

## J-Term Responses

By Jean Ahn

With a new year comes a new selection of J-terms. Every year, students choose classes that are suited for their own interests, ranging from classes about mythological creatures to learning how to fly an airplane. Most students would agree that some years offer a wider variety of choices than others, so this year, I asked some students what they thought about this year's J-term choices.

This year, new J-terms such as a Glee J-term, led by **Nathan**, and a Songwriting J-term, led by **Eileen** and **Barbara**, were added. While these were added, the much loved Winter Sports J-term, which was led by **KP** and **Lisa Gaustche**, was not offered because **KP** is going on Senior trip. This created an uproar in the junior class, especially from many of the junior guys who were extremely excited to be in the Winter Sports J-term this year. There were also a number of people who were complaining that there were too many J-terms that have to do with music and not enough variety. **Amber Heydon 13'** says, "There's

not enough variety and it just doesn't seem like what people want." However, there are also people who are content with this year's J-terms and are looking forward to them. The freshmen especially find the differences between the middle school and high school J-terms to be for the better. **Olivia Copsey 15'** says, "They are really different than the middle school J-Terms because they're two full weeks. I also like how much opportunity we have to travel." She goes on to say: "I chose Marcelo's Samba J-term because I like learning about cultures, their foods, and stuff like that." **Ike Lehman 13'** says, "I was disappointed that there is no winter sports this year, but I chose songwriting because I like music and a trip to Nashville sounds fun".

For now, it is clear that different students have varying opinions on the upcoming J-terms. Some are positive, and some are negative. Will their expectations be met, or will the J-terms exceed or fail their expectations? I guess we will find out in January.

## I Am Freezing Out Here!

By Christmas Wreath

This is simply unbelievable. Every year for the coldest month of the year, Christmastime, I get banished from the house. What am I, some animal that leaves his feces on the carpet?

My cousin, the Christmas tree, leaves her needles all over the floor, but does she get expelled from her warm, cozy enclave? No, the parents sweep up her needles without a word of complaint. And those children, they shower her with pictures, peppermint, and pine cones. Meanwhile, I am freezing to death, ignored, and severely misunderstood. I can't even see in the window!

Yes, they tie a ribbon around my head, as if I'm an integral part of the gift giving. But am I put under the warm Christmas tree or shaken by the curious children? No, I am a trophy, something to be nailed to the door as a status symbol, where subzero temperatures are common.

Speaking of gifts, does Santa ever bring me anything? If you're listening Santa, I'd like a sweatshirt, several blankets, and a space heater.

It's not like I've been a bad little wreath; I don't throw snowballs at others, I don't cheat on tests, I don't steal from the grocery store. Check your list again, Santa.

And Santa isn't the only bigot. My brethren wreaths and I have been discriminated against for years by all peoples, regardless of race, nationality, ancestry, marital status, disability, religious or political affiliation, age or sexual orientation.

Do any of us hear Christmas music, open Christmas gifts, or visit family? No, we are shuttled out into glacial temperatures, afraid and alone, frigid and frozen.

Even the exiled Christmas lights are plugged in around the clock. Why? So they can stay warm. Where's my cord? After eleven months in a musty attic, I get pulled out of storage for this?

Have a holly jolly Christmas everybody, I hope it's worth it.



# REFLECTOR



## That's Life

not-so-droning life at BCHS

**November 11:** During a discussion in AP English 12, **Peter Schrock'12** says, "It's a sensual overload." **Michael** responds, "I think you mean sensory..."

**November 14:** In the middle of Government, **Brent Reinhardt** says, "Janet Jackson is gorgeous".

**November 17:** **Michael** asks **Peter Schrock'12** if he is hormonally charged. Peter responds, "Yes."

**November 18:** During World religions class, **Pooja Patel'12** asks **Dale Shenk** if he has ever seen the Hangover. Dale responds, "Yes, at least two times. Trish loves those movies."

**November 18:** **Ryan Minter'13** tells the p.2 World Religions class that "my girlfriend's mom gave me the sex talk."

**November 21:** During p.7 Photography, **Eric Good-Kauffman** calls **Drew Sylvester'12** a "stray dog" after it takes him a while to come in from the hallway. When Drew mentions it, Eric says, "The guinea pig (aka **Malaina Weldy'12**) told you, didn't she?"

**December 2:** **Ming Woo'13** and **Qmin Kim'13** ask **Michael Yeakey**, "Do we get lemon drops for this 15 out of 15 on our vocab test?" Michael responds, "No, I am not giving lemon drops to Koreans today." The rest of the class hisses, "Cuss."

**December 9:** A Reflector Staff member goes to check the Reflector Submissions box in the library comes back to the room with only one notecard reading, "Reflect your mom."

**December 12:** While playing with flashcards in Spanish III, **Marcelo Warkentin** looks at a flashcard and asks, "What is a dog nut?" When he shows the card to the class, **Wade Troyer'13** says, "Don't you mean doughnut?"

**December 14:** **Siobhan Mankhen'12** asks **Peter Schrock'12** to Banquet. Peter says "I get back to you. I am keeping my options open." **Michael Yeakey** asks, "For who? **Ben Hochstetler'12**?"

*The Reflector invites submissions to future editions of "That's Life." If you see an interesting or unusual happening, write it down with your name and the date and place it in the Reflector box in the library.*

## Santa around the World

By Malaina Weldy

Who wears a big, red coat, a red fur-lined hat, and brings presents to kids across America? Santa Claus of course! While this holiday icon seems commonplace to many of us, Santa is not present in other countries. From different names, appearances, and traditions, Santa Claus is just one measure of the diversity of Christmas.

In the Czech Republic, the little baby Jesus brings children their presents for Christmas. The same is true in Costa Rica, Colombia, and Mexico. Many of these Latin American countries have a strong Catholic influence, and as a result their 'Santa Claus' of choice has turned out to be none other than baby Jesus himself.

Although these countries are some of the few that have a Santa Claus figure other than the traditional, jolly Santa Claus we imagine, many other countries call Santa different names. For example, in China Santa Claus is called Shengdan Laoren. In England: Father Christmas. In France: Pere Noel. In Russia: Ded Moroz. In Japan: Ho-iosho. Italy calls him Babbo Natale, and in Morocco he is known as Black Peter. These names are just a few of the many, many names of Santa around the world.

Santa Claus not only varies in name, but also appearance. In England, Father Christmas is a slender, tall figure, a sharp contrast to the round and jolly figure we know in the United States. The Russian version of Santa Claus wears a round, Russian style cap rimmed with fur, instead of the traditional pointed Santa's cap of North America. The Russian Santa Claus also does not live in the North Pole. He lives in the village of Veliky Ustyug in Russia.

With many of our traditions having strong roots in European culture, you would think that a lot of our practices would be the same. However, even the country of Germany has very differing traditions than we do. In Germany,



Christmas begins on December 6th when children hang a shoe by the fire to be filled with toys by Saint Nicholas. On Christmas Eve, Weihnachtsmann (the Christmas Man, a Santa Claus type of figure) brings gifts for the people.

Christmas, however, does not just vary in terms of Santa Claus figures or cultural traditions. It also differs simply in when the celebrations take place. Both Peru and Denmark celebrate Christmas on December 24th instead of the 25th like in most other countries. In China, Christmas isn't even a legal holiday, although it is celebrated in more westernized cities such as Hong-Kong. Other countries put more emphasis on the time leading up to Christmas known as Advent, and to some, Three King's Day is the most important day of celebration. In countries such as Russia, children receive their presents on New Year's Eve instead of Christmas Eve or Christmas Day like in our culture.

As you can see, Christmas is as diverse as the country it takes place in. No matter where you go, there will be different traditions and unique ways of doing things. Although Santa Claus is a universal idea around the world, he takes different forms in different cultures. This diversity represents the differences in our world, yet also reminds us just how similar we are. After all, there really isn't much difference between Father Christmas, Pere Noel, or Santa Claus. The names may be different, but the idea remains the same: Santa Claus is the ultimate symbol of Christmas.

## Reflector 2011-2012 Staff

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Letters to the Editor are invited. Contact the *Reflector* at Reflector, Bethany Christian Schools, 2904 S. Main St., Goshen, IN, 46526

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## Christmas Music Revamped

By Sadie G-Z

To put it simply: I love Christmas music. On Thanksgiving, I start blasting old classics and cutting out paper snowflakes. The traditional songs are always welcome, but it is always interesting to hear how modern music groups find new takes on old songs. Two newly released albums that feature Christmas classics (arranged in two very different ways) are Michael Bublé's "Christmas," and She & Him's "A Very She & Him Christmas."

Michael Bublé's "Christmas," seems to be a recreation of a variety of jazzy classics, from "Santa Baby" to "White Christmas". His steamy vocals sound like hot chocolate with marshmallows. Bublé's arrangements are very similar to the original versions. The familiarity makes the songs easy to love. For instance, in a few songs, he includes appearances from various vocal groups. One song features the Puppini Sisters (reminiscent of the Andrews Sisters from the 1930's), and another song features Naturally 7 (an all men vocal-group) as backup. The mixture of the upbeat bass lines, sax solos, and dreamy vocals make Bublé's CD a very enjoyable audible experience.

"A Very She & Him Christmas" sounds very laid-back. I know from first hand experience that recording a CD can be very stressful, but She & Him sound like they were just jamming and decided to record a CD and sell it to millions of people. The instrumentation is very simple, often only vocals with a guitar or ukulele. The song choice is very broad, though all end up sounding like a lullaby. As is the way of Zooey Deschanel, "A Very She & Him Christmas" sounds

### Top 10 ½ Things to leave for Santa

1. Menorah
2. Reindeer Jerky
3. The Bible (reminder of what Christmas IS about)
4. Lingerie (for the Mrs.)
5. Subscription to Jenny Craig
6. Taser to control the rebellious elves
7. Restraining order
8. Red Jeggings
9. a GPS
10. Butter to help him down the chimney
- 10½. Half Smoked Cuban Cigars



rather vintage, including an old piano and heavy reverb on the vocals, which also adds to a sleepy but happy atmosphere. It also has a western swing feel, incorporating a steel guitar and choppy percussion once in a while.

Though both CD's include some of the same songs, the vibe they give off is very different. If you want a CD to sleep to, choose "A Very She & Him Christmas," but if you want to hang Christmas decorations to lively and incredibly attractive male vocals, Michael Bublé is the one for you.



## Christmas Changes

By Stacie Park

Finally it is that wonderful time of the year again. It is Christmas!! The time of getting gifts for your family and friends and opening the wonderful and unexpected gifts from your parents and the world's biggest donor to children, Mr. Santa Claus. The children will play with their new toys and mom will ask dad why he got two transformer toys. Dad's reply will be "One is an Optimus Prime and the other is a Deceptacon. The Optimus Prime is from Santa Claus...It was buy one get one free so we got two of them."

We began at the stage of "I believe that Santa is real". Christmas was happy and white with the extra spice of Santa's gift. Then we grew a bit taller and older, and reached the stage of "I saw you write 'from Santa' on the card, Mom". Then we got less excited knowing that Donor Mr. Santa is not real, but we still liked the gifts.

Someday when we become parents, we definitely will not want to ruin our kid's Christmas, so we begin the stage of start "Operation Elves". This means going through the list of presents in our kid's 'letter to Santa Claus', that they tried to send to the North Pole. We

will write "from Santa" on several cards and "from mom and dad" on others. On Christmas eve, the operation will include taking one bite of the carrots left for the reindeer and eating the cookies put out for Santa, and being super quiet when we are putting the presents under the Christmas tree.

This will soon become the stage of "Pretending not to know where the presents came from". We know there is probably not a Santa, but let's just have fun and enjoy the piles of wrapping paper, fabulous gifts and smiles on everyone's faces."

As the years go by, we realize Christmas is not just a holiday of receiving gifts, but also giving. Look at Santa, does he get gifts? Well, if you say the cookies you leave for him are gifts then you win. But would you like to get 567 million cookies for Christmas like Santa? Probably not. So, for this year you can follow in Santa's foot steps and give more than you receive. I am sure that you will feel pretty good when you make someone smile at the present you have for them. I hope you have a wonderful Christmas.

## QUESTION OF THE MONTH

By: Jean Ahn

### What do you want for Christmas?

"I really want a Hippopotamus."

Chyenne Riegsecker  
2015



"Baby, all I want for Christmas is you."

Kevin Hawkins  
2013



"Time to spend with Family and Friends"  
Eileen Becker-Hoover  
Faculty

"My two front teeth"

Aaron Maust  
2014



"To be friends with Tia Rinker."

Chris Wittrig  
2012



## Running up the Score

By Caleb Morris

Everyone has seen a one-sided game. In 2009, Fox News reported that Covenant Christian School beat Dallas Academy 100-0 in a girls basketball game. Dallas Academy is a school that specializes in helping students with “learning differences,” and they are not accustomed to winning many games. This is obviously an extreme case, but the ethics of running up the score has been an issue facing many people ever since inter-scholastic sports began.

Most people agree that showing your opponent respect is the most important thing in a mismatch game. However, many would say not playing hard would be showing the inferior team less respect than playing hard. The coach must find the happy medium between these two extremes.

If the starters of the team are left in to play most of the game and are not pulled near the end of the game, the coach and the team will be regarded with ill will by the opposing side. But if the superior team plays their subs for a large portion of the game, that is a completely different story. A coach always wants his team to play hard and if he puts in his subs, he will expect them to also play hard.

## Winter Sports Update

By Andrew Snyder

Going into Christmas break, the basketball seasons are in full swing. In the inaugural year of the new center court artwork, gift of the class of 2010, balls are flying everywhere as teams practice to improve. The girls program is at the half-way mark in their season, while the guys are entering the middle third of their campaign. While records might not show it, both teams are hard at work preparing for sectional play in March.

The girls program posts a (4-7) record, led by stellar guard play from seniors **Malaina Weldy 12'**, **Gina Gautsche 12'**, and **Alena Yoder 12'**, along with fantastic post play from junior **Natalie Thorne 13'**. When asked about the biggest changes this season, one answer centered around a more post-centered offense. Another emphasized the rise in communication on the court. Statistically the team is led by **Natalie Thorne 13'** with 107 points on the season (9.7 per game), **Malaina Weldy 12'** with 40 assists (3.6 per game), and **Alena Yoder 12'** with 22 steals (2 per game).

After working out a few kinks, the guys are on track to a



If the worse team is still not able to compete, then the teams should not be playing in the first place.

In short, each game is unique and will have different circumstances with different results that should be carefully analyzed and dealt with by the coach in that situation. There is no golden rule of when you should take out starters, when you should stop scoring, or when you should drop the other team from your schedule. The important thing is making sure that the other team is being shown a sufficient amount of respect, and that the superior team acts in a way that is honorable to themselves and the other team.

winning record. Sitting at (2-4), the team only needs 2 more wins to reach .500. **David DeLeeuw 12'** leads the team with 101 points (16.8 per game), while **Femi Hollinger-Janzen 12'** leads with 16 assists (4 per game) and 9 steals (1.5 per game). When asked about the biggest change from last year to this, **Caleb Morris 13'** responded, “We’ve switched to man-to-man defense and more of a motion offense.” Coach **Jim Buller** agreed with both assessments. The team is so enjoyable that even **Renaë Yoder** has strived to maintain her post as official scorekeeper whenever possible.

Both teams can be seen in action on Saturday the 17th, at the annual Bethany Christian Holiday Tournament, where they return to defend their 1st place finishes from last year. Elkhart Christian, Lakeland Christian, and Clinton Christian challenge the guys, while the girls host Elkhart Christian, Lakeland Christian, and Trinity. Games start at 10 am and continue all day, leading up to the men’s final at 7 pm. Ample support will help push the Bethany teams to victory for a second year straight.