channel Seven news she watches every night at nine P.M. on the dot, and occasionally the study sessions she requests from you on the newest piece of technology.

Though these people may be well on their way to suffocating you to death with their constant nagging, antics, and overall knack for making you highly uncomfortable, remember that they do it out of love. So don't shy away from listening to the stories that you've already heard 118 times before, don't be afraid to grab the bedazzler, or watch Judge Judy all day if that's what they so desire because in the end, they've done countless things for you that are highly unpayable. While their affection is smothering, savor the time you have with them and bask in the innocence of adolescence, because one day there will not be someone to reminisce on the way you once we're as a child, and that will be your job for someone else.



# Happy

The top five Christmas songs are:

1. Jingle Bells
2. Silent Night
3. White Christmas
4. Winter Wonderland
5. Have Yourself A Merry Little Christmas

Christmas wasn't declared an official holiday in the United States until June 26, 1870. And Oklahoma was the last U.S. state to declare Christmas a legal holiday, in 1907.

## Christmas songs

By: Alex Coleman @Its\_GalPalAI

The original candy cane had a shape different than the modern day design. It was straight, all white, and hard. The first candy cane was made over 350 years ago.

From classics like Jingle Bells, to the more recent editions like Last Christmas, Christmas music has been a beloved tradition for many years. Some people complain about the festive music being played too early, and some think it should be heard all the way in November. Regardless, Christmas songs are an annual treat known by all, and are very important to the holiday season. Sophia Kabance, freshman, thinks that these cheerful songs are very important. "As Buddy the Elf says, the best way to spread Christmas cheer is singing loud for all to hear," Kabance commented. Along with Kabance, Jenna Floyd, senior, agrees that the tunes play a big part in the holly jolly atmosphere of the Christmas season.

"Christmas songs are so much fun, they put me in the Christmassy spirit," Floyd explained. Besides the fact that they spread cheer and set the mood for the giving holiday, Christmas carols have had an interesting history. For instance, Jingle Bells (which was actually meant to be a Thanksgiving song) was the first Christmas song in space. Up On The Housetop, a song about old Saint Nick delivering presents to children, was the first song ever to mention Santa Claus in 1864.

Aside from the history of carols, everyone seems to have their own personal favorite. "Baby It's Cold Outside is my favorite because it's a classic, but it's still different from other Christmas songs because it's a duet and it's on the slower and smoother side," Kabance said. Some people like certain songs for the sound of it, while others like songs for the traditions associated with them. "My favorite is Carol of the Bells because we have a tradition of singing it every year in choir, and it's really fun," Floyd commented. Whatever the reason, everyone has a favorite Christmas song, and if they say they don't, they're probably lying.

From listening to Christmas carols alone in a room, to bundling up and going door to door to spread the cheer by literally caroling, everyone enjoys listening to these well known melodies in their own way. "There's lots of history behind the songs and you can learn a lot from the," Floyd explained. Whether they're just listening to them, singing along, or enjoying the history, everyone should enjoy the holiday tunes.





# Holidays



We throw a White Elephant party every year and people bring really funny presents. That's my favorite.  
-Sarah Beebe, sophomore



Going over to my grandparents house and making cookies with them is the best part of Christmas.  
-Jade Carter, junior



My favorite part was when my entire family decorates the Christmas tree together, we also do an elf on the shelf now.  
-Juliet Curits, sophomore



The best part of Christmas is going sledding at my grandparents with all of my cousins. Sometimes we even hook the sleds to the tractors.  
-Issak Hahn, sophomore



I like going to the 11 o'clock church service because I get to spend time with my family.  
-Stephanie Hedtke, senior



The Germans made the first artificial Christmas trees out of dyed goose feathers.



The world's tallest snow woman was built in 2008. She weighed 13,000,000 (yeah, 13 million pounds). She is 122 feet 1 inch tall, with skis for eyelashes, tires for buttons, and arms of entire pine trees.

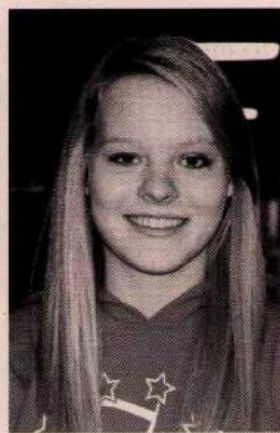
What are the most asked for gifts this year at Marion? According to a poll of 50 students, these were the results...

17% said money, 9% said clothes, 8% said shoes, 5% said laptop, 4% said concert ticket, 2% said camera, 1% said new car speakers, another 1% said office chair, another 1% said Ps4, yet another 1% said gift cards, and the final 1% said food.





**Name:** Spencer Herren  
**What are you going to miss about Marion?** Mr. Semler, Mr. Kettman, Ms. Dostal, and Jack Serbousek.  
**Plans for the future?** Going to Kirkwood for business management.  
**Quote or piece of advice?** Yee Yee.  
**What is your favorite holiday memory?** Getting Jeep parts last year.



**Name:** Erica Kelly  
**What are you going to miss about Marion?** The teachers and seeing everyone everyday.  
**Plans for the future?** A career in criminal justice.  
**Quote or piece of advice?** Live like you're going to die tomorrow!  
**What is your favorite holiday memory?** Christmas morning, opening presents as a family and playing cards.



**Name:** Cherokee Heindselman  
**What are you going to miss about Marion?** The cheer team.  
**Plans for the future?** Go to med school.  
**Quote or piece of advice?** Don't date anyone under 18.  
**What is your favorite holiday memory?** Making cookies with my grandma.



**Name:** Ian Kelly  
**What are you going to miss about Marion?** All the great teachers. Especially Mr. Messerli.  
**Plans for the future?** Attend University of Arizona to major in computer software.  
**Quote or piece of advice?** Never take the easy path.  
**What is your favorite holiday memory?** Not having school and hanging out with my family.



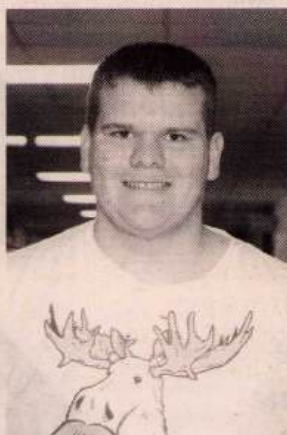
**Name:** Skyler Herring  
**What are you going to miss about Marion?** My friends.  
**Plans for the future?** Write books.  
**Quote or piece of advice?** People like books are more than their cover. The inside was always better.  
**What is your favorite holiday memory?** Every day is a holiday!



**Name:** Jerrad Kibsgaard  
**What are you going to miss about Marion?** Mr. Semler.  
**Plans for the future?** Do something.  
**Quote or piece of advice?** N/A  
**What is your favorite holiday memory?** None.



**Name:** Austin Howe  
**What are you going to miss about Marion?** BFF Brooke and @ everyone else.  
**Plans for the future?** Associated degree at Kirkwood then UCLA.  
**Quote or piece of advice?** Just because you're trash doesn't mean you can't do great things. It's called a garbage can, not a garbage cannot.  
**What is your favorite holiday memory?** Eating food.



**Name:** Kenneth Kiene  
**What are you going to miss about Marion?** Football and annoying my teachers.  
**Plans for the future?** Working where I make money.  
**Quote or piece of advice?** You can't catch flies with honey, but you can catch honeys by being fly.  
**What is your favorite holiday memory?** Going sledding for wrestling practices.



**Name:** Elissa Johnson  
**What are you going to miss about Marion?** Zrudsky.  
**Plans for the future?** UNI for biology and forensics.  
**Quote or piece of advice?** Join wrestling.  
**What is your favorite holiday memory?** Baking cookies.



**Name:** Abby Kolarik  
**What are you going to miss about Marion?** My track ladies and coaches.  
**Plans for the future?** Go to college to be an elementary teacher.  
**Quote or piece of advice?** Learn how to park!  
**What is your favorite holiday memory?** The gift exchange every year with the fam.



**Name:** Jacob Keehner  
**What are you going to miss about Marion?** My friends.  
**Plans for the future?** Become a busy adult with many important things to do.  
**Quote or piece of advice?** Try your hardest to reach your goals.  
**What is your favorite holiday memory?** My first Christmas with my family.



**Name:** Nick Kramer  
**What are you going to miss about Marion?** Football and friends.  
**Plans for the future?** Undecided.  
**Quote or piece of advice?** Destroy what you eat.  
**What is your favorite holiday memory?** Annual meeting between squad.

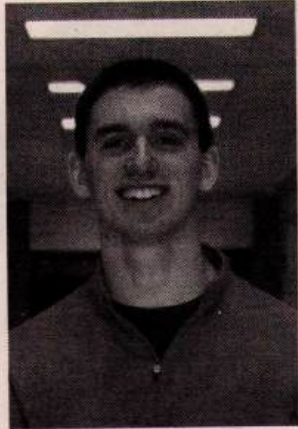




**Name:** Kallie Kriegel  
**What are you going to miss about Marion?** Being involved and the friendly environment.  
**Plans for the future?** Going to college and doing a job in the medical field.  
**Quote or piece of advice?** Live life to the fullest and don't worry about what others think of you because life goes by fast.  
**What is your favorite holiday memory?** Sitting around with my big family and catching up on life laughing and playing games.



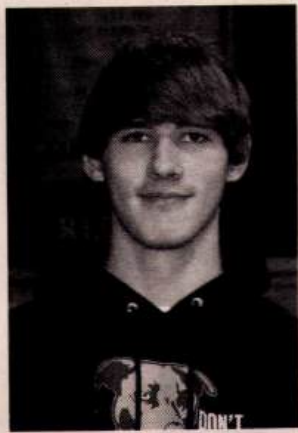
**Name:** Mitchell Livingston  
**What are you going to miss about Marion?** Mr. Raymond and all the friends I've made.  
**Plans for the future?** Kirkwood.  
**Quote or piece of advice?** "Mitchell is the best student ever." -Mr. Raymond  
**What is your favorite holiday memory?** When the Christmas music starts.



**Name:** David Kuhn  
**What are you going to miss about Marion?** Pre-physics, muggle studies, and passball.  
**Plans for the future?** Get a degree in Chemical Engineering at a 4-year university.  
**Quote or piece of advice?** Just remember that you are unique. Just like everybody else.  
**What is your favorite holiday memory?** Decorating the Christmas tree.



**Name:** Sam Livingston  
**What are you going to miss about Marion?** I'm going miss some of my favorite teachers and close friends in my class.  
**Plans for the future?** Going off to run in college and become successful in college itself creating a bright future and major in psychology, minor in art.  
**Quote or piece of advice?** The most unexpected friends always turn out to be the best.  
**What is your favorite holiday memory?** Going trick or treating with my brother.



**Name:** Mason Lakose  
**What are you going to miss about Marion?** Friends.  
**Plans for the future?** Civil engineer.  
**Quote or piece of advice?** Take it easy sometimes.  
**What is your favorite holiday memory?** Don't have one.



**Name:** Triston Lochner  
**What are you going to miss about Marion?** Drumline, pep band, Erik Trilk, and people's reaction to my school picture.  
**Plans for the future?** Apprenticeship in carpentry and possible music study.  
**Quote or piece of advice?** "Why try to fit in if you were born to be different?" -Dr. Seuss  
**What is your favorite holiday memory?** Always the excitement of Christmas morning.



**Name:** Austin Lanteri  
**What are you going to miss about Marion?** I will miss the memories I made by my participation in the arts.  
**Plans for the future?** Attend law school and perhaps run for the highest office.  
**Quote or piece of advice?** "History repeats itself, because no one was listening the first time." - Anonymous  
**What is your favorite holiday memory?** Spending Christmas with my family as a young child.



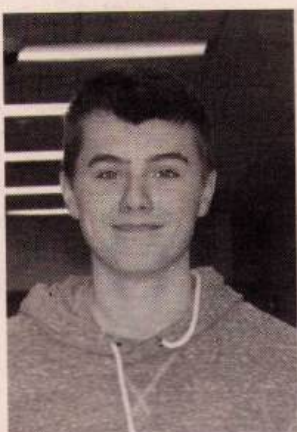
**Name:** Austin Loney  
**What are you going to miss about Marion?** Seeing my friends and harassing Mr. Raymond.  
**Plans for the future?** Joining the Army and eventually dispersing justice to the streets as a police officer.  
**Quote or piece of advice?** Mr. Raymond is a psycho. Stay away from him.  
**What is your favorite holiday memory?** Playing Cards Against Humanity with family on Kwanzaa.



**Name:** Allison Legrand  
**What are you going to miss about Marion?** Cheer and squad.  
**Plans for the future?** Attend Kirkwood then transfer to Iowa.  
**Quote or piece of advice?** Do your homework.  
**What is your favorite holiday memory?** Going to my grandmas and playing games.



**Name:** Kirsten Mahoney  
**What are you going to miss about Marion?** My teachers.  
**Plans for the future?** Get a job working with animals.  
**Quote or piece of advice?** Be happy with what you have.  
**What is your favorite holiday memory?** I get to spend time with my uncle and other family members.



**Name:** Tyler Lerch  
**What are you going to miss about Marion?** Friends and school in general.  
**Plans for the future?** Go to UNI.  
**Quote or piece of advice?** Do your homework.  
**What is your favorite holiday memory?** Going sledding with my whole family on Christmas!



**Name:** Shawn Mangrich  
**What are you going to miss about Marion?** I'm really going to miss Mr. Raymond.  
**Plans for the future?** I don't know.  
**Quote or piece of advice?** Do what you want. I'm not your mom.  
**What is your favorite holiday memory?** That time we celebrated a holiday.

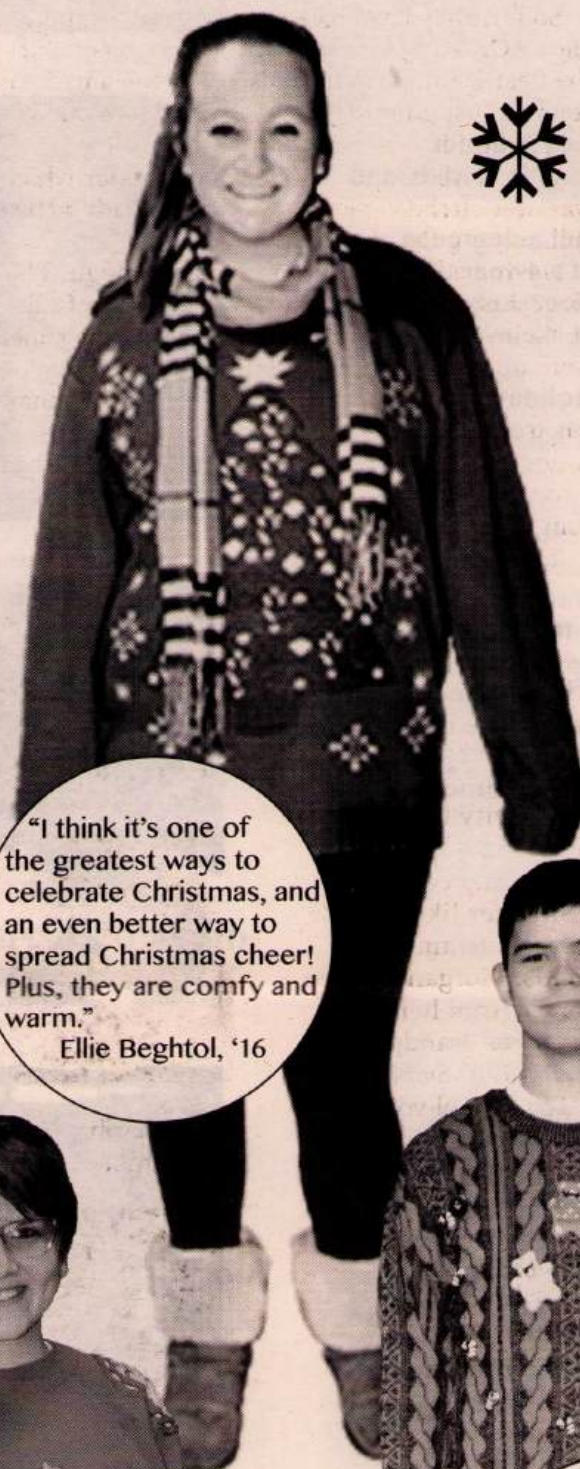


# UGLY SWEATER CONTEST WINNERS



"I love everything about Christmas...including my sweaters! I have SO many Christmas traditions...it's hard to pick my favorite. I think it's just a fun way to help celebrate the season!"

Jackie Little



"I think it's one of the greatest ways to celebrate Christmas, and an even better way to spread Christmas cheer! Plus, they are comfy and warm."

Ellie Beghtol, '16



"I think the trend of ugly Christmas sweaters is great! It's a good way to get into the Christmas spirit in a silly way. While the one that I wore was totally itchy, uncomfortable, and crazy hot, I was able to get over it because of the smiles it brought to others' faces...and therefore my own!"

Mrs. Sarah Doyle



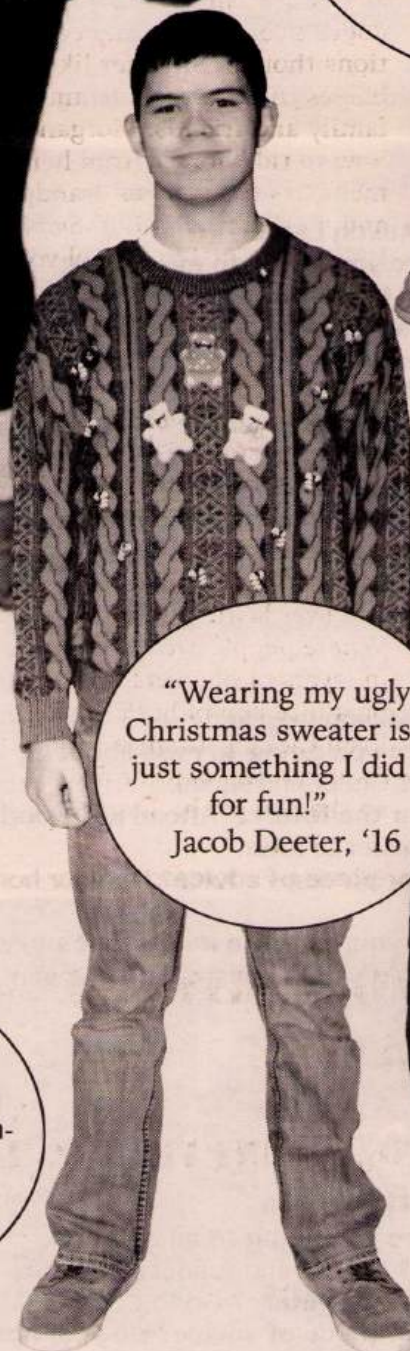
"I bought my ugly sweater because of the puff balls on it. I like ugly sweaters because they are festive."

Emily Meeks, '15.



"I love shopping at thrift stores and this gave me a chance to wear cheesy vintage clothes."

Mrs. Kayla Pins



"Wearing my ugly Christmas sweater is just something I did for fun!"

Jacob Deeter, '16



"I don't find my sweater ugly because it has cats on it. It's loud and gets me in the Christmas spirit."

Sarah Garringer, '17.



# Royal Flush rises up the scale of success

An in depth look at the MHS students who are a part of the band Royal Flush.

By: Wyatt Ehr @wyattehr

There was once a group of students who were all brought together through the love of music. These students form the band called "Royal Flush." The students who make up the band are Dawson Schmidt, 17', (bass guitar/singer), Trevor Short, 16', (electric guitar/singer), and Luis Corona, 17', (drummer). They have been together since the beginning of the school year.

The idea of forming a band came to Schmidt when he was younger "playing the game Rock band showed me how fun it would be to be in a band, inspiring me to start my own," Schmidt explained. After playing guitar for two years, Schmidt met up with Short and they began playing guitar with each other frequently until eventually they recruited their drummer, Corona, and formed the band Royal Flush. They chose Corona because, "the drummer we were previously considering was into far different music than us, and we just really wouldn't have worked out," claimed Schmidt.

They practice together every Wednesday after school in Corona's garage, "My parents don't care at all that we play here. They support me all the way," said Corona.

When it comes to the number of bandmates

they prefer to keep it small. "We are absolutely not looking for new members. We have a good setup. The three of us work very well together and another person would just slow us down," explained Short.

The biggest influences in Royal Flush's music are "Green Day definitely. But our songwriting is inspired by our experiences in life especially with women and school," said Schmidt.

So far, they have had a very positive experience. "Creating and combining ideas is one of the best feelings. When you're having a bad day you can just go into the garage and jam out," said Schmidt.

They have had one performance so far which was at a birthday party where they made \$20 to split among the three of them.

Having a band isn't always easy though. The biggest challenge Royal Flush has had to face is, "scheduling definitely. There are many times where our schedules will conflict, and finding times to practice can be difficult. Another challenge is finding our own sound, we don't want to sound like any other band. We want you to hear a song a be like 'thats definitely a Royal Flush song,'" explained Short.

Their goals for the band are to "make this our



Royal Flush members performing at a birthday party. (Photo taken by Luke Mitchell)

future. I would like to make a career out of this. But I definitely want to keep in touch with them and hopefully stay together," explains Schmidt.

Royal Flush doesn't have any plans on releasing a project anytime soon. They are still working on songs for the upcoming album.

For anyone who is considering starting their own band, Schmidt's advice is to "find people who you get along with, and who like the same kind of music. Most importantly don't do it for the fame and money. Do it for the love of music."

The group of students then return to class where they will anxiously wait for the school day to end, so they can return back to the garage where the music comes alive.

## A sophomore's passion to ride

By: Deshaun Quinn @Quinntower\_2



Morgan Swanger, sophomore

Being a freshman in high school, who would've thought that she would ride horses as a hobby during summer?

She blends in with everyone else but has a unique skill that some would admire. This girl is Morgan Swanger.

Morgan Swanger, sophomore, has been riding horses ever since she was a little girl. "I ride horses at my aunt and uncle's ranch in Montana", states Swanger. She explains that when her aunt and uncle used to live in state she would go over to ride horses all the time. But since they have moved away she tries to ride every summer. Swanger's family is also very active in horseriding as well trying to make it a common fam-

ily activity. "All my family rides horses with me too. It's just a fun family bonding activity that we're all involved in" says Swanger. She doesn't compete in any competitions though. Swanger likes to ride horses in her free time and with family and friends. Morgan learned how to ride horses from her family members such as her grandparents and mother and father. Swanger is also involved in school volleyball and soccer during the school year. Even though she is actively involved in all these sports. "I play club volleyball during the summer". Some would say she is a very talented sophomore.

Even though the summer has drifted away and winter has hit. Swanger is stuck here during the winter time to dwell in the cold and ever lasting weather of Iowa. Where people are bundled up in layers of blankets and sipping on a nice cup of hot chocolate. Even though summer is far away, Swanger can wait for next summer so she can get back on the saddle.

## How Christmakkah is celebrated

By: Kasi Rupert @kasibellervpuert



Ali Algharib, Sophomore



Anwir Algharib, freshman

With Christmas approaching fast, everyone is excited to bring out their holiday cheer. Colorful lights, shimmering snow, and gift-giving joy is beginning to fill the town. Something that most people tend to forget, though, is the other holidays. In areas where Christians are most of the population, like Iowa, people leave out the other religious holidays to focus on their own. Although there aren't people at Marion High that celebrate Hanukkah, Kwanzaa, or other Christmas-conflicting holidays, two brothers are able to harmonize Christmas with their family's Islam beliefs.

Ali Algharib, sophomore, and Anwir Algharib, freshman, at Marion High, does enjoy Christmas like everyone else. "Christmas is the most fun and the most festive, and you can see family that you don't get to see normally," Ali expressed. This holiday, originally meant to celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ, has been changing to a modern meaning of simply uniting families for many years. "I like Christmas because you can give things and get things," added Anwir. The Islam faith has a different

view of Jesus. "We don't see Jesus as the son of God, just a prophet," explained Ali. Anwir described, "They don't believe that Jesus died for our sins." Even though their religion has different views, the family still has traditions and fun celebrations.

"We celebrate Ramadan around May by fasting for three days, we can't eat food and only drink water," Ali described. For the holiday after Ramadan, known as Eid ul-Fitr, the Algharib family celebrates in a unique way. Ali reminisced, "For dinner, we get together with my Dad's friends and their kids and gather around food on a garbage bag with full-on Middle Eastern food, like lamb head. Lamb head is good." Eid ul-Fitr was originally created to celebrate Abraham's willingness to sacrifice his son to Allah, the Islam god. The Muslim faith is often wrongly judged by people that have a different religion. Anwir voiced, "I'm okay with [the Muslim faith], I have nothing against it, but I don't like the extremist Sunni Muslims. My family is Shiite, which is much more peaceful." However, different faiths have been becoming more widely accepted in society.

Though there aren't many people that practice the Islam faith in Iowa, it is one of the top three religions in the world. The religion power-struggle between Christian, Jewish, and Islam has lasted for thousands of years in the Middle East, so why keep this tradition in the United States, land of the free? As the non-Christian numbers grow in the population, there are also more people that tolerate different religions. It's fine to keep Christmas, but it should be able to coexist with other religious holidays.

## MOUNT VERNON DRIVERS EDUCATION

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## Lending a helpful, holiday hand

MHS students gives back to community for this season.

By: Amery Bruce @AmeryBruce



Some Marion students contributed to help the families in need of gifts under the tree this holiday season.

The Holiday Giving Project is an opportunity for all of Marion High School to give to the community. Students and faculty get presents for other families throughout the town. The Holiday Giving project starts in November and ends in December, and a few students get to go on delivery to bring the presents to houses.

Madison Richards, senior, has gone to deliver presents two times. She got involved in delivery when her mentor teacher asked if anyone was interested, and she volunteered. She chose to go because she wanted to see the final outcome of all the hard work from everyone involved.

Each year she usually delivers to one house. Normally they only meet about two people while there, but are giving the presents to more. The families usually get more than they expected. "They expect the bare minimums, so when they get more, it makes them ecstatic," Richards said.

She believes that the Holiday Giving Project has had an effect on not only the community, but on herself. "It's easy for other people to be judgmental of the families, until they see what they're going through," Richards explained. Seeing the joy it brings to the families, she makes sure she gives a lot during this time of year.

Richards says her favorite thing about going is seeing the families reactions. "The families are always so grateful and happy," She said. It warms her heart to know that the kids are going to get a Christmas after all. She has never gotten emotional on a delivery, but she said the families have. "The families almost always cry," Richard stated, "It makes you realize how much the whole project means to them."

Richards thinks that everyone should give as much as possible during the Holiday Giving Project. It makes a difference in the community, It's a great experience, even if people just buy presents. However, if given the opportunity, students should definitely go on delivery. It's an experience that can change a persons outlook on the families, and even their life.

## Power in performance enhancing

By: Noah Walter @Tyrannoahsaurus

He heads over to the bench to finish his last set of his workout routine and then heads home after an hour of hard work and determination in the weight room. The training doesn't stop there for most people. In order to enhance the workouts benefits, one might drink a protein shake, a blended drink of protein powder mixed with milk or water depending on the athlete's preference. Athletes and anyone who works out might do this because protein is used to produce muscle.



Jack Serbousek, senior

Jack Serbousek, is one of these people. Serbousek works out for the two sports he is involved in, football, and wrestling. Taking these supplements seems to help, "They make you stronger", states Serbousek. Those four words mean so much to any athlete. Nowadays when athletes aren't out on the field or on the court, they are in the weight room trying to make gains in strength, endurance, and explosiveness. Jack believes using his powder protein that goes by the name of Titan1 works for him, "It helps me get an edge," he explains.

Protein isn't the only supplement people can take to better their workout. Pre-workout can be used to get some extra energy for the hard work ahead of them. Pre-workout is also used to increase their metabolic rate, increases work rate, and increases endurance when working out in the weight room. Serbousek uses the pre-workout called C4, "It really gets you amped up," says Serbousek. This is also a powder and can be mixed in almost any drink.

This dynamic duo of powders is what drives some athletes to success in the weight room. "If you're stronger than the guy across from you and have good technique, you'll beat him," states Serbousek. Serbousek drives for success and has the will to win.

Supplements can improve muscle growth, enhances endurance when working out, and if athletes get the right ones they can even taste quite good. With all the time Jack and other athletes spend working out, it's no wonder they have started using supplements.

## Bruns' big New Years Eve bash

By: Savannah Guyer @SavannahMGuyer

December thirty-first is a time most people look forward to; the resolutions, downtime, and the excitement of the new year are some of the most intriguing moments of beginning another 365 days.

Taylor Bruns, junior, knows exactly how to kick off January first with a bang. The Bruns' have been throwing an annual New Years Eve party for five years now, though it didn't start out as a yearly event, "Nobody else was having them, so my brother and I just decided to do it one year. We had a couple of friends over, and we just kept doing it," Bruns commented. The desire to celebrate New Years started with Bruns' love of winter, "I just really like this time of year. I love being with my family and getting some-time off of school. Ending the year with people I really like by throwing a party, it just made sense," Bruns went on to add.

The Bruns' usually invite a few friends over, the festivities of the evening being pretty laid back, "We usually go on walks, watch movies, and play board games. One year we played the Ouija board and another we tried condiment pong," Bruns stated.

Alongside the activities, food is another important factor, "We serve the party essentials: pizza rolls, chips, candy- basically anything junk food," Bruns added.

The day after New Years isn't always the most enjoy-


able for Bruns, the majority of her time being spent restoring the content of her house, "The worst part about throwing a party is the clean up afterwards. If any guests stay past ten, they have to help. Mostly it's my brother and I cleaning, it's our responsibility before we can do anything else. We usually clean, and then sleep," Bruns clarified. Regardless of the picking up, Bruns adores her New Years tradition, "I love being with my friends and laughing and having a good time with them. It's all about making memories," Bruns commented.

Although the parties have been successful for the most part, there will be some changes to this year's in order to try and make it more enjoyable, "We will try to separate the boys and girls better, invite less people, but other than that everything will be the same," Bruns added.

With the successfulness of past years, Bruns cannot contain her excitement for this seasons addition to her memorable moments and the highlight of 2014.



Nick Wheeler, senior, bounces off of an old water bed in the Bruns' backyard at one of their first New Years Eve parties in 2012.



FAMOUS SINCE 2007

# Wit's End

## COFFEEHOUSE



# Making money on New Years

Spending their New Years Eve babysitting for others .

By: Ashely Lappe @frappelappe



London Wagner, freshman



Sophie Reider, freshman

Every winter, Christmas comes and New Years follows. For most students these few weeks are all about spending time with family, hanging out with friends, and of course, enjoying a break from school. To some people, on the other hand, winter break is a great time to make some extra cash during the holidays. Whether a family is going on vacation and needs someone to watch their pets or they plan to go out and party on New Years but need a babysitter, the holiday season is the perfect chance for young students to make money.

London Wagner and Sophie Reider, both freshmen, have been babysitting for a few years now, and Wagner even watches a couple of kids each Thursday. Every New Years eve she babysits three or four kids and plans to continue to watch them in the New Years of the future. For Wagner it is important for her to make some more cash, "I started babysitting to make money," she said, but she also enjoys spending time with the kids, "I like watching the kids put up the decorations and get excited when the ball drops," she added. Many people who are looking for babysitting jobs find it difficult to find families to help, but for Wagner it was easy, "Our families have been friends for a long time," she stated. Finding families within one's neighborhoods, friends, or family is the easiest way to find a family to babysit for.

Reider doesn't babysit as often as Wagner, "I've babysat on New Years like once or twice. I don't do it every year," she said, but she also enjoys doing it, "It's fun to see the kid's reactions while they wait for the ball to drop, but it sucks having to make them go to bed". When she babysits on New Years she is usually given the task to watch three kids from the ages of five to nine years old. It helps that she is familiar with the kids because they are either family or family friends. She began this job when her parents had a New Years Eve party and she had to watch the kids.

It can be tough to work during the winter, it involves leaving the house in the bitter cold and dealing with the rough snow and ice, "I like to stay in and try to stay warm during the winter and I hate driving when it's slick," Wagner stated. As freshmen they don't have another job and babysitting is the only income of money they have, but it's a nice way to get started making some cash.

## Do you love or hate the winter?

By: Lexi Morgan @Lexi\_Morgan17



"A visit from the big fat guy in red because I love Christmas!"-Skylar Cook, senior



"I hate it because its too cold and you have to put on a coat to go outside."-Emma Collins, freshman



"I love winter because most wonderful time of the year when you wake up and its a snow day."-Jamie Draeger, senior



"I love winter because I love the holidays but I hate it because of the cold."-Danielle Dunne, junior



"I hate winter because its too cold to run."-Maddie Bach, senior



"I love it because I like wearing winter clothing and the snow is pretty."-Madison Wilson, sophomore



"I love and hate winter because yoga pants."-Myles Bach, freshman



"I hate it because I don't play winter sports."-Kaleb Lochner, sophomore

## The main trouble with braces

By: Ceci Pitstick @Ceci\_Pitstick



Kaylee Bruce, freshman



Melanie Noble, sophomore

Metal mouth, train tracks, and brace face are just a few of the nicknames that get thrown around when it comes to braces, even though many people have them or have had them. On average, 75% of all children receive braces. That 75% consists mainly of people in high school according

to collegenet.com Kaylee Bruce, freshman, is one of the many lucky people who had braces. Bruce didn't think braces are all bad. "I did like having them at first until they started hurting," states Bruce. Bruce is lucky to have gotten them off. She had them for a little over a year and a half, and she got them off on the December 1st. Bruce's mom had braces, but her dad never did. She has a younger sister who is already going to the orthodontist trying to plan for braces for her. Hopefully her sister will have braces on for less time than she did.

Then there are people like Melanie Noble, sophomore, who has had them twice, once for one year, and she currently has had them for one and a half years. Hopefully this will be the last time she has braces and her teeth will be how she wants them, and stay that way! Noble is hoping to get her braces off this school year sometime. "It is too soon to know when I get my braces off," comments Noble.

Many people don't follow the food guidelines. "I don't follow the food guidelines because I

love popcorn and gooey foods," mentions Noble. Many people don't follow the food guidelines because according to the guidelines people with braces can't eat popcorn, hard candy, or chewy candies. She shares that the worst part of having braces is all the food that gets caught in them. Most people with braces end up finding interesting ways to pick food out of their braces when they don't have the tools the orthodontist gives them. Some of these strategies includes, using bobby pins, or tooth picks. Trying to get food out of braces is one of the hardest things to do, not including staying away from all the foods people are not allowed to eat.

Not many people like braces, but Bruce is happy that she can see and feel the difference in her teeth. Bruce didn't have many problems with her teeth, she had one tooth that was up too high, and lots of spaces in her teeth. This is why she is lucky enough to only have them on for a year and a half. Many people don't like the look of braces and want to get invisalign, but Bruce says that it wouldn't look good eating with them and she would prefer just good old metal braces. It also doesn't help that invisalign is so expensive, even compared to braces, at five thousand dollars. "I wanted to get braces because my teeth didn't look the best and I wouldn't smile, now my smile is bigger and better," replied Bruce. She can finally eat anything she wants, and she is very excited. She can eat caramel and she can eat sandwiches in public without having food all over her teeth. "It feels really good, but really weird," states Bruce. Bruce describes the feeling of her teeth as slimy, but no matter how slimy she is glad to have them off. She now has such nice teeth, she should smile everywhere she goes. Having a great smile can boost confidence, and that is what it did for Bruce and will do for Noble.

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## Seek &amp; Find

Skye Reece,  
freshmanTrenton Garbers,  
junior

## Fun Facts

About 30 percent of the population visits a post office during the holidays.

American military installations overseas receive 30 million pounds of holiday mail each year.

The U.S. Postal Service delivers 15.8 billion cards, letters, and packages between Thanksgiving and Christmas Eve.

Americans buy 25-30 million real trees and 8-12 million artificial trees each Christmas season.

95 percent of Americans say they celebrate Christmas.

The U.S. produces 1.76 billion candy canes each year.

\$11,026,900 is the value of the most expensively decorated Christmas tree, displayed in the Emirates Palace (UAE) in 2010.

88% of Americans put up trees for Christmas.

93% of Americans exchange gifts over the Christmas holiday.

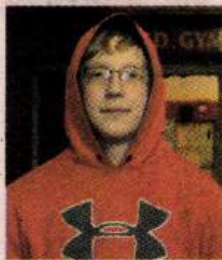
Fun facts obtained from: history.com



By: Andie Scott, guest cartoonist

## The Sophomores of MHS

Get to know some interesting facts and interests of a few of the students that walk the halls of Marion High School.

Spencer Dobler,  
sophomore

**What school activities are you in?**  
None.

**What are your interests?**  
Hanging out with the squad and partying.

**What is something no one knows about you?**  
Reginald is my first name.

**Who was your first crush?**  
Melaina O'Brien.

**Who would you most want to have dinner with, dead or alive?**  
Barack Obama so I could fly on Air Force One.

Spencer Keeton,  
sophomore

**What school activities are you in?**  
Football and take charge.

**What are your interests?**  
Girls, money, ball.

**What is something no one knows about you?**  
My middle name is Tracy.

**Who was your first crush?**  
Jessica Alba.

**Who would you most want to have dinner with, dead or alive?**  
God because he's God.

Darian Brandt,  
sophomore

**What school activities are you in?**  
Cheerleading, and ODIM.

**What are your interests?**  
Hanging out with friends, and cheer.

**What is something no one knows about you?**  
I played volleyball.

**Who was your first crush?**  
Spencer Keeton in fifth grade.

**Who would you most want to have dinner with, dead or alive?**  
Senora Fowler because she is my amiga.

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