

Judge Barnette's Vision for Television

By Austin Kittrell

On Dec. 9, 2022, Chief Judge Toddrick Barnette of the Fourth Judicial District of Minnesota appeared as a guest speaker for our school's video journalism students.

Nearly every activity period, teacher Scott Tufts invites a guest speaker to talk to interested listeners. Barnette talked about his career and a revolutionary event he helped initiate in his district.

Barnette reminisced about the summer of 2020, when the George Floyd incident took place in Minneapolis, and when Derek Chauvin's trial was later televised.

As Chief Judge, Barnette wanted the public to have access to the proceedings during the pandemic, which barred much of the public from attending.

That was the first time a trial was broadcast from gavel to gavel in Hennepin County, the district over which Barnette is Chief Judge.

Barnette helped decide whether to broadcast the Derek Chauvin trial. He determined that during the pandemic, the court was obligated to provide the public access, especially for a trial related to George Floyd's death.

Eventually, officials allowed three cameras to be placed into the courtroom.

Barnette was elected as Chief Judge on May 4, 2020, only three weeks before Floyd's murder took place.

Prior to the trial of Derek Chauvin, the media could only record with audio or video in certain situations and with consent from the victim and witnesses.



Contributed to The Blue & Gold

A 100-Year Title, An Unprecedented Resume

A new era of leadership unfolds before our eyes

By Beck Janki

As Fr. William Rowland steps out of his role as President, our community opens its arms to the first lay president in school history. Since 1901, from Fr. John E. Gunn to Fr. Rowland in the present day, the Marist presidency was always held by a consecrated priest.

An unprecedented era of leadership is unfolding as the new president of our school will be a lay person, effective July 1, 2023.

Childs, originally from Indiana, held the same role at Bishop O'Dowd High School, a prestigious Catholic located in Oakland, California.

Childs comes from a strong Catholic background as well as a great understanding of education. He received his college education at the University of Notre Dame in the fields of theology, philosophy, and English during his years of schooling.

In addition to Childs serving

as a former principal and president, Childs was a religion teacher in North Carolina and Indiana, also holding roles in the respective schools' religion department.

Childs is the co-author of two books and several articles centered on the instruction of high school religion classes.

Childs and his wife Kate have four children, ages 21, 18, 15, and 10.

Childs has led Catholic schools that have thrived while bringing young people to know, love, and serve Christ. "I couldn't be more excited and honored to be joining a community dedicated to Catholic education with such a rich history and tradition of excellence," said Childs.

With guidance from many prominent figures in our community and leadership from the Society of Mary and Board of Trustees, Childs will take on a smooth transition in becoming

our community's next leader.

Fr. Rowland has been the school's President since 2017, and he will step into the role of Marist's Rector following the 2022-2023 school year.

The Board of Trustees and the Society of Mary are ecstatic about the historical change. Fr. Joseph Hindelang, S.M. said, "The hiring of J.D. Childs as our new school president, combined with Father Rowland's ongoing involvement, ensures Marist School will continue to be in excellent hands."

With such an historical move as this one, it would be natural to wonder if any changes are imminent.

Principal Kevin Mullally expects Childs "will be interested to hear from many about their experiences with the school, and from that understanding, to see how he can help us to achieve our goals even more fully."

Campus Store's Latest Designs

By Laney Nicolosi

The campus store released new eye-catching designs for fall and winter sports just this October. The creators behind all of this line of clothing are our very own Marist moms, specifically manager Kristen McDermond.

Merchandise, from hoodies and sweatpants to water bottles and key chains, is available to students, faculty, and visitors who shop in the store, which is open on weekdays from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

"The designs on clothing are never repeated twice," McDermond said, a huge part of what makes the merchandise specific to its season. The campus store serves as the epitome of school spirit, providing students and families with comfortable yet stylish clothes.

The logos and designs represent our school and serve as a first impression to other teams and families. What we wear showcases the spirit and enthusiasm of our school, and the store's goal is to provide the community with pieces they'll likely wear.

Regardless of any season, the campus store stocks sweatshirts, PJs, T-shirts, and sweatpants. They recently added college-logo key chains, ENewton bracelets, ornaments, and coffee mugs referred to as "fun stuff."

Students love to gather in Ivy after school and browse the campus store with their friends, or enjoy a piece of candy or two, which is another great reason to stop by.

Countries and Cultures Come Together

The Global Fair fills the gym with delicious food and memorable rhythms

By Sophia Ghavidel

Our school's Share the Journey club hosted the annual Global Fair on Friday, Dec. 8th during activity period.

The event was held in Kuhrt Gym, where students hosted tables assigned to a single country. There were over 20 countries represented, each with music, food, and decorations.

The fee to attend the event cost \$3.00, with the money donated to Catholic Relief

Services, Palestine Children's Relief Fund, and the Clarkson Community Center.

Through this event, students learned about their peers and gained information about different countries and cultures around the world.

The countries represented included Puerto Rico, Venezuela, Eritrea, Lebanon, China, Poland, Nigeria, Germany, Mexico, South Asia, Ethiopia, Iran, France, Cameroon, Scotland, Italy, South Korea, Canada, Ire-

land, Columbia, Cuba, Greece, and South Africa, along with African American and Jewish culture.

Each table provided food from their assigned country. Some of the available foods

There was so much community and diversity in one place, it was beautiful.

included rice, coconut desserts, kabobs, fudge, sushi, sausage, cookies, bread, pretzels, traditional candies, chips, guacamole, pierogi, and much more.

Student Erin Dunn, who

attended the fair, shared her thoughts about the event. "I really liked it, and I enjoyed all the different foods I was able to taste. I loved learning and interacting with different countries and cultures" Dunn said.

Student Lyric Hoff shared her experience of hosting a table. Hoff said, "Being a member of Share the Journey means we learn a lot about each other and a lot about Marist's diversity. This year, we knew the event would take off again, so we prepared for months. There was so much community and diversity in one place, it was beautiful. I learned so much about my own culture and other cultures through Marist Goes Global. I seriously believe that it is one of the most unifying experiences

and events that have been held at Marist."

Planned for months by the Share the Journey Club, club members met every week leading up to the event, discussing and working on making this fair the best that it could be.

This fair was also held last year but did not have as many tables as this year. The club asked everyone in the community to participate in some way so the fair would be a success.

Over half of the school community attended the fair, leading it to be one of the best experiences at our school.

This event brought our students together to learn about one another, and the club hopes to carry on this legacy into the future.

Christmas Decoration Delight

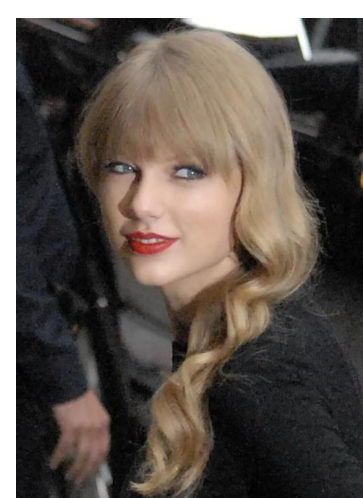
Christmastime is a season of traditions. One Advent tradition on our campus, however, is more long-lasting and visible than most. Turn to our Faith section to find out more.



Brian O'Connor | The Blue & Gold

Sports Shift With the Seasons

When the seasons change, so does the sports landscape. Staying up-to-date with our school's athletic programs is a challenge. Get all your sports updates and previews right here on our pages.



Scott Mecum
creativecommons.org

Taylor's Ticket Debacle

When news broke that Taylor Swift would soon visit Atlanta, fans couldn't believe their luck. But many were left in the lurch when tickets went on sale.

War Eagle Express Backs Toy Drive

By Beck Janki

To celebrate the Advent season, Campus Minister Karen Shanahan and the entire Campus Ministry Office conducted a successful toy drive, a tradition over 20 years old.

On Nov. 30, 2022, the Marist School Toy Drive collected over 300 toys and donated those toys to a number of local charities serving underprivileged children, giving them toys in time for Christmas.

Those students who participated in the drive were awarded with a non-uniform day.

It is estimated around 8,000 toys have been donated through the years of toy drives that service disadvantaged churches and agencies in our community.

The charities include Caminar Latino, St. Bede's Hispanic Ministry, The HOPE Community Center, and Ministerio Internacional La Cosecha. The four charities assist those in our Latino community affected by poverty.

Shanahan, in her 39 years of work in Campus Ministry, molds the toy drive after the Society of Mary, who "go where others don't go" to serve the underprivileged. She and the rest of the Campus Ministry office are well known for bringing many service opportunities to the school community.

Such opportunities include Adopt-a-Family, Habitat for Humanity builds, mission trips, soup kitchen opportunities, and other significant works of service our students take part in.

As any student on campus will tell you, service is a big part of our experience.



Contributed to The Blue & Gold

26 Pebbles: The Humanity Behind the Headlines

A theatrical performance remedies the numbing effects of gun violence

By Erin Dunn

Recently at our school, students and teachers performed the play 26 Pebbles, written by playwright Eric Ulloa. Teacher Eric McNaughton put the performance together and got grades 9-12 to come watch the play.

The play takes its name from the number of lives lost during the Sandy Hook Elementary School shooting, which happened in Dec. of 2012. The performance took place on Nov. 30th in Woodruff Auditorium, almost marking the 10-year anniversary.

This play had never been performed in our community, and it left a powerful impact on the students. It changed the way students view shootings and enlightened them on the facts.

McNaughton decided to put this together because he was "struck by the simplicity, and he wanted to show the humanity behind the tragedy." He keeps a file named "Hope to Produce at Marist," and he once filed the

play there because of how much it spoke to him.

After the shooting at Robb Elementary School in Uvalde, Texas last spring McNaughton realized these horrors will keep happening. He decided to perform 26 Pebbles because it could expose our community to the voices and humanity behind these tragedies.

McNaughton discovered the play when researching "documentary theater." He was very impressed by the diversity of perspectives presented in the play on various issues such as tragedy, guns, loss, community, and faith.

He met with the playwright in 2019 while in Massachusetts and discovered they had many friends in common. Having met the playwright, McNaughton felt comfortable reaching out to him to ask if he could cut it down a bit to fit the allotted time.

Ulloa was completely supportive and helpful during the process.

When asked whether he felt the students were impacted by the play, McNaughton said "that it is a good but tricky question to answer." He had to produce a complicated play and had no idea on how it was going to be perceived by students and faculty.

McNaughton knows that the audience was attentive and engaged by the story. Many teachers encouraged their students to discuss the experience. Students also stopped McNaughton to tell him how moved they were by the story.

Students found that watching the play made the issues resonate. Students also liked the unconventional reading as opposed to a traditional performance. Nearly everyone agreed that teacher involvement added to the experience.

McNaughton hopes that, as a community, people can see the humanity behind the headlines and work towards a more understanding, empathetic, and hopeful world.

Yuletide Legacy Lives On

By Wyatt Banks

With just a glance inside I-206, it's difficult to ignore the massive Christmas tree, which Fr. Ralph Olek spends hours assembling on his own every December.

For the past 45 years, students have known Fr. Olek's room as a haven of holiday spirit. Fr. Olek describes this festive feeling as his goal. "I just want students to enjoy coming into the classroom," Fr. Olek said.

Fr. Olek's tree stands out as one of the most beloved Christmas traditions on campus. Seventh graders cling to the towering tree as a beacon of hope between Thanksgiving and Christmas. Fr. Olek beams with joy at his room's reputation, savoring his tree's acclaim.

As long as he's been a teacher, Fr. Olek has been assembling the tree, and collecting Christmas ornaments. Dating back to the 1970s, parents and students have gifted ornaments to the tree; Fr. Olek acquired other ornaments during his regular visits to Hawaii.

Just a few years ago, Fr. Olek made the switch from a real tree to an artificial one after learning that many students were allergic. Two parents generously donated the tree, allowing for the tradition to continue for years to come.

The tree makes an appearance aside a nativity scene and other Christmas paraphernalia.

His attempt to set his room apart from others on the English floor extends year-round, as Fr. Ralph festively decorates his room for other seasons such as autumn and Easter.

The Operation Behind Christmas Wishes

Santa's elves weren't the only ones spreading the Christmas spirit

By Cosette Lane

The week before Christmas break begins, students begin to make Christmas wishes, and student council grants these wishes.

This Christmas season, students began to wish on Wednesday, Dec. 7, and student council granted the last wishes on Friday, Dec. 16 during the Christmas assembly.

Student council completed the behind-the-scenes work of

granting the wishes daily, with students Katherine Erdman and Spencer Schoenberg, teacher Kevin Lisle, and counselor Alexandra Thackston all working together to decide which wishes to grant. They also had to get their hands on the gifts.

Every day, after announcing which wishes they would grant that day, Erdman and Schoenberg waited at the Christmas tree in the arcade to give the wishers their presents.

Teachers and students made their wishes through a Google form that student council emailed to the entire school. There was also a QR code that led to the Google form on the Christmas tree in the arcade.

Student council received over 500 Christmas wishes throughout the week-and-a-half that wishing was open.

Christmas wishes are a fun tradition at our school because they bring joy to the Christmas season and the last week of school before students go on

break. Every day during the long-awaited Christmas season, classrooms go quiet for announcements in anticipation of the big announcement.

Student council received over 500 Christmas wishes during the week-and-a-half program. The tradition of Christmas wishes began "around three to four years ago," according to Erdman and has brought a fun, festive atmosphere to our community during the Christmas season ever since.

When choosing which wishes to grant, student council looks for wishes "made by a student for someone else" that are inexpensive. They also "try to be as inclusive of the student body as possible," said Lisle. They

grant wishes from "a variety of grades," said Erdman. Thackston said that "creativity is a plus."

There are not many restrictions on wishes that student council can grant, but many "require approval of an administrator or specific teacher," and they have a "limited budget," said Lisle. Therefore, they are unable to grant wishes for expensive gifts.

The craziest wishes student council received this year were a request to play the "Fergie National Anthem after school," said Thackston, as well as "wishes for teachers to do a flash mob," said Erdman.

What Goes On at the Bashor Shelter?

By Sophia Ghavidel

Bashor Homeless Mens Shelter has been a part of our community for years. On December 8-9th, students volunteered to assist at the shelter through Campus Minister Mary Ujda.

Students made the breakfast and lunch bags that were then given to shelter guests in the morning. After school, students

and parents met to load food into trucks and drive it down to the shelter.

Parents and a few students then spent the night at the shelter, tending to the homeless men's needs.

The beginning of the overnight session started at 6:30 p.m. and ended at 6:30 a.m. Once the clock struck 5:30 a.m., volunteers cleaned up and handed out the breakfast and lunch bags.

The shelter operates seven nights a week from November through March, with our school covering six Friday nights during the winter.

As a community, we are called to love our neighbors and

assist homeless men in need.

People from different faiths come together to assist at the shelter and do what Jesus asked us to do: to provide for less fortunate. The shelter is located in the church halls of the Catholic Shrine of the Immaculate Conception and Central Presbyterian Church.

With COVID numbers decreasing, this is our school's first year back helping the shelter in-person since the pandemic.

In 2022, the shelter changed its name from Central Night Shelter to Bashor Homeless Men's Shelter in honor of the work done by Mark and Katie Bashor.

Morning Prayer Needs You

By Cosette Lane

Every morning, a member of our community says a prayer on the announcements for the whole school, and Campus Ministry invites everyone at our school to lead prayer. Prayer takes place at the PA microphone, located behind the front desk and Principal Kevin Mulalley's office.

Campus Ministry needs students to sign up for morning prayer. Students can sign up by emailing Campus Ministers Nik

Rodewald or Mary Ujda for the link to the Sign-up Genius.

To begin the school day, the prayer leader reads a reflection and prayer beginning at 8:10 a.m. There is no time requirement for prayer.

Morning prayer is an extremely important part of the day to the whole Marist community, as it helps the students, faculty, and staff center themselves before the day begins.

Morning prayer builds community and it is important because "it puts each and every day in God's hands, whatever that day will bring, and says that we're in this together with the grace of God," said Mrs. Ujda.

Former Student Becomes Coach

By Ben Taylor

Coach Micah Akin, an alumnus and current substitute teacher at our school, has landed the job of becoming the new boys varsity soccer coach. After more than 15 years, Coach Brendan Murphy has reportedly stepped down from the varsity boys soccer head coach position.

After several winning seasons and even a state championship win in 2009, Murphy definitely ends his coaching career on a high note. Akin is the perfect fit for the job due to his extensive experience with the sport.

Akin played all four years of high school and college at the varsity level. He even played in Germany's third division.

Akin's family loves the sport too as his father Jon Akin is the head coach of the Oglethorpe University soccer team as well as a former player for them.

Not only is Jon Akin a coach for the Oglethorpe team but he also coaches soccer here at Marist along with his son.

Soccer is one of the many sports our school offers during springtime. Along with soccer, sports such as tennis, golf, lacrosse, track, and baseball all resume action.

Girls and boys tennis both won state championships last year, and they hope to continue to go back-to-back this year.

It is not an unusual occurrence for the girls tennis team to win state, as the program holds twenty-five state championship titles. This total is the most out of any other team state-wide.

As for baseball, their last state title was very recent as well. The last state win for baseball was in 2021, and they hope to bounce back after an unlucky second round elimination from last year.



Parent Christian Cram | The Blue & Gold

A Sport from Across the Pond Takes Flight!

Students test their mettle in one of the most demanding sports

By John Evanoff

Rugby is a sport growing more popular among our students. Even though the team is an outside program, it adds fun and great new interests for students.

The rugby team started up last year for the first official season, and they have had a super successful start with lots of new people joining.

The team even had one of their players commit to Army West Point, Howie Heller, as well as Peyton Lamb, who is playing at Tennessee, and Evan Cram who is undecided. These accomplishments show the tremendous amounts of success and talent that the team has had.

The team runs their sport in a separate league called Atlanta Youth Rugby. The team calls itself War Eagle Rugby, and they have Marist students as well as students from other schools.

So how is rugby played? The

sport is a mix between football and soccer. Every score is worth five points and conversions are worth two points.

Howie Heller and Evan Cram have both been playing for four years and are a few of the key roles the team has. The rugby team is a no-cut sport, which only increases its popularity.

From student interviews, it shows all of the players enjoy their time on the team, and they cherish the chance to master a new sport. Rugby is a sport becoming more and more popular, and people want to learn more about a new sport that comes into the school and decide to play.

New sports don't come in often, and it is a big deal a new sport is being run for Marist students. Lots of the Marist football players decided to play rugby with the tackling relation and having the ability to hit others just like football.

The Atlanta Youth Rugby league is made up of many teams, and the team has students from all over Atlanta. The team is made up of about half Marist students and about half outside of school students.

The team practices often at Brook Run Park that is located in Dunwoody and makes it convenient for a short commute for the Marist students after school.

The team has students from all grades, and are open to anyone wanting to join that is interested in the sport. Come out to one of the practices to test out if rugby is the right sport for you as the head coach Mr. Cram recommends.

The players appreciate everyone's support for the new sport, and anyone wanting to come to one of their games they team appreciates it greatly.

Spirit Fights Off Winter Blues

By Savannah Fleming

Starting Nov. 7th, the basketball cheer season is in full swing with both JV and varsity squads. Both squads consist of football and basketball cheerleaders.

The cheerleaders line the sides of Centennial Gym for both boy's and girl's games on Tuesday, Friday, and some Saturday evenings. Coach Tori Nagle stated, "The cheer squad continually strives to generate the student section's energy every game, and our captains have done a great job perpetuating that game after game."

The varsity cheerleaders have begun practicing for the winter pep rally, which will take place on Feb. 10th.

Basketball Slams the Net All Season Long

By John Evanoff

The basketball team is off to another great season with a solid winning record. With an 8-5 record, the War Eagles stand up well against other teams. The team plays Lakeside this upcoming Tuesday at Lakeside, and they want everyone to come out and support as it will be an interesting game.

The team has 14 players, and coaches John Bauersfeld and Bobby Perez run the team. Basketball is a winter sport every year, and all students are welcome to try out. The team practices and plays in Centennial gym and put hours of hard work into their success.

The team typically plays on Friday nights, and these games are a super fun time for the students.

With New Year Comes New Region Apponents

GHSA shakes up region alignments

By Austin Kittrell

Our school was moved up to the 6A class for the 2022-23 school year, facing schools that could be almost two-and-a-half times the population of our small private school.

Every two years, the Georgia High School Association reclassifies the schools across the states to promote even athletic competition.

Because we are an independent school, GHSA counts the enrollment differently, resulting in inflated enrollment numbers

regarding classification, not only for our school but for many other Georgia private schools. These actions lead to our new regional lineup.

Our student population makes it similar to many 2A schools, but after a series of state championship titles in the 4A division, we were bumped up to the 6A GHSA class.

Our region this year consists of St. Pius X, Dunwoody, Lakeside, North Atlanta, Riverwood, and South Cobb. St. Pius X faces a similar enrollment adjustment for GHSA classification,

but they have more high school students than we do.

Because the other schools are public schools, their enrollment numbers are less inflated, so some would consider them more appropriate school sizes

Every two years, GHSA reclassifies schools across the state.

for a 6A school.

Even St. Pius X's numbers, to some extent, are less skewed compared to our own because they have a larger high school enrollment.

The effects of these new classifications were certainly felt.

The three largest metro area

Catholic schools, including Marist, St. Pius X, and Blessed Trinity, collectively lost 13 football games after this new region shakeup, with St. Pius X losing 6 of those 13 games.

St. Pius X only lost one regional game, however, which was against Marist, who went undefeated in Region 4.

The effects of the new region shakeup are difficult to pin down.

The varsity volleyball team, who just came off winning back-to-back state championship titles, lost in the elite eight this past season. But the boys and girls basketball teams are thriving under the new classifications, with each team enjoying a winning record.

Only time will tell how significant and long-lasting these

changes actually are.

In the 2020-21 school year, our school won nine state championships in the 4A division, including championship titles in football, baseball, tennis, volleyball, track and field, and golf. That same year, we were named the top athletics program by MaxPreps.

In the 2021-22 school year, the girls were able to recapture that title after state championships in volleyball, track and field, and most surprisingly basketball, which became the first girls' basketball title in our school's history.

One can only wonder what new heights this school will reach despite GHSA's actions.

Swim & Dive Dominate 6A

By Laney Nicolosi

The swim and dive team is off to a strong start, beating Woodward and Lakeside back-to-back. Jumping from 4A to 6A for the 2022-2023 season was not an easy shift, but the team is still succeeding.

The season runs from October to February, and with state in just a couple weeks, there has been hard work in and out of the pool.

This year, swim and dive has accomplished a boys diving

record break, numerous state qualifying cuts, and a 4-1 record as of Jan. 12.

Coaches Chris Marshall and Tim Hallisey work hard to strengthen the athletes skills and provide encouragement during competition.

Swim and dive compete separately, but the overall points are added together. This means that each side has to put in the work in order for the whole team to accomplish its goals.

Before every meet, the team gathers together and prays in hopes of keeping the athlete's minds at rest and ready to win.

Look for your chance to write for The Blue & Gold in an upcoming email.

Contact Mr. O'Connor to learn more.

Yearbook Wants Your Pictures



Taylor's Ticket Terror

By Savannah Fleming

Chaos and conversation spurred our school's hallways on Nov. 15th over the intense fiasco of fans getting their hands on Taylor Swift tickets for her Eras Tour.

Swift announced that her tour would be based on all of her phases as a singer—something the artist has never done before.

Students and parents went to great lengths to obtain these precious tickets, some waiting hours in the Ticketmaster queue only to get kicked out. Hundreds of students are big fans of the artist, but did waiting in Ticketmaster's queue change their opinions?

Student Katie Jarrell explained her family's stressful struggle to acquire tickets. "My mom had to call around because we did not get a presale email and neither my mom, me, nor my sister got a code when we signed up for one," Jarrell said.

After being robbed of three codes, Jarrell explained that her mother even called Capital One directly in hopes of getting a code through their website. Unfortunately, she was unsuccessful.

Like all of her album releases, Swift's latest album *Midnights*, released on Oct. 21, 2022, left our students obsessing, memorizing and favoriting the songs immediately. With the Ticketmaster trouble, however, this experience was the first time the artist has received substantial negative feedback from her fan base.

Ticketmaster released an explanation on their website of the reasoning behind their distribution of codes saying, "Around 1.5 million people were sent codes to join the on-sale for all 52 show dates . . . The remaining 2 million Verified Fans were placed on a waiting list."



Brian O'Connor | The Blue & Gold

Devour the Delicious Art of the Donut at Your Peril

Donuts satisfy our cravings, but they also speak to our passions

By Wyatt Banks

The neon signs that illuminate 3695 Chamblee Dunwoody Road hold a wholesome position in the hearts of our school community.

Dishing up fresh donuts every morning, "Dandy," the owner of Sub-Base Dandy Donuts, has satisfied the sweet tooth of our school for over 20 years.

With minuscule prices, notable warmth, and years of mastery, Dandy maintains an undeniable legacy. His donuts fuel our school, so I swung by and reviewed our school's most cherished donut.

It's hard to survive four years at our school without ever tasting a Dandy donut. The standard honey glazed donut is anything but standard.

Such legendary status deserves recognition, and perhaps some scrutiny.

There was little to scrutinize from my experience, however. In the early morning glow, I hopped in the line, which soon sprawled out beyond the door. Dandy, an escapee from a Viet-

namese re-education camp, worked with his wife behind the counter. The modest atmosphere radiated a homey feeling while the Vietnamese sitcoms on the TV offered a sense of familiarity with the owners.

After a pleasant exchange with Dandy's wife, I brought two dozen donuts to my AP Physics class. They were a smash hit, with teacher Betty Motter exclaiming that the donuts "just have a hard-to-explain superiority."

Motter is far from the only notable fan.

Coach Alan Chadwick has been a customer of Dandy Donuts for over 20 years. Dandy's tuna salad brings Chadwick back for lunch almost everyday, which he appreciates as a "chance to get off campus." With the familiar faces and the local news on TV, Chadwick credits Dandy Donut as the perfect spot to have "a quiet lunch with just himself or a friend."

However, Dandy Donuts has an extended record of instigating tension.

Last spring, teacher Dan Perez attempted to surprise his daughter by pre-purchasing a dozen donuts. Due to a miscommunication with Dandy's wife, the gifted donuts were never presented to Perez's daughter when she entered the store.

Enraged at the error, Perez returned to ask Dandy what happened. The conversation descended into an argument with Perez expelled from the restaurant and asked to never return.

Perez has no qualms with his actions or the lifetime ban, jokingly claiming that "blood runs thicker than the filing of any donut."

Also, many students recall last year when two math teachers nearly came to blows over a contested box of donuts. Habitat for Humanity distributed the boxes to homeroom teachers who ordered them, but confusion between the two teachers sparked a fiery argument.

Perhaps Dandy's donuts' ability to inflame passions remains the pinnacle of praise.

TOP THREE Christmas Films of All Time

By Erin Dunn

There have been many Christmas movies made over the past century, but some films stick out over the others. Here are the top three best Christmas movies of all time.

3. How the Grinch Stole Christmas (2000)

This live action film is based on the book by Dr. Seuss, where the Grinch (Jim Carey) decides to ruin Christmas for the Whos of Whoville. During his plan, however, he meets Cindy Lou Who, who just might change the Grinch for good.

2. Home Alone (1990)

When Kevin McCallister (Macaulay Culkin) gets left behind when his parents travel to Paris, he awakes to a home all his own. Then two men rob the residence, and only to get more than they bargained for.

1. Elf (2003)

Buddy the Elf (Will Ferrell) grew up at the North Pole after accidentally getting transported there as a baby. He clearly does not fit in among the rest of the elves. It turns out, he doesn't fit in very well in New York either.

Some movies didn't make the list but deserve a mention:

The Nightmare Before Christmas (1993)

Pumpkin King Jack Skellington is bored with his town's annual routine of scaring people on Halloween. Then Jack stumbles upon Christmastown that's filled with bright colors and joyfulness.

Polar Express (2004)

On Christmas Eve children board the Polar Express, which transports them to the North Pole where they learn about the Elves and Santa.

The Beauty of Blond(e) by Frank Ocean

Ocean achieves one of the most creative and unconventional album releases of the year

By Ben Taylor

If you're considering albums with unique rollouts, Frank Ocean's *Blond(e)* has to be on that list.

Ocean broke his four-year silence with a 45-minute live stream that documented him building a staircase, which symbolized his escape from an unfavorable record deal.

Frank was required to release one more album to fulfill his contractual obligations, and this live stream was his decoy, a way

to fulfill those obligations while voicing his frustration with the whole process.

He played instrumentals that included very few verses from a fake album titled *Endless*. This mainly instrumental piece served as Ocean's "album" to fulfill the contract.

The very next day, Frank released his celebrated album, *Blond(e)*, which was initially praised and still is today—thanks to TikTok.

The album title, as it appears

on the commercial cover, appears in the masculine form: *Blond*. Meanwhile, the title of the album on streaming services contains the female form: *Blonde*.

The dual usage is a reference to Ocean's alleged bisexuality, which some fans believe Ocean announced in a recent Tumblr post.

The album itself is somber. Ocean reminisces through his early years of love and the innocence involved.

He begins to reflect on a failed relationship in "Ivy" and the feeling of regret dawns on him as he realizes he "will never be those kids again."

Ocean tries to hold onto a relationship in "Self Control" as he knows it is falling apart.

He still asks his love interest to "keep a place for me." He loses control and begs his romantic interest to stay for just one more night.

In "White Ferrari," Ocean then compares his lover to a white Ferrari, as both are pure and very valuable. He asserts that he cares for them still, and will do so forever.

Ocean not only touches on the solemn side of relationships but also on the lonely aspects of being in a relationship.

Ocean develops this theme in "Solo," which is also interpreted in the lyrics as being "so low." This song touches on the aspect of being alone, such as when Ocean lies awake waiting for a call, which never comes.

Another focus Ocean ex-

plores in the album is the subject of family. Ocean includes a voicemail from his mother in the interlude "Be Yourself," in which his mother warns her son of the dangers in the real world. She cautions Ocean to stay away from drugs and alcohol.

In the final song "Future Free," Ocean reassures his mother that will move with composure toward his future.

The hidden Easter eggs in the album, such as the perfect beat switch at the thirty-minute mark in "Nights" that separates the 60-minute length album in two equal halves, also adds to its intrigue.

Ocean's beautiful yet sorrowful album comes highly recommended to hip-hop fans and R&B fans alike.

Brian O'Connor | The Blue & Gold



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