

PANTHERETTE

- SCHUYLKILL VALLEY HIGH SCHOOL -

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Holiday Traditions Around the World

by Emily Gao '23

Most of us recognize some of the common holiday traditions we learn about in school or even experience in our own homes, such as Santa Claus, gingerbread houses, and Christmas caroling. But have you ever wondered about holiday traditions around the world? In Wales, people carol with dead horses! From Christmas to late January, people celebrate Mari Lywd, which is supposed to bring good luck. One person will dress as a horse (with an actual horse skull) and they will go to homes to sing carols for baked goods. In Japan, a KFC dinner is eaten instead of homemade Christmas dinner. This began in 1974, when it was introduced to the Japanese who wanted a dinner that resembled a traditional holiday meal.

A more frightening tradition is Krampus, a European character used to scare children into behaving. In the US, naughty children get coal, but in Austria, Germany, and Hungary, naughty children are said to be kidnapped and eaten. That threat is far more serious than getting a lump of coal in your stocking! Finally, in the Ukraine, it is common to decorate your tree with spiderwebs. This came from a folktale about children who were upset that couldn't decorate their Christmas tree because the family was poor. On Christmas morning, they found that spiders had spun webs in the branches, which meant the children had a decorated Christmas tree after all! Now, many Ukrainians decorate their trees with spider webs to bring good luck for the coming year. Holiday traditions bring people together around the world, no

matter how strange some may seem to us. When you sprinkle oatmeal in your yard for reindeer, leave cookies and milk for Santa, or hang a big sock over your fireplace, remember that your traditions may seem just as peculiar to others.

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Omicron Variant Update

by Jayden Dennis '22

Recently, a new variant of COVID has emerged: the Omicron variant. On November 24, the new variant was reported to the World Health Organization from specimens collected in South Africa. On December 1, the first U.S. case of this variant was detected. But what all do we know so far about this new variant, and how much should this concern us?

According to the CDC, Omicron spreads far more easily than SARs-CoV-2, and it is unknown compared to the Delta variant. More data is necessary to determine if Omicron is deadlier, but vaccines are expected to combat it. Since this recent emergence, several countries have made efforts to ban flights from South Africa, such as Japan, Israel, and Morocco. On December 9th, President Biden made tighter restrictions for travelers entering the country.

Researchers now expect Omicron to become more dominant in many countries within the next year, and are currently working on mathematical models to predict the next few months. For now we can only continue what has been practiced for COVID in order to stay safe

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Last Minute Gift Ideas

by Helene Yerger '23

Looking for gift ideas this holiday season? I highly suggest home-made gifts! You will find that whoever receives your gift will cherish it more than a purchased one. If you are giving a gift, you must think whoever receiving the gift holds a special place in your heart. Therefore, your time and energy will show them just how important they are to you! I am here to give you some ideas on a variety of gifts for a variety of people!

For Anyone:

DIY painted wooden coasters! You can find wooden coasters at any craft store, such as Micheal's. Buy some craft paint and draw or write a personalized piece!

(<https://diyprojectsforteens.com/diy-christmas-gifts-parents/>)

Modge Podge Mason Jars! Find yourself some glass jars (whatever you like), buy modge podge and dye the modge podge with food coloring whatever color you like, dip the jar in the modge podge, let the modge podge dry and that's it! Anyone can use the jar as decoration, storage, or a vase!

(<https://modpodgerocksblog.com/colored-mason-jars/>)

Home-made paper journals! I advise saving paper way ahead of time and making the journals ahead of time! This is a long process, but from personal experience it is very worth the outcome! Shred the paper, leave in a tub outside for at least 3 days, then buy a screen, rolling pin, cotton cloth, and a blender. Then, blend the wet paper, put the pulp into a small bin with water make sure your screen can fit in, dip your screen in (shake back and forth to get an even layer), let the water drain, take the screen with pulp flip it on a cloth sheet, take a sponge and soak up as much water as possible, then place another cotton cloth on top and roll the paper out. After it has been rolled, take the paper on the cloth to a warm and sunny area to allow the paper to dry. Once the paper has dried, pull it off the cloth. Gather 5 sheets of paper and bind the pages together to create a journal! You may put a cover on out of cardboard if you wish!

Last Minute Gift Ideas Continued

For Significant Other:

365 Jar! Gather a big glass jar with a lid and 4 different colored small sticky notes. You will make 365 sticky notes! Each color represents a different topic. Example: Pink= why you love them, Yellow= Inspirational quotes, Purple= Remember when..., and Blue=We will do this! After all the sticky notes are done, write on the jar what to do: Chose a note a day, NO CHEATING! The jar will last them a whole year of your love!

A scrapbook! I advise scrap booking a full year and then giving them the book, BUT you may scrap book as long or short as you want! Mention favorite dates, the funniest moments, or saddest moments.

Open when letters! Write various different letters (as many as you desire) containing things like, "Open when you need to know how much I love you", "Open when we have had a fight", "Open when you had a horrible day", or "Open when you need a jump start to your day."

[\(http://www.dwellinhappiness.com/20-diy-sentimental-gifts-love-budget-friendly/\)](http://www.dwellinhappiness.com/20-diy-sentimental-gifts-love-budget-friendly/)

For Parents:

Old T-Shirt Blanket! If anyone tends to have a good hand in crocheting or sewing, this gift will surely bring you joy! Gather some old t-shirts from your parents and sew them all together, you can customize and add a super soft sheep wool layer for more warmth!

Buy a plain white puzzle set, then put the puzzle together, paint over the puzzle to create a specialized family photo or moment!

Tie-dye T-Shirts! Gather shirts for everyone in your family and tie-dye them all and write on the back your last name and their favorite numbers! Makes a great family photo or football game jerseys!



Local Holiday Activities

by Madison Steingraber '23

As Christmas approaches, many people want to get into the holiday spirit! And what better way than to enjoy the local festivities in Berks County and the surrounding counties.

Gring's Mill holds an annual light show each year running from December 3rd to the 30th. This year instead of a drive through, it will be a walk through. Visitors can enjoy the various light displays and even visit Santa! Everyone will be offered food and beverages from local food trucks, cuddle up by a warm fire pit, and listen to live music in the pavilion. There will also be a model train display at a station on the bridge. A trip through this lightshow is like a winter wonderland.

Koziar's Christmas Village is a county favorite, showcasing lights of all shapes, sizes, models, and colors. As you walk around this attraction full of over one million Christmas lights, you will be able to enjoy a warm cup of hot chocolate or coffee, and snack on holiday themed treats. Share a special moment at the "Kissing Bridge" and go to the shops to buy unique gifts, souvenirs, and toys. Have your photo taken with Santa as festive music plays throughout the grounds. Also, an interactive train display takes up an entire small barn and is perfect for the little ones. Voted "Best Outdoor Christmas Display in the World" by Display World Magazine in 2016, this Christmas Village is surely one to attend!

Last, but certainly not least, is Murdough's Christmas Barn. This barn showcases an enormous collection of Christmas decorations. You can find everything here from Annalee dolls to German nutcrackers. All ornaments are reasonably priced and you can also enjoy food and beverages under an outdoor pavilion accompanied by a fire. Every day since 1953 at this barn has been all Christmas, a day here will surely be remembered,

Although there are many more local festivities around the county, these three here are among the most popular and visited. Not checking one out would make anyone a grinch this holiday season!



Song Suggestions

by Charlotte Baumgard '23

If you like All Too Well by Taylor Swift you might also like:

Family Tree by Isabel Pless

Motion Sickness by Phoebe Bridgers

I Don't Wanna Be Funny Anymore by Lucy Dacus

If you like Easy On Me by Adele you might also like:

Samson by Regina Spektor

Hope by Arlo Parks

Liability by Lorde

If you like The Adults Are Talking by The Strokes you might also like:

Did My Best by The Voidz

A Lack of Understanding by The Vaccines

Stuck on the Puzzle by Alex Turner

General Suggestions:

Punk:

Boy/Girl by Sort Sol ft. Lydia Lunch

Identity by X-Ray Spex

Cherry Bomb cover by Bratmobile

Dance:

Kubes by Machinegum

Julian! I Want to be a Dancer! by Sibille Attar

Leave the Door Open by Silk Sonic

Kids by MGMT

Rock:

Last Goodbye by Jeff Buckley

See No Evil by Television

The Wire by HAIM



Student Spotlight

Senior Isabella Newton

Izzy Burch '25

This month, Isabella Newton has earned our student spotlight of the month, and she has given the Pantherette an interview discussing her experience in talent pageants. "I've only done one pageant so far and that was for a scholarship to get into college; it was a \$6,000 scholarship in which I was up against 15 other girls and Berks County," she says. "I love being around all the different girls. It was kind of a culture shock at first, but I think I would make it a hobby if I saw an opportunity to do it because it just felt like it's such a warm and inviting place to be." Izzy elaborates by saying, "I do musical theater normally ever since I was little and going in there, there were girls who have been doing pageants their entire life, and some that here and there do pageants, and I was brand-new, never done this before. Seeing how they all were always there and always ready to go, it was a little bit hard to get used to."

When asked if she recommends pageantry, Izzy says she highly recommends. "Don't be afraid if you don't think you look like a pageant girl," she says. "That was my biggest fear because I walked into the room for the first time meeting all those girls, and I looked nothing like them. I am not your stereotypical pageant girl, so being able to put myself out there in such a vulnerable place and still be loved and appreciated by those around me. It gave me such a greater value for myself." However, Izzy says this goes beyond solely pageantry. "Don't be afraid to put yourself out there even if it's scary at first because in the end you'll make so many more new friends."



Michigan School Shooting Editorial

by Kaylin Loose '23

Disclaimer - the views expressed in this editorial do not necessarily represent the views of the Pantherette or its staff.

On December 1, 2021, a school shooting occurred in Michigan at Oxford High School. Events such as this tragedy have become more common over the past decade. In 2021 alone, there have been at least 144 incidents of gunfire on school grounds, resulting in 28 deaths and 86 injuries nationally. Oxford High School went from being just a school in Detroit's suburbs to the site of a shooting that claimed the lives of four and injured seven more. The authorities have taken the suspect of the shooting into custody: a fifteen year old named Ethan Crumbley. The prosecutors alleged that Crumbley used a nine-millimeter handgun bought by his father just days before to commit this unthinkable action. The four left dead were all teenagers themselves with ages ranging from fourteen to seventeen years old, according to CNN. Ethan's parents, James and Jennifer Crumbley, were charged with four counts of involuntary manslaughter for having the handgun in question in a place where Ethan could access it and use it to kill his classmates. Before being apprehended, the couple withdrew four thousand dollars from an ATM about ten to fifteen miles away from Oxford; they were eventually found after a manhunt ensued.

It was also noted that the school had informed the parents of several concerning incidents regarding their son Ethan; however, the parents neglected to take preventative actions. "The morning of the shooting, a teacher found a note on Crumbley's desk that had a drawing of a semi-automatic handgun and the words, 'the thoughts won't stop,' 'help me,' and 'blood everywhere,'" according to the Oakland County Prosecutor's Office. Another drawing showed a person who appeared to be bleeding from gunshot wounds."After the pictures on the desk were found the school asked the Crumbley's to take their son home, they refused and returned to what the school assumed was work, Ethan was then sent back to class as the previous incidents did not escalate past the guidance counselor level before the shooting. This is especially concerning because it means that the school failed to properly investigate the drawings and did not take proper actions to address why they were drawn. As a result of the drawings coming to light, the Michigan Attorney General wants to investigate the shooting to give a full and transparent account of what happened on that fateful day to give the families more information.

As high school students, we should be a part of the conversation. The conversation needs to include de-stigmatizing, properly diagnosing, and treating mental illness. Although Schuylkill Valley has a Mental Health Matters club, a club is not enough to target the massive stigma and misdiagnoses surrounding mental health. I believe mental health should be a topic that is not only encouraged but incorporated into the curriculum. We also need to have open and honest conversations about finding a balance between protecting our rights and protecting our safety. To have these conversations, politics and emotions need to be set aside. We, in combination with teachers, staff, parents, law enforcement, and the community should do everything in our power to ensure that an event like what has happened in Michigan and so many other schools never happens at Schuylkill Valley.

Grammy Nominations

by Charlotte Baumgard '23

Nominations for the 2022 Grammy Awards were released on Tuesday, November 23, 2021. The full list (along with my personal predictions of the winners) of Big 4 Category nominees can be found below.

Song of the Year

Record of the Year

"I Still Have Faith In You," ABBA	"Bad Habits," Ed Sheeran
"Freedom," Jon Batiste	"A Beautiful Noise," Alicia Keys ft. Brandi Carlile
"I Get A Kick Out Of You," Tony Bennett & Lady Gaga	"drivers license," Olivia Rodrigo
"Peaches," Justin Bieber ft. Daniel Caesar & Giveon	"Fight For You," H.E.R.
"Right On Time," Brandi Carlile	"Happier Than Ever," Billie Eilish
"Kiss Me More," Doja Cat ft. SZA	"Kiss Me More," Doja Cat ft. SZA
"Happier Than Ever," Billie Eilish	"Leave The Door Open," Silk Sonic
"Montero" (Call Me By Your Name), Lil Nas X	"Montero (Call Me By Your Name)," Lil Nas X
"drivers license," Olivia Rodrigo	"Peaches," Justin Bieber ft. Daniel Caesar & Giveon
	"Right On Time," Brandi Carlile

Best New Artist

Album of the Year

"We Are," Jon Batiste
 "Love For Sale," Tony Bennett & Lady Gaga
 "Justice (Triple Chucks Deluxe)," Justin Bieber
 "Planet Her (Deluxe)," Doja Cat
 "Happier Than Ever," Billie Eilish
 "Back Of My Mind," H.E.R.
 "Montero," Lil Nas X
 "Sour," Olivia Rodrigo
 "Evermore," Taylor Swift
 "Donda," Kanye West

Arooj Aftab
 Jimmie Allen
 Baby Keem
 FINNEAS
 Glass Animals
 Japanese Breakfast
 The Kid Laroi
 Arlo Parks
 Olivia Rodrigo
 Saweetie



Movie Review

House of Gucci

by Lily Crowell '22

After watching the newly released *House of Gucci*, my view of everything Gucci has changed entirely. Not that I frequently find myself thinking of the brand itself, but if it ever came into a conversation or crossed my mind my thoughts generally were, “extremely expensive, name brand that rich people waste their money on to further boost their status.” I didn’t know any of the history or drama of the wealthy Italian family business, but after a phenomenal execution of the movie, I feel both well informed and entertained!

House of Gucci's first debut in theaters was November 24th, 2021. Based off of Sara Gay Forden’s 2001 nonfiction book and was directed by Ridley Scott. The cast entailed Lady Gaga, Adam Driver, Salma Hayek, Al Pacino, Jared Leto, and several other well-known actors. The two hour and thirty eight minute movie followed the true story behind the Gucci families, “rise and fall of one of fashion’s most prominent dynasties,” according to Time Magazine. The movie begins with Patrizia Reggiani meeting and falling in love with Maurizio Gucci, from there the audience becomes sucked into the details of the rich family and their business. We watch the family betray one another in the fight for power, money, and control. This movie has all the elements of a thrilling drama, there is love, passion, anger, money, and murder.

Personally, what I appreciated the most about the film was the fact that this was a movie based on a true story, but it didn’t feel like a documentary. I’m someone who is not entertained or amused by documentaries because I find them boring. I like when a movie feels like the telling of a story, not like a school seminar. This movie was so gripping that it felt fictional, I was taken aback with the twists and turns of the true story. I highly recommend seeing this movie in theaters or once it comes to a more easily accessible platform.



Movie Review

Tick Tick Boom

by Charlotte Baumgard '23

There's nothing that the late Jonathan Larson loved more than musical theatre. In his demo song, "Piano," he sings, "Oh, piano/ You saved my soul," and "I may not play/ Like a concert man/ But I got/ A song to sing." Every single moment of his life, from when he was a young, budding performer participating in high school theatre in White Plains to those final days he spent at New York Theatre Workshop perfecting the rock musical that would solidify his name in history, he spent completely and utterly engrossed in the world of musical theatre. So much so that he became a martyr of sorts for the art form. Every avid musical theatre fan knows and is absolutely infatuated with The Jonathan Larson story. If you're unfamiliar with The Jonathan Larson Story it begins in a small diner in SoHo, NY. While working on his "revolutionary" rock musical entitled *Superbia*, Jonathan Larson was employed at the Moondance diner and waiting tables, jotting down abstract ideas for songs, and listening, observing, and thinking filled his days. He embodied the stereotypical "broke New York artist" trope, making barely enough to keep himself alive and wanting nothing more than for his music to be heard and appreciated by millions. Little did he know that his final musical, *Rent*, would go down in history as one of the most popular and influential musicals of all time. *Rent* follows the story of a group of starving bohemian artists in New York in the midst of the AIDS crisis. It was incredibly relevant and revolutionary when it premiered in the 90s. Out of all of his previous musicals, Larson was the most hopeful about this one, because it had booked a workshop off-broadway. Sadly, the night before it premiered off-broadway Larson passed away from an aortic aneurysm. He never got to see his vision blossom into the fan-favorite, Pulitzer prize-winning work of art that it is known as today.

A movie adaptation of the one man show Larson performed in the 90s, *Tick Tick Boom* is a revelatory piece that explores the inner complexities of the relationship between our work and our relationships and it is a perfect homage to Larson and musical theatre as a whole. Lin Manuel Miranda, in his directorial debut, presents this beautiful story in unique and creative ways. The most enchanting scene, in my opinion, is the song "Sunday," Larsons parody of Stephen Sondheim's "Sunday" about the Sunday brunch rush at the Moondance Diner. The music swells with rich instrumentation and beautiful vocal harmonies in a way that can only be described as perfectly Broadway. The scene, as well as the entire movie, contains cameos from many popular Broadway actors such as Bernadette Peters, Daphne Rubin Vega, and Brian Stokes Mitchell. Miranda knows exactly who his audience is: lovers of musical theatre, and he gives them everything they could ever possibly want from a movie musical such as huge musical numbers that don't always make perfect sense, multiple Broadway actors in supporting roles, and an incredibly accurate portrayal of not only the theatre world but the world at large in the 90s. It is certainly made to cater to fans of musical theatre, but in all honesty, I believe that any viewer will find some enjoyment somewhere in it.

Andrew Garfield stars as the late Larson and his performance is nothing short of absolutely incredible. As someone who's watched her fair share of documentaries about the late Larson, I can attest to the fact that Garfield's mannerisms and vocalizations in this movie are nearly identical to Larsons. The way Garfield completely transforms himself into the writer is absolutely transfixing. With every scene, you grow less and less aware that this is a movie and not a documentary.

***Tick Tick Boom* Review Continued**

For someone who had never sung a note in his life before he started vocal lessons a year before the movie, it is truly impressive how quickly he picked up on impeccable technique, control, and the ability to reproduce someone else's voice. He has already been nominated for a Golden Globe and A Critics Choice Award for his performance.

After watching this movie, the reason for Larson's untimely death became more and more apparent to me. Throughout the film, he is repeatedly shown ignoring so many integral facets of his life-- his best friend, his girlfriend, his own mental health, and his electric bills --in pursuit of perfecting his musical. He was convinced that in order to be a great artist he had to sacrifice every part of himself for his work. This sentiment of, "the show must go on," permeates the performance world, especially in the years following Larson's death. We're all so convinced that in order to make better art we must ignore our own needs and become a "team player," (doing whatever is necessary to benefit the good of the group... no matter how detrimental it is to the self.) This has and continues to cause negative effects on writers and performers because they not only ignore their lives to create their "next big hit" but they also assume that if something makes them uncomfortable, they must comply to appease the directors.

Jonathan Larson has left an indelible mark on the world of musical theatre and this movie adaptation of his one man show is the perfect homage to his influence and perfection.

Top 10 Holiday Gifts

by Alexis Smeck '22

- 1. Candy** - simple, inexpensive, and perfect for those with a sweet tooth... make it even more special by getting their favorite kind of candy!
- 2. Cookies** - like candy, cookies are an awesome treat to snack on during the cold season... it's even more special if it's handmade!
- 3. Hot Chocolate Bombs** - as it gets colder, this edible drink-mix delight will be a seasonal favorite for all... this can also be handmade, with how-to videos everywhere on YouTube
- 4. Socks** - fluffy and fuzzy is in this season, so this will be one of the best gifts to snag for anyone
- 5. Hand Sanitizer** - this is a simple way to show others that you care about them and want them to stay healthy during the cold season
- 6. Stickers** - scented stickers, fuzzy stickers, animals stickers... different kinds to fit different personalities!
- 7. Ornaments** - whether it's handmade or store bought, this will act as a special reminder to that special person of how much you love and appreciate them
- 8. Gift Cards** - this gift is even better if you know their favorite place to shop, eat, and/or hang out at!
- 9. Stuffed Animals** - popular soft toys, like Squishmallows, are still a hit for all ages... grab a few for anyone who may need a warm hug from a cute animal!
- 10. Planner** - like this list, 2021 is almost over... grab a planner for anyone you know who likes to be organized!

Roll Out Cookies Recipe

by Kaylin Loose '23

Ingredients:

1 cup sugar
½ cup margarine
½ cup real butter
3 eggs
3 ½ cups flour
1 teaspoon baking soda
2 teaspoons cream of tartar
1 ½ teaspoon vanilla extract



Directions:

Preheat oven to 350°

Cream butter margarine and confectioners sugar

Add eggs one at a time

Add vanilla extract

In a separate bowl combine baking soda, cream of tartar, and flour

Slowly add dry ingredients into creamed butter and sugar mixture

Once thoroughly combined, take the dough out of the bowl, sprinkle with flour, wrap in plastic wrap, and put in the fridge to chill for an hour. Once the dough is chilled take it out of the plastic wrap and roll out to desired thickness with a rolling pin sprinkling with additional flour when needed. Cut out desired shapes. Place on a baking sheet and bake for 12 minutes.

Icing for Cookies

Ingredients:

3 cups confectioners sugar
⅓ cup soft margarine
1 ½ teaspoon vanilla extract
2 tablespoons milk

Directions:

Cream margarine and confectioners sugar until smooth

Add vanilla extract and milk.

Add food coloring if desired

A Christmas Surprise

by Alyssa Armpriester '23

As we come to the end of the year

No one could forget the holiday that brings the most cheer

Some use the day to celebrate Christ

Others gather with family and feast of foods sliced and diced

Gripping a warm mug with the smell of steaming hot chocolate

Sitting around watching everyone open gifts, some being their new favorite

But I sit here alone with my hot cocoa

As I watch my marshmallows sink below

The air is warm and smells of sweet cinnamon

Upon the bright Christmas tree are candy canes, ones flavored with peppermint

I constantly think of my old plan for Christmas vacation

Instead of holding wars drinks and giving salutations

I was going to wear fuzzy pajamas laying with a companion

But Christmas is supposed to bring cheer

Yet every year the reasons for spending it with family is unclear

It should be spent with the ones you really love

While being outside making snow angels and snowmen with cold wet gloves

Maybe this time it will be different, not just for me, but for everyone

No more boring gift exchanges and keeping everything in my imagination

It's time to get out of isolation and live all the expectations

Fuzzy pajamas and homemade sugar cookies

A day spent exchanging goodies

Surprising loved ones of gifts covered by surmise

Maybe this year will fulfill a Christmas surprise

Ask Elliot Advice Column

Pantherette Staff

Dear Elliot,

I'm struggling a lot with my emotions this year. When I was a freshman, I always tried to do my best, both in and out of school. Now as a senior, I feel like I'm losing control. I'm still waiting on admission decisions from colleges and I'm so worried that I didn't go into my dream college. It doesn't help that my friends are getting into their dream colleges and talking about their future... they seem to have it all figured out and I don't have a clue what I'm going to do after I get into college — if I get in at all.

What should I do? What if I don't get accepted? Or what if I do but I don't like it? Just what can I do?

- Concerned

Dear Concerned,

The uncertainty of the future is no laughing matter. The stress of getting into a dream college — or any college — is almost nauseating. And the thought of the years after college is nightmare fuel. However, it doesn't have to be this way.

For starters, you've already sent in your applications to the colleges you're interested in, which is one step in the right direction. The next best step is to talk to your counselors for financial help, whether you need it or not. They should be able to help you search for scholarships that will help you during your time in college. Also, you should try talking to your friends about their plans for college. You might hear something interesting from them that will help you during your search.

Also, I am very proud of you for coming to terms with your feelings, even if they are jumbled up. Just remember to talk to your counselors if you need any emotional support: they will be more than willing to help you sort out your thoughts and feelings. Overall, just remember to take all the chances given to you; remember to relax once in a while so you don't burn yourself out; and most importantly, don't forget to reach out for help if you need it.

Love,

Elliot

WINTER SPORTS

Boys Basketball

by Reagan Rittenhouse and Lily Thomas '22

Coached by Mr. Grim, the boys basketball team is led by 5 seniors: Jesu Adejojo, Drew Campbell, Ben Eddinger, Troy Frantz, Franky Giuffre, and Luke Seymour, who are looking forward to their action-packed season. Last year, the boys finished with a 11-8 overall record and a 7-4 league record. Their season ended with a tough game in the first round of the district playoffs after an impressive season and county playoff showing. This year, Luke is most looking forward to working together with his teammates to build a solid team in all areas of the game. Troy believes his team's strengths will be their shooting and versatility in all positions. He also thinks their weakness may be their lack of height. Making the county and district playoffs is Ben's goal for the season. Drew said his favorite thing about being on the team is getting an opportunity to go out on the court and play basketball with the friends he has grown up with. The boys also agreed that Fleetwood, Hamburg, and Wyomissing might be their biggest rivals this season. Good luck guys!

Underclassman Spotlight - Eli Houser

What is the best part about playing basketball?

The best part about playing basketball is getting to know new people, whether that be my teammates or opponents.

What do you like the best about your team?

The best part about our team is the tight-knit atmosphere because we are all so close to each other.

What is your favorite memory from playing basketball?

My favorite memory was playing in the district game last season.

Girls Basketball

by Brock DeJesus '23, Elijah Houser '23, and Finley Najac '23

Coached by Mr. Bagenstose, the girls basketball team is led by seniors Reese Camlin, Jady Heck-Hoppes, Lekaiah Solomon, Madison Ziska, and Sarah Gilbert. These past few seasons have been filled with great memories for the girls. Madison Ziska's favorite memory was, "Our packed-gym final league game against Conrad Weiser when we won in overtime and everyone went crazy!" Coming off an 11-9 season, the girls have big goals for this year. Senior Lekaiah Solomon has some more personal goals: "I'm working towards getting a scholarship, which means everything I've learned over the years comes together one last time." The older players all have their favorite teams to play. Senior Reese Camlin said, "I look forward to playing Weiser and Fleetwood because they play at a high pace and are aggressive." Having this many upperclassmen, they can really lead and show the current underclassmen, and upcoming underclassmen, what to do on and off the court. Senior Sarah Gilbert said, "Put in work during the offseason - it makes all the difference. Any time you spend improving your game will show on the court, I promise." With these goals in mind and a strong group of upperclassmen, along with a solid group of underclassmen, the girls will look to make a push for the playoffs.

Underclassman Spotlight - Natane White

What number do you wear and why?

30. Honestly, it wasn't my first choice and I usually wear #2, but last year I happened to get 30 and decided to stick with it for this year as well.

How has basketball impacted your life?

It is my life. I play all year round and I never get bored or tired of it. It gives me something to look forward to.

What do you want to accomplish in your future seasons?

Personally, playing with more confidence. Also, building strong relationships with my teammates on and off the court as well as making it to counties and districts each year and competing.

Boys Swimming

by Devyn Royer and Robbie Leh '22

Coached by Kyle Campbell, the boys swimming team has one senior, Aiden Moyer. Last year, the team went 2-5 coming out 6th in the Central Penn league. Being the sole senior, Aiden has to represent a lot of leadership. He mentioned some pros their team has, like being great at bonding. There were a lot of new faces but within a week they were very familiar with each other. He will need to continue to push the swimmers on dedication and motivation as he states they are lacking on that a little. Aiden's favorite memory of swimming was when he made it to districts in his junior year. Now he hopes to make it back to districts with his team and also provide one of the best years for his teammates.

Underclassman Spotlight - David Kramer

What are you looking forward to this season?

Working up a relationship with all the new swimmers, combining previous knowledge with new team to progress further

What makes swimming so special to you?

The amount of hard work that goes into it and the other people there to push you and support along the way

Favorite Memory?

Having fun at practices while keeping the work going.

Girls Swimming

by Bailey Unterkofler and Nia Wagner '23, and Jill Boyer '24

Also coached by Kyle Campbell, the girls swim team is looking forward to another championship season. This year, the team is led by seniors Megan Ehrnfeldt, Marissa Zocco, and Katie Eisenhofer, and they hope to beat their previous year's record of five wins and two losses. The team only lost one senior last year while gaining multiple underclassmen and co-op swimmers from King's Academy. Gaining strong swimmers helped the team as a whole to advance individually and as a team. All of the seniors are looking forward to winning their 6th District 3 championship title. Along with this, they are hoping to place high in PIAA States and get as many girls to qualify as possible. One of their greatest strengths is their strong family connection and relationship. It truly helps to set the team apart from others with all of the support and cheer each other on and off the pool deck. COVID took a large toll on the girls' swimming season last year. Senior Megan Ehrnfeldt stated, "Last year with the uncertainty of COVID, it was tough to train for the championship meets because those meets were not guaranteed to happen. It was hard to keep our spirits high when swimming could have been shut down at any given time. It was also difficult to have a strong team bond with all the protocols like physically distanced lanes in place." The girls have already been working hard this season to improve on their times and as a team. Best of luck to our girls swim team!

Underclassman Spotlight - Megan Raifsnider

What is your favorite stroke?

My favorite stroke is freestyle. But I only like distance. I'm terrible at sprinting.

How many years have you been swimming?

I've been swimming for 8 years now.

What is your favorite memory?

My favorite memory was definitely districts my freshman year when we stayed in the hotel. It was nice spending time with some of my favorite people before everything went down with COVID.

What are you most excited about this year?

This season I'm most excited for some sense of normalcy and hopefully I can finally have a normal season.

Any goals for this season?

By senior year I'd like to make states in an individual event.

Boys Bowling

by Dylan Slusser and Asher Fogelman '22

The Schuylkill Valley Boys Bowling Team, coached by Amanda Wilson, is returning to the lanes this season. They are looking to bowl over opponents and improve on their 3-5 record from last season through hard work and lots of practice. "I plan to follow instructions and practice the skills I need to improve my high score," said senior Nash Broughall, who is looking forward to helping his team win in his only season. With some of last year's team having graduated, and some bowlers from this year's team graduating, the Panthers are hoping their younger bowlers step up and show that Schuylkill Valley has a bright future ahead in bowling. The boys team is excited to hit the lanes and start this promising season. Good luck Panthers, we all believe in you!

Underclassman Spotlight - Evan Walsh

How long have you been bowling?

Since I was in 1st grade.

What is your biggest strength when playing?

My biggest strength while playing is hooking the ball.

What is your goal for this season?

My goal for this season is to improve on walking in a straight line and keeping my shoulders straight.

Girls Bowling

by Keegan Weeks and Logan Kraus '23

The SV girls bowling team, coached by Amanda Wilson, is looking to have a great season. Although many of their bowlers graduated last year, they hope to perform well. "I really hope we can rally together and beat a lot of other schools," senior bowler Makayla Lowery responded when asked about the season. Makayla is the only senior this year. Accompanied by Kimberly Heck, Kaitlyn Reiker, and Zoe Merkel, the girls hope to strike out in a marvelous season. Good luck to the Schuylkill Valley girls bowling team!

What you are looking forward to?

All the silly inside jokes, cheering and congratulating each other when we play a really good game, and seeing everyone grow as a team brings a smile to my face. This year is a little rough, with many bowlers graduating last year, but I really hope we have some more people come through to grow, shine, and experience something new!

What do you wish to achieve as a team?

I really hope we can rally together and beat a lot of other schools. Bowling is a mix of both team cooperation and solo performance, and I honestly think we can do well in both. I have high hopes that at least one of our teams performs really well and outshines the other schools, but I also really want to see my fellow friends and bowlers get to higher levels to compete so we can support them all the way.

Ice Hockey

by Hannah Schweitzer and Kelsey Busch '24

This years' ice hockey team is coached by Jessie Brown and their 2021-2022 season seniors are Owen Brown and Tucker Jozwiak. When asked what his goals for the season are, Owen stated, "to make it all the way to playoffs, and win as much as we can." Tucker said the team's strength is "having a strong team chemistry with each other." He also mentioned that his favorite things to do with the team include "hanging out during practice and winning games with the boys." The boys have had a great season so far, and even though their team is mixed with other schools, the boys have displayed what a true team should look like. Keep up the great work and good luck with the rest of your season!

Underclassman Spotlight - Brock DeJesus

Favorite memory - Jamming to music in the locker room after wins.

Favorite part about hockey - The speed and physicality of the game.

How does it feel to play on a team with people from different schools?

It's a cool experience because most of us know each other from travel or other sports so we bond together well and have great chemistry.

Wrestling

by Julissa Sonon and Jonathan Castellon '22

Coached by Jeremy Smith, the wrestling team includes 2 seniors: Gary Deyarmin and Asher Fogelman. Last year, the team finished the season with a 10-7 record and 5-3 league record overall. Senior Gary Deyarmin says he is excited for this season because of how large the team is. One of his goals for this season is to make it to team Sectionals. Furthermore, making it to districts and possibly winning counties is a team goal for Deyarmin. Senior Asher Fogelman helps the team improve their weight classes by practicing non-stop, and acting as a role model to the underclassmen to reach their full potential. The team is excited to become stronger as a unit and have a successful season!

Underclassman Spotlight - Colin Stoudt

How many years have you been wrestling? 1

What weight class are you? 172

What is the best part about wrestling? Being around with friends

What is your favorite memory from wrestling? Counties for wrestling last year

What do you like the best about your team? Everyone is always there, like a family

Cheer

by Mason Shelak '23

In the winter, the cheerleaders attend girls and boys basketball games, as well as numerous team competitions. Last year, the team had a great season as they went to districts and placed first in AA last season. The team has been showing great signs of improvement and dedication by constantly wanting to work hard and get better. The girls have learned many new skills this year and have overcome obstacles like injuries and failed stunts. Last year, some competitions were canceled due to COVID, so the girls are excited to be able to compete in all the competitions with little restrictions. The seniors are Sophia Colon, Madison Fisher, Mishella Pinder, Astou Sarr, Julissa Sonon, and Lily Thomas. The team is now working hard for states!

Underclassman Spotlight - Mckayla Bowers

Favorite part of cheer?

Going to away games

What are you excited for this season?

Competing at States

Senior Spotlight - Julissa Sonon

What are you looking forward to this year?

Going to competitions and cheering at basketball games

What challenges have you faced this year?

Having a young team and having them jump right into harder skills

What piece of advice would you give to underclassmen?

Keep working hard because it is all worth it at competitions

Christmas Word Search



BELLS
CANDY CANE
CAROLING
CELEBRATE
CHIMNEY
CHRISTMAS
COOKIE
DECORATIONS
ELVES
FAMILY

GIFT
GINGERBREAD
HOLIDAY
JOY
LIGHTS
ORNAMENTS
PRESENTS
REINDEER
SANTA CLAUS
SLEIGH

STOCKING
TREE
WREATH

