



# PANTHER PAWS



**December 2024**

**Climax-Scotts Jr./Sr. High School**

**Climax, Michigan 49034**



## Christmas Survey

By Ilona Kovach-Fitzsimmons

For our December survey, we asked students a variety of questions about Christmas! When it came to movies, a large number of students picked both Home Alone 1 and 2 as their favorite holiday flick.

There was also a trend of “baking cookies” and “building gingerbread houses” as a favorite tradition to do during the Christmas season.

When it came to favorite side dishes, mashed potatoes was voted #1 with macaroni and cheese coming in second.

Another question we asked was “Do you have a least favorite Christmas tradition?” One answer that stood out was someone who responded with “travelling in a car with a kid who can’t sleep and talks the whole time.”

Surprisingly, when asked about their travel plans for the holiday season, many responded that they do not travel.

## Making Candles in Art Class

By Emily Wiest

This December, Mrs. Missler’s art classes made candles. I interviewed Mrs. Missler about the candle making process. She said that first she had to apply for a grant from the Climax Fire & Rescue to buy the supplies.

Then, the class had to do several math and science labs to test out different ratios, percentages, and decide on which types of candle wax and wicks to use. They decided on the most natural wax and wicks (beeswax and cotton wicks) for their candles. Then, each student picked their own fragrances, colors, and candle jars for their candles and got to make personalized candle labels. Mrs. Missler said that this project also helped teach her students about candle safety, such as keeping away flammable items, wearing gloves, and the flash point of the candle wax.

Overall, Mrs. Missler was thrilled to do this project, and said that she has always wanted to do candles since she became an art teacher, and she is excited to do this again in the future!



Above: Mrs. Missler’s art students (From left to right: Alessandra Pontoni, Reid Hilton, Cooper Harrison, Wyatt Martin, and Nathan Joyal) pose with their candles. (Photo credit: CS Publications)

# NHS Food Drive

By Ivy Beattie

This month the C-S NHS asked our Panther families to help out our community by donating to our food drive. Our Panthers helped out by donating non-perishable food items such as canned fruits and vegetables, pasta, boxed foods as well as things like toothpaste, toothbrushes, deodorant, and socks. In January, the collected items will be delivered to the Climax Food Pantry. To help encourage students to donate the grade that donates the most will be rewarded with an ice cream sundae party. The collection boxes were set up in different classrooms for each grade. The 6th grade box was in Ms. Rork's room, 7th in Ms. Paige's, 8th in Mr. Easlick, the freshmen in Ms. Madison's, the sophomores in Ms. Pobuda's, the juniors in Mr. Himebauch's, and the seniors in Mr. Vick's.



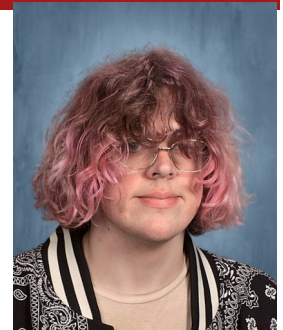
Above: Amy Lynn, Lylah Parrish, and Christian Kirkham (Photo credit: Heather Wechsler)

# Meet Ivy!

By Nathan Arnett

Our new student Ivy Beattie has joined the Climax-Scotts Community! Ivy has been here since the start of the 2024-2025 school year. Ivy says that he likes Climax so far and plans to finish out his education here at C-S. Coming from a much bigger school, Ivy feels safe and sound here rather than at his old school. He also enjoys how small the classroom sizes are. That is a benefit of a small school, you get to know all your classmates. Luckily for us we all now know Ivy Beattie and wish him the best of luck throughout high school.

Right: Ivy Beattie  
(Photo credit: Life-touch)



# Winter Band and Choir Concert

By Chloe Czuk

I talked to band director Karla Reichert on her thoughts about the band concert this year here's what she had to say "each of the bands did great, some of the pieces were flashy." Another thing she said that stood out to me was that she "could tell even if some of the sixth graders had seven notes to learn, preformed them so well." She really took pride in her bands work this week. Some things she said stood out to her were "all of the little things people worked on like high notes or small sections."



Above: The C-S Choir.

Below: Ashton Lasala rocks out on the guitar.



Below: The Jr. High trumpet section gets into the Christmas spirit.



Below: Sam Bleeker and Madelynn Schultz (All Photos: C-S Publications)





# Decorating Cookies

Interview with Ms. Wright conducted by Kaylee Peck

## What made you want to do cookie decorating for this month?

Ms. Wright said “The kids seemed to really enjoy the pumpkin painting, and the high school peers wanted to cook/bake, so we combined the two. The high school kids will bake the cookies the day before, and we will get to be creative again when the middle schoolers join us to decorate the cookies the next day.”

## This is the second time doing one of these activities for a holiday, how do you think it's going so far?

Ms. Wright said “The pumpkin painting was really fun, and we got to get together with everyone all in one place to celebrate Halloween. We will get to do the same for Christmas. It's special time for all of us, and the younger kids feel special!”



Above left: Julian Price puts the finishing touches on his cookies.



Above right: Ashlynn Bradley and Kensington Hutchins

(Photo Credit: Heather Wechsler)

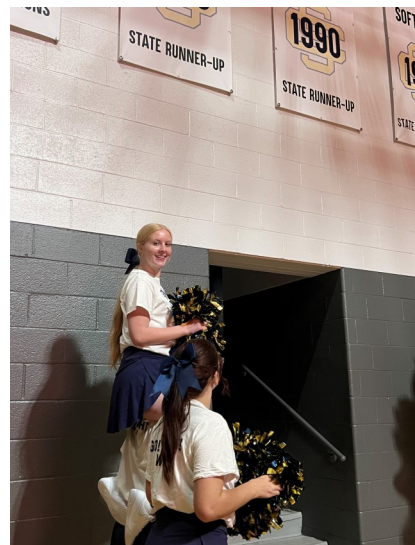
# Sideline Cheer

By Malcolm Smith

This year for the 2024-2025 winter season the sideline cheerleaders will be returning! The courtside basketball cheerleaders will be cheering at select boys' and girls' home, varsity basketball games. This year the girls will also be travelling to away games unlike previous years where they did not. This year at the Winterfest game the cheerleaders will be doing a halftime show just before the Winterfest court is introduced. Senior Ashlynn Bradley says she is most excited about participating in the Carol Vick Memorial. “The teams play well every year (during the Memorial game). I am excited to see how they do!” Ashlynn is also looking forward to road trips with the team. “I can't wait to see what Micayla's playlist is like this year!” Be on the lookout for the cheer team at upcoming varsity home games!



Above: The C-S sideline cheer team performs during the Varsity Boys' basketball game against Lawton. (Photo credit: Caitlyn Tiller)



Above: Kennedy Smith and the sideline cheer team perform a student during the game. (Photo credit: Caitlyn Tiller)

# Christmas in Climax

By Makenzie Reincke

On December 7th, at the Climax United Methodist Church, Mrs. Reichert led the band for The Christmas in Climax event. The band and choir did so well! Events like these bring the community together! It was a good way to spread Christmas cheer and show off the skills our band and choir has. We asked her Mrs. Reichert her thoughts on the experience.

Question: Were you excited for this event?

Mrs. Reichert: "I was very excited for the event because I love Christmas music and I think it's a great opportunity for the students to be able to perform out in the community for people who might not normally hear our band and choir."

Question: How do you think the band and choir performed?

Mrs. Reichert: "The students did a wonderful job. The band performed some of their difficult concert music which showed off their ability to play challenging music, but they also got the chance to play some fun, cheesy, songs which just bring people joy. They gave a great performance and the crowd seemed to enjoy their music. The choir also did an outstanding job – they performed a really cool acapella arrangement of 'White Winter Hymnal' by Pentatonix and they absolutely nailed it. It can be scary to sing acapella, but they were very confident and it showed in their performance."

Question: What is it like setting up this event every year?

Mrs. Reichert: "Setting up this event takes a lot of planning ahead. When we are deciding what music to program we have to think ahead about what percussion instruments will actually fit on the stage of the church. Sometimes we can't do a song that we like because we don't have room for the percussion instruments that would be needed. Then the day before the concert we have to get everything loaded onto the band trailer and I have a huge checklist of everything we are bringing so that we don't accidentally leave anything behind."

Question: How can we get more community support for events like these?

Mrs. Reichert: "I think just helping to spread the word is a great way to support! It is awesome that our small town has events like this with a Christmas tree lighting and a visit from Santa, so the more we can spread the word to our community the better!"

Question: How long has Christmas in Climax been a thing?

Mrs. Reichert: "This event has been going on for years as 'Caroling on the Corners', which I believe they still do over in Scotts. People would gather together to sing carols while waiting for the Christmas tree lighting ceremony. Four years ago the organizers invited the band to come and play, and from there we have added the choir and it became the 'Christmas in Climax' concert that we have now."



Above: The C-S High School choir sings during the Christmas in Climax event. (Photo credit: Sue Reichert)



Above: The C-S High School band performs at Climax United Methodist Church. (Photo credit: Sue Reichert)



# C-S Staff Prepares for Break

By Ashlynn Bradley

As the upcoming break approaches the staff are getting more excited and ready for the 15 day break. The teaching staff are ready and happy for the long break giving them lots of sleep time and a big break from the kids. Some of the teachers said they are feeling "REALLY GOOD" about the break.

Our kitchen staff all think that the break is much needed and that it'll be good for them to get a break from the everyday life of waking up early and being at the school. The whole school staff agree that they are excited for the family time and getting to see family for the first time or to see them again.



## CTE Spotlight: Lulu's Cafe

By Ethan Deplanche

One great program offered here at the high school is the CTE program (Career and Technical Education). Each month we will highlight a new student enrolled in the program to showcase how it's going for them. This month's student is: Zack Kamrowski.

When asked how the program is going so far, Zack replied, "It is going well. I really like the family that runs Lulu's (Lulu's Café in Scotts). Kevin Abad (former C-S student) and his family run the business and are very kind people. In fact, they allow us a free meal each time we work."

Next, we asked how Zack was liking the program. He replied, "I like it a lot. I have had the opportunity to try new foods and to learn the inner-workings of the restaurant business. I mostly bus and prepare tables for customers. It has been nice working with my brother Andrew too. I believe we are both learning skills that will help us in the future if we choose to stay in the restaurant industry."



Above: Zack and Andrew Kamrowski. (Photo credit: Lifetouch)

Far Right: Logo for Lulu's Scotts Corner Café (Photo credit: from their Facebook page).

# Forgotten Heroes Scholarship

By Kylie Sineath

The Rex and Ken Forgotten Heroes Scholarship is a special program created in memory of two best friends, Rex and Ken, who both loved helping others and believed in the power education holds. They dedicated their lives to inspiring students in their community to do their best and to always follow their dreams. However, both friends sadly lost their lives in a car accident. This had many people heartbroken. To honor their memory, this scholarship was started to help students who present a hard work ethic and a desire to make a difference no matter the boundaries. Each student who receives the scholarship carries on Rex and Ken's legacy of working hard and helping others. They were always reminding everyone that true friendship and kindness can last forever, even after someone is gone.



Above: The Rex and Ken Commemoration at the Scotts' Community Center. (Photo Credit: Mlive)

# Guest Speaker Program

By Jordan Groves

Coach Langs has been playing a big role for a number of years now but recently he has been putting an awesome opportunity for our upperclassmen. He reaches out to members of our community and invites them to speak to our students about their lives and their experiences both during and after their time at Climax-Scotts. According to Coach Langs, "It was actually our high school principal, Mr Cole, who thought of the idea of bringing in people to teach and tell their story of their journey through life to get to where they are now."

It's a great chance for our students to get information about different kinds of jobs. This is the 4th year that we have had guest speakers visit. Coach also said that this is a "good for us to hear their stories because they are people who have gone through life and its something for kids to be motivated so that they have something to believe in." Our next guest speaker will be C-S alumni, Nick Ludwig, who will be speaking on January 23rd.



Above: Coach Langs poses with alumnus Nick Devries. (Photo Credit: Heather Wechsler)

# Christmas Assembly

By Emily Hilyard

This year there is going to be a Christmas assembly on December 20th, 2024 before the holiday break for Climax-Scotts Jr/Sr high school. There will be fun Christmas themed games and all grades, 6-12, will be able to participate. This is the third year for this event at Climax-Scotts Jr/Sr, and students and staff have enjoyed having fun together and participating in the games. Students have had the opportunity to sign up during lunch if they want to participate.



# Senior Spotlight

## Jackson Bagwell

Favorite Memory at Climax-Scotts? Going to the elementary on Fridays to greet the little kids

What legacy do you hope to leave behind? You need to work hard and be willing to work and be coached.

What do you plan to do after high school? Work and maybe go to trade school

What's a good word of advice to share with your younger classmates? Stay out of trouble and do your Murphy notes.



## Chase VanMiddlesworth

Favorite Memory at Climax-Scotts? Beating Mendon (in football) last year in Mendon

What legacy do you hope to leave behind?

What do you plan to do after high school? I plan to go to a trade school to pursue a career in pipefitting.

What's a good word of advice to share with your younger classmates? Be a hog, not a chicken!



## Matthew Arnett

Favorite memory at Climax-Scotts? All the pep assemblies we have at school.

What legacy do you hope to leave behind? Everything I achieve at Climax-Scotts.

What do you plan after high-school? Get into a trade school.

What's a good word of advice to share with younger classmates? Life is 10% what happens to you and 90% how you react to it.



## Jose Espino-Sotelo

Favorite Memory at Climax-Scotts? Talking to Mr. Haynes before 4th hour.

What legacy do you hope to leave behind? None

What do you plan after high-school? Work

What's a good word of advice to share with younger classmates? If you miss school, then you miss out.



# Nov./Dec. Students of the Month



By C-S Journalism Class

Congratulations to Gavin Eyre for being nominated as HS Student of the Month for integrity!

Gavin's recognitions include baseball all-conference MVP and regional and all-state honorable mentions. He also has received a baseball scholarship from Spring Arbor.

Gavin is involved in extracurriculars including baseball and FCA. Gavin's hobbies are duck hunting, deer hunting, and fishing.

After high school, Gavin plans to go to college to play baseball and study financial planning.

Left: Gavin Eyre

(Photo Credit: C-S Journalism Class)



By C-S Journalism Class

Congratulations to Jada Smith for being nominated as MS Student of the Month for integrity.

Recognitions that Jada has earned are softball MVP and other miscellaneous sports awards as well as winning C-S Student of the Month.

Jada is involved in extracurriculars like band, basketball, volleyball, and softball.

After high school, Jada wants to go to college to become a nurse.

Jada's favorite activity is supporting her church congregation.

Left: Jada Smith

(Photo Credit: C-S Journalism Class)

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