



BrahmaTales

FALL EDITION



DECEMBER 2022

Dancing Into December

By Jocelyn Mada

The famous Windcrest Light Up tradition kicked off on Friday, Dec. 2 at City Hall with a performance from the Folklorico club and the L.E.E. High School Mariachi band.

Windcrest has hosted the light up tradition for the past 64 years and continues to host and conduct events for the community.

“One of the nice ladies in the Windcrest organization heard about us and wanted to support us for all their Christmas events,” senior dancer Georgette Maciel said.

The Folklorico has to travel to one of the two schools in the district that has a Mariachi band, which are L.E.E and Churchill, because there wasn’t enough membership for Mariachi band this year.

“My favorite part of the event was when everyone got together as just one group and started

singing and really spreading joy to the people,” junior dancer Octavio Rodriguez said.

The light-up celebration spanned two days: Friday, Dec. 2 and Saturday, Dec. 3, with Saturday hosting vendors and snacks for the dancers. This year, Windcrest’s light-up theme is Fiesta De Navidad, and is set to last until New Year’s Eve.

“Although I am Jewish, I think it’s important to dance to make people smile and keep people happy,” senior dancer Victor Martiniez said.



The dancers, Georgette Maciel, Octavio Rodriguez, and Victor Martiniez pose for a photo in front of the Windcrest Christmas tree.

School Security Revisited

By Delaney Pence

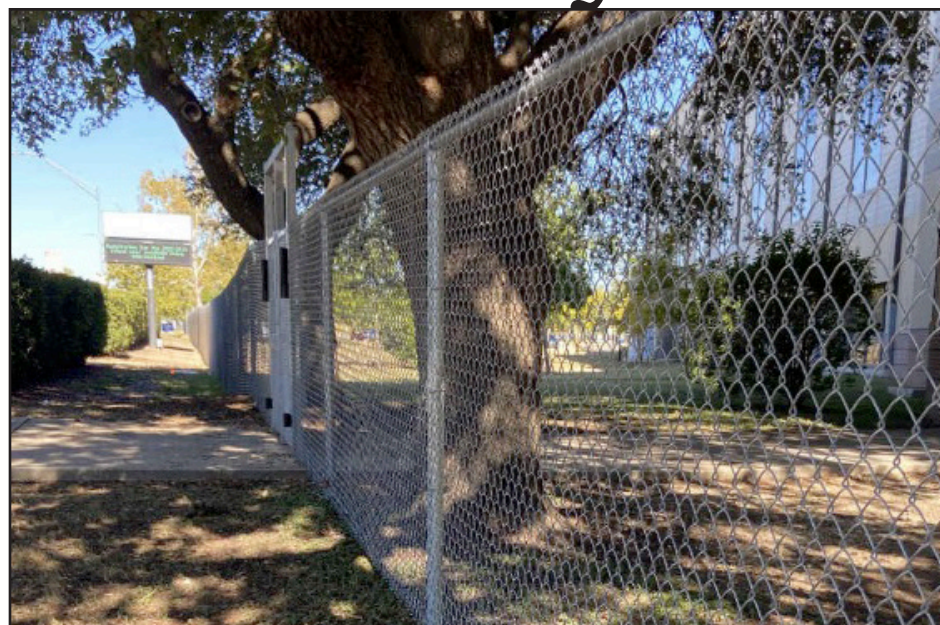
In August, administration announced that all doors would be locked from the outside, there would be designated stairwells to go up and down, the back parking lot would remain locked throughout the school day, and a gate would be placed around the front of the school. As rules put in place by the TEA left the majority of students frustrated for the first few months of school, students adjusted to new norms.

The locked doors seem to be the most frustrating thing for students, and the inaccessibility to the building has caused more inconveniences than benefits.

“I don’t believe the new rules are fulfilling their intended purpose,” senior Alex Jauregui said. “The safety measures have left me feeling less safe to be honest. If an intruder were to get in during a lunch period, all those students would be locked out, or forced to go through one door.”

However, the frustration and confusion over the stairwells has definitely simmered down. In August, the stairwells were labeled by which ones we could walk up and which ones we could walk down.

“I feel like the rules with the stairwells haven’t really changed



The new school fence being built around the perimeter of the school earlier this school year.

much,” senior Sydney Flusche said. “Everyone is just trying to get to class so I don’t think anyone’s really bothered by what stairs we go up and down.”

Although the rules have upset some students in different ways, Principal Joaquin Hernandez has always tried to keep students in the loop and listen to what they have to say. He released surveys over the stairwells at the beginning of the year, and changed the rule that students couldn’t be in the courtyard during lunch based on student opinion.

“Anytime a student has emailed me, reached out to me, sent me a message, I listened,” Principal

Hernandez said. “Students wanted to go up and down the D-staircase, so we changed it. I know that making these adjustments have been hard, so we have done our best to listen.”

The rules put in place were state mandated for all Texas public schools, so it’s difficult for administration to change them with the simple snap of a finger.

“Right now there is a group authorized by the state of Texas to go around to campuses pulling the doors,” Hernandez said. “We had a visit the week before Thanksgiving, a man came and showed us his badge and checked if the doors were locked, how fast they close, if

the gates were locked and stuff like that. After they come, we get a report and the report is filed through the state. So we need to be on top of safety as a main priority.”

A new gate has also been placed around the front of the school as a result of these rules as well, blocking cars in the back parking lot from leaving during the school day. The front parking lot, however, is open for access to parents and students who have early release or late start. The school has made various accommodations to these rules so that they are easier to adjust to, but with very little room for changes, the rules will most likely stay the same.

“We won’t truly have 100% of what we want for at least another year,” Hernandez said. “I don’t think the state is going to change the rules, I actually think they’re gonna make it worse and more strict if we don’t comply as they ask right now. I know it’s inconvenient, I know it’s a drag, I know it’s a bummer, I get it, but we have to do what we are required to do by law, and we have to do what keeps you guys safe. Because I’d rather you guys are mad at me because the doors or locked than your parents being mad at me because something happened to you.”

Kicking FIFA Out Of Qatar

Editorial By Jordan Jackson

The World Cup kicked off on Nov. 20, but the country of Qatar along with FIFA officials should have never been allowed to hold an event of this magnitude. From blatant bribery, lack of human and workers' rights, along with discrimination of all things LGBTQ. Qatar is in no shape to host something watched and loved by 2.6 billion people from all over the world.

To say that the people who worked on building the needed infrastructure for the World Cup were treated "unfairly" is an understatement. One of the main problems seemingly swept under the rug by FIFA and Qatar is that most of the migrant workers from countries like India, Pakistan, and Nepal who built things like stadiums, lodging, and railway systems were never compensated for their labor in extremely dangerous working conditions according to the UN Human Rights Council. Conditions that had workers in 125 degree heat while living in labor camps without running water, or clean beds. These conditions are what contributed to an estimated 400-500 migrant workers' deaths, according to ESPN.

Even with the organization's questionable decisions with

its league, FIFA has tried to push a narrative that they are an ally of the LGBTQ community. Choosing a country like Qatar might have possibly been one of the worst destinations for inclusivity for LGBTQ "due to the country's long history of being against the community" the announcement with the tournament rollout was that players would be allowed to wear armbands that say "one love" with the background of a rainbow to show solidarity to the LGBTQ community along with the US using the rainbow in their logo for the tournament. But at the start of the tournament that was thrown out the window as teams were told that it would penalize them for wearing or mentioning anything LGBTQ related. Holding a summer sporting event in Qatar is not a "smart move" with the extreme heat and lack of infrastructure to host an event the size of the world cup.. When Qatar was selected to host the World Cup back in 2010, it was on pace to become the smallest country in history to host the tournament, as the country of Qatar is slightly smaller than the state of Connecticut. With that size, it came as no surprise that Qatar lacked the infrastructure needed to host the tournament.

That probably brings the question of how they even got selected to host it in the first place. With FIFA's shady past one narrative being pushed and has been confirmed by The New York Times that voters were bribed to vote for Qatar (as the host because that is the only way the underdeveloped country would get the opportunity. What has been called the World Cup to unify the world after a rough four years by FIFA which is a good effort by the organization to unite the world of sports with an event bringing in people from all over the world to participate in a month of football and cheering for people's countries. But what good does it do to the world if it's not done correctly?

FIFA needs to ensure that it will not keep adding to its long streak of tournaments that go on to violate worker rights, Human Rights and the hearts of its fans. Bringing in members of the UN council to regulate day-to-day labor along with the decision making for voting of the host country could get rid of FIFA's corruption on the tournament. Fans should be able to cheer on their countries without thinking of the exploitation it took of another country.

Q&A

Who are you rooting for in the World Cup?



"I'm rooting for Argentina to win it all now that Mexico isn't in the tournament."
Gilberto Sanchez, 12



"I would love to see France go and win another one. I've been to France and I'm in love with the culture out there.,and the best thing about the World Cup is seeing the different fans and how much they're willing to die for their country."
Nikola Saltchev, 12

TikTok Trend Tragedy

Editorial By Harper Ashbaugh-erwise

Social media has influenced pop culture since its inception. But with the rise of TikTok, its algorithm has become one that allows for small things to rise up and become insanely popular for only the very short amount of time that it grabs people's attention. Trends on social media are changing at a rapid rate, and it's harmful in multiple ways. A fast moving trend cycle leads to an even larger rise of fast fashion. Cheaply and poorly made clothing is being produced to replicate recent trends and are highly disposable. Up to 92 million tons of clothing-related waste are thrown away every year according to Earth.org.

Social media feeds into microtrends and haul culture that lead to overconsumption and ruin the environment.

The culture around music is also changing. Instead of whole songs becoming popular, people only listen to a 15 second segment. At concerts, like R&B star Steve Lacy's for example, people did not know any verses except for the ones that were trending. Tik Tok has become a fuel to the fire of people not caring about the actual art, but instead how popular it is. Activism has also become a performative trend, with people not truly caring for the issue but only being preoccupied with seeming to be socially aware. In 2020, when the #BlackLivesMatter movement was trending on social media, almost 24 million black squares were posted on 'Blackout Tuesday'. Actual information and black people's voices became drowned out by the same people who had meant to support it.

While trends have always existed, during the past decade they have become so fast moving



In the studio, Steve Lacy records a track.

that people base their entire career off of one successful trend and then become irrelevant shortly after. This is prevalent both on TikTok and in the music industry, with artists like SAINT JHN and Masked Wolf becoming popular because of one song and failing to replicate the success.

A way to combat this is

to lower the time spent on social media and to not base everything on what is popular at the moment. There needs to be more focus on building individual interests and personalities. Social media has moved trend cycles forward so quickly that it is causing harm against the environment, the music industry, and its followers.

Brahma Tales

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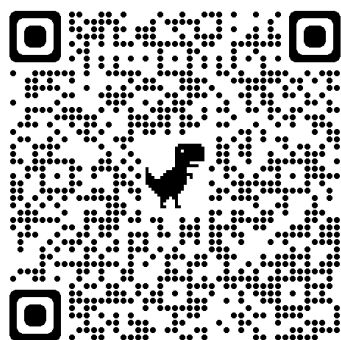
BrahmaTales is a student produced news source for MacArthur High School's students, faculty, and community. The purpose of BrahmaTales is primarily educational, whilst informing and entertaining readers, as well as providing an open forum for student expression. Content of BrahmaTales is determined by the editorial board. Letters to the editor are welcome and may be published if space allows. All written material should be sent to room C351.

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A Note From The Staff

By Julian Petzold

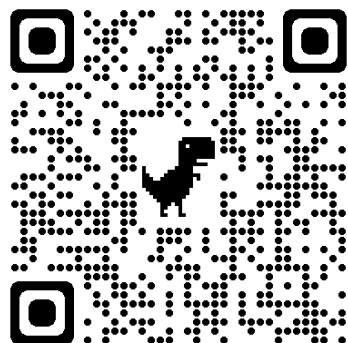
Even though the staff has about doubled in size from last year to this year, there are many new faces and it took a while for everyone to settle in. Despite the adversity, everyone in the class has come together and each person brings something unique to the table.

For our new writers, Harper has been such a talented writer from the start and even placed first in her first ever writing competition with us. Talana always makes me laugh with her witty comments and is maybe the most confident person in the class. Gianna has shown to have an amazing work ethic and wrote multiple articles for this paper despite not even being in the class period. Shakira is the best at devoting time outside of school to helping the newspaper, waking up early on the weekends to take pictures and report on school events. Vince brings his own unique spin on media to the school, with his creative 'Brahma Bites' series on the news website.

As for the returners, Jocelyn is the most caring member on the staff, and always makes sure to carry our staff parties. Aris knows what they are doing at all times and might be the most experienced

on the staff. Presley's quiet humor compliments her unique stories she brings to the online site, such as her book reviews. Jordan is the best at gaining multiple connections throughout the school and in the community, he constantly gets the class laughing and engaged in interesting conversations, and produced the layout for the whole paper. Finally, Delaney can calm down others and take a leadership role, she can make everyone in the room laugh, and she truly cares about what she's writing about. Everyone deserves their own spotlight for the work they've done on this paper. They've all worked with such short notice and short deadlines, and made this project possible against all odds.

Check us out online!



MacTEACH Hosts Party For ALE Students

By Julian Petzold

To give back to ALE students at the school, MacTEACH hosted an ALE Christmas Party in the school library on Dec. 8.

"The ALE Christmas Party was to grant the kids a special and fun Christmas," senior Kameron Kelly said. "It's a great way for everyone to feel included and special in their own way. They each got their personalized gifts and watching them not only put a smile on their faces, but ours too."



While opening his gift, Jonathan Vrazel sits with MacTEACH students Asher Lambert and Ella Alvarez.



Holding up a personalized Superman jacket, Quincy Durham flexes his new clothes.



Handing out presents, Santa gives multiple gifts to Eric Hawkins during the gift-giving ceremony.



Sitting with MacTEACH student Monica Saldana, Kayla Cooper looks at her new gift. All Photos By Jordan Jackson

Holiday Movie Memories

By Gianna Dipasquale

While everyone celebrates this holiday season in different ways, whether it's opening gifts around a Christmas tree, or lighting a menorah for Hanukkah, there is one thing that a lot of people spend the season doing: watching holiday movies. This time of the year is often characterized by the films that filled our childhood, such as "A Charlie Brown Christmas", "The Polar Express", and other

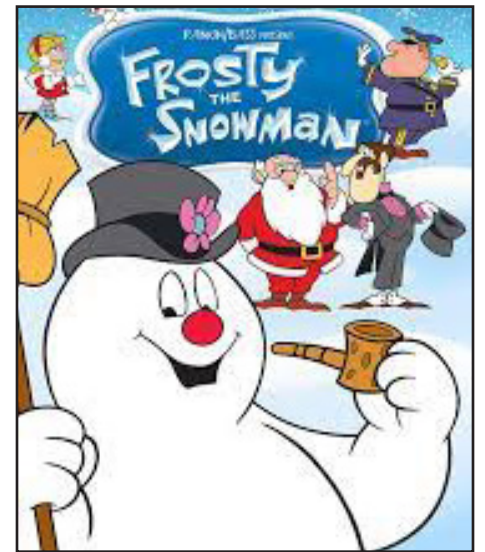
classics that students consider their favorites.

"I want to say the original cartoon Frosty the Snowman," senior Rylee Munguia said. "It's just so nostalgic for me because I grew up on that movie. It may not be the best movie, but it's still an original," Munguia said.

Many people love these movies because of the connection between them and happy moments they spent with their families watching these films.

"It's not so much a Christmas [movie], but Anastasia," junior Emilia McClintock said. "I used to watch it with my mom all the time and her voice is amazing," McClintock said.

These movies continue to fill people's lives, and are the highlight of the season for many. However people decide to spend the holiday season, whether it's a huge gathering with their family, or a Secret Santa with friends, these films will fill the homes of many this time of the year.



The original movie adaptation of Frosty The Snowman was released in 1969.

We Want Blue Crew

By Presley Crenwelge

From breaking stadium seats to crowd surfing students to the field, Blue Crew has always been some type of legendary. The school has had a unique tradition of its lively student section at games, going by the name "Blue Crew". Blue Crew is there to give players, the band, and the crowd motivation. Putting together and organizing chants, getting the crowd more involved, and making the game a good time for everyone there, regardless how the game goes.

"It was really hard to get the crowd hyped with such little people," senior Blue Crew leader William Fisher said. "It bounced back this year because this was the first year people were able to fully be at the games."

Two years ago when there

were not many kids on campus, school spirit was at an all-time low. It was hard to see it, but this year the school gained that momentum back.

"I feel like this year, having Blue Crew together is really going to improve the culture of the school by being unified," senior Blue Crew leader Gabriella Sosa said. "Last year, when I was talking to [Principal] Hernandez about leading Blue Crew, he really wanted our focus to



In the final game of the season against Boerne Champion, Blue crew poses for one last football

be to bring everyone together from all different backgrounds."

Blue Crew isn't just about supporting the athletes at games, but the band too.

"The relationship between the drumline and Blue Crew is something really special," senior

Diego Cartagena said. "Every time we'd play for them I couldn't help but have a smile on my face, and the 'We Want Drumline' chants were always something to look forward to at every game. It's something I'm gonna miss as a senior." If anyone wants to get involved with the chants at games, don't be scared to speak up.

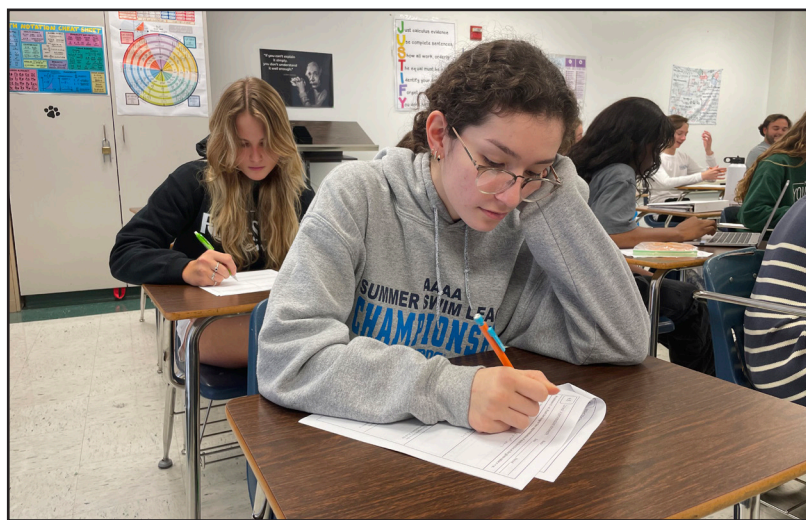
"Blue Crew isn't a club just for a certain type of person," Sosa said. "It's available for everyone, and we want to unify the school."

Win or lose, Blue Crew is there to support the teams and have a good time.

"They're always supporting a group at a game or event," Cartagena said. "And I believe they are the school spirit embodied in a group."

Savvy SAT Testing Tips

By Gianna Dipasquale



It is smart to take the SAT two to three times to get the best score possible.

With the College and Career Center closed at the moment, and students preparing for the SAT, be it their first attempt, or

need to submit SAT scores for college applications before the end of the semester.

"I don't think that you should

work yourself to death to study for the SAT," senior Avery Weaver said. "I think you should study at some point in the weeks leading up to the SAT, but the night before, two nights before, take a break, and just prepare yourself health-wise, eat well, sleep, drink lots of water, all that stuff," Weaver said.

Without the help of the College and Career Center for now, some students may be afraid of not being as informed as they could be about the test. Some may even be concerned about where they will find a place to practice.

"It was nice to be able to ask Mrs. Bobadilla if I had any random questions," Weaver said. "Not having that space will probably stress

students out in the future because they won't know where to go for the correct advice."

The College and Career Center is not the only place to find ways to study for the SAT. There are other resources that are very effective and extremely helpful to prepare for the test.

"Khan Academy, the online resource, you just take a practice test and it rates which parts of the SAT you need the most help on," Weaver said. "It's more helpful than any SAT study books from the library because you have to find all those answers for yourself, whereas Khan Academy is personalized especially to your strengths and weaknesses."

Can't Miss Christmas Events

By Aris Earls

The last bell rings at 1:20 and students race home to begin their winter break. While some have their calendars filled with a new event every day, most students spend their breaks at home on their phones. Here are some events around the city to help spend some time outside of your house this winter break.

To see lights

UIW is the way to go. The university has had their lights up since Nov. 19 and plans to keep them up until Jan. 6, giving students plenty of time to go and check it out.



To see extravagant decorations

Check out the Windcrest Light Up. They unveiled their "Fiesta de Navidad"-themed decorations on Dec. 3 and plan to keep them

up until the new year. Additionally, the City of Windcrest offers a map in exchange for a donation to benefit the Windcrest Volunteer Fire Association and various city non-profits, featuring the locations of the "Light-Up" winners. Maps are available at various locations throughout the city during "Light-Up" season.

To find a last minute gift

check out the Holiday Market hosted by Honest Soul Yoga and Fitness. They will be hosting, from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. at 20079 Stone Oak Boulevard Suite 3110.

To enjoy an alternative festive dance performance

Check out "Costumbres Navideñas" by Ballet Folklórico Sol de San Antonio for a night full of folklorico dancing and live mariachi music. They will perform at Edgewood Theater of Performing Arts 402 Lance St. and tickets are available for \$30 on their website.

To enjoy more music and dance

Check out "Nutcracker! Magical Christmas Ballet" at the Majestic Theater. Tickets are available for

their showings on Dec. 29. Featuring stars of Ukraine ballet, Three performances are scheduled for 12 p.m., 4 p.m. and 8 p.m.. Tickets are available now with prices starting at \$34.75 per ticket.



To finish off the new year with Tex-Mex music and dance

Check out the Celebrate SA downtown from 6 p.m. to midnight on New Year's Eve. Produced by the San Antonio Parks Foundation and the City of San Antonio, the event features live entertainment on the South Alamo Main Stage. You will be able to expect performances from Eddie & The Valiants, John Charlie's Heavy Love, and more. The best part is the unbeatable price: free.

Q&A

What is your family holiday tradition?



"I'll probably be going to Windcrest, and I'm going to the "Holiday in the Park" at Six Flags."

Teagan Lambert, 12



"On Christmas day, me and my family watch the Disney Christmas Day Parade on ABC."

Elanna Hubbard, 11

Taste Testing Infamous Xmas Bites

By Vinson Van

The holidays have many signature dishes that are enjoyed by billions around the world, and two of the most popular are fruitcake and eggnog.

Both eggnog and fruitcake are old, like really old. Fruitcake originated in Ancient Roman times, and became popular during Victorian England times for weddings and holidays. In modern days, it is widely debated whether the dish is enjoyable or not. Eggnog has been around since Medieval Britain and became a popular drink in the American colonies. It is still deeply loved during the holiday season to this day.

FRUIT CAKE



Fruitcake's presentation looks very appetizing, with pecan nuts on top, dried cherries, and the bread looks just like banana bread. But, it has a sticky and mushy texture almost like soggy bread. The cake has a similar smell to pecan pie, but looks can definitely be deceiving. It tasted like a raisin muffin with a crunchy, squishy, and

somehow a bit chewy texture. Personally, the flavor of raisin muffins isn't enjoyable and the textures don't match.

EGGNOG

Eggnog has a brown yellowish color, but is washed out by white because of the milk in it. It has a strange smell to it, very similar to spoiled milk but with a kind of sweet scent. Despite the smell, the flavor is delicious. It's sweet with the



same consistency as melted ice cream. There wasn't an egg taste, even though a lot of egg is used. It's a classic holiday treat and is for sure a necessity for the winter months.

THE VERDICT

The fruitcake wasn't that good. I didn't like the taste or the texture. It was negatives on negatives except it didn't make a positive. It lived up to its bad reputation that it has garnered in America. On the other hand, eggnog was a different story. It exceeded my expectations. It had a nice creamy and sweet flavor. I'd give fruitcake a level two out of five on the "bussin" scale, and eggnog for sure is a level five "bussin".



POV: trying fruitcake at 3 a.m..

XC Gets Fancy

By Shakira Wade

The cross country season officially came to a close following an amazing season filled with tons of highs and lows. The '22 Cross Country Banquet was held on Wednesday, Dec. 7 at the Canyon Springs Golf Club to commemorate the end of another successful season.



Before the banquet began, all the members of cross country lined up for one last group photo.



Bouquets were given to Giselle Stem and Andrea Delgreco to accompany their plaques in recognition of their dedication to the team.



After having a dinner followed by the awards ceremony, the runners congratulated each other while reflecting on the memories they made during the season.



Giving a speech Andrew Hernandez stands at the podium. Seniors on the team gave speeches reflecting on their time in cross country.

Brittney's Back

By Julian Petzold

After a 10 month imprisonment for the possession of vape cartridges in a Russian airport, WNBA star Brittney Griner was announced as released from Russian custody. The release, made possible because of a prisoner swap organized by the US and Russian governments, has become controversial amongst the American public.

"I think that she broke the law in that country, and if it was anybody else, then they would have to stay in that country and serve their time," senior basketball player Ariya Anderson said.

The prisoner swap sent Griner back to the states in exchange for Viktor Bout, a Russian arms dealer nicknamed the "Merchant of Death". Because of Bout's controversial status, media critics have attacked President Biden and his administration for the decision.

Griner was released in-part because of the huge amount of people in support of her coming home, leading many to believe that she was only brought home because of her status, and a normal citizen would be left in the Russian prison. While some have argued that her release is a step forward for the respect of female basketball players,

others believe that the situation is centered around Griner herself, not the female basketball community.

"I don't think it really does anything for the basketball [community], I think it's just her," Anderson said. "Nothing really about basketball, just her decision."

Griner will likely return to her old life as a player for the Phoenix Mercury, but her new status of a political pawn while locked up overseas turned many Americans on her.

"You got to know what you're doing when you go to that country, and not bring illegal substances in," Anderson said.



Representing her country during the 2022 Summer Olympics, Griner suits up for team USA.

Catapult Skills

By Shakira Wade

Wrestling may seem like a pretty straightforward sport, but there's actually a lot more that goes into it. Many factors go into the sport, like weighing in before every dual, tri, or tournament, staying in shape by going to practice almost everyday after school, and keeping up with your opponents.

"There is always someone better than you and someone who is working harder," sophomore Ella Prieto said. "My goal for this season is to go to Cy-Fair and make it to regionals."

Cy-Fair is the largest varsity wrestling invitational held for boys and girls teams in Texas and Louisiana. It takes a lot to qualify and compete in this tournament, which is why it's so important to win and stay in your weight class. This means watching what you eat and weighing yourself regularly to make sure you aren't underweight or overweight.

"If you don't stay in your weight class, you can't wrestle or you have

to change weight classes." junior Kolton Teeter said.

However, all of the pre-match pressure lifts once you step on the mat and it's time to show off the moves you've been practicing.

"My favorite move is a heel drop," Prieto said, "It's a way to bring someone back down to the mat if they stand up."



Kei'aviyahn Evans, 11

Banking on Brand New Brahmas

By Julian Petzold

Following an up-and-down 2021-2022 season with a 12-17 overall record, the varsity basketball team is back with a brand new look in a brand new district. There are only two returning players from last season, and the team will face completely different 5-A competition that the school hasn't seen before. The team has had a slow start, but has also had high-level competition in the pre-district tournaments so far.

"We're not playing a bunch of teams that are easy wins," Coach Corey Christiansen said. "Our win-loss record, everyone always wants to win games, but we've talked about it every single day about them just competing and getting better and getting ready for district. We intentionally set up the schedule so that it wouldn't be a cakewalk. We wanna be challenged, and I think [Nov.29] was a good sign [against] Madison."

With many of last year's starters graduating, the team's offensive game plan has completely changed, allowing for junior Elias Aitmerim to emerge as the team's number one scoring option.

"Elias is a returning player, he's a junior this year," Coach Christiansen said. "Basically, his role is to be a scorer and we're looking for him to be aggressive in transition. We're also running offenses to where we're not slowing the ball down, but we're trying to get [a high percentage] of shots that are assisted jumpshots."

Taking up a big role on the offensive side of the ball, Elias has his sights set on big personal accomplishments this season.

"My personal goal for this season is to make All-District First



In a match-up against Stevens High School, junior Elias Aitmerim goes up for a layup in transition.

Team," Aitmerim said.

Aitmerim being the main scoring option also highlights the new fast-paced look for the team with him being the number one option on transition opportunities too. The team is more undersized than they were last year so Coach Christiansen believes that getting out in transition is a great strategy for the team.

"When we get stops, when we're getting down the floor, we wanna move the ball and try getting our offense to where it's a little faster pace when we do get a stop," Christiansen said. "It's a

change from last year, our height difference is a lot smaller." The high-level competition games right now are helping the team put together their chemistry, as multiple players just joined the team in the basketball period after

football season. These players are already playing contributing minutes, but naturally need more time to gel with the team.

"We do have some football guys that have come in and definitely helped out in a short amount of time," Christiansen said. "The two guys that we brought in from football are CJ Larry and [Emiliano] Fears and their job is to be guys that come in and rebound and be physical, be defensive stoppers, but everybody's got to rebound, everybody's got to box out. We're not very big, so those little things are very important."

Despite only having two returning players, many seniors playing their first year on varsity already have defined roles on the team.

"We've had some new guys that are seniors that have also stepped up," Christiansen said. "It's their first year on varsity, but they've been in the program, like Xavier [Kirksey] and [Chris] Dunn. They understand their role and they do it well."

Seniors such as Garren Robinson know that it's expected for them to be big voices in the locker room and keep the team chemistry up. "I'm just trying to give them that good work ethic and push them to be the best they can be," Robinson said. "We're building the chemis-

try up as we go, so by the time we get to district, we'll have it good and we'll be straight." Once district play starts, the team has multiple games circled on their calendar. First off, the team will open district play in a home game against Brackenridge, a team that's expected to be one of the best in the district.

"Brackenridge is our first [district game], so that's number one," Christiansen said. "I remind our guys on a regular basis, that's the one we gotta be ready for. We play them here, and I think we got enough time with these two tournaments left, so we'll be ready."

Another game circled on the calendar for some players is the Jan. 13 game against Highlands, who finished last season with a 6-16 overall record.

"I don't like Highlands," Robinson said. "We played them in fall league and they were talking a lot of trash and beat us by like three, so I want that revenge."

With the drastic change in the district, the team obviously has its eyes set on the playoffs and should be due for a strong and interesting season.

"Our pre-district games have been a little rough but we're just looking forward to district," Aitmerim said. "Our team can [make] it to the playoffs if we really put our mind to it."



In the game against Stevens HS, Marco Leguizamo takes a jumpshot.

Soccer Starts

Boys Soccer First Five Games

-Thursday, Jan. 5 vs. Lockhart @ 7:00 p.m.

-Friday, Jan. 6 vs. Madison @ 2:00 p.m.

-Saturday, Jan. 7 vs. Jay @ 2:00 p.m.

-Thursday, Jan. 12 vs. Victoria East @ 4:30 p.m.

-Friday, Jan. 13 vs. London (Corpus Christi) @ 2:00 p.m.

Girls Soccer First Five Games

-Friday, Jan. 13 vs. Judson @ 12:00 p.m.

-Tuesday, Jan. 17 vs. Brackenridge @ 7:00 p.m.

-Friday, Jan. 20 vs. Sam Houston @ 7:30 p.m.

-Monday, Jan. 23 vs. Edison @ 7:30 p.m.

-Monday, Jan. 23 vs Edison @ 8:30PM

A Christmas Tree Check

Take our quiz and find out which tree you are.

By Jocelyn Mada

The season is upon us and what's more important than waking up Dec. 25 running to the Christmas tree and finding presents. Just for a second appreciate the tree real or fake, thought and love goes into it every year. This quiz will decide which tree you are.



Review: Netflix-Spirited

By Vinson Van

We all know Ryan Reynolds is a gorgeous man, but we were introduced to his equally as gorgeous voice.

This holiday season, we were gifted Reynolds's first musical film, joined by his co-star Will Ferrell. The Musical Comedy film, "Spirited" is based on "A Christmas Carol". In the movie, Ryan Reynolds plays the character Clint Briggs who is a greedy and manipulative business-man.

At the start of the movie, we are shown how

the ghosts of Christmas operate. The ghosts finish the haunt of last year's victim, a stereotypical Karen. Like in "A Christmas Carol," Karen changes into a better person and after which they burst into song. This scene shows that they are taking the original Christmas Carol and putting it into a more modern format. The movie was fun and the songs were great, but some of the songs ruined the story

of the movie. There were moments that they didn't need a song, but felt like they were added just for extra runtime. Although some songs don't fit, there are some scenes where the song fits the story, like the song that introduces Reynold's character, "Bringing" Back Christmas". The song shows how manipulative his character is. Will Ferrell's character, the ghost of Christmas present, who is also

Ebenezer Scrooge, had amazing character development, from being a workaholic to learning he needs to find his own happiness.

Overall, the

movie is a good way to spend the holidays for families with older kids. There are some jokes that aren't kid-friendly and even a whole song dedicated to explicit language. This movie was good, but isn't on the same level as "A Christmas Carol". It's a movie you could watch once or twice, but not more than that. It may not stick with you, but it will give you a good time.



Seasonal Sounds

Whether you're looking for the soundtrack to your holiday break, songs to sing while looking for Christmas lights with friends and loved ones, or just some good holiday music. The Brahma News staff has you covered with a Christmas playlist featuring a wide variety of artists like Tyler, The Creator, Elvis Presley, Phoebe Bridgers, and George Strait.



Principal Picks: Holiday Picks

By Delaney Pence

A few seasonal favorites from Principal Mr. Hernandez:

FAVORITE SONG: A Holly Jolly Christmas

FAVORITE MOVIE: Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer

FAVORITE FAMILY TRADITION: Making tamales

MESSAGE TO STUDENTS BEFORE BREAK:

Take this break to rest, recharge, have fun, don't make dumb decisions, and enjoy your time because it goes fast.

