

# The Cistercian Informer

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# Middle School

## Water Boy Wonder

By Michael Martin, '25, who keeps the agua fresh

One would usually think that a first former at a Friday night home game would be busy playing with his friends. That was not the case for me. I remember the very first time I was the water boy for the varsity football team. It was last year, while I was still in fourth grade. I asked my brother Matthew, a third-former at the time, if I could do the waters. He said "You just have to ask him," as he pointed at Coach Agtarap. So I nervously walked up to him and asked if he needed any help with the waters. He said "Sure, we need all the help we can get." He explained how to give players water and when to run onto the field. After a couple of games, I finally got it down. I went to every home game, and was a water boy at all of those games.

Doing the waters became really fun. It makes you feel like you are an actual part of the game. After just finishing my second season, it still feels that way, and it even feels like you are a part of the team at times. I remember the most fun I had doing the water was the game against Greenhill. Cistercian may not have won, but being at the game was really fun because of all the great offensive and defensive plays.

The good news about being a water boy is that anyone can do it. All you have to do is ask coach, like I did, or come ask me if he isn't around. If you are doing the waters,

you better do a good job or you might not be able to do it again. You'll need to get to the games at least ten minutes early so you can make sure everything is set up.

There are a lot of cool perks that come with being a water boy. You'll get to come into the locker room during halftime, go onto the field if there are any injuries, and be a part of the huddle during a timeout or at the end of a quarter. You also get to interact with the players. They are all very polite, and really nice to all of us waterboys.

But there is some danger to being a water boy. When someone gets tackled out of bounds, it can be terrifying if you were not expecting it. It happened to me once, and I could not stop shaking for five minutes. Also if you get really good at being a water boy, then when you grow up you can be a college or NFL water boy, who have an average their annual salary of about \$52,000. The next time you are going to a Varsity home game, maybe try out being a water boy!

## State of the NFL

By Michael Peterman, Rodrigo Navarro, and Sean Comstock, '24

The Super Bowl matchups sometimes feel stale or fixed, but this season, there's no clear frontrunner. No team has gone undefeated, showing that the



Photo via Touchstone Pictures

league is truly competitive. The New England Patriots have the best record at 10 wins and 2 losses, with several other teams such as the Eagles, the Rams, the Vikings, the Saints, and the Steelers clocking in at 10-2. Playoff regulars like the Cowboys, Falcons, and Broncos, on the other hand, are not meeting expectations whatsoever, and the Raiders have fallen flat on their face despite all expectations. Teams like the Jets and Bengals, who had very low expectations, have 5 wins each, while storied franchises like the Giants, Browns, and 49ers have a combined 4 wins.

The Packers were meeting their high expectations until week 5 against the Vikings, when all hopes of ending the season with some new rings were lost when quarterback Aaron Rodgers pulled a Tony Romo, leaving the field with a broken collarbone. The backup quarterback, Brett Hundley, is no Aaron Rodgers, but he isn't doing too badly. On the other

*Continued on the Next Page*

# Middle School

## NFL (cont'd)

hand, Houston's season started poorly with uneven quarterback play by Tom Savage, but the emergence of the rookie quarterback Deshaun Watson, fresh off a national championship with Clemson, led the Texans to an impressive win over the Titans and good showings against heavyweights Kansas City, New England, and Seattle. With Texans fans ecstatic about finally getting good quarterback play, disaster struck as Watson tore his ACL in practice and is lost for the season. This brings harrowing comparisons to another bright young rookie quarterback, Robert Griffin III, whose rookie season was also cut short by a knee injury from which his career never recovered. Maybe we'll see a different end for Deshaun Watson, though.

As the season approaches the halfway point, the contenders and pretenders will soon reveal themselves and key injuries will continue to define the hopes of many. With the season being so shaky as is, it's unclear who will be in the Super Bowl, but maybe the safest bet is the Patriots from the AFC (as usual) and the Eagles from the NFC. No matter what, though, we do know that whoever's hurling a pigskin through the hazy stadium air on February 4 will do so under the watchful eye of performer Justin Timberlake. Hopefully there won't be any complex costume changes for him to learn this time.

## Elf Jr.

*By Leo Ontiveros, '22, who is my gift*

During the middle of September, our Drama teacher, Mr. Magill, sent forth a proclamation calling for anyone who wanted to participate in the Middle School play. After callbacks, we finally discovered what "illustrious" roles we were going to play. Soon, we began rehearsals to prepare for the big day. Everyone worked hard and brought everything they had into our practices. The beginning of October was quite boring because it was all memorization and no blocking or performing. Peter Ellis, our Fake Santa, greatly livened our practices. Finally, during the middle of October, we were finally able to start our performing preparations. On Mondays and Wednesdays, we were sent to the gym to learn the choreography for our dances; we were taught by Ms. Munoz. Carter Soderberg and I were the leaders of our rehearsals; we played Elf and real Santa, respectively. Being an all-boys school, we didn't have anyone willing to play the female parts. Luckily, Mr. Magill brought in Tara Magill, who played Jovie, and Gloria Crouch, who played Emily. They were great additions to the team and added much joy and cheer to our rehearsals. Then, as we entered into the month of November, we began to fly very smoothly by ourselves. Everyone was having fun, each show-

ing their love for their characters. Finally, the theater was reopened, and we moved straight into it. We had our first dress rehearsal, and we all got to try our new costumes and the stage crew was able to get the lay of the land. Not to brag, but I had the best costume; my Santa outfit was extremely fuzzy and warm.

Finally, two days before our first performance, we were ready. We had learned everything that Mr. Magill taught us, including how to bow. Before the first performance, the parents threw a pizza party for all of us. After being well fed, we were ready to take the stage. Unfortunately, since it was the first day, we made some mistakes. However, on Saturday, we completely rocked it. Everyone gave their 110% and the play went off without a hitch. The theater was packed and we got a standing ovation. Then on Saturday, we really soared. We rocked it, and everyone was great, relaxed, and gave their 110%, the theater was packed also. Sunday was bittersweet because we had to end it. We were all tired and relieved that it was over, but parting was such sweet sorrow. Everyone left with an air of success and triumph around them.

I would like to thank everyone who came out to see the show and everyone that helped us make it run so smoothly. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

**Check out our website, [CistercianInformer.com](http://CistercianInformer.com), for more articles!**

# The Nest

## The Science Building

*By Ethan Ramchandani, '21, who is a wisdom seeker*

In the beginning of the summer of 2015, Cistercian started a ten million dollar campaign for the renovation of the Science Building. The Fifth Form science teacher, Mr. Tim Parker ('90), worked day and night on this project while also submitting his grades on time. The steering committee consisted of Mike Donohoe ('80), Charles Lipscomb ('84), Mark Roppolo ('88), Jan Mitura, and Andrea Clay. They helped raise all the money for the science building and organized the project as a whole. Mike Donohoe and Charles Lipscomb are also a part of the school board along with another Cistercian alumni, Peter Smith ('74), and Kent Clay.

The renovation brought a lot of changes to the building. The new additions include the flex lab and the awesome egg drop platform. Another change they made was to get rid of the ceiling so that the students can see the ventilation and everything that goes on behind (or above) the scenes. The amount of alumni involved in this project is astounding as both the architect, Gary Cunningham ('72), and the landscape designer, David Hocker ('96), both graduated from Cistercian. Overall, the project's staff was as Cistercian as the building itself.

The building was dedicated on November 10, 2017. All of the students gathered outside the science building doors as Fr. Paul thanked all those who had

contributed to the completion of this huge project. He then introduced Fr. Abbot Peter, who dedicated the building. He topped it off by sprinkling Holy Water on the building and then the crowd. As a treat to mark this moment, every Form got ice cream sandwiches to enjoy before being dismissed.

However, the work on Cistercian campus is not over are still things to look forward to. Cistercian will install solar panels on the Science Building and New Gym in order to help reduce energy costs. Along with that, there will be a windmill and water harvester for the students to use. Even with these additions still in the works, the Science Building is a gorgeous and productive part of the Cistercian experience. The sacrifices that alumni and families made to help sponsor its creation will hopefully be repaid a hundred times over in the knowledge the faculty imparts to the students in the coming years.



*Photo Credit: Mr. Reisch*

### **Football**

Speaking of massively successful American franchises which features inexplicable prophecies and corporate interests more powerful than your local government, football!

### **Read Books**

Since your favorite websites will be inaccessible after the FCC kills net neutrality, this holiday season will be the perfect time to read a book or two!

### **Listen to Your Grandma's Christmas Music**

Your grandmother has always been there for you. She's baked you cookies, knitted you sweaters, and given you invaluable memories. So what if she wants to listen to Mariah Carey's All I Want for Christmas Is You until the speakers literally don't work? She's your grandmother! Be nice to her!!

## Christmas To-Do

*By Ayden Kowalski, '21, who is filling this space with joy*

### **Star Wars: The Last Jedi**

If you want to see a bunch of grown men and women fight in space with laser swords and guns for three hours, then why not go see Star Wars?



# The Nest

## It's Christmas Time!

*By Saish Satyal, '21, who is my favorite ginger bread elf*

"It's the most wonderful time of the year!" From a religious point of view, this is the time of year which we associate with the birth of Jesus. Obviously, a school that is run by monks focuses very heavily on this. This is a time to spread joy and love all over the world. After thousands of years, God's promise to Adam and Eve has been fulfilled and Jesus has finally come to redeem the world. However, for many people in the world, Christmas isn't really about Jesus. It is about getting rich in any way possible. Business owners adore Christmas because it is the biggest holiday of the year. The joy of billions of people around the world is a very good source of profit. Where we see holiday cheer, big corporations see dollar bills. This isn't necessarily bad, but sometimes companies get too deep into it. They start advertising almost right after Halloween. I consider that very rude, as it makes thanksgiving seem like Thanksgiving is like the forgotten middle child. As a lover of food, I take much offense on this blatant attack on my annual holiday. For example, Target has already begun sending out their Christmas gift catalogues in the mail! Not only businesses, but also families dive into the Christmas cheer almost immediately after Halloween. Almost everyone skips from the eldest child, Halloween, and immediately goes on to adoring the younger child, Christmas, and showering it with gifts. Poor Thanksgiving is left there, still

celebrated as a national holiday, but celebrated without any cheer or anticipation. However, this article isn't about Thanksgiving, it's about Christmas.

So, let's move on to everyone's favorite jolly old man, Santa Claus. It truly amazes me that Santa can go around the entire world in one night. Being a fan of Superman, I don't doubt his abilities to fly quickly. What I do doubt is his ability to go down every chimney in time. Someone with as big of a belly as Santa must have quite a bit of trouble going down the chimney, especially with a huge bag of gifts on his back. Not only that, he has to eat so many milk and cookies, he must have to go on a diet for the rest of the year. No wonder he loves Christmas! For some reason, the other countries of the world really think that Santa needs a drink. I mean really, his job is stressful. Ireland, Australia and Britain all leave him some type of alcoholic beverage. I don't think he should be driving around at over 1500 miles per second completely intoxicated. One would assume that he takes his time to eat, but no. He has to gulp it down and deal with a horrific stomachache the next day. However, it should be fine; he has an entire year to recover. The thing that bugs me the most about Santa isn't about him, it's about the people of the world who work in aviation. Not everyone is home on Christmas Eve; some people who have very important jobs, such as mon-



*Photo by Beszteribettina via Wikimedia Commons*

itoring the US Airspace. Therefore, I don't understand how there isn't a huge panic at the military bases of the USA when they see an unidentified object zooming over everyone's homes at way over 1500 miles per second, and stopping over each home for less than a minute. Assuming that they work on a shift system for Christmas, there should be panic anytime someone who has never worked the Christmas shift has to.

Christmas is an amazing time of the year, even if it doesn't snow at all. There is a bit of a joyful spirit with everyone gathered in the living room opening presents, even with dark gray skies and cold sleet as far as the eye can see. Indeed, Christmas is truly the most wonderful time of the year. When else would we celebrate the fact that an old man is drunk, flying around at thousands of miles an hour and breaking into people's homes?

# The Nest

## Ask Kattdaddy!

**What do you want for Christmas?**

*Submitted by Mariah Carey*  
You.

**Is Santa Claus real?**

*Submitted by Nicholas Myra*  
Ask Fr. Peter. I've heard his Christmas homilies are quite excellent.

**What's your favorite Christmas song?**

*Submitted by Mike Spalla*

I'm a big fan of the Jingle Cats. For those of you who aren't familiar, do the world a favor and culture yourself.

**What's your favorite Christmas movie?**

*Submitted by Tim Hill*

*Grumpy Cat's Worst Christmas Ever* is a Christmas movie classic. The story of a cranky cat who helps a little girl realize the true meaning of Christmas. Fun for the whole clowder.

**Who do you spend Christmas with?**

*Submitted by M. F. Yail*

I spend Christmas with my family. What do you think I am, an antisocial four-legged feline? Wait a minute...

**Are finals as bad as people say?**

*Submitted by My Favorite Firstie*

Finals are only as bad as you make them to be. Studying in advance always helps, but you can definitely pull it off by only studying on the half days and having a super stressful time. Eh, you do you.

Wishing you a...

Merry Christmas,  
Joyeux Noël,  
Frohe Weihnachten,  
Śubh krisamas,  
Eid Milad Majid,

*The One and Only Kattdaddy*



*Photo by Trish Hamme via Creative Commons*

**By The Numbers**

Minutes of  
school left till  
finals

**7230**

Amount of days  
in Christmas  
Break

**18**

Number of years  
a Christmas tree  
grows before  
being sold

**15**

Percentage of  
annual Retail  
Sales During  
Christmas

**17%**

The number of  
holes in a straw

**1**

**Submit your questions to [kattdaddyinformer@gmail.com](mailto:kattdaddyinformer@gmail.com)!**

# News

## The Apocalypse...Internet Edition?

*By Winston Hartnett, '20, who is going to rule the virtual world*

Recently, discussion about a principle known as net neutrality has reached a fever pitch. Net neutrality is the concept that Internet Service Providers, such as Verizon and AT&T, must treat all traffic on their networks the same.

In other words, they can't block, throttle, or charge differently based on a user or website. Under these rules, they can't control what we see and do online, only how much they charge for the amount of data that we use. By many standards, the rules -- which were first put in place by the Federal Communication Commission (FCC) -- guarantee the Internet remains an open, free, and vital part of our lives.

The rules were put in place to regulate the increasingly centralized and monopolized ISP industry, which has become more brazen about interfering with traffic on their networks. For example, in 2014, Comcast slowed Netflix to a halt unless Netflix began paying for extra services. In 2011, AT&T tried to block FaceTime usage unless users paid for a more expensive plan. Finally, when Comcast sued the FCC in 2013, they were asked if they would purposefully favor some preferred services, content, or sites over others if an earlier net neutrality was repealed, to which they said they would explore it.

To understand what net neutrality could mean for you, consider what consumers face in Portugal. A 2017 data plan by

Portugal's ISP MEO shows six different extra packages each costing an additional €5 per month. One package unblocks access to social media, another messaging services, one for video streaming, one for music, and finally one for cloud services. In the US, that would mean not being able to access Netflix without paying extra for a new streaming plan, being forced to buy a new mobile plan to use any social media, or not being able to access a competitor's site -- all practices that ISPs have tried to employ before.

Yet, the newly appointed FCC Chairman, Ajit Pai, has campaigned to repeal the rules that protect consumers with a vote on December 4. He argues that the rules have reduced investment in, and profits of, ISPs and strangled the market. With a repeal of net neutrality, he states, free market competition would return, and investments would increase. However, he has faced significant backlash from every corner of the tech market, from small businesses, and from the American public, with a staggering 73% in favor of the rules across party lines.

In response, the Internet Association, a conglomerate of businesses such as Google, Amazon, and many others, released a statement refuting Chairman Pai's claims, stating "There is simply no reasonable justification for repealing the net neutrality protections currently on the books. The record fails to show any compelling evi-

dence that the 2015 Open Internet Order has harmed the internet ecosystem, either through reduced investment or some other means."

In fact, AT&T's CEO once stated that they would "deploy more fiber" in 2016 than before the passage of net neutrality in 2015. Comcast's CEO, in December 2016 told investors his resistance to the rules were because of "the fear of what Title II could have meant, more than what it actually meant." Nonetheless, Chairman Pai has made it clear that public opinion will not decide the outcome of net neutrality rules, even with roughly 99% of unique online comments on the FCC's campaign, according to a Gravwell study funded by the FCC, being pro net-neutrality. The commenting system has been mired in controversy, however, with the New York Attorney General Eric Schneiderman opening an investigation into 800,000 falsified comments against net neutrality using stolen American identities.

With little public or private sector support, and not much economic foundation, the repeal of net neutrality will not be decided in the court of public opinion; the fate of the Internet now rests in the hands of a five-member commission in Washington. Their decision, ultimately, will choose the direction of the fastest-growing industry in America, and the millions of Americans who rely on the internet to be an open, innovative, and reliable way to exchange ideas.

# Sports

## Thank You For a Great Season!

*By Alex Smith, '21, who XC'ed across the finish line this season*

The final two meets for the Cistercian XC team have not been our best, but these meets were the most important to the team. We ran the first of the two at Money Gram park, and the SPC Championship at Trinity Valley.

At Money Gram park (North Zone), Varsity finished 6th place out of 8 teams total. JV's season had ended just before this race, which made the races smaller and the competition more intense. But we were proud that Alex Smith ('21) and John LeSage ('19) both finished the 5 kilometer course under 18 minutes, personal bests for both of these excellent runners. The race may have been the hardest of the year, as it was not only 50 degrees, but there were also 25 mile per hour winds that day. After the race, the team stopped for lunch and got back to class "as quickly as possible."

The last race of the year was quite sentimental to the team. It was not only the seniors's last race, but it was also the SPC Championship. Alex Smith finished first on the team with John LeSage and Max Rogers ('19) close behind. The year before this, the team finished 12th overall, and this year, the XC team made some improvement, finishing 11th. Unfortunately, this course was the team's Achilles heel. It involved heavy repetition, major hills, and a rather awkward course that occasionally had horse poop

in the middle of the course. Nevertheless, we're satisfied with the result.

At the end of this season, I'm sure the whole team can look back on this experience as a monstrous achievement. Possibly our best meet was the Robinson Invitational, where Varsity won and JV took second place. Coach Roane was fantastic to us all year, only wanting to see the best out of us... He wasn't here just to see us do "average", he genuinely was there to push us to our limits and make us do things we didn't think we could.

The next one goes to the seniors, who I know for sure think they won't miss this, but come next fall they'll definitely be missing it. Connor Blend ('18) was definitely the most successful out of the bunch, leading the team for the first few meets of the season, only to see a toe injury half way through the season. But as a whole, the seniors were great influences to the team, showing everyone the ropes.

Also, we'd all like to thank the parents that came out to the meets. They were never enjoyable rides, or even meets as a whole. But all the parents were willing to make long drives to odd places, giving up their Saturdays, just to see us run. It's important to know that the parents were just as dedicated as we were this year. Maybe next year, with the addition of this year's fourth form to high school and



*Photo Credit: Jacob Rombs*

more practice, we might be able to have an even more successful season. But at the end of this year, I think we'll all be able to look back on it as one of the school's best. If anyone in the school is interested in the sport, we'd love to have you; the more the merrier.

On a personal note, this season was, although my first, a huge success for myself and the rest of the freshmen. The addition of a handful of freshmen was happily received by the team, and the season was highly energetic. We had several members who started the season strong but then received season-ending injuries. Hopefully, next year we will have these runners for the entire season. The whole team would like to thank Coach Roane and all others who were dedicated to us; this was a fantastic season.



# Sports

## Varsity Soccer

*By Chase Frutos, '21, who is tutti frutti*

Varsity Soccer for Cistercian is already off to a great start with two wins in the first two games, a preseason win against The Highlands, 6-0, and a regular season win against Kinkaid, 3-1.

The Cistercian/Highlands game took place on Thursday, November 16. Cistercian expected a strong performance against The Highlands, and hunkered down for a serious game to start the season off right. We controlled the entire game against The Highlands with our strong defense giving them almost no chances to score. The game ended 6-0 with scores by Xavi Anderhub, Jimmy Garda, Reece Harrison, Christian Schommer, David Navarro, and Aidan Click. Aidan, aka A-Dog, scored one of the most surprising goals of the game. The ball rolled to him around the eighteen yard box and he smashed the ball into the back post hitting the side netting, an astounding goal from the center back.

Two days later, Cistercian played their first regular season game against one of the toughest teams we will play this entire season, Kinkaid. They have made the top three at SPC in the last five years. This was a huge game for us early on in the season and we were determined to win. It was an early Saturday morning game and the wind was so strong that we had difficulty opening the locker room

door on our way out to the soccer field. In fact, right before the game started, the wind blew down part of one of the trees next to the soccer field. Very early on in the game, we knew we were in for a tough game as Kinkaid had possession of the ball for most of the first half. We fouled them in between the box and the half way line. Kinkaid decided to have their best player take a shot from there. It was a very strong kick and it look like the ball was going to soar over the cross bar, but before it flew over, the wind pushed the ball down into the back of the net with Kinkaid up 1-0.

Going down early in this fashion very often leads to a loss, but not for this determined Cistercian squad. Coach Walsh subbed Connor Blend into the game right after Kinkaid scored. Connor is not only a very strong, skilled forward, but he is also a very strong hockey player, travelling extensively for the Dallas Blackhawks Elite. He was able to come to this game without missing a beat. Within a couple of minutes of Kinkaid scoring, Christian passed a through ball to Blend into open space and right before Connor was about to shoot, he was fouled in the box! Coach Walsh decided that Xavi, a veteran varsity soccer player, should take the penalty kick. He easily made the penalty kick putting the ball to the top left of the goal, making it 1-1.



*Photo by Br. Raphael*

Later in the game, a ball was played to Evan Anderson. He shielded the defender off of the ball allowing himself to take an open shot. The shot went over the goalie, hitting the back of the net, making the game 2-1 with Cistercian ahead. After we took the lead, the intensity of the game started to calm down. Late in the second half, before the game was about to end, the ball came to Christian. He turned and took a shot from outside the box hitting the side netting of the goal, finishing the game 3-1 Cistercian.

It has been a very strong start to the Varsity Soccer season. Hopefully Cistercian can carry this success forward!

## Go Hawks!

# The Arts

## La Traviata

*By Preston Barron-Taylor, '20, who can sing falsetto if he really tries*

Recently, JPG visited the Winspear Opera House in Dallas to view a performance of the famous opera, *La Traviata*. The opera tells a story of true love, sacrifice, and heartbreak. If you want to see *La Traviata* unadulterated then please go see it before reading the summary below.

Act one of *La Traviata* begins with an extravagant party being thrown by Violetta Valéry, a well known and liked court attendant. Of her guests, the one that fancies her most is Alfredo Germont. The two members of the party meet, but Violetta sees Alfredo's love as ridiculous. At the dinner table, Alfredo is asked to give a toast, and the delightful aria, *Libiamo ne' lieti calici*, begins. In this aria, Alfredo sings about the importance of true love with his words aimed at Violetta, but Violetta interrupts his toast and begins to sing about the joys of life and needlessness of love, aiming back at Alfredo. Violetta then makes a departure from the party. Alfredo finds her alone, and he continues to express his undying love for her. She finally agrees to meet with him some time. After Alfredo leaves the party, Violetta sings her aria, *Ah, forsè lui*, in which she gives in to the idea of being with Alfredo and embraces her love for him.

In act two, Alfredo and Violetta are living happily together in the countryside. Alfredo sings

the aria, *De' miei bollenti spiriti*, in which he expresses how happy he is with Violetta. Suddenly, Alfredo learns that Violetta has been selling her things in order to pay for the living arrangement of the two. In order to help repay the debt he has created, Alfredo leaves. When Violetta arrives home, only to realize that Alfredo has left to earn money, she is greatly troubled. Soon after, Alfredo's father arrives to speak to Violetta. He demands Violetta to leave Alfredo. She agrees and writes Alfredo a note, explaining to him that she doesn't love him anymore. When Alfredo arrives home to find his father and no Violetta, and begins to read the letter Violetta left for him. Alfredo won't hear any of it, and leaves to track Violetta down at a party. After arriving at the party, Alfredo discovers Violetta, and he immediately gets into a gambling match with her. Violetta tells Alfredo that he should leave the party, but this leads him into a fit of rage. Alfredo, angry to the point of insanity, takes all the money he earned from the gambling match and throws it into the face of Violetta, claiming that he earned all the money that she spent on him back. Before he leaves though, Violetta tells Alfredo how much she truly loved him, and the second act ends.

Act three begins in the gloomy room of Violetta, as she is slowly dying from a sickness. All



*Photo Credit: Anonymous Faculty Member*

that she prays for is for the return of Alfredo so that she can regain her strength. Part of her prayer is answered when it turns out that Alfredo has finally tracked her down. She and Alfredo sing the beautiful duet *Parigi, o caro*. For a brief moment, it looks like Violetta has regained all of her strength and will make a full recovery, but sadly, this simply isn't the case. When she realizes that she will definitely die, she reflects on how young she still is, and for a brief moment, she again regains all of her strength as she sings *Prendi, quest'è l'immagine*. After belting her last note, however, she collapses, dead, into the arms of Alfredo.

*La Traviata* is certainly an enjoyable opera, and anyone interested in finding an opera to watch for the first time should highly consider this.

# The Arts

## Decmember & January Movie Preview

By Calvin Step, '20, who spinned bad on the dreidel

**Star Wars: The Last Jedi** - Predicted to be the biggest movie of the year by a healthy margin, *Last Jedi* is basically just a list of unanswered questions at this point. Will it be good? Will it just be a remake of *The Empire Strikes Back*? Will Carrie Fisher have a large role? Is Supreme Leader Snoke Jar Jar? Is Rey Luke's Daughter? Will Luke lose his other hand? Is Finn even important? Whatever the case, we'll just have to find out when we all go see it next Friday. Because let's face it, no matter your feelings of the last one, you'll be seeing this. (December 15th)

**Ferdinand** - John Cena is a talking bull learning valuable life lessons in this animated film from the creators of *Ice Age*. And just like a bull market, it's going to crash hard. Do yourself a favor and go see *Coco* or *Wonder* instead. (December 15th)

**The Greatest Showman** - Hugh Jackman, after killing everyone in very bloody ways and then dying (oh spoiler alert oops) in *Logan*, is appearing in his next movie: a family friendly musical about the circus! But, we need to acknowledge why this movie is going to make money: Zac Efron is in a musical again. (December 20th)

**Jumanji: Welcome to the Jungle** - You have the Rock, Kevin Hart, Jack Black, and that one girl from Dr. Who in a body-switching com-

edy expanding on the legacy of the late Robin Williams. It looks like a ton of fun, and early reactions from critics seem to agree. If you want to see it early, Amazon Prime members have access to an early screening at most theaters in the area on Friday, December 8th, at 7pm. (December 20th)

**Pitch Perfect 3** - This time, Fat Amy is going to attack a man with sausage nunchuks and then jump off an exploding boat. This is going to be the greatest cinematic event since *Batman & Robin*. (December 22nd)

**Insidious: The Last Key** - So this franchise has given us one modern horror classic and two awful mistakes. This continues the mistakes by focusing again on the paranormal ghost hunter lady and this time, we have better CGI and we get to learn all about her childhood! YAY! Who doesn't love a movie that explores the backstory of that random side charecter that dies in the original. (January 5th)

**Maze Runner: The Death Cure** - The supposed finale of the popular youth lit series, which at least isn't being split into two parts for the sake of the money (cough *Hunger Games* cough cough). This one looks somewhat interesting, but the last one was awful so I have no hope for this long-delyaed sequel. (January 26th)



Photo via Lucasfilm

## Informer Rates...

**Wonder** - 9/10

**Justice League** - 6/10

**Coco** - 9/10

**The Punisher** - 8/10

**Infinity War Trailer** - HYPEEEEE

**Assassin's Creed: Origins** - 7.5/10

**Pokémon Ultra Edition** - 8.5/10

**Mr. Saliga's Playlists** - 10/10

**Fingerlings** - NO

**Porgs** - Did somebody say CASH GRAB?

# Word Search

## Christmas Word Search

B E L H J D O H J B Z D D V H F Y M D G K B P  
Y P F N E O I J D O X Z T S F S S B Q S D F A  
C S N O W M A N A J J B H N A T I V I T Y S E  
X M I F M Z W H S P D Z T O Z B S Q S S D W O  
W C G E T I W Z T Z Z C G W F P A F Y L L O H  
D K H P R E S E N T S G C F H O N Q R L V U D  
F A K R R W M C O B Y Y L L U B T D E E W V N  
K E X J I E R F A C Y O Q A I X A M I O D G L  
Z Q M B U S Q E P N Z O S K K U G A N N M W I  
T S U O P C T X A I D F O E W V U Y D T A E L  
E H O H F U J M H T T Y I Y U F Q T E D N R H  
F N J K T Q W Q A Z H E C M I S T L E T O E B  
G E N T J H U T A S E S A A N X N R R P Y C I  
O U R V N Z L P G A M Q U C N Z I Z T N F H X  
U X O G G S L E I G H G S E J E S U S V L U C

SNOWFLAKE      JESUS      NOEL      SANTA      SNOWMAN  
CHRISTMAS      MISTLETOE      PRESENTS      SLEIGH      WREATH  
HOLLY      NATIVITY      REINDEER      CANDY CANE

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*Cover Art:* Bruno Pasquienelli, '20

*By the Numbers:* AJ Sklar, '20