



DECEMBER 2019
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THE LION'S ROAR NEWSPAPER

CHRISTIAN HILLS SCHOOL
A MINISTRY OF
CHRISTIAN HILLS CHURCH



Getting to Know...

Mrs. Anson

by Jori Lambert & Zoie Balaskas, 8th Grade



Mrs. Anson is a very experienced teacher. She has taught for more than 40 years. She started in 1976 in northern Minnesota teaching Kindergarten. She spent two years in Pekin, Illinois teaching 2nd grade. The remaining time, from 1980 till now, she's taught at Southside Baptist School in Oak Lawn and here at Christian Hills. Her favorite part about teaching art is the creativity the children get to portray. She also likes seeing the "light go on when a child gets it." She currently teaches 3rd and 5th grade art. She likes creating an enjoyable and informative curriculum by spending hours on Pinterest getting and tweaking ideas. She attends Faith Baptist Church in Posen, IL. Mrs. Anson was raised in a pastor's home and asked the Lord to forgive her sins and save her when she was about four and a half years old. She reaffirmed that decision during her freshman year of college. She is married and has two sons. Tom, Jr. is 38 and Ben is 37, but she also has five grandchildren with another on the way any day now! Her favorite hobbies are reading, crafts, and spending time with her grandkids. Besides being the art teacher, she also does aftercare and subbing here at CHS. Her favorite Bible verse is Philippians 1:21 which says, "For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain." This verse reminds her of her purpose on earth and what awaits her someday. Bible and history are her favorite subjects.

It's Christmas Eve.... Again?



Lights, camera, action! Attention: Parents, Students, and Teachers! This year's Christmas program was a big hit! The program was on December 5th and 6th. The students and teachers put a lot of hard work into making this program possible, but there was a lot of behind-the-scenes hard work as well. The preschool's part of the program this year was great. They sang many songs and recited verses that helped us remember that Jesus is the reason for the season. This year's play was called, *It's Christmas Eve....AGAIN?* and was written by Mrs. Dissler. The play

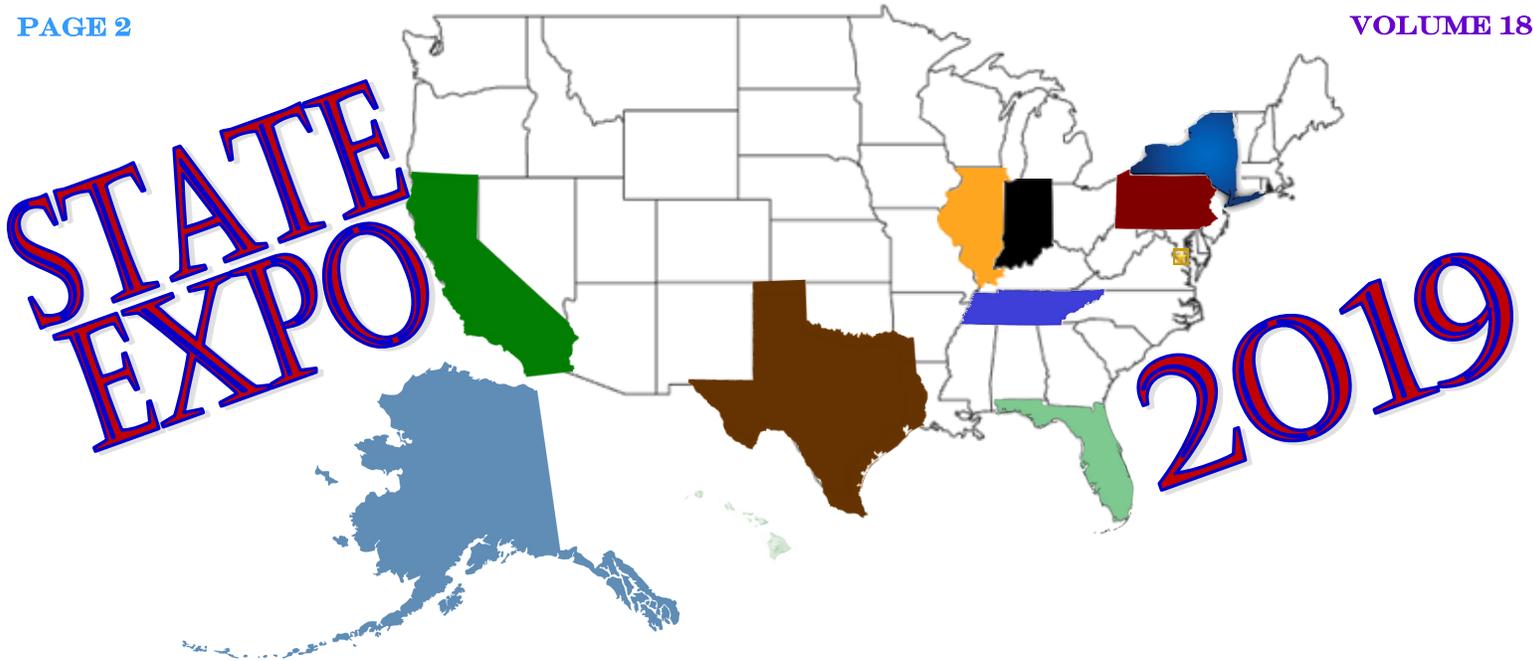
was about a boy named Gideon Brood who has forgotten the true meaning of Christmas. It is Christmas Eve at the Brood residence and Gideon is being a grump. He has gone from loving Christmas to being a Scrooge, Jr. His friends and family want to help him out as much as possible, but he is as stubborn as a mule. Gideon gets some heavenly help from an angel named Michelle. He still won't accept the true meaning of Christmas, so he relives Christmas Eve all over again until he does. The reason for Gideon's cranky behavior is his dad. His dad died on Christmas, so for him, Christmas brings bad memories. Finally, on Christmas Eve number three, his heavenly friend Michelle gets him to believe in the good news about Christmas. That is Jesus!!!! Gideon goes back to his old ways and loves Christmas again! Now, let's take a look at the special people who played these characters. The cast consisted of the Narrator, Gideon Brood, the main character, Hannah Brood, his sister, Grace Brood, his twin sister, Cassie, Gideon's best friend, Andrew, Gideon's friend, Faith, Gideon's friend, and Michelle the angel. Now, let's see who played these characters. The Narrator was played by Makayla Harley. Gideon was played by Cole Leary. Hannah was played by Karalyn White. Grace was played by Annie Bergeron. Cassie was played by Daniela Dodge. Elias Ricks played Andrew. Alison Pavoni played Faith. Michelle was played by Shama Patel. There were a lot of dances throughout the play and they all were great. Pastor Mike's message was a good reminder about the true meaning of Christmas, and we pray that many people were brought to God. A special thanks to everyone behind the



scenes like the tech team, the backstage crew, the set builders, and the costume helpers. Also, a special thanks to all the choreographers and instructors for the dances. This year's program was a huge success and we hope you liked it!

by Jadyn Gillies & Shama Patel, 7th Grade

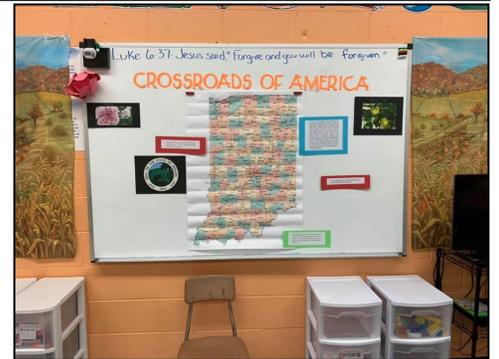
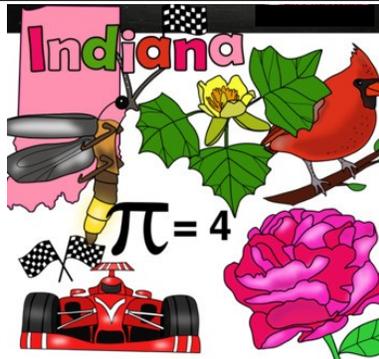




Indiana

by Gabriela Huisman, 8th Grade

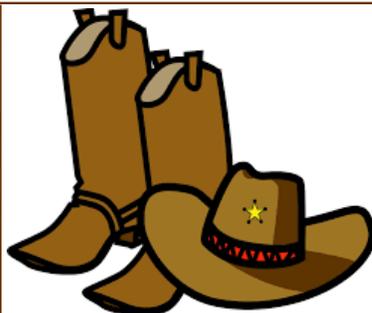
This year, for the State Expo, K3 had Indiana. Mrs. Disser worked very hard to make the room look good. For food, they had biscuits and gravy. There was also root beer for a drink. There were Legos out for kids to play with. A lot of decorations were all around the room. One wall had famous people on it. They were famous people who were born in Indiana. One of those people was Michael Jackson. Indiana is also big on Nascar. There are a lot of race tracks in Indiana, but the most famous one is the Indianapolis Speedway where the Indianapolis 500 is held. K3 did a great job on the State Expo this year.



TEXAS

This year's expo was a great success! We all had fun. The classes did very well and everyone enjoyed it. K4's state this year was Texas. As soon as you walked in, you were served food. They were serving chili with bread. They also had bell peppers and the drink was water. At the tables, they had fun games and challenging word searches. You could also play with Lincoln Logs. They had many decorations in the room. It looked like it was pulled out of Texas. They had toy horses on display. They also had cowboy hats and boots to make it look more southern. The preschoolers had cutouts of their head and they decorated their own hats to put on the cutouts. Overall, this room was amazing.

by Angel Heath, 7th Grade



The Kindergarten kids did a great job on Alaska. There were a lot of fun activities and cool things to do like put your hand in a cold bucket of water. Then you would put your hand in a polar bear glove and it is not as cold as just your hand. They had popsicles and red Jell-O. My favorite was the munchkins and chips with salsa. There were also some fun games they set-up like a little game that you have to knock down a block of ice without an animal falling off of it. When all the animals fall off, then you would lose. They had some good decorations like glaciers, backgrounds, and animals all around the room.

My favorite thing was the big igloo they made that you can go in. It had a very nice carpet at the bottom. I liked it so much because they made it out of plastic gallon jugs. They also had very nice projects around the room. One project told us the capital of Alaska is Juneau. That was one of my three favorite places to go to.

by Blake Walters, 7th Grade



PENNSYLVANIA

by Terrence Ware, 8th Grade

The first grade's expo was very interesting. Their expo was on Pennsylvania. The capital of Pennsylvania is Harrisburg. They had a lot of interesting food. They had ice cream, cookies, banana splits, and brownies. They talked about the Hershey Chocolate Factory. They also talked about the fact that Pennsylvania was a royal colony. William Penn was granted the charter, and the Quakers could stay there. Pennsylvania was founded in 1681. They had the room decorated with cardboard animals and stuffed animals. Pennsylvania has around 63,000 farms and produces a lot of crops. Pennsylvania is a great state and the 1st graders did a great job.



Florida

This year, 2nd grade chose Florida as their state. Their room was very creative and colorful. They made a little section that looked like a tiny beach with seashells all over the place. They topped it off with putting a paper of an undersea coral reef. Mrs. Robinson played a game with each class to see how much we knew about Florida. She asked us questions and we had to answer them. The questions she asked were things like what is Florida's state bird and what is Florida's nickname. The food was very good, also. They made squidogs and goldfish. Their drink was orange juice. Squidogs are hotdogs covered in noodles to look like a squid. The second graders wore shirts with letters on the back of them and dressed like they were in the warm Florida weather. When they all came together, their letters spelled out the word Sunshine State.

by Chelsea Brooks, 7th Grade



HAWAII

This year, the 3rd grade students did Hawaii for their State Expo assignment. Many students did projects such as research of volcanoes, the Hawaiian Islands, and much more. One student made a volcano from plaster for a presentation. The 3rd grade students also served pulled pork sandwiches and Hawaiian Punch. The middle school students especially liked the pulled pork sandwiches. They also played relaxing traditional Hawaiian songs and one student did marine wildlife. Another did research on the volcanic rocks. The 3rd grade class also wore yellow Hawaiian shirts. One thing I learned is that Hawaii is the fiftieth state to enter the union. The 7th grade class had fun sliding on the sand on the floor. Hawaii really is a beautiful state.

by Jeremiah Johns, 7th Grade



Illinois

by TJ Vinson, 8th Grade

This year for State Expo, 4th grade told us about Illinois. My younger brother is in 4th grade and he did a report on the Chicago Bulls. It is pretty cool because we live in Illinois, so they got to do their own state. Some of the facts that were in that classroom were that we have two professional baseball teams and our capital is Springfield. The food that represented Illinois was hot dogs, pizza, brownies, and lemon cake. The Chicago teams represented were the Chicago Cubs, Chicago White Sox, Chicago Bulls, Chicago Bears, Chicago Blackhawks, and the Chicago Fire. They had the famous Bean in Chicago that people visit, too. My favorite part was learning about our sports teams. Taya Balaskas did the Willis Tower, which is not only the tallest building in Chicago, but also in the Western Hemisphere. The Blackstone Group now owns the Willis Tower, but many people still call it the Sears Tower. In the Willis Tower, there is also a Skydeck with The Ledge which is a huge tourist attraction for Chicago.



NEW YORK

The 5th grade New York expo was really great. The room was colorful and bright. They had apple juice, Oreo chocolate cookies, and big, red apples. There were lots of display boards, too. There were also good facts such as the first American chess tournament that was held in New York in 1843. Another good fact is how the Big Apple is a term coined by musicians meaning to play the big time.

There are a lot of good things in New York. Everyone enjoyed the 5th grade expo room. Some other facts on the display boards were how the Empire State Building gets struck by lightning about 23 times per year. There is also a fact of how New York is famous for its Broadway plays. All the facts were great. I can't wait for 5th grade to have another great expo.

by Dinum Watkins, 7th Grade



by Karalyn White, 8th Grade

This year, 6th grade did California for State Expo. The first thing you saw when you walked in the door was a cool photo op with interactive props and a red carpet backdrop. Then, you could get some food. The food that California had was sourdough bread, strawberries, kiwis, and raisins. For a drink, they had grape juice. There were many projects to look at. Some of them were the Golden Gate Bridge, the San Andreas Fault, Californian sports teams, and major Californian companies. The 6th graders decorated the room with an ocean backdrop and they also hung Hollywood stars from the ceiling that had their names on them. Most of the 6th graders accompanied their project with a handmade model. The Golden Gate Bridge was made of Legos; the San Andreas fault was Styrofoam; and for the sports teams, the student made a whole stadium that you could look at. This was the first year that 6th grade did the State of California and I think that everybody thoroughly enjoyed it. California was definitely a state to remember.



Tennessee

This year's seventh graders presented Tennessee for State Expo. It is known for its beauty, history, and music. You can visit their attractions, such as Graceland and Dollywood. Everyone ate ham, mac and cheese, and banana pudding and drank sweet tea. The class wore clothes that people would wear down south. They even made a game called *Bear Eye Spy* where people found 21 bears hiding in the room. There were coloring pages with state symbols, such as the state flag and flower. The class hung art posters with the welcome sign, mountains, cities, records, the state flag, and displayed country boots. There were even electric guitars hanging up in the room. Anthony's project was creative. He made a church as his tactile element about Gospel music and everyone looked at it. Chelsea's project was cool. Her model about Mountain Dew was a vending machine. Joely's project was historic. Her tactile element was maize, which the Cherokee Indians farmed. "State Expo was great and fun. People had the opportunity to learn new things, and I like the fact that they had a new experience," said Ms. Lapinski, the seventh grade teacher. Overall, Tennessee is very interesting and we are looking forward to next year's expo.

by Alyssa Espano, 7th Grade



WASHINGTON, D.C.

by Armani Daniels, 8th Grade

For this year's State Expo, the 8th grade took us to Washington, D.C. The classroom was decorated with American flags and there were red and blue tablecloths everywhere. There was a drawing of the White House on the cabinets which was very impressive. You could find a gigantic model of the Washington Monument sitting in the middle of the classroom. They also played a video about Washington, D.C. as part of the decorations. The classroom was decorated just like what you will see around Washington, D.C. The food served was pizza, Jell-O, and brownies. We had 11 students which meant that we had 11 wonderful projects that were made by our 8th graders. Some of the projects that the students picked were The Lincoln Memorial, The National Museum of African American History and Culture, The Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial, The White House, The Library of Congress, The Smithsonian Museum, The National Aircraft, The Washington Monument, The National Arboretum, and The Washington Wizards. The reason why the 8th grade did Washington, D.C. for the expo is that they are going to Washington, D.C. as a class trip in the Spring, which is very exciting.



CHRISTMAS CHILD



A PROJECT of SAMARITAN'S PURSE®

by Jazmyn Nelson, 8th Grade

Operation Christmas Child is a nonprofit where people donate school supplies, clothes, and toys to children in other countries. These kids in other countries don't get anything for Christmas. We packed 253 boxes this year! Each class had their own time slot to pack the boxes. The classes started out by coloring Christmas papers to include in the boxes. Lori Huish from CHC took 3 or 4 students at a time for each to pack a shoebox. The essentials in the boxes were toothbrushes, toothpaste, soap, and washcloths. They also included pens, pencils, erasers, notebooks, and crayons. We continued to pack combs, hair bands, bracelets, and clips. Finally, we packed stuffed animals, cars, and bouncy balls. We

then picked the gender and age group we wanted to give the box to. Then, Kathy Rowley from CHC put a rubber band around the box and put it with the rest. The 8th grade class then took all the boxes upstairs into the sanctuary. A week or so later, they put all the boxes in a van to be brought to the place where people send off the boxes. Pastor Brennan even helped put the boxes in the van too. Thank you to everyone who donated boxes, their time, and gifts, but the biggest

thank you should go to Mrs. Huish and Grandma Kathy from CHC who work on preparing for this amazing ministry all year long!



In-School Spelling Bee

The CHS In-School Spelling Bee was another amazing success. It was led by our fourth grade teacher, Mrs. Bergeron. Two children from each classroom have won first and second place. Some questions you might be wondering are: Where are the first place winners going? What are the second place people doing? Don't worry, these questions you have asked will be answered.

First, the spelling bee first place winners will be going to Cary, Illinois to compete in the Regional Spelling Bee, which will be held on January 10th. Then if they win first place of this entire Regional Spelling Bee, they will then go to the National Spelling Bee in Washington, D. C.

Secondly, the wonderful second place students are preparing the first place winners for the Regional Spelling Bee. They will go out to the hall (or wherever their teacher has them go) during spelling or reading class and study the next level Regional Spelling Bee list. Everyone did an amazing job and tried so hard in the In-School Spelling Bee. You all should be very proud of yourselves. Meanwhile, keep the first place winners in your prayers so they will do very well.

by Joely MacRitchie, 7th Grade

Chapel

by Ben Gomez, 8th Grade

We learned how to serve others in chapel. We also learned what that meant. That means that you do something for someone even though you were not asked to. Also, that you should serve even if you don't expect to receive anything in return. Even though we are kids, we can serve other kids and adults. We served the Pastors and Mrs. Bergstrand during one chapel and we served many children we don't even know when we helped with Operation Christmas Child. Something else we learned is that we should even serve people that we dislike. We also learned to love others as ourselves. We learned that we can't focus on just one thing or else you will run into another. You have to be aware of everything around you. An example we were given was, while driving a car you cannot focus on just the rearview mirror. If you do that, you might run into another car.

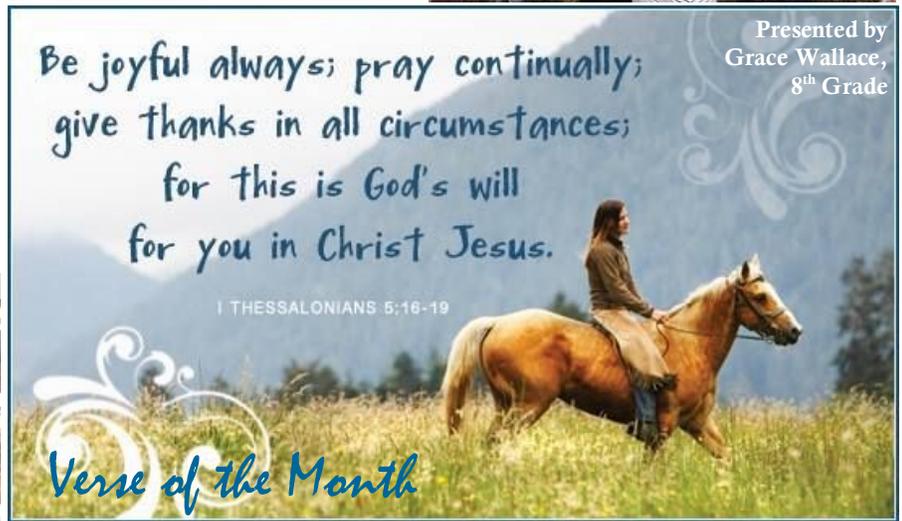


Be joyful always; pray continually;
give thanks in all circumstances;
for this is God's will
for you in Christ Jesus.

I THESSALONIANS 5:16-19

Verse of the Month

Presented by
Grace Wallace,
8th Grade



CHS BOYS BASKETBALL TEAM

This year, the Junior Varsity Boys Basketball Team is doing awesome. We have two wonderful coaches, Coach Doug and Coach Mike. We have both a junior varsity and a varsity team. The kids on junior varsity are Gianni Balaskas, Josh Goss, Isaac Jacobson, Joshua Jakes, Keagan Krestel, Caleb Leary, Ethan Vinson, and Tristin Vinson. The starters for that team are Tristin Vinson, Gianni Balaskas, Cole Leary, Ethan Vinson, and Isaac Jacobson. So far this year, the junior varsity won two games. The first game they won was against KTA (Kankakee Trinity Academy). The second game they won was against TCS (Trinity Christian School). The junior varsity team is practicing very hard and they are getting better. They have games against KTA, FOFCA, TCS, HSRC, and Deer Creek left to play against. Our teams play two games against each team. The ICC Tournament is at FOFCA on January 16-18. Varsity is also doing well, too. They have nine players. The players on varsity are Gianni Balaskas, Caden Blohm, Tristin Vinson, Jeremiah Johns, Malachi Krestel, Jacob Leary, TJ Vinson, Blake Walters, and Terrence Ware. The starting line-up for varsity is Terrence Ware, TJ Vinson, Malachi Krestel, Jacob Leary, and Blake Walters. The varsity won a game, and that was against Grace. The varsity team has many different plays. They have trained for them a lot during practice. Both the varsity and junior varsity play the same teams each time, but varsity is for 6th-8th graders. The varsity tournament is also the same tournament as junior varsity. That tournament is called the ICC Tournament (Illinois Christian Conference). The varsity team also has another tournament after the ICC tournament. This tournament is called the ACSI tournament. That tournament is on January 23rd-25th. The rest of the games are mostly home games since most of our games have been away games. Please pray for our junior varsity and varsity teams.

by Caden Blohm & Jacob Leary, 7th Grade

MOTHER—SON NIGHT

Mother-Son Game Night was a great time to have fun with our moms. There were many contests that were held. For example, there was a free-throw station and a hockey station. There were refreshments and a photo booth. At the end of the night, Mr. Walters told everyone to get in a circle in the gym. After that, he announced the winners for kindergarten through third grade. There were six winners in all. The third place winner was Truitt Krestel. Next, the second place winner was Allen Hughes. Finally, the first place winner was Dejen Knight. Then he announced the winners for grades fourth through eighth grade. The third place winner was Malachi Krestel. Next, the second place winner was Jacob Leary. Finally, the first place winner was Blake Walters. The winners got either a basketball, a football, or a soccer ball, but the first place winner got a twenty dollar gift card! The second place winner got a bag of Swedish fish. Everyone had a blast!

by Malachi Krestel, 7th Grade

MR. CHEN AND THE LEGEND OF THE UNLUCKY BUSTED CHRISTMAS LIGHTS

The story you are about to read is from the scrolls of Mr. Chen, translated from the Chinese language, and is again, continued from the previous story. Thanksgiving and Christmas flew by. When the students went into the school, they looked at the substitute teacher with their worried gazes. Some thought their master had gotten the flu. Some thought he just overslept from all the turkey he ate. The substitute told them to get into the van. In they went, and before they knew it, they were in front of Mr. Chen who was at the hospital in a critical care room looking at a nice nurse with worrisome eyes. "I'll tell you the whole thing," Mr. Chen said and continued, "It all started when I got the Christmas tree from my garage and tried to get the Christmas lights and ornament bin. I got them, but the lights wouldn't work when I turned them on. I had put up the Christmas tree by then and was on my roof, switching the lights on and off. I was about to go to the phone to call customer service, but then read on the label which said to return the lights to the store to exchange them for new lights if they quit working. But they were bought a long time ago and the light company had changed phone numbers in the process. So I put the lights back in the box and tried climbing down the ladder. Unfortunately, I missed one of the steps and fell; I wasn't done though. I slipped on a sheet of ice on the steps by the front door and slid down the slippery driveway. I landed on the road head first! I hit the mailbox, which tipped over. Just then, a car that was going about 45 miles per hour on a residential road (I know, he's speeding because he's not supposed to be that fast on a residential road) almost hit me. Even more unfortunate was when Santa Claus had a sleigh emergency landing and ended up crashing and breaking the Nativity set! Then my mailbox gave up and collapsed with the mail on top of me. Seriously, my neighbor saw me lying on the curb with paper and wood chips all over me. Thankfully, she called an ambulance, bringing me to the hospital. So here I am with both legs broken and a fractured arm and cheek. Sounds like the Christmas spirit hasn't been beside me this year. I was just about to build a jolly snowman after setting up the Christmas lights. I've been here for the last month trying to recover; I hope this tradition has stopped this year. Well, Mr. Chang Ning-Wee will be your substitute teacher for right now, so don't make him upset. Don't worry, I'll be healed and back in just three weeks." The students yelled in surprise, "Three weeks!" To be continued...**LESSON WARNING: DON'T SLIP ON ICE DURING THIS MERRY CHRISTMAS BREAK. YOU'LL END UP LIKE MR. CHEN! MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR CHS!**

A continuing story by
Anthony Espano,
7th Grade



by Tru Butler, 8th Grade

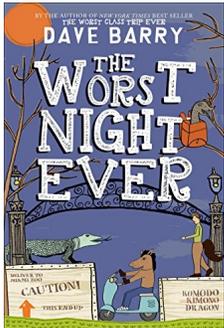
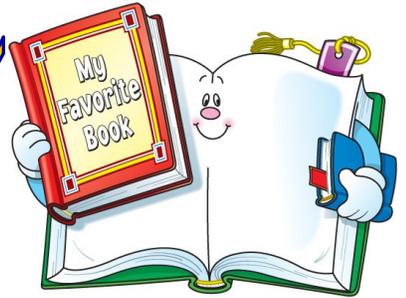
Reckless Love is a wonderful Christian song by an artist/preacher by the name of Cory Asbury. The song came out in 2017. Some of the people who helped write the song are Caleb Culver and Ran Jackson.

The term reckless describes God's love for his children. His love is not "necessarily" reckless in a bad way. It's reckless because His love shows He'll do anything or sacrifice anything for us.

In the song, there's a line that says "leaves the 99". According to the Bible, this refers to a shepherd who leaves his flock of ninety-nine sheep in order to find the one which is lost. This song is very special to me because it has a deep meaning and that is why I love it so much.



Music & Book Reviews



The Worst Night Ever is an amazing book written by a very talented author, Dave Barry. *The Worst Night Ever* is a book about a kid named Jake. Today is Jake's first day of school. Jake just wants to start off with a clean slate, but that does not happen. During school, his best friend Max brought his pet lizard to school, but the school bullies took the lizard. Max and Jake both come up with a plan to get the lizard back.

I would rate this book five stars. This book is comedy filled and it teaches a great lesson. I would definitely recommend this book. The age range for this book is 10 and up.

by Kameron Cleveland, 7th Grade



Ms. Kadan
Music



Did you see her? Wasn't she amazing? If you're not sure why we have an article about Katie Kadan from *The Voice* in our little school newspaper, it's because she used to be the music teacher here at Christian Hills from 2008 to 2010! She was just as bubbly, talented, and excited about music back in the day. Like our current music teachers, she was in charge of the school musicals and did an amazing job every time. Everyone who knew her back then was so excited to hear she was going to be on *The Voice*. Each week we watched and she never disappointed, every note of every song was spot on. Many of us can't believe she didn't win the competition, but we know this isn't the end for her music career. No, it's just another step on an amazing journey. Miss Kadan, as she was known here, spreads joy and fun wherever she goes. She loves the Lord and it shows in a mighty way. So, stay on the lookout for her star to rise. We love you, Katie Kadan!

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The articles written in this paper are written primarily by the students of Christian Hills School and don't necessarily express the views of CHC or CHS.

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