



# The Informer



Cistercian Preparatory School

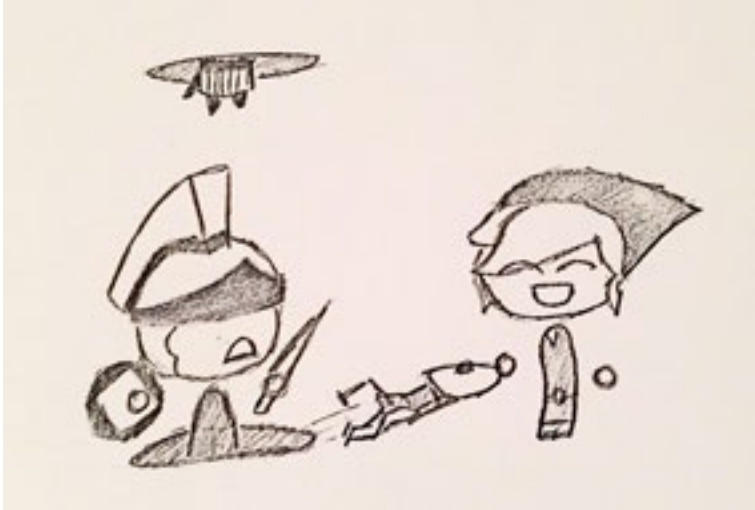
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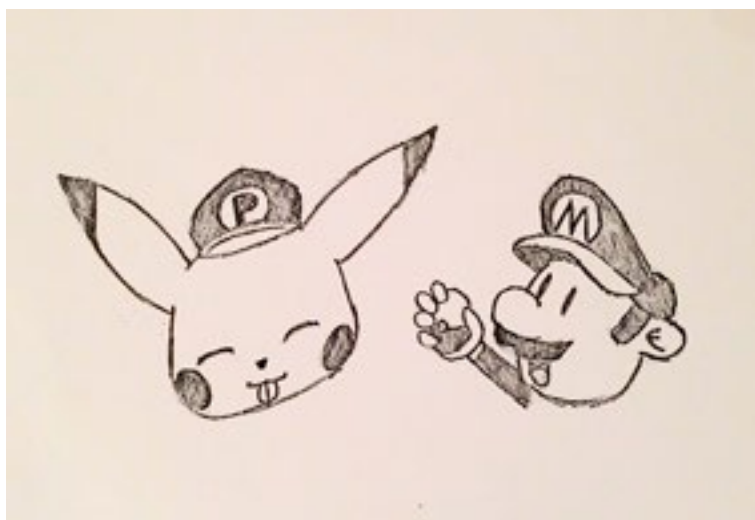
December 2014

## THE INFORMER STAFF CHRISTMAS WISHLIST

*A Portal Gun*



*The new Pokémons and Super Smash Bros. games*



*A drone*



*A Tofurkey under every naughty kid's Christmas tree*

I CAN'T BELIEVE IT'S NOT TURKEY



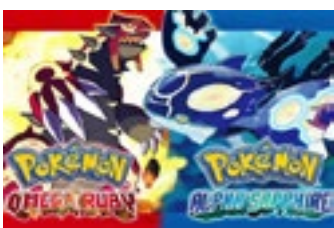
*More socks from Grandma and Grandpa*



*You*



### INSIDE



Will Novinski '18 reviews some of the top new video games for this holiday season on page 5



Aidan Noel '15 discusses recent breakthroughs in solar energy on page 6



Jack Chadwick '15 tackles the debate over classifying Die Hard as a Christmas movie on page 7



## THE MUCKRACKER

*This Informer issue is brought to you by the large and jolly old man who brings you the presents you totally deserve! If you don't want coal for Christmas, be sure to read every single article in this issue and send thank you letters to the writers for Informer-ing you about the latest video games, the problem with diet soda, hidden treasure on some island, and conquering the sun.*

*William Song*

*Christmas is here! We can all rejoice together now that our work is done, or at least the Informer Staff can. Huge Kudos to them for working diligently and quickly to create this December issue. They showed an inspiring dedication to craft this paper even with their busy lives swirling around them, writing great articles, viewpoints, and wish lists. Now, enjoy the sweet fruit of our labors and feast your eyes upon this paper!*

*Joshua Maymir*

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## WANTED

Schrödinger's Cat  
Alive or Dead  
(but technically both)



Wanted for numerous student deaths on account of boredom resulting from a teacher, parent, or guardian attempting to explain how a cat can be both alive and dead at the same time.

Warning: He is believed to have a severe case of wannagetinaboxwithpoisonitus resulting in both his demise and lack thereof.

Reward

A dead cat.

If he isn't dead when I receive him, he sure will be soon.

He will pay for that C in Philosophy!  
He! Shall! Pay!

-Peter Novinski '21

has a partridge in a pear tree

## December/January Calendar

<b>Tuesday 16th</b> Noon Dismissal	<b>Monday 22nd</b> Varsity Basketball vs HSAA	<b>Thursday 1st</b> New Year's Day!
<b>Wednesday 17th</b> Semester Exams	<b>Thursday 25th</b> Christmas!	<b>Friday 2nd</b> JV/Varsity Basketball @ Frisco Independence
<b>Thursday 18th</b> Semester Exams	<b>Monday 29th</b> Varsity Basketball @ Plano Wildcat Tournament	<b>Monday 5th</b> Faculty In-Service
<b>Friday 19th</b> Semester Exams Ring Ceremony	<b>Tuesday 30th</b> Varsity Basketball @ Plano Wildcat Tournament	<b>Tuesday 6th</b> Classes Resume 9th/JV/Varsity Basketball vs Carrollton Ranchview 9th Soccer vs St. Mark's
<b>Saturday 20th</b> Christmas Break begins Varsity Basketball Alumni Game		

## Write for the Infomer!

Email [Cistercian.informer@gmail.com](mailto:Cistercian.informer@gmail.com) with any article submissions. Chances are you'll see them in the next issue. That includes you, Middle Schoolers!

## By The Numbers

15

Goals scored by the Varsity Soccer team in two games

24

Failing grades handed out to the Senior French class (12 students) on December 5th

1

Letter of gratitude sent to Mr. Joseph

4

Number of Advent candles in the school

Still 0

Tweets received by @cpsinformer

Phong

@cpsinformer's only Twitter follower

4

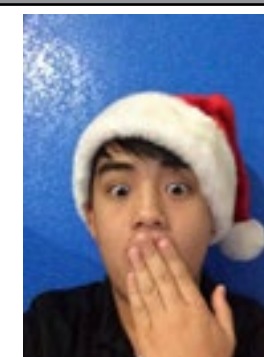
Division I athletes in the Senior class

8 PM

Joshua's regular bedtime

5 AM

Joshua's bedtime during finals

Win it with  
Nguyen

I'm dreaming of a mildly cool Christmas, Just like the ones I've always known. I've seen what you've all written, So now it's time to listen To hear the wisdom I have sown.

*It's my favorite time of year! Seeing all the Christmas decorations as I drive down the street, tuning into any and every radio station to listen to Christmas carols being sung, and watching the morale of every class dramatically plummet as finals quickly approach; yes, it warms my heart. It's December, boys, and along with the holiday cheer comes the painfully painful final push towards finals. You have sent your questions, and I have answered them. Behold! For on this day, Wisdom was born. And He has come to give us advice for finals.*

**Oh great, majestic provider of all answers, enlighten me on the both the in's and the out's of passing my finals. In return, I shall offer you an unblemished goat sacrificed on a table made from the wood of an ancient tree.**

Ah yes, the age-old question that has plagued the minds of all students. You may recall that I have graced a similar question with an answer last May. In that response, I offered a nugget of wisdom: always study in a group. It's never distracting, and if you do get distracted, at least you'll be playing Smash Bros with your favorite friends! But I will not leave you with just one iota of knowledge. No, I shall give you one more! It is the season of giving, after all. Not only should you study in groups, you should also wait until the night before to begin studying. Let me clarify: I mean the night before; not the day. I don't want you looking at books until it is at least 11 o'clock. Now I know that this does not sound very wise and that any teachers who see this will go blind until they meet a man in Damascus, but hear me out. What makes water jet out of cracked dams? Pressure. Just as that water gushes out with destructive force, so also can your studying become more powerful and intense; just add a little pressure! And if that doesn't convince you, listen to this. I read somewhere that whatever you listen to as you're falling asleep sticks in your memory. Just imagine how much you'll remember if you never go to sleep! That spirit of procrastination will get you far, kids. Just take it from me! (Send that goat to Mr. Joseph's office for me. I'll pick it up there. He won't mind, I promise.)

**What should I get as a Christmas present for my homecoming date to show her how much I care? I've sent her letters every day for the last two months and she's only written back once.**

Persevere, brave soul, persevere. She's playing hard to get; you have to prove that you won't give up! Forget getting her a present. No one likes getting new things. Now we just need to think of something you can do rather than get. It has to be something to show her that she is the star to every wandering bark. Besides, Love's not Time's fool. Ah! That's it! Poetry! You've mentioned that your pitiful—I mean, romantic—letters did not work. So move on to the next step: live-action poetry. Nothing wins over a girl's heart like poetry recited from the heart. Or you can carry a huge sign with the poetic lines on them. Close enough.

**What if I haven't been the best kid in the world? Is there still hope that Santa will bring me presents?**

Sorry, bro, no chance. Santa is super smart and super meticulous. What do you think he does the 364 days a year it's not Christmas? He's too old to work on building toys; besides, he's got cheap manual labor for that. But no worries! There's still some hope for you. Winter is cold, right? (Well...at least it's colder than summer...) Well, you need to keep warm. And what better way to do that than a fire? But wood is expensive, and gas fireplaces don't look as cool (and you'll probably blow up). Well, you don't have to worry because Santa's providing you with all the coal you'll need! It's too late to change what you've done (Hakuna Matata), so just yoloswag it and make the best of what you've got. Which is a lot, because coal's not free. I would know. I recently had to switch coal dealers.

**How does Santa know if I've been bad or good? What gives him the right? If you ask me, this all seems a little arbitrary... Why do we as a society allow an old man to break into our houses every year? Is it just because he gives us free presents? Tsk tsk. This is materialism at its finest. Why don't we all just bow down and worship Mammon? We're practically doing it right now with this idolization of presents. I say we set a trap for Santa, so when we capture him we can prosecute him for intrusion and corrupting the youth.**

Um... I... Ok...

**What did you ask Santa for?**

I asked him to give me friends. Speaking of which, I'm taking applications from those who want to be my friends! I don't need any info. I just want someone to hang out with me. You don't even really have to mean it! You can just pretend! If you are interested, stop by Mr. Joseph's office (1st floor, Teacher's Workroom, back left office). He'll let me know, even if he says he won't. Please...



## Malice at the Palace Revisited: Ten-Year Anniversary

One plastic cup of Diet Coke cost \$11,087,721 and disfigured the image of the NBA, one of the premier sports leagues. One fatal decision resulted in a cascade of events that had ripple effects outside of the sports world. Flash back to the night of November 19, 2004: the Indiana Pacers, coming off a 61-win season for the best regular season record of the 2004 season, seek revenge against the defending champions Detroit Pistons after having been eliminated by them in the Eastern Conference Finals. Pistons center Ben Wallace, an All-Star known for his defensive prowess, has just returned from a two-game absence following the loss of his brother to brain cancer.

Pacers stars Ron Artest, Jermaine O'Neal, and Stephen Jackson, offensively dominated Wallace and the Pistons the entire night. The rivalry game was a blowout late in the fourth quarter, and the Pistons players' frustrations had boiled over. With under a minute left in the game, a quarrel broke out between the two teams following a hard foul by Artest on Wallace. After a couple minutes, the situation quiets a bit. Wallace is still riled up, but Artest simply lies down on the scorer's table with his hands on his head, as if he's in the middle of a relaxing vacation at the beach.

Then, moments later, one plastic cup is thrown at Artest from a fan in the stands. He quickly leaps into the stands, furious, to tackle the fan. Jackson then joins the violence and starts swinging at people. Other players from both teams enter the stands to break up the brawl. Several Pistons fans run onto the court to confront Pacers players. O'Neal swiftly knockouts one fan with a roundhouse right. The powerless referees call the game off in desperation with 45 seconds remaining. As the Pacers players and coaching staff attempt to leave the court through the tunnel, Pistons fans pour drinks and throw chairs at them. (Stay classy, Detroit.) Police and security guards are nowhere to be seen to counter the savage violence. On that night, the "Palace of Auburn Hills" was a madhouse.

Artest later stated in an interview that his actions were simply "self-defense." For Artest, the ends justified the means. Back in the locker room, Artest was in a light-hearted mood and asks Jackson a serious question: "Jack, you think we're going to get into trouble?" Somehow, no players from either team were ever arrested. Suspensions were hard-hitting (Artest was suspended for the remainder of the season) and the fines were worth millions of dollars, but zero jail time was imposed on the players. John Green, the fan who incited the brawl by throwing the cup, was jailed for thirty days (because throwing a harmless plastic cup is much worse than physically beating helpless people). Artest contributed to the suspected stereotype that NBA athletes were spoiled, egotistical thugs. After all, these millionaire idols have the right to do whatever they want in order to fulfill their desires. Right, Ron?

In the ten years since the melee, the league has taken many steps to remove this violent image of their players. Then NBA commissioner David Stern installed a mandatory dress code in 2005 for all NBA players, which stated that all players must dress in business attire while arriving and departing a game, on the bench, or conducting an interview. The code banned fashion associated with hip-hop culture, such as large jewelry and jerseys. In the same year, the NBA launched an outreach initiative called NBA Cares. The initiative aimed to



address social issues around the world by involving former and current NBA players in charity and youth-serving programs. At all games, extra security guards were placed near the court to prevent future large-scale brawls. In 2010, referees began handing out technical fouls more often to prevent emotions from being overly prevalent in games, as they were in the Pacers-Pistons Brawl.

NBA Commissioner Adam Silver asserts that the hoodlum stereotype of NBA players "was a malicious and unfair stereotype about a group of 450 men." With all the new changes since 2004, "[t]he end result is, jump ahead to 2014 and our players are held in high esteem by the public and the NBA's never been at a better time in its history in terms of its popularity." The NBA has indeed succeeded at bringing about more peace and fixing its image that was decimated in 2004. NBA athletes have become more conscious of presenting themselves professionally and in the most positive light possible. Even Artest himself won the J. Walter Kennedy Citizenship Award, and subsequently changed his name to Metta World Peace in 2011.

Yet, what hasn't changed is the cultural obsession over professional athletes. Fans ten years later are still just as infatuated with athletes as they were in 2004. Green threw that plastic cup at Artest because he was dedicated to the Pistons and wanted to see his team's rival fail bitterly. Green was caught up with the sentiments of the players of his team when he made that fatal decision. When the Los Angeles Lakers won the 2010 championship, riveted fans rioted by setting fire on the avenues of downtown L.A., jumping on cars, and throwing objects at the LAPD—all for their team. The emergence of social media since 2004 has only contributed to the growing captivation for professional sports and athletes. Only time will tell whether a sports craze will ultimately be beneficial.



-Christian Velasquez '15  
really can't stay, but  
baby it's cold outside

## New Year's Resolutions: the Faculty's Perspective

New Year's resolutions are a time-honored tradition which come around, as the name implies, at the beginning of each year. They are goals a person will set for himself with the hope of being able to reach that goal in that year. However, even though they sound like a very good idea, New Year's resolutions are notorious for not working because people just give up on them. Many people, including the makers of the show Phineas and Ferb as shown in the season 4 episode "Happy New Years!", believe that New Year's resolutions never work. Also, Urban Dictionary defines New Year's resolutions as "a goal that you propose then forget the next day." So, the real question is: is making a New Year's resolution even worth it? In order to answer this tough question, I decided to ask some of our very wise faculty members for their input. The majority of the faculty members fell into one camp, with only two others as outliers. The majority (including Mrs. Greenfield, Fr. Augustine, Mr. Alcalá, Srta. TK, Dr. R, and the very wise Coach Burk) say that New Year's resolutions are good because it is never a bad thing to set goals for yourself. Fr. Augustine believes that people should always be setting new goals for themselves and New Year's is a very good time to do so. Coach Burk also adds that they are especially good if they last past January, and he poses the question: "Why should we only set goals in the beginning of the year?" Now, the first outlier is Fr. Ambrose and he believes that New Year's resolutions are "stupid and not worth it." He reasons that there really isn't a point in making one if you aren't going to keep it, and many people would definitely agree with him. The other outlier, by no surprise, is Fr. Gregory who has a very unique idea about



New Year's resolutions. The Grand Inquisitor does not believe in setting resolutions for himself, but he is more than willing to set them for others and have the others follow his "suggestions." So, do you belong with the majority of your elders at Cistercian who believe in the worthiness of making goals, with the lone Fr. Ambrose who believes in the unworthiness of them, or with the Most Holy King of Senior English, Fr. Gregory who believes in the worthiness of them for others?



-Luke Maymir '17  
will have a blue Christmas  
without you

## A Gamer's Christmas Wishlist

It's the most wonderful time of the year! Yes that's right, it's December, the time of hot chocolate, presents, finals, presents, Christmas break, and did I mention, PRESENTS?! And while the season isn't just about presents (as sappy Christmas movies continue to remind us) we all have those few things that we hope end up under the tree, whether it's a football, a Red Ryder BB gun, or a video games. So for this Christmas, I'm giving you a few suggestions to help guide your gift-givers.



### Super Smash Bros for WiiU or 3DS

Let's get the obvious out of the way. Super Smash Bros is essentially the epitome of epic. It's just one big mosh-pit of your favorite characters that you can fight to the death with. Whether you play competitively or just for fun, this game is possibly the best multiplayer game (if not game overall) ever. This entry in the Smash Bros collection has many new amazing features, including the ability to fight with your Miis, customize levels on a whole new level, and 8 MAN SMASH!! It also has a whopping 49 characters (50 if you count DLC)! So, if you're looking for games to focus on this Christmas, I recommend this one.

**Rating: Take my money!**



### Pokemon: Omega Ruby/Alpha Sapphire for 3DS

Nintendo has evidently decided to take the role of Santa this year, releasing two highly anticipated games, Smash Bros and Omega Ruby/Alpha Sapphire, only a few weeks before Christmas. Generation 3 (or the Ruby and Sapphire games for those who don't play Pokémon) is an incredible generation. So, when Japan showed the world the trailer for Omega Ruby and Alpha Sapphire, Pokenerds around the world could do nothing but scream at the top of their lungs "HOENN CONFIRMED"!!! With several of Hoenn's unique features, such as secret bases and pokeblock, being brought into fantastic 3d, and beloved starters getting mega-evolutions (yes, I know Blaziken already had one), this game has already received many positive reviews.

**Rating: 9 Mudkips out of 10 (I like)**



### Call of Duty: Advanced Warfare for PC, Xbox 360, Xbox One, and PS4

I couldn't just fill this list up with Nintendo stuff, and one jewel of a sequel has recently caught my eye. I have never been into the first-person-shooter genre, as I find them too repetitive and simple. However, in a genre that is often mocked for its lack of creativity, I see this as a breath of new life into a monotone franchise. While it's not something that hasn't been done before, the addition of high tech gadgets seems to give the game a little boost in originality that's nice to see.

**Rating: 5 lightsabers that aren't in the game out of six**



### Sonic Boom: Rise of Lyric for WiiU

Oh, how the mighty hath fallen. Sonic was once a fantastic franchise similar to Mario in its style and fame. But then came a game called Sonic 06. It not only was a boring and ugly game, it was literally hard to play due to the glitches and terrible controls. Am I trying to say Sonic Boom is as bad as that monstrosity? Yes. Very yes. Rushed to market, the best way to describe this game is incomplete. The programming is so lacking you can find teleportation glitches in the cut scenes. If you can find where to go you are rewarded with a lame story that fails to explain any of the new content in this universe. Tell your Santa the secret to this Christmas is not to buy this game!

**Rating: nope nope nope nope nope SO MUCH NOPE!**



-Will Novinski '18  
had a very shiny nose



## /r/technology Reports: Recent Solar Energy Developments



“Every important industrial revolution has actually been an energy revolution or an energy substitution, first with coal for wood, then oil for coal and now clean energy.” – Li Hejun of The Hanergy Holding Group

Trust me, I know the topic of renewable energy is not an interesting one or a new one by any means. When I first went to do research for this article, I thought that I would find the same information we’ve been hearing for the last five years about renewable energy being good for the environment but bad for our wallets. I expected to get bored, give up, and end up writing some baloney-sandwich article about both sides of the issues in Ferguson, MO or about the developing socio-economic tension between the classes in American society. However, what I discovered from the ten Reddit posts on /r/technology that I perused was slightly more interesting (one might say “mildly interesting”) than I originally envisioned. The fact is, development in the field of renewable resources is moving more quickly than most other research fields today. It is a topic that covers not only our need for alternative fuel sources, but also the state of our environment and ozone and our reliance on foreign nations for the continual supply of fossil fuels.

In this article I will be focusing on solar energy, but I want to lead off with some notes about wind turbine development. Over the past three years, scientists in Australia have been working on an entirely new model for the classic wind turbine. The typical turbine is gigantic, unruly, and requires millions of dollars of maintenance every year. The maintenance problem is the gearbox that lives in any standard turbine. Thus, these scientists have invented a new turbine that relies on a superconductor coil, allowing for electricity storage with essentially no loss of energy. By removing the gearbox, they have decreased the size and weight of the turbine by 40% (that solves the “gigantic” and “unruly” side of things), dropping transportation fees and allowing for more expedient manufacturing and transportation. In addition, manufacturing and maintenance costs are expected to drop by 65%, so the turbines costs 10-12 million dollars less to build. The idea of wind as a renewable resource has made the perfect advancement: one without any downfalls. Regions in the UK have shown equally promising results. In the first half of this year, the wind and hydraulic turbines in the United Kingdom produced 2.5 more terawatt-hours of electricity than nuclear power stations did. A large part of that is due to the fact that turbines are more reliable. While a small irregularity causes a whole nuclear plan to shut down for inspection, the simple turbines keep on running with no threat of radioactive destruction.

“But the distribution of wind resources is uneven, and wind strength varies significantly by regions. There is a similar

problem for hydroelectric energy. I believe solar is the way forward.” – Li Hejun

The more I read, the more it seems that solar energy is the true leader in viable universal renewable energy. There are few places on the Earth where the sun simply does not shine (looking at you, Detroit). Simply over the past three years, the cost of photovoltaic generation has dropped by 50%. We are finally at the point that some solar energy providers can offer lower rates per kilowatt-hour (kWh) than standard electricity providers. Take, for example, my household, where we pay around 8.5 cents/kWh. In the last month, a provider was offering 5 c/kWh (7 with federal tax) without any form of subsidy. In India and Brazil, providers are offering anywhere between 8-10.5 c/kWh and, in Dubai, an enormous solar farm is allowing for rates as low as 5.98 c/kWh. Oh, did I mention that ALL of those examples are 100% unsubsidized? Well they are, you doofus. As of this last month, the world’s largest solar plant resides in California. Named the Topaz Solar Farm (obviously because of the strength and intellect that the farm embodies and not because it was made in November), it consists of 9 million panels across a 9.5 square mile area. It provides power to 160,000 homes on Pacific Gas and Electric’s Grid, which I totally thought was one of the things you can buy in Monopoly but apparently it is not. Such a supply of clean energy is equivalent to taking 73,000 cars of the road.

On the topic of smaller yet still interesting stories, the Netherlands has installed the world’s first solar powered bike lane, which is a very misleading title for it. Essentially, they stuck some inefficiently angled solar panels on the ground, added a layer of rough glass over them (further decreasing efficiency), and told people it was a bike lane. Besides that, the stretch of around 300 feet of solar panels has been providing some electricity to streetlights, traffic lights, and homes in the local area. Some kids in Wales have been working on a solar car for the past few years that has recently broken some speed records and has a 97% electrical efficiency or something unimportant like that. The interesting part is the students are actually trying to find a balance between the distance the car can go and the speed it can maintain over that distance. I know, it’s a wild concept, but most modern electric car manufacturers are forced to compromise on one side of that equation.

In other news, mining sites have begun to utilize renewable energy. An Alabaman steel operation has reported that solar and wind energy costs them 70% less in the long-run. In addition, it has led to decreased emissions from the large amounts of diesel usually consumed. A single site in Australia notes it has offset 6000,000 gallons of diesel fuel use. As the price of energy goes down for manufacturers such as these, many different products will become cheaper in the future. Lastly, there has been a recent discovery that the technology that causes those pretty rainbow reflections on Blu-ray discs could increase solar efficiency by 22% through increased reliability in the capture of photons. Alright folks, that’s it. I’ll be back next week with my article “Buzzfeed Reports: 17 Recipes to Get You Extra Excited for Mango Season”



-Aidan Noel '15  
is a little jazz boy

## Treasure Island: The Middle School Play

A few weeks ago, the entire Middle School was present at the first public performance of the Middle School play Treasure Island. As most of you know, Treasure Island by Robert Louis Stevenson is a fascinating tale of pirates, treasure, and adventure. The play was performed purely by Middle School students and was directed by Mr. Dylan Key. Students from both the Third and Fourth Forms performed in the play and served as part of the crew. The Fourth Formers, being more “experienced” actors, played the majority of the lead roles; however, everyone played his part valiantly and showed promise for future productions. The play was not without a few mistakes, but that is understandable in any production, especially the first performance. The actors fixed many of their mistakes for their next showing.

As one could guess, a book about pirates and treasure such as Treasure Island contains a great deal of action and adventure, but in a theatrical adaptation not every detail can be presented. Even so, with the guidance of Mr. Key, the play provided the audience members with enough of the story so they could understand the plot. Also, with a large armory of wooden swords and a wardrobe filled to the brim, the play gave an excellent representation of both swashbucklers and honest sailors. Everyone involved with the play spent hours every week practicing after school and studying their lines at home. The amount of work and time that went into preparing for and performing the play was immense, and that alone gives us a reason to appreciate the play and respect those who were involved in it. A special acknowledgement



must be given to the actor who played the parrot, who left school sick the day of the performance and later made a glorious return to play the role of Long John’s favorite avian friend. But credit is due to everyone who acted in and helped with the play.

Having witnessed both last year’s and this year’s Middle School productions, I can say with confidence that improvements have been made and that a few actors with potential have come upon the scene. In retrospect, I enjoyed the laughs and entertainment the Middle School play provided me, and I believe many others did as well. Thus, I say, Bravo, actors! I expect greatness in the future, in Upper School productions at Cistercian and elsewhere.



-Matthew Sawtelle '19  
will be home for Christmas

## Is Die Hard a Christmas movie? You betcha. Does it matter? Eh.

I love Christmas. A lot of people do. Whether it’s for the influx of material goods that we are assured is not the point, or for candy canes, hot cocoa and Bing Crosby’s luscious singing voice, Christmas resonates with a lot of people. Not wanting to miss out on all the fun, marketers quickly capitalized on people’s enjoyment, hence the ridiculously large amount of Christmas movies that exist. I do enjoy them, though. Elf, with Will Ferrell, A Miracle on 34th Street, It’s a Wonderful Life, and even The Polar Express, regardless of the night terrors brought on by Tom Hanks’ somehow inhuman face. But I think there is one film whose status as a Christmas movie has been hotly debated. That’s right, because you probably guessed it by solving the puzzle of my article’s title. Die Hard. Is Die Hard a Christmas movie? Yes. So now that that question has been answered, let’s talk about why that matters to you and, more importantly, to me. Ok sure, sometimes Christmas movies are a dime a dozen, and sure, most of the time action movies are barely a Prussian half-penny a dozen. Somehow, though, when you put Bruce Willis in a tank top and an angry German Professor Snape in the villain corner, all against the backdrop of Christmas Eve, you get something beautiful.

People have been getting very upset about whether Die Hard is or is not a Christmas movie. Even though we have clearly asked and answered that question, I’d like to follow up with some hard facts. 1) Die Hard takes place on Christmas Eve. End of list. It may not be the most thematically Christmas story, unless you count swearing and taking out foreigners as part of the holiday tradition, but it is a movie that involves Christmas, and I’d say that is all it takes. Also, if you count the Christmas music and decorations all around the set wherever Bruce’s journey goes, it becomes quite clear that Santa didn’t skip this high-rise when he (and not your parents) did his annual sleigh ride.

To those people who take it one step further and say we label films the way we do for a reason and that when you put brutal action films in the same category as It’s a Wonderful Life it takes away the whole point of having a system by which to classify movies, I say, “Who are you? Why are you in my house?” and then I proceed to my next point:

Who cares? People argue about everything all the time these days. People argue about politics, religion, whether or not a laser hand-guard on a lightsaber makes sense (which it completely does) and now even whether or not Die Hard can be someone’s favorite Christmas movie. Let me ask you a personal question, entire audience of The Informer, does it harm you when someone says their favorite kind of



soup is chili? No, it definitely doesn’t. And if it does for you, I am deeply sorry for misrepresenting your views. Just because someone thinks that chili is soup, even when it may or may not be, does not mean that the entire world will now forever change their soup standards. It’s exactly the same with Die Hard, except with guns and death instead of beans. And even if the world decides that, sure Die Hard fits into the Christmas movie zone, it won’t be some horrible adjustment that we’ll all have to make. If anything, it’s like the word “whom”. It is very quickly going obsolete, and while I still use it, I have zero issues with its impending extinction. No one has ever been confused about someone’s intended meaning when they say “to who,” “of who” or “by who”. It’s not like saying “who” changes the meaning to some horrible nightmare.

Anyway, some people tie things to their memories, like, for me, when I think of Christmas I think of fireplaces, hanging ornaments on the tree, and singing songs about the Winter Man. This form of celebration may not be typical, but hey, it’s my memories, and everybody’s got their own, so maybe don’t go telling people how wrong they are without knowing the context. I guess what I’m really, deep down trying to say here is watch Die Hard. It’s pretty good.



-Jack Chadwick '15  
is a big jazz boy



# A CATHOLIC VIEW ON IMMIGRATION

On November 20, 2014, President Barack Obama announced his executive actions on illegal immigration. According to the US Citizenship and Immigration Services, the executive actions will be as follow:

**“Expanding the population eligible for the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program to young people who came to this country before turning 16 years old and have been present since January 1, 2010, and extending the period of DACA and work authorization from two years to three years”**

**“Allowing parents of U.S. citizens and lawful permanent residents who have been present in the country since January 1, 2010, to request deferred action and employment authorization for three years, in a new Deferred Action for Parental Accountability program, provided they pass required background checks”**

**“Expanding the use of provisional waivers of unlawful presence to include the spouses and sons and daughters of lawful permanent residents and the sons and daughters of U.S. citizens “**

**“Modernizing, improving and clarifying immigrant and non-immigrant programs to grow our economy and create jobs”**

**“Promoting citizenship education and public awareness for lawful permanent residents and providing an option for naturalization applicants to use credit cards to pay the application fee”**

These actions have received mixed opinions, even though they have not been implemented yet. The Catholic Church has also given its opinion. On September 3, 2014, Pope Francis released his message and the theme for the 2015 World Day of Migrants and Refugees. The theme is “Church without frontiers, Mother to all”. According to the Eternal Word Television Network, Pope Francis said, “The mission of the Church, herself a pilgrim in the world and the Mother of all, is thus to love Jesus Christ, to adore and love him, particularly in the poorest and most abandoned; among these are certainly migrants and refugees, who are trying to escape difficult living conditions and dangers of every kind”. Likewise, the chairman of the USCCB (United States Catholic



Conference of Bishops) Committee on Migration, Bishop Eusebio Elizondo, supported the recently announced executive actions, especially because they will keep more families together. On November 20, he said, “Each day, the Catholic Church in the United States, in her social service agencies, hospitals, schools, and parishes, witnesses the human consequences of the separation of families, when parents are deported from their children or spouses from each other”. The Church’s opinion on these actions is not based on politics, but on Jesus’s teachings. In Matthew 25:35-40, Jesus welcomes the righteous into the kingdom of heaven. In this passage Jesus tells of the Corporal Works of Mercy, saying, “I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me”. Jesus also mentions that whatever you do to the least of his children, you do to him too. As Pope Francis said, we must “touch human misery”, and offer refuge to those in need.

-Alonso Medina '18 is following yonder star



**Our new Founder’s Hall tapestry!**

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If you are able to solve the Sudoku puzzle above, come to Form VIII B and ask for Carson Ariagno. You will receive a prize if you are the first to complete the puzzle correctly.