

Issue 9 Holiday Edition RAMPAGE

December 19, 2024



French Club Celebrates Buche De Noel: Photo by @prhsclubfrançais



Delivering high school news...one page at a time!

THE NEW YEAR IS OFFICIALLY AROUND THE CORNER!

Seniors Rachel Cottrell, Kaitlin Shute, JoJo Barbiaux, and Reese Constantine; photo by Kaitlin Shute

**HAPPY HOLIDAYS PRHS!
A YEAR TO REMEMBER...**

"2024 was tough. Keeping up with everything can be exhausting, but I know it prepared me for 2025. ***It was a year of learning.*** I am excited for the fresh start and ready to end my chapter at PRHS on a positive note."

-Senior John Folino

More Class of '25 Quotes on Page 2

Dear Readers,
We're thrilled to wish you a happy holiday season and Happy New Year! This edition will close off 2024 with some of our schools highlights and share the holiday cheer!

Sincerely,
June McCune and Anna Karmanos
Editors-In-Chief



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Student Life

PR Student Spotlight

A Look into the Life of Highschooler Kennedy Kozal

KATE IAMS STAFF WRITER

What grade are you in? I am in 12th grade.

What's your favorite thing to do in your free time? I love to watch Netflix. My favorite show right now is The Walking Dead.

What is the best fashion trend in your opinion? My favorite fashion trend is Mom jeans, because they are way better than skinny jeans. I feel like jeans can make or break an outfit.

If you could travel anywhere in the world, where would you go? I would like to travel to Germany, because I want to see all the historical artifacts, and learn more about them.

What's your favorite food? Sushi.

What is your favorite restaurant, and why? My favorite restaurant is Sushi Bomb, because it has unlimited sushi. I love all types of sushi.

Would you rather read a story, or watch a movie about a book? Watch a movie about a book.

Who is your favorite author? Colleen Hoover, because I like reading romance. She is really the only author I read.

If you were to play a sport what would it be? Volleyball, because it has always looked fun to me.

Are you involved in any school clubs? No, but if I was going to join one, it would probably be environmental club, because a lot of my friends are in it.

What is a class that you enjoy? Physics, because it is different compared to the other science classes I have taken other years.

What is your favorite movie? My favorite movie is Matilda, because it reminds me of my childhood, and is very nostalgic for me.

Do you like breakfast, lunch, or dinner the best? I like dinner the best.

What's your favorite animal? My favorite animal is a monkey, I think they are so cute. When I go to the zoo downtown I always look forward to seeing them.

WQED Film Academy Fall Session, Spring Session

Camp; Summer Session registration:

Deadline- December 19, 2024

\$40,000 GE-Reagan Foundation Scholarship:

Deadline- January 3, 2025

Jackie Robinson Foundation Scholarship:

Deadline- January 9, 2025

TribLIVE Jim Borden Memorial Scholarship:

Deadline- January 10, 2025

TribLIVE Scholarship for Diversity in Media:

Deadline- January 10, 2025

TribLIVE The Business, Marketing and

Technology Scholarship : Deadline- January 10,

2025

Myron Cope High School Athletic Communication

Award \$1,000 Scholarship for Point

Park University: Deadline- January 15, 2025

PACAC Scholarships: Deadline- February 3, 2025

Western Chapter Pennsylvania Sports Hall of

Fame \$2,000 Scholarship: Deadline-

February 15, 2025

"2024 was a changing period for all of our lives. Now being a senior looking back I always wanted to be one and it doesn't feel real. 2025 is gonna be awesome!"

-Senior Jackson McClain

"I am excited for 2025 and equally scared because all my life I have heard 'class of 2025'. It is going to be a shift and an important year." -Senior Lauren Marsilio

Class of 2025 Comments on 2024 and the Upcoming Year:

"2024 changed me. I learned many lessons and am excited to bring them over into 2025! Time to graduate!" - Senior Lorelei Lehman

"I loved 2024, but I have a feeling 2025 is going to be even better." -Senior Ava Means

Student Life



Freshman Emma Gallagher



Sophomore Sophia Zottola and her brother



Sophomore Reagan and Senior Reese Constantine



Senior Mea DeShantz



Senior Kaleb and Adelyn Mathieu

Holiday Throwbacks!
All photos provided by Taylor Servagno



Sophomore Gianna Burja



Sophomore Molly McGovern



Sophomore Teagan Kelly



Sophomore Taylor Servagno

World

AI Getting Smarter Everyday

The Future Is Here

ISABELLE HOPPE STAFF WRITER

Although AI was once a futuristic concept, this is no longer the case. The technology is developed and has already started to shape industries across the globe. It has the potential to revolutionize the way students learn and go about their futures. Some see this as a scary thing, and in some ways it is. The growth of this Intelligence threatens peoples' jobs; however, it's also changing the model of education.

People might be tempted to use AI for homework, tests, and assignments. However, this is cheating. Platforms like Gauth and Chat GP allow users to do is take a picture of an assignment or problem, and it does the whole thing for you. This may take away from learning in the way that we are used to, but times are changing; this is the way the world is moving. While it does your assignments for you, you still retain the information by reading and copying information. The act of reading the

correct answer and then having to rewrite it, often rephrasing in your own words can actually be beneficial in its own way. It can open your eyes to ways of thinking you never would have come up with on your own, and as long as you don't use it as a cheating method on exams, it can actually be valuable.

Every time you use an AI platform, you are helping it learn and are making it smarter with every question you ask. This also has its dangers, however. There is no telling how smart this technology will become, and while it is already taking over jobs, some question whether it has the capability to take over society as a whole. This is a relatively far out there concept, but it could really become a possibility because no one knows what the world looks like when there is no need for humans because their roles are filled by robots.

Many could look at the direction we're headed and be anxious about the possibilities ahead, but for now, AI is a tool that can help students, businesses, and everyday people. Artificial Intelligence is not just a technological advancement; it is a shift that will define the coming decades. As we navigate its possibilities and challenges, one thing is clear: the era of AI is here, and its impact is only beginning to unfold.

The TikTok Ban

Is it Really Going to Happen?

AVA BARSON STAFF WRITER

I am sure if anyone has access to social media then they have heard of the TikTok ban that is said to occur in January. But how truthful is this rumor? Will they actually ban it this time? Regardless of the truth, people are getting stirred up by the news. Social media stars are resorting to different platforms such as YouTube and Instagram reels. Is it possible with this ban that YouTube would make a comeback in its high number of users? Right now, it seems like it is all up in the air, but let's get into the truth of the matter.

On December sixth, three judges from the Supreme Court issued a new law that would lead to the ban of the TikTok app. The deal back in April was that the ownership needed to be handed over to the United States. The court believes that the ownership being in China is a threat due to the data collection. The official attempt on banning the app will occur in January but elect president Trump said he would stand up for TikTok. The question is, why is the banning of this app causing so much uproar?

A lot of people who use the app actually use it for their small businesses or general income. There are content creators who have become big from the app. Influencers like Katie Fang whose uprising began on TikTok with just one video. I am sure some people reading this know what I am talking about. People who have small businesses are able to use the app to create videos and advertisements for their products. It is also helpful that there is a TikTok shop associated with the app for sellers to distribute their

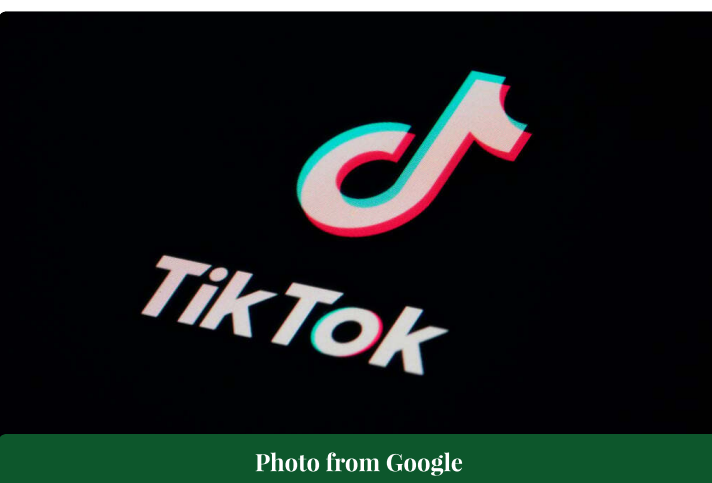


Photo from Google

products. The algorithm itself is super convenient and easy to use which is why a lot of people like to use it over other platforms. It has become a source of income for a lot but what about those who don't post as much?

This is where we can see some of the negatives start to take place. Specifically with personal use. Not only is this app super easy to use but it is almost too easy for some to access. Children who are not even in the double digits are using TikTok and making videos. This can cause some uproar which has been seen with some of the mothers on the app who have been "exploiting their children." Not only can children post things to the public but they can also view videos. There are some videos on the platform that have been able to sneak past the community guidelines. There was a time in the past years where the app

World

Continued...wasn't doing so well with monitoring its users causing a lot of inappropriate content to be displayed to the audience. Not only is this a problem but it is also a problem when it comes to mental health.

Mental health is not a joke and surely social media can either make or break it. Some TikTok creators have become "comfort" influencers meaning a lot of their audience looks up to them in a good way. But like any social media platform there are some things on there that could cause jealousy or ruin one's self esteem. It can be a comfort place or a danger zone for its users.

A lot of influencers have been making jokes about the ban. James Charles posted a video recently about how after the ban he will be working at Chick-fil-A since TikTok is part of his income. The video blew up and has 13 million views with 3 million likes.

Since the ban is so widely known, I gained input from students about the ban.

"It won't really affect me but I like to watch it and make TikTok with my friends," said freshman Haidyn Harrington.

"I think that it probably won't happen because they've been threatening this for like 4 years but if it does happen it's just dumb because there are far worse things the government should be worrying about right now and TikTok is not one of them at all," said junior Isaac Kraus.

"I don't feel good about the ban. All my asmr and brain rot will be gone," said junior Zoey Perko.

"I don't really care about it honestly because I think it's a bad app and it just promotes unhealthy habits. I think there are a lot of apps just like it and if it does get banned someone will make an app just like it to replace it anyway," said sophomore Caity Verba.

"I am feeling quite okay about it. If it leaves we still have many social media," said freshman Aubrey Kraus.

Now this brings us to the final question. Will the ban happen? It seems to be up in the air for discussion. No one will really know until a further notice or the month of January. Will the ban necessarily be bad? For some, it may help limit their screen time addiction. 39% of 18-29 year olds use TikTok everyday which is why banning it may be harder than it looks. All in all nothing seems to have been banned yet so enjoy those videos while you can.

Billboards Hot 100

- All I Want For Christmas Is You:**
Mariah Carey
- Rockin' Around The Christmas Tree:**
Benda Lee
- Jingle Bell Rock:**
Bobby Helms
- Last Christmas:**
Wham!
- A Holly Jolly Christmas:**
Burl Ives
- Die With A Smile:**
Lady Gaga and Bruno Mars
- Luther :**
Kendrick Lamar and SZA
- TV Off:**
Kendrick Lamar ft. Lefty Gunplay
- A Bar Song (Topsy):**
Shaboozey
- Squabble Up:**
Kendrick Lamar

2024 Rewind...

- Brat Summer
- Presidential election
- Swiftmania
- Oppenheimer ruled the Oscars
- The Solar Eclipse
- Paris Olympics

2024 Rewind: This Year's Number Ones!

- Movie:** *Inside Out 2* (\$1,698,641,117 Box Office Worldwide)
- Artist:** Taylor Swift
- Streamed Song:** Sabrina Carpenter's "Espresso"
- Book:** *Funny Story* By Emily Henry
- Word:** Brain Rot
- Meme:** The Rizzler
- Trend:** AI Innovations

Sports

The College Basketball Scene

What Makes This Season

Different?

SHOME RAO STAFF WRITER

On October 14, the NCAA men's basketball preseason AP poll was released. It seemed pretty obvious why certain teams were on the list, especially since most of these rosters stay consistent through many seasons. Unfortunately, the season could not be in more of a broken state than now. The top 3 teams in the AP poll were originally Kansas, Alabama and UConn. This made sense since Kansas had always been a college basketball powerhouse, and both Alabama and UConn were coming off brilliant seasons and a great march madness performance respectively.

Now, in the third week of December, the rankings have changed drastically. Kansas had the #1 spot, but after two upsets verse Creighton and Missouri, they have fallen down to #8. Previously #2 Alabama has gone to #6 due to their two losses against Purdue and Oregon, but they were able to stay in the top 10 after a strong win against UNC. UConn however, has had small struggles recently. After two unnatural losses against Colorado and Dayton, the UConn team managed to barely claim a win against #15 Baylor. Now out of the top 15, they've able to bounce back and claim the #11 spot after being #8 Gonzaga

Other strange occurrences have also been happening. For example, in their first game of the season, #19 Texas lost to the Ohio State in a tough showdown, kicking them out of the top 25. Going back to UNC, the team had high expectations this season with players like RJ Davis and Ian Jackson. Unfortunately, after a 3-game loss streak, the team has

also fallen out of the top 25. Now to Rutgers, a very strange team. With only 7 wins, the team has not been doing well at all. People have seen this as weird, since 2 of the top 5 NBA draft prospects, Dylan Harper and Ace Bailey, are on the roster. Despite their strong performances every game, the team is not able to compete with their opponents.

On a positive note, some teams have exceeded expectations and are rising in the rankings. One team in particular, Tennessee, has gone on an undefeated run, winning 11 games and earning themselves the current #1 spot in the AP poll. Another team, the Auburn Tigers, were originally ranked #11 in the preseason poll. After a strong win against #4 Houston and only a singular loss in their season so far, they have risen to the #2 spot.

So far the 2024 NCAA College Basketball season has been very entertaining to say the very least. Hopefully there will be more upsets, and more rising teams that can change the course of the rankings as we look forward to the March Madness tournament next spring.



The Field is Set

The CFP 12-Team Bracket is

Complete

DAVIS NATALI STAFF WRITER

The championship window has opened for all the teams that have made the first-ever 12-team College Football Playoff. After speculating where certain teams would fall, we have the final bracket to deliver us the answers. A wild championship Saturday set the stage for how the field would look. To kick off the day, Arizona State and Iowa State battled in the Big 12 championship, with the winner punching their ticket into the CFP. The Sun Devils dominated, winning 45-19, officially becoming the first team in as Big 12 Champs.

Directly after was the SEC championship, which pinned number two Texas and number five Georgia against each other for the second time this season. This game would determine who would get a first-round bye, as both teams were already in the playoffs. Defenses dominated as a touchdown-less first half saw Texas hold a 6-3 lead heading into the third quarter. Georgia's starting quarterback, Carson Beck, was ruled out for the second half with an injury, meaning the Dawgs would have to rally behind backup quarterback Gunner Stockton. Down in an overtime thriller, Georgia dug deep as running back Trevor Etienne called the game from four yards out, winning the SEC championship for Georgia 22-19, and securing the Bulldogs with a first-round bye.

While the red and black confetti fell in Atlanta, the stage was set in Indianapolis for the Big 10 Championship, which featured a matchup between number one Oregon and number three Penn State. Oregon started hot and built a monstrous 28-10 lead in the

Sports

Continued...second quarter, but the Nittany Lions would not give up as they cut it to 31-24 at halftime. The game was a shootout, but Oregon still held a 45-37 lead with under 3 minutes remaining. Penn State had the ball with a chance to tie, but Drew Allar's interception down the sideline ended the Nittany Lions' hopes. The Ducks were crowned the Big 10 Champions in their first season in the conference.

The last game of championship weekend took place in Charlotte as



the Clemson Tigers battled with the SMU Mustangs. Clemson was faced with a win-and-in situation, and in this situation, the Tigers had to win the ACC for any chance at qualifying. SMU, on the other hand, needed to show the committee that they belonged regardless of the outcome. Clemson would start off firing on all cylinders, building a commanding 24-7 lead at halftime. Things were looking grim for the SMU as their playoff chances were uncertain, but the Ponies fought back to tie the game at 31-31 with 0:16 seconds remaining in the game. The Tigers would walk it off with a Clemson-record 56-yard field goal to head to the College Football Playoffs 34-31. The morning after was Decision Day; the committee had set up the final bracket. Oregon, Georgia, Arizona State, and Boise State took the top four spots as the highest-ranked conference champs. The final seven teams were pinned against each other in the first round. Tennessee will go up north to take on Ohio State in Columbus; Clemson will go to Austin for the first time to take on Texas; SMU will travel to Happy Valley against Penn State; and Indiana will take an in-state trip to South Bend to take on Notre Dame. This season has been chaotic, to say the least, with ups and downs all year for every team. With the Championship game just over a month away, all 12 teams believe they have what it takes to hoist the trophy in Atlanta.



Caitlin Clark became the all-time leading scorer in NCAA basketball.



The Kansas City Chiefs became back-to-back Superbowl Champions



The United States dominated the 2024 Olympics with a total of 126 medals

Top Four Sports Moments of the Year

PR Boys Basketball
Upcoming Game
 12/20 vs. NAHS

PR Girls Basketball
Upcoming Game
 12/19 vs. Woodland Hills

PR Swim and Dive
Upcoming Meet
 12/19 vs. Riverside

2024 Highlights

In the spirit of the year 2024 coming to an end, we want to reflect on the remarkable year we have had as a PR community! Here are some highlights.



Hance students raised over \$27,000 for the school PTO in January.



Forensics earned the Small School Sweepstakes Award in March.



The High School performed Mamma Mia for the spring musical, and it is safe to say it was an absolute hit!



8th grader Carter Straub was awarded a \$500 scholarship to attend the Experimental Aircraft Association Air Academy Camp.



Senior Noah Mackie was named Student Visionary of the year by The Leukemia and Lymphoma Society Pittsburgh in March.



Senior Tiffany Gathers was named Homecoming Queen!



Senior Maren Iski earned a resounding victory at the TriStar Track Coaches Association Championship Invitation.



Student Government led the district in the annual Stuff-a-Bus toy drive and helped fill 82 buses.



Field Hockey won the WPIALS!



Football won WPIALS!

Students places 13th out of 184 schools nationwide in the Sodexo Healthy High School Challenge.



Students performed in *The Holiday Channel Christmas Movie Wonderthon*.



Sophomore Eddie Chen earned first place for piano in the Elite International Music Competition.

Happy Holidays



Our Favorite Christmas Traditions

Where do They Originate?

VIENNA RESTELLI STAFF WRITER



Every December, families across the US decorate with lights and Christmas trees. For children, the excitement of getting gifts from Santa Claus begins. But have you ever wondered where these holiday traditions began? From setting up Christmas lights to hanging stockings, each tradition has its own unique history.

Christmas Trees: The Christmas tree traces back to 16th-century Germany. Christians decorated evergreen trees with fruit, candles, and handmade ornaments. German immigrants brought the tradition to America in the 1800s. It didn't gain much popularity until an image of Queen Victoria and Prince Albert with a Christmas tree went around. Today, families decorate their trees with anything store-bought or homemade, such as ornaments, garland, and tinsel.

Santa Claus: The story of Santa Claus comes from St. Nicholas, a 4th-century Greek bishop known for his kindness and gift-giving. The Dutch version of St. Nicholas, "Sinterklass," brought the idea to the US. This version of Santa became popular from the poem "A Visit from St. Nicholas," also known as "Twas the Night Before Christmas". Today, children excitedly wait for Santa, often writing letters, visiting him at malls, and tracking his journey on the Santa Tracker.

Christmas Lights: Christmas lights go back to 17th-century Germany, where candles were placed on Christmas trees to symbolize hope and light. In 1882, Edward H. Johnson, a friend of Thomas Edison, created the first electric Christmas lights. What began as simple tree lights evolved into the big light displays we see outside houses every holiday season.

Stockings: Hanging stockings by the fireplace also originates from the story of St. Nicholas. According to the story, he secretly left gold coins in the stockings of three poor sisters. This act of kindness soon became the modern-day tradition of leaving stockings by the fireplace for Santa to fill with small gifts and treats.

My Christmas Traditions

Take a Look into Some of my Favorite Traditions

HANNAHJAYNE SHANNON STAFF WRITER

Every Christmas my family has many traditions, as many other families do. I love all of the traditions that I have because they are all so much fun. I love hanging out with my family and Christmas truly would not be the same without them. Christmas is one of my favorite holidays simply because I get to spend time with some of my favorite people.

Every winter at the end of November my dad and I put up our Christmas tree. We put the ornaments on the Christmas tree and play

Christmas music in the background. I think it is really fun and the tree looks pretty afterwards.

Another tradition we have is going to our family's house on Christmas Eve. Every year I go to my aunt and uncle's house and hang out with a few of my family members. After we eat dinner my cousin and I open our presents in the upstairs living room. The next day on Christmas I wake up and go to my living room to open my presents. After my presents are open my dad and I just hang out around the house and celebrate the day.

Overall, my Christmas traditions are so much fun and I would not want to spend Christmas every other way. I love giving presents to family and friends every year. I love everybody around me and I would not give up any of the people I'm around for the world.



Happy Holidays

Secret Santa VS. White Elephant

Which Gift-Giving Christmas Game is the Best?

SOPHIA KERNS STAFF WRITER

Christmas has a lot of fun traditions that everyone looks forward to each year. Decorating a tree, baking cookies, and putting up lights are just a few of the fun traditions to do around the holidays. But, a big part of Christmas is exchanging gifts. Some people like to make this a game. Two of the most iconic Christmas games are Secret Santa and White Elephant. They are both very similar, but which one is better?

The first one on the list is Secret Santa. For this one, everyone will be assigned a person, but no one knows who your person is besides you. Then, you get this person a gift. Once everyone has a gift, you meet back up with your entire group. You exchange the presents, and at the end everyone will leave with a gift. There are so many ways to do the gift exchange though. Sometimes, people will not tell the person that they got a gift because it was them who got the gift, but other times people will know who got them their gift.



White Elephant is a little more complicated than Secret Santa. Everyone purchases a gift, but no one knows besides you what the gift is. Then, you meet up with your group. Everyone gets a number before you start the gift exchange. Whoever has number 1 picks and unwraps one of the gifts. The person who has number 2 has two options. They can either pick a gift out of the pile or steal the 1st person's gift. If the 1st person gets their gift stolen, then they have to pick another gift out of the pile. When the 3rd person is up, they can choose to pick a gift out of the pile, or steal either person 1 or 2's gift. Again, if a gift is stolen then the person who gets their gift stolen must pick another gift from the pile. This continues until everyone has a gift and none remain in the pile. White Elephant has many variations. Some people have different rules for stealing gifts. For example, some groups decided that a gift can only be stolen once, while others can have unlimited steals of a gift. But, it is up to you how you decided to play White Elephant.

Now that you know how to play each game, which one is better? Both games have some positives and negatives. In Secret Santa, you have no idea who you are going to get. If you don't know that person well, it might not be very easy to get them a good gift. But, with White Elephant, you have to try and get a gift that almost everyone would like to receive. I have seen people be upset by a White Elephant present since that gift would fit another person in the group perfectly, but they are not the one who received it. With all the details on these games, it is up to you to decide which game is best. If you are looking for a holiday game to play with your friends or family, these are two great options that you could choose.



Rockin' Around the Christmas Tree

One of my Favorite Christmas Traditions

BREE ARTHUR STAFF WRITER

Christmas time is here and it is time to celebrate. Our decorations are up and Christmas movies are playing. I love the Christmas season. You are able to walk into your house and see the lovely Christmas trees sparkling, lighting up the room. Christmas trees are one of my favorite holiday traditions. I love decorating them, and I love to take in their beauty afterwards.

In my family we always decorate our Christmas tree the Saturday after Thanksgiving. Getting to spend time with my family and get in the Christmas spirit is always one of my favorite parts of the holiday season. Christmas trees are perfect for the holiday season, no matter what theme or style you like, you can find decorations for your tree.

I also love mini Christmas trees. I have one in my room and I love to decorate it every year. Having your own special tree adds another special part to the season. I always decorate mine with white ornaments. I love getting to personalize trees and make them special. Every night before I go to bed I get to see it and it just makes me so happy.

Christmas trees are one of my favorite holiday traditions and they always will be. I love how they encapsulate the Christmas season into one beautiful work. Getting to watch a Christmas movie in the light of a Christmas tree is the most homey, comforting feeling in the world. This Christmas season remember to take in the wonder beauty of your Christmas tree and spend time with your family.



Happy Holidays

Is Secret Santa Still a Secret Anymore?

Holiday Magic

ERIN ZHENG STAFF WRITER

I simply adore Christmas time, but adding Secret Santa to the mix might just be the cherry on top. This year I'm just doing Secret Santa with my bus group because my first group of friends decided that it was just too much work. So I'm just simply getting gifts for 5 of my other friends. Why get gifts for people who're just not going to appreciate it, am I right? No, I'm just kidding, getting gifts for my friends is really fun, and you should NEVER exclude any of your friends (but if you don't like them, then that's a whole other story). But Secret Santa is on a whole different level.

Now, for those unfamiliar with how Secret Santa works, let me break it down. Essentially, it's a system where we draw names and each person buys a gift for the individual whose name they picked. For instance, if someone draws my name, they are tasked with getting me a gift or a couple of gifts. As Christmas approaches, we all reveal who we had, and then the excitement of exchanging gifts takes over. It's a delightful surprise, and the anticipation adds to the thrill of the holiday season. The last few Christmases have been full of Secret Santa, so I can't imagine winter without having them. But this year, I don't know if it's just because we've known each other for so long or if we just can't keep a secret from each other, but we all know who each one of us got. But it's ok because it's sorta funny. I created a Google Doc, so we could jot down what each one of us want. The budget is whatever depending



on who you get.

All I can foresee is that by the end of 2024, my wallet might be looking pretty empty. But you know what? The joy that comes with Secret Santa is worth every penny. Can you believe that the origins of Secret Santa trace back to Germany? It's fascinating how something that began in one part of the world has now transformed into a beloved tradition globally. Over the years, it has evolved, but the core idea remains—spreading joy and goodwill through thoughtful gifting. Each spontaneous moment adds to the overall excitement of the season. I can't wait to see what thoughtful gifts everyone comes up with and share in the laughter and joy that accompany our exchanges. After all, it's these little memories that make the holiday season truly special.

Christmas Countdown

Down to the Count till Break

BAILEY RODRIGUEZ STAFF WRITER

The holiday season and festivities during those times are quickly approaching us once again. It felt like Thanksgiving had come by so soon and now most of us will continue that fast hustle and bustle for the rest of the year.

For starters, Christmas and other celebrated holidays such as Kwanza, Hanukkah, Diwali, and more are fastly approaching. I know for me that I am so excited to see all the winter happenings! One thing that is really enjoyable is seeing Christmas lights. Every year my grandparents take me and my siblings up to Cabelas, and then go to see Christmas lights after. It is always such a good time and puts me in such a festive mood for Christmas. My favorite part of going to see the lights is whenever they have a radio station for the people in their cars to put on, and the lights move along to the music.



Another thing to look forward to is the winter activities, like skiing, snowboarding, sledding, and much more. Personally, I love to ski. Even if we don't go all the time, I enjoy going at least once or twice a season. I also love to go tubing in the wintertime. It's so fun to go with friends, and also fun to go with family. It's one of those things you do, that once you do it for the first time and get the initial adrenaline rush, you want to go so many more times.

One of the calmer sides of celebrating is listening to holiday music. I wouldn't say that I'm crazy over holiday music, because I never really listen to it on my own, but every once in a while I do hear it and stop to listen. This happens mostly at places like my work, where people in the music have been excited for holiday music ever since November 1st.

While these are all fun options, along with many others the holiday season is coming up upon us so quickly. Enjoy the upcoming break PR! It's coming up soon, and I'm sure the new year will be here even before we know it.

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4 JACKIE ROBINSON FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITY

The Jackie Robinson Foundation (JRF) perpetuates the memory of Jackie Robinson by providing generous four-year scholarships and comprehensive support services to highly motivated college students with financial needs to ensure their success and further develop their leadership potential.

To be eligible for a Jackie Robinson Foundation Scholarship, an applicant must:

- Be a graduating, minority high school senior;
- Be a United States citizen;
- Present evidence of financial need;
- Demonstrate a record of academic excellence;
- Demonstrate leadership potential and a dedication to community service;
- Plan to attend an accredited and approved 4-year college/university within the United States or affiliated with a United States-based college or university;
- Have not accrued more than 25% of credits needed to graduate from college.

Online Application Components:

- One recommendation;
- Demographic information;
- High school information, including a high school transcript;
- College plans;
- Four essays;
- Activities, honors, and distinctions;
- Completion of CSS profile;
- Test scores (AP, IB, PSAT, ACT, or SAT) if applicable.

The Timeline:

- **SEPTEMBER 2024**
APPLICATION OPEN
- **JANUARY 9, 2025**
APPLICATION DUE
- **FEB-APRIL 2025**
REVIEW
- **APRIL-MAY 2025**
INTERVIEWS
- **JUNE 2025**
ANNOUNCEMENT

For more information and to apply, scan the QR code or visit, jackierobinson.org/apply/



See you next year PRHS!!
Have a great break!