

Happy Holidays
from the Wingspan team



the Wingspan

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Holiday De-LIGHT

Symphony of Lights: This Howard County tradition, sponsored by Howard County General Hospital, is filled with vibrant holiday displays that are fun for any age. Located at 10475 Little Patuxent Parkway, this spectacular light show lasts from November 23, 2016 to January 1, 2017. The cost to drive through is \$20 Wednesday through Friday and Sunday, and \$25 on Saturday.

Intersection at Font Hill and Old Annapolis Road: A bright spot of the neighborhood where a beautiful pine tree radiates holiday spirit.

4802 Red Hill Way (off of Montgomery Rd): It is impossible to miss this house, with its vivid LED displays and Christmas music playing outside, as well as their own radio station, 96.1. The house is a very popular attraction for the community and grows more extravagant each year due to donations from the community.

Ellicott City Main Street: Up and down Main Street, stores are lined with festive holiday lights and figures.

-Meghan Moore

Photos By: Shalini Malhotra and Meghan Moore

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Looking to

2017

Students' plans for the new year

the
Wingspan

New Year's resolutions: *an annual tradition that has people everywhere making promises that probably won't be kept.*

Many students at Centennial have big dreams for the coming year, from volunteering to getting a new job to getting ready for college, and everything in between.

Isaac Hong, a senior at Centennial, is looking forward to experiencing his first year at college in 2017. "I hope that once

I move out of the house to live at college, I can finally be truly independent," said Hong. "I want to be able to help my parents too, since they have helped me out throughout my life."

In addition to preparing for a new lifestyle, Hong is

planning to practice a different sleep schedule. "I want to get better in time management," said Hong. "I tend to not get enough

like it would be a fun and interesting experience to have before I go to college."

Balaji Kodali, a junior at Centennial, is also setting

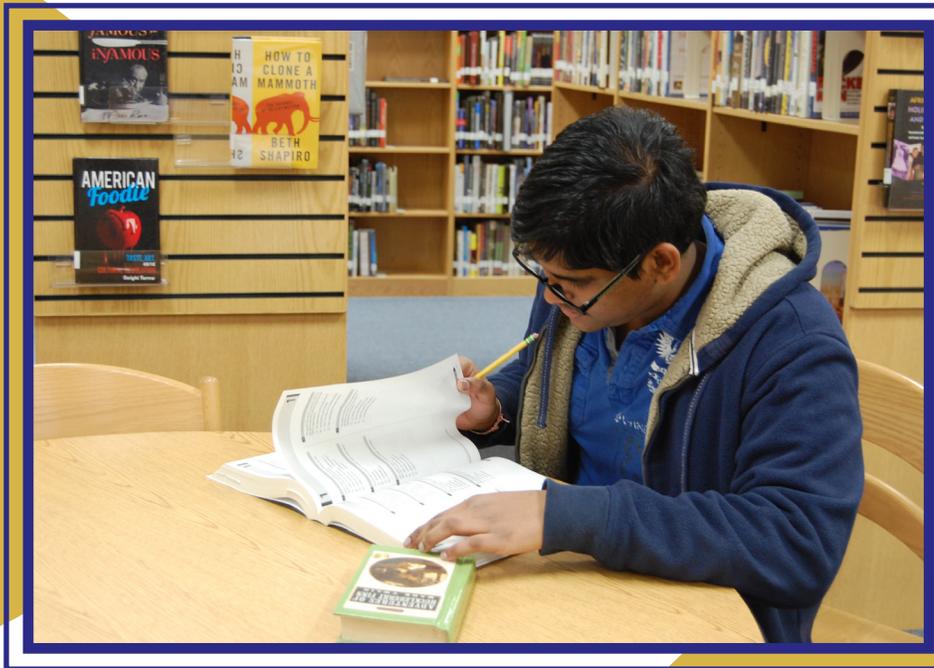
"I also have a resolution to volunteer more next year," admitted Kodali. He has volunteered in the local community with Red

Cross since last summer, and he also participated in a walk to raise money for pancreatic cancer during at Centennial Park this past summer. "I want to be able to help out the community more, especially helping people in need," he said.

Both Hong and Kodali are looking to next year as one of self-im-

provement and of helping others. "I hope that I can make a real difference in 2017," said Kodali.

-Nick Klein



sleep at night, so I end up sleeping during the day, which makes it hard for me to find time to study."

Hong also has some goals for next year outside of his academic life. "I kind of want to become a youtuber," said Hong. "It seems

goals for his academics. "I'm going to be studying a lot to prepare for the SAT next year," said Kodali, "in case I have to take it again." Kodali took his first SAT test in December, and is expecting that he will take the test again.

Holiday Gift Guide

Clothing: *Perfect gifts for those who love to stay warm and cozy during the winter.*

- Patagonia Pullover \$69.00 patagonia.com
- Sperry's Boat Shoes \$50.00-\$90.00 sperry.com
- Under Armour sweatpants \$39.99 underarmour.com
- Nike Roshe Run Two \$90.00 Nike.com

Cheap and sweet- *Inexpensive gifts that will still bring a smile to the receiver's face.*

- Gift Cards: Starbucks, Dunkin Donuts, Qdoba, Chick fil a
- Yaktrax Women's Cozy Nordic Cabin Sock \$12.99 Dickssportinggoods.com
- Antigravity phone case \$13.35 Amazon.com
- M&M'S Holiday Milk Chocolate 42 oz \$8.98 Walmart.com

Tech Gifts- *For your tech savvy friends or family that are always looking for the latest, greatest technology!*

- Xbox One S \$249.00 Gamestop.com
- Fitbit Alta \$119.95 Fitbit.com
- Powerbeats 3 \$199.95 Apple.com
- NBA 2K17 \$49.99 Gamestop.com

Accessories (for her)- *Perfect gifts for girls who need a small, yet useful everyday accessory.*

- Pandora Princess ring \$80.00 Pandora.net
- Alex and Ani bracelets \$28.00 Alexandani.com
- Bath and Body Works Candles \$15.50 Bathandbodyworks.com
- Infiniti/blanket scarves various pricing
- S'well water bottle \$25.00 swellbottle.com

-Zach Grossman

Top 4 Best-Selling Merry Music Christmas Songs

“All I Want For Christmas is You”
Mariah Carey

3.2 Million Downloads

The legendary Christmas tune takes the accolade for the most successful Christmas song since “Do You Hear What I Hear?” by Bing Crosby in 1963. Even the ring-tone version of the song has sold over 500,000 copies!

“Mistletoe”
Justin Bieber

1.1 Million Downloads

In 2011, when “Mistletoe” reached number one on Billboard, Bieber became the first musician to have had 3 top-selling albums before the age of 18. Bieber has donated a portion of the sales from his hit track “Mistletoe” to Make-A-Wish Foundation and Pencils of Promise.

“Do You Want To Build A Snowman”
Kristen Bell, Agatha Lee Monn
& Katie Lopez

1.6 Million Downloads

Husband and wife, Robert Lopez and Kristen Anderson-Lopez, wrote the catchiest tune known to date, “Do You Want To Build A Snowman,” performed by Bell, Monn, and Lopez. While the iconic song is most known for its appearance in the Disney movie, *Frozen*, it wasn't put in until moments before the final cut was created.

“Christmas Eve (Sarajevo 12/24)”
Trans-Siberian Orchestra

1.3 Million Downloads

Although the song lacks lyrics, it tells the tale of a cellist returning home to his war-ridden home after being wrought with effects of the Bosnian War.

-Mevie Henderson

Hold the Controversy

After the 2015 holiday season was full of negative comments about Starbucks because of their so-called “Christmas-less” red cup, the 2016 Starbucks holiday cup has come out. Despite last year’s controversy, Starbucks used the red cup from last year, but included 13 original, hand drawn designs done by customers.

The 2015 holiday cup was a blank red canvas where Starbucks wanted customers to share their story on. Customers around the world submitted millions of designs drawn on the red cups. After careful consideration, 13 cups were chosen, each with a different design, and were released on November 10, 2016.

Starbucks started the annual holiday cup tradition in 1997, and they have never published customer designs on their cups before this year. Dena Blevins, Starbucks Creative Director, told Starbucks Newsroom, “We were surprised and inspired by the amount of incredible art submitted by our customers. The

designs were beautiful, expressive, and engaging. We quickly realized there was potential to use the customer-created art for our holiday cups.”

The 13 designs are: Bird and Flowers by Florencia from Bandung, Indonesia; Holiday Lights by Maria Lauren from New York City; Birch Forest by Chloe from Plainfield, Illinois; Candy Canes by Jennifer from Seattle, Washington; Ornaments by Anz Soza from Dubai, United Arab Emirates; Woodland Deer by Samantha from Broomall, Pennsylvania; Love and Joy by Anna from Toronto, Canada; Poinsettia by Christina from Bakersfield, California; Graphic Swirls by Erica from Markham, Ontario, Canada; Snowflake Sweater by Alisa from St. Petersburg, Russia; Evergreen Forest by Bronwyn from Moscow, Idaho; Sleigh Ride by Eun Joo from Daejeon, South Korea; and Wooden Wreath by Tracy from Los Angeles, California.

-Ashley Berry

For more information on the controversy over the 2015 Starbucks Holiday Cup go to the Wingspan print archives at chswingspan.wordpress.com View page 6 of “December 2015.”

2016 Starbucks Holiday Cup



PILES OF PRESENTS

HAVE WINTER HOLIDAYS LOST THEIR DEEPER MEANING?



According to the National Retail Foundation, retail sales this November and December are predicted to reach \$655.8 billion.

No matter what a student is celebrating this holiday season, it's likely he or she will both give and receive gifts. Christmas, Hanukkah, Kwanzaa, and Lunar New Year have all evolved

gift-giving haze obstructs the view of the historical reasons these holidays are meant to be celebrated. Christmas and Hanukkah center on religious stories, Kwanzaa celebrates African heritage, and Lunar New Year promotes happiness, good luck, and fortune.

Do we need to stop and take a breath? In an era when Hallmark reigns supreme while Santa holds the reins, many would say we do.

On the other hand, some people believe, rightly so, that we do not need to take that breath. Winter holidays have not lost their deeper meaning.

Although a modern-day child may pay more attention to the newest video game he wants than to celebrating the birth of Christ, that doesn't mean the child disregards Him.

Many young adults have family and charity on their minds. Older age allows for

reflection, and the ability to look beyond shiny wrapping paper and lavish bows.

Giving Tuesday, an event that is annually celebrated on the Tuesday after Thanksgiving, marks the start of the giving season by promoting service and donation. According to the association's website, the event raised \$168 million on November 29, 2016. People might enjoy spoiling themselves rotten, but they also like helping others.

The holiday season brings out a magical aura, referred to as "the holiday spirit," that supports donating to charity. This spirit is not baseless, according to Blackbaud, a software company for non-profits. The company's 2013 Charitable Giving Report states that 17.5% of overall charitable giving occurs in December.

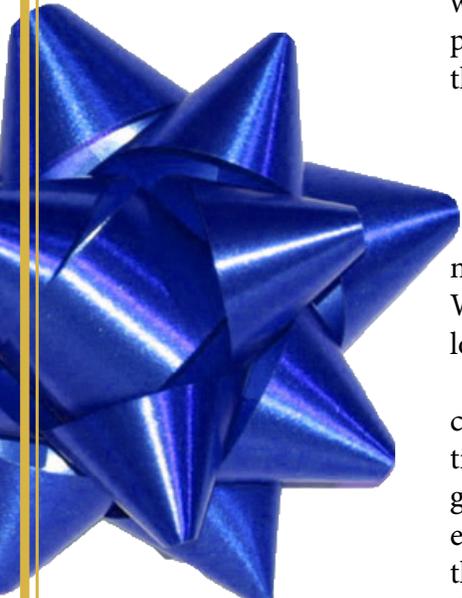
Gift-giving does not inherently take away from a holiday's intended mean-

ing. Focus on tradition is certainly admired in the Greater Baltimore area; a menorah lighting occurred on December 13 at Centennial Park, and a Kwanzaa Celebration was held in Baltimore on December 3.

A quickly-growing consumer culture can occasionally have a negative connotation, especially in the minds of the older generation. Growing sales to fit a growing population aren't necessarily bad. If you want to buy a few more Christmas presents for your friend, why not?

Winter holidays have not lost their greater meaning. Don't worry about seeing menorahs and nativity scenes disappearing anytime soon.

-Caroline Chu



to become jackpots for business.

Some argue that this

All opinions expressed within the pages of the Opinion section of The Wingspan are those of the individual writers and do not necessarily reflect the views of the staff in its entirety, its advisor, or the school.



UNDER the WING

Wingspan's Interactive Component

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Answer Key

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-Abby Vall