

Students must have initiative; they should not be mere imitators. They must learn to think and act for themselves - and be free.

**Cesar Chavez** 

## December 2024 CHPA Newsletter

Message from our ED Fred Segura

Hello students, parents, staff, and community members,

So much has happened over the last two months that it is difficult to know where to begin. First off, I want to thank Mr. Melo and Mrs. Ramos (and their students) for a fantastic performance on December 5th. Their kids were awesome and to watch the elementary, middle, and high school come together like that, that is what CHPA is all about!! Mr. Rothermal presented his first production in the ECMS Cafetorium, which was a hit, and the elementary hosted a movie night where more than a hundred students and parents attended. Next, how about all of the work and effort for our festival of lights float and bus. We had a ton of kids there, the cheer and dance teams performed, and the mood was just fantastic. Did everyone catch Mrs. Beeman and her granddaughter Alex in the blow-ups. The whole thing was wonderful, and I want to thank Mr. Maggrett and Mrs. Benavidez who did a great job with the decorations.

We held a Special Board Meeting on Tuesday, December 3rd, where the Board approved the personnel report and took the next step to submit a revised budget. Due to an enrollment shortfall of 140 students, our organization faced a \$1.6 million deficit. To avoid staff cuts, we chose to restructure our departments to minimize staff reductions. While Information Technology and Maintenance were affected, I'm pleased to announce that, thanks to grant opportunities, the efforts of Abacus, and the Board of Directors, we significantly reduced the number of dismissals and provided opportunities for those who wished to stay with us.

Additionally, we have submitted our application for authorization through Pueblo City Schools District 60. In our application, we highlighted that despite the many challenges we have faced, CHPA has remained a school of choice for parents seeking a unique educational experience. We promote Chicano/a culture and ideals and provide students with the opportunity to prepare for college while still in high school. We have requested a five-year extension and look forward to continuing our collaboration with the district and the Pueblo community.

As we move into winter and look forward to the upcoming break, I want to let everyone know that the kids are learning and thriving in our environment. We are seeing academic growth and moving towards a brighter future for CHPA. The week of December 9th is particularly important as we will be conducting our Mid-year NWEA and DIBELS assessments. These assessments will provide us with opportunities to measure student growth and achievement and offer feedback on necessary curriculum changes. I want to thank you for your support, and I wish everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy Holiday Season. As always, if you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to reach out to us at 719-744-0821 or email me at fasegura@chpa-k12.org.

Si Se Puede, Fred Segura Executive Director, CHPA

#### **Newsletter Contents**

\*Messages from our Principals

**₩**Grade Level News

Counselor Corner

**Celebrations** 



#### Connie Parker, K-5 Principal





Connie Parker CCA Principal 719-295-1623

Hello Parent's/Guardians.

Merry Christmas to you and all your family from the CCA Staff! We will continue to have tutoring at CCA every Tuesday and Wednesday from 3:30-4:30. Also, on December 9th-18th we will be testing all of our students in Dibels and NWEA to see how much they have grown since the beginning of the school year. Please make sure your student comes to school prepared to take these tests!

Here are the highlights for this month.

- December 5th Title I Family Movie Night at 4:00-5:00.
- December 9th-16th NWEA and Dibels testing for all of our students.
- December 9th-12th Christmas store is opened for our students to purchase Christmas gifts for their families.
- December 12th, Title I Family Night "Las Posadas" at 5:00-6:30.
- December 18th, we will be celebrating all birthdays for this month. You can drop off
  the store-bought goodies in the front office. All celebrations will take place
  at the end of the day at 2:00.
- Shakespear Writing Festival on December 18th, here are our times.

8:30-9:30 Kindergarten-2nd grades

1:30-2:30 3rd-5th grades

- December 23rd through January 6th our students will be on Christmas Holidays.

  Students will return on January 7th.
- Our students and our school need volunteers. If you have 30 minutes, an hour, or all day, our students need YOU!! Please call our front office or let your student's teacher know that you would like to volunteer and help us close the academic gap of all our learners!!
- Students are allowed to bring jeans on Thursdays for a dollar.
- If you still have not purchased your child's uniform, please make sure you purchase it from Embroidery Plus. All students are required to be in uniform every day except for Thursdays if they bring a dollar they can wear jeans.
- Our hours for this school year are 7:45-3:30. Please make sure your child is at school every day and on time. If, for whatever reason, they are absent, please call the office as soon as possible. Remember our teachers cannot teach an empty desk. Your child will grow tremendously if they are present receiving direct instruction from a teacher, instead of make-up work!!!

Please feel free to stop by or contact me at 719-295-1623. I am fluent in Spanish as well. Sincerely,

#### Consuelo Mora-Parker

I believe that learners (children) thrive when they are supported through strong, caring relationships, and a rigorous curriculum. It is essential that learning connects to the larger world, learners solve authentic problems, and they develop the skills to be happy, healthy, and productive members of their community.

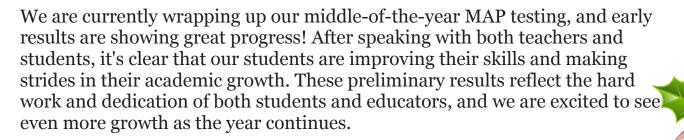


#### LeAnndra Beeman, 6-8 Principal

#### **Exciting Events at ECMS!**

On Thursday, December 5th, ECMS hosted a wonderful evening of fun and entertainment. The night kicked off with our Title I "Family Fun Night," where parents and teachers joined in on several exciting games. This was followed by a lively performance from the Drama Club, who delighted the audience with their hilarious skit, "Christmas Chaos."

To wrap up the evening, the CHPA Mariachi and Folklorico groups took the stage, offering a captivating display of music and dance that had everyone tapping their feet and clapping along. It was truly a memorable night of community, creativity, and culture!



As we approach the end of the semester, we're thrilled to wrap up with prize drawings for the PBIS program. These prizes are a way to celebrate the hard work and positive behavior of our students throughout the semester. Looking ahead to next semester, we have some exciting changes taking place, and we're eager to see our students continue to "SURGE" forward in their academic and personal growth. It's going to be an exciting start to the new year, and we can't wait to see all that our students will accomplish!

Warm regards, LeAnndra Beeman ECMS Principal 719-744-0806



\_eAnndra Beeman ECMS Principal 719-744-0806







#### Dear DH Families.

On the Thursday before Thanksgiving break, we hosted our first-ever DH Staff Rock-Paper-Scissors Tournament, and what a day it was! From the morning bell to the final match, the excitement and school spirit were electric.

Each teacher began the day with a bracelet, symbolizing their entry into the competition. During designated times, teachers met in the hallways to challenge one another in quick rock-paper-scissors battles. The stakes were high—winners took all the bracelets from their opponents, leading to thrilling upsets and massive bracelet collections. Some teachers started with nothing and worked their way to impressive victories, while others with stacks of bracelets had to defend their titles.



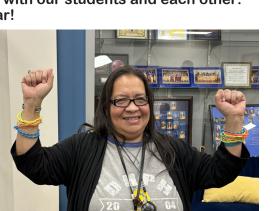
Bryan Weimer DHPH Principal 719-583-1030

The day was filled with laughter and good-hearted competition, and our students were fully engaged, cheering loudly for their favorite teachers and celebrating every exciting match. By the end of the day, Mrs. Fernandez earned the title of Champion, solidifying her place in DH history as the inaugural tournament winner.

Events like these are more than just fun—they foster connection, laughter, and positivity. Our staff set an excellent example of how to compete with kindness and good sportsmanship, all while strengthening relationships with our students and each other. We can't wait to see who will take the crown next year!

Warm regards,

Mr. Weimer **DHPH Principal** 719.583.1030 Ext. 612 blweimer@chpa-k12.org



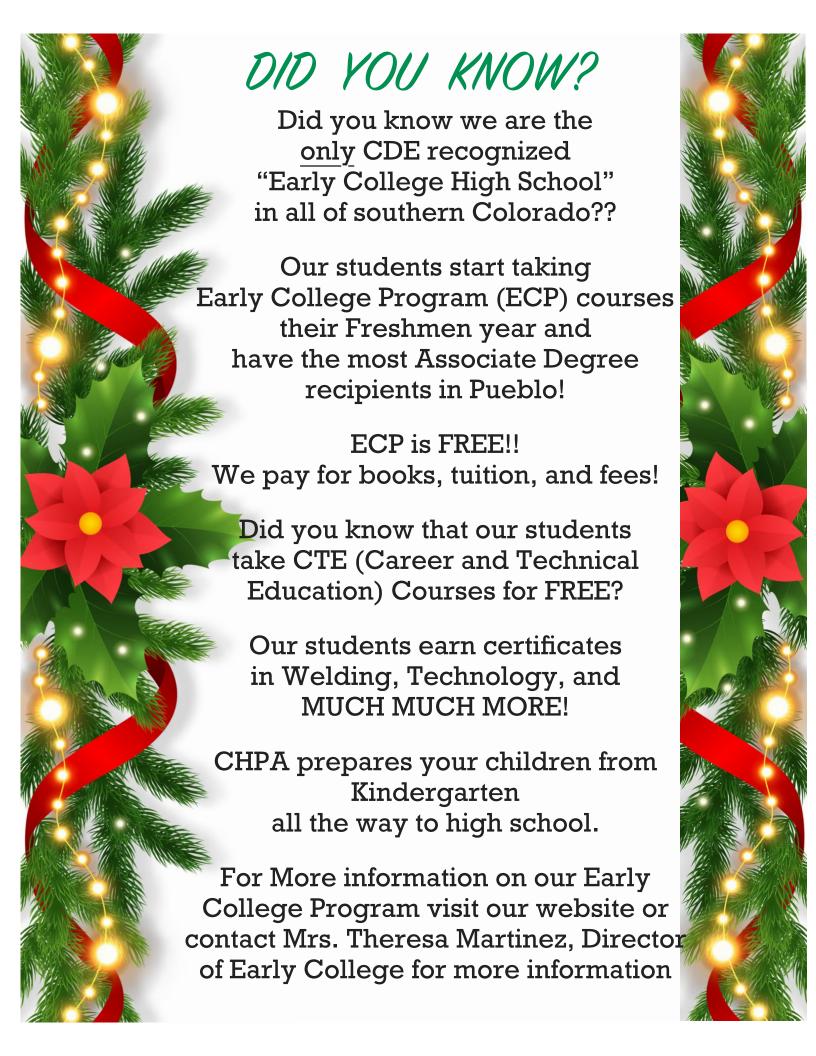


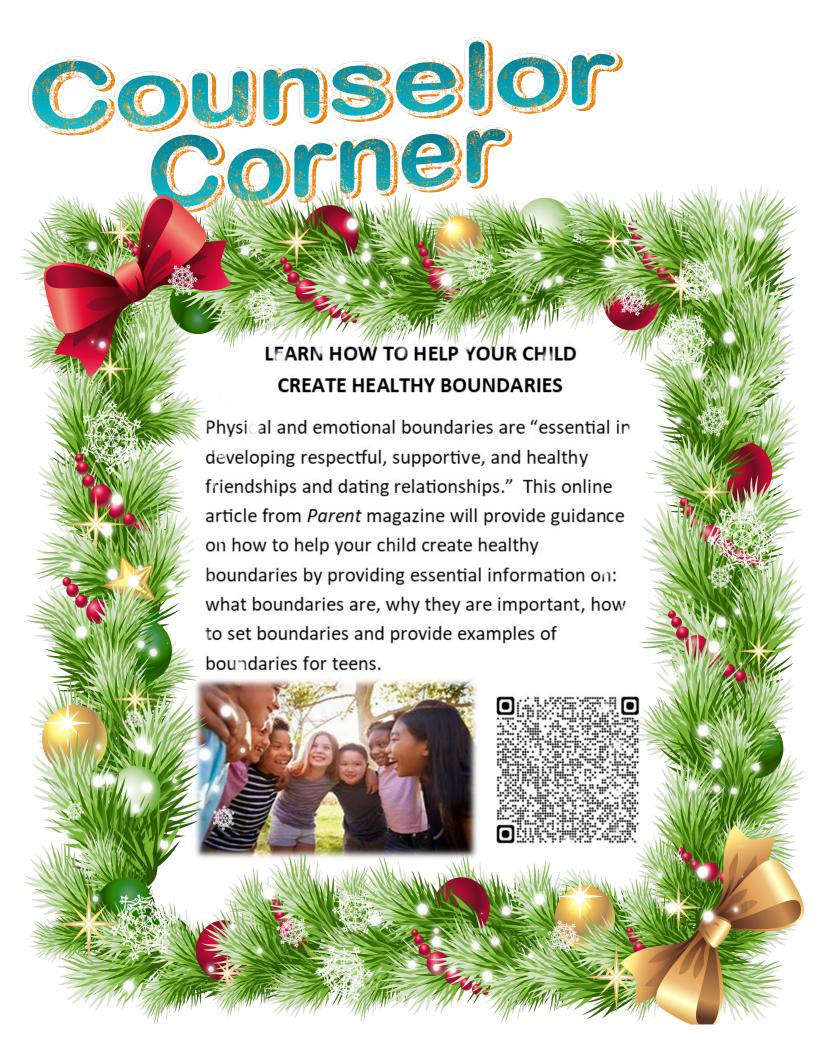












# BEAUTIFUL WORK!

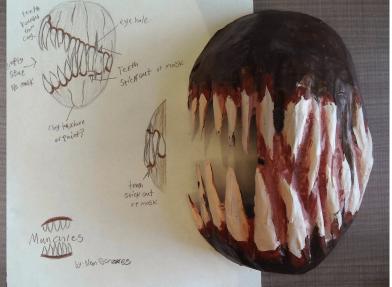
ECMS and DHPH
Art Student
Masks

Mr. Maggrett's Art Classes









# Parade of Lights!

Thank you to all of our helpers in making this parade a huge success for CHPA! thank you to our art clubs and classes for the beautiful decorations and to the staff who showed to decorate and participate in this year's Parade of Lights, our entry looked BEAUTIFUL!



# **CCA**









# CLASSROOM DECEMBER 2024

#### **Academics**

**Dec.9th - 12th:** 

**NWEA Testing** 

**Dec. 16th - 18th:** 

Makeup Testing

Dec. 18th:

Writing Assembly (Students)

Prompt: Compare/Contrast

Santa/Grinch





5th grade has a total of 3
STEM Fair winners:



1st Place: Eric Figueroa 2nd place Roman Rubio 3rd Place: Orlando Aguirre

Dec. 19th:

End of 2nd Quarter

#### **Reminders**

Dec. 18th: Birthday Celebrations

After-school snack sales
December 3rd!!!!

**Dec. 19th** Christmas Parties (Parents, please send a treat to share)

In Feb. STEM Fair winners will attend the District competition at CSU-P!

#### **Upcoming Events**

- **Dec. 5th**: 4 PM—Family Movie night: The Grinch. (Bring a pillow and blanket.) Students can wear pajamas to school and bring a stuffed animal.
- Dec. 12th: 5 PM 6: 30 Title 1
   Family Night "Las Posadas"
   (Food and Crafts)
- Dec. 9th 16th: Christmas
   Store Opens (Details to come)
- Dec. 16th- 19th: Spirit week
   Information to be announced.
- Dec. 3rd 18th: Hats, Gloves,

and Socks Drive



#### **Parents and Guardians**

# You can take advantage of our Text Messaging Service

Our school utilizes the SchoolMessenger system to deliver text messages, straight to your mobile phone with important information about events, school closings, safety alerts and more.\*

You can participate in this free service\* just by sending a text message of "Y" or "Yes" to our school's short code number, 67587.

You can also opt out of these messages at any time by simply replying to one of our messages with "Stop".

SchoolMessenger is compliant with the <u>Student Privacy</u> <u>Pledge<sup>TM</sup></u> so you can rest assured that your information is safe and will never be given or sold to anyone.



# Opt-In from your mobile now!



Just send "Y" or "Yes" to 67587.

Information on SMS text messaging and Short Codes: SMS stands for Short Message Service and is commonly referred to as a "text message". Most cell phones support this type of text messaging. Our notification provider, SchoolMessenger, uses a true SMS protocol developed by the telecommunications industry specifically for mass text messaging, referred to as "short code" texting. This method is fast, secure and highly reliable because it is strictly regulated by the wireless carriers and only allows access to approved providers.

If you've ever sent a text vote for a TV show to a number like 46999, you have used short code texting.

\*Terms and Conditions: Message frequency varies. Standard message and data rates may apply. Reply HELP for help. Text STOP to cancel. Mobile carriers are not liable for delayed or undelivered messages. See <a href="mailto:schoolmessenger.com/tm">schoolmessenger.com/tm</a> for more info.



#### **Padres y Tutores**

## Ustedes pueden aprovechar nuestro Servicio de Mensajes de Texto

Nuestra escuela utiliza el sistema de SchoolMessenger para entregar mensajes de texto, directamente a su teléfono móvil con información importante sobre eventos, cierres de escuelas, alertas de seguridad y mucho más.

Usted puede participar en este servicio gratis\* con sólo enviar un mensaje de texto de "Y" o "Yes" al número de código corto de nuestra escuela, 67587.

También puede optar por no recibir estos mensajes en cualquier momento simplemente respondiendo a uno de nuestros mensajes con "**Stop**".

SchoolMessenger es compatible con el <u>Student Privacy Pledge™</u> (Compromiso Con La Privacidad de Los Estudiantes). Puede estar seguro que su información es segura y nunca será entregada o vendida a nadie.

# Opte por recibir mensajes de en su teléfono móvil ahora!



Sólo tiene que enviar "Y" o "Yes" a 67587

Information on SMS text messaging and Short Codes: SMS significa "servicio de mensajes cortos" y comúnmente se conoce como un "mensaje de texto". La mayoría de los teléfonos celulares son compatibles con este tipo de mensajes de texto. Nuestro proveedor de notificación, SchoolMessenger, utiliza un cierto protocol SMS desarrollado por la industria de las telecomunicaciones específicamente para enviar mensajes de texto en masa, referido como mensajes de texto "código corto." Este método es rápido, seguro y muy confiable, y está estrictamente regulado por los proveedores de servicios inalámbricos y sólo permite el acceso a los proveedores aprobados. Si alguna vez ha enviado un voto de texto para un programa de televisión a un número como 46999, usted ha usado los mensajes de texto de código corto.

\*Términos y condiciones: Las frecuencias de los mensajes pueden varíar. mensajes y datos estándar pueden aplicar. Responda HELP para obtener ayuda. Texto STOP para cancelar. Los operadores móviles no son responsables por los mensajes retrasados o los que no se entregan. Mire <u>schoolmessenger.com/tm</u> para mas información.

**December 16th through December 21st** 

## Weekly Sting

#### MONDAY:

-NWEA MAP MAKE UP TESTING (ALL WEEK)

-PCC GRADES DUE

-DH HOLIDAY MERCADO

(SEE FERNANDEZ AND PADILLA FOR MORE DETAILS)

\*SPIRIT DAY: DREIDEL, DREIDEL, DREIDEL- WEAR BLUE, WHITE AND SILVER

#### **UESDAY:**

-CHPA BOARD MEETING @5:45PM

\*SPIRIT DAY: UGLY HOLIDAY SWEATER DAY!

WEDNESDAY:

\*SPIRIT DAY: DRESS UP AS A CHARACTER FROM THE GRINCH OR WEAR GREEN!

#### THURSDAY:

-BASKETBALL VS. RYE @RYE
-WRESTLING VS. RYE @ 6PM AT DHPH

\*SPIRIT DAY: WEAR YOUR CHRISTMAS/HOLIDAY PAJAMAS!

#### FRIDAY:

-BEGIN YOUR MUCH NEEDED BREAK!!!!

REST, REST, AND MORE REST!!!!!!



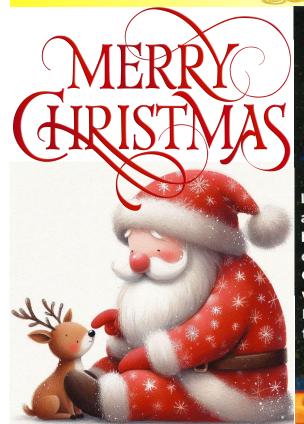
#### SATURDA

- HAPPY HOLIDAYS EVERYONE!!!









# WRESTLING TRIDUAL IGHT Lets pack the gym with DH alumi wrestlers! DH gym will be packed for our double Tri dual DH will host Cederidge & CSCS and Pueblo's Girl team will host Jefferson and Doherty. Lets pack the gym for our local wrestlers.

# **Scorpion Tales**

**Published Monthly** 

December, 2024

Issue 5 vol. 2



"Never Forget"

#### Hatred Across the Street and Rebellion Behind the Door

Neon Gonzales, Sami Ortman, Natalie Munoz, and Carlos Saen

A photograph was taken during the time of Nazi-Germany. This photo depicted a Nazi swastika flag hanging from a home outside, while inside, across the street, stood a Jewish Hanukkah menorah. Both are separated by only glass, and a street. The photo poetically conveys a strong sense of rebellion against a hateful group. Although not openly protesting, the Hanukkah menorah decorating the home's window is defiant enough. It shows that despite the terror and the fear that is being inflicted, in silence there will always be a voice to speak out against injustice.

"Shine, Shine, Shine! Let Hanukkah Shine!"

#### Sometimes, "the Old man" must write.

Troy McSpadden, JCL, STD, DD

He was stronger than his frail frame would belay. His semi balding, shaggy silver gray covered head showed his age. His wisdom was second to none, as his theological background was scholastically impeccable. His only vice, if you could call it that, was a single glass of beer each day. He was a fine, simple, man.

The only time this changed was on certain anniversaries. There were dates he could not forget, and his simple glass of beer would turn to multiple glasses of whiskey, as if the liquor was required to open the chambers in his mind to which he relegated those memories. His wife, his children. Those memories he stored away. Far away from the happy stories he delivered from the pulpit to his congregation on the Sabbath and the High Holy Days.

We didn't talk about the number on his arm, A5861, still burned in this author's memory, we didn't discuss things like that in polite company. The whiskey nights, though, were different. Photo by Rachael Posner/ with permission. Con't

We would talk, mostly he would talk, and he told me of things I could not fathom. He spoke of atrocities he had witnessed and endured. His life would be considered remarkable and miraculous, but he considers it an affront.

We didn't understand survivors' guilt at that time, but he suffered from it just the same. He questioned why he survived the flames, the gas, the bullets. Why did he alone emerge from the place that had taken all his family away. Why had God chosen him to walk into this harsh world.? "If God lived on Earth, his house would have broken windows" he would say, chuckling as he sipped his whiskey.

He was at the Nuremburg trials, as an interviewed, but uncalled witness. He was in Israel for the trial of Adolf Eichman, again interviewed and deposed, but never called. He had to share his pain and hurt with a world of strangers, most of whom could not comprehend the evil he had witnessed and been subjected to. During the trial in Israel, he was scorned for not fighting back, for not rebelling as the Jews had at Masada. Then after the trial, after all the testimony, he was held as a hero. "A hero? Me? No." the sip of whiskey passing his lips, "No, not me."

He was a remarkable man, a scholar and teacher of great worth and merit. He rebuilt his life after Bergen-Belsen, after Auschwitz. He settled in Kentucky and lead a synagogue thru trying times. Here in his adopted homeland, he faced racism, hatred, burning crosses. He spoke that God was punishing him for surviving, that was why America was sometimes so harsh.

My friend passed away peacefully in his home, with his new family by his side. He sang his final Kaddish and closed his eyes.

I wish him well, and I miss him, still.

Rest well:

Rabbi Dr. Chiam Gettleman 1900-2000

"We teach every day; we walk every mile. We pay the debt we owe."

#### **Scorpion Tales**

#### The Little Drummer Boy

#### Alizah and Annalyse

#### Staff Writers

The Little drummer boy, a stop motion animated TV show, debuted on December 19th, 1968, to Canadian audiences, and 4 days later to American ones. The story follows Aaron, who received a drum on his birthday. Aaron discovers that his drumming makes the animals on his family farm dance. As Aaron plays, bandits come and attack the farm, leaving him alone in the world. Soon his grief is such that he develops a hatred for all humankind. While wondering, Aaron is kidnapped and forced to join a traveling group of players. He lets them know that they are thieves and bandits, and the leader of the caravan berates him and after the dressing down, continues to travel. The caravan's camel is sickly and weak, and completely worn out from trying to chase the Magi. Attempting to sell the old camel, Aaron opts to keep him, naming him Joshua. The small group runs toward Bethlehem, following the star, to discover the manger scene. Following the lyrics from "Carol of the drum" Aaron plays for Him, Aaron and his drum.

#### (Submitted with no byline)

Little children gaze in awe as snowflakes gently fall from the sky, transforming the world into a winter wonderland. Their eyes sparkle with wonder and delight, tiny hands reaching out to catch the delicate flakes. Laughter fills the air as they experience the magic of snow for the first time.

"Feliz Navidad" was written and first recorded in 1970 by Puerto Rican singersongwriter José Feliciano

. The song has since become a beloved Christmas classic, known for its simple, heartfelt lyrics and festive melody.

Christmas lights originated in the 17th century with candles on trees. Electric lights, introduced by Thomas Edison in the 1880s, revolutionized holiday decorations.

Wanted: People to support Coach Guerrero in his belief that BASKETBALL is the SUPREME WINTER SPORT while cheering on his Scorpion Cagers!

Scorpion Basketball

The rage in the Cage!

#### Christmas Time With Charlie Brown, A Night of Joy and Warmth

Neon Gonzales and Sami Ortman

Charlie Brown movies have become a tradition for families across the country. The movies are very nostalgic, giving off a warm feeling, especially Charlie Brown's Christmas. This film brings old memories out of the attic, sending adults back to their childhood, even for just a moment. The movie fixes the main problem in a human way rather than having Santa save the day. It takes a more refreshing spin on the "Christmas Crisis" narrative that is popular with a lot of Christmas time movies. The movie is entertaining for adults, as well as children, having a wide range of ages watching the events of the film unfold. A Christmas miracle indeed, starting a tradition that lasts for generations.

#### Wrestling: The true Winter Sport

High school wrestling is a dynamic and intense sport that combines strength, technique, and strategy. Wrestlers compete in various weight classes, ensuring fair and balanced matches. The Sport emphasizes discipline, physical fitness, and mental toughness. Wrestlers train rigorously, learning various holds, takedowns, and escapes. Matches are typically fast paced and require quick thinking and adaptability. High school wrestling not only builds athletic skills but also fosters teamwork, sportsmanship, and personal growth.

Wanted: People interested in rewarding hard work and supporting the experience of a lifetime! Coach Franklin is looking for you! Support Scorpion Wrestling! Champions are made in the Winter!

Make sure you are keeping up on your Service hours! Check with Mr. McBee or Ms. Padilla!

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Publisher: Fred Segura Publisher: Bryan Weimer

#### **Scorpion Tales**



This Photo by Unknown Author is licensed under CC BY/AP

## INSIDE KYLA AND CAT'S COLLECTIVE MIND KYLA MELTON & CATRIONA BAXIN-VIGIL Staff Columnists

Thanksgiving is a holiday where people give grace and express their thanks towards their family, friends and blessings. This holiday is usually accompanied by plenty of food, so individuals can feast over their thankfulness.

The food is to die for, if it is prepared and cooked well, that must be what some food-intolerant individuals are trying to convince themselves of after this year's holiday.

Perhaps the idea of declining food made by beloved family and friends is something that not everyone can manage. Thanksgiving, the holiday of grace, but some are too thankful, eating food that they should not.

A day of food is not worth the physical faults that may occur, especially if you're more sensitive than most, or even worse, have an autoimmune disease. The gift of pain results from giving into food, giving into family. Hopefully, it was worth it,

we plead.

Every year, on Christmas Eve, my mom, my brother, my sister, and I have this tradition that makes the holiday feel extra special. It's nothing fancy, but it's one of those things I can't imagine Christmas without.

The whole day feels like a build-up to our tradition. In the afternoon, the four of us bake cookies together. My mom is in charge of organizing everything because if she didn't, it would be pure chaos. My sister and I always take over the decorating, and we get super competitive about who can make the bestlooking gingerbread person. Meanwhile, my little brother is in charge of "quality control," which basically means he eats half of the frosting before it even makes it onto the cookies. Somehow, we always end up with trays of cookies that look completely random, but they taste amazing, so no one cares.

After baking, we all change into our matching Christmas pajamas. Yes, even my brother, although he acts like it's the most embarrassing thing ever. My mom picks a new design every year—this time, it's red ones with little snowmen on them. We take a bunch of goofy pictures in front of the Christmas tree, and it's one of those rare times when no one is arguing or rolling their eyes.

Next, we make hot chocolate. My mom has this thing about doing it from scratch, so she melts chocolate on the stove and adds milk. My sister always tries to add marshmallows and whipped cream, which turns her mug into a sticky mess. My brother just dumps a mountain of whipped cream on his and pretends it's a science experiment.

Then comes the best part: movie time. We all pile onto the couch with our mugs and a plate of cookies and watch Home Alone. We've been watching it every year for as long as I can remember, so it's officially part of the tradition. My brother likes to act out the traps Kevin sets for the burglars, which is hilarious and kind of terrifying at the same time. My sister and I quote the funny lines, and my mom just laughs at how ridiculous we all are.

After the movie, we turn off all the lights except for the Christmas tree.

The house gets so quiet, and we just sit there for a while, staring at the glowing lights. Sometimes, we talk about our favorite Christmas memories, and other times, we just sit and enjoy the moment. My mom always reminds us that these little traditions are what make the holidays special, and I think she's right.

Before bed, we set out a plate of cookies for Santa and a glass of milk. Even though we're all old enough to know Santa's not real, it's still fun to keep the tradition alive. My brother always sneaks an extra cookie onto the plate "just in case Santa's really hungry," which makes my mom laugh every time.

Christmas isn't about the presents or the big dinner—it's about spending time together and making memories. No matter how much we grow up or how busy life gets, I hope we never stop doing this. It's more than just a tradition—it's a reminder that, at the end of the day, we're a family, and that's what really matters.

### Who Wins in the Battle of the Best winter sport?

Is it Coach Franklin and his mat-men?

Is it Coach Guerrero and his rowdy Cagers?

Find out in Scorpion Tales!

(Keeping this one up for educational purposes. *Editor*)

Dear Sting: Why are all the staff giving us a hard time about being in the bathrooms? We ain't hurting nothing, and we got nowhere else to hang and chill. What's the issue? Unsigned

Dear Unsigned: I think I'm gonna let Mr. McSpadden handle this one.

Thanks, Sting, I figure something has to be attracting 10 plus individuals into an area that has the capacity of 2 areas to void bladders. My question is why? Are you unaware that people utilize this area to excrete human waste? There must be better places to hang out.

Got a question, a burning desire? Hit us up! Need some advice?

Dearsting14@gmail.com