



# Big Blue News

January, 2025



## 2025 "OUT WITH THE OLD, IN WITH THE BOLD!"

### WHITE HOUSE MIDDLE SCHOOL, "PENCILS SHARP, MINDS SHARPER – READY FOR 2025!"

#### New Year's Resolutions

SOPHIA KIRBY, + HAZEL SPURGEON  
 WHITE HOUSE (Big Blue News)-2025 has just started, and we have so many New Year's resolutions! We have a total of fifteen students and six teachers participating. The most common resolution we received was, "I want to get better grades," followed closely by, "Be a better person." We appreciate that the students at White House Middle want to improve themselves in the new year.



The city of Nashville ends the night with fireworks

#### Ring in the New Year

JAYNE KEENE  
 WHITE HOUSE (Big Blue News)- There are several ways to celebrate the new year, most commonly by staying up until 12:00 AM on January 1st. However, there are other traditions, some more well-known than others.

Many people in America and around the world love to sing "Auld Lang Syne," a Scottish song that originated as a poem written in the 1800s. Of course, something almost everyone in America with a television does is watch the Ball Drop in Times Square, New York. However, many Tennesseans prefer to watch the Nashville Note Drop, which features performances by country music stars.

Food and drink traditions also play a big part in New Year's celebrations. Toasting with champagne—or in some cases, sparkling cider—is common. To bring good luck in the new year, people often eat dishes like black-eyed peas with rice and salted pork.

Finally, one of the most famous traditions is making resolutions to improve or do something different in the new year. Whether it's striving to be healthier or pursuing other personal goals, many people participate in this tradition. However, statistics show that 23% of people abandon their resolutions after about a week. In summary, there are countless ways to celebrate the new year, and each tradition adds something special to the start of January.

#### Upcoming Events

- Power Hour**  
All School Zoom: Jan 17th  
January 22
- Afterschool Clubs**  
**Club Pictures!! January 29th**  
Newspaper Club (Every Tuesday After School)  
Robotics Club ( Every Other Thursday)
- Before School Clubs**  
FCA Tuesday (Leadership: 7:40 - 8:00: Colley's Room)  
FCA Wednesday (bible study: 7:40 - 8:00: Cafeteria)  
FCA Thursday (Once or Twice a month in Colley's room: 7:40 - 8:00)  
FCA Friday (Big Meeting: 7:40 - 8:00: Library)  
Book Club (Once a month: Wednesdays in Library: 7:30 - 8:00)  
Newspaper Club (Every Thursday Morning)
- Choir**  
Choir Concert February 11th
- Vending**  
January 31st  
February 28th
- Schools OUT!**  
Martin Luther King Day **January 20th**  
Presidents Day **February 17t**  
**Upcoming Days to Celebrate!**  
8th Grade Field Trip February 21st  
Ground Hog Day **February 2nd**  
Valentine's Day **February 14th**

#### ➔ Student Spotlight



Izzie Hampton, an 8th grader, is our student spotlight. She plays softball, volleyball, French horn, and manages football and basketball teams.

Izzie values leadership, making others happy, and her confidence. She loves White House for its school spirit, staff, and community. We're proud to have her!

#### Movie Review

By Hensley Baker and Sophia Manning



Wicked is a movie- or musical- with a fast paced plot and great character development. It is based off of a Broadway play. Understandably, some people might not like backstories, but this one was fantastic. The amount of detail put into the set and costumes was breathtaking. But the best part about Wicked was the music. Dare we say- this movie defied gravity!

# The Crackdown on Energy Drinks

GABE STEWART  
WHITE HOUSE (Big Blue News)-



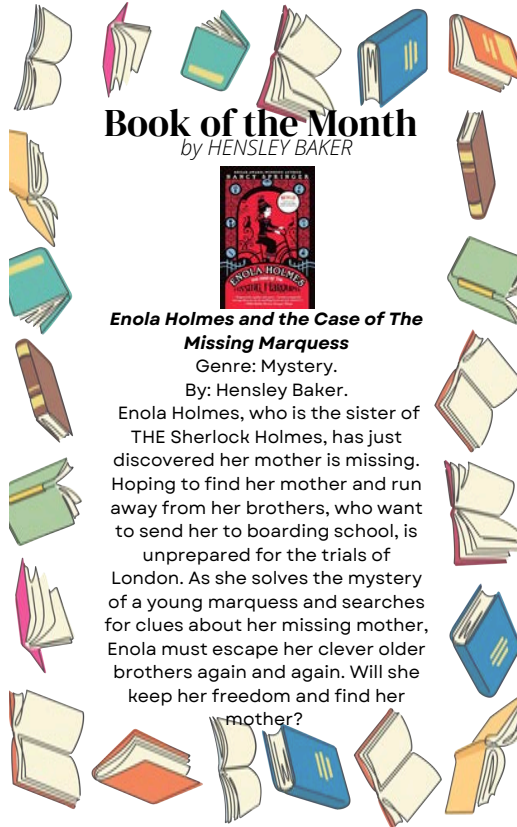
**“WE CANNOT ALLOW STUDENTS TO BECOME ADDICTED TO THIS UNHEALTHY HABIT. FOR THE SAKE OF A HEALTHIER FUTURE, IT’S TIME TO DITCH ENERGY DRINKS AND OPT FOR BETTER ALTERNATIVES.”**

Mr. Mills has made a push for the enforcement of the ‘no energy drinks’ policy and here’s why: The recommended amount of caffeine for a teenager is 100 mg or less, but energy drinks often contain double or even triple that amount. Consuming such high levels of caffeine is very unsafe for teens, as it can lead to a crash after the initial boost of energy.

Some teenagers become dependent on energy drinks, consuming them in excess and experiencing lasting effects like fatigue, frequent jitters, and even withdrawal symptoms. These habits can damage a student’s mental health and increase the risk of depression.



This is why the push to ban energy drinks for teens must be enforced. “We cannot allow students to become addicted to this unhealthy habit. For the sake of a healthier future, it’s time to ditch energy drinks and opt for better alternatives.” Try herbal tea or simply drink water to nourish your body and heal.



## Book of the Month by HENSLEY BAKER



**Enola Holmes and the Case of The Missing Marquess**

Genre: Mystery.

By: Hensley Baker.

Enola Holmes, who is the sister of THE Sherlock Holmes, has just discovered her mother is missing. Hoping to find her mother and run away from her brothers, who want to send her to boarding school, is unprepared for the trials of London. As she solves the mystery of a young marquess and searches for clues about her missing mother, Enola must escape her clever older brothers again and again. Will she keep her freedom and find her mother?

## FCA

EMBER HARMS  
WHITE HOUSE (Big Blue News)-  
FCA has been a part of the school for a very long time. Many students have found a community to be a part of. Mr. Colley has said that he wanted to help students connect with God the same way that he found it when he was in school. Because of this, we decided to interview students about how FCA has impacted their lives.  
Coltyn Noyes, 8th grade:

Q: How has FCA impacted your life?  
“It’s brought me closer to a lot of good people and has brought me closer to God.”

Q: Why did you originally go to FCA?

A: “I was told they were having a community breakfast and I wanted to go, but after, I realized that I really love going.”

Q: How would you describe FCA to a complete outsider?

A: “FCA is a club, we’re a bunch of students who want to be closer to God. And the students who don’t have the ability to freely explore religion, can come to a place where they can all be together without judgment.”

## Teacher Spotlight



AUTHOR LEFT Anonymous WHITE HOUSE (Big Blue News)-Mrs. Scheel is a wonderful teacher at our school, so we were excited to interview her to learn what makes her such an amazing educator. Mrs. Scheel shared that her own teachers growing up always pushed her to do her best, which inspired her to strive to motivate others. She also explained that her teaching philosophy stems from her belief that “...if we can’t stand still, then we should be up and moving.” When asked about her favorite aspects of White House Middle and teaching, she replied, “Everything—the people and the kids. And I love the summers so I can travel and bring more experiences to the classroom.” In summary, everyone at WHMS absolutely cherishes Mrs. Scheel and deeply appreciates her as a staff member.

# BD Sports and Clubs!



2 White House Wrestlers Hoyt Rambo and Logan Allen

## White House Middle School Wrestling

RILEY GARRETT, JEWELL HAMILTON, COLTYN NOYSE

WHITE HOUSE (Big Blue News)-

We interviewed members of the wrestling team: Hoyt Rambo, Durham Anderson, and Logan Allen. The first question we asked was, "What is the hardest part of being a wrestler?" They all agreed that the hardest part is conditioning and trying not to mentally give up.

The second question was, "What qualities do you need to have to be a good wrestler or teammate?" Once again, they all agreed that you need to be both mentally and physically tough.

Finally, we asked, "What is the most enjoyable part of being on the wrestling team?" They said the best part is making friends, hanging out with teammates, and, of course, winning matches.

## Ending the Basketball Season!

MICHAEL YOUNG ASHTON MUSTOE  
WHITE HOUSE (Big Blue News) - On January 9th, White House Middle School Boys and Girls Basketball played against East Robertson. This was the last home game for White ...

until the playoffs started. This was also a special night for our 8th graders. It was 8th Grade Recognition night. Coach Auburn and Coach Tyler led the girls team to the court for the game while the student section cheered. The team dominated the first half with their defense. At halftime the score was 20-4, up by 16 it was clear the girls were going to win.



Girls basketball team defense guarding a shot

The girls continued to play fiercely against East Robertson in the second half winning, with a final score of 39-22. Up next was the mighty boys Blue Devils. The student section was packed with fans. The boys played a close first half, going into halftime at 18-16. Only being up by 2 in the 3rd period with 1.5 seconds left in possession of the ball, down by 2, they took the final shot before the buzzer rang, losing 42-44. Fortunately, both Boys and Girls made it to the playoffs for a chance to win it all.

Coach Tyler said "It feels good to win, our team really needed it" and "We are number 7 in the playoffs". Coach Auburn says "Defense was good, diving on loose balls they led the offense and I'm excited the 8th graders came out on top". Aly says "The way we played today I think we need a little more practice but we are prepared for playoffs". Miya said, "Our team played well today against East Robertson, I'm happy that we made the playoffs".



Mr. Lamberth the Robotics team coach

## Robotics

RILEY GARRETT, JEWELL HAMILTON, COLTYN NOYSE

WHITE HOUSE (Big Blue News)-

The robotics team started back up this year! We interviewed two members of the team. We asked them what they enjoy most about robotics, and what the hardest part is.

Mr. Lamberth who is the coach of the team said that he enjoys about robotics is seeing what his students will invent next, and seeing how they let their will let their creativity shine. He said that the hardest thing about it is when there are a lot of pieces, he also worries about losing stuff and damaging their expensive things.

Jaxson Lindsey said that the most enjoyable thing about robotics is that it is fun and interesting, and when they get to learn new things. He said that the hardest thing about being in robotics is when they have to code the robots.

Its going to be a fun and exciting journey for this new team. We can't wait to see projects they do next!

# A Winter Story

cont...

ISABEL WILLIAMSON WHITE HOUSE (Big Blue News)- I blinked, after blacking out from the lights of that ferocious monster, I woke up in a house. It seems that those creatures mistook me as a Christmas tree, as I was decorated and was standing upright near a fireplace. It was Christmas Day, and the children of those wretched people were unboxing presents under my leafed branches.

My glowing red eyes glance down at them before opening my gaping mouth from behind my leaves, whispering; "Help me..." The children immediately perked up at my hushed tone, glancing up at me, with wide eyes. "H-hello?" The smaller child looked around before noticing my widening mouth creeping open from the branches of her Christmas tree. W-what are you? Who are you?" The smaller one gasped before running out of the room. The taller one pushed me out of shock, hurtling me out of the nearest window. My branched arms flail out, trying to catch my balance before landing in white fluff of snow. I look up, seeing... TO BE CONTINUED...

What was the broom's New Year's resolution?  
Nothing, it's a broom.



Ms. Paula and Ms. Stephanie showing all smiles even at the end of the day!

## The Unsung Heroes of WHMS

ASHTYN SALOMONI WHITE HOUSE (Big Blue News)- There are many workers at White House Middle School who don't get enough recognition. For example, the custodians and cafeteria workers are always working hard but rarely receive the appreciation they deserve.

We interviewed some of these workers and asked why they chose to work here. Mrs. Debbie said, "I enjoy it. Working here, being around the kids. We've got a lot of awesome kids here, and it makes my job worthwhile." Mrs. Woods shared a similar sentiment, saying, "Seeing all the kids" is what she enjoys most.

We also asked if they ever feel their work goes unnoticed. Mrs. Debbie said she feels the kids recognize her hard work, but Mrs. Woods admitted that sometimes she feels the students don't see everything she does for them.

So, the next time you see a custodian in the hallway or a cafeteria worker, take a moment to thank them for everything they do to make our school a better place.



### Words to Live By

By Ember Harms

Are your parents separated? If so, have you ever felt like you did something wrong that made them separate? If you have separated parents, it might feel like there's a lot of downsides to it, but there can also be lots of upsides for you to look forward to! For instance you might get double the birthday, or Christmas presents! If you celebrate a holiday, you might celebrate it twice instead of once, that way it's a fun time with each parent. (Which might not sound fun but it actually is.) Also remember that even though you may believe that it's your fault that your parents are separated, if they are, it's really not, it could be for many other reasons. So think better of yourself, and remember to think of all the positives.