

- GREELEY CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL -

DECEMBER DAY, 2018

Issue 4 Volume 80

## HIGH SCHOOL MUSICAL, WHO?

S. Campbell

The formation of cliques at any high school is destined to occur. Where there are adolescents with different personalities, cliques will thrive like lions in an oasis. Though actual high school isn't really filled with pink-obsessed teen divas, sappy love stories between the star basketball player and the shy "freaky genius girl," or even spontaneous musical numbers, GCHS has an unintentional social hierarchy, one that doesn't exactly shy away from the stereotypes.

Jocks, or as we like to refer as "the athletes"- we all get the mental picture. They're the "cool" guys and gals walking down the hall in their pristine Nikes, voluminous hair to the wind, glistening smiles to all. Generally, they're all pretty kind to and accepting of all types of cats at The Castle.

The artsy kids- "band nerds," thespians, visual art aficionados- all in abundance thanks to our thriving arts magnet program. Maybe a little quirky with the not-so-occasional sight of brightly colored hair, a Hamilton t-shirt or an edgy grunge look here and there, maybe the nicest and most unique kids you'll ever meet.

Despite all the cats in-between, these are the two most prominent and most vastly different levels of the Cat Social Hierarchy. It's fascinating to see the two groups' perception of one-another and how they interact. Aubree Raimer, senior three-sport athlete, shared an athlete's perspective on the hierarchy: "You know, I'm totally with the arts magnet kids. Like, [athletes] call them weird, but athletes are weird too. And I like to go to all the plays and they are *really* good. I just really don't think there should be a social stigma with high school because I feel like everyone's equal. There's really no definition for an arts magnet kid or an athlete and there shouldn't be." A big part of co-existing healthily is understanding; there are many misconceptions from both sides about the other, but learning that both ends of the spectrum, though wildly different, are equally difficult in their own unique way. Whether it's conditioning until your legs fall off or spending seemingly countless hours running lines and committing 2,000+ of someone else's words to memory, both athletics and the arts deserve the utmost of respect.

As for the social hierarchy- division is inevitable. High school is full of a million different worlds, and some intersect more or less than others. But I can rest happily knowing the marching band will be at every home football game, playing vibrantly for their sporty cats, or knowing that the entire cheer team will all buy tickets as a group and go watch the newest fabulous production the Thespian Troupe has put on. It's about supporting our fellow Wildcats, something I believe the Wildcats do better than any other school out there- because after all, we really all are united under the black and orange.



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## GCHS LOGO CONTEST

*R. Gifford*

Having a symbol that represents your school is crucial in *all* aspects. Here at Greeley Central, we take pride in being the Wildcats and it's not uncommon to see most students sporting our school logo on merch, regardless of who they are. That pride stops short when you find out that the logo you've been showing off is technically not ours to claim. Recently, GCHS sent out a flyer for a logo contest, it states, "We are ready to become united and stronger together with one unified logo that all clubs, activities and personnel can use," underneath an array of the many logos Central has been using in the past.

The new logo has to be original and must not have a copyright to avoid the issue we are currently trying to avoid, it should also display Pride, Class, and Dignity; Tradition; and Diversity, Family, and Inclusion. An intricate design would make it more expensive to produce, so the simpler, the better. All artwork is due no later than January 31st and must be submitted to the GCHS Branding Committee. According to the flyer, "If your logo is selected, it will become the exclusive property of Weld County School District 6, and you may not benefit financially from its use." This is a wonderful opportunity for our artistic students to have their work be used in a professional setting and get their submission displayed and used throughout the school.



Previous logos GCHS has used.

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## HEADPHONES POTENTIALLY BANNED AT CENTRAL

*E Matier*

Recently, rumors have been spreading around the castle that headphones will be banned in all classrooms and hallways next semester. Currently, many teachers do not allow headphones during instructional time; they are allowed in certain instances like doing personal work. Also, during passing periods and lunch headphones are allowed; this new rule would change that. Although nothing is official, many students and staff have voiced their negative opinion on the issue.

Some teachers, have a strict no headphone policy in their class; however, many others like many of the math and science teachers are okay with headphones as long as the class is doing independent work. If this new rule does take effect, students would not be able to listen to music in class at all. No matter what the task is. Even during lunch and passing periods, headphones would still not be allowed, and using them could risk punishment.

Students across the castle have voiced their complaints. Music has become a staple in many classes and taking it away could have negative consequences. Junior, Maliyah Pham, says that "Music helps me focus in class." To many, silence can be distracting. The background noise that music provides to students can help them stay on task. Pham includes, "I will listen to music anyways." This voices the attitude from many students at Central. Headphones are easy to hide and this new rule will be very hard to enforce for teachers and staff.



## NIGHT UNDER THE STARS: JAVA AND JAZZ

*S. Campbell*

Saturday, November 3rd was a night to remember. Packed with sweaters, coffee, free desserts, and smooth jazz, Java and Jazz was bright and warm- a great representation of this autumn season and Central's jazz programs. The two zero hour groups work tirelessly before school to make this night happen; jazz band meets every day, vanguard refining every note and tune for the big night, and jazz choir meets every Thursday and Friday morning at 7am since the end of September to bring you superior jazz music. Any musician could tell you that it's far from easy to try to sing or make an instrument sound good that early in the morning, so the level of patience and stamina it took to survive those early mornings is inspiring.

The event began at 7pm and the turnout was phenomenal. Though the group of choir participants was a little smaller than last year, the turnout of participants has grown so much since the event was first born in 2015. Kayla Brower, Wildcat senior, who has been involved in the jazz choir program for all four years of high school, says this could be due to the fact that "my freshman year was more of a trial, and no one knew for sure whether [the event] was happening or not. Now, more people know about it and we've gained a little bit of a following, so our group of singers these past two years has been pretty huge." Usually, half of the evening is just the jazz band and the other half includes the vocalists, but because of the size of the vocal jazz section, the entire evening was vanguard and the vocalists.

The level of talent was overwhelming and the audience seemed transfixed the entire night by every song. From the light and delicate singing of Hannah Canterbury in "Misty" to Savannah Long's sultry and gritty rendition of Peggy Lee's "Fever", every singer put their own unique twist on the night. Brower says her favorite thing about Java & Jazz is that "It's not like a traditional concert, people can mingle and drink coffee in the back and that's so nice. It's cozy, not at school, and you don't have to wear concert black either. Jazz just fills you up with some sort of... something different, and there isn't really a better way to put it." For her though, it was also a sorrowful goodbye to something she's loved for four years, "There's a video of me singing the last song 'Every Time We Say Goodbye', and at the end I look so depressed and sad. Morning practices were challenging mentally and physically because there were a lot more and it was more of a commitment. But it was heart-wrenching to say goodbye, and I was humbled by my growth

since I first began and full of nostalgia." Whether it's your last year experiencing Java & Jazz or you'll just a full-hearted audience member excited about next year, one thing's for sure: Java & Jazz carries a certain power and reverence for members and viewers alike, one that will last long after the night ends and the sun washes over the world.







## SAT RETAKES

*B. Mena Rodriguez*

Many seniors are planning or have planned to retake their SAT/ACT for a higher score or a score for the college they will be applying to. Retaking the SAT is stressful, you over think about the score you want to receive and about the test. Once you have taken the SAT, you have a sense of how the test will be formatted. When you decide to retake the SAT, you have an option to take it with or without the essay, the essay may apply to some colleges. Not only you have the option to retake the SAT but you can also try for the ACT. The SAT is an important test for seniors and juniors if they decide to apply for college. It's stressful for anyone taking it and retaking the SAT. Abigail Luna Ibarra, a senior at GCHS, said, "After taking the SAT, I was so worried that I didn't study hard enough for the scores I wanted, but with help of studying and practicing exams I did receive a higher score." SAT retakes are stressful, whether you're preparing or practicing for the exams. Senior, Jesus Torres Hernandez said, "I advise everyone to take food, sleep, but mostly study." Juniors and Seniors prepare yourself for the SAT or ACT!

## THAT TIME OF YEAR: FINALS

*T. Menard*

As we near the end of the first half of our school year, we will all experience one thing that will change the course of time forever; finals season. December is here and that means that teachers all throughout the Castle will be handing out study guides, assigning last-minute projects (which we all love by the way), and inducing levels of stress in students that will most likely leave them with emotional distress for the rest of their lives. But, finals are very important for students because they not only let you know where you are at with the class but they also help get your grades up right at the end of the semester (as long as you endure the pre-finals stress and do well). Go to class. Study for your final. Pass the final. Everybody walks away happy. There can only be benefits if you take the time to work hard and get the best grades you can get while we approach the second half of the year. To help you manage your time and create those to-do lists.

### GREELEY CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL

#### FALL 2018 - FINALS WEEK SCHEDULE

— BUSES WILL RUN AT THEIR REGULAR TIMES EACH DAY —

##### Monday, December 17th

(REVIEW - Using normal Monday Bell Schedule)

Block 1	8:00-8:55
Block 2	9:00-9:55
Block 3	10:00-10:55
Block 4	11:00-11:55
Lunch	11:55-12:35
Block 5	12:35-1:30
Block 6	1:35-2:30
Block 7	2:35-3:30

##### Tuesday December 18th

###### FINALS

SEMINAR	8:00-9:35
Block 1	9:45-11:20
Lunch	11:20-12:10
Block 2	12:10-1:45
Block 3	1:55-3:30

##### Wednesday December 19th

###### FINALS

Block 4	8:00-9:35
Block 5	9:45-11:20
Lunch	11:20-12:10
Test Prep & Make-up	12:10-3:30

##### Thursday December 20th

###### FINALS

Block 6	8:00-9:35
Block 7	9:45-11:20
Lunch	11:20-12:10
Test Prep & Make-up	12:10-3:30

Blocks have been designed to provide sufficient time for the completion of all finals. If time permits, we encourage all students to utilize any additional block time to prepare for remaining finals as well as the Test Prep & Make-up time provided on Wednesday and Thursday.



Image from GCHS website;



***Athlete of the Week***

Blake Mikula is a star on the tennis courts. This past season was his first time playing tennis. Mikula said the best part about the season was, "getting to know the guys on the team." Along with tennis he was also in marching band and is apart of the Arts Magnet. Mikula is also taking Honors English and Honors Street Law. He is proud to be a Wildcat because everyone at Central is like one big family.



***Artist of the Week***

Casbah Parlin is one of the talented freshmen in the Arts Magnet Program. He participates in multiple music ensembles including Jazz 1 and Marching Band. Parlin is also involved in the Thespian Troupe, Student Council, FBLA, and Key Club. Along with being a talent musician, he is also in AP Environmental Science, AP Human Geography, and Honors English. Parlin loves Central because of the epic teachers that are always willing to help.



***Club of the Week***

Feminist Book Club consists of Central students that talk about feminism and how it interacts with world events. One of Feminist Book Club's goals is to integrate more diverse and typically taboo conversations into the school. Feminist Book Club has meeting every other Wednesday in Mr. Frasier's room to discuss articles and current events. The book club also hosts a feminine hygiene drive st Central to collect pads and tampons for A Women's Place, a local Greeley shelter.



***Student of the Week***

Abbi Lanphear is an amazing freshman here at Central. She is currently enrolled in AP Environmental Science, Honors English, Honors Street Law, and Algebra 2. Lanphear is involved in Best Buddies, Sources of Strength, and the Arts Magnet as a drawing emphasis. She also recently played Carrie in the thespian troupe's production of The Audition. Lanphear said the best part about attending Central is, "how big it is because a bigger school allows for more unique ideas."



## COLORADO ELECTION WINNERS

*E. Voigt*

On November 6th, the midterm elections took place where representatives were elected in the middle of the term of the executive. The biggest change for the state of Colorado is our new Governor, Jared Polis. Polis was the Democratic nominee that won 52.3% of votes for Colorado compared to Republican nominee, Walker Stapleton, with 44% of votes. This election also included all seven seats in the United States House of Representatives for Colorado. The seven seats represent the seven Congressional districts for Colorado.

Greeley is included in the 4th Congressional district that was won by Republican, Ken Buck with 61% of votes, beating Democrat, Karen McCormick. Other district winners in Colorado include Diana DeGette, Joe Neguse, Scott Tipton, Doug Lamborn, Jason Crow, and Ed Perlmutter. Most ballot measures were voted against as well. PROP 109 which was bonds for highway projects was voted no on along with Amendment 73, which was a tax increase for schools.

The voting decisions people made behind these winners and ballot measures took a lot of work. U.S Government teacher Emily Kirby, said, "Yes, elections are stressful because it's a big responsibility that I take seriously. I do a lot of research and I talked to a lot of people. Not everyone I voted for won, but that's democracy." These election winners for Colorado will affect all of us and were a big decision, but at least we don't have to hear those annoying political ads for a while.

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## THE ETERNAL BATTLE BETWEEN THANKSGIVING AND CHRISTMAS

*S. Campbell*

It's a battle that has lasted through the ages, the age-old war about when it is truly acceptable to begin celebrating the Christmas season. The purists of the population refuse to be around any sort of Christmas-related entity- whether it be a song or a strand of colored lights - before Thanksgiving, believing that celebrating the holiday too early will actually spoil its magic. Then there are the Others; they are the ones who blast Mariah Carey on Halloween and keep their Christmas trees up year-round. Is it laziness, or do people just *really* love Christmas? A recent Facebook poll showed that out of 71 votes, 41% believed that we should actively be playing Christmas music and putting up decorations before Thanksgiving, while 59% were adamantly against doing so until after Thanksgiving.



Retail companies like Walmart and Target are infamous for overlooking Thanksgiving; but one store's mutiny will forever be burned into the minds of people everywhere when they committed the most appalling sin in holiday history. The *entire aisle* of Halloween merchandise in Walgreens was cleared out, shoved into a small corner in the back of the store, and replaced completely with Christmas merchandise TWO WEEKS before Halloween. First Thanksgiving, now Halloween? Soon, all will be lost in peppermint frosting and jingle bells.

Kaden Adams, Wildcat Junior, has a very passive yet quite reasonable opinion on the issue. "People should just stop caring about what other people think, whether it's right or wrong. It all depends on how a person was raised or even their religious views- people are free to just do what they want, and if a Christmas song came on the radio, I would just change the channel because I could care less about Christmas music." Maybe Adams is right- should we all just calm down and have the purists stay away from the Christmas-obsessed, the Christmas-obsessed not get in the faces of the purists, and just coexist happily as humans who love holidays, just in different ways?





## CHANGING THE SMOKING AGE

*E. Voigt*

Many young people all around the United States and here at Central use E-cigarettes such as JUULs. Juuling may seem like a better choice than cigarettes, but they actually have twice the amount of nicotine concentrate than other E-cigarettes. JUUL has recently become concerned with the amount of younger people using their product. The state of Colorado has stated that people at the age of 18 can legally buy nicotine and tobacco products. This is not the case for JUUL's website, as they require buyers to be at least 21 stating that their products are for adults and not for teenagers.

Even though you can buy JUUL products at the age of 18 here in Colorado, that might change. "Five states and more than 320 cities and counties have raised the legal sales age for tobacco from 18 to 21. Backers of Tobacco 21 say if enough localities sign on, they hope to take the effort statewide, adding Colorado to the list." (*Colorado Public Radio*, John Daley.) Students have their own take on raising the purchase age for tobacco and nicotine in Colorado.

Greeley Central junior, Kian Rathmann said, "I think the age is fine. I don't think anything is wrong with it and it shouldn't be changed." Even though JUUL products from their own website require users to be 21, that doesn't mean people under that age will purchase them online. Most younger people can get them from vape stores or from other people if they are under 21. Honestly, we all know that changing the smoking age to 21 won't really stop anything. Younger people will still find a way to purchase and use JUULs along with other nicotine and tobacco products even if it's a little more difficult.

## JUUL

*A. Minner*

A whole new epidemic is sweeping high schools and middle schools. Juuling is a new form of e-cigarette that is affecting a whole new generation with nicotine. A JUUL is a compact stick-like device that allows large doses of nicotine to be smoked with a form of vape juice called nicotine salt. This form has a higher amount of nicotine than cigarettes and within JUULs, the pods are 5% nicotine, compared to the .15% found in cigarettes.

The large issue lies with the fact that they are easily concealable due to their size and shape. A large portion of this epidemic stems from high schoolers using JUULs in bathrooms and in classrooms. JUUL recently had a brush with the FDA where they almost had to shut down their company. They quickly turned that around by not selling the flavored pods and even shutting down their social media accounts. Their main goal for shutting down the accounts was to stop marketing to their teenage audience. Many new controversies have risen again however. Currently, Marlboro, the largest tobacco company in America, is in the process of trying to buy a large stake in JUUL.

Photo Credit: truthinitiative.org



# HAPPY HOLIDAYS WILDCATS!

*The Highlight Staff*



## DIVERSITY IN WHOVILLE

*E. Matier*

I have always been a huge fan of the Grinch movies, both the animated and the Jim Carrey live action. When Illumination announced that they were remaking the animated version, I was overly excited. I couldn't wait for the movie, the anticipation was killing me. To appease my craving for the classic Christmas 'flick, I sat down to watch the live action version; while watching, I realised that there are no minorities in Whoville. I immediately began to brainstorm on why this might be. I settled on two theories, both equal in possibility.

**Theory One:** The Whos are racist.

My first instinct was obviously that everyone in Whoville is racist. They outcast any minority who attempts to live there which is why the Whos alienate the Grinch. They hate the fact that he is green. Whoville has a "only white" policy. They forced the Grinch to live alone in isolation because he wasn't white. Despite what the movie wants you to believe, the Grinch does not hate Christmas, he hates the Whos for being prejudice against him. He knows that Christmas brings the Whos joy, so the Grinch steals Christmas with the sole purpose of making the Whos feel the same pain that they made him feel.

**Theory Two:** The Whos are the least racist beings to ever live.

The more I thought about it, the lack of minorities in Whoville could possibly mean that Whos aren't racist. The lack of minorities could be contributed to the Whos never owning slaves and their isolation from others. The slave trade in the United States has contributed to a mass majority of the minorities in the US particularly in the South. If Whos never owned slaves it would stand to reason that Whoville would not have an intensely diverse population. When looking at the geography of Whoville, they are surrounded by mountains and so the town is isolated; it would be very hard for people to immigrate to Whoville, especially because there are no airplanes or modes of transportation shown in the film. Additionally, the town of Whoville is in a winter climate so it would stand to reason that Whoville is not a desirable place to live. All of these factors combined could contribute to the lack of minorities if Whoville.

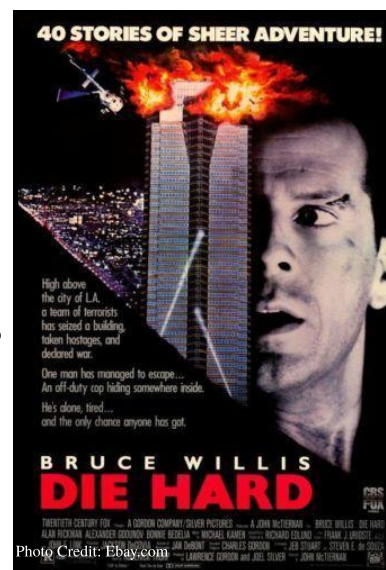
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## DIE HARD: NOT YOUR TYPICAL CHRISTMAS MOVIE

*T. Menard*

The debate has gone on since the release of the movie back in 1988. I am here to settle the argument once and for all; *Die Hard* is a Christmas movie. When you think about the core features of some of the classic Christmas movies: Santa, Christmas decorations, takes place in December (specifically Christmas Eve), involves the spirit of friendship and family, has the song "Christmas in Hollis" by Run-DMC, along with many other factors this film definitely qualifies as a Christmas movie. *Die Hard* is also important for the Christmas genre because *Die Hard* is the defining Christmas action movie. But there will always be people who will disagree, and to that I will say that even the writer of *Die Hard* has been quoted saying that the movie became known as a Christmas movie off of a technicality. Don't believe me, watch the movie for yourself and tell me what you think.







## WHAT IS THE MEANING OF CHRISTMAS?

*D. Lucero*

What is the meaning of Christmas? Some think the meaning is to *give* to others; some think the purpose is to *get* from others; and some think Christmas is about coming together with your family. Christmas can mean something different to every individual. However, in origin, Christmas is a Christian celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ although today, many non-Christians also celebrate Christmas. Destiny Lucero, a junior here at Greeley Central High School, shared, "The meaning of Christmas is to appreciate the things and people you have in you life. To know all your blessings."

Conflict can come out during the holiday season when it comes to gift giving because, really, do you have to buy Christmas presents to show you care about someone?

"You don't have to buy presents for anybody, it just looks good if you do and there is also the weight on your shoulders to buy them because people expect presents," Lucero explains. Another big part of the holiday season is traditions. Lots of people have Christmas traditions they do each year; Lucero and her family have many traditions that they participate in, Lucero says, "Christmas wouldn't be the same without traditions." Payton Tranthom, also a junior here at Greeley Central High School, shares, "I like receiving things, especially if they're free. It's the best part of Christmas." Tranthom is a strong believer in Santa, "The day I stop believing is the day I stop getting presents." she said.

Christmas is a beautiful time of year for most people but it can be a horrible time for others with broken families or people who don't have a lot. So, make sure you tell all the people you love that you love them and care for them. Spend the season showing everybody in your life that you love them and care for them, because after all, Christmas is all about caring and coming together.

## STATE CHEER COMPETITION

*B. Monroy*

Each year cheerleaders across the country look forward to one day, state competition. They work hard all season long for this day. This year GCHS' cheerleaders have been working really hard to prepare for this day. Junior Maggie Alvarado commented "The judges are going to be surprised by how well we carry ourselves as a team especially how quick we learn new things."

The cheer team has been not only changing the routine around but trying to make the routine a lot better than before. Viviana Hernandez a newbie this year said "The cheer team is ready for state for sure. We have waterfalls which are very difficult. We also have half ups and libs. The judges will be impressed on what we have to offer." This year cheerleaders are trying to get in the more scary stunts. All of this takes a lot of work to get these to look fancy. Alvarado was asked if GC can see the cheerleaders in the finals and she said, "Yes, the stunts we are doing a very difficult." Hernandez commented that "Students shouldn't be worried the team will do great!"



Photo Credit: Kevin Rohnke



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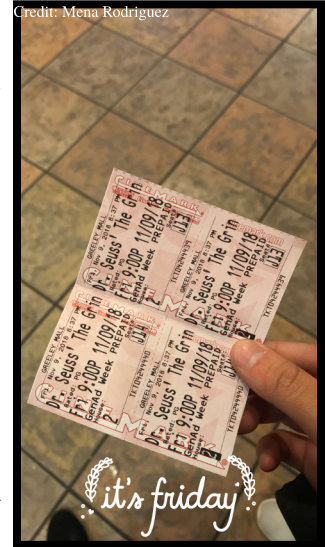
Emma Voigt

## THE GRINCH MOVIE REMAKE REVIEW

B. Mena Rodriguez

On November 8th Dr. Seuss' *The Grinch* was released, although the last Grinch movie was not a cartoon version, the newer version is. The Grinch, Cindy Lou Who, and other characters in the movie have had slight changes to their traditional roles. There are bits and pieces from the original *Grinch* movie sprinkled into the new one. In the 2000 live action version starring Jim Carrey, Whoville teenagers try to invade the Grinch's home in the beginning of the movie and he was bullied throughout the film, but everyone in the 1966 Christmas animated television special seems to act more kind and humble towards the Grinch.

In the 2018 version, the Grinch is known for despising Christmas and his helper dog Max is always there to support him. The relationship that the Who's have with the Grinch is welcoming, they are not afraid of the him and want him to feel welcome as opposed to left out. He is played by Academy Award and Golden Globe nominee, Benedict Cumberbatch, known for his roles as Sherlock Holmes in BBC's TV show *Sherlock* and Stephen Strange in Marvel's *Doctor Strange*. Throughout the movie, the Grinch is a character who grew up alone and hated Christmas since he was a kid and the hate only grew as he got older, we all know the general plot. Regardless, *The Grinch* movie is a great family movie and I think anyone would enjoy it. Go get your tickets before they sell out!



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