

# The Tank

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A CHS Student Production

Thursday, December 18

## 'Tis the Season At Cameron High School

By Anne Ruuskanen  
Sophomore

December is here and the holiday cheer has officially begun. Parents are shopping for the best deals and families are planning vacations. Many will be going out of town or even out of the continent. It's no surprise that the holiday excitement has leaked into Cameron High School.

Students in all grade levels are ready for their Christmas break until January 5. Christmas plans are tied together with ideas of the New Year. Kids get to be themselves and adults get to be kids again. CHS students already know what their plans are going to be. Other than sleeping in almost each day of the break, students have fun planned throughout the weeks. Some are staying at home while others have big family plans which will take them all over the country.

"Usually we go to my grandma's and have dinner," said Sophomore Kenisha McIntosh.

"I normally go to Chicago and spend Christmas with family there for a couple of weeks. We just have a big Thanksgiving-like dinner with everyone," Freshman Alyssa Godby said in contrast.

Christmas shopping for some people begins on Black Friday, the day after Thanksgiving. Others like to wait for the best deals to show up. "We will start Christmas shopping as early as November--even before Black Friday," Kenisha stated. Bargain hunters are on the loose almost each day.

Decorations are hung all around town and in front of stores as well. Houses are decorated and decked out in lights and statues. Families with big windows show off their decorations inside the house, and all the trees are bright all the time. Tree decorating

is one of the most famous parts of Christmas cheer.

"We get out tree the day before Thanksgiving, get it decorated, and then hang out the rest of the time. It's usually pretty simply decorated, nothing too fancy," Freshman Skyler Nichols says.

"With us, the amount of decorations depends on the size of the tree. This year we're having a big tree so it's going to be pretty well done with decorations," Kenisha said.

Little kids are excited about the presents they will be getting. Parents and adults seem more concerned about getting the house ready for guests. Teens through town are worried about what to get their friends. It seems that each person has a different favorite part of Christmas.

"My favorite part about Christmas is just being able to hang out with your friends. It is time to go sledding and have snowball fights

together," Kenisha said.

"I think my favorite part would have to be the hot chocolate," Skyler smiled.

"I just like spending time with my family and friends," Alyssa said as well.

With visions of sugar plums and kisses under the mistletoe, it's hard to remember what Christmas is really all about. Society today seems to think about the material things more than ever during this season. Of course, the meaning of Christmas differs for each person. "Christmas to me means being with your family and celebrating the birth of Jesus Christ," Kenisha voiced. Skyler and Alyssa agreed.

So keep in mind what Christmas means to you as you have fun this holiday. And remember to be safe whenever you go shopping for the special people in your life.

## CHS Siblings In the Same School

By Elizabeth Sharkey  
Sophomore

All around the world there are many siblings who go to the same school. Imagine if you had a sibling in the same school or even in the same class as you. Would it bother you?

Freshmen at CHS Kiara Pratt and her brother Chris Pratt also a Freshmen at CHS are siblings in the same school. Kiara said "[Since] He skipped second grade we have been in the same school for a quite a while." Kiara and Chris aren't just in the same school, but they have their Spanish class together. Kiara states "I only have one class with Chris, which is our Spanish class. It's kind of cool [to have Chris in the same class], but then again its kind of hard also because if he answers a question right and I get one wrong it's kind of weird because he is younger than me."

Chris added "I don't even notice she is there, so it doesn't really bother me that we are in the same class."

Sophomores Kathy O'Donnell and Sue O'Donnell are twins born just a minute apart. Even though they only have one class together,

Accounting, they still seem to help each other with homework. Kathy and Sue both seem to agree. "We actually get a long pretty well in school," states Kathy.

Though they're in the same building all day, their paths rarely cross. "I don't really see Kathy much in the halls," said Sue. Kathy and Sue don't really fight at school, Kathy thinks "I don't really realize Sue is even there so maybe that's why we don't fight at school."

While both groups are unique, they all seem to agree there are advantages and disadvantages to being in the same school with their sibling. Chris in Kiara work together at home and at school. Kiara states, "We are pretty close. We help each other out, even though Chris doesn't like people copying off his work he always seems to help me out."

Kathy and Sue like to help each other out at home. "We hang out with totally different groups of people, so we hardly see each other at school," according to Kathy.

With the size of family homes these days, there are bound to be siblings in the same school at one point or another. It appears it doesn't affect them either at home or at school.

## Speech and Debate Competes Well at Savannah

By Zalak Patel  
Sophomore

The Cameron High School Speech and Debate Team had their first tournament on Friday November 21 and Saturday November 22 at Savannah High School. Other schools in attendance included Blue Springs High School, Rock Port High School, Excelsior Springs High School, Albany High School, Maryville High School, St. Joseph Central High School, and LeBlond High School.

The three debate rounds were held on Friday and the individual events on Saturday.

For the debate rounds, Freshman Zane Clark and Senior Megan Garrett worked together. For the Individual Events, Sophomore Trulea Fletcher competed in original oratory, Freshmen Kayla Turner and Emily Simpson competed in poetry reading, and Senior Tim Miller competed in extemporaneous speaking.

One of the interesting things about this year's team was that no one had much experience before the tournament.

"None of these competitors had any prior experience. Megan Garrett participated in Mock Trial competition last year, but had not previously competed in debate," explained Speech and Debate Coach Mr. Calvert. Mr. Calvert not only is the coach, but also judged the first round of student congress. Some of his other tasks included keeping the competitors focused on their performance, and ensuring the competitors' scores were properly entered and tabulated.

Everyone on the team did well for their first tournament.

Megan and Zane took second place. Their topic was "The United States should significantly increase its expenditures on alternative energy sources". Megan and Zane debated for and against the topic.

"[Working with Megan] was nice because she had experience", said Zane. He later on went to say he wasn't too nervous before the debate and after it was over he felt like he actually knew what he was doing.

Trulea placed fourth, fifth, and sixth in her original oratory entitled "The Heart of a Writer," which was about the benefits of creative writing. Wondering what an original oratory is? "It's a piece written by a person, kind of like a persuasive speech on moral beliefs", explained Trulea.

Kayla placed fifth, first, and third in her poetry reading. Emily placed third, fifth, and third in hers.

Last, but not least, Tim Miller placed in the top 6 for extemporaneous speaking and then went on to the finals where he placed sixth. During the extemporaneous round, he was given a choice of three topics and he chose one of the topics to write a speech about in thirty minutes. In the finals his topic was universal healthcare.

"It felt good because I beat the other competitors and placed", said Tim. Tim also said there were a lot of schools and he met a lot of new people.

The team also competed on December 19 and 20 at St. Joseph Central.

Good luck to everyone competing. Show them CHS has a lot to say and knows how to say it!

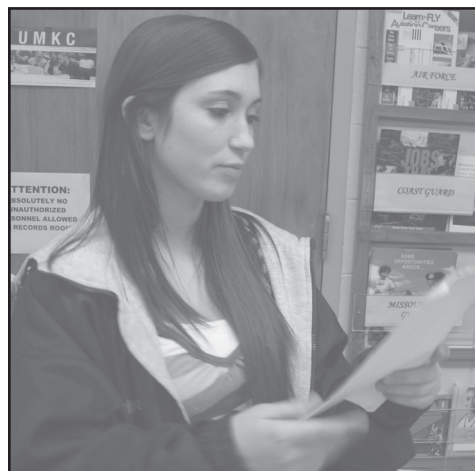


Photo by Zalak Patel

Trulea Fletcher practices reciting her original oratory for the next tournament.

## Christmas Cheer Spreads Across CMS

By Brooke Granier  
Sophomore

Christmas is a time to spread cheer and parents to buy their children gifts. The countdown to Christmas has begun and children have started making their Christmas lists while awaiting Santa Claus' arrival. Seventh grade students shared with *The Tank* what they would like for Christmas....

"I want rock band, video games, and a robosapien."-Hunter Granier

"I want my dad back, a happy family, and new clothes."-Sable Huffman

"I want an Xbox 360, Ipod touch and a lap top."-Quade Hill

"I want boots, a rifle, and eight deer tags (Dasher, Dancer, Rudolph...)." -Caleb Quigley

"I want an Ipod touch, Rock Band 2, and an Xbox 360."-Jordan Brazeal

"I want 2 motocross bikes, a psp, and a camera."-Emily Craft

"I want the Twilight series, clothes, and a Wii."-Hannah Ireland

"I want a cell phone, PJs, and new shoes."-Katherine Meyer

"I want a Wii, a cell phone, and a new bike."-Lexi Mcnew

"I want a puppy, an I-dog, and a computer."-Audreonna Radder

"I want an older sister, a frog, and a new phone."-Angela Johnson

"I want a new bike, knives, and Legos."-Brandon Simmons

"I want beads, an electric scooter, and a bead kit."-Donya Baker

"I want world peace, a 30GB ipod, and an eco-friendly home."-Language Teacher Mrs. Robinson

"I want CDs, games, and earrings"-Emily Calvert

"I want clothes, a Wii, and a Nintendo DS."-Ashley Simpson

"I want a cell phone, a lap top, and a four-wheeler."-Sara Williams

"I want a lap top, an Ipod, and jewelry."-Katie Bashor

"I want a horse, games, and a lap top."-Brittany Cantwell

Merry Christmas from *The Tank!*