

ALSO IN THIS ISSUE...

- A Senior Debater reflects on 3 years with speech and debate
- All those highly anticipated video games...reviewed just for you!
- A report on the changes to Russia's government
- DV's JV soccer team: ready to dominate!
- More hilarious "HEY YOU'S" *and more!*

To Break or Not to Break

By Victoria Lu
Staff Writer

The seemingly joyous Friday before Thanksgiving Break is not the same. Only two years past, when I was a mere newcomer in this Dougherty Valley High School world, I thought Thanksgiving Break was a miracle. There was no school. There was no homework. There were no teachers that actually expected me to not fall asleep in their class, despite the "it's 7:30 in the morning" fact and of course the "this class is just plain boring" fact. Except as the years wore on, Thanksgiving Break, or breaks in general, developed a different connotation. Instead, I'm finding myself struggling to deal with the even more important question: to break or not to break?

In our dear Dougherty Valley, breaks seem even busier than the regular school year. Because of the competitive environment, students are pushing themselves to take more and more Advanced Placement classes along with extracurricular activities. These come with massive workloads during the seemingly carefree breaks. Students are given the 293 page *Huckleberry Finn* to finish for AP Literature, the packet complete with two articles for AP European History and that doesn't even include the "Turkey Packet" for AP Chemistry. Some teachers are as

SEE "BREAK" PAGE 3

The Great Debate: What to Get Your Teachers for the Holidays

By Professor X
Wildcat Guest Writer

By Student Y
Staff Writer

Picture this: you're a teacher. The weather is getting colder, the classroom temperature is set at a homey 72 degrees, and those beloved winter spirit days are about to be in your rear-view as winter break approaches, when one of your sweet students hands you a cactus and says, "Have a great Christmas, Professor X." A cactus. This kid just handed you a cactus, skipping out of your classroom while smiling like a gleeful elf.

By now you probably realize that this scenario indeed happened. I didn't quite know what to do with the cactus. Do I set it on my desk? Do I read into it as some sort of metaphor? Does it produce aloe? Is it edible? I decided to keep it, proudly displaying it by my computer. The next several months created an undue amount of stress. How much water does a cactus need? They live in the desert, a far cry from my classroom. Should I return it to its natural habitat? Can you water a cactus too much? Then it happened—it died. I killed a cactus, a plant so hearty it can survive in some of the harshest climates this world has to offer.

Sadly, my classroom proved uninhabitable for this innocent specimen of desert flora. This brings me to the point of this article: the unwritten rules of student gift-giving.

Rule 1: Don't give something that can die to a teacher. My story is proof and it will always haunt me.

Rule 2: Baked goods: tricky. While thoughtful, these can cause suspicion. Is this student trying to poison me? Might they be trying to get me high? Did they wash their hands? Most of the time, I

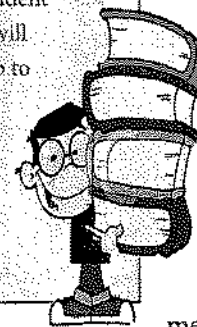
At other schools, perhaps those with less restrictive moral standards, giving teachers gifts is a commonplace, sure-fire method to jump your grade that extra 0.01% to an A. But not at Dougherty Valley. Thankfully, we have teachers that are not susceptible to bribes. They won't flinch at even the most fragrant cup of coffee ground from beans painstakingly extracted from an Asian palm civet's feces, or a delicious smoothie blended by colliding mangosteens and African cucumbers, nor will they lose resolve after being offered a 24-karat-diamond-encrusted paperweight of pure gold containing the moon rock that was

brought back from Neil Armstrong himself. Trust me, I've tried. But seeing this moral fiber in teachers has brought me something even better than a grade bump. You see, I realized that gifts shouldn't be given for the sake of receiving a gift in return.

Instead, they should be given as sincere offers of happiness, celebration or even condolence. When given with a good intention, a personal gift can mean much more than a diamond-encrusted



STUDENTS! Ever wonder what teachers really think about the things you do? The *Wildcat Tribune* proudly presents the end to your constant quandaries. Every month, an anonymous Dougherty teacher (Professor X) will debate a topic with an anonymous student writer (Student Y). Ink will fly, opinions will rage and they'll leave it up to YOU to decide. If you have a topic to suggest, or want to be the next Professor X, or Student Y, email us at dvhsheyyou@gmail.com.



than a diamond-encrusted paper-weight.

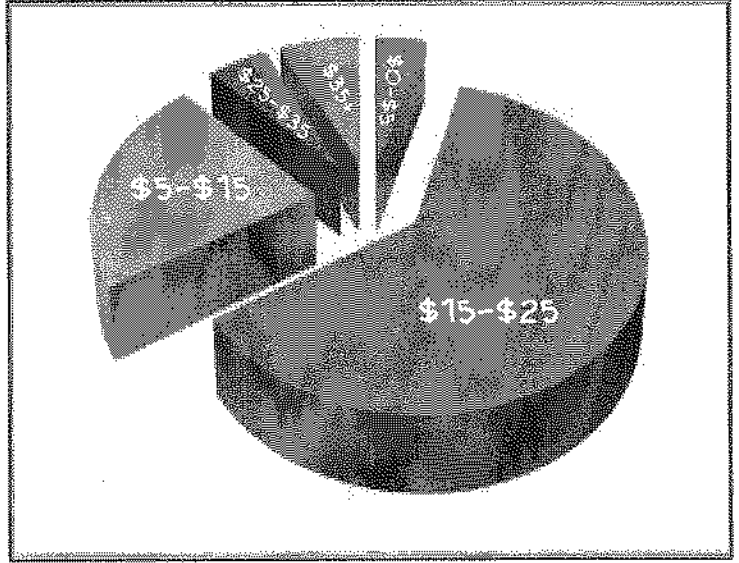
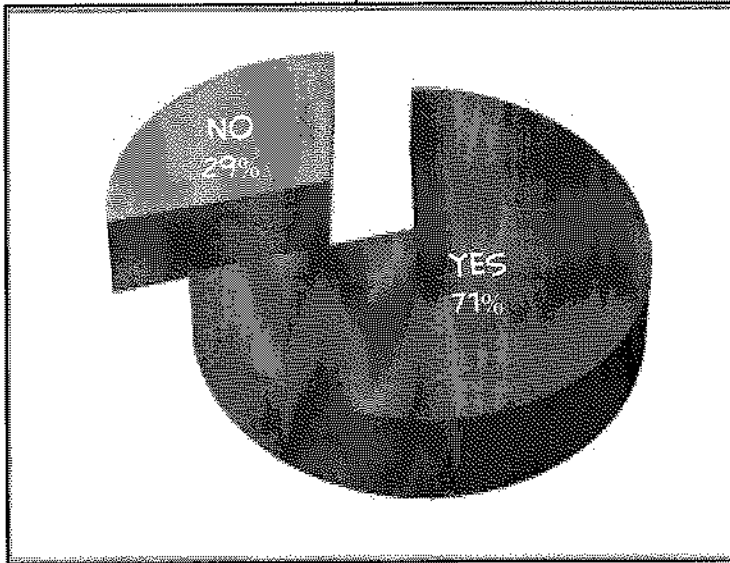
So with the holiday season fast approaching, it seems that teachers will be much more willing to clear a space on their shelves of '#1 Teacher' mugs and drawers full of apple-shaped paperweights to make room for your hand-made card referencing an inside joke or your hand-drawn picture of a subject-related visual pun.

Whether it be a thank-you note spelled out in elements for a chemistry teacher,

SEE "GIFT GIVING" PAGE 2

POLL: Is it Appropriate to Give Teachers Holiday Gifts?

POLL: If Yes, How Much Should You Spend?



GIFT GIVING

from Page 1

eat a bite in front of the student and then bring them to a Christmas party to give to the host.

Rule 3: Gift cards. Who doesn't like a gift card? In ancient times, kings received money from peasants to pardon crimes and seek royal favor. I view gift cards in the same way. The only difference is that I don't offer pardons or favors.

Rule 4: Pictures. Hmm...you gave me a picture of yourself. What do I do with it? I can hang it up and look like I'm favoring you or I can not hang it up and make it look like I loathe you. I'm sure there is some middle ground here, but I haven't found it. I typically hang the pictures on my wall, which sort of ends up looking like some sort of cultish hall of fame or awkward harem.

Rule 5: Cards. This is usually your safest bet. Give your teacher a card thanking them for a good semester. Perhaps share a short anecdote. Don't apologize for being a punk or offer some sort of odd confession. Keep it concise. Also, don't have your parents write it; we know your handwriting and it's not as nice as your mom's.

In hindsight, these aren't so much rules as insights into the bizarre world of your teachers' minds. I think all teachers appreciate gifts. At the end of the day, teachers are people too (weird, I know) and they enjoy recognition and thoughtfulness just as much as the next person.

Just don't give them something that puts them in an uncomfortable position. However, if you want to exact revenge for the stress they've caused you, give them a cactus. It will keep them up at night.

an equation with a solution that spells out a special message upside-down, or a punny historically relevant compliment for a history teacher, a unique, well-thought-out gift seems much more valuable in the eyes of a teacher than something that required little thought or effort.

After all, it's not what's bought that counts; it's really the thought that counts.

NEXT POLL: How many hours will you spend over Winter Break studying?

Check back next issue to see results!

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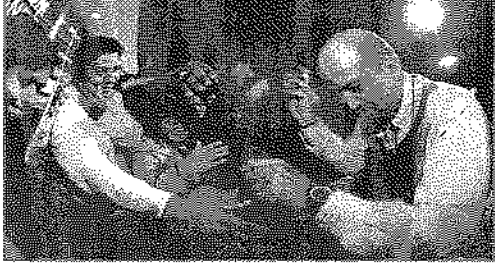
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Black Friday seems to bring out the worst in people and certainly did this year, as we witnessed multiple arguments, shootings and police action.



Actual Black Friday Quotes

By Kristi Seto
Staff Writer

In 2012, about 307.67 million people shopped over Black Friday weekend. Here are a few quotes from some of them.

"Black Friday should actually be called the The Hunger Games. People kill each other and the winner gets a \$20 crock pot."

"Black Friday: Because only in America, people trample others for sales exactly one day after being thankful for what they already have."

"This year I only had to beat up 3 kids to get what I wanted on Black Friday."

"Go to the mall on Black Friday, they said. You will never come out alive, they said."

"Lets cheers to the fact that I may not get trampled to death on this Black Friday!"

"Black Friday a.k.a. Battlefield. Now remember what I taught you! Push, shove, grab, yell, and if needed tackle! Get out there and make Grandma proud!"

BREAK

—from Page 1

nice not to assign any "official" homework, but instead tell us that there is a test the day we get back. How nice. Even seniors free from the catch-22 of homework have college applications to worry about. That doesn't even include practicing for band or orchestra, perfecting Speech and Debate skills or volunteering.

"To break" is an option available to many underclassmen since there simply isn't anything to be done. Freshman Eva Gu stated that her favorite part of Thanksgiving Break is the lack of stress. Freshman Christopher Tong predicted that he will do one hour of homework and split the remaining time between playing video games and sleeping. Sophomore Somya Jain announced that she will spend three days in Santa Barbara va-

cationing with her family and use the remainder of her time to sleep. These images are the usual and expected responses for every day off of school. Indeed, there is nothing better than doing nothing at all. To steal these images from almost half of the school is akin to what only a Robber Baron would do. Piece of advice: enjoy every minute because free time will never come back.

To "not to break" seems to be the only other option available for those with a large workload. This means spending a week of pure torture and cramming in hours of homework and feeling guilty whenever nothing productive is being done. This method is used far more by juniors and seniors. It means hours and hours of studying for the SAT and writing for college applications. Enough said.

Nonetheless, there is still a third and best option: to both break and not break. I don't mean this as protesting in front of the school office for the burning of homework, but even with hours of studying and being productive, there is still a bit of room for fun. Sophomore Michelle Su stated that outside of her 8+

hours, thanks to Mr. Schnell's Turkey Packet, she planned to hang out with her friends. Junior Augustine Chemparathy said she would (try) to do three hours of homework and extra-curriculars, such as Science Bowl and USABO per day. Senior Steven Chen said that he planned to spend his break sleeping and relaxing along with 15 hours of studying plus college apps. Although in reality, sleeping will probably take priority over everything else, a good balance can be found. A break is a break simply because it provides a refuge from the slaving school days and the nonstop homework.

It seems ridiculous that students have so much to worry about over Thanksgiving Break, and breaks in general, but the fact cannot be changed. The only way to survive, almost literally, is to relax. So even though everything starts to spiral downward as years pass, there is always a way to set aside the one, five or even

20 plus hour workloads. Do something enjoyable. Don't hole up in the corner of a room; take the advice of many students and watch the "Catching Fire" premiere. Bake food, watch TV, make pottery. Do the most revered activity of all: sleep.

For all of you, I hope you enjoyed a very happy Thanksgiving holiday. Be grateful

for the mere one week break and all the little things in it, the good and the bad. Although breaks may not seem like actual breaks any longer, try to find a balance between free time and studying. For those of you reading this article and sighing in recognition of the multiple AP Literature and U.S. History examples, this provides a perfect example of a balance. As junior Sunny Ren summarized, "I'm going to spend my break watching dramas and crying over cellular respiration."

And remember, there will always be hope in sight: only 11 days until the not-really-a-break-Winter Break!

*"I'm going to spend my break watching dramas and crying over cellular respiration."
—Sunny Ren
Junior*



PHOTO COURTESY OF DREAMSTIME.COM

Do students at Dougherty ever get to have any fun?

"HEY YOU!"

HEY YOU, Ann, I'm sorry I just stood there and watched.

HEY YOU, Ann, I'm proud of you.

HEY YOU, PK, thanks for being supportive all the time and making every body smile).

HEY YOU, RY, I can't believe I wasted THREE YEARS on you! So over you now!

HEY YOU, KK! You are a very gorgeous and compassionate person! I've never met somebody like you, truly one of a kind! We should go and meet up sometime.

HEY YOU, to whoever stole my black and green razor X games scooter... I just want to cry in your face right now. That thing cost like 50 bucks and I only had it for a month. It was a baby! I loved it! How could you take it away from me! You know who you are and you know who I am. I may never find you... but at least you got the message... *sob* :'(

HEY YOU, Donatello IS the hottest turtle!! -HP

HEY YOU, Ms. Hutchins, you're the best.

HEY YOU, Shaurya Dubey, stop being so oblivious to me. T. T.

HEY YOU, Mrs. Cincotta, What do you call a man at the beach? A tan gent! -That one talkative student in 5th period

HEY YOU, 1.1.2014, #r3pects, am I right?

HEY YOU, A L L H A I L T H E G L O W C L O U D

HEY YOU, Gomenasai! I didn't know that I was supposed to reply to my Kouhai who won't reveal thyself. But do not fear for your Buchou is always vigilant! And yes THE STRUGGLE IS REAL! Buchou <3 XP

HEY YOU, Pre-Calc is still the bane of my existence<3

HEY YOU, DL-1 Good luck on the Winter Dance Show!

HEY YOU, Good luck to all the Girls that are still wearing shorts.

HEY YOU, Only 11 days till the Big Break TURN UP.

HEY YOU, Happy Belated Birthday Ms. Lloyd!

HEY YOU, Ms. Decker is awesome.

HEY YOU, Ms. McCombs is fantabulous.

Got something to say to someone? Too shy to say it to their face?

Send a "HEY YOU" to dylshtheyyou@gmail.com or submit via our website or Facebook. Staff & teachers welcome too!

For more "HEY YOU'S" check www.thewildcattribune.com.

HEY YOU, Anyone watching The Walking Dead?

HEY YOU, Happy Birthday Andicatt! (=^ ^=)

HEY YOU, Happy 16th Birthday to Anita!!!!

HEY YOU, Freshmen, can you survive 2 more weeks of dance?

HEY YOU, KR, I cry everytim :'(M-shizzle>PrimeCa\$h

HEY YOU, kids, get outside more. Life's too short to not have any fun.

HEY YOU, Darling Pan, is not okay! IT'S NOT!

HEY YOU, MS, nice haircut 100!

HEY YOU, Happy Birthday shark's fan.

HEY YOU, Someone play minecraft with me -VI

HEY YOU, SB, make V happen.

HEY YOU, Bellows, watch out for substitutes.

HEY YOU, second period English 12, I love our awkward talks.

HEY YOU, BS, will you go to winter formal with me <3?

HEY YOU KL, I love you.

Russia Experiences Metamorphosis in Government

By Faiyz Rahman
Tribune Guest Writer

Once a proud Communist country who attempted to rule the world with an iron fist, the former Soviet state has digressed from its prior convictions. An examination of Russia's aiding Edward Snowden and recent tolerance of Syrian oppression outlines a metamorphosis in the Russian government's perceptions on political liberties and sovereignty.

Recently, Russia's tolerance of democratic thought has

been outlined in the Edward Snowden fiasco, where the alleged NSA hacker was given political asylum. As a *Reuters* article elaborates, Snowden has been granted, at this point, a year's political asylum, and has received scant donations

Syria's oppressive regime has been coerced by Putin to turn over chemical stockpiles to international collectors, which, according to a Washington Times article, is ironic, considering Russians themselves provided numerous weapons to Assad's regime.

that have helped him support himself in Moscow in recent months.

Lon Snowden, Edward's father and the interviewee for the *Reuters* article, indicates that his son will probably not return to the U.S. because his opportunities are less limited in Russia at this point. Clearly, Russia's acceptance of Snowden, which *Reuters* furthers as a potential boiling point in U.S.-Russian relations, will outline a bit of a conversion of the idea of freedom of speech in the country.

However, Russian-American relations aren't the only things that illustrate a transformation. Russia's acceptance of Syria has brought a digression from a traditional Russian stance that has brought President Vladimir

Putin a Nobel Peace Prize. Syria's oppressive regime has been coerced by Putin to turn over chemical stockpiles to international collectors, which, according to a *Washington Times* article, is ironic, considering Russians themselves provided numerous weapons to Assad's regime.

To recap, Russia has modernized itself and become more accepting of the liberties it once stood against. The only thing that has stayed constant is Russia's desire to stand against the U.S. in the political arena. Seeing how Russia has supported Snowden, and "conveniently" compromised with Assad, this seems to be only the beginning of the reformation of the state.

Speech and Debate the New Black, a Senior Debater Reflects

By Liya Khan
Op-Ed Editor

In every class, you'll notice us. We are those students who listen inquisitively to class discussions. We hear every opinion and notice every slight voice inclination. We'll see you twitch your fingers nervously while you speak; you'll see us stoically jot down notes from your speech. And then we will stand, look around the room, and enjoy the stillness for a moment. Then our voices will reverberate with well-articulated opinions, scholarly facts and research you didn't think to bring. Before you know it, there are more than one of us in each class. On weekends, before you even consider waking up, we are speaking and debating at high schools all over the state. We are clad in sharp black suits, running to debate rounds or performing our scripts. Welcome to the world of Speech and Debate—we are loud, proud and impeccably good-looking. Or so we appear when we drop some real world knowledge in the constructed setting of a classroom.

Forensics—another word for Speech and Debate—at the high school level consists of two main competition categories: speech and debate events. This year we have welcomed new members into every event DV offers; our competition has increased dramatically in Prepared Speech, Interpretation, Extemporaneous Speaking, Congressional Debate and all four debate events—Policy, Lincoln-Douglas, Public Forum and Parliamentary debate. New membership was definitely incentivized by Dougherty's victories last year, which included 21 State Championship qualifiers, State finalists, National competitors and numerous sweepstakes awards from the Golden Gate Speech Association.

With a new crop of competitors came an increased workload and resource management. Our club president, senior Nitisha Baronia says, "Our club has certainly grown exponentially, and while that may come with its coordination difficulties, it's certainly worth it." Vice president senior Jamie Shen adds, "Naturally, with a larger club, we also have a lot of talent, so I think it's helping Dougherty make even more of a name at league, circuit and national tournaments." Whatever we are putting in—whether it's coaching, mentorship, lecturing, running practices regularly—it's beginning to shine through to club successes.



PHOTO COURTESY OF LIYA KHAN

The writer, center, with her Speech and Debate rock-star teammates.

But the journey is not easy. After-school practices can range anywhere from two to three hours at least twice a week. Keeping the dedication of a new competitor for that long can be challenging, but our incredible captains and coaches find ways to do it. Shen furthers, "Within the club at the high school level, there's always been a sort of tradition for the seniors to help the novices. I distinctly remember Eric Wang critiquing my Extemp speeches, and Patrick Liu looking at my first league LD cases. That's one of the best parts of the club—there are so many friendly, committed and helpful individuals who become not only your mentors, but also your friends."

Engaging the potential of each debater or speaker takes an immense amount of research, practice, drills and critical thinking. But once that potential explodes in a debate, and our young speakers bloom before our eyes, it is all suddenly worth it. While our new competitors are just getting used to the spirit of competition, they are excelling at their events. Ask Chait Sayani how he felt when he made it to finals at the Jon Schamber Invitational in the novice Lincoln-Douglas debate division. Or ask Shreya Tumma and Shreya Aggarwal what was going through their minds during their octofinal round at the Presentation Invitational.

Our senior members are creating legacies for themselves this year, as recently proven by the victors of the National Parliamentary Debate Invitational, David Wang and Karthik Konath. Looking to the future, us senior members have a vantage point

SEE "SPEECH" BACK PAGE

Women's JV Soccer Excels in Teamwork for First Win

By Pooja Kini
Staff Writer

With a loaded roster and a solid W on the board, this year's Women's JV soccer season is in full swing. With a new season, comes new goals and plenty of excitement for the season. I had the privilege of interviewing not only the athletes themselves, but head coach Luis Siu as well. Excitement is an understatement for this team—which is more than ready to kick some grass!

This season, the three "E's" athletes can't get off their minds are: endeavors, expectations, and clearly, since we're Wildcats, excellence.

Each player has something they wish to achieve, an idea of what the

team can accomplish, and the hope to be the absolute best they can be. Team Captain Michaela Lopez hopes to "not only bring success on the scoreboard, but grow as a team by getting closer to each other with every practice and game." She looks forward to increase the team's chemistry to be as successful on the field as possible.

Every practice calls for hard work—keeping it intense constantly, not just during game time. The girls practice plays, condition themselves to stay in top shape and scrimmage to put their skills to action. All of this hard work definitely pays off, especially considering their incredible 9-0 win against Arroyo High School in their very first game. Head

Coach Luis Siu is delighted with the way his team played and even more thrilled by the fact that they have a whole season ahead of them to become even better. Such chemistry takes years to develop, and these ladies have achieved it in just three practices.

Part of this may have to do with the cumulative love they have for the sport. To each of them, soccer is much more than just a game. It is a way of life, an opportunity to make lasting relationships, and most importantly, to have crazy fun. Their team is a second family and playing together only strengthens the bond between them. Activities such as "Secret Sisters" and bonding events like pasta feeds add even more fun to this experience.

This is about to be a fantastic season for Women's JV Soccer.

Come support your Lady
Wildcats at their next
home game: Thursday,
Dec. 11 vs. Dublin
(JV at 4:15 p.m.
Varsity at 6:15 p.m.)

Review: New Video Game Plots Confuse Gamers

By Paul Shin
Staff Writer

Many of us like to kick back after a long week and turn on our Xbox/PS3/3DS/computer and tap away at video games. However, 2013 was definitely fertile with new game titles and various greatly anticipated games. Here are some recent game titles that might appeal to some gamers, all releasing before Christmas.

• **GTA V (PS3/Xbox 360):**

Definitely the most awaited game of this year. Franklin, Trevor and Michael get together and the player can choose from the three to follow and play missions. Franklin is a young petty criminal trying to make a name for himself. Michael is an ex-robber and retires after a heist, but is forced back to crime. Trevor... is just crazy. Single-player free roam is great and all, but the online gameplay allows you to play with other idio—I mean, players—in the world of GTA.

• **Pokemon X and Y (3DS):**

The newest game in the Pokémon franchise has many new features. Developers added a new evolution type for certain Pokémon (Mega Evolution), hoard battles, 3D graphics, new Pokémon and the ability to increase your Pokémon's flexibility in battle by playing minigames with

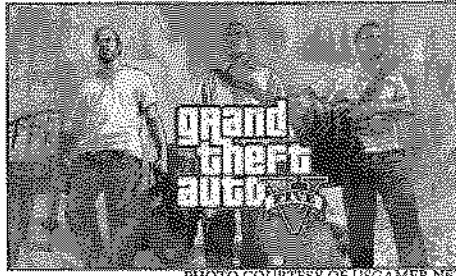


PHOTO COURTESY OF USGAMER.NET

them. Because who wouldn't want to pet the Lord of Death Yvelta?

• **Call of Duty Ghosts (Xbox One/PC/Xbox 360/PS3):**

The mighty COD is back again, this time with dogs and a new game, Extinction. The new game mode, although very unique, cannot stand its ground against others, especially the zombies game mode. The multiplayer is fantastic (as always), but the campaign needed a little refinement. The story doesn't make much sense... who put the giant secret American military space laser right over America?! Genius.

Paul loves video games so much, he reviewed a whole bunch more... AND the new Xbox One and PS4 controllers!
Check out www.thewildcattribune.com for more of his fantastic reviews!

SPEECH—— from Page 5
to our predecessors and their early victories—and honestly, there is no other feeling quite like it. Mentorship within the club is taking a more preeminent form now. The captains are hitching their team's speech and debate careers to their own, investing as much effort to prepare them for tournaments as they do for themselves. It is a new kind of achievement for our club—the reassurance that when this year's class graduates, and then the next year's and so on, that our Speech and Debate team will continue to nab top honors.

Along with trophies comes the inevitable camaraderie between teammates. Speech and Debate fosters something very different in each competitor—a hunger for competition, a knack for shiny trophies, the talent for acquiring real world knowledge and applying it. When all of these diverse personalities join, strung side-by-side by their love for the team, it makes for a pretty good time. As the club expands, the senior members get to impart not just their elevated skills, but also the friendship and social identities created during after school practices, long car rides and hotel rooms at national tournaments. Shen concludes, "I love the team dynamic that we have—win or lose, there are so many amazing people who are there to comfort or cheer you on."

Speech and Debate doesn't only make you a better competitor or a more eloquent speaker. It teaches you how to interact with people, share your ideas and build connections. The club is much more than weekly tournaments, tailored suits and bottomless folders of evidence. Speech and Debate has taught me more about the world around me than anything else has. In a way, we each live double lives—at school most of us are bookish, dedicated students. But after school and on weekends we morph into mentors, organizers, and best of all, competitors. We chase knowledge, ballots, wins and losses. We are individuals who become powerful when we speak with our brains working at remarkable speeds, leaving rounds feeling more exhilarated than ever.

As debater Elaine Chan explains: "It's the hardest thing I've ever done, but it's addicting in a way that's unexplainable."

So the next time you see us on Facebook hoisting trophies, or after school running practice debates or defending controversial opinions in class, know that we do it for one reason: we love it more than anything.

Holiday Foods Word Search

Z G K B N T R B T C D C G V K
Z O W C S V I F X A A L J H S
T N G H T G O N B N E U T E E
Q G C O R F Z G W D R H F E E
T G S C U R S B I Y B O S C F
Y E S O D U H J H C R T E U F
H S U L E I O Q I A E C I P O
L P F A L T R P W N G H K V T
A T G T N C T P E E N O O E F
M Q A E A A B L V S I C O B U
V A N H R K R U P D G O C A D
L S I E C E E P M A R L V Z G
V F Y D L E A J L M V A L D E
I P O R F T D W L A V T A Y Y
R C T B X J Y Z E G H E F Q K

CANDYCANES
COOKIES
SUGGANIYOT
CHOCOLATE
FRUITCAKE
FUDGE
GINGERBREAD
SHORTBREAD
TOFFEE
EGGNOG
HOTCHOCOLATE
STRUDEL

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