Garden Grove Unified School District

Volume IX Issue III November/December 2012

The Matador Monthly

BOLSA GRANDE HIGH SCHOOL

9401 Westminster Boulevard Garden Grove, California 92844

School News

• Winter Play, "A Night of Skits" @ Black Box Theater
Thursday, December 13, 7-9 PM
Friday, December 14, 3:30-5:30 PM & 7-9 PM
• Pictures with Santa @ ASB room
Monday-Friday, December 17-21
• Winter Choral & Instrumental Concert @ Don Walsh Auditorium
Thursday, December 20, Time TBA
• Winter Holiday Assembly
Friday, December 21
• Winter Break
Saturday- Sunday, December 22- January 6
• Return from Break
Monday, January 7

World Quickies

There is a school in Tokyo, Japan called Tokyo's Santa Claus Academy. True to its name, this school trains people to be-- as the Japanese say, "Santa-san." The "Santa school" agenda includes learning magic tricks, how to behave like Santa Clause, and how to answer children's difficult questions. One such question is "If my house has a security system, how will you come and delivery my presents?" The school's answer? The system should recognize Santa Clause and let him enter.

On Monday, December 10, Uzbekistani President Islam Karimov placed an informal ban on Father Frost and his wife (our Santa Clause and Mrs. Claus). Much like Dr. Seuss's fictional character, the Grinch, the authoritarian government of Uzbekistan is said to be stealing Christmas. Reports have indicated that Karimov is attempting to rid Uzbekistan of its Soviet culture, starting with eliminating the celebration of popular holidays, such as New Year's Eve and Valentines' Day.

On December 14, 20 year-old Adam Lanza entered Sandy Hook Elementary School in the once peaceful town, Newtown, Connecticut, and opened fire, leaving 26 people dead—20 of the victims were young children of ages 6 to 7. Also amongst the deceased were 6 adults, including the school's principal Dawn Lafferty Hochsprung. The shooting at Sandy Hook Elementary is the second-deadliest school shooting in the US, following the 2007 Virginia Tech shooting.

Joy to the Matador World

Hubert Pham
Front Page Editor

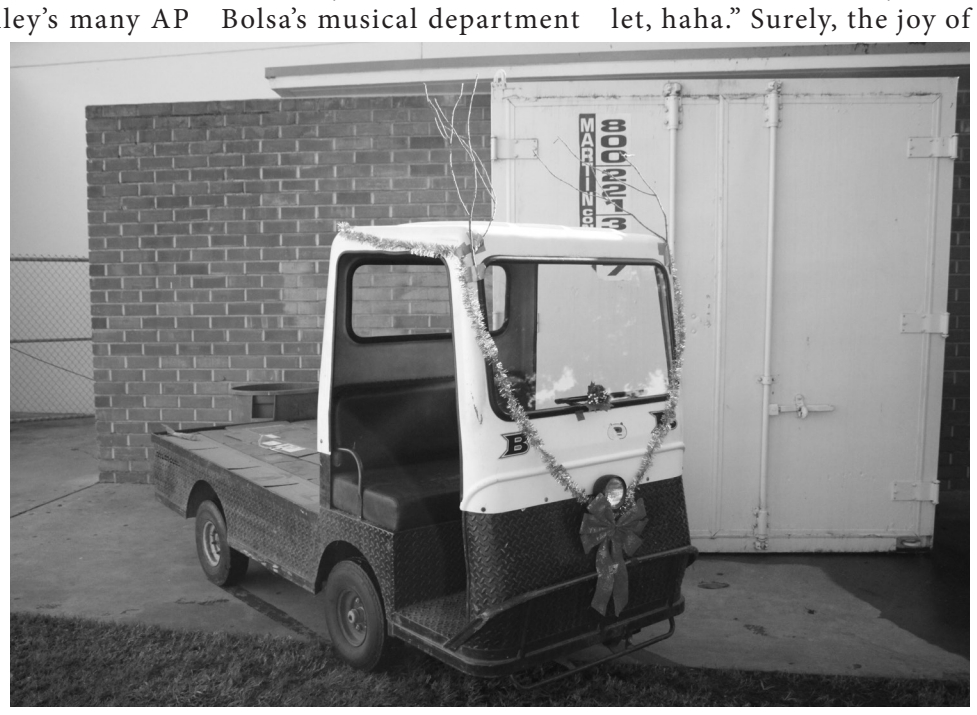
It's the most wonderful time of the year-- and it's here! Bolsa Grande High School staff and students have already prepared for the long awaited Winter Break, which comes with the two widely celebrated holidays: Christmas and New Year. Not only is the holiday recess a very much-needed stress reliever, but it is also a time for jolly festivities with friends, renewals of family bonds, and hopeful thoughts of resolutions. With the holiday celebrations in mind, teachers, the associated student body, students, and even our lovely custodians have all flaunted their Christmas spirit in joyful anticipation for our great escape. From fluffy, red Santa hats to beautifully ornate Christmas trees, Christmas spirit was present this whole week and was seen all around the campus.

Perhaps you spotted our custodian, Tony, with a bright-red Santa hat cruising around all week on his remarkable electric reindeer. The janitorial cart cosplaying as a reindeer would surely warm your hearts! Bolsa classes are also reveling in the spirit of the season and have incorporated certain Christmas elements to their classroom. Uncertain of the various available sorts of Christmas trees? One can spot an albino Christmas tree decorated with golden, glittering ornaments in Mr. Tonthat's classroom!



Mr. Tonthat's albino Christmas tree.

Christmas cheer would not be complete without the jingles of Christmas carols, and Mr. Stanley's many AP Psychology students can surely gift you with a carol-- that is, a Psychology-remixed carol! In addition, Bolsa's very own faculty has decided to sprinkle competitivity into the holidays by holding its very first annual Christmas Sweater Contest, with Ms. Steele winning first place for the best sweater and Ms. Terflinger being awarded for the worst Christmas gear.



Our janitor, Tony, flaunting his festive spirit by decorating his car. Make sure check it out!

Many of Bolsa's many organizations and clubs hold annual Christmas traditions to prepare the staff and the student body for the holidays. Maybe you caught a glimpse of Santa Claus in the ASB room and pinched yourself, only to find out that the jolly fellow was not a hallucination after all. You see, Bolsa's very own Photography Club cleverly organized a photo booth held during lunch from Monday, December 17th, through Wednesday, December 20th, allowing you to take a picture with your friends and with the addition of a jubilant, real-life Santa Claus. Featuring a Santa Claus sporting his traditional attire, a warm smile, and a deep "Ho ho ho", it was an opportunity no one should have missed! But that is not all! On Thursday, December 21st, Bolsa's musical department held its Winter Choral and Instrumental Concert. This year marked an alteration in tradition, as the band, the orchestra, and the chorus department joined together for one concert filled with classical, popular Christmas tunes. Adding to the Christmas customs, our very own ASB also arranged a toy drive to donate gifts to children in need. ASB not only assigned a child to homeroom classes that wished to participate but also included the designated child's wish list and thereby, helped spread the Christmas cheer to those who would not receive a Christmas present otherwise.

Furthermore, Secret Santa, a Western Christmas tradition in which members of a group or a community are randomly assigned a person to whom they anonymously give a gift, was organized by the numerous and various clubs of Bolsa Grande High School. To name a few Secret Santa practitioners, M.E.S.A., Bolsa's music department, Key Club officers, and ASB all partook in this amusing tradition. Notable for their annual dedication to fulfilling each other's wish lists, ASB happily exchanged their gifts on Friday as with the other clubs. When asked about the average price she spent for the secret club member that she was assigned to, Agata Ho (12) replied, "$150! It burned a hole in my wallet, haha." Surely, the joy of giving has outweighed the result of an empty wallet!

Two weeks off school? Certainly, many would agree that two weeks is ample time to take a break from early morning awakenings, stressful schedules, high school drama, and any school-related work. The mention of Winter Break would surely ignite a student's bursting impulse to exclaim his or her anticipation of it. If I received a dollar for every time I heard the words, "I can't wait for Winter Break"... Yet, be forewarned, oh dear, fellow Matadors. Finals loom in the imminent dark shadows of Winter Break's end and are just around the corner. It would be advisable not to entirely shut off one's brain and to not erase the extensive collection of the valuable information acquired this school year! Sadly for some, homework and study packets have been assigned over the break. Do not procrastinate, for it will be the death of your recess relaxation! Get it off your hands from the start and enjoy the rest of your break, carefree.

The beginning of the school year filled with our hard, vigorous work takes its bow from the school year stage and leaves us with the blessing of a two-week vacation from school. Joy to the world-- or, joy to Bolsa!

One Text Makes a Huge Effect

Kevin Le
Staff Writer

It is clearly stated in the California Driver Handbook: "Regardless of age, it is illegal to drive a motor vehicle while using an electronic wireless communication device to write, send, or read text messages, instant messages, and emails." This is a key concept to understand when you're taking your permit test. This question is almost always given on any version of the test you may be taking, and most of the time, people answer this question correctly. After all, it IS common sense, right?

Wrong. It's amazing how there are still people that text or use electronic devices while they drive. One would think it would be basic knowledge to know how much danger texting while driving can cause. Driving is an action that requires your utmost attention. You have several mirrors you need to consistently look at, you constantly have to scan your surroundings to determine whether it is safe to turn left or right, pay attention for traffic lights and signs, etc. Any attention diverted away from recognizing your surroundings and put into looking down at your lap for a text message is a crash waiting to happen.



Avoid texting and driving at all cost! There are lives around you that you are endangering as well as your own.

Our brains respond to certain sounds in different ways. You may become more alert when you hear the sound of your alarm clock ringing in the morning; you may breathe a sigh of relief when you hear the sound of the school bell ringing. Most of us respond to the tones of our cell-phones with two questions: "Where is my cell phone?" and, "Who is calling/texting me?" Our attention is usually immediately pulled toward the direction of the phone. This poses a huge threat to a person who is driving.

Imagine an average scenario, with a person driving comfortably toward the green light, down Westminster, with the usual amount of traffic there is in the area, while texting. The light turned red a few seconds ago, and said person was not paying attention because he took a second to look at the text he had just sent. He crashes into the car in front of him, causing no severe injuries to either person, but causing major damage to both cars involved, and hundreds of dollars in repair costs. Was it really worth it to respond to a text immediately?

Texts are meant to be a convenient means of communication, made for people with busy lives so they can respond quickly whenever they are free. People can respond to texts whenever they want, but people expect replies the instant the text is sent out. It isn't worth responding to a text while driving, when the same thing could be accomplished when you stop driving and/or arrive to your destination. I suggest that people stop, and think for a second about what they could possibly lose by choosing to respond to a text five or ten minutes late. If you choose to not text or handle electronic devices while driving, not only would you be obeying the rules of the road, but you could also save the lives of both you and your fellow members of the road.

'Tis the Season to be Sneezy

Dominic Nguyen
Editor-in-Chief

When we were all children, we had a natural, inborn habit where whenever we felt an inch on our nose, we prepared our hands in order to sneeze and cover our lovely little palms with infectious, tiny droplets. Our parents scolded us because it was simply improper and would only aid spreading germs around to others as our grabby hands might touch bathroom doorknobs, other childrens' toys, our own food, etc. Thus, they taught us to avoid using our hands and instead use the inside of our arm in order to cover our noses. This way, the vast region of our forearm could blockade the mucus coming from our nostrils. It sounds simple enough!

It has come to my attention that over the years, using one's arm in order to cover a sneeze is actually quite pointless for the most part. Just imagine: You feel a tingling sensation within your nose. It suddenly rushes through your nostrils, tickling the hairs inside, and you have an uncontrollable urge to let the sneeze rip. You place your arm up in front to act as a shield but OH NO! Your face has already puckered up as a plethora of germs come flying through the air, and only a few are caught within your arm, while the rest are free to roam and contaminate others who are in the nearby vicinity. The effort to try and stop germs from reaching others was partially in vain; in about one sneeze, 100,000 germs can be released at up to 100 mph; the amount of germs and their speed could easily overcome the arm and still lead to spreading around.

As a much more effective alternative, I have found that rather than taking the time to move the forearm up and potentially miss fully covering up your sneeze, it would be much more beneficial to others if one were to sneeze within his/her shirt. Someone may complain: "Oh but that's gross! If I sneeze inside my shirt, I will have the icky germs touching my body!" Well, it's not any more contaminating than touching common items that has been riddled with plenty of germs then using your hands to touch your face (except for in the case where a sneeze could concur a big wad of mucus; in this instance, I'd suggest to simply hope for the best in deciding which method to use to block a sneeze) and any possible moisture from the sneeze will go away given a minute or two. The shirt is much closer to the nose then the arm, and by a quick tug of the hand, it's quick and easy to sneeze into the inside of a shirt so that viruses and bacteria are kept away from others. I implore you all to be practical when it comes to sneezing; think about how you could stop spreading the flu or common cold around by changing up your reaction to sneezes! Then there wouldn't be problems of students walking around school either carrying tissues because they were unwilling to take a day off in order to recuperate as they believed a small cold they received from being exposed to a sneeze won't be much of a bother.

Although the peak during flu season hasn't been reached yet (it tends to happen around February), the weather definitely is cooling down to be Southern California "winter" weather. With the shift toward winter comes more susceptibility to getting sick and I certainly would not want to be stuck at home looking like Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer, blowing on tissues. So when you get that tingling sensation in your nose, please remember that keeping it to yourself will help make a healthier world.

Up Close and Personal

Shannon Advincula
Editor-in-Chief

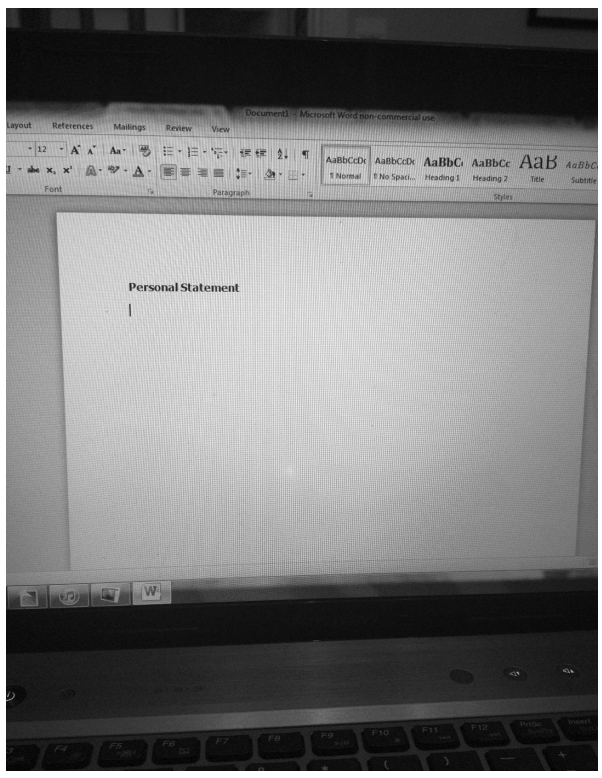
The personal statement has elicited hysteric urgency amongst the senior class of prospective students (and applicants) at UC campuses. Seemingly descended upon college hopefuls like a plague or curse in such immediacy, it is astonishing to know that UC applications were open for progress well over a month ago. The Common Application for private universities, even, has been available since Summer.

So why the rush? Can it be ascribed to senioritis or the age-old epidemic of procrastination? Insecurity or uncertainty? A general inability to apply dramatized significance and philosophical analysis of "character-building" and "aspiration-developing" effects to life experiences?

Having had to scrutinize the "cause and effects," "change over time," and "rhetorical devices" of historical individuals and verbose essays on the nature of humanity have apparently left many a despairing soul incapable of writing about himself.

Perhaps one is having difficulty condensing a cataclysmic life situation into approximately 500 words. Perhaps he's effectively applied his analytical abilities but has adversely conjured up an uncontainable excess of romantic new epiphanies on the significance of life events. Perhaps he has been paralyzed by the realization that nothing exciting has happened in his life.

Many a despairing soul is applying outstanding fabrications and exaggerations to a life event with the desperation to elude college admission officers into the misconception that he is a culturally versed, experienced intellectual. Ironically so his abuse of Thesarus.com has adversely misplaced nonsensically advanced vocabulary into inapplicable situations.



Writer's block will be the death of you, your sleep, and your chances.

His insistence that his greatest trait is "perseverance" or "positivity" has condemned him to a class of overused cliches and makes his argument for the significance of learning to ride a bike a harder one to argue. And thus realizing, he has scrapped his first two essays and opted for the impression that he "would like to be a doctor to save lives."Perhaps an even more difficult argument.

And then he realizes: it's not the analytical skills and extensive vocabulary he has learned from his AP classes that must be employed: it's bull--- excrement.

And so many a despairing soul has BSed his way through his personal statement and submitted the convincing articulation to teachers and unfortunate editors-in-chiefs for review. And so many a third party has assumed the misfortune of revisionary effort towards a rather private affair of a student's life that prior was unknown and following should have continued unknown.

The fabricated significance of a minor life event is glaringly obvious, apparent upon the essay as an overgrown tumor. Apparent is the mental image of a young student frantically searching his memory database for an event--any event--and a subsequent application of the world's most noble themes to said event which before had no meaning.

And inglorious as it seems, the college shall praise the work of bull excrement. It is after all what they should expect in requesting a young individual's "most significant accomplishment" and admirable qualities. And the essay sounds good despite its shallowness.

Exaggeration aside, some poor unfortunate souls or over-achieving prodigies have experiences and talents worthy and impressive of a personal statement. The personal statement in itself however more often draws out advanced abilities of bull excrement and forces one to apply exaggerations and impossibly philosophic life lessons to an event of a no real significance. It's as painful to read as it is pleasing.

A Love Letter to the College App

Patrick Jeon
Features Editor

The college application: How do I love thee? I love thee with a passion I can hardly explain. I love thee with all my heart, of course, because you are fuzzy, cute, and quite lovely when you shoot rainbows from your buttocks.

My confession to you goes something among these lines; please do not judge me too harshly and refute my adoration. I very much love spending time with you every day of the week as I pore over you constantly to make sure I'm filling you out in the right way. As I recall, as a junior, I hardly had any troubles, worries, or even thoughts for the senior year, as I heard how chill the last year of high school would be. With you in my life, I now know why people say senior year is so chill. It is obviously because you are so unique and distinct. I would say the same too, with this enlightening and wholly edifying experience that I am having. The application process has never been more fun. It is never monotonous and I feel as if I am doing something new and exciting each and every time I do it. Fill in all my student information ten times over because there is no commonality between these colleges here and other colleges over there? GOT IT. I will fill it out ten times over and over because that's just how I enjoy spending my time. I totally have nothing better to do because this information does need to be typed out each and every time with particular care. Writing multiple essays as if my life depends on it because my life depends on it? GOT IT. Writing essays was obviously what I was born in life to do. I had some doubts about why my mother named me Patrick "ESSAYMAN" Jeon when I was born, but now the pieces of the puzzle are finally arranging themselves into a worthwhile picture and everything is starting to make sense.

Another shocking truth is that I, a student, make bank. Nothing you, my precious college app, send at me can faze me, whether it is the $90 fee for some cool school or any other sum of money for just any college. I love spending money because I need to "send" things over the internet. It is wholeheartedly logical and that is why I pay money each time I send an email and log onto my facebook. It just makes me adore you so much more.

I am so glad I never listened to those seniors who told me to get started on filling you out as soon as I could. I would spend every dying hour of the day with you because I love it so. Any student, under or upperclassmen should have no fears about the lovability that you can offer. Any student will be so enthralled to have an opportunity to fill you out when the time comes. You will be the one and only heartthrob I ever had; post-graduate applications have nothing on you. Oh, how I am going to miss you so much, my sweet college application.

Bathroom Etiquette

Paul nguyen
Staff Writer

A bathroom is a sanctuary. A haven built for one's relief and alleviation. In a normal society, the interactions that men face in the bathroom should be very limited and the respect for others in the bathroom area should be unparalleled to any other place. Not at Bolsa Grande High School. No, the vulgarity of teenage boys knows no bounds. There are rules; an unspoken set of rules that illustrate correct mannerisms that one is obligated to follow when stepping foot into a public bathroom.

Why is there a line inside the bathroom? When I walk into the bathroom, find a urinal and attempt to relieve myself, I do not want to turn around and see a line of guys literally shoulder to shoulder directly behind me. It's terrible. Furthermore, there is little to no space from one guy to the next. And I am expected to relieve myself when there are people waiting for me to finish? It's impossible. To add to the chaos, there are men who come into the crowded bathroom to check their hair or give themselves a quick glance in the mirror. We don't need unnecessary people in here. Next, all forms of touching in the bathroom are not traditional. By all means greeting an acquaintance in the bathroom is perfectly normal, but any direct contact in the restroom is extremely hazardous. Please, do not attempt to give me a high five as you come out of the bathroom with your filthy, germ-ridden hands. Rule number one: No lining up or touching.



All public restrooms should be as clean as this!

Rule number two: Spaces between urinals. Actually this one is mandatory (if you get nothing out of this essay, at least remember this one). The most basic rule of all: don't attempt to alleviate yourself in the urinal directly next to an occupied urinal unless all other urinals are taken. If there is an open urinal why risk the awkwardness? That could lead to some eye contact. That leads me to rule number three of this series.

Rule number three: eye contact in the bathroom is prohibited. That unholy moment when I turn and accidentally make direct eye contact with the gentleman stationed on the next urinal should never be experienced by any man in any bathroom. Conversation is sufficient; direct eye contact is completely unnecessary, I can clearly see you through my peripheral vision.

This next rule should already apply, unless you could care less about cleanliness. Rule number four: Clean up after yourself. No one will want to encounter your germs so wash your hands. I mean you just went to the bathroom, isn't it a given to wash your hands? And I'm not talking about a quick rinse either. Wet your hands, apply a generous amount of soap, and scrub your hands for at least four seconds. Also, completely flush your toilet. Don't let it stew. I don't want to walk into a stall and see what you had for lunch.

Rule number five (is a given, but I feel a need to reinstate it anyway): Under no circumstance should anyone eat in the bathroom. As a half-bitten apple takes its descent off your lunch plate and onto the cervices of the cold, dark bathroom floor, hoards and armies of insects lie in wait for their time to attack. No one likes bugs. No one. Among all the visitors who enter Bolsa Grande's restrooms, many leave stenches deadly enough to combat mustard gas. Why then would any normal human being even attempt to eat in the most rancid of rooms? The bathroom is an area to dispose of food, not consume it. Case closed.

Although these are the only rules listed, they are not the only rules one should follow when entering a public bathroom. The awkward bathroom conversations, the spread of diseases, and the discomfort of everyone can be easily avoided if one is courteous. Study these rules and take care of your duty wisely.

Unwrap the Rapture

Elizabeth Dao
Matadors Editor

Looks like Christmas isn't coming this year, ladies and gentlemen. According to credible sources on the Internet, the world is coming to an end on December 21st, 2012. Though many predictions for apocalyptic events have been made in the past, this is the real deal. Our approaching annihilation is made certain on the account of hard factual reports by anonymous folks, whose testimonials are based on concrete Mayan prophecies and astronomical observations. Through dedicated research and specialization in the field of Mesoamerican culture and space exploration, these assiduous individuals have provided substantial evidence for the looming destruction of Earth.

Nevertheless, there remains a vast majority that refutes such plausible claims. Among this population of "in-denials" are NASA scientists and professional Mayanist scholars. These contenders regard the divination of impending doom as a sham but only offer meager scientific data and Maya primary sources to corroborate their flimsy assertion. Obviously, systematic substantiation has nothing on a fraudulent pseudoscience that originated from the very same hearth as Facebook giveaway hoaxes.



Are you ready for doomsday to come or do you believe it is all a haux?

Analogous to the-boy-who-cried-wolf fable, previous doomsday prognosticators have generated a bad reputation for predictions of apocalyptic events where we would all spontaneously combust or God would come in his spaceship and save all his true followers. Harold Camping, for one, has made at least five predictions envisaging the occurrence of the Rapture. After the first time, you would expect people to realize that Camping may possibly be a fatuous charlatan, yet people time after time will sell all their worldly possessions or even paradoxically commit suicide to be closer with God. Of course, Internet recluses are much different from Camping because their inactivity with the outside world allows them to develop prescient visions, producing the foresight of the world's demise. Consequently it would make perfect sense for people to take action now as to submit to these oracles' divinatory premonitions.

Whatever one's response to the prophecy, it is important to note how the Mayans were capable of anticipating this doomed December 21st date with inhuman accuracy. Such supernatural aptitude stems from the very fact that they were not human; they were aliens who only resided on the planet temporarily, explicating their sudden disappearance from Earth's surface. While some believed they were abducted by space invaders, they were not telluric to begin with. The otherworldly sages with their esoteric wisdom realized the destruction that was to come on December 21st, 2012 and made a run for it after completing their altruistic terrestrial mission of warning the humans.

Doomsday is here. #YOLO

Music Reviews

One Direction Heads in a New Direction

Daniella Phung
Staff Writer

One Direction's sophomore album Take Me Home hit the shelves on November 12th in their native country of UK and November 13th in the U.S. Take Me Home has already grossed the third-biggest opening week sales of the year with 540,000 copies being sold. They also made history for being the first British boy band to have their first two albums debut at number one on the U.S. Billboard charts.

While most people expected Take Me Home to closely resemble their debut album Up All Night, the five members - Harry Styles, Niall Horan, Liam Payne, Zayn Malik, and Louis Tomlinson - proved everyone wrong. The boys have successfully created a new sound for themselves showing they have matured in talent and skills. Unlike Up All Night, the boys share an equal amount of solos, which gave each member a chance to show off his polished and improved voice. You will also be able to see their new development in songwriting from several songs that they wrote together such as "Last First Kiss," "Summer Love," and "Back for You."



One Direction's newly released album in November, "Take Me Home".

Their first single from this album was "Live While We're Young," which lures listeners in at the very first seconds with a catchy guitar strum. This song truly describes the popular concept of YOLO (you only live once) with its upbeat and joyful melody. Their music video for "Live While We're Young" shows their silly and carefree side as they simply just want to have fun. If you thought their first single was great, their second single, "Little Things" was even more ama-ZAYN-ing. This moving ballad was co-written by UK singer-songwriter Ed Sheeran and added a new element to the album. Their soothing voices and acoustic guitar sound not only mesmerizes their listeners but also touches their hearts. According to Zayn, the message behind the song was to show that all girls are beautiful and that they need to hear it more often.

The boys will begin their Take Me Home World Tour this spring. They will be visiting the UK, Ireland, North America and Australia. However, if you were hoping to buy a ticket now, you are out of luck. Most of their shows have already been sold out, but don't worry there is always next year!

New Single Makes You Dance on Your "Tip Toes"

Amy Lim
Staff Writer

There is a new kid stepping onto the music scene. It's about time that we "Say Somethin'" about Austin Mahone! This sixteen year old pop singer from San Antonio, Texas has captured the hearts of thousands of teenage girls. Austin Mahone began his music career by covering songs on YouTube. Eventually, his career took off on February 14, 2012 with his single "11:11." Mahone is back to woo the crowd once more with his second single, "Say Somethin'." While this song is catchy, it would only strongly appeal to the younger female listeners in comparison to older teenage girls. The music video does have its perks with a "boy meets girl" storyline, but it is easily overshadowed with scenes of students throwing crumpled pieces of paper, jumping on desks, and praising how cool Austin Mahone is. The lyrics are about how "hot" a girl is and how he would like her to "say somethin'" to him. Austin Mahone is a very talented singer with a lovely charm; however, the song does not do him any justice for older audiences. Nevertheless, Mahone is very popular with the young female teens and is worth a listen to. Although this may not be the song for you, you can still enjoy listening to Mahone's mesmerizing vocals by checking out some of his song covers. There will definitely be something you will like!

Jayme Dee's song "Tip Toes" will certainly leave you on your tip toes! The fresh track for this star on the rise is something you don't want to miss. At first listen, most would automatically say that it's the typical "girl singing about how madly in love she is with a boy" song and overlook it. However, Jayme Dee manages to enchant the listeners to press the replay button over and over again to this catchy single. "Tip Toes" consists of irresistible hooks and addictive beats. Not to mention that Jayme Dee's vocals are impressive and flow harmoniously with the song. The music video itself is bubbly and cute for it captures the feeling all girls get when a boy gets them on their "tip toes." The song "Tip Toes" is upbeat and refreshing; in fact, you will probably catch yourself singing along within seconds! All in all, Jayme Dee has remarkably captured the attention of many fans nationwide with "Tip Toes." Her passion for music has shaped her into being the fabulous singer she is today. Make sure to check out Jayme Dee and her music. Trust me, you won't regret it!



Big Bang's Bangin' California

Anh Pham
Staff Writer

Big Bang, a notable Korean boy band that has been long established in the music industry since 2006, recently made their L.A. and New Jersey stops for their Samsung Alive World Tour 2012. The group consists of remarkable talents such as G-Dragon (Kwon Ji Yong, 24), Daesung (Kang Daesung, 23) T.O.P. (Choi Seung Hyun, 25), Seung Ri (Lee Seung Hyun, 22), and Tae Yang (Dong Yong Bae, 24). Not only is the group highly respected and adored in South Korea, but they also are also well-known throughout Asia, Europe, and the Americas. Though Big Bang's music falls under the stereotypical—and at times cringing—genre of 'K-Pop,' these boys are a sure force that should not be reckoned with. They are five musically talented artists who have brought endless happiness into the lives of their fans from their individual styles, charms, and music, and they have shown it time and time again. For example, they have received numerous titles and honors such as being the first Korean boy band to receive the Best World Wide Act at the 2011 MTV EMA. They also have a wide range of renowned fans such as 'N Sync, Perez Hilton, Swizz Beats, Snoop Dog, Pixie Lott, and even Flo Rida. Therefore, Big Bang has shown that it is not a group that would befall under the typical, pretty faced, idol boy band donned in glitz and glam.



Big Bang starting off their concert with a *bang*! The fans go wild with their $30 light sticks.

With ticket prices ranging from the VIP package of $300 (not including the $15 US fee) to the basic seats of $75, tickets for all the concerts dates, in both California and New Jersey, were sold out within minutes once on sale. Thus on the nights of November 2nd and 3rd, thousands of fans from different backgrounds, ethnicities, and ages flocked to the Anaheim Honda Center with high anticipation and excitement to experience a two hour performance from their favorite artists. Prominent faces and names such as Kevin McHale; Harry Shum Jr. of Glee; Youtube Makeup Guru Michelle Phan; Youtube sensation KevJumba; and Youtube star, as well as a fellow friend of Big Bang's, Qui Truong were all present and just as excited as any other fan in the stadium.

Songs that were performed on both nights consist of Alive Intro, Tonight, Hands Up, Fantastic Baby, How Gee, Stupid Liar, Knock Out, High High, Strong Baby, What Can I Do, Gara Gara Go, Number 1, Café, One Of A Kind, Crayon, Bad Boy, Blue, Ego, Love Song, Feeling, Look Only At Me, Wedding Dress, Wings, Haru Haru, Lies, Last Farewell, Heaven, Bad Boy, Feeling, and Monster. Through the entire concert, the stadium was just a never-ending, screaming mass sea of black and yellow as thousands of fans held official Big Bang glow sticks. Not only was it a memorable night for the lucky thousands of fans who got the chance to witness their favorite men live, it was also a night to remember for Big Bang, for it was their first US tour and their first-ever California stop. Thus, the smiles etched on each of the Big Bang member's faces were a proud display of success and gratitude to their adoring V.I.P.s (their fandom official name).

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The Barackin' Presidential Election

Keven Le
Staff Writer

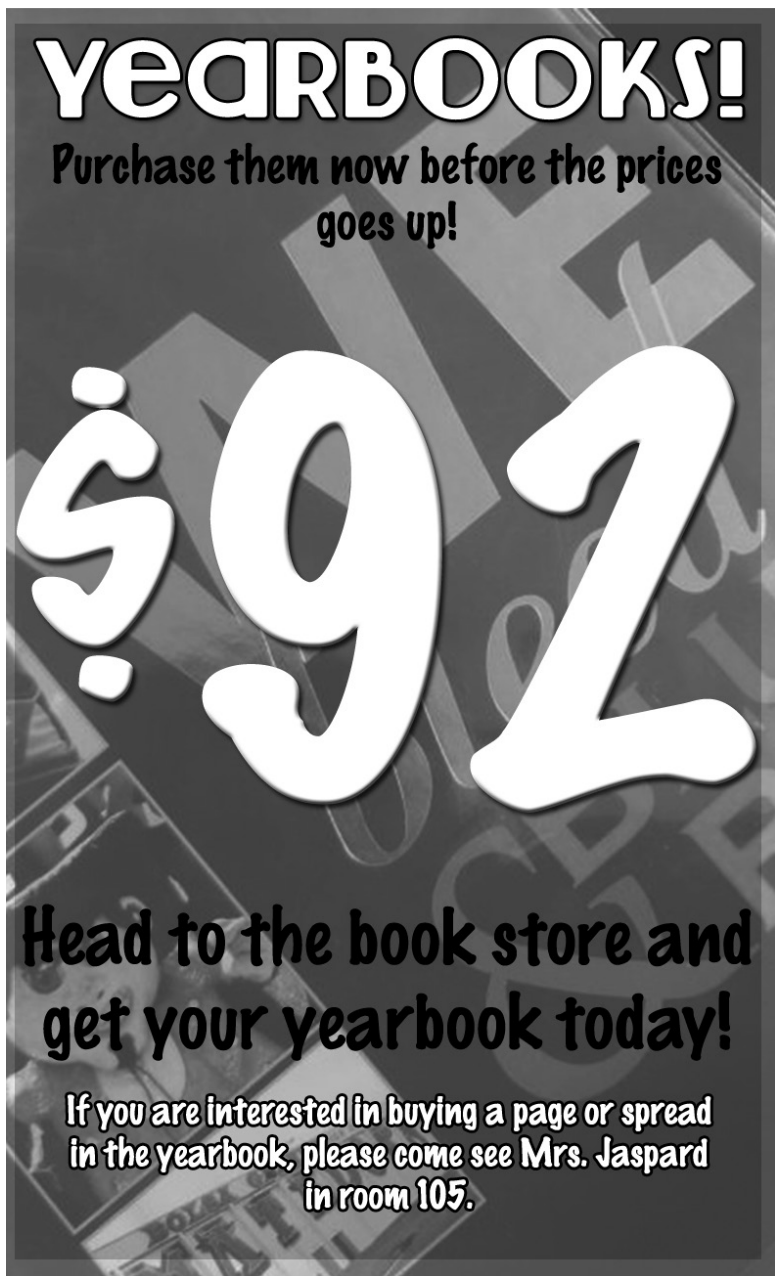
Last month, the General Election was held with great anticipation for both the Republican and the Democratic parties. Throughout the months prior to October, Presidential candidates, Mitt Romney and Barack Obama, visited various cities and swing states in an attempt to win the votes of the population at hand. The patriotic and anticipation-inducing event grew nearer and nearer to its finish, as each candidate's campaign ended at the start of November. Nations all over the world watched and waited to see who would become the next President and to discover how the future of the United States would turn out based on the newly elected President's values and goals for the nation. People all over the nation strived to vote regardless if they were in the East Coast or if they were affected by a hurricane, they were going to partake in representing their democracy. The election seemed to be running well for Romney, as when the small states recorded and submitted their votes before the larger (swing) states did, the votes were in favor for his presidency. However, as the night grew, millions of citizens anxiously waited for the results of swing states: Nevada, Colorado, Iowa, Virginia, North Carolina, and Florida, which would either break the candidate's campaign or lead him to Presidential victory. Unfortunately for Romney, more than half of the swing states' votes and their electoral votes went to Obama. The votes concluded that Obama would be re-elected for a second presidential term as he garnered a total of 332 electoral votes that greatly surpassed Romney's 206 electoral votes. Obama also won the majority of the popular votes with 50.6% of voters siding with his campaign opposed to Romney's 47.8%.

Although we will not be having "binders full of women" any time soon in the Presidential office, there will be more females senators in the 113th Congress than ever before in the United States' history. In regards to the Senate, Democrats are the majority as there are 55 of them and only 45 Republicans. On the other hand, Republicans are the majorities found in the House of Representatives, as there are 234 Republicans and only 201 Democrats.



The two candidates, Barack Obama and Mitt Romney, showing sportsman-like conduct before the debate started.

Other than the people that were elected, the General election brought up the ever-changing morals and values of United States' citizens, as some propositions were passed and some were denied. In California, specifically, Proposition 30, a law that will soon be implemented, as the sales tax will go up by a quarter-cent on the dollar for the next four years, was passed. The measure will also raise the income tax for people who earn more than $250,000 for the next seven years. Portions of the money collected by these new taxes may be directed to education and may help balance government budgets by decreasing the amount of tuition hikes and by increasing spots in California's community colleges and public universities. Other controversial topics, such as the state's death penalty, was also put up for voting, as Proposition 34, a measure that would have repealed the state's death penalty, failed. Thus, the death penalty will stay in California. In addition, Proposition 36, which amended the "three strikes law," was approved by voters. Judges will now impose a life sentence only when the third felony conviction is serious or violent rather than imposing a life sentence for a petty crime. In short, with this 2012 election process and its various results of who was elected for the following term and of what rules and regulations states may implement into the upcoming years, America moves forward on to what we hope to be a better country for all.



Electronics Review

The Wii U Should be Getting

Daniel Duong
Staff Writer

With the holidays fast approaching, there has been a lot of buzz over the recently released Nintendo Wii U. For Forbes contributor, Erik Kain, it had been a "miniature Black Friday" experience as he waited in line at Best Buy on the day of release. As expected, the Wii U had sold out minutes just after Best Buy opened. For Kain, the upside to the Wii U is that it is backwards compatible (meaning it can play Wii games), has great graphics, and is simple to use; the only downside was that the load time was slow and the firmware update was lengthy. Having used the Wii before, Kain's praise only makes me want to acquire the Wii U even more, especially since it has been a bit over six years since the initial release of the Nintendo Wii.



The WiiU shows off its superb high definition graphics.

So what's up with the next successor of the Nintendo Wii? While retaining its function to be compatible with older televisions, the Wii U has enhanced its video graphics to support high definition quality (up to 1080p resolution!) for gaming enthusiasts. Now what really makes the Wii U so special is its new GamePad controller, which enriches a person's gaming experience. With a 6.2 inch LCD touch screen, traditional button controls such as those on Xbox and Playstation 3 controllers, and two analog sticks, the GamePad controller steps up the playing field for hardcore gamers who like to play games such as Assassin's Creed by allowing two playable screens: The television and the Gamepad controller itself. Not only does the GamePad include front and rear cameras, but it also includes a microphone and speaker for chat capabilities. With so many features already, one can also play a game on the television while seeing different perspectives, maps, or inventories on the GamePad controller, depending on what game is being played. The possibilities of combining two gaming screens are endless; with such a revolutionary concept of having two connected gaming screens, the controller could make a huge impact on the gaming industry by changing how gamers play.

Now what happens if a friend or a family member wanted to watch The Walking Dead or Vampire Diaries? Usually there would be some sort of conflict, but one could simply switch the game to their GamePad controller while the other party can watch shows on the television; this innovation satisfies both parties. The versatility of the Wii U definitely tops the predecessor Wii while still retaining many of its functions. As of now, the Wii U gaming console can be played with the included GamePad controller and up to four Wii remotes. As of now, the eight gigabyte Wii U basic set, currently going for $300, includes a white Wii U Console, white GamePad, GamePad Stylus, sensor bar, console AC adapter, and GamePad AC Adapter HDMI Cable while the thirty-two gigabyte Wii U deluxe set, currently going for $350, includes everything mentioned before and Nintendo Land Video Game, GamePad Stand, GamePad Cradle, and Console Stand. Get your Wii U's while they are hot!

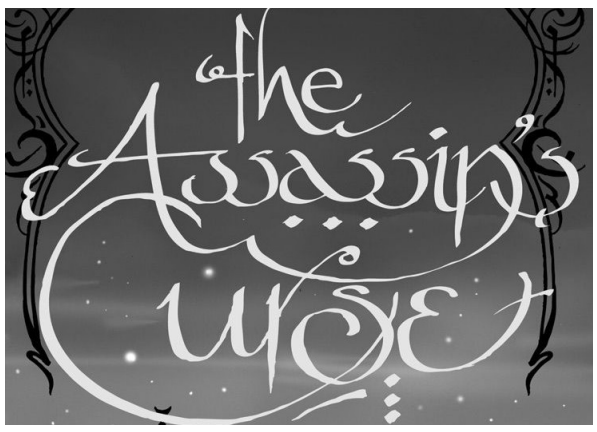
Book Review

Be Spellbound by the Assassin's Curse

Anhthu Dang
As-Is Editor

Escape the stress of the holidays and pick up an adventure with Ananna of the Tanarau and an assassin named Naji this winter. Filled with wonder, mystery, and magic, The Assassin's Curse by Cassandra Rose Clarke is sure to grab your attention with its evil wizards and arrogant manticores alongside the rest of its venturesome plot.

This story is told in the perspective of Ananna, an ambitious seventeen year old pirate of the Tanarau clan who has just been recently sold off by her parents to marry Tarrin of the Hariri for political purposes. Irritated and enraged by her parents' plans, Ananna takes off on a stolen camel in hopes of pursuing her own goals and achievements in life. Little does she know, the Hariri clan has ties with some well known assassins that will later cause more troubles for the young pirate.



Find the time to read this amazing, adventurous book over winter break!

Eventually, the assassin and Ananna meet and the story twists. The assassin, Naji, had a curse placed on him, and Ananna just happened to trigger it. Now instead of killing her, Naji must protect her in order to protect himself. The two must also not stray too far from one another as it would cause unnecessary pains for Naji. With such different personalities, their adventures would be full of bickering, nagging, and lots of time with each other. And so the slow, awkward romance commences.

Ananna and Naji continue their journey to distant lands to find those who could possibly free them from their curse. On their travels, they encounter a series of never-ending dangers where Naji uses his dark blood magic to keep Ananna and himself safe. Of course, they are also running from the Hariri clan that still wants Ananna's head and from other more fearsome enemies of Naji.

Does the novel interest you yet? If not, then go back and enjoy your holiday stress (or peace). Meanwhile, for those of you who want to find out more, purchase the book at your local bookstore and carry on the adventure with Ananna and Naji and their exotic fantasy world!

Athletes of the Month

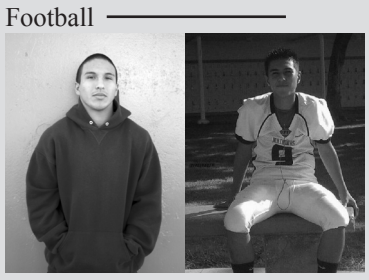
October and November

Tennis



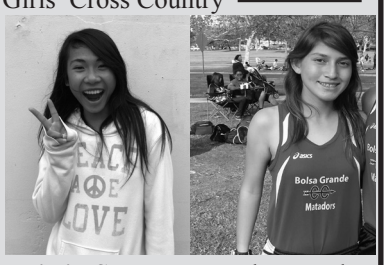
Phuong Nguyen - Dedicated and player with 4th place finish in doubles at League Finals
Tracy Van - Winning League and successfully achieving 8th Round CIF Individual competition

Football



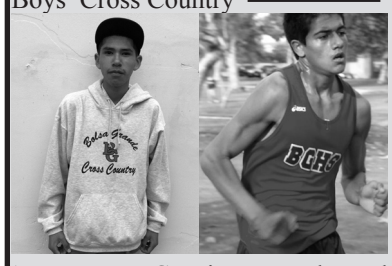
Michael Marquez - Leading the Matador offence and defense during league play. One of the top running backs in the League!
Alex Gomez - Excellent special team play

Girls' Cross Country



Kristie Son - Personal Record at OC Championships this month
Angela Delavara - Had a 3rd place finish at League

Boys' Cross Country



Alex Perez - Consistent results and excellent work ethic
Luis Gomez - Who ran the 4th fastest time in the history of Bolsa Cross Country and qualified for CIF as an individual

Volleyball



Alyson Nguyen - Kill leader for October
Yolicia Torres - Who is great at everything!

Water Polo



Joel Nguyen - Best defense
Terry Le - For his hardwork put in at the Varsity Level

Rolling on Skates

Agata Ho
Staff Writer

The choir department held a skate night at the Fountain Valley Skating Center on November 16th for family and friends to start off Thanksgiving break. As the lights began to dim, the students of Bolsa Grande came out to skate the night away. As the night went on, students participated in the Hokey Pokey, the Cha-cha Slide, and other various activities hosted by the FV skating center. When asked, Leslie Tran (11), "What was your experience like at skate night?" She answered, "I haven't been to skate night in a while and the last time I went the music was really out of date; but this time skate night was more enjoyable because it had music that is played on the radio. I also really enjoyed spending time with my friends and harassing Mr. Keltner on the skating rink." When asked, "What was your favorite part of Skate Night?" The president of choir, Sarah Baird (12), answered, "My favorite part was seeing so many kids from Bolsa there having fun and supporting our choir department… and seeing Keltner trying to dance while he was skating to pop music." The students, family, and friends were all entered into a drawing to win prizes; such as, movie tickets, iTunes gift card, and Dave & Busters game card. When tired after skating a few laps around the skating rink, each was able to head over to the food court and enjoy their favorite snacks! After a night filled with lights, skates, and music, the choir skate night was a huge success! Not to mention the skate night ended up becoming a great turn out with plenty of happy attendees amounting to over 180 by the end of the night. Even though the place was full of people, everyone was allowed to mingle with each other, meet new people, and enjoy good music while skating. What a good way to start off Thanksgiving break! The choir department would like to thank all of those who came and supported them and would like to see everyone at their Christmas choir concert on December 20th.



The choir department's skate night took place at Fountain Valley Skating Center.

Band-its Steal the Show

Janice Huynh
Staff Writer

On Tuesday, November 13th, Bolsa Grande high school hosted the annual district showcase, a night where several schools come to the football stadium to perform. Each year, marching bands from the entire district come to BGHS to perform their annual marching show, complete with their entire marching band and Color Guard. The bleachers were packed with different school's marching bands and attending guests. The show started with a dazzling performance by Santiago high school, leaving the crowd energetic and ready for the next performances. Ranch Alamitos and Los Amigos high school also left the crowd impressed as they performed their marching routine. Next, our own marching band, the Bolsa Grande Marching Matadors performed. Their show this year was an Italian love song themed routine titled "Mi Amore", with songs such as "O Sole Mio", "Nessun Dorma", "Mambo Italiano", and "It Had Better Be Tonight". Their musical composition was definitely impressive, as they had many complicated and entertaining drills. The music amongst all the sections of the band was equally impressive, and the entire group was beautifully conducted by this year's band leader, Elizabeth Lopez. The Color Guard also left the crowd in amazement with their difficult and intricate flag and rifle work, along with many beautifully performed dances. Their captains this year, Dianna Marie-Ann Tran, Yarisamar Garcia, and Kieu-Ahn Phan, lead the group into amazing heights with their masterful technique of both flag and dance performances. In addition to their phenomenal marching show, the band showed the audience that they could have fun by adding adorable dance breaks in their show, leaving the audience in wild applause by the end. Next, La Quinta, Pacifica, and Garden Grove high school all performed their show. Finally, Showcase was wrapped up as all the bands gathered to play "America the Beautiful", leaving the show to a festive and spectacular end. The entire group was given a standing ovation and the end of Showcase also marked the end of the district's Marching Band season. Overall, Showcase displayed the immense talent of the entire district's Marching Band, and their amazing work and dedication throughout the summer and marching season to produce such wonderful shows. Through the entire show, each of the band's performances shows the diligence and dedication to produce such an amazing routine, which was no easy task. Good job to Bolsa Grande's Marching Matadors for their entertaining show and great work during this year's marching season.



Daniel Bui (12) and Tiffany Nguyen (12) flashing a smile before showcase starts.

The Artistry Within BG

Bansari Patel and Diane Vu
Business Manager
Staff Writer

Introducing Artist's Haven's first annual gallery - a gallery that displayed not only the unique talent of Creative Writing Club and Art Club members, but also the passion of the performers. When guests first entered Artists' Haven, it was startlingly evident how sophisticated the members were, dressed in formal dinner attire, toward the guests. From waiters holding party drinks on trays to attendees being assigned to seats, the members' level of professionalism was to par to a professional art show. In fact, the gallery exuded a calming ambiance of excitement, especially with classical music playing in the background. Through Vicki Amnat's and her members' help, they was able to organize an opportunity to display the world of art through their eyes.

As mentioned above, the members and performers of Artists' Haven were successful in creating a welcoming atmosphere for guests to come and enjoy art pieces drawn by Bolsa Grande's very own students. As a matter of fact, their appearance and demeanor gave the gallery a great start to an anticipated evening. One particular artwork that claimed everyone's eyes right before entering, was Yvonne Pham's "God Has Been Good to Us, No?" A piece that was composed of a sinful chocolate cake with sprouted wings that was not just mouthwatering to the eyes but also captivating. Other artworks ranged from adorable crafted polymer clays, made by Melina Cao, to detailed sketched drawings and computer art. Such artworks included Viet Nguyen's "Batman" ink work; Brittany Quach's "White Magic;" Anh Bui's "Starry Night at Russel Street," and lastly "Cat," by Ngoc Mai.

The Artists' Haven was also comprised of many profound performances that clearly showed the hard work, emotion, and dedication that went into preparing for this annual event. There was a wide variety of acts performed. Some consisted of singing and playing an instrument, while others included reading self-written poems while still others contained monologues from fictional literary works. One exceptional performance that captured, I am sure, everyone's full attention was done by Kelly Pham, Junior, who with his violin, combined several tunes to comprise his own "Gypsy Medley." His violin drew the audience in; it was as if we were transported to another time and place, listening to the phenomenal music that Kelly had created. However, it was far from being the only marvelous performance of the evening. Another performance that stood out was Elizabeth La's singing of "Beautiful"; her soulful voice captured many emotions in the audience. Performances such as Long Phan's cover of "Paranoia" in correspondence to his artwork on the Joker and Batman, Eranny Franca's cover of "Zombie", and Daisy Allred's cover of "Skins" consisted of beautiful singing. Other covers had rap originals that were performed acoustically. Still other acts had creative poems that the performers had written themselves, with the subjects ranging from school subjects, such as Ngoc Nguyen's "Physics Love Poem" to one's relatives, such as Stephanie Peou's "My Great-Grandmother Sun." It was evident that these poems were written from the very depths of the writers' hearts and emotions.

Many of the performances had the amazing abilities to make the audience feel part of the music, the setting, and the scenes. Though some are not mentioned here, all the performances were exceptional and captured the audience's attention. One notable characteristic of the event was the encouragement of the members' and audience towards the performers. The whole evening was enchanting from beginning to end, from the marvelous pieces of artworks to the profound performances. If you missed the chance to attend this year's Artists' Haven, be sure to attend next year's show. You won't regret it.

Christmas Well Spent with the BG's Faculty Event

Chris Bui
Staff Writer

As we eagerly anticipate the arrival of winter break, we also reflect on the undying holiday traditions of giving gifts to show our sentiments of others and gathering with close friends and family. That cozy feeling of spending time in a warm house away from the bitter cold outside is one that many of us seek once every year around this time. Yes, all these traditions of the holidays have endured, but there is one at our school that has ceased to continue. I'm talking about the Faculty Christmas Event.



Mr. Lewis, Mr. Cardoza, Mr. Brodowski, and the mystery teacher showing off their holiday spirit!

Ten years ago, the last show for the Faculty Christmas Event was held. This event was an annual assembly that was held on the Friday before the start of winter break, and unlike the usual assemblies where the students perform, this assembly had the school faculty entertaining the students. It was a heartwarming way for the teachers and staff to send the students off with high spirits and of course, homework.

I had questioned Grandma about this event, and her recollections of it were quite enjoyable and amusing. Well first, as students entered the gym, there would be Christmas decorations and ornaments positioned throughout the place. Banners hung elegantly from the walls and in the middle of the gym stood a Christmas tree, wrapped around with dazzling lights and trinkets. Despite all this finesse, the main attraction still remained to be the school faculty. Generally, the teachers sang Christmas carols, danced, and enthusiastically talked with the students. In addition they would sport holiday costumes such as the well-known Santa Claus. As Grandma described it,"It was all about having a good time!"

There was one thing, however, that struck me as both most surprising and hilarious. Apparently one year, the robust Mr. Brodowski and convivial Mr. Cardoya (Cardoza) both dressed in pink tutus, giving off the presence of two bulky (graceful?) ballerinas. Once I heard of this, I immediately burst out in laughter. My next thought was, "Wow, how in the world did the school ever find tutus to fit those two teachers?" Unless Santa Claus took ballet lessons and sent his uniforms to us from the North Pole, I don't think that this scene would have ever been possible. For those who know Mr. Brodowski and Mr. Cardoza now, it is hard to imagine that they had ever donned such clothing. All in all, by dressing up, those two served the event's purpose of entertaining the students.

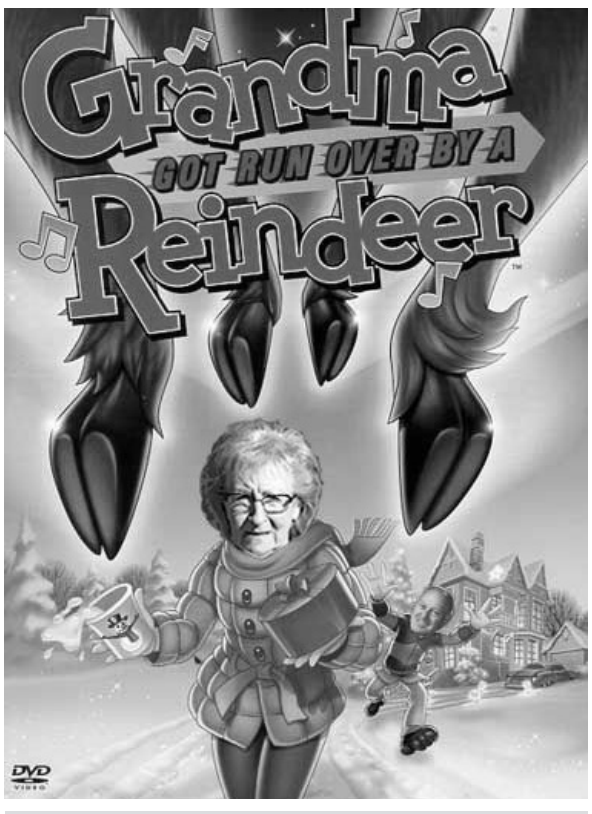
From the sound of it, I think that the Faculty Christmas Event was a pretty amusing celebration. It's a bit depressing that we don't have much teacher-student interactions today, but this assembly in the past has shown how much fun we can have. Although this tradition has ended, I am interested in having this event return to Bolsa Grande. Yes, we have many projects and tests to finish on the last week before break, but I think this assembly is a great way for both faculty and students to take a breather and enjoy the upcoming holiday season. Who knows, maybe we can see our two history teachers in tutus again, or maybe Mr. Cho dressed up as Psy!

Grandma Got Run Over by a Reindeer

Anh Pham
Staff Writer

The corky and unforgettably tacky Christmas jingle has not only gained adoring popularity since its release back in 1979 by Elmo and Patsy, but it has also become a wonderful and joyous reality for a few special victims during the Christmas season.

The song's popular lines "Grandma got run over by a reindeer/Walking from our house Christmas eve/You can say there's no such thing as Santa/ But as for me and Grandpa we believe" resulted in an animated Cartoon Network Movie adaptation of the jingle that was entitled so fittingly as "Grandma Got Run Over by a Reindeer." The movie gained a wide and enthusiastic response from children across the nation: they loved it and they loved grandma even more for getting run over by a reindeer. Have the faces of Christmas classics such as Jack Frost, Rudolf, Scrooge, and the Grinch been pushed aside by a little old lady who didn't do much but got plowed into the snow by a couple of reindeer because she got drunk from too much egg-nog?



Gift your grandmas with a helmet!

Well it may be so because grandma isn't planning on going anywhere soon , especially with her immense popularity. Despite the song's cherry and whimsical melody, the song actually became a reality for Ruth Morris on October 12, 2011. The Prairie Village Retirement Home held a special early holiday field trip for the elderly located at Hardy's Reindeer Ranch in Rantoul, Illinois. The eldery were over excited and had high anticipation for their visit to the ranch, yet for Ruth Morris, it was a day of complete "deer-saster" that she'll never forget.

The trip was going according to plan as the elderly had the chance to pet and feed the gated reindeer, however, someone had apparently left the gate open. With Morris trailing in the back of the tour group, a reindeer escaped and headed toward her like Santa Claus after he has identified his first plate of cookies and milk. She was shoved and "went flying backwards", as stated by fellow retirement resident Aschenbrenner, who witnessed the event. "She put her hands up and that's when she got ripped (on her arm)... and one on her wrist." Aschenbrenner relayed of the tragic event. Morris was quickly sent to the hospital, and in response to the whole event, Julie Hardy, owner of the ranch, stated "Sixteen years, thousands of people have fallen in love with these animals. The reindeer are not normally aggressive animals at all."

So this Christmas, let's all keep an open mind through the festivities and presents and wish that Grandma doesn't actually get run over by reindeer because—hey, we all love our grandmas.

Christmas Polls

Favorite Song to Listen to During Christmas

1. "Mistletoe" – Thang Thai (Grade 11)
2. "Holly Jolly Christmas" – Miranda Nguyen (Grade 12)
3. "Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas" – Fernanada Guzman (Grade 9)
4. "I Knew You Were Trouble" – Chuong Vu (Grade 12)
5. "All I Want For Christmas is You" –Thuy Tran (Grade 11)
6. "Lumiere" – Thomas Nguyen (Grade 12)
7. "Greyhound" – Shelly Le (Grade 12)
8. "Back to December" – Jeffrey Nguyen (Grade 10)
9. "Polar Express Sound Track" – Shawn Pham (Grade 12)
10. "Hawaiian Roller Coaster Ride" - Peter Soukharivong (Grade 12)
11. "Carol of the Bells" – Eric Tran (Grade 11)
12. "Winter Wonderland" – Adriana (Grade 9)
13. "Wake Me Up When September Ends" – Priscilla Bang (Grade 10)
14. "Jingle Bells" – Anh Diep Pham (Grade 10)
15. "Winter Wonderland" – Manly Pham (Grade 12)
16. "Last Christmas" – Hilary Lu (Grade 12)
17. "I Wish You A Merry Christmas" – Betty Tamayo (Grade 11)
18. "A Spaceman Came Traveling" – Richard Gamett (Grade 11)
19. "Escape "Pina Colada" – Cynthia Tran (Grade 10)
20. "It's the Most Wonderful Time of The Year" –Jonathan Arenas (Grade 12)

Favorite Movie to Watch During Christmas

1. "Breaking Dawn" – Tinhuy Huynh (Grade 12)
2. "The Grinch" – Jasmine Sanabria (Grade 9)
3. "Transformers" – Julie Tran (Grade 10)
4. "The Polar Express" – Kimberly Phung (Grade 12)
5. "Marley & Me" – Theresa Bui (Grade 10)
6. "Harry Potter" – An Nguyen (Grade 11)
7. "Home Alone" – Jonathan Le (Grade 12)
8. "Twilight" – Ainhi Le (Grade 11)
9. "How the Grinch Stole Christmas" – Brandon Ngo (Grade 11)
10. "Grandma Got Run Over By a Reindeer" – Leslie Tran (Grade 11)
11. "Pearl Harbor" – Jeffrey Nguyen (Grade 10)
12. "Serendiptiy" – Liza Dinh (Grade 12)
13. "Forgetting Sarah Marshall" – Daniel Duong (Grade 12)
14. "Prothemius" – Nancy Tran (Grade 12)
15. "Finding Nemo" – Vanessa Nguyen (Grade 11)
16. "Home Alone 2: Lost in New York" – Kevin Wu (Grade 11)
17. "Mean Girls"- Eric Juarez (Grade 12)
18. "Home Alone 3" – Anh Diep Pham (Grade 10)
19. "Harry Potter: Deathly Hollows Part 1 & 2" – Quang Nguyen (Grade 12)
20. "Love Actually" – Beoung Lee (Grade 12)

The Person You Want to See Under The Mistletoe

1. "Channing Tatum" –Tina Ngo (Grade 12)
2. "Selena Gomez" – Tony Arreola (Grade 10)
3. "Misa Campo" – Trong Phan (Grade 11)
4. "Moon Geun Young" – Brian Lang (Grade 12)
5. "Adam Levine" – Julie Dang (Grade 11)
6. "Tom Daley" – Jenny Nguyen (Grade 10)
7. "Harry Styles" – Kymberly Sotomayor (Grade 9)
8. "Miranda Kerr" – Joel Nguyen (Grade 11)
9. "Jason Chen" – Victoria Truong (Grade 12)
10. "Katy Perry" – Alex Gomez (Grade 12)
11. "Fransico Lachowski" – Theresa Bui (Grade 10)
12. "Zac Efron" – Tina Nguyen (Grade 11)
13. "Kate Upton" – Matthew Ha (Grade 12)
14. "Chris Evans" – Jennie Nguyen (Grade 12)
15. "Cody Simpson" – Mimi Nguyen (Grade 10)
16. "Girls' Generation"- Joshua Baird (Grade 9)
17. "Erica Law" – Samuel Kim (Grade 12)
18. "Kim Myungsoo (aka L)" – Manly Pham (Grade 12)
19. "Jay McGuiness & Joey Diggs Jr." – Liza Dinh (Grade 12)
20. "John Fitzgerald Kennedy" – Anh Bao Pham (Grade 12)

Gifts Galore, I Want More!

Janice Huynh
Staff Writer

The holiday season brings people joy for its cold weather, charming house decorations, and its bountiful vacation periods. But most of all, the start of the season marks the beginnings of annual gift giving traditions. What was once a period of charitable donations to the less fortunate has become a month of miscellaneous department store sales. Even so, who is one to judge the social dynamics of our culture? With negativities aside, here is a list of popular gifts to give to your loved ones and some other suggestions for those who you are obligated to buy a gift for.

For girls, I would suggest any type of lotion. Why lotion? Because it's always that one thing which no one remembers to buy until that moment when all you have left is an empty bottle. Some might say that lotion might be too boring and mundane for a gift, but to that I say nonsense! Nothing says "I-thought-of-your-elbows" more than a $5 bottle of Cetaphil at Target. Her skin and she will thank you for your consideration in no time. For that special lady in your life, you should go a bit further and get her something even more special. Scented lotion will do, and if you really want to impress her, get her one of those bottles with glitter infused in the cream, because as we all know, everybody likes glitter.

For boys, I would suggest something a little out of the ordinary-- such as some manly body spray or slick hair gel. If you are confused on which body sprays to buy, grab the one with the packaging that screams "I-have-insecurities" the loudest. If you really are confused, I would most definitely go with Axe as your first choice. However, if you already know that the person in question already wears said



Fill up the bottom of your Christmas tree with presents for your loved ones!

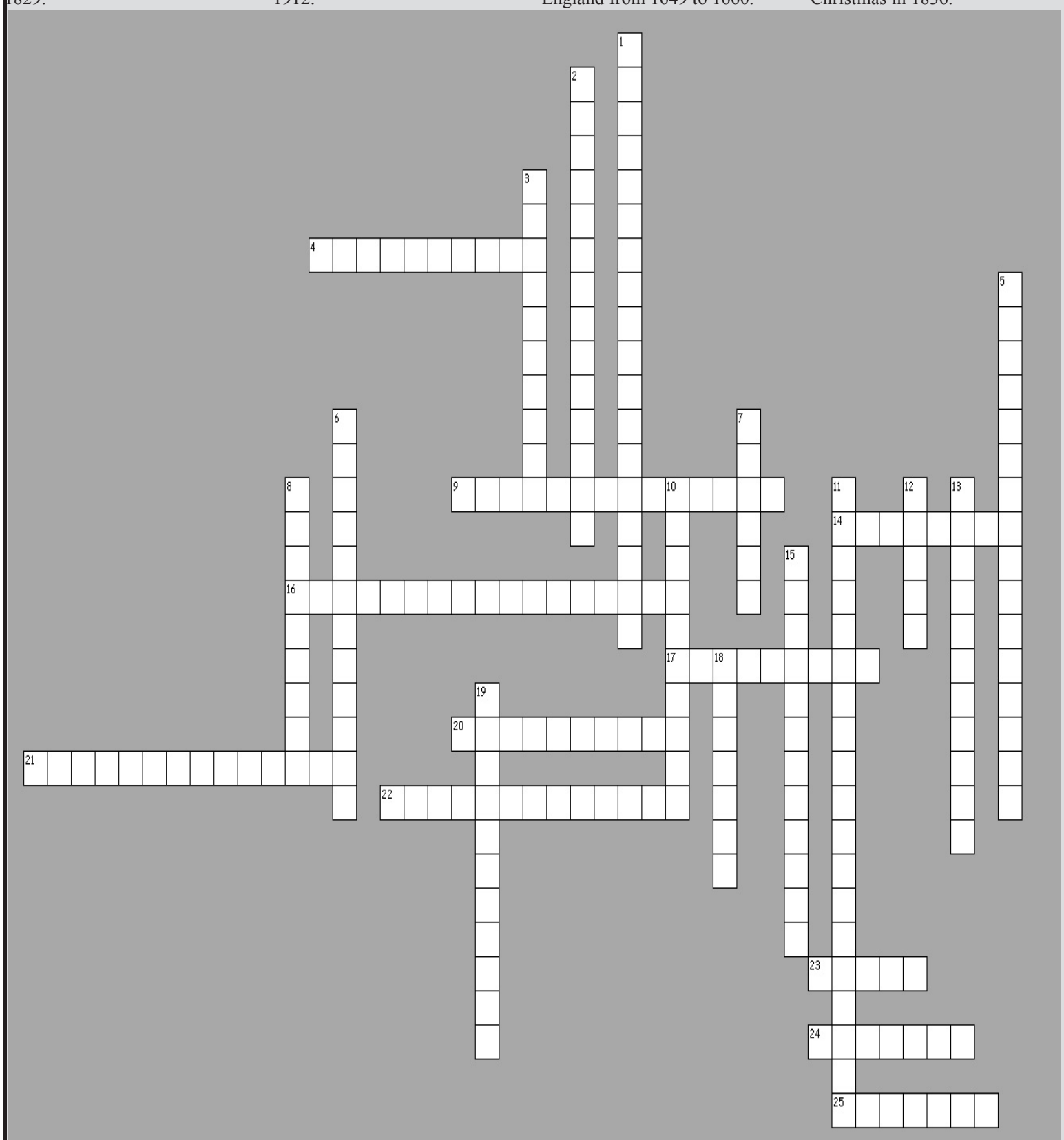
"cologne" quite too frequently, I would perhaps gift them a book on self-esteem and maybe a detailed letter on how wearing more Axe doesn't increase the attraction of any person of the opposite gender, but it in fact repels them even further away. For that special guy in your life, I would recommend a photo frame with a cute picture of yourself. Not only will your special guy love this and not think of it to be creepy at all, but forever remember you because of this special gift. For added effect, take the picture in front of house; maybe even in front of his his bedroom window if you can access it. Remember, it's not trespassing if it's in the spirit of yuletide sharing. This is the ultimate gift, because what material object could be better than a close up of your face? That's right, nothing is, so a buy a photo frame and get going!

For your parents or any relatives, make something homemade and crafty for them. Your parents have received questionable macaroni collages all those years in elementary, so why not resume the tradition this holiday season? If not, I would go with the photo frame idea again, because your parents would love a picture of your face in their bedroom. Try to print the picture as big as you can, so there won't be any possibilities for the picture to become "lost"! Actually, now that I think about it, you can give the gift of your aesthetic qualities to anyone! Whether it be your friends, neighbors, relatives, teachers, fellow peers, or even your mailman, everyone will appreciate a frame with your face in it! Note that the picture can appear on anything with a clear flat surface. For creative purposes, I would recommend mugs, t-shirts, iPhone cases, collectible novelty plates, etc. No one will ever forget the gift or the gift giver!

So this holiday season, relax and enjoy your vacation period around those who you love, and make sure to sound humble when you receive all those ecstatic thank-you's for those wonderful and heart-warming gifts.

Across

4. Known as the "Flower of the Holy Night," it is a traditional Christmas flower originally from Mexico that was brought over to America by Joel Poinsett in 1829.
9. The best-selling Christmas song of all time.
14. The last U.S. state to declare Christmas a legal holiday.
16. An environmentally friendly President who banned Christmas trees from the White House in 1912.
17. An annual celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ.
20. This Canadian province leads the world in exporting Christmas trees.
21. Puritan who outlawed Christmas celebrations and carols in England from 1649 to 1660.
22. The first artificial Christmas tree was made of this dyed green.
23. In this language, "X" (Chi) means Christ, which is how the word "X-mas" came to be.
24. The first state in the United States to officially recognize Christmas in 1836.
25. An enormous log that is typically burned during the Twelve Days of Christmas as this is said to offer health, fertility, and luck as well as the ability to ward off evil spirits.



Down

1. The most expensive Christmas tree was decorated in this country in 2010 at an estimated cost of over $11 million.
2. The first president to decorate an official White House Christmas tree.
3. According to Dutch legend, this companion of Saint Nicholas is responsible for actually dropping the presents down their recipients' chimneys as well as punishing bad children by putting them in a bag and carrying them away to Spain.
5. A tube that stores paper crowns worn by the British while they eat Christmas dinner.
6. Bolivians celebrate this on Christmas Eve when they bring roosters to the midnight mass, a gesture that symbolizes the belief that a rooster was the first animal to announce the birth of Jesus.
7. In this state, there is a town with the name of North Pole.
8. A plant that derives from an Anglo-Saxon word meaning "little dung twig" because it spreads though bird droppings.
10. Fat, old guy in red who brings gifts to children on Christmas Eve.
11. British illustrator who designed the first Christmas card in 1843
12. In this country, Christmas Eve is a time to eat fried chicken and strawberry shortcake.
13. Jewish song writer who wrote Christmas songs, including "Rockin' Around the Christmas Tree," "Rudolph, the Red-Nosed Reindeer," and "I Heard The Bells On Christmas Day."
15. Reported to be the first person to decorate a Christmas tree.
18. The reindeer with a red nose.
19. Bishop of Rome who proclaimed December 25 the official celebration date for the birthday of Christ in 350 A.D.