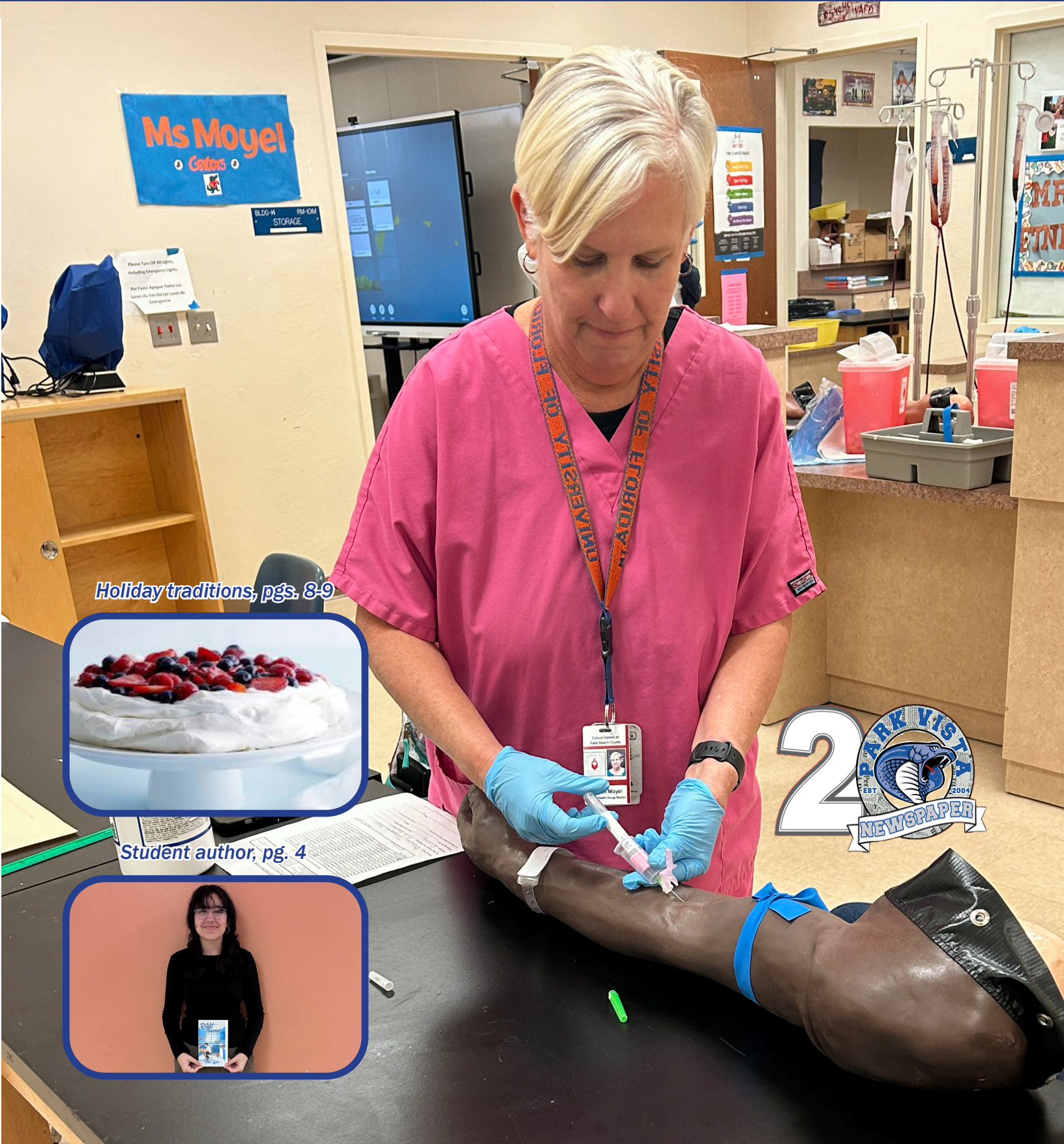


By Students, For Students

The Cobra Chronicle

December 2024 | Park Vista Community High School, 7900 Jog Road, Lake Worth, Fla. 33467 | Volume XX, Issue 2



Ms Moyel
Cobras

BLOOD STORAGE

Please Turn Off All Lights,
Including Emergency Lights.
Por Favor Apaguen Todos Los
Luzes De Emergencia

Holiday traditions, pgs. 8-9



Student author, pg. 4



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What's happening ... with Coach Greenstein

Coach Larry Greenstein was nominated to be inducted into the South Florida High School Baseball Network Hall of Fame. Greenstein has been a staff member at Park Vista for 20 years. He teaches PE classes as well as coaches baseball.



Photo courtesy of Palm Beach High School baseball

Greenstein has been coaching baseball for 35 years.

Scan the QRC to watch his nomination and acceptance.



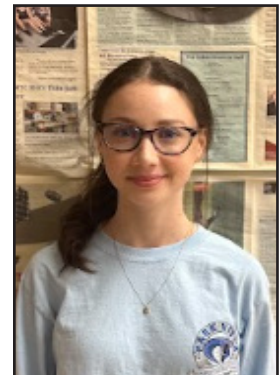
SCAN ME

Letter from the editor

The Cobra Chronicle's goal is to not only entertain, but also inform and engage readers. We work hard to provide an organized, credible source of information on current events and topics. I am so proud to be editor of this amazing group of writers, this is truly a dream come true. Feedback is welcome, so please scan the QRC or come by room 4-207B with any suggestions or comments.

Happy holidays,

Brielle Estrin
Editor-in-chief



Scan the QRC on the back cover to provide feedback and possibly win a DD giftcard!

Big victories for band to end season

DANIEL WU

Layout and design



Photo courtesy of Park Vista Band

The band put their all into their performance at the Bands of America.

Oct. 26, the marching band placed 12th at the Bands of America (BOA) Florida regional finals competition in Orlando. Band director Arumantha Murphy said, "This program hasn't seen a victory like this in five years."

The BOA Orlando regional finals competition is known for being a "bloodbath", as it is one of the hardest band competitions to get into. High school marching bands from all over Florida and other states gather in Orlando to compete. Park Vista's advancement to the finals was unexpected, and the preliminary scores were within tenths of a point. "We were unprepared for success."

Nobody knew how to react," said Murphy.

Senior Josh Moyel said, "The whole band felt great joy when the judges announced we were going to finals. People started crying and cheering."

"Performing in BOA means our band is ready to compete among the nation's best bands," said Murphy.

And they did. The Striking Cobra's ended their 2024 season on a high note - competing at the Florida Marching Band Coalition State Championships at Jupiter High School Nov. 16, and earning 3rd place (bronze medal) in the finals. The class they competed in was extremely competitive.

Scan to see the Striking Cobra's in action.



Park Vista Showcase

Oct. 17, 2024, SGA put on a showcase where many groups performed including cheer, chorus, dance, step team and theater. The step team won and left with \$348, which was 20 percent of the revenue made by ticket sales that night. Step team member, senior Mya Graham said, "I want us to do the best we can and keep working hard."



Pickleball Tournament

Nov. 16, 2024, SGA hosted a Pickleball Tournament and free play charity event. Proceeds from this event will be donated to the Cure for Crohn's and put into a scholarship for students with Crohn's Disease.



What is your best holiday gift received?

"I usually ask to combine my birthday and Hanukkah to go to Universal. I've been doing that for like the last two years."

- Senior Zoe Stoler

Junior Mia Lesko, published author

BY SAMANTHA FRANCO

Staff writer

Junior Mia Lesko has done something not many high school students do in their lifetimes. The media center student aide has become a published author.

Lesko has written a fantasy titled *The Right Ingredient*. The story is dedicated to her brother, Nico, who is six years younger than she. “We are super close,” said Lesko, “I am grateful to have him.” She worries about how he will feel after she leaves for college and what their relationship will become if they are not in close proximity. This concern became the concept of the book which follows a brother and sister who have an estranged relationship. The story is set from the brother’s point of view because Lesko wanted to capture her own brother’s thoughts and feelings. She wanted to understand him better and wanted him to understand her feelings on the situation as well.

The Right Ingredient follows 13-year-old Rocco and his family who have a special gift of helping ghosts move on to the spirit world. They help the ghosts who are stuck on earth by cooking for them. Throughout, Rocco and his sister have problems within their relationship. Eventually by making an effort to understand each other, the siblings are able to repair their relationship.

When Lesko was younger, her grandmother, who owned a bakery, taught her how to bake. Her love of cooking and baking inspired the title of her book and Rocco’s gift. Lesko has been inspired by the creativity of other authors too, including Rick Riordan, author of the Percy Jackson and the Olympians series.

Lesko started writing her book in December 2023 at a writer’s workshop.

It was said that whoever submitted the best story would get to have his/her book published. In this initial workshop, she had only written the first couple of chapters of *The Right Ingredient*. Then in April 2024, she found out that she was a semifinalist and would get to have her story published. From there, the rest of her story began to take shape.

Throughout her journey, there was trial and error, but with every draft, the story evolved into something better. She had to be realistic about what she wanted and how she would be able to accomplish it. She had to break down her ideas and see what pieces fit into the story and what was not necessary. She gained a lot of experience about the publishing and writing industry.

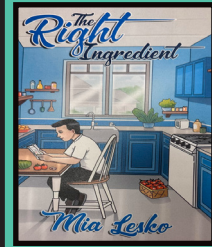
Initially, Lesko did not know what to expect, but she put a lot of pressure on herself to make the story the best it could be. However, it took time to see a clear vision of what she wanted and let the story have a life of its own.

During 6th period on Dec. 9, in the media center, Lesko will have a book launch and signing where close Cobra friends and family will celebrate the book’s release. During lunch there will be a writers workshop hosted by author, Stephan Kozan, who helped Lesko publish her book. “I am really excited for her,” said Media Specialist Alina Orenstein. “I never thought that one of my students could be a published author. What an amazing experience for Mia.”

“I will never stop writing,” said Lesko.

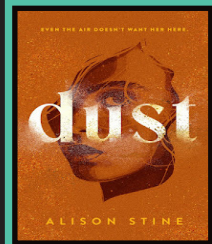
Pre-order at: <https://kidswritestories.net/book/the-right-ingredient>.

Holiday book releases



The Right Ingredient by Mia Lesko.

Photo by Samantha Franco



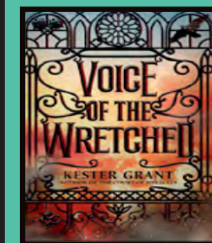
Dust by Alison Stine follows Thea, who is deaf, as she explores her new life in Colorado.

Courtesy of booksbirds.com



What the Woods Took by Courtney Gould follows Devin Green as she tries to escape a troubled teens' wilderness therapy program.

Courtesy of booksbirds.com



In this follow-up to *The Court of Miracles*, a young thief faces ruthless traffickers, power-hungry criminal lords — and even General Napoleon himself.

Courtesy of booksbirds.com

Pandas make way back to Washington, D.C.

BY GONZALO TAYPE

Business manager

Last year, the United States lost the rights to three pandas that were being taken care of at the Smithsonian National Zoo in Washington, D.C. After an agreement expired between the U.S. and China, the pandas were taken back to China for further care. This left the U.S. with only four pandas in the country for the remainder of 2024. In October, however, China decided to give us two brand new pandas: Bao Li and Qing Bao, both age three.

Getting new pandas from China is a special occasion. Since the 1960s, China has been the main pioneer behind the conservation of pandas, due to how close the pandas were to extinction back then. This is mainly because the panda's only natural habitat is located in China, and the world basically considers China to be responsible.

With this supposed ownership for the pandas, China has done a practice called "panda diplomacy" with other countries. This is when China lends countries a panda if the countries are on good terms. This makes pandas a diplomatic tool essentially; a sign of good relations.

Panda diplomacy made its way to the U.S. under president Nixon in 1972, after his famous visit to China under the Chinese Premier Zhou Enlai. At that time, China loaned two pandas, Ling-Ling and Hsing-Hsing. The U.S. then started the process of panda breeding, however, none of the cubs ever made it to adulthood.



Qing Bao and Bao Li at their initial habitat in China.

Photo courtesy of wija.com

According to nationalzoo.si.edu, "ever since their arrival, the pandas have symbolized cross-cultural collaboration between the United States and China." Continuing on the cross-cultural collaboration between the two countries, two new giant pandas arrived at Washington Dulles International Airport Oct. 15, 2024. The pandas took their trip via the FedEx Boeing 777 "Panda Express", a plane with a custom decal of a panda plastered across the exterior. Bao Li and Qing Bao will make their debut on Jan. 24, 2025 at the National Zoo. According to a new agreement with the China Wildlife and Conservation Association, the zoo will have to pay around \$1M a year, to support the care needed for these creatures, and to host them at the zoo.

The current plan with these new pandas to get them to produce offspring, and then when the cubs reach age four, they will be sent back to China for further care, showing China's ownership of pandas in general.

"They are currently in a standard quarantine period," according to Vince Lattanzio, writer for NBC Washington, "to ensure that the bears do not introduce any diseases or parasites they may be carrying to other animals."

If pandas are something one is interested in checking out, be sure to stop by Washington, D.C. next year to meet with one of China's most precious species.



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Would you rather receive cash or a tangible item?

"Probably cash because sometimes tangible items people give are not what people like. With cash, people can choose what they want themselves."

- Senior Aubrey Altman

Allison Moyel, medical academy staple

LILLIAN RUDERER

Staff writer

When the medical academy first started out, it was a choice program, meaning students could apply without having to be in the school zone. There was a huge waiting list. According to teacher Allison Moyel, one of the main reasons for this huge waiting list was the fact that there were only two teachers at the time. Nowadays the medical academy has six teachers, and there is a much larger student population. "We probably had half of the students we have now 20 years ago because we opened the school without a senior class," said Moyel. The medical academy has continuously grown over the years, but it began to get really popular in 2008-2009, according to Moyel. "It is a good way for students to socialize due to the small class sizes, especially the upper level classes," she said.

During students' last year in the medical academy, they have the opportunity to earn industry certificates which will allow them to go to work straight out of high school. These industry certificates include certified nursing assistant, certified patient care technician, certified electrocardiogram (EKG) technician, certified medical administration technician and certified phlebotomy (blood drawing) technician. The headstart provided by the academy gives students a wide array of career opportunities to choose from. Senior Hui Min Chen said, "Gaining a certificate provides you with experience that is beneficial for making you more competitive for medical school."

There are many different career medical paths students can take after graduating. "Some students join the medical program because they want to get into college and be prepared to join their dream job in the medical field, but



Photo by Lillian Ruderer

Moyel used to teach a forensics class.

there are other students who don't want to go to college and prefer to join the work force as soon as they graduate high school," said Moyel.

One former student is now the nurse manager at the University of Virginia.

There is also a medical club (HOSA) that does activities such as the haunted hospital each October and various competitions throughout the year including the fall leadership conference and the winter leadership conference, allowing students to socialize and compete against other high school med students. One does not have to be in the medical academy to join.



Photo courtesy of Allison Moyel

Moyel in her third year of teaching at Park Vista.

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Sports of ancient empires

DANIEL WU

Layout and design

According to topendsports.com, there are some sports that are at least 2,500 years old: hurling in Ancient Ireland, shinty in Scotland, harpastum (similar to rugby) in Rome and polo in Persia. Below are some other sports of ancient empires that resemble those of today.

Soccer

A form of soccer, a game commonly associated with the Americas and Europe, bizarrely originated in ancient China. According to FIFA, the ancient Chinese played a game called “Cujo” which translates to kickball. There were many different versions of Cujo, as it was a term for any game involving kicking a ball, but most involved putting a ball into a goal to score points, like soccer. Even more strangely, Cujo was regarded as a military training exercise as well as a game played by common people and the nobility.

Wrestling

Wrestling is one of the oldest sports. According to the National Wrestling Hall of Fame, cave paintings from as far as 20,000 years ago depict cavepeople in “... hold and leverage positions”. Recovered ancient Sumerian art suggests the Sumerians wrestled, and ancient Egyptian art also depicts competitive wrestling. According to the International Olympic committee, ancient Greek wrestling was brutal. Competitors wrestled on dirt and broken bones were common. Biting was banned, but breaking an opponent’s arms or fingers were legal ways to escape holds. Wrestling Coach Shaun Marcias said, “While the rules of wrestling have changed, Park Vista’s wrestlers push themselves to become the best, just like ancient athletes.”



Ancient Egyptian mural depicting field hockey.

Swimming

Swimming dates back to prehistoric times, as multiple cave paintings depict people swimming. Ancient Egyptian nobles had swimming pools, and according to the Egyptian State Information System, swimming competitions would be held on the Nile River. The ancient Greeks considered swimming very important. Famous Greek philosopher Plato wrote, “A man is not learned until he can read, write and swim.” The ancient Greeks also included swimming in training their warriors, as did the Romans. Similar to the Greeks, the Romans viewed swimming as a status symbol and a mark of nobility.

Hockey

It might be surprising that the ancient Egyptians played hockey because Egypt is mostly desert. However, according to the Egyptian State Information Service, “Drawings of [hockey] are found on the Saqqara tombs.” These drawings are roughly 5,000 years old. Since the ancient Egyptians could not make ice, they played on the ground, making their sport more similar to field hockey. The ancient Greeks also may have played a game similar to hockey, as a 2,500-year-old marble carving depicts people with hockey sticks and a ball.

Gymnastics

Gymnastics were practiced by the ancient Egyptians to entertain upper-class nobles, maintain physical fitness and as religious ceremonies. According to the Egyptian State Information Service, a 4,000-year-old fresco shows a gymnast performing a backbend. The ancient Greeks performed gymnastics, too. According to the International Olympic Committee, the ancient Greeks incorporated gymnastics into their ancient olympics.

As shown by ancient history, sports are integrally human activities and the pursuit of athleticism has always captivated humanity.

Photo courtesy of hockeyhooked.com



What are your top three gifts ever received?

“My favorite three items are my Nintendo switch, my new iPhone and a TV mount to put my TV on the wall.”

- Senior M. Tossy

Holidays celebrated

BY SAMANTHA FRANCO

Staff writer

Photo courtesy of www.Delish.com



France (*Joyeux Noël*)

In France, Christmas is called *Noël* and Santa is *Père Noël*. It is French tradition for people to decorate their houses with nativity scenes (*crèche*). In present-day France, cakes called Yule Logs or *bûche de Noël* are made or bought in bakeries (*boulangeries*) for Christmas. The story goes that cherrywood logs and candles were burned in French homes for Mary and baby Jesus. "Family time is very important to the French, and Christmas is one of the most special times to spend with family and continue on with old traditions," said French teacher Patricia McCarthy. *Réveillon*, the Christmas Eve dinner in France, is eaten after families have attended Midnight Mass. While the food eaten depends on the region, the most common items include oysters, foie gras, escargot, roasted fowl and, as always, baguettes.

Photo courtesy of National Geographic



Germany (*Frohe Weihnachten*)

The German word for Christmas is *Weihnachten* and Germany's version of Santa is *Knecht Ruprecht*. On the evening of Dec. 5, *Krampusnacht* or Krampus Night, Krampus accompanies St. Nicholas to reward nice children by leaving presents and punish naughty ones by leaving coal. Germany celebrates two days of Christmas: Dec. 25 and 26. Day one is called *Erster Feiertag* and day two *Zweiter Feiertag* or *Zweiter Weihnachtsfeiertag*. Germans use an *Adventskranz*, or advent wreath, with four candles to celebrate the four Sundays before Christmas. The traditional Christmas food in Germany is stollen (a cake), roasted goose, turkey or duck, *Serviettenknödel*, bread dumplings, braised red cabbage or stewed kale. From November to December, there are many holiday markets and Christmas festivals across the country.

Photo courtesy of Old Moore's Almanac



Ireland (*Nollaig Shona*)

Most Irish refer to our version of Santa Claus as *Daidí na Nollaig* (Daddy of Christmas), although he is also known as *Santy* or *Santa*. In Ireland, the majority of people are Catholic and celebrate Christmas by going to Midnight Mass. Other Irish Christmas traditions are the Christmas Day Swim, Wren Day, Candle in the Window and The Laden Table. The Christmas Day Swim is when the Irish take a dip into the Atlantic's icy-cold waters for charity. Wren Day is a festival-type tradition where a group of 'wren boys' hunt a wren while carrying poles decorated with sprigs of holly. Traditional holiday fare in Ireland includes Irish coffee, glazed ham, Guinness cake, mince pie and Irish Christmas Cake. After Christmas eve dinner, The Laden Table is set with a loaf of bread filled with caraway seeds and raisins, a pitcher of milk and a large lit candle for Mary and Joseph to rest in their home.

Photo courtesy of the Brazilian Report



Brazil (*Feliz Natal*)

Brazil's Christmas is *Natal* and their Santa is *Papai Noel* or *Bom Velhinho* (Good Old Man). Brazilian culture has a strong focus on family and celebrates the birth of Jesus Christ for Christmas. Christmas is celebrated through Midnight Mass, gift giving and a traditional Christmas dinner. Major cities decorate huge Christmas trees with neon lights and set off fireworks. Children leave a sock near their window which *Papai Noel* exchanges for a present. Christmas dinner consists of cheser style chicken, *Bacalhau* (cod), potato salad, *farofa* (baked casserole), *Rabanada* (french toast) and *salada de salpicão* (salad with fruits, vegetables and shredded meat or poultry).

around the globe

Mexico (*Feliz Navidad*)

Mexico is largely Christian, so Mexicans celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ through *Las Posadas* - typically between Dec. 16 and Dec. 24. "They receive many people in those days. They share chocolate, candies and they sing around the festivities - all the people together," said Spanish teacher Elizabeth Sanchez. Only some states of Mexico believe in Santa Claus, and those children receive gifts on Christmas Eve. On Jan. 6, for *Día de Reyes*, presents are left for children by the Three Kings. In Mexican tradition, there are candlelight processions, nativity scenes, Spanish Christmas carols, dancing and fireworks. Christmas dinner in Mexico consists of *enchiladas*, *pozole*, *tamales*, *bacalao a la vizcaína*, *romeritos* and desserts.



Photo courtesy of Sierra News Online

China (*Shèngdàn kuài*)

In China, Christmas is called "Sheng Dan Jieh" and Santa Claus is called "Shèngdàn Lorén." Although only a small percentage of the population are Christian, Christmas is celebrated enthusiastically, especially in big cities. Chinese Christmas dinner consists of foods such as dumplings, duck and roast pork with fruit for dessert. China's big winter celebrations are the Chinese New Year festival and Chinese Lantern Festival (*Yuan Xiao*). Celebrated with fireworks, red clothes and the Chinese Dragon, deeply associated with Chinese legend and tradition, the Chinese New Year festival welcomes prosperity and luck to the new year. It is celebrated on the fifteenth day of the first month in the lunisolar Chinese calendar. The Lantern Festival allows the Chinese to honor their ancestors.



Photo courtesy of the North Pole with Santa

Kwanzaa (*Keri Za Kwanzaa*)

From Dec. 26 - Jan. 1, Kwanzaa, a non-religious holiday is celebrated to keep African heritage and culture alive and to share the seven principles within African communities. These principles are represented by the seven candles of the *mishumaa saba*. They are colored black for the people, red for their struggle and green for hope and the future. During Kwanzaa, African Americans come together to celebrate the accomplishments of their ancestors such as original poetry, writing or sayings. The Feast of Faith or *Karamu*, usually on the sixth day, consists of rice or couscous, candied yams, buttermilk biscuits and spoonbread, plantains, fritters, hoppin' John and injera. Hoppin' John, also known as Carolina peas and rice, originated in the Southern United States. Injera is a sour, fermented, pancake-like flatbread of Ethiopia and Eritrea.



Photo courtesy of National Museum of African American History and Culture

Hanukkah (*Chanukkah*)

Jewish people celebrate Hanukkah, also known as the Festival of Lights. It is typically in December and celebrates the rededication of the Temple in Jerusalem. It is celebrated with a nightly menorah lighting and Jewish families read scripture and perform religious rituals. The menorah honors the Maccabees, a group of Jewish rebel warriors who fought for independence for Judea which was repressed by the Seleucid Empire. Jews celebrate by playing dreidel, singing songs and with meals consisting of latkes, brisket and *sufganiyot* (a round jelly doughnut topped with powdered sugar). On each of the eight nights of Hanukkah, children get gifts and chocolate coins called gelt.



Photo courtesy of CBN Israel

Ready, set, bowl (my lesson with Austin)

BRIELLE ESTRIN

Editor-in-chief

In bowling, a perfect game is 300 points - all strikes. Sept. 17, 2024, senior Austin Duvall bowled a perfect game... in fact, it was the second 300 for him this season! I cannot bowl, so I decided to go to the “expert” to get the inside scoop on how Duvall manages to knock down 10 pins 10 times in a row.

According to Duvall, the most important thing when preparing to bowl a perfect game is to “take it slow, keep your body pressure down and stay calm.” As I watched him take his turn, every time he lined up a shot, he stood in the same position: his body angled straight, hand curved under the ball and his feet lined up in between the same two dots on the floor. This almost guarantees the ball moves the same way every time and can help ensure a perfect game.

Duvall has been bowling since he was about 4 years old, but has been taking it seriously since his junior year of high school. On game days, Duvall does not have any ‘game day traditions’, but he does make sure to eat before he bowls so he is “not working on an empty stomach”.

Sept. 23, 2024, Duvall was recognized for his skill by the *Palm Beach Post* as “The Post’s Athlete of the Week”. He was the only student mentioned for bowling. The Post wrote, “Austin Duvall, Park Vista Senior, rolled a 300 for the Park Vista boys bowling team against Olympic Heights, and a total pitfall of 559 pins, ranking third place all-time in county history for a two-game set”. This is not considered a goal of his, though, because his dreams are set higher: He hopes to make it to “states and go pro one day.”

Speaking of pros, professional bowling balls are different from the standard ones provided at bowling alleys. Professional bowling balls are called symmetrical solid balls, and they have a heavy core that helps to hook the shot. ‘Hooking’ a shot in bowling means it curves when speeding down the lane to hit the pins from a specific angle in order to knock all 10 pins down. Pro bowlers also have their own shoes which have leather soles to help slide and rubber heels to help stop. This helps with the momentum of the ball to give it more speed.

Having a good, strong team is crucial when succeeding in a sport. Duvall said, “A good team will hype you up and keep your attitude up even after something goes wrong.” This proved to be true when Duvall kept my spirits up even after I scored only 44 points compared to his 289.

Despite my low score, I improved as I learned tips from Duvall such as to keep my hand down and angle it back instead of over the ball when I let go. With his help, I went from shooting straight to the gutters to getting a spare and overall scoring 19 points higher my next round.

Bowling may not be my specialty, but it is Duvall’s and if he sticks to it, I believe he will do great things.



Photo by Brielle Estrin

Duvall visualized where he wanted the ball to go. He lined up his feet, angled his body and rolled. He got a strike!

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When books, movies clash

LILLIAN RUDERER

Staff writer

Despite the success of many good books, the film adaptations are often epic disappointments for fans, and sometimes even the author. I find it frustrating to see plot points and characters I love altered - or completely different - in a movie version. I can understand making changes when it comes to staying within the budget or time frame, but when changes are made just on the creative freedom of the director, it just feels unnecessary.

Spoiler alert

A good example is *The Maze Runner*, where almost the entire plot of the second movie was changed from being a trial to an escape. Sometimes when the characters are changed it has a negative impact on the plot, like Thomas in *The Maze Runner*. In the book, a cure for the flare is never found, but in the movies he is the cure. I feel like making him the cure defeated one of the main points in the story. It makes it seem like everything WICKED did was worth it because in the end a cure was found, so the end justifies the means.

The “100 series” is complicated because the show started production before the book was released. Some of the main differences between the two projects are that in the series original, characters are added and the main love story is not completed. This makes it seem like two different stories with a similar premise. However, they are both really interesting.

Another example of a change being made that messes with characters is *Catching Fire* with Johanna’s speech at the quarter quell. In the book, she is calm during her speech and is very calculated about what she says, while in the movie she screams and curses at the audience. It puts everything into showing that she is a fiery, angry person and takes away from the fact that she is a smart, collected person who is good at coming up with plans and thinking on her feet.

I feel as though if one is going to take a book and make it a movie or series then he/she should try to stay as true to the source material as possible. Changing things risks messing up character arcs, plot lines and all the world-building that has already been done. Not only can it be irritating to audiences, but it can also be insulting to the author who put time and effort into writing the story. For example, Stephen King felt the Stanley Kubrick movie based on his novel *The Shining*

was not faithful to his story at all. Similarly, Michael Ende hated the movie version of his *Neverending Story* so

much he ended up taking his name off of the credits.

It is also frustrating when the visual adaptations change characters and make them less likeable as a whole... like Teresa in *The Maze Runner*. The book makes it clear why she does what she does, but the movies never get too far into character development, making her look like a terrible person.

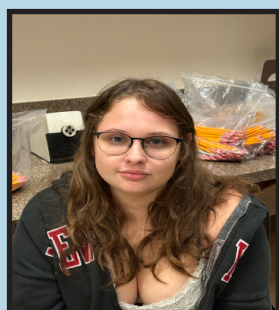
Another example would be *The Divergent Series*, which is a movie adaptation that takes away too much depth of the characters and storyline. I believe that it ruins Tris’s character not only by glossing over deaths and friendships, but also not making her struggle as much to gain people’s respect. The movie adaptation takes away from the terror of the fear landscapes and does not go as into depth over Four’s, even though he is one of the main characters. It goes on to brush off character deaths such as Al’s and to not show her major friendships as much. The movie does not even dive into one of the main struggles Tris faces throughout the series, that she is divergent. The movies do not treat being divergent, and other themes, as “bad” and did not treat it as delicately as the books did. I understand not having time to go into every character’s motives and back story, but to take two characters who did practically the same thing, give one a redemption and make the other worse, feels so unnecessary.

Whether it is big changes to the plot and characters, or small inconsistencies, change can be frustrating and confusing. Lack of details and mischaracterization lead movie or show adaptations to feel like something is missing.



Photo by Lillian Ruderer

Well-known books with movie adaptations that do not stay 100% true to the plot.



What makes the holiday season special for you?

“It’s the only time I get to see all of my family.”

- Senior Magdalene Layseca

Holly's Holiday is horrible

BY DANIEL WU

Layout and design

Holly's Holiday (2012) is a romantic comedy about a graphic designer, Holly, who meets the perfect man, Bo, who happens to be a magical mannequin. If that premise sounds silly, well, it is. In my opinion, the whole movie is not only silly, but also boring and low-effort.

First of all, the plot is complete nonsense. Bo, the mannequin, somehow has parents. Whether or not Bo's parents are mannequins, or humans who have adopted Bo as their son, is never revealed. Also, why Bo the mannequin is alive – or why he decides to date Holly – is never explained. Bo does not really have any reason to date Holly as it is evident he dislikes her. In fact, near the very end of the movie, Bo tells Holly, "I know you're not perfect, but together we can fix you."

In addition to being pure nonsense, the plot is boring and drawn out. Watching the movie, I felt like there were no truly significant conflicts, instead it felt like things just happened without consequences. Characters did not seem to be emotionally invested in, or affected by, plot events – mostly because of bad writing, and partly due to bad acting.

Although I have no personal dislike of the actors featured in *Holly's Holiday*, I felt their performances were disappointing. Rather fittingly for a movie about a mannequin coming to life, the movements of the actors were very stiff like mannequins, seemingly overly rehearsed, rather than natural. At points it seemed like the actors were having random muscle spasms. In one particularly awful scene, Milo, Holly's coworker, enters the office and announces, "Livingston wants us in the conference room STAT." In an attempt to emphasize "STAT", Milo flings both his arms up and then lets them awkwardly fall back down to his side.

Likewise, the dialogue was stiff and unnatural, and many lines were awkward and too long. For example, in one scene, while Holly and her friend are walking down a street, Holly admits, "Okay maybe I'm a little lonely, but what

unattached person is there at this time of year? 'Happy holidays' is in your face everywhere you look. But I'm fine, I swear." Often, it felt like characters were made to spew out as many words as possible to lengthen runtime. Additionally, the actors lacked any emotion in their line delivery, removing any drama or stakes from the movie.

The quality of cinematography was inconsistent throughout the movie as well. At times, the camera was smooth and stable, but sometimes it would wobble around nauseatingly. In some scenes, the camera rapidly switched focus between two characters while they were talking, which was headache-inducing.

Despite being labeled as a romantic comedy, I did not laugh at any of the jokes in *Holly's Holiday*. To tell the truth, I did not notice any jokes. Perhaps, the humor of *Holly's Holiday* was just too advanced for me to understand. I find it more likely the weak writing and subpar acting removed any element of comedy from the film. In my opinion, the only joke found in *Holly's Holiday* would be itself.

Admittedly, there were some positive aspects of the movie. The underlying theme of the movie, that love is not always perfect, was not completely terrible. Bo's parents, Carol and Mike, act the most natural of all the cast and have the most chemistry. Unfortunately, they only get a few minutes of screentime. Overall, the small positive aspects of the movie are ultimately eclipsed by the abysmal plot, acting and cinematography. Avoid this movie at all costs.

December horoscope

♊ **Sagittarius - Nov. 22 - Dec. 21**
New experiences will help refresh the body and mind. You need a good, healthy calming experience. Perhaps that trip you have been waiting on will finally happen!

♑ **Capricorn - Dec. 22 - Jan. 19**
Wear plenty of silver this month. It will make you feel better! Your natural born leadership skills will shine through toward the end of the month.

♒ **Aquarius - Jan. 20 - Feb. 18**
Your flighty ways are confusing a love issue. Settle down and let them know how you truly feel. Clearing the air with an old enemy will prove beneficial.

♓ **Pisces - Feb. 19 - Mar. 20**
Don't be afraid to step up and take charge when a troublesome situation arises amongst your friends. Your responsibilities seem great, you can handle it.

♈ **Aries - Mar. 21 - Apr. 19**
Holding a grudge against an old acquaintance will do nothing but harm healthy relationships with your friends. You can keep them at a distance and remain civil.

♉ **Taurus - Apr. 20 - May 20**
Your money situation is not as bad off as it seems. That does not mean that you should pass up opportunities that benefit your wallet.

♊ **Gemini - May 21 - June 20**
People are starting to notice your fickleness. Be sure not to straddle the fence too long. You need to figure out where you stand... and stand there.

♋ **Cancer - June 21 - July 22**
Thinking of yourself second, or even last may be difficult but it is something that you need to learn to do. Your loved ones need you to be more giving with your time.

♌ **Leo - July 23 - Aug. 22**
Keep the big picture in mind and don't let yourself be drawn into the small details. While you may feel like a loser sometimes, you know you are a winner at heart.

♍ **Virgo - Aug. 23 - Sept. 22**
You may not know what the next step is but you will end up better if you don't take it blindly. Explore your options. Make an informed decision.

♎ **Libra - Sept. 23 - Oct. 22**
It may be hard to trust people but you will eventually find someone who you trust completely. Don't give up hope just yet!

♏ **Scorpio - Oct. 23 - Nov. 21**
Bulk up your karma this month! Now is a great time to volunteer with a local organization. Spend some extra time with furry friends this month.



Photo courtesy of anazom.com

Holly's Holiday is 1 hour and 25 minutes long.

Twenty years worth of holiday cheer

BY BRIELLE ESTRIN AND GONZALO TAYPE

Editor-in-chief and business manager

Music around this time of year usually brings people together. There have been many songs made throughout the years to celebrate the holidays, so this list will give suggestions as to what PV students and staff may have listened to the past two decades. Each year represents when a song was released, remastered or covered.

If you like the selection, scan the QRC as we made a playlist on YouTube for your listening enjoyment.



Photo courtesy of classic45scm and spotify.com respectively

The cover art for the 2004 and 2024 song choices have distinctly different looks.

2024

The Christmas Song by Ben Folds

2021

Christmas Tree by V

2018

By Christmas Eve by John Legend

2015

Yabba-Dabba Yuletide by Brian Setzer

2012

Jingle Bell Rock by Blake Shelton

2009

Don't be a Jerk (It's Christmas) by SpongeBob SquarePants

2007

Please Come Home for Christmas by The Eagles

2005

Better Days by Goo Goo Dolls

2023

DJ Play a Christmas Song by Cher

2020

I Need You Christmas by Jonas Brothers

2017

Santa's Coming for Us by Sia

2014

Santa Tell Me by Ariana Grande

2011

It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas by Michael Buble

2008

The 12 Days of Christmas by Straight No Chaser

2006

Last Christmas by Wham!

2004

Rockin' Around the Christmas Tree by Brenda Lee

2022

Groovy Xmas by The Linda Lindas

2019

All I Want For Christmas Is You by Mariah Carey

2016

Wake Up It's Christmas by Janet Devlin

2013

Underneath the Tree by Kelly Clarkson

2010

Aln't Nothin' Like Christmas by Shelby Lynne



Scan to listen



What is your "go-to" holiday song

"My go-to Christmas song is 'Jingle Bells' because it's just one of those classics that can't be passed up."

- Senior Polina Arkhipkina

Deep dive into Almost Monday's newest album

BY LILLIAN RUDERER

Staff writer

Almost Monday is a three-person indie-rock/indie-pop band based in San Diego, Calif. The band consists of members Dawson Daugherty, Cole Clisby and Luke Fabry. Their first album, *DIVE*, was released Sept. 5, 2024 and features 11 songs. Daugherty describes their new album as "a snapshot of us as individuals and as a collective." Almost Monday has been releasing singles to give their fans a sneak peak into the new album. Two of the songs from this album hit the Top 20 on the Alternative Radio chart: "jupiter" and "can't slow down".

I recently heard of the band and listened to the full album for the first time while doing homework and studying. Since then, I have been listening to it on repeat while I do things like walk to class, cook or drive. I genuinely enjoyed all of the songs on the album, with my favorite being "never enough" due to the lyrics and the catchy beat. With "can't slow down", "jupiter", "you look so good" and "tidal wave" coming in second, third, fourth and fifth.

DIVE has a similar feel to the types of music I usually listen to. It combines rock guitar riffs, tropical sounding instruments, fuzzy chords and breathy vocals. It has been good background music for me as I feel it creates a perfect atmosphere where it is catchy enough that I do not get bored listening, but I can still focus on other things.

The album has a very upbeat feel that perfectly encapsulates the beachy social vibe the group has. "We take Polaroids of the crowd at every show. We wanted the album to feel like one of those Polaroids where you capture the moment. It might be blurry, but it's that snapshot in time of who we are and what we like," said Daugherty.

As someone who listens to music almost constantly, it is nice to be able to find new bands who produce music I enjoy. I can definitely see myself listening to more music from Almost Monday, and I eagerly await their next album or single. I want to "DIVE" right in.



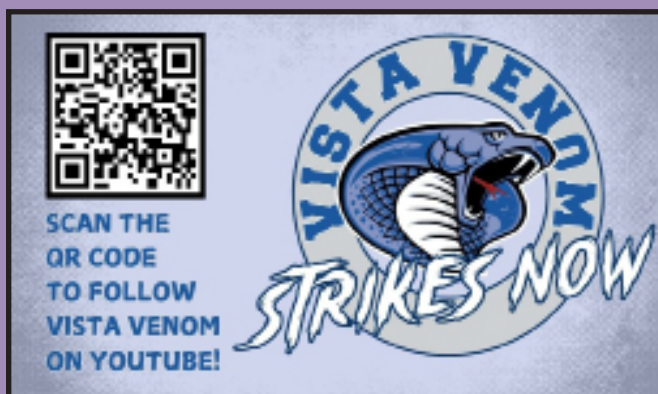
Photo courtesy of MOXIE

Album cover for Almost Monday's debut album "DIVE".



Photo courtesy of MOXIE

From left to right: Cole Clisby, Dawson Daugherty and Luke Fabry get a press photo taken for the band.



SCAN ME

to listen to
"never enough"

Two Truths, one Lie answers:
a) truth b) truth c) lie

Restaurant review for restrictive eaters: P.F. Chang's

BY BRIELLE ESTRIN

Editor-in-chief

Welcome back to another review. This time I am reviewing P.F. Chang's. My family and I eat there at least once a month. It is definitely in our list of top restaurants – in large part because of the safety and deliciousness. It was one of the first restaurants we felt safe dining at with my allergies. I always order gluten-free chicken fried rice, Chang's spicy chicken, lettuce wraps and egg drop soup. Each dish always comes with a bright orange "gluten-free" sticker on top, which reassures me. If you dine-in, all gluten free dishes arrive to the table in red bowls to ensure safety. While the items I can order are limited, I would prefer that to getting sick. One negative about this restaurant is that it is a bit inconsistent. For example, sometimes the soup has a thinner or thicker consistency, or the Chang's spicy chicken is more sweet than spicy.

One newer addition to our order is the gluten-free pad thai. I have tried a few pad thai in my day, and P.F. Chang's



The lettuce wraps have chicken and water chestnuts and, obviously, lettuce. It is a refreshing, sweet and salty dish.

Photo by Brielle Estrin

might be one of my favorites. It comes with fresh limes to squeeze on top, and those truly bring the flavor to life.

Unfortunately P.F. Chang locations are a bit far, the closest one is located at 1400 Glades Road in Boca Raton. My family prefers the Palm Beach Gardens location (3101 PGA Boulevard Suite F142 Ste F142), and we like to order online and pick it up for takeout. It is very easy to order on their website and include any allergy information. The gluten-free items are listed on the menu as gluten free, but there is an additional section where I can mention extra information such as allergies and specific instructions to ensure my safety.

Usually Chinese food is a no-no because soy sauce is gluten and that is a crucial ingredient in almost all the food. Even on the off-chance a dish does not contain it, it is difficult to prevent cross-contamination when all the dishes are made with soy sauce in the kitchen. However, somehow P.F. Chang's has provided us with consistently safe experiences.

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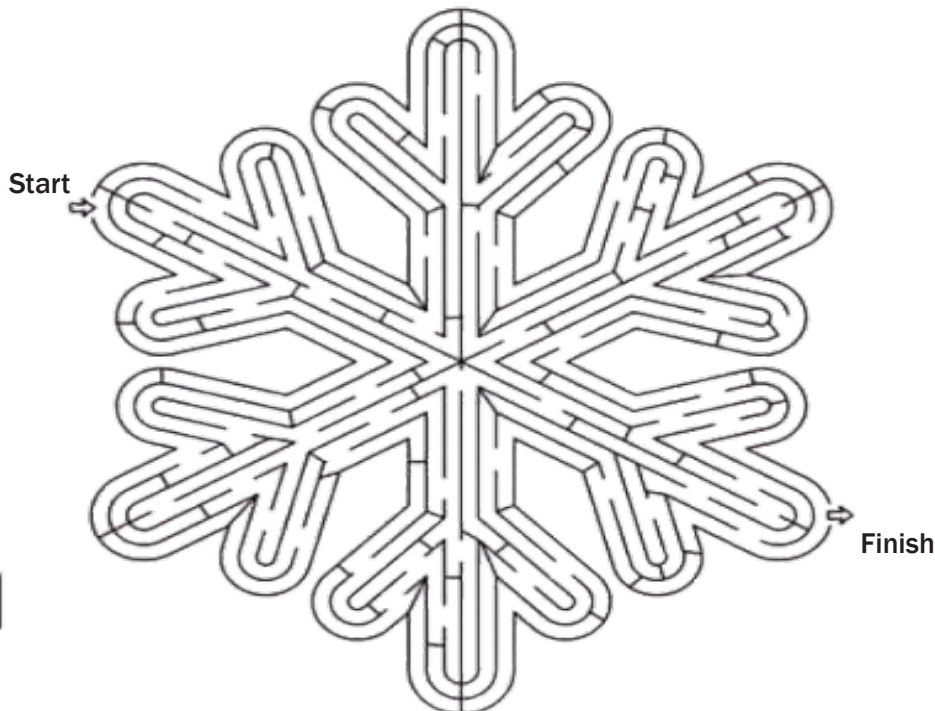
BUSINESS HOURS
 SUN-THUR: 1-9PM
 FRI-SAT: 1-10:30PM

Winter Holidays

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

Christmas	Presents	Hanukkah	Candles
Snowman	Kwanzaa	Menorah	Dreidel
Holiday	Family	Frosty	Lights
Winter	Santa	Tree	Elf

Snowflake Maze



2 Truths, 1 Lie Which is Which?

Lalena Ferreiro



Photo by Brielle Estrin

- a) I have a biology teacher certification.
- b) I have taught in four different classrooms at Park Vista.
- c) I taught at one other high school before Park Vista opened.

(Answers on pg. 14)

Scan to win



a Dunkin' Donuts gift card.