



THE VOICE

Winter 2024

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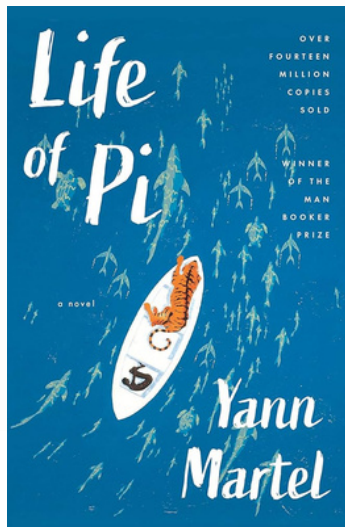


Dear Reader,

It seems hard to believe that just a few short months ago it was the first day of school and now it is only a month away from the end of semester one. Fall brings such great things to CHS, including pep rally, the homecoming dance, and many other wonderful events. With the holiday season approaching, it also is time for the first issue of CHS's school newspaper, The Voice. The Voice Newspaper is a great way for students to express their opinions and apply their creativity. This year's fall issue covers everything from CHS sports to holiday traditions. Additionally, you will find three different word games: a crossword, word search, and word scramble. I would like to thank everyone who contributed to this issue whether that was through an article or a graphic. I would especially like to thank my fellow board members for the 2024-2025 school year: Samhita Badhri as Vice President, Jhanvi Kichannagari returning as Graphic Designer, and Misha Kapoor as Editor. We all want to put forth the best possible work for our readers. So, without further ado, enjoy reading the fall issue of The Voice!

Thank you,

Ellora Smith - The Voice Newspaper President



Name - Life of Pi

Author - Yann Martel

Published - September 11, 2001

In Life of Pi, Author Yann Martel showcases the protagonist, Piscine Patel's ordeal at sea after he is separated from his family. The novel begins with Pi's exploration of different religious majorities in his homeland, India. Fascinated by the different aspects of Hinduism, Islam and Christianity, he became a follower of all three. Soon after, Pi discovers that his father sells his childhood home and the zoo where he grew up and is planning to start a new life in Canada. Still devastated by the move, Pi's world comes crashing down when the ship he is travelling on is caught in a storm. Pi, now stranded in the Pacific along with wild animals, learns to survive and eventually meets land again. Life of Pi explores how different religions, while on the surface are different, provide the similar messages the deeper one explores them. In all, Life of Pi is a novel that explores the struggles one faces while overcoming adversity and a true test of faith.

By: Shalini Manchi

A Longing For Christmas

By: Fabiana Oriella Leon

My earliest memories trace back to winter-time in Venezuela when the streets were filled with joyous conversations, traditional Christmas songs like *Mi Burrito Sabanero*, and stray dogs chasing children. Like always, my mother urged me to help her assemble our nacimiento, or nativity scene, which was always displayed by the entrance of our home; this decoration is a delicately crafted representation of the birth of Jesus, including different animals, mountains, hills, as well as the biblical Magi, the sacred family, and the star of Bethlehem. While the smells of hot glue sticks and paper crafts were evident, they were easily overpowered by the strong smell of roasted pork shoulder. The distinct flavorful smells of the slightly sweet onions, the pungent garlic, and the adobo blend easily diffused throughout our home, making everyone's tummy rumble. Now *that's* what Christmas truly smells like, I thought to myself.

Pernil, or slow-roasted pork shoulder, has been present in my family's Christmas celebrations for as long as I can remember. Although my contribution to the meal usually consisted of sitting in front of the oven and watching it cook for a couple of minutes as my mouth watered until my mother warned me to stop, I always encouraged my father to make it. Pernil requires a lot of labor; removing the tough yet smooth skin from the meat, and marinating it in garlic, oil, salt, vinegar, oregano, pepper, and cumin for a couple of hours, as well as its extensive cooking time often discourages people from preparing it. Of course, this was the least of my worries since I never had to get involved in the process of making it.



Pernil baked by my mother and I. Fabiana Orellana.

Nearly a decade later, my family continues to carry this tradition even after having to leave our homeland. Though times didn't always sail smoothly and my parents' divorce took a heavy toll on our family, we continue to incorporate our cultural meals each holiday as a means to connect with our heritage and reminisce about the happiness that, in a way, was short-lived.

Spending most holidays with my mother has forced me to step into the kitchen to be able to carry out these traditions. Although I'm not able to sit back and watch the adults cook and yell over the loud Venezuelan Christmas music like before, having to cook has allowed me to step over boundaries I never imagined.

As my mother peeled the tough layer of fat off the pork shoulder, I was in charge of marinating the pork with soy sauce and making sure the seasoning covered every nook and cranny. Stuffing the olives I still despise into holes created using a knife, making sure that the crushed garlic is engraved into the pork shoulder for its unique and rich flavor, and letting it rest for a day so it can reabsorb these juices and become more tender are duties I never imagined myself carrying out.

As much as I wish to sit back and play with my cousins while my family focuses on the kitchen work, the passage of a tradition requires effort. As much as I wish to be able to sit with both of my parents and two siblings, enjoying the Christmas festivities I look forward to every year, I've realized that certain things are beyond our control.

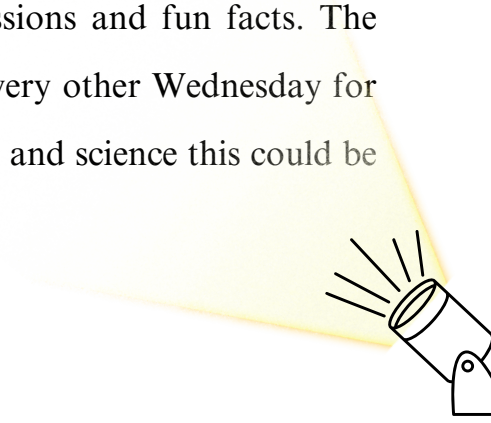
The same overpowering smells of the adobo seasoning and oregano continue to take over our kitchen every year. While now it's just my mother and I preparing these meals, I still feel the same sense of belonging and happiness I felt when I was little; every holiday, we create new memories that we will fondly look back on, and regardless of where life may take us, the traditions that are passed down to us allow us to revisit these moments.



THE CLUB *SPOTLIGHT*

By: Addison Garvey

Chelmsford High School is introducing a new club focused on Outer Space activities and research. The club is run by Riya Jeena and Parth Patel with Mr. McIntyre as club advisor. Space club is planning an abundance of fun activities for those interested in space including field trips to planetariums and space museums. The Space club will be starting a new activity of building rockets and setting them off. After, they will be building chemical rockets to set off as well. If you attend a meeting it will consist of space related discussions and fun facts. The meetings are held in room 240 in the Hawthorne wing. They meet every other Wednesday for flexibility and time to go to other clubs. If you are interested in space and science this could be the club for you!



TEARS IN THE RAIN

BY: NATE WILDER

You can pack in a whole lot of life onto a football field. The triumphs and defeats of a football game, and season at large, are microcosms for life. The game is inherently difficult, and adversity comes with the price of admission. It is this shared belief of suffering and perseverance that binds a football team and its community. There is no better evidence for this than the game played at Simonian Stadium on Thanksgiving Day, 2024. The hopes and dreams of members of each program, past, present, and future, were saddled upon 100-or-so young men in the rain on a Thursday morning in November. Nothing brings people together, or rips them apart, like a game of football.

Have you ever held your bare hand against a railroad track shortly before a train comes? You can feel the steel beam rattling in your palm as the multi-ton locomotive barrels towards you. The Chelmsford Lions were that train.

This Lions' victory would be a stunner if you only looked at the competitors' records. The Indians boasted a 6-5 record and qualified for the MIAA playoffs, while the Lions ended the season at 2-6, missing the tournament. However, Chelmsford won both of their exhibition games convincingly against Lawrence and Peabody, while Billerica fell to Walpole, 35-14, in the second round of the playoffs. On paper, this is an upset. But if you're basing your prediction of the game off of history, facts, and statistics, you're in the wrong business. You're an astronaut who brought their wallet.

The game was, as expected, an entertaining and competitive affair throughout. The Lions dominated early, utilizing never-before-seen trick plays and stellar defense to jump out to a two

lead in the first half. However, after a methodical drive down the field to finish the half Billerica trailed by 6 going into the break.

In the locker room, Chelmsford coaches a message to their players, one that firmly resonated with every man in that room. "Do not give them hope". These coaches and players have seen the ghosts that have had their hands in the last two seasons of Chelmsford football. They could see the things that all of the statistics and learned astronomers in the world could not, and were determined to finally swing the pendulum back the other way. They took that message to heart.

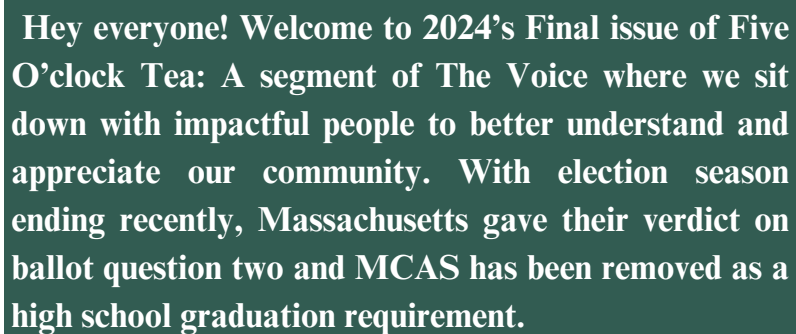
The Indians were able to tie the game up at 14 midway through the third quarter, however, Chelmsfords confidence never waived. Immediately after Billerica knotted it up, Captain QB Ryan Hart led the boys down the field to take the lead right back, capped off by a brilliant 9 yard touchdown rush. The Lions took the lead with 9:13 left to go in the game, and would never relinquish that lead. There was a brief scare for the Lions close to the

end, when it looked like they would have to punt the ball away with two minutes left, but a back-breaking personal foul by the Indians gave Chelmsford the first down, and secured the win.

Someday, all of these players, coaches, and fans will be long gone. Every single person who strapped on a helmet, put on a headset, or bought a ticket will be passed by time. For the exceptional ones, a monument or landmark will denote their participation in this program's illustrious histories. For many others, however, the only thing that will remain is the memory. The memory of anticipation and distaste towards the opposing side in the weeks leading up to kickoff. The memory of sharing the experience with your most treasured family and friends in the entire world. The memory of the vertigo-inducing highs, and nauseating lows of the game. The memory of the final buzzer sounding, and defeating the Billerica Indians, 28-21.

They will forever remember Thanksgiving morning, 2024, and shedding tears in the rain.





Ballot Question 2 was set to significantly reduce the state's role in overseeing high school graduation. If question passed, students would still be required to take the 10th grade MCAS exams, but they would no longer need to achieve a passing score. Instead, school districts would establish their own graduation criteria, guided by state educational standards but not tied to any specific state assessment.

"One test is not a great measure for every kid, that ultimately we keep about 700 kids from getting a high school diploma and it's a lot of special needs kids and a lot of kids who are just learning English," Elizabeth Warren (WZB Debate)

By: Jhanvi Kichannagari and Samhita Badhri

The Christmas Party

By: Callista Ferreira

Before my grandmother passed away she used to throw a Christmas party every year. I remember it being a fun, crowded party where the whole family would get together and have a good time. Every year my mother would make these little sugar cookies with a hershey kiss in the middle. I recall waiting and being so excited to try and take as many as I could off of the table without my mother or my grandmother noticing and telling me I need to eat real food first. Still I wanted to eat as many of them as I could. Christmas has always been my favorite holiday. The food, the music, the presents, and the party. The smell of the cookies coming out of the oven would always remind me that Christmas was near. That I would soon be able to see my cousins, my favorite aunts and uncles, and my grandmother who I saw multiple times a week as it was. To me these cookies felt like Christmas itself, which is probably why I liked them so much.

Something as simple as a little sugar cookie with one hershey kiss in it, and it was still my favorite. Looking back It wasn't just the sugar cookie itself that I liked. It was the idea of the party, and being with my family whom I loved so much. It was the idea that one day I would be the one to make these cookies and proudly present them to my family like they are the most interesting and important thing there.

My grandmother got cancer when I was 8 years old and unfortunately passed away. Since then my family has not gotten together for another Christmas party. I have not seen my cousins in 7 years. My mother has not made those cookies in 7 years. My old fantasies of making those cookies for my family are no longer. I honestly haven't thought about them for years. I'm glad that I'm thinking about them now though. It helps me to remember all of the good times that I had with my grandmother, and her whole family and friends.

Growing up for me has been realizing that not everything can stay the way it is forever, in fact almost nothing does. These parties may be over but other parties will begin. Family lives on and continues no matter what and even if I lose family they will still be with me. Even though my mother may not make these cookies anymore that does not mean that I can't. Not everything has to feel like it's changing just because a few things are. This was an important lesson for me to learn.

I still have hope that one day I will have a big family of my own, with kids, and their cousins and friends all running around having fun and trying to sneak as many of the cookies I will have made without me noticing, because that was a good way to grow up.



Season's greetings

WORD SCRAMBLE

EX)RENTIW → WINTER

LFENOWKSSA _____

BLEREECTA _____

HIYOLDA _____

ANDYC NASEC _____

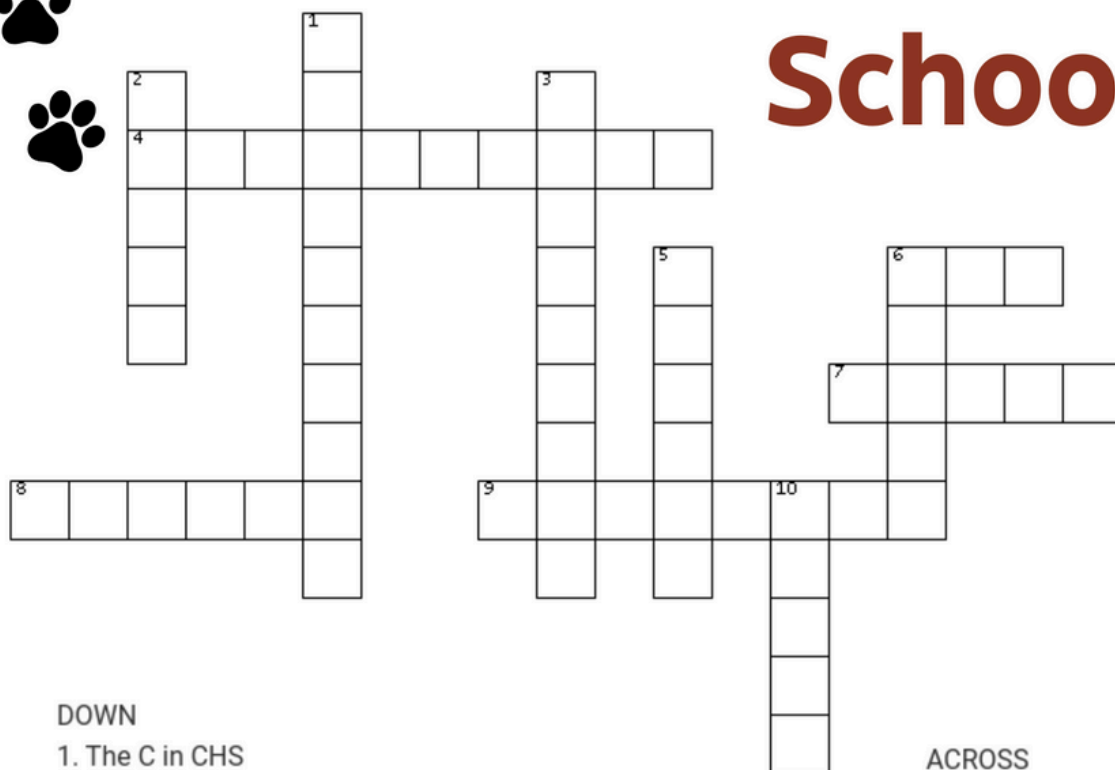
TSFYRO _____

OLLHY _____

WNE AERY _____

EDINERRE _____

ATHERW _____



DOWN

1. The C in CHS
2. School colors: Maroon and ____
3. CHS's rivals for the Thanksgiving game
5. Our principal Mr. _____
6. Make sure you sign up for ____ block
10. This year's musical beauty and the ____

ACROSS

4. Did you attend the ____ dance?
6. Show school spirit at the ____ Rally
7. Our mascot the Chelmsford ____
8. this year we have 2 weeks for ____ break
9. Class of 27' spirit day theme

School Spirit!

By: Riley Tambo



Answer Keys

Season's greetings

WORD SCRAMBLE

ANSWER KEY

SNOWFLAKES

CELEBRATE

HOLIDAY

CANDY CANES

FROSTY

HOLLY

NEW YEAR

REINDEER

WREATH

