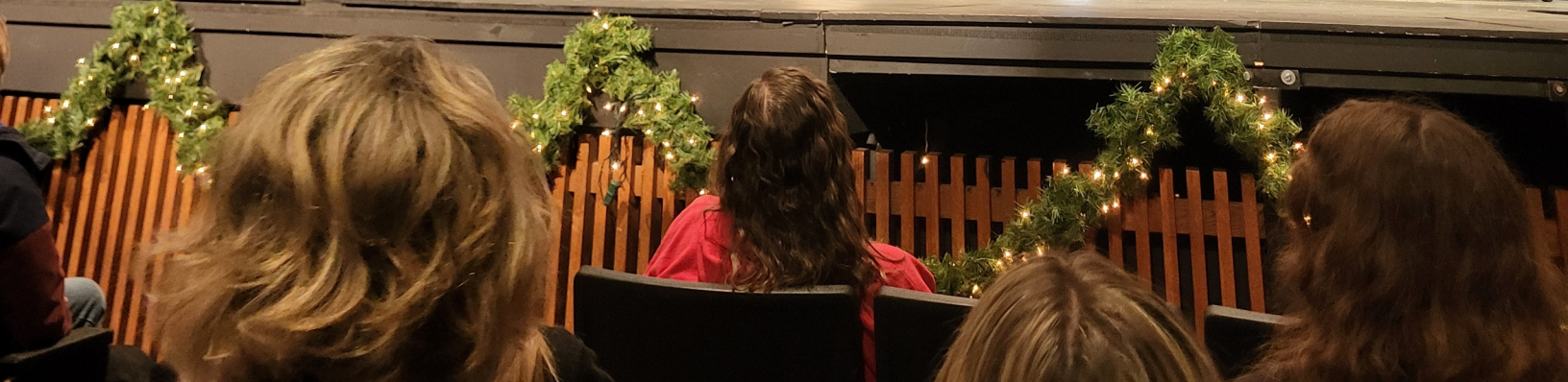


the courier

the appleton east student newspaper

'TIS THE SEASON!



2024



We don't have enough space to recognize all of the great accomplishments and people at East, but here are a few highlights from this semester:

East Tackles Cancer

East Tackles Cancer was a beautiful event. It was a fundraiser for families of children with cancer. It featured various activities like a silent auction, face painting, basket raffle, etc. And apart from the football game, there were other activities as well. On 9/11 there was Chipotle Night, on 9/17 there was Tom's Night, and on 9/18 there was Lillian's Night. It was the 11th annual East Tackles Cancer event, with many more to come.

Homecoming Spirit Week

The Homecoming Spirit Week themes this year were unforgettable. So many Patriots dressed up. On Tuesday, October 1, seniors decided to steal the moon and become a part of Gru's crew. Others wore jerseys and sportswear. On Wednesday, we wore pink. It didn't matter what shade of pink, everyone became a "mean girl." Thursday, we went back in time, spending the day in the decades. Freshmen dressed in the '70s, sophomores in the '80s, juniors in the '90s, and seniors in the 2000s. And, of course, on Friday we all showed school spirit at the pep rally and football game.

Homecoming Dance

This year's Homecoming Dance theme was "A Night of the Floating Lights." The decorations and details were extravagant. There was a photo booth and a spot to take your own pictures. The football field was open if anyone wanted to escape the noise and hang out with friends. There was also a DJ playing loud music for everyone to dance to.

Veterans Day Ceremony

On Monday, November 11, Appleton East held a Veterans Day Ceremony. We opened our doors to any veterans who wanted to attend, thanking them for their service. The ceremony was in the East Patriot Gym, and afterward, the veterans enjoyed a delicious breakfast.

Blood Drive

All eligible students (17 years old or 16 with parents' permission, weigh 110 pounds, and in good health) were able to donate blood. So many Patriots helped save lives at the annual Blood Drive. Overall, the turnout was very successful.

Les Misérables

This year's theater production was Les Misérables. Words don't begin to describe how amazing all of the students performed in this production. There was humor, beauty, emotion, and so much talent. The effort the theater community puts into their art is truly amazing. The people are also so wonderful. The way they all come together and make something so beautiful is inspiring. They can laugh and cry together, on stage and off stage. It was a dazzling performance.

Providing Pages Book Drive

Students/staff were able to donate books during second hour from 10/14 to 10/25. Both new and used books were welcomed and donated during this fundraiser. All of the donations went to the Salvation Army.

Bake Sale

The Bake Sale was held after school in the commons. It was run in support of the Student Council. Delicious confetti cupcakes were sold for \$3 each between 10/28 and 11/1.

Adopt-A-Family

gave Patriots the opportunity to help others this holiday season. Student Council collected donations in various ways. People could buy things for families from their Amazon wish-lists, people could donate any spare change in homeroom, and there was also a GoFundMe. Needless to say, our patriots made many families happy these holidays thanks to the Student Council.

Coming Soon?

We have seen much progress with the construction over the last few months. What was a pile of rubble soon became a sturdy structure. We still have a lot more to see with this process, but it has come together nicely so far. A big thanks to all of the construction workers who are making Appleton East a better place!

**Madison Cates is looking forward
to reading new books in 2025.**

-Madison Cates

Safety in the Snow

The joys of winter: spending time with family and friends, cozying up by the fireplace with a warm cup of cocoa, and playing in the snow. However, snow can also be dangerous, annually causing approximately 4,700 injuries in the state of Wisconsin. To avoid becoming a part of these statistics, here are some simple steps you can take.

The first step to staying safe this winter is to focus on your car. With so many drivers on Wisconsin's roads, it is crucial to understand the hazards of driving in the snow. Before getting into your car, be sure to remove any snow from the top, back, grates, and any other part of your car. This not only improves visibility, but also prevents snow from flying off your vehicle. Additionally, it is important to check your tire pressure, as air pressure can change in different seasons. When driving, be prepared, starting by checking the news, radio, and your phone for any road closures or weather concerns.

As temperatures fluctuate, it is essential to dress appropriately for the weather. Make sure to have winter coats, warm socks, and cozy sweaters on hand to stay warm. If you are unable to obtain proper winter gear, please visit the Fort Necessity (clothes closet) for assistance. You can also donate any winter clothing you no longer need to the school closet to help others in need.

With snow comes ice, which can be even more dangerous. To prevent ice from forming, use salt on sidewalks, driveways, and outdoor stairs. This will reduce the risk of falling, which can result in costly medical bills. Be cautious when walking, even in the school parking lot, as a small amount of ice can cause serious injuries.

These precautions should not keep you from enjoying the winter season. It's important to have fun, do the things you love, and stay safe this winter.



- *Layla Schiestl*

The History of

Christmas

Normally, when we think of Christmas, we may think of gift-giving, making cookies, or spending time with friends and family, but there's more to the Christmas story.

Christmas is celebrated on December 25 as both a sacred religious holiday and a worldwide cultural phenomenon. “People around the world have been observing it with traditions and practices that are both religious and secular. Christians celebrate Christmas Day as the anniversary of the birth of Jesus of Nazareth, a spiritual leader whose teachings form the basis of their religion. Popular customs include exchanging gifts, decorating Christmas trees, attending church, sharing meals with family and friends, and, of course, waiting for Santa Claus to arrive” (History).

Why December 25? “The Roman Christian historian Sextus Julius Africanus dated Jesus' conception to March 25 (the same date upon which he held that the world was created), which, after nine months in his mother's womb, would result in a December 25 birth” (Britannica).

Many children stay up late hoping to see Santa Claus, but what's the truth about Santa? “Santa Claus, a legendary figure who is the traditional patron of Christmas in the United States and other countries, bringing gifts to children.

- His popular image is based on traditions associated with Saint Nicholas, a 4th-century Christian saint who is typically depicted in red bishop's robes.
- The Dutch are credited with transporting the legend of Saint Nicholas (Sinterklaas) to New Amsterdam (now New York City), along with the custom of giving gifts and sweets to children on his feast day, December 6.
- Father Christmas fills the role in many European countries.
- The current depiction of Santa Claus is based on images drawn by cartoonist Thomas Nast for Harper's Weekly beginning in 1863. Nast's Santa owed much to the description given in the poem “A Visit from St. Nicholas” (also known as “'Twas the Night Before Christmas”), first published in 1823.

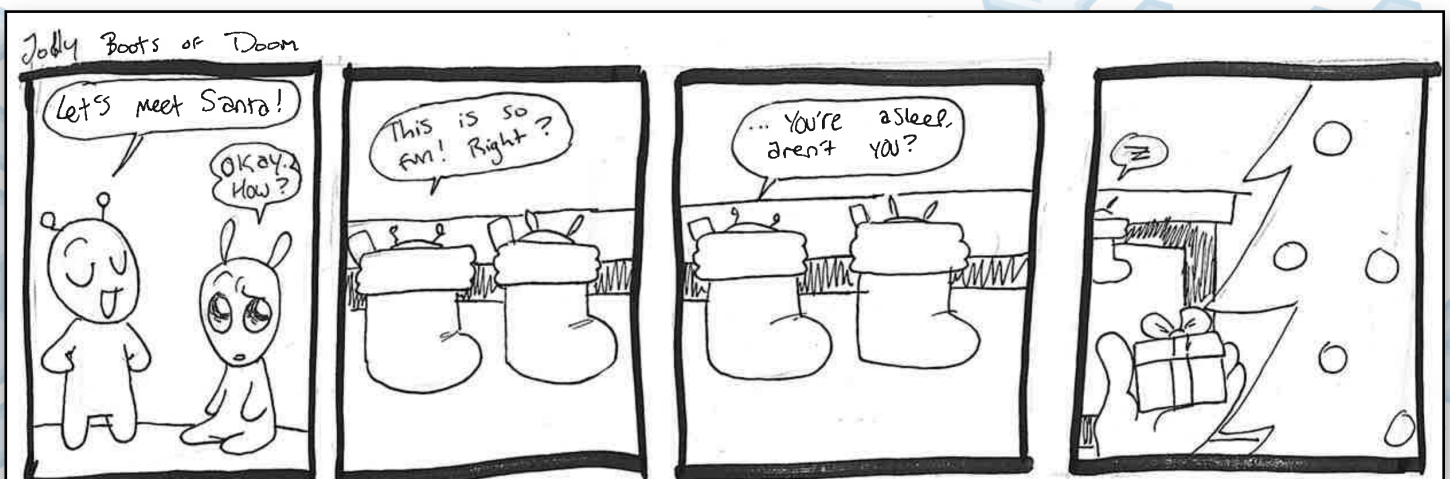
- The image was further defined by the popular Santa Claus advertisements created for the Coca-Cola Company in 1931 by illustrator Haddon Sundblum. Sundblum’s Santa was a portly white-bearded gentleman dressed in a red suit with a black belt and white fur trim, black boots, and a soft red cap.”

During the holidays there's a lot of traditions families uphold all around the world. One of the oldest is decorating a Christmas tree. The tradition goes all the way back to the 16th century. “When sources record devout Christians bringing decorated trees into their homes. Some built Christmas pyramids of wood and decorated them with evergreens and candles if wood was scarce. The use of evergreen trees, wreaths, and garlands to symbolize eternal life was a custom of the ancient Egyptians, Chinese, and Hebrews. Tree worship was common among the pagan Europeans and survived their conversion to Christianity in the Scandinavian customs of decorating the house and barn with evergreens at the New Year to scare away the devil and of setting up a tree for the birds during Christmastime. It survived further in the custom, also observed in Germany, of placing a Yule tree at an entrance or inside the house during the midwinter holidays.”

When it comes to being around family during the holidays, we often use food as the main attraction. When Christmas comes around, we use sweets and a lot of families make Christmas cookies together as a tradition and then put them out for Santa the night before. “The practice of putting out cookies for Santa began in the 1930s during the Great Depression when parents were trying to instill a sense of thankfulness in their children. Leaving goodies, perhaps in a sweet cookie jar, continues to be a way of sharing the holiday bounty.”

Sources: History.com & Britannica.com

- *Chrischianna Schmidt*



Elevate Your Break

Find yourself endlessly scrolling on social media? Do you spend hours on end on your phone? Suffer from boredom, and never have anything to do? You're not alone. Winter break is coming, but sometimes even holidays can be boring. If you feel like you have nothing to do, here are 10 things to elevate your winter break.

1

Watch Christmas Movies

These times involve watching Christmas movies with parents and friends, going to the theater or staying home, and witnessing the magic on a big screen. Christmas movies can also bring back those nostalgic moments when you were a child!

Make a Sweet Treat

Keep the tradition of leaving cookies for good ol' Saint Nick. Make hot chocolate, too. Not only does Santa need a good Christmas treat, but also a warm festive drink.

2

Put Up Decorations

Putting up decorations is a wonderful way to take away boredom. Decorate your tree, hang the stockings, put the thistle out on the front door, or put out the yard inflatables. This helps pass the time and shows off your holiday spirit!

3

Play Outside

It's time to put on your winter gear and get ready for the snow. There are tons of fun things to do outside, especially in the winter. There is tons of stuff to do in the snow: making igloos, building a snowman, snowball fights, and sledding!

4

5

Learn Something New

Enhance your knowledge and learn something new and super fun. Make your winter break a gateway for new hobbies like crocheting, writing, knitting, and drawing.

Go Ice Skating

Ice skating is also a social activity that you can enjoy with friends or family. Whether you're holding hands, skating together or challenging each other to races and spins, it's a wonderful opportunity to bond and create lasting memories!

6

7

Make Cards

Send out holiday cards, because getting a card in the mail is so much more exciting than an email or text. It shows your appreciation for your family and friends. And lets you show some of your creativity and holiday spirit.

Have a Game Night

Games truly have a way of bringing people together, playing board games, or video games, can be a great way to make a wonderful bonding experience, which makes the holidays more eventful and provides more memories for your family and friends.

8

9

Go Shopping

It's okay to do some last-minute shopping, you can have more memory-making experiences like visiting Santa Claus at the mall or checking out light displays downtown. Make last-minute shopping, last-minute memories!

Cook a Meal

Who doesn't love dinner? The array of foods, and the smells of different dishes. This break, maybe you can be a helper in the kitchen. Bring out your creativity, and maybe you'll be able to make your favorite dish!

10

LILI'S LIST: BEST ANIMATION AND COMICS

The Wild Robot (Movie adaptation of book by Peter Brown)

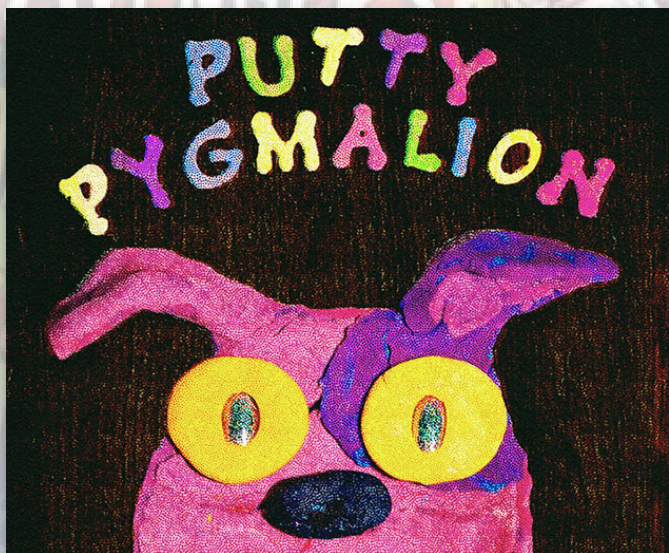
I must be honest, I am not the same person I was before I watched *The Wild Robot*. Having read the chapter book in sixth grade, I had nearly forgotten about it. I was brimming with excitement to see the poster, and my expectations were exceeded. A robot named Roz ends up on an island. She's programmed to help, and so attempts to assist the animal inhabitants. This doesn't go well, and Roz ends up as the mother of a young gosling, whom she names Brightbill. I almost cried a few times, and it takes a lot for a movie to do that to me these days. It's magical, and it's gorgeous to look at and listen to. Lupita Nyong'o is the perfect Roz; I adore her. It's just all-around amazing, and everyone who has the chance should see it.



Putty Pygmalion

(Written and illustrated by Lonnie Garcia)

Oh my gosh, where to start? A mixed media masterpiece, a story told new and wonderfully, a character cast you feel every emotion for... *Putty Pygmalion* is just good comics. The story is about a puppy friend brought to life from a living children's toy to keep a lonely leek boy company, and it's an amazing story. Short and sweet, full of heart, and highly recommended by me. Seriously, why haven't you read it?



Lucky Cap Scouts (Written and illustrated by O. Stevens)

Lucky Cap Scouts takes obvious inspiration from the Mystery Box trend that toys will never escape from. I'd wager the biggest inspiration is Sonny Angels (weird little babies in hats). A woman gets a mystery prize, only to find a Lucky Cap Scout come to life! She buys more and more, and the first LCS seems to be having some doubts. The existential kind. It's really cute, and anyone who collects things can relate. It's simply an amazing comic. Cool fact: it's from the same publishers as *Putty Pygmalion*!

- LILIANA MONSON

Ultraman: Rising (Based on the character owned by Toei) Netflix.

Ultraman is a Tokusatsu (costumed and live-action) character from Japan who fights monsters (kaiju, like Godzilla, Anguirus and Mothra) by becoming a giant, silver superhero. Beloved by kids and adults alike, the *Ultraman* series never made much of a name for itself in the U.S. That said, the film is wonderful. Despite being live-action most of the time, the animated *Ultraman* pulls off something that the original team never could have imagined. In the story, *Ultraman* is a baseball star named Ken Sato who must protect the coasts of Japan from monsters that seek to destroy it. He's one of a long line of Ultra-men, having been given the legacy by his father. He ends up taking care of a young Kaiju, who he dubs Emi, and has to protect for the government that seeks to destroy her. The animation is gorgeous, the story is heartwarming and fun while still tugging at the heartstrings. I watched it a couple of times, and I think Emi is one of the cutest things ever.

Arcane Season 2 (TV show based on the game League of Legends by Riot Games) Netflix.

I must be honest, at the time of writing this, I've only just finished Season 1 of *Arcane*. That said, it's a must-watch for anyone who loved the games, Steampunk with extra punk, or fans of genuinely inspired voice acting and painterly animation. The show is jaw-dropping in looks, balanced between lulls of dialogue and loud spectacle. While *Arcane* may be a hard watch for some, it's one that should not be passed up on. The team also plans to work on more shows in a sort of LoL universe, so let's hope they keep it up!

Delicious in Dungeon (Anime version of *Dungeon Meshi* by Ryoko Kui) Netflix, Crunchyroll.

Do you struggle with eating healthy or trying new foods? Are you a picky eater? Do you like D&D? If you answered "Yes" to any of these questions, give *Delicious in Dungeon* a try! Starring an all-star cast of amazing characters, Ryoko Kui has crafted a wonderfully silly and endearing adventure with a focus on eating well. While some may relate to the human Laos, others may feel a little closer to Elf-healer Marcielle, Dwarf-chef Senshi, ninja cat cutie Izutsumi, human-healer Falin, or sarcastic half-foot Chilchuck. Not only is the manga a masterpiece, the anime keeps the liveliness and gorgeous art of Kui intact while still adding its own charm that only animated TV can. There's something for everyone in the dungeon, so let's eat!

Moominvalley Season 4 (Cartoon version of the *Moomin* book series by Tove Jansson)

The *Moomin* book series has always been a huge comfort for me. It's one of those cozy series. Nothing all that bad or scary really ever happens, and the characters are never really scared. It's a cartoon aimed at children, just like the books. The plot is followed through from the earlier seasons. The main characters are loveable. Moomin is played a bit older than in previous anime series, but he's still the same jolly fellow. Despite being a CGI series (3D), the show manages to keep the charm of Tove Jansson's original artwork.

Godzilla: Monster Island Summer Camp (Based on the characters owned by Toei; written and illustrated by Rosie Knight)

Did you know that Godzilla has a son? The son's name is Manilla, and he plays a big role in this story. Three kids come out for the summer to an art camp, which was bought out and replaced by a hardcore sports camp without notifying them. In an effort to get away from the sport drudgery, our main character wanders into the woods, only to find a world full of monsters. The art is very pretty, and the characters are very memorable. A good read for fans of Godzilla who want a work that's a little more sympathetic to our favorite giant laser-breathing dinosaur.



Batman: Caped Crusader (Based on the comic character owned by DC) Prime Video.

Batman: Caped Crusader borrows from the old DC animated shows, particularly *Batman: The Animated Series*. You can see a lot of visual similarities between the two. It makes sense since most people who watch animated Batman content have seen at least one episode of BTAS. The show is a

good example of balancing an introduction to the characters while still making them unique. A lot of Batman stories try to reinvent the wheel, but I think they succeed here. The show has the fun twist of taking place in a retro 1920s era instead of the modern day. It's to the show's benefit. It leaves a lot of wiggle room for new innovations and costuming decisions. Recommended for fans of the Bat who want some more non-Joker stuff.

Tales of the Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles (Based on the comic characters created by Peter Laird and Kevin Eastman) Paramount Plus.

A new Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles show? What is that, the fifth or sixth? Who's keeping score? Jokes aside, the show is your standard fare. It's helped along by the animation, but it's not nearly as lively as the movie. It's a good watch if you like the ninja turtles. The animation is snappy and fun to look at. The character designs are well-translated into the new-ish style. It's very short, and makes great background noise.



What is

Library Advisory Committee?



Many people at Appleton East think little about the source of the incredible events, displays, and environment that the diverse East Library presents to thousands of students, staff, and visitors alike. The Appleton East Library Advisory Committee is a student-run nonprofit group that joins once a month to discuss library programs, ideas, and outreach to elementary and middle schools across the district.

President Minty Hahn of the Library Advisory Committee said, "Having a committee like this grants students a voice over one of the many facilities they use and allows our library staff and volunteers the chance to make our library the absolute best."

Last May, the Library Advisory Committee visited McKinley Elementary School to promote the library to hundreds of young children with various activities and readings.

"The ultimate goal of these outreaches," says Secretary and Treasurer Ella Raney, "is to show kids experiences where they start to see books in an actually better light and something to have interest in alongside the tech revolution."

The Library Advisory Committee offered its most recent outreach project at Richmond Elementary School for grades K-5 on December 9, where they presented a festive and holiday-themed approach to celebrating the magic books can bring.

If you are interested in joining the Library Advisory Committee, please contact Mrs. Griffiths for more information.

- ELLA RANES



IT'S THE MOST WONDERFUL STREAMING OF THE YEAR

Winter is the most magical time of the year. What better way to celebrate than curling up with some treats and hot cocoa and watching some good Christmas movies?

The Search for Santa Paws (2010)

This movie is a rollercoaster of emotions and always gets me in the Christmas spirit. As a few foster kids try to make the best of their situations, they are joined by a magical pup to help save Christmas. It enhances the struggles of being in a household that doesn't appreciate celebration and love, while also bringing light into the kids' lives with a little bit of Christmas magic.



How The Grinch Stole Christmas (2000)

Settle in with this classic live-action version of The Grinch. His plan to steal Christmas turns around after he learns the power of love from a little girl who also teaches him the spirit of Christmas. I always tune in for this movie as I love a good comedy and heartfelt movie!



Dear Santa (2024)

This new Christmas movie featuring Jack Black reveals a comedic side of Christmas when a kid accidentally misspells Santa for Satan.

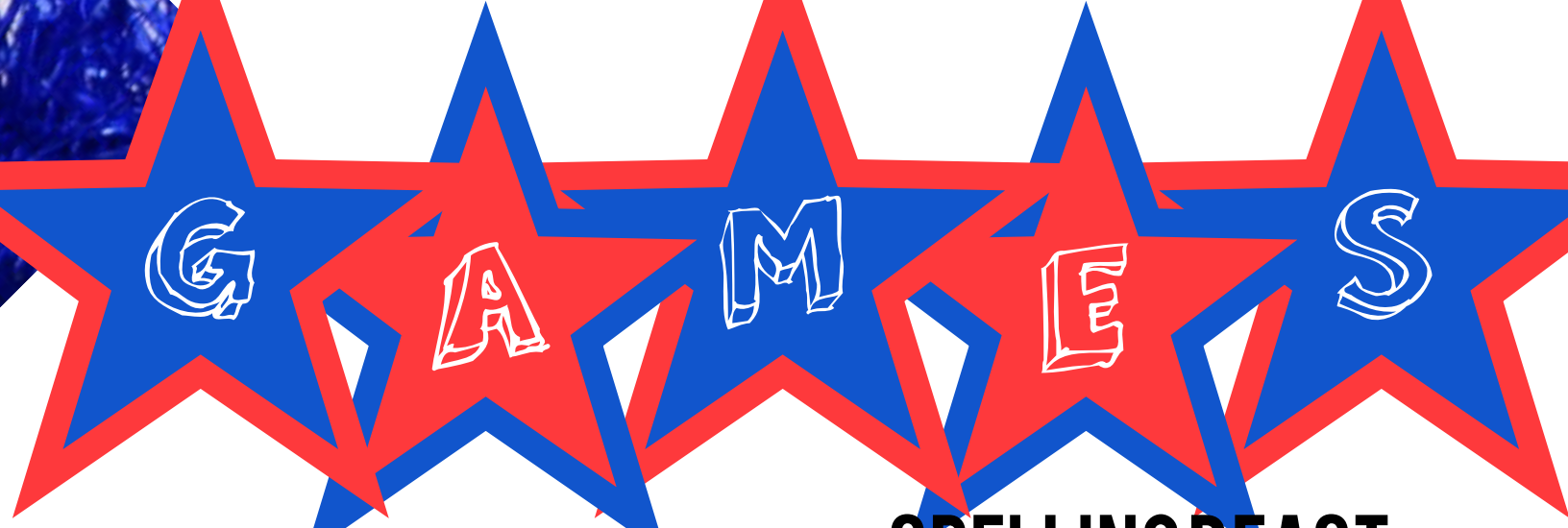


Our Little Secret (2024)

A festive rom-com where two exes find each other through their significant others, who turn out to be siblings and have to endure the holidays under the same roof, is irresistible for a romantic who loves a good laugh.



- TORI BAERENWALD



CONNECTIONS

Connections is a word game that challenges players to find themes between words.

Players are given 16 words and find groups of four items that share something in common.

For example:

- FISH: Bass, Flounder, Salmon, Trout
- Things that start with FIRE: Ant, Drill, Island, Opal

Each group is assigned a color (Yellow, Green, Blue, or Purple), with Yellow being the easiest category and Purple being the trickiest.

[Play here!](#)

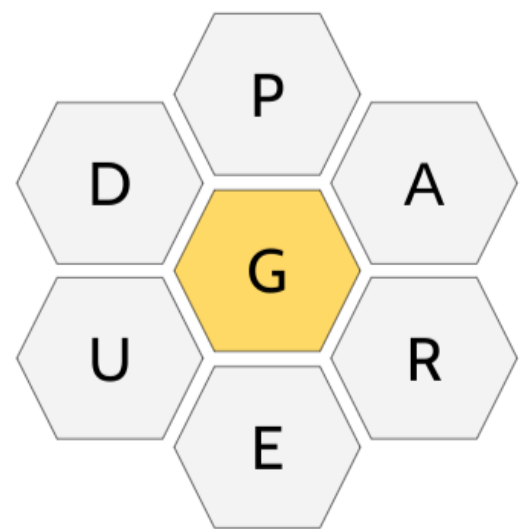


Try to guess the hidden word in six guesses or less!

- R** = the letter does not appear in the word
- O** = the letter does appear in the word, but in a different spot
- W** = the letter appears in the word in that spot

[Play here!](#)

SPELLING BEAST



Make as many words as possible with the given letters!

- All words must contain the center letter
- Words must be at least four letters long
- Letters may be used multiple times within one word
- Four-letter words are worth one point, any words longer than four letters are worth the number of points equal to the number of letters in the word
- There is at least one word that can be made using all seven letters, called a pangram. A pangram is worth seven bonus points plus the word's length, so a seven-letter pangram would be worth 14 points. *Answer on last page of The Courier!*

- MATS RIDLEHOOVER

Make S.M.A.R.T. Resolutions

We've come to the point of 2024 where we begin reflecting on the year past and the success of New Year's resolutions. As the year ends, the 30 percent of Americans who made resolutions this year, according to Pew Research, will evaluate how well they stuck to their goals. However, it is more likely than not that these once-hopeful goal-setters failed to succeed.

According to Dr. Asim Shah at Baylor College of Medicine, in just two weeks, 88% of people who make resolutions fail. This leads to the question of why. What makes these goals fail so miserably? Could it be that they are over-ambitious or simply lack a clear structure? One can conclude that the problem may lie in the plan and that maybe it is time to set SMART resolutions.

SMART is an acronym that stands for specific, measurable, achievable, relevant, and time-bound. The specific objective means that the goal is clearly outlined and easy to understand. Measurable means that you will be able to calculate how close you are to achieving your goal, there is a specific end. Achievable means that you will be able to complete your goal. Relevant means that the goal adds to an overall objective and remains realistic. Lastly, time-bound means just what it seems it would; your goal has a specific end date by which it should be achieved.

An example SMART goal might go as follows: "I will improve my sleeping habits by getting 8 hours of sleep for at least four nights a week until the end of the school year." If you're a junior here at East preparing to take the ACT, a SMART goal for you might look like this: "I will fully complete the Methodize test prep course before taking the ACT in order to prepare adequately." One more example is, "I will complete two job shadows by the end of the school year in order to decide what career opportunities interest me."

By setting "smarter" resolutions this New Year, a clear plan may make them more successful. Ergo, if you find yourself making a New Year's resolution over winter break, make it SMART.

2025

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Courier Contributors:

Tori Baerenwald: Best Christmas Movies

Grace Boe: SMART Resolutions

Madison Cates: 2024 East Highlights

Liliana Monson: Best of Animation, Comics

Ella Ranes: LMC Advisory Committee

Mats Ridlehoover: Games

Layla Schiesl: Snow Safety

Chris Schmidt: History of Christmas

Editors:

Lila Bornemann

Jo Buck

Liliana Monson

Cynthia Vang

Adviser:

Mr. Otis

The Courier, Appleton East's student newspaper, is written, edited, and distributed by Patriot students and staff.

**HAPPY
HOLIDAYS**

Next Meeting!

Thursday, January 9, during Flex! Room 1112

Sign up for Mr. Otis. We hope to see you there!

EAST

Spelling Beast Answer- UPGRADE