

THE VICTORY VIEW

DECK THE HALLS...

The Battle of the Tunes

BY REGAN HATTEMAR

The results are in! Did Mariah or Michael get the most votes?



1st place rank goes to “All I Want for Christmas is You” by Mariah Carey and Michael Bublé’s “It’s Beginning to Look a lot Like Christmas” took the rank of 3rd place! Mariah wins!

Some other worthy results are 2nd place goes to Wham’s “Last Christmas,” 4th place is locked in with ‘Rockin’ Around the Christmas Tree,” and 5th place was given to “Baby, It’s Cold Outside.”

Shockingly, “You’re a Mean One, Mr. Grinch” took 6th place! The Alvin & The Chipmunks version of “Jingle Bells” took 7th place, and our favorite cold holiday fellow Frosty took 8th place with “Frosty the Snowman.”

9th place of song choices went to “Santa Baby” and 10th place, the final spot for votes, went to “I Want a Hippopotamus for Christmas.”

What’s your favorite holiday tune? Share in the Christmas spirit by driving with friends and family, looking at Christmas lights and singing your favorite songs!

Holiday Shopping—Made Easy

BY CASSIDY GRAY

If you’re anything like me, you’ve been stuck in a present pickle before. You have no ideas for what to get a certain person, so you wait out on getting presents until your parents take care of it. But not this year! I’m here with some holiday ideas for those special people in your life (or maybe for yourself if you have no idea what to ask for).
Younger siblings:

Lego Minecraft Mushroom House: \$19.99 on Amazon (Photo cred: lego.com)



Black Panther Mask: \$14.99 on Amazon (Photo cred: amazon.com)



Monster High Dolls: \$23.90 on Amazon (Photo cred: amazon.com)

Older siblings:



Nike Sweatshirt: \$50 at Nike (Photo cred: nike.com)



Beats headphones: \$99 on Amazon (Photo cred: amazon.com)



Yeti Yonder Bottle: \$28 at Yeti (Photo cred: yeti.com)

Dad/Father Figure:



Patagonia Fleece Pullover: \$129 at Patagonia (A little pricey but they last for years and are very good group gifts if your siblings/mom want to chip in! My uncle adores it and has had it for YEARS!) (Photo creds: patagonia.com)



Eye Love Polarized Sunglasses: \$29 on Amazon (Photo cred: amazon.com)



Smokehouse Grilling Spice Set: \$35 on Amazon (Photo cred: amazon.com) – Continued page 4!

CRUMBL COOKIE REVIEW

BY OLIVIA LAMONTANA, ALEX RODRIGUEZ, & ARIANNA MARTINEZ

Three of our Victory View members decided to try and rate the new Crumbl Cookie menu for the third week of November. Here are their thoughts:

Salted Caramel Cheesecake:

Olivia’s Opinion + Rating - I liked this cookie and everything about it was good, but there was just too much salt on them. Also, there was too much frosting on the cookie. (6/10)
Alex’s Opinion + Rating - It was decent and the caramel was really smooth, but I didn’t like how cold it was. It would’ve been better if it was warm and gooey. (6/10)
Arianna’s Opinion + Rating - I honestly didn’t think this one was too bad, but the cookie part tasted a little bitter and that made the aftertaste weird. There was a little too much frosting compared to the amount of caramel, but it wasn’t a big deal. The only real issue I had with this cookie was the amount of salt they topped it with. I know it’s supposed to be salted, but it just made it taste weird. (5/10)

Monster Cookie:

Olivia’s Opinion + Rating - This one was not the best because the peanut taste overpowered the whole cookie. Therefore, a lot of people would not be able to have this cookie because it does have peanuts. (4/10)
Alex’s Opinion + Rating - I really liked this one because of the peanut buttery taste and it was also warm and gooey with the M&M’s. (6/10)
Arianna’s Opinion + Rating - Couldn’t have it because of allergies (N/A)

Maple Cinnamon Roll:

Olivia’s Opinion + Rating - I did not like this cookie at all. It did taste exactly like the name of the cookie, but it was way too sweet. (3/10)
Alex’s Opinion + Rating - I really didn’t like this one. It was way too cinnamony for me. (3/10)
Arianna’s Opinion + Rating - I liked this one the most because it tasted exactly how it was supposed to and wasn’t too sweet. The frosting and cookie were really smooth and the cinnamon flavor was so perfect. It kind of tasted like a churro, which was a plus. 8/10

Fruity Pebble

Olivia’s Opinion + Rating - This cookie was not the best. It was too sweet and sticky. I like Fruity Pebbles, but that cookie ruined it for me. (4/10)
Alex’s Opinion + Rating - I loved this one because I love Fruity Pebbles, and it was just a good cookie in general. (8/10)
Arianna’s Opinion + Rating - This cookie was way too sweet and it was also really sticky. It was so hard to take a bite and chew it because of how everything stuck together. I don’t like Fruity Pebbles in the first place so that is why this was my least favorite. (3/10)

Final Thoughts

Olivia - I think that Crumbl Cookies are overrated. Nothing was special about this experience. Some of the cookies were good, but nothing was great. Overall, the workers were nice, and the order of cookies came out fast, but it was not worth it.
Alex - The cookies were pretty good and there was really only one that I didn’t like out of all of them.
Arianna - I’ve only had Crumbl Cookies a couple of times before this, and I can honestly say this week was not good. The flavors were all over the place and really weren’t what I was expecting. For the drive and amount we paid for these, I don’t think it was worth it at all.

NEW FACULTY SPOTLIGHT

Let’s meet **Maestra Jimenez!**

BY SARAH RATAJCZYK

- **If you had to choose between Carey or Michael Bublé, who would you pick?**
Mariah Carey for no particular reason; I just like her more.
- **What's your favorite Christmas food?**
Oh, that’s a hard one, but mine has to be Buñuelos. ** It is a dessert food very similar to churros—fried dough covered in cinnamon & sugar—so picture churros but tortilla shaped!
- **What is your favorite JCA cafeteria food?**
I’ve actually never had JCA’s food because I pack my own lunches from home!
- **What's your family tradition for the wintertime?**
For the holidays, my family and I visit each other’s houses and celebrate Posadas. Posadas is a Christmas reunion that celebrates the birth of Jesus, while also putting focus and recognition on the journey of Mary and Joseph

An Interview with Ms. Zagal

BY MYA MAGADAN

Ms. Zagal teaches Spanish at JCA, and she heard about this school because, “My professor had some students who were student teachers here.” She does consider it her dream job because “I really enjoy Spanish but also working with kids.” When asked if she enjoys working at JCA, she emphasized how “it’s good, the environment and support is amazing, and I like how involved the parents are,” and that the teachers at JCA are helpful and kind and very comforting. Ms. Zagal does like to keep class exciting, so she uses “... blookey and candy. Everyone loves some friendly competition, and the things kids will do for a jolly rancher are insane.” Additionally, Ms. Zagal commutes almost two hours every day. She has been in a stable relationship for over a year, and she has a dog named Maxine! She loves JCA and the classes she teaches. When asked if there were any changes she would recommend, it would be to put a microwave in the 2nd floor teacher’s lounge. Welcome to JCA Ms. Zagal!

Holiday Treats

BY LILY BUDNY

Following the fall season comes one of the sweetest and more flavorful times of year- Winter! One of the most commonly found additions to the flavors of traditional treats is none other than PEPPERMINT. Peppermint is now taking over! You can find it in chocolates having a peppermint coating or filling, to hot chocolate, and even more commonly found, in coffee creamers. Below is a recipe to doughy delicious cookies with pieces of peppermint.

Another common food item you’ll find this holiday season is chocolate. If you were to visit the Chriskindl Market, there is always a fresh hot chocolate booth and a tent full of Swiss and German chocolates of all shapes, flavors, and sizes.

Finally, cinnamon or gingerbread and other types of cookies have become quite popular as well. Personally, my family makes about 5 different types of cookies each Christmas including Snickerdoodle, Chocolate peppermint, Peanut Butter, and many more. Take this time of year to enjoy those delicious treats, whether it’s with your own company, family, at a restaurant, store, or best of all—if it is made with love in your home!



Pops and Lollies

BY LILY BUDNY

Aside from the year involving Covid, my father and I have always attended the “Pops and Lollies” father-daughter dance. Every year is always a different experience. As a senior, I genuinely think it was my favorite occurrence. All senior girls attending are asked to write a letter to their father. I believe this gives the girls an opportunity to truly express their love and endearment for their dad, especially if they are unable to find the right words to verbalize it. This process makes you look back at all the sentimental moments with your dad and maybe even some things you didn’t realize had such an impact on you. This creates another cherished moment with one’s dad. I am grateful to JCA for providing this experience each year to celebrate, thank and enjoy our dads and all they do for us.



Study Skills

Teacher Naughty & Nice List

BY OLIVIA LAMONTANA

Finals are coming up! So, we all know that means it is time to start studying. Here are a couple tips that can improve your memory to study.

- Before you start to study, you should always have a clean, organized environment.
- A good night’s sleep before your test is crucial to get. In fact, it is proven that you will see positive test results.
- You can further improve your study habits by having color-coordinated notes. Writing in color allows you to have a dynamic way to organize and see the information that you need. Color-coded notes will improve someone’s performance based on memory.
- The next tip is to exercise before you start studying. By working out for only twenty minutes, you can increase your energy levels. If you are striving to find motivation during studying, then this is the way!
- You can also study right before you fall asleep. The reasoning behind this tactic is that it will improve your brain function, learning, and memory function. While you are sleeping, your brain will organize your memory and improve your memorization.
- Using notecards is one more way to help you study for your finals. Making notecards will reduce your study time because it allows you to retain more information.
- Finally recite and say your notes out loud instead of reading. This will allow you to remember information easier. While you are reading your notes out loud, find acronyms or a key word to use. When you see that word the test, it will trigger your mind and remind you about what you used it for.

These ways can help improve your test scores on the midterms this year. Make sure you keep a consistent study schedule but try and change the way you study occasionally just to offset boredom. In your class advisory on teams, the counselors will post more ways to study for these tests. Good Luck!

WRITING CONTEST!

41-88 is having a Writing Contest! All submissions are due to Mrs. Bush or Mrs. Stoiber by January 30th. The theme of the contest is: **PHOBIAS**. Write anything that you would like all with the inspiration of that theme! Submissions are judged anonymously from a panel of faculty. 1st and 2nd places will be awarded with an interesting prize!

BY VIVICA BOFAH & SARAH RATAJCZYK

Merry Christmas! We received some insight from one of Santa’s elves and managed to find his list of JCA’s teachers. Take a look and see if you agree with him!

~Naughty~	~Nice~
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Senor - skipping 2nd quarter• Mr. Clarke - stealing chocolate• Mr. Allgood – Drives the minibus too fast• Mr. Tuzim - Doesn't wear socks• Mrs. Scheibe – Phonenapping• Mr. Cranmer- Kills too many trees with all the detentions he hands out• Mrs. Ostrem – Knows all the hot gos• Dr. Bailey - affiliation with senor• Ms. Mihellich – Barbie abuse• Mr. Morissette – Still a fan of Justin Bieber• Mr. McDermott – excessive desk flipping• Ms. K – Not having a longer solo in the Christmas concert• Mrs. Cherwin – Mrs. Ostrem’s long lost twin• Mrs. Lamp – Frognapping Wallie• Mr. Zeismer - Lost turtle• Mr. Passehl – Exposing the aliens for building the pyramids	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mrs. Jelinek - test corrections• Mr. Barello – great stories• Gura - having a good hair day all day everyday• Mrs. Bush – makes Shakespeare interesting• Ms. Reyes – runs and grades at the same time• Dr. Fischer – has more kiddos than she can count• Mrs. Osburn – who doesn’t love a good squirrel moment• Mr. Eakle - chill football days• Mrs. Kinsella – Keeping the students in the lunchroom• Jaws –Relaxing days in class• Ms. Szygal – Coolest classroom• Mrs. Gue – Best Dancer• Kisha – Emphasizes mental health care• Mrs. Ferro - Lollipop fund• Mrs. Stoiber – Creates beautiful art• Mrs. Barrett - always on time• Brother Barry – best dressed• Mr. Gregory – great hair (second to G of course)• Mr. Budz – Dad leads the school• Mrs. Austrums – Knows 7 languages and counting• Ms. Zagal – Best hair (we’ll see how Gregory and G feel about that)• Mrs. Douglas – Game of Thrones fan
<div>Undecided<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mr. Midlock- it’s your world</div>	

FRIENDSGIVING

SHOPPING LIST CONT....

BY VIVICA BOFAH

This November, JCA kicked off another successful Friendsgiving of the senior class. Spanning from 5A lunch to 5B homeroom, all seniors ate together in the small gym. Tables were set up and everyone was given a chance to sit with their friends and eat. Chick-Fil-A was the meal of choice for many. Our options were a spicy chicken sandwich, chicken sandwich, chicken nuggets, or a garden salad. Sadly, waffle fries weren't included and instead we received bags of waffle chips. Overall, Friendsgiving was an amazing time as everyone got a chance to eat with their friends and enjoy the food that was brought. See some pictures of the day below!



Shining Lights Showdown

BY SARAH RATAJCZYK

Christmas time is here! That means all of us are pulling out those old decorations to make the insides and outsides of our houses beautiful. Whether it be trees, stars, mistletoe, or garland, we've all got a little something to spice up our homes for the holidays. However, there's one thing that really puts everything together: Christmas lights. We may not love spending the hours putting them up, but we are obsessed with seeing them. I mean think about all the places we can go to see them for entertainment – Brookfield Zoo, Lincoln Park Zoo, Morton Arboretum, Museum of Science and Industry, and many more. So here's the hot question: What types of lights are the best?

Some people stay strictly to colorful lights, some do white lights, and some just throw it all together and hope for the best. As a person who heavily enjoys Christmas lights, I've got a very strong opinion on what type of lights are better. Let me tell you now, white lights are better for the outside and colorful lights are better for the inside. For starters, this way you get the best of both worlds, because, let's be honest, both types of lights are gorgeous. On the outside of the home, the white lights will add a refined look. Not only that, but they will compliment your house regardless of the color because they go with everything. People will drive by and think, "oh wow, that's fancy." However, not everyone is trying to go for that vibe, which I totally understand.

BY CASSIDY GRAY

Mom/Mother Figure:



Pajamas: \$25 at Target (Photo creds: target.com)



Kendra Scott Blair Necklace: \$44 at Kendra Scott (Photo creds: kendrascott.com)



Coach Wristlet: \$29 at Coach Outlet (Photo creds: coachoutlet.com)

But let's not forget everyone's family is different! These presents can be interchanged and exchanged for something that your family/friends will love! Homemade gifts, like desserts or cards, are loved by family members, so you can always go that route. Also, small, local businesses always have special goodies too! I hope I gave you a great start to your shopping lists and happy Holidays!

That's where the inside of the house comes into play. You get to be fun with the varieties of colors and decorate the tree and living room to your hearts content. Colored lights give off a groovy vibe and are a reminder of that stereotypical Christmas captured in movies that everyone loves. It's a perfect embodiment of a family Christmas. In fact, I think it's time I get a patent for this Christmas light plan because it's so genius.

Despite my perfect layout of Christmas lights, don't feel pressured to try it out. At the end of the day, follow your heart and do what pleases you. There's always that little aspect of Christmas that's special to every person, so be sure to embrace it. Enjoy the holiday lights this year!