



COUGAR REVIEW

JANUARY



DOOR DECOR WAR

By Molly Cofer

All over Greenfield-Central High School, staff are pulling out the construction paper and scissors for the annual Door Decorating Competition. Every year, staff decorate the doors of their classrooms and offices to celebrate the winter season. The doors follow a winter theme, with some depicting snowmen, gingerbread houses, movies, and more. Once all doors are decorated, judges come around the building and judge the door decorations on things like creativity, uniqueness, how well it fits their subject, and overall look. Some decorations from this year's competition include the HVAC department's snow globe, Ms. Ruch and Ms. Stoeffler's gingerbread house, and more.

This year's winners include three categories. For the category of most holiday spirit was the counseling office who decorated their door like Santa's Workshop. For the category of most unique holiday spirit was a tie between Ms. Fields and Ms. McCorkle with a fully interactive door. And finally, for most fitting of one's subject, Ms. Keusch, with a holiday kitchen door, took the honors. All of GCHS is sending their congratulations to the winners and wishing everyone good luck for next year.

DRAGONS DOWN

By Juliann Jones

Photo Credits: John Kennedy



The rivalry between Greenfield-Central and New Palestine High School rages on; however, there must be one victor, right? On December 13, 2024, the Cougars hosted the New Pal Dragons at home. With a sold out stadium of over 2,000 people, a tough double header night ensued. The varsity girls team played the first game, going into halftime down by five. Battling back the Lady Cougars had a 21-0 scoring run in the third quarter. The Lady Cougars finished the game 48-35. Next up was the boys basketball team. Starting four seniors and one junior, the Cougars annihilated the Dragons. With a series of three pointers, nasty lay-ups, and a dunk or two, the game ended with a score of 74-57. Cougar Nation showed up and showed out; the band, cheerleaders, the student section, and both teams claimed Cougar victory!



NEW YEAR'S

RESOLUTIONS

By Sam Sherman

People have eagerly embraced New Year's resolutions in the first and last few days of the year, especially in America. Typically, people all across the country and even the world use these resolutions to improve themselves or their lives. These resolutions represent promises for the next year. Whether that promise is to accomplish or cease something, almost everyone creates a resolution for the next 12 months.

The invention of New Year's resolutions has been around since the ancient Babylonians in 2000 B.C. However, when they made their resolutions, it probably would have been around mid-March when they planted their crops. These resolutions were sometimes made to promise the gods to return the objects they had borrowed or to pay their debts. Plenty of other cultures celebrate New Year's differently; however, for example, in the Philippines, it is considered good luck to eat round fruits and wear polka dots during the New Year's season. During this season, however, resolutions still play a huge role at the start of the year.

An adequate example of a New Year's resolution is when Connor Clements of Greenfield Central High School commented that his resolution "was to exercise more regularly and to be more consistent." As a suggestion for a resolution, Clements "recommends 'improving yourself.'" Improving yourself is the key part of resolutions. It is the primary reason people make resolutions during New Year's. He expressed the opinion that New Year's resolutions are "a fun concept, but they don't get followed through enough because people don't hold themselves accountable."

To add to this opinion, research was conducted on how often people follow up on their New Year's resolutions and what they actually are. According to fisher.osu.edu, "Researchers suggest that only nine percent of Americans who make resolutions complete them. In fact, research goes on to show that 23% of people quit their resolutions by the end of the first week, and 43% quit by the end of January." Clearly, Clements was correct in stating that the population doesn't hold itself accountable during the New Year's holiday. However, the good news is that people who actually do follow up on their resolutions are actively improving themselves in a very positive way. According to driverresearch.com, "79% of New Year's goals involve improving health. This can range from increasing fitness levels (48%), boosting mental health (36%), and improving diet (32%)."

More than half of American adults celebrate New Year's. Civicscience.com specifies the exact percentage: 59%. Only nine percent of Americans actually complete their New Year's resolutions. The majority of those resolutions are based on improving health, specifically fitness, mental health, and diet. What is your New Year's resolution?



MILK DAY

ADVOCATE FOR CHANGE

By Ellie Ketchen

Martin Luther King Jr. was one of the most prominent leaders of the equal rights movement. He was born on January 15 in Georgia, with two siblings, Christine King Farris and Alfred Daniel Williams King. From a young age his parents taught him that he was just as important as anyone else, and he did not understand why they were segregated. In 1948, he graduated from Morehouse College with a bachelor's degree. He married Coretta Scott in 1953 and then moved to preach in a church.



Martin Luther King Jr.

In 1955, when he heard about what had happened to Rosa Parks, he helped organize the well-known Montgomery Bus Boycott. He gave his famous "I Have a Dream" speech in 1963 and published his second book a year later. However, in 1968, he was tragically assassinated by James Earl Ray. Fifteen years later, President Ronald Reagan declared that his birthday, January 15, would become a national holiday. The holiday is celebrated on the Monday closest to his birthday. It was first celebrated three years later, in 1986. It is very important to remember the man who dedicated so much to the Equal Rights Movement. King is one of the most well-known members of the civil rights cause and was only 39-years-old when he was killed. He would have been 94 if he were still alive today.

His legacy continues through his four children, Yolanda, Dexter, Martin, and Bernice King. Martin is a university professor in Virginia, and Bernice is the CEO of the MLK Jr. Center for Nonviolent Social Change and lives in Atlanta. Martin Luther King Jr. has a granddaughter, Yolanda Renee King, through his son Martin. She is fifteen and an activist like her grandfather. She is the only grandchild of Martin Luther King Jr. and Coretta. She has traveled extensively throughout her life, speaking about many important issues. She participated in the Washington, D.C., March for Our Lives, an anti-gun violence demonstration. She says she still feels their presence and works to fulfill their dreams of an equal, unprejudiced world.

This January 15, be sure to remember this important man, and remember the reason for the holiday.



ELECTIONS

INAUGURATION DAY

By Tairra Houghland

Inauguration Day is a significant event marking the official start of the president-elect and vice president-elect's terms in office. This ceremony occurs every four years on January 20. If January 20 falls on a Sunday, the inauguration is held the following day, January 21. The event takes place at the U.S. Capitol in Washington, D.C., with the next inauguration scheduled for January 20, 2025.

The planning for this historic occasion is managed by the Joint Congressional Committee on Inaugural Ceremonies (JCCIC). Key components of the day include the swearing-in ceremony, where the president takes the oath of office, and the inaugural address, a speech outlining the vision for the new term. Typically, the inauguration occurs 73 to 79 days after the presidential election and takes place at the beginning of every new presidential term, whether for a newly elected president or a re-elected one.

The tradition began with George Washington's first inauguration on April 30, 1789. Since 1937, inaugurations have been held on January 20 at noon Eastern Standard Time, marking the official start of the presidential term. Prior to this, most inaugurations took place on March 4. Exceptions occurred when the date fell on a Sunday, with ceremonies being moved to March 5 or, later, to January 21 in years such as 1957, 1985, and 2013, when the oath was taken privately on January 20 and repeated publicly the next day.

President-elect Donald Trump and Vice President-elect J.D. Vance will be sworn in on January 20, 2025, at the U.S. Capitol. Tickets for the event are free and can be requested through members of Congress. Leading up to Inauguration Day, preparations are in full swing, including exclusive events for top donors to Trump's inauguration committee, such as private dinners with the president-elect and his wife, Melania, before and after their return to the White House.





WRESTLING

A PIN FOR THE WIN

By: Trinitee Fitz

Wrestling season is now in full swing, and the boys on the team are giving it their all! They are working hard and showing great determination to bring some takedowns for Greenfield-Central.

Among these dedicated athletes is Tristen Lanum, an enthusiastic junior. Lanum has had a passion for wrestling that started when he was just three years old. It's incredible to see how this early commitment has shaped his skills and dedication over the years. In a recent interview, Lanum expressed his aspirations for the season, "My biggest goal for this season is to place at state." This goal reflects his ambition and drive to succeed on a larger stage. In fact, he has been performing impressively in his recent matches, winning five of the six by pins.

Before Lanum steps onto the mat to wrestle, he has a unique routine that helps him prepare. He likes to roll out his muscles and jump around, which gets him energized and focused. This warm-up routine is essential for getting into the right mindset before a match. Lanum is not only passionate about his own journey but also encourages others to join the wrestling team. He says, "Join wrestling; it's like a second family for many of us. It's a fantastic environment that helps you grow as a person." This reflects the supportive community that wrestling fosters, where athletes can bond and encourage one another.

In addition to his teammates, Lanum speaks highly of Coach Josh Holden, who has had a significant impact on his life. "He was one of the first people I talked to when I moved from Ohio, and he's always been there for me," Lanum explains. This shows how important a mentor can be during times of transition. Holden is not just a coach; he is like a father figure to many of the kids on the team, offering guidance and support both on and off the mat. Lanum's respect and admiration for Holden highlights the positive relationships that can develop within sports teams, making the experience more enriching for everyone involved.

Come out and support Lanum and all the wrestlers in their bid for the win.



Tristen Lanum claims victory after pinning his opponent from Warren Central

photo credit: Alpha Sports





BOYS BASKETBALL

SENIOR SUCCESS

By: Juliann Jones

COOPER ROBERTSON



The Cougar Boys Basketball team is in the height of their season. Graduating six seniors, here are some of their plans after high school and favorite moments!

Brady Johnson (2): "Celebrating after beating New Pal! My plans after high school are go to college and play baseball!"

Boston Willard (3): "Beating New Pal and celebrating with my team, hopefully more games like that this year. I'm going to Ball State for business."

Dallas Freeman (32): "Beating Pendleton last year with Braylon Mullins buzzer beater is my favorite memory. After high school I plan to play college football and study wildlife biology."

Cooper Robertson (34): "Beating New Pal is my favorite memory. I plan to attend Ball State in the fall."

Two seniors not listed are Braylon Mullins (24) and Mikey Johnson (14). Both are exceptional athletes who plan to play in college.

BOSTON WILLARD



BRADY JOHNSON

DALLAS FREEMAN



Photo Credits: John Kennedy



GIRLS BASKETBALL

SENIOR SUCCESS

By: Juliann Jones



Senior, Kynsey Hasty

The Greenfield-Central Girls Basketball team is ruling the court this season. Graduating seven seniors, here are some of their favorite memories and where they plan to go!

Chaney Brown (12): "I plan to attend the University of Cincinnati to study health science with a concentration in pre-physicians assistant!"

Brooklyn McConnell (2): "One of my favorite memories has to be going to Culver's after the summer games. I'll be playing at IU Columbus while pursuing a degree in nursing."

Addison Herrin (21): "Beating New Pal this year. My future plans are to attend Indiana University and study exercise science!"

Madison Sonsini (5): "Beating Pendleton at home was my favorite. I'm playing at Spring Arbor University and I'll study business marketing."

Kynsey Hasty (15): "Summer league bus rides was my favorite memory. I plan to study pediatrics."

Leilani Forshey (31): "JV and Varsity New Pal game last year. I'm attending Ball State on a pre-medicine track."

Photo Credits to Christy Stephenson



Senior, Leilani Forshey



Senior, Madison Sonsini



Senior, Brooklyn McConnell



Senior, Chaney Brown



SWIMMING

SENSATIONAL SWIMMERS

By: Kamarina Davis

Swimming is more than just a sport—it's a combination of dedication, fitness, and the pursuit of personal growth. To learn more about the life of a student-athlete swimmer, we spoke with Ross Peters, a junior at Greenfield-Central High School and a member of the swim team.

Peters has been a proud member of the Greenfield-Central swim team for three years. When asked about his favorite swimming style, he said, "I like the backstroke because it's unique and feels like freestyle." The backstroke's dynamic movements and competitive edge resonate with Peters' athletic spirit.

His journey into swimming was inspired by a personal connection. "My brother inspired me to join," he shared, highlighting the power of family influence in discovering passions. That motivation has fueled Peters' commitment to the sport and the constant drive for improvement. "The time cut down is very motivating," he explained, underscoring the swimmer's focus on measurable progress and personal bests.

Swim fitness is about more than laps in the pool. It involves mastering techniques, building resistance to fatigue, and managing stress in the water. These elements combine to create faster, more efficient, and more confident swimmers. The sport also offers numerous physical and mental benefits, making it a great activity for students to explore.

Peters' story shows how swimming is not just a sport but also a pathway to self-improvement and resilience. Whether you're inspired by family, driven by goals, or simply curious about a new challenge, the pool might be the perfect place to make waves.



Colby Stringer (10) and Landon Schmitt (12) celebrating in the water with Ross Peters, Grace Griffin, and Emma Flynn





CLUBS

QUIZBOWL AND BEYOND

By Molly Cofer



The Spell Bowl team showing off their ribbons

Sports often take center stage, but Greenfield-Central High School boasts a thriving community of academic teams. Competitions such as Quiz Bowl, Spell Bowl, and Academic Super Bowl showcase the intellectual talents of GCHS students.

These clubs value academic honors and showcase them in competitions. For example, the Quiz Bowl team starts studying in October and competes in December. In Quiz Bowl, students study several topics and practice answering in a fast-paced setting. Ms. Anderson, the Quiz Bowl coach, says, “[We study] everything: literature, music, major dates, biblical history—literally everything. Nothing is off limits.” Students then compete in teams of four against other schools

Along with Quiz Bowl, there is Academic Super Bowl. The Academic Super Bowl is more specialized, with specific teams for every subject, each with its own coach. Students choose their subject and compete within that. Every year, there is a theme, and this year’s theme is Ireland.

There’s also Spell Bowl, which is dedicated to spelling. Students compete in a spelling-bee-like competition with one representative in every category. The Spell Bowl state finals were in November this year.

All of these clubs have major benefits, from helping students advance educationally to fostering friendships and connections between students. They’re all amazing and deserve their moment in the spotlight.



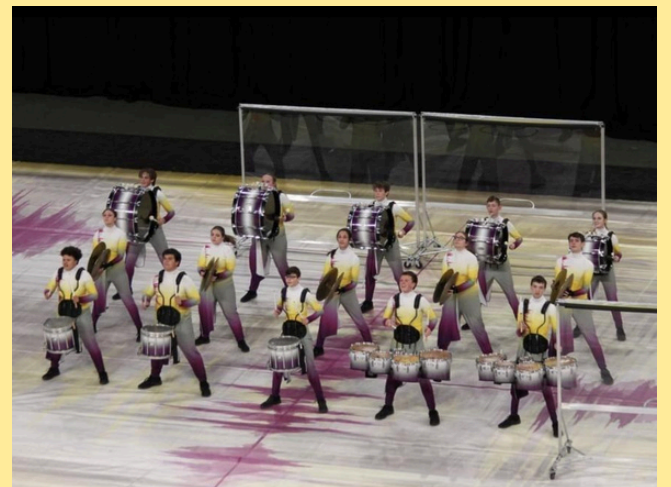
WINTER ARTS

WINTER BANDS EXTRACURRICULARS

By Kaitlyn Jolicoeur

Starting December 2024, extra band activities have started. Winter winds, percussion, and winter guard are starting great. They perform and represent Greenfield-Central.

Indoor Percussion dazzled audiences with its vibrant colors and captivating performances. Competing at Winter Guard International left a lasting impression and is set to return stronger than ever this year. Its dynamic show features a range of instruments, including xylophones, snares, timpani, and more! Greenfield-Central eagerly anticipates seeing this year's production come to life.



Winter Percussion Performance

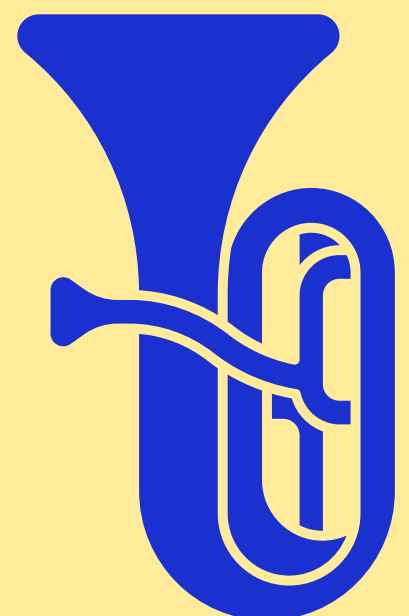
Winter Guard:

In an interview with Kyley Greer, a seasoned performer with six years of experience in the guard, she shares her thoughts about team goals, "I hope we make it to the top three this season." As for personal goals, "I want to get closer to my teammates." This season is produced by Rico Santingo, Dylan Watson, and Olivia Gooch. They hope to have a spectacular season this year! The captains are Elle Everidge and Kyley Greer, and the guard currently consists of twelve students. Last season, they won state and hope to do it all again!



Winter guard after performance

Winter Winds: This large group consists of about 55 students and is directed by Chris Wing and Zachary Crowder, the Greenfield-Central band directors. They also have assistant directors Richard Tuomi and Emily Batley. With such a large group this year, they plan on having a mesmerizing performance!





PERFORMING ARTS

NEW AUDITORIUM EXCITEMENT

By Oliver Hewson



Greenfield got its first look into the future of all performing arts productions early December. The Performing Arts Christmas show, Rudolph The Red-nosed Reindeer, was put on December 7th, being the very first show in the brand new auditorium. Approximately 1700 tickets were sold, filling up the space, but still leaving plenty of seats empty. Although the sheer number of people attending across both performances may have crowded the old auditorium, it doesn't even fill the new one completely. This is a breath of fresh air for attendees, performers, and crew alike.



Brand new Greenfield-Central auditorium,

Jennifer Steele, a key force in anything performing arts related, was very busy leading up to the production. Steele made the seating arrangements, programs, handled the monetary business, and much more. When asked what she does for the production, Steele stated, "I do all the small things to make sure the big things happen." Steele is among many of the people excited for the theatre department's largest show this year, "Little Women."

"Little Women" is a 1869 novel-turned musical in 2005. To summarize the plot, the Broadway musical shares the adventures of the four March sisters—Jo, Meg, Beth, and Amy, who remain at home in Concord, Massachusetts, while their father is away on the Civil War battlefields. The musical details challenges that each sister struggles with. The story is a classic, one that audiences are bound to love.

Auditions for the spring musical will be hosted January 28-30, a short few days after the talent show. Performances will be put on May 1-4, Don't forget to buy tickets!

