



Youth of Today
Hope of Tomorrow



Christmas



Joshua Moore
Manor New Tech M.S.

This Christmas my cousin's came from Minnesota to celebrate with the rest of the family. It was

exiting because I rarely ever see them. The night before Christmas my cousins and I stayed up until twelve in the morning to open a present, but when turned twelve our parents didn't let us open any.

This Christmas I received a lot of presents from multiple people. One of my favorite gifts were the beats earphones. Another gift that was super cool was the ps4 that my cousin got. Lastly, liked that some of my family was able to come and celebrate with us.

InterSession 2018



**SaNaya White
Ann Richards**

January 3rd-5th, was a very exciting 3 days. We had just returned to school from our break, and we had the privilege to return to a class free, fun, and learning InterSession. Earlier last year, we were given the choice of what InterSession topic we would like to choose from. Options ranged from camping to Mrs. O (Mrs. Obama).

My specific InterSession that I chose was drones. I really enjoyed this InterSession because we were able to play while learning at the same time. In this InterSession I learned the basics of building, flying, instructions and the safety on drones. I built a drone of my own and got to fly it, and learn special tricks with it, as well as getting into a groups and building a drone that we raced and flew through our own built obstacle courses. Our obstacle course was created and built from, PVC pipes, wood, and hula hoops. It was a challenge to fly the

drones through the obstacle course but we got to use googles very similar to the virtual reality ones.

I loved getting to engineer, test, and improve my drone. It was a great learning experience and I actually plan on continuing it. I plan on doing this because I was given the opportunity to come into our maker space (students build different prototypes and projects with the provided tools in the area), and continue practicing and fixing drones. I will also get to practice on the simulator which is downloaded onto the computers. I can use a real controller to fly a drone that is presented in a drone's perspective.

The objective of the simulator is to fly the drone through gates as you get better at using the controller. It was very difficult for me and I was either stuck in the sky or stick crashed in the sand at first, but I continued to practice and I eventually got through 60 gates and I also got through a timed race and finished in 30 seconds compared to my teacher who had 20 seconds. I am very proud of that and my teacher is determined that he will remain the champion, but not for long. It is just the beginning of 2018, but I am already looking forward to the InterSession in 2019! You never know, maybe you'll look up and see a drone soaring, with me as the pilot.

"The Greatest Showman" Review



Ira "T.J." Williams
Cedar Ridge H. S.

The new movie "The Greatest Showman," was released in theaters on December 20, 2017. "The Greatest Showman" is a musical film that stars famous actor, Hugh Jackman as P.T. Barnum and Zac Efron as Phillip Carlyle.

The film is about an ambitious man named P.T. Barnum in New York City during the 19th century. After losing his job, Barnum decides to start a circus to allow people to see things they've only seen in their dreams. However, his initial success

eventually goes to his head, causing him to lose sight of what is really important in life, his family and friends.

The music for the film was written by Benj Pasek and Justin Paul, the lyricists of the songs from Oscar winning musical film, "La La Land." The soundtrack includes a lot of traditional R&B style songs. Various songs from the movie have already made the Top 100 list on iTunes for their catchy tunes. Compared to the songs from other musical films like "La La Land," I personally prefer the soundtrack to "The Greatest Showman."

I would absolutely recommend people of all ages to see it. The movie has great visual effects that makes the film appealing to the eye. "The Greatest Showman" is entertaining and fun for the whole family.

Happy New Year



Montrae Nelson
Four Points M. S.

Hello, 2018 is here and we were happy to start a new year, On the night of New years eve my family and i sat down and watched movies until the countdown to new years day. We were really tired so we went to bed after the countdown because

we had a long day.

My family and i created a new tradition this year that we would go through our christmas stockings on New years day to make it more fun and memorable for everyone, my mom and dad love creating new traditions for our family so we'll remember it always.

Lastly, we all decided to make separate dishes and i made the green beans and i must say they were really good! Most of all i just enjoyed spending time with my family and being thankful for being with them another year. Thanks for reading

FIRST Power Up



Quinn Langford
Cedar Ridge H. S.

Each year, the organization FIRST {For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology} releases a new FIRST Robotics Competition challenge. After the competition rules are released, students on robotics teams across the world have just over six weeks to design and build a robot that can team up with other teams' robots to score more points, acquired by performing certain tasks, than the opposing alliance of teams. The kick-off day for the new competition was Saturday, January 6th. This year's game is called Power Up, and is based off of classic arcade games. The storyline is that the robotics teams have become stuck inside a video game, and need to defeat a boss to escape. In order to accomplish this, robots need to collect game pieces called power cubes. They can place power cubes on one of two switches or on the scale in the middle of the field, both of which are giant levers that tip up and down. As long as this switch or the scale is tipped in favor of a team's alliance, they accumulate points. Robots can also target the switch on the opposite alliance's side of the field in order to prevent them from gaining points. Power cubes can also be transferred into power ups of varying

strength, depending on how many cubes have been deposited into a vault. Power ups can give an alliance ownership of the scale, their switch, or both, for ten seconds, double the points acquired from ownership of the scale, the alliance's switch, or both, for ten seconds, or give one robot points for climbing even if they don't climb. Robots have the opportunity to climb a wall of the scale using a small bar during the last thirty seconds of a match so they can ascend to defeat the boss.

The end game (the last thirty seconds of the match) is going to be very interesting this year because the rung on the scale, which seems to have the intended purpose of assisting robots attempting to climb the scale, is only thirteen inches long. There's only one scale for each alliance of three robots. To have multiple robots climb simultaneously, their mechanisms that latch on to the rung would have to be skinny, and the robots would have to stagger their heights so they didn't interfere with each other. But there's no way for teams to plan to make their robots compatible with other teams' robots, especially since alliance partners randomly change throughout the first day of competition. It is possible that robots could be designed to climb and then somehow support another robot hanging off of them. It seems risky to support another robot, but if all robots on an alliance earn points for climbing, the alliance gets a ranking point, which is important in moving past the qualification round. Teams will be desperate to win this ranking point, so it will be interesting to see how they come up with a way to solve the problem.

Raiders in Round 5



Cyrena Matingou
Cedar Ridge H. S.

On Saturday, December 16, the sides of the road at Cedar Ridge High School were lined with parents and students wearing purple, ringing cowbells, and holding posters as the varsity football team departed. In the opinion of Claire Zetarski, a varsity cheerleader in 10th grade, "the send-off really made the players ready and determined for the game." Headed for the McLean football stadium in Waco, Texas, high school's football team, cheer squad, and band members loaded into buses at the school at 9:30 AM. The students were headed for the fifth round of the football playoffs for Texas high schools, preparing to play Allen High School

at 2 PM.

"Extremely enthusiastic and supportive throughout the game" were the words used by Miss Zetarski to describe the crowd at the game. This match was highly anticipated and created a buzz in the hallways during the week. Fans drove one hour from Round Rock to Waco to watch the high school play in the college stadium and sat in the cold rain to cheer them on. Even though the Raiders lost, Miss Zetarski is still proud of her team because they were "respectful and positive through it all." Going to round 5 of playoffs was a momentous occasion for Cedar Ridge because not only did they break their personal record (the school has only gone to round 2 in the past), but they broke the record for the farthest a school in the Round Rock Independent School District has gone.

In Texas, football serves as a great way to build morale in the school because even if you aren't part of a club or organization, you can sit in the stands on Friday nights under the bright lights and cheer your team on.

Winter Break



Tyler Allen
Gus Garcia YMLA

"Winter Break" is over now. The first day back to school everyone wanted to know what I got for Christmas. Some were shocked when I said I didn't get anything. Especially when most think that Christmas is all about receiving gifts. I had a flashback.

I remember that I had already had that "want and need lecture". I had to think. I already had three game systems, a lot of new games, 2 electric scooters, plenty of clothes, a whole closet of old toys, tablets, cell phone and laptop. So there I was. I could not believe I could not come up with anything. I was told that the three "Wise men" gave the baby Jesus gifts. But he was special. Yet that was a one time event.

So, that was it. I receive no gift. But I did get to spend time with my cousins from Fort Worth. That cold spell we had did not bother me much since 21st Century children spend more time inside than outside. Yet I'm still happy.