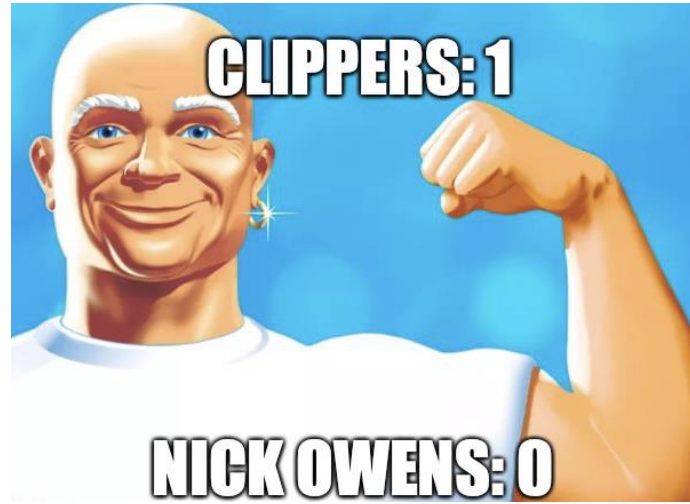


# Fun & Games

By Hudson Stephens and Betsy Nearn

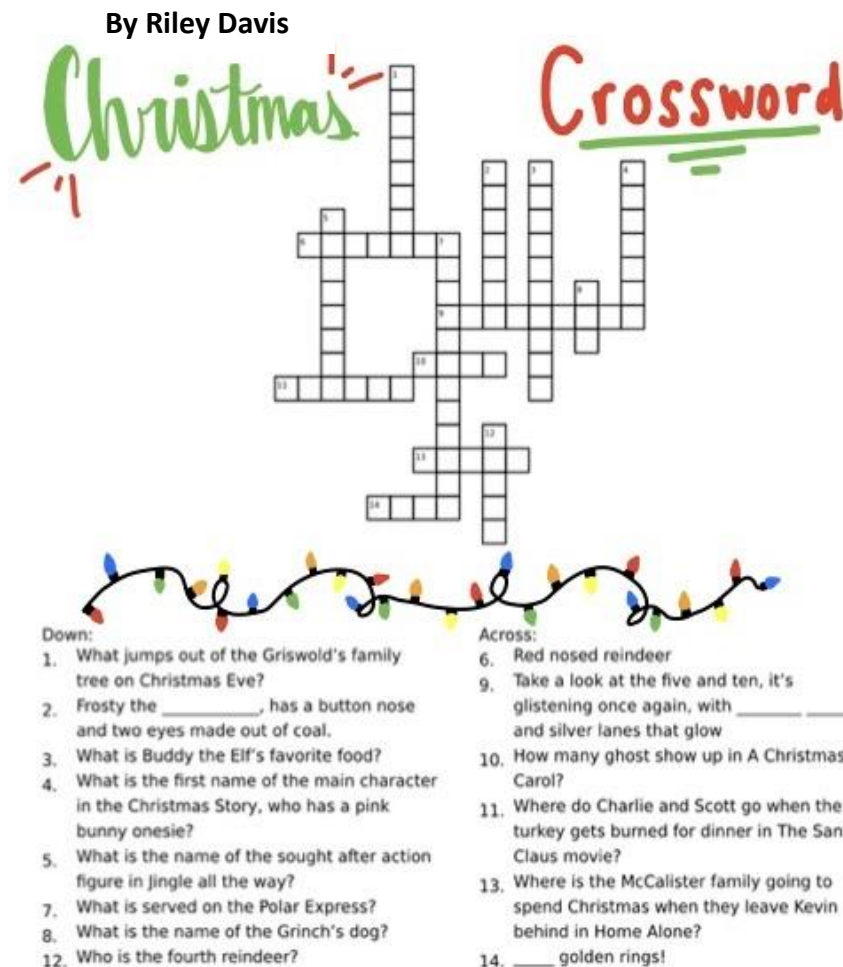


## Trivia



By Kenny Cox, Crews Gieselmann, & Betsy Nearn

- Who do the Grizzlies play on Christmas Day this year?  
A. Golden State Warriors    B. Boston Celtics  
C. Minnesota Timberwolves    D. Atlanta Hawks
- How many ghosts are in *A Christmas Carol*?  
A. 2    B. 3  
C. 4    D. 5
- In what country was St. Nicholas born?  
A. Russia    B. Turkey  
C. Austria    D. Iceland
- Which teacher was infamous for hiding the Chinese animal of the year in his/her room for students to find?  
A. Mrs. Kallaher    B. Ms. Garrott  
C. Mr. Ford    D. Mr. Webb
- Which pop singer is most famous for her Christmas album and even made a short animated film about wanting a puppy for Christmas as a child?  
A. Mariah Carey    B. Ariana Grande  
C. Whitney Houston    D. Idina Menzel



# The Eagle's Eye

December 2022

Holiday Issue

Volume 36 No. 2



## Fall Fest Festivities

By Sydney Jackson

In October, ECS held its annual Fall Fest for upper school students. The day was full of fun games, ax throwing, line dancing and much more! One of the first events on our agenda was the intense twinkie-eating contest between Nate Reithemeyer and Gillan (Caleb McCalla). We still don't know who the winner is to this day, but it ended in waxing their very hairy legs. We can't forget the moment Emma Sanders Brady, Ava Saenz, Campbell Williams and Cooper Dye each swallowed goldfish.

I checked back in with Campbell Williams who said, "As soon as the goldfish got halfway down, it started fighting its way back up," which does not sound very pleasant. Don't worry, they still got a dollar!

Lucy Benson appeared as our lovely bachelorette this year, and Jack Cousins won her heart with his rizz; we checked back in on them and unfortunately, there is no future for them.

Things got serious when we got our staff involved, starting with Coach Story's special rendition of *Llama Llama Red Pajama*. We then had the teachers face off against their children, and the teachers came out on top. One of the highlights of the day was when Coach Cummins and Coach Todd played our game of "Spill Your Guts or Fill Your Guts" ending with some Spam.

Overall, Fall Fest was a great event where the students got to skip a day of classes for some fun. It is an event that our students look forward to every year.

1.A; 2. C; 3. B; 4. D; 5. A; Down: 1. Squirrel; 2. Snowman; 3. Maple syrup; 4. Ralphie; 5. Turboman; 7. Hot Chocolate; 8. Max; 12. Vixon; Across: 6. Rudolph; 9. Candy Cane; 10. Four; 11. Denny's; 13. Paris; 14. Five



# Letter from the Editor

## Eagle's Eye Staff

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Photography:  
Samantha Hardison

Special thanks to Tracey Simpson  
for the use of some photographs in  
this issue.



Dear Readers,  
Thank you so much for your positive feedback from the previous issue! I hope you also enjoy this Holiday Issue, featuring many Christmas activities and the ECS upper school holiday – Fall Fest!  
On the cover, Sydney reminisces on each Fall Fest dance, game, and competition, including the Gillan vs. Nate face-off.

I am excited to introduce you to new lower school reporters Carnes Dorrill and Anderson Cummins, who write about the the day-to-day Christmas cheer at their campus!

Other Christmas events are covered in reading Evann's favorite holiday memories, Erin's Christmas card, photos from the seniors' breakfast with Santa, Riley's crossword puzzle, and my collaboration with Kenny and Crews for Christmas trivia!

You will also know exactly where to go out to eat—or where not to go—by reading Emily Kate and Cooper's restaurant reviews.

Also, Anna Grace and Jane keep us informed about what's going on in the world, while Samantha and Brokke keep us updated about what's going on in the school.

Many thanks to *The Eagle's Eye* staff for helping this newspaper come to life by sharing their unique perspectives of school activities. I have enjoyed watching people from different areas of the school come together and bring this newspaper back!

Happy reading!  
Betsy Nearn

## Star of the Issue: Evann Swolensky

### Interview by Savannah Lofton

**Q: Which activities are you involved in at ECS?**

A: I played volleyball and love attending ECS events, whether that's sports, plays, dances, and more!

**Q: What is your favorite ECS memory?**

Coach Payne's first period economics class.

**Q: If you could have any superpower what would it be?**

Probably telekinesis. Like imagine being able to move stuff with just your mind. So helpful. So cool!

**Q: Santa, elves, or reindeer? Why?**

Definitely reindeer. Specifically Santa's reindeer. Hello? They can fly. Boom! And I love animals, so that's a bonus!

**Q: Where do you see yourself in ten years?**

To be honest, my vision isn't good enough to see that far.

**Q: What is your favorite Christmas dessert?**

Usually I would say cookies, but Oreo balls might be number one. They are so easy to make and are delicious!

**Q: What is your favorite Christmas tradition?**

My favorite Christmas tradition is this scavenger hunt that my grandmother creates for me, my brother, and our cousins. She makes her own riddles



and we have to solve them to find our presents. Then we open them as a family!

# World News

## The Russia-Ukraine War

By Anna Grace Fletcher



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The Russia-Ukraine War started on February 24 and continues to this day, causing more than 200,000 military casualties. At the beginning of October, Russia launched one of its largest attacks on Ukraine, bashing military facilities and impacting as many as 14

regions. As of November 2022, more than 15 million people have left Ukraine and crossed international borders, creating a humanitarian crisis. Russian President Vladimir Putin had initially planned for a rapid victory,

but he now admits that the war in Ukraine could be a "lengthy process."

Russia has gained military control over four Ukrainian regions: Kherson, Zaporizhzhia, Luhansk, and Donetsk; yet Ukrainian forces continue to resist. Additionally, Russia has launched air strikes against Ukraine's power grid, leaving millions without heat and electricity while temperatures begin to drop below zero. As winter sets in to the war-riddled countries of Russia and Ukraine, Putin is contemplating delaying further invasions, and resuming early next year.

A majority (143) of member countries in the United Nations General Assembly voted to condemn Russia's attempt to annex the four Ukrainian regions under Russian military control. This majority, which includes the United States, condemns Russia's attempt to overtake Ukraine as a sovereign state.

Putin has expressed that he is merely retaking what was formerly Russian territory and that there is no need to fear a nuclear attack by Russia unless other countries attack militarily. Much of the rest of the world continues to send aid to Ukrainian President Zelensky, take in Ukrainian refugees and call on Putin to abandon his aggression toward Ukraine.

## The FTX Collapse Scandal

By: Jane Kresnadi

FTX stands for Futures Exchange. It was one of the largest exchanges where cryptocurrencies – a form of money traded digitally – were traded, and it was praised as one of the most transparent crypto operations.

After a report by CoinDesk regarding concerns about leverage and financial obligations, this key cryptocurrency exchange filed for bankruptcy on November 11, going from about \$32 billion to nothing in a matter of days.

FTX's collapse shook the already volatile crypto market, causing the broader market to lose billions in value.

Aside from the hours following the collapse – in which hundreds of millions of tokens were stolen during a possible hack – a lawsuit was filed on November 16 in a Florida federal court that accused the FTX founder, Sam Bankman-Fried, of creating a fraudulent cryptocurrency scheme meant to take advantage of unsophisticated investors.

Many celebrities were named for allegedly having a part in helping Bankman-Fried in his plan, including Steph Curry, Shaquille O'Neal, Shohei Ohtani, Naomi Osaka, Larry David, and Kevin O'Leary.

This week, Bankman-Fried was indicted in the US House Financial Services Committee hearing regarding the FTX collapse.

The future of cryptocurrencies looks a little bleak as things stand in uncertainty.

Source: Investopedia.com



# Features

## Seniors' Breakfast with Santa



## Lower School Celebrates Christmas

### ASAP Presents *A Christmas Carol*

By Carnes Dorrill, 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Staff Writer

The After School Acting Program, also known as A.S.A.P., performs a Christmas play each year. This year on Monday, Dec. 12, the A.S.A.P. cast put on the play *A Christmas Carol* for the SK through 5<sup>th</sup> grade students at the ECS lower school campus.

When asked what he liked about the A.S.A.P. program, Raston Goff said, "I like performing and working with others."



Grace Anne Williams said, "I love getting in the Christmas spirit and learning a bit more about Jesus."

The play was a huge success. The main character, Ebenezer Scrooge, was played by McLane Miller. Everyone thought McLane did a great job and got everyone in the Christmas spirit.

Bravo, A.S.A.P.!



### LS Christmas Traditions

By Anderson Cummins, 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Staff Writer

From the festive planters outside our front doors to Little Eagles' handprint nativities on the walls, ECS is a special place to be each Christmas.

Perhaps the most special Christmas tradition at ECS Lower School is the crowd-favorite Christmas Shoppe. Parents invest time, energy and creativity to make the Christmas Shoppe something students look forward to every year... Students get to budget and shop for their loved ones, go to the wrapping room for gift wrap, and

leave from school that day with gifts in tow. The selection of items to choose from offer a variety of options at different price points. Always highly anticipated and talked about, the Christmas Shoppe is certainly a tradition to remember.

Christmas at the Lower School is full of joyful and happy things like wearing crazy clothes or going to buy presents for family. But what is the most special thing about Christmas at ECS Lower School is getting to celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ together!

# Food

## Restaurant Reviews

### El Mero Taco Review

by Emily Kate Webster



El Mero Taco, once only a taco food truck, now has a brick-and-mortar location very close to ECS. It is located in the Cordova Station shopping center at 8110 Macon Station, so it could be an option for senior off-campus lunch or somewhere to grab a bite before heading to cheer on the Eagles.

- El Mero offers a variety of unique and tasty tacos and quesadillas, such as blackened catfish, roasted cauliflower, and steak and potatoes. It has additional offerings such as salad, fries, and soup, and you can even grab dessert!
- The appetizers and food arrived pretty quickly. Their chips are some of the best, but I wasn't a fan of the mole sauce on the oaxacan mole fries.
- The menu states which foods contain peanuts, which are vegan, and which are vegetarian.
- Only a few negatives: the food is a little pricey for a small portion, and the tables were not completely clean.
- Bonus: Try going to Team Car Cafe, the coffee shop next door that partners with El Mero, to grab a breakfast taco!

### Whataburger Review

by Cooper Acuff

As I exited play practice, I felt that urge in my stomach that my hunger needed to be satisfied. I went to the first place I saw: the new Whataburger. The line was not long; I was excited. I was pleasantly surprised with the service I got in the drive-through, but I couldn't disregard the 35 minute wait I had to sit through to get my burger, fries, and drink.

Whataburger is a great example of the old saying, "looks can be deceiving." The cheeseburger was large in size, but very small in quality. My initial thought after taking the first bite was...below average. I was honestly not surprised by the quality of this burger; I had a feeling this was going to happen. There are a few upsides to this burger though. Although the bun looks very boring, it was actually one of the most flavorful parts. Another good component of this burger were the pickles – they added great taste. Sadly, the core part, the patty, failed to meet any good burger meat standards. If a late night arrives and you have 45 minutes to spare and low standards for a cheeseburger, this is your place! On a more positive note, there is word that Whataburger might have a great breakfast game, so keep that in mind. I understand that many of you might disagree with this review and that is okay... but it's my review not yours.





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# Fine Arts

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## Flight Soars in Recent Performances

By Kate Spiegelman

Flight is the honors a capella singing group at ECS. They are taught by Mrs. Cumming, and the group consists of 12 members.

The students that sing in Flight are all high school students at ECS. The members of Flight also take Concert Choir as a class. The Concert Choir is the main high school choir that is made up of students from 9th-12th grade.

Flight sings at various events throughout the year. So far, they have sung the National Anthem at the homecoming football game. They also sing in both the winter and spring concerts.

Flight prepares for these concerts and more events during zero period before school most mornings. The closer they get to a performance, the more they rehearse and practice.

The annual Christmas concert was Monday, December 5. This is one of the concerts Flight sings in every year. This year, Flight sang two songs: “Jingle Bells” and “O Holy Night.”

Flight will sing at the Briarcrest Invitational next. They will start rehearsal and preparation for their upcoming concerts and events next semester.



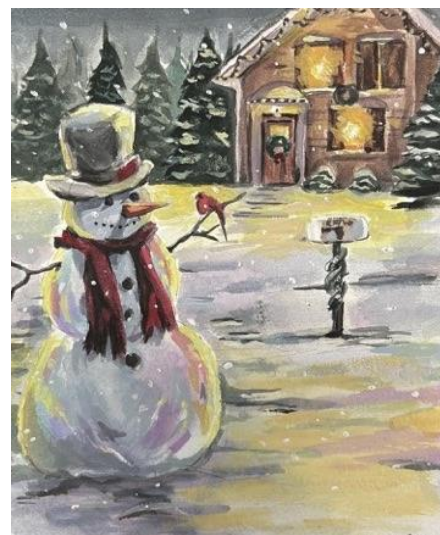
## Student Artwork Selected for ECS Christmas Card

This year, the artwork of junior student Erin Eastlack was selected for the cover of the annual ECS Christmas card mailed to parents and alumni.

Lyrics from the 1871 Christmas carol, “See Amid the Winter’s Snow” were

printed inside the card, along with Christmas well wishes signed by Head of School Mr. Braxton Brady.

Congratulations, Erin, for this deserving recognition of your beautiful work!



Artwork by Erin Eastlack

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# Sports

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## Basketball Hoops are Back in Action

By Brokke Scott

Both boys and girls varsity basketball is in full swing and is going well. The boys had a big win over Corinth in the Lighthouse Classic and dominated with a 60-37 score.

Tyler Jones, a sophomore on the varsity basketball team, was selected as MVP of the Lighthouse Classic. He had 11 points, 10 assists and 8 rebounds. Tyler also scored 24 points in a recent game against Collierville which was recognized by *The Commercial Appeal*.

Ryan Scott, a sophomore, was also recognized by *The Commercial Appeal* for his 14 points in a game against Collierville.

Kenny Cox, a senior, scored 11 points against Collierville and was also recognized by *The Commercial Appeal*.

The Eagles also recently defeated Northpoint in their first division game! The boys varsity team is a guard-dominated

team and play a fast-paced game with a lot of pressing, which makes for an exciting game. The team has a strength in pressuring teams full-court and is skilled in forcing turnovers.

Our Lady Eagles defeated TRA with a 41-12 win on November 21. Lucy Benson, a senior on the varsity basketball team, scored 17 points in the TRA game; she was also selected to *The Commercial Appeal's* high school basketball top performers. She was again selected on week 3 due to scoring 16 points versus Collierville. Way to go, Lucy!

ECS basketball has also had a substantial student section, especially at the home games. Be sure to stop by the next game! Go Eagles!



The Eagles varsity swim team made a comeback last year, and this year, we have our first varsity wrestling team in nearly 40 years!

## The ECS Swim Team Makes a Splash!

By Samantha Hardison

Since last year, the swim team has grown in popularity at ECS. The team has more than doubled in size since last season, from fifteen to thirty-three swimmers!

Swimming is one of the best sports for staying in shape and getting ready for other sports. It is also a highly social sport, despite most events being individual. It is an easy way to meet new friends while training. Coach Carla Mabie sums it up very well. “As long as I am a part of the swim program at ECS, it will be another fun, safe and inclusive community for anyone

that needs a place to land. Our athletes swim for a variety of reasons. Some are learning the strokes, some need to belong to a group and some want to cross-train for other sports. Yes, we do have those who want to attain County and State qualifying cuts. And they will! We are fortunate that we can consider swimming a club with a competitive slant to it.” And speaking of competitive, our team already has eight qualifiers for the county meet, four of them being new to the sport this year. So far, we have had a great season!