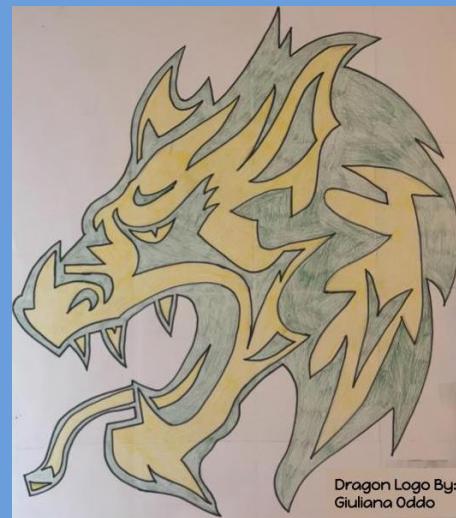


The Dragon's Post

Our Hamden Middle School
Student Newspaper



ISSUE 3 | JAN/FEB 2024

Winter Issue

HAMDEN MIDDLE SCHOOL

Winter Issue Issue 3: Table of Contents

Page 2-3 — Spotlight: HMS Music Teachers. Get to Know Mr. Barkon, Mr. Gunn & Mr. O'Herron

Page 4 – Gr. 7 Jazz Band & Band Winter Concert

Page 5 – Gr. 8 Winter Concert

Page 6 – 8th Graders Attend the Quinnipiac Women's Basketball Game

Page 7 – 6th Graders Visit HMS

Page 8– NJHS – Teddy Grams

Page 9 – Review Crew: Check Out Chloe, Evana and Riona's Picks for Valentine's Day

Page 10– Art & Photography

Page 11– Fun Stuff

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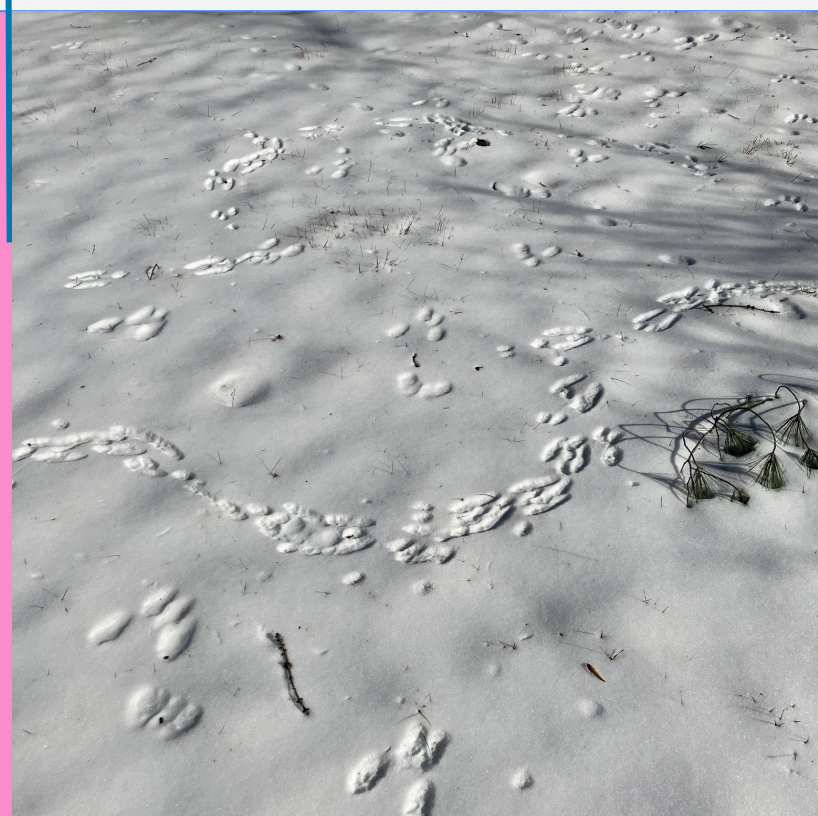
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Read *The
Dragon's Post...*
Online!

*A HUGE shout out to our
web designers: Riona Pais
& Evana Pais*



Spotlight:

Our HMS Music Teachers

Reporting By: GIA DAMICO
and GIULIANA ODDO

This year, our music teachers held three separate Winter Concerts: a combined 8th grade band, chorus & orchestra concert, a 7th grade chorus & orchestra concert, and a 7th grade band and jazz band concert.

Our three talented music teachers: Mr. Barkon, Mr. Gunn & Mr. O'Herron spoke with our *Dragon's Post* staff writers Gia Damico & Giuliana Oddo about the experience.

HMS's band, orchestra, and chorus had great concerts this year. Both 7th and 8th graders played and sang a variety of beautiful songs. As a whole, the groups did a spectacular job, but there were also a few solo and small group acts that were great as well. Mr. Barkon, the seventh and eighth-grade band teacher said, "The seventh-grade concert was amazing, the concert showcased talented musicians within our school, and connected well with the audience."

Mr. Barkon's favorite part of being a band teacher is the students. When asked if he had a favorite song that was played in the concert, he said that it would probably be either "Never Going To Give You Up" or "Bluey," which was played in a small group to start the concert.

Mr. Barkon's favorite instrument to play is the trombone. When asked about the eighth-grade band performance, he said, "The eighth-grade band sounded great. They were invested in the music that they played." Mr. Barkon's favorite song from the eighth-grade concert was "Avengers" or "Narnia."

Mr. O'Herron is the seventh and eighth grade chorus teacher. When asked how the concert went, Mr. O'Herron said, "It was an outstanding performance for only a few months of rehearsing. They put all of their performance skills in place. I was very proud of them."

Mr.O'Herron's favorite part of being a chorus teacher is working with singers of different skills and tones. When asked if he had a favorite song performed during the concert, Mr.O'Herron said that his favorite song had to be "Winter Lights."

The eighth grade concert was also a success. Mr. O'Herron said, "This year the eighth graders stepped up to a new challenge with having a different music director, I was proud of them." Mr.O'Herron's favorite song from the concert was "Ad Astra," which means "to the stars."

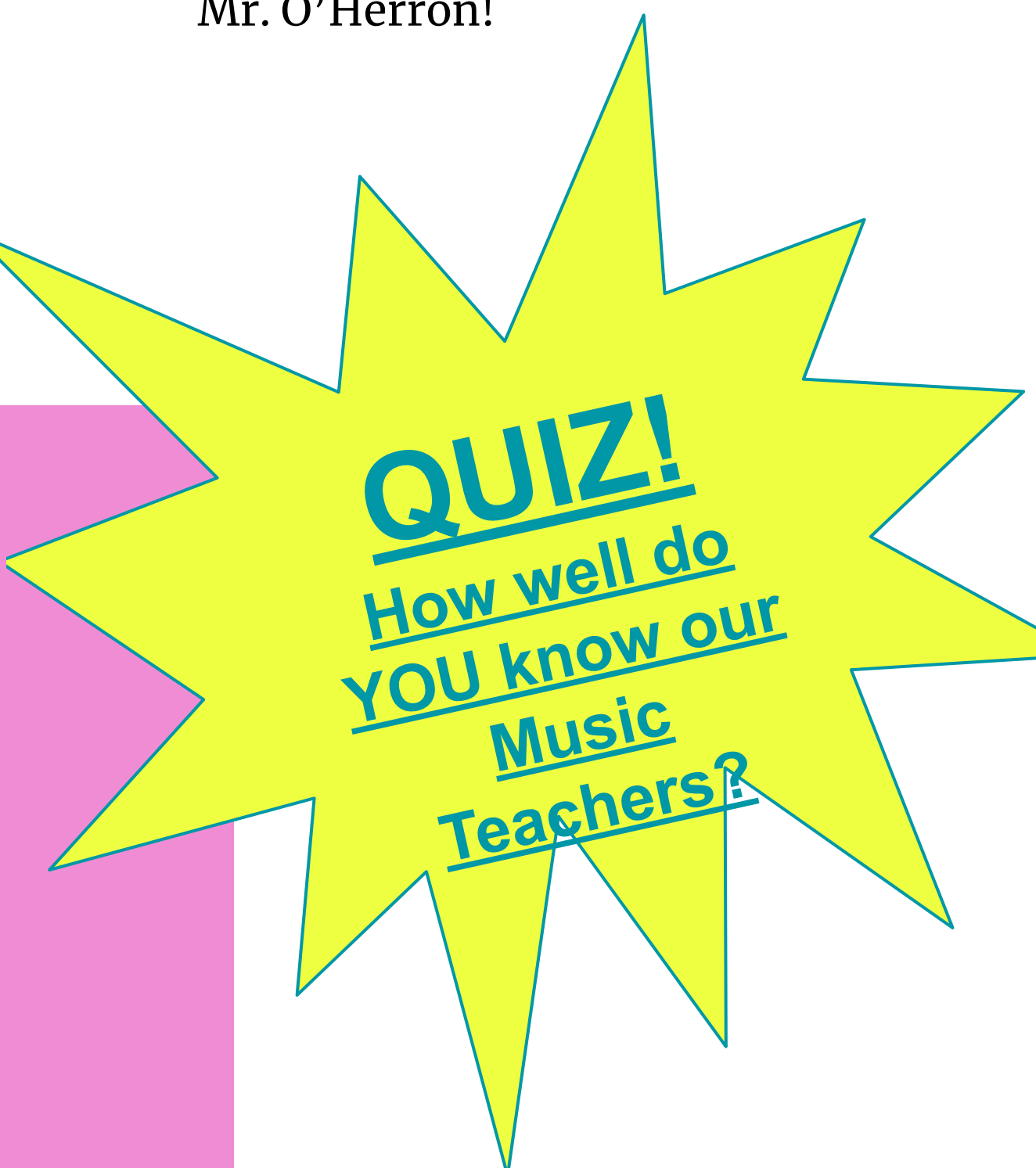
Mr.Gunn is the seventh and eighth grade orchestra teacher. When asked about the seventh grade orchestra performance, Mr. Gunn said, "I think it went well, and [the students] presented themselves nicely."

Mr.Gunn's favorite part of being a music teacher is getting to play music everyday. His favorite instrument: the guitar.

When asked if he had a favorite song played by the seventh grade band, he said it would have to be "Barn Dance." When asked about the eighth grade orchestra performance, Mr. Gunn said, "The students played smoothly." Mr.Gunn's favorite song that was performed by the eighth orchestra was "The Magic Flute."

Overall, the Winter Concerts were a success, thanks to the dedication and hard work of our awesome music teachers. Thank you Mr. Barkon, Mr. Gunn and Mr. O'Herron!

Click the link on the right for a fun quiz and see how well you know the music teachers!



QUIZ!
How well do
YOU know our
Music
Teachers?

Gr. 7 Jazz Band & Band Winter Concert

By: Zariya E

January 25th was the seventh grade Band and Jazz Band Winter Concert.

This year's Winter Concert was a success. At the start of the concert, we first heard a special group play the theme song from "Bluey." Then, the regular band first played "Cups (When You're Gone)" for the audience.

Next, we heard a seventh grader in House 3, Gabe, play the accordion for us.

The band closed with the theme from *Jurassic Park*, and then surprised the audience by playing "Never Gonna Give You Up," and Rick Rolled the audience.

The concert ended with Noga and Koju dueting on the flute and saxophone. They played "Canon in D." In the last of the student spotlights, we heard Sammy, Noga and Koju's auditions for the CMEAS.

8th Grade Winter Concert

Evana & Riona Report



Orchestra

The Orchestra performed three songs: "Magic Flute," "Anasazi," and "Rigadoon." These pieces sounded amazing! Due to a technical difficulty in the beginning, the parents even got some stand-up comedy!



Chorus

The Chorus sang three songs: "Ad Astra," "It's OK," and "Winterlight." One of the songs even consisted of three solos and choreography.



Band

The Band performed two songs: "Jurassic Park" and "Avengers." After their first song, there was a special performance with selected kids who performed "Narnia."

8th Graders Attend the Quinnipiac Women's Basketball Game!

On February 4th, the entire 8th grade went on a field trip to watch the Quinnipiac vs Saint Peters Women's Basketball Game. Quinnipiac won with a score of 50-39. Go Bobcats!



Pictures from
the Game

6th Graders Visit HMS

Reporting By:
Olivia Song

During the month of January, incoming 7th graders had the opportunity to get a sneak peek at HMS. During their tour, 6th graders saw a bell transition, enjoyed a performance by a group of 7th-grade band members, watched and participated in presentations about the language options offered at HMS.



NJHS BTS – Teddy Grams

Chloe, Evana, and Riona Report



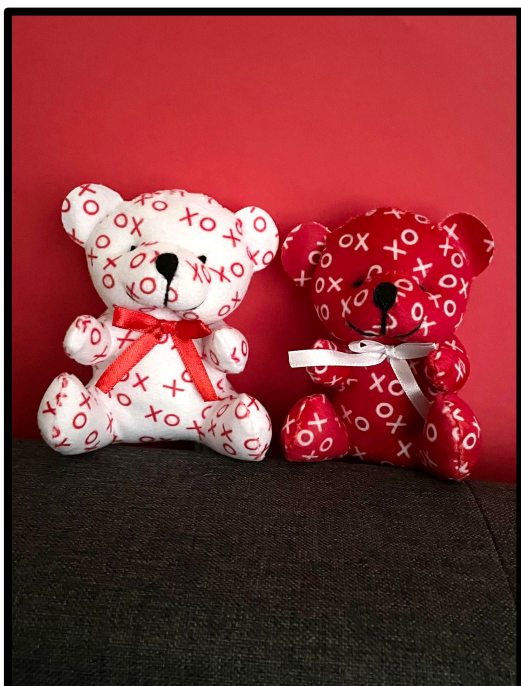
Teddy Grams

NJHS spent a lot of time planning how we were going to sell the bears and deliver them. After much deliberation, we finally landed on bears to buy and sell (picture on left).



Selling

Valentine bears & pencils were sold by NJHS in all the 7th and 8th grade lunch waves. Bears cost \$3 and pencils cost \$1. NJHS made a **lot** of sales, and on Valentine's Day we delivered the bears!



Delivering

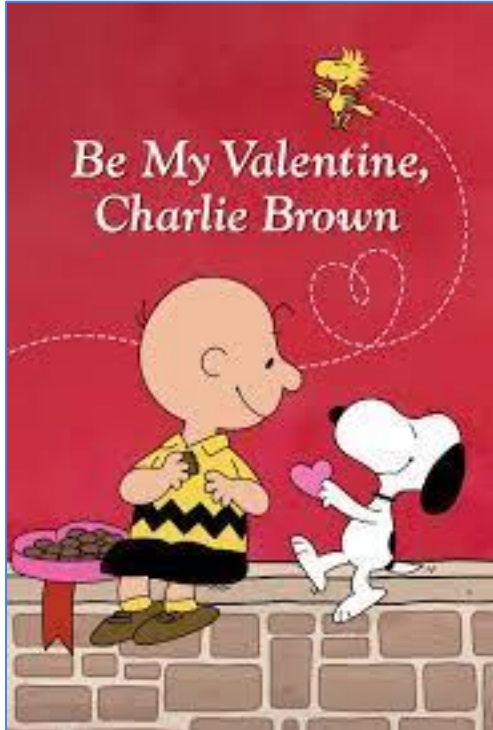
On Valentine's Day, NJHS spent the first block going around the school and delivering everyone's bear. Everyone really enjoyed this, and it made many people's day!

Review Crew

By: Chloe Butts, Evana Pais, and Riona Pais

Valentine's Day Edition

Chloe - Movie

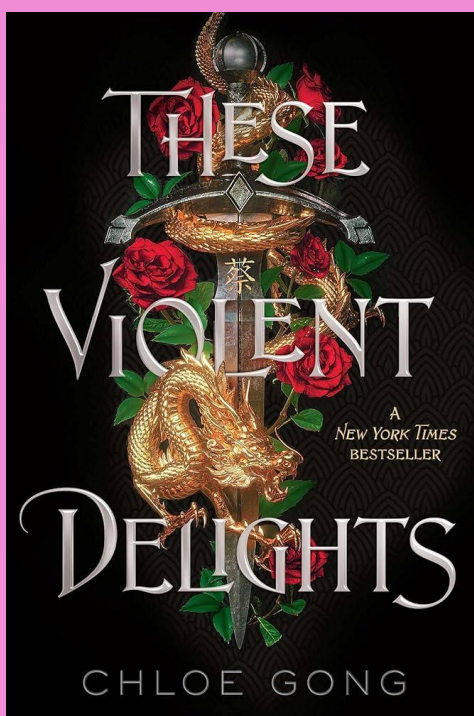


Movie Title: *Be My Valentine Charlie Brown*

Director: Phil Roman

This movie talks about love and being kind to everyone. The characters make valentines for their classmates and the importance of self love is a hidden theme of this movie. This is one of my favorite movies, and I give it 10/10 stars. I recommend this movie to people of all ages.

Evana - Book



Book Name: *These Violent Delights*

Author: Chloe Gong

These Violent Delights is a dark twist on the classic tale of Romeo and Juliet. But this time, Juliet saves Romeo in the end. In Shanghai, there are two gangs; The Scarlet Gang and the White Flowers. They've been enemies for as long as anyone can remember. Juliette, who's in the Scarlet Gang, and Roma, who's in the White Flowers, have been told to stay away from each other since they were young. But rules are meant to be broken, right?

Riona - Song



Song title: "Enchanted"

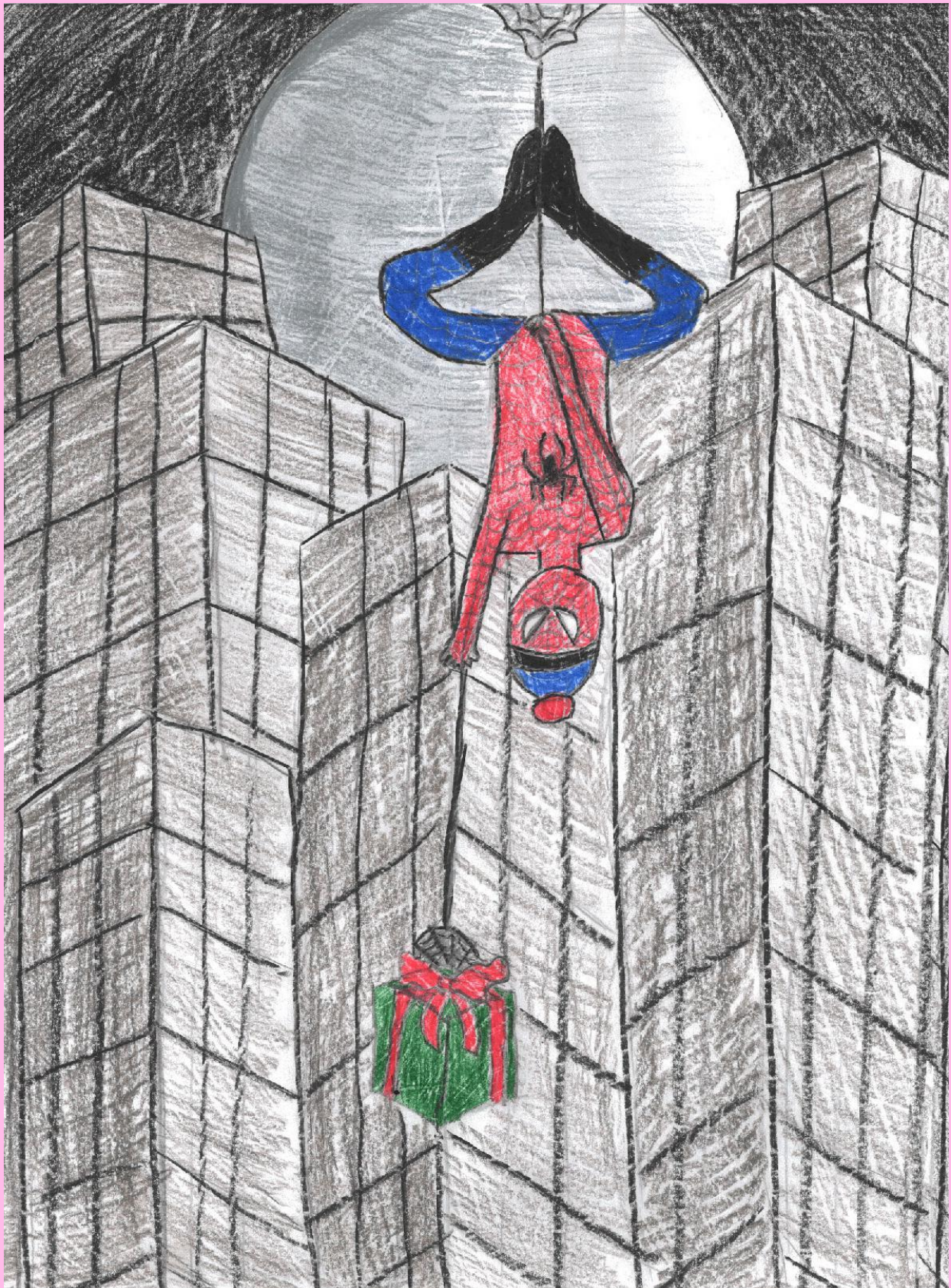
Artist: Taylor Swift

This song is about a day in Taylor's life when she was at a party, and she met a guy. This guy didn't say much to her. On the way home, she couldn't stop thinking about him. She then gets an email that he sent to her, and it said something along the lines of saying, "I'm sorry I didn't say much, I was just wonderstruck when I saw you."

Art & Photography



Photography By:
Donovan
Kirkpatrick



Gia Damico

Fun Stuff

Compiled By:
Desmond Bohan

Winter Word Search

O	K	S	L	E	L	O	V	E	C	K	F	S	O
O	I	F	L	L	A	B	T	O	O	F	W	V	E
O	F	A	T	E	C	H	R	E	E	O	E	N	C
M	T	T	L	T	Y	O	Z	E	L	I	O	B	T
V	I	V	I	A	S	E	A	L	E	T	L	W	R
W	I	T	W	N	E	N	A	T	R	W	S	E	E
R	E	O	T	R	F	M	W	I	N	T	E	R	N
B	N	Z	F	E	H	B	L	T	C	F	V	V	T
S	O	L	E	S	N	O	S	L	O	T	E	L	O
E	V	N	R	H	E	S	R	B	L	F	N	O	E
R	V	A	F	L	S	F	H	H	D	O	B	A	B
A	M	I	C	I	M	N	H	O	C	K	E	Y	A
R	E	S	N	O	R	H	C	M	C	L	E	E	A
O	S	T	V	A	L	E	N	T	I	N	E	S	S

WINTER
COLD
FREEZE
LOVE
VALENTINES
MARSHMALLOWS
BONFIRE
MITTENS
COAT
SNOW
HOCKEY
FOOTBALL



Photography
By: Donovan
Kirkpatrick

