

Happy Holidays from the

# Eagle Times



Volume 38, Number 2 December 2020

Bonny Eagle High School

Standish, Maine 04084

## Athletes taking it one day at a time

By Amelia McAvoy  
and Lillian Gaudiano

After a tumultuous season for fall athletes, the big question still stands: What will winter sports look like? With the recent change of Cumberland County into the yellow zone because of rising case numbers in the community, all sports have been suspended for the remainder of the month. Wrestling, which was deemed a high-risk sport, had already been pushed back to late February.

Despite the latest setback, Athletic Director Mr. Eric Curtis says that he is still “hopeful that the season will go well; the athletes at BEHS did a great job this fall with all the expectations and rules.”

For now, athletes must wait until Dec. 31, when the Maine CDC reassesses COVID threat levels by county, to see what the next course of action will be.

The winter sports schedule, written out as certain steps or “levels” dictates when and how games and practices can occur. Level 1, allowing teams to practice skills and conditioning training while maintaining distance between players, has currently been postponed due to Cumberland County now being in the yellow zone.

Teams plan on beginning tryouts at Levels 2 and 3, which allow for intra-team practices. Games can finally begin when level 4 permits team competition from the same geographic area. Levels 5 and 6, in-state and out-of-state

competition beyond Cumberland County, are unlikely to happen this season.

The biggest change from the fall season is that masks will be required at all times, including practices and games. Originally, games were to have begun on Jan. 11. As of now it is uncertain whether games will take place. There will be games if the county is restored to the green zone, but they most likely won’t begin until late January.

Additionally, any games must be with schools within Cumberland County. Some teams that have already agreed to play include: Gorham, Thornton Academy, Scarborough, Westbrook, and Windham. As for playoffs, they will not take place as usual this year, but there is talk of a possible “COVID Cup” between all of the Cumberland County teams that agree to participate.

***“[We should] treat every day and practice like it could be our last as a team.”***  
***Coach John Trull***

Despite all of these changes, winter sports athletes and coaches are still hopeful for this season. Senior Jacob Humphrey, who missed out on baseball season last spring and football this fall, remains hopeful of playing basketball despite the restrictions.

“Obviously it will be an obstacle to overcome – I don’t know if anyone has played basketball in a mask before,” he told the *Portland Press Herald* in a re-



Boy basketball coach John Trull is hoping for a return to the court, if not the playoffs, this winter.  
Staff photo

cent article. “But as long as I’m able to play I’m fine with it.”

Mr. Scott Regan, the girls’ varsity basketball coach says his “primary expectation is to be able to provide the best opportunity for our players to get together and continue to learn the values of hard work, sportsmanship, and teamwork in a safe manner.” He also “understand[s] the opportunity to play and compete together is important for high schoolers, and [we’ll] hopefully be able to give them that opportunity.”

Similar to the fall season, there will be no spectators at any games, but all games will be broadcast on the YouTube channel, “Bonny Eagle TV.” For away games, other schools have their own methods of broadcasting games, but

the athletic department hopes to post all away games on the Bonny Eagle Athletics Twitter feed.

If winter sports are able to resume once Cumberland County re-enters the green zone, teams must find ways to incorporate social distancing guidelines into their practices. For many coaches, coming up with new drills will be essential to keeping distance between players.

Mr. John Trull, the varsity boys’ basketball coach says, “We have to be creative with the drills we do since we can’t have any contact between players. All of our practices are at the middle school as well which is a major adjustment. We also aren’t able to use the weight room so we have to be creative with workouts.”

Winter sports athletes can expect to see plenty of changes to their normal practices as coaches form their drills and workouts around maintaining distance to ensure player safety. For some sports, game play will also need to be modified. Basketball teams are expecting to change their free throw and jump ball procedures, and all sports are following strict sanitizing rules.

Already, some sports have had to tackle the challenge of quarantining their athletes. One indoor track member tested positive for COVID-19. In order to halt the spread of the virus, all practices were stopped, even before Cumberland County moved into the yellow zone, and all coaches and players had to quarantine.

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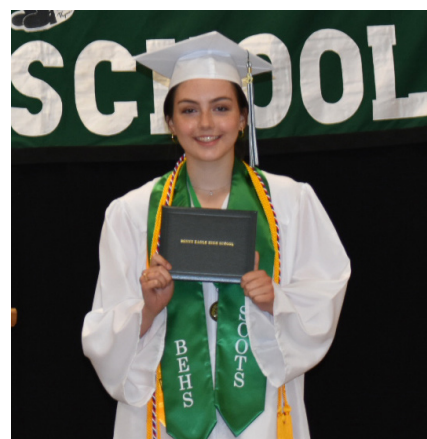
## Cautionary tales of college during the pandemic

By Taylor Farwell and Abigail Scott

Last year’s Bonny Eagle graduates were robbed of the traditional end to their high school experience, and they were uncertain about what life would be like when they went off to college this fall. As their first semester comes to a close, six former Bonny Eagle graduates, most from the Class of 2020, agreed to share their cautionary tales as to what college life has been like for them during the Coronavirus pandemic.

Athen Hollis, president of the Class of 2020 and former editor of the BEHS *Eagle Times*, is currently at Marist College in Poughkeepsie, New York. She was on campus and living in a dorm during her first semester. Her classes were hybrid style; some were in person one day, then online until after Thanksgiving.

Although it is not Athen’s most ideal learning situation, she was grateful not to be taking Zoom classes in her dorm room, like some of her friends did. She and her classmates were tested ran-



Athen Hollis is still glad she went away to college this fall.  
Staff photo

domly throughout the semester, starting at arrival in August. They had to wear masks at all times unless they were eating or in their dorms, and to eat in the dining hall they had to make a reservation. Those things made for a much different experience than she had hoped for before COVID-19 hit. Still, she has few

regrets.

“I really love college,” Athen says. “I feel like I have changed in the few months I’ve been here.”

***“... see how the schools you are looking at are dealing with the pandemic and how happy the students are.”***  
***Athen Hollis***

Athen believes Marist College has done a good job in keeping COVID-19 cases down, and she felt very safe on campus. As of Dec. 11, the total positivity rate was 1.11%, according to Marist College Statistics. A positivity rate is the number of positive cases divided by the number of total tests administered (that number is then multiplied by 100 to find the percent).

Even if the circumstances are the same next year, Athen will still attend college and live on campus, but wants

the Class of 2021 to think about their future as they decide what to do next year.

“...Research and see how the schools you are looking at are dealing with the pandemic and how happy the students are,” she says. “The pandemic has completely changed how most colleges operate and it might not be the same as you once thought.”

Emma Noonan is a 2020 BE graduate and is attending the University of Massachusetts at Dartmouth to become a nurse. Initially, she was looking forward to living on campus; however, she opted instead to take online classes and live at home because of her fears about going to college during the pandemic. Now, she says she doesn’t enjoy college due to the difficulty of full online classes while being a nursing major.

“What I have noticed so far is it is extremely important to stay on top of your

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## The show must go on

# Drama club weathers challenges to produce *Radium Girls* play

### From staff reports

Solving problems is half the fun of producing a play. The problems surrounding Bonny Eagle's production of *Radium Girls* made for an experience that the cast and crew will never forget.

"Outdoor theater was, largely, extremely bizarre, and very cold. There were obstacles to overcome that we had never had to worry about before, such as the elements, masks, and even the dog across the street," said senior Alison Jones of the Bonny Eagle Drama Club.

Drama Director Ms. Marianne Pillsbury and the student drama officers started planning the fall play over the summer.

"However, we really didn't know whether we would be doing an in-person performance or a virtual Zoom performance until we got back to school," said Ms. Pillsbury. "Our first month of rehearsals were all online, then we switched to in-person outside in October. We were only allowed to rehearse outside for the most part, just like the fall sports teams."

One of the biggest challenges was figuring out how to hook up the lighting without tripping a fuse. "(It) took us a few tries, but our maintenance people were very helpful and supportive of our efforts," said Ms. Pillsbury.

Blocking the play with actors staying three feet apart and wearing masks was a challenge, too.

"It was kind of strange for the actors to be wearing masks but it also kind of worked with the play," said Ms. Pillsbury. "It was kind of funny though when actors were supposed to be eating or smoking a fake cigar but they were wearing masks!"

Alison said the inclusion of masks and (especially Saturday) background noise made it far more of a challenge.

"We had to make costumes that were warm enough for our actors, and our techies had to be outside the entire time,

which can't have been fun out in that weather," she said. "I'm constantly impressed by the work they do, both in years up to now and in the difficulties of this past season."

Alison agreed that the lighting situation was the biggest headache.

"When the rain hit on Friday, they were covered, but unfortunately with a canvas which would absorb water. That formed a sort of heavy sail, which caused the lights to fall, break, and become waterlogged. It really seemed like they weren't going to work for our next performance," she said.

Alison said a group of the club's main techies, including Alexavier Smith, Samuel Phelps, and Emily Jones, were able to work with Ms. Pillsbury and former director Mr. Rick Osann to get them working again.

"It was a huge breath of relief to find out that we would be able to have our second night of performances," Alison said.

On the first weekend's Saturday performance, about 35 people attended in person and 30 people logged onto the live stream, which was accessed through a link emailed to people who purchased tickets online. At the following weekend's Friday night performance, about 25 people live streamed and 30 attended in person, according to Ms. Pillsbury.

Now that *Radium Girls* is history, Bonny Eagle Drama is planning for the Winter One Acts, a regional competition which is held each March. Those plans are now on hold because of the suspension of winter activities due to Cumberland County being in the yellow zone until at least Dec. 31.

Even after those restrictions are lifted, the club will be planning for a competition that will have to be held virtually. Despite that, Alison said, "It's going to be a fun and very interesting challenge to put on."

Kaylei Myers contributed to this report



At left, the set was in the courtyard behind the MPR.

Below left, Veronica Shore and Maddie Chayer perform a scene.

Below right in front, Julianna Scott (left) and Sabrina Cable (right), back row—Elise Ruona (l) and Alison Jones (r). Photos courtesy of Ms. Pillsbury.



### Play Review

## Fall play reveals riveting history

By Abigail Scott

The show must go on! Even under the COVID restrictions and guidelines, Bonny Eagle Drama found a way to make the most of what it had: the great outdoors.

On Saturday, Nov. 14, Bonny Eagle Drama staged *Radium Girls* written by D.W. Gregory and directed by Marianne Pillsbury and co-directed by John Bonica. John is a Bonny Eagle graduate from the Class of 2020.

The play was in the courtyard, where the director used a makeshift stage and production lighting. Due to COVID-19 social distancing guidelines, each actor was allowed two guests. The other spectators that were unable to go paid to watch online. Thankfully, the stream did not lag and was very clear. Unfortunately, the play is no longer available to watch online.

*Radium Girls* is a play set in 1926 which tells the story of two girls who suffer radium poisoning after working in a radium workshop. Grace Fryer, played by Julianna Scott, is a dial painter who suffers from the poisoning and is trying to take a stand against it in court.

Arther Roder, played by Veronica Shore, is a man who doesn't believe the girls and wants them to go back to work. Grace Fryer fights against the U.S Radium Corporation, and her close friends and family. During each set change, 1920's music plays and makes it feel like you were really there. The play was well produced and the actors really made a show that was interesting to watch.

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work assignments," she says. "Once you fall behind there is no catching up."

If college stays the same as it is right now, Emma's not sure if she will go back. "It is very difficult and takes a toll on one's mental health," she says.

Jenna Litif, a 2018 graduate, is at the University of Maine in Orono. She is currently living off campus in an apartment with some of her friends. Her lectures and classes this fall were all on Zoom. She is staying as safe as she can, even though it can be hard at such a big school like UMaine, which is home to 2,200 students.

Jenna and other students at UMaine were tested twice for COVID-19 this fall. While the number of cases has stayed low, one of the biggest things that college students are missing out on is socializing, and Jenna says that it has been hard not to talk to many people.

Jenna did not change her college plans because of COVID-19, but wants the Class of 2021 to be thoughtful about their next steps.

"If times are still the same when you are headed off to college, go to a community college or take a gap year," she urged. "It is not worth the money to

be all online and cooped up in a dorm room."

Ethan Scott, a Class of 2020 graduate, is attending the University of Rhode Island. Rhode Island, a red state in COVID cases for most of the fall according to the Center for Disease Control, still wanted freshman students on campus.

Roughly 15,000 students are attending URI this fall, according to the University of Rhode Island's statistics. URI conducted testing on the first day of the semester, and have done randomized testing ever since. As of Oct. 14-19, out of 5,720 tests administered, only 54 were positive, according to The University of Rhode Island's statistics.

Ethan says he feels very safe on campus and is trying to make the most out of his college experience, even when there isn't much to do. He's been rushing a fraternity, hanging out at the beach, and making new friends. He doesn't regret going to college or not taking a gap year.

"I am happy that I went to school," he says.

Another Class of 2020 Bonny Eagle graduate, Zavior Walker, is hoping to become a music teacher and is attending

USM in Gorham for music education. He is currently taking both online and in-person classes.

"It's kind of weird . . . I do most of my online classes at school just so I don't have to drive to and from multiple times in one day," he explained.

Recently, one of his in-person classes assigned him to write a song and sing it in front of the class. His professors decide whether or not they want to have in-person classes. He originally planned to live on campus, but he figured USM needed space for students who weren't from Maine.

Zavior wishes he lived on campus. "Every time I..go there, I really don't want to leave!" he says.

Zavior doesn't mind college under the circumstances due to the fact that there are not as many people around, meaning it's less stressful. He says that online teaching is "not as bad as it could be" because the professors are trying their best and the students are giving the same effort back.

A junior at Mount Holyoke College in Massachusetts, Abigail Kovacs, is majoring in biology with a minor in chemistry. Just two weeks before the semes-

ter started, her school went fully online due to the outbreak, resulting in all of her classes being on Zoom. Since on-campus students were being sent home, she was lucky enough to rent an apartment with some friends.

"We were given only a couple weeks to pack our things and move out in what felt like a whirlwind of fear, uncertainty, and sadness," she said.

As of November, there were few students living on campus. They must follow the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention guidelines: wearing a mask, staying six feet apart, and being tested twice a semester.

Online learning has not been the best for Abigail.

"To be brutally honest, online college during a pandemic is incredibly draining and challenging," she said. "So much of what makes college exciting and memorable has been lost."

She also feels that she wasn't alone in being robbed of all the good memories that would've been created this year. All of us were.

"I never imagined that it could disrupt our lives in such a dramatic way," she said.



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The *Eagle Times* is the student voice of Bonny Eagle High School, published regularly with a circulation of an estimated 800 copies

The purpose of the *Eagle Times* is to:

- a.) Present the news, as it pertains to the student body, in a non-biased and tasteful fashion,
- b.) Provide a forum, wherein ideas and options, concepts and concerns may be freely and openly discussed,
- c.) Provide the student body, faculty, and administration with a circulated medium in which letters, notices of recognition, and other submissions may be published.

The *Eagle Times* welcomes submissions from students, faculty, staff and community members. All submissions MUST be signed by their respective authors.

We reserve the right to edit submissions based on length, language, or clarity. The *Eagle Times* also reserves the right to reject submissions which are found to be libelous.

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## The case for masks: A new fashion accessory?

**Editor's Note:** Health teacher Ms. Erin Bjorkdahl was asked to share her thoughts about wearing masks, particularly now that BEHS is experiencing a COVID-19 outbreak.

Face masks are the new accessory that no one really likes to wear, but are extremely important for our health and safety. There are two main reasons to wear masks. They offer some protection for the wearer and the mask protects others from catching an infection from the person wearing the mask.

The CDC recommends that people wear masks in public settings and when around people who don't live in your household, especially when social distancing is hard to maintain. That's why it is so important that we wear masks whenever we are out in public, including at school.

COVID-19 spreads mainly among people who are in close contact with one another, within 6 ft. If the majority of people are wearing a face mask in public, including school, it can drastically reduce transmission of the virus. Masks work by being a barrier to help prevent respiratory droplets from traveling into the air and onto other people when the person wearing the mask coughs, sneezes, talks, or raises their voice. A mask over the nose and mouth works as a physical barrier.

Some people don't believe that they need to wear a mask because they aren't

sick or showing symptoms. However, many people with COVID-19 are unaware they are carrying the virus. It is estimated that 40% of persons with COVID-19 are asymptomatic, but are potentially able to spread the virus to others. That makes it really difficult to detect a potential transmitter of the virus. If we wear masks at all times, then we don't have to worry about spreading illness to others in case we happen to be sick. We are taking steps to help keep others safe, as well as ourselves. That is part of being socially responsible.

Currently masks are required in MSAD6, and everyone is doing a great job wearing them. However, wearing the mask correctly is extremely important. You want to make sure that both your nose and your mouth are covered.

Coronavirus can establish itself in the nose before moving down to the lungs and causing serious damage. Wearing a mask properly can prevent the virus from exiting an infected nose or entering an uninfected one. You want your mask to fit snugly around the face. A study from the Journal of Hospital Infection found that wearing a face covering slashed the risk of infection by 24% for a simple cloth covering.

Another important step in mask safety is making sure they are clean. According to Ryan Sinclair PhD, MPH, and associate professor of environmental microbiology at Lorima Linda University

School of Public Health says that "part of wearing a mask is washing a mask." It is important to disinfect cloth masks because viruses and bacteria can live on cloth for up to 8-12 hours. It is crucial to regularly wash, sanitize, and dry reusable face masks. You should never reuse a mask without washing it first. It's just like any other article of clothing that comes in contact with body fluids. You wouldn't re-wear your underwear before washing it; the same goes for face masks.

If possible, have a few extra face masks on hand so they can be rotated and you'll have more time to wash them between uses. You should also always wash your hands before and after touching your mask, this helps prevent the spread of germs.

I feel like many of you do: wearing a mask is not my favorite thing to do. However, wearing a mask is a true sign of respect for others. At school, wearing a mask tells your classmates, teachers, other staff members, and the families they go home to that you respect them as a fellow human. It is important that we all work together to reduce the spread of COVID-19. Our chances of getting infected are not solely based upon our actions, but are also impacted by the behaviors of those around us. If we want society and school to open up normally again, we need to wear masks, keep up with proper hand hygiene, and socially distance from others for the time being.

### DO choose masks that



Have two or more layers of washable, breathable fabric



Completely cover your nose and mouth



Fit snugly against the sides of your face and don't have gaps.

### DO NOT choose Masks that



Are made of fabric that makes it hard to breath, for example, vinyl



Have exhalation valves or vents which allow virus particles to escape



Are intended for healthcare workers, including N95 respirators or surgical masks

### Gaiters & Face Shields



Wear a gaiter with two layers, or fold it to make two layers



Caution: Evaluation is ongoing but effectiveness is unknown at this time

From CDC.gov

## Some advice for those last-minute shoppers

By Amelia McAvoy

With the holidays quickly approaching, the race to find the perfect gift for your loved ones is in high gear. While the perfect gift may be a bit of a hefty demand, there are lots of small, inexpensive presents that will brighten up your friends and family this holiday season.

As depressing as it is, the coronavirus has taken over everyone's lives. This year, hand-sanitizer and masks may be appropriate stocking stuffers. Masks are a cheap, yet vital investment. The best part? They come in all sorts of colors and patterns to enhance your wardrobe. You can find unique ones on online stores like Etsy, but Amazon also has a plethora of choices. Similarly, hand sanitizer can be found in all different scents, including fun, holiday specific ones, and rarely go above two dollars a

piece.

Don't shy away from giving gift cards or money. Just because they aren't personal, doesn't mean they aren't appreciated. This way, your loved one can buy exactly what they want, and no white lies are necessary. Plus, it's been a rough year and everyone could use extra cash.

In Maine, winter usually bring storms. The holidays are a good time to stock up on entertainment in case you are snowed in or lose power. Board games and card games are always unexpected fun, and there is quite a big selection of them now. Personally, I recommend fast-paced card games, like "Spot-It" or "Ruckus," but a host of new board games with names like "Dragomino" and "Wingspan" are intriguing.

For any artistically gifted people, there is nothing more personal or heartwarming than receiving a handmade

gift. There is something so special about knowing your gift was created specifically with you in mind. This could be anything from homemade goods, to a painting, to a song.

Don't like any of these ideas? Food never fails to satisfy. Ask your friend or family member what their favorite candy or their favorite kind of chocolate is. Junk food also tends to be cheap and easily accessible. Any Rite-Aid or Walgreens usually has a plentiful selection. It is also a great "thank-you" gift to give to co-workers or teachers to let them know you're thinking of them this holiday season.

One of the greatest parts of the holidays is showing the people you love that you care about them. Hopefully, this small guide will help the panicked shopper find the perfect gift on a budget for the ones that they love.



## Stained glass artworks deck the halls of BEHS

By Lillian Gaudiano

Last trimester, Ms. Hannah Tauroney's fine crafts class created an array of colorful stained glass pieces that brightened up the lobby of the high school for the last few weeks of November.

According to Ms. Tauroney, teaching the medium of stained glass in Fine Crafts class has been a tradition going back at least 15 years to when she was a student of BEHS art teacher Ms. Peg Maxwell, who is teaching remotely this year.

Because of her experience with learning how to create stained glass art in Ms. Maxwell's class, Ms. Tauroney wanted to continue the tradition and make sure other students would get the same opportunity.

During the stained glass unit, students learned not only how to work with glass, but how to create designs in a way that allows the pieces of glass to fit together and create an image.

Ms. Tauroney notes that Abrielle Powers' bee and honeycomb design and Julianna Czachor's mountain landscape are beautiful examples of how students used different interlocking shapes to their advantage. Every design made for the summative pieces was made by the students themselves.

"Each piece is as original and unique as the student that made it," Ms. Tauroney says.

Although they could use reference images to base their designs on, they weren't allowed to use pre-made designs from the internet. Before creating their final project, each student also made a stained glass feather as a formative assignment to get a feel for how the stained glass process worked.

The stained glass process consists of three basic steps: cutting the glass, foiling the glass, and soldering the glass pieces together. In Ms. Tauroney's class, students learned how to cut, foil, and solder through watching videos on each technique.

To cut the glass they needed to cut paper pieces and trace them on glass, score the glass, snap it, and grind the glass so that the pieces fit together. To foil the glass they applied copper foil to the edges of the glass pieces, and then they soldered the pieces together.

Although the process is very intricate, Ms. Tauroney says it can also be done at home, and stained glass art makes a great hobby although it's initially expensive.

"If it's something you enjoy it may be worth it. There is so much you can do with it," says Ms. Tauroney.

The students' artwork has been displayed in the main office window for the past few weeks, and there are also images of their work on both the Bonny Eagle Facebook page and website.

Ms. Tauroney is very proud of the stained glass art that her students were able to produce, and she is "confident in saying that everyone in class mastered it."

*At left, each member of the class practiced by making a feather. Below, are some of the stained glass pieces that hung in the lobby.*

*Photos by Ms. Tauroney.*



*Julianna Czachor*



*Iver Iverson*



*Sarah Durocher*



*Abrielle Powers*

## Winter sports continued from page 1

To keep their season going, the track teams still hold virtual practices where the athletes spend the practice time working on strength and speed-enhancing assignments.

Usually, indoor track meets take place at the University of Southern Maine. To keep from having an outbreak at the college, it is unlikely there will be any competitions with other schools this season.

Another team that had to quarantine last fall was the girls varsity soccer team. In a home game on Oct. 26, the

team played against Windham and on Oct. 30, "we were made aware," says Coach Scott Nason, that "one player from Windham tested positive" for COVID-19. According to Meaghan Champagne, a junior, "we were then required to quarantine for two weeks from the day of exposure, but we did not need to get tested since no one on our team showed any symptoms!"

All 22 players and three coaches from Bonny Eagle were quarantined for two weeks, and no one reported becoming ill during that time. Only those that had

direct contact were quarantined. Unfortunately, as Coach Nason explained, the last two games of the season were cancelled as a precaution.

This winter, while a promising season may still be possible, players must keep in mind that this is not set in stone and everything is subject to change, just as it was in the fall. Dates and games are all dependent on the number of cases in Cumberland County.

With all of these warnings in mind, winter sports coaches are still confident that we will be able to have a safe, somewhat normal season in these conditions.

Even if this is not possible, Mr. Khabir Edwards, the assistant girls track coach,

says "any student-athlete should understand that, during these times, their fitness is important. While they might not be able to enjoy their chosen sport as they typically would, it's still important to be healthy and fit. Being active is conducive to having a healthy mind, body and spirit"

Mr. Curtis encourages athletes to "remain positive" despite the situation, and Coach Kevin Cooper, the assistant boys basketball coach, urges them to "keep persevering."

Erring on the side of caution, Coach Trull advises players to "treat every day and practice like it could be our last as a team."



# Reviews

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## These are a few of our favorite things (to watch)

**Editor's Note:** We asked our staff to tell us what their favorite holiday movies are by ranking them on a 5-star scale. In the spirit of the season, we even gave Ms. Lannin a vote.

### Home Alone

This is by far my favorite Christmas movie. In the tumult of getting to the airport, 8-year-old Kevin McCallister is left home alone for the holidays. At first he enjoys the free run of the house, getting into his older brother's things and doing things he otherwise would not be allowed to do. But when two burglars case his house, it's up to him to hold down the fort. This movie is absolutely hilarious, and I watch it almost every year. I would highly recommend this to anyone just looking for a funny family movie, Christmas or otherwise. I would definitely give it 5 stars.

Macey Cabral

### Polar Express

I watch this movie every Christmas. It's definitely one of my favorites, though it's more of an acquired taste. In this one, the main character (whose name I still don't know to this day) is at the age where he doubts the existence of Santa Claus. However, on Christmas Eve, just before midnight, he wakes to the sound of a steam engine outside his bedroom window. The conductor (voiced by Tom Hanks) tells him that the train is headed to the North Pole, and after a tense bit of hesitation, he jumps on the mysterious train. The conductor is actually my favorite character because of how funnily high strung he is. There's a nice balance of action throughout the animated film, and parts of it are a bit ominous. There are some sad points and some fun. Overall, it's a really good movie, and I would give it 4 out of 5 stars.

Macey Cabral

### Elf

This Christmas movie is absolutely hilarious and never gets old. Will Farrell stars as the main character, Buddy the elf, so you already know it's going to be a good one. As a baby, Buddy was mistakenly sent to the North Pole and as he grew up, he became one of Santa's elves. When he started noticing quite apparent differences between the regular elves and himself, he felt like he didn't fit in with the others. Buddy couldn't stand this feeling, so he decided to travel to New York City in search of his real father. Seeing Buddy the elf simply interact with things and people in the city is honestly one of the funniest parts of this movie because he hasn't been anywhere besides the North Pole. I would highly recommend this movie to anyone who wants a good laugh. Overall, I'd give this movie 5 out of 5 stars.

Kaylei Myers

### How the Grinch Stole Christmas

This is one of the many Christmas movies I watch every December and it keeps me entertained every time I watch it. As a result of past events that occurred during the holidays, the Grinch (played by Jim Carrey) envisions this crazy scheme that will ruin Christmas for all citizens in Whoville. However, after befriending Cindy Lou Who, his outlook on Christmas and life as a whole slowly starts to shift. I really enjoy how this movie shows an immense amount of growth and character development from start to finish. This movie is pretty fantastic and deserves 4 out of 5 stars

Kaylei Myers

### The Santa Clause

Just because you can't see something doesn't mean it's not real. Right? As kids, almost all of us believed in Santa, but was our Christmas spirit the only thing that kept Christmas alive? This famous movie stars Tim Allen as Santa. It starts off with Santa falling off of a roof and dying and Scott Calvin (Tim Allen) having to take his place as the big man up in the North Pole. After denying the fact that he himself is actually Santa now, his physical appearance changes rapidly which shows otherwise. This movie is filled with a bunch of ups and downs. I give this movie a 3.5 out of 5 because



At left, a poster from the classic children's book turned movie, *The Polar Express*. Warner Bros. photo.

Below left, *Home Alone* also has maintained its popularity. 20th Century Fox photo.

Below, *Elf* is the movie that made many people a fan of Will Ferrell. New Line Cinema photo



I felt like it was very exciting, but I loved watching it a lot more as a kid. - Kaylei Myers

### Daddy's Home 2

While not specifically centered around Christmas, this movie is a hilarious representation of what can go wrong during the holidays. *Daddy's Home 2* follows the stories of stepdads Brad Whitaker (Will Ferrell) and Dusty (Mark Wahlberg) and how they join forces to make Christmas perfect for their kids and families. Things turn awkward when Dusty's dad (Mel Gibson), who hasn't been seen for a while, comes and makes things harder than they need to be.

The movie details how the families travel to a log cabin for Christmas and the wild, chaotic, and funny journey they go on. The movie is a comical representation of what it can be like for families during the holidays and how things can change in an instant. My favorite part is when Brad tries to save his youngest child and his pants fall off. I give this a 5 out of 5 because even though it was hilarious, it showed some important family moments and how they persevere through these tough times. Zachary Myers

### Jingle All the Way

This movie stars Arnold Schwarzenegger as Howard Langston who is a workaholic and can never make time for his kid, Jamie. To make up for the losses of him working too much, he pledges to get his son the most popular Turbo Man action figure. After finding out Turbo Man is practically sold out of every single store, he decides to keep searching for this perfect Christmas present. While quickly surveying every store that might have Turbo Man in it, he comes across another father who is on the quest to find the same toy as him. This soon becomes a competition between the two, knowing the action figures are scarce. Howard's morality is tested and he figures out the true meaning of Christmas. Kaylei Myers



### A Christmas Story

One Christmas tradition that will not be postponed due to COVID-19 is TBS's annual marathon of the classic "A Christmas Story." If you haven't seen the film, it follows young Ralphie Parker (Peter Billingsley) throughout the Christmas season as he tries to convince the people around him to buy the item at the top of his wishlist: a Red Ryder air rifle. Who knew that the story of one typical American family's Christmas could be so funny? The dialogue is wry and witty, with jokes and hilarious situations that continue to make the audience laugh year after year. Beyond the hilarity that makes it a successful comedy, the film holds a nostalgic charm. Although it is set in the 1940s, a wild family paired with the hectic nature of the holiday season is relatable for most.

Despite being someone who isn't typically a huge fan of Christmas movies, I thoroughly enjoy this one. If I were to rate it, I would give it 4 out of 5 stars, and would recommend people to revisit this classic over break. In fact, my only grievance with the movie is that it convinced people that a leg lamp would make a fashionable house decoration. Amelia McAvoy

### It's a Wonderful Life

Yes, it's old. (1946). Yes, it's in black and white. (although there is a colorized version). And, yes, you've never heard of any of these actors. (Unless you've seen *Vertigo*). But this movie is an uplifting antidote to the stress and struggles we've all been through this year. The story follows George Bailey, played by Jimmy Stewart, who decides he's going to jail for a crime he didn't commit. In a blinding snowstorm, he gains a new perspective on life from Clarence, an angel sent from heaven to talk him out of killing himself. Frank Capra films always end happily and this is no exception. It's airing on NBC Christmas Eve and is also on Amazon Prime for the first time. I would give this movie 5 stars. You may wind up feeling like 2020 wasn't that bad after all. (OK, yes, it was). Joanne Lannin



## A feminist twist on a Sherlock Holmes whodunit

By Macey Cabral

When 16-year-old Enola Holmes' (Millie Bobby Brown) beloved mother suddenly disappears, it's up to her to solve the case. However, held back by her older brothers who would rather see her sent to a strict finishing school than needlessly spend time searching for their- allegedly missing mother, Enola must find a way to evade them and follow the trail of clues left by her mother.

This Netflix Original film, directed by Harry Bradbeer and based on the book by Nancy Springer, was a fun, interesting watch.

Titled *Enola Holmes*, the film

had a lot of narration and talking directly to the audience on Enola's part. Had it been any other movie, I would've gotten a little annoyed, but this one really pulled it off.

It was funny, whimsical, and had plenty of action to keep me interested. As someone who generally dislikes romance in movies, I was gratefully surprised when there really wasn't any.

When Enola rescues a fellow escapee, a young Lord on the run from his own family, she begrudgingly takes him under her wing. I was glad that there was a bit more mystery here, and that it expounded more on

their independence rather than one being solely dependent upon the other.

Throughout the film, Enola actually seems to become more self-reliant. She uses the skills her mother taught her to survive on her own, but still retains her optimistic, childish demeanor, while also becoming more mature in the end.

As for her brothers, I did not like Mycroft at all. He was very controlling, and refused to listen to what Enola wanted, and only sought to make her a 'proper lady,' deciding her life for her. On the other hand, Sherlock really seemed to have Enola's best interests at heart;

he just acted very submissive to Mycroft's leadership at first. I was glad in the end when he let her go off on her own, rather than try to find her.

Overall, I really liked the movie, and how it incorporated a variety of elements. It was exciting, adventurous, had a twist of mystery, and maintained a steady balance between chipper and serious.

While romance was hinted at, it was not an evident part of the story. It also highlighted Enola's growth as a young woman at a time when a woman's independence was difficult to attain, a recognition that I appreciated very much.



Netflix original photo

## Singing the praises of the TV version of *Hamilton*

By Taylor Farwell

Can you imagine our past American heroes dancing to hip hop and rapping about their lives on stage? Well, the award winning Broadway show *Hamilton* by Lin-Manuel Miranda makes it all possible, and thanks to Disney Plus, we can watch the show in our homes.

This film of the show was shot at the Richard Rodgers Theatre in June, 2016, the last time the original cast was together. Alexander Hamilton, a forgotten Founding Father determined to change the country for the better, is the main focus of the film.

People might know him as some guy who fought in the Revolutionary War and helped draft the Constitution, but this musical showed me he did so much more than that. It describes Hamilton's life through almost three hours of 46 songs that never stop for dialogue. The whole play shows how Hamilton came from nothing to everything and back to almost nothing again. There are many other major character storylines as well. Other American char-



The movie version of *Hamilton* is streaming on Disney Plus.

acters you might have heard of include Aaron Burr, Eliza Hamilton, Angelica Schuyler, George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, King George III, and Lafayette.

There's only one set, but the cast makes the absolute best out of it. The songs "Hurricane" and "Yorktown" are great examples of using the set and props as an advantage. The actors and actresses get a 15-minute break, which is insane because their voices never sounded tired in the end. There almost wasn't a single flaw in any song that I noticed.

The main actor who plays Alexander Hamilton is also the

guy who wrote the whole show, Lin-Manuel Miranda. It's not an easy show to perform, which is why it's so impressive.

Many elements make *Hamilton* outstanding. First, *Hamilton* has a drastic amount of style in every single song. In the second half of the show, the first three songs go from funky hip hop to an exceptional rap battle, and finish with a heart-warming song. With 46 songs, I bet you can find a song that you'll like. *Hamilton* gives American history style and personality.

When I imagine our Founding Fathers, I think of them as serious workers who never

make mistakes. In *Hamilton*, Miranda shows many of *Hamilton*'s flaws and brings all of the character's personalities to a ten, especially with Thomas Jefferson and King George III.

There are a couple of scenes throughout the show when King George III sings about his rightful power over America. These have to be the funniest scenes in the show. The actor, Jonathan Groff, was perfect for this role and these songs are a nice break from the rapping. Some rapping songs can be overwhelming with all the information they throw at you, but that's why it could be fun to rewatch the film over and over again.

One of my favorite things about the soundtrack is that the songs have an important theme or message. I think my favorite songs are "Alexander Hamilton," "The Schuyler Sisters," "My Shot," "Helpless," "Satisfied," "Wait for It," "You'll Be Back," "History Has Its Eyes on You," "One Last Time," "Hurricane," and "Who Lives, Who Dies, Who Tells Your Story." These songs are super

catchy, show the cast's amazing vocals, and have a lot of emotions attached to them.

My absolute favorite song might be "Satisfied." Satisfied is when Angelica Schuyler goes back in time (in a metaphorical way) to explain her thought process of why she had made a certain decision. We see her perspective in a very unique way, and Renée Elise Goldsberry has an amazing voice for this character.

I didn't realize how much effort the actors and actresses put into the musical until I watched it. "Wait For It" is a great example of how Leslie Odum Jr. shows Aaron Burr's thoughts with so much emotion.

The scenes "Yorktown" and "Hurricane" visually appealed to me the most. Sometimes, I didn't know what was going on in the storyline until I watched the musical. I recommend you watch the show first before listening to the soundtrack. Overall, *Hamilton* is a visually and vocally appealing, drastic, inspiring, timely, hilarious, complicated, intelligent, and thought-provoking show.

## A virtual art exhibit worth viewing over the break

By Madison Bradley

This fall the Portland Museum of Art displayed their latest exhibit, *The Mythmakers*, featuring the works of Winslow Homer and Frederic Remington. The display closed on Nov. 29, but the virtual exhibit is free to visit any time and is still up and running.

In contrast to a normal museum visit, this exhibition creates a new experience via its 360° virtual tour. The online gallery allows viewers to click their way through the collection of works masterfully put together to display both Homer's and Remington's talent and the mythology surrounding their work as artists.

On the museum's website, <https://www.portlandmuseum.org/mythmakers>, an introduction is available to accompany the virtual tour. The tour offers

multiple modes to view both the layout of the gallery and a walkthrough, while even offering a measuring feature that allows people to find dimensions of paintings and just about anything in the exhibit.

The tour kicks off with each piece having a circle that can be clicked in order to bring the viewer over to it. The dollhouse feature allows you to see the overall layout of the exhibition, making it easy to skip around pieces if desired.

The artwork is beautiful and skillfully laid out to tell a unique story intertwining both of the artists' work. Also included throughout the exhibit are notes with facts and interesting overarching ideas presented in the pieces, helping to give the viewer something to look for in the work. One is the theme of conflict, which is ever

present across the paintings through both the rocky seas and battles of men.

"The Ship's Boat," done by Winslow in 1883, features a group of men along with their capsized boat as a violent wave approaches. It is a prime example of the overarching conflict.

Remington's work often depicts a more direct form of conflict: war. His 1898 piece "Captain Grime's Battery Going up El Pose Hill," depicts men on horseback charging into battle, one of his many pieces focusing on wartime.

My favorite part, and a unique asset to the exhibit, is a watercolor set dated to 1900. The Winsor and Newton pigments and canvas material once belonged to Winslow Homer. I find myself drawn to them as they open a window of creativity where one can picture Hom-



Two images from the *Mythmakers* online exhibit at the Portland Museum of Art that is devoted to the art of Winslow Homer and Frederic Remington.

At left above, Winslow Homer's *Snap the Whip*, 1872



At left below, Frederic Remington's *The Fall of the Cowboy*, 1895,

[Portlandmuseum.org](http://Portlandmuseum.org)

er using those very paints.

Although the virtual tour is different and doesn't allow for the viewer to see the works in person, the clear camera quality creates a very similar experience, while the ease of having access at the touch of a button makes for a new, stress free ex-

perience.

Also, during a time where remaining home is often the safest option, this virtual tour is as safe as it gets. There is no need to feel at all rushed as you look from piece to piece and you can even snack from your couch while doing so.