

What to look for...

Page 2

Grease Musical production

Page 5

Intramural Basketball preview

Page 6

GMS shooting incident

Page 8

Knuckle Sandwich Challenge review

Important dates...

Dec. 23 Beginning of Winter Break

Jan. 3 E-Learning Day

Jan. 7 Intramural Basketball Week 1

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Merry memories mark holiday joy

By Kara Ennis
opinion editor

From writing letters to Santa to opening presents on Christmas Day, the holiday season is filled with memories.

"When I was younger, I put all of the things that I wanted in my letter to Santa. It was an organized letter where I put what I wanted and why I needed it. If I didn't get a reply I would send multiple letters until I got a response," junior Kaityn Cruz said.

All year, children look forward to opening presents.

"When I was five, I got a dog that would just be mine on Christmas. I named it Gus after a cartoon character. It was the first present I opened and a big surprise when my parents brought it out on Christmas morning," freshman Bruce Liggett, said.

Some families participate in traditions, such as the Elf on the Shelf. The elf comes from Santa for the days before Christmas and hides in fun places for children to find when they wake up.

"I had an Elf on the Shelf named Trixie who I loved. She would always bring us little gifts from Santa and hide in our tree where we couldn't find her. Around three years ago, she didn't come back because we all got older," freshman Andie Jacks said.

Another American Christmas tradition involves a small ornament shaped like a pickle hidden among the tree branches.

"When we wake up, we try to be the first one out of everyone to find it. In my family, whoever finds the hidden pickle on the tree gets an extra present," freshman Leia Adams said.

A special part of the season is that not everyone celebrates the same way. Most families have traditions that are unique to them.

"When it snows, we go outside and play in the snow all together. When we come back in, we drink hot chocolate and play with our new presents all day," freshman Lylah Wallischeck said.

"I had an Elf on the Shelf named Trixie who I loved. She would always bring us little gifts from Santa and hide in our tree where we couldn't find her."

freshman Andie Jacks

A magical memory during the holiday season is looking out the window as a child to see the snow-covered ground ready to play in.

"When I was little, I used to build snowmen and go sledding down the hills of my grandparents' backyard. One year, we were in our swimsuits and jumped in the snow for fun," freshman Allie Higgins said.

Baking fun holiday treats with family and friends is another way to get into the Christmas spirit.

"I used to make eggnog with my grandma on Christmas Day. We made it from scratch, so we had to gather all of the ingredients to make it. Sometimes we would make it a race to see who could make it faster," freshman DeQuincy Smith said.

Christmas is not the only celebration during the holiday season. Hanukkah is a holiday that is typically celebrated by Jewish people. It is an eight-day holiday that takes place from the evening of Dec. 25 to Jan. 2.

"For Hanukkah, we get presents every night leading up to the eighth, and on the eighth night, we get a bigger present. I usually get candy and clothes leading

up, and one year I got a laptop on the big night," senior Elaine Medina said.

An exciting part of the holiday season is observing all of the different kinds of celebrations.

"It's fun being in my family because we are so diverse. All kinds of different things are going on because my uncle is Jewish, one of my grandmas is Catholic, the other is Christian, and my dad is Hispanic so there are all different types of cultures celebrating at the same time" Medina said.

Spending time with family and friends can be one of the most important parts of the season.

"I love Christmas because it is a time to be together with your family and friends. Christmas for me is the one time of the year where you have so much to do but nothing to worry about because of what the holiday is about," junior Novalee Simms said.

School Board welcomes new elected members

By Norah Wallischeck
news editor

Newly elected School Board members are supporting tradition while also bringing new ideas to their positions.

The primary role of the School Board is to create policies. Mrs. Sheila Martin is up for the challenge.

"I have worked at Isom Elementary for many years and then the middle school. I have been a parent, and I know the School Board has done so many great things over the past years," Mrs. Martin said.

Mrs. Martin sees attracting and keeping quality teachers as important.

"We have one of the highest first year teacher salaries in the county, and, hopefully, the board continues this because we want to get teachers hired and have them stay here because they are familiar faces. Keeping

those teachers here is a big thing we would like to keep going while maintaining the teacher student ratio and keeping that small, especially on the elementary level," she said.

Keeping tradition motivated Mrs. Martin to run for a position.

"My kids have graduated and moved on, but my nieces and nephews are still in school so I am still an invested part in the school. I know the School Board has done so many great things, and that is why I wanted to run," she said.

Even though the School Board has established several beneficial policies, Mrs. Peggy Daeger is interested in introducing new ideas.

"One thing that I would really like to see changed is recognizing students for different things. They are announced at the School Board meetings, but I would like to see them brought with their parents and congratulated

because it can help students achieve more overall," Mrs. Daeger said.

Mrs. Daeger's experience as a Greenwood staff member gives her perspective. She ran unopposed.

"I walked around with a paper explaining that I have drove a school bus for 35 years with Greenwood Community Schools, 20 of which were with special needs, so I wanted to let them know that I bring a different perspective to the board by being an employee," Mrs. Daeger said.

Mrs. Martin hopes to work with the board to continue building positive environments.

"I just want to keep the good going. If there are things that need improving, I would like to sit with the board and work on those things that are not as thriving as they should, but I just want to keep the good going," Mrs. Martin said.