School Club Gives Back
By Danielle Nelson

To give back to the community for Thanksgiving, The Gay-Straight Alliance, led by Ms. Cox, donated a whole Thanksgiving dinner with all of the fixings to a same sex family with two children from Clemmons that wouldn’t be able to afford it themselves.

The club has around ten to fifteen members and all of them brought something different to take to the family for the dinner. The President of the club, Ashlee Hemingway, aside Vice President, Kat Reavis, and Secretary, Shelby Kivett, actually took the food to the family themselves, so they could get to meet them and fellowship with them. The club members said it felt great to be able to help out and give back to a family in need in our own community because we all know there are thousands of families that will go hungry this holiday season. The club members are not yet sure what their plans are for giving back during the Christmas season but it will most likely be something similar to what they did for Thanksgiving; whatever the Gay-Straight Alliance decides to do will be greatly appreciated by our community.

Operation Christmas Child
By Kristen Alderman

Every year at East Forsyth the French club, who is sponsored by Mrs. Frye, collects items called “Operation Christmas Child.” Operation Christmas Child is an effort by Samaritans’s Purse that collects toys, hard candy, school supplies, and hygiene items such as tooth brushes, tooth paste, hair brushes, and soap then they distribute them to children who don’t have a Christmas. The Samaritan’s Purse organization doesn’t only distribute items during Christmas time, but when a natural disasters occur they step in and provide water, food, and temporary shelter; this is the job of the emergency relief program. The community development and vocational program helps people with poverty and gives them hope for a better future. The planning of this event starts in mid October and the items are collected up until around November 18th.

Each year the French club helps out Operation Christmas Child by collecting items then donating them, and they have been doing this for about five years. All the items collected will be sent to Kernersville Wesleyan Church to be distributed. The boxes that are collected are sent to schools, churches, and community places; from there they are sent to over seventy different countries for children who aren’t going to receive Christmas that year.

Mrs. Frye teaches French I and II here at East, and she has been teaching French for about eight years. If you want to join the French club you have to be enrolled in French, unless you are an upperclassman and French couldn’t fit in your schedule then, Mrs. Frye will let you join. Mrs. Frye enjoys helping with Operation Christmas Child because she says people in the French Club are eager to help. The items collected are easy to collect and they are non perishable. When all the items are collected the French club lines up in an assembly line and puts the items in different boxes, which Mrs. Frye says everyone has fun participating.

With help from Samaritan’s Purse and the French Club, children who never thought they would receive a Christmas present will wake up with a present on Christmas morning this year.
Rachel’s Challenge Update
By Mary Beth Johnson

Rachel’s Challenge has impacted students all over the school, and it certainly shows. The Friends of Rachel Club has quickly become one of the most popular clubs at East. Currently, the club is raising money for their December project. They intend to prepare Christmas boxes for five needy families in this area. The boxes will include items like canned foods, boxed foods, and gift certificates to places like Wal-Mart and grocery stores. On Tuesday, November 29th, club members decorated the boxes to add some holiday cheer. December 13th the boxes will be filled and on December 20th they will be delivered.

The club has six year-round committees emphasizing: new students, sympathy, a cleaner campus, publicity, digital media, and food drives. It was originally established that only student leaders would meet on Tuesday afternoons and share the information at the club meetings held during lunch on Fridays. But starting in December, students will meet with their individual committee on Tuesday afternoons to discuss plans relevant to that specific committee.

If you would like to support the Friends of Rachel Club, buy a t-shirt! At $10, these proceeds will go towards the January project. Although the project is yet to be decided upon, the club has many ideas. See Ms. Cox to buy a t-shirt in the classroom (1100) located in front of Guidance.

Christmas Charities
By Kendall Roberson

You see signs for community events and think, no one actually needs help. In fact, many people need help. We all know there are people in our town that need others’ help and support all year round, but especially during the holidays. Low income families can barely support their own families, but around the holidays it’s even harder. Trying to buy that perfect gift for a loved one doesn’t seem so hard for some of us, but it’s an ordeal for low income families. There are many ways you can interact and help these families in need. Online charities are a great way to get involved. You sign up to donate an amount of money, you give them your credit card or debit card number, and the website then uses the money to supply the items that person or family needs for Christmas. It’s easy, fast, and you’re helping someone in need.

Giving money or gifts to charities isn’t the only way you can help someone around the holidays. Time is a wonderful gift that can be more special than a material object. Visit local nursing homes or retirement villages and spend time with the elderly. Keep them company! Volunteer at the local soup kitchen or homeless center by cooking food, organizing items, and getting to know the people you are helping. Helping someone can make or break how their Christmas is celebrated, and you can be that difference maker. Your presence can change their life throughout the holidays and the rest of the year. Take the first step and donate, volunteer or just give a smile to everyone you see!

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Having a Healthy Holiday
By Mary Beth Johnson

The holiday season brings family, friends, fellowship, fun...and of course, food! We’re not talking about grandma’s cliché fruitcake here. We’re talking about the food you’ve been anticipating all year. Maybe there aren’t visions of sugarplums dancing in your head, but you’ve probably got some major cravings for your favorite holiday dishes and treats. For most people, the word calorie is just going to be a seven letter word while feasting with the relatives. The goal here might not be to have a one-hundred percent healthy holiday- just a healthier one. Here are some tips for this holiday season.

A good place to start is with your sleeping pattern. With no designated schedule, it is tempting to go to bed at some crazy hour and sleep for who knows how long the next day. If that continues for too long though, your body’s circadian rhythm can get pretty messed up and you are more vulnerable to a grouchy mood. It’s not fun being around a Grinch. By getting a good eight-nine hours of sleep and keeping up an adequate exercise routine, your body will produce more energy.

As for all of that wonderful food? It’s about moderation and not completely stuffing one’s face. Take appropriate portion sizes. Try eating food with protein, such as some sort of meat or beans that can help fill you up and give you energy. Make sure to include fruits and vegetables as well. Then you can move to the other side dishes and desserts. It is important to balance the types of foods you are eating and how much you consume.

A common misconception is that being healthy is only about your body’s physical condition. Health also includes the emotional, mental, and social aspects in your life. It is totally fine to enjoy the food over the holidays! Just consider moderation and try to keep yourself in check. After all, the food can be pretty delicious (probably excluding that fruitcake though.) Focus on having a good time with the people who surround you, and be thankful for what you have. Enjoy your family and friends, fellowship, fun, and food the holidays bring. This precious time only comes once a year!
Who’s Watching the Children?
By Reid Hutchins

With charges of perjury, failure to report child abuse, and sex crimes against young people, is the question society is asking—who is watching our children?

Jerry Sandusky, Penn State assistant football coach, has been arrested with charges of taking indecent liberties with eight young boys from the late 1990’s to the early-2000’s. Sandusky was known to entertain boys at football games “showering” them with gifts and food. He made promises of them walking on and playing for Penn State. It was common for boys to accompany his family on vacations to attend bowl games in which Penn State was playing. After his retirement, Sandusky volunteered for a foster home, The Second Mile, and possibly used this as an avenue to continue molesting boys. Once, an incident was reported about his showering with a young boy in the locker room, and he was then told to no longer bring boys to football activities. He was also accused of offering cigarettes and marijuana as favors to the boys. Also, at the center of this scandal, is the connection to Joe Paterno, who worked at Penn State for many years and served as head coach for 45 years. The firing of Paterno has rocked the world of football and has many people asking if he is to blame. Paterno knew of the accusations of Sandusky and reported them to Tim Curley, the athletic director. From this point everyone is pointing a finger of blame at someone else.

Penn State was having a wonderful year in football in the Big Ten conference. Since the scandal surfaced, the team slipped in the AP National Rankings from number 19 to number 21 due to the recent loss to number 15 Wisconsin, which was a 45-7 blowout. Penn State football also suffered from being undefeated in the Big Ten Leaders conference to finishing with six wins and two losses, and coming in 2nd in the conference and being booted out of the Inaugural Big Ten Championship game. As one can see, the team has suffered since the scandal has surfaced.

So the question still remains—who is watching the children? One must remember that even college students can be considered children—barely on the threshold of adulthood. It is the duty of society to protect our children. Adults are to help mold and guide children safely and without fear. Teachers, coaches, and church leaders have the responsibility to help provide structure to young men and women’s lives. These adults are to be trusted and serve as role models and mentors. If parents do not trust these adults and do not feel confident leaving their children in their care, what are we to do?

Who is watching the children? Where is the trust?

Animals on a Rampage
By Mariah Osenga

Outrageously strange occurrences with wild animals have brought distress upon the areas affected by the shocking events. Recently, animals have been defying the people they are incorporated around daily. The incidents are outlandish and have been described by bystanders as temper tantrums and just plain curiosity.

A 36-year-old man from Monroe, Oregon was hospitalized after he shot himself trying to dislodge a squirrel from his pants. The man said that the squirrel ran up his leg and took shelter in his pants so he aimed his .22 caliber gun down his pants. In his attempt to remove the squirrel he ended up shooting his own foot. He has recently been released from the hospital with no intention of speaking to reporters regarding the accident.

Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital, located in New Jersey, has recently been stunned with two accounts of flying squirrels getting imprisoned in the same trauma room. Doctors are speculating that there is a nest somewhere in the vicinity of their emergency room based on the strange reoccurrence of the event. Most animals would try to escape being caged inside a building flourishing with human activity. But doctors are puzzled with the fact that these two animals may not want to leave.

The flying rodents are described to have launched themselves around the emergency room in an attempt to avoid being captured by firefighters.

In Brigham City, Utah a 46-year-old hunting devotee is recovering from being shot in the behind by his dog. The man was reported to be duck hunting when he left his boat to set up decoys in the shallow marsh. He left his shotgun lying across the bed of the boat, and it is under question whether or not the safety lock was on or not. It is also questionable how the gun was fired. Deputy Kevin Potter believes that the dog stepped on the gun causing it to discharge and send 27 pellets of birdshot into his owners behind.

Virginia Tech Shooting
By Aaron Cook

Violence struck once again at the Virginia Tech campus in Blacksburg, Virginia on Thursday December 8th when a campus police officer, Deriek Crouse, was killed during a traffic stop. Ross Ashley shot and killed Crouse after being pulled over in the Mercedes SUV that he had stolen the day before. Ashley then took his own life about a quarter mile away from where he had killed Crouse. Ballistics evidence shows that both men were shot by the same gun.

This tragic event certainly conjured the horrific memories of the students and faculty from that April day in 2007. Most remember April 16th, 2007 as one of the worst days in public school history along with the Columbine shooting in 1999. The most recent incident at Virginia Tech definitely does not compare to that of four years ago. The shooting this past Thursday served as a test for the police and the new policies that they have implemented over the past four years.

Crouse had been a police officer with Virginia Tech for the past four years. Please continue to keep the Virginia Tech family in your thoughts and prayers.
Medical Technologist Visits AP Environmental Classes

Kristen Stoltz, a MT at Baptist Hospital, visited Ms. Boggs’ AP Environmental Science classes December 1st and 6th. She discussed her career and the requirements to become a Medical Technologist. She works in the blood bank and talked about the many stresses of working in a hospital. When visiting classes on December 1st, she allowed students to swab different things at East, and then took them back to her lab to perform tests on them. She brought the plates back on December 6th and showed the results to the classes. It was disgusting to see the fungi and other bacteria that had grown in the plates. Ms. Boggs’ classes enjoyed having Kristen visit and wish her luck in her career!

Blood Drive

- 176 donors showed up to give blood
- 159 units of blood were collected
  - The goal was 140 units
  - 76 first time donors

After Christmas,” present a clever way to memorize the ingredients to the classic holiday treat, fruitcake, and tell the story of a precious, wishful angel. It’s all a great joy to watch and even more so, to be apart of.

Although any chorus class is usually seen as an easy A, Madrigals and Caprice have to take it a bit more seriously. They miss numerous class periods around Christmas and are obviously expected to make up all work. President of Madrigals and a senior here at East Forsyth, Roman Hendricks, says “It brings as much joy to us as it does the kids. It’s challenging balancing school work with all the field trips but in the end it’s the best time of year for Mads and Caprice.” With the new schedule this year, the groups have had less time to rehearse so tension and stress levels are rising. However, with every performance and every smile on their audiences’ faces, the stress is relieved and it is all worth it.

Caprice and Madrigals perform for more than just elementary schools. They also travel to nursing homes, they sing at the Kernersville Christmas tree lighting, and are hoping to get a spot at Brenner Children’s Hospital. The long line of concerts begin the week of December 5th and the groups can’t wait to get started! “I love being and working with all these people. I love seeing the reaction on the kids’ faces. It’s always a joy to be apart of the family that Mads and Caps is,” says Stephanie Burkart, another senior and president of Caprice.

Madrigals, Caprice, and choral director, Mr. Stephens would all like to invite you to the concert held in the auditorium fourth period on December 20th to experience what they all work so hard to accomplish each year. It should be one of the best yet!

Features
Editor: Megan Roberson

Starting Christmas on a Good Note
By: Deah McRae

We all know that “the best way to spread Christmas cheer is singing loud for all to hear!” Madrigals and Caprice are once again taking this into account as they ready themselves for this Christmas season.

Every year Mads and Caps have a short time period to learn and rehearse the various Christmas carols on the concert list for that year. This holiday season they are singing songs varying from “Little Drummer Boy” to “Baby, Its Cold Outside.”

It seems to be when someone thinks of Caprice and Madrigals they immediately connect them with pajamas and fruitcake. This is very normal considering they have been doing a few certain songs since Mads and Caps were founded. I’m sure everyone can even think back as far as when Caprice and Madrigals visited their own elementary school every Christmas. Most might even admit they were one of the kids who wanted so badly to catch one of the stuffed animals that are thrown out during Twas by Mads and screamed and laughed every time that little angel sang from Caprice. If you have no idea what I’m referring to, I highly recommend you come out to one of the concerts the groups will put on this season. In Madrigals their main tradition is the performance of “Twas the Night Before Christmas.” The group splits into couples and have fun choreography, along with some nice pajamas, to the infamous story of Twas. Caprice on the other hand has more than one Christmas ritual they follow; they put a sassy spin on the “Twelve Days of/
A New Member to the East Fo’ Fam
Article and Photo by: Deah McRae

This year East Forsyth welcomes a new English teacher, Mrs. Hill. Our addition to the Eagles’ nest is from Goldsboro. Mrs. Hill completed her schooling at UNC Asheville. Although this is only her second year teaching, she has experience at three different schools, including East. Her first year was spent at Hickory High School and before that she was student teaching at Rugby Middle School in Hendersonville, NC.

Mrs. Hill states that the reasoning behind her decision to teach comes from the fact that her father is also a teacher and her desire to help people. When asked what her favorite part about teaching is she responded with, “I love the ‘ah-ha!’ moment when a student realizes they understand.” She loves writing and getting to know characters, hence why she chose English.

Mrs. Hill recently got married (October) and her husband is employed at R.J. Reynolds High School. The closeness to him and his work is what brought her to East Forsyth. Mrs. Hill’s interests outside of school include scrapbooking, making jewelry, theater, watching movies (“Star Wars is awesome!”), writing, and playing with her cat, Spartacus.

East is always open to a burst of new techniques and new faces. With that said, we welcome you Mrs. Hill!

Meet the Editor: Samantha Childress
Article and Photo by: Allie Shumate

Q: How long have you been involved with the newspaper?
A: 3 years

Q: Besides the talon, what other activities do you participate in?
A: Math Honor Society, NHS, Women’s Soccer, Outdoor Pursuits

Q: What’s the most difficult aspect of being an editor?
A: Getting the paper sent off by deadline

Q: What’s your favorite part of being on the Talon staff?
A: Definitely all of the people in the class and Mrs. Woods

Q: What are your plans after high school?
A: Going to Appalachian State University to play soccer

Q: What do you plan to major in?
A: Environmental Science

Q: Do you think you will try to be on the newspaper staff in college?
A: Probably not

Q: What will you miss about East Forsyth once you’ve graduated?
A: All the teachers I’ve had and all my friends who won’t be moving to Boone

The Iron Eagles Support the Troops
By: Brittany Rash

On Friday, November 12th, 2011 at 8:30 P.M. the JROTC Iron Eagles attended the Triad International Airport for the final Flight of Honor. The Flight of Honor was to celebrate the soldiers that fought and served in World War II. There were about one hundred or so veterans that had flown in from Washington D.C. that the Iron Eagle platoon came to support. They shook the veterans’ hands and saluted them. The Eagle platoon showed they cared and were thankful for the veteran’s services. They were all happy to welcome them back home.

There were hundreds of people lined up waiting to see the veterans...
Kernersville Christmas Parade

Photos taken by Mary Beth Johnson
New Years’ Eve at Times Square
By: Emily Sis

The New Years’ Eve celebration has been going on since 1904 in New York City on 229 W. 43rd street. The first New Years’ Eve ball was constructed by Walter F. Palmer consisted of iron and wood and was lit with one hundred 25-watt light bulbs. The ball weighed seven hundred pounds and measured five feet in diameter. The ball is raised at six o’clock at One Times Square building and then “dropped” seventy-seven feet at a rate of one minute to signify the upcoming New Year.

The ball had its first upgrade in 1920 which just included iron instead of both iron and wood. It then weighed four pounds but, in 1955 a second ball was made out of aluminum which only weighed one hundred and fifty pounds. There were two special occasions when the ball was lit like an apple for the I Love New York campaign from 1981 to 1988. The second occasion was in 1991 when the ball was lit with the colors of red, white, and blue to salute the troops of Operation Desert Shield. The ball had a couple more upgrades through the years but, the newest one was in 2009. This newest ball is now twelve feet and weighs eleven thousand eight hundred and seventy-five pounds. The pole has now been raised to four hundred seventy-five feet above Times Square.

The weather at midnight in New York City has been around 33.7 degrees Fahrenheit. In 1917 the temperature was 1 degree Fahrenheit which is the coldest it has ever been. The second coldest has been 11 degrees Fahrenheit which was in 1962. In 1965 and 1972 it was 58 degrees Fahrenheit which is the warmest on record for the New Years’ Eve ball drop. Out of 103 events, it has snowed six times and has rained multiple times.

The NYPD (New York Police Department) has very strict control over the crowds since there are about one million people who attend this event each year. The NYPD divides Times Square into sections making it easier for them the police to watch and make sure alcohol isn’t being consumed during the celebration. There are no bathrooms or portable public restrooms during this event.

If you’re looking for a great time watch the Dick Clark’s New Year’s Rockin’ Eve with Ryan Seacrest on ABC. Justin Bieber, Lady Gaga, Pitbull, Hot Chelle Rae, and One Repulic have been confirmed on performing during the event. So, grab your lucky food and drinks and party the night away.

The Sing-Off: An a cappella assault
By: Dylan Bodenheimer

This past Monday (November 28th, 2011) was the finale of the third season of the a cappella group competition show “The Sing-Off” on NBC. For 10 weeks, 16 groups competed against each other for a shot at $200,000 and a Sony Music recording contract. Each week, up to two groups would be eliminated after performing one or two songs from select genres or years (for example: week six was a hip/hop song). The three judges (Ben Folds, Sara Bareilles, and Shawn Stockman) would listen to each of the groups’ performances and then make a decision for elimination which would be given to the show’s host (Nick Lachey) to announce at the end of the show. The group(s) that were eliminated would then perform a “swan song” before disappearing from the stage.

For those who do not know what a cappella music is, it is a song done completely with a person’s voice. If a certain song requires a drum set sound, the beat boxer(s) will emulate the sound of the bass kick and rhythm, if there is a violin a person with a higher voice will emulate the sound of the strings, etc... When a talented group comes along and you hear one of your favorite songs in a cappella, it’ll change your whole perspective on the song and possibly music in general, at least it did for this writer.

The group that came out on top was the five-piece named Pentatonix from Arlington, Texas. The group gave arguably the most consistently impressive performances throughout the show. Pentatonix always displayed this subtle confidence in their performances, not overselling their abilities. It shows something about a group who can always come out with a powerhouse each week and continue to impress with innovative arrangements and ideas. “A cappella of the future” is what judge Ben Folds called their sound and that is probably the most accurate description. The bassist (Avi Kaplan) and beat boxer (Kevin Olusola) added a whole dimension to their a cappella sound that none of the other groups managed to capture. Over half of their performances feature a breakdown (reminiscent of a dubstep drop) which manages to add a futuristic twist that you would never imagine could be included in an a cappella song. When you mix that powerful bass and backing rhythm with the assault of a lead like Scott Hoying and the backup of Kirstin Maldonado and Mitch Grassi, the outcome is a sound that seems impossible coming from only the human voice and a microphone.

The competition portion of “The Sing-Off” may be over, but next

Creamy Peanut Butter Fudge
By: Erin Fulp

4 Cups sugar
1 Cup light brown sugar
½ Cup butter
1 can evaporated milk
7 Oz. jar of marshmellow Cream
16 Oz. jar of Peanut Butter
1 Teaspoon Vanilla

**Skyrim: The Dragons Have Landed**  
By: Dylan Bodenheimer

So the day has finally descended upon us, the day that an incredibly immersive interactive experience becomes available to those who are willing to step their foot through the threshold; the day that girlfriends lose substantial amounts of time with their boyfriends because the the realm of Tamriel calls them to fulfill their higher purpose. *The Elder Scrolls V: Skyrim* was released on November 11th, 2011, an iconic day for a very monumental game.

Skyrim is a first person/third person role-playing game and is, as the Roman numeral states, the fifth entry in the series. The story follows your created character who is a part of a scarce group of people known as the Dragonborn, who are born with the innate ability to speak as the dragons do and learn their speech (known as “shouts” or “Thu’um” in the game). The Dragonborn’s arrival in Skyrim (a northern province of the land of Tamriel) coincides with the return of dragons to the land, but this is no mere coincidence. You must travel the lands in search of the origins of these dragons and take down those who would oppose you.

*Skyrim* is a niche of game that, if you have no interest in the storyline of a video game, you will more than likely find yourself lacking. The motivation to complete or even play for more than a couple of hours. It is the massiveness and beauty of the locations throughout Skyrim that really grabs your attention. With every new place found, every new person met, every new power gained, you get more absorbed into the experience. Before you realize it, 80 hours of your life will have been given to this monster of a video game (and you probably won’t have even dipped your toes into the main quest line yet). The only minor complaint I have about this entry into the *Elder Scrolls* series is that the leveling system has been extremely stripped down. To some this is far from an issue, but it just seems far more simplistic compared to the previous games. However, this may not be an issue for other players, it might even be a plus.

So if you’re looking for the perfect game to kill your winter break over, look no further. Skyrim will suck you in and leave you with that wonderful feeling of addiction when you aren’t investing time into it. Grab a blanket, make yourself some hot chocolate, lay down in front of your television (or sit in your comfy computer chair, in front of your computer).

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**New H&M store comes to the Triad**  
By: Erin Fulp

H&M is an international fashion store that was started in 1947 in Sweden. H&M has around two thousand three hundred stores in forty one different countries and one of them just opened in Winston-Salem at Hanes Mall. The store opened on November 17 2011, and this is the second H&M store in North Carolina, the other store is in Raleigh. On the day that the store opened more than six hundred and fifty people were waiting in the line which is a few numbers below the Raleigh store opening in 2009 which drew crowds up to one thousand people. Before H&M opened it said that the store would be around twenty thousand square feet and on two levels. H&M is beside of the store J.C. Penney store and the restaurant Ruby Tuesdays. H&M also has a separate entrance from the rest of Hanes Mall and a separate parking lot. Inside of H&M it has a grand entrance and elevators for the shoppers. It has been reported that the H&M in Winston-Salem is significantly smaller than the one in Raleigh although H&M has hired around thirty people. H&M sells women’s, men’s, teenagers, babies and children’s clothing for day to day wear or for special occasions. They also sell H&M brand cosmetics, footwear and accessories. One of the things that H&M is best known for is their quality clothing and accessories that range from $3.99 to $99.

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**Arthur Christmas Spreads Holiday Cheer**  
By: Bethann Odel

Every Christmas season a new holiday movie comes out to rouse the magic in all of us. This year’s newest hit is *Arthur Christmas*, the story of Santa Claus’ youngest son Arthur. Directed by Sarah Smith, this animated film is available in 3D and is rated PG with a run time of one hour and thirty minutes, so it’s perfect to go see with your younger siblings.

The unanswered question asked by millions of boys and girls every Christmas is how Santa gets to deliver presents to every child in the world in only one night. Many say that magic is the source of Santa’s mysterious ways and *Arthur Christmas* does a great job of putting the rumors to rest. This movie takes place in the North Pole where Santa Claus the twentieth, his wife, his two sons Steve and Arthur, and Grandsanta live. Arthur spends his days answering letters to Santa from children across the globe in a small room where he can stay out of people’s way because he is very clumsy. When one child is missed during the Christmas gift drop-off, Arthur becomes determined to make things right and find a way to deliver the present himself, once Steve confirms that, “it can’t be done.” Grandsanta accompanies him to Trelew, England to deliver a bicycle to young Gwen who got skipped over. They suffer many trials along the way but of course, the ending is a happy one.

I highly recommend this movie if you are searching for a new holiday favorite. Packed with lots of laughs and Christmas cheer, this movie pleasantly surprised me and I can’t wait for the DVD release!

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**Top 10 Christmas Songs**  
By: Emily Sis

1. White Christmas By: Bing Crosby  
2. Rudolph, the Red Nosed Reindeer By: Gene Autry  
3. I Saw Mommy Kissing Santa Claus By: Jimmy Boyd  
4. Jingle Bell Rock By: Bobby Helms  
5. The Christmas Song By: Nat King Cole  
6. Snoopy’s Christmas By: The Royal Guardsmen  
7. Here Comes Santa Claus By: Gene Autry  
8. Little Drummer Boy By: Harry Simeone Chorale  
9. Rockin’ Around the Christmas Tree By: Brenda Lee  
10. Do You Hear What I Hear By: Bing Crosby

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**The ‘Merry’ Best of Christmas Movies**  
By: Ben Frew

For most, Christmas is a time of reunion, and holiday spirit and happiness. This holiday spirit is something that has been carried over in many mediums, such as film. Christmas films are very versatile - ranging from the feel-good comedies to emotional dramas to imaginative journeys.

One film that stands amongst the others is the timeless classic *A Christmas Story*, the comedy from that opened up to a lukewarm reception but, over the years, as become known as one of the best films from 1983. The plot revolves around nine-year-old Ralphie in his quest to find a Ryder BB-gun.

Another legendary Christmas movie from the ‘80s era is the film *National Lampoon’s Christmas Vacation*. It follows the story of Clark Griswold - played by Chevy Chase - and his family as they try to have a ‘good old-fashioned family Christmas.’ However, as expected, the aforementioned plan goes awry and antics ensue.

Of course, there are also the many, many adaptations of the classic tale of *A Christmas Carol*. Originally conceived by Charles Dickens as a novel in the 1800’s, there have now been countless adaptations of the story to the big screen. Many film buffs consider the 1951 adaptation to be the ‘truest’ version of all, however the 2009 version (directed by Robert Zemeckis) with Jim Carrey is also fairly well done.

Lastly, not many can forget the classic tale *Home Alone*, the light-hearted film about the McCallister family leaving eight-year-old Kevin outsmaarting two burglars with clever booby traps.

Other movies worth a look include *The Nightmare Before Christmas*, the classic Tim Burton tale where Christmas is brought to Halloween Town,
The Ever-Important Question: Battlefield 3 or Modern Warfare 3?
By: Ben Frew

2011 has been a fantastic year for gaming - Skyrim, Infamous 2, Saints Row 3, L.A. Noire, among others. However, indeniably two of the most hyped games of the year would have to be Battlefield 3 and Modern Warfare 3. But the question remains: which one should you buy?

The answer really depends on the type of person you are. Both games have been viewed in the public eye as very good games - both received a 9 out of 10 on IGN, and an 8.5 from GameSpot - both reputable video game reviewers.

Both games play and feel very similar to each other, but the play style in the Multiplayer are quite different. Battlefield 3 has more of an emphasis on teamwork to accomplish goals and push back the enemy on the battlefield. To accomplish this, a variety of vehicles must be used, as well as synergy among the four classes: Assault, Support, Engineer, and Recon. Modern Warfare 3, on the other hand, has many new features this year: the killstreak system has been redone, weapons now 'level up' with the player, and more perks have been added for 'prestiging' - reaching the max rank and then choosing to start over.

In essence, Modern Warfare 3 does better for face value - it’s a good game for simple fun, and the multiplayer experience is essentially far more varied than what Battlefield 3 has to offer in terms of online game modes. As far as the singleplayer is concerned, both games do relatively well in that category but it’s definitely not the selling point, or something that should be seriously considered in weighing your options.

All in all, buy MW3 if you’re looking for classic run-and-gun action;
Winter Track Looks for A Running Start
By Will Taylor

The East Forsyth winter track team is shaping up for what looks like another successful season. Coach James Studevent, (or commonly referred to as Coach Stu) certainly has the situation under control and is looking to start the season out right.

After Coach Riley left East, the new track coach had some big shoes to fill. This job was nothing for Coach Studevent, one of the football coaches. When asked how he thinks the season will go, his only response was “cold.” And it will be, only having meets indoors when every practice is outdoors. “We’re young across the board, but we have experienced seniors (as well), it’ll be a learning process with a few surprises,” Studevent said about his team.

A few of the notable members of the team are junior David Todd and senior Madison Rayfield. Both Rayfield and Todd have competed well in the past and their futures are only looking brighter. Todd has been recognized by Coach Studevent as the most improved runner, having spent time working out and gaining strength for the upcoming year.

Winter track is a great way to get in and stay in shape and only benefits the runners for the spring. East pole vaulting has always been a strong point for the team in the spring, having vaulters such as Sydney White making the state playoffs and ranking statewide. The biggest part of track though is the mental aspect. If the runners have a strong mental attitude, then they have overcome their greatest challenge. A good mental attitude and hard work are required for a successful team, that’s Coach Studevent’s philosophy and it seems to work.

We hope for the best for the winter track team as they excel in every aspect of the sport!

East Forsyth Women’s Basketball
By Caelan Gonzalez

The East Forsyth Women’s Basketball season is just getting started. So far, the team has scrimmaged Reagan and Mt. Airy and played very well. This year, the Lady Eagles have a veteran squad, with all 5 starters returning from last year’s team. They will be the core of the team and will help out the younger players who are not yet experienced at the varsity level.

The Lady Eagles have some very tough competition in their league. Defending 4A champions, Southwest Guilford, are in their league along with West Forsyth and Reynolds, who are also very talented. The team’s initial goal is to play well in conference and make the state playoffs. To do so, the veteran players will have to lead the team and keep everyone playing as a unit.

In speaking to Coach Lakis, he explained that, “He would like to see the team improve on their intensity level and to play a complete game until the buzzer sounds.” He also said he would like for the team to improve on their basketball fundamentals. All of these will be key factors in how the Lady Eagles will perform in their upcoming games. In Practice, the girls do a lot of full court drills and also do conditioning, which really makes a difference during their games.

Even though they suffered a tough loss in their first game of the season against Southeast Guilford, sophomore center Jordyn Richardson said, “The team is talented and has potential.” They are still confident with their abilities and will try to bounce back and grab some wins during their next few games against West Forsyth and Reynolds, two of the team’s toughest opponents. We hope to see the Lady Eagles achieve their goals on the court this season!

Swim Season Kick Off
By Matt Parmesano

The East Forsyth swimming season is now officially underway, and the team did very well in its first meet. East swam against High Point Central on November 22nd at the Kernersville YMCA. The men’s team won easily, 109-61. The Lady Eagles lost, but had some good individual performances.

Sophomore Peter Boutwell set a new East Forsyth record in the 100 Backstroke, recording a time of 57.54. Junior William Wooten put up an impressive time in the 100 Butterfly, automatically qualifying him for the 4A regional meet. The East men also qualified for the regional meet in two relay events, the 200 Medley Relay and the 400 Freestyle Relay.

The Eagles also had many swimmers that posted personal bests in their event. Grace Ricks shaved two seconds off of her time in the 50 Freestyle. In the 100 Freestyle, Leah Jones dropped over eight seconds, and Jacob Albright improved his time by eleven seconds. Harrison Hollis dropped 12 seconds in the 100 Backstroke, and Anna Hayes and Jacob Albright each took five seconds off of their best times in the 100 Breaststroke.

Both the men’s and women’s teams had a strong first meet. Many returning swimmers swam at or better than their personal best times, and the new swimmers did well. Coach Jaime Martin said of the meet, “We’re off to a great start with one meet down and about three weeks worth of practice. We’re working on our improvement opportunities and feel confident we will meet our season goals.” The Eagles swim team looks primed for a very successful season and looks to improve with every meet.

Varsity Basketball Ready for Strong Season
By Matt Parmesano

The Varsity Men’s basketball team is loaded with talent heading into this season and is expected to have a strong season under Coach Brant Short. The Eagles have five returning players and six newcomers. Each player brings something different to the team and should help East have a successful season.

Seniors Tyler Cook and Chris Harris are both returning and are expected to have productive seasons in the front court. Harris has started at center each of the past two seasons and will be asked to hold down the middle. Cook will be looked to for scoring, athleticism and defense. Junior Craig Hinton is also a returning player. He is a great all-around player for the Eagles.

Juniors Dylan Wood, Garrison Duncan, and Joseph Kidd hope to do well in their first varsity seasons. They are all good at protecting the ball, getting to the basket, and rebounding effectively.

In the backcourt, Sophomore Larry Curry returns to the varsity squad and is experienced after playing in all 23 games last season. He is expected to have a breakout season. Returning Junior Paul Jones and Freshman Drew Cone will also be counted on for backcourt production. Terry Hairston and Dylan Stevens are both good facilitators for the Eagles offense at the guard positions.

With talent at each position, the East Forsyth Varsity basketball team is ready to be competitive in the Piedmont Triad 4A Conference and throughout the season. Coach Short has assembled a deep team with a solid bench and has the Eagles primed for a great season.
Senior Forward Kristen Hicks

College Football Postseason Begins
By Caelan Gonzalez

The college football regular season has come to a close, but the conference championships and bowl games are still to come. Top ranked LSU has virtually locked up their spot in the National Championship, whether they win the SEC title game or not. We are most likely to see LSU play Alabama in the National Championship, which will be a rematch of the overtime thriller the teams played earlier this season. LSU came out on top of that bout, but this time, the national title hangs in the balance.

In the ACC, Virginia Tech looks to be the true contender. They are ranked in the top 5 in the nation, and are battling for a spot in The Orange Bowl. After a great start, Clemson has lost 3 of their last 4 games, but still holds the second best record in the conference. Every team in the ACC is bowl eligible except for Duke and Maryland, who both had disappointing records. Overall, it was a very successful season for ACC football.

The battle to win The Heisman Trophy is as close as it has been all season. Andrew Luck, Stanford’s outstanding quarterback, has been the frontrunner for most of the year, but after Alabama’s running back, Trent Richardson, rushed for over 200 yards against Auburn, it is possible that he now has the best shot at winning the Heisman Trophy. All season long, Richardson has picked defenses apart with his extraordinary speed and strength, and has rushed for over 1,500 yards. He would be the 2nd Alabama running back in 3 years to win the prestigious award.

After winning 2 National Championships with Florida in 2006 and 2008, Urban Meyer left, to become an ESPN analyst. Now, Meyer has returned to the coaching world by accepting the job as Ohio State’s new head coach. The Buckeyes hope that bringing in Urban Meyer will turn things around and help them get back on track after a tough season.

As the college football postseason begins, we are sure to see action-packed, suspenseful bowl games, such as The Fiesta Bowl, The Sugar Bowl, and The Rose Bowl. But when all the dust settles, only one game will decide the 2011 National Champion.

NBA Back in Action
By Trevor Hendrix

The NBA lockout has finally come to end after months of negotiations between the team owners and the NBA Players Association. It took a fifteen hour meeting to come to an agreement. Most people believed that there simply wouldn’t be an NBA season this year. The players knew that if they stretched the lockout for a whole season, they would look greedy and would still be losing a lot of money in the long run. The owners won the negotiations overall. They wanted a 50% revenue split from the beginning and that is exactly what they got. The players wanted 57% when the lockout began over the summer.

The lockout didn’t end soon enough for the NBA to fit in an entire season in time. The 2011-12 season will start on Christmas day and will be 66 games long. The season is shortened quite a bit compared to the normal 82 game season. Five NBA players signed contracts with the Chinese Basketball Association during the lockout and are now forced to stay in China for the remainder of the season, which started two weeks ago. Even if these players bought their way out of their contracts, they would not be able to return to the NBA because the NBA is a part of FIBA and they have to comply with international contracts. The Chinese NBA season will not be over until March.

This season will be shortened 240 total games. The opening day on Christmas should be a huge day for the NBA who has some good match ups scheduled. In the first game the Knicks will host the Celtics, followed by a rematch of last years final between the Mavericks and the Heat. Kobe Bryant and Derrick Rose will face off at the Staples Center, and then the Oklahoma City Thunder will play the Orlando Magic. The last game will be the Warriors against the Clippers. It should be one of the more exciting opening days in NBA history.

EFHS Wrestling
By Garrett Gowan

As the wrestling season gets underway the Eagles look to improve upon their 16-7 record from last season. Led by Coach Troy Lambert the Eagles are entering another grueling season in which a main goal is to improve day by day in order to compete with top teams in the state at each individual weight class. Some weight classes that Coach Lambert looks forward to seeing in action this year are the 106 lbs and Heavyweight.

Players to watch this year Seniors Austin Cranfill, Duncan Lewis, A.J. Supple, Kevin Mosley, and Ronald Heartley, Coach Lambert also has his eyes on Junior Brandon Turner, and Sophomore Cole Pickard. Coach Lambert thinks the team can easily compete for 2nd or 3rd place in the conference but the main goal is to, of course, win the conference championship, and then go looking for a state title.

The Eagles are so far 7-0 as of 12/5/11. Seniors Austin Cranfill, Duncan Lewis, Kevin Mosley, Ronald Heartley, and sophomore Cole Pickard are 7-0 in their matches. The team strives to have several state qualifiers this season. They plan on having a strong team this year and improving our underclassman’s wrestling abilities. Some teams the Eagles take on this season are Mt. Tabor, Ragsdale, Parkland, Southern Alamance, and West Forsyth. There is reportedly no conference tournament this year. An upcoming home match is on 1/26/12 vs. Northwest Guilford at 7:30pm, JV begins at 6:00pm or 6:30pm. The senior fighting eagles took care of business against HPC when, after being down by twenty, rallied with six pins to come back for the four point win. Come out and support our Eagles!
Athletes of the Month
By Will Taylor

Senior Anna Bellefeuil has been playing basketball all her life, and it really shows on the court. For 13 years Bellefeuil has been excelling in the sport at East for all four years, including her best memory at East; beating Glenn her sophomore year. “We’ve done pretty good, we’re definitely improving,” says Bellefeuil. Aside from persevering during the season, her college plans involve attending NC State. Although a star athlete, she doesn’t plan on playing basketball in college. Her favorite college team is UNC Chapel Hill and her favorite professional sports team is the Carolina Panthers.

Not only can Bellefeuil play one sport, but two! She used to play soccer, but her basketball has proved a greater responsibility. Some people who have inspired her to success are her mom and sister. She is involved in Senior Deans and National Honor Society. We wish Anna good luck at whatever she pursues!

Senior swimmer Mitchell Byers has been making a splash for East Forsyth since his freshman year. Byers has only been swimming for four years and he is already outstanding. His most memorable moment was winning conference his sophomore year, and nothing has held him back since.

“We’re very good this year, I think we’ll win again,” Byers spoke of his team. East swimming has always been a huge success and they are only getting better. Byers’ biggest influence has to be Olympic gold medalist Michael Phelps. His favorite collegiate team is Wake Forest, but he may look at swimming for the club team at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro. His favorite teacher is Mr. Cockerham who teaches drafting, and his most revered classes are AP Human Geography. He is a member of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes and the one person who has helped him along the way is his swim coach at East, Jamie Martin. We wish Mitchell the best of luck for the future!