



# The Granite Fall(-la-la's!)

The Student Newspaper of Granite Falls High School



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## December 2022 | Holiday Edition



# Merry Christmas, Charlie Brown!

by Nevaeh Alvarez



On Friday, December 2nd, Granite Falls High School theater was greeted by a full house of community members for the GFHS production of "Merry Christmas, Charlie Brown." The crew worked during and after school hours to make the play interactive for all ages. With new actors to the program, it was essential to start with the basics. Each student learned to embody their character, learning how to enunciate their words and project their voice. With this unique learning experience, students had the opportunity to step out of their shells.

Between the actors and set designers, there was a lot of work to be done. Assistant director and senior Ellie Dane expressed that "being a director was very fun, despite a few stressful moments. I felt that the play was very successful with amazing actors. I don't think I would've changed anything!" The directors, cast, sound, and lighting crew are a big part of what makes a successful show. Junior Eleanor Graves took a step back from acting and expanded her perspective on theater. "I wanted to learn

every functioning part of theater," Eleanor said, "sound and lighting are a large part of it!" While it presented its challenge, Eleanor gained more respect for those who worked in the booth. Although enjoying her time, Eleanor can't wait to be back on stage again.

Granite Falls High School put on a wonderful show and provided friends and family with complimentary drinks and snacks. Word on the street is that Santa was also on hand for photos. With families gathered together, Granite Falls earned cash donations and canned goods to support the school food drive and theater program. A little bit goes a long way this holiday season!

## Christmas Tree Lighting

by Danika Mace



On December 3rd, Granite Falls kicked off their Christmas festivities with the famous town tree lighting. Along with the lighting, there were a few other activities for our community to enjoy.

The event started off with a performance from the local Middle School choir singing Christmas Carols to set the crowd's holiday mood. After the caroling, there was a crazy hat contest for all ages to compete in.

After the winner was announced and granted a prize, the High School band came to play classic Christmas songs that many have come to love. To join the celebration, Santa rode in on a fire truck driven by the local Fire Department. Hot chocolate and toys were given out to everyone there, and the Granite Falls Museum was open for people to walk through to look at the town's history.

# Inside the Food Drive

by Drew Dollarhide



The members of the school's Food & Gift Drive have worked hard to reach their goal of both 20,000 items of food/hygiene items and \$20,000. I am proud to report that our goal has not only been reached, but exceeded! For those that aren't familiar, the Food Drive works to provide struggling families with the things they need to have a better holiday season. Mrs. Sullivan, a Co-Lead Advisor, says "The Food Drive, to me, means making the lives of people in our community-especially our students, better."

The process of the school's Food & Gift Drive is intricate. With a lot of planning, communication, and elbow grease, they are able to give back to our community. For example, you may have seen Food Drive Ninjas scanning food items, or maybe moving said items up toward the attic. While this is an important step, this is only one out of the many things that go into the

Food Drive. A fair share of the work lies in the collection process, where vital information for the Food Drive is contained in order to figure out what families want and need.

Overall, there are four pivotal days of the Food Drive operation: Shopping day, Grocery day, and two delivery days. On "Shopping day," members of the food drive go to the Marysville Fred Meyer to shop for gifts for the children whose tags were not taken. All of the tags have information on kids and what they need and want for the holidays. Gifts vary depending on the child's age, from clothing to toys-With the goal to use every dollar and cent donated.

Delivery Days are exactly how they sound. There are plenty of different roles that all work together to get families and their food and gifts delivered, all in the span of just two days. Equipped with walkie talkies, Food Drive members haul down selected items and pack them together for wrapping. This is where the Delivery Days name comes into play and where all the efforts of Food Drive are spent from the past months of work.

As we begin to wrap up on our school's 20th annual Food & Gift Drive, we reflect back on the weeks of stress, effort, and time spent in order to give back to our community. This year, we had over 150 families and 250 children who needed our support this holiday season and we are pleased to say that we've reached our goal and surpassed it. We hope this piece motivates you to pitch in whenever you can for our community, or maybe even think about joining Food Drive next year.

A special thank you goes out to our Food Drive advisors: Mrs. Sullivan, Mr. Diniwiddie, Mr. Hall and Ms. Ellinghaus. Members of our Food Drive put countless energy into helping others, dedicating all of their time into the charity to help those in need. So next time you see a Food Drive member, say thank you!





# A Very Merry Freshmas!

by Alexa Marroquin-Garcia



On Wednesday, December 7th, the GFHS Ignite program hosted an event to connect freshmen with their mentors, complete with activities and catering provided by our Culinary Arts program. Special recognition goes to Mrs. Vento, our Culinary Arts teacher. Alongside her students, Mrs. Vento toiled through hours of preparation in the kitchen to create a delicious meal for our freshmen. This event also required collaboration and planning between our Executive Mentor team and the Ignite advisors: Mr. Wood, Mr. McCabe, and Mrs. Roberts.

While students were eating, I had the opportunity to interview Janila Augofie, affectionately known as “Nini” to

our mentors and mentees. Nini was a big part of implementing the Ignite program at our high school, as well as many others throughout the country. When asked how Granite compares to other schools, she described GFHS as a “top notch” school that is unique in our connection between students. Nini elaborated by saying our event was able to connect people who were very different from each other and unite them, something that can be very difficult in some school districts. Regardless of the type of activity, whether it be a quiet board game or a chaotic game of Pictionary, events like these open doors to creating impactful relationships in our lives.

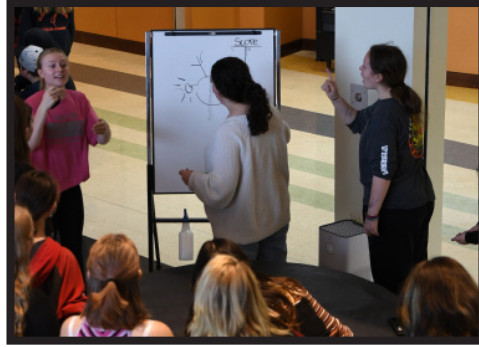
Nini’s advice to grow our culture is to keep an intention in mind before taking part in these events. With this advice, she wants our students to build a meaningful relationship from mentor to mentee, whether that be connecting by phone or checking in with each other in the hallways. Involving teachers in this experience helps bring down the wall that forces students to see teachers as strictly educators instead of real-life mentors. Nini was very content to see the connections happening at our event, whether that be mentor to mentee, Culinary Arts program and Ignite members, or staff and students.

Principal Kniseley’s view on the Freshmas event was just as positive as the feedback we received from Nini. Kniseley explained that interactions like these where peers can get competitive and have a good time can “translate into academics...[and] into how [freshmen] feel about themselves and their self esteem.” Sometimes “peer to peer connection is more powerful than adult to peer.”

Word on the street is that Ignite Mentors are planning another event similar to Wednesday’s “Freshmas” later in the school year. We hope all freshmen who attended enjoyed the event, and remember that they are our top priority!







## A Freshmas to Remember (from a Freshman)

by Chloe Parker

On December 7th, the Ignite Mentors put on an activity for all the freshmen in our school. "Freshmas" was all about games, food, and being around mentors and friends.

After school in the commons there were a wide assortment of games including "chubby bunny," juice pong (which was really fun), a ginormous Jenga set, Pictionary, and several others. However, karaoke stole the stage with both the mentors and, unexpectedly, the freshmen singing along to Christmas songs. After a couple hours of games and karaoke, culinary students started to bring out the food.

The smell of Thanksgiving filled the air as we took our seats! By far, the stuffing was the biggest crowd pleaser and the turkey was delicious. After eating and lots of talking, both mentors and freshmen started to clean up and get ready for the basketball game afterwards.

# SPORTS

## Game Recap: Basketball 12/2

By Mackenzie Dennis

On December 2nd, our Boys and Girls Varsity Basketball teams had their first games, back to back against Summit Sierra High School in our home gym. There was a large home crowd on hand for both games. Here is how our Tigers fared:

### Girls V. Basketball vs. Summit Sierra, 12/2/22 at 5:30 pm

Congratulations to our Lady tigers for taking home a huge win with a score of 52-12. Junior Reghan Ferguson finished the day with 17 points and 8 rebounds, sophomore Aubrey Boisen scored 8 points, and junior Karissa Chapman capped the evening with 8 rebounds. Way to go Lady Tigers!



### Boys V. Basketball vs. Summit Sierra, 12/2/22 at 7:00 pm

The Boys Tiger team fought hard, but came up short with a score of 77-60. While the score doesn't show it, the game was an intense effort from our Tigers. Senior Gavin Toland finished with 17 points and junior Marcus Klammt had a total of 14. The game showed that the Tigers are ready to battle this season, and we're looking forward to seeing the team improve throughout the year.



## Match Rehash: 12/1 vs. Lakewood & South Whidbey

By Mackenzie Dennis

December 1st was the first wrestling meet of this year's season, with our Granite Falls wrestlers taking on Lakewood and South Whidbey.

Congratulations to Peyton Rhitarich (senior), Devin Marker (senior), Dakota Wilkinson (senior), Christopher Ryer (junior), and Peyton Eastman (freshman) for home wins.

Christopher Ryer (junior) currently sits undefeated with 6 wins and 0 losses. Throughout the event our wrestlers were met with a full crowd of supportive students, staff, and family. Great job to all of our Tiger wrestlers!



# The Strength of a Cheerleader

By Nevaeh Alvarez



Cheerleading is a sport that requires perseverance and strength. It also happens to face an uphill battle for recognition of that fact. Every cheerleader dedicates many hours of training and conditioning just to feel their efforts go unnoticed. "With all the hard work we put in," Junior Emilee Bergstrom and Junior Rhiannon Crockett explain, "we hardly get half the recognition as other sports."

Cheerleaders power through multiple, back to back seasons resulting in a strong bond built between the girls.

Every stunt performed is strengthened through their teamwork and trust. Cheerleading is a sport open to everyone, and with competitions starting next year, anyone wanting to try out is highly encouraged.

"To be a cheerleader is to have spirit and pride in our school. We want the same chances as other sports to be recognized for our actions, even if that means putting up our cheer schedule or moments of praise for our hard work. I love to cheer, and all this hard work gives me something to remember." - Co-Captain Emilee Bergstrom (Junior).

## Athlete Spotlight: Johnny Steele

By Drew Dollarhide



Johnny Steele plays center and defensive tackle for our Football Tigers. Having played football since he was in 2nd grade, he's found no better connections than on the field. Johnny's favorite thing about playing football is the brotherhood. "It's almost like you're fighting for death, everyone around you wearing your colors is fighting for you so you stay alive...after the game it's just the best feeling ever, knowing that you all came from war together-especially coming with a win."

Johnny shared his advice for others who are interested in football, saying, "Stay with it. Just know that you're bettering yourself and know the people around you are always gonna help you. Work as a team, get better as a whole."



# The Many Celebrations of Christmas

by Danika Mace

The holiday that is filled with jolly and cheer; the most widely celebrated holiday in the world, Christmas! Christmas celebrations have been observed and recorded for almost 1,700 years. A version of Christmas was first celebrated in Roman culture, specifically in the Roman church. Christmas is commonly promoted as a religious holiday, but that isn't what Christmas looks like for everyone.

Some more well-known traditions include opening presents brought by Santa Claus, frosting sugar cookies, hanging up colored lights, watching Christmas-themed movies, and decorating trees. Although these celebrations are modern in the United States, there are continuing traditions celebrated from different cultures all around the world. For example, in the Philippines, Christmas is celebrated with the Giant Lantern Festival, while the Netherlands has a tradition of placing their shoes by the fireplace with gifts. In Japan, a Christmas dinner staple is fried chicken and in Sweden they use the Galle Goat as a symbol for their celebration. While these are a few Christmas traditions, there are countless ways this holiday is celebrated.

Despite Christmas being a common festivity throughout the world, there is another holiday celebrated during the month of December called Hanukkah. Hanukkah is a Jewish festival, also known as the Festival of Lights, that commemorates the recovery of Jerusalem. Hanukkah is celebrated in an eight-day and night duration, where a candle is lit every night on the menorah, and is accompanied with the games of Dreidel and special foods such as latkes and sufganiyot. This year, Hanukkah will be celebrated from the 18th to the 26th of December. Although everyone might not celebrate the same festivities, the holiday season is for everyone to enjoy!

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## **Tiger Tribune Staff**

Executive Editor: Alexa Marroquin-Garcia

Copy Editor: Ava Jennings

Layout Editor: Virginia Diaz Marroquin

Sports Editor: Mackenzie Dennis

Digital Editors: Nevaeh Alvarez

Public Relations: Ava Jennings

Editorial/Opinions: Chloe Parker

Lead Photographer: Anabel Elliott

Writers: Nevaeh Alvarez, Drew Dollarhide, Danika Mace, Chloe Parker

Advisor: Mr. McCabe ([smccabe@gfalls.wednet.edu](mailto:smccabe@gfalls.wednet.edu))

A special shout out goes to Mr. Wood for help with photography.

Are you interested in contributing to the Tiger Tribune? Contact Mr. McCabe or check out one of our Tuesday meetings at 2:15 in B222. We would love to see you there!

Have a story idea? Email [gfh.tigertribune@gmail.com](mailto:gfh.tigertribune@gmail.com) or [smccabe@gfalls.wednet.edu](mailto:smccabe@gfalls.wednet.edu).

