



Christmas Pageant 2021: A Virtual Celebration!

By Virginia Haley '24



Most of us all know and love our annual Christmas pageant, and the time of year to start getting ready for it has finally come around! Mrs. Bickraj and Ms. Datz have started their preparation for the 2021 Pageant by teaching new songs and making a variety of decorations and props. This year promises to be as dazzling as ever. As Mrs. Datz always says "You know it's Christmas time in the art room when it is covered in glitter!"

In the past our pageants have been in our school gymnasium/theatre for us to all see in the moment. However, this year once again we are going to be holding the pageant virtually, which means participants in the pageant will be sending in different videos according to their parts for Mrs. Bickraj to edit together to create a great pageant. A final copy of the video will be sent out to all families to enjoy during the holiday season. We know everyone will enjoy this annual IHM tradition, and hope we can all be together in 2022!





Between the Bells



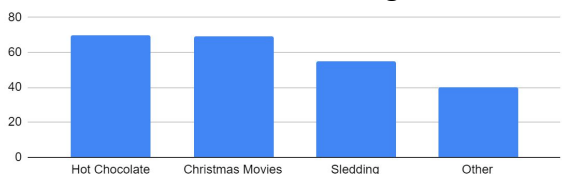
With Isabella Albert '23



Who is excited for Christmas? I am! We had three polls this month, all about Christmas!

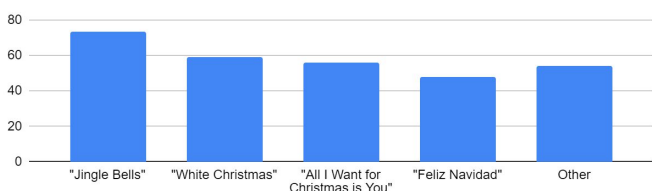
First up, **What is your favorite Christmas activity?**

The top answers were: 70 for drinking hot chocolate, 69 for watching Christmas movies, 55 for sledding, and 40 for any others. 8th grader Rocco Mazzulli said "I like opening presents the most because it's fun and exciting." Thanks Rocco!



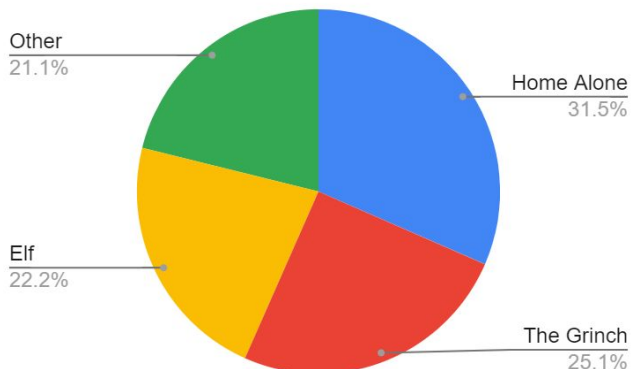
Next was, **What is your favorite Christmas song?**

The top answers were 73 for "Jingle Bells," 59 for "White Christmas," 56 for "All I want for Christmas is You," 48 for "Feliz Navidad," and 54 for any others. Our middle school religion teacher Mrs. Luongo said her favorite is "White Christmas" because "I love the singer and it brings the Christmas Spirit." Cool!



Finally, **What is your favorite Christmas Movie?**

The results were: 88 for *Home Alone*, 70 for *The Grinch*, 62 for *Elf*, and 59 for other movies. Mrs. Lindner, the 7th and 8th grade ELA teacher, said her favorite is "*White Christmas* because I like the period it was in and I enjoy the actors. [I also like it because it reminds me of my childhood when I watched it with my family. Even after watching it 40+ times I still enjoy it (especially the ending)." Thanks Mrs. Lindner!



That's it for our Christmas polls! Hope you enjoyed them! Stay tuned for next month's polls, and if you have any ideas for future polls, email me at isabella.albert@ihmschoolmd.org



Ask An 8th Grader



With Rosemary DeSantis '22

Hey IHM! For this Holiday edition of *Ask an Eighth Grader*, I wanted to figure out what my friends' favorite IHM Christmas traditions were and I got a few different results. Both Emma G. and Hannah R. in 8th grade said that their favorite tradition is our

Christmas Pageant! Autumn N. in 8th grade said that her favorite tradition is the HSA breakfast. Personally, my favorite tradition is watching Christmas movies with my class. I don't know about you but I am super excited for Christmas and New Year's. I'll see you in 2022!



If you have questions for an 8th grader, email me at rosemary.desantis@ihmschoolmd.org



2021-22 Basketball Season - Court in Session!

By Kaylin Hall '24, Emily McNulty '24, Mayah Njoroge '24, and Grace Rehtin '24

This year IHM is getting excited about bringing back the basketball season! We know a lot of people are happy to be back on the court with their friends and fellow teammates, and are ready to get the season started.

We did not have basketball at all last year due to Covid, so we are super excited to start the season up again. The IHM basketball league starts in third grade and goes through eighth grade. The coaches for each team always make practice fun and enjoyable while learning and practicing. We used to have a clinic but we aren't sure if we'll have it this year. If we do, it will most likely start in January and it will be for the first and second graders. We both hope that we do have it because we did it when we were younger and it was so fun. It's nice to start your basketball journey early. Practices are once a week for the younger grades, and twice a week for middle school.

For each team to play, they need at least seven players but no more than fifteen. There are five players needed on the court during the game. Games are usually played on Saturdays, however the eighth grade boys will be playing on Friday nights in our school's gym.

There is a girls and boys team for each grade level. We play against other school teams. Along with the student teams, there is also a moms and dads league. Your coach could be playing basketball games along with coaching! You can no longer sign up for this season, but if you want to play there is always next year. If you are registered, it doesn't hurt to get a little extra practice in every now and then at home. Ms. Bennett, our P.E teacher, is the coordinator and planned this upcoming season. This might be your first year playing but don't worry, you will have plenty of fun at practice, playing games, and hanging out with your teammates!

We talked to 6th grader Ella Hickson, and she had this to say: "I'm excited to do new drills and go back to practices with my friends. Mostly because I missed going to games and playing basketball last year." Another 6th grader, Tristan Coates, said, "I missed being able to try new skills last year. But I'm looking forward to meeting the new players, and wish everyone good luck this basketball season." We can agree with those students! As we know everybody is looking forward to playing basketball, so let's wish everyone a great season!





By Alyssa Cramer '23

Materials:

- White felt (or white construction paper)
- Black and Orange construction paper
- Light blue paper
- Googly eyes
- White pom poms and snowflake stickers

Instructions:

1. Cut the white felt in a wave pattern to make it look like snow on the ground.
2. Trace and cut out your handprints on the black paper.
3. Now you can decorate your penguins!
 - a) Cut circles into the white felt to make a belly.
 - b) Cut out a diamond shape from the orange paper and then fold it in half to make the beak.
 - c) Add two googly eyes for the penguin eyes.
4. Decorate the sky with pom poms and snowflake stickers.
You now have adorable handprint penguins!



NJAHS Paints Ornaments for AOB

Maddie Merrill '23

Hi there IHM! Here's the news from the NJAHS. The Archdiocese asked our school to hand paint nearly 60 glass ornaments! These will go out to all of the Church leaders around the area; one will even go to Archbishop Lori! They were kind enough to supply everything we needed: the ornaments, tinsel, and stickers. We used glass paint, paint pens and glitter to decorate the ornaments even further. The goal was to complete them in a week and we did! We were asked to incorporate the theme "Year of The Eucharist," so on many of the ornaments we painted crosses, hosts, chalices, and grapes.

This was a simple and fun project that everyone enjoyed! They are fun and simple to make but look so good once they are done. It would be a fun craft to do and give to people as gifts! Just make sure to give them at least a day to dry!



Movie Review

By Molly Bittner '23



You may have heard of the new movie Clifford based on the famous children's book. This is a perfect family movie for all ages! The movie shows that we can all work and live together despite our differences. Clifford is about a young girl in 6th grade named Emily Elizabeth, who lives in New York with her mother. Her uncle Casey comes to watch her while her mom is away. Emily was being bullied and her character showed bullying and the effects it might take on someone. She felt like she didn't have any friends until she met Clifford, a small red puppy.



Clifford comes home with her by sneaking into Emily Elizabeth's bookbag. Uncle Casey says she can only keep her for one night and that night she wishes Clifford would get big and strong. She wakes up the next morning and Clifford is huge! If you want to know what happens next, you will have to watch the movie! *Clifford* is currently in theaters and on Paramount Plus. It is such a good take on the original books. I would rate this movie 4 stars and would recommend for everyone to watch it!



By Grayson Bowman '23
and Cooper Cosimano '23



Minecraft is a "sandbox game," meaning you have no boundaries. The game was developed by a man named Markus otherwise known as Notch. It was made public to the community in 2009. The full game was published in November of 2011. The game is on many different platforms such as Xbox, Playstation, Nintendo Switch and you can download it on computer and laptop. It is currently one of the best selling games. It is number two when it comes to most popular games currently. As of now, number one is a game called "Call of Duty Warzone."

Minecraft is also a pvp game, (player versus player) where people can join a server and play together or battle. There are multiple modes and servers you can join so you can easily find a mode you like. You can start worlds in survival mode and play with friends, while learning how to communicate and work better with friends. You can also start worlds in creative mode and make cool structures with unlimited resources at your disposal while teaching you how to be more creative and come up with more ideas. After all this, we give Minecraft a 9/10 rating for good quality, and overall being a fun game to play with friends.



Year of the Eucharist: Encountering Christ's Presence

Community Service at IHM

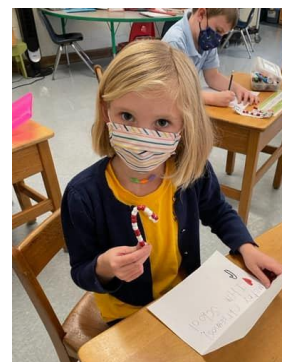
By Lily Peisinger '24

Immaculate Heart of Mary School embodies service to others in many ways. The Archdiocese's theme of the year is "Year of the Eucharist." This means to encounter Christ's presence in all that we think, say, and do. One way we are doing this is through community service projects. We have done many projects so far this year to help those in need. We collected shoes, coats and jackets for the parish outreach office. The NJHS sponsored a collection of hats, gloves, and scarves to benefit Mitch Bricks, a local organization that seeks to provide basic necessities during the winter months. In addition, we have been collecting food to donate to the parish pantry, we had a Day of Service this month, and our most recent project, a "baby shower for Jesus," collecting baby clothes, baby shampoo, diapers, wipes, etc. to help local mothers and babies in need through Share Baby in Baltimore. This local organization looks to meet the needs of Baltimore's youngest children through the distribution of essential baby needs. We will continue to encounter Christ through service all year!

IHM Service Day 2021!

By Mayah Njoroge '24

At the beginning of December, after a year off due to Covid, IHM brought back our annual service day where all IHM students in grades PreK-3 through 8th grade do various activities of service! It is always a good thing to give back to the community and help people in need. The students did different things in each grade to help our community, like making blankets to donate to Ronald McDonald house, and helping clean up outside and around our school. Students also made prayer chains to hang around the Christmas trees in the school building. Other activities were helping Father Jeff in the parish and making Christmas cards to brighten up people's day. Classes also made Christmas ornaments to give to residents at Oakcrest and crafts to give to children in St. Vincent's Villa to make them smile during the holiday season. Some students also made beaded finger rosary bracelets to use at home. There were many other amazing activities. It was great to be able to give back, especially during the Christmas season. Everyone had a lot of fun, it was a great day and we are blessed to be able to do it again!





Christmas Spirit Week 2021

Meg Ruopp '24

Hello IHM! Meg Ruopp here to tell you all about our Christmas Spirit Week! This is for the whole school PreK-3 to 8th grade (make sure to look down at the bottom for some of my favorites for each day)!

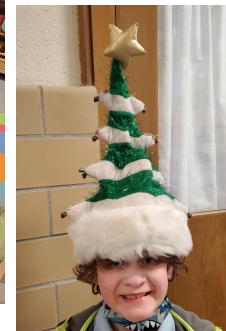
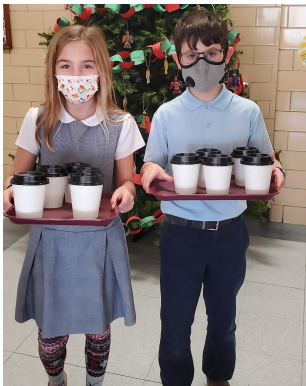
On Thursday December 16th the theme was "Sockin' around the Christmas Tree!" We got to wear crazy Christmas socks! Also the Student Council sponsored Hot Chocolate Day was this day, they raised over \$500 for recess equipment!

Next, on Friday December 17th we got to wear "Holly Jolly headwear!" Students were able to wear Christmas headbands, hats, and any accessories that go on your head!

Now this one that I'm about to share with you is one of my favorites! On Monday December 20th we got to "Deck the halls with holiday cheer!" On this day we got to wear our P.E sweatpants with a.. CRAZY CHRISTMAS SWEATER! I really like this one because some of the sweaters I saw were definitely crazy! Some kids and teachers wore the IHM Christmas T-shirt too!

Now coming up on our last but certainly not least... COUCH POTATO DAY or PAJAMA DAY!!! "Twas the night before Christmas Break" on December 21st! Now this is definitely MY favorite day of Christmas Spirit Week!!

I hope everyone gets what they want for Christmas and has a happy new year! Merry Christmas IHM!





Curley Classic: A Race of the Ages!

Evelyn Weaver '23 and Emily Kellerman '23

The Curley Classic is a cross-country running event for local Catholic elementary and middle school students. The run took place on November 17th. This year was the 37th anniversary!

The 7th and 8th grade boys started off the meet, running 1.4 miles. Then the 6th-8th grade girls ran the same distance. Next, the 5th and 6th grade boys ran, followed by the 5th grade and under girls. The final race of the day was the 4th grade and under boys, all running 3/4 mile.

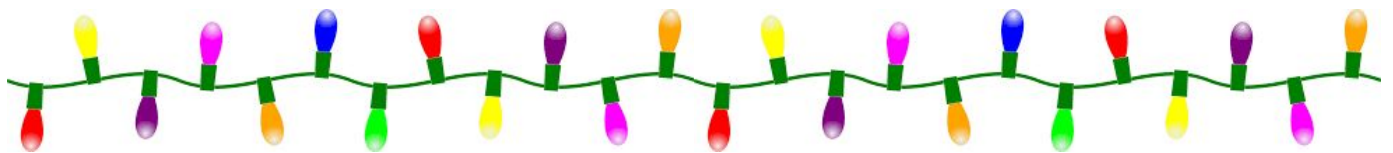
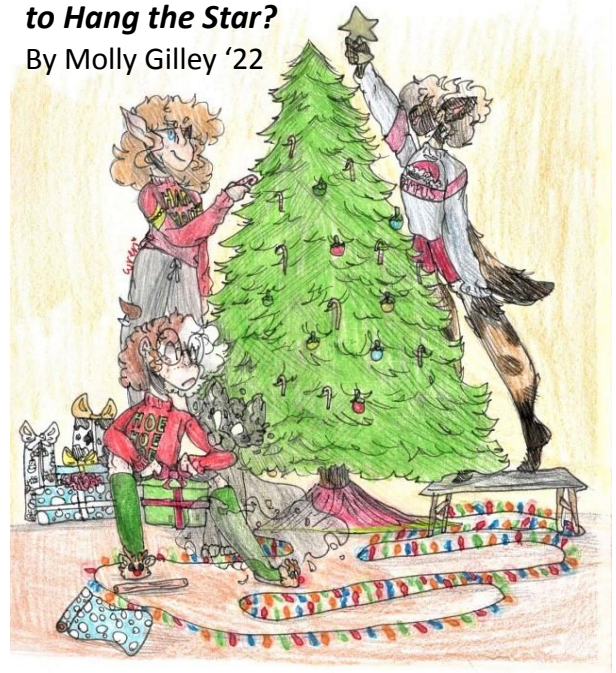
This year was extra special because the Curley Classic was cancelled last year due to COVID-19. Everyone was super excited to be running again! It was even more exciting for the IHM runners since this was the only meet we had this year. There were 16 runners from IHM. Two IHM runners placed in their age group, the authors of this article! Evie Weaver placed 1st among the 6-8th grade girls, and Emily Kellerman placed 2nd.

All of the runners did an amazing job, and were satisfied with their races. This was a great way for the IHM athletes to showcase their skills even though there was not a formal cross country team this year. We hope to return in 2022!



Why'd We Choose the Shortest One to Hang the Star?

By Molly Gilley '22



Merry Christmas from the Eagle Eye News Team!

meag Jesse Grace Emily M; Emily K. Blaise Mayah N
Ginny! Joshua S Maeve! Kaylin H.! Shawn O! Lily R! Gageon Bowman
Molly B. Hiner Evie! Alyssa Bells! BROOKE Cooper Marylynn Jack Bresser
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