

The Bulldog Bark



Advisor: Mr. Barnes

Principal: Mrs. Chamberlain

Your Middle School News Unleashed!

Winter 2015

Walk-a-Thon raises funds for Team 8



On October 16, Team 8 held its annual Walk-a-Thon. For one hour, the eighth-grade students ran, walked, or did a combination of both around the track to raise money for the team. The people who raised the most money for our team were Cole Cheesbrough and Samuel Weaber. The top runners were Alison Lorah, Reagan Pender and Zach Moyer. The average number of laps people did was around 17. Overall, the Walk-a-Thon was a great success and a day that the eighth-grade team will always remember.

~ Submitted by Reagan Pender



Team 8 Walk-a-Thon winners were rewarded with a breakfast field-trip to Susie's Shady Nook. (Left) Dale Wanamaker really likes ketchup on his taters and Jagger Bolton coyly chews his pork by-products. (Right) Mr. Herzog poses with his winning team: John Rizzotto, Colton Dimmig, Jagger Bolton, Ali Lorah, Zach Moyer, Dale Wanamaker and Nate Green.

Local Tots need Toys this holiday season

By Danyel Rex
Team 8 Barker

Our school is donating items for the annual Toys for Tots campaign. This is a charity for local children to get gifts for the holidays that they may otherwise not receive.

Some people think that it doesn't matter if you give anything or not because so many people already donate regularly.

Well, your donation could be the difference between whether or not a child receives gifts this year.

You don't need to give anything big either; something small like a yo-yo, a coloring book or a pack of marbles could make someone happy.

Next time you are in the store, make sure you think about giving something to our local charity.



Are you scared to grow up in this world?

By Maggie Reitz
Team 7 Barker

What's your opinion? Do you really want to live in a world where some people are actually afraid to walk outside their doors? For some, this is a hard question to answer.

For others, it is an easy question to answer. If you have watched the news lately, then you'll see why these people don't want to walk out of their doors.

Everyone is obsessing over the incident that happened in Paris, France. ISIS attacked a concert that was full of young people just having a good time. So many deaths occurred that day. Later that *same* day, there were two deadly earthquakes. One in Japan and one in New Mexico. More than 15,000 people were

killed! That is unbelievable.

Back to the real question though. I think that I would want to live here. Just because there have been shootings in schools, cities, concerts, homes, etc., you can't be afraid to live your life, visit your relatives, or just be a person. I make mistakes sometimes, but that doesn't mean that I quit and never show my face in this world ever again.

Some people just give up and don't think they belong in this world.

However, if we form groups and help other people, then this world would be a better place. Yes, it's true that ISIS is a negative group of people, but they aren't going to overpower us.

They can't make you feel different about your opinion on the world. There have been many

people who have grown up in the world.

For example, if you interview your parents, grandparents, great-grandparents, or, if they are still with you great-great grandparents, they grew up in this world. It's not like they were zapped to a whole different universe. They made it, so why can't you?

On the other side of the opinion, when people watch the news, sometimes they do get nervous because the news is *all* negative. Sometimes it is positive, but that's rare. In my opinion there are parts in this world that aren't all bad and negative.

I interviewed my dad about this topic and he said, "No, life is better when you go out and experience it. If you don't go out because you're too afraid, then you are not really living anyway."

Bulldog Bark unleashes new yearly award

Starting this year, the Bulldog Bark editorial staff (that's Mr. Barnes, by the way) will be handing out a new award at the end of the year, after all four issues have been "unleashed." *The Tyler Trumbauer Award for Middle School Journalistic Consistency and Integrity* will be awarded to one or a few middle school writers who have displayed consistent, dependable and quality work that has been featured in at least three of the four issues. Recipients will be chosen for their dedication and will be recognized at our middle

school Awards Night at the end of the year.

Tyler Trumbauer is a 2014 graduate of Northern Lehigh and is credited with changing the name of this student newspaper from the Bulldog Times to the "Bark." He covered sports for all eight issues of his middle school career, in addition to an opinion column called "What Curdles My Milk." At N.L. High School, Tyler reported for the TV news broadcast and newspaper. Now at Edinboro University, he is the sports editor for the college newspaper,

The Spectator, and sports director for the Edinboro TV and radio stations.

Tyler has interviewed NFL Hall of Famer Andre Reed, and WWE wrestlers, Olympic gold medalists, and has covered the NCAA Division One Wrestling National Championships.

The *Tyler Trumbauer Award* will be issued at the end of the year. See Mr. Barnes with any questions and thank you for all the dedicated work to *your* Bulldog Bark.

What lives behind the eyes of the 'Emo'

Everybody has emotions — Does the group label get overused and abused?

By Brianna Schuck

Team 8 Barker

In today's society, the word "emo" is used and thrown around all the time, but what does it really mean? The term is actually an abbreviation for the word "emotional."

However, that doesn't mean someone is "emo" because they dress in all black and listen to punk bands. Being *emo* does not necessarily have a *specific* stereotype. Someone who wears bright colors everyday and doesn't have a scar to their name could actually be *emo*. In fact, *everyone* is emo in his or her own way.

For the most part, the most common use for the term emo is for someone who listens to punk music, wears black, wears band shirts, dyes their hair a lot, has a lot of piercings, self-harms, etc. But are they really *emo*? Maybe that's just the style they like, maybe they chose that style because it's what makes them comfortable, or maybe it's how they have grown up. Do we know the exact reason?

More than likely, no, so why do we automatically stereotype them? We do so because that's

how society is today, and everyone tries to fit in. Today, if someone is classified as *emo*, they are frowned upon, which leads to a lot of depression.

But if everyone stays away

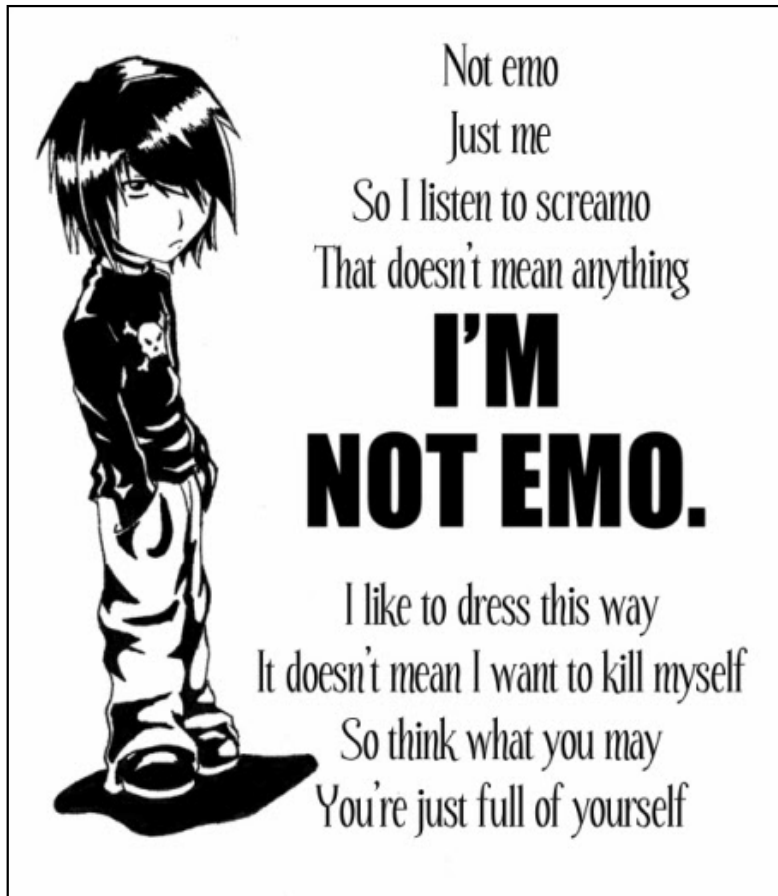
not classified in their own group. That shows others that they truly mean absolutely nothing to society. After putting forth so much effort to fit in and mean something to a larger group of classmates, they get shut down. This leads these "emo" kids into many emotional nights, leading them into what could be their breaking point.

This is when many of these kids start taking action and actually putting their thoughts and ideas into reality. The thing is, no one will be there to stop them... Classifying someone as "emo" is honestly one of the worst things to do because how much do we really know about them?

All your life you stayed away from them because you thought they were "strange" and "weren't cool enough"

and "wouldn't fit in" with you and your group, but you think you have the right to step up and ruin their life just to make yours "better," even after all they ever wanted to do their entire life was be a good friend to you? No, that's not how it works.

Make sure you know what "emo" actually means before you go using it on everyone else.



from the kids who are labeled *emo*, who will they have to turn to for help, and who will they turn to for a friend? They are depressed because of everyone else who shuts them down, so think twice next time before you go letting someone down and labeling them when all they wanted was a trustworthy friend.

Most people couldn't care less about the other kids who are

More than just gifts on December 25th

By Sabrina Grabarits

Team 8 Barker

First off, I know some people don't celebrate Christmas, but that's what everyone is talking about right now. So to those people, I'm sorry.

Christmas is a religious holiday. Even if you do not agree, Christmas isn't about the presents, though everyone loves presents. It's not about getting off

from school, though that's nice, and is not about cookies and lights. Christmas is the day that Jesus was born.

Jesus was born on December 25. He came into the world as a tiny baby. The wise men brought him gifts. Yes, Jesus got gifts, too. But they were just metals... No, I'm not saying that presents are bad, but don't focus on that for Christmas. As annoying as parents can be that day by taking for-

ever to wake up, but make sure that you spend a lot of time with your family.

Family is important on that day. Don't just think about yourself all day. To me, giving is better than getting. So, maybe listen? Or try to?

Well, I think that Christmas is very important and more than just gifts. Merry Christmas to everyone!

The Santa legend: Is he a 'giver' or 'creeper'?

By Caleb Hankee

Team 7 Elf

Christmas! It's almost here! Oh boy, now we have another excuse to eat turkey, put up dumb Christmas decorations and leave them up until July, and write to our favorite fat, jolly friend, Santa.

Come on, we all still do it, even though we know Santa isn't real, (spoiler alert) we still write a Christmas list, so your mom and dad know that they risked their lives on Black Friday to get you the limited Wal-Mart edition iPhone 8.

But in a time when you had no idea middle school was a thing, your parents told you about Santa. If you need a recap, Big ol' fat Santa will somehow climb down your chimney and give you presents, but only if you make him cookies. Has anyone else thought this is really creepy?

A fat man would climb down your chimney, or kick your wall down like Kool-Aid Man if you don't have a chimney, then he leaves you the iPhone 8 that he stole out of your parents' room,



and eats your food, and flies off to his next victim with his sleigh pulled by his enslaved reindeer. I have many questions.

Why hasn't his stomach exploded yet? What did those reindeer do that you're forcing them to haul you around every Christ-

mas? Why did you eat the last Chips Ahoy, you jerk?

The worst part of this is that parents still spread this fib! You shouldn't fib to children. When they learn that Santa isn't real, they'll most likely be traumatized. What happens if a robber breaks into your house dressed like Santa?

I would probably laugh at him, but this isn't about me. Your child, or future child, will probably let him steal everything. The beds, the refrigerator, the microwave. Everything would be gone. Merry Christmas, we stole everything.

So stop spreading this story, unless you want to be left with a small child and an empty house. Merry Christmas. I hope I didn't ruin too many childhoods.

Advisor's Note: If you were still a believer, you should not have read this article. Just sayin'. Thanks!

Whatcha think about these TV shows?

By Sabrina Grabarits
Team 8 Opinion-Giver

So, I couldn't do my pointless questions. I didn't have enough to ask. I'll try it for next time. So here I am, typing this from my phone while my step-nephew watches Shimmer and Shine and is playing with grapes. I have no idea what to write about, and the TV is obviously not helping me. I don't know how to be funny, and I don't know what serious topic to write about.

So what?

I kept thinking and finally came up with this article....I decided to write about TV shows and my opinions. I'll do only a few from any channel. So I asked my friends...they basically gave me no help whatsoever. So I was on my own...

First, **The Walking Dead**. Almost everyone watches The Walking Dead, and if you don't, you know enough about it from everyone who does. But it's about a group of people trying to sur-

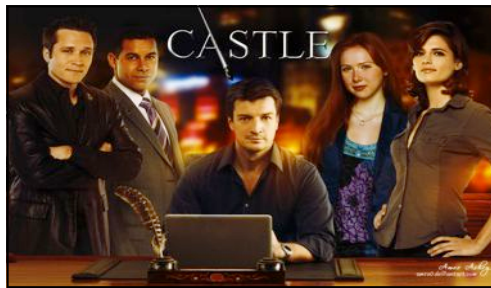


vive the zombie apocalypse. They find all these obstacles and have to get over them. I absolutely love this show. It's really good and full of suspense. I recommend this to people who are good with blood and guts and suspense.

Second, **Impractical Jokers**.

As the opening of their show, it's for best friends who compete to embarrass each other. It has four main characters, Q, Joe, Sal, and Murr. They do all these challenges and they have crazy rules. Whoever gets the most strikes, they are the big loser of that episode and they have to do some crazy, huge embarrassing thing. I love this show and I recommend it to people who need it and love a laugh.

Third, **Castle**. There are four main characters to this. Richard Castle and Kate Beckett are the main-main characters. They solve murders. Beckett's mother was



killed and the killer hires people to try and kill her in some episodes. I recommend this to people who like medium action sometimes.

Fourth, **Six Degrees Of Everything**. I've only seen one episode of this, but it's really good. It's about these two guys, brothers I believe, that take two things and tell how it got from this to that in six moves. The one I saw said breast implants were related to Albert Einstein. Then they took Einstein and went to one thing, then another and all the way to breast implants. It actually worked and was pretty cool. I recommend it to people who like science and like some funny

things thrown in.

Fifth, **The Mentalist**. The Mentalist is a crime-solving TV show. It has five main characters, but Patrick Jane, the Mentalist, is the main character. It's hard to find on air. Jane used to be a psychic, then had his family murdered by Red John. Jane then tags along with murder detectives and solves murders. He sees more than the average person, as he pays attention to little detail. It's a really good show. It's fun to watch and it passes time. I recommend it to a bunch of people. But you might have to watch it on YouTube now...

Sixth, **The Chase**. This isn't like a character show. It's a trivia show. This one guy called the Beast (real name is Mark) is super intelligent. He goes up against three contestants separately. The hostess asks the people questions in a minute and \$5,000 for each correct answer. Then it gets placed in the board and they have to choose the amount of money. A step closer, more money. Where they are, their amount.

A step away, less money. Then they are asked more questions. If they fail, they are out of the game. If they don't, they continue to the end of the game where the team has to go against the Beast. They have two minutes to answer questions. The Beast has two minutes to answer a different set of questions. If he gets one wrong, the team gets to answer it. I recommend this show to people who enjoy trivia and the suspense of knowing whether or not the answers are correct.

Team 7 kickballin' and cafeteria chillin'



During Team 7's Reward Day, students got to play kickball or hang out with friends in the cafeteria. (Left) Katelyn Verba, Corinne Verba, Courtney Gimbar and Madison Moser. (Above) Ashli Goins and Carlee Hoffman. (Below left) Brianna Kuntz and Kayla Despain. (Below) Kristen Guelcher and Breanna Hoppes.

Photos courtesy of our Yearbook. Order Yours Today!



Our traditional Directioner feature

By **Aurora McGovern**
Team 8 Directioner

In the last newspaper, Sabrina wrote about her time at the One Direction concert. Well, now it's my turn. I got up at 5:30 that day and until 6:30, I was on my phone fangirling.

I was on Instagram and Twitter just fangirling. When it was 6:30, I went to get my clothing. I wore my One Direction shirt, my light blue shorts, and a green bandanna. The green bandanna means that I like Harry.

I went downstairs and I kept telling my mom how excited I was. She told me to look at the menu of the restaurant that we were going to, but I couldn't because we had to leave.

We got to school and I felt like I was going to pass out. At



one point I started to hyperventilate and it was not fun.

After lunch I got my things for fifth period. I didn't get my things for sixth or seventh because I was leaving at 12. I

looked at the clock, 11:35. I looked at it again, 11:45.

Just as I was about to look at it again, the phone rang. I could

See Direction, page 8

Health Class career day and other news

Lindsay Hoppes, NLHS grad of '98, recently talked to her daughter, Breanna's, health class about her career as an occupational therapist! Mrs. Raber taught Lindsay also and is glad to see her students going into the health field after graduation.

The Miller-Keystone Blood Bank had their 18-year employee, Mark, speak to the 8th grade health classes.

Students and parents can still register for the January After-School American Red Cross CPR classes which will be held on Jan. 11 and Jan. 13 or Jan. 19 and Jan. 20. E-mail Mrs. Raber at mraber@nlsd.org or call our middle school at 610-767-9812 for more info.



Step-by-step process to Direction heaven

Direction, from page 7

feel my face light up and I couldn't stop smiling. Mrs. Orr looked at me and said, "Did you know you were leaving?" I nodded and finished packing up.

When I left the room, I got to my locker and started to open it. I heard the phone ring in Mr. Meixsell's class. I laughed to myself and waited for Sabrina to walk out. When she did, we both looked at each other and fangirled. When I finished packing, I went to Sabrina's locker and waited for her.

We started to walk and saw Mr. Barnes. We said hi and he asked where we were going. When we told him he said to have fun. We both went to the office and went to our moms. We got in the cars and started to drive.

It took around two and a half hours to get there, but it felt like five years. We got to our table at the restaurant and we got a whole bunch of comments on our shirts. Some people came in and sat down next to us and she was going to the same One Direction concert as us!

They asked if we were excited and Sabrina and I said yes, but my mom and dad and Sabrina's mom said no. We finished eating and went to our hotel, which was across the street, and checked in. Then, we were on the road again. Get it, because the tour is called On The Road Again... sorry.

We drove to the stadium and, oh my gosh. I looked around and there was One Direction everything, everywhere and *I loved it!!*



These are *my people!* I kept asking my dad for my money to buy things, and it took him five minutes to get it out. Now, I, being the Aurora I am, brought more money to buy more things without my mom knowing. So, I bought so much stuff I spent \$150! Since we were going into a stadium, we had to put all of our things on a table and get scanned, so we didn't have any weapons or things on us. When we were done, we were in.

I wanted to change my shirt really bad, so I went into the bathroom and changed. When I walked back out, I met up with my parents and we went to our seats. But we couldn't get to our seats because they were blocked off. Kevin Hart had a show there and they didn't use those seats. So, we had to go to the place for like, complaints... I forgot what it was called, it wasn't important to me. We told them what was going on and they gave us seats up in the clubhouse. We...or I was very excited and happy. Even though we were higher up, we could see

the stage better. When we sat down and got comfortable, they started to play music and showed the music videos to the song. Sometimes they would show Honda Civic commercials, because it was a Honda Civic tour. Now, to this day, when I hear the "Bing Bing" of Honda commercials, I scream "Honda!" But they played One Direction's video where we, the fandom, helped save over three million dollars on energy, and they played One Direction Between Us perfume ad. We all screamed...

Before Icona Pop came on, a little message played saying not to stand on the chairs or throw things. Then, Icona Pop came on. I've watched YouTube videos of what songs they sing, so I sang along to them. They sang 'I Love It' and my dad screamed the lyrics at the top of his lungs. They finished their songs and they started to play music again. As the night went on it started to get darker, duh, but the people started to do

See This Keeps Going, page 9

Recollections from a Night of Direction

This Keeps Going, from page 8

the wave. We all did it, and it went around four times and it was really fun.

At around 8:30 the message came on saying not to throw things again and that's when my stomach started to do somersaults. After the message video was over, the lights stayed on, but the stage lights started to flash. The whole stadium started to scream, but they stopped. Grr.

Then, the lights went off, my heart stopped and everyone, and I mean *everyone*, screamed. Now, since One Direction is super cool, they have this really funny, really cool, way to short video. It's like a mash-up of all of their songs from Four and it shows the boys being amazing.

After it ended, the boys came out on stage. One Direction was *on stage!* They started to sing 'Clouds' and after the first guitar string played, fireworks went off. When 'Clouds' was done, they sang 'Little White Lies.' They talked a little and then they stopped singing. Liam and Harry were the only people on stage. Liam said, "Alright, now's the time when I read some of your amazing signs. So, if you brought some, hold it up." When he said that, signs flew up right away. He read one that said 'I spent my college loan on this, so make it good!' Liam said, "Now that is dedication. But why your college loan? Well, I promise this will be good."

Then he introduced 'Girl Al-

mightly' as his favorite song off of the album. Before that though, he said "The boys and I have just finished the new album. We're all excited for you to hear it, and we hope you love it just as much as we do." I thought to myself, what kind of question is that? Of course I'll love it!

They sang 'Girl Almighty,' then Liam asked "Who likes the song, 'No Control?'" Everyone screamed really loud. He said, "That many? Well here it is." I was really happy because that's my favorite song off of Four.

Then, after a couple of songs, Niall and Harry were the two on stage. We all knew what time it was. Harry warms up the crowd by splitting the stadium into two and making us repeat after him. The only thing is, he has to get a stadium full of excited and really happy teenage girls quiet. He split us up and said "Now, you guys have to be as quiet as you can." At first, we got quiet right away, but then he did something and we screamed. He got us quiet again and I screamed. He looked around at everyone screaming and said "Shh! Shh! SHUT UP!" After we were quiet, he did his warm-ups and I died.

After we were done with the warm up, he made all of the moms scream, and my mom did. Then, he made all the dads scream, he did surprisingly. Harry then joked, "Jeez, it sounds like we just went into battle." They sang more songs and Louis and Niall were the only ones on stage. They started to talk about how

Niall was sick, and Louis said "Give it up for Niall's health!" and we all clapped and screamed and he bowed saying thank you.

They sang one more song and Liam said "Hey Philly, one, thank you for the delicious cream cheese, and two, do you lads remember when we sang the Fresh Prince of Bel-Air theme song?" They all nodded and started to sing it. It brought back memories of them from 2012 when they sang it last, and I cried. They then sang two more songs and said "Good night guys! Drive safe!" I did not move. We all started to chant "One Direction!" Then, they came back out on stage and started to sing "You and I." When they finished, Liam said "Well, this is it. This is the last song of the night. Thank you so much for spending your hard-earned cash of these four weirdos. We hope you had fun, here is "Best Song Ever." They sang the song and they kept saying thank you and then it was over.

We had to wait for Sabrina and her mom. We got to the car and it took us an hour to get out of the parking lot. Everyone was blasting One Direction. Sabrina and her mom went to their car when we got to the hotel. We were all so excited and happy and Sabrina and I would not let go.

So, that went on for a long time... sorry. I was excited. That was my experience at my awesome One Direction concert! I had so much fun. My parents actually want to go to another one... they are weird... BYE!!

doghouse fiction



“A Second Chance”

By Ashli Goins
Team 7 Barker

Prologue

“Ms. Evergreen?” Snapping out of her daze, the woman swallowed harshly, Mr. Brown frowning at her. “Are you alright? I lost you for a bit. Have you considered what to do with Chance?” Averting her gaze from the man to her fingertips, she shook her head. “No. I don’t...” Her voice cracked, and the man gave her a minute to compose herself, leaning back in his black chair and sighing heavily. “I don’t think I’m ready,” she finished, lifting her head to look Mr. Brown in the eyes. “I don’t want to send her away, but I don’t want to keep her stuck here forever, either!” Her eyes were watering up, pleading the old man to change his mind and make a different decision. But, no matter what, he was too adamant to change the decision he already made.

“Ms. Evergreen, I understand completely. She’s your daughter, and she’s young. But because she’s your daughter, you want the best for her, don’t you?” Nodding, Ms. Evergreen slipped a soft tissue from the blue tissue box that was sitting on Mr. Brown’s desk, blowing her nose softly. “Of course!” “Then you should accept my decision and send her back.”

Wiping her eyes with the sleeves of her cream-colored sweater, the woman looked down at her intertwined fingers, nodding reluctantly. “Okay. But, I will get to see her again at some point, right?” Sighing, Mr. Brown gave the woman a tight smile that was supposed to be reassuring, but didn’t quite match his intentions. “Yes, of course. Now, Ms. Evergreen, there are some things we need to go over for when she leaves.”

Watching Ms. Evergreen’s dull blue eyes intently, he raised both eyebrows. “Are you with me?” Nodding, she crossed one leg over the other, pursing her lips

nervously and wiping the sweat from her forehead. “When Chance goes back to Tennessee, you are not to send letters, or visit her.” “What?! That’s completely preposterous!” Mr. Brown put his pointer finger in the air, signaling he wasn’t done talking yet, and to keep her comments to herself until after he was finished explaining the details. “Ms. Evergreen, I am a caseworker. This is what I do. This whole entire project is to help Chance become a better person. She needs to have a healthy relationship



with you, and her brain.

“When her brain says no, she says yes. When her brain says yes, she says no. Chance has to learn to trust herself and others, no matter the consequences. I understand she has only just turned 14 a week ago, but she’s already missing a big part of her life. Her father who ran away when she was 4 is waiting for her in Tennessee right now, and her older sister who died in a car accident when she was 6 is waiting for her in Heaven. Tennessee is where she grew up. She has to go back to the place where she was happy, and once she has done that, she will come back to you happy as a pig in mud. Alright?” Biting the inside of her cheek, Ms. Evergreen nods, Mr. Brown flashing her a grin.

“Alright, then. She leaves for Tennes-

see Friday. Four days from now. Have a nice rest of your day, Ms. Evergreen.” Shaking her hand, the man stands up and walks out into the hallway, looking at Chance. “Well, Chance, you’re going to Tennessee this Friday. You excited?” Although she could hear Mr. Brown through her earbuds, she ignored him, focusing on the music and her drawing.

“Chance, answer Mr. Brown right now!” Her mother raised her voice, something she often didn’t do with other people. But right now, she was incredibly stressed, and she was currently on the verge of breaking down. She blamed it on Chance’s attitude and personality, and sometimes, she wishes Chance was a different person. That she wasn’t who she was right now. But deep down, she knew it wasn’t Chance’s fault. It was her own fault. Her own fault for not trying to make Chance a better person, and for keeping her from enjoying the life God gave her. It was all her fault. Chance stopped drawing, and, seeing the stressed and helpless look on her mother’s face, put on a fake and bittersweet smile.

“Yes, Mr. Brown.” The two adults knew her smile was a facade, but it was good enough for the both of them, rather than her outright ignoring the two. “Well, then we better get going. Thank you very much, Mr. Brown,” Chance’s mother says, giving him a tight smile. He watched her with a small smirk, nodding at her. “And thank you, Eva.” Watching her mother walk down the hallway, Chance glanced over at Mr. Brown, who gave her the same smirk he gave to her mother.

“Goodbye, Chance,” he said and waved, yet she just gave him a hard glare and turned around, following her mother down the empty hallway. “Yep,” he said softly to himself, tucking a cigarette between his teeth and lighting it. “I never liked you two, either.”

doghouse fiction



“Into the Vortex”

By *Kristen Guelcher*

Team 7 Barker

The year is 1950, my name is Christina McGucket. I am 11 years old and I currently go to Little House Elementary School in Little Big Town, Wisconsin, but not for long. Tomorrow I move to my new town, Lone Pine, Minnesota — a quaint town in the middle of nowhere. I will go to a new school, too. It’s called Twin Pine Elementary. I leave tomorrow, 11-24-50, precisely at noon. I should be there around 2:00 pm. Overall, my excitement level just broke the excitement meter, and that’s good.

I just woke up and it’s 8:43 am. I start tearing apart my bedroom, gathering the stuff I want to bring to my new house. Now I’m starting to get nervous, but my nerves are mostly about school. In my head, I start thinking questions like *What if no one likes me?* and *What if the teachers are mean?* and other questions any 11-

year-old would ask about moving.

Time flies fast and now we are loading all of our luggage into the Volkswagen. We scan the house to see if there is anything else we need to bring along. This is my last time in Little Big Town and I’m full of mixed emotions. Now we have to leave and there’s no turning back. We hop into the car and head to Minnesota. A few hours later we arrive at our new house. It’s small but cozy. I think I’ll be happy here.

Today we are at my new school, Twin Pine Elementary, getting a tour from the principal, Mr. Al Lien. We are approaching the door and my nerves are getting stronger. I grab the handle and pull the door open. All I saw was some sort of vortex. Then everything went black. I must’ve passed out from the nerves. I woke when I fell off the bed in my room. I look at the calendar and it reads November 24, 2014!

I’m in the future! My house is full of cobwebs and little rats. I start to slowly walk down the stairs. When I step out of

my front door and onto the porch, I see people walking down the street of a city. A *large* city.

Someone with an abnormally long, scraggly beard walked up to me and said, “Hey! What ya doin’ in there? Dat place is haunted! The most haunted place in Lone Pine. It’s bein’ haunted by Mr. and Mrs. McGucket.” “What?” I answer, “My parents are d-d-*dead*!” He replies with “Whoa whoa whoa, wait what? They’re your parents? Girl, you’re part ghost! Your parents have been dead for over 50 years! Ooh, wait a sec” Bzzzt-Bzzzt. His magical box vibrates. What is that thing? He holds it up to his ear and starts talking. “Hello? Oh yeah, mmm hmm, I see, okay, I’ll be there soon.” He presses the screen of the box. “Sorry sweetie, gotta go!” And he leaves. I’m here, alone. What am I supposed to do when I don’t even know where I am? Will I be able to survive this jungle of skyscrapers?

To Be Continued...



Helping out at this year’s NJHS’s Pumpkin Roll Extravaganza were Madi Davis, Maddie Amorim and Paige Hude.



doghouse fiction



“Drip. Drop. Drip.”

By *Madison Desh*

Team 7 Barker

It was a gloomy and wet day. Even the sun didn't want to show its face through the ever blackened rain clouds. I'm that lone girl walking down the street. In the rain. The gloomy rain. Drip. Drop. I was on my way to the store. I needed supplies for my first day of school. Tomorrow. Drip. Drop. Drip.

I trudged down the, what seemed like, infinite road. Rain droplets kept landing on my glasses, corrupting my vision. I sighed and flipped my hood up over my head. Drip. Drop. Drip. Drop. It helped, but I then I felt someone looking at me. I quickly turned around. Nobody. Drip. Drop.

I breathed out in relief and went to turn back again, but something unusual made me stop. Drip. Drop. Drip. A man's gaze was trained on me. Drip. Drop. Drip. I broke out into a fast pace run. Drip. Drop. The rain was once again obstructing my view. So I shut my eyes. Drip. Drop. Drip. Drop. I heard a loud and undistinctive noise. It sounded close. Drip. Drop. Drip.

I opened my eyes to bright and blinding lights. I was frozen in place. In the truck's path. Not long ways away. Drip. Drop. A scream had forced me to my senses. I crouched down before the vehicle had come in contact with me. Drip. Drop. I felt the air rush around above me. Making my hair a mess and my scarf to fly off my neck. Drip. Drop.

When the big machine had gone by, I stood tall once more. I had realized nobody was looking my way and quickly ran to the nearest store. Drip. Drop. Drip. I gasped for air and held on tightly to the spot on my shirt in which my heart is. Drip. Drop. I slowly sank to the ground. Then I felt it again. Eyes in my direction. Drip. Drop.

I instantaneously reverted my gaze to a man in front of me. My pupils dilated. Drip. Drop. Drop. It was him. I thought back to the man in the window. Drip.

screamed. At that time, I, finally, saw 2 silhouettes in my blurry-eyed state. The first, male-like, shadow drooped his head, while the second, more feminine-like, shadow fell to her knees. My surroundings began disappearing. Drip, drop. Drip, drop. “No! Nooo!” I screamed out. Drip, drop, drip, drop. Drip- Beeeeeeeeep.....

It was a wonderful and absolutely awesome, amazing day. I was that girl hanging over the casket. In front of people. Joyful people. ‘No more evil!’ I breathed



Drip. Drop. I shrunk down, while he progressed closer. And closer. Drip. Drop. Drip. I curled into a ball of fear. Drip. Drop. Drip. Drop.

I awoke in shock and fear. I looked around at my surroundings. Machines and wires were latched to my skin. “I don't think she will make it,” a male voice said sadly. “Nooo! She has to!” a feminine voice

out and collected myself. I was told to make the speech, for that villain. In the casket. ‘We are free!’

“We are here today to, finally, vanquish the evil before us. The murderer, the robber, the... the villain. And we are here because there is, finally, No.. More.... Rain.”

doghouse fiction



“Pt. 2: The Terrible Turn Continues”

By Sabrina Grabarits

Team 7 Barker

"J-James?!" He gave me a half smile and brushed his straight dirty-blonde hair out of his face. "Hey..." I felt my cheeks heat up. Great. This is just great.... I looked down, seeing all my books. How did I forget? "Lemme help you," James said. "No, no. Really. I ran into you. It's fine." "Lacy." Ugh, why did he say my name like that?? How did he even *know* my name?

There were only a few students left in the hall. One of the nerds, I don't recall his name, glanced over at the two of us. His black hair tumbled down into his face as he looked away. Did he look hurt? "Lacy?" My attention jolted back to James. "Please let me help. I also ran into you." Yeah, he did...but it was mostly me. "O-ok..." We both knelt. "I was actually coming over to ask you something," he continued. Me? Why me? What Kayla said couldn't be true. "Ask me what?" I asked, trying to be cool. "I was going to ask if you wanted to come over later..." He paused. "I need some help with homework," he added awkwardly at the end, like he was coming up with an excuse. Why did he want my help? I'm not even smart.

The hallways were completely empty. I was never, ever late to class. Ever. "Don't worry," James chuckled, as if he knew what I was thinking. "Who's your next teacher?" "Mr. Bachman." "He's pretty chill. He'll be ok with it. Besides, I was late once. He's ok as long as it isn't an everyday thing. Plus, you're only a minute or two late." I nod and we gather the rest of my books. James hands them to me. "Thanks." "I'll walk you to class." This was odd. Very odd....then, I should have known that something bad

was going to happen.

Soon, the bell to leave school rang. We all got to our lockers. Kayla hugged me goodbye and promised that she'd text me later. James walked up to my locker. The nerdy kid looked back over and this time, I didn't miss the sadness in his eyes. What? "Lacy, you done?" James asked. I nodded. "Yep." I closed my locker and locked it.



"Just lemme send my mom a quick text so she doesn't freak out when I don't come home." James laughed and nodded. I sent my mom, 'Hey mom. Just heading over to one of my friend's houses. He needs help with homework.' We started walking and by the time we left the building, I got a reply. 'That's ok. Make sure your own homework gets done. Dinner is at 7. I love you.' 'I love you too Mom,' I replied.

We got to James's house. I stood in the doorway awkwardly. "You can sit on the couch. You're fine," he chuckled lightly. I hesitantly sat next to him. "What do you need help with?" He gave me a look.

"What?" "Homework. You said you needed help." "Oh," he mumbled as his cheeks got red. "I don't need help with any homework....I lied." What? "Then why am I here?" I asked stupidly. "I wanted to spend time with you. What! "Oh..." "Yeah, I think you're sweet...I'd like to get to know you better." WHAT? That never happens.

Especially my crush wanting to get to know me. I felt my hands get sweaty. "Lacy? You ok?" I nod. "Um, I have other things to do, I forgot." Why am I so scared? I just started to feel uncomfortable. "J-just stay, please." I pulled out my homework. "Then pretend that you need help." I've never hung out with anyone besides Kayla...

"And that's how you find x for this problem." I nodded. Turns out, I needed the help, not James. I wasn't uncomfortable anymore. I'd gotten used to it. Soon, my 5 o'clock alarm went off. I wanted to leave by then. We both stood as I shoved everything back in my backpack. "So, uh, see you tomorrow?" I blushed. "U-uh...sure..." Wow...

I flopped on my bed. 5:30....I didn't even know what to do. I'd done my homework and I'd taken a shower. Derek barged into my room. "Lacy..." His voice sounded sad and distant. I sat up. "What?" "M-mom's not coming home..." "Why?" He looked down. "She's at the hospital...in critical condition." My heart stopped.

Top-10 all-time Christmas movies

By Trent Herman

Team 7 Barker

I love Christmas and the month of December. So, I will be going through my Top 10 favorite Christmas movie list, along with background information for each movie. I hope you enjoy this as much I do!

Number ten, the tenth movie on my list is *Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer*. This heartwarming tale is about a red-nosed reindeer that's not accepted just because of his red nose. I feel that we can all learn something from this holiday classic. We can learn that just because everybody is different, it does not mean we aren't able to do certain things. For instance, all that Rudolph wants to do is fly Santa's sleigh on Christmas Eve. Also, Hermey the elf wants to be a dentist. But, the head elf doesn't approve and everyone is nasty to him because he wants to be different than the other elves.

Number nine: *How the Grinch Stole Christmas*. You might be wondering why this is number nine. I know a lot of people that love this movie. Don't get me wrong, I love this movie too, but there are definitely better ones! Jim Carrey plays the main role as the Grinch. He plays it so well that sometimes I even forget it's him. If he didn't play in this movie I don't think I would like it as much because the Grinch is supposed to be a hilarious character. So, if Adam Sandler was the Grinch it wouldn't be as good because Adam Sandler is known



more for "Billy Madison" and movies like that.

Number eight: *Home Alone*. This movie deserves the eighth spot on this list because it also has a great lesson to it. A boy named Kevin and his family are supposed to go on a trip to Paris for Christmas. But, he and his family don't get along so well sometimes. So, he causes trouble and his mother sends him to bed early. Then he wishes that he didn't have a family because sometimes they are mean to him. The family wakes up late and no one gets Kevin up. They leave without him and when he wakes up he assumes that his wish came true and that he didn't have a family. This is a valuable lesson for everyone to be careful what you wish for.

Number seven: *Home Alone 2 Lost in New York*. This movie basically has the same lesson. The only difference is that Kevin gets on the wrong airplane. I like this movie because it's more of an adventure than the first one.

Number six: *A Christmas Sto-*

ry. I really enjoy this Christmas classic. I think it's really funny. My favorite part is when Ralphie's father wins a leg lamp and displays it in his window. His dad obsesses over a dumb leg lamp. But his wife, on the other hand, hates it. I just think it's a very funny part of the movie. Also, all that Ralphie wants for Christmas is a rifle. But, he's constantly getting told that he'll shoot his eye out. This movie is truly a Christmas classic.

Number five: *Christmas with the Kranks*. This is also another hilarious movie to watch around the holiday season. Tim Allen and Jamie Lee Curtis, also known as Luther Krank and Nora Krank, play their parts very well. It's about when their daughter, Blair Krank, goes to Peru and the parents don't want her to leave. But, she has to since it's for her job. So, since their daughter won't be home for Christmas, they get so depressed that they want to skip

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Top-10 all-time Christmas movies

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Christmas. So, Luther Krank has an idea and convinces Nora to skip Christmas to go on a cruise instead. But, as time goes on people realize that they are skipping Christmas. The Kranks get so much hatred for it because they are part of a community that takes pride in their Christmas festivities. Then, they get a call from Blair saying she's coming home for Christmas. So, they cancel the cruise, have their annual Christmas party, and quickly get help from their neighbors to decorate. But, none of that stuff would have happened without help from their neighbors. This really is one of my all-time favorite Christmas movies as you can see because I just typed a huge paragraph on it.

Number four: *Christmas Vacation*. This movie is so hilarious; it's very difficult to choose a favorite part. I don't think Christmas would be as funny without this movie. Also, there are a few National Lampoon movies and this is one of them. It's about Clark Griswold trying too hard to have a perfect Christmas for his family. Everything he does turns out to be a disaster. This is what makes the movie so funny.

Number three: *It's a Wonderful Life*. This Christmas movie is

from 1946! It certainly is a Christmas classic. It also was recently redone in color, instead of black and white. Every Christmas Eve my family and I watch this movie. It's a Christmas tradition for us.

Number two: *The Polar Express*. The Polar Express is a musical about a train that goes through towns and takes kids to the North Pole. The boy in this movie has a difficult time believing in Christ-

all time. It features Will Ferrell as Buddy the Elf. This role suits him perfectly. If anyone else played the role the movie probably wouldn't have been that good. Remember, the best way to spread Christmas cheer is singing loud for all to hear!

This has been my Top 10 Christmas movie list. I hope you enjoy this just as much as I enjoyed writing this. Here are some



mas magic, but luckily if it wasn't for the Polar Express he would have never gotten to see the things he saw, or meet the people he met. Obviously it's just a cartoon, but the message in it can be used in real-life situations.

Number one: *Elf*. I love this movie. I think it's hilarious and it's the best Christmas movie of

honorable mentions that are still great movies but unfortunately did not make my list: *A Charlie Brown Christmas*, *The Santa Clause*, *Scrooged*, *A Muppet Christmas Carol*, *Disney's A Christmas Carol*, and finally *Miracle on 34th Street*.



For Spirit Week's Twins Day, Miss Perkowski (right) did her best to resemble Mr. Graver (on the left). Or is it the other way around? We're really not sure.

