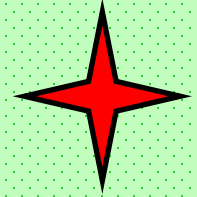


## Girls Basketball

The lady cougars started their season in late November, their record currently being 2-1. Going into December the ladies are coming off a tough loss against Porta, that game ending with a final score of 40-31. Hopefully that game will fuel the girls to play hard in some upcoming games in early December. Their next game is scheduled for December 5th against Pikeland. The game will be hosted in Bluffs starting at 6 p.m. We hope to see you there. Also remember, Hawkeye Mowing is hosting a rainbow shot contest during halftime of the varsity game. Compete for a chance to win 10 dollars! After that the lady cougars travel to Havana on Saturday, December 7th to take on the Ducks. Later in the month, both our girls and boys teams will travel to Indiana and play in the Hoosiers gym. Hopefully it will be a fun experience for the teams. December should be a fun month for the lady cougars. Make sure to show up to the games and show some support!

On December 13th we are running a 2:15 dismissal schedule. We are not actually dismissing though. Students will be held in the auditorium to participate in minute to win it games divided by houses. The games have been made up by students in the houses. We do these games so students can blow off some steam before finals. Students are not required to participate in the festivities but all students are welcome to participate. Students from each house will come up to the stage in the auditorium and compete in quick minute to win it games. 1-2 students from each house will go up to the stage and participate in the games and will represent their house if a student earns points or wins the challenge the house that the student is apart will accumulate points as the games go on. After all the games have been played points that have been accumulated for each house will be added up and the winner will be decided.

Kendall Graham



## What You Need to Know About Finals

'Tis' the season! As the snow starts to fall and the weather begins to drop, it is the time for winter apparel to come out! Though, along with winter comes 1st semester finals. Finals are split into two different days: December 19th and the 20th, right before Christmas break. Periods 1-4 is December 19th and 5-8 is December 20th. To see the full schedule, please make sure to check the halls for any fliers, students! As finals start to come around the corner, it is a great idea to prepare for lots of studying and/or study guides. Final exams are worth 20% of every student's grade, so make sure to be extra prepared! Especially freshmen this semester. It is always stressful and difficult to get into the swing of things in high school, and finals are definitely one of the accommodations students have to get used to. As stated before, be sure to be mentally prepared and study lots, it helps!

Ella Hoots

## Best Christmas Songs

The Christmas Season has begun. I am sure we all like to listen to Christmas music to get in the spirit, but what are the best songs to listen to? I was asked to get people's opinions on what songs they think are best. While taking votes from a few of the students and staff members around the school, it seems to be that "All I want for Christmas is You" has tied with "Grandma Got Run Over by a Reindeer" for first place with five votes each. "Last Christmas" came in close second with four votes. "Jingle Bell Rock" came in third with three votes. "Rocking Around the Christmas Tree" came in fourth place with two votes. "Santa Baby" came in last with only one vote. No matter how many people voted for a song, don't let that stop you from listening to your favorite Christmas song!

Mallory Pratt

## Christmas

What is Christmas? Christmas is celebrating the Birth of Jesus. People say it's the most wonderful time of the year. Lot's of people think of Christmas as gifts but it's mostly about spending time with family and friends and giving back to your loved ones. Most people decorate their homes for Christmas with the most common decoration being the Fir tree dating back all the way to 1605. People decorate their trees with ornaments, tinsel, garland, ribbon, a tree topper and a tree skirt to finish it off. When people think about Christmas a common thing to come to mind is Santa Claus also known as Sant Nicolas. He's 1750 years old, and lives in the North pole. People put out cookies and milk out for Santa on Christmas eve, and their elf on the shelf. On Christmas morning a big Christmas breakfast is normally cooked and children wake up early to open their presents. I hope everyone reading this has an amazing Christmas and a happy new year!

Alex Feenstra

## Waverly Tournament

Each year, our high school boys basketball team competes alongside 15 other teams to win the Waverly Tournament. Waverly High School has hosted the longest small school holiday tournament in Illinois for 73 years. This tournament, takes place during Christmas break, and takes 4 days. Last year, West Central won 1st place. Along with the basketball tournament, all cheerleading teams will also be competing to win a trophy. This year, the cheerleaders are very determined to win. The basketball team has 4 seniors including, Zach Howard, Cameron Sievers, Caden Meyer, and Carson Brown. Hopefully these seniors will help our boys to take home the dub again this December. There is a lot of competition in this tournament so make sure to show up to a few games and show your support! I'm sure the basketball team could use some extra encouragement from the crowd, so show up and help the cheerleaders make some noise!

-Flora Smith

## Closed advisory days

As we get into the final month of the first semester I would like to remind you of the closed advisory days we have this month. We have two of them. One of them is on Tuesday the 3rd, I'm sure there will be some meetings that day. On the last Friday before finals week there will be a closed advisory and that is the 13th and there might be some house meetings, maybe some class meetings but then that weekend you should start studying because finals are coming up. I know that sometimes closed advisory may be dumb but take it as a chance to catch up on homework or just spend time with friends or even make up some tests and take time to talk to the seniors that may be graduating early. You may not talk to them again so never take advantage of your time with them.

## Christmas Parade

The Winchester High School key club is hosting a Christmas Parade. The Christmas parade will be on December 7th. There will be class floats, sport floats etc. There will also be business/company floats, Santa floats, Grinch floats, and many more. The parade will be bringing Santa into town. Santa will be located in his little house on the square. The Christmas parade is also the opener for hometown Christmas.

## Winter Weather

Winter is approaching which means it's time to do all of the winter activities such as building snowmen, making cookies, decorating gingerbread houses, making snow angels, sitting by the fire and drinking hot cocoa, and sledging down hills. It also means to be careful on the roads because you are more likely to wreck. Watch out for ice and be careful because there is also black ice. Make sure you are wearing your winter coat and keeping gloves in your pockets and vehicles to stay warm. December 21st is the first day of winter this year. The winter weather is expected to be colder this year. The weather is also predicted to be wetter than most winters. It is predicted to be below average this year so make sure you are wearing the appropriate clothing. Expect most of the snow to fall in late December and carry on through February. Once snow starts hitting the ground make sure you are thinking about being cautious on the road for your safety and others.

## Gracelyn Hettinger

### What December is all about

There are a lot of ways that December is so unique. December has a lot of different winter holidays such as Christmas, and Hanukkah. Everybody knows what Christmas but some people may not know what Hanukkah is. Hanukkah is a lesser Jewish festival that lasts eight days starting on the 25th of December and commemorating the rededication of the Temple in 165 BC by the Maccabees after its desecration by the Syrians. It is marked by the successive kindling of eight lights. December is also known for all of the top hit songs or the Christmas lights to drive around and see. There are a lot of good Christmas songs like "It's Beginning to look a lot like Christmas" or "All I want for Christmas is you". Going around towns to look at Christmas lights is the family's favorite thing to do. Most families will stay local or they will go out to see professional ones.