



All winter sports have started. Girls basketball has been turning some heads, starting the season 3-0



The dos and don'ts of Christmas

by Jayden Clark & Riley Altman
staff writer



With just 11 days until the holiday, excitement and anticipation may get the best of us

Every December, there are the Christmas fanatics who have had their Christmas tree up and decorated since Halloween, and there are the Christmas cranks who won't even acknowledge the holiday's existence. As Christmas draws nearer (11 days), we have created a Christmas "do's and don'ts" list to ensure you are prepared and ready for the holiday!

Do... spend time with your family and friends.

The Christmas season is a time when you can spend hours with family and friends talking, laughing, and enjoying yourselves, so, don't waste it. Put down the phone, turn off the TV (unless it's a Christmas movie, of course), and spend time with the most important people in your life.

DON'T... be grouchy.

Christmas is a time for jubilation and happiness, so don't waste the moments being crabby. Nobody likes a Grinch. If you do happen to get a case of "the crabby's," a quick Christmas movie might do the trick.

Do... listen to Christmas music often.

From the day after Thanksgiving until New Year's Eve, you best have Christmas music continuously streaming from any listening device. Christmas music is only "socially" acceptable for a limited time, so don't waste the opportunity. Play Christmas music 24/7, and don't let anyone tell you to turn it off.

DON'T... forget to leave Santa a snack.

Santa has a lot of houses to visit on Christmas Eve, so he needs regular snacks to get him through the long night. Don't forget about him; he doesn't forget about you.

Do... eat extra desserts.

Christmas is a season when eating anything and everything is completely acceptable. If you want that extra dessert, take it. Put the diet on a temporary "hold" and never pass up an opportunity to eat during the Christmas season.

DON'T... worry about how much you eat.

During the Christmas season, calories don't count. Never count how many cookies you've had or how many "seconds" you've taken. Christmas is about enjoying yourself and eating half your body weight in candy canes, so indulge in the fun and festivities.

Do... finish your Christmas shopping.

PSA: Christmas is in eleven days, so it would be best to finish your Christmas shopping. Here's a hint: If you are stuck about what to get someone, simply ask them to guess what they think you got them, and then get them what they guessed! Works like a charm.... every time!

DON'T... peek at your Christmas presents.

At least half the excitement is about presents; it's the suspense that builds before you open them. Don't peek at your presents; it ruins the excitement. Likewise, if you know what someone else is getting, KEEP IT TO YOURSELF!

Do... wake up early and let your inner child shine.

Christmas Day is one of the only days you can wake up at 6am without any problem, and without getting ridiculed. Embrace your inner child and live in the Christmas spirit.

DON'T... stress about school over break.

You stress about school enough, so don't stress over Christmas break. You will have plenty of time to continue "stressing" after Christmas break, so enjoy yourself, live in the moments, and RELAX.

Do... watch Christmas movies.

Remember to watch Christmas movies every day during the Christmas season. It will warm your heart, give you "warm fuzzies," and help you get into and maintain that Christmas spirit.

We hope this list will help you distinguish what to do and what not to do during the Christmas holiday. Remember to enjoy Christmas in its entirety. As a final "don't" of Christmas, from math teacher Mr. Bohl, "Don't ever eat yellow snow!"

This Week's Need to Know

FACT OF THE WEEK: "Jingle Bells" was originally written for Thanksgiving not Christmas.

LIFE HACK OF THE WEEK: Use condiment bottles filled with icing for an easy way to decorate cookies and cake.

JOKE OF THE WEEK: Why do mummies like Christmas so much?

BRAINTEASER OF THE WEEK: Can you solve this rebus puzzle?

Answers to joke and brainteaser are on the bottom.



Upcoming Events

Friday, December 14

- JHGBB v. Tea (4:00)

Saturday, December 15

- Wrestling @ MVPCS Tourney in Plankinton (9:30)

- GBB @ Entringer Classic in Colman v. Castlewood (1:30)

Monday, December 17

- JHBBB v. Baltic (4:00)

- BBB v. Baltic (5:00/6:15/7:30)

- JH/JV Wrestling @ Salem (5:00)

Tuesday, December 18

- Music Department Pie Christmas Concert (6:00)

Thursday, December 20

- Wrestling Quad @ Salem v. MCM, Parker, Howard (5:00)

- GBB @ Tea (4:00/5:15/6:30)

- BBB @ Tea (4:00/5:15/8:00)

Friday, December 21

- MS Pizza Ranch Outing

Worth Mentioning

Choose Kind

- December Precept: "Fortune favors the bold." - Virgil

- November Precept: "Have no friends not equal to yourself."

- October Precept: "Your deeds are your monuments."

- September Precept: "When given the choice between being right and being kind, choose kind." - Dr. Wayne Dyer

- Students and staff choose kind every day, watch this video or click [here](#) to see a few who were recognized by peers.



Garretson lights up the town

by Mason Hofer
staff writer

Last Saturday, December 8, Garretson held its Hometown Christmas

Last Saturday, December 8, Garretson held its first Hometown Christmas event. The whole day was full of events for all.

The day started with a free customer appreciation breakfast at the American Legion at 9am. as well as a Christmas vendor fair to 3pm.

Kids then visited Santa at the senior citizens center, along with photos and arts and crafts until 3pm. After this the youngins' could stay busy by taking a toddler train ride or fire-truck ride until 5pm.

For the adults, Humble Hill Winery held wine tasting, and cheese sampling from noon to 5pm.

The Garretson Food Center was taking donations for the food pantry all day. The gulch also held an ugly sweater contest, the winner received a free bucket of adult beverages.

At around 5:30pm Garretson held a Parade of lights, (inspired by Sioux Falls Parade of Lights) where people could decorate their horse, tractor, truck/car, or make a float and partic-

ipate in a parade. The parade of lights has been very successful in Sioux Falls, and is hoped to continue here in Garretson.



Watch this video for a glimpse at the Garretson Parade of Lights from last Saturday. Scan the QR code or click [here](#).

Lady's basketball starting off strong

3-0 start catches people's attention

by **Cody Erickson**
staff writer

Lady Blue Dragon basketball is starting off better than ever right now. Their first game was against Tri-Valley in the Dragons' Lair last Friday night, Garretson pulled out the close game of 46-44. The following day, they won another game with a score of 61-44, hosting the



Lizzie Olson, sophomore forward for the Lady Blue Dragons, puts on her moves in the lane. On this play Olson scored the bucket to get the scoring going for the home team, en route to a win over the visiting Mustangs. Garretson has started off their season 3-0.

Photo by Malia Johnson

Chester Flyers. Lastly, four days later, on Tuesday, the ladies beat the Canton C-Hawks on the road, with yet another strong 52-39.

The Blue Dragons look a little different this year due to new players getting minutes on the court but also due to a new coach. Sophomore Lizzie Olson likes her new coach, Mr. Schrank, because of how hard he pushes the team to do their best always. She also said she learns something new every day, so she enjoys going to practice.

Olson furthered on how she loves how good the team is doing so far this season but knows they can't get comfortable. They must still give it their best at practice and games.

"3-0 is good but I know we can do better" Olson said.

Mr. Schrank spent his previous four seasons coaching the boys' squad and has enjoyed coaching both boys and girls. With the girls this season, he can put 10 girls on the court and they will always get better. He enjoys his team this year because everyone is competing for playing time and that competition will get his main goal which is playing at a very high intensity.

He said, "It's nice to be 3-0 but I would like to see the team break some bad habits more quickly." But Coach Schrank looks forward to the tough teams they face on their schedule especially Castlewood on Saturday. Castlewood is the defending State B champions.

JV ladies basketball is also doing very good so far. Also 3-0, and consisting of high scored games.

This Saturday, the girls basketball team bounce to the annual Entringer Classic vs. Castlewood at 1:30. The game is located in Colman.

Boys Basketball fights for more wins

by **Dominick Krueger**
staff writers

The Garretson Blue Dragons have a lot of potential to win a lot

of games this season and they have a senior driven squad with some talented young athletes on the varsity team. However, the early season record is showing there is still more progress to be made before consistently getting the wins.

The boys basketball team opened their season hosting the Tri-Valley

Mustangs in the Dragons' Lair on Friday. The outcome fell in favor of the visitors, 53-77. But Garretson battled back and made a big impact on Saturday's game against the Chester Flyers beating them 53-36. On Tuesday, Garretson couldn't get the win against Canton, falling 67-80. The Blue Dragons continued their active

pace playing again last night against Colman-Egan. It was a very tight game, but Garretson just couldn't get the win, losing the game 46-47 and setting their record to 1-3.

This team will be successful if they commit on what they do in practice.

So Far This Season

<u>Total Points</u>	<u>Rebounds</u>	<u>Assists</u>
Trevor Fiegen: 45	Trevor Fiegen: 23	Drew Blosmo: 9
Dylan Kindt: 39	Brennan Mudder: 19	Dylan Kindt: 7
Drew Blosmo: 30	Trey Buckneburg: 13	Trevor Fiegen: 6
Brennan Mudder: 20	Drew Blosmo: 11	Trey Buckneburg: 3
Trey Buckneburg: 17	Dylan Kindt: 11	Rave Uhlich: 3
Hayden Olofson: 11	Jack Lardy: 8	Brennan Mudder: 2
Rave Uhlich: 9	Hayden Olofson: 6	Jack Lardy: 1
Jack Lardy: 2	Rave Uhlich: 2	Hayden Olofson: 1



Senior Drew Blosmo drives the line and goes up for two of his 16 points against the Mustangs. Blosmo has been a consistent offensive threat for the Blue Dragons, but this year a more well-rounded offensive attack is creating more open looks for everyone.

Photo by Malia Johnson

If the team plays defense, box out, and hustle, they have a chance to be an unstoppable force.

Holiday Recipes

Peanut Butter Bon Bon

by **Malia Johnson**
staff writer

Ingredients

- * 4 tablespoons of melted butter
- * 2 cups of chunky peanut butter
- * 3 cups of rice crispies
- * 2 cups of powdered sugar

Directions

1. Mix all together in one big bowl
2. Roll the ingredients into small ball shape
3. Melt chocolate almond bark



4. Once the chocolate is melted
5. Dip the ball into the chocolate until it is covered completely
6. Enjoy!

Puppy Chow

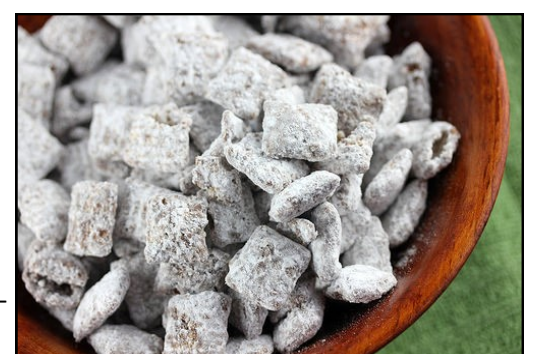
by **Jayden Clark**
staff writer

Ingredients

- * 9 cups of Crispixs cereal
- * 1 cup of semi sweet chocolate chips
- * 1/2 cup of peanut butter
- * 1/4 cup of butter or margarine
- * 1 teaspoon of vanilla
- * 1 1/2 cups of powdered sugar

Directions

1. Pour measured cereal into a large bowl and set aside.
2. In a microwaveable bowl, microwave the chocolate chips, peanut butter, and butter on high for forty-



3. five seconds and stir. Continue this until mixture is smooth. After mixture is microwaved, add vanilla.
3. Pour mixture over cereal and fold it in until mixture is spread evenly.
4. Move coated cereal into a paper bag, add powdered sugar, and shake bag until powdered sugar is mixed and stuck throughout cereal.

Peanut Blossoms

by **Riley Altman**
staff writer

Ingredients

- * 1/3 cup peanut butter
- * 1/2 cup butter
- * 1/2 cup white sugar
- * 1/2 cup brown sugar

- * 1 tsp. vanilla
- * 1 egg
- * 1 3/4 cups flour
- * 1 tsp. baking soda
- * 1/2 tsp salt
- * 1 pkg. Hershey kisses or mini Reese's peanut butter cups

Directions

1. Cream first four ingredients.

2. Add vanilla and then egg.
3. Sift flour, soda and salt.
4. Combine dry mixture with batter and shape dough into balls.
5. Flatten with glass.
6. Bake at 375 for 8 minutes.
7. Press kisses into the middle of cookie and bake an additional 2-5 minutes.



Daring seniors present early

by Sam Gonzalez
staff writer

As we start heading closer to second semester; senior projects, scholarships deadlines, and applications get more hectic and the last thing seniors think about when preparing their future is their senior project. The Class of 2019 chooses on two times to present their project, one being in December, the other in March. On December 5, seniors Ben Konechne, Emily Erickson and Dominick Krueger made the brave decision to present their senior projects early.

Emily Erickson built an adaptable saddle for the physically disabled, Ben Konechne built a deer stand out of a grain



Emily Erickson, well known for her kind heart, generosity, and thoughtfulness, created a modified saddle that would allow persons with different abilities to ride a horse.

bin, and Dominick Krueger remodeled his room and made his own makeshift platform for his bed.

For early presentations, the seniors will get a practice presentation time to get feedback and then about a week later will then do their final presentation. They are expected to dress up, have their portfolio, excluding their senior research paper, and ready to present their final product.

Would you recommend to do the early presentation and why?

EE: Yes, because when you present early, you don't have to worry about the stress of it later when you're getting ready for graduation, deciding where you want to go and making plans for everything. When you present early, it's easier to just get it out of they way. Start in the summer if you plan on presenting early.

BK: Yes, do the early presentation because you get it done, and everything is a lot easier. You won't have to worry about in March, and it's a relief knowing that it's done.

DK: I would recommend it, it's easier to get it out of the way, and you don't have to worry about it later.

Was there anything you struggles with upcoming to your presentation, or during?

EE: Nothing, I made my time, and I thought I did well.

BK: No, it was just another presentation, and we do a lot of them throughout high school.

DK: I was nervous, I practiced the speech many times and until I finally decided I was going to do the best I could.

How'd you present your final project?

EE: I had my saddle on a table with my iPad on it to go through my presentation.

BK: Since I couldn't physically bring my project to school, I just followed off my PowerPoint.

DK: I introduced myself, and some things about me and my mentor. Then I talked about the steps that I did and had a video that showed my room. Along with talking about my conflicts and resolutions throughout my project.

What are some questions to expect, or questions that the judges asked you?

EE: I had questions about what my struggles were, if the project was out of my comfort zone

JV/JH Wrestling excited about start

by Jacob Facile
staff writer

Monday the Garretson JV/JH Wrestling team went to Beresford and exited feeling better than last week's meet. "We feel better coming out of this meet than we did last week's," said Coach Bohl.

At Beresford the wrestling team went away with a record of 12-10-18 with they were excited about. While at Beresford, Garretson had two 1st place records of 3-0 Hunter Abraham and Parker Schlenker. Isaiah Robinson, Jayse Miller, Tayson Swatek, Hayden Stoterau, and Preston Bohl ended the day with records of 2-1. Coming in 3rd place is Trenton Decker with a record of 1-2. Finally coming in at 4th Braxton Rozeboom a record of 0-3.

Garretson's JV/JH wrestling team is very excited about this season and how their start could jolt them in the right direction because all of them are feeling the positive effect. They will be putting one game at a time through the whole season and the team feels like they've been moving in the right direction due their increased performances on the mats.

and then some specifics about my saddle itself.

BK: The three big questions were; where did you come up with this project,

why did you choose your mentor, and were there any big difficulties or major issues when doing your project. Lastly, what did you learn about yourself.

DK: It really depends on the project; I got asked how long my project took me, which it took about 43 hours.

What are some tips to give for the rest of your class?

EE: Make sure you have your portfolio all set and filled out correctly. Also make sure that you have enough information to make the ten-minute mark.

BK: Just do it, follow your guidelines, everything is there. It's set in stone.

DK: If you know the judges, it's really not that hard. It made it easier to present.

What are some tips to calm yourself before presentation or during?

EE: Just remember that the judges are most likely going to be someone you know, and once I found that out, it was comforting. I was less stressed.

BK: In my case, the judges were people I knew, so I wasn't nervous.

DK: Just tell yourself that you got to get it over with.



Top: Dominick Krueger remodeled a room for his senior project. The makeover included refinishing hardwood floors, repainting, and room design. Photo courtesy of Dominick Krueger

Bottom: Ben Konechne repurposed an old grain bin and converted it into a deer hunting stand. Konechne used this stand during this current hunting season for both rifle and bow hunting. Photo courtesy of Ben Konechne

Class of 2019



Christmas traditions around the world

by **Oliviyah Thornton, Mataya Trower & Nobel Nothstine**
staff writers

Hello Christmas! It's just around the corner and everyone is preparing for this happy holiday. We have our traditions when it comes to this time of year but how much do we know about other people's Christmas traditions? Follow along as we travel all the way from Canada to the Philippines, and even to Japan to learn more about their traditions.

It's like Halloween but at Christmas, Austria

It's that time of year again, where the air is filled with happiness and sweets, but this time may not be so joyful in Austria. They celebrate Christmas but with a little twist: they add in Krampus. If you haven't heard of him, then you might be lucky because in Germany and Austria he's the man to fear. He's believed to be a half goat, half demon, and a horrific beast who bears horns, dark fur, fangs, and a long tongue. Unlike his counterpart St. Nicholas, (Santa) who brings treats and presents to the good children, Krampus brings terror for all the bad children. He carries a long stick for swatting bad children and a big sack that hangs over his shoulder that is used to take the bad children back to his lair. In folklore, he also appears to have chains that hang from his body which some believe represents him being released from the underworld for the one night out of the year. Krampus is released the night before Christmas, December 5. The next day, December 6, children look outside their door to see if their shoes are filled with presents, a reward for the good, or a rod, for bad behavior.

Norway hiding brooms for Christmas?, Norway

Watch out, hide your brooms! Norway has a little bit of a weird tradition. Centuries before people believed that when Christmas Eve rolled around, December 24, that witches and evil spirits came out looking for brooms to ride. During this time they would hide them in hopes of not getting their brooms stolen. Even though this is a little odd, people in Norway continue to celebrate this tradition and hide their brooms.

Light up the night with some lanterns, Philippines

Usually for Christmas we think of bright colorful lights hanging from trees and houses but for people living in the Philippines they take it up a notch. They make lanterns. It started in 1908 as just some small tradition where people would make



Giant Lantern Festival

lanterns to share and show them around. It has since then grown into a large competition between eleven villages who compete to make the biggest and most elaborate lanterns. The lanterns continue to become bigger and more colorful as the years go on. They all compete in the Giant Lantern Festival to be able to be called the "brightest star" of the night. A standard height for these beautiful lanterns is 20 feet and is mainly made of thousands of colorful bubble intertwined in wires.

Day of the Little Candles, Colombia

Day of the Little Candles is the start of the Christmas season across Columbia. People place candles and lanterns all around their houses in honor of the Virgin Mary and to keep the tradition alive. The tradition of candles has grown so big that entire cities and towns across the country are now lit up with beautiful displays. This is celebrated on December 7th, the eve of the immaculate

conception, which is a public holiday in Columbia.

Cavalcade of Lights, Toronto

Christmas is sparking in Toronto, Canada this winter. The annual Cavalcade of Lights marks the official start to this holiday season for Toronto on November 24th. The first Cavalcade was in 1967 to show off the city's newly constructed city hall and Nathan Phillips Square, where the Cavalcade of Lights is held. The area is filled with over 300,000 lights that shine all the time. To make this tradition even more special, there is a huge firework show and some outdoor ice skating activities.

Gävle Goat, Sweden

The Gävle Goat has been a traditional Christmas display for Sweden since 1966, but the structure doesn't always survive until Christmas. Every year Sweden builds a 43-foot tall structure of a Yule Goat. The Yule goat emigrated from Scandinavia in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. In Sweden, Norway, and Finland, the Yule goat is as much a part of Christmas tradition as Santa Claus or Frosty the Snowman. Since this tradition started, the structure has been burned down 29 times from arson attacks. The goat is built every year at the beginning of December. When someone came up with the idea to design a giant version of the Swedish straw goat, this became the beginning of the tradition for Gävle, Sweden.



Gävle Goat

Julekalender, Denmark

Very similar to our advent calendars, Danes have an old TV series they often watch around Christmastime, with one episode a day. The Julekalender (The Christmas Calendar) was a television series that ran during Christmas-

time in 1991. However, a Norwegian version was made in 1994, and a Finnish version in 1997. Originally, the series was both written and performed by a trio of Danish musicians known as De Nattergale. With a little financial and technical assistance, it was hugely successful. So much in fact, that it was later released on VHS and DVD. Consisting of 24 episodes (one for each day of December until Christmas Eve), this custom is very common in Denmark and is looked forward to by all throughout the year.

Christmas Book Flood, Iceland

Popular holiday gifts come and go each year,



Christmas Book Flood

but in Iceland, the best Christmas gift is a book! Iceland publishes more books per capita than any other country, with five titles published per every 1,000 Icelanders. Oddly enough, a majority of books in Iceland are sold from late September to early November because of a national tradition. This custom is known as Jolabokaflokkur, aka the "Christmas Book Flood". Usually, these gifts are given on the night of the 24th, and people spend the night reading and eating chocolate. Seen as the backbone of the publishing sector in Iceland, this tradition is both educational to citizens, and supports the writing industry.

X-mas Eve vs. Valentines Day (+Fried Chicken?) Japan

In Japan, Christmas is known as a time to spread happiness, instead of being a solely religious celebration. Surprisingly, Christmas Eve is often celebrated even more than Christmas Day. The reason behind this being that Christmas Eve is thought of as a romantic day, where couples can spend time together and exchange presents, much like Valentine's Day. Young lovers go for walks to look at the Christmas lights, ice skate together, or enjoy a romantic meal. That's not all though, one other quirky Japanese tradition involves fried chicken. Often eaten on Christmas Day in Japan, it's the busiest time of the year for restaurants such as KFC. Dominated by an advertising campaign by KFC in 1974 called 'Kentucky for Christmas!' (Kurisumasu ni wa kentakkii! in Japanese) this custom comedically resembles Americans the most!

Senior Spotlight

Drake Braswell

SENIOR PROJECT:

Restoring a WWII rifle

WHO/WHAT WILL YOU MISS MOST:

Hanging out with my friends

PLANS FOR NEXT YEAR:

Prepare for college



GARRETSON
BLUE DRAGONS

